

SCORPIO

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"Do not fall in love with people like me.

I will take you to museums,

and parks,

and monuments,

and kiss you in every beautiful place,

so that you can never go back to them without tasting me like blood in
your mouth.

I will destroy you in the most beautiful way possible. and when I leave

you will finally understand, why storms are named after people."

- caitlyn siehl

who are these astrological fuckers?

*all characters are black and are familiar with african american vernacular english. i encourage gender manipulation. lines may be changed to reflect that. remember. a relationship is just how one person relates to another. thus changing gender is changing relationship dynamics. a relationship is nothing but dynamic. please. play away.

JUDA: the cancer. sensitive, tender, intense, a little moody. communicates with feeling. means what they say. reflective. lover, but doesn't like to admit it. perceptive and discerning. lucid. don't call them boy. loves adeste with all their heart. can love for the both of them. gets confused sometimes.

ADESTE: the scorpio. very sensitive. guarded. queen of the damned. can see through bullshit, so don't even try. a lot of people try. very practiced. very powerful. very lonely. will destroy a debate. passionate. intriguing and intimidating. and intense. not to JUDA. will die for love, will kill for love. only if you're worthy. will verbally cut you.

HONORIS: JUDA's personified moon/mind/caution. the lunar aquarius. observant. willful. independent. hot-headed. has a tendency to overlook their own behavior, but very quick to notice others. believes messy emotions are very unappealing. sensitive to criticism, but will criticize others to death. the thinker. leans away from pleasure. leans into masculine qualities.

ESTOTE: JUDA's personified rising/heart/passion. the scorpio ascendent. always genuine. focuses their energy in their hands. sensitive to power dynamics. yielding and soft. the feeler. leans into *pleasure* and the feminine qualities within themselves.

KARTER: the gemini. feels lost if not in a relationship. intimacy is as essential as water. everything sounds better in their head, but has an easy-going charm. faithful *in love*. serial monogamist. when irritated or prompted, will border on verbal diarrhea. sensitive to guilt.

ACT i: Venus Looms

ADESTE's home. Slightly tinted BLOOD RED in lighting. The doorbell rings. Adeste goes to answer it and looks through the keyhole. She opens the door.

ADESTE

You're late.

KARTER

Can I smoke in here?

ADESTE

You fucking pothead. Out the window.

KARTER

Cannabis connoisseur. Thanks. Also, I forgot the play.

ADESTE

Goofy. We can share scripts.

KARTER

Can I borrow your lighter?

ADESTE

We should rehearse first.

KARTER

Never mind. I found mine.

ADESTE

Out the window, Karter. My neighbors trip.

KARTER

Yeah, yeah. Your grinder?

ADESTE

Use your hands.

KARTER

That takes longer.

ADESTE

Well, maybe you should smoke later then?

KARTER

I'll smoke you out.

ADESTE

Pass me the bowl. I'll pack.

KARTER

Yeah, baby.

ADESTE

Your shit smells.

KARTER

Dank?

ADESTE

Funny.

KARTER

Bubble kush. I've been buying off of Mary lately.

ADESTE

I hate Mary. What happened to Freddy from 23rd?

KARTER

Freddy's on probation. He won't sell. Not to me anyway.

ADESTE

Huh.

KARTER

Yeah.

ADESTE

I picked up from him the other day.

KARTER

Get the fuck outta here. He told me he was outta business.

ADESTE

For geminis maybe.

KARTER

Dealers don't care about horoscopes.

ADESTE

Sounds like something a gemini would say.

KARTER

What does that mean? I ain't star savvy like you.

ADESTE

That's too bad.

KARTER

Nah, tell me something starry.

ADESTE

Venus, the planet of pleasure, luxury, and love is currently in retrograde. This is when a planet appears to be spinning backwards, but is actually the earth completing its cycle around the sun faster than other planets outside of the earth's orbit. A planet going into retrograde, in terms of us, and our spiritual development, is a time where we reflect and learn important lessons that are supposed to bring us to our higher frequency dynamic.

Also. Venus is in Scorpio.

KARTER

Okay. What does that mean?

ADESTE

That we're fucked. For about 6 to 8 weeks that is.

KARTER

But what do you think Venus has to teach us?

ADESTE

Mercy. Your lighter is jinky.

KARTER

Can I use yours? Look at my thumb.

KARTER proudly displays their blackened, burnt thumb.

ADESTE

I don't wanna see all that.

KARTER

It's from the lighter.

ADESTE

I'm serious, get that from my face.

KARTER

It's like the movie we saw.

ADESTE

That's your own damn fault. You can take the first hit.

Blow all of it out the window.

The window, Karter. Don't be hard headed.

They pass the bowl back and forth, taking hits.

ADESTE

Does it hurt?

KARTER

Not anymore. It's from last week.

ADESTE

Oh.

KARTER

Yeah, Sunday.

ADESTE

That movie was shit anyway. Not really Oscar material.

KARTER

Yeah, cause the Academy is really good at deciding merit right?

ADESTE

You know what I mean.

KARTER

And you know what I mean. Of course it wasn't "Oscar" material. The two protags were black as fuck.

ADESTE

I was thinking more story wise. Sure, the cinematography is great, but I'm sorry. Two hours of that is such bull, man. "Oh! Look at this flower! Now look at this glass of wine! Soooo artsy".

This was basically Instagram: The Movie.

KARTER

It's called symbolism.

ADESTE

Nah, it's called *horse shit*.

KARTER

Okay, what about the dude's thumb? I thought that it was crazy smart. Cause, you know. Symbols. Film stuff.

ADESTE

Yeah, sure. Very "Oh woe is me". The dude mutilates his thumb because he feels guilty about cheating on his girl.

Reminded me of Da Vinci Code a little.

KARTER

Why's that?

ADESTE

Cause I *hated* that movie too. Like bruh, it's not that hard to not cheat. Just, I dunno, just don't stick your dick in other places. But, hey, he's a guy. For 'em, it's like their brains turn off when their dicks turn on.

KARTER

Maybe he was lonely.

ADESTE

Maybe he was stupid. Maybe ol' dude was being selfish too.

KARTER

Well, I dunno. Maybe it's hard being committed to someone, and not being with 'em too? You know, like physically. Like me and Auveen.

Man. I only see her in the Summer now.

ADESTE

You're holding the bowl again.

KARTER

Sorry, here.

ADESTE

What helps?

KARTER

Smoking, obviously. It's something to do. I guess, company too?

This is alright.

ADESTE

Do you ever feel alone?

KARTER

Not as much now. I like hanging with you. Do you?

ADESTE

How's Auveen?

KARTER

She's fine. She's always fine. How's Junebus?

ADESTE

Juda.

KARTER

Whatever.

ADESTE

It's Juda.

KARTER

What are you doing?

ADESTE

Most people don't get mad when you bring up their girlfriend.

KARTER

Are you testing me?

ADESTE

Are you mad?

KARTER

Not yet.

ADESTE

Then you haven't failed.

KARTER

Yet?

ADESTE

Let's keep going. You only seem to come around me when you're lonely.
Did you know that?

KARTER

That's not true.

ADESTE

It's not a lie either.

KARTER

What's with the accusations today?

ADESTE

I exist outside your loneliness.

KARTER

I wasn't lonely on Sunday.

ADESTE

You were drunk on Sunday.

KARTER

So were you.

ADESTE

That's what happens when you drink. You get drunk.

KARTER

No, lonely.

ADESTE

Where's your script?

KARTER

I forgot it.

ADESTE

Let's share.

KARTER

A kiss?

ADESTE

The script.

KARTER

Should we really get that close again?

ADESTE

What do you want?

KARTER

A kiss.

ADESTE

And then?

KARTER

Another one.

ADESTE

I'd rather rewatch Instagram: The Movie.

KARTER

I don't only come around when I'm lonely.

ADESTE

Sure.

KARTER

I enjoy your company.

ADESTE

I was looking for a good distraction.

KARTER

We found it.

ADESTE

So I'm your distraction too?

KARTER

I'm yours?

She goes to the bowl, takes a hit, and tries to pass it to KARTER.

KARTER looks at the bowl, but doesn't take it.

KARTER

I'm confused.

ADESTE

Yeah. Okay.

KARTER

Is that all you're gonna say?

ADESTE

I'm just not sure what you expected to happen. So, I'm not sure how to respond.

KARTER

Not this.

ADESTE

No, seriously. What did you expect? I wanna know.

Actually, let's walk through it together, so you see what I see. Aht.

AHT. Don't interrupt.

You come in here, stand on your *soapbox*, woo me, I forget about Juda and your Auveen just somehow just vanishes from existence?

Is that *your* offering? A half formed afterthought?

I don't think you thought this through at all.

KARTER

Of course I did. I rehearsed.

ADESTE

In your head.

KARTER

In my head.

ADESTE

I'm getting bored, Gemini.

KARTER

All I do is think of her.

ADESTE

Then why are you here?

KARTER

Because that's the problem.

ADESTE

And I'm the solution?

KARTER

Is that a problem?

ADESTE

It's not a solution.

KARTER

What is?

ADESTE

When did you break up with Auveen?

KARTER

I didn't.

ADESTE

But you did let her know how you were feeling at least?

KARTER

Can you pass the bowl, please?

ADESTE

In a minute.

She smokes herself and takes a long deep hit, but keeps the bowl.

Alright. What were you saying? Oh Right.

So how does Auveen feel about your decline of passion?

KARTER

She doesn't know.

ADESTE

Pack this again for me.

He obeys.

"She doesn't know".

Interesting, interesting, interesting.

KARTER

I'm sorry.

ADESTE

If I said no today, what would you do tomorrow?

KARTER

I'll try again.

ADESTE

But what would you do?

KARTER

Something.

ADESTE

Something isn't enough. You know what I think?

KARTER

Well..

ADESTE

I said not to interrupt.

KARTER

C'mon!

ADESTE

And I won't repeat myself. I think you would go back Auveen. You know why?

KARTER

Is that rhetorical?

ADESTE

Ding, ding, ding.

I think you love her.

I honestly do think you love her.

That's not a bad thing though.

Not to me.

KARTER

Love isn't the issue here.

ADESTE

I never said it was.

KARTER

It's not enough. It's never enough.

ADESTE

What do you mean?

KARTER

I mean, what's the point? I wasn't kidding when I said I do nothing but think of Auveen. Me and Auveen used to do this all the time too. We would just hang out and chill and smoke together nearly everyday. And you know what really sucks? The person who you want to see the most lives a fuckton of miles away from you, you know. Sure, you can skype, facetime, or whatever, but I'm tired of living my relationship

through a computer screen. And sometimes I feel ashamed because I do still really love her, but my mind starts to wander and I dunno. I dunno. I mean, really, what's the point? What's the point of love when you still wake up feeling like crap? Like why am I putting all this effort in and I still feel this way? That's not how it's supposed to go. It fucking blows.

(BEAT.)

Everywhere I go, I see these couples, right? And they're always so fucking happy. Sometimes they're holding hands, sometimes the dude is grabbing his girl from behind, and other times they're just going at it and sucking each other's faces off. Real cutsie, right? I see these couples and I just freak. I just wanna tear 'em apart and just fight them and yell in their stupid cutsie faces, "You don't deserve this!" And this isn't just a "high" thought, I know it because I think about this sober too. But then I surprised myself because I'm not sure when I got so bitter, but then Sunday happened and I'm smiling again. I'm smiling. I got the heat back in my chest, and, and..

You remind me so much of her.

ADESTE

But I'm not her.

KARTER

No.

ADESTE.

I'm me.

KARTER

Yeah.

ADESTE

So I ain't your stand-in. Or *temp*. I couldn't be if I wanted to.

KARTER

Would you ever want to?

ADESTE

Hm, If you were worthy. But that's not the case here.

KARTER

The pink line is gonna stop running soon.

ADESTE

You should head out then.

KARTER

We never rehearsed.

ADESTE

Nope. I'm sure we'll do fine. Acting is easy as hell. I act like I like you all the time.

KARTER

Why do you cut so deep?

ADESTE

I sharpen my knives everyday. What? You're staring.

KARTER

What's he like?

ADESTE

Who?

KARTER

The worthy one. Juda.

ADESTE

I never said they were either.

KARTER

I can't imagine who else could be.

ADESTE

We broke up last Sunday.

KARTER

Is that so?

ADESTE

Monogamy wasn't my thing.

KARTER

Huh. Okay, then.

ADESTE

Before you go, I have a first aid kit in my bathroom. I could bandage your thumb.

KARTER

I'm good. It doesn't hurt as much as before.

ADESTE

If you say so. I'll see you later then.

KARTER

See ya.

ADESTE

Wait.

She kisses him. They hold for a moment, and break away from each other.

ADESTE

No more Sundays.

KARTER nods and kisses her forehead.

KARTER

No more Sundays.

He exits. ADESTE goes to her window and dumps out the ash.

ADESTE

Another day, another goofy.

As she does this, the lights come down. Another day. Another day. ADESTE's back, washed in a BLOOD light, is the last thing we see.

ACT ii: Venus Rises

JUDA's close quarters room. Everything is within proximity / an arm's length away. The bed takes up most of the space. Everything is intimate in space. Three west side folks and a blunt. The complete world. Nigga beats play in the background. everything is slightly tinted in GOLD lighting wise. JUDA is completely focused on rolling a blunt. This is rocket science. HONORIS and ESTOTE crowd around JUDA

HONORIS

This isn't rocket science, bro.

JUDA

This is definitely rocket science. We makin' to Pluto with this one!

HONORIS

Oh you tryin' to take off for real, for real!

JUDA

`Xactly!

ESTOTE

Don't be putting that nature shit in though. I don't want no Witchy ass Blunt.

JUDA

It's weed!

ESTOTE

And?

JUDA

And rose petals for texture, mullein for your lungs, mugwort for your dreams...

HONORIS

Nigga wanna be Chef-R-Keef so bad.

ESTOTE

What the fuck is you doing!

JUDA

It's just lavender!

HONORIS

Just seal it.

ESTOTE

All these extra ass ingredients. I could've been rolled up in half the time!

JUDA

Why don't you then?

ESTOTE

Aight move over.

JUDA

Boy if you don't back the fuck up.

ESTOTE

Did you just assume my gender, negro?

JUDA

Nah, I just assumed ya ass kicking for that comment. I'd rather be a *he/they* than a *heathen* like you.

HONORIS

Chill, Judith Butler. Can y'all assume that blunt pretty please.

JUDA

Can you assume ya breath from my face. Damn!

ESTOTE

Got ya ass!

HONORIS

Got these nuts in your mouth.

ESTOTE

Why does it always gotta come to your nuts?

HONORIS

Cause these nuts always come. Whatchu mean?

ESTOTE

Seek Jesus and get some clarity.

HONORIS

I hate any clarity that isn't post nut.

JUDA

This ain't helping.

ESTOTE

Cause you ain't rolling! Move!

JUDA

Let an artist art bro.

HONORIS

I thought this was a science?

JUDA

It IS a science. And an art form. Either way, it's a process.

HONORIS

So what's the process of me getting high soon?

JUDA

You and you both shutting the FUCK up. I can't work under these conditions.

ESTOTE

You hate us now?

JUDA

To the fucking core.

HONORIS

Ah, they really do love us.

ESTOTE

They really, really do.

JUDA

I really, really don't. But I do love this.

JUDA holds up their Magnum Opus. A completed blunt. The nigga beats playing in the background transitions into a Choir. A trap Choir. Why have the Gods blessed us like this?

HONORIS

Damn.

ESTOTE

Damn, daddy.

JUDA

Aight. Who wants to break bread first?

ESTOTE

Without saying grace?!

JUDA

I never said that. Honoris.

HONORIS

Though I walk in the valley of sobriety, I shall fear no cannabis.

Y'all better hold my hands, what you think this is?

JUDA and ESTOTE both huddle in a prayer circle with HONORIS and hold hands. They bow their heads / close their eyes. This is not a joke.

Our gender non-conforming **Parent**, who art in **heaven**, hallowed be ya name. Ya kingdom come, ya blunt be smoked, on earth as it is, hopefully, in **heaven**. Give us this keef, our daily bread, if the homies got it like that, and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors, except white people cause they owe us a big fucking debt, not gon' lie. And lead us not into fucking white women, but deliver us from evil. Like white women.

JUDA

So it's a little different today I see.

ESTOTE

It was one time.

HONORIS

Amen, amen, amen.

ESTOTE

Cut them some slack.

HONORIS

One time too many.

JUDA

Don't start.

ESTOTE

Nah, nah, nah, nah they starting mess. I'm cleaning up. I got chu.

JUDA

I mean both y'all.

HONORIS

I ain't the one sinning.

JUDA

God don't like ugly.

HONORIS

Good thing I'ma handsome mothafucka.

HONORIS takes a hit of the blunt and places it in the window seal.

It falls out the cracked window but HONORIS doesn't notice.

ESTOTE

Fucking ain't sinning.

HONORIS

What Denomination you from?

JUDA

What you even saying?

ESTOTE

I dunno! I just wanna smoke! Y'all wanna politic! C'mon mane. It ain't that deep. Where's the blunt?

HONORIS

On the contrary. Everything's political. Especially your bedroom.

ESTOTE

This about Juda fucking some beckys now? But seriously, that blunt??

HONORIS

Ew.

JUDA

Who. Do. You. Think. You. Are? And one white girl. One. Not plural.

ESTOTE

Don't shame them! Really folks, I can't find it.

JUDA

Yeah, don't shame me. I'm sensitive.

ESTOTE

(Still searching) They sensitive as HELL.

JUDA

I got needs!

ESTOTE

(looking under the bed) They needy as FUCK.

HONORIS

It's like Dumb and Dumber when y'all get together, I swear.

JUDA

Ah, don't be like that.

HONORIS

Say it then.

JUDA

Don't be dramatic.

HONORIS

Ooo, look at you. Sounding like Adeste. "Don't be dramatic". Say *it*.

JUDA

I am my own person. But "I love and appreciate you and everything you do."

HONORIS

Then why you hanging around Adeste again? And?

JUDA

"You are the best Rising sign a black person like me could ask for."
But mind your business.

ESTOTE

(Stops looking) AYO????

HONORIS

Did you just call me your *rising* sign?

ESTOTE

Do my ears fucking deceive me?

JUDA

No, I didn't?

ESTOTE

Ya you did.

JUDA

I know who's who! You got me all riled and confused and shit.

HONORIS

Okay then. Who am I?

JUDA

You're my Moon. Obviously. My lovely lovely, *opinionated*, Aquarius Moon. You the one that keeps me up at night being all existential and crisis-y and stuff.

HONORIS

Society is deteriorating right before our very eyes.

ESTOTE

Me?

JUDA

You're my Rising. Duh. My *kick ass* Scorpio Rising! You be attracting and scaring the hoes!

ESTOTE

No one will ever understand the depths of my soul.

ESTOTE and JUDA high five.

HONORIS

Alright, here's the game winning question. We're here for...?

JUDA

I'm bored. Why we doing this?

HONORIS

Cause you being a goofy. And I'm Jiminy fucking Cricket.

JUDA

Why you trippin for, H?

HONORIS

I ain't the one trippin. You just being dumb. Again!

JUDA

Okay, man.

HONORIS

I hate dumb.

JUDA

I get it.

ESTOTE

Chill.

HONORIS

No, honestly.

JUDA

I'm actually pretty fucking smart.

HONORIS

I couldn't tell.

JUDA

Excuse me?

HONORIS

Einstein invented the atom bomb.

JUDA

What that gotta do with me?

HONORIS

Smart people do dumb things.

ESTOTE

First of all, that was fucking Oppenheimer. Read a book without pictures for once!

HONORIS

IT'S MANGA.

ESTOTE

Second! You're being too hard!

HONORIS

I guess it takes a village! But why we pretending Adeste is good for this boy?

JUDA

Call me boy one more time.

HONORIS

We know how they get when she comes around.

JUDA

Did you hear me?

HONORIS

I'm just saying.

JUDA

I don't care what you're saying.

HONORIS

You never do.

JUDA

That's not true.

ESTOTE

You're being an asshole.

HONORIS

And you're being complacent.

JUDA

They ain't my mama.

HONORIS

But they is your Rising.

JUDA

That's just personality stuff.

HONORIS

Don't be foolish. It's you.

JUDA

Whatever.

HONORIS

We're responsible for you.

JUDA

I'm responsible for myself!

ESTOTE

Adeste makes him happy.

JUDA

Hey. I never said that.

ESTOTE

She makes you unhappy?

JUDA

It's... complicated. I don't know what I want.

HONORIS

Or what you need. Why you doing all this?

JUDA

I'm not doing ALL anything. Who do you think you are?

HONORIS

Nigga I'm YOU.

JUDA

Get outta my face.

ESTOTE

Folks!

HONORIS

I just wanna know why!

ESTOTE

FOLKS.

JUDA

Get. Out. Of. My. Face.

ESTOTE

Where's the FUCKING blunt???!!

JUDA & HONORIS

Huh?

Stillness. Where's the fucking blunt?

ESTOTE

Ah, now nobody knows nothing. Okay. Okay! I'm just crazy then! How do you lose a WHOLE BLUNT? Weed doesn't grow on trees!

Wait... lemme think.

JUDA begins to grab their jacket from the closet. ESTOTE begins looking for the blunt around the room.

JUDA

I'm going to the corner store. I'm outta swishers.

HONORIS

Grow up and get the dutches.

JUDA

They don't come in Natural Silver.

HONORIS

Get the Games then. They have Diamond.

ESTOTE

You sure you wanna go now? It's late.

JUDE

You wanna smoke papers?

ESTOTE

Save the trees.

HONORIS

The gas station is closer.

ESTOTE

Could you get me a Honey Bun?

JUDA

Glazed or cream?

ESTOTE

Glazed please.

JUDA

Sure thing.

HONORIS

And an Arizona?

JUDA

Y'all hear something?

HONORIS

This nigga.

ESTOTE

Can I get a Honey Bun and an Arizona?

JUDA

Fo sho.

JUDA makes their way to leave.

ESTOTE

You should take your one hitter. The dugout too.

JUDA

In my pocket.

ESTOTE

The pipe clean?

JUDA

Rarely.

ESTOTE

You need a lighter?

JUDA

Nah.

ESTOTE

You can borrow my torch.

JUDA

I don't wanna waste your butane.

ESTOTE

Don't worry about that. Your phone charged?

JUDA

65%.

ESTOTE

That's not a lot.

JUDA

It's more than fifty. H?

HONORIS

What?

JUDA

I know what I'm doing.

JUDA exits.

HONORIS
Liar.

ESTOTE
So what's up?

HONORIS
What?

ESTOTE
Why are you so incendiary tonight?

HONORIS
Where's the fucking blunt?

ESTOTE
Honoris.

HONORIS
Why would I trust you? You're a Scorpio.

ESTOTE
That's my line, Aquarius.

HONORIS
Can you feel it?

ESTOTE
You're talking to a water sign. There's not a thing I can't feel.

HONORIS
Venus is in Retrograde again.

ESTOTE
And in Scorpio too.

HONORIS
Juda's angry.

ESTOTE
And in love.

HONORIS
Whatever.

ESTOTE
You don't like that.

HONORIS
I'm sure you do.

ESTOTE
Don't assume you know me.

HONORIS
You're the great unknowable, we get it. I remember everything though.

ESTOTE
I do too.

HONORIS
You choose what to remember. Where's the blunt?

ESTOTE
I don't know. You had it last.

HONORIS
I know. I fucked up. I need to smoke.

ESTOTE
You need to soothe.

HONORIS
You need to shut up and help me. I can't think this sober. Starting to hear my own thoughts.

ESTOTE
Check the window seal. Like in the actual crevice thing.

HONORIS does

HONORIS
Nothing.

ESTOTE
The floor?

HONORIS

I ain't smoking a dust blunt. Lungs fucked up 'nuff already.

ESTOTE

H.

HONORIS

Why do you keep saying my name?

ESTOTE

I remember too. I was there.

HONORIS

But you wanna pretend nothing happened.

ESTOTE

I'm not pretending. I'm looking at the now. Not the before.

HONORIS

And how is now different from before?

ESTOTE

Now he knows better.

HONORIS

But will they do better?

...

ESTOTE

Don't you remember?

HONORIS

More than I want to.

ESTOTE

Her skin?

HONORIS

Yeah.

ESTOTE

Her lips?

HONORIS
Yeah.

ESTOTE
Her palms?

HONORIS
Yeah.

ESTOTE
Her love?

HONORIS doesn't answer

ESTOTE
You don't miss that?

HONORIS
I don't know what love is.

ESTOTE
Shouldn't we find out?

HONORIS
No.

ESTOTE
No?

HONORIS
I'd rather drink from a dry well than a poisoned one. Love isn't a feeling.

ESTOTE
So you do know what love is.

HONORIS.
I know what it isn't. Don't you remember the fights?

ESTOTE
Yes.

HONORIS
The yelling?

ESTOTE

Yes.

HONORIS

"Don't be dramatic", "You're being too sensitive", "You're in your feelings", "I don't regret cheating on you at all." She said that directly to our face. Remember that?

ESTOTE

It's hard to forget.

HONORIS

What the fuck then!

ESTOTE

We miss her.

HONORIS

You miss fucking her.

ESTOTE

So do you. And is there a difference? Two things can be true at the same time.

HONORIS

Like you being a goofy and a fool?

ESTOTE

This time there will be. Venus in Scorpio demands it.

HONORIS

I'm tired of feeling this way, E!

ESTOTE

What way?

HONORIS

Like an insect in love with a fly trap. It's maddening. Love vs Lust. And it's always been like this, every since we were kiddies. We've always been attracted to the taboo. To sex. We knew what sex was before we even knew what love was! Remember? At night, we would sneak to watch HBO After Dark.

ESTOTE

And American Pie.

HONORIS

At least that one scene.

ESTOTE

What scene?

HONORIS

THAT scene. We had no idea what masturbating, climaxing, or ejaculating was, but we knew we needed release.

ESTOTE

Freak body ass.

HONORIS

We needed to indulge. Damn. Now that I think about it, growing up Christian is learning to live with shame for your desires. You're supposed to be holy and light. And bland. But what's a Christian that likes to fuck?

ESTOTE

A sinner.

HONORIS

Or a sinner-in-waiting. You're always one step away from Hell, no matter how Heaven you are. The skin, or rather, the "flesh", is unholy. The physical is a distraction from God. Everything is a distraction from God! One born in sin, can never be holy. But I never got that. The sacrifice was already given, so the sin should already be forgiven too. But that's the open secret. There is no forgiveness, not really. We're Christians on Sundays, but heathens on Mondays. Is it bad to want? Depends on *what* you want! I'm not saved because I never needed rescuing. I needed acceptance.

So no fucking for you! No fucking for anybody. You can make love, but you can't fuck. You're a reflection of the divine, but you can never look in the mirror. You can never learn your body even though you gotta wear it everyday. Gotta bear it everyday. Even though your flesh can never be cast away. But if we could, we'd abandon our skin in a heartbeat. So instead, we abandon our desires. We banish the part of us that *craves*. And then there's you Scorpios. You dark beings who

love and lust. I will never understand how you folks can do that. Be freed from shame. Be liberated from your desires.

ESTOTE

So you admit you're still in love.

HONORIS

"So you admit". All you Scorpios pretend like everybody is on trial. Wanna expose everybody but yourself. Makes me sick. Did you hear me? I'm not like you!

ESTOTE

Yes you are. We live in the same body.

HONORIS

But we have different desires. Unlike you, I can detach from the destructive ones.

ESTOTE

Love isn't destruction.

HONORIS

But loving her is. Why don't you understand that? I'm the moon! The emotions! But like Juda and the blunt, you're always adding extra shit that don't need to be there. Sometimes I think I'm the outsider in this body. I can't take the repetition.

ESTOTE

Do we really repeat?

HONORIS

We reset. And then off we go. Another fight, another memory. Another cycle.

ESTOTE

Okay.

I know it's crazy.

But I really don't think that's the worst thing in the world.

To repeat.

Cause repetition in love is the act of returning and leaving.

We've both been in and out of love. We know that.

If repetition is the act of making meaning

Then can repetition also be the act of making meaning, meaningless?

The more I say the physical word "Repetition", the less it means
The more I say "Repetition", the more it means too. It works both
ways.

Love is the amalgamation of pursuing *and* escaping meaning, Honoris.

So, let the retrograde do its work. The only way out is through! Ask
any Scorpio.

HONORIS
Whatever man I'm not high enough for this.

ESTOTE
Love and Trust go hand in hand.

HONORIS
A Scorpio talking about Trust? You're not yourself tonight.

ESTOTE
I'm *more* of myself tonight. More than anything, we Scorpios seek
evolution through death. And I feel it. Something good is coming. A
rebirth maybe. True death is everything that doesn't transform. They
need to go through it. Die, and come back. As many times as needed.

HONORIS
You Scorpios love your suffering.

ESTOTE
"Only fools become wise".

HONORIS
What are you planning?

ESTOTE
You suspect a Scorpio to reveal their secrets? Good luck with that.

HONORIS
I suppose not.

ESTOTE
Don't worry. We're just getting started.

*JUDA enters with the Honey Bun, the Arizona, and a packet of blunt
wraps. They toss the Honey Bun to ESTOTE & hands the Arizona to
HONORIS*

JUDA
Don't say I never did anything for you.

HONORIS

Come here you fucking idiot.

HONORIS pulls JUDA in a hug.

JUDA

Whhhhhhhhhhy?

HONORIS

Cause I want you to know what true love is.

JUDA

It's just an Arizona.

HONORIS

And you're just an idiot.

ESTOTE nuzzles in between HONORIS and JUDA and joins their hug.

The three folks huddle together in a circle. All is right with them, so all is right with the world. The GOLD light is slowly joined by RED lighting as the set changes. As this happens, JUDA speaks.

JUDA

Where's my fucking blunt?

ACT iii: Venus Falls

JUDA is positioned on ADESTE's living room floor in between her legs. everything is tinted in variation of RED and GOLD lighting wise. ADESTE is sitting on her couch. All around them lies an assortment of hair products for black people and kinky hair. Also around them are paraphernalia and tools for smoking. Grinders, Papers, One hitters, the works. ADESTE retightens JUDA's locks as she talks. She is in media res of a story..

ADESTE

And I'm just doing this fat, fat line of coke off of their porch right, and my cop comes straight up to me and says "That's hot".

JUDA

Don't say he's your cop, say he's your boy or something else, man.

ADESTE

But they are my cop. And what does it matter if they are though?

The sex will still go the same way.

JUDA

And what way is that?

ADESTE

I dunno, probably them cumming quick or something. You know, the usual.

JUDA

Nah, he's just 12.

ADESTE

Yeah, 12 that'll let me do blow off their porch.

JUDA

You can do blow off my porch anytime.

ADESTE

It's not the same.

JUDA

How so?

ADESTE

Because you know we can't have sex. You too sensitive.

JUDA
Hey fuck you, buddy.

ADESTE
Fuck you!

JUDA
But don't fuck cops though.

ADESTE
I can fuck who I want.

JUDA
Yo, what color is this brother anyway?

ADESTE
How do you know he's a he?

JUDA
Nigga-tuition.

ADESTE
Nigga, you know how dumb you sound right now?

JUDA
I sound right as hell. I bet he white as hell too.

As white as that blow you be doing on the daily

ADESTE tugs on JUDA's locks again which causes JUDA to cry out in sudden, irritated pain.

JUDA
WHAT THE FUCK.

ADESTE
I can make your ends tighter if you don't shut the fuck up.

JUDA
You literally got me by the balls.

ADESTE
Well, technically it's your hair.
JUDA mocks her

JUDA
Well, technically it's your hair.

ADESTE

Oh, yes. I just love it when you do that.

ADESTE tugs and JUDA winces again

JUDA

Oh, yes. I just love it when you fuck oppressors.

ADESTE

Didn't you fuck a white girl the other day?

JUDA

That's different.

ADESTE

Boy, HOW?

JUDA

She's biracial.

ADESTE

What's she mixed with? White with black?

JUDA

Italian with Irish.

ADESTE

WHITE WITH WHITE?

JUDA

At least she don't kill black folks at alarming rates.

ADESTE

Looks like somebody failed history.

JUDA

Ass is ass.

ADESTE

Oh *now* ass is ass? So it don't matter who you stick your dick inside of *now*?

JUDA

Even I got standards.

ADESTE

And I don't?

JUDA

I didn't say that.

ADESTE

But you're implying that. I should just leave you like this, boy.

JUDA

Ah, don't be like that. C'mon, Adeste, I still got all this new growth on my head.

ADESTE

Your Asshole is showing.

JUDA

See, this is the real reason why we can't fuck again. Who's sensitive now?

ADESTE

Nah, the real reason is your judgemental ass and your dry ass lips. See how much pussy you get before you realize carmex ain't never just an option.

But what I need you for? I already got several you's to keep me company.

JUDA

You're fucking with me?

ADESTE

On the contrary. You're gonna need to stop squirming.

JUDA

It fucking hurts. What happened to using the spray bottle?

ADESTE

I don't think you were ever this tender headed before.

JUDA

You sound like my mama.

ADESTE

But, alas, I am indeed not your mama.

JUDA

Can we take a break soon then?

ADESTE

I really don't have all day to be fucking with you.

JUDA

Why? What you got after this?

ADESTE

Let me rephrase: I don't wanna be fucking with you all day.

JUDA

Damn, just for like five? My head is throbbing and I gotta take a piss.

ADESTE

Alright, Mr. Standards. Get up.

JUDA remains seated in between her legs.

ADESTE

What?

JUDA

You still on that?

ADESTE

You still fuck white girls?

JUDA

You still fuck pigs?

ADESTE

And if he wasn't you'd still find some other reason to be upset. But Becky in your bedroom and you don't mind.

JUDA

Just say you like to fuck cops and go. I got so many judgmental friends, I swear man.

ADESTE

Good thing I ain't your friend either.

JUDA

Oh. Then what are we?

ADESTE

Two horny young adults.

JUDA

But to each other?

ADESTE

Two horny young adults. Don't start.

JUDA

I ain't doing nothing.

ADESTE

Your Cancer is showing.

JUDA

I'm not in my feelings.

ADESTE

We'll see. Are you gonna fuck me soon?

JUDA

I thought you didn't have all day.

ADESTE

I don't.

JUDA

I don't fuck cop fuckers.

ADESTE

I knew you were in your feelings. And yes you do.

JUDA

What?

ADESTE

You've been fucking cop fuckers.

JUDA

Did you already fuck this dude?

ADESTE

A little.

JUDA

What do you mean by 'a little'?

ADESTE

A lot.

JUDA

What?

ADESTE

I fucked him, Juda.

JUDA

What did you do?

ADESTE

Don't get jealous.

JUDA

Tell me.

ADESTE

Why should I, negro?

JUDA

I'll eat you out for fifteen minutes.

ADESTE

Thirty.

JUDA

Fifteen.

ADESTE tugs on JUDA's locks again, but this time in a more intimate, familiar way. She leans down and kisses on JUDA's ears gently.

ADESTE

Twenty-five. And you can't cum first.

JUDA

Then don't be taking all day to cum, woman. But who said I was going to fuck you by the way?

ADESTE

You said so. Don't act like you can't do your own hair.

JUDA

Come here.

ADESTE

So you are gonna fuck me?

JUDA

Nope.

ADESTE

He laid me down.

JUDA
Details.

ADESTE
I had my legs wrapped around him, and we were making out on his couch.

JUDA is turned on by this.

JUDA
And then what?

ADESTE
He started kissing my neck, and I undid his belt.

JUDA
Where were his hands?

ADESTE
Gripping my waist.
JUDA imitates the cops actions with ADESTE on the couch

But gently. They traveled too.

*JUDA's hands explore her skin. This is indeed an exploration, but not
an uncharted one.*

Gently. *Like this.*

I like your hands the best.
JUDA kisses the palms of ADESTE.

JUDA
You were always a church to me.

ADESTE
What does that mean?

JUDA
I wouldn't mind worshiping you after church hours.

ADESTE
Then wouldn't that make me a God?

JUDA
A God of Shame maybe.

ADESTE
They never kiss my palms.

pause.

JUDA
Your Scorpio is showing.

ADESTE
Well look at that. So is your dick imprint.

JUDA
Don't look at Hickory.

ADESTE
Then what can I do?

JUDA
Depends.

ADESTE
Depends on what?

JUDA
You like me now?

ADESTE
I've never liked you.

JUDA
Don't be mean.

ADESTE
Then don't be a tease. Come here.

Oh. I see.

You must hate me.

JUDA
Why do you say that?

ADESTE
I can tell.

JUDA
That's not a reason.

ADESTE
I never worked this hard for a nut, not from a boy.

JUDA
Cause I ain't a boy.

ADESTE

Don't be dramatic.

JUDA

You almost had me. You really, really did.

ADESTE

Why do you think I'm always trying to trick you? When did you start hating me?

JUDA

I don't hate you.

ADESTE

Why don't you wanna fuck me?

JUDA

I do wanna fuck you.

ADESTE

Then fuck me.

JUDA

I don't wanna fuck you.

ADESTE

Then why are you here?

JUDA

To fuck you.

ADESTE

You're not making any sense.

JUDA

I know.

ADESTE

You never make any sense.

JUDA

I get confused sometimes.

ADESTE

I know.

JUDA

Sometimes I forget.

ADESTE
You're getting in your feelings.

JUDA
You're detaching again, Scorpio.

ADESTE
Is this about my cop?

JUDA
No.

ADESTE
Are you jealous of my cop?

JUDA
Stop saying he's your cop.

ADESTE
You're jealous.

JUDA
I'm not jelly.

ADESTE
You don't have to be.

JUDA
I'm not.

ADESTE
You're my favorite.

JUDA
Don't say that.

ADESTE
You don't believe me.

JUDA
I feel kinda off. You're making me feel off.

ADESTE
Are you okay?

JUDA
I feel funny.

ADESTE
Do you need water?

JUDA
I need to go.

ADESTE
Wait, hold on.

JUDA
I can't.

ADESTE
Can you try?

JUDA
I can't.

ADESTE
Please?

JUDA
Sorry.

ADESTE
Your hair isn't finished.

JUDA
I got a crochet hook at home.

ADESTE
You said you'd try.

JUDA
I know.

ADESTE
And we were doing good.

JUDA
Yeah.

ADESTE
I thought we were doing good.

JUDA
We were.

ADESTE
So what's wrong?

JUDA
Nothing.

ADESTE
Then why are you leaving?

JUDA
It's a lot to think about sometimes.

ADESTE
Don't think.

JUDA
I wish my mind was quiet sometimes. I want you.

ADESTE
You have me.

JUDA
No. All of you.

ADESTE
You have enough.

JUDA
Enough?

ADESTE
Yes.

JUDA
Enough?

ADESTE
Yeah.

JUDA
What does that mean?

ADESTE
It means enough.

JUDA
Now you're not making any sense.

ADESTE

I am making sense.

JUDA

Then tell me, why can't it just be me?

ADESTE

Just stop.

JUDA

Why aren't I enough?

ADESTE

It's not like that.

JUDA

Am I just ass?

ADESTE

No.

JUDA

Then what am I?

ADESTE

Juda.

JUDA

Adeste.

ADESTE

Don't.

pause

JUDA

Do you still love me?

ADESTE

JUDA.

JUDA

And him?

ADESTE

Who's the fuck here right now?

JUDA

Then why?

ADESTE
I want to.

JUDA
Why?!

ADESTE
He's just there.

JUDA
I'm here too.

ADESTE
You're here right now.

JUDA
I'm always here!

ADESTE
Until you hear something that you don't like.

And what you don't like is me. All of me at least.

But why are we always talking about my bedroom?

You're fucking someone else too.

JUDA
Your idea.

ADESTE
And your follow through. White girls too. Sometimes I think you did that on purpose just to fuck with me.

JUDA
You still did some fuck shit. You're fucking WHITE BOYS. That's your fault!

ADESTE
You're literally always hurt and somehow it's *always* my fault.
You're hurting your *own self*!

Why you always asking for the stuff you don't wanna hear?

JUDA
You really don't care.

ADESTE

At this point? I couldn't care less.

Dangerous Territory

JUDA

You fucking with me?

ADESTE

Not this time.

JUDA

You're doing it again.

ADESTE

Of course. And you're doing nothing at all.

JUDA

You're detaching! Look. I'm sorry.

ADESTE

Sure.

JUDA

I am.

ADESTE

You're always sorry.

JUDA

I'm trying, Adeste.

ADESTE

You don't have to.

JUDA

I want to.

ADESTE

I don't want you to anymore.

JUDA

What?

ADESTE

Weren't you leaving, *boy*?

JUDA

No.

ADESTE
You hurt me too, sometimes.

JUDA
I'm sorry.

ADESTE
I know.

JUDA
I am.

ADESTE
I know.

pause

JUDA
Let's try again.

ADESTE
I said I don't want to.

JUDA
I'm doing better.

ADESTE
I'm tired.

JUDA
I can do better.

ADESTE
Do you have a light?

JUDA
Don't ignore me.

ADESTE
Do you have a light?

JUDA
Here.

*ADESTE and JUDA sit in silence.
ADESTE grinds, packs, and finally, smokes in silence.
Silence sits in silence.*

ADESTE
I want a break.

JUDA
So we were together?

ADESTE
No.

JUDA
But you're leaving me.

ADESTE
If that's how you wanna see it.

JUDA.
Wow.

ADESTE
I know.

I'm hurting your feelings.

JUDA
I wasn't going to say that.

ADESTE
But I'm hurting your feelings?

JUDA
You think I'm a child?

ADESTE
Childlike maybe.

JUDA
You are trying to hurt me.

ADESTE
Is it working?

JUDA
Not in the way you think.

ADESTE
But you are hurt?

JUDA
Yeah. Yes. Yeah. Yeah.

ADESTE

Look.

ADESTE climbs on top JUDA and straddles him on the couch.

I know you want me to feel bad. I know you want me to feel gross.

I know I wanted to too.

She takes JUDA's hands and places them on her hips.

Because that's what you're supposed to feel I think

Y'know?

Shame and shame.

You said you wanted

All of me.

And sometimes I--

Believe you.

I only felt shame, when I realized

I felt no shame.

Stay with me, Juda, I'm almost done

In its place

Was an intense Desire

To be myself.

But not just the parts you want though.

All parts of me.

I need you to understand

That the parts that loved you--

That love you

Are endless.

But I don't think love is a solitary act?

I dunno.

You learn a lot about yourself when you're with other people.

And you learn a lot about other people too.

Intimacy should allow space for you to be all parts of yourself.

You CAN have all of me. You really can. Y'know I never lied to you.

But I'm not holding anything back from you.

You're holding you from me.

I want to give you so much

So you can--

If you realize that

All of me

Is all of this?

You get what I'm saying?

Man I don't even know what I'm saying.

Juda?

Juda?

Baby?

JUDA

Sorry. I'm in my feelings a little bit to be honest.

ADESTE

I KNEW IT

JUDA

Oh, I'm always in my feelings.

And my feelings are always in me.

And no matter how hard I try,

No matter how hard I try to alter them or separate them from myself

Or to mask them

Or to ignore them
Or to destroy them
I still feel
I still feel, what I feel
And sometimes I get this feeling. Feelings? Feeling? Feelings.
I get this feeling. This weird feeling.
And I say weird because it's two feelings.
Two feelings going on at the same time.
Baby pass me that stuff you were rolling

ADESTE does while still straddling JUDA
Nice. This sativa?

ADESTE
Indica.

JUDA
Damn this sho do feel like some sativa. Satiiiiiva. Ha.

ADESTE
Juda.

JUDA
Right. Two feelings, one boy. Sorry. One *man*.
I am a man that feels like a boy
I am a boy that feels like a man
I don't think my feelings make me a boy though
I think my feelings make me a man

JUDA kisses ADESTE's palms again. Pure ecstasy.

Feelings often feel like they're built in sand
These grand Structures molded by Water
You were my cathedral
You were my sandcastle
Queen of the Damned
And I know
Both Man
And Boy
Loves you without end too.
Because I truly believe
Love has no end

But relationships do

I can't be who you want me to be
I tried. I really did.
I can only be who I *feel* i am.

And I'm not entirely sure who that is yet.
But I know it ain't all of this.
Because, whatever this in-between state is, it don't *feel* right to me.

ADESTE
Is this after Church hours?

JUDA
This is after Church hours.

Come here, Scorpio.

Let me show you how soft communion can be.

JUDA kisses ADESTE and embraces her. Their kisses turn into a sad passion, in turn, their passion transitions into them removing each other's clothes. Slowly and sensually though. There's Lust, and then there is departure. The Cancer & The Scorpio. Lights slowly fade to black.

end of play.