

Jessica Pleyel

SCENE: BURYING THE PAST

CHARACTERS:

LOLA: early twenties, sultry, smart.

MARLENE: early thirties, naïve, full of repressed anger

FERDINAND: early thirties, handsome, male chauvinist

SOUND: The sound of metal hitting ground. Grunting and groaning as if in pain. These groans may or may not sound sexual in nature. This sound carries on for an awkward amount of time with no lights.

After at least one minute of visual darkness, LIGHTS UP

The stage is rather dark, and on the back wall, there is a projection of the moon. It begins on the east side of the stage, and slowly will progress to the west side. There are massive amounts of dirt on stage. The dirt should be somewhat muddy/sticky. The dirt is primarily in the center; LOLA is digging frantically. It should look as though she is digging a hole.

Lola is reminiscent of a pin up model. She wears a tight black dress, with a bright red belt accentuating her hourglass figure. On her legs, she wears black nylon stockings that are held up with garters. On her feet, are red stiletto heels. Her hair is done in loose curls, and she wears bright, red lipstick

LOLA
(panting heavily)

Baby doll my ass.

Lola stabs the soil with her shovel and grunts as she pulls up more earth and flings it over her shoulder.

LOLA (con't)

(while shoveling)

Taking me to this goddamned secret spot of his...

Lola stabs the soil again.

LOLA (con't)

One of us will be dead when the moon fades.

Lola puts the shovelhead on the arch of her shoe, and digs deep into the pile. She continues to dig for a couple of moments, and then MARLENE enters from stage right.

Marlene is in the typical housewife garb. She wears a rosy floral swing dress, with pink gloves, and pink satin heels. A strand of pearls curls around her thin neck. She has her hair up in a bouffant style.

Marlene is walking slowly towards Lola, flashlight in hand, and stops suddenly, stunned by what she is seeing. Marlene stares intently at Lola, but Lola is utterly engrossed in digging.

MARLENE

Wh-what in high heaven are you doing out here?

Marlene shines the flashlight directly on Lola. Lola looks up nervously from her shoveling, and glares at Marlene. She holds the shovel in front of herself in a defensive manner

LOLA

None of your business toots. (beat) Who are you anyway? What are you doing in the woods in the middle of the goddamned night?

MARLENE

This is MY property; I can come out here whenever I please.

LOLA

This isn't your property! It's—

MARLENE

(interrupting)

Ferdinand's? Well of course, but it's mine as well. I *am* his wife after all. (pause)
Unlike you, *Lola*.

Lola continues to hold her shovel, and walks down from her perch on the mound of dirt. She stands indignantly in front of Marlene, hitting the shovel hard against the ground, and then pushing the flashlight out of Marlene's hands. With her red stilettos, she towers over the housewife.

LOLA

(gritting her teeth)

How the hell do you know who I am?

Marlene looks down and away from Lola, intimidated by her ferocity.

MARLENE

How could I not know who you are? Lipstick stains on his collar, your number in his pocket, even a picture of you in his desk drawer. There was no way I could mistake you for anyone else. What I don't get is why in God's name you're—

LOLA

To get rid of my fuckin' problem, baby doll.

MARLENE

B-baby doll? That's--

LOLA

Well guess what, toots, you're not the only baby doll around here.

MARLENE

I don't even get you- coming out here to...dig a hole? This is our spot... What are you even trying to -- oh my God(!)

LOLA

Can you blame me? Can you fuckin' blame me? I have wasted two YEARS of my life trying to win this stupid game he plays! I won't lose no matter what happens! I'm not a loser! I can't imagine how you're miserable life must be.

(pause)

LOLA (con't)

So, I'm asking again: What's a pretty little lady like you doing out in the woods at night?

Marlene says nothing for a moment.

MARLENE

A *real* woman stays married to the man she loves. Even through the pain.

LOLA

But he doesn't even LOVE you. He only stays with you 'cause of the kids. Otherwise he'd a' been long gone.

MARLENE

(agitated)

YOU are the one who put your dirty little heels into OUR marriage. Do you even know what love is?

LOLA

All I can tell you is that there are winners and losers in love, and neither of us if winning. You already know that, though. I can see it in your eyes, toots. (beat) What's in your pocket?

Marlene goes to move away, but Lola digs her hand into Marlene's dress pocket. She pulls out something.

LOLA

(smirking)

Ahhh. Death Caps, eh? Finding these in the woods? What could *these* be for?

She circles Marlene like a lioness circles a wounded baby zebra. Marlene appears more and more nervous.

LOLA (con't)

Now I know what you're thinking. Come on!

Lola offers the shovel to Marlene.
Marlene and her stare at each other for a moment.

LOLA (con't)

You know just as well as I do what needs to happen.

MARLENE

I-I just don't know if I can really--

Lola pushes the shovel into Marlene's hands. She grabs another shovel by the edge of the dirt pile. She holds it firmly, and begins walking up the left side of the pile.

LOLA

Start digging. While the moon is still high.

Lola is on the left side of the dirt pile, and Marlene is on the right. They dig together, and then push the dirt behind themselves

As they dig, occasionally, their shovels hit. When this action happens, the women stop, glare at each other, and then continue to dig. Lola is digging wildly, much faster than Marlene.

The digging goes on, uninterrupted for a period of time. Although the dialogue cuts out for a bit, both Marlene and Lola should be grunting, and heaving sighs. This is intense labor for them, both physically and emotionally.

Marlene and Lola hit shovels intensely. Marlene drops her shovel in the hole. Lola continues to dig around it, making all sorts of clanging sounds. Marlene and Lola continue to dig and being to struggle for energy. Both of them

are now covered in a mix of mud, sweat, and makeup. Marlene begins to gasp for air, and rests her head on the shovel handle. Lola doesn't notice and continues to dig.

MARLENE

(gasping)
Stop, just stop a minute.

Lola hits the bottom of Marlene's shovel, making a loud clang, and forcing Marlene to fall. She scrambles out of the hole, muddier than before.

LOLA

Why would I stop? (laughs) I mean we're almost done.

MARLENE

I-i just don't know anymore. I don't know anything anymore. I just-

LOLA

No! I'm not letting you stop now! That bastard has ruined my--our lives too long! This didn't just start at this fucking hole, you know. I could have had a better life! A life without losing--

Suddenly, Lola falls into the hole. She yelps in pain, but Marlene hands Lola her shovel handle to grab onto. As Lola resurfaces, she is nearer to Marlene, who sits on the side of the pile desperately.

A light is seen coming from stage right. Before we see FERDINAND, we hear him.

FERDINAND

MARLENE? Baby doll? Are you out here? MARLENE?

Ferdinand walks onstage. He carries a flashlight. He seems nervous. His attire does not match up with a walk in the woods. More like a business meeting. Or a cocktail party.

Lola stands up, enraged at the sight of Ferdinand.

LOLA

HEY FERDY!

Ferdinand peers up at the mound, in shock. He points his flashlight at Lola.

FERDINAND

L-lola? Is that you? What the hell are you doing here, baby doll?

Marlene stays motionless on the mound. Lola begins to stamp towards Ferdinand.

LOLA

I can't be a loser anymore!

Before Ferdinand can say another word, Lola hits Ferdinand over the head with the shovel. He falls.

Marlene runs down the mound. She falls crushed by what has just occurred. She sobs. Lola drops her shovel in awe, and kneels by Marlene's side.

Lola embraces Marlene, and Marlene sobs. They both are so muddy and disheveled it is hard to tell them apart. Marlene's sobs slighted, and she lets herself fit in Lola's arms.

A light points upward at Marlene. It is coming from Ferdinand's flashlight

FERDINAND

(weakly)

M-Marlene? Why? How did this happen to us? I love you, baby doll. Help me. I came out in the woods looking for you. The kids and I were worried sick.

Ferdinand extends a shaky hand towards Marlene pushes away from Lola as she nervously grabs it. His beam of light falls off of Marlene. Lola stands up. She shines

the other light at Marlene. Hers is much brighter than Ferdinand's.

LOLA

Don't fall for his shit, Marlene. One more hit, and we're winners. Finally.

Lola turns off her light, and Ferdinand's moves back up towards Marlene's face.

FERDINAND

Marlene, please. I can't help it if she flung her little self at my feet. She was practically begging to have a piece of me. It was one drunken night. That's it.

Lola's flashlight shines intensely on Marlene's face again.

LOLA

One drunken night, eh? More like two FUCKING YEARS!

FERDINAND

(struggling)

Marlene, are you really going to believe this harlot over me?

LOLA

Come on, Marlene, the moon is fading!

Both of the flashlights are centered in Marlene's face. The light is blinding.

MARLENE

Just shut up! This is ridiculous! I can't do it! I just can't!

Marlene stands up anxiously.

MARLENE (con't)

If anyone's going to lie in this hole tonight, it's going to be you.

Marlene picks up her shovel, and hits Lola's furiously. Lola drops the flashlight and looks straight at Marlene.

LOLA

You're a fuckin' monster.

MARLENE

I'm the monster? *I'm the monster?* Once you're gone, you're gone. Forever.

LOLA

(laughing)

No matter if I die or live, I will never be gone.

MARLENE

Th-that's not true. This whole affair happened because you fell at his feet.

LOLA

Psh. You don't know him anymore. All you knew was high school Ferdinand. But guess what, sugar, he ain't quarter back no more. And you ain't no cheerleader. Now he has real desires and needs, ones you simply can't fulfill. Do you even know what desire is?

MARLENE

Well if you know so much about desire, what do you thrive for?

(pause)

LOLA

Just keep digging. (pause) Someone is going to die by the time the moon fades. I'm not gonna lose this time.

Lola walks back up the mound of dirt.
She begins to dig again.

Marlene climbs the hill, and continues to dig with Lola. Marlene digs with more virility, and anger, now much faster than the tiring Lola. Marlene is hitting Lola's shovel often. Lola is struggling. Marlene hits Lola's shovel so hard that the sex kitten falls in the hole. Lola groans, in pain.

Ferdinand makes a gasp for air. His flashlight begins to fade.

MARLENE

Ferdinand! I'm coming!

Marlene goes back by Ferdinand. She holds him. She notices something. She hits him over the head with her shovel. The flashlight goes off. The moon is now only in the corner of the stage, barely visible.

Lola crawls out to the top of the hole. Marlene comes to her aid. This time, she grabs Lola's hand to help her to the top. Lola pants in exhaustion, and Marlene touches Lola's back gently. Lola looks at Marlene in confusion

MARLENE (con't)

Lipstick was mixed in with all that blood on his shirt.

LOLA

(panting heavily)

Guess he should have been more careful.

MARLENE

Let's finish this up. The moon is almost gone.

FADE TO BLACK