

Anna Nicole: Blonde Glory

by Grace Cavalieri

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ANNA NICOLE : BLONDE GLORY
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Characters

ANNA	30's	Big Sensual Blonde
PUSHKIN (Push)	20's-30's	Intellectual, attractive, dresses as collegiate
HORSHEL (Hors)	40's-50's	Anna's manager dressed in flashy clothing
ANIMA /dead twin	30's	Petite, dark hair, the opposite of Anna , wears red wings
REPORTER	any age	Unbuttoned Shirt or tee-shirt. Slacks.
DOCTOR	any age	Suit jacket
PHOTOGRAPHER	20's	Dressed in jeans/casual

ACT 1 Scene 1

Anna Pushkin and Horshel . Anna gets up from chaise longue. Toy box on floor.

Anna

Hey Guys I just had the worst dream. (*while trying to recall*) I was driving and it was getting too dark and I was running out of gas and It was getting dark and on Sunday no gas stations are open at night and I had to go to the bathroom so I stopped to buy some candy. I saw a man dressed like Santa Claus, and took off his boots, and his hat, then his belt, then all his clothes and then he said to 'hug him" because he was Santa Clause. I didn't know what to do so I did.

Pushkin.

You did what?

Anna (sleepily)

I hugged him! A naked Santa (she shivers) It was awful. (*Rummages in toy box.*)

I seem to have lost something. Do you know what I lost? It was right here. And everything I almost know, I forget. It could be here (*Comes up with stuffed dog.*) OH DEAR Randy. (*Kisses dog*) (*Throws back*)

Pushkin

Time for your tutorial Anna.

Horshel

You're becoming a problem, Pushkin. I'll give you 15 minutes, then you can shove your thesis up your

Anna (*Interrupting*)

Oh! Look (*Picks up tequila bottle from toy box. holds up, looks inside, shakes upside down*)

Why is Tequila always empty? (*Throws back in box*)

Push and Hors move forward .talk to audience while Anna plays with her possessions

(She picks up tiara from box) (Looks in mirror, tries throws back)

(Push and Horshel talk past her to audience)

Pushkin (*To aud*)

Gentleman of the Committee: Let us say, Anna was damaged by gender. Some women are intelligent, yes. Anna... Anna is on the verge of intelligence. Thus my study.

Anna

(To aud) I think I know what's going on. Do you know what's going on?

Horshel

(Disgusted) Anna is a financial liability. Like I tell her, Anna, you can't pray for people to love you.

You can't bring out a statue of Madonna and her back up boys and pray to her, and suddenly know how to dance.

Anna

Hey, guys, I'm still here.

Pushkin

Dear Advisors... Whatever moral judgments you bring here, whatever your tribunal, remember Anna's dilemma. First she had no family or real childhood -- So what possibly could be her redemption?

Horshel

I tell her. You got to make the stage your life. It's a chat room every minute. Chatter, chatter, chatter, Anna, Please do something. An artist doesn't care what the world thinks. Pull your skirts up .The screen, the TV...all a parade of people after people after people. Who cares? But some one person watching you on TV will stop and look and say, "Now *she* is something special

Anna

Can I please say something?

Pushkin

Human behavior that begins with fright, results in splintered vision. Deprivation is on trial here, if you insist on judging Anna, at least love her. And if you ask why I cannot love her, it is because I love knowledge more: literature, philosophy, linguistics, science, and ethics, better than her— or anyone, for that matter.

Anna (*looks up*)

And I really am afraid of death, you guys. Tell them that too while you're at it. And life.

Pushkin (*To audience*)

Anna's mirror has no image whatsoever. There is a black hole always looking back at her. But, she keeps going! She is Hope itself. Bless her! Let us say, if this were the Holocaust, Anna would hang her thong on the barbed wire fence to dry.

Anna

I think I get it. I think I am beginning to

Hors (*To audience*)

Frankly, as good as she looks - as big, as blonde - As dazzling as a drag queen at 3 A.M.-I'm told by my clients that her sex just lacks conviction. Whatever you think of me – Without me she'd be just one more ice cube in hell.

Anna

Oh I get it .An ice cube in Hell melts...I figured that out. Right Push? You're the professor. And Horshel! (*coquettish*) I am not going to Hell!

Horshel

You got 5 minutes with her Pushkin. Then it's show time (*exiting*)

Pushkin

It's always show time with you

Anna

I'm not going to hell, but I'm afraid of Heaven . I'm worried about it.

Pushkin

Heaven? Is that what worries you? My dissertation on you is already overdue. Past due. Late. Do you hear me? Between you and your manager, I'm the one who should worry!

Anna

I am not just a bug under your microscope Push.... Think of this. If I am here and if I get depressed, I got my pills, my vodka. But if something goes wrong in Heaven...I'm a goner.

Pushkin

Look Anna I am praying for you. OK?

Anna

Why can't I pray, my own self?

Pushkin

Oh Anna how innocent you are. I have to be the one to interpret what God says and I will tell you what to do. Listen to me. I have advanced degrees.

Anna

Well, what does God say?

Pushkin (*Listens*)

That I, not Horshel ... I should tell you what to do. That an academic knows more than a manager (*Looks at watch*) Omygod. My Orals! (*Exiting*)

Anna

Yeah. Your orals. I hate to hurt your feelings but you're not very good at that. Maybe school can help.

(Horshel yells from offstage: "Anna look alive" "Press is here") (*Reporter enters. Photographer rushes in with camera. Flashes of lights (With each question Anna strikes a different pose)*)

Scene 2

Reporter

So where were you born, Anna?

Anna

In a trailer

Reporter

A trailer?

Anna

Double wide.

Reporter

I mean what state.

Anna

Texas.

Reporter

That's a big place.

Anna

Yes. There was a school with hot trees around it.

Reporter

Where?

Anna

There was a lot of dust in the school yard. But we moved around a lot.

Reporter

Is it true it was Beverly Hills, Texas?

Anna

I call it that, yeah.

Reporter

Any street signs you can remember. This is for the Global Inquiry .Think, Anna. People want to picture you at home.

Anna

(Trying) There was .. um .. an old car in the yard, and .. um.. a refrig on the porch, and ... um.. OH! There was this big old colored rainbow that came out after it rained. It was so beautiful all glowing. That's where I lived. I loved the colors in the mist so much.

Reporter

Well thanks, that pins it down. What did you want, say, when you were 5 years old?

Anna

I think I just wanted to make it to 6. I got beaten up so much. I got on my parents nerves.

Reporter

There's a rumor you had a child once. Any truth to that?

Anna *(flares)*

That is a dirty rotten filthy lie. You want to go on? Or get out.

Reporter

So what do you want now Anna?

Anna

Oh I want to be happy, very very happy, and then I'll fit my career in around that.

Hors *(Enters)*

Ok scram big guy. We'll call you back when we got Anna all made up pretty for a shoot. Don't call us. We'll call you. *(Exits)*

Photographer

I'd like a little piece of that. *(Aims to shoot. Reporter comes between him, protecting Anna.)*

Reporter

You know what? I hope you get what you want, Anna. You're a sweet kid. A really sweet kid.

(They exit)

Anna

(Touched) I think he liked me. *(Calling)* Horshel...He liked me. I think....

Scene 3 *(In jumps Anima)*

Anima

I hate it when you start lying in public.

Anna

Then where should I do it? *(Confused)* Wait! I was not lying. Our parents beat the shit out of me every day and you know it.

Anima

Angels don't like dirty laundry .

Anna

How did you get in my room again? Leave me alone, Please. . Hors! Pushkin! Help.

Anima

They can't see me honey so go embarrass yourself- go ahead make my eternity.

Anna

You seem to forget. You are dead.

Anima

Right.

Anna

You died at birth. You died at birth!

Anima

Yup. Our mother will never forgive you for being the one left.

Anna

My identical twin. I can't believe it.

Anima

As close as they could get.

Anna

Why can't you stay dead? Just this once please. I'm on my way to something big. I want this job so much, Horshel has an audition set for me.

Anima

Now what exactly is it that you want so fucking bad?

Anna

I have a dream.

Anima

A dream? A dream!! She has a dream!

Anna

Why not? Even birds have dreams.

Anima

About worms . Birds dream about worms.

Anna

Maybe that's true but it's their dreams and they have a right. Listen, I'm going to audition for the Hippodrome and If you could just this once not get in my way, nothing personal against you-- but I need this chance to show my stuff, to show that I can sing and dance. That I'm more than a PETA spokesperson.

Anima.

Sure. I think I can help.

Anna

Anima I'm begging you this time. I am scared. I am really really scared.

Anima

OK. First. Here's a little pill (*hands pill bottle*) Take it.

Anna

Another little pill? That's what you've been giving me and after awhile I always wind up in a room as big as a cell.

Anima

Oh, before, that was just so you'd have fun, for recreation. This is to give you confidence.

Anna

Confidence.

Anima

You know the stuff other people have, mostly important men. Where they do anything and not feel ashamed, even after they're exposed on TV for whatever they did wrong.

Anna

Not feel ashamed?

Anima

Would be great, yes? (*Pours pills into Anna's hand*)

Anna

But Anima, I don't get it ... (*Looks at hand*) If I'm scared before I take the pills, and then after I take the pills, I'm not scared....then who am? I which person?

Anima:

(*Sweetly*) The one who doesn't feel shame after.

Anna:

Ok I'll try ... (*swallows handful*)(*Sits*)

Anima

And for the sake of decency, when you sit down keep your skirt between your legs. Angels don't like crotches.

Anna

You know that reporter liked me. I know he did. And I was so happy and just when everything goes so goodThen you (*Looks at pills*)...and so what do you want from me? People keep giving me stuff I don't want to get something from me I don't want to give.

Anima

Angels don't like complaints. (*Anima exits*)

Anna (*Jumps up runs after*)

Wait wait Anima, Come back,Anima. How many pills do I take to not feel shame? Help .What do I do with these. When? (*She goes to each corner calling her back.*) You can't leave me like this.

I'll be good (*Anna cuddles her toy dog*)

Anima

That does it! If you do that, then how could I possibly reach you when I need your help? No one had a more ungrateful sister. (*Exiting*)I'm leaving .

Anna

(*Frightened*) I'll be good. Don't go.

Anima (*Exiting*)

Remember this, Anna, we loved you. Your family loved you. Do you want to be left all alone? Do you?

Anna

I'll be good (*Anna cuddles her toy dog*)

(*Photographer rushes in. crosses stage.*)

Photographer

She **is** good, man, she is very very good! *Camera flashes off. Anna automatically strikes a pose holding her breasts up then flops back dejected*) (*Exit photographer*)

Scene 4

(*Enter*) Horshel

What the hell is all this screaming about? (*Accusingly*) Drugs?!

Anna

No thanks Horshel. I have some.

Horshel

Get up and look alive. I have it!

Anna

You have what?

Hors

Pop Porn! I may have a backer. The product. For you. To put your name in every TV room. Something people can eat while they watch you on TV. Pop Porn! They put it in the microwave while they watch you having sex on video.

Anna

Buttered? That is fattening. You wanted me to lose weight. It's not even real butter and the salt isn't even....

Horshel

Anna this is what we need. A product we can sell besides your body. Something people can chew on besides your body. Something with a fragrance.

Anna

Besides my body. I don't know....

Horshel

Imagine it on every shelf in the video store.

Anna

Blockbusters?

Horshel

Um...No. Some other ones. I am wild with the idea. I have to call the graphics people.

Anna

Do we kitchen test it? And I talk about it then? On TV? In an apron?

Horshel

Not your worry, my little flower. We just need your photo on the bag.

Anna

I have a beautiful idea for a picture.

Horshel

Breasts. A picture of your breasts

Anna

I was thinking of boats. I like happy boats.

Horshel

No Anna.

Anna

Sailors would like it.

Horshel

Breasts.

Anna

With happy boats in the background and maybe a sun?

Horshel

Just the breasts Anna, Pop Porn. You will be famous yet!

Anna

I'm not too sure about the picture on the bag.

Horshel

Breasts Anna, which one of us lived near a college? Me or you.

Anna

I'm not sure about this, Hors.

Horshel

(Whips out a box from his jacket) A present. Let us say a little persuasion packet

Anna

For me?

Horshel

There's no one else here stupid, of course for you *(Anna pulls out a huge ugly seashell on a chain)*

Anna

Oh *(He puts it around her neck) (weight slumps her)*

Horshel

What do you have to say about it?

Anna

Oh I like it.

Horshel

Is that all you have to say? Use your words, Anna.

Anna

Oh I really like it.

Horshel

And that chain? That connects me to you, Forever.

Anna

Hors? Hors...

Horshel

What now? You been fighting me all day.

Anna

I can tell you're mad at me, Horshel. Did I do something wrong last night after meeting those rich producers?

Horshel

Anna, next time, please do not say Anyhoo when asked about world affairs.

Anna

I loved that white satin table cloth. Did I eat ok at the restaurant?

Horshel

And no ketchup on the Kobe beef next time. Please Anna? for God's Sake! (*He leans over and shouts in her ear*) That meal cost those suits a fortune!

Anna

Your breath is on my shoulder (*She wipes it away*)

Hors

You are on your way to nowhere fast Anna. (Pause) You slept with that security guard from the restaurant, didn't you.

Anna

He said he needed a place to practice. He was from a foreign country and didn't know the language and.....

Horshel

Anna, you know. You came from nothing and I can send you back. Can you sing? No. Can you dance? No. Can you act? No. You are not thin and you are not even nice. You can't do anything. That's why you need an agent.

Anna

Why do you always describe me by what I cannot do? OK I can't sing but I can hum.

Hors

Talk to this guy and then I have a job for you (*Enter reporter and photographer*)
(*Anna pose, lights flash*)

Reporter (Sympathetically)

What do you think when you're naked, Anna?

Anna

I don't think. (*Profoundly*) You are what you think. Professor Pushkin told me that.

Horshel

(*Hisses*)(*Indicates reporter*) Edit yourself Anna!

Reporter

How do you think you look nude, Anna?

Anna

Happy? Is that the answer? Very happy.

Reporter

If you don't mind.

Anna

I don't mind.

Reporter

I'd like to ask something personal. Why do you wear so much makeup?

Anna

Well, Horshel says I'm better off if my make up does the acting for me.

(*Photographer aims camera*)

Horshel

(*Hors pulls him away roughly*) That's enough. Later. 3pm. later.

Photographer

(*Protesting*) We were just getting started. Goddamn these handlers (*both Exit*)

Scene 5

Hors

Anna! Sit

(Anna sits prepares for lecture)

Hors:

Stand up *(She stands) (he takes her hands) no sit (She sits) (He gets down on knees before Anna)*

Do you remember the day we met Anna?

Anna

Yes yes that motel. The air conditioning was broke. And I was so...

Hors

I was on my way through and you were (uh) working.

Anna

The Half Star Motel, only motel in East Texas then. It was right by the Laundromat and

Hors

And I saw you.

Anna

Yes.

Hors

And I saw your beauty *(Looks at breasts.)*

Anna

At the continental breakfast. You took my hand.

Hors

Your sleeve was in the jelly .

Anna

Oh thank you. That was very nice of you Hors.

Hors

And I said I would take you to Hollywood with me.

Anna

I got down on my knees to thank God, yes, I was so happy to get out.

Hors

And I said "get up Anna" you'll never have to pray again *(Raises her up grandly.)*

Anna (sadly)

You said 'The good Lord can't see what happens in Hollywood.' I think you were right Hors.

Hors

A little gratitude then, please? So! Until we get your food product started, I got another job for you (*Shakes cell phone in her face*). Something else came through. If you are nice, this guy can fund your name brand.

Anna

Wonderful. See Hors, I told you if you had faith in me....

(*Hors shows her a cheerleader outfit. (Hands her pom poms)*)

Anna

(*Anna holds up skirt to herself*) There's no panties.

Horshel

It's not what you think.

Anna

It's probably worse.

Horshel

There is this old guy who likes football but he likes live cheerleaders when he watches TV. You just have to jump up and down when a team scores.

Anna

Jump Up?

Horshel

And down.

Anna

I need to get in shape

Horshel

Yes Anna. if you can't lose weight I'm hanging my car over the top of the Empire state building with you on the passenger side. With the door open.

Anna

Which side is the Empire state building? (*Starts sniffing*)

Horshel

You do this one thing and you'll have so many jobs you'll have to sleep with your shoes on
(*Exiting*)

Now get dressed, I'll leave you to yourself.

Anna

Oh no, not to myself.

Scene 6

(*Enter Anima*)

Anima

Don't worry sweetheart, You'll never be alone

(Anna picks toy dog Randy up from doll bed) Anna

Once I had this little doggie, Anima. I rescued him from the house that burned down. I saw something move. It was so dirty and I picked it up and held it *(Hors offstage: "Time to go Anna")*

Anna

And I fed the little mutt and kept it on a leash in the yard. This puppy loved me

Anima (to audience)

If she says her father shot him don't believe her. He ran away. She almost kissed him to death that's why.

Anna

Well he did shoot him. Right in front of me, and if I die Randy is waiting for me. In Heaven.

That's the only reason I'd want to go there.

Horshel *(Peeks in)*

The producer's waiting. And you're talking to yourself. You think we're paying you by the pound?

Anima

You have an interview at 3pm and no family secrets or you'll be sorry.

Anna

I don't tell secrets. And I just think I would like to commit suicide today, if you will please excuse me. I cannot do pop porn and cheerleading and my audition and a photo shoot and dance practice and all these things at once.

Anima

I will take your dolls away if I hear one more word of suicide. I'd like to remind you what you've done to your family. The time you tried to drink Clorox and we had to pay good money to have your stomach pumped, The time you tried suicide and jammed your new ford pinto into a tree and the poor medics had to work an hour drilling the doors open

Anna

I made it up to them. Both of them. Twice.

Anima

Naturally our father broke your arm and you ruined our whole Christmas day. When our brother's friend "Raped" you, you had to shoot your big mouth all over the town. We could not show our faces after that. You have caused nothing but trouble.

Anna

Actually, I am going to kill myself. I just don't know when.

Anima

That does it! If you do that, then how could I possibly reach you when I need your help? Remember this, Anna, we loved you. Your family loved you. Do you want to be left all alone? Do you?

Anna

(Frightened) I'll be good. Don't go. *(Anima Exits)*

(Anna gets stuffed dog and holds it to her. She cuddles up and puts her face in its fur, rocking gently) Anna

(There is a hypo needle behind Randy's collar, Anna pulls out)

Want a kiss Randy? Randy, do you want some heroin? Randy. Did you know they call heroin "horse.", Randy. You want to ride a horse, Randy ? You'll like it. Blanked out. That's how it feels. Like that chair. You feel like that chair over there. Nothing. That's what we want Randy. If you're a man you can be a smart person but a girl cannot get anywhere nice. I always thought I'd find a man to love, and have a new baby but the baby could die someday. That's why I love you Randy. You don't die. Help me, Randy *(Looks to inject in her arm, then plunges it into Randy)* I need help, Randy. Heeellpp.

Scene 7

Pushkin *(Enters)*

Anna I'm back. What's the matter? Who are you talking to?

Anna *(Throws Randy aside)*

(Covering up) Help. I need help Pushkin, I need your help a...ah...I want to learn big words. You said you'd help me.

Pushkin

This is admirable Anna. I'm happy to hear the outrage of your past is overcoming the present. Of course you do, and you deserve to. I'll teach you one thing a day. This is splendid *(Notes it in his book)*

OK You start. Ask me a question. Anything

Anna

Where am I? Oh Pushkin, where in the hell am I?

Pushkin

Why does that matter? You're home. I want to help you.

Anna

You could really help me if you wanted, Pushkin. I want that audition Pushkin, I want to be somebody.

Push:

Oh good good. Do you know who?

Anna

Anybody. Just somebody not like I am.

Pushkin

Well first an artist must be courageous and not care what anyone else thinks.

Anna

Oh that's me alright. I went out shopping without underwear and when I got out of the limo I didn't care how they shot the picture.

Pushkin

There's more than that.

Anna

I showed as much as I could.

Pushkin

We are still in phase one of your learning capacity. (*Leafs through folder*) Now, I asked you about World World War 11 yesterday. Our lesson for the day: Hitler. And you were to come up with a reaction.

Anna

Yeah! That whole thing was really terrific.

"Terrific "does not cut it!

Anna

Well whose side were we on in World War 11?

Pushkin

We won Anna that is all that counts.

Anna

We won? Well our dead aren't more alive than their dead, so I don't get it, and I don't think we should keep studying this history stuff anyway. It just encourages them. All leaders should just be American.

Pushkin

I'm going to take away the funnies and give you better things to read, Anna. I think you have great potential, Anna.

Anna

I do not want to be a teacher, Push, I want to be a star.

Pushkin

In the fullness of time you will see me as a helpmate.

Anna

Horshel says I'm a shooting star.

Pushkin

Ah, but a shooting star is a falling star Anna.

Anna

I cannot ever do anything right! OK? Comfuckingprenez vous?

Pushkin

Good.You're expanding your use of language. Knowledge is about finding yourself

Anna

Who?

Pushkin

There's one more thing.

Anna

Not one more thing

Pushkin

A gift for you and your progress. *(Gives her a necklace. Huge silver chain with a globe of the world on it. Hangs around her neck on top of Horshel's necklace.)* Do you like it?

Anna

It's really big

Pushkin

Is that all you have to say?

Anna

It's nice and heavy too.

Pushkin

Now that you have a token of my affection, maybe you'll concentrate. My dissertation depends on it. Tell me, don't you ever wonder about anything? *(Taking notes)*

Anna

I do. I do wonder something. Pushkin. I do. It's about birds I see. They are my only friends.

Pushkin

Dear Anna, are you making fun of me?

Anna

No no truly. I have always wondered, you know...For instance... those pretty birds that are so red? How do they get that way? Did you ever wonder about that?

Pushkin

That's all you wonder about? Cardinals? And red feathers?

Anna

Yeah and about their dreams. What they dream of..You know? They can't sing or dance either so what do they dream of becoming?

Pushkin

They dream of worms, Anna. Worms. (*Patiently*)Worms. Birds dream of worms.

Anna

Oh I was afraid you'd say that. (*Pops pill in mouth*).(*Pushkin sits her down*)

Pushkin

This is not helpful to our endeavor. To be more complete you must memorize things. The names of Presidents for example and, Anna, please listen. Help me to help you. You have to read just one page of a book a day.

Anna

I have people that do that for me.

Pushkin

I gave you some words yesterday do you remember?

Anna

Yes I have them right here.

Pushkin

Do you remember the assignment?

Anna

Of course I do. I was to think of a feeling. . And so I was supposed to use the word "heart" and make it rhyme.

Pushkin

A simple task.

Anna

(Pulls paper out of her pocket-) when I look at you *(playfully shouts)* 'my heart farts'.

Pushkin

Mine does too, Anna. Mine does too. *(Puts his head in his arms in defeat)*

Anna *(squirms puts her breast against his ear)*

Hello Push? Hello. Can you hear me? Hello Anna calling Pushkin.

Pushkin

Anna I am not playing telephone today. I am trying to get you ready for something

Anna

Me too Pushkin. Me too.

Pushkin

(Pushkin takes a deep breath, closes his eyes) Anna, people see you as a bimbo. When death comes to call what do you want to do- order a pizza? Have you no wish for the strange and beautiful? Take your breast out of my ear this instant Anna! *(He stands. She drops back)*

Scene 8 *(Enter Horshel)*

Horshel

I just got a call from the mansion. Why didn't you do what I said? The old guy had bucks to burn.

Anna

I couldn't Hors. I felt sick.

Horshel

No excuse. When your back is to the wall is when you show your stuff.

Anna

My back is to the wall, but the wall is always on the floor.

Pushkin

Identify from inside yourself and not outside the world. Anna Don't listen.

Horshel

This is why we don't have a relationship Anna.

Pushkin

Obedience is not a relationship, Horshel.

Horshel

You couldn't find the old guy's bedroom? It's the one with a bed.

Anna

I'm through with your goddamn clients. Pushkin says your men treat me without any trace of affection. And that I have stored up memories I have to deal with.

Horshel

What are they?

Anna

um...I forget.

Horshel

Ha! You forget memories? Memories are something you remember.

Pushkin

Find something you love Anna so you do not cave in to him.

Hors

Find someplace to get lost, Pushkin.

Anna

Pushkin calls my life a cockfight. Is that a nice thing to say about a girl?

Pushkin

What do you love Anna?

Anna

I love when they clap. But clapping is supposed to make me happy but then it makes me depressed.

Pushkin

Remember the sad legend of Sir Gawain? He needed more and more kisses to be happy.

Horshel

Life kills you - that's all you need to know. Anna, It's always the same. You say I love you too much and guys get sick of you and leave. You always do that. You overcome men. But when you're on a *paying* job you ignore them, I can't figure you.

Anna

Pushkin says my body has had no special moments.

Horshel

The more I talk to you the more I side with your family. You are ungrateful and untrustworthy. And I give you pretty things. (*Lifts her seashell lets it drop hard on her chest*) (*She winces*)

Anna

I don't see anything pretty here in life.

Horshel

Anna, take some advice, only talk when no one is listening. You'll do better.

Pushkin

We belong to the dark, to the unknown. Believe in your own moral authority, Anna.

Horshel

Sorry to interrupt Professor, You've taken up about enough of our time. *(To Anna)*. Look at the dailies, Anna. Our Audience is down. Something is off. You have to give them what they want, Anna. The audience is like a man, it's all in the playbook. You must manipulate him, seduce him, See the audience as one hungry horny guy.

(Push takes out his notebook and starts scribbling what he observes)

Anna

I cannot force them to like me.

Horshel

You can force your way in anyplace...You have to knock down their doors. Life is a game you gotta win it. It's like playing tennis *(Push walks away in disgust)*

Anna

I didn't know you played, Horshel.

Horshel

Oh tennis is quite a game. Skill. Speed. Movement, accuracy, placing the ball just right. There was this tennis club down on 12th and front St. A private place. They didn't let Jews in. So me and my friends Callahan, and Bernadetti ...

Anna

They got you in, Hors?

Horshel

No they couldn't get in either, so we'd wait and walk in the back of some tall guys behind them, guys who belonged , holding conversations with them, and we'd slink in behind them through the doors.

Anna

So that's how you learned to play tennis Hors?

Horshel

No Dolly, we never did play tennis. Don't you get it? But we got in. That's the whole point in life. You got to get past the gate. Then we clapped for them. The tall guys who played.

Anna

But you didn't actually do it yourself?

Horshel

No we couldn't, I just told you.

Anna

So I am on stage for other people so they can clap for things they cannot do themselves?

Horshel

Honey you're not even past the gate yet. But in a way yes, you are living for other people. You gotta manipulate them.

Pushkin (*Rushes between them*)

Manipulation is a position of weakness Hors, and you know it. A flight of fancy, Horshel.

Horshel

I have had enough of you . This is where Push comes to shove, Pushkin. (*Shoves him hard*)
Push falls backward) That's where flights of fancy land. As we say here on earth.

(*Anna rushes to help Push up*)

Anna

Oh Pushkin I'm so sorry. Are you hurt, Speak to me. Can you talk?

Push

(*Glasses awry, breath knocked out of him*) (*Long pause*) I am .. Let us say I am muted by irony
.My fault! Entirely my fault. I trusted evolution of the species.

Anna

What is a flight of fancy, Push?

(*Hors tries to drags her of.*) (*Push grabs her other arm*)

Pushkin

Anna!!! Stay here

Horshel

(*They are pulling her opposite directions*)

Anna!!! Come here.

Anna

I have to go with Horshel, Pushkin. He's my manager. I really really really have to.

Pushkin

You use too many adverbs, Anna. I am trying...

Anna

What Pushkin?

Pushkin

I am trying to protect you from growing old and becoming what you used to be.

Anna (*rushing to follow Horshel*)

Never mind. I used to be nothing. Don't worry, Pushkin.

Scene 9

Anna

I think I'm making progress in school, Horshel. And Pushkin seems to like me.

Horshel

You have 3 days before the screen-test and what are you doing with that guy, studying Greek?

Anna

Hors, I've been practicing Hors. Look at the blisters on my heels. (*Shows*) I keep trying and

Horshel

You have to dance faster Anna, You have to keep them interested, shake that fanny Anna, give them Breast!

Anna

I swear there's no pay off. I get up early to practice and at night I'm no faster.

Horshel (*Waxing eloquently*)

You're looking for a payoff Anna? A payoff? There is no payoff in life.... When I was a boy my mother made me drink a glass of milk before every meal before I could eat and I swore when I grew up I'd be free-but you know what? I can't sit down and eat without a glass of fucking milk first and I hate it. I have to do it. There's no escape. You swim in the mud your whole life and then you die and you're under it. No payoffs.

Anna

I think I understand Horshel. I want to do good. I do. I want people to see me as something other than myself –I'm really really just a nice person, who likes animals and small children, that's a terrible image for a star.

Horshel

Right! Get busy, and keep it fast. Your dance. We don't want people going to the bar while you're doing your act. Keep it fast. You understand?

Anna (*sings lyrics*)

What good are my furbelows /and my little tippy toes/if I'm not with my Baaaby/

Horshel

Good. This time with music (*Exits*)

(*Music starts*)

Anna (*bellows*)

WHAT GOOD ARE MY FURBELOWS OR MY LITTLE TIPPIE TOES IF I'm Not with my baby.... *(She tries again faster. Turns her back toward audience and shakes it. Shakes her breasts. Winks over shoulders)* *(Anna does it one more time.)*

A *(sings line 2)*

What good is a tiny nose, lips just like the reddest rose, if I'm not with my baaaaby
(Music halts abruptly.)

Anna)

What happened?

Anima *(Enters)*

Oh Anna Anna....I just saw Horshel.

Anna

Yeah, I did too. He just left.

Anima

He was watching just now. Through the studio window. Your second try.

Anna

Oh yeah? How'd I do *(she starts shaking again)* He likes?

(Animas shakes her head slowly)

Anna

No?

Anima.

No.

Anna

No? He didn't like it?

Anima

Oh it's not that he didn't like it he *loved* it.

Anna

He did?

Anima:

But I heard him mutter. Just too fast. *Too damn fast.*

Anna:

He told me to go faster...I almost skinned my damn heels.

Anima:

Well...you know how proud men are.

Anna

How proud?

Anima

He admitted just now that it looked silly fast, He was wrong about the tempo. It's not in keeping with your dignity.

Anna

He said that? My dignity? Oh that means a lot to me, coming from him.

Anima

Yup, Too proud to talk to you himself, I thought I'd do it for him. Then we can surprise him when you get it right.

Anna

I don't believe you.

Anima.

Ok I'll get it in writing. *(Anna keeps steps, clumsily practicing dancing)*

*(Anima rushes out and writes on big poster board **TOO DAMN FAST.**)*

Anima

(Returns to Anna) Here it is in writing

Anna

(Reads) Too damn fast. That's what he says, all right! Too Fast. Well, maybe he can't admit he was wrong. Knowing I worked so hard, all these days.

Anima

Let's try it halftime, baby. I'm your sister. I am the other half of you. Sisters know best.

Anna

(Music drones) **What good are my tippy toes and my little furbelows if I'm not with my baby.** *(Singing it off tune like a lounge song)*

Anima

Slower honey, let them savor you..Milk the notes. Ride the vowels. Drape yourself.

(Anna enunciates each vowel, painfully slow)(Drapes herself across chair)

Anima

Better . Better.

Anna

Are you sure? I'm scared.

Anima

Of course honey. Here. Take a pill. *(Hands her pill bottle.)* We want that sleepy look in a songster's eyes, that velvety tone, that come hither purr.

Anna

(Slurring) sings again. Anna takes more pills. Overdoing, leaning forward, each note hands on knees)

Anima *(talking in her ear)*

I think you're getting it....Do it just like that. See Anna. You are a product and we are your advertisers. People are made agitated by advertising and feel if they satisfy their appetites the anxiety will go away, but first you must show them a need to feel anxious so they will feel better by seeing you perform.

Anna *(dream like)*

Well why do we want to cause all that trouble? Why can't we just let people alone to choose for themselves? *(Anna curls up on chaise lounge). (Exit Anima)*

Scene 10 *(Push and Hors Enter)* Pushkin

I had to call you in Horshel. I know I'm not supposed to interfere, but look. Pretty pathetic. The poor kid is passed out. You're messing her up Horshel with all your pressure. Shouting orders. Insulting her. Every time you put someone down you stunt their growth

Horshel

She's taller than I am by two inches.

Pushkin

I mean her emotional growth.

Horshel

She has a life.

Pushkin

Not an emotional life. You control that. She is like a child.

Horshel

She came to me and said she wanted to be changed. I'm changing her

Pushkin

Conformed is not transformed.

Horshel

Whatever that is.

Pushkin

And don't end a sentence with "is."

Horshel

(Sputtering) And ...And don't start a sentence with "and."

Pushkin

When you control a person's actions and feelings that is death. It is taking the horn off the unicorn. It's turning a shooting star into rock.

(Anna awakes)

Anna

I heard a dream of the highest star. Pushkin come listen. Here. Listen. *(listens to seashell at her ear)*

Pushkin

Come on Anna. You're on commercial break. Let's get out of here and get some dinner.

Horshel

Be back in an hour, Anna, and if you don't get your part down by tonight we're going to save a bundle of money on your wardrobe because no one is going to come see you. *(Exits)*

Scene 11 *Anna and Pushkin back from restaurant (Anna takes off cape as if returning)*

Pushkin

Now's your chance Anna. He 's not back yet. You can go. Run, Anna. You can leave and never come back

Anna

I cannot leave him... *(Push removes seashell from her neck. hands it to her)*

Pushkin

His chain is off.

Anna

But he needs me.

Pushkin

He'll survive without you. Like any reptile in the desert.

Anna

He depends on me. I'm his bread and butter. He told me so. But Pushkin, It's you I love .Push. You must know that's why I agreed to study with you. I've already learned everything I need to know.

Anna

I love you so much.

Pushkin

You've said that before.

Anna

Pushkin! Why is it you don't want sex with me?

Pushkin

It's pretty animalistic.

Anna

I thought you liked animals.

Pushkin

I like to study them Anna, and count them. I am an anthropologist.

Anna

Oh but remember how you told me about animals and mating seasons.

Pushkin

Sex has its place as instructive and emblematic of humankind, yes. You see Anna, because I am an intellectual I only get an erection once a year.

Anna

Well I love you Pushkin and I understand that is the way intellectuals are then.

Pushkin

I confess today I received an erected condition (*Anna moves forward*)

Pushkin

But I used it already

Anna

Oh Push. Why?

Pushkin

Please don't be sad but I'm not sexually attracted to you Anna.

Anna

Not to put you on the spot but I was just wondering why?

Pushkin

Well you're very lovely but, I don't know you are unfinished somehow.

Anna

You could have saved some of yourself for me anyway Pushkin. Just to be friendly.

Pushkin

Anna, I gotta run.

Anna

Do you think you'll get another erection at some time soon?

Pushkin

I do not know Anna. It depends on exams and stress and research.

Anna

One more thing.. About tonight? At the restaurant. It was lovely but

Pushkin

How was it lovely, Anna . The food? Ambiance? Expand your locution.

Anna

Pushkin why did you have to touch her hair?

Pushkin

Who.

Anna

The waitress. Why did you have to touch the waitress's hair?

Pushkin

I love women. I love their clothes, I just love the *idea* of women.

Anna

So you have to stop and talk to everyone that passes?

Pushkin

I like it that they'll go away.

Anna

So you like to talk to them so they'll go away?

Pushkin

No I like that I don't have to do anything after talking to them. Don't you see?

Anna

But the waitress. You touched her hair.

Pushkin

I like blond hair.

Anna

I have blonde hair.

Pushkin

I like blonde hair that I don't have to take home.

Anna

Every night I dream I 'm with a man I *want* to be with, not *have* to be with, and in my dream right before he comes to me, he disappears.

Pushkin

You can control your dreams. It is a known fact. Science proves that.

Anna

But before we left the restaurant, you followed her into the kitchen....

Pushkin

I needed mustard.

Anna

And you show more love to perfect strangers than to me and you don't even eat mustard.

Pushkin

Gotta go. I got an exam tomorrow.

Anna

Oh yes. About that erection....If ever... Text me? (*Pushkin exits*)

Scene 12

(*Enter Anima*) Anima:

I got candy!

Anna

You know I'm supposed to be losing weight, ok give me some.

Anima

Want to play dolls?.... snort some coke?jump on the bed?

Anna

Pushkin rejected me for good this time. Go away I need to be alone.

Anima

Since when? What do you do when you're alone anyway,

Anna

I look for people to party with

Anima:

Yeah. I can see you do need some solitude then. There's hardly a soul here to party with, but me of course.

Anna

Go or I'll call the security.

Anima

Oh please do. Like last time, when they put you back in rehab. They can't see me. No one can but you because you killed me. So call away, Sis.

Anna

Ok so I killed you...hand me the eyeliner (*Anima does it*). No the green.

Anima

However if you were famous and happy and respected, you could change all this.

Anna

For real?

Anima

As true as I am standing before you.

Anna

You're in back of me.

Anima

Ghosts don't give a shit -- forward backward. That's human stuff.

Anna

I am respected already.

Anima

No I mean when your clothes are *on*.

Anna

What in the hell do you want from me?

Anima

I was thinking....

Anna

Spirits don't think.

Anima

Ok I was passing through thoughts and...

Anna

Hurry up I have to find my eyelashes.

Anima

If you played on stage, a noble figure, someone the world respected, who inspired everyone, then the audience would think it was you because audiences are that way. They think the house is really a house on stage and that the actors really feel the way they say, so, well, the audience would think YOU are the wonderful noble leader who led mankind and saved our souls. And Horshel would be rich and Pushkin would fall in love with you.

Anna

I like the part already. I'll do it. Who.

Anima:

I was passing through thoughts and I think the best person would be...

Anna

I'd need all new clothes.

Anima

Martin Luther King.

Anna

Who was he?

Anima

You'll find out when you play him.

Anna

He's a man.

Anima

Theater is all deception, lies, manipulation. You'll be great.

Anna

So. I don't have to dance? My feet are raw.

Anima

Hmmm . I don't think that was his fine point.

Anna

Well what if Hors won't let me.

Anima

Oh you have to insist on it. This is your only chance for respectability and to get rid of me at the same time. Press Horshel. Say you'll marry Pushkin if he doesn't let you. (*Hands Anna pills*)

Anna (*Pops pill*)

Pushkin doesn't want me.

Anima

No matter, marry him anyway. Most women just find that out later. You'll be ahead of the game.

Anna

This is all too much for my head.

Anima

(*Sing song*) You'll get rid of me.

Anna

Martin Luther who?

Anima

King, King. Like on a throne...The head guy

Anna

Throne. I like that. I could have a tiara.

Anima

Do it tonight.

Anna

Is it tonight now or is it day.

Anima

If it's light, it's day.

Anna

But (*looks at watch*) 3oclock.How do you know if that's in the morning or at night.

Anima

3 o'clock is in the middle don't worry about it. You got me, Sis, to do the worrying and I got YOU.

(Anna takes a handful of pills then sprays perfume on her neck)

Anna

Now the pills, what time did you say I take the rest of these?

Anima

Since you don't know what time it is, I think you can take them any time you want. The more the better.

Anna

But what about the makeup? I will not go on stage with old ripped clothes and no makeup.

Anima

I guess you can wear black face.

Anna

He was Black?

Anima

Yup

Anna

Is he still black?

Anima (*Raises eyes to heaven*)

I'll ask .

Anna

And also ask that part about being dead.

Anima

Yes? I know a lot about that.

Anna

I've always wondered why God went through all the trouble of having people die and getting new ones. When he could just keep the people he already has.

Anima

I'll ask.

Anna

Also how will everyone believe I am Martin Luther King?

Anima

Oh Easy. That's a PR trick. It's called Trumor. You just start these rumors and people start to think they're true and then you show up on stage and they're delighted that they already knew it.

Anna (*pensive*)

Trumors.

Anima

I'm sure your handlers will love it.

Anna

I'll ask. (*Exit Anima*)

Scene 13 Reporter (*Knock on door*)

Anna

Whoever you are just go away please.

Reporter

(*Hesitantly moves in*) Miss Smith?

Anna

I'm not scheduled for anybody and just get out. And especially him! (*to photographer*)

Reporter (*Gestures Photographer out. He exits*)

This is for "the Global Inquiry". I don't want anything, Anna. I have something to give you.

Anna

That'll be the day.

Reporter

My boss. (*Hands her paper*) A contract. (*Anna reads*)

Reporter

The shots we took are beautiful, the editor says your face is radiant and he wants you on the cover.

And for the centerfold.

Anna

I'm not taking my clothes off one more time, get lost.

Reporter

Oh no. Clothes on. We think you are an undiscovered beauty. Your face. The bones. There is innocence there Anna. We want to show it. A childlike unruined beauty. A sweet face. The world is ready for this. How you are studying with the professor to better yourself. A success story.

Anna (*To audience*)

I look better than my photos. I know I look better. They never get the light right. They make my mouth look big, my chin too fat. They swallow up cheekbones. I never saw a photo that looked like me yet. That's why I want to meet a painter. A real painter who will paint me with paints and colors the way I really look. That's why I am sad because no one knows what I really look like. Real life is so fake. I want a painter to paint it real.

Reporter

It will be a series of expressions. Just your wonderment. I know we can capture that. Like when you were talking about the rainbow. That look. We think we can catch the Anna not yet seen...One the world will see for what she is. And her beauty. Her internal beauty. Her struggle to be whole. We can show that. Honey, you will finally see who you really are.

Anna

You're not making fun of me? You think I have beauty inside? And that will be in the pictures? And I keep my clothes on? And everyone will like me? And then maybe my true love will read about me? And then we would get married and I would have a baby to love?

Horshel (*enters*)

And just who let you in here?

Reporter

I knocked.

Anna

Horshel. It finally happened. You don't have to do pop porn and we don't have to go to all that trouble finding funders. The Global wants my face and I can keep my clothes on because it gets so cold, usually and

Horshel (*grabs contract*)

And what the hell is this ?

Anna

My contract.

Horshel

You don't have the authority. You don't have a contract . And you sure as hell don't have this one (*Rips up.*)

Reporter

You'll hear from us (*Exiting*)

Horshel

The old guy is getting out of the limo. Get ready Anna. We made a date with a billionaire and your time is spoken for and paid for.

Anna

He's probably just another creep that smells .

Horshel

Not all men are bad, Anna.

Anna

That's true. Some are dead.

Hors

You are late.

Anna

They were going to take a good picture of me, Horshel, for the news. With clothes on, and I would see what I really look like.

(*Enter Pushkin and Anima. Anima hands him box.*)

Pushkin

This came at the door Anna .It's for you.

Anna

From the nice news guy?

Anima

For you. To celebrate what you really look like.

Anna

I like presents. (*Opens*)*(There is toy dog Randy hung upside down from a rope, decapitated)*A
hypodermic stuck into him.)

Anima

He died for your sins, Anna.*(Exits)*

(Anna Drops box and sits frozen)

Horshel

Now is not the time to play with your toys, Anna. Get rid of that damn dog. Anna. Listen up. And listen now. Get ready. The photographer's here. Get naked.

Anna

Where? *(She starts to disrobe)*

Horshel

Just where it counts.

Pushkin *(pulls clothes up)*

No, you cover up, Anna

Anna

Where?

Pushkin

Just where it counts.

Horshel

Hurry up.

Pushkin

Hurry up. Our tutorial.

Anna

Never mind, Pushkin. I'm just a.. a trumor.

Horshel

(Horshel exiting) Make it fast. *(shouts offstage)* Put the old guy in the green room . And fix your damn face Anna. **BLACK OUT**

ACT 2

Scene 1

Anna in court room) (Anima on stool looking down)

Anna (*sniffing in hankie*)

I loved him, He was the kindest man I ever knew, the only father I ever knew, and he chose me! *Him*, with all his money and cars, chose me, calling me “Anna his little angel of itching,” meaning I made him itch where he couldn’t scratch. Isn’t that sweet? My lawyer says this should not have to go to trial. He was my husband and he loved me and left me his money. That’s it. He was the perfect husband. He wasn’t even jealous of the other guys I was with. He even liked to watch. He was a saint that way. He always bought three kinds of liquor in case I didn’t like two, but I usually I liked all three. But sometimes I felt like beer. I never asked, “How old are you?” Do you say that to a bird or a bear who is a millionaire? No. They just are who they are. I was his nurse. I gave him his medications, double doses even to make him feel better. (*Wipes eyes*), and I was a real wife in every way. Yes, *that way* too. Although once they had to call 911. It was his plastic helper that got stuck. But he was full of hope. I gave him hope. He was planning to grow a mustache and he had no hair! How many can say that? You can talk all you want about me, but how many of you are married to someone who gives you hope? I earned this inheritance, and if his free will was to marry me; to tell me his secrets, to let me play cheerleader, He chose me, then, isn’t that the American way? To have choices? To be a millionaire if you want to be one? Once for my birthday he bought me (*sniffles*) He bought me (*takes out hanky*) Money! (*Looks at crib sheet in purse*) (*Sniffing*) If there was a villain he would have slain him for me (*Gavel*) (*Pushkin pulls Anna off.*) (*Anna calling after over her shoulder*) And my father hurt me so much...

Pushkin

You should have stopped at the mustache.

Hors

Where did you get that slain bit?

Anna

I read it in a book. Pushkin always tells me to read books.

Hors

What book did you start with? Robinhood?

Anna

It was in my motel drawer this morning. See? The Bible (*Holds up torn page of bible*)

Photographer

What happened in there?

Hors

Anna Nicole is accused of ---of Shoplifting at Loveland. You may quote me on that. Big font.
Front page please.

(Lights flash)

Photographer

Anna, what does it feel like to be a billionaire widow?

Anna (looks at paper, reads)

Beauteous and wise and God will wipe the tears from our faces

(camera flashing)

Anna

(Anna strikes a pose for the lights. Pulls Vial from purse. Holds up)

And I thought ahead. I saved his sperm.

Photographer

Holy Shit! *(Flash) (Exits)*

(Anima hands Horshel roses. Syringe stuck in rose. He hands to Anna)

Hors

Your fans are still with you Dolly.

Anna (Takes rose)

Thank you Thank you *(waving) (Kissing to audience) (Starts to sniff rose. Sees/ pulls out syringe. Faints)*

Interviewer, Pushkin and Horshel crowd around her.

Anima (to aud)

Big font front page please.

BLACKOUT

Scene 2

Pushkin (To audience)

Dear Committee Members, Advisors, I know I stood before you not too long ago but I fear I must ask another reprieve . I told you that Miss Smith was unstable . First Miss Smith must have cut up her own toy dog and given it to herself pretending it was a gift from someone else. This caused the first hospitalization . She denied that. Going so far as to slit her wrists! You can imagine how I felt, with a one week deadline on this interim report. After release she did follow through on one commitment at least and that was a marriage to one of her elderly fans. Then he died. The fortunate part of her breakdown after court appearance was that I was able to witness her behavior in the ambulance . She thought she was going to a family reunion! And she thought the ambulance was a bus taking her home. She thought she saw a family portrait but said she was the only one missing in the picture! And there was no plate on the table for her.

The ambulance driver called her “Sweetie” and that act of kindness is what added to the delusion and made her sick. He had to give her oxygen.

Scene 3

Anna ‘s Room in Hospital/chairs outside room. Split stage. chairs right. Anna’s bed stage left. There are stand up window “bars” separating her bed from center stage space. Anna in hospital bed.

(Anima looks inside “Bar” but cannot get in.) (Anna in bed, lying down. Doctor at her bedside)

Doctor

Rest Anna we’ll talk more later.

Anna

I’m tired of talking.

Doctor

Well, think then. Think of the things we said. We were talking about your philosophy of life.

Anna

Life is shit then it kills you, Doc.

Doctor

We were talking of more respect for your own body, Anna.

Anna

I leave my body when they’re snapping pictures. I let it stay there without me.

Doctor

So you don’t respond to being looked at?

Anna

It doesn’t matter. I’m never really seen.

Doctor *(Exiting)*

Rest, dear Anna. Rest.

Anna

Horshel, I think the doctor likes me.

Scene 4 *(Pushkin and Hors outside of hospital room. Anima in middle)(She hovers behind each.)*

Pushkin

Well this Martin Luther King thing. I was hesitant at first but it’s my chance to show my humanities scholarship.

Horshel

It's a winner. What blonde celebrity has ever done this before? Name one.

Pushkin

I don't know too many. Marilyn Monroe? Jayne Mansfield?

Horshel

Not even close. They were in girlie movies. Here we can show blondes have smarts.

Pushkin

Not that I want notoriety, but the general public will certainly hail us as feminists. I would not want to be laured, of course. This is about Anna . Not me.

Horshel

Well it's a box office dream any way you cut it.

Pushkin

I have my doubts about her acting burden. Perhaps we could start her off by playing Rosa Parks.

Horshel

Who was she?

Pushkin

I'm not a producer but we could have Anna go to the back of the bus and we could have a Thoreau essay on Civil Disobedience, Voice Over... something like that.

Horshel

Nah. Anna needs to be the lead. We could start with a coffin standing up in the middle of the stage and Anna could step out of it like a door.

Pushkin

I'm not a designer but I see Pink strobe lights . It needs context. So maybe a blue strobe instead

Horshel

Well then somebody on the side can tell the story while Anna makes all the moves in a tux or something

Pushkin

We are losing the message .The concept is "What is Truth."

Horshel

Let's not lose Anna Nicole in this or I'll find me another scholar.

Pushkin

I'm not sure this is right for the Hippodrome.

Horshel

You may right about that. Let's think Las Vegas. Black History month. When is that? We could bus in churches. How we gonna get Anna on board?

Pushkin

You're her manager.

Horshel

But she trusts you.

Pushkin

I am not sleeping with her so forget that.

Horshel

You don't have to. Just tell her this is part of that study you keep barking about.

Pushkin

No.

Horshel

Yes.

Pushkin

No.

Scene 5

(Enter Push and Hors. (Anima can not enter) Anna wakes startled)

Anna

OH. I thought I was at the airport and I was trying to make reservations and no one would help me but Anima, No one would help me get where I needed to go and I was screaming and I didn't have anything on but a feather boa *(starts shaking , face in hands.)*

Horshel

Airport agents are well trained to help people. You need to settle down Anna. What's the matter? You didn't get enough ink from the trades? You had to go psycho? The photographers are outside and you are blotto.

Anna

I don't want to see anyone

Pushkin

Anna it's time to come out into the shining world to embrace your existence. Horschel has some work for you.

Anna

I'm not doing it. Doc says to think of myself not your fucking PHD.

Pushkin

This *is* about yourself. Your name will be in my footnotes.

Anna

I don't know Push. Doc says I need to rest a lot now a long time, that a person who took off her clothes all the time is not the real me. The real me is shy and I think he got it right.

Pushkin

You don't have to take off your clothes for this. Well not all of them I'm almost sure. It's about cultural coordinates, making a white woman of questionable education play the part of a great brilliant black man.

Anna

I don't know Pushkin. Doc says I need hobbies. Not a career. He says cocaine is not a hobby. He said I could do better

Pushkin

Better than what?

Anna

He says I take my worth from unworthy people.

Pushkin

I beg your pardon.

Anna

Not you I'm sure but doc wants me to take up some pastime and not work all the time. I was thinking of playing the piano.

Pushkin

That is splendid Anna.

Anna

But I (thoughtful, searching) ...really hate music. So there's always a problem.

Pushkin

Yes...always a problem . What does make you happy Anna? Tell me.

Anna

A big shot of tequila and a snort of coke. Maybe two.

(Enter doctor looking through paperwork at bed)

Horshel

So are we set? You are looking swell Anna. We got the guy from Celebrity outside... We can spring you anytime whenever the doc says. We want to make sure we leak it, and get a PR guy that won't let the news out. Get it? We'll only let the television public know. (*Winks*)

Hors

We got Toys R Us rented for your coming home party, big dolls for you, a big Barbie couch, lots of pink balloons.

Doctor

This is not the kind of conversation we can have here. Visiting time is up, gentlemen

Horshel

(Doc escorts them out) Remember I'm the one who pays your goddamn bill. (*P and H exit*)

Scene 6

Anna

No more talk, Doc. Just hold me in your arms awhile. Can't you take off that mean coat again just for a while?

Doc

Not right now, Anna. We have to go back in time. That's where the hurt is. I'll be with you.

Anna

It gives me a headache.

Doc

Just close your eyes like we practiced and tell me what you see. Try to think silk. Silk.

Anna (*closes eyes*)

No. No silk. There is no silk. Everything is still plaid but there is no Anima. That's good. Right Doc?

Doc,

I think we're rid of her Anna, finally. You're safe now. There are bars on the window. You set some boundaries. Now we want more boundaries to keep you safe.

Anna

You sure those bars keep Anima out? These bars on the window. Not just to keep me in? She can't get me in here? No more faces in the mirror? No more voices in my ear?

Doc

I promise. She'll never get in again if you stay away from the booze and the drugs.

Anna

Doc, Tell me, You have kids?

Doc

Anna, your life is more important for you to think about than mine.

Anna

You said you were my friend and no secrets so why should I tell mine.

Doc

That's fair. I confess . No bride, no children. But Anna, we were talking about your sex life before, and you keep evading it. I'd like you to get to the bottom of something besides a bottle.

Anna

Oh yeah. You were saying why I always gave it away. Well when I was little I remember giving away all my toys so nobody would take them from me and hurt me. Once I heard on TV that if a man rapes you he steals your soul .That always stuck in my mind. So I figure if I give it to men I won't have to be raped so I'll save my soul!

Doc

I think I see your logic. So back to your baby, Anna. What became of your baby?

Anna

I never had a baby.

Doc

Your son.

Anna

You are lying. I never had a son.

Doc.

The son who you think died. What did you feel?

Anna

I didn't feel anything. I don't feel anything. Can I please have a smoke?

Doc

Soon Anna. We were talking yesterday about Marie Antoinette.

Anna

I remember. I'm not dumb. They cut her head off. The French Revolution. I remember.

Doc

But first they took away her son

(Anna is visibly shaken)

Doc

They made him go to prison.

Anna

How old?

Doc

Eight. The last time you remember your son's age.

Anna

No.

Doc

The age you say your son was.

Anna

No.

Doc

And Marie's child stayed there until he died at age 10.

Anna

He died in prison?

Doc

They made him sing the French national anthem over and over again and again.

Anna

They tortured him?

Doc

Two years that child was kept in prison. But not yours. Your son was warm and cared for. Even if you weren't around he was comfortable, not tortured, he was swimming in love, Even if other people were raising him.

(Anna starts rocking back and forth moaning louder and louder.)(Doctor holding her hand.)

Anna

Why am I feeling this now?

Doc

Each time has its own light Anna.

Anna

(Crescendo) Oh No Oh No Oh No. My Boy. My Boy. My Boy. It's almost like what I feel really happened. It's almost as if he was real.

Doc

He is real.

Anna

No . It can't be. I couldn't remember. Only when he was eight. Then it's all blurry.

Doc

Just because you can't remember doesn't mean it didn't happen. *(Doc takes off his coat and wraps it around Anna and holds her in his arms.)*

Scene 7

Anima *(turning away from window bars) (to aud)*

One of you smartass mortals said the enemy is someone whose story you have not heard. So. You want to know my story? Evil needs no reason. It is its own reason. As for me, I never ever got a chance. I was in the same womb with my twin but Anna got all the food and I got eternity. I had to fill it up some kind of way...So I came down to play. The more Anna shows her body, the more I feel the lack of mine. But like some idea comes into you when you're humming a song, I come into Anna when she is doing wrong. I am her song. As long as she drinks I am in the bottle. As long as she smokes, I am in the weed, and so who wouldn't encourage that? She let me exist. You out there judging me, think of this. I didn't have a turkey dinner on Sunday, like you all did, or a street lined with big trees, with leaves in piles of pretty colors on the white sidewalk. Maybe. You never had to think, if Anna does not call me in today "What will happen now?" . Maybe you walked down a street with houses - with light falling out the kitchen on the snow. All I had was a future with its big empty mouth, waiting to gobble me, because Anna had the physical form and I had only the air. How would you like it if no one could see you, or hear you, and since no one has ever met me, worst of all is this - nobody will ever miss me! *(Turns to Anna)* Anna, please tell them about me. At least do that. Tell them who I was. You owe me that. Tell them about me. Tell them who I was. **BLACK OUT**

Scene 8 *(Enter Horshel and Pushkin to Anna's room)*

Horshel

What's this I hear Anna. You giving up your career. After all your hard work and we're booked for a month of weekends. Why your life would be nearly perfect Anna.

Anna

I am always nearly perfect? What would make me perfect, Horschel?

Pushkin

We are not angry Anna we are disappointed.

Horshel

I'm angry, asshole.

Pushkin

Horshel, there is a more excellent way of dealing with Anna.

Anna

Doc says for me to listen to my heart.

Horshel

And what do you hear? Another round of Columbia weed?

Anna

Doc says I should only do things that touch my soul.

Horshel

Your soul. And exactly where would that be, Anna?

Anna

Well, Doc says it's better that I be happy than be pretty. And I was thinking about that, and I saw some ugly people laughing and I wondered, don't they know they are butt-ugly? And then I thought if you look good you have to worry about that all the time, but if you are born ugly you only have one thing to do and that's be happy so...

Push

I love that thought process.

Anna

Then I wished everyone on earth was equal. And that we were all the same size. And if poor people were hungry they could just go eat!

Push

Keep going with that, Anna.

Horshel

Nice thinking. Now Pushkin. Remember we have a career idea here. This is why we are here, Pushkin.

Push

Yes. Those who are attentive to their profession will prosper. We have an historical play for you Anna. But I'm interested in your current awareness now.

Horshel

Out Pushkin I will take care of this.

Pushkin (*Exiting*)

Fine. I'll be outside if you need any two syllable words .

Horshel

Out.

Scene 9

Anna

Doc says I m not crazy Horshel.

Horshel

Oh yeah what does he know? How many times has he dragged you into a toilet to puke?

Anna

I want to be something besides somebody's girlfriend. Doc says I'm just sad.

Horshel

Well it must be a fucking virus then because we are all sad, Anna, You let us down. You been in bed three months. Time to get out. Your fans want you.

Anna

Doc loves me.

Horshel

We all love you Anna. And how is this medicine man any different than your oldest friends.

Anna

He touched the cuff of my sleeve one day and fixed it when it was turned backward. So soft. So sweet. So gentle. No one ever did that.

Horshel

Christ I will buy you a wardrobe of sleeves.

Anna

You know I had a son.

Horshel

Let bygones be bygones.

Anna

I neglected him.

Horshel

A working woman. What do you expect?

Anna

I let other people keep him.

Horshel

Nannies, it's the way Anna. You think you invented babysitters? This is keeping you off stage?

Anna

I was just thinking of myself the whole time. My career.

Horshel

Shit.

Anna

Who knows what he felt. What they did to him. Maybe he didn't get any snacks.

Horshel

Snacks make you fat who wants a fat baby. Come to life Anna.

Anna

Maybe they kept him in a playpen.

Horshel

You saw him. You brought him. I remember him wailing backstage. He was with you.

Anna

Backstage! What more do you want from me Hors. I can give you everything but myself. I gave that away a long time ago. I want it back.

Horshel

Well you can't get the past back and you didn't kill it. Pneumonia. It happens. He got better.

Anna

Marie Antinette was beheaded.

Horshel

Oh yeah? I didn't read about it.

Anna

No, a long time ago. They chopped her head off.

Horshel

I got 15 more minutes in here Anna. Then visiting time is up. And you're all alone again. All alone.

Anna

They tore her 8 year old son away and he had to sing to the guards in the prison all night.

Horshel

I am calling the doc to spring you out of here. They are making you worse.

Anna

And he died in agony without his mother. I wanted to be famous, Horshel.

Horshel

He's alive. You didn't kill it.

Anna

Him not it, Horshel. He was a person. Doc says the word fame means hunger, it comes from Famay. That's another language. Italian. That means hunger. I was hungry all the time for fame and my kid didn't get anything. I got it all. For what?

Horshel

Hell you loved him, everyone knows that.

Anna

I did. I loved him. That is something even a kid would know... ..I just guess I loved something else more.

Horshel

You seem angry Anna.

Anna

No I am angry, Horshel. But he's not dead. I remember him. I have a son that's alive. I didn't kill him.

Black out

Scene 10

Pushkin (*to audience*)

Gentlemen of the committee, I know this is highly irregular but Miss Smith has been incapacitated for 3 months , when she was released she painted a star in the sidewalk on the new cement . Unfortunately it was in front of precinct 47. This took a day to repair and another day to get her out. I seek to finalize the theme of celebrity hood soon.

Scene 11

Horshel's "office" backstage. (*Pushkin enters*)

Push

I've been calling and calling no one can connect me to Anna. Where is she?

Hors

This comeback has to be perfectly planned. We'll have some religious music first then a chorus of rockettes dancing then a huge visual with patriotic songs in front then....

Push

What if Anna doesn't like it?

Hors

We don't tell Anna till the last minute. We wait to see if Doc says she's o.k. to go on of course. I'm not stupid.

Push

Not by theater standards, I'm sure.

(*Doctor enters*)

Doc

What's this emergency you called me for? Anna's discharged a week. Where is she?

(*Enter Anna in costume made of leaves, Green, Autumn colors, White.*)

Horshel and Pushkin (in horror)

Anna!

Anna

Why can't you say my name like I'm somebody you like. Aren't you glad to see me?

Doctor

Anna what is this costume? You were supposed to check with me first.

Anna

Your line was busy and you said I could do anything I set my mind to.

Doctor

I didn't say ...

Pushkin

Stop her Horshel. She'll be a disaster on stage

Horshel

Once they put her away, my contract was dead meat.

Anna

Anna Marie Antinette is free of drugs and I'm going out there to my audience. I don't like your ideas. This is the opposite of you. I'm going to talk to them from the heart.

Doctor Pushkin Horshel (*All at once*)

Oh No Anna. Not that

Anna

It's the 4 stages of woman. I saw it on PBS. Spring, she is hopeful, Summer she is full blossom, Fall, mature, and Winter, she grows old gracefully. Doc says I must learn what it is to be a woman. I had the leaves made special.

Doctor

Not like this Anna.

Horshel

We learn by our failures.

Anna

I'm not going to fail, sourpuss. Give your Anna a great big good luck kiss. (She smooches him)
Move aside guys.

(Drum rolls, cat calls, Anna moves center "on stage") H, P and Doc off to the side

Anna (Arms up in the air)

I'm back!

(Audience hoots and hollers)

Anna

Oh no no, not that. I'm here to talk about my journey as a woman

(Audience: *Take it off. Oh yeah baby*)

Anna

Oh no not that woman. The woman who knows my fans wants to grow along with me. You see I'm in the summer of my life. (Shakes her green leaves on her front). I want to blossom and bear fruit....

(Audience: "lose the leaves," hollering)

Anna

No No you don't understand. Listen. Listen. I have a story about wanting to be a woman before it is Autumn (shakes her rear with colored leaves)

(Audience starts booing)

Anna

Wait wait. Stop stop. I am Anna **Marie** now (*she starts to back down*) before there are icicles on my leaves (*shakes headdress*) (*Music makes a down note*) (*she signals music to stop*) I want to flourish with you, my audience. You are my only friends!

(Audience laughing and hissing)

Anna (very upset)

Stop Listen listen. I'm clean and sober and why not give me a chance, I tried to be everything you wanted me to be, (*she starts crying.*) I had this outfit made for you . (*Hors and Pushkin come in and pick her up by the arms*) *she shakes them off, standing*)

Anna (*rips at her front, pulling off leaves. confronts audience*)

Here. This is what you all want. Here. Two of them. Two with nipples. OK? Doc says they are only Mammary glands and skin. Here. Take your pictures. Nobody cares about my wishes but I'll give you your fucking wish.

(*Push and Hors escort her off to Doc's arms*)(*Doc embraces her*)

Horshel

The deeper the sorrow, the higher the joy Anna.

Push

Huh?

Horsel

Doc told me that.

Doctor

Anna, why didn't you check with me.

Anna

You said to take risks.

Doc

We had tests to do, systems to put in place, measurements.

Pushkin

Any system you measure is changed by the measurement, Doctor.

Anna

Doc helped me so much. I found out why the people on TV just went away, they weren't really there at all. They didn't care about me or even if I watched them. They were just pictures of people. On tape. So I wanted to connect...

Horshel

(Desperate) Well maybe we can do something with you Anna yet --- that reporter who wanted to feature you, all dressed, with your pretty cheekbones photo graphed.

Anna (Wiping eyes, recovering)

Well I don't need my pictures taken anymore. Horshel and I don't want the Hippodrome, and I am not trying out for your skin pictures anyway. I am going to have a baby. A baby of my own.

(Holds her stomach) With or without my audience.

Pushkin

Ah, proof, one can be born anything and become another.

Horshel

A baby. When?

Doc

I'd say in about 6 months.

Horshel

Who? *(Hors looks at Push. Push looks at Hors.) (The 3 men stand around Anna)* You're too fragile for this

Anna (still weakened)

Doc says I am whole and well. And it's a girl. And I'm going to put bows in her hair. And kiss her. And she will be happy and live and live.

Pushkin

And she will thrive she will thrive Anna. Better put.

Anna

Yes thank you Pushkin. Thrive is a bigger word. She will also be a billionaire, remember.

(All react)

Pushkin

Well now, I did- we did- as you remember that one night- we did have a special moment. Anna.

Anna

Yes it only lasted a moment Pushkin. I remember that much.

Horshel

I believe I, myself, am on the short list for father, Anna.

Doctor

(Puts his arm around her shoulders) Maybe the future is more important than the past.

Anna

See my tummy is already puffy. See? And my son will come visit me. Doc says that's better than being a celebrity.

Horshel

But you were our goddess, Anna. Sometimes it was all I could do to keep from telling you I liked you.

Pushkin

Yes, Horshel. When the Gods made Anna, they let loose all the lust, greed, betrayal and evil, in the world to follow her around, but they cursed her with Hope.

Doctor

Then why not hope for the best for her? She's happy for the moment.

Pushkin

(Ponderous) Zeus fashioned Glory in the shape of this young girl and called her Anna. The gods made her flesh and sound. Athena gave her resilience. Aphrodite cast a spell of seduction, and Hermes put prettiness in her brain. But Anna wanted to learn the ways of the world. *(Snaps sternly)* And this mythology was my idea, remember, when you speak to the press.

Anna

Goodbye. Goodbye Horshel, Pushkin. God Bless you *(To audience)* God Bless all of you too I guess. And *(looking up)* God Bless you too *(uncertainly)* God! ?

(blows kisses to the audience and God) (to audience) Thank you Thank you. *(Exiting)*

*(All exit, Horshel, Pushkin, Doc. Anna last. **Anima enters,***

follows Anna)

THE END