

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 fluent in african american vernacular english. i *encourage* gender manipulation. lines may be changed to reflect that. 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/memory & caution. the lunar aquarius. observant. willful. independent. hot-headed. believes messy emotions are very unappealing. the thinker. leans away from pleasure. leans into masculine qualities.

ESTOTE

Juda's personified rising/heart/passion. the scorpio ascendent. always genuine. 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.

AUVEEN

the capricorn. practical and down to earth. sarcastic as fuck. has deep rooted insecurities and a lineage of lovelessness in their family. they are determined to change their destiny. The actor who plays ESTOTE plays AUVEEN as well.

Orbit Trajectory

4. act i: Venus Looms

21. act ii: Venus Rises

40. intermoon: Venus Wanes

51. act iii: Venus Falls

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
Fucking pothead. Out the window.

KARTER
Cannabis connoisseur. Thanks.

ADESTE
We can pick up from scene 5.

KARTER
I forgot the play.

ADESTE
Sigh We can share scripts.

KARTER
Can I borrow your lighter?

ADESTE
Let's 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

I'm not a caveman.

ADESTE

Sure you aren't.

KARTER

I'm not.

ADESTE

Smoke later then.

KARTER

I'll smoke you out.

pause

ADESTE

Pass me your stuff.

KARTER

Really?

ADESTE

I'll roll up.

KARTER

Yeah, baby.

ADESTE

Never call me baby.

KARTER

Why?

ADESTE

Because I'll rip out your tongue.

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 even mean?

ADESTE

Y'all talk too much. Try shutting up and see where that goes.

KARTER

Sorry, I ain't sky savvy like you.

ADESTE

How unfortunate.

KARTER

Nah, tell me something starry. Teach me oh wise sage.

ADESTE

I could make you see stars, how 'bout that?

KARTER

Come on.

ADESTE

Fine.

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.

KARTER

Oh shit.

ADESTE

For about 6 to 8 weeks.

KARTER

The planets are teachers?

ADESTE

And Earth is the classroom.

KARTER.

What's the lesson plan? What does Venus have to teach?

ADESTE

What do you have to learn?

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

You can take the first hit. Blow all of it out the window.

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

They pass the cigarillo back and forth, taking hits.

ADESTE

Does it hurt?

KARTER

Not anymore. It's from last week.

ADESTE

Hmm.

KARTER

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 was 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

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*. Ol' dude was being selfish. Just like a caveman.

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.

I only see her in the Summer now.

ADESTE

You're holding 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.

ADESTE

That's good.

KARTER

She's always fine.

ADESTE

Ignorance is bliss.

KARTER

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 partner.

KARTER
Then don't bring up my partner, and I won't bring up yours.

ADESTE
This was a mistake.

KARTER
Are you testing me?

ADESTE
Are you mad?

KARTER
Not yet.

ADESTE
Then you haven't failed yet.

KARTER
Yet?

ADESTE
Let's keep going.

KARTER
Adeste.

ADESTE
You only come around me when you're lonely.

Did you know that?

KARTER

You only call me when you're horny.

ADESTE

That's not true.

KARTER

It's not a lie either.

ADESTE

I exist outside your loneliness.

KARTER

I wasn't lonely on Sunday.

ADESTE

But you were drunk.

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

Right. Let's share.

KARTER

A kiss?

ADESTE

The script.

KARTER

Should we 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

I don't believe you.

KARTER

Do you want me around more often?

ADESTE

No.

KARTER

I could do that.

ADESTE

I don't want that.

KARTER

What do you want?

ADESTE

Are all actors this dramatic?

KARTER

When was the last time you saw Juda?

ADESTE

I was looking for a good distraction.

KARTER

I was pretty distracted.

ADESTE

So I'm your diversion?

KARTER

I'm yours?

What are you trying to avoid?

She takes a hit, and tries to pass it to KARTER. KARTER doesn't take it.

KARTER

You're confusing me.

ADESTE

Yeah. Okay.

KARTER

Is that all you're gonna say?

ADESTE

I'm not sure what you expected to happen.

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.

KARTER

Okay, let's start from the...

ADESTE

Aht.

KARTER

What?

ADESTE

AHT. Don't interrupt.

You come in here, stand on your *soapbox*, woo me, I drop my pants, give you the goods, forget about
Juda, and your Auveen, somehow, just vanishes from existence? Am I missing something?
You want all these things, but what is your *offering*?

KARTER

Were you expecting flowers?

ADESTE

I was expecting *more*. What do I get in exchange for you depositing all your lonely in me?
Your half formed *afterthoughts*?

KARTER

You're not an afterthought. I couldn't stop thinking about you after Sunday.

ADESTE

Did you try?

KARTER

The more I wanted to forget, the more I started to remember. But the wrong things.

A different set of hands.

Eyes with another color.

Lips with a familiar taste.

I think about her too, you know.

ADESTE

Then why are you here, Gemini. To bore me? Or waste my time?
Why do I get the double feature?

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's your ideal scenario?

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?

ADESTE

In a minute.

She smokes herself, takes a long deep hit, and finishes it off

Alright. What were you saying? Oh Right. So how does Auveen feel about your decline of passion?

KARTER

She doesn't know.

ADESTE

Roll up again.

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. Anything.

ADESTE

You know what I think? I think you would go back to Auveen. You know why?

KARTER

Is that rhetorical?

ADESTE

Ding, ding, ding.

I think you love her. In your own fucked up, cheating way. 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. Sure, you can zoom, 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
You are.

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

KARTER
Would you ever want to?

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

KARTER
The pink line is gonna stop running soon.

ADESTE
You should leave then.

KARTER
We never rehearsed.

ADESTE
Acting is easy as hell.

KARTER
How so?

ADESTE

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 are they like?

ADESTE

Who?

KARTER

The worthy one.

ADESTE

I never said Juda was 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. Three west side folks and a blunt. The complete world. Hip-hop plays 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' it to Pluto with this one.

HONORIS

Oh you tryin' to take off for real, huh?

JUDA

'Xactly!

ESTOTE

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

JUDA

It's gas!

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!

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

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 clarity.

HONORIS

But 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 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 beats playing in the background transitions into 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

And?

JUDA

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

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, my niggas.

ESTOTE

Me?

JUDA

You're my Rising. Duh. My 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

Why we playing 21 questions?

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. Hanging out with Adeste? What are we doing?

JUDA

Okay, man.

HONORIS

I hate dumb, you masochistic freakozoid.

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

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

You know it's deeper than that. It's you.

JUDA

Whatever.

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 what? I'm YOU.

JUDA

No you're —

HONORIS

The you that cries when you THINK no one's watching! The you that REMEMBERS

JUDA

Shut up!

ESTOTE

Folks!

HONORIS

I just wanna know why!

JUDA

I don't know why! Don't ask for a reason that isn't there!

ESTOTE

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD 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?.

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?

HONORIS

The gas station is closer.

JUDA

Y'all hear something?

HONORIS

This nigga.

JUDA makes their way to leave.

JUDA

H?

HONORIS

What?

JUDA

I know what I'm doing.

JUDA exits.

HONORIS

And I know where you're going.

ESTOTE

Why are you so incendiary tonight?

HONORIS

Where's the fucking blunt?

ESTOTE

Honoris.

HONORIS

You're a Scorpio, I don't trust you.

ESTOTE

That's my line, Aquarius.

HONORIS

Can you feel it?

ESTOTE

You're talking to a water sign.

HONORIS

And?

ESTOTE

And 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
Oh. 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 still remember though.

ESTOTE
I do too.

HONORIS
You choose what to remember.

ESTOTE
You choose what to forget.

HONORIS
Where's the blunt?

ESTOTE
You had it last.

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

ESTOTE
You need to soothe.

HONORIS

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

Don't stop looking.

ESTOTE

I remember too.

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
Of course.

ESTOTE
Her palms? The ones we kiss?

HONORIS
Used to kiss.

ESTOTE
The way she put velvet in our name?

HONORIS
“Baby.”

ESTOTE
Her love?

HONORIS doesn't answer

ESTOTE
You don't miss that?

HONORIS
Love isn't a feeling.

ESTOTE
You don't know what love is.

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

ESTOTE

Yes.

HONORIS

The screaming?

ESTOTE

Yes.

HONORIS

The *demeaning*?

ESTOTE

Yes.

HONORIS

“Don’t be dramatic”, “You’re being too sensitive”, “You’re in your feelings”.

ESTOTE

But we miss her. You miss her.

HONORIS

You miss fucking her.

ESTOTE

Two things can be true at the same time.

HONORIS

Like you being a goofy and a fool? I’m tired of feeling this way, E.

ESTOTE

What way?

HONORIS

Like an insect in love with a fly trap. Love vs Lust. How dumb.

ESTOTE

But it’s always been like this in this body.

HONORIS

Ever since we were kids. We knew what sex was before we knew what love was.

ESTOTE

We would sneak to watch HBO After Dark.

HONORIS

It's hard growing up Christian.

ESTOTE

Tell me about it.

HONORIS

I am. You're shamed for your desires. You're supposed to be holy and light.

ESTOTE

And bland.

HONORIS

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 is unholy and the flesh is wicked. The physical is a distraction from God. And 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? To desire? To have?

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*. That *seeks* intimacy. And then there's you Scorpions. 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 Scorpions pretend like everybody is on trial. Wanna expose everybody but yourself.

ESTOTE

We live in the same body.

HONORIS

But we have different desires. And, 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! The memory. Sometimes I think I'm the outsider in this body. You ever feel like that? An outsider in your whole body? I can't take the repetition like y'all can.

ESTOTE

Repetition? Huh. 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 "I love you", the more it means. But the more I say it, the less it means too.

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

I'm not high enough for this.

ESTOTE

Love and Trust go hand in hand.

HONORIS

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

ESTOTE

I'm *more* of myself tonight. More than anything, we Scorpions 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. Venus in Scorpio demands change.

HONORIS

You Scorpions love your suffering.

ESTOTE

I love my evolution. "Only fools become wise".

HONORIS

What are you planning?

ESTOTE

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

HONORIS

I suppose not.

ESTOTE

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

Intermoon: Venus Wanes

auveen's kitchen. KARTER and AUVEEN are making ramen noodles.

KARTER

Pass me the seasoning salt.

AUVEEN

Don't put too much in there. The packets already have a bunch of salt.

KARTER

I just need a lil bit.

AUVEEN

Why? You look pretty salty to me.

...

The pot is gonna boil soon.

KARTER

I'm watching it.

AUVEEN

You're dissociating.

...

Hey.

KARTER

Huh?

ADESTE

You're dissociating

KARTER

I'm thinking.

AUVEEN

About?

KARTER

Nothing.

AUVEEN
So?

KARTER
So, what?

AUVEEN
So. What do you want to say?

KARTER
I don't wanna say anything.

AUVEEN
Then don't.

KARTER
Look.

AUVEEN
He speaks.

KARTER
C'mon.

AUVEEN
I'm listening.

KARTER
I —

AUVEEN
Don't.

KARTER
Don't?

AUVEEN
You got your ghost face on.

KARTER
What?

AUVEEN

You look scared to death.

KARTER

I might die.

AUVEEN

Such a theater kid.

KARTER

It's not easy to say.

AUVEEN

What's going on?

KARTER

I've been distant.

AUVEEN

Tell me something I don't know.

KARTER

I slept with somebody else.

the pot boils over

KARTER

Shit.

AUVEEN

What?

KARTER

I slept with somebody.

AUVEEN

I don't believe you.

KARTER

It's true.

AUVEEN

I went through your phone.

KARTER

I deleted the messages.

AUVEEN

I knew your schedule.

KARTER

I knew yours too.

AUVEEN

You cheated.

KARTER

Yeah.

AUVEEN

You're joking?

KARTER

Not this time.

AUVEEN

You cheated.

KARTER

I had an affair.

AUVEEN

No. Affairs sound exciting. You cheated. You —

KARTER

I didn't —

AUVEEN

Was it exciting?

KARTER

No.

AUVEEN

Then why did you do it?

KARTER
Cause I'm an idiot.

AUVEEN
How many times?

KARTER
What?

AUVEEN
Did she take your hearing too?

KARTER
It was a mistake.

AUVEEN
And I'm asking how many mistakes you made.

KARTER
Just this one.

AUVEEN
How many times?

KARTER
Don't do —

AUVEEN
How many?

KARTER
Five.

AUVEEN.
When?

KARTER
Sundays.

AUVEEN
During your rehearsals.

KARTER

I wasn't rehearsing.

AUVEEN

You were lying.

KARTER

I'm being honest.

AUVEEN

Now you're being honest.

KARTER

What was I supposed to say?

AUVEEN

The truth.

KARTER

I didn't want to hurt you.

AUVEEN

Is that a lie?

KARTER

That's the truth.

AUVEEN

Then why does it sound like a lie?

KARTER

All my Truths do.

AUVEEN

Y'know what? I lied too.

You don't have a ghost face.

You look like a coward.

You look like my father.

How dare you wear that face.

You actually look like you're sorry.

KARTER

I am sorry.

AUVEEN

You know he cheated on my mom.

KARTER

I know.

AUVEEN

I told you.

KARTER

I know.

AUVEEN

You're pathetic.

KARTER

I know.

AUVEEN

Who was it?

KARTER

You don't know them.

AUVEEN

Then describe them.

KARTER

They're nobody.

AUVEEN

You fucked Nobody five times.

KARTER

Don't put me on trial.

AUVEEN

Baby, you're already convicted.

KARTER
I used protection.

AUVEEN
You're so kind.

KARTER
I got tested too.

AUVEEN
Do you smoke with them?

KARTER
I smoke with everybody.

AUVEEN
But do you roll up for them?

KARTER
I did.

AUVEEN
Like you roll up for me?

KARTER
I just roll up.

AUVEEN
Just go.

KARTER
Wait.

AUVEEN
Please go.

KARTER
Auveen.

AUVEEN
Don't come any closer.

KARTER

I never meant/

AUVEEN

Don't even try.

KARTER

I'm sorry.

AUVEEN

So am I.

KARTER

I love you.

AUVEEN

Lie again.

KARTER

I love you.

AUVEEN

Stop.

KARTER

I'm willing to do whatever it takes.

AUVEEN

Are you delusional?

KARTER

Do you want me to lie?

AUVEEN

I want you to go.

KARTER

Can I still call?

AUVEEN

You can go.

KARTER

I still want to fall asleep next to you.

AUVEEN

Why?

KARTER

That's the only time I feel peace.

AUVEEN

I don't feel safe around you.

KARTER

Tell me what I have to do.

AUVEEN

I don't feel safe.

KARTER

I want to be worthy too.

AUVEEN

And I want a partner I can trust.

KARTER

Tell me what I have to do.

AUVEEN

Do you hear what I'm saying?

I will never feel safe around you.

I will never be at peace with you.

I will never sleep next to you without thinking about who was under you

And what face they made when they were

So i will never be around you / i can't.

You say it's forgiveness / i say it's selfishness.

It's me looking at my phone and wondering:

Where you at?

Who you with?

Is it her?

Is it him?

Why isn't it me?

It's me looking in the mirror and wondering
Am i pretty enough?
Am i sexy enough?
Am i enough?

It's me looking at your face and always wondering
Will you do it again?

KARTER
I won't.

AUVEEN
I know.

I won't let you.

KARTER
It's not delusional to say I love you. And I always will.

AUVEEN
Karter.

You cannot cheat on your partner and say you love them.

Go.

And stop pretending you haven't left already.

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 medias 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, 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 worshipping 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. Who told you to listen to me? White girls too.
Sometimes I think you did that on purpose just to fuck with me.

JUDA

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.