

SATAN

I'll be back! I'll grow another dick!

Esperanza retrieves the knife from the fallen Mabel. Satan staggers around, wounded in the crotch. The Squirrel retreats to the window and jumps out. Esperanza stabs Satan in the heart.

ESPERANZA

No. You will die! There!

Satan groans and falls dead. She drops the knife, and goes to the toy chest. She opens it, reaches in, and pulls Collette out of Hell. Collette has a gentle French Caribbean accent.

START _____

ESPERANZA

Mama, I'm here!

COLLETTE

Esperanza!

ESPERANZA

Mama!

COLLETTE

I'm sorry for my death.

ESPERANZA

It's nothing. It's alright now.

COLLETTE

I was burning in eternal fire. You saved me from Hell.

ESPERANZA

Let me get you your Robe.

She goes, takes the bloody robe from the fallen
Mabel, and puts it on her mother.

ESPERANZA

There.

COLLETTE

What do we do now?

ESPERANZA

Sleep. We need sleep. And then tomorrow, I will save us all again.

COLLETTE

How long must you do this?

ESPERANZA

Until it's done. Until EVERYONE is saved. Maybe forever. Until it's done.

COLLETTE

Esperanza?

ESPERANZA

Yeah?

COLLETTE

You know why I named you that?

ESPERANZA

Why?

COLLETTE

It means Hope. Esperanza means Hope.

ESPERANZA

Mama, there was a boy at my party.

COLLETTE

Yes?

ESPERANZA

His name is Tito.

Tito. COLLETTE

What? ESPERANZA

I don't know. Can't we get a break? COLLETTE

Collette blows out the candle.

END

Scene 2

Daytime. Tito and PAULIE are in Tito's shabby but reasonably bright basement apartment, in the kitchen. They are both 10, played by adults. They wear shorts. Tito is stirring a steaming pot.

There's a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the wall. Above, there's a half window, and once or twice, the feet of passersby can be seen. An empty birdcage with its little door open, hangs from a nail. Paulie sits at a small kitchen table.

On the table is a quart of milk and a sugar bowl.

Tito. PAULIE

Yeah? TITO

Why'd we cut school? PAULIE