

THE RAPTORS

By Daniela Gonzalez y Perez

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CHARACTERS

BOWHEAD: Puerto Rican woman with an accent, mid 50's-60's, fluent in English and Spanish, messy wild hair with greys poking out. Conniving, primal-her survival is the most important thing.

MUD: Puerto Rican, non-gendered/non-binary (they/them), 20's/30's, botanist, always watching and listening. The "smartest" in the group.

HARPY: Puerto Rican, woman/non-gendered femme (she/they, they/she) mid 30's, wearing a **Caiman's snout** as a visor and **achiote** (a shrub used as a red dye) painted across their eyes. Calculated, a force, strong. Their "leader".

SHADOW GIRL: Puerto Rican woman with an accent, clear she's native from the island, mid-late 20's, wears a right-below-the-knee dirty cream-colored cloth dress. Curious, daring, hopeful.

IT: Puerto Rican girl, 11, carries daggers. Impulsive, physically alive, innocent in her roughness.

They all have ripped dirty modern clothes and patches of dry blood and dirt on them.

FORCE 1/NEWS ANCHOR 1: White Latino male, 30's.

FORCE 2/NEWS ANCHOR 2: Brown or Black Latino male, 30's.

MUSICIAN: Live music, every time an instrument is mentioned, off to the side, on a different plane (not shared with the actors).

CASTING:

-All characters except for the RAPTORS are AFAB (Female assigned at birth) no matter the gender. The MUSICIAN can be any sex/gender.

-NONE of the women/non-gendered people are white passing Latinos.

DISRUPTION. DANGER. URGENCY.

SETTING:

EL YUNQUE rainforest. The stage is covered with TROPICAL PLANTS, PALM TREES, and VINES that extend, hanging above the audience. The ground is full of TEXTURED DIRT. There's a CAVE entrance Stage Right, a 7-foot CLIFF Center Stage, and an ANCIENT CAR nestled into the ground Stage Left. FOREST sounds are always

heard in the background, moving throughout the space. This should feel immersive. All of what's onstage can be used as a HIDING SPOT, "Hiding in plain view".

PRODUCTION NOTES:

-The **BIG GUNS** used are **NOT black**, they resemble guns, but are clearly fake to the audience. Only the small **HANDGUN** at the end is **BLACK**.

-Every time NEWS ANCHORS appear; they're sliding in on **ROLLING CHAIRS**.

-When the characters are "**CHASING THE LIGHT**" they begin **RUNNING** until they can't anymore as the **instrument** that plays before the DARKNESS **continues to play** and **speed up/slow down** in reaction to the **shrinking and growing of the light**.

-There **NEEDS** to be **BLOOD** on IT on **PG 35** and SHADOW GIRL on **PG 106 FORWARD**.

CHARACTER NOTES:

FORCE 1 & 2 and NEWS ANCHOR 1 & 2 are **always different characters** when they appear on stage, **EXCEPT** for the last FORCE 1 & FORCE 2 on **PG 106 moving forward**. Accent play and tonal shifts are encouraged.

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.

- : Cutting a character off or cutting themselves off.

/: To overlap the character's lines.

Y: *(and)*

Pero: *(but)*

TIME:

In the near future...

ACT ONE

In the DARK, a PROJECTION of a shadow of a woman dancing in La Blusa y Falda (traditional two-piece folk dress) forms with a WARM GLOW around her.

BOMBA MUSIC starts low. VOICES ARISE and begin a CALL and RESPONSE.

The woman's image MULTIPLIES around the audience, she dances FASTER.

SIRENS.

A series of sounds RAM through the speaker; Marching soldier's FOOTSTEPS, "America the Beautiful", motorcycle's ROARING, "This is Not America" by Residente, "America the Beautiful" becomes distorted, "Que Bonita Bandera" is slowed down to an uncomfortable speed, GUN SHOTS, and people screaming.

SMOKE.

The BOMBA music speeds up, the call and response gets LOUDER. She does not stop DANCING.

A REVOLUTION.

NEWS ANCHOR 1 slides onstage in a ROLLING CHAIR in front of a large DESK Downstage Left. NEWS INTRO plays.

NEWS ANCHOR 1
(neutral news voice)

Reporting to you from FOX FIVE NEWS, it's Reeve Hoggs with an UPDATE. The VOTE for the STATUS of Puerto Rico was declared just THREE DAYS AGO and all HAVOC has rung loose. Upon Puerto Rico being granted STATEHOOD after being a COLONY of the U.S. since 1898-ITS PEOPLE took to the streets ARMED, SHOUTING for an END to "CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC EXTINCTION", "GENTRIFICATION and DISPLACEMENT", and a "PUERTO RICO WITHOUT PUERTO RICANS". With

pressure from the UNITED NATIONS to grant FULL-CITIZENSHIP, CONGRESS went through with the REFERENDUM which concluded a 73% vote FOR STATEHOOD now that the REPUBLICAN PARTY holds a majority of the island. About HALF of Puerto Rico's inhabitants AREN'T NATIVE to the island and are facing BRUTAL BACKLASH. A SAD DAY for not only the 51st state, but for our ENTIRE nation- what-what's that? Hold on a sec, we're getting a call-oh...we have just received BREAKING NEWS that the GOVERNOR of Puerto Rico has been SHOT and KILLED. I repeat the governor of Puerto Rico has just been SHOT and KILLED. Perhaps if this had ALL been a PEACEFUL protest, something good would have come out of it-what- what was that? Leave the station?? They're here?? Who's-Okaaay- I'm being told we need to evacuate-we-we all hope this ends soon, may God be with YOU and US, during these trying ti-

GUNSHOT.

The dancing woman SHATTERS.

ECHOES of *HUSHED WHISPERS*.

BIRDS CHIRPING quickly take its place, a soft sunlight shining through the trees onto the stage and into the audience when-

BIRDS SCREAM.

Feet SLAPPING though leaves and sticks.

HEAVY BREATHING.

PROJECTIONS of people running turn into REAL SHADOWS on the dimly lit stage.

IT
Hurry/ up!!

HARPY
SH/H!!

BOWHEAD
Cállate (Shut up)! You pendejas (bitches) gonna get/us killed!

IT
Is it her??

BOWHEAD/HARPY
Se calle!/SH!

MUD
Positions!!

The shadows HIDE.

SHADOW GIRL RUNS barefoot from behind the audience, and onto the stage EXITING, as a RED pointed light from a GUN misses her.

FORCE 1, a DARK FIGURE dressed in ALL BLACK with a bullet-proof vest covered from head to toe in gear that only reveals the eyes and mouth, ENTERS from the stage with a HUGE GUN as the lights slightly lift.

SHADOW GIRL RUNS IN-

FORCE 1
DON'T MOVE!!

She EXITS as FORCE 1 FIRES.

(into a walkie)
Need back up. I repeat, need back up. Got eyes on her.

FORCE 2 CHARGES down from the aisle, GUN in hand, EXITING after her.

SHADOW GIRL RE-ENTERS as FORCE 1 & 2 come from opposite sides of her, **RED DOTS** on her back.

DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE!

FORCE 2
WE WILL SHOOT!

FORCE 1
(makes sounds as if calling a cat, or a squirrel)
Ncncncncncnc. C'moon, be a good girl. We've been lookin' all ova for ya. Spsspsspssp. C'mon, that's it. Turn the fuck around-we won't hurtcha.

FORCE 2
Put your hands above your head and turn around *slowly*.

FORCE 1
For fucks sake, do it NOW!

BIRDS SQUAWK.

Eh, eh-Don't even *think* about running.

FORCE 2
HANDS UP, HANDS UP!

Her hands start to lift-

FORCE 1
No, no-*dooon't*.

She RUNS.

FORCE 2
What did we say?!

FORCE 1
These women, never FUCKIN' LISTEN!

SHADOW GIRL
AHHHHHH!!!

SHADOW GIRL gets yanked into a NET
TRAP.

FORCE 1
What the-was that ours??

FORCE 2
What do you mean was it ours-You didn't set that??

FORCE 1
(into the walkie)
Calling back up. Calling back up. Location 18.3 lat/65.7882
long.

FORCE 2
Fuck! It has to be them-

Something WHIPS through the air and
hits FORCE 2's chest-he FALLS.

FORCE 1

Motherfuc-You roaches can't hide forever! There's more of us
than there are of you-you dirty fuckin' disease-

IT

So how come you haven't caught us yet-

FORCE 1 FIRES blindly as shadows run
around him.

SHADOW GIRL

(wails)

AGH!! You fuckin' shot me! Let me out, let me out-

FORCE 1

QUIET!

SHADOW GIRL

My leg-

FORCE 1

Cryin' for a death sentenc-

FORCE 1 aims towards the net.

SHADOW GIRL

I want my mom...quiero mi mama, quiero (I want my mom, I want)-

IT

Behind you.

A small shadow JUMPS onto FORCE 1 and
STABS him in the neck, multiple times.

BOWHEAD

Gracias por el arma, cariño (Thanks for tha gun, suga).

A taller shadow DISMEMBERS the GUN and
throws it to the side.

FORCE 1 FALLS as the shadows surround
the net.

IT

It's her, right??

DARKNESS.

MOTOR VEICHLES in the distance.

FORCE 1 is dragged half-way into a CAVE as FORCE 2 is dragged off-stage. The net with SHADOW GIRL is pulled center.

LIGHTS UP as NEWS ANCHOR 1 & 2 ROLL to a desk Downstage Left. NEWS INTRO plays as the other characters live in the space, carrying out their duties.

NEWS ANCHOR 1
(southern news voice)

This is Jim Bryers-

NEWS ANCHOR 2
(neutral news voice)

And Bryan Williams-

NEWS ANCHOR 1
(southern news voice)

From MSNBC NEWS. TO-DAY marks the second anniversary of Puerto Rico's rebellion to the U.S., a civil war that many thought would be over by now, but these TERRORISTS haven't given up quite yet!

NEWS ANCHOR 2
(neutral news voice)

If you see a PUERTO RICAN on the street, you know what to do, call **877-ISEE-PRT!** The EXECUTIVE ORDER STILL IN EFFECT, requiring all Puerto Ricans to leave their homes and stay at the closest RELOCATION CENTER as the government continues to crack down on those of Puerto Rican descent here in the states.

NEWS ANCHOR 1
(southern news voice)

They are FED and given a place to SLEEP, sounds a bit like a HOLIDAY if you ask me! Hah. Ha. Ha. A lot of TOILET PAPER there! No, I'm jokin', I'm jokin'! Where's my HOLIDAY STAY, am I right Bryan??

NEWS ANCHOR 2
(neutral news voice)

Ha, ha. These so-called "CITIZENS" of the U.S. are ANYTHING BUT PATRIOTIC as they CONTINUE to burn down government buildings and police stations on the island. And while 4 out of the 7 members of PRO-MEY-SA are declared dead, there are still a handful of terrorist groups hiding in El YUN-QUE, Puerto Rico's natural rainforest, hoping to avoid being CAPTURED and DETAINED by the SPECIAL FORCES UNIT.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(southern news voice)

It's like they forgot the year! We're not in the 1400's! Your great great great grandmaw and grandpaw DIDN'T LAST by hidin' in the mountains, and NEITHER. WILL. YOU.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(neutral news voice)

There is to be ABSOLUTELY NO CONTACT from anyone in the states to the island and VICE-VERSA-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(southern news voice)

That's RIGHT so, be SAFE, LOCK YOUR DOORS, an' for those of you who have RIFLES-keep 'em clos-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(neutral news voice)

The hotline, one more time, **877-ISEE-PRT**, that's **877-ISEE-PR-**

T.V. being SMASHED IN. LIGHTS FLICKER-then go DARK.

LIGHTS SWELL.

SHADOW GIRL is knocked out, bleeding in the net as BOWHEAD circles her.

MUD sits on a TREE STUMP grinding something in a coconut.

HARPY looks out from the CLIFF's edge.

IT repeatedly lifts and drops the arm of FORCE 1, who is DEAD.

HARPY jumps down and yanks IT away from the body.

IT
You're hurtin' m-

HARPY
We gotta take off as much blood as we can before they send the hounds after us.

IT
They won't be back an' time soon.
They always come in twos.
Right Mud?

MUD
Yeah.
Usually.

MUD applies a paste to SHADOW GIRL's wound.

IT
The Raptors.
(spits on the ground)
They haven't gotten us yet-and they sure as hell ain't gonna get us now!
Can't we jus' go back to the river and wash off?

HARPY
Did you like getting ambushed?

IT
The RAPTORS didn' ambush us, the GRINGOS (*white-ies*) by the river did!

HARPY
How's she looking?

MUD
The mushroom should ease some pain.
She's not dead.
Just fatigued.

HARPY
Bowhead, cliff.
Need a lookout.

BOWHEAD
Ay, mija (dear) I aamm on lookout.

Lookin' to see if she got any extra meat on her to cook up!

HARPY
Leave her.

BOWHEAD
Ohhh, now you so caariin'.

IT
Get off mee-

HARPY
MUD.

MUD climbs the CLIFF.

SHADOW GIRL
(groans)
Mmmmmmm...

HARPY
She's awak-

MUD
No.
She'll be out for a while.

BOWHEAD
Hahahaha, mira pa'ya (look at you).
One minute you sayin' you wouldn' bat an eye if she gets eaten
by those sick monkeys an' the next we rescuin' her from the
gringos (*white-ies*)!
The lack of food gettin' to your head, *cabrona (bitch)?*

IT
Oh hush, you know Harpy ain't mean it!

HARPY
I didn't want-

BOWHEAD
Ay, don' start lyin' now, it's a bad color on you.
Your voice goes flat an' it makes you look all red como un
blanquito (*whitey*).
Don' sell that shit here.
I know you saved her 'cause you wanna *taste* her.
Me too.

IT
Leave Harpy alone!!

BOWHEAD
Jus' imaaaagine takin' off one of her arms
an' throwin' a fire underneath,
flames lickin' an' toastin' her skin,
some barbacoa (*barbeque*),
me an' you could do i-

IT SHOVES BOWHEAD.

IT
We not eatin' her!

BOWHEAD SHOVES IT with her foot.

BOWHEAD
Git, plasta de mierda (piece of shit)!
You stay *AWAY FROM ME!*

IT
(*hisses*)
Hhhchh!

IT kicks FORCE 1.

HARPY
(to IT)
Cut it out.

BOWHEAD
Ay, let IT hit 'em!
You jus' like the policia (*police*) out here, buh guess wha..
The only Raptors out here are those muthafucka's.
Not *you*.
You chose to be one of *us* now.

HARPY
I was always one of you.

BOWHEAD
Ah-ah.
You *chose* to be here.
Came when the shit hit the fan,
came when they were huntin' you on your own land to *escape*.
We *have* to be here.

Because this is *our* home.
This is *our* island.
We don't have a place to *escape* to.

HARPY
I came to fight.

BOWHEAD
You came, *ta hide*..
I bet it felt real *cozy* en tu *cama* (*in your bed*) back in the
states, huh?
All those useless protests for wha?
Here we not fightin' for our *freedom* *pendeja* (*bitch*).
We fightin' for our *lives*.

HARPY
You don't think I'm fighting for my life??

BOWHEAD
You're struggle jus' started *mija* (*daughter*).

IT
Mch, this makin' me itch!
I'ma go dunk my skin in the water, rub it against the rock-

HARPY
I said n/o

IT
But if I ru/n

HARPY
NO.

BOWHEAD
Ay, let her goee-

HARPY
Stay out of/this.

IT
Yea, stay outta this!

BOWHEAD
We already slit their throats,
there's no one waitin' at the *río* (*river*)-

HARPY
Be quiet.

BOWHEAD
Oh!
Ohohohaha.
I could talk howeva, whateva, whenever, I wanna talk!
What's the matter with you?
Live as many years as me, then you could say sumthin'.

IT
You been non-stop today,
you wanna end up in the river too?
I saw what you did to the gringos (*white-ies*),
buh did you see what *I* did to that *Raptor*??

A **LOUD NOISE** above.

They LOOK UP.

MUD
...
...
Birds.

They EXHALE.

HARPY
I told you to look away.

IT
I looked,
Why wouldn' I look??

BOWHEAD
Aaaaan, what did you seeee?

IT
I saaaw
(enthusiastically reenacts this)
Harpy sneakily comin' from behind a palm and *eugh, eugh!!*
Stab him from behind with the sharpen' sugar cane head,
an' sent the Caiman (*K-EYE-MAH-N, animal related to the*
alligator) tooth straight in his eye!
An' Mud put their fingers in some liquid thing then shoved it
into the short guy's mouth,

an' Bowhead jumped on the tall ones back an' let it rip with the machete!

Kkkkkkk!

Spurtin' blood everywhere!!

Then the girl wit' 'em cut Harpy's shoulder, but Harpy gave some quick jabs to her side an'...an'...

BOWHEAD

HA HAAAA!!

Mira pa'ya (*Look at you*), you were watchin' closely, ey?

HARPY

We only kill when we don't have a choice.

BOWHEAD

Ay, come mierda (*eat shit*)!

We didn' have to go on a rescue missi-

HARPY

They held a knife to her throat,

dragged her back to their campfire and tied her over logs.

A few more minutes and-

BOWHEAD

She woulda been a nice warm juicy chuleta.

BOWHEAD pokes SHADOW GIRL with a stick.

SHADOW GIRL

(groans)

Mmmmm.

HARPY

(warns)

One.

More.

Time.

BOWHEAD

Inaction or action, princessa (*princess*), everythin's a choice. Issa magic word.

Dilo conmigo, puñeta (*Say it with me, fuck*),

'cause you seem to not know what that means.

Dime, (*Tell me*) "CHOICE".

(tastes it)

Mmlchmmlchmmlch.

Taste pretty good when savored.

Mmmmm.

Sazon, adobo, sofrito/pernil/bistec-

MUD

Stop-

Stop-

BOWHEAD

Stop ni stop!

When you concoct una planta mágica (*a magic plant*)

That stops me from wanting to chew my own arm off-

Then we can talk.

HARPY

Killing *people* are different than killing *Raptors*.

BOWHEAD

It's the same shit!

Ughhhh, I'm fuckin' HUNGRYY!

The bodies by the río (*the river*) ain't there no mo for us to

eat-they disappear so fast, washed away,

soil watered wit' blood.

BOWHEAD smells SHADOW GIRL's hair.

Next time they kidnap one a ya,

I ain't goin' back to help save NO ONE!

You wanna die, that's on you.

Vete a morir (*Go die*).

Pero yo quiero vivir (*But I want to live*).

An' that's on *my choice*.

Mph, me duele el estómago (My stomach hurtsss)!

You don' find me food in the next few minutes,

I'ma chop her to pieces.

IT

Is...

your arm's okay, right?

HARPY

I'm fine.

IT goes to touch HARPY's wound and they
dodge.

No-

Don't-

It's-

Fine.

IT
Mud'll fix it for you.

BOWHEAD
Esa gringa (*white lady*) almost got you.
Need to be more careful.

IT
Harpy's the best fighta we got!!

BOWHEAD
A good fighter's no use dead.

IT
How come we gotta look out for tha gringos AND tha Raptors!?
How come tha Raptors don't shoot any of 'em??

MUD
They were told not to shoot anything white.

HARPY
And they *all* were.
Mostly Americans,
from the families that own Rincón,
looking for more brown skin to maim
like their fuckin' ancestors.

BOWHEAD
Brown skin's always been up in price.
Mine's rough like leatha, so they wanna skin me.
Wear me like a scarecrow.
The gobs offerin' land for years now, nchnchnch.
Land goes back up, money floats like flies an'
here.
We.
Are.
Regret comin' here?

A Beat.

HARPY
No.

BOWHEAD
Bein' Puerto Rican ain't for everyone.

HARPY

Fuck does that mean, bein' Puerto Rican ain't for everyone?

BOWHEAD

Well, you seem to think you're Puerto Rican so-

HARPY

I *am* Puerto Rican.

BOWHEAD

NuyERICAN ain't the same chica (*girl*).

HARPY

We have the same blood-

BOWHEAD

But not the same cultur-

HARPY

We *share* the same cultur-

BOWHEAD

NAH-AAH-

HARPY

Look at you.

Our ancestors wanted *peace*, and *you*.

Want *war*.

Guess which kind of blood you got more of?

BOWHEAD

Nací en la *ISLA*, pendeja (*I was born on the island, asshole*).

Y si, tengo sangre de los *Espanoles* (*And yes, I have blood from the Spaniards*),

De los *Táinos* (*from the Táinos*),

De los *Africanos* (*from the Africans*).

Soy una *mezcla* de espíritus (*I am a mix of spirits*)-

My blood *burns* because it's at war with itsel-

IT

My blood don't burn!

HARPY

I feel the ripping too.

BOWHEAD

You don't *feel the half of it.*

IT

I don't feel it, does that mean I'm not Puerto Rican either??

HARPY

You *are.*

BOWHEAD

Nooo, you're nooot!!

IT

MUD??

MUD

We all are.

BOWHEAD

NAH-AH-AH!

(points at HARPY and IT)

Two from the states,

(looks at the rest)

Three from the island.

(points to MUD)

You might've been born here,

pero you were back an' forth como un (*like a*) seesaw.

Wha good is it to know the tongue if you don't use it-

HARPY

You think we're out here having fun, *cabrona (fucker)?!*

If we weren't Puerto Rican,

we wouldn't have a fuckin' target on our heads!!

IT

YEAH, *hija de la gran PUTA ("daughter" of a bitch)!!*

BOWHEAD

Ay, felicidades (Oh, congratulations)!!

Is that the only word you know in Spanish?

MUD

Harpy, do/n't

BOWHEAD

The X on your *I.D.'s* put a target on your heads-

HARPY

We *don't* talk about that-

IT

They said we don't gotta pick male or female no mo'!
We pick X an' they don' know *WHAT* we are-

BOWHEAD

Maybe not *what*, buh they'll know *WHE/RE*

HARPY

The X meant way more than that and you know/it.

BOWHEAD

That liberal BASURA (*GARBAGE*)
was so they could all find you EASIER,
an' you believe it was 'cause a some kinda inclusivity??
Pshtt-
Nena, si es perro de mierde (*Girl, if it were a dog, it would've
bitten you!*)!

MUD

Stop talking about th/is

IT

How come she could call you nena then, if thas fa girls??

HARPY

In Spanish it doesn't bother me as muc-

BOWHEAD

I don' give a fuck, if it bothers her!

HARPY

NOT.

In *English*.

BOWHEAD

You try *so hard* to be accepted, an' fa wh/at-

MUD

Coconuts, coconuts, we need more coco/nuts

HARPY

It's not about acceptance, it's about *respect/t*

BOWHEAD

RESPE TO (RESPECT) !?

People die, an' THEN they get their respect!
Respect is not for the livin' pa'juata (*fool*).

HARPY
Paying *respects* is something differen-

BOWHEAD
Prove it.

HARPY
You got all the fuckin' answers, then tell us how to get out-

BOWHEAD
AH-AH!
Even your English is givin' me a *headache*!
You have somethin' more to say,
Dime,
pero dimelo en Español (*Tell me but tell me in Spanish*).
'Cause you can cry *Puerto Rican* all you want,
Pero you take one written test here an' it'll show you-

HARPY PLUNGES an ARROWHEAD KNIFE into
BOWHEAD's thigh.

BOWHEAD
Argghh! Pendejita (Little asshole)!

HARPY
If it wasn't for this *Puerto Rican*, you'd be dead right now.

BOWHEAD takes out a small KNIFE-HARPY
twists it out of her hand.

MUD
E-nough.

HARPY
In case you wanted to try something later.
We'd find you quick.
Won't need to be fast since you aren't going on any more rescue
missions.

BOWHEAD
My fuckin' mission is to EAT an' WIPE OUT
ANY Raptors that come my way!

IT

AWWE!

Everyone got a mission 'cept me!
What's my mission??

HARPY

You have to figure it out on your own.

IT

AWWE!

MUD climbs down and pulls a bag with
gauze and tape out from a bush.

MUD

Don't move.

BOWHEAD

(sucks teeth in)

Thsth! Carajo (Shit).

IT

Haha!

I told you to leave Harpy alone!

That's what you get!

I'ma be just like 'em when I grow up, NO ONE will mess with ME!

HARPY

I don't want you to be like me.

IT

Why not?

HARPY

I want you to be better-

IT

Buh you're the BES/T!

BOWHEAD

Best of doin' nuthin'!

MUD

Hold sti/ll.

BOWHEAD

My jodi'a (*fuckin'*) l/eg.

IT

Were you always like this?

Did you always-

HARPY
Wha-

MUD
(to IT)
Sto/p

IT
It jus', you neva tell us how you fe/elin'

HARPY
I'm fin/e.

IT
Like if you hungry or thirsty or-

HARPY
I'm fi/ne.
MUD
Stop it!
Put pressure, hold it he/re.

BOWHEAD
Nch, a/y!

IT
If you tired or scare-

HARPY
No mo/re.

MUD
(to IT)
Cut it out-

IT
If you hot or col-

HARPY
I'm fin/e.

MUD
Stop.

IT

If you don' like using their guns becau-

HARPY
They're-

MUD
Stop.

HARPY
They're not for us to u/se.

IT
They use `em why can't we-

MUD
(snaps)
I said STOP!

IT
(small)
Buh the guns will make it easie-
MUD

WHAT DID WE SAY??
WHAT DID WE SAY??

A beat.

WE,
IT
We go back, we die.

MUD
(points to their head)
We don't go back in *here*.
Ever.

MUD takes out a PILL BOTTLE and pops
one into their mouth.

IT
Buh-

MUD
Ever!

A beat.

CONGAS (tall narrow drum) play. A STRANGE SOUND ECHOES, the LIGHTS FLASH, and a RIPPLE moves across the stage. All the characters are FROZEN except for IT who's terrified.

DARKNESS.

IT
Hallo?
Where is everyone??
Hellooo??
Mami?
Papi?
That you?

SPOTLIGHT that mimics the SUN forms on IT-SHE'S CHASING THE LIGHT.

I-
I-can't rememba what you look like-I-
I forget that you were here, sometimes..
It fades-

Wait!
Sumthin', a feelin', a twistin'
right here in my belly
you used to make this thing-

It becomes BRIGHTER.

Yea, this *thing!*
It was so sweet, como dulce (*like candy*)
It, it melted in my mouf
Creamy, buttery, wit' sumthin' like honey on top
Oooo, sumtimes it would get hard an' it felt like..
like a lollipop felt like!

And BRIGHTER.

Oooo, I can almos' taste it now.
It's round with a flat top-Ooo it's
It's on the tip of my skull, I-I
Can't rememba what it's called.

It SHRINKS.

I-I don't rememba what I was called either.
I-don' have a name anymore.
The name you gave me is gone,
I didn' need it here,
It wouldn' have mattered here-

Barely visible.

But wait!
No, no, no, don't go-
I wanna rememba!
I-
I'm really dirty here,
Filthy,
You be *so mad at me* if you knew how dirty I was, hahaha!
When my hair smells I just rub sap in it,
It cools me.
Mami-
Papi-
Why did we come back here?
We-
We didn't even get to see abuela (*grandma*)-
She's gone too-
I-
I didn' think I was lost, but now, I-
Where are you??
Please, please, wait!
Don' go.

DARKNESS.

Don' go.

LIGHTS UP. NEWS INTRO plays.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

Coming to you LIVE from NBC NEWS with UPDATES, it's Ronald
Owings-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

And Ted Baptiste.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(amused)

There are MORE missing person's being posted on lampposts than
EVER BEFORE of BROWN and BLACK faces and we can't help but

THINK, Ted, that this is yet ANOTHER one of the Left's tricks to further DISTRACT the American people!

NEWS ANCHOR 2

The JAILS and PRISONS in the tri-state area are FULL! A POPULATION CRISIS if you ask me!

NEWS ANCHOR 1

I say STERILIZE them all, am I right Ted? Ha. Ha. Ha. Even the so-called "non-gendered" females-the X MARKS THE SPOT females-they're ALL BREEDING CRIMINALS! If they hadn't been STERILIZED in the 40's, can you IMAGINE how much WORSE this would've all been? These types of women take BIRTH CONTROL like it's WATER-you might as well go one step FURTHER! Bring STERILIZATION BACK, AMERICA!

NEWS ANCHOR 1&2

Ahahahahah-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

You know, I could've sworn you were Puerto Rican, Ted.

A beat.

NEWS ANCHOR 2
(nervously)

No, Ronald-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

Yeah, yeah, that time I came over for your family's barbeque-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

That was a WORK barbeque, not a-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

You had something you called, oh what was it, pin-pinch-PINCH-OES! WE call them SKE/WERS

NEWS ANCHOR 2

That's quite an accusation-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

What's your connection to PUERTO RICO, Mr. BAPTISTE-

NEWS ANCHOR 2
(lying)

I have. None. Ronald.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

Could've sworn I saw that flag-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Back to our UPDATE, we were able to IDENTIFY members from the LAST TERRORIST GROUP in EL YUN-QUE. Their images will be plastered throughout the states AND Puerto Rico.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(grinning)

America's Most Wanted, Ted!

NEWS ANCHOR 2

There is a \$100,000 reward on EACH of their heads-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

Dead or alive, doesn't matte-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

THREE of their identities are now known, we'll show them above.

IMAGES of MUD, HARPY, and BOWHEAD with a huge WANTED stamp are PROJECTED above.

Luz Torres, Marisel Cruz, and Esther Santiago have killed soldiers, civilians, and other guerilla groups, and are HIGHLY dangerou-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

If you see them, SHOOT! ON SIGHT.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Next up, on NBC-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

Hey, do you have a moment after this? Talk somewhere quiet? Yeah, okay, let's do that. PINCH-OES everybody-

STATIC. T.V. CRASHES to the ground.

LIGHTS UP with everyone in the same position they were in before HARPY stabbed BOWHEAD.

BOWHEAD

Bein' Puerto Rican ain't for everyone.

HARPY

Fuck does that mean, bein' Puerto Rican ain't for everyone?

IT

Your leg-what-
what happened to your leg, it's, it's-

BOWHEAD

Mah leg?

Yeah, what about it?

I got two of 'em.

SHADOW GIRL

Where am I?

A beat.

BOWHEAD grabs her machete and swings at the top of the net-SHADOW GIRL drops to the ground.

SHADOW GIRL

Aghh!!

IT

Shadow!

HARPY CHARGES towards BOWHEAD, then stops.

BOWHEAD

(laughing)

Ohhh, come on.

Ven, nena (Come, girl).

IT

Harpy!

MUD slides down the CLIFF.

MUD

She's lost a lot of blood.

I need to inspect the wound-

SHADOW GIRL

Who are you??

IT
Shadow, it's us!

BOWHEAD
Ohhh, they *really* got you, didn't they?

IT
Shadow-

SHADOW GIRL
Don't touch me!

IT
Mud, she's different now-
Why is she different?

BOWHEAD
Ay, no me digas (*don't tell me*), she lost her memory now to-

MUD
Careful.
What...
(struggles)
what...

BOWHEAD
Hahhahahaha.
IT
Shut your mouf!!

BOWHEAD
She don' know *you*, she don' know *me*
Or *you*
(to Harpy)
Or *you*, hahahaa!

IT
(points to her)
Shadow.
(points to each of them)
Harpy. Mud. Bowhead. IT.

BOWHEAD
Muuuuud, she's fair game now, *verdad (right)?*

She swings the machete side to side.

What's a girl to us without a braaaainnn-

HARPY
Don't run.

SHADOW GIRL freezes mid-sprint.

The last thing you remember, what is it?

MUD
Don't-

HARPY
What do you remember?

SHADOW GIRL
It was dark...
Running.
The net.
Here.
Now.

HARPY
The Raptors did you see them?

SHADOW GIRL
Who?

HARPY
The ones in black with the big guns,
did you see them??

SHADOW GIRL
No.

IT
How you forgot tha/t??

BOWHEAD
Layers, layers, so many lay/ers

HARPY
What's your name?

SHADOW GIRL
I-I don't know-

IT
I just told you it's Shadow!

SHADOW GIRL
That's not a real name-

MUD
Sto/p!!!

IT
YOU STOP, YOU BEIN' MEA/N!

BOWHEAD
Memoria rota (*Broken memory*)-

HARPY
Who are you?

MUD
(starts to breathe heavy)
Ahh, ahh, ahh-

IT
Shadow-

SHADOW GIRL
Stop calling me that!

MUD
Phoo, phoo, phoo-

HARPY
Who are you-

SHADOW GIRL
I don'-

MUD pops a pill in their mouth.

MUD
Ahh, what did we say abou-
Not goin-
Ahh/ahh

IT
Mud-

BIRDS SCREAM. The sky turns to a DARK sunset.

BOWHEAD
(grins)
THE RAPTORS!!

IT
Positions!!

TWIGS BREAKING.

HIDING SPOTS. BOWHEAD squeezes into a hole in front of the CLIFF and covers it with a rock. IT goes into the TRUNK of the old car and slams it shut.

MUD
(whispers, breathing hard)
Where is it?

SHADOW GIRL
You're hurting me-

MUD
Ahh, phoo-
Where is it??
The BOOK-the BOOK-where's the BOOK??

SHADOW GIRL
What book?

BOOTS RUNNING.

HARPY
Come!
(to MUD)
Hide!

HARPY hauls SHADOW GIRL into the side of the CAVE pulling a rock-like sheet over them.

MUD goes to a TREE and opens a trunk-like door and squeezes inside.

FORCE 1 & 2 ENTER from the stage with guns. They use hand signals as they search. '*Footprints*'-they follow it to the trunk of the car.

FORCE 1 signals-1, 2, 3!

He opens the trunk-TWO DAGGERS fly out as FORCE 2's GUN GOES OFF.

A moment.

IT
H-Harpy.

FORCE 1 & 2 keel over.

HARPY runs to IT.

HARPY
No. No, no, no, no, no.
Mud.
MUD!

Everyone comes out from hiding.

IT
I don't wanna...
die-

BOWHEAD
Awe, shiiit.
I hate to break it to ya nena, pero vas a morir (*girl, but you're going to die*).

HARPY
No, you're not.
Don't-you-
Just.
Breathe.
Here let me-
MUD
Don't.
She'll bleed out faster.
Abdominal wound.
Liver, spleen, kidneys-vital organs.
Close range.

3 quick shots.

MUD
Drink this.

HARPY
It's to heal you.

IT drinks the vial.

BOWHEAD
Nchnchnch, shoulda never hid in a baúl (*trunk*).
You were already in a coffin.

IT
I feel like shit.

HARPY
Mud.

MUD
I can't remove the bullets.
I can't see them, they're too deep.
Harpy-

HARPY
What else can we do?? Hey, hey-
Stay with me, hey,
What else do we need to do-
Why-what's wrong, hey, hey-
Why are they foaming like that, hey!

HARPY lifts IT, their shirt soaked with
BLOOD.

BOWHEAD
Ay, cariño (*dear*), be careful who you trust.

HARPY
What did you give them?

IT
I-I-don', don',
Remember my-
Real-
name...

IT goes limp.

MUD

A few juiced berries and
crushed flower petals from a Daphne plant.

HARPY

In English!

BOWHEAD

Ella la mató (*She killed her*).
Nena (*Girl*), she's right in front of you, you got eyezzz-
Use 'em!

MUD

Elle (They).
Not *ella (she)*.

BOWHEAD

An' *thas* what's important right now?

HARPY

You-
You *killed* her?

BOWHEAD

My people always trustin' the *wrong* people-

HARPY

Oh, NOW, I'm your people??

BOWHEAD

Only when you're in pain...

HARPY

MUD??

MUD

She was already dead.

BOWHEAD

Least now we can EAT!

No mo waste!

Vamos a orar y COMER (*We'll say a prayer and EAT*)!

HARPY JUMPS at MUD's throat.

A **PANDERETA** (tambourine) is played
HARD. A STRANGE SOUND ECHOES, the
LIGHTS FLASH, and a RIPPLE moves across
the stage. All the characters are
FROZEN except for HARPY who's squeezing
with all their might.

HARPY
(wailing holding their chest)
Ahhhhhhhhh.
Ahhhhh.

DARKNESS.

HARPY
Ahh, ahh, ahh.
What-where?
IT??
IT??
I-
I know your name-

SPOTLIGHT forms on HARPY-THEY'RE
CHASING THE LIGHT.

I just-
couldn't say it.
It was there in my head,
But it's like that part didn't work,
anymore.
You reminded me of-
Someone else, so I couldn't-

LIGHT GROWS.

(smiles, remembering)
She,
was beautiful.
A wonderful little monster growing up.
She would run around,
Causing havoc,
Throwing dolls down the stairs
To see how many times she could before they'd break.
And she always wanted me to fix them after,
And I know how to sew, so-
Or I'd hot glue them back together-
and her mami HATED that, scared it was encouraging the violence-

Parents are always afraid of their kids,
But I wasn't afraid of her.
I got her a real stethoscope,
And we'd sit together
and listen to the dolls' heartbeats-
She was close to your age,
IT-

And GROWS.

And her mami...
Dark curly hair,
That you could get lost in,
Her laugh, melodic
Someone who,
even on her worst day,
Made sure that I was okay...
Wow.
I lost track of time here, where everything
is
the same.
This is why,
This is why-
(touches temples)
We don't go back in *here*.
(in pain)
Ah, my chest.
No, no, no,
Don't come back,
Don't come back...

It SHRINKS, then GROWS.

Ahh, but your *smile*.
They look like the keys on a piano,
So bright, but now it's like watching a black and white picture-
It's-muted,
There's no on button.

HARPY rubs their ring finger.

We were engaged.
We still are...
I always envisioned her being pregnant again,
With my child, I-

It GROWS.

I had just finished
putting all the documents together,
to adopt you,
and after the wedding,
within the year, you would've been,
Mine too.
You were perfect.
I couldn't save you,
I couldn't get to you in time,
To either of you in time
The streets were so crowded-
Your mami was stuck in traffic,
You were in the back seat
When they opened fire and-
No one's innocent in war.
You were just as criminal...

It PULSES.

I couldn't say your name, IT,
because
If I remember you how you were,
when I first found you-
if I remember what I had to do
to keep you alive..
We made you into the worst thing-
But you would've been dead a long time ago if we didn't.
(rubs temples)
I know you're not her,
I know
She's NOT my little girl,
I know I don't have the RING anymore,
I KNOW my fiancé's-
I know,
I know,
I know-

It SHRINKS.

I don't want to remember this-
Stop-
Stop
Go away,
GO AWAY!
IT HUUURTS!!

A breath.

I'd rather be dead.

DARKNESS.

LIGHTS UP. NEWS INTRO plays.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

Coming to you LIVE from BoW-CaH RaH-toW-n, FLORIDA, I'm Steve Haden from NEWSMAX T.V.-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

And I'm Charles Dante-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

If you ENJOY hearin' FINGERNAILS SCRAPIN' against a CHALKBOARD, WAIT until you hear THIS-

NEWS FOOTAGE of people SCREAMING
"PUERTO RICO NO SE VENDE (not for
sale)", "GRINGO GO HOME, SAL DE AQUÍ
(get out of here)!! YANKEE GO HOME,
DEJA NUESTRA ISLA (leave our island)!!"
plays on a loop PROEJCETING around the
stage and audience.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

MARTIAL LAW is STILL in EFFECT. It has been THREE MONTHS since we've seen a PUERTO RICAN flag hung, and THREE WEEKS since we've seen an AMERICAN FLAG hung UPSIDE DOWN here in the states.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

With Law 53, also known as the Gag Law, in effect-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

The *penalty* for gatherin' in the spirit of ANY KIND of independence is PUNISHABLE for up to TEN YEARS in PRISON.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

People from all DIFFERENT backgrounds have put their LIVES on the line for the independence of Puerto Rico calling for an "END TO THE DICTATORSHIP".

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

The END to the DICTATORSHIP happened when it BECAME the 51st STATE! Haha! Some people on the island are even usin' MACHETES, KNIVES, an' BOWS AN' ARROWS, runnin' around thinkin' they're INDIANS!!

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

PROTESTS broke out in the Dominican Republic after the LYNCHING of a young boy after-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

Whoaa, there, his DEATH was DUE TO GANG ACTIVITY-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

He was MISTAKEN for one of the MANY Puerto Ricans who FLED the island TO the D.R. looking for ASYLUM and he was *KILLED* by members of the SPECIAL FORCES UNIT which include many PROUD BOYS, who have pledged an OATH to this country in BLOOD-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

The Proud Boys have SAVED this country! Do YOU know of any people so BRAVE and HONORABLE to PROTECT their nation, PROTECT their PEOPLE against TERRORISTS??

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

The END. Is NEAR-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

Yes, yes-the END to playing the VICTIM! Haha! See you next time!

NEWS ANCHOR 1 stands.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

I thought we agreed on no more lying on air.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

Uh, uh, not here, sweet pea. We smile here. I thought you knew better.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

(Neutral news voice)

It's starting to make me sick.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

(Central Florida news voice)

We're all SICK Charles. Sick WINNERS and sick LOSERS. You decide which kind of sick you want to be, but you will *NOT* be takin' me with you. See you at home-

T.V. HURRIEDLY FLIPS THROUGH CHANNELS.
Lights down.

LIGHTS UP with everyone in the same position they were in before FORCE 1 & 2 came in.

MUD

Ahh, phoo-

Where is it??

The BOOK, the BOOK, where's the BOOK??

SHADOW GIRL

What book?

HARPY

MUD.

MUD releases SHADOW GIRL.

What-

You're, you're *alive*?

IT

Uh-yeah?

HARPY runs to IT and embraces them.

IT

Stop, what is this-

HARPY

Let me just-

IT
No-it's-it's
LET GO.
GET OFF!

IT shoves HARPY as SHADOW GIRL'S leg
gives out-HARPY catches her.

HARPY
Easy.

BOWHEAD
Touchin' a lotta people today, you uh, consider my offer?
Offer still staaaaands.
Expires at midnight.

MUD
I'm going to hunt.

BOWHEAD
What you gonna go hunt?
Some plants?
Ahahaha.

IT
Well, YOU ain't offa to hunt!
(to MUD)
I'm goin' wit' you.

HARPY
No.
You stay.

IT
I'm goin'!

HARPY
Stay.

BOWHEAD
Listen to ya master.

IT
(hisses)
HCCCCHH!!
No one owns me!

(to HARPY)
Not even you.

BOWHEAD
See if you could catch some rats while you're at it.

IT
We ain't givin' you none when we come back!

HARPY
Bowhead, cliff.

BOWHEAD
Oh, yees, Masta.

HARPY
Mud, her leg.

MUD
There's a pouch in the tree.
Small vial, no more bandages.

MUD disappears into the tall grass.

IT
Mud-not so FAST!!

IT takes out a stone knife and runs out.

HARPY
(calls after them)
Watch her!

BOWHEAD
Ohhwwhohoho
Stiiiiiiii givin' orders, tryna control, when they ain't nuthin'
to control out heya.
Is an illusion.
Marketed jus' like any otha product,
Sellin' ideas y dreams, como (*like*) pills.

BOWHEAD unwraps something.

HARPY
Of course, you've been holding out.
We haven't eaten all day, and you've been holding out.

BOWHEAD takes a bite into a LONG CRIPSY
RAT.

BOWHEAD
(mouth busy)
I ain't holdin' nuthin'!
I caught him last night when you was eatin' some roach or
sumthin'.
You looked full,
So, I ain't botha.

HARPY
This way.

HARPY pushes a thick log center and
helps SHADOW GIRL onto it.

HARPY
Nothing good happens when you run.

SHADOW GIRL
It's fight or flight.

HARPY
So, we *fight*.

SHADOW GIRL
We *just* hid.

BOWHEAD
Fightin', hidin',
Two faces of the same coin.

SHADOW GIRL
Why are they after us?

BOWHEAD
Want us dead.
Want to take over-

HARPY
We're one of the last ones left.

SHADOW GIRL
Of what?

HARPY
The war.

BOWHEAD
Torture is worse than deat/h

HARPY
Bowhea-

BOWHEAD
Thas what they doin',
torturin' us.
Pero I'd rather that then,
'Cause at least I know I'm alive.

HARPY gets the pouch from the tree and
attends to SHADOW GIRL's wound.

SHADOW GIRL
That sounds painful.

BOWHEAD
You tol' me that,
After you were with us for a few months,
Y eso es verdad (*And that's true*).

SHADOW GIRL
I was with you for months?

HARPY
A year.

BOWHEAD
There's no livin' without pain, chiquita (*little girl*)
To them, blood is water.
They need it to survive.

HARPY
Try not to move.

HARPY pours a liquid on them.

SHADOW GIRL
(pain)
Ahhh!

HARPY stares at the vial uncertain.

They take out tweezers and rip part of
SHADOW GIRL's dirty dress-

SHADOW GIRL
What are you doing??

HARPY
I have to get the bullet out before it infects you,
If it hasn't already.

SHADOW GIRL
Who were we to each other?

A beat.

AGHHHHHH!!!!
Stop, stop, stop,
Get out, get out!!

HARPY
I almost have it.

SHADOW GIRL
I can't, I can't-

HARPY
Bowhead, hold her down, she's moving too much.
You're going to hurt yourself.

BOWHEAD leaps down and puts her in a
lock from behind, their faces touching.

BOWHEAD
Mmmmmmm, hueles ricaa (*you smell goodd*).
De sangre y sudor (Of Blood and sweat).

BOWHEAD licks her cheek as she
writhes in pain.

HARPY
I'm holding it,

SHADOW GIRL
Ah, ah, ah-

HARPY
I'm going to pull it out-

Ready?
SHADOW GIRL
No, no, no, no-

HARPY
3, 2, 1-

SHADOW GIRL
AGHHHHHHH!!!!

HARPY
It's done.

Pours more liquid.

SHADOW GIRL
NGHH!!!

HARPY
Now, it's done.

BOWHEAD
This is the closest I've been to another's warm flesh
In a loong time.
Something thas been alive, anyway.

HARPY wraps the cloth tightly.

SHADOW GIRL
(crying)
I said no.

HARPY
Get off her!

BOWHEAD
Ay, por qué estás llorando nena (Why are you crying girl)??

HARPY
What did they do to you?

MOTORCYCLE ENGINES ROAR in the
distance. **LOUD REGGAETON MUSIC** blasts
from speakers. The sky turns DARKER.

BOWHEAD races up the CLIFF.

HARPY
What do you see??

LOUDER.

BOWHEAD
Positions!!

HARPY lifts SHADOW GIRL into the CAVE
and covers them with the sheet.

HARPY
Don't move.

SHADOW GIRL
Where are you going?

HARPY
Shh!
Positions to attack.

BOWHEAD
How come it sounds like more of 'em??

HARPY
Positions to attack!
We have to warn the others.

BOWHEAD hides in the TREE trunk, while
HARPY blows into a small WHISTLE
mimicking a bird's call, then climbs
and hides in the leaves of a TREE.

The **ROARING** passes by.

FORCE 1 & 2 ENTER through the aisles,
RED DOTS aimed at the stage-these two
are wearing GAS MASKS.

A **SMOKE BOMB**.

SHADOW GIRL
(coughing)
Ahech! Achech!

FORCE 2
Your 10 o'clock.

FORCE 1
My 10 o'clock, moving in.

FORCE 1 moves onstage and SHOTS
BLINDLY as an ARROW hits him in his
neck. He FALLS.

FORCE 2
Ahh, shit!

HARPY jumps from the tree and rolls
FORCE 1's mask into the cave,
DISSASSEMBLES his GUN, and fires an
ARROW toward FORCE 2. It hits him in
his bullet vest-he rips it out.

Fuck-
Jerry??
Shit, Jerry, you alive buddy?

He takes cover.

Arrows??
That's the best you got??
They were rumors you didn't use guns,
but I didn't think it was true-

Another ARROW whizzes by-it misses.

You have 'em, why not use 'em!!

FORCE 2 FIRES at the stage as HARPY
hides.

You can't run forever!

IT runs onstage near the car.

IT
Harpy!

HARPY
RUN!!

FORCE 2 jumps onstage and lifts his
gun, when the tree grows arms and pulls
him in. He FALLS as BOWHEAD comes out,

wiping blood from the machete, tasting
it.

IT

We saw the smoke an' thought they threw a bomb-

HARPY

It was just smoke.

HARPY reaches for IT-then stops.

SHADOW GIRL comes out limping, gas mask
on, and sits back on the log as the
smoke clears.

MUD runs in with a coconut.

MUD

I told her not to come bac-

HARPY

This Raptor was different he-

He-

Cared.

About the other one.

Called him "buddy".

They don't care for each other.

BOWHEAD

I called Shadow my favorite too,

An' I'm ready to eat her any second.

So, what you found for us?

IT

I caught this guy!

Like 5 feet long!

Check out his claws!

IT pulls out a DEAD IGUANA from a small
sack and holds it high.

IT

It got some meat on it too,

(to HARPY)

cut it straight down the middle like you taught me.

BOWHEAD

ONE?
Solo *UNO (Only ONE)*?

IT
Well, yeah-
We could catch the smaller ones when they sleepin' in the plants
tonigh-

BOWHEAD
(sings)
Harpyyyyyy,
What I tell you, 'bout leavin' us hungry-

BOWHEAD advances towards IT.

IT
You not takin' my catch!
We could share it, but you not takin' it!

BOWHEAD
Sharin' ni sharin'!
It's time you know what it feel like
to get your stomach split from the middle.

MUD
Harpy.

HARPY
Bowhead.

IT
I'd like to see this vieja (*old woman*) try!

BOWHEAD
Ohohohoho, I'll do much more/than try, pendejita (little bitch).
Ven, ven aqui (Come, come here).

MUD
We'll go get more water,
It'll hold you over until it gets dark,
Then we can-

BOWHEAD
No quiero tu jodi'a agua (*I don't want your fuckin' water*)!
Quiero comer (*I want to eat*)!

IT

I'll carve out a piece of you, you get any closer!
Last warning!

BOWHEAD

The forest's na fillin' me anymooore,
My head is screamin',
My fingernails black,
The sweat on my upper lip is itchin',
An' the moistness between my legs-
Ain't none of it bein' filled,
An' I'm startin' to see with a slant-
I'm getting' reaaaal tired of it.

HARPY

We'll find something.

BOWHEAD

No temenos nada para comer, sangana (*We don't have anything to eat any more dummy*)!
Look around!
They took.
An' took, an' took.

IT

You jus' complainin'!

HARPY

For one moment,
Can you just-
Peace.

BOWHEAD

PEaYce!
There's no such thing as peace!
Engagin' in peace, is a war against violence,
We always gotta fight for that shit!

IT

Come an' get this *violence bruja (witch)*!

BOWHEAD

Peace is violence against violence.

MUD

Violence is taught.

BOWHEAD

It's nature.

HARPY

It's *nurtured*.

MUD

The trees aren't happy with us.

SHADOW GIRL

You can hear the trees?

MUD

I can feel them.

They've been protecting us,

since the moment we've stepped foot here.

BOWHEAD

Who's gonna sacrifice themselves,

for the good cause, huh??

MUD

The Tainos didn't do sacrifices.

BOWHEAD

Well, we about to start/now

MUD

Harpy.

HARPY

Bowhead.

BOWHEAD

(turns to face MUD)

Si tienes algo que decirme (*You have something to say to me*),

Dimelo TÚ (YOU say it).

We don't really need you anymore,

If we gonna starve out here anyway.

No need for a docta,

If there are no people to treat.

I'm sure YOU taste good too.

It don't matter if you a boy or a girl

Or neither

Or both,

Flesh is flesh,

Meat is meat-

Who should.

We eat?

HARPY
We're not-

BOWHEAD
*EsCuse me, while I talk to someone
who knows my language fluentl/y*

HARPY
You fuckin' gatekeep the language like it was given to you as a gift, and not forced down your abuelas throats!

BOWHEAD
*Ay, esta is the type of political mierda que no necesitamos
(this the shit we don't need) -*

HARPY
Who gives a FUCK if we colonize the COLONIZERS language-

BOWHEAD
Me importa un coño, porque es MI cultura ahora (*I give a fuck,
because it's my culture now*)!
Y no tienes derecho a decir nada (*And YOU don't get a say*)!

HARPY
You think you're the *only one hungry??*
I'm fucking *STARVING!!*
You don't see me trying to start a war with everyone!!

Something FALLS FROM THE SKY next to
SHADOW GIRL. She picks it up.

BOWHEAD
Qué es eso (*What is that*)?

SHADOW GIRL
For you.

She holds out the **STALK OF CORN**.
Everyone moves in on SHADOW GIRL.

IT
What-no-
I wan'/it!

HARPY
Where did you/get that?

IT
What is it?

SHADOW GIRL
It fell from/the sky

IT
Les look for more!
BOWHEAD
Dam/e (Give me).

MUD
We should share i/t,
Give it to me/and I'll divide it.

BOWHEAD
You give it to them,
y perderás un dedo (and you'll lose a finger).

IT
Lemme get a/bite!

HARPY
Get away from her!
Give it to me,
So, they'll leave you alone!

BOWHEAD, MUD, and IT swipe at her,
trying to get the STALK OF CORN, as
HARPY yanks them off her.

HISSING.

BOOM! A BOMB.

The lights flicker red, white, and grey
as they all fall in slow motion.

SHADOW GIRL
(coughing)
Ahheh, ahheh!
Are you okay??
Is-
Ahheh!
Can you get up??
Are you-

Ahheh!
Can you hear me??
Harpy??

BOWHEAD
Ay, coño (*fuck*),
Esto quema (*This burns*).

SHADOW GIRL
It??
Are you okay??

IT
HARPY!!!??
HARPY get up!!
Harpy get up!!
Get up,
Get up,
GET UP
GET UPP!!

A **GÜIRO** (Puerto Rican instrument) is heard. A STRANGE SOUND ECHOES, the LIGHTS FLASH, and a RIPPLE moves across the stage. All the characters are FROZEN except for BOWHEAD who's trying to balance themselves.

DARKNESS.

BOWHEAD
Ahh, the dark,
the dark,
my old friend.
How many languages do we gotta go through to call one home, hm?
Does original language even exist for me,
En este mar de sangre (*in this sea of blood*)?

SPOTLIGHT forms on BOWHEAD-SHE'S
CHASING THE LIGHT.

(spits)
Achhh pttt!
People use to spit at me,
For selling periódicos independentistas (*independent*).
Government's always so threatened by autonomy!

Pero anythin' that had to do with the *statehood* newspapers on the other hand-
I threw 'em right in el zafacón (*garbage can*)!
They went around askin' for me-a few times even.
They found my name and my face-
They took me once, behind closed doors-
I thought I was gonna get killed...
Pensé que me iban a cortar la garganta
y darselo a los perros (*I thought they were gonna cut my throat and feed me to the dogs*)!
Tenía una carpeta (*I had a folder*), a file on me,
They strapped me to a lie detector test,
An' I don' tell 'em nuthin'!
(puts on a character)
"Can you tell us who-"
I plead the fifth!

It SHRINKS.

Am I willin' to die for any of these culo caga'os (*shitheads*)??
Eghh.
We not family, pero.
We all we got.
It's expensive to die when people love you.
But,
I ran outta all the people, so.
An' fuck democracy!
I believe in GOOD dictators!
We jus' haven't seen one yet.
They'll get things done quick,
Envez de hablar tanta mierda (*Instead of talkin' a lot of shit*)!
I had a sista,

It GROWS.

She started losin' it.
She killed her own son.
Her own kid.
Éramos pobres (*We was poor*), real poor,
An' she was on somethin' you know,
But the lack of food, nutritions,
That shit gets to you-
Ya brain can't function properly without the right stuff-
An' I never found out what the right stuff was, pero...
I don't where she is, mi hermanita (*my sister*)-
An' that was *before* this.
A lot of people was missin' *before* all a this.

I gave up my kids-mhmm.
Thas a part a why I never did that DNA shit I been hearin' 'bout
Is better they don' find me, you know.
How 'bout if I'm a disappointment to them..
La otra parte es que los mamahuevos saben todo sobre ti ahora
(*The other part is because those cocksuckers know everything
about you now*)
An' they experimented on us too much already-
An' they kill us-
Pero they kill women *all* the time,
An' not only the government-
We're killed by our own people.
I had a man once,
Multiple men,
Pero they all the same
Animales (animals).
Where they learned that from-I always wondered..
And they call women animals,
Hahaha.
Savages.
They been callin' all of us that since the beginning of time,
When *ellos son los animales (they're the animals)*.
Ellos son los salvajes (They're the savages).
And if they're the *real* animals, the *real* savages,
Why are they allowed to roam free?

DARKNESS.

LIGHTS UP. UNIDENTIFIED and FRAGMENTED
NEWS INTRO plays.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Today we WELCOME, HENRY SANCHEZ, a SPECIAL GUEST and CELEBRITY
PROUD BOY, ONE of TWO of the Special Forces Unit to be sent to
Puerto Rico to HUNT for the LAST remaining guerilla group.

FORCE 1

Thank you for having me, Forest.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Can you share with us your plan on how to CAPTURE these
remaining women? It seems they're all women, anyway-

FORCE 1

Our plan is to go in and EXECUTE, Forest. TRAITORS should be
EXECUTED-that's what our nation stands for.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Were you EXCITED to NOT ONLY openly MOVE members of THE PROUD BOYS into the SPECIAL FORCES UNIT, but to become the NEW FACE of it as well? It's LEADER-how does that feel?

FORCE 1

TERRIFIC. We all know how *effective* VIOLENCE is, if done correctly. We are FOR the CONSTITUTION, and unlike many other federal groups, our ALL-MALE FORCE is *entirely* dedicated to the cause.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

A few years ago, The Proud Boys were labeled as a TERRORIST GROUP-how did you move away from tha-
FORCE 1

Why do you think we've fought so hard for the second amendment? One minute they're calling us, terrorists, and the NEXT-America's calling us to BEAR ARMS and LEAD the HUNT to ensure America's SAFETY against these SAVAGES.

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Any last words for the remaining women, or ANYONE that stands in the way of the United States of America-

FORCE 1 looks directly at the audience.

FORCE 1

We will KILL YOU. We WILL assassinate you. Fear not the government but FEAR the PEOPLE-and we're PEOPLE first.

T.V. VOLUME RAISED to a CHAOTIC LEVEL.

(echoes)

Proud Boys, sit back and standby. We'll be home soon.

T.V. SHUTS OFF.

Lights go down then come up with everyone in the same position they were in before the stalk of corn rolled onto the stage.

IT

Come an' get this violence *bruja (witch)*!

MUD

Harpy.

HARPY
Bowhead.

BOWHEAD
Shadow you, uhhhh,
you got somethin' fa me?
Anythin' fall outta the sky or-

SHADOW GIRL
No?

BOWHEAD
Bleaugh.

BOWHEAD tugs on FORCE 1.

Ayúdame con este (Help me with him).

HARPY
No.
We're not doing that.

SHADOW GIRL
Doing what?

MUD helps pull FORCE 1 center.

IT
Yea, what we doin'?

BOWHEAD
Hold his arm out-

HARPY
BOWHEAD.
NO.

BOWHEAD lifts the machete-the tip
touching HARPY's chest.

BOWHEAD
This.
Is the way.
We survive.
Carajo (*Fuck*), maybe we could even *live*.
Pero we gotta eat.

An' I'm startin' to lose the difference between you an' them-
An' if you stand in my way *one more time*-
If you tell me what to do,
One.
More.
Time.
Te voy a matar (*I'll kill you*).
Luego, te voy a cortar la lengua y me la voy a comer (*And then
cut out your tongue and eat it*).
Look how frail we're gettin'.
We can barely hold weapons.
It's jus' meat.

A beat.

Make the fire.
MUD
(looking at SHADOW GIRL's leg)
Her leg looks good.
You did a good job.

IT
This is food too?

BOWHEAD hands IT the machete.

BOWHEAD
The arms first.
Then legs.
Head.
Torso.
Easier to roast over the fire.

IT
I thought they disappeared.

BOWHEAD
This one ain't go nowhere.
Always gotta use what we got.
No waste from now on.
Everyone we catch,
We eat.

HARPY looks away as IT SWINGS down on
his arm as the lights dim and the
COQUIS (native frogs) sing.

Co-qui, co-qui, co-qui, co-qui
(Whistles).

Time passes.

The dismembering occurs with slicing and thumping sounds. A fire pit is made from logs, coconut hairs, and leaves as embers dance around a growing flame. Body parts are tied above the fire. Everyone except for HARPY, grabs a stick of meat. HARPY lays on the cliff looking at the night.

IT

(mouth full)

This was food the whole time?

Mm. Mlchmlchmlch.

Harpy, you the one who told me we don' waste food,

An' these silly shits was here,

Tastin' like pig this *whole time!*

BOWHEAD

You could even eat the bone-

Pero overtime, careful wit' ya teeth

Don' wan' sum to go missin' like mine

Heh,

Gets harder to chew, harder to swallow.

MUD watches SHADOW GIRL climb the CLIFF. HARPY sits up and the lights around them slightly dim.

SHADOW GIRL

I'm gonna sit with you if that's okay?

I brought you this in case you changed your mind.

You don't look so good-

I mean you look good, but not-

HARPY

I don't want them inside me.

SHADOW GIRL

...

I think it's too late for me to say something like that.

HARPY

'Cause you ate the-

SHADOW GIRL

I-

I didn't eat any yet,
either.

I want to, but it's-

I don't think I've had this before, but
the memory thing so...

HARPY

...

What do you mean it's too late?

To say something like that?

SHADOW GIRL

Um...

SHADOW GIRL goes to touch her crotch,
then stops.

It feels...

Pain.

HARPY

...

...

SHADOW GIRL

I don't remember it so...

HARPY

But it feels...?

SHADOW GIRL nods. HARPY breathes
deeply, hands pulsing, then-completely
STILL.

SHADOW GIRL

Change my cloth for me?

This one's dirty and bloody,

I don't want it to get infected.

HARPY

I need to rip your-

Or you ca-

SHADOW GIRL
You can do it.

HARPY unwraps the strip of cloth,
carefully rips a part of SHADOW GIRL's
dress, and wraps it around her leg.

SHADOW GIRL
When you caught me from falling earlier,
And protected me-

HARPY
I've caught a lot of people.
Protected a lot of people.

SHADOW GIRL
When you bandaged me up-
When I saw that mask roll into the cave-
When you touch me.
Who were we-

HARPY
Strangers.
Like we are now.

SHADOW GIRL
Please.
Just give me something.

HARPY
If you don't remember it's not worth bringing up.
Safer that way.

SHADOW GIRL
If we die tomorrow, was not knowing tonight, worth it?

Beat.

Dying to survive is not living.
It's marrying the enslaver.

HARPY
You're wrong.

SHADOW GIRL
Am I?

HARPY
I'm breathing.
My heart.
Is beati/ng.

SHADOW GIRL
Stop fighting.

HARPY
You're not the same pers/on.

SHADOW GIRL
Stop fighting.

HARPY
You're not who I used to kn/ow.

SHADOW GIRL
For just
one
second.
Stop.

HARPY
I stop fighting, we all die.
the little girl,
the old lady,
Mud,
me,
You.
Die.

SHADOW GIRL
We're all gonna die anyway.
And then what was all this for?

HARPY
It's my *mission* to protect everyone,
To keep *everyone aliv-*

SHADOW GIRL
And who's protecting you?
Who's keeping you alive?

HARPY
Repeat after me.

SHADOW GIRL

Wha-

HARPY

Solutions, loopholes, vantage points.

SHADOW GIRL

Why-

HARPY

Hunt, forage, river.

Eat, drink, watch, guard.

Train.

SHADOW GIRL

Doesn't that get tirin-

HARPY

Solutions, loopholes, vantage po/ints

SHADOW GIRL

Aren't you tir/ed?

HARPY

Repeat!

SHADOW GIRL picks up a piece of CHARRED LEG and slowly takes a bite.

A LOW DRUMMING as the lights rise on the campfire.

BOWHEAD

(groans)

OHHHHhhh, yeahhh.

OH!

You know what else we need!

BOWHEAD wobbles to her feet and a **SACK FILLED WITH LIQUID** FALLS FROM THE SKY.

ESO (*that*)!!

HAHAA!!

IT

Thas the fruit juice you were keepin' a secret!

Where'd you hide it??

I look'd, an' look'd,
but couldn't find it!

BOWHEAD

Don' go lookin' for my stuff!
Pendejita (*Little asshole*)!
It comes to me when I need it,
Ven (*But come*)!
Drink summa this,
Get you feelin' all fun and looose.

BOWHEAD takes a swig.

(shakes mouth)
OOooooooooerghhh!!
Goes down strong!!
(mimics opening her mouth)
Ahhh.

IT puts her head back as BOWHEAD pours.

IT
(coughs)
Euch! Euch! Euch!

BOWHEAD

Don' waste it, carajo (*fuck*)!
Mud?
Muuud,
Ay, stop bein' a pussy an' put some hair down there.

MUD takes a swig.

My own pitorro (*Puerto Rican moonshine*).
Tiene carambolas, chinas, y limones (*It has starfruit, oranges,
and lemons*).
Mmmm.
(kisses the bag)
Mch, mch, mch, mch, mch!
Es perfecta (*She's perfect*)!

IT
Mchleh.
Sour.

SHADOW GIRL
(to BOWHEAD)

Can I have some?

BOWHEAD

(flirting)

Nena (Girl), you can have whateva you want.

SHADOW GIRL jumps down from the cliff.

BOWHEAD

Eh, eh, eh.

I want sumthin' from you first.

IT

My head feels funny.

BOWHEAD

Yeah, yeah, you jus' drank it too fast!

Lil' greedy muthafucka.

IT

Don' -

don't start sumthin' you can't finish!

BOWHEAD

Here, drink some more.

SHADOW GIRL

What if I don't have what you want?

BOWHEAD

Ohhhhh, pero you dooooo.

Lay with me tonight.

Nuthin' I want from you 'cept sum body heat.

I have sum other things in mind if you up for it too, pero

Jus' a nice back to lean into,

Hair to touch my lips,

Somebody to hold, thas all.

SHADOW GIRL

Okay.

HARPY stands.

BOWHEAD

(claps her hands)

HahAAA!!

Got you!!

All she gonna rememba is me toniight.
HaHAAAA!
Wha you got sumthin' to say soldier?

IT
The fruit's makin' me feel weird.

BOWHEAD
Get sum, get sum wata for her.
Can't have her wakin' up dizzy tomorrow.

MUD brings IT a coconut shell.

Thas it.
Taste even better this way.
Havin' a nice b-buzz while the wata flows between the lips,
runnin' down your chin.

IT
It does taste better.
But I feel hot.

SHADOW GIRL drinks, then holds it out
to HARPY-BOWHEAD snatches it and drinks
more.

BOWHEAD
EGH!
Harpy's not gonna come off their high horse to sit with us,
An' enjoy sumthin'.
'Specially when I'm the Cacique (*tribal chief*) now.
...
O no lo crees (*Or you don't think so*)?

The DRUMMING in the background slows
down, but HITS HARDER.

BOWHEAD picks up their machete.

HARPY
You?
You, want to be the Cacique?

BOWHEAD
I'on see no one else steppin' up to the plate.

HARPY looks at MUD and they climb up
the CLIFF as HARPY comes down.

HaHAAAahahahaaaa.
Ven, ven (*Come, come*).
(a threat)
You wanna *dance*?

IT
What I tell you 'bout,
Messin' wit Harpy??
You don' even know how to dance!

BOWHEAD
O, claro que sííí (*Oh, of course I do*).
Different dances,
Salsa, merengue, bomba
different swirls, *cuts*, y foot work
1, 2, 3, 4,

She moves with the machete.

HARPY
A Cacique has to die for there to become a new one.
BOWHEAD
1, 2, 3, 4

HAPRY
Me or you?
You know who I choose.

BOWHEAD
Doesn't make sense for a *gringa* (*white-y*) to be the Cacique-

HARPY charges at BOWHEAD as she points
the machete.

No fun if there's no challenge.

HARPY
Gringa, gringo,
Green-go!
I've been called that my whole life,
By people who looked like me-
Does it look like I have a green vest on??

BOWHEAD

If you were bullet proof, we wouldn' be here right/now

HARPY

I'm sick of you calling me an INVADER!
On the island that my *family's* from,
On the island that calls to *me*, and tells *me*,
That it's *my home*.
An *invader*.
Every.
Single.
Time.

BOWHEAD

Oh, *boohoo*, grow some fuckin' *cojones (balls)*-

HAPRY

I've never been *Puerto Rican* enough,
Not *Spanish* enough,
Not *African* enough,
I've been going my *whole life never being enough*.
So, when do I get to be enough, HUH?!
You tell *m/e*

BOWHEAD

This what's wrong with your generation,
Always worrying 'bout tha wrong things-

HARPY

You were fed shit,
Taught not to question those who came before you,
and look how good that's turned/out-

BOWHEAD

Yours is no better,
look aroound,
we in the *same place*!

IT

SHHH!

Use ya spider voices, you so loud.

SHADOW GIRL

Have a drink.

BOWHEAD

Ha!

They got some worms up they ass,

they not gonna want any a this!

SHADOW GIRL offers the sack and HARPY
snatches it.

Ooooo.
Do you hear that?

Everyone draws their weapon.

HAPRY
Mud.

MUD
I don't see anything.

BOWHEAD
Hehe,
No, no, not that.

IT
Then what is it??

BOWHEAD
No, no,
The sound is,
deeper.
Deeper.
Drink.
Drink, maybe you'll hear the sound too,
I know the sound, I know it,
From far ago.

BOWHEAD starts to circle HARPY.

Drink. Drink. Drink.

She starts to dance to a rhythm.

Drink. Drink. Drink.

HARPY drinks.

BOWHEAD starts twisting their body as
she blows heavy breaths out, humming,
and sounds from the throat on every
step she takes. SHADOW GIRL joins in,

finding her own rhythm. IT wobbles around. The DRUMMING shifts to a BANGING as it gets louder, CLAVAS (wooden instrument) clank together, and the CHORUS OF COQUI'S continue its song.

**GRITO DE GUERRA (War Cry) - Song/Chant
(Spanish + Arawakan)**

BOWHEAD

Grito de guerra (War Cry)
Grito de guerra (War Cry)
Ahhheahheeehhhh

Grito De Gue-rra-AH (War Cry)
Grito De Gue-rra-AH (War Cry)

BOWHEAD/SHADOW GIRL/IT
Ahhheaaahhhho

BOWHEAD

Sangre (Blood) ss-ss (suck sound in through your teeth)
Sangre (Blood) ss-ss (suck sound in through your teeth)

BOWHEAD/SHADOW GIRL/IT

Ahhhhh UMPH PH PH PH UMPH PH PH PH (pushing air out)

BOWHEAD

Es-cla-va (Slave) ss-uh-ss,
Es-cla-va (Slave) ss-uh-ss

BOWHEAD/SHADOW GIRL/IT

Jek coki-xe heh (Female coqui) co-qui co-qui (whistles)
Jek coki-xe heh (Female coqui) co-qui co-qui (whistles)

Grito De Gue-rra-AH (War Cry)
Grito De Gue-rra-AH (War Cry)

HARPY goes to the fire and takes off a piece of meat.

BOWHEAD

Buk' mat'matúm Hmph, Hmph (You do not share),
Buk' mat'matúm Hmph, Hmph (You do not share)

HARPY raises the meat to their lips.

BOWHEAD pushes the energy away from her.

Boya (*Evil spirit*),
Boya (*Evil spirit*)
Bara (*Death*), nch, nch, nch
Bara (*Death*), nch, nch, nch

HARPY EATS.

BOWHEAD motions towards the fire, then the sky, always moving.

Bo-guatukán (*Blessings*), ph, ph, ph (*sucking in*)
Bo-guatukán (*Blessings*), ph, ph, ph (*sucking in*)

Ro, ro, ro, ro (*Love, love, love, love*)

BOWHEAD/SHADOW GIRL/IT

Ro, ro, ro, ro (*Love, love, love, love*)

MUD, eyes closed, dances and sways on the CLIFF in the moonlight.

BOWHEAD/SHADOW GIRL/IT/MUD

Ro, ro, ro, ro (*Love, love, love, love*)

Ro, ro, ro, ro (*Love, love, love, love*)

Grito De Gue-rra-AH (*War Cry*)

Grito De Gue-rra-AH (*War Cry*)

HARPY

(tears)

Ro.

Ro.

Ro.

Love.

Something FALLS FROM THE SKY in front of HARPY.

HARPY picks it up-it's an **ENGAGEMENT RING**. They bring it to their lips.

HARPY begins to dance and surrenders to the moment.

Final HIT of the DRUM. Lights Down.

Lights partially up on a starry night.
The fire is out. IT is sleeping in the
TRUNK, BOWHEAD is asleep near a STUMP
cradling SHADOW GIRL who's wide awake,
watching, as MUD DIGS HOLES in the
ground.

MUD
(harsh whispers)
Fuuuck!!
Where is it??

MUD takes out a small knife.

BOWHEAD
(asleep)
Mmmm.
Where,
Where you goin'?
Don't go nowhere...
SHADOW GIRL
To pee.
I have to take a piss.

BOWHEAD
Mmm,
Hurry back.
Hurry back...

MUD
I can't find it anywhere.

SHADOW GIRL
I don't have whatever you're/looking for.

MUD
The book, you had the *book!!*

SHADOW GIRL
What about the book is so-

MUD
You had it and now-

SHADOW GIRL

When did I have it?

MUD
Befo/re.

SHADOW GIRL
Before what?

MUD
No, no-
we don't talk any more about befores
or what was so-

SHADOW GIRL
Why?

MUD
Because it's not where we're *going*.
Whatever's not ahead of us, doesn't exist anymore.

SHADOW GIRL
Ahead of us doesn't exist either.
Now, barely exists,
If you wanna be in the *now*,
What's the point of asking for a book which *was*
and *is* no longer?

MUD
It doesn't exist for *us*-
But it can to *someone else*-
SHADOW GIRL
What can?

MUD
You told me you would keep it safe!

SHADOW GIRL
You think I'm *lying*??
I can *feel* things in my body that I *know*,
But the thoughts don't come.

MUD
The net!

SHADOW GIRL
I didn't have anything on me.

MUD

How can you be so sure if you don't remember??
How old are you?

SHADOW GIRL

I don't know.

MUD

Where did you come from?

SHADOW GIRL

The net.

MUD

Before that!

SHADOW GIRL

I thought you didn't do *before*s!

MUD

I don't know how to ask you, without referring to the *past*,
To bring the book into the *present*-
I need you to remember!

SHADOW GIRL

How 'bout you try to remember!!
YOU tr/y!

MUD

I can't think!
If you don't have it, and it's not here-
That means the Raptor-
But then that wouldn't make sense,
because they're still coming aft-

SHADOW GIRL

Tell me the truth.
Why was I the only one taken?

MUD

The only thing important.
Is that.
Book.

SHADOW GIRL

You're one of them aren't you.

MUD
What?

SHADOW GIRL
You're a traitor.

MUD
No.

SHADOW GIRL
Where's Harpy?

MUD
Went to get water.

SHADOW GIRL
What did you do with them?

MUD
Nothing.

SHADOW GIRL
There's no one keeping watch.
Do you control when they show up?

MUD
NO.

SHADOW GIRL
Is this your game we're playing?

MUD
The river was poisoned,
so, they left to find some from the mountain.

SHADOW GIRL
How did you know it was poisoned?

MUD
I can *feel* the water,
Its ripples-
I know everything around us,
From the trees that grow here,
To the plants,
And mushrooms-
The different birds that visit each day-
Ever since I was little, I-

I was always rolling in mud.
Climbing rocks,
Swimming in the rivers.
I picked that name.

SHADOW GIRL
Where's your family Mud?

MUD
No, no, *no*,
Too far
This-
THIS.
IS.
WHY.
It starts to break-
(points to their head)
In, in here,
It reminds me that-

SHADOW GIRL
Just because you don't want to remember,
Doesn't mean you get to demand who could.

MUD
I was human,
Once too.
We're all dying.
They keep killing us,
There's things I miss-
Things I never knew
And will never know,
If we don't find that book-
You...
It has something to do with you-

SHADOW GIRL
Who was I?

THUNDERCLAP.

MUD pops a pill into their mouth.

MUD
Last one-

BOWHEAD
Carajo (*Fuck*)!

Ni siquiera puedo dormir (*I can't even sleep*)
con eso ruido (*with all that noise*)!

THUNDER, LIGHTENING, WIND.

MUD
We won't be able to see or hear them coming.

RAIN.

BOWHEAD
Mierda (Shit)!

IT
Eeeewww!
This is makin' me itch,
My skin feels gross!

MUD
The rain's poisoned too-

BOWHEAD
Juracán's (Spirit of chaos and disorder) not happy with us/ss.

IT
Get it off,
Get it off!
It burns,
it burns!

BOOTS RUNNING through wet ground.

MUD
Harpy-

FORCE 1 ENTERS from the aisle as FORCE
2 GRABS SHADOW GIRL from behind,
dragging her offstage-

SHADOW GIRL
ARGH!!
Get/off of me!!
ARGH!

FORCE 2
Target secured. Over and out.

FORCE 1
(singing)
Rain, rain go away, come again another day.

FORCE 1 SHOOTS at MUD as the others
hide.

Rain, rain, go away, I want to come out and play.

MARACAS (Puerto Rican instrument) are
heard. A STRANGE SOUND ECHOES, the
LIGHTS FLASH, and a RIPPLE moves across
the stage. All the characters are
FROZEN except for MUD who's struggling
to stand.

DARKNESS.

MUD
Is this it?
A void?

SPOTLIGHT that mimics the MOON forms on
MUD-THEY'RE CHASING THE LIGHT.

A light?
Ha...
The earth,
always remembers.
But do you think that it always wants to?
I'm bleeding.
Ha.
I failed.
She wanted to know the biiiiiiiggg secret.
She forgot.
Ha,
Do *you* know the secret?
The wind knows.

It GROWS.

The sun.
The moon.
The stars.
The plants.
The rivers.
The oceans.

They call us in,
To tell us,
To share their secrets with us.
But we rarely listen...

It SHRINKS.

I don't speak Spanish anymore-
Not because I don't want to,
But because the impulse-it-
went away-

It SHRINKS.

This pouch, I carry with me everywhere!
It has a silver coin in it.
A quarter.

It GROWS.

When I couldn't figure out,
if the mushroom was edible by eye,
I'd toss it in the bag,
And if the coin turned dark
The mushroom was poisonous.
So, we knew not to eat those.
Dark,
Poisonous,
Poisonous-
Dangerous.
But maybe I shouldn't have ever picked up the mushroom
In the first place,
Maybe it wasn't the mushroom that was
Dangerous,
It was just...never for me.

It SHRINKS.

I know I'll never truly be gone!

It GROWS.

I'll, I'll,
go back home to the soil,
to the mud.
They don't have a word in English for what I am,
I haven't found the Spanish word yet either-

Never a woman,
Never a man,
Just.
Mud.
As I always was,
As I'll always be.
I'll be right under your feet,
Under the ground.
My particles, scientifically speaking,
Will always remain,
Little pieces of energy
My atoms broken down,
Newly married to the dirt.
Anything alive will continue to step on me,
But as long as it too, is alive,
I know I'll welcome it.

It tries to escape for a moment, then
BRIGHTENS.

They forget that we're all mud.
That we're all from here,
And there,
And everywhere.
That we're all,
Each other.
Hurricanes sweep through,
And kill less people
Each year,
Than this system has.
And people like me,
were the first ones hunted,
people who you couldn't quite place.

It GROWS.

The violence started way before this.
Laws were made against my body before all of this.
During.
After.
On my health,
My life.
My spirit.
A few people get to decide the fate of millions...
Why don't the millions get to decide?
These pills.

MUD takes out their EMPTY pill bottle.

The LIGHT PULSES.

Were the only things that kept me here.
I tried to mix herbs and plants to try and keep me here,
But.
My chemicals can't be fixed, just maintained,
And my brain-
A warzone before all this,
During,
After.
(realization)
I won't be able to treat them now.
When their skin gets burnt,
Bubbly,
Flaky,
When fungus creeps up behind them..
I hope when we all die,
We can feel the moon.
Like right now.
She's beautiful.

DARKNESS.

LIGHTS UP. NEWS ANCHOR 1 & 2 are on
opposite sides of the stage at SEPARATE
desks-multiple NEWS INTROS CLASH.
NEWS ANCHOR 2

Today's a VERY sad day as we gather here to take a moment of
silence for the many lives lost during the Puerto Rican MASSACRE
by the Special Forces Unit over the last TWO and a HALF years.

Silence. Then-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

Hahahahaa! THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE WERE NEVER ATTACKED!! Have
you BEEN to Puerto Rico these past couple years?? It was
ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL, and PEACEFUL over there! I went and I had
a BLAST-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

CONSPIRACY THEORISTS are at an all-time high, pushing news out
of the states to foreign nations claiming that it was part of
the LEFT'S PROPAGANDA to INSTILL FEAR abroad, when that is JUST
NOT tru-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

It was a HOAX!! It didn't really happen! How could you believe that the U.S. would do something like that? That they would put an ENTIRE ETHNICITY of PEOPLE in CENTERS, CAGES even?? MOTHERS, FATHERS, and CHILDREN-does that sound like the U.S. to you?? Nooo. It really doesn't-

NEW ANCHOR 2

DEFAMATION LAWSUITS will hopefully put a STOP to this NEGLIGENCE and RECKLESSNES-

NEWS ANOCHOR 1

You think if that was TRUE, I would still be here right now? I mean, I know I'm LIGHT, but I AM part Puerto Rican, okay-I'm like the back of Ulysses S. Grant's head-I'm 50% Rican, peop/le!

NEWS ANCHOR 2

It was 100% REAL. I know this because I had to go into hiding once they found out my mother lived on the island, and I STILL haven't heard from her. THIS. IS. NOT. A. SHOW.

NEWS ANCHOR 1

A LOT of AMBULANCE CHASING nowadays-THEY. WERE. ACTORS! OHH, and good ones too! Did anyone in this newsroom actually EXPERIENCE this? Anyone, show of hands. I know I wasn't affected by it-were YOU?

NEWS ANCHOR 2

People are wondering how to take down a system. Is it by BURNING down buildings, DESTROYING their property? BOYCOTTING, KILLING appointed officials-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

This is what the other countries are going to SEE-we have ABSOLUTELY NO REASON to LIE to yo-

NEWS ANCHOR 2

A journalist by the name of Bianca González, is *STILL* a MISSING PERSON, ever since Puerto Rico was declared a state. She was our DIRECT source of news on the ground in Puerto Rico-she used to work here for us some years ago and disappeared shortly after the Special Forces Unit infiltrated the isla-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

And now LEFTISTS are claiming that a young Puerto Rican JOURNALIST has been ABDUCTED and has been MISSING for more than TWO YEARS! We do NOT have anyone by that name here in the U.S.

or Puerto Rico! I mean if you go missing that LONG, seems like a CHOICE, doesn't it?

NEWS ANCHOR 2

Bianca González, if you ARE WATCHING. If you ARE ALIVE. Please know-

NEWS ANCHOR 1

This is why WOMEN BELONG at HOME! Raising a family, where they'd be much happier, instead of ending up as a part of some strange CONSPIRACY THEORY!

NEWS ANCHOR 2

That we NEVER gave up on you. We STILL HOPE you're out there. And JUSTICE. WILL. BE. SERVED.

A MATCH is SWIPED-the T.V. is on FIRE.

LIGHTS go down then UP with everyone in the same position they were in before the thunder started.

SHADOW GIRL

Just because you don't want to remember,
Doesn't mean you get to demand who could.

MUD

Shadow?

SHADOW GIRL

What?

MUD

I'm-
there's no hole.

SHADOW GIRL

I'm sick of these games!

MUD

No bullet hole,
No blood,
You're here.

SHADOW GIRL

What's your mission??

Something FALLS FROM THE SKY in front
of MUD.

A **BOTTLE OF PILLS!** They quickly pop one
in their mouth and exhale.

Where the fuck did that come from??

MUD
Shado-

SHADOW GIRL
Who am I??

MUD
A journalist.
A reporter.

SHADOW GIRL
What's my name?

MUD
You have many names.

SHADOW GIRL
...

MUD
We can't let them have you.

SHADOW GIRL
Why?

MUD
Because you have the pages,
Somewhere, somehow,
The history,
our history-

SHADOW GIRL
History of what?

MUD
(realization)
They didn't kill you yet,
Because when you do remember,
When you do-
It'll change everything-

Everything.

SHADOW GIRL
What wi-

MUD
They're not after the book anymore,
They're afte-

HARPY comes out of the tall grass.

SHADOW GIRL
Where were you?

HARPY
Taking a piss.
My turn to take watch.

MUD
Night.

SHADOW GIRL
(whispering to MUD)
Wait-what was-
Who were they to me?

MUD
It's more who you were,
To them.

SHADOW GIRL
Who?

MUD
Freedom.
You can't fall in love with freedom.
It's not real.

SHADOW GIRL
But what's-

MUD
Not now.

HARPY and MUD lock eyes for a moment
and HARPY shakes their head "*no*"-*they
couldn't find it.*

MUD slinks to the ground and pulls leaves on top of them.

SHADOW GIRL touches HARPY's arm.

HARPY
(struggles)
No.
I-
I can't.
Not again-

SHADOW GIRL grabs a SMALL TIN with ACHIOTE (*plant*) dye in it from behind a plant and sits in front of HARPY.

SHADOW GIRL
Paint me.
Like you.

HARPY
I don't-

SHADOW GIRL
Paint me.
Like you.

HARPY reluctantly gives in and dips their fingers into the tin and gently rubs the dye across SHADOW GIRL's closed eyes and temple. *They breathe.*

SHADOW GIRL
Let me keep watch this time,
So, you can sle/ep

HARPY
No-

SHADOW GIRL
Let me do this for y/ou,
HARPY
All done.

SHADOW GIRL

I'm read/y

HARPY
You're not.

SHADOW GIRL
You mean *you're* not?

HARPY
We can't do this again-

SHADOW GIRL
We did this before?

They see each other.

This feels...

SHADOW GIRL slowly touches her forehead
with theirs.

Let me hold you...
Don't-

HARPY
I said.
No-

HARPY pushes SHADOW GIRL back-

What's this?

HARPY holds a **PAGE** in their hands.

SHADOW GIRL
I-I don't know.
Please.
Don't tell anyone.

HARPY
It's blank.

SHADOW GIRL
I can't remembe-

HARPY
It might be better if you don't.

Lights down.

A SOFT WHITE GLOW forms on each of them
as they sleep.

HARPY's on their back, BREATHING IN
SHADOW GIRL's dirty strip of cloth,
with a hand in their pants.

HARPY

(breaths)

Mmm.

Mm.

Ah.

Ah.

Ah.

(frustrated)

Rgghh.

Rggghh.

Come on,

come on,

come on,

come on,

come on.

(starts to cry as they continue to touch themselves)

Aeéh.

Aeéh.

Aeh,

Aeh,

Aeh.

Aeh,

Aeh,

Aehhhh.

LIGHTS SHIFT as the STARS journey
overhead and INSECT NOISES take over,
transforming into DAWN.

LIGHTS UP. Everyone's sleeping.

IT

(yawns)

Ahhhhrrrrr.

Huh?

Eghh!

Something's wrong,

Something's wrong!

HARPY
Where-what?

HARPY springs to the CLIFF.

IT
I'm-
I'm bleedin'??
Am I dyin'?
Did-
Did those bastards get me when I was sleepin'??

MUD
Let me see.

HARPY
Where's it coming from?

IT
I don't know!
Jus'-
(points to her crotch)
Here-

BOWHEAD
Ay!
Wakin' us up for no good reason!

MUD
You're not dying.

IT
How do you know?

SHADOW GIRL
That happens to me too.

IT
How come??

SHADOW GIRL
It happens to all of us, I think, anyway.

BOWHEAD
Nah, me!
Is almost all dried up now.

Almost...
(to SHADOW GIRL)
You smelled nice last night.
Like skin.

IT
My stomach feels bad.

BOWHEAD
Sеееее, you ate some human flesh,
an' the hormones made you bleed.
Unleeess it was la fruta mala (*the bad fruit*)
That tastes ehsooo *good*.

SHADOW GIRL
No.
It's called your period.

IT
What's that mean?

SHADOW GIRL
It's when your body bleeds every month,
Because there's no baby in it,
It's usually at the end of one cycle to start a new one-

IT
I could have a baby in here??

SHADOW GIRL
Let's hope you don't any time so/on

BOWHEAD
Kids have babies alllll the tiiiime-

IT smears TWO STREAKS of RED across her
eyes.

Ay!
Muchacha del diablo (*Child of the devil*)!
Hehehahaa.

IT
Now, I look jus' like the botha you!

SHADOW GIRL
(militant)

Listen up!
It's time for a change.
The next Raptor that comes in here-
in *our* land-
we *capture* and *question*.

Silence.

BOWHEAD
HA HAAA/HAHAA!

SHADOW GIRL
We find out where their stations in the area are,
and one by one,
And we take over.

BOWHEAD
*Oyee (Listennn), this the leftover pitorro (Puerto Rican
alcohol) talkin' nen (girl)-*

IT
But there's too many of 'em!

SHADOW GIRL
They come in twos, and there's five of us-

IT
An' they got the gun/s!

MUD
If we leave here, we leave the safety of the shade-

SHADOW GIRL
We're NOT *SAFE*.

HARPY
It's unknown territory,
It's too risky.

SHADOW GIRL
What are you surviving for if it's not to do something
differently the next time??

HARPY
We stay *here*, we stay *alive*.

IT

(stomach pain)
Oooww/www

SHADOW GIRL
It takes *one shot* to turn a war around-

HARPY
And one bullet to kill you.

SHADOW GIRL
Kill my body,
Not my spirit.

BOWHEAD
Well, then I might be more useful dead.
HaHaaa, haunt these mamahuevos (*cock suckers*) to the grave haHA!

SHADOW GIRL
We can do it alive, and the dead will help us.

MUD
So much chan/ge.

SHADOW GIRL
We'll re-station ourselves, then reach out to the living,
We can't be the only ones/left

HARPY
No one's coming to save us!

SHADOW GIRL
So, we save OURSELVES.
FIGHT or *FLIGHT*?

HARPY
This is differe-

SHADOW GIRL
(to everyone)
FIGHT or *FLIGHT*?

IT & BOWHEAD
FIGHT!!

HARPY
All we have is each other,
You want to lose that too?

SHADOW GIRL
All you're doing is keeping us aliv-

HARPY
Isn't that enou/gh??

SHADOW GIRL
NO.
It's not.
Mud?

MUD
(whispers)
Fight.

SHADOW GIRL
Harpy?

IT
Ughh!
Am I gonna bleed foreva??

SHADOW GIRL
Harpy?

HARPY
When was the first time we bled together?

MUD
Harpy, no-

HARPY
Do you remember?

SHADOW GIRL
What does this have to do wit-
...The first time...
Was when the Raptors came...
One of them cut my face.

IT
I don' remember that!

MUD
No, no, no/
We don't wan-

BOWHEAD

Mira pa'ya (Look at that).

Su cerebro chiquito recuerda/algo (Her little brain remembers something).

HARPY

And why did he cut your face?

SHADOW GIRL

I-

HARPY

Why did he cut your face?!

SHADOW GIRL

I don't rem-

HARPY

Why did he cut your face?!

MUD

It's all coming back too fast/

Too fast!

SHADOW GIRL

Because he was teasing you.

He wanted you to watch as he ripped me apa/rt.

HARPY

And where was I?

SHADOW GIRL

On the ground.

IT

Oh, YEAH!

It was jus' you an' her in the beginnin'!

I forg/ot!

BOWHEAD

Ay, que cosa (oh, what a thing)!

No, no, no/imposible (impossible)

MUD

I'm not ready to remember/those parts,

BOWHEAD

Recuerdo (I remember) -
Yo recuerdo (I remember)...
También lo olvidé (I forgot too)
¿Cómo es que no puedo/recordar (How come I can't remember)?
HARPY

And what did he do to me?

SHADOW GIRL
He cut...
Your clothes.
Off.
And cut-

HARPY
And what did I do?

MUD
It's breaking,
It's breaking,

SHADOW GIRL
You bled.
I bled.

MUD
(holds their head)
It's *break-*
It's *breaki/ng,*

SHADOW GIRL
You...
Fought and grabbed his gun-

HARPY
Whe-

SHADOW GIRL
When you saw me *d yi/ng*

MUD
No, no, no-

HARPY
And,

SHADOW GIRL
You shot him.

Multiple times.
Then shot the one on top of me.
Emptied the gun into him,
until there were no bullets left.
Then took his gun and emptied that one too.
IT
Whaaa if you did THAT-
How come we not allowed to shoot `em
With their GUNS!!??

BOWHEAD
They taught us to be grateful an' quiet in America,
That's why I moved back,
Pero here they told us/the same thing.

IT
YOU did it,
I wanna do it to/o!!

MUD
There's no medicine for this,
There's no medicine for t/his,

BOWHEAD
The white people hate immigrants,
Pero that was their story first,
They hate themselves so much,
They convinced themselves/is love,

IT
Next time the Raptors come,
I'ma take one of their guns
An' shoot em RIGHT IN THE HEAD!!
HahaA!
Like DUDUDUDU!!

HARPY
No.
You won't.

IT
I'ma soldier too!

HARPY
We're warriors!
That's different!

BOWHEAD

Los blanquitos (*The white-ies*), don' wanna be grouped togetha
Pero thas all they do,
What do you think la Guerra (*the war*) is, ah?
Que es la Guerra (*What is the war*)?

IT
They jus' tryna kill us,
It's that otha G word you tol' me about,
Ge-ge-

BOWHEAD
Genocide.

IT
Genocide!
Thas it!
Tha war,
Tha outfits,
tha guns,
tha murder!

BOWHEAD
Slap on an outfit,
An' you no longa an individual,
Funcionan con un propósito (*You become one*),
You a team no/w.

IT
DUDUDUDUDU!
DUDUDUDUDU!

MUD
Stoop!

BOWHEAD
I don' see any outfits on us.
(nods)
Warriors...
Guerre/ras (warriors)

IT
But Mud!
It would be soooo much easier,
An' then maybe we could get more of 'em
Instead of runnin' all the time
We could jus'
Shoot ALL OF 'EM AN' GET OUT/TA HEYA!!

BOWHEAD
Sistemático (*Systematic*),
NEVER the individual

IT
Maybe thas how we win!

BOWHEAD
Ay, their culture of violenc/e

IT
MAYBE THAS MY MISSION!

SHADOW GIRL
You swore never to use the guns again,
Because you felt/just like them.

HARPY
Just like them.
Do we have to be so bad
to be able to do good?

IT
But we're NOT THEM!

HARPY
It's THEIR weapon.

IT
THEIR weapon
OUR bodies!

HARPY
Lower your voice.
They come at different times in the mornin'.

IT
I could scream at the top of my lungs,
and they not gonna hear us,
watch-

BOWHEAD
Ohhhh, they hear us aright,
Thas how they know where to point their gu/ns.

MUD
Stop, stop, STOP-

IT
(sings)
Americaaaa, Americaaa
America needs to DIEEE!!

A pause.

SEE??

Something FALLS FROM THE SKY.

NO WAY,
LOOK WHAT I GOT!!

IT raises a small **BLACK HANDGUN** in the air.

A **RED DOT** appears on IT's chest. IT sees it and looks out into the audience-

HARPY
NOOO!!!

GUNSHOT.

BIRDS SQUAWK.

TIME AND SOUND SLOW DOWN as GUNSHOT-BOWHEAD FALLS-GUNSHOT-HARPY covers IT and FALLS-GUNSHOT-SHADOW GIRL FALLS. HARPY cradles IT as they bring SHADOW GIRL close, holding each other.

HARPY lets out a LONG. SILENT. SCREAM.

BONGOS (percussion instrument) play. A STRANGE SOUND ECHOES, the LIGHTS FLASH, and a RIPPLE moves across the stage.

A SPARKLY GOLDEN BEAM appears on each of the shot characters.

DARKNESS.

LIGHTS UP, everyone's up in the same positions they were in before IT was shot.

IT
(sings)
Americaaa, Americaaa
America needs to die!!

HARPY
Lucia, stop!

A beat.

IT
You remember my name?

A **RED DOT** appears on IT's and BOWHEAD's chest.

GUNSHOTS.
IT and BOWHEAD fall.

GUNSHOT.
MUD falls.

GUNSHOT.
HARPY falls.

FORCE 2 RUNS in with a LONG GUN.

FORCE 2
Tírate al suelo (*Get on the ground*)! Tírate al suelo (*Get on the ground*)! AHORA (*NOW*)! BAJATE (*DOWN*)! BAJATE (*DOWN*)!

He **SHOVES** her down, checking her for weapons.

SHADOW GIRL
Your tongue,
You're one of us-

FORCE 2
No soy como tú (*I'm not like you*)! ¿Qué es esto (*What is this*)?

He rips **HANDFULS OF PAGES** from her **BODY**.

SHADOW GIRL
Why are you/doing this??

FORCE 2
¿QUÉ ES ES/TO (*WHAT IS THIS*)?

SHADOW GIRL
Stop pulling!! It hurts/stop pulling!

FORCE 2
Terrorista (Terrorist)!

SHADOW GIRL
You look like *us*,
Why are you helping *them*?

FORCE 2
Cállate (Shut up)!

He grabs her by the hair and begins to
DRAG her offstage when they FREEZE-

LIGHTS TURN RED.

She struggles.

SHADOW GIRL
When did they recruit you?

FORCE 2
What's it to you??

SHADOW GIRL
16??
17??
Do you speak Spanish?

FORCE 2
Stop with tha fuckin' questions!!

SHADOW GIRL
Do you speak Spanish??

FORCE 2
What do you give a shit?

SHADOW GIRL
Your parents-

What about your parents??

FORCE 2

They were too busy working to take care/of me

SHADOW GIRL

You think they'd be proud of what you're doing??
About who's side you're on??

FORCE 2

I'm on whichever side pays me, PENDEJA (*BITCH*)!!

He SLAMS her on the ground-They FREEZE.

LIGHTS TURN WHITE.

FORCE 1 STALKS onstage as SHADOW GIRL
RUNS, BANGING into him.

FORCE 1

Well, well, look what we got here. You holdin' out on me tough
guy/you didn't ring me.

FORCE 2

I was just about t-

FORCE 1

Oosh she's *pret-ty*. One of the prettiest ones I've seen so far.

FORCE 1 GRABS her dress and YANKS her
close to him.

FORCE 1

Hahahah-

FORCE 2

Maybe we shouldn'-

FORCE 1

OH, C'MOONN. Look at her! *YOU stop fightin', c'mere, c'mere,*
STOP, pushin' me away-

He FORCES her to the ground.

SHADOW GIRL

Get off me!!

Get off!!

FORCE 1

There's a good girl/th/ere's a-come over here! Come join, like last time!/Grab her legs. *Yeah, you like that?/Yeah, I know, jus wanna feel you before/we give you back-*

SHADOW GIRL

Stop!!

STOPP!!

Get the fuck off me!!

Monstruos (*Monsters*)!!

Ojalá te quemes en el FUEGO (I hope you burn in the fire)!

Vete a morir (*Go die*)!

(he covers her mouth, muffled)

Vete a morir (Go die)!!

FORCE 2 slowly does what he's told as they both climb on top of her.

They FREEZE-

LIGHT TURNS BLUE.

FORCE 1 PUNCHES SHADOW GIRL.

FORCE 2

Wait, wait! Stop! I got it from here! They wanted her alive, remember? Go ahead of me, I got her.

FORCE 1

Had to do somethin', expected her/to be more of a fight.

FORCE 2

I got her. She can't run now.

FORCE 1

Don't do nothin' stupid, truck's straight ahead. Cuff her and get movin'! We finally did it, soldier! Finally killed 'em all! Once we hand her over, drinks on me back at the base, aright? On the road to that Medal of Honor, BABY!!

FORCE 1 EXITS.

FORCE 2

(to SHADOW GIRL)

Hey, hey. Can you stand? Let me wipe some blood off you-he's just excited is all, but I'm not-I'm here to help-

SHADOW GIRL almost lets him help her up-when she SPITS in his face.

RRGGHH!! I said I wasn't like him!!

They struggle as SHADOW GIRL leaps for the HANDGUN and SHOOTS FORCE 2-he FALLS.

Heavy breathing. She gets up and **POINTS THE GUN AT HIM** again, then lowers it. She faces the audience and looks at them. She **POINTS IT AT HERSELF**.

CONGAS (tall narrow drum) play. A STRANGE SOUND ECHOES, the LIGHTS FLASH, and a RIPPLE moves across the stage.

A SPARKLY GOLDEN BEAM appears on each of the shot characters.

DARKNESS.

LIGHTS UP, everyone's up in the same positions they were in before IT was shot.

IT (sings with REVERB in slow motion)
AmeRicAA, AmeRicAA,
AmeRicAA neEds tO
dieEeeEEeeEeeEeEee!!

4 GUNSHOTS. IT, MUD, BOWHEAD, and HARPY FALL one by one.

DOGS BARKING.

FORCE 1 & 2 BARGE down the aisles, **RED DOTS** dancing on SHADOW GIRL's chest.

FORCE 1
DON'T MOVE!

FORCE 2
HANDS UP! HANDS UP!

FORCE 1

We WILL SHOOT!

SHADOW GIRL moves her arm-FORCE 2
SHOOTS her shoulder.

You're not supposed to shoot 'er you fuckin' idiot!

FORCE 2
She moved!

FORCE 1
They need her alive!

FORCE 2
She's not putting her hands up!

FORCE 1
It's 'cause you fuckin' shot her!

He SHOOTS her again.

STAND DOWN, STAND DOWN!

And AGAIN.

What did we-

And AGAIN-she's BLEEDING, but still
standing.

SHADOW GIRL
Yo recuerdo (*I remember*).

A GREEN BEAM shines on her.

I remember.

FORCE 1
Muther-FUCKER!! She didn't even give us the book yet!!

FORCE 2
AGGGGHHHHHHHHH!!

FORCE 2 SHOOTS at FORCE 1 until he
FALLS.

AHHHAHAHA! There is no real book you fuckin' idiot! *She's* the
book!

FORCE 2 turns his gun at SHADOW GIRL as
SHE OPENS HER MOUTH-

SHADOW GIRL (with reverb)
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

an **ANCESTRAL SCREAM ECHOES**.
RAIN, FIRE, LIGHTENING, and a HURRICANE
CRASH down on him.

'**GAME OVER**' in BIG RED LETTERS projects
all over the stage, with the 'You
Failed' music cue.

STARK SURGICAL lights come up onstage
and the edges of the stage turn into
the four corners of a T.V. SCREEN.

Hahahahhahahaha!! Whoo!! Gives me a rush every time!

FORCE 1 & 2 get up and dust themselves
off.

The other characters remain visibly
dead.

FORCE 1
Fuck is wrong with you man?

FORCE 2
Newly built in, you can shoot anyone, even your own teammate now
in online multiplayer.

FORCE 1 & 2 climb out of the screen as
lights rise on a small section in front
of the stage where a clothing rack and
two silver chairs with PLAY STATION
CONTROLLERS appear.

They remove their helmets, face gear,
and strip off their uniforms, down to
their underwear and wife beaters. They
carefully hanging their uniforms.

FORCE 1

FUCK! We lost *again*! I can't get past that fuckin' level, she's so hard to beat! I get there and just stare at her, I don't know what I'm supposed to do, how I'm supposed to "unlock" her.

FORCE 2

Bet you thought the book was real and you forgot something, didn't you! Haha!

FORCE 1

Artistic liberty, asshole. They weren't this hard to beat in real life.

FORCE 2

Whoever was playin' Mud this time was close to one uppinn' us-

FORCE 1

All the players with their own fuckin' missions-

FORCE 2

Ten fuckin' years man! Could you believe that?

FORCE 1

Least the weather here's nice-those frogs don't shut the fuck up though. Heard they have them in Hawaii too, lucky they became a state a looong time ago-Imagine?

FORCE 2

AND we got The Dominican Republic to back do/wn

FORCE 1

Yeah, like imagine if the Virgin Islands jumped in when we were tryna take over P./R.?

FORCE 2

Nah, there's too little of 'em. Even if they rounded up the rest of Guam, Samoa, an' the Mariana Islands, they wouldn't have enou-

FORCE 1

There was like 3 million Puerto Ricans on this island, if they woulda came together, instead of-

FORCE 2

We STILL woulda BEAT 'em. Some of 'em are still in the prison-

FORCE 1

Wanna go another round?

FORCE 2

Those Puerto Ricans *killed* a lot of people. Lot of Americans. A lot of their own.

FORCE 1

We were the best on the team and now there's a whole fuckin' video game about it. What more do you want?

FORCE 2

These wastes of vaginas were the *last* guerilla group, an' they didn't wanna use our fuckin' guns against us! How fuckin' *stupid!* An' they weren't even all born ON the island. How you gonna claim an' fight for a land you never grew up in??

FORCE 1

Ever wonder about that journalist? The whole game's based off her, but we *never* found her body-

FORCE 2

Let the past stay DEAD! Now you wanna go again, we'll go again, but nothing-NOTHING, beats the real thing.

FORCE 1

You miss it?

FORCE 2

Are you fuckin' kiddin' me?

FORCE 1 & 2

Hahahaha

A **RED DOT** appears on FORCE 2's shirt.

Hahhah-

FORCE 1

What t/he, wher-

FORCE 2

Fuck, are you lookin'-

GUNSHOT. FORCE 2 FALLS.

'Taino-Arawak Welcome Song' by Joan Henry plays quietly in the background.

FORCE 1 looks for his gun.

SHADOW GIRL (VOICE OVER)

(whispers)

You wanna know the most dangerous thing about a revolution?

FORCE 1

No. No, no, NO! There's no one left, we killed all a YOU!

A **RED DOT** on his back. GUNSHOT. He FALLS.

SHADOW GIRL, all **BLOODY**, STANDS UP and comes center.

SHADOW GIRL

Hope.

HARPY STANDS.

HARPY

Hope.

BOWHEAD STANDS.

BOWHEAD

Hope.

MUD STANDS.

MUD

Hope.

IT STANDS.

IT

Hope.

COQUI'S rise along with the CICADAS, SAPOS (frogs), and GRASSHOPPERS as **PAGES** from a **HISTORY BOOK** with **BLOODY HANDPRINTS** on them, FALL FROM THE SKY.

The BEAMS of light flicker on all the characters, as the background transforms from day to night over and over again.

"*PUERTO RICO LIBREEEEE (PUERTO RICO FREEEE)!!!*" and "*THEY'RE COMING FOR US!!*" plays DISTORTED under the OVERLAPPING NEWS clips of RIOTS, POLICE SIRENS, SOLDIERS FIRING AT CIVILIANS, HURRICANES, the BURNING OF FORESTS, and an ATOMIC BOMB are PROJECTED. BOMBA MUSIC rises until it drowns out the noise as the image of the DANCING WOMAN appears, MULTIPLYING ON THE WALLS, dancing FEROCIOUSLY, dancing like her life depends on it, dancing until-

DARKNESS.

'**PLAY AGAIN?**' appears in red letters across the stage.

BLACKOUT

LIGHTS UP for actor bows as a BIG BLACK PUERTO RICAN FLAG unravels from the ceiling.

END OF PLAY