

RALLITOS

And Doña Dominguez said *she* didn't feel that way but that *other* people *probably* feel that way and that you should see to it Carmelita gets a husband.

(*RALLITOS constructs a makeshift 'bridal veil' out of the fabric and paper flowers.*)

LA TULES

A husband.

RALLITOS

Sí, a husband! *That* would take care of things!

LA TULES

And where did Doña Dominguez propose we find this husband?

RALLITOS

(*Admiring herself in a mirror.*) She didn't say. But she is sure a husband is what is needed.

LA TULES

Doña Dominguez has used up all the husbands from here to Tomé. She is fortunate that she outlives them all. *We* are fortunate she leaves none for the rest of us. I have never found husbands to be all that useful. What do they know about enticing a man to empty his pockets? (*Beat.*) And Rallitos, *you* brought home the bird. And *you* brought home the cat.

RALLITOS

Sí, but...the bird, it is black! And Carmelita wears black! *Old* black! Every day! And the cat is black! She'll never get a husband looking like the ghost of La Llorona.

LA TULES

La Llorona wears white – *not* black. And wanders the bosque –

start

RALLITOS

Carmelita wanders the bosque!

LA TULES

To gather herbs. Not wail for her dead children. (*Noticing RALLITOS' 'veil' for the first time.*) Careful, Rallitos. 'The comal said to the pot, look how sooty you are.'*(Beat.)* Jose. Have you heard from him?

RALLITOS

(*Sheepishly removing the 'veil.'*) He wrote me. I received a letter by post.

LA TULES

Did you? He writes even though he knows you do not read. (*RALLITOS flips through a book.*)

Did you have Carmelita read it for you?

RALLITOS

No! It was pictures.

LA TULES

Pictures?

RALLITOS

Drawings.

LA TULLES

Drawings.

RALLITOS

Drawings of his life in Durango. Building a staircase. For the church.

LA TULES

Oh, I would like to see them.

RALLITOS

Yaya! They are private messages! Meant only for me! He says he will come for me soon.

LA TULLES

Does he?

RALLITOS

Sí. And I promised the baby will not come until he arrives. I *promised*.

LA TULLES

How did you make this promise? You cannot read or write –

RALLITOS

I drew him a picture.

LA TULES

You drew him a picture.

RALLITOS

Sí.

LA TULES

Of?

RALLITOS

A woman *NOT* having a baby!

LA TULES

Rallitos! I can no longer accept your stories about an imaginary priest.

RALLITOS

He is not imaginary!

LA TULES

And his nocturnal visitations to your room.

RALLITOS

I cannot tell even you, Yaya.

LA TULES

Rallitos, I suspect you have nothing *to* tell!

RALLITOS

Our love. Mine and Jose's. It is *forbidden*!

LA TULES

Rallitos, you must be able to speak the truth! At least to yourself!

*(RALLITOS begins to sob.)*

There, there. Shh. Shh. Shh. Poor, poor mija. You are not alone in the world. Why do you feel as though you are? I have given you and Carmelita better lives than your own mothers – my own adopted daughters – ever could have.

RALLITOS

Yaya, I want this baby more than anything.

LA TULES

I know, mija. But *this*. *(Referring to RALLITOS enlarged belly.)* You cannot go on this way. You cannot keep pretending it is one way when it is another.

RALLITOS

Pretending?

LA TULES

You cannot keep telling stories, demanding miracles of God.

RALLITOS

Don't you believe in miracles, Yaya?

LA TULES

Well, of course but –

RALLITOS

Is that not what a miracle is? When God grants the impossible?

LA TULES

*(Taking the 'veil' from RALLITOS)* Rallitos, it is not proper to compare yourself to the Virgen.

RALLITOS

Won't you believe in me? In my miracle? *Please* Yaya?

LA TULES

Rallitos, you must quit this nonsense. Why do you insist on this fantasy?

RALLITOS

There is a father! There is!

LA TULES

Then have him appear here. Before me.

RALLITOS

Now?

LA TULES

Si! This instant!

RALLITOS

He's in Durango.

LA TULES

Rallitos!

RALLITOS

He's *always been* in Durango.

LA TULES

Did you or did you not lie with a man?

RALLITOS

I...I...

*(A loud, forceful meow is heard. RALLITOS rushes to the window.)*

RALLITOS

Ay, mi hijo! Ay, mi hijo!

LA TULES

A redo vaya!

RALLITOS

*(Talking with the cat through the window.)* Yaya! Medianoche! He's come back!

LA TULES

Do NOT let him in!

RALLITOS

I *knew* he would come back! Noche, noche, nochito...

LA TULES

He will squirt stink on everything in the sala!

RALLITOS

Wait there, Nochito! I will get you some frijoles! *(Running out the door, she collides with PILAR who is entering.)* He loves frijoles!

LA TULES

Do NOT feed that cat our beans! Rallitos! I will not have that damn cat ruin everything in my house! Again!

*(She crosses to the window and shoots the pistol in the air. Seeing it has no effect, she shoots again.)*

RALLITOS *(from offstage)*

Yaya! No! You will scare him away again!

stop

LA TULES

*(To PILAR.)* That cat cannot hear. He is deaf.

PILAR

He can hear. He is just not afraid of you.

LA TULES

Those granddaughters of mine.

PILAR

They are not afraid of you either.

LA TULES

Carmelita. Have you seen her?

*(PILAR peers into the jar then at LA TULES. LA TULES takes coins from her own pocket, gives one to PILAR, and puts the rest in the jar.)*