

me to lose. I lost it! Then the silly man he bet it all, Doña! He bet it all and I won it all! It was an accident, Doña. He did not mean to lose. And I did not mean to win!

DOÑA SEBASTIANA

Why are you still here, Pilar? You should start your own sala.

PILAR

Hijola! I can start my own sala – just like you did, Doña! *(Starting to exit.)* Oh, and Sister Jane. She won a large sum from Doña Dominguez. *(Taking a coin from the jar.)* Isabella said! *(Exits.)*

(The interlude continues then...)

CARMELITA

(Entering.) You were right about one thing, Yaya. I *cannot* be beat. *(Surrendering her deck of cards.)* Here. My “enchanted” deck. Take it. I will never play this filthy game again. And all the money I won tonight? I *gave* it away. *Gave it away!* It was easy. The bishop he has it all now. *(Starts to exit.)*

DOÑA SEBASTIANA

All but Doña’s corpse.

CARMELITA

(Triumphantly.) And there will be no more church burials.

DOÑA SEBASTIANA

No room at the Inn for Doña’s corpse!

CARMELITA

And Sister Jane is winning. *(Exits.)*

(The interlude and associated noise from the fandango come to an end. DOÑA SEBASTIANA retreats. SISTER JANE enters silently. Like a sixth sense, LA TULES wakes and pulls a pistol on her startling them both.)

START

LA TULES

Sister Jane!

SISTER JANE

My word! Miss Tules!

LA TULES

Why are you here?

SISTER JANE

I was not aware of your intended slumber.

LA TULES

I do not sleep.

SISTER JANE

I do apologize. I was simply and profoundly overcome with exhilaration. I have won some measure of my money!

LA TULES

(Relaxing her grip on the pistol.) Have you?

SISTER JANE

Yes!

LA TULES

It is well, Sister Jane. You can be on your way now.

SISTER JANE

Yes, indeed! Of course, it is not what I had within reach not a week ago.

LA TULES

No.

SISTER JANE

And, of course, it falls short – tremendously short in fact – of what is needed to start my school.

LA TULES

Sí. And for that you must thank your son.

SISTER JANE

Yes. There is no brittle honor to protect anymore.

LA TULES

Your son. His name?

SISTER JANE

Ernst.

LA TULES

Ernst...Carmelita...Rallitos... We have a saying. *Lo mismo es Chana que Juana.* Children and grandchildren. They are the same.

SISTER JANE

They are the most proficient purveyors of sorrow. *(Beat.)* I am compelled to be forthright with you, Miss Tules.

LA TULES

There is no need. I can help you no more.

SISTER JANE

I am in a desperate state to find my son.

LA TULES

Your son robbed you. Are you seeking your son or your money?

SISTER JANE

He took a mind to double our bank. He is a young man too full of enthusiasm. And too much pride to be sure.

LA TULES

(Trying to exit.) My advice. Take your bank and head south.

SISTER JANE

But my money. I must recover the rest of my money.

LA TULES

Cut your losses, Sister Jane. Continued greed will not serve you now.

SISTER JANE

Miss Tules –

LA TULES

I have done all I can for you. I provided shelter and food. I have taught you a trade. What else can I offer you?

SISTER JANE

My money. I believe you have my money.

LA TULES

You *believe* I have your money?

SISTER JANE

I *know* you have it. All nineteen thousand, nine hundred and seventy-three dollars. In gold.

LA TULES

And you know this how?

SISTER JANE

When money is the sport, there is likely only one outcome if the encounter is with La Tules. La Tules has the money.

LA TULES

(Raising her pistol again.) Is your plan to take it from me?

SISTER JANE

I have no mind to try such a foolish thing.

LA TULES

What do you want?

SISTER JANE

A chance. I should like to play you for it.

LA TULES

You wish to win back your gold by beating me at monte.

SISTER JANE

(Slowly removing her own pistol and putting it down) I shall win it back. Little by little if need be. With ample patience.

LA TULES

And if I refuse to play you?

SISTER JANE

Your pride is great. But your compassion is greater.

LA TULES

Compassion for?

SISTER JANE

The school. To deliver the benefits of white Christian Protestantism to this heathen and savage nation.

LA TULES

(Putting down her own pistol and calling to PILAR.) Pilar! It is the other way around, Sister Jane. I assure you. *(PILAR enters.)* Pilar, Sister Jane has challenged me to a game of monte. She thinks I cannot resist the opportunity to preserve my legacy. My pride is too great. My compassion too deep. She has put up...?

SISTER JANE

Three hundred in gold. It's all I have.

LA TULES

Three hundred in gold! It's all she has! I will raise that, Sister Jane. *(Removing the gold from her person, she pores it onto the table.)* All or nothing. For both of us.