

Flesh World

Scene 1
The Cage

The cage. Silence. A male figure is seated and wearing a business suit and has a black bag over his head, aware but relaxed, patient and waiting and following and sensing movements around him.

K-LOW

(Off Stage)

I've died more times than Jason from Friday the 13th, and I am NOT HAPPY. Mess with this bitch and I'll cut your head off, jab it repeatedly with a rusty fork. Is that clear? This bitch did not have the time of her life, now she's kicking ass.

(K-LOW, enters, she a woman in her twenties, is stylishly dressed, wearing a skirt, high heels, and make-up as if she is about to go out on the town.)

You're going to feel this bitch's pain, whether you want to or not. Look out for this deceptively cute bitch, all I have to say. Back from the dead, this long-time "Bitch from Hell!" hasn't slowed down a step. I'm wondering if I should kick you in the balls to start? Okay, let's get this going... I'm thinking...should I torture you? How about I strip down to my underwear, finger myself for fun?

(K-LOW pulls the bag off of the male figure to reveal CAMERON.)
CAMERON is about to speak.)

Shut up. You need to be very careful.

CAMERON

Can I say something?

K-LOW

Let us hear, let us hear. I'm all ears.

CAMERON

The earth will open up only briefly then close again!

K-LOW

I should get you all nice and pretty.

(She combs his hair. He is passive.)

I want a man who can be manipulated, controlled, someone to satisfy my whims, fancies, desires. If the man shows reluctance or fails to oblige, this bitch, oops her highness, that's me, the wannabe princess suffering from a deluded sense of self entitlement and privilege, has every right, and will become nasty, scornful, spiteful, and sarcastic... if necessary violent.

(K-LOW straightens his tie and suit.)

CAMERON

Okay.

K-LOW

Mister Big Shot, what do you know about me? With all that you have achieved, your stature, wealth, education, your insights into the human condition. Have you ever thought about death? Do you want a good death, a heroic death?

CAMERON

You're afraid.

K-LOW

I'm afraid of nothing! Did we fuck?

CAMERON

We're lovers.

K-LOW

Funny! I don't know you, you don't know me, no you don't, you may think you do. Dearly beloved we are gathered here today.

(She slaps CAMERON.)

Liar, deceiver, mind gamer. I've been briefed.

CAMERON

You know nothing about me, my feelings, what I have endured, what I will sacrifice for you.

(K-LOW examines him and the air around him closely.)

K-LOW

I have special powers, see every detail... the eyes. I...feel lies ... trembling along your skin...Air around me pulsates with information...constantly receiving... intercepting... receiving... deciphering...integrating...

CAMERON

Feel the sighing, the groaning of the dead who have lived in this world before us.

K-LOW

You're so layered with images, fantasies, power, macho, superiority, sexy "hey baby" come on shit, got the world all figured nice, neat, got your proper way of behaving, educated vocabulary big shot lost in yourself. You gonna save me hero man, show me a good time, the highlife?

(K-LOW slaps him.)

Feeling my baby love?

CAMERON

Yes.

K-LOW

You do know why this is happening?

CAMERON

Tell me.

K-LOW

Punishment orders the world, justice, moral compass shit, balance it all up, a moment of clean calm then it all moves on to the next moment of shit, there is always more shit.

CAMERON

You are burning up.

K-LOW

I feel fine.

CAMERON

You're burning.

K-LOW

Life.

CAMERON

Two spirits touching, meeting in the vast infinity.

K-LOW

Ohhhh, what's this I feel, a shift?

(K-LOW looks at him closely, his eyes, then feels his skin.)

Stop that, I'm in control!

CAMERON

Your shallow breathing, your racing heartbeat, the warm blood pulsing through your body. I feel it all, I feel the wall, this chair, the wood telling me the story how it was once young, years of growth, tall in nature, tickled by the rain, warmed by sun, cooled by the moon, caressed by the wind, dancing with stars, harvested, transformed, manufactured, barely recognizing themselves, clinging on to faint memory of who, what they once were. Like you.

K-LOW

I'm not listening, not listening!

CAMERON

You are.

K-LOW

Target on your forehead. My way of making love to you.

CAMERON

I love you.

K-LOW

You cannot love me!

CAMERON

I don't need your permission.

K-LOW

Love makes you vulnerable to manipulation, control. Moods, mental conditions change several times a minute, a factor, which can neither be trusted nor relied upon. What do you see?

CAMERON

A confused, lonely muddle seeking clarity.

(K-LOW grabs his crotch aggressively. At first we think CAMERON is in pain, then he is unaffected. He stands and they engaged in strange sort of intimacy.)

Trying to be sexy?

K-LOW

Yeah. Sexy.

CAMERON

You can't hurt me.

K-LOW

I jerk off in the muddle. Only clarity I have in the mucky muddle is pinching my clitoris until there is a hard moment of wake up, electro shocking my alien body, the mucky mud ain't so muddly no more, pleasure clearness with the promise of climaxes to come.

CAMERON

You had a dream...in that dream you dreamt many men were killing you. You escaped you know not how, to a large wooded area next to a lake. Upon waking your head was chopped off but it was laughing at all of your chopped off body parts that you saw laying in the tall grass around you. Then you saw me standing over a large bubbling stew pot putting in your body parts, wanting to make you clean, putting you back together again, making you innocent again.

K-LOW

You shit talk, charm your way, what you want to take me on a date? Play Frank Sinatra sexy come on music's as your hand is crawling into my panties? Ruffle my drink, then handcuff me to a sink? I see you Vampire manpire feeding on my tender delicate flesh.

(K-LOW breaks away from CAMERON, reaches beneath her skirt and takes out a revolver; the weapon is covered with afterbirth like fluids.)

Little baby protects me, divining rod pointing the way, my cock thrusting jabbing the world, keeping people like you at bay.

(She points it at CAMERON.)

CAMERON

You gave birth to a gun.

(K-LOW points the gun at CAMERON'S forehead.)

K-LOW

Target. Bulls eye. Boom! No more.

CAMERON

You really want me dead?

K-LOW

Agency directive. We all take orders.

CAMERON

So, you do take orders?

K-LOW

Mind game, turning things around ... aren't you hot, I'm so hot...we're a dying species, we are all a steaming piece of shit 'bout to go cold...

CAMERON

You'll be all alone.

(Lowers her gun.)

K-LOW

You are confusing things!

CAMERON

The world is complicated, complex, confused, layers...lonely.

K-LOW

We'll fuck, I'll climax then pop you.

CAMERON

Then what?

MISTER JOE

Shiva, Hello, Hello where are you?

(She receives a message.)

K-LOW

What the fuck?

MISTER JOE

This is Wind Demon, you've been a bad girl.

K-LOW

I'm very busy, what do you want?

CAMERON

Shiva?

K-LOW

(To CAMERON)
Code name.
(to MISTER JOE.)
Do you have a problem?

MISTER JOE

Its time to die! What's the delay?

CAMERON

Shiva?

K-LOW

(To CAMERON)
Shut up.
(To MISTER JOE.)
Negative, Wind Demon. Not yet. Things to do... Asshole leave me alone!

MISTER JOE

You a bad girl bad girl.

K-LOW

This is not just about you, me.

CAMERON

Shiva?

K-LOW

The destroyer?

CAMERON

Why?

K-LOW

You think all of this is a situation comedy, some boodie call reality tee vee for your entertainment pleasure.

CAMERON

(Like an announcer.)
"She's psychologically maladjusted, emotionally scarred, spiritually polluted, packing an attitude and a gun. Female Trouble! Staring"... Sorry, what should I call you?

K-LOW

K-Low. K-L-O-W. Understand?

CAMERON

What? Why?

K-LOW

Fuck you. K for Killer, Low, on the down low! Protect my true identity.

(Puts the gun to his head. He squeezes his eyes shut waiting to be killed.)

Don't do that.

CAMERON

Do what?

K-LOW

Squeeze you eyes tight, trying to hide in darkness. Going to happen sooo fast, honey, boom, echo in the void, feeling not a thing. Another angle.

(Puts the gun to CAMERON'S temple.)

CAMERON

Ouch Owey!

K-LOW

You a ten-year-old girl? "Ouch owey?"

CAMERON

Brains, blood, splatter on the wall, what, I can't have last words?

K-LOW

Point-blank, spatter, over done. Passé.

CAMERON

Visual poetry, Jackson Pollack meets the Marquis de Sade, yucky, then look at the Rorschach all over the wall, hummm, what does it all mean?

K-LOW

There's technique.

CAMERON

Yeah...

K-LOW

What?

CAMERON
I like your style.

K-LOW
Fuck off.

CAMERON
I'm totally devoted to you, big fan.

K-LOW
Still gonna die.

CAMERON
You're turned on.

K-LOW
Okay, a little, yeah, I admit.

CAMERON
Sexy. Undercover spy. Okay.

K-LOW
My team took photos, gathered information, know all about you...

CAMERON
Emergency Reaction Force?

K-LOW
Top secret, special unit of the agency.

CAMERON
Having doubts? So beautiful, so fucked up...Your sad beautiful eyes, your mouth...

K-LOW
I'm not sad....A little lost. Take me to those woods, the one in the dream, the high grass...You've been there?

CAMERON
Yes...

(K-LOW is having a minor panic attack.)

Breathe.

I can't...
K-LOW

You are.
CAMERON

The lake?
K-LOW

On the shores, the woods surrounding that lake... there lives your
innocence. Are you prepared to leave this life?
CAMERON

I don't know. I'm afraid. I'm shaking.
K-LOW

Scene 2

Upstairs

There are two chairs and JIMMY MAC is seated staring off into space. His jacket is slung haphazardly over the back of his chair. He is wearing a white shirt and is a bit disheveled; gun holster with a large handgun at the side of his torso. He has wolf-like features and movements and at time is very fearsome.

MISTER JOE is neither male nor female and like JIMMY MAC is also from between realities, part human part creature of mythology. MISTER JOE is oddly dressed and is wearing headphones with a microphone attached, listening to music, his head dancing with a beat.

MISTER JOE
WHY DID SHE CALL ME AN ASSHOLE!
(MISTER JOES yells at the window.)
HEY, DIE ALREADY!
(Laughing hysterically then turns to JIMMY MAC.)
WHY IS THIS ONE TAKING SO LONG?

JIMMY MAC

She knows what she's doing.

(MISTER JOE does not hear JIMMY MAC.)

MISTER JOE

She's working out her shit.

JIMMY MAC

MORON, WE'RE HERE RIGHT NOW! Focus.

MISTER JOE

Whoa, peace, yo, bro!

JIMMY MAC

We are on a mission?

MISTER JOE

What's eating you?

JIMMY MAC

She called me.

MISTER JOE

Really?

JIMMY MAC

All the time now, anytime, middle of the night, wakes me up. I don't know what from what anymore. There are procedures. A system is in place. Things are not right.

MISTER JOE

You are not in this alone, Jimmy Mac! She's sooooo messed-up.

(MISTER JOE laughs hysterically then suddenly stops.)

JIMMY MAC

Hey, hey, she's the reason we're here!

MISTER JOE

(into microphone.)

You've been a bad girl bad girl You've been a bad girl You need a bad boy. You've been a bad girl bad girl. Let's have a love fight for the rest of our night Ooooh, You've been a bad girl bad girl bad girl...

JIMMY MAC
Hey! HEY!

MISTER JOE
I'm doing my thang!

JIMMY MAC
You exhaust me...

MISTER JOE
How come she never calls me?

JIMMY MAC
She's confused.

MISTER JOE
She doesn't like me. I scare her.

JIMMY MAC
Who is that guy? ... she's not telling us everything.

MISTER JOE
Feel the currents all around, voices everywhere, Fred Astaire...we are not alone....Listen. Do we have a thought, does the thought have us?

(MISTER JOE feels the currents, laughs hysterically then suddenly stops.)

JIMMY MAC
"I will protect you from all attackers with fierceness and endurance. I will die for you."

MISTER JOE
Yeah! Yeah! We da dream team!

JIMMY MAC
Not anymore.

MISTER JOE
Wait! Wait Wait!...Ohhhh yeah, oh yeah, K-Low K-Low K-Low hello.. finding that groove that groove oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah, OH YES!

JIMMY MAC
I'M TALKING HERE!

MISTER JOE

OKAY! Totally focused.

JIMMY MAC

I don't sleep anymore! I take this serious. Endure, always alert, ready, watchful. I kill, mutilate, destroy for her.

MISTER JOE

You da Crocodile Princess, swamp thang believe you can hide? Seen it all. I go under the earth listen to the dead people tell stories of you. Can't hide. Seen it all, know it all Crocodile Princess.

JIMMY MAC

I don't have a clue what to do. I had a function, wasn't perfect, it worked.

MISTER JOE

Smelled it alright Crocodile Princess heart full of bells ringin' with her moves whatever she do I see it all uh ha un ha un ha, ohkay ...

JIMMY MAC

Nobody gives a fuck about anything but their own give a fuck shit, I don't understand people, they're happy to die in their own fuck shit thinking that was life. A life is an opportunity. Look around you, all this, the residual glow like when a star dies the light lives on but its dead a million years. There used to be rules, structures, purpose, responsibilities, progression ... this is all dead.

(He growls then regains his calm.)

MISTER JOE

She said that?

JIMMY MAC

I said that! Look...in the eyes! LISTEN TO MY VOICE!

MISTER JOE

Ohhh, here we go again, psychic Svengali...shhhhhhit!

JIMMY MAC

Fuck. We're losing here, the earth is shifting, the poles are about the flip, you're dancing.

MISTER JOE

We need to stay INTENSE! FOCUSED! OBSEESSED!

JIMMY MAC

I am through with this! I quit!

MISTER JOE

This is only a momentary thang; you are the Big Mac. Jimmy Mac, the Mac Man eating everybody up. The Mac that orders the underworld! Courageous, clever crafty, no-retreat Mac you the legend, the magical link holding it all together! Pull all that mojo back in! Yeah!

(JIMMY MAC impulsively takes up an un-opened water bottle, growls and speaks an incomprehensible language as he holds the bottle aloft as a sacred object. He shows it to MISTER JOE.)

JIMMY MAC

Water is sacred, origins of life!

MISTER JOE

Go, go, go, yes! Holy water!

JIMMY MAC

Quiet, please!

(To the bottle with great reverence.)

In you, the mystery and clarity of the future...water, for you, the source of life, the beginning, the end, the eternal. Renew me.

(MISTER JOE nods and goes still. It is obvious this is a ritual of some sort.)

This is not pure enough!

MISTER JOE

Patience.

JIMMY MAC

I need pure water! Sacred water!

MISTER JOE

When negative thoughts come I just say to myself, "you are wonderful, unique, beautiful."

JIMMY MAC

We're fucked.

MISTER JOE

Everything is so dog-eat-dog for you!

JIMMY MAC

Bow-wow, now let me smell your asshole, after that I'll lick my balls for a while and feel good about myself, go take a shit on the neighbors lawn smell it make a few circles, go home, fall asleep all curled up, listen for something that scares me into barking. That's my life!

MISTER JOE

I love you Mac.

JIMMY MAC

SHE NEEDS TO POP THAT FUCK ALREADY! HE IS THROWING OFF THE RIGHTFUL ORDER OF THINGS.

(JIMMY MAC growls and thrashes as if tormented and chained.
MISTER JOE laughs hysterically then suddenly stops. JIMMY MAC pulls out his handgun and waves it around.)

MISTER JOE

WHOA! Jimmy Mac... Freaking me out!

(MISTER JOE goes to the cage and sees that it is empty.)

Shittttt, ohhhh SHIT!

JIMMY MAC

What? What?

MISTER JOE

Shit.

JIMMY MAC

Wha....SHHHHHIT!

MISTER JOE

What the...

JIMMY MAC

Fuck?

MISTER JOE

I don't know! I do not know! I do not KNOW!

JIMMY MAC

Who is this guy?

MISTER JOE

You distracted me!

JIMMY MAC

You were dancing!

MISTER JOE

I don't understand what's going on. I use to, I do not understand, I used to understand, I do not understand, I used to...

JIMMY MAC

Shut up! Did you know about this?

MISTER JOE

I am not going to panic, I am not going to panic. I will remain calm...not panic. No, not to panic...everything is going to be okay....Shiva, Shiva!

JIMMY MAC

Notify the agency.

MISTER JOE

Noo no no way! Shiva? SHIVA!?

JIMMY MAC

They will know.

MISTER JOE

We gotta find her.

(MISTER JOE goes running from the scene.)

JIMMY MAC

The end begins.

(JIMMY MAC scowls and growls then exits. Sound of siren.)

Scene 3

Intimacy

The wind is blowing loudly then subsides, remaining a presence that occasionally swells. K-LOW and CAMERON are sitting on a bed.

CAMERON

You look pretty.

K-LOW

I want to be perfect. Is it hot in here? Why am I so anxious?

CAMERON

It's a hurricane. You were dreaming. What do you think of men?

K-LOW

I'd like to be one. I think it would be easier. I want to kiss you, I don't know...

(Sound of a raging storm outside.)

CAMERON

I'm here.

(She moves to kiss him then pushes him off.)

K-LOW

No, please.

CAMERON

Okay, we'll talk.

K-LOW

About what?

CAMERON

What are they saying?

(K-LOW listens and deciphers as the sound of the voices swell.)

K-LOW

"To command respect you have to prove yourself far more worthy, a bitch. That's what I am, brainwashed pig bitch I might try to convince you...detract you from the golden truth, this man"... and other crap crap blah blah...you want to take control.

CAMERON

Do you believe that?

K-LOW

I hear voices, get messages, I think I know them but I can't be sure. I tried not to listen, I tried hallucinogenics, mind numbing, nerve leveling substances, therapy, Now I'm accepting who I am, kill and hurt.

CAMERON

Sit. Rest.

K-LOW

I wandered, I got lost in a war, I became a soldier, fighter... Now what? I am going to live as your wife? That would be nice. Do the shopping, cleaning, cooking? I am NOT a waitress! What do you want from me?

CAMERON

Do you trust me?

K-LOW

Yes. No. Maybe.

CAMERON

All I can do is help when trouble comes.

K-LOW

You are so handsome, please be my husband. I shall be a wife unto you.

CAMERON

You must become your own husband your own wife.

K-LOW

We will sleep together, create great heat. Look me in the eyes.

(She looks directly into his eyes.)

CAMERON

Your eyes are deep holes...A yawn into...nothingness. Fuck.

(K-LOW becomes upset.)

K-LOW

I have nothing inside me? The word "Fuck". It pollutes the air...why is the flesh world so sticky?

(K-LOW waves her hand as if dispelling the word in the air.)

CAMERON

It is a strange word, fuck. More a punctuation. When I was a sailor...Fuck was a big word, sometimes every other word, fuck this, fuck, fuck that. All

those men together on a ship, out at sea, deep dark blue everywhere, testosterone fucking building, no outlet. You know what I mean. just a word for a force that circulates in the world.

K-LOW

This is why I don't go on dates!

CAMERON

You never know who a person might be until it is too late.

K-LOW

Guys seem nice, say nice things, make promises, smile, real charming. Talk a lot of shit. Then WHAM. Weird, complicated, convoluted. Then you're...

K-LOW/CAMERON

Fucked.

CAMERON

See.

K-LOW

What did you do, sailor?

CAMERON

A diver.

K-LOW

Romantic. Deep-sea diver?

CAMERON

Mostly wrecks, salvage missions, dark deep unfathomable caves. Dangerous.

K-LOW

I'm so afraid of the water, fish biting, not being able to touch bottom. Cold, dark, full of unknown creatures down there that can grab you, pull you under.

(Hold out her trembling hands.)

Look, just thinking about it... look, shaking, goose pimples, sweating. What's wrong with me?

CAMERON

The ocean is full of billions of colorful fish. Delicate, translucent, they surround, fluttering like countless little angels constantly kissing.

K-LOW

Coming around a dark corner, YAAH! Wide, full of teeth.

CAMERON

I'm a barracuda?

K-LOW

I need to ask you some questions.

CAMERON

Okay.

K-LOW

If you lie your skin will tremble.

CAMERON

Look closely.

K-LOW

Will you hurt me?

CAMERON

Never.

K-LOW

Give me what I am longing for?

CAMERON

The reason I am here...

K-LOW

I have always wished for someone like you. I daydreamed I would meet a prince charming, liked a lot physically, wanted to be with. I like your face. But I know through my experiences from my old life that there are many people who lured me into a web of lies, people who are not who they seem, they wear other people's faces.

CAMERON

Am I like that?

(She feels CAMERON, his face, his body, and hair.)

K-LOW

This feels so visually ... physically real ... touch... experience.

(The sound of the wind swells. Sound of thunder.)

I'm scared.

CAMERON

It's okay.

K-LOW

I am doing everything I can to resist the urge of hiding under this bed.
What's going on out there?

CAMERON

All the tumult in the world has lifted polluting the air.

K-LOW

Where are you from?

CAMERON

Does that really matter anymore?

K-LOW

What is this place?

CAMERON

A surreal land cloaked overfilled with past but suffering a pleasant
amnesia ... Such is life, let's make love.

K-LOW

I like you. You make me happy.

CAMERON

You just smiled like a little girl.

K-LOW

Do you like being with me?

CAMERON

Is that so hard to believe?

(Voices are heard. K-LOW responds.)

K-LOW

“Fucking bitch like me has no right to ask a man to keep going and satisfy her until and unless the bitch has earned that treatment from man the hard way.

CAMERON

You are not a bitch.

K-LOW

“Yes, I am, and one more point, to keep the bitch on her toes, keep her always guessing and never allow the bitch to take you for granted at any point in life otherwise the bitch will take you down.”

CAMERON

Can we change the subject?

K-LOW

Okay, ask me....

CAMERON

Tell me a secret.

K-LOW

I was young, they abducted me, telling me they would kill me unless I obeyed. They put a gadget in my chest that is used to control my actions. It makes me physically weaker, affected my hormones so I changed, became something else.

CAMERON

What happened then?

K-LOW

I was sent to war, went undercover. I was a woman but I was a man.

CAMERON

You survived.

K-LOW

Something told me, “You have to fight, you must never give up!”

CAMERON

Leave that world behind.

K-LOW

I had proved myself. Now they were afraid, give me respect.

CAMERON

The voices?

K-LOW

At first, I could barely hear the faint voice, what it was saying when I was young. When I got older it became clear, harsher, increasingly menacing. Tormented me, taunt me saying I was no good at my life, wasn't fit to be alive.

CAMERON

The abuse of your body, alcohol, drugs...

K-LOW

I have tried to remain true to myself.

CAMERON

How?

K-LOW

I let you in. I thought you were a ghost, a spirit, I don't know, a dream. The voices are afraid of you. With you I have energy to live my life.

CAMERON

What do you want?

K-LOW

Everything to be normal.

CAMERON

What would you do with normal?

K-LOW

I would not be distracted, confused. I am stealth, an assassin, on a mission to set the world right. Being a spy has given my life meaning, my quest, my way of being. I take anti-depressants.

CAMERON

I thought you longed to see the world's innocence again?

K-LOW

Be my sexy, mysterious lover.

CAMERON

I might be a nasty lover, with a painfully large sexual organ, freezing cold, made of iron, double-pronged.

K-LOW

Isn't love a violent love-hate thing?

CAMERON

A message?

K-LOW

Everyone gets messages. People, I don't know who they are, what they want. Some bully me, tell me to be aggressive, to make others suffer. It is just a matter of time until the world collapses onto itself. Everything is in cycles; we are at the end of a cycle. Death is life, life is death. Death is not the bringer of pain. Death is the release from pain.

CAMERON

Death is all the time.

(Thunder and lightening then weather sirens go off.)

K-LOW

We need to find shelter.

(They listen.)

CAMERON

Shadows shift, tremble, hesitate, something is being decided.

(They stand facing each other. CAMERON strokes her hair; she is frightened, pulls back.)

This will take time.

K-LOW

Please, be gentle. Please.

(Sirens swell. Blackout.)

Scene 4

RETAIL

K-LOW is looking intently at JIMMY MAC who is gently and neatly folding items of clothing and putting them into a shopping bag. A totem-like manikin resembling K-LOW is nearby.

K-LOW

You're very neat.

JIMMY MAC

I have always liked order and efficiency.

K-LOW

An attention to detail. A girl likes that.

JIMMY MAC

I take great pride in what I do.

K-LOW

You have delicate hands. Beautiful fingernails.

JIMMY MAC

Attention to detail.

K-LOW

You seem a little lonely, unhappy.

JIMMY MAC

Slacks. One lady's skirt, one gabardine jacket. Will that be all?

K-LOW

And this necklace with the cute little butterfly?

JIMMY MAC

One of a kind, ancient really...Here, my gift to you.

K-LOW

No, I can't.

JIMMY MAC

You can and you will. No more discussion.

K-LOW

I...thank you.

JIMMY MAC

First time in Rome?

K-LOW

Yes. I'm shopping by myself, I wanted to bring along a trusted, stylish friend.

JIMMY MAC

Such friends are wonderful to have.

K-LOW

I miss my friend. We were so close, inseparable then we drifted apart.

JIMMY MAC

Lives have become so rushed, full of nonsense, endless, boring chatter, anxiety, values are skewed, meaningless, time so compressed.

K-LOW

She died.

JIMMY MAC

I...I'm...I'm so sorry.

K-LOW

I re-live her death over and over again everyday.

JIMMY MAC

Care to sit? I'll get you some water.

K-LOW

She was so innocent. In our advanced, civilized world, why are there weapons of mass and ecological destruction? How could such a thing happen again and again, over and over?

JIMMY MAC

Will you be all right?

K-LOW

Life was so simple once upon a time.

JIMMY MAC

Have some water.

K-LOW

Not now...

JIMMY MAC

We must all be very careful...

K-LOW

She knew how evil can speak through people.

(K-LOW goes to JIMMY MAC and is comforted.)

JIMMY MAC
Shhh...Now I understand why you came here today.

K-LOW
Why?

JIMMY MAC
Now...I am getting a good look at you.

K-LOW
You know me?

JIMMY MAC
Yes. Relax. Look at me.

K-LOW
Please, don't hurt me.

JIMMY MAC
Shhhh. Quiet now.

K-LOW
Tell me.

JIMMY MACK
Do you really want to know? Your secret smile... I see glimpses...your shadows.

K-LOW
Who am I?

(JIMMY MAC and K-LOW look directly at one another.)

JIMMY MAC
You don't make it easy. You are fighting. Look directly into my eyes...

(Pause as they look at each other intently.)

There...I see you now.

K-LOW
Teach me how to feel, how to see, hear the world like you.

JIMMY MAC
You divine the world with a child's quick instinct, inside of you a burning

fire, which scorches the earth...there is something uneasy...there is pain, hurt, confusion, anger...what happened to you...poor girl, I'm soo sorry...

K-LOW

You understand...

JIMMY MAC

Like a Paris doll dressed in a delicate frilly dress, or maybe a pinafore, is how they dressed you. That is not you. I will call you Katrina.

K-LOW

...Katrina.

JIMMY MAC

But I can't help you more than that.

K-LOW

We're getting along.

JIMMY MAC

No, not truly, you haven't made up your mind.

K-LOW

Help me. The world is full of deception, duplicity, like an odor.

JIMMY MAC

Deceptions are releasing like so many toxins. Releasing through the pores of humanity. It is a purge, a cleansing. Look in the mirror.

K-LOW

Why?

JIMMY MAC

There you can't hide anything. It is the full picture of who you are.

K-LOW

I hate looking in the mirror, they freak me out. From behind I look like a troll. I want to be beautiful.

JIMMY MAC

You are beautiful, perfect, a woman about to enter into the fullest bloom of her maturity. A chrysalis.

K-LOW

I've done well for myself, I have been successful, money, I am very independent, I travel, enjoy life.

JIMMY MAC

What, how, where you fit in?

K-LOW

I don't give that much thought. Is that terrible?

JIMMY MAC

Who am I to say?

K-LOW

I am so happy I came in here today. I am always searching for that right something, I think I've found it.

JIMMY MAC

New looks are important I am so happy to hear this. But remember, touch, touch touch. Judge an item by its "feel". Always try on and make no exceptions. It must feel right. Trust your instinct. How about shoes?

K-LOW

I am on my feet a lot.

JIMMY MAC

You love heels.

K-LOW

They make me feel powerful, firm up my ass. I look more fertile, attractive to a mate.

JIMMY MAC

The world of the flesh demands it.

(K-LOW takes a bottle of perfume from the counter.)

K-LOW

"Shiva?" How is this perfume? What's wrong?

JIMMY MAC

Ahhh...It is very powerful. Some women find it very seductive, appealing. I would use it selectively...

K-LOW

Why do you fold slacks and hang tops?

JIMMY MAC

Folding, hanging seeing things nice, neat, in their place is calming.
Caressing lush fabrics.

K-LOW

You know why I am here.

JIMMY MAC

Things are dark...cloudy around you.

K-LOW

This is not what you are supposed to do.

JIMMY MAC

I'm happy, life is good, steady clientele, idle chitchat. An island of quiet in a swirling sea of turmoil.

K-LOW

An island of illusion.

(Pause.)

JIMMY MAC

What do you want?

K-LOW

The agency. I am putting together an Emergency Reaction Force.

JIMMY MAC

I am flattered.

K-LOW

We'll work together.

JIMMY MAC

No, no, so so sorry.

K-LOW

It's a dangerous world, you said.

JIMMY MAC

(Giving her the shopping bag.)

It was so nice chatting with you. Thank you for shopping with us today, I hope to see you again. Our spring sale is in two weeks, please stop back, all items will be steeply discounted. Have a nice day. Goodbye.

K-LOW

Your lies have become real.

JIMMY MAC

So nice of you to shop with...

K-LOW

Okay, forget I said anything. Everything is normal. The same as it always was, will ever be, a gossip of boring, superficial, walking death. It has been nice meeting, talking. I'll give you a fake smile now.

(She smiles, takes her bag and begins to leave.)

Have a nice day.

JIMMY MAC

You forgot your totem.

(Touching the totem.)

It's warm...

K-LOW

Keep it safe.

JIMMY MAC

No one else will help?

K-LOW

No...Leave this.

JIMMY MAC

Things are comfortable, a little too content, folded, creased, orderly. I miss the old ways, uncertainties stirring up inside of me, sense of purpose. You came to me.

K-LOW

Will you help me?

JIMMY MAC

Yes...I do not lie, not a liar.

K-LOW

We'll work, help, protect each other.

JIMMY MAC

Here, take this key, keep it, an exchange for your totem. Hide it in a safe spot...Immediately.

K-LOW

Thank you.

JIMMY MAC

Now it begins.

(KATRINA, a well-dress, woman, enters.)

Madam, welcome back, so good to see you again.

KATRINA

I need something for a special occasion.

JIMMY MAC

I'll be with you in just a moment.

KATRINA

(To K-LOW.)

I'm a regular. He is so sensitive to a woman's needs.

JIMMY MAC

You are too kind.

(To K-LOW.)

Did you find everything you were looking for?

K-LOW

Yes.

KATRINA

Have we met before?

K-LOW

No...I was just leaving.

KATRINA

You're pretending...you know me.

JIMMY MAC

She is traveling the world on business.

K-LOW

A whole new wardrobe.

KATRINA

How wonderful.

(Goes to the totem.)

Oh, how lovely. It's so warm...We need to sit down and talk. Catch up...when you get back.

(JIMMY MAC nods to K-LOW.)

K-LOW

Okay, sure. Yes, I look forward to that.

Scene 5

A Café

K-LOW'S sits with KATRINA at a table. They are in a café.

A bottle of champagne and two glasses are on the table and they are drinking. KATRINA laughs along silently and smiling at K-LOW'S happiness. Café like sounds mixed with music.

KATRINA

Wonderful to see you so happy.

K-LOW

I haven't been this happy in such a long time.

KATRINA

How were your travels?

K-LOW

Siberia, India, China, Egypt, Tanzania, I loved Japan.

KATRINA

You got sick?

K-LOW

Couldn't hold down food. The only hotel nearby was on an island... in the middle of a dark lake, surrounded by forests. When I got to there I finally felt better. I was so hungry. I walked through the small island at night seeing only illuminated Japanese symbols. I was so hungry. It was midnight. People were coming out of the underground train station...-“Do you speak English? No? Do you speak English? What? No, so sorry.” A cute Japanese girl with pigtails and black Capri pants said she knew where to find food.

(K-LOW mimes the Japanese girl's gestures.)

Arrived at a restaurant called "Samurai", Lelu, that was the girl's name, said, "You guest, I pay." Conversation wasn't too in depth. She was nice. What I loved, was every time she was about to speak, her eyes would look in the air, like she could see the sentence and thought I could see it too, pointing to it so I could understand what she was saying. We were two little girls playing; the world was full of joy.

KATRINA

And?

K-LOW

We stayed up until dawn... talked, played music.

KATRINA

How wonderful.

K-LOW

I realized all over again we all are part of one world. We cuddled, kissed and fell asleep in each other's arms.

KATRINA

More champagne?

K-LOW

A little.

KATRINA

And work?

K-LOW

Crazy.

(They drink.)

KATRINA

I love champagne.

K-LOW

I love watching the bubbles...you never know what they will do next.

(K-LOW becomes dizzy, and then, trance-like, begins to speak, living what she depicts.)

KATRINA

What is it?

K-LOW

I...I am in a wooden boat rowing. A wave breaks, the boat turns over. I am swimming to an island in the middle of a lake.

KATRINA

Do you reach the island?

K-LOW

Yes, an old abandoned house. A few shadowy figures emerge from a warehouse full of things. I am the most beautiful little girl in the world. NO!

KATRINA

What, what is it?

K-LOW

The shadow people send me flying through the air into the lake. NO!

KATRINA

What is happening? Tell me.

K-LOW

WHERE IS MY LIFE JACKET!

KATRINA

Here it is, take it.

(KATRINA gives her jacket to K-LOW.)

K-LOW

I must swim, swim, yes...

KATRINA

What do you see?

K-LOW

I must keep swimming.

KATRINA

What, tell me...

K-LOW

NO! I disappear under the water.

KATRINA

Sit now....Have something to drink.

K-LOW

Thank you.

KATRINA

That's what I've always loved about you.

K-LOW

What?

KATRINA

You have been able to keep your poet's eye and heart. Remember, you used to chase them all over the yard, put them in a glass jar. You made a little altar for them on your little night table next to your little bed. Wearing your little Japanese kimono. "Turn the lights off sweetie" Holding your Hello Kitty so so tight, talking to the fireflies yellow glowing the darkness.

K-LOW

In the morning they would all be dead, laying on each other at the bottom of the jar like stacks of Nazi corpses, each morning another mass grave discovered in Bosnia, Iraq, Rwanda, Cambodia, Armenia...

KATRINA

Such a beautiful little girl.

K-LOW

Katrina, why is the good always mixed with the terrible?

KATRINA

If a genie would give you only one wish, which would you pick?

K-LOW

Why did you ask that?

KATRINA

For fun.

K-LOW

It makes me uncomfortable.

KATRINA

When you feel sad, what cheers you up?

K-LOW

Enough. Stop.

KATRINA

Why are you afraid of questions?

K-LOW

I AM NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!

KATRINA

Questions lead to answers? We played this game when you were a girl.

K-LOW

So what?

KATRINA

If you could change three things about yourself, what would they be?

K-LOW

Why are you doing this? You're dead, you died, you're not real.

KATRINA

No. I am real.

(KATRINA gags then is hit with violent fits and goes sprawling then moves in a ghoulish dance. K-LOW does nothing to help her.)

K-LOW

Fuck your little game.

KATRINA

(Choking.)

What kind of person watches another's suffering?

K-LOW

How dare you ask questions!

KATRINA

(Becoming calm.)

Tell me about your favorite toy when you were little? Was it a gun?

K-LOW

No.

KATRINA

Tell me something I never knew about you.

What is your problem?

K-LOW

So many dark secrets.

KATRINA

What are the qualities that make a good person?

K-LOW

(KATRINA is hit with another violent fit.)

What is ... wrong ... with you? Do you think of me when something scares you?

KATRINA

No!

K-LOW

I love those photos of you as a child. So cute.

KATRINA

I would rather not talk about that.

K-LOW

Ever thought about children?

KATRINA

I go numb thinking about it.

K-LOW

How old were you when you first fell in love?

KATRINA

I met someone. Someone special.

K-LOW

You did? I'm so happy for you! ... It's serious.

KATRINA

During the hurricane. He's very special.

K-LOW

A soul mate? Do you think you are ready?

KATRINA

K-LOW

Don't you think I am?

KATRINA

I was just thinking. We really don't talk about many things.

K-LOW

Like what?

KATRINA

When you were a girl, your hopes, dreams.

K-LOW

You don't need to know everything.

(KATRINA returns to her chair. All is normal.)

KATRINA

Ask me a question.

K-LOW

No.

KATRINA

When you were young you would write all sorts of questions down, put them in a big jar in the kitchen then pull out a slip of paper so you would always have something to talk about...

K-LOW

I never liked that game.

KATRINA

We would talk about pesticides, irradiation, genetically modified foods. Once we were in a restaurant and got into topics like topsoil depletion, desertification, the extinction of blue fin tuna and polar bears, and the guy seated next to us told us all about how few cod were left in Cape Cod.

K-LOW

Like how a meat-based diet causes climate change.

KATRINA

The art of meaningful conversation is so difficult with all the distractions we have today.

K-LOW

And you will award points for the best conversation? Whoever gets the most points, wins?

KATRINA

So competitive.

K-LOW

What is beyond the stars?

KATRINA

The sky is a big dark lid, what you see as stars are really holes with the light of all being shining through.

K-LOW

What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

KATRINA

When I was young...

K-LOW

What happened?

KATRINA

Ten years old... in the backyard of our summer cottage by the lake wearing the cutest little bikini. My mother was cooking, looking out the kitchen window at me waving, giggling, playing with a garden hose spraying it high in the air, spinning, dancing, laughing, such joy...

K-LOW

What were you doing?

KATRINA

I...I...was...

K-LOW

I am dancing with the angels.

KATRINA

Then I was gone. I miss that little girl ever so much.

K-LOW

Do you think honesty is always the best policy?

KATRINA

Yes, of course.

K-LOW

Are you proud of yourself, your life?

KATRINA

Katrina....

K-LOW

Katrina ...proud even if you did terrible mean things?

KATRINA

Is there something you want to tell me?

K-LOW

Have you ever had a dream that you had died but were somehow living, everyone still thought you were real.

KATRINA

That is a nightmare.

K-LOW

The darkness took Katrina.

KATRINA

I looked and looked, I cried for years, I am still weeping, all the moisture of my life has been cried out. I am dry now but still crying, a good wind will blow me away.

K-LOW

What would it be like to meet someone from outer space? An alien savior let's say.

KATRINA

I don't know.

K-LOW

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

KATRINA

I miss you so much.

K-LOW

What would you do if you were invisible?

KATRINA

You want to be invisible?

K-LOW

Why do some people want to hurt and kill other people?

KATRINA

So lonely they are angry, bitter, mean, they want to destroy and hurt because they hurt, that's all they know.

(KATRINA has a spasm, jerks and chokes.)

K-LOW

Since yesterday at this time, 13 million tons toxic chemicals were released across the globe; 200,000 acres rainforest destroyed; more than 100 plant or animal species extinct; 45,000 humans died of starvation, who knows how many because of war. That is mean.

(KATRINA returns to normal.)

KATRINA

That's not my fault. I re-cycle, turn the thermostat down low, drive a hybrid car.

K-LOW

You're an adult, you're supposed to know better, supposed to take care of things, watch out for children, help them, guide them.

KATRINA

I'm so so sorry, there are just so many things outside of my control. I try the best I can. Humans do what they must do.

K-LOW

Just live with what you were given? That's it? That's shit!

KATRINA

Why and how did you become like this?

K-LOW

It's all I know.

KATRINA

Tell me about something I never knew you did when you were a little girl.

K-LOW

All you can do is play games?

KATRINA

Katrina, I didn't mean...

K-LOW

Sentimental nostalgic bullshit!

(KATRINA has a spasm. K-LOW does nothing to assist her. KATRINA acts as if her body is undergoing an attack yet is almost like a modern dance.)

FUCK YOU! FUCK YOU! I AM NOT POWERLESS! I WILL DESTROY ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY!

(After several moments K-LOW regains her composure. KATRINA is assisted by K-LOW who straightens her clothing and hair. KATRINA feels K-LOW'S hand.)

Are you all right? Let me fix you.

KATRINA

You're so warm. Heal me.

K-LOW

Do you believe in heaven and hell?

KATRINA

Things are not right. You are not healthy.

K-LOW

What are you especially proud of?

(They sit down and drink as if nothing unusual had happened.)

KATRINA

You know I love you, no matter what.

K-LOW

What is the most beautiful place in the world?

KATRINA

You ask questions to avoid answers.

K-LOW

Have you ever gotten really lost?

Do you like yourself?
KATRINA

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LOST?
K-LOW

Look at me.
KATRINA

How does it feel?
K-LOW

What?
KATRINA

To be lost? To lose your feelings, to watch everything fall apart, all the slow killing around us, in us.
K-LOW

You are so sensitive.
KATRINA

It's called living.
K-LOW

I did the best I could, what I could.
KATRINA

I trusted you. You let me down.
K-LOW

Love is lacking in your life so you fill emptiness with power.
KATRINA

What makes a person innocent?
K-LOW

If you could trade lives with somebody you know, who would it be?
KATRINA

Anybody but me.
K-LOW

You have struggled with hidden forces for such a long time, I'm so afraid for you.
KATRINA

Scene 6
THE WAY IS OPEN

K-LOW stands by herself, shaking, crying.

K-LOW

Jimmy Mac?

(JIMMY MAC enters from the shadows wearing a robe.)

JIMMY MAC

Huh? What?

K-LOW

Jimmy Mac...

JIMMY MAC

Hey...

K-LOW

Sorry, I woke you up.

JIMMY MAC

That's all right. What's wrong, honey? Hey...Shhhhh.

K-LOW

I know, sorry, sorry, I'm a mess, soo soo sorry...

JIMMY MAC

Shhhhhh, shhhhh...You're having a difficult time.

K-LOW

I thought this would be easy.

JIMMY MAC

You're doing what you must do...

K-LOW

Things are happening all the time, never stop happening, so fast.

JIMMY MAC

The world is intelligent, always thinking, being, talking, doing what it has to do.

(They listen to a cacophony of sounds.)

K-LOW

Talking up a storm now.

JIMMY MAC

I'm here. My fierceness, courage, strength are yours. We have a job. You need to rest.

K-LOW

Not now...

(Hearing something.)

That little sound, do you hear it?

JIMMY MAC

...Yes.

K-LOW

What is it saying? You know!...What? Tell me. Tell me!

JIMMY MAC

(Listening)

"Let the way be open. Let the way for you be open. Enter. Now the way is open."

(They both listen to a layered cacophony of sounds, nature, languages and voices swells. A door opens. Waves of water.)

Scene 7

IN THE FOREST OF SYMBOLS

Sounds of nature resonate. Fragmented words, abstractions and geometric images play.

K-LOW

I'm here, looking.

CAMERON

Look, do you see me flying? I'm right behind you.

K-LOW

I see you flying over the valleys, cliffs. You are in front of me now hovering.

CAMERON

I'm following you.

K-LOW

I'm floating through a misty cloud.

CAMERON

Be attentive.

K-LOW

I feel large, alive. I dive in; I go down, into the volcano.

(Sound of a volcano rumbling.)

There are flames, illuminating my face...passing through the flames; they are white, brilliant around me.

(CAMERON is dressed in white. Throughout the rest of the scene shadows and images, human, animal, monstrous, and anthropomorphic, flit by catching K-LOW'S attention. CAMERON is undisturbed by the world they are in.)

CAMERON

You have found your way.

K-LOW

The flames are hot!

(Doubled over with pain.)

Ahhuggggg...

CAMERON

The sickness of the world.

K-LOW

Am I still beautiful?

CAMERON

You are radiant.

K-LOW

All of the sudden, everything hurts. What did I do wrong?

CAMERON

You are seeing clearly now.

K-LOW

Dark, shapeless things everywhere.

CAMERON

They want what we do.

K-LOW

To live.

CAMERON

The individual mind is the infinite universe. I see hands flailing up from a desolate planet. You want to know so you implore the heavens to speak:-

K-LOW

Why I'm here?

CAMERON

Where else would you be?

K-LOW

There was a light... everything vanished.

CAMERON

I will never leave you.

K-LOW

Are you so sure of my love?

CAMERON

You are my lover...Yes.

K-LOW

This is really nice, being here with you. The dark, deep, therapeutic earth, wind, rain, fog, heavy overcast, each a mood, invisible insistent on my skin, living land, shaping this dream. But this is not a dream, is it?

CAMERON

No.

(Pause as they listen.)

K-LOW

Earth is a mass grave bodies strewn helter skelter, mothers, babies, soldiers rotting in the womb decomposing melting into another biology.

CAMERON

The world eats us. We are here because of dead things; others will feed on us, which is our required sacrifice.

K-LOW

I'm so hot, burning. I can't do this.

CAMERON

You're afraid; I'm afraid, always afraid.

K-LOW

I don't know what to do with all the shadows. They look at me, expecting me to do something.

CAMERON

See these books?

(K-LOW goes to the books.)

Each is an accounting of an individual soul through many, physical and spiritual lives.

K-LOW

Some books are small, unfinished. Others long, complete.

CAMERON

Bits and pieces scattered from all lives are held here.

(K-LOW goes to a book and takes it.)

K-LOW

It's textured cover, looks like velvet...

(K-LOW flips through the book searching.)

Everything I've ever said...feelings, thoughts...letters, words, dates, loves...here...

CAMERON

Put it down.

K-LOW

No!

(K-LOW reads.)

This hasn't happened?

CAMERON

All things have happened. You've not reached this point yet.

K-LOW

What are these hieroglyphics?

CAMERON

The language of angels.

(The lights diminish and the atmosphere is filled with hieroglyphics, moving and dancing.)

K-LOW

Where did these images come from, where will they go?

CAMERON

Spoken into life, living in the world, archived for eternity.

K-LOW

I know you.

CAMERON/K-LOW

You are my lover.

CAMERON

Yes.

K-LOW

When I awake you will be gone.

CAMERON

I will always be here.

Scene 8

IN THE WOODS

JIMMY MAC at packing a travel bag. He is wearing a robe over trousers, and slippers. JIMMY MAC spins and aims his gun at the door. K-LOW walks in, her gun drawn, key in hand. They aim at each other. After a moment they holster their weapons.

JIMMY MAC

You found me.

K-LOW

Like a wolf, deep in the woods.

JIMMY MAC

I am a wolf. I understand aggression; I am master of the effective attack.

K-LOW

I came to say goodbye

JIMMY MAC

Do you know what kind of shit storm you stirred?

K-LOW

Had to.

JIMMY MAC

You okay?

K-LOW

Never better.

JIMMY MAC

You look different.

K-LOW

We're over.

JIMMY MAC

I understand.

K-LOW

This is not easy for me.

JIMMY MAC

You will miss the adrenaline rush...

K-LOW

We live with each other now. Nothing will ever change that.

JIMMY MAC

A nice style, color on you.

K-LOW

Thank you.

(Showing off her shoes.)
Like my shoes?

JIMMY MAC

Such a girl.

K-LOW

You taught me how important shoes are.

JIMMY MAC

How you connect with the earth is important.

K-LOW

We've been good for each other.

JIMMY MAC

I thought I could help make things right, make a difference.

K-LOW

You did.

JIMMY MAC

I thought my strength would get rid of hurt, the anger, its all in me, moving around, like genetics, absorbed into who I am, spreading to whatever I touched. I didn't know what I was doing. Suppose you can't dress the world she's an old beat to shit raped and abused woman. You can try to kill all the assholes in the world, but they keep popping up. I need to find a place for the demons in me. They're just lonely, lost fucks.

K-LOW

I have to go.

JIMMY MAC

I did what I could. Without mistakes there can be no movement.

(JIMMY MAC continues packing his bag.)

Hand me those shoes, will you?

(K-LOW hands him a pair of shoes.)

K-LOW

There comes a time in your life when you finally get it ...you stop in your tracks and somewhere, the voice inside your head cries out - ENOUGH! Enough fighting, crying, struggling. Enough. And, like a child after a tantrum, sobs subside, shudder once or twice, blink back tears through wet lashes, you begin to look at the world through new eyes.

JIMMY MAC

I was trying to make pretty the little girl never allowed to grow into a woman. I lost the little girl; I loved her more than anything in the world.

K-LOW

You didn't do anything wrong.

JIMMY MAC

Wrong, right, what does that mean?

K-LOW

Today I went out in public after a long time in a state of overwhelm; the thoughts, feelings, every detail of those around me become indistinct from my own. It is hard to tell which emotions, thoughts and experiences are mine, which belong to others. You taught me. Your voice, deep inside urging me on to read the world.

JIMMY MAC

I have to squint to see you...so bright now.

K-LOW

I release you.

(Zips up his bag and places it on the floor.)

JIMMY MAC

Thought I'd be excited about leaving, on the road again.

K-LOW

Do you have water?

JIMMY MAC

Water? Yeah, in the cave.

(K-LOW exits. JIMMY MAC takes his robe off, revealed is a vest of explosives. He puts his jacket on. Shouts to K-LOW.)

Don't open it!

K-LOW

(Off stage.)

What?

JIMMY MAC

DON'T OPEN THE WATER!

K-LOW

(Off Stage.)
STILL LOOKING FOR PURTITY?

JIMMY MAC

What do you have without hope?...Let the fierceness that dwells in me never infect me with impurity for I give myself to her care. Protect my will so that all my thoughts, all my heart I offer to her care. Help me protect her life in my soul and help her on her way. Let me always love her. May my mission always be to serve her purity.

(K-LOW enters carrying two water bottles.)

Gotta believe, right?

K-LOW

How many bottles have you...

JIMMY MAC

How often do people pray?

(JIMMY MAC looks at the bottles with great focus.)
Shhhhhh! Quiet.

(JIMMY MAC takes a bottle and does his bottle opening ritual and unscrews it looks at the bottle cap. After a moment there is disappointment on his face. Hands K-LOW the bottle.)

K-LOW

Jimmy Mac... you okay?

(JIMMY MAC unscrews the other bottle and out of habit looks at the bottle cap with disappointment. Pause. He sits down and stares at K-LOW then at the bottle cap.)

JIMMY MAC

Yeah. Everything is...okay...okay...okay. Yeah...perfect. Perfect.

(JIMMY MAC starts sobbing, his fists tight around the bottle cap.)

K-LOW

Jimmy?

(JIMMY MAC give her the water bottle.)

What is this? What does all this mean?

JIMMY MAC
Sometimes you find what you are looking for..

K-LOW
It's time now, isn't it.

(JIMMY MAC takes the bottle and holds it.)

JIMMY MAC
I found purity.

K-LOW
I must. Sorry.

(K-LOW takes out her gun and takes aim at it at JIMMY MAC.)

JIMMY MAC
It's okay. Everything is okay.

(Blackout. Gunshot.)

Scene 9 **BY THE LAKE**

It is an alternate dimension. K-LOW appears in a shroud. KATRINA is in the distance. The first three lines are repeated three times.

K-LOW
Where are we?

KATRINA
You have reached the unreachable island.

K-LOW
To face my challenge.

KATRINA
What is your challenge?

K-LOW
My fear.

KATRINA

What fear do you have?

K-LOW

Fear of stepping over, finding out, disappointment.

KATRINA

Did you watch or live your life?

K-LOW

I am not feeling well.

KATRINA

You are strong.

K-LOW

Am I making this up?

KATRINA

Be strong.

K-LOW

Is this our last meeting?

KATRINA

We are just visitors wearing these flesh bodies. We came, we talked, laughed, listened, touched and loved then we disappear.

K-LOW

I am so afraid.

KATRINA

I'm so proud of you.

K-LOW

I hate this color!

KATRINA

Change it. Reach with the index finger of your right hand.

(K-LOW stands, reaching.)

Now, touch the sky.

(The atmosphere changes.)

The gates are open.

K-LOW

My only hope was to dream of a future.

KATRINA

You lived a life, you didn't go mad. But suffered and continued. You played with real children. Heard real birds. Walked your real dog, stroked your real cat.

K-LOW

My innocence is gone.

KATRINA

No, it waits. Look.

K-LOW

I am looking!

KATRINA

You are looking with your eyes.

K-LOW

The lake. We had a summer cabin.

KATRINA

What were you doing?

K-LOW

Playing. I loved playing with water, being in the woods. Gentle summer Sunday afternoons the whole world was on vacation. The trees talked, the wind danced with me, we played, sang, laughed so happily.

(The atmosphere shifts. Sound of roaring wind, a siren. MISTER JOE appears, transformed into some sort of Hindu Warrior Goddess with a blue face. With fierceness MISTER JOE confronts K-LOW. K-LOW at first holds her ears.)

Noooooo...

MISTER JOE

You opened the hole hear it speak!

K-LOW

You, wind demon!

MISTER JOE

Listen to your shit spew! You are menstruating, menstruation, menstruation! Shit, bitch, thick dark blood discharge human smelling this sacred place you don't belong here move along now!

K-LOW

You are the voice that taunted me. Hurricane bitch from hell.

MISTER JOE

Who are you calling a bitch, you bitch! Yeeeeeah... my K-Low bitch destroying the world pretty cute bitchy act master killer assassin.

K-LOW

This bitch here is kicking ass in the lower plane any astroplane you're going to feel this bitch's pain.

MISTER JOE

Wacko bitch, now we're seeing eye-to-eye. Welcome back!

K-LOW

Got things to do, step aside.

MISTER JOE

Ohhh, yeah, you do.

(MISTER JOE does a slow motion war-like dance.)

K-LOW

What is this place?

KATRINA

Your essential darkness.

K-LOW

I want to leave.

KATRINA

The open earth has sealed.

K-LOW

Speak to it.

KATRINA

This is your discussion.

MISTER JOE

Look at me! What do you think of men? I think I'd like to be one!

KATRINA

Here, nothing in your psyche is safe.

MISTER JOE

So, what have you been up to since we were made? "I hear voices."
Come on, what are the odds of running into me after so long "I am NOT a
waitress! I shall be a wife unto you!" Life has been beating you up, now
you're fed up, fighting back. Cute female assassin, "I take anti-depressants.
Yes. No. Maybe." I HATE YOU! "Look me in the eyes. I have nothing inside
me? Why is the flesh world so sticky?"

K-LOW

Help me.

MISTER JOE

"You're going to feel this insane bitch's pain!"

K-LOW

Rest. Lonely wrath is foul wrath.

(K-LOW touches MISTER JOE.)

MISTER JOE

Your touch is sweet.

K-LOW

I understand.

MISTER JOE

My voice became gravelly. It hurt my throat.

K-LOW

I should have talked to you, taught you how to laugh.

MISTER JOE

You gave me a cock and breasts!

K-LOW

I couldn't take chances.

MISTER JOE

How could you?

K-LOW

I never saw your face until now.

MISTER JOE

You have storm shadow eyes.

K-LOW

They kept me alive.

MISTER JOE

No-o-o-o! Why would the innocent want to go back?

KATRINA

Bring your prisoner!

MISTER JOE

She has no awareness of time, no knowledge of the growth, of what resides in the flesh world. You will destroy her.

K-LOW

It is time to leave.

MISTER JOE

Pull the slender silvery blue thread from your navel, it has always connected you. Heal all the congestions stored away along that thread. Go hand in hand like life and death. I will mark your name as I have with all who have passed here.

KATRINA

Do you sense the world to come?

K-LOW

Will others be waiting for us in the future?

KATRINA

Childhood is forever waiting.

K-LOW

What happens to all of my memory, everything that I lived and felt?

MISTER JOE

Messages to the world to come.

(K-LOW begins to pull on a string at her navel.)

All things have happened.

K-LOW

Is the moment of my death?

KATRINA

This is that lovely summer Sunday afternoon on the lake.

(KATRINA begins to leave, pulling the string.)

K-LOW

I just want to stay here and play...Where are you going?

MISTER JOE

A soul must be taken for a soul to be given.

K-LOW

Don't go!

KATRINA

I'm here...Always.

(As KATRINA vanishes a young girl, YOUNG KATRINA, appears. She is wearing a white dress; socks, shoes, her skin and hair are all white. Her eyes are closed.)

K-LOW

Holy ghost.

MISTER JOE

Speak, reveal truths too fantastic to be believed.

(YOUNG KATRINA moves as if awakening.)

Look, she listens, she smiles but she doesn't laugh.

YOUNG KATRINA

Are you sad?

K-LOW

No.

YOUNG KATRINA

Are you going to hurt me?

K-LOW

No, no I would never hurt you.

YOUNG KATRINA

I'm a Japanese princess abandoned on this island so so long ago.

K-LOW

Are you all right?

YOUNG KATRINA

People want to take me and hurt me because I am a princess.

K-LOW

Princess Katrina.

YOUNG KATRINA

Who are you?

K-LOW

I am...Katrina, too.

YOUNG KATRINA

How wonderful. We are so very pretty together.

K-LOW

Do you live here?

YOUNG KATRINA

My castle is over there.

K-LOW

Have you been happy?

YOUNG KATRINA

Of course, silly, I can do whatever I want. I'm so happy you have come to visit. You are old.

K-LOW

I am grown up.

YOUNG KATRINA

Are you smart?

K-LOW

A little bit.

YOUNG KATRINA

Do you want to see my castle?

K-LOW

What do you have there?

YOUNG KATRINA

It has so many beautiful rooms. And in my royal chambers I have a crystal ball.

K-LOW

Wouldn't you like to come with me?

YOUNG KATRINA

I like it here. I play all day. I dance and sing, cuddle and kiss.

K-LOW

Don't you get tired of playing?

YOUNG KATRINA

No!

K-LOW

Do you like swimming?

YOUNG KATRINA

Nooooo, so afraid of the water.

K-LOW

Why?

YOUNG KATRINA

Monsters want to grab me, pull me down and hurt me.

K-LOW

I will teach you to swim.

YOUNG KATRINA

Are you a nice person?

K-LOW

I am. Yes. I am. Maybe you can see if you like me and the world.

YOUNG KATRINA

But I'm only a little girl. Scary! I'm not going. No!

(YOUNG KATRINA pulls away and begins to leave.)

K-LOW

I promise never to let anything happen to you. I brought this necklace for you.

YOUNG KATRINA

For me?

K-LOW

Especially for you.

YOUNG KATRINA

I love butterflies!

K-LOW

I promise to take care of you

YOUNG KATRINA

The bestest care?

K-LOW

The bestest.

YOUNG KATRINA

Well...maybe I can go.

YOUNG KATRINA

But you must abandon all those things and only take care of me. Give me your hand. Have no doubts. I am a Princess.

(YOUNG KATRINA points.)

Look! Look! Do you see the sky? Do you see? The sky is really a lid that holds the darkness in.

K-LOW

What should we do?

YOUNG KATRINA

You look like you need to fly, come on, that's what we'll do. We're angels, remember?

(The light increases into a blinding light then blackout.)

Fin