

# ***Ache and Moan***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

CARLOTTA: Teens  
KENDRA: 20's  
PEDRO: Late 20's

Place  
Somewhere in California

Time  
Evening (Summer)

2.

Setting: The play takes place outside a one floor motel in a dusty looking town.

At Rise: Carlotta leans against a wall smoking a cigarette and crying by herself when Kendra enters carrying a laundry basket.

KENDRA: What's wrong baby girl?

CARLOTTA: I'm good.

KENDRA: Whatch you over here sniffing for? I hear you.

CARLOTTA: You hear me?

KENDRA (pointing): My room is on the other side of this window. Thin ass walls. Hear shit five hundred feet from where we're standing. So, what's up sniffles, why you cryin'?

CARLOTTA: I miss my mom.

KENDRA: Thought your mother died.

CARLOTTA: No, I'm sorry, I shouldn't have lied to you but I didn't think it really mattered.

KENDRA: Your business is your business as long as it don't fuck with my business, we good.

CARLOTTA: It won't.

KENDRA: We're goin' into the hills tomorrow. Bunch of new homes have gone up, everybody rushing to move in 'em. Been waiting six months to hit it. Neighborhood is ripe for the taking.

CARLOTTA: Cool. Never been to the hills before.

KENDRA: Huge mansions, all along the water. Half of them aren't even lived in. People so rich they don't even live in these places. Makes me wonder how big is the place they actually do live in, right? Damn. So, we hittin' them up, got a sweet spot I been waiting on that has the lights timed at sunset and we goin' in cause nobody's ever there. You'd think with today's security that they'd do a better job at being secure, but maybe these people have so much coin they don't even care about losing their belongings. Thinking about squatting there for a few days. Nice place. Dream place. Be nice to feel that out for a few nights. Just once.

CARLOTTA: You said we should never do any squatting where we eat.

KENDRA: Yeah, well things change, eventually. Anyway, what's up with your moms, she ill or something?

CARLOTTA: No...I abandoned her. Left her all alone. Thought I could make it out here on my own and save her, but it's been so long now. Can't imagine what she thinks of me.

KENDRA: You just bounced?

CARLOTTA: Yeah.

KENDRA: I told you, you come work for me, your life's gonna be different. I never made no promises, in fact I never make no promises to anyone cause I learned early on that life doesn't allow you to keep 'em, so why make 'em. All any of us can do is just do what we do, live life, try, and that's it. Stop bullshitting ourselves and accept the life that's given to us. Believe me, I was like you once, a long time ago, ha, I was hopeful and dreamy-eyed and always thought in what could be, but after a while it slowly dawns on you that nothing changes, I mean, shit changes but not anything that really moves you out of this place we livin' in to that other place we all wish to be in. That's not me being a downer, that's just real talk. I knew this guy David once...David was a good dude, he was always hustling and grinding, coming up with strategies to think outside the box and make something of himself...for a minute there Dave was actually making me believe in what could be...but, he was a false prophet that scarred me forever...it all came down hard on me when he went to prison and after some time got murdered behind bars and that was the end of that story, for both of us. Whatever it is you're thinking, just look life in it's ugly face and give it the finger, cause that's all any of us can do.

CARLOTTA: Sorry about your friend.

KENDRA: He wasn't my friend, he was my brother.

CARLOTTA: I didn't know you had a brother.

KENDRA: There's a lot of things you don't know and will never know 'bout me girl. (coughs and spits)

CARLOTTA: I know.

KENDRA: What you know?

CARLOTTA: I know I gotta just deal.

KENDRA: Absolutely.

CARLOTTA: But you don't believe in fairy tales anymore?

KENDRA: Ha! My momma never read me any nursery rhymes if that's what you mean? Ha, ha! Hell no.

CARLOTTA: But don't you ever think about another way out?

KENDRA: All the time.

CARLOTTA: So you do still think---

KENDRA: Thoughts are cheap, they are a dime a dozen.

CARLOTTA: But what if we changed our lives and left this place?

KENDRA: WE? There is no we. There's only you. And I told ya, you want out, go out. I ain't stoppin' ya. I was only tryin' to help you pass along is all. Never claimed ownership of you.

CARLOTTA: Why you let me hang around here then?

KENDRA: Girl you make me money. I'm not about to kick you away.

CARLOTTA: Why you take me in?

KENDRA: What does it matter?

CARLOTTA: Yeah, you're right. Don't matter.

KENDRA: I gotta go do some laundry. Stop them tears from falling down. Waste of time.

CARLOTTA: You ever think about...nevermind.

PEDRO enters.

PEDRO: What's up crazy bitches?

KENDRA: Carlotta here was just missin' her mom.

CARLOTTA is surprised.

PEDRO: You miss your momma baby girl? Hahaha. Damn, I ain't seen my moms since I was born.

KENDRA: Pedro, take this basket and start up some laundry.

PEDRO: I didn't come out here for laundry.

KENDRA: Don't fuck with me.

PEDRO picks up the basket.

There's some quarters rolled up inside my white underwear.

PEDRO makes a flirtatious noise and walks on.

CARLOTTA: Why'd you mention my mom to that asshole.

KENDRA: Toughen you up. Need a thick skin if you wanna---

CARLOTTA: I don't need my personal shit spoken about.

KENDRA: Woah, easy does it little lady, you're the one who's talkin'.

CARLOTTA: You asked.

KENDRA: Don't be cryin' outside my window then. Hell. Go somewhere else to ache and moan.

CARLOTTA: Don't always be tellin' me what to do bitch.

KENDRA: Yo...what you just say to me? I am a bitch, your bitch and don't you forget it. I am the grandest bitch you will ever lay eyes on, hoe. Take your little chicken ass out of my sight before I ram you.

CARLOTTA: Don't be tellin' Pedro or anybody about my momma.

KENDRA: Or what? What you gonna do, Carla?

CARLOTTA looks down at the ground.

You got a helluva lot to learn princess. Haven't you learned anything from me?

CARLOTTA: Yeah.

KENDRA: What you learn?

CARLOTTA: How to make money to survive. How to eat to survive. How to get violent to survive. How to be nice to survive.

KENDRA: Survival. And what are we without survival?

CARLOTTA: Dead.

KENDRA: That's right...dead. You alive cause of me. Found you skinny and shaking. Don't let your survival go to your head.

CARLOTTA: It won't.

KENDRA: What you got against Pedro anyway? He family.

CARLOTTA: Pedro is dumb.

KENDRA: He is, isn't he?

THEY laugh.

Dumbest fool this side of dumbville.

CARLOTTA: Why you keep him around?

KENDRA: Same reason I keep you round.

CARLOTTA: You trust him.

KENDRA: You trust me?

CARLOTTA: No.

KENDRA: Good.

CARLOTTA: Pedro takes up space. I hate his dumb ass.

KENDRA: Yeah, I hate 'em too, but nothin' better come along yet so, there he is. Besides, he's got some useful contacts that have come in handy. Understand, you don't have to trust somebody to be loyal to somebody. He's done some favors for me and I appreciate that.

KENDRA shrugs.

CARLOTTA: What time we leavin' tomorrow?

KENDRA: Early.

CARLOTTA: What time?

KENDRA: When the sun comes up.

CARLOTTA: Why in broad daylight?

KENDRA: That's when people expect a robbery the least. You go in the day, when things are bright and dandy. We blend in and handle our business.

CARLOTTA: Okay.

KENDRA: I have some new clothes for you to try on tonight. Why don't you come back to my room and we'll find something right for you.

CARLOTTA: For what?

KENDRA: Tomorrow. It's upscale. Can't look like a crack whore if we goin' to the hills. We have to dress like they dress, act like they act.

CARLOTTA: How do they act?

KENDRA: Imagine yourself walking around with a crown on your head.

CARLOTTA: Yeah?

KENDRA: You can be the Queen of England.



CARLOTTA: Really?

KENDRA: Not really, just use your imagination to fit in with high society. Got it?

CARLOTTA (to herself): The Queen of England...

END OF PLAY