

ÁNGEL Y CHUPI

(The Reinvented Queer Tale of the Puerto Rican Chupacabra)

By Daniela Gonzalez y Perez

Daniela Gonzalez y Perez
Danielagyp1@gmail.com

CHARACTERS

ÁNGEL (*Ahn-hel*): A genderless, ageless, quirky, wears their heart on their sleeve, Puerto Rican angel that falls from heaven. *Medium-sized wings on their back. (Minimal makeup, light colored loose or fitted clothing)*

RAMI (*Rah-me*): A Dominican woman, charming, naturally witty with an intensity to her, quick on her feet.

CHUPI (*Chew-pee*): A genderless, ageless, witty, violent, repugnant, although charming, Puerto Rican Chupacabra that roams between worlds. *Not a caricature. Tiny wings on their back, fur down their spine and hands. (Dark lipstick (black, purple, or maroon), clean shaved face (if applicable), wears rags)*

CASTING:

For **ÁNGEL** and **CHUPI**: Latinx. An actor with gender neutral, genderless, they/them, she/they pronouns, or a non-binary person. No men are to be cast. The actors playing **ÁNGEL** Y **CHUPI** should have opposing energy to one another.

RAMI: Afro-Latinx, non-white (Tan/medium to darker toned skin), Cis-Woman. Her age is based in proximity to **ÁNGEL** y **CHUPI**'s.

PRODCUTION NOTES: Whenever the halo appears, it is projected above the actor's head. Only one prop halo is used (Pg 90) and is a glass/plastic halo with golden light. The unintelligible whispers that are in heaven v.s. hell should differ in pitch, tone, and speed. When **RAMI** makes a mark on **CHUPI**'s forehead it is anything, but the sign of the cross (Pg 86). Have the cave, heaven's gates, and the journey through the underworld take place throughout different sections of the stage. The Wonder Wheel is somehow always seen or present onstage. There is "ángel" (Ahn-hel), the Spanish version, and "angel" (Aye-n-gel), the English version written in the script. Please pay close attention to whether there is an accent mark or not.

KEY

(*Words in parenthesis*): Words that are italicized in parenthesis are the English translations of the words before it. Do not read the English translations out loud.

Y=(*and*)

Pero=(*but*)

- : Cutting a character off/being interrupted by an action

/ : Characters begin speaking on top of one another

Time: ∞

ACT ONE

The stage is dark. We hear a loud church bell echo. Then we hear a few drops, and then a drizzle of rain. Strong winds, heavy rain, and then THUNDER. LIGHTENING strikes the stage with a big BANG. A ball of light that is gradually losing its shine, is shown falling from the sky until it hits the ground. On the ground lays a creature and they are soaked. After several moments, the sky clears up, the sun comes out, and seagulls and faint waves are heard in the background as the creature gets to their feet. They are on the boardwalk, in Coney Island, part of a worn-down Wonder Wheel is present and spinning. We can see the creature as they examine parts of their body and look around. They are human? No, they are an angel; they're dressed in white garbs with two white wings sticking out their back. They are barefoot. The Wonder Wheel stops spinning. They look at the sky.

ÁNGEL

You're gonna regret sendin' me down here! And really, with allat rain and shit? Real *funny* sending Juracán (*Hurricane God*) to do all the work for you! I'm soaked bro!

(whips around multiple times)

Yo, you singed part of my wings, man.

(tastes something bad)

Mlech, mlech, mlech. Why does the air *taste* like this?

Spirits fly from under their legs and over their shoulder into the audience.

Ahh, shit! Who are-what are? Are you Cemís (*Ancestral spirits*)? So many spirits...

(a moment)

Ahh, Tato! I see you out there! It's me! Ángel! Wow. I haven't seen you in a while. Wait, wai-where you goin'?

(a moment)

Abuela? Abuelaaaa. I really missed you. I was waiting for you up there. Ahh, you wanted to watch over Tato...Tío couldn't ever take care of himself, could he? It's good to see you.

(a moment, then they feel something come from behind them over their shoulder)

Eugh, Paquita, you look scary! Prima, I don't think you at the right place, *ooí!* Yoo, besides Paquita, the spirit world is lit down here! I see ya'll spirits dancin' and jumpin'!

(copies the first dance move they see)

O-Kaayy, okay, you're favorite Puerto Rican angel estoy *aquí* (*is here*)! Abuela! Te gustan mis alas (*You like my wings*)? What do you *meaann* how I got these? I finessed, heart of gold, alma

pura (*pure soul*), courage comó un león (*like a lion*) you know how I do...*okay, okay*, I barely made it, pero you know, it still counts. Pshh, I better be up there with the rest of ‘em. You know how many Ave Maria’s y Ay Dios mio’s (*Oh, my God’s*) that come out our mouths and all those crosses we wear ‘round our necks? You know being Puerto Rican we’re basically born into the kingdom of heaven. Right when we pop out our momma’s coochi, they dunk us into the holy fountain at church, the priest makes the sign of the cross, our family checks that we haven’t drowned, and into Sunday school we go.

(looks up)

Was it really that big of a deal?? I don’t know what I’m supposed to be doing down here, this musta been a mistake! I’m not the monster here! I gotta get back before the ceremony tomorrow! Is this *earth*?

(looks around)

It feels different, where are the humans? I need to get outta here.

(tries to fly and fails)

Mrphh!

(tries to fly again and fails)

What the-*Mrphh!*

(tries to look up at the top of their head, whirling around)

My halo...donde está mi halo (*where is my halo*)?? *Ay, hija de la gran puta (Daughter of the great whore)*.

ÁNGEL continues to try and fly, boinging up and down, and going nowhere. RAMI, an Afro-Latina, with dangling wooden earrings, hair up and pushed back with a headband, wearing a linen top, a patterned long wrap around skirt, and sandals enters briskly. As soon as ÁNGEL and her look at each other, they both freeze.

(gasps)

OH! You’re a human. Y you can see me?

RAMI tries to go around ÁNGEL, but ÁNGEL blocks her path. RAMI tries to go around them again and this repeats, until they’re doing a little dance.

RAMI

Can you please get out of my way?

ÁNGEL

Whoaa. Why can I feel you? Your energy? The closer you get the more I-

RAMI

Can you get away? *Don’t* touch me.

ÁNGEL backs away.

ÁNGEL

Eh-I need your help. Have you seen a circular bright, disk lookin' thing-my halo, I musta dropped it-

RAMI

N/o

ÁNGEL

Can you help me look for it?

RAMI tries to go around ÁNGEL again.

I'm not from here, pero this place kinda looks familiar-earth right?

RAMI

Yeah. I wasn't invited to this costume party, so if you'll excuse me-

ÁNGEL

Eso es (*This is*) no costume, they're *real*, if you wanna feel 'em? I was really excited too when I got thes-

RAMI

What did I tell you about getting close? Distance. *Distance*.

ÁNGEL

Por qué (*But why*) distance?

RAMI

Because a lot of people died from getting too close.

ÁNGEL

Ohhh. No wonder the air taste so bad. Pero it doesn't really matter if you die here-

RAMI

Back up.

ÁNGEL backs away.

More.

ÁNGEL backs up further.

More.

ÁNGEL

If I go any further, I'll end up in the ocean. *Oh noo*, you think it's in the ocean? I was never a good swimmer.

RAMI

Maybe stay away from the water, 'cause if you start to drown, I'll unfortunately have to save you.

ÁNGEL

Ayy, just say you *want* to. You don't have to *do* anything.

RAMI

I'm a lifeguard, so I do. It's my day off, buuut wouldn't feel right if I let you drown.

ÁNGEL

You'd have to have your arms around me in a hug if you were saving my life, so if you wanna hug now, I'm really open to that-

RAMI

I wouldn't consider that a hug, no-

ÁNGEL

You know sometimes un hug from a stranger is all you need, *especially* if you've been doin' this *distance* thing-

RAMI

Growing up my family told me never to talk to strangers, unless I'm dying, or I *need* something, so-

ÁNGEL

I-it's-no one's hugged me since I fell from up ther-

RAMI

I'm not gonna hug you.

ÁNGEL

Well, then maybe I have something you need.

RAMI

I have everything I need.

ÁNGEL

I've spent centuries with mentirosos (*liars*) I can tell when someone's not telling the truth.

RAMI

Centuries?/ Oh, look at that, I'm not dying.

She starts walking away. ÁNGEL follows close behind.

ÁNGEL

I don't know if there's a time window or algo como eso (*or something like that*), that the longer I stay on earth, it's more likely that heaven won't let me back in, *so...me puedes ayudar (Can you help me)? Dos cabezas (Two heads) are better than one, y tienes una cabeza muy grande so (And you have a really big head)-*

RAMI

You're close to me again, aren't you?

ÁNGEL

Ehh-

ÁNGEL takes a huge step backwards.

(smiles)

No?

RAMI

(turns around)

I'll help you look for like two minutes. Don't come near me, don't touch me, don't look me in the eyes too long, and try not to breathe in the same air.

ÁNGEL

Ay, all these rules, you're worse than God.

(looks up quickly)

Ay, I didn't mean that. It was a joke. Wow, bein' on earth is already affectin' me.

(inhales deeply)

You know you have this *scent* to you-

RAMI

That's what we're *not* gonna do.

ÁNGEL

I'm Ángel.

RAMI

(pause)

Rami.

ÁNGEL

Ahora, *strangers* no more. *Rami*. ¿Boriqua (*Puerto Rican*) or?

RAMI

Dominican. And I don't speak much Spanish so-

ÁNGEL

Ohhh, I thought only my kind were allowed to get away with that.

RAMI

Your kind? You mean *angels*?

ÁNGEL

No! Puertorriqueños. You know, the whole thing with the U.S.? Puerto Rico being a commonwealth,

ÁNGEL/RAMI

a COLONY.

ÁNGEL

Sí, exactamente, tu sabes, no independencia (*you know no independence*). Our asses are probably still ball and chained to the U.S., sinvergüenzas (*dummies*), more than a hundred years already, so *we* have a reason-

RAMI

Where are you from?

ÁNGEL

The same place you're from. Everywhere y nowhere, all at once. Pero, ahora
(Looks up)
allá. De los cielos (*From the heavens*).

RAMI

Look, I'm from Brooklyn, we don't play that-

ÁNGEL

I grew up in Brooklyn too! Almost a century ago-

RAMI

You are *not* from Brooklyn-

ÁNGEL

That must be why they threw me back down here! In my last life mis padres nacieron en Puerto Rico pero (*My parents were born there, but*) they didn't wanna speak much over here, y Abuela spoke *only* Spanish, and I would visit her almost every morning to have breakfast after mi mamá murió...

RAMI

I'm sorry about your mo/m

ÁNGEL

I guess it carried over. Pero *you* not being able to speak Spanish as una Dominicana?/Oh nahh

RAMI

I said *not much*, not that I didn't

ÁNGEL

My friend was un Dominicano and his family would take una chancleta (*slipper*) y *FUAKATATA'D* his ass until those

(in Spanish pronunciation)

Ah, Beh, Ceh, Deh's were perfecto and he'd be able to

(rolls the r)

Rrrrrroll the r's, like las locutores de lucha libre (*wrestling announcers*). "MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE RRRRRINNGG"-I *loved* wrest/lin

RAMI

How old are y-

ÁNGEL

I don't have an age. *Now*, I'm timeless. I infinitely exist-you do too. We're eternal. Time kinda works differently on every plane.

RAMI

If you wanna talk about your mom, we can-

ÁNGEL

Everybody dies. Don't make it a thing. It's okay, I'm not sad, because we never truly die, we just transform. I've had many moms, dads, families, and I've seen them all again. Y one day you will too. So, if there's anyone you miss, dile (*tell them*), you'll see them later!

(pause)

There's someone you miss-

RAMI

How do you know?

ÁNGEL

I can see it.

RAMI

No, how do you *know* that's true, how do you see-

ÁNGEL

When you die, you're given *the sight*-

RAMI

The sight-

ÁNGEL

Sí! The sight is all around us, at all times, pero we usually can't tap into it while on earth, our souls have to turn back into energy-

RAMI

Souls and the afterlife-

ÁNGEL

You think my name was *Ángel*, by accident? It was my destiny to become an angel after my last life, I'm a *real* angel now-

RAMI

And I'm God.

(she slowly smiles)

ÁNGEL

(pause)

Rami, this "costume" is real, the afterlife exists, and it always has. Just because you've never seen it-

RAMI

You're not an angel.

ÁNGEL

How are you gonna tell me what I am? How would you explain these?

(shimmies their wings)

I know, I don't have my halo pero-

RAMI

So, what's heaven like? Orgies and cake?

ÁNGEL

It's *better*. Which is why I need my halo. Help me look through the cracks of the boardwalk, it coulda slipped through.

ÁNGEL begins wobbling from board-to-board, then lays down, dragging themselves, eyes wide.

RAMI

The sun's setting. I'm running out of time.

ÁNGEL

I'm running out of time. My 100th year ceremony of becoming an angel is tomorrow, and if I don't find my halo, I'm gonna miss it.

RAMI

The water's only warm until a certain time...if I see anything in the ocean that defies space and time, I'll let you know.

ÁNGEL

Ahh, it wouldn't be in the ocean. The salt it...cleans everything.

RAMI

Right. No need to clean your holy halo.

(smiles)

Stay out of the water.

RAMI begins to walk away, passing by ÁNGEL.

ÁNGEL

(inhales)

There's something about you. You smell familiar.

Suddenly, time slows down, and RAMI is walking in slow motion.

ÁNGEL

¿Qué carajo (*What the fuck*)?

The lights flicker and out of the corner of the stage a creature appears, moving like a lizard, crawling on all fours. The creature circles RAMI and then blows her a kiss, blowing hot breath as she passes out. The creature then puts ÁNGEL in a chokehold from behind. Lights up and time resumes. The creature has a hairy spine with little dirty broken wings on their back, claws, and blood and dirt on their body and face.

Chupi, I should've known it was you! Get off me! ¡Ay puta madre (*motherfucker*)!

CHUPI

Don't you talk about my mother! An' don't call me that!

ÁNGEL

Oh, c'mon it's a cute nickname. Chupichupichupichupi.

CHUPI

¡Cállate, coño (*Shut up, fuck*)! Ay, your wings are in the way-

ÁNGEL

Sueltame (*let me go*) Chupito caquito! I can't breathe!

Eughh!! You smell like soap!

CHUPI

Chupitito stinkito!

ÁNGEL

Say my whole name! Chupa-what? Chupa-what?

CHUPI

CHUPI starts biting ÁNGEL's ear.

Chupa...cabrone (*bastard*)!

ÁNGEL

CHUPI squeezes and violently moves back and forth.

CHU-PA-CA-BRA. CHU-PA-CA-BRA.

CHUPI releases ÁNGEL and they fall to the floor.

LE Chupacabra to you!

CHUPI

(makes a deranged gleeful noise)

Heyeyeahahaha.

They stalk over to RAMI on the ground examining her and sniffing her, as they look at ÁNGEL scarily with wide eyes and a flickering tongue.

She's really something isn't she? Do you recognize her?

ÁNGEL

No.

CHUPI

Me neither. AHH! Dónde está tu (*where is your*)-

ÁNGEL

(holding their neck)

Salvaje (Savage)!

CHUPI

(quickly curtsies)

Graciaas. ¿Pero dónde está tu (*Where is your*) HALO?

(pause)

Halooo? HaloHaloHaloHaloHaloHalo?

ÁNGEL

I'm looking for it!

CHUPI

You, you, you *lost* it?

ÁNGEL

It *musta* came loose when I fell.

CHUPI

Well, you need to *find* it! How are you supposed to sNEAk me into heaven without it?

ÁNGEL

I can't sneak you into heaven, we *just* tried that!

CHUPI

Y *I* did most of the WoOErK, the least you can do is-

(gasps)

Ohhhh, unless they took it from you. You're probably not even an angel anymore.

ÁNGEL

Just because I don't have my halo doesn't mean I'm not an angel.

CHUPI

You're useless to me without the halo.

ÁNGEL

I still have my wings!

CHUPI

Ahora (*Now*), you wouldn't be hEre if you could fLYe.

ÁNGEL

Is this one of your tricks? One of your illusions? I'm not really on earth, am I? Is this real-are you real?

CHUPI

They think I'm a myth, pero here I am with my dark eyes y sharp nails y a scent that turns everyone's head-

ÁNGEL

Sí, porque tú huele mal (*because you smell bad*). You fricken' stink!

CHUPI

And you leeoove it! They think I'm a demonic creature that feeds on the blood of their livestock-

ÁNGEL

You are.

CHUPI

Sí, pero at leAst I don't feed on humans!

ÁNGEL

Yeah, pero you steal from the poor.

CHUPI

Well, yeAAahh, sometimes it makes me laugh-

ÁNGEL

You visit children at night y scare them, just like El Cuco-

CHUPI

Hey! You leave my old man out of this!

ÁNGEL

You kill angels.

CHUPI

Shhtchtcht! Borrón y cuenta nueva (*Let bygones be bygones*). It was an accIdenT.

ÁNGEL

They were my friend.

CHUPI

You mean your *competitooor*.

ÁNGEL

My *frie/nd*

CHUPI

A lil torture y your friend*pleaughh* said that the bIgger your wings got, the bIgger your heAd-

ÁNGEL

Mentirosé (*Liar*)!

CHUPI

Ayyy, the *bochincheeee* (*gossip*). I didn't know angels could talk shit, porque (*because*) if that's what heavens like, I woulda wanted to go a looong ti-

ÁNGEL

Asesine (murderer)!

CHUPI

Ohohoho, we're all murderers in a past life. Y I didn't know angels were *real* until a decade ago-those *sneaky cAbrOnes (bastards)!* So when I saw the blindin' light in the sky, I put sunglasses on, y snatched them up before they made it through their first cloud-

ÁNGEL

Messenger angels have to be careful not to be seen-

CHUPI

So whaAaat, I chained them up, took their wings, y sewed them onto my back-I needed to look the part! Son's a bitches were heavy! I could barely flap around with all that weight! I tried to take their halo *también*, pero it wasn't somethin' I could grasp...I even wore those white garbs y shaved some of their hair, tried to glue it onto mine, pero how convinin' that was, no se (*I don't know*)-

ÁNGEL

You looked like un *payaso (clown)*-

CHUPI

I would've taken their skin *también*, pero that would've been un delicate process, y sabes que no sé como ser (*you know I don't know how to be*) deLicate-

ÁNGEL

What did you do to-

CHUPI

Was I gonna kill 'emmm? Ehhh, undecided. But their halo didn't disappear like yours. They still had their halo, up until the very end. After the big G threW me down from my little trip to see you, an' I came back from feedin'-they were ashes y no halo in sight. Guess God's a little greedy too, huh? If His trusty little servants are away from Him for too long, *pooF!* They're gone.

ÁNGEL

So, it's true, if-

CHUPI

You know if you rub the ashes on your gums, it gives you a little high-

ÁNGEL

If I don't find my halo, I'm gonna die here.

CHUPI

Mira, mira, mira (*Look*). Siempre (*Always*) jumpin' the gun, you know how hard it is for me to say the p word.

ÁNGEL

You say puta (*bitch*) all/ the time

CHUPI

Not that one! The P-L-eugh, even spelling it makes me cringe. Pl...Eugheugh.

(shakes their face. Readies themself. They sound it out letter by letter)

P. L. E. A. S. E.

(they breathe hard as if they were running)

Oooof, ooooo, oooOOoooHHh. But I can't do this without you, you're my ticket.

ÁNGEL

I tried to help you y I got punished for it. Any time I try to do something for you it comes back to bite me in el culo (*the ass*).

CHUPI

What're they gonna do, *kill you*? AgAIN? You've already lived thousands of times; you'll just get reborn again. What's one more life on earth?

ÁNGEL

I wanted to move up in rank, not get demoted. It's been my dream since I got up there.

CHUPI

Yeah, pero imagine it with me; You and I. In heaven. Togethaaa. Forevaaaa. You get your archangel promotion, y I can just...be there. You know how much fun we'd have?

ÁNGEL

Chupi. I wanna be God's right hand. Not yours.

CHUPI

He masturbate with the right too?

ÁNGEL

Eugh-

CHUPI

Me up there, pokin' fun at the angels, playin' frisbee with their halos-

ÁNGEL

I can't help you. I trie-

CHUPI

Can't, can't, can't! Is that all you know how to say? What happened to yes, Chupi, I'll do anythin' for you? All those yes's you used to give me?

The sound of a cuatro (*Puerto Rican guitar*) being strummed hums in the background.

When you used to pick me flowers on your way home y

CHUPI pulls out a flower from their rags.

hide them around the house, and make me look for ‘em? That past life was my favorite-

ÁNGEL

Well, I don’t do that anymore.

CHUPI

Sí, pero you can if you wanted.

ÁNGEL

I don’t. Want to.

CHUPI

Or, or the time we used to dance ‘til our feet bled?

Salsa music begins to play.

We used to dance salsa, merengue-

CHUPI begins to bust out dance moves.

haha o la vida cuando (*or the life where*) I danced like I had two left feet y, y fell in the river y then I pulled you in with me, y la banda-

ÁNGEL

Ay, calle (*shut up*)!

CHUPI

Always managed to sweep you right out of your chanclas (*your slippers*)-

ÁNGEL

Enough!

CHUPI pulls ÁNGEL closer.

CHUPI

Ven aquí (*come here*), come dance like old times...

ÁNGEL

Sueltame (*Let me go*)-

CHUPI

Just one dance! *Yeah, see*, there we go-

ÁNGEL Shoves them. The music stops playing.

ÁNGEL

¡No me toques (*Don't touch me*)!

CHUPI

Mpprrgghhh! Why did you get chosen to be all high y mighty with Him, an' He sent me *here*? To be trapped in this *thing*.

ÁNGEL

Like you don't like it-

CHUPI

You think I like bein' cOvered in dirt an' blood, y havin' my skIn flAke? My wings are breakin', they barely take me anywhere, *no One* wants to be my friend, mi papá hates me...I can still hear his voIce in my head, the way he used to touch me-I, I don't go visit him anymore...

ÁNGEL

If I listen to you, I'll never get to where I need to go-

ÁNGEL continues to look for their halo as a rat runs along the boardwalk. CHUPI pounces on it, bites its head off, spits it out, and sucks on it.

CHUPI

Mi papa, es *El Cuco* now. He appears outta nowhere an' joins in on mAkin' funna me con los demonios (*with the demons*) throwin' rocks at me every time I go by. All tough until I catch one of them in my mouth y *RRGHHh*, bite their leg off...pero I don't want to be like him, tú sabes (*you know*). I stick to animals, he...you know what he does to children...I'm meant for more.

ÁNGEL

So *do* more.

CHUPI

I don't know what to *doohooo*. It's in my nature to be nAsty y crUde, to throw farts y smell 'emmm. To eat cucarachas (*cockroaches*) y suck a maggots butt-solo por protein (*only for protein*)! Y I scare the humans from time to time, pero that's just so they could learn that there's more to this world than they thiiink, y that they should be *careful*. Because Gahd forbId, they end up like me. Cursed.

ÁNGEL

Every curse can be a blessing if you try hard enough.

CHUPI

Ay, come mierDAGHH (*eat shit*)! Easy to say cuando eres un ángel (*when you are an angel*-

ÁNGEL

I *just became* an angel-

CHUPI

Y I've been like this for centuries! I went through life after life, searchin' for you, only to be turned into *thiS*, and to see yoU as *thAt*. You left me to die over an' over an' over again! *AloWNEH*. How could yoU be the holy one?

ÁNGEL

I didn't want-

CHUPI

Isn't GAHd all about love y mercy? What kind of God does this shi-

ÁNGEL

Love y mercy? ;Tú no sabes nada de eso (*You don't know anything about that*)!

CHUPI

Oh, c'moon. You know what we have is special. Some call it *leeeeove*.

ÁNGEL

You never loved me. You never knew how to.

CHUPI

Pero to be turned into this *demon*?

ÁNGEL

If I hadn't left you, I would've been damned too!

CHUPI

You had that *frisbee* on your head an' you never came to visit me, not once!

ÁNGEL

I didn't know where you were! I didn't know what happened to you, I hadn't seen you in centuries! I couldn't *feel* you, anymore-

CHUPI

I walked to the ends of the earth to find you, until my soul had nothing left-

ÁNGEL

Oh, now you have a soul-

CHUPI

(pouts)

Noe. Souls are for leWzeRs. Like you. I lost my soul a long time ago, all thanks to you. You never forgave me, it's *your* fault I'm trapped in this-

I forgave you!

ÁNGEL

“I forgave you!” and “You’ll never be an angel” take turns echoing throughout the space.

The projection in the background shows a rewinding through the sky until it shows heaven’s clouds and blue sky. Flashback. Lights shift and a tall gate appears in front of ÁNGEL, stretching and sectioning a part of the stage off. ÁNGEL’s halo is lit above their head as they press against the gates reaching out for CHUPI, who has one white wing hanging from their back.

CHUPI

¡ Pero *avanza* (*But, hurry*)! I don’t know how long these cloUds are gonna hold me, pero I’m not leavin’ until we’re on the sAme sIde.

A halo appears in the distance. And then another. And another. Unintelligible whispers are heard lightly in the background.

ÁNGEL

Ven (*Come*). Ven (*Come*)!

CHUPI

Y if I do this, cuando (*when*) you say the magical words, I won’t be un pendejo (*an asshole*) anymore?

ÁNGEL

Gonna have to work on your vocab, hygiene, y morals, pero sí, exactamente (*but yes, exactly*). Bring your forehead. Ven, ven (*Come, come*)! You’re the one who wanted to do this!

CHUPI

Sí, pero tÙ también (*Yes, but you too*)-

ÁNGEL

Avanza (*Hurry*)!

CHUPI presses their head against the gate as more halos begin to appear in the background.

CHUPI

An' if this doesn't work? Then what? I'll never see you again?

ÁNGEL

I don't know. All I can do is try Chupi.

CHUPI

Do you even wan' me here?

ÁNGEL

You came to me! You couldn't just-

CHUPI

Because yEou'Re mINeH!

(a shift)

You've always been mine, es always been us, *para siempre (forever)*. *Ayúdanos-ayúdanos (Help us-help us)*

CHUPI presses against the bars as ÁNGEL wipes a tear from their eye, smears the tear across CHUPI's forehead, and mutters rapidly.

Ángel, what're all those liGhTs?

ÁNGEL

They're coming.

ÁNGEL begins to mutter more intensely.

CHUPI

Ángel, who-who's comin'?

ÁNGEL

It's not working, it's not *working* Chupi. I'm, I'm trying, I'm *trying*.

100's of halos appear, as the unintelligible whispers move closer and closer. ÁNGEL weeps, muttering faster and faster.

CHUPI

What you mean you tryi-

ÁNGEL

You did this on purpose didn't you???

A violent wind is heard as ÁNGEL and CHUPI reach for one another as they're yanked backwards and apart. One descending into the darkness, and the other sucked down into the clouds.

The lights shift back to the previous scene. "I forgave you" and "You did this on purpose" overlaps in echoing throughout the space. ÁNGEL's halo nowhere in sight.

CHUPI

How, if I'm still stuck like this?

ÁNGEL

The only way to transcend is to *forgive*. I *finally* forgave you for all the terrible things you've ever done to me, y once I let go, I was finally free. I realized we were tied together somehow, but when you get to heaven, you no longer desire what you once did. Pero I do gotta say, I feel more me, here right now, than I have in a loong time.

(stretches)

And I'm looking good here too! I could tell by how she looks at me-

ÁNGEL goes over to RAMI, still passed out on the ground.

I don't think she knows what to do with me, pero en el cielo (*in heaven*) I got like four different faces and a bunch of ojos (*eyes*) so-

CHUPI

You feel more you because we're here, togEthURR. On the same plane. It has nothing to do with her!

ÁNGEL

It's not all about you.

CHUPI

Of cOURse it is!!

(pauses and groans)

Mmmphhhmmm being in this *body* gets sooo *borrrrinGGg*. Every time I see a soul that gets to be reBoRNEH as human, who get another chAnCEh, I-*rrrrGGhh!*

ÁNGEL

You can still visit earth whenever you want, you can feel alive in this way, but I can't. I'm only here as punishment-

CHUPI

Es un prisión (*It is a prison*)!

ÁNGEL

Chupi, you know that I've loved you in every life we've met in. And you almost killed me in every one of them.

CHUPI

You slipped through my grasp every time y now we're separated by realms!?! Seeing you here...it almost feels like...happiness? Joy?

(slaps the back of their own head twice)

Anger?

ÁNGEL

Some lessons are hard.

CHUPI

But why is the punishment eternal?

ÁNGEL

You have to let me go.

CHUPI

(scratches themselves like a dog)

Nooo. No, I dOon't. Y as long as you're still *heeRe*, maybe it's a sign. Maybe, maybe if I can't be with you up there, we can exist here. Together.

ÁNGEL

Chupi, I'm not gonna make it without my halo.

CHUPI

Sí, pero It took a few years for that angel to turn to ashes.

ÁNGEL

Sí, pero they had their halo. I might have days, minutes, seconds-

CHUPI

Or months togethUurr, me by your side, holdin' your hand, as you fade away into ashes...then letting me snOrt you up. That's the perfect way to go if you ask me.

ÁNGEL

I don't belong here anymore. The earth, I can feel it. It's not well. The fumes, I know you smell that. I'm surprised this place is still here.

CHUPI

When earth dies, I'll be all alone.

ÁNGEL

When earth's gone, the souls will go to the other universes, and I'm sure you'd be right behind them con tú culo dramátice (*with your dramatic ass*).

CHUPI
(imitates)

Con tù culopapapitapopleaugh.

ÁNGEL

As soon as I find my halo, I'm leaving.

CHUPI whips around and roughly grabs ÁNGEL by the face.

CHUPI

I spent centuries lookin' for you, cryin' blood. I'm not lettin' you leave without me. Find the halo. Then I'll find you. *Hehehe*augh.

The lights flicker and CHUPI crawls offstage exiting. Lights up.

ÁNGEL

Ay, Dios saca lo malo (*God, take out the evil*).

ÁNGEL walks over to RAMI, bends down near her face, and smiles. They slowly touch their own heart. Her eyes open.

Do you feel these sparks between us, or am I the only one-

RAMI

What the fuck happened? Get away. Distance! Distance!

ÁNGEL jumps back as RAMI clamors to her feet.

And why does it smell like-

(sniffs)

sulfur?

ÁNGEL

Guess demons really do smell like ass.

RAMI

Oh, what the-my sandal buckle broke.

RAMI goes on one knee.

ÁNGEL

You feel it too?

RAMI

What?

RAMI tries to fix the buckle.

ÁNGEL

You're right. Halo first, sparks later. If you were a halo, where would you be hiding?

RAMI

Do you want to retrace your steps?

ÁNGEL

I won't be allowed in without a halo, that thing's like an all access pass up there.

RAMI

Am I dead? Did I go out for a swim an...*Shiiiiit*. They're broken, they're never gonna stay on now.

ÁNGEL

I'll hold 'em for you. While we look.

ÁNGEL holds out their hand. RAMI slowly gives them her sandals. They're closer now.

Feel my wings.

RAMI

I am not-

ÁNGEL comes even closer and turns their back towards RAMI.

ÁNGEL

(looking back at her)

Feel my wings.

RAMI

I don't know if you're ready for me to touch you yet.

ÁNGEL

I'd like you to touch me. I think you'll understand if you do.

RAMI

You want me to touch you?

ÁNGEL

Sí, claro (*Yes, of course*).

RAMI

Okay. If that's what you want.

ÁNGEL

Yeah?

RAMI

Mhmm.

ÁNGEL

I'm ready.

RAMI

Here I go. I'm gonna touch you now.

RAMI looks at their wings, then slowly reaches a hand out to stroke them. As soon as she touches ÁNGEL they gasp.

ÁNGEL

Ohh.

RAMI

Wow. They feel...I...

ÁNGEL

Wh-why...ca-can't I breathe, I feel...are you makin' me sick?

RAMI continues to touch ÁNGEL's wings and circles around them until she is facing them.

You feel...

RAMI

Divine.

ÁNGEL

Why is it hard to breathe?

RAMI

I think we've met before.

ÁNGEL

I would've recognized you if we had. You don't feel like anyone I've ever met.

RAMI

Maybe I've seen you around.

ÁNGEL

I have never come across a soul like yours.

RAMI

One minute you speak like you're from here, and the next-

ÁNGEL

Maybe it has to do with you.

RAMI

With me?

ÁNGEL

Chupi and I were linked for so long, pero maybe tu y yo (*you and I*)... maybe I'm here because of *you-*

RAMI

Because of *me*?

ÁNGEL

Did I tell you how pretty I think you are?

RAMI

You're not so bad yourself-what is a Chupi?

ÁNGEL

Chupi *Le Chupacabra*, 'cause where we're from there's no earthly constructs or anything like that. Hehehe. Why do I feel so giddy?

RAMI

Where *you're* from?

ÁNGEL

And you. The everywhere and nowhere. One energy divided into billions of souls.

RAMI

Thaaat's right. So, is there a God or-

ÁNGEL

There's Atabey, Yucahú-the creators. Guabancex (*Gwah-ban-shee*) y I get into it sometimes 'cause they send Juracán after me, but they're alright.

RAMI

Atabey and Yucahú were things my abuelos used to talk about-

ÁNGEL

We share ancestors-

RAMI

But they're not-

ÁNGEL

They are. There are multiple gods. Those were some of the Taino gods, just like there are Haitian gods, Egyptian gods, Greek gods, y the list keeps going.

RAMI

So, *God* God is-

ÁNGEL

the one that everyone down here refers to as the god of the heavens. Or the omnipresent god. The god of creation, but there are all different kinds of creators. Some gods that are known on earth are actually the same god, pero they just go by different names. It depends on the groups of people looking at them.

RAMI

So how does God work?

ÁNGEL

Like this.

A shared moment.

That's a beautiful necklace.

RAMI

It's ivory. It was passed down to me-

ÁNGEL

I'm one of God's favorites, just so you know, if that means anything to you-

RAMI

And now you're here. With no halo. What makes you think you're still one of God's favorites?

Silence.

ÁNGEL begins to walk away.

ÁNGEL

Tsch-you don't believe me...pues (*well*) I'll be next to The Wonder Wheel, over there, while I wonder, *qué carajo* (*what the fuck*), I'm supposed to be doin' here.

As ÁNGEL turns away from RAMI and begins searching for their halo again, RAMI watches as white feathers fall briefly from the sky.

RAMI

I believe you.

ÁNGEL

No, no, you just said you didn't -

RAMI

I do.

ÁNGEL stops and looks at her.

I believe that I can see these wings sprouting out of your back, and they're attached to your skin...I believe you make me feel cold, then warm, almost at the same time, when you're near me an-

ÁNGEL

You do?

RAMI

Yea-

ÁNGEL

Me too.

RAMI

I *believe*, that something inside is telling me that I can't believe you or that it's wrong to, but something inside also feels like I've known you my entire life even though we just met.

ÁNGEL

Pueees (*Weeelll*), I believe in everything you're believin' right now so.

RAMI

That's why I didn't want you to get too close to me. I can, *feel*, you. Moving through my veins. It's like I'm biting into a pastelillo (*smaller/thinner empanadas*) every time I see you smile.

ÁNGEL

(smiles)

I meaaaaaan, haha. *Mírate (Look at you)-*

RAMI

I need. To touch you again.

Slowly reaches her hand out as if going to give them a handshake. ÁNGEL comes towards RAMI and slowly extends their own hand. RAMI inhales and exhales deeply and shakily. Their hands meet.

You are the first person that I am letting touch me, since the world...I heard falling in love is like doing cocaine, so sometimes I'm...I think you are so beautiful or handsome-I can't tell what you are, or where you're from, but I do believe that you're an angel because when our eyes meet...And I can feel your heart beating through your hand. Did you shoot me with an arrow 'cause-

ÁNGEL

Oh, I *wish* I shot you with *my* arrow.

RAMI

(smiles. A pause and her smile disappears)

What happens if you find your halo?

ÁNGEL

Then time's up.

RAMI

If we're eternal like you said, will I see you again if you go?

ÁNGEL

I meaaan if I feel as good as biting into a juicy meaty pastelillo, then, we must. Lemme show you somethin'.

ÁNGEL holds her close and the stage flickers blue and black. The lights come up and they are sitting in the very top cart of The Wonder Wheel.

RAMI

Get the fuck out.

ÁNGEL

What?

RAMI

You're an angel.

ÁNGEL

You just said you believed me.

RAMI

Yeah, but you know how pheromones be fuckin' up the way you process things. Also, your wings, are like-they don't fit well in here.

RAMI pushes ÁNGEL's wings back, they are cramped in the car. She looks at their feathers realizing it's the same kind that fell from the sky. She smiles.

ÁNGEL

I'm not used to being around humans, y I didn't mean to freak you out before. They didn't send me a memo that earth was going through una otra (*another*) plague-that would've been nice to know.

RAMI

Fuuuuckk. This soul spirit shit is real...

(she looks up to the sky, then down to the ground and back at
ÁNGEL)

what happens now, where do I go?

ÁNGEL

Nowhere. You're always where you need to be.

RAMI

Then how come you're trying so hard to leave?

ÁNGEL gently takes her hand and puts it over their heart.

ÁNGEL

Can you feel it?

RAMI

Like you're inside me. Somehow-

ÁNGEL

I thought I knew where home was or is pero ahora (*but now*)...you feel like home. I've lived y died so many times, but how 'bout if it was all to find you? Rami. *Rami*, saying your name... You have the softest, purest eyes I've ever seen, y your smell, *sheesh*.

(calls out towards the audience)

Abuela, what you think? You like her? Her hand fits in mine.

RAMI

(smiles)

She's here?

ÁNGEL

Yeah, she's here. Allí comiendo un tres leches (*Over there eating a milk cake*) while flirtin' with the vendor. Sí abuela, where do you think I got this charm from?

RAMI

Tell her I said, Dios te bendiga (*God bless you*).

ÁNGEL

(smiles)

She can hear you.

(searches for a spirit)

OH-there's Tato-Tato! Whatchu you think, Rami would be a good addition to the fam? Think she'd be a good mom, or...

RAMI

Whoa, I am *not* tryna get pregnant right now.

ÁNGEL

(back to RAMI)

Oh...later, are you?

RAMI

Uh, possibly?

ÁNGEL

... I've-I didn't know that was something I still wanted...I never had the family I've always dreamed of I-when it was time to go create one of my own...the first one I lost was the hardest...

RAMI

The first what?

ÁNGEL

The first baby I lost it-it still hurts. I-when I was up there con Dios (*God*) it-it didn't-pero then Chupi came and...no matter who it was carrying the baby, the baby always...I believe it was the same soul, the same spirit trying to come through every single time-but it was never able to. Or it did and it died over and over and over again...

Silence.

We could never get it right. Throughout every lifetime the same thing always ended up happening.

(a shift)

But maybe that's where you come in. Maybe I've been missing *you*. This whole time. I don't wanna leave you.

RAMI

Maybe you don't have to.

ÁNGEL

(shuts their eyes)

God? Can you hear me? Do I have to leave her? I can feel her energy all up in me right now...Is this my punishment for what I've done? For tryin' to be a good spirit? You bring her to me when it's too late?

RAMI

Hey. Talk to me. I'm right here. I'm right here. You okay? Your eyes are a little wet.

ÁNGEL

Yeah, it must be the atmospheric pressure up here, moistened my eyes-un poquito de (*a little*) wet.

RAMI

(smiles)

There really is no one else like you, huh?

ÁNGEL

Nope. One of a kind.

RAMI

Can I tell you a secret?

ÁNGEL

Please.

RAMI

I've always wanted to be proposed to up here.

ÁNGEL

No w/ay

RAMI

Way-

ÁNGEL

Me too.

RAMI

I used to come down here all the time to look at the seagulls flying...when it closed, I didn't know if I'd be able to...I hope you don't find your halo. I want you to stay here with me too. Forever. *Whoaa*, forever is a long time, let me slow that down.

ÁNGEL

Forever exists, you know.

RAMI

How?

ÁNGEL

Time never ceases to exist; it always just is. The past, the present, y the future are all the same.

RAMI

What do you mean?

ÁNGEL

Every moment we go further into one, we leave remnants of the other, pero we keep on creating the same pattern. We're in a constant cycle of past, present, and future, therefore every moment is eternal. Every changing moment in the grand scheme of things is *exactly* the same moment it was before. You might *feel* like you've changed, pero the moment hasn't. It never comes to a stop.

RAMI

So, forever is always happening.

ÁNGEL

Forever is right now.

They are like magnets pulling together.

Marry me.

RAMI

What?

ÁNGEL

Marry me. Be with me, forever. I promise to come look for you in every life time after. I think we could make it work, make *everything* wo/rk

RAMI

Is that how it works?

ÁNGEL

There's only one way to find out. Marry me. Marry me.

RAMI

I-I want to say the L word, but I've never said it to someone after knowing them less than a day-

ÁNGEL

You can say lesbian all you want, pero I don't have a gender remember, so-

RAMI

I. I. L-L-

ÁNGEL

Me too.

They kiss. Deeply. ÁNGEL reaches up to touch their own head, it tingles. They pull away from the kiss. RAMI looks up and sees a faded glow start to form above ÁNGEL's head.

RAMI

Take me with you.

They pull back into each other passionately. Suddenly the lights flicker, and an echoed scream is heard offstage.

CHUPI (OFF-STAGE)

NOOOOOOO!!!

The lights continue to flicker as CHUPI crawls onto the stage. CHUPI throws something at The Wonder Wheel, and it begins to smoke. The lights go dark, then come back up with a red glow on stage right. CHUPI is seen on top of ÁNGEL on the ground, with their hands around ÁNGEL's neck, choking them.

(they are whining and crying and making gurling noises)

And all I wanted was a *danceH!* Whyyyeeeeennneughhh!! This is what happens when you open up to a personnnneeeehh?!

ÁNGEL

Ch-ch-I-can't bre-ch-

CHUPI

Chchchchchchch, what??!! You can't breathe? *Oh my.* If I can't have you, no one caanneughh!!

CHUPI continues to squeeze as ÁNGEL fights. The fighting becomes weaker. It takes a while. They stop moving. CHUPI stops. Horrified. Starts to cry.

No, no, neo, neoooo, no, no, no, mi Ángel. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. Please, don't leave me. Lo siento, lo siento (*I'm sorry*).

They start hitting ÁNGEL's chest.

¡Despierta, despierta (*Wake up*)! I don't know what's wrong with me. I don't know what's wrong with meeeeeeee.

(starts hitting themselves in the head)

Stupid! Steupid! Steupid!

They start pumping ÁNGEL's chest.

Ay, c'mon. Eres (*You are*) un ángel. Angels can't die. Right?

CHUPI starts breathing heavy and starts grunting as they hump ÁNGEL's body. They begin to lick ÁNGEL's arm, trailing their tongue from their fingertips to their forearm.

No, no, no. This is wrong-this is-right? I miss them so much already, it's makin' me...Heuuughh!!

They rip themselves off and away from ÁNGEL as they hit their head over and over again and start slamming and punching the ground. They sit cradling themselves, one hand holding their crotch.

I'm not sick. I'm nothin' like mi papa-El *CuuucOH*-sal de mi cerebro (*get out of my brain*)! I'm better. I can be better. I can leearneh from my mistakes. Is this why GeeyodD doesn't want me? I was never like this. You made me this way!!

They crawl over to where ÁNGEL is lying and go into a ball, snuggling up to ÁNGEL's side.

They'll come back anyway. In a different body an' a different, different personality, an' a different face, an' they'll fall in love with me all over again, y, y, y, I'll finally be able to make it right.

They take ÁNGEL's hand and rubs their own face with it.

(they try to imitate ÁNGEL's voice)

You doin' great Chupi.

(in their own voice)

Oh, you're too kind.

(in ÁNGEL's voice)

I'm so glad I found you again. I always knew you were the amor de mi vida. Besame, besame, besameeeeeee muchoooooo (*kiss me a lot*).

(in their voice)

Oh, but it's too soon! It's been centuries since we've kissed, and I'm in this mummy of a body, a dirty walking, sewer breathin', slitherin' corpse that could barely fly. I'm worse than a pigeon. Pero if you insist.

Leans in to give ÁNGEL a kiss. Before their lips touch, ÁNGEL is whipped straight into the air, chest out, limbs hanging. A lightning bolt comes down and strikes them, CHUPI covers their eyes.

The liEeeghttt, oh the lieGhttt, my eyes, I can't see, it burnsszzz!!

ÁNGEL's wings expand and a halo flickers overhead. They then fall and the halo disappears. CHUPI spits into their hands, scrubs their eyes until they can see again, and gleefully runs to help ÁNGEL up. Lights up on them.

Yehehe, I knew you'd come back, I knew you couldn't leave me. An' in the same body también, *guaoo*, ángeles son diferentes o qué (*also wow, angels are different or what*)?

ÁNGEL looks at them and they stop cold.

Hey now. It's me. *Chuuupiii*.

ÁNGEL walks towards them, their energy pushes CHUPI back, they cower. ÁNGEL reaches out and grabs CHUPI's face, so they can't run.

Agh, why does your touch burn! Why are you looking at me like this? ¿Qué sucede contigo (*What's wrong with you*)?

ÁNGEL

You killed me.

CHUPI

Whaaaaat? Nooo. You're fine, good as nEw. I would never do anythin' to hurt you, you know that.

ÁNGEL

You just killed me!

CHUPI

Oh, c'moon you're never angry.

Sounds of a steam train are heard in the distance.

Even when you pushed me an' an' I slipped an' the train hit me, I-I knew that wasn't your fault-

ÁNGEL

You killed me!

They grab CHUPI by the neck.

CHUPI

Ooo, I like it when you choke me. Harder, harder. Estrangulame (*Strangle me*). That's it, that's-

ÁNGEL

Quiet!

CHUPI

More.

(CHUPI begins to growl)

That's/ it

ÁNGEL

Cállate (*Shut up*)!

CHUPI

You can't really die anyway, you're an *angel*, you'll always come back to life, unless you turn into ash, so no *biggie*-

ÁNGEL

You didn't know that!

CHUPI

Well, not for sureee, pero now I do. Hehe.

The engine of the steam train growls as ÁNGEL yanks CHUPI back.

Why aren't you lettin' go of me! You're not really tryna hurt me, are you?

ÁNGEL

How come I'm never freed of you? How do you always find me?

CHUPI

Because we're meant to be. I leeoove yeww, and you obviously leeoveh me-

ÁNGEL shoves CHUPI away.

ÁNGEL

It's not love Chupi!! I've been to heaven, I've been with God, *this* is not love-

CHUPI

GahhhD, pptT!

ÁNGEL

It's not what you think up there, it's still hard work-

CHUPI

WOrKEH??

ÁNGEL

Yes. Hard work. There's tiers, there's a certain amount of joy you can feel depending on the tier-

CHUPI

Ay, that sounds like here, that doesn't sound good.

ÁNGEL

But it is. It's worth it. The love, the *loove*, I've never felt such a thing-

CHUPI

Ohh, pues I *definitely* wanna go now if the drugs are that gewwwd-

ÁNGEL

We can't be around each other for too long. We always end the same, one of us ends up killing the other.

CHUPI

I know *I've* made mistakes, pero yoU never *actually* wanna hurt me, I know you. The train was an accident.

The engine becomes louder.

Your dOg never shut his yAp y I couldn't *think*, so I hAd to kill 'em, an' there was blood y then you shoved me an' splickity SPLAT!-y I was-cómo se dice (*what's it called*), *roadkill*. Heh-

ÁNGEL

It wasn't an accident.

Louder and louder.

CHUPI

You don't have to lie to me, you would never-

ÁNGEL

Chupi, do you hear yourself? When do I lie?

CHUPI

You-you wanted me to get hit by the train?

ÁNGEL

That lifetime I finally felt like I had enough of tu puta mierda (*your fucking shit*)-

The train sounds are deafening.

CHUPI

No...no. No, no, no, no-

ÁNGEL

Everything you touched crumbled, y I didn't know how you always convinced me that it would be any less when you touched m-

CHUPI

If that's what you're saying, I want to hear you say it. Say it, dilo (*say it*)-

ÁNGEL

Chupi-

CHUPI

Say you wanted me to get hit by the train, say it! Spit it out!

ÁNGEL

I *wanted* you to get hit by the train.

The train sound stops.

A moment.

CHUPI

(gasps)

Ohh.

ÁNGEL

I did. I wanted to hurt you.

CHUPI

No, no, no, no, no-

ÁNGEL

Having access to all our past lives when we were “born again” in these forms-I *remember* every/thing

CHUPI

You wanted to kill me.

ÁNGEL

The last time I died, *lifetimes* after I pushed you-there was this epiphany, this peace, wash over me. I finally understood, the why, the when, the how, y you were always part of the test.

CHUPI

I don't DO/TESTS

ÁNGEL

But the test was never about you. That's what I want you to understand now. The test isn't about *me*. You don't live for me-

CHUPI

You *betrayed* mee!!

Silence.

Did you like seein' me like that? All bloodyyy an' manGLed-

ÁNGEL

No. No, my brain didn't let me catch a break, the images kept repeatin' an' repeatin' an' repeatin' /an' repeatin'

CHUPI tears themselves away from ÁNGEL's gaze and begins digging around.

CHUPI

¿Donde esta ese halo, donde esta,/donde esta (*Where is the halo, where is it*)?

ÁNGEL

Seeing you like that on the tracks, your eyes...pero I was *free*.

CHUPI

GEt me oUt, gEt me oUT of heEEyRre/EgH

ÁNGEL

You're quicksand. You suffocated me. Every. Time.

CHUPI

(pounding their chest)

MmmPh. If I *had* a hEarT, it'd be hurtin' right nOWe.

ÁNGEL

It was 321 years after I pushed you, until I saw you again.

CHUPI

You-you saw me again? After-after the train?

ÁNGEL

Sí (*Yes*). I did.

CHUPI

Wha-wha-well how, how is that-you didn't-why didn't you say somethin' to me? Huh? I was *lookin'* for you-

ÁNGEL

Because I knew you'd recognize me. Y it needed to end. For good.

CHUPI

I-I wasn't worth it to you...? If, if you woulda *helped* me-

ÁNGEL

I tried! You didn't wanna be helped!

CHUPI

You coulda *saved* me from this-

ÁNGEL

No, I *couldn't*. You had to *want* to save/you

CHUPI

You coulda, coulda *loved* me, *protected* me/from this

ÁNGEL

You have to want to love. *You* have to want to be kind. You have to want to change y *actively* work for that every single day. I couldn't give you something you needed to give you/rself y I still can't

CHUPI

I was not made for love! I was not made for loVe like you were! Can't you tell!? I cAn'T give myself those thIngS, I *can't*, I've tR/ied

ÁNGEL

Saying you'd try and actually doing it are two different things Chupi!! You've never tried!

CHUPI

Because I'm scared!

ÁNGEL

Scared of what?!

CHUPI

If I really try and I can't do it, then what? What am I worth? No valgo nada (*I'm worth nothing*).
No valgo nada.

(starts hitting their own head)

Why didn't you come baAacK? Why didn't you *tryyyye*?

ÁNGEL

It doesn't work when one person tries. And for the first time in my life, I wasn't curious; I wasn't interested in seeing what would happen next.

CHUPI

...so, you never loved me.

(pause)

It was all a lie.

ÁNGEL goes over to CHUPI and gently holds their face.

ÁNGEL

Why do you think I tried to help you when you found me? Something inside *still* wanted to help you, even when you showed up to heaven's gates lookin' like this *thing*.

CHUPI

Oh, this *thing*, huh-

ÁNGEL

You knew they would send me down here so that I wouldn't get promote-

CHUPI

Ay, I had no idea what they were gonna d-

ÁNGEL

But I was doing so well up there, *why* would they take my halo?

CHUPI

See. Even hEaveN didn't want you.

ÁNGEL

Se calle (*shut up*)!

CHUPI

Pero, I do. I always do. Enough talk of *heavveeen-*

ÁNGEL

Heaven is my home!

CHUPI

Was. Porque (because) if it was so much your home, an' they were really your family-how come none of them came down to get you yet, hmm?

ÁNGEL

They must not know where I am down her-

CHUPI

Ohh, pero I thought God is all knowing y toda esa mierda (all that shit).

ÁNGEL

Something must've happened-

CHUPI

I'm your home-

ÁNGEL

You were never my home!

CHUPI

Yes, I was!

Baby cries are heard. They both inhale and exhale.

When we got married an' you ended up pregnant for the first tim-

ÁNGEL

I don't want to talk about that one.

Sounds of a baby laughing.

CHUPI

¿Pero, por que, por/que (But, but why, because)

ÁNGEL

Sto/p

CHUPI

it was beautiful? It was one of the only times we got married, y, y the *bayby-*

ÁNGEL

There was no baby!

The baby sounds stop.

CHUPI

Ay, Ángel, pero there was. I was so excite-

The baby sounds start again.

ÁNGEL

You were only excited because that meant you could keep me como un (*like a*) hostage. You pretended to be this, this, gentleman. Pero eso fue todo una mentira (*That was all a lie*). How many women that lifetime, huh?

CHUPI

Ay, women ni women-

ÁNGEL

The marks I would have to hide on my arms from where you grabbed me.

CHUPI

I had a rough touch, don't pretend que no siempre te gusta (*you didn't like it*)-

ÁNGEL

The baby was born dead because of you.

The baby sounds stop.

There was nothing in you that could create life.

Silence.

Every. Single. One of them.

CHUPI

There weren't that many-

ÁNGEL

There were *enough*. All. Because. Of *you*.

CHUPI

You really think everythin's all my faULT? So, kill me. KILL *meee*.

(pause)

You killed me once, you could do it again.

ÁNGEL

Chupi, I don't *want* to/kill you

CHUPI

Do it, do it. *Mátame (Kill me)*. I can't love if I've never known love. You've always tried for the both of us. That's kinda how it's always worked. Y I've never left you. Not for long anyway.

ÁNGEL

That's not what a healthy relationship is.

CHUPI

Who said it had to be healthy? That's subjective. I'm *sick*. I've always been sick, pero havin' you an' going through hell is better than being alone.

ÁNGEL

You haven't been to hell yet; you have no idea/de qué (*of what*)

CHUPI

Pero that's what's next for me, isn't it? After this decrepit form, that's the only thing left.

ÁNGEL

You have another chance. You have life. If you're sent to hell you'd never return.

ÁNGEL looks up at the sky and closes their eyes.
The sound of ocean waves rise gently in the
background.

CHUPI

Ehhh, holaaa (*helllooo*)? Why aren't you tryna choke me, or slap me around, even though me gusta eso (*I like that*)-

ÁNGEL with their eyes closed takes a deep inhale,
then exhales. Inhales, then exhales.

Ahora, qué (*And now, what*) you learned yoga down here too?

ÁNGEL takes one last deep breath. They smile. The
sounds of coquis are heard happily in the
background.

ÁNGEL

I can feel it. It's inside me. The singin' symphony of coquis, the wind blowin' the palm trees, the oceans waves. I can always go back to it now.

CHUPI

¿Que que (*What what*)?

A ring of light begins to flicker above ÁNGEL's head.

Your halo. It's comin' back. Why?

ÁNGEL

Mmmm. It's so peaceful. 'Cause even when it's hard to, I forgive you. I forgive you, I forgive you, I forgive you. I have no hate in my heart for you. Just love-

CHUPI

No, no, no, no, NO! Love is not abandoning someone when they need you the most. Love is not just a word, you can throw around, like it means nothing! Love is not, love is not, love is not-

ÁNGEL

Looks like you do know something about love after all.

CHUPI

Oooo, your halo comes back when you love! That's why whenever whatever her name is-

ÁNGEL

Rami-

CHUPI

Yeah, I don't cAaerre. Whenever Rami salami pastrami an' you are together-*ohh*, are you gonna leave her too?? Is this what you do?

ÁNGEL

I thought you wanted me to get my halo back-

CHUPI

You're just gonna leave! Without me. Love. Plgghh!

(like they have a bad taste in their mouth)

Leeeoveh. Looooovee. You're right this isn't love. I thought it was this whole time. I thought I had somethin'. What have I been holdin' onto? What are you?

ÁNGEL

A spirit full of love.

The halo continues to brighten. The wind begins to pick up. CHUPI watches the halo brighten overhead, then runs up to ÁNGEL and embraces them tightly.

CHUPI

Don't go, don't go, don't go, don't goooo. All I want is for you to love me.

ÁNGEL

And I do.

ÁNGEL hugs them back.

And I always will. Even when you smell like un pescado sucio (*dirty fish*). I want you to feel what I feel. I want you to feel this peace.

CHUPI

Y la niña (*And the girl*)?

ÁNGEL

I'll come back for her.

CHUPI

Y yo (*And me?*)

ÁNGEL

It's over, Chupi.

CHUPI

Kiiill meee. *Please. Please, please, please, please, please,* I don't wanna be this way anymore. I don't wannaagghh-

ÁNGEL

Look at me-

CHUPI

You think you have the huevos to kill me again if-

ÁNGEL

I just want you to *live*.

CHUPI

Me too. That's why I have ta do this.

A cracking, then ripping sound is heard. All the sounds stop.

ÁNGEL

AGHHH!!

ÁNGEL tries to push CHUPI off but as they try to escape, the pain becomes worse. CHUPI moves back and forth violently then backs away as ÁNGEL falls to their knees.

AGHHHHHHHH!!

The halo disappears.

CHUPI

Lo siento (*I'm sorry*). Pero if I can't come with you, I still need you. Here. With me.

CHUPI disappears into the darkness. ÁNGEL's wings are hanging off at their sides, ripped from their back. They cry.

Lights up on Stage Left as CHUPI is shown slithering up to RAMI, who is passed out, on The Wonder Wheel.

ÁNGEL

(hears something)

That sound...

(they look up)

Is that you God? Why? Why?? Whyyyy...

RAMI begins to wake.

CHUPI

If I can't have them, then NO ONE can!!

ÁNGEL's cries are heard as CHUPI engulfs RAMI with a tattered brown sheet.

CHUPI & RAMI

(echoes)

ARGHHHHH!!!/AHHHHHH!!!

The stage smokes.

BLACK OUT

ACT TWO

The projection in the background shows a rewinding through the sky until it shows heaven's clouds and blue sky as the lights rise. Flashback. Lights up on the part of the stage sectioned off by the tall gate. ÁNGEL with their halo and wings present and CHUPI with their sewn-on wings and rags. "Bring me with you!" is echoed throughout the space as ÁNGEL is desperately rubbing

dripping blood from between their thighs that only they can see.

CHUPI

Ss ss ss ss. Issokay, issokay. Cálmate, cálmate (*Calm down, calm down*). I'll help you like I used to-

ÁNGEL

Vete (*Go away*)!

ÁNGEL takes deep breaths as they begin to calm.

CHUPI

Mira (*Look*), toma esto (*take this*).

CHUPI rips a big white wing from their own back and hands it to ÁNGEL.

Esta muy mojado (*It's very wet*) 'cause I'm sweatin', pero you look like you dehydrated, jus squeeze into your mouf-

ÁNGEL

How did you get these?

CHUPI

You don' know 'em. Now how do we-

ÁNGEL

You took these from someone? Y eso, la ropa también (*And that, the clothes too*)? ¿Quién (*Who*)?

CHUPI

Oh, *c'mooon* ahora (*now*) you're bein' piickey.

CHUPI readies themselves.

Estoy lista (*I'm ready*)! I came all this way for you, so you'd do the magicky magicky. Go on, do the thaang. Bring me to the other side of the gate. I tried climbin' up before you came pero somethin' was pushin' me down-

ÁNGEL

A few angels have gone missing over the past few years-

CHUPI

Ohwehh, since when didn't we do all we can to be with one another, *ah?* Jus' 'cause we on opposite sides of the bars doesn't *mean* anythin' -

ÁNGEL

Doesn't it?

CHUPI

You *really* think you're an angel now-

ÁNGEL

I AM an angel.

CHUPI

¿Y yo (*And me*)? I made it all the way up here, doesn't that make me an ayENGEL?

ÁNGEL

You'll never be an angel!

CHUPI hits the gate. "You'll never be an angel!" is echoed through the space. Unintelligible whispers are heard.

The lights shift back to present time and a warm spotlight forms on ÁNGEL, who is on their knees, praying. Their wings are gone, and their back is bloody. They are in deep concentration, whispering unintelligible words, until they start to laugh hysterically.

ÁNGEL

Hahahhahaa. You keep tellin' me to love, I hear it echoing in my head, but I can't...my my 100th year ceremony is tomorrow, my 100th year as an angel, and I won't be able to make it in time; but you already knew that. You, the all-seeing, the all-knowing, you everywhere, yet nowhere, all at once. I would've been closer to you than ever, pero ahora (*but now*) no. And I'm not mad at you, I'm not mad, *no*. I just have no way back now. No halo. No wings. My wings were almost as big as everyone else's up there. Ahora no tengo nada (*Now I have nothing*). What made me special is gone. And I'm not just talking about my wings and my halo. But, my heart. My mind. It's so different now. Is this what being back on earth feels like? So much pain, little peace? What do you want me to say? That I'm sorry? That I'm sorry for tryna help Chupi again? What you didn't think it was an emergency? Saving their soul wasn't an emergency to you? What was the crime? I wanted to bring them into the kingdom of heaven so that they could be with us! Be with you!

(pause)

Why does it feel like this? I could barely feel you anymore. Where did all my forgiveness go? ¿Dónde está mi paz (*Where is my peace*)? ¿La luz (*The light*)? ¿Mi Dios (*My God*)? You're so far away...Hahahaha. Eres un Dios gracioso (*You are a funny God*).

ÁNGEL's hands turn into fists and hit the ground.

Aghh! What you wanna do with me? Kill me? Ohhoho, no you don't wanna kill me because I'm here to learn somethin' again, aren't I? *¿Para qué (For what)? ¿Para qué??* I'm not human. But am I-am I even an angel anymore? Huh?? Answer me!!

ÁNGEL opens their eyes and gets up and stretches their arms out wide.

You wanna take me? Aquí estoy (*I'm here*). Aquí estoy.

(they wait. Nothings happens)

¡¡¿¿Qué quieres de mi (*What do you want from me*)!?!? ¡Es tu culpa (*It's your fault*)! ¡Es tu culpa que yo no tengo alas (*that I don't have wings*)! No, no, lo siento, lo siento, Dios perdóname (*forgive me*), perdóname. Es Chupi. What am I being punished for? For having a big heart? For loving my neighbor as myself, for loving over and over and over again? *¿Eso no es suficiente para ti (That's not enough for you now)?* I tried to baptize Chupi. SO WHAT?? I-I- know Angels aren't allowed to baptize, pero I don't see why not? Chupi shouldn't have been able to even call out to me! *You* let them reach me. *You* let them find me again. *¿Y para qué?* You knew when I heard their voice outside of heaven's gates, I wouldn't be able to help it. I *had* to try to help them. Everyone deserves this love, don't they? I keep thinking this must be a test, pero why do I feel like I'm failing?

(shakes their head violently)

Get these thoughts out of my head!! Quiero matarlas (*I want to kill them*). Quiero matarlas. Aghhhh!!

(falls to their knees smacking themselves)

Why have you forsaken me? Ayúdame, Dios, ayúdame (*Help me God*). What? I can't hear you. I-I can't hear you. Why can't I hear you at all? Where did you go?

(starts hitting their heart. Then hits their head)

Come back, don't *go*. Don't leave me all alone. I'm not used to being alone. How do I break this tie? This hold? How do I break ITT?!!

(they suddenly stop and are still)

Rami...Rami? Rami!! Rami!! Rami?!!

ÁNGEL runs staggers down the aisle into the back of the audience calling to RAMI searching for her in the space around them until they disappear offstage. Lights down.

Lights up in what appears to be an underground cave, with bones scattered on the ground and the walls covered with markings. It is hot and dry. CHUPI is on the ground, head in the stomach of a dead goat, feeding, Down Stage Right. RAMI is Center Stage, in a small cage just big enough to fit her standing.

CHUPI

Thlurthlurthlurthlurthlur. Mmmm. So goood. So. Gooood.

(begins to cry)

¿Ay, por qué (*but why*)?

Picks their head up and their mouth is dripping blood.

No más, no más-ay, pero la sangre es tan buueenaa (*No more-but the blood is good*). No, no.

Tries to wipe the blood away.

It doesn't have to be this way-ay, pero I just can't help it. Mis ojos (*My eyes*) betray me, pero it tastes soo goood. Ay, *mi corazoonn* (*my heart*).

RAMI

I'm surprised you haven't drowned in your tears.

CHUPI

Ayyy, cállate (*shut up*)! I have broken heart syndrome. Did you know that someone can die of a broken heart?

RAMI

My God, you brought me here to torture me with your/cries

CHUPI

What have I told you, a thousand times? We don't mention the G word in here!

RAMI

And why's that?

CHUPI

We. Don't. Mention. Him.

RAMI

(takes a deep breath)

Godgodgodgodgodgodgod-

CHUPI

Ay carajo (*fuck*)!

CHUPI throws something at the cage.

Déjame comer en paz (*Let me eat in peace*). Que (*what*) you wan' some of this? This sexy, nch, bloody, juicy, nch, meaty gOaT?

RAMI

And what if I do?

CHUPI

(a scary low sound)

Ahhahaha *ohohoh*. You wouldn't dare.

RAMI

Try me.

CHUPI gets up, stretches, does a squat, then picks up the dead goat and slumps it around their neck.

CHUPI

Oh, tú quieres mi cabra ahhh (*you want my goat, huh*)?

They spin around with the goat until they press up against the cage and slide down it seductively until they're on the floor, dropping the goat.

Aquí está (*here it is*). Go on.

RAMI gets down as low as she could in the cage and reaches for the goat, but it's too far.

Aww, that's right. You can't. Porque you're trapped. In a cage. By me.

CHUPI continues to eat in front of her.

RAMI

I didn't know angels could be this selfish.

CHUPI

(spitting out their food)

Pleaugh, somethin' wrong with your eyes? Do I look *priit-tey* to yew?

(grins scarily batting their eyelashes)

RAMI

You have wings. How would I know the difference?

CHUPI

Pshh! Entitled, entitled that's what they are. Nleeh!

RAMI

So, what are you? Ángel said your name was-

CHUPI hits the cage.

CHUPI

We *don't* mention that name either! *Ohhh*, you think they'll come for you? Maybe I should put on my best rags.

RAMI

Ángel and I were just starting to get somewhere-

CHUPI jumps up and violently bangs on the cage multiple times.

CHUPI

Don't say that name! El nombre con el *Á* (*the name with the*), *Á Á Á Ágh Ágh!*

(hits their head against the bars a few times)

I don't like how their name sounds in your *moufth*. Too comfortable a sound.

A Prrrp! sound. A longer Prrrrrrp! Different length of Prrrp! sounds.

RAMI

(almost falling over)

Whoaaaaa. That smell.

Another Prrrp! sound.

CHUPI

Te gustas (*you like it*)? Eso es mi cologne especial (*That is my special cologne*).

RAMI

Hahaha. I like it.

CHUPI

Hm?

RAMI

I like it.

(inhales)

Eggs. Dirty banana peels. Sewer, with a touch of spice.

RAMI moves closer to CHUPI and inhales deeply. CHUPI stays with her a moment.

CHUPI

(pause)

Ooo, nena (*girl*) no me miras así (*don't look at me like that*), you a *freeaakk*. I got just the thing.

They jump gleefully around rummaging through rusty tools.

RAMI

I'm hungry.

CHUPI

Y what? What you wan' me to do? No tengo human freak food para ti (*for you*).

RAMI

Let me out so I can eat.

CHUPI

Y what're you gonna eat? You wanna slurp up mis peos con un (*my farts with a*) straw?
Haahaha.

They pull shears out.

Oooooo, what I'm gonna do to youuu.

CHUPI crawls quickly over to the cage RAMI is in
and tries to lick her-she moves away.

(sings gleefully)

I'm gonna cut you up, then I'm gonna wear your skin,

(sings hard metal)

An' then I'm gonna eeeaat you uuup. Then I'm gonna take your teeeeth-

RAMI

I'm hungr-

CHUPI

Don't interrupt me when I'm singing!

RAMI

I'm tired of standing, there's no space to sit!

CHUPI

Porque *you* are *my prisOner*.

ÁNGEL (OFF-STAGE)

(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

Rami!! Raaaaamiiiiiii!

RAMI

No, I'm not.

CHUPI

Uhhh, sí eres (*Yes you are*).

RAMI

What makes you think you're any less trapped than I am?

CHUPI

Ay, you're makin' me nauseous.

RAMI

I want you to open this door. And feed me. I'll eat the goat. I'll eat whatever you want.

CHUPI

You might get sick an' die an' then what? I'll have no one to talk to.

A shift.

RAMI

What're all those scratches in the wall?

CHUPI

Ehh, at first it was one scratch per day, pero then it turned into one scratch per year y-

RAMI

Per day for what?

CHUPI

For when I was turned into this *thing*, nena-

RAMI

Why were you turned into this-

CHUPI

Ay, no one ever asks me questions! No one's ever interested in me.

RAMI

People are rarely interested in me either. Or they are, but not for the right reasons.

CHUPI

Right, wrong, es all the same mierda (*shit*). Interest is interest. If the shoe fits wear it.

RAMI

Just because it fits, doesn't mean you have to wear it. What size you wear?

CHUPI

Ha. No tengo zapatos (*I don't have shoes*) nena.

RAMI

Maybe we can make you some.

CHUPI

You're not even wearin' shoe-wz! Go make *yourself* shoes. Siempre las tontas, bonItas que no tienen zapAtoS (*Always the dumb, pretty ones that don't have shoes*).

RAMI

You think I'm pretty?

CHUPI freezes.

CHUPI

Yo-yo no-

RAMI

You think I'm pretty.

CHUPI pauses and drops the shears walking away from her.

CHUPI

Mmmm. Por qué, por qué, why am I feeling...feelings other than, than...

CHUPI quickly runs back to the cage and jumps on it shaking it violently, growling.

Rrralalaghhh!!

RAMI

Are you done?

ÁNGEL (OFF-STAGE)
(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

Rami!! Raaaaamiiiiiii!

CHUPI

Why aren't you afraid of me?

RAMI

You want me to be afraid of you?

CHUPI

Soy un *demon* (*Yes I am a*).

RAMI
(a low laugh)

Hahahaha. *You're* a demon?

CHUPI

Jeehhsseh! I'm daneErOUths.

RAMI

Hahahah.

(imitates them)

I'm dangerous.

CHUPI

You think this got here by accidentTT? You think the blood under my nails was from me scratchin' my ass? I ripped him apart justo en el estómago (*right in the stomach*).

RAMI

Oooo and imagine if you enjoyed it?

CHUPI

I do enjoy it-

RAMI

No. You don't.

CHUPI

Do toOoo.

RAMI

You're a demon? You're the worst they got?

CHUPI

Let's make a bet. If no one comes to save you in the next hour, I kill you. I'll rip out your stomach just like I did the goat's. How's that for the worst they got?

RAMI

You're bluffing.

CHUPI

Ay!! I threaten you y todavía tienes algo que decir (*and you still have something to say*)!

RAMI

Is you speaking Spanish like a stereotype, 'cause I know they make the devil look like a Tío on T.V.

CHUPI

(gasps)

OH! No, no, no!

(drops to the ground whispering)

S-s-sorry, lo siento, she knows not what she speaks. Of course, I am not the Devil! Soy un demonio (*I am a demon*). I'm like one of His kids. *One of His favorites.*

RAMI

Scared of the one downstairs but not of the one upstairs?

CHUPI

You mean *el hombre* (*The man*) in the clouds?

RAMI

Why do you think they're a man?

CHUPI makes their way to their feet slowly,
seductively.

CHUPI

All tyrants are.

RAMI

They say we're made in God's image.

CHUPI

Not *weeee*. *You*. I'm not un human anymore. All HE cares about are His precious hUmans-

RAMI

We're all God's reflections.

CHUPI

Ay, nena, you make me wanna die all over again-Y not in the good way.

RAMI

What are you *really*?

CHUPI

Ayyy-

RAMI

Where are we?

CHUPI

Ughhh!

Their groan turns into a spin.

Weeee are in my secret lair, in *between* earth and Hell
(in a deep voice)

The Underworld.

RAMI

And heaven?

A sound of something being knocked over.

CHUPI

Is that you? Have you come to apologize to me? Ahem. Not that I'd care. *Bleaugh*. Prob jus' a lil bat rat runnin' around. I'll eat it later.

RAMI

Is that why I'm here? You're gonna eat me?

CHUPI

You ever wanna leave your body so bad that you almost lick your culo (*ass*) by accident?

RAMI

Let me out.

CHUPI

(sucks their teeth)

...I could've sworn you liked me.

RAMI

I mean, I don't hate you.

CHUPI

You don't?

RAMI

No. I don't really know you yet.

CHUPI

Pero you're in a cage. That I put you in. In another realm. Dimension? Realm? Ehh, I don't really know I missed class the first week I was here, not really much of a student, pero *everyone*, hates me.

RAMI

Your friends hate you?

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)

(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

RaaaaamiiiiiiiiIII!

CHUPI

I don't have friends, pero I know one person who hates me, but they're un mentirose (*liar*) and say that they don't.

RAMI

Well, why don't you just take their word for it?

CHUPI

Because they're lying. Everyone lies.

RAMI

Usually when people say things, they mean it.

CHUPI

(snorts)

No, they do not! Especially humans. They think demons are great manipulators, but that's only 'cause we learned it while being human.

RAMI

Angels can lie?

CHUPI

Ay! I wanted you as my prisoner so *you* can listen to *me* before I tortured you, not so that *I* can listen to *you*.

RAMI

You know why people hate you?

CHUPI

Because I'm Ugly, crUde, and selfFish?

RAMI

No. Because you have tiny flaccid wings.

CHUPI&RAMI

Hahaha.

Silence.

CHUPI

How 'bout if I don't wan' you to go...

RAMI

Are you telling me you want me to stay?

CHUPI

No!...Maybe.

RAMI

You think I wanna roam the Underworld by myself, where there are possibly less scary things than you?

CHUPI

Are you flirtin' with me?

RAMI

Do you want me to be?

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)
(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

Raaaaamiiiiiii!

RAMI

So, you're not gonna torture, kill me, eat me, and wear my skin while singing me to death after all?

CHUPI

I only *kinda* wanted to eat you.

CHUPI smiles, then stops and starts hitting their head.

RAMI

Hey, can you stop?

CHUPI throws themselves at the cage and clings onto it eyeing RAMI.

CHUPI

WhatTT. Are. *YEW?*

RAMI

What do you mean?

CHUPI

You can't be human.

RAMI

Last time I checked. I am.

CHUPI
(smells her up and down)

I think your smell is masked well. I can't tell what you are, but you're otherworldly.

RAMI

Just say you think I'm so cool that I'm just out of this world-

CHUPI

You might've been able to fool Ángel, pero you're not going to fool me. 'Cause if this is some sort of game this whole time, oohehehehe, Ángel got me alright!! Tryna make me jealous, ooohoo, they really got me good this time. I almost believed you liked me.

RAMI

I do like you.

CHUPI

(pause)

No, no. Esto es too far. Don't lie to me. I really hate liars.

RAMI

But you lie.

CHUPI

I knew it, I knew it. Stupid, stupid, stupid
(begins hitting themselves)

RAMI

Hey, stop. *Stop*. I didn't lie. I do like you.

CHUPI

(they hold their chest. They start to hit their left breast)

This hairball is really makin' a journey en mi pecho (*chest*). Eso es just not comin' out...No one has said they liked me in centuries.

RAMI

How long have you been stuck in this form?

CHUPI

More than the walls show.

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)

(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

Raamii!! Raaaaamiiiiiii!

A shift.

RAMI

You know that there are some animals that mate for life? Woodpeckers, swans-

CHUPI

Swans? Pero they're so prit-tey.

RAMI
Ever seen a bird dance?

CHUPI
Pajaros (*Birds*) don't *actually* dance, pero I used to.

RAMI
If they don't dance, how do you think they mate? Crows-

CHUPI
Ehhh, no se, why are you-

RAMI
Male crows let the female crows have the final say.

CHUPI
Good thing I'm not a male.

(pause)
What's all this animal talk? *Ohhhohoho*, you're in *hheatt*.

RAMI
No.

CHUPI
You want me to help with that?

CHUPI advances.

RAMI
No.

CHUPI
Oh, c'mon, you were bein' so nice to me-

RAMI
Don't-

CHUPI
I bet you don't think I'm so nice now

Puts their face through the bars and tries to lick her again, licking the bars up and down, trying to grab her.

RAMI
Stop-

Ven aqui (<i>Come here</i>)-	CHUPI
<i>Don't touch me-</i>	RAMI
Tù quieres un besito (<i>You want a kiss</i>)-	CHUPI
<i>Please-</i>	RAMI
Mwah. Mwah-	CHUPI
<i>I don't like this-</i>	RAMI
Mwah, stap tryna move away from me-	CHUPI
<i>Please, please, please-</i>	RAMI
Let me touch yew-	CHUPI
<i>Stop it-</i>	RAMI
You think I'm so nice-	CHUPI
<i>Please stop, stop-</i>	RAMI
You like me-	CHUPI
<i>CHUPI!</i>	RAMI
	CHUPI freezes.
<i>Let. Me. Out!</i>	

CHUPI lets go of the cage. They slowly unlock the cage door, opening it and avoiding eye contact as they move to a corner of the cave, and sit with their knees to their chest. A moment. RAMI slowly steps out of the cage.

CHUPI

Only one person has ever called me that.

RAMI

Well, now there's two.

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)
(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

Raaaaamiiiiiiii!

CHUPI

Just go. You're free. I don't wanna eat your skin now anyways, you been sittin' there for a while, you're probably all ashy now, *la piel seca no es buena (ashy skin is no good)*.

RAMI breathes, then slowly goes down to the floor and begins to crawl over to the goat. She smells it before sticking her hands into its stomach and pulling out an intestine. She takes a deep breath and begins to suck on it, blood dripping. CHUPI hears the sound and whips their head around, mesmerized. She doesn't break eye contact as she continues to feed.

CHUPI

What are you?

RAMI

Do you have a washcloth?

CHUPI

¿Que qué (*What, what*)?

RAMI

A washcloth, or a rag? A towel?

CHUPI

Ehh, I used the thing I dragged you in here with to wipe my pee pee then choked a little demon with it by the entrance so no tengo nada (*I don't have anything*), an' if you pee, I'm one hundred percent gonna watch.

RAMI
(still feeding)

You are so charming.

CHUPI
Have to mark my territory. My pee pee repels other demons. Let's 'em know I mean business.

RAMI
(looks at them)

I'd let you watch.

RAMI gets up wiping the blood off her mouth and sucking her fingers. She begins digging around.

What's this?

RAMI picks something brown up from the ground.

CHUPI
Gimme that. I'm saving it for later.

Quickly gets up and grabs it from her and takes a bite before throwing the rest behind them.

RAMI
You eat shit?

CHUPI
Eh, eh! Every furry thing eats their shit. It's delicious aaan' nutritious.

RAMI
And you wanted to touch me with that shitty mouth?

CHUPI
Jus a kiss...un besito. I haven't been kissed in years.

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)
(muffled echoes only audible to the audience)

Raaamiii! Raaaaamiiiiiii!

RAMI
You can't force someone to kiss or touch you. It's not real.
(pause)

How 'bout this?

She holds up an old looking cloth.

CHUPI

Ahh, yes. Belonged to a shepherd, I think.

Sound of birds chirping and sheeps “Bah-ing” in a field.

When I killed his sheep, it had that thing tied around its neck, I think it was his favorite one.

RAMI drags a rock to the center of the stage.

RAMI

Come.

CHUPI

OH! I silly it was a goaaaT.

Sound of a goat doing whatever goats do.

Mmm, the biggest one I’d ever see-

RAMI

Come.

The sounds stop.

CHUPI

Come where?

RAMI

Here. Sit. Hurry up, you think I have all night?

CHUPI

Bueno, estas atrapado (*you are trapped*) en una cave, so you kinda do.

RAMI

No, I don’t. Now come sit. Come. It’s okay.

(she reaches out a hand to them)

It’s okay.

CHUPI doesn’t move. RAMI gets up and walks closer to them. CHUPI backs away. She follows them and they do a little dance as CHUPI tries to escape from her.

CHUPI

(shrieks)

AHH!

RAMI goes back to the rock and sits, waiting.

RAMI

Come. I'm not gonna hurt you. I'm *not* gonna hurt you.

The ground shakes.

(holds her stomach)

Oooof.

CHUPI

Sometimes we get shakies down here, you'll get used to it.

The ground shakes again. She's in pain.

OHHHH. Es da *bloood*. Ay, now you're gonna get sick an' die y leave me all alone.

RAMI

I told you I'd eat whatever you wanted.

CHUPI

Pero I didn't wan' that.

RAMI

Didn't you?

The cave's light dims.

(She reaches her hand out)

Come.

CHUPI looks around, then on all fours, moves towards her. They stop as the ground shakes once more, and the cave's ceiling begins to crack. CHUPI retreats.

(in pain)

Agh. Give me your arm.

CHUPI

(looking up, worried)

This never happened before.

RAMI

I've never gotten sick before...*agh*. Come. It's okay. Let me see.

CHUPI slowly gives in. The moment RAMI touches CHUPI's arm, they freeze. They look RAMI in the eyes. It's as if time has stopped.

I'm going to wash you.

CHUPI

Pe-pe...wh-wh...

CHUPI suddenly tries to break away out of her grasp, but she holds them there.

No, no. No more running.

RAMI

You're touching me...it...bird bumps...

CHUPI

RAMI touches their arm that's covered in blood, scabs, dirt, and some fur. They try to escape once more and she holds them lovingly in place. The walls begin to cave in.

No. Let yourself, see yourself. Look with me.

RAMI

No one ever wants to look at me.

CHUPI

I do.

RAMI

A moment. She suddenly holds her stomach, and her breathing becomes irregular. More of the cave begins to fall.

Aghh. Phoo, phoo..

(breathing)

CHUPI touches her back lightly, to make sure she doesn't fall-then quickly withdraws their hands, looking at their claws.

RAMI

(breathing)

Phoo. Phoo. Phoo.

CHUPI

Ay, nena you don't lewk so gewdd.

RAMI

I'll be fine. It's you I'm worried about.

CHUPI

Yo (*Me*)?

RAMI

Look with me.

CHUPI

I-no puedo (*I can't*), no-

RAMI leans over and leaves a glob of spit on CHUPI's arm. CHUPI freezes as she begins to rub their skin, scrubbing the grime off them.

RAMI

You don't have to hide anymore if you don't want to.

RAMI looks into CHUPI's eyes. A moment. Then gusts of wind.

(in pain)

Arghhh! Agh.

CHUPI

Nena? Nena?

RAMI

(in pain)

Phoo. Phoo. Tsss.

She continues to clean them as the cave tries not to crush them.

CHUPI

(starts to freak out)

You don't, you don't have to-*Eungrrrh. Something's wrong*, my cave, my cAvEH, pero algo, algo (*something*)-*mmmmph-no sé, no sé (I don't know)*-

RAMI touches the side of CHUPI's face, turning their gaze to meet hers. CHUPI immediately calms.

RAMI

Let me see you.

CHUPI slowly reaches a clawed hand out but pauses before touching her. RAMI shakes her head yes. CHUPI helps her to her feet as the stage begins to darken and a doorway of light appears. CHUPI stares, then leads her into the light as the last of the cave comes crashing to the ground. Lights down.

We hear ÁNGEL in the dark, voice echoing.

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)

(echoes overlapping, mimicking the sound of a church bell's vibrations)

*Raaaaa/miiiiiiiRaami/iiRaaaamiii/RaaamiiiRaaamiii/Raaamiii/Raaaaa/miiiiiiiRaami/iiRaaaam
iii*

The projection in the background shows a rewinding through the sky until it shows heaven's clouds and blue sky as the lights rise. Flashback. Lights come up on the part of the stage sectioned off by the tall gate. CHUPI takes ÁNGEL's hands from their stomach and holds them against their face. ÁNGEL's halo and wings are present.

ÁNGEL

Your face is dirty.

CHUPI releases ÁNGEL and backs away.

(sniffs)

Ooosh-

CHUPI

Part of my new packaging on earth.

ÁNGEL

How did you find me?

CHUPI

I've been lookin' for you for *centureeez*, *sabes (you know)* nothin' can keep us apart-

ÁNGEL

What are you? What's your name?

CHUPI

When I tell you, prométeme cambiará nada (*promise it won't change anything*)?

ÁNGEL

It won't change anything. I know it's you. Smellier you, pero tu (*but you*).

CHUPI

(begrudgingly)

I'm *Le Chupacabra*.

CHUPI braces themselves for an outburst.

ÁNGEL

Como el (*Like the*) myth?

CHUPI

You must've heard horrible things about me, pero only maybe half of them es t-

ÁNGEL

I stay out of the gossip up here. I don't know anything that goes on down there. Y tu nombre (*And your name*)?

CHUPI

Es the same, Le Chupacab-

ÁNGEL

I woulda just went with Chupi.

(smiles)

Don't you wanna know what my name is? *Ohoho*, you're never gonna guess. Eso es (*that is*) the same name from my last past life.

CHUPI

Pues (*Well*), I didn't know you then, did I?

ÁNGEL

Guess, por fa.

CHUPI

Goldy. Whitey. Coco loco-

ÁNGEL

Que, *no* (*What, no*). ¿Qué tiene alas y un halo (*What has wings*)?

CHUPI &/ÁNGEL

Un Ángel/ángel.

CHUPI

Pues, it fits. Un halo, these big ass *winggzzzz*, a lot of eyes, *esta caraaa (this face)*-

ÁNGEL

I always had a pretty face-

CHUPI

Not as prit-tey as minEh.

A shift and CHUPI turns their back towards
ÁNGEL.

I-this-isn't a good face or body-I-I have wings too-pero, nothin' like yours, I-I-I wanna feeyeel like I'm beautiful again, I-I wanna feel gewD with *you*-I jus-I'll do whatever it takes, please, jus-

ÁNGEL looks at their own hands.

ÁNGEL

Que eso (*What's that*)?

ÁNGEL looks at their crotch and starts panicking and scrubbing their hands and then wiping the inside of their thighs as if trying to wipe something off.

The blood, the blood, no, no, no, please, I don't wanna, I can't, no puedo (*I can't*)-

CHUPI reaches through the bars and grasps
ÁNGEL's face.

CHUPI

You *need* me. Bring me with you!

"Bring me with you!" is echoed throughout the space. Unintelligible whispers are heard.

ÁNGEL (VOICEOVER)

Raaaamiiiiiii!

The scene gets washed away and shifts back to the present, as a warm red glow forms on the stage. ÁNGEL is seen high up, jumping in the dark to different platforms, descending, struggling to keep

their balance. We hear a rumble as the ground starts to shake. Insect sounds and the sounds of wings flapping begin to echo throughout the space as smoke fills the stage.

ÁNGEL

(gags)

Euh.

They try to fight off the smell by waving and kicking the air as they fall down.

Ay, why does it all smell like *sovaco (underarm)* supreme down here??! *Euh.*

The sounds get louder as muffled voices and unintelligible whispers are heard.

Who's there? Come out! Show yourself!

(standing tall)

¡No te tengo miedo cabrones (*I'm not afraid bastards*)!

The sounds are all around them, as dark shadows fly towards ÁNGEL, shoving them in different directions.

There's nothing you can take from me now! I won't let you stop me!

Shadows bang into them on the projection behind them as they continue to jump down.

I have to save her! Rami. She said she loves me, she can't protect herself, pero she'll *think* she can. She doesn't know Chupi like I do. Chupi's gonna kill her? *Ohhhh*. Chupi's gonna kill her.

(pause)

No, no, no, no, where is this thing? *Ohhh GAhhddd!*? You sure you don't wanna give me my halo back? Am I human now?? Did you send me here to wipe me out?? Is this plague your new flood? Can you hear me GAHHHD? Woo. It's hoT down here. I know it's here!! I can feel her!! Can you shut up!? You're all so loud! I don't want to hear any of you! Estos malditos espíritus (*Those bad spirits*). Paquita I see you!! Paquita why are you throwing stuff at me! ¡No hagas esO (*Don't do that*)! You've always been a follower haven't you! Well, not you or any of these other bad spirits will stop me.

They're on the last platform.

It's faint, but I can feel her. I promise it's her. It *has* to be her. She's calling to me. *Argh*, you're all lying to me! Stop it! I can't trUst you!

ÁNGEL covers their ears as the voices around them raise until it becomes a piercing sound.

I will find her! *Agh!!* After all Chupi's done to me. They don't deserve another chAnCeH!

ÁNGEL falls to their knees as their ears begin to bleed. Then suddenly, the noise stops. A frame of light appears a few platforms above them. ÁNGEL sees the light and scrambles to climb back up.

You're my last hope.

They disappear into the light. Lights down.

Lights up on CHUPI as they begin to lead RAMI, who is weaker, into a new place, with her arm slung around their neck. As they enter, the space becomes a bit darker, as if readying for a storm. There is a fountain and the sound of rushing water.

CHUPI

Aquí estamos, aquí estamos (*Here we are*). I can't believe I found this place. I only saw it once, a loooong time ago. It was in the same spot, pero for some reason, I couldn't find it again.

RAMI

(holding her stomach)

Where are we?

CHUPI

In between earth an' The Underworld. If you look up, the water don't seem to have a beginnin' or an end. I heard un rumor that this is the same wAhter that flows through earth, to space, y into el cielo también (*heaven too*).

RAMI

A passage between worlds.

CHUPI

I tried to get to heaven through here, pero somethin' was pushing me back, un force o algo. I-I felt like I needed to bring you here, pero no se porque (*but I don't know why*).

RAMI

(in pain)

Agh. Whew.

(pause)

It's beautiful. Thank you for bringing me here.

CHUPI

Thank you for cleanin' me with your spit.

CHUPI licks their arm.

It tastes salty. I like it.

RAMI

(in pain)

Oooof.

CHUPI

Ay, cuidado, cuidado (*careful*).

CHUPI sits RAMI on the side of the fountain as she slowly lifts her legs over the edge into the water and walks to the center. She shakily bends down and begins to wash her face, her hands, her arms, and then pours water on her head.

CHUPI

Nena, you takin' a bath here? El agua not gonna rinse away your caca (*shit*) pains. The shit comes from the *inside*.

RAMI smiles rubbing the water on her stomach.

RAMI

Reminds me of when I went to church when I was little and they'd take a bucket of water and clean everyone's feet-

CHUPI

Eugh, I don't wanna talk about that plAce. I DID like eating their little cookies though. Tú sabes, the ones that taste like paper with a little cross on it?! Y el vino (*wine*)

RAMI

The body and blood of Christ/they're not little cookies

CHUPI

También es bueno (*that's good too*).

RAMI closes her eyes, inhaling then exhaling.

RAMI

(soothing)

Ahhhh.

The space becomes light again. She opens her eyes.

Does God talk to you?

CHUPI

Mmmm noeee. El no habla a mi (*He doesn't talk to me*).

RAMI

Do you talk to them?

She cups her hands in the water, drinking some.

You're safe with me.

CHUPI

Ay, I-I've tried to start before pero there's-there's no one there.

RAMI looks at the water.

RAMI

Sometimes you hear them in the most unexpected places.

(pause)

Come see yourself. Your reflection.

CHUPI

Pshh! What am I gonna look at mYsELF foRR?

RAMI

Do you know what you look like?

CHUPI

Un monstrro (*Monster*).

RAMI

No. Come look. It's okay.

CHUPI

Mm-mm.

RAMI

The water's nice. Come on, get in here with me.

CHUPI

Nenahh, if I get in, I'll dirty the water y you'll be lookin' like you takin' a mud bath.

RAMI

I like mud. They make nice face masks.

CHUPI squints their eyes, then drags their feet, putting one foot into the fountain.

CHUPI

Argh! Ay, hace frio (it's cold) y-slimey!

CHUPI looks down and catches their own reflection and immediately put their head up and shuts their eyes.

RAMI

Be careful. You stay one foot in, one foot out, you're gonna fall. Open your eyes.

CHUPI

Mmm, no sé, no sé (I don't know, I don't know).

RAMI

You don't know what?

CHUPI

What I'm gonna seEe, what I'm gonna feEyel-

RAMI

So how about you just look? Don't let fear create a whole story for you that isn't true, when you could just look and see for yourself. And I'll be right here. In case you get scared, I'll be right here.

CHUPI takes a deep breath then reaches a hand out. RAMI finds CHUPI's hand and guides them into the center of the fountain with them.

You can do it.

CHUPI takes a deep breath, opens their eyes, looks at their reflection, and then quickly looks up and away. RAMI gently turns their face to look at hers. CHUPI slowly looks at their reflection in the water. They stare at themselves. They touch their face and arms.

What do you see?

CHUPI

I-no sé (I-don't know).

CHUPI squeezes their eyes shut and starts to get out of the fountain. RAMI catches their arm gently and CHUPI slowly turns their head to look at her. A moment. They put their foot back in the fountain.

I-I don't know what that is.

RAMI

You mean who?

CHUPI

I've never been a whoO, I'm a wHAt. When I turned into this *thING*, I vowed to never look at myself again.

RAMI

Oh, but if you don't look at your reflection, how will you reflect?

CHUPI

What do I need to *think* for? I sit and think of all las cosas malas que he hecho (*the bad things I've done*), an' it makes me *feel*. So. Yo no hago eso (*I don't do that*).

RAMI

Can I tell you what I see?

CHUPI

Do I wanna knoeW?

RAMI

I see, *someone*. Not a *thing*. I see someone who is a what and a who. Someone who doesn't know what they truly are or what they can truly be. I see someone so beautiful.

CHUPI

NNmmmmnngh, in my past lives, I was beaYutiful. On the outside, pero the inside, just never maatched. An' I'm not talkin' 'bout my organs, 'cause those bloody juicy things were the only sexyful things about me.

RAMI

You. Are. So. Beautiful. And I'm not just talking about your sexy, juicy insides.

CHUPI

MentIrosAhh (*Liar*). What did I tell you about lying? You're not lying?

RAMI

Can I tell you a secret?

CHUPI nods.

You don't need religion to believe in God.

CHUPI

¿Estás loca (*Are you crazy*)?

RAMI

Do you know God?

CHUPI

Nope. Pero I think God knows me. I'm sure He's seen me around.

RAMI

God is not religion.

CHUPI

Ayy nena-

RAMI

God is usually found within religions, but God himself, is so much more complicated than any words known to mankind.

CHUPI

Don' start preachin' to *mee*, porque God es un gAtekeeP-

RAMI

God is not a thing; God is not a place. God is a knowing. They are beyond a feeling although you can feel them too. God is a living, breathing, eternal knowing and calling. God is life and death; beginning and end. And the middle part is up to us.

CHUPI

Y God told you all this?

RAMI

Yes. And God can talk to you too, you just have to listen.

CHUPI

No, no, GAhd doesn't want to talk to *mee*. He talks to everyone else, but me. Si Dios tiene ojos por todas partes (*If God has eyes everywhere*), God's seen what I've done, I'm no ayeengel.

RAMI

God is in all of us. They are a forgiving God.

CHUPI

(spats)

FOrGIvINg. If He was so *forgiving* I'd have been reborn again.

RAMI

But you have been.

CHUPI

Hee wouldn't have made me into this maldita bestia sucia (*dirty fucking beast*), if He rEeAlly cared.

RAMI

They didn't do anything.

CHUPI

God is a *they*, not a he?

RAMI

God is neither. Or both. Or all.

CHUPI

I don't knOw who GAhD iss.

RAMI

They're whoever you want them to be.

CHUPI

Ay, you're startin' to sound like an angel. Makin' holy shit up. GaHD keeps us trapped in bodies we didn't ask for an' keeps us trapped inside. I've tried to die, to speed up the process myself, but GahhhhdD doesn't let me. I jumped off cliffs, tried con un axe, un machete, un hammer...Stabbed myself in the heart a couple times-my sweat's tURned into bIUd, pero aquí estoy (*here I am*). My body's been a graveyard before pero bein' stuck in this *thing* is a different type of torture.

RAMI

It hurts, doesn't it?

They look at one another. CHUPI nods.

You keep calling yourself this *thing* as though you haven't already begun to change. Just look. I'm here. I'm here. I'll close my eyes if you want.

RAMI closes her eyes. CHUPI looks at the water. They become immersed in their own reflection.

We all deserve forgiveness. Regardless of whether you *feel* you do or not. Whether you *feel* someone does or not.

CHUPI

After everything I've done? Do?

RAMI

Yes. The first part is to reflect, then let everything start to sink in. Let yourself feel it. The guilt, the anger, the hate...and then let it drip away. You don't need that anymore.

CHUPI

What're you un shrink?

RAMI

Yeah, you wanna see my notepad?

CHUPI smiles, then cringes and looks up and away.

CHUPI

Eugh, I never saw myself smile before.

They look back and continue to look at themselves.

...maybe it's not too bad.

RAMI

Can I look with you?

CHUPI

If you wan' nena I'm not controllin' you.

RAMI opens her eyes and stands next to them looking at their reflection.

RAMI

It's never too late. You just have to decide.

CHUPI

You really see all of that when you look at me? ¿No es mentira (*It's not a lie*)?

RAMI

When I look at you...I see God.

Silence.

CHUPI

What does that mean?

RAMI

I can see it, in your eyes. You know what it means. You understand.

She raises her hand to touch CHUPI's hair. She pets them. CHUPI slowly leans their face in her hand.

It's about finding the God within.

RAMI then withdraws her hand and bows, dropping her head and neck up and down. CHUPI is taken by her and begins to mimic her every move. RAMI begins to throw water at them, and CHUPI laughs and reciprocates. They are now bowing, performing circular motions with their necks and bodies; they are in unison, preening, scratching. There's intention, intensity, and intimacy in the way they move with one another. A mating dance. They then stand together touching foreheads and holding each other's face in their hands. RAMI kisses CHUPI on the forehead. CHUPI struggles to be gentle, then kisses her gently on the forehead.

Would you like to be baptized?

CHUPI has no words but shakes their head yes. RAMI leads them back over to the fountain.

Sit and lean back. It's okay, I got you.

CHUPI

Is it gonna hurt?

RAMI

I'm just going to say a few words and you're going to close your eyes. Then I'm going to gently push you back until your head is completely submerged. It should feel like a release.

CHUPI

Y how do I know you're not going to drown me?

RAMI

Remember to hold your breath.

CHUPI leans back.

CHUPI

I wasn't really gonna kill you before even though I said I would.

RAMI

I know.

CHUPI

How 'bout if I'm not ready?

RAMI

Do you want to be ready?

(CHUPI nods)

Then that's all you need. Oh, and pinch your nose. By the power invested in me-

CHUPI

Nenaa, why aren't you *phoo phoo phooing* anymoOre?

(looks around at the water)

¿Ohhhh, el aguaaaa (the water)?? Es that why my legs are tinglin', it has *magic powers*, porque if that's the case, I'll jus' dunk myself-

RAMI

No. The water doesn't. But you do.

RAMI licks her finger and makes a mark on CHUPI's forehead.

CHUPI

Did you just draw a heart on my forehead?

RAMI

Le Chupacabra, I now baptize you in the power of all your ancestors,

She pours water over their head.

in the name of the deep knowing's within,

She pours more water on them.

and in the name of the Holy Spirit-

She pours water over them once more, then slowly guides CHUPI's head underwater and holds it there for a few seconds. CHUPI then comes up gasping for air. ÁNGEL enters coming out of the darkness and pushes CHUPI's head back into the water. They struggle.

Ángel stop!

RAMI comes behind ÁNGEL and pushes her hands into the open wounds on their back, ÁNGEL releases CHUPI who is gasping for breath as they try to climb out of the fountain.

ÁNGEL

Agghhh!!

They grab RAMI by the throat.

God really has *anyone* baptizing out here these days!

CHUPI

Let go of her.

ÁNGEL tightens their grasp.

ÁNGEL

ARGHH!!

ÁNGEL suddenly releases her and looks at their hands. ÁNGEL steps towards her and she steps back.

No, no. Lo siento, lo siento (*I'm sorry, I'm sorry*). I don't know what came over me, I didn't mean to.

RAMI

This isn't you.

ÁNGEL

How do you know??! No, no, it's not. ¿Cuál fue la emergencia mmm (*What was the emergency*)? You have to have an emergency to be able to baptize someone if a priest isn't present.

CHUPI

My soul.

ÁNGEL

Hahahhaahha.

(pause)

Your soul. You don't even believe you have a soul.

CHUPI

I do now.

ÁNGEL

Rami, come with me. You'll be safe now. C'mon. C'mon. Just take my hand.

ÁNGEL reaches their hand out to her. CHUPI stands in front of her.

I don't understand. Get out of my way. I'm saving you from them.

CHUPI

Ángel she-

ÁNGEL

She's mine!

(pause)

I mean...Rami?

A moment.

What's *this*? You, you shared something special together? I can feel it. How? How?! You don't know how to share.

CHUPI

Ángel, somethin' muy amaaazin' just happened. I feel, I feel...*aLIVE*.

ÁNGEL

Sí, pero that's because *I'm* here. *I* make you feel aLIVE.

CHUPI

Nooee, Ángel, no es eso (*It's not that*). It's not you. It never was.

ÁNGEL

Hahahaha. This is a joke, right?

CHUPI

Nooeee. You were right. You were right, eso isn't about you an' me.

ÁNGEL

Oh, c'mooooonnn. After *thousands* of years of *you* chasing after *me*, you expect me to believe that it's no longer about me?

CHUPI

Síí, I was chasin' you, pero I was really just chasin' myself. Chasin' love. You can't chase love.

ÁNGEL

No, no, no, no, no. Mm-mm. You don't get to be all hiiiigh and mighty *now*, you, *you*, and these games-

CHUPI

Sííí me gusta jugar juegos y me gusta hacerme la paja, pero en este momento, I'm not playin' (*Yes, I like playing games, I like rubbing one out, but in this moment*).

RAMI

They say an orgasm is a release that brings you closer to God-

CHUPI

Oh sí?? Buena mierda (Good shit), maybe I was close to God this whole time after all-

ÁNGEL

Rami. I'm hEre. For *you*.

RAMI

No, you're not. You never were.

ÁNGEL

Rami, *please*. Please, please, *please*. I'm so *tired*. If it's not you, then who? *Chupi*? Are they really what I deserve?

RAMI

Do you even know what you deserve?

ÁNGEL

Do I even-are you *fUcking KiDding me*?

ÁNGEL takes a step towards her going to grab her.

RAMI

Don't touch me.

CHUPI puts their hand out and ÁNGEL stops.

CHUPI

Ángel, I saaved her.

ÁNGEL

SAved her, you *stole* her from-

CHUPI

She drank blood from tha goat an' she was gettin' sick. Her fondillo (*her butt*) smelled like it was breakin' in half, pero then I asked for somethin' to save her-I was searchin' for the answer, for somethin' inside a *me*, an' then this light appeared an' led me here...if I woulda never asked we woulda never found it an' ...she drank the water from the fountain an' ...I did it. *I saved her*.

ÁNGEL

¿Que carajo estas diciendo (*What the fuck are you saying*)? Do you hear yourself?

CHUPI

I didn' wan' her to die, I *believed* I-

ÁNGEL

Aaarrgghhh-

ÁNGEL goes to grab CHUPI and time slows as RAMI comes behind CHUPI and kisses them on the back, holding them from behind for a moment. CHUPI's eyes close, as they breathe her in. She then backs away, looks up, and puts her hands out to her sides and begins to ascend, a bright white light shining above her. ÁNGEL's head slowly turns up, watching her rise. Time resumes.

ÁNGEL

Rami, no, no. Rami!!

ÁNGEL runs to her, grasping at her legs, holding onto her until they're lifted into the air.

Please, Rami, *please*. You can't leave me, no puedes (*you can't*). *Por favor*, wherever you're going take me with you.

RAMI

(looks at ÁNGEL)

LET GO.

'*Let Go*' is echoed throughout the space. ÁNGEL releases her and falls to the ground.

RAMI continues to ascend; the lights go down on her and star dust falls from the sky.

A halo descends, golden and fully lit, Centerstage. CHUPI opens their eyes and looks at the crown.

ÁNGEL

The halo. It's MINE!

ÁNGEL races to the halo and just as they're about to grab it, it moves. ÁNGEL throws themselves at it again...and again, the halo dodging all of ÁNGEL's attempts.

Argh! Dámelo (Give me it)! I don't know why it's not-it-you try. You try. Before it goes away. Avanza (Hurry up)!

CHUPI

Pero I'm not-

ÁNGEL

Isn't this what you wanted?? To come to heaven to be with me?? Now's your chayanCe!

CHUPI doesn't move.

Avanza (Hurry up)! Push it this way with your EnERGY o algo (or something)! Vete búscalo (Go get it)!

(a shift)

Para mí (*For me*).

CHUPI walks over to the halo and reaches out to it, now holding it in their hands.

H-how? Eso, eso, no es something you can hold.

CHUPI

This isn't your halo.

ÁNGEL

Give it to ME!!

ÁNGEL flings themselves at CHUPI, and the halo disappears.

Adonde? Adonde (*Where*)? Call it back. Call it back!

CHUPI

Ángel, no más. No más (*No more*).

ÁNGEL

Pues (*Well*), I guess you win. Ahora, you can worship *me* like you always wanted. She's outta the picture, the halo's outta the picture...we could finally be together. Like. *You*. Always. Wanted.

CHUPI

Did you ever actually like me for me, Ángel? Ever?

ÁNGEL

Like you? I fuckin', fuckin' *loved* you. I've always...loved you, I don't have to *like* you.

CHUPI

That's not the same.

ÁNGEL

Leove conquers all, no??

CHUPI

They taught us the wrong things.

Ay, I have a pain in my head-
 Ángel,
 Ángel
 Ángel
 ¿Oh, sí, y qué eso (*what is it*)? What did you find?
 Yo (*Me*).
 No entiendo (*I don't understand*).
 You were right. It's not about you and me. It's just about me. *My jouRney*.
 ¿Oh, qué carajo es todo esto (*what the fuck is all this*)!? Is this the stuff she's been feedin' you?
 'Cause she could be *very convINcING*-you know I thought her and I were gonna be somethi-
 I understand how it could look.
 You, you *understand* how this could look? Since when do you *understand* anything?
 Ay, since right now. Today.
 Hah. The sEcOnd someone else gives you attention you throw me aWay. This lifetime should be no dIfferenT than the rest-
 Ángel, I remember.
 What do you mean? ¿Recuerdas qué (*Remember what*)?
 Everythin'. I wasn't always the bad guuy. It was you too.

No, no *yo*. You tell her? You tell her all the times you spit on me? All the times you kicked me when I was down, when you'd grab me, pull me, scream at me, shove me, punch me, force your way inside, all the times you left bruises on my neck-did you tell her what you *really* are?

CHUPI

You act like you're so much better than me, pero eso no es verdad (*but that's not true*). ¿Y por qué (*And why's that*)? Because you found your salvation before me?

ÁNGEL

You think this is my salvation? To be here? With you? Remembering everything you ever did to me life after life? The blood, the deaths, the children you kille-

CHUPI

I *never* hurt our children-

ÁNGEL

Our children always got eaten by the sins of your spirit! They *never* stood a chance! You thInk you *just* became a monste-

CHUPI

I lost them too! Am I not allowed to fee-

ÁNGEL

Was *I* not allowed to *feel*? Every time I cried you yelled at me, if I ever laughed you told me to lower my voice, every time I couldn't get out of bed, you yanked me out, you made me clean the house with blood pouring down my leg-

CHUPI

After the second one, I didn't want any more Ángel. Every lifetime afterwards it was you who always pushed for kids-

ÁNGEL

No, no, you never told me th-

CHUPI

My heart could only breeyeaak so many times.

ÁNGEL

Staaap iiiiiTT. Eres mentirose (*liar*) and that's all you'll ever be!

CHUPI

No. That's what I've believed for too long. That's what *you've* helped make me belie/ve

ÁNGEL

You did it all on your own! Your vILe, crUel
(holds the side of their head)

Agh/h.

CHUPI

You've always tried to blame me for everythin' an' why it never worked out, pero it wasn't always me. You hurt me too. This isn't gonna work anymore.

ÁNGEL

You wanted me. And here. I am.

CHUPI

No, Ángel. I wanted *me*. Here, *I am*.

ÁNGEL

Nchnchnchnch. She left you alllll *alooone*. Everyone leaVEZ you eventuallyyy.

CHUPI

No, no she hasn't left me.

ÁNGEL

She's GeeYON. Left. *Ella no está aquí (She isn't here)*.

CHUPI

Thank you.

ÁNGEL

(spins in a circle)

You just said thank you? To *me*?

(holds other side of their temple)

Mrphh.

CHUPI

I finally know what love is.

ÁNGEL

Tú no tienes (You don't have) any fucking idea what love is.

CHUPI

You were right. I didn't need to go to heaven after all. All I ever needed was right here with me.

ÁNGEL

What have you done with Chupi?

CHUPI

Soy yo (*I'm me*). The spirit you loved an' hated through every single one of your lifetimes.

ÁNGEL

No. Yeeou're nOT. I've never seen this you before. Y, y what do you expect me to do with all this aNGer? This hAtred towards you?

CHUPI

You forgive me. Like you have many times before.

ÁNGEL

FOrGive you. I wish I could this time, pero I can't, I can't find it within me.

CHUPI

You can. Mira, come look...

CHUPI goes over to the fountain and looks at their reflection. They habitually cringe, and then smile, in awe of themselves.

All along, es been in here. I was tryna cheat my way into heaven y look where that got me? Got us? I was always lookin' up, for the God in el cielo (*heaven*). But what I was really lookin' for was the God dentro de mi (*inside of me*).

A church bell echoes.

ÁNGEL

It's time.

(Looks up)

The ceremony just started. And here I am, down here, with you. With this ceremony I would've been able to go back and forth, from el cielo to the earth freely. I would've been one of the messengers of God. I would've been able to see you, again one day, pero you couldn't wait.

CHUPI

Ángel, ven (*come*). Come look. It's okay.

CHUPI slowly guides ÁNGEL over and they both look at their reflections.

Isn't it beautiful?

ÁNGEL stares, then hits the water.

ÁNGEL

It doesn't even look like me. I don't know who that is.

CHUPI

You're the same spirit, with or without your wings.

ÁNGEL

I'm...*Ugly*.

CHUPI

No. No, no, no, no, no. You're beautiful. Siempre (*Always*).

ÁNGEL

I thought you needed me.

CHUPI

(a pause)

I just wanted us to be happy.

ÁNGEL

Me too.

CHUPI

She exists within all of us. Happiness y joy. We both felt her.

ÁNGEL

But you won her heart.

CHUPI

She'll come again for you.

ÁNGEL

Chupi, it was *always* you.

CHUPI

I know. Pero it can't be anymore.

ÁNGEL

Pero why not?

(winces and holds side of their head)

Agh.

CHUPI

Because we have to let each other. Go. It's time.

ÁNGEL

Who says it's time?

CHUPI

If you're quiet, you can hear it. ¿Puedes oírlo (*Can you hear it*)?

ÁNGEL listens, then holds their chest.

ÁNGEL
(their breathing increases)

Phoo, phoo, it's not fair.

CHUPI

It never is.

ÁNGEL
(starts to breathe heavy)

Phoo, phoo, phoo. Why does it feel like I'm dying?

CHUPI

Porque (*Because*)-

ÁNGEL
When I finally want to be with you, you don't want me. *Phoo*. You're throwing me out like all the rest. *Phoo, phoo*.

CHUPI extends their hand and gently places it on
ÁNGEL's chest.

CHUPI

...Ángel, *this* is not well. There's a plague in here.

ÁNGEL

You-*phoo*-you did this. You brought this cemetery to me-

CHUPI

All those lifetimes we tried to have a little *tu y yo, y nada* (*you and me and nothing*)? It was already written for us. Pero I still want that for you. It just can't be with me.

They can feel themselves within each other.

Maybe now, we'll get a chance to be reborn again. *Imagina eso* (*Imagine that*)? Me getting another chance *para vivir de nuevo* (*to live again*)? Findin' myself again? Findin' love again?

ÁNGEL flings themselves onto CHUPI holding them tight.

ÁNGEL

Chupi, Chupi, Chupi, Chupi, I don't wanna let you go. No quiero hacerlo, no quiero, no quiero, no quiero (*I don't wanna do it, I don't want to, I don't want to, I don't want to*). I still want you. I still want it to be with you. A little you and me, the best parts of us, only the best parts. The feeling never went away.

CHUPI

Baila conmigo (*Dance with me*)? Just one dance.

ÁNGEL gives in and they start to sway back and forth, dancing.

Funny how something can feel so familiar, pero new all at once.

They then hold ÁNGEL's face in their palms. ÁNGEL has never been touched by them so sweetly.

I am so sorry. For everything. I know...I didn't always mean to. *Lo siento (I'm sorry). Lo siento (I'm sorry). Please forgive me.* It would mean the greatest of lifetimes to me.

ÁNGEL

Chupi, I'm not used to you when you're not lying.

CHUPI

I'm not gonna hold this inside anymore. I'm gonna let it go. I'm gonna be free.

ÁNGEL

I hope you can forgive me too.

ÁNGEL kisses CHUPI deeply. All the unintelligible whispers are heard in a rush, then faint church bells echoing, birds chirping, sheep bah-ing, a salsa beat, and the cries of an unborn baby is heard, until they're both gasping for air. Then CHUPI's body juts. The sounds are now all mixed and begin to die out. They look down to see ÁNGEL's fist in CHUPI's chest. Everything is silent. They stare into each other's eyes as CHUPI's weight brings them both to a crouch.

CHUPI

...I do...I do-

ÁNGEL pulls out their fist and CHUPI'S heart is in it. CHUPI, blood on their chest, falls over. Silence.

Then the sound of a death knell ringing, 3 times.

Let the weight of what has just been done live in the air before...

The projection in the background shows a rewinding through the sky until it shows heaven's clouds and blue sky. Flashback. The lights shift and illuminates the part of the stage sectioned off by the tall gate, where ÁNGEL with their wings and halo, runs in, and sees CHUPI, a creature with dirty white rags, droopy uneven white feathered wings, claws, and blood on their face, run in, seeing each other for the first time in centuries. They are both frozen in time. Until...

ÁNGEL

How did...?

CHUPI

You still recognize me?

Time slows as they both begin to run towards each other, in slow motion. They both reach out, desperately holding one another through the gate. Time resumes.

CHUPI

Te extrañé, te extrañé muuucho (*I missed you a lot*).

ÁNGEL

I missed you too. I missed you too.

CHUPI

(cries)

Ay, I thought I'd never seen you again. I haven't been able to feel you in so long. Ehh. Ay, me duele, me duele, me duele, me duele (*It hurts, it hurts, it hurts, it hurts*).

ÁNGEL

It's all rushing back. I don't-I don't want it to come back.

ÁNGEL tries to pull away, but CHUPI grabs them back.

CHUPI

No, no, no, no, no-

ÁNGEL

The baby. Our babies. ¿Por qué (*Why*)? ¿Por qué, por qué, por qué (*Why, why, why*)-

CHUPI

Amoor (love), we can get through this. We can do anythin' together.

ÁNGEL

How come it didn't hurt until now? Do you carry something-what's, what's on you-why can I feel the pain-our-our-they didn't make it. They're not up here-they never made it into their bodies-I thought I'd get to meet them-I thought-

CHUPI

Es okay, es okay, es okay, es okay. 'Ta bien, 'ta bien (*It's okay, it's okay*).

ÁNGEL

No, it's not. It's not okay-

CHUPI

I-I-I...lo-lo-Lll...Lll-I-I-I-Ll-o-lo-ll-llo-lo-lo-

"Love" echoes through the space, as unintelligible whispers are heard, overpowering it.

Harsh lights shift back to the previous scene with CHUPI dead, on the ground. The death knell is heard ringing once more.

ÁNGEL

(looks up)

AGHHH!!! Hahahaha

They smear the blood on their face, growling.

Ohhhwwwghh I can't have you live without me, can I?! Ohnononno It's not fayEiR. You found peace, and what did I find? Nothing! I found you! I found pain! It was you puta madre (*motherfucker*). How come you get redemption; you find your happiness? What about meeee? I'll find you in the next life. Where I'll make yEou're life a living hell. Ooo, you were so close to going to hell. So close. Almost made it. I don't know why you were spared after killing that angel pero...maybe it was an accident after all? No, no fue un accidente (*it wasn't an accident*). Everything you do, euugghh! All you ever wanted to do was make me feel like I couldn't live without you, well, you were wreeoongG! Guess you weren't "the one" after all. Thought I wouldn't be able to kill you, did ya? Didn't think I would finally be streONG enouFF. Maybe my soul mate's out there somewhere, orrrr I really don't have one.

(looks around at the audience)

Abuela...I-no, no me miras así (*don't look at me like that*). They *deserved* it. They deserve to die over and over and over again! 'Til death do us part, pero even in death I can't escape! No abuela-abuela-*ENEOUGH!!*

A moment as ÁNGEL watches Abuela disappear.
They go over to CHUPI's body and stares.

Ahahhahaha *ahhhhAHHHahhhh*. I don't know why I'm crying. 'Cause I really don't hate myself this time. Not for this. I would do it again, and again, and again. 'Cause thiiiiissss was the grand *finaaahhllee*. I'll see you in the next life. *Mayybee*. Guess you *can* kill Le ChUpaCAbrA!

ÁNGEL scoops up the heart from the floor and sucks on it.

Mmmm, I didn't expect it to taste this gewwD, blood's not too bad, after all, *mmmmm*.

They start to dance.

She didn't want me, you didn't want me...jokes on meeeee, 'cause I don't even want me...

Suddenly the ground begins to shake. The Wonder Wheel begins to spin. 100's of halo's are projected overhead, flickering. A THUNDER CLAP is heard as the lights dim red, and the halos disappear. A lightning bolt strikes hot red and black hitting ÁNGEL.

Aghhhh!!! Guatauba (*Gwow-t-ow-ba*) why?? Why do you strike me?

Smoke appears.

Agh!! My arms, my legs, what's happeniiiiinggg!

They are transforming.

Eugh! Eugh! Heugh. Heugh. What's that smell, eugh, I almost threw up! Agh, my fingers are stretching!! My byaack, something's stabbing me! Eeeeeeeaghhhh!!

The lights come up on ÁNGEL, panting, furry, dirty, and smelly, with two tiny dark wings sprouting from their back.

Oh no. No, no, no, no. The smell is me! What is this? Fur?? I'm, I'm, I'm-
(searches the audience for spirits)

Tato can you see me? ¿Abuela? ¿Abuela podrías verme (*can you see me*)? I-I can't see you. ¿Paquita? Paquita why is it that only you can see me, y, y I can see you? I've never seen you so excited to see me before.

Muffled voices are heard coming from every direction getting louder and louder, spirit voices flying in and out, between ÁNGEL's legs and over their shoulders.

I-I-can't hear. What? ¿Que qué? *QUIET!!*

The voices stop. So does The Wonder Wheel.

What-what did you just call me? Le Chupa-Le Chupa *what?!!*

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY