

TWISTED LUCY

FANS

A Dark Comedy in one act

by Sal Anzalone

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Setting: The spacious kitchen of the eccentric RIZZO household. It is Thursday, April 27, 1989—the morning after Lucille Ball's death. LUCY RIZZO is dressed all in black as she cooks breakfast. MIKE, the older of two sons, reads The NEW YORK POST. Banner headlines are: WE LOVED LUCY.

LUCY (while cooking) What's the movie that Lucy made with Katherine Hepburn?

MIKE (glancing at paper) "Stage Door." If it hadn't been for television, Lucy would've been forgotten.

LUCY I still laugh at every episode even though I've seen each one a million times.

ALEX RIZZO ENTERS. He's Lucy's younger son. Alex investigates contents of the skillet which Lucy is tending to.

ALEX You better make more. We have company.

LUCY What's his name?

ALEX (Looking confused) Dan? Don? Doug!

LUCY (to Mike) What else did they write about her?

MIKE Who CARES?!

DOUG, a slightly chubby man ENTERS. He smiles and whistles a happy tune.

DOUG Good morning, all!

MIKE Oh, my God: it's the cheerful type!

Doug kisses Alex and presumptuously sits at table as if he's part of the Rizzo family.

ALEX The busy cook is Lucy, my mother. Mom: this is Doug.

LUCY (Aloof) Do you like pancakes?

DOUG I love pancakes!

Lucy pours coffee into mugs- already on the table.

LUCY (to Doug) Have some coffee. (to Alex) When CBS executives offered Lucy a comedy series, they wanted the show to be about a rich, Hollywood American couple, but Lucy refused. "I want us to be an average couple who struggle to pay bills. Desi will play my Cuban husband and I'll play his American wife." Network executives told her audiences would never accept an inter-racial couple!" Boy, were they wrong!

MIKE We're not gonna exchange Lucy trivia all day, are we?

DOUG How will we survive without our beloved Lucy?

ALEX I'm partial to anyone named Lucy—especially if they're Italian and gave birth to me.

LUCY (Smiles) That's because I prepare lavish breakfasts for your "gentlemen callers."

MIKE (to Doug) After today you'll never be heard from again.

ALEX Pay no attention to him.

LUCY (to Doug) My older son is a bit fatigued.

MIKE Maybe I need a bottle of VITAMEATAVEGAMIN to perk me up. (Holds up his pill bottle) These pills cause slight mind alterations. Hey, Alex: did you tell your playmate that, like you, I'm as gay as a three dollar bill? (Touches Alex's face) Your lips are luscious.

DOUG I agree. (Doug kisses Alex)

ALEX (to Doug) Do you see what I go through? Take me home with you, please.

DOUG I don't think my wife would approve.

MIKE Does your wife know you sleep with men?

ALEX What's your wife's name?

DOUG Ginger. She's pregnant. In fact, today's the day I'll become a father!

MIKE And you're *here*? You should be with your wife.

ALEX What name did you pick out for your baby?

DOUG Chris. If it's a boy, it'll be short for Christopher. If it's a girl, it'll be short for Christine. We're covered either way!

MIKE So Doug: When was the last time you *fucked* your wife?

LUCY Are you crazy?!

ALEX (to Doug) You don't have to answer.

DOUG It's okay. Actually, it's been a while. (to Alex) That's why I was so amorous last night.

LUCY What happens after the baby's delivered and your wife's able to..

DOUG Resume routine sex? I guess I won't be as starved for affection as I was last night. (Alex pouts, Doug notices) Don't worry. I'll always welcome the advances of a handsome man like you.

ALEX But when your wife resumes sex, where will that leave *me*?

DOUG I told you I was married. Weren't you listening last night?

ALEX Last night I had a lot of alcohol in me.

MIKE Was that *all* you had in you?

ALEX What was it about me that attracted you?

DOUG Your looks and masculinity.

ALEX Too bad it has to end.

DOUG Who says it has to end?

ALEX You *are* married. There's no way I can see you regularly.

DOUG Then see me *irregularly*.

ALEX Where?

DOUG Right here!

LUCY Absolutely not! This is *my* house, not a hotel.

MIKE (*To Doug*) What do you do for a living?

DOUG I own homes. Have you heard of *Ultimate Funeral Homes*?

MIKE I can't say I have.

ALEX Lexington and 75th?

DOUG There's also one on East 38th and 3rd I'm redecorating with a sound system that'll play classical music. Funeral parlors should be less somber. Rather than bemoan the deceased, *Ultimate Homes* will celebrate the deceased. The fact is, people enjoy reuniting with long-lost family members at John Dead's wake.

ALEX Who's John Dead?

DOUG Whoever's in the casket. Next week I'm doing a commercial to promote my new Bronx location.

ALEX I'm tempted to say that I'm *dying* to see it.

DOUG The Manhattan locations are maintained by my brothers, but the Bronx parlor is exclusively mine. (*to Alex*) We can get intimate there. I'll put on classic music and nobody will disturb us.

Doug kisses Alex passionately.

DOUG (*to Lucy*) Our intimacy doesn't make you uncomfortable, does it?

LUCY So: you have a wife and you spent the night with my son. May I assume you're bisexual?

DOUG No, I'm straight.

MIKE (*Astonished*) How can you call yourself *straight*?

DOUG I *love* women—*really* love them. The crazy thing is, when I saw Alex, I felt aroused. No man has ever made me act that way before.

ALEX You're one of a kind. There's a lot about you that I don't know.

LUCY There's a lot about him that his *wife* doesn't know. (*to Alex*) I know a woman whose husband dresses in women's clothing whenever she goes out. (*Beat*) What do you call a man that dresses in women's clothing?

MIKE Norman Bates!

ALEX A drag queen-like Roberta. "Transvestite" is (*deepens his voice*) "the politically correct term."

LUCY But *why* would a man dress in women's clothing?

DOUG It must be a feeling of liberation. Let's face it: it's *tough* being a man!

MIKE How would *you* know?

LUCY Being a woman is no picnic, either.

MIKE Especially if she gets raped.

ALEX Notice how gay men never rape women? And on the subject of infidelity, more men than women have affairs.

MIKE Wouldn't you agree with that, Doug?

DOUG After seven months of marriage, I gave up fidelity. It's not fun being monogamous. (*Beat*) I had another point to make, but (*to Alex*) you interrupted my flow.

ALEX Your "flow" was uninterrupted last night.

DOUG My cousin—a father of four—told me that when his wife's away, he wears her clothing. He claims that whenever he wears a dress, puts on make-up and crosses his legs, he feels *totally liberated*. He swears his stress level is reduced when he puts on panty-hose, high heels and lipstick—and not *necessarily* in that order.

ALEX Is that why more men than women get sex-changes?

DOUG You got something there.

ALEX (*Seductively to Doug*) And you want that something.

DOUG You were never more right, handsome.

MIKE (*to Doug*) You can't be straight. Straight men *don't* have sex with men.

DOUG (*to Alex*) I am straight, but for you, I went gay.

MIKE (*Laughing*) I wonder how many men he's used *that* line on.

Doug remains silent, pondering a beat.

DOUG Okay, I'm bisexual. Know the problem we bisexuals have? No parades! (*to Alex*) The world can acknowledge your existence because you gays have a parade every year.

LUCY Did he say *guys* or *gays*?

MIKE *Gays*.

ALEX Either word is acceptable.

DOUG Let's ponder that word.

LUCY *Gays*?

DOUG "Acceptable." To most people, bisexuality isn't acceptable. (*Looks at Lucy*) Did you ever look at a man and wonder if he's bisexual?

LUCY No.

DOUG Exactly! We're an invisible minority!

Doug crosses his legs-which Alex is quick to notice.

ALEX Uncross your legs!

DOUG Why?

ALEX You look better with uncrossed legs.

DOUG You mean I look more *masculine*.

LUCY So... Where does your pregnant wife think you are right now?

DOUG In my new location supervising the guys installing the sound system. Actually, they did everything yesterday in five minutes. *(Sighs and smiles)* What Ginger doesn't know won't hurt me.

MIKE You lying scoundrel. I hope Ginger cuts your fuckin' dick off!

LUCY I agree, but lose that profanity!

ALEX *(to Doug)* Forgive my brother's maniacal outbursts.

DOUG It's okay; I know where it's coming from.

MIKE Where do you think it's coming from, *asshole*?

DOUG Jealousy. You want the same relationship with your brother that *I* have.

Doug rises and puts on his jacket.

DOUG *(Cont'd)* I better go home before Ginger becomes suspicious. *(to Alex)* Are you busy this Saturday?

ALEX No, but won't you be needed at home-with your newborn and all?

Doug kisses Alex. Lucy and Mike turn away. Mike swallows a few pills which Doug is quick to notice.

DOUG What do you take pills for?

MIKE They help control my hostility. If I didn't take them, I'd obsess in the grim realization that I'll probably never have sex with the only man I desire. *(to Alex)* Why can't you consider me just another man? *(Alex turns away)* You sleep with so many men. Would it kill you to sleep with one more?

ALEX You're in desperate need of professional help.

DOUG *(to Lucy)* Do you have regrets about giving birth to two gay sons?

LUCY No regrets. I didn't expect them to be typical straight sons, either. How can they? I'm not a typical Italian mother.

DOUG How are you not a typical Italian mother?

LUCY I'm not emotional or dramatic. I took my sons orientation well. Other Italian mothers complain that their sons won't give them grandkids. Screw grandkids! The world's overpopulated. I don't need grandchildren to validate me. I just want my sons to be happy. Mike isn't normal. It's not normal to want sex from a brother. *(Shudders)* As for Alex, he began wearing my outfits at ten. He'd put on my lipstick, mascara and wear my wigs and earrings. When I asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "I want to be a wife. I'll fix my husband a martini before serving him a delicious dinner so he'll be in the mood to kiss me all night. I would love it if my husband smears my lipstick." *(Laughs)* What a vocabulary! *(Beat)* I'm proud of Alex. What I hate is his keeping company with married men.

ALEX I'm addicted to them.

LUCY Like that slut, Elizabeth Taylor.

ALEX You have to admit she's living a great life.

LUCY She's hurt people in the process of "living" *(to Doug)* You're hurting people too.

DOUG Who am I hurting?

LUCY Besides your wife, you're hurting Alex. You're preventing him from meeting available men.

DOUG He's a consenting adult. (*Inching closer to the door*)
Ginger's probably frantic. What should I tell her? (*Ponders*)
I'll say there was an accident on The New England Thruway and traffic was at a stand-still. Yeah, that's good. (*As he heads for the exit, Mike applauds*)

ALEX I'll walk you to the elevator.

Doug extends hand to Lucy but she refuses to shake it.

DOUG (*to Lucy*) Thanks for the breakfast.

Doug wraps his arm around Alex. After ALEX and DOUG EXIT, Lucy begins to cry.

LUCY Why must he go from man to man?

MIKE One tryst with me would cure his sex addiction.

LUCY In the supermarket yesterday Maria said, "Alex is never with the same man very long. Why can't he settle down like my son? My son has been with Frank for 7 years. They've adopted a girl from Brazil." So many are disappointed having gay sons. Not me. I see the benefits. On holidays he'll never desert me for his wife's family. I love Alex, but I hate that he's become a slut.

MIKE Don't call him that!

LUCY What would you call him?

MIKE A hunk who requires constant validation.

ALEX RE-ENTERS.

MIKE You picked up another loser.

LUCY looks at her wrist watch in dismay.

LUCY I'm going to be late for Edna's funeral- not like Edna will know, but her son has a vicious tongue! (Beat) What did I do with that Mass card?

Lucy searches her handbag and then EXITS to bedroom. Door buzzer sounds. Alex opens door. KYLE ENTERS. He's a young, handsome STRAIGHT man who carries a backpack.

KYLE (Noticing Alex) It's the novelist who'll make my career at *After Dark*! You don't remember me. I'm the one with the old homo boss who thinks I don't like queers. That's why he demanded I interview a model gay man-or group of exemplary gay men. I have a strict deadline. If I don't have the interview completed by morning, I'm fired. I have to remind myself that *After Dark* is just a steppingstone before hitting the big time-*People*, *Newsweek*. (Alex looks confused) You look as perplexed as Danny-the OCD hustler who wanted to take Valentine's Day off but his butch lesbian pimp made him work. (Laughs hysterically) What a story.

ALEX You read "*After I Have Sex With You I Want More Sex- With Someone Else*"!

KYLE I also read, "*Pretend You're Actually Interested In What I'm Saying to You*" and "*His Sicilian Sausage*." (Alex appears preoccupied) What's the matter?

ALEX Something would happen today-and I don't mean your interview. (Beat) I wish I could remember.

KYLE My interview will be brief. Is this a bad time?

ALEX Yes, but let's do it anyway. Can I get you coffee, tea, a screwdriver with more vodka than orange juice?

KYLE I love your homo humor!

LUCY RE ENTERS and notices KYLE.

LUCY Let me guess. (Beat) You're my niece's boyfriend--Lyle!

KYLE It's Kyle. I've graduated in status: I've become Karen's fiancé.

LUCY Congratulations! (*Stares at him*) Weren't you bald the last time I saw you?

KYLE I grew my hair back since Easter.

MIKE (*to Kyle*) Don't ignore me. I'm Mike-in case you forgot.

KYLE (*Extends hand*) Yes, the eccentric older brother.

LUCY (*to Kyle*) I can't get over how young you are!

KYLE I'm the same age as your niece.

LUCY You better make Karen happy. (*Sighs*) Okay, I'm off. Boys: Promise me you'll stay out of trouble.

Alex, Kyle and Mike bow their heads in agreement. Lucy EXITS. Kyle retrieves pens, a notebook and a tape recorder from his backpack.

KYLE Would you mind if I record our interview?

ALEX If you like. So: What's your first question?

KYLE (*Excited*) Why do you kill off two characters in every novel? What motivated you to write? How does being Italian influence your-

ALEX (*Cutting him off*) You said it would be brief. It sounds like your interview will be as long as *War and Peace*.

KYLE What's *War and Peace*-a new TV series? (*Sighs*) Thank God you're not one of those homosexuals who seek sex from men under 25 or those only attracted to married men. My editor isn't totally heartless. He gave me a choice. I can interview one "exemplary" gay man or multiple exemplary gay men. He's on a personal crusade. Anyway: Please tell me you're an exemplary gay man.

ALEX I'm an exemplary gay man.

KYLE Perfect! When my boss gave me this assignment, I thought I'd be fired 'cause I don't know any homos. Luckily Karen said, "Idiot: interview Alex. He's the ideal gay man!" (*Laughs*) Karen's smart. That's why I'm marrying her. It's not just 'cause I got her pregnant or that she allows me to go to adult book stores and porno theatres without her.

Kitchen wall phone rings. Alex answers. Kyle opens his notebooks.

ALEX Hello? (*Beat*) But it isn't the first of the month yet! (*Beat*) Oh, I guess so. Come on over. (*Looking defeated, he hangs up*)

KYLE I couldn't help overhearing. Expecting company?

ALEX My friends are stopping by. One of them is Roberta. His actual name is Robert. He's a transvestite who was beaten by some homophobes a few months back. While he was walking home, three rednecks yelled, "Where are you going, faggot!" They punched and kicked him everywhere -especially his head. The mastermind yelled out, "He's just a faggot: beat him until he dies." It took cops one hour to show! (*Sighs*) As a result of that hate crime, Roberta's unable to care for himself, so we take turns housing him-her. I forget what pronoun to use. What are friends for, right? You'd do the same for one of your own, wouldn't you? (*Kyle doesn't respond*)

KYLE What's the name of this homeless homo?

ALEX Robert Martino, but when he wears women's clothing, he prefers Roberta. (*Beat*) What'll you have-coffee, tea, a screwdriver?

KYLE Actually a screwdriver would hit the spot!

MIKE (*to Kyle*) I'd love a drink, but I'm still waiting for my antipsychotic medication to kick in.

Alex searches cabinets for Vodka bottle. From refrigerator he takes out orange juice and pours vodka and juice into two glasses.

ALEX (to Kyle) I'll join you. Maybe it'll help me cope with yesterday's news. I can't believe Lucy's dead. (Beat) What's your favorite *I Love Lucy* episode?

KYLE The one where she wore curtains for a dress as Scarlett from *Gone With The Wind* and says: "I saw it in the window and I couldn't resist." (Laughs uncontrollably)

ALEX That's Carol Burnett. (Beat) You never heard of Lucy?

KYLE Was she ever on *Saturday Night Live*?

As Alex serves Kyle the screwdriver, he guzzles his. Door buzzer sounds. Alex answers. ROBERTA ENTERS. ROBERTA can easily pass for a biological woman. She holds an opulent handbag.

ALEX Welcome! Sit and relax. (Introductions, pointing to Kyle)
 Roberta: this is Kyle, he's with *After Dark*. (to Kyle) This is my friend, Roberta.

ROBERTA Hi, Kyle. Are you aware that someone close to Alex will die before midnight?

KYLE Excuse me?

ROBERTA Valarie said one of Alex's friends will die today. The question is *who*.

KYLE *Who's* Valarie?

ALEX She's a psychic with a ninety percent accuracy rating.

MIKE I don't believe in that mystical crap.

ROBERTA What do you believe?

MIKE I believe gay men spend too much time obsessing over female celebrities. I'm a cut above you common queens: Unlike you, I live in reality.

ROBERTA Oh, yes: a reality where it's acceptable to have sex with your own brother. You're a *freak*.

MIKE A man dressed like a woman is labeling *me* a freak?! If anyone's a freak, it's *you*.

ALEX Roberta looks sensational as a woman.

MIKE But he's not a biological female!

ALEX What's wrong with identifying as one?

ROBERTA Who's gonna drop dead? The suspense is killing me!

ALEX You're forgetting that Valarie has a 90 percent accuracy rating.

ROBERTA That's a high rating!

ALEX It also means she's wrong 10 percent of the time. Besides, not everyone believes in psychics.

MIKE I don't believe in psychics.

ROBERTA You don't believe in psychics, but *do* believe in incestuous relationships. *(Rolling her eyes)*

ALEX Where's Stefano? He's never late. Maybe *he* died. Oh, my God: not Stefano!

ROBERTA Stefano's chatting with your neighbor. *(Sighs deeply)* I'll never get over Gary dumping me. Why did he have to leave me?

ALEX Stop thinking of him. He's not worth it.

ROBERTA *(to Alex)* Easy for you to say. You didn't love him.

KYLE *(Studies Roberta)* It's amazing: you look like a real woman.

Roberta smiles with pride.

Wall phone rings. Alex picks up. Mike watches Alex lustfully. Henceforth, whenever Alex speaks, Mike appears captivated by him.

ALEX *(On phone)* Hello? Hi, Todd. *(Beat)* I know, but the timing's bad. I can't get into it right now. *(Alex hangs up. To Kyle)* Is it possible to interview me tomorrow?

KYLE If my interview isn't ready by morning, I'm fired. Please. It won't take long.

Door buzzer sounds, Alex opens door. STEFANO ENTERS. He's a masculine looking man who's about the same age as Alex.

STEFANO I apologize for being tardy. Your landlady misses her husband. I told her he'll probably come back to her.

ROBERTA Unlike Gary—who'll never come back to me. This is unbearable: to lose the love of my life AND the Queen of Comedy! April really is the cruelest month! I'm positive I'll die before midnight—of a stroke brought on by a broken heart.

ALEX *(to Stefano, pointing to Kyle)* This is Kyle—a journalist with *After Dark*. For some crazy reason he's decided to interview me.

Kyle and Stefano shake hands. The door buzzer sounds again.

ALEX That'll be Todd. He lives downstairs. I'm not ready for him. He requires energy and patience—both of which I'm in short supply.

KYLE *(Feverishly writing)* This Todd person... Can you describe his personality?

ALEX That's impossible.

KYLE Why impossible?

ALEX I don't know exactly which pills he's taken or how many.

Door buzzer sounds. Noticing Alex's overwhelmed expression, Stefano opens the door. TODD ENTERS. He's flamboyant and immediately focuses on Kyle.

TODD Lucy is dead! *(Mock tears)* I'm heartbroken. Without Lucy, the world is darker, uglier, and meaner. My dear Alex: Have the wisdom to interrupt rather than allow me to ramble endlessly before you introduce me to your handsome, young guest. Screw it. Introductions are like ejaculations: When others disappoint, one can always masturbate. Did I say *masturbate*? What I mean is, I can introduce myself. *(To Kyle)* I'm Mr. Caputo, but you can call me Todd. *(Beat)* Are you a parking ticket? I say that because you have *FINE* written all over you.

KYLE No, I'm not a parking ticket, but you must be a jury notice because I'm going to avoid you.

ALEX He's off-limits. He's engaged to my cousin. *(Beat)* Kyle, this is my shy friend, Todd. *(to Todd)* Kyle works for *After Dark*. He's interviewing me. *(Todd looks confused)*

ROBERTA *(to Todd)* I loathe life!

TODD Why are you so down?

ROBERTA Gary left me. Do you know that one month ago today he made passionate love to me?

TODD Do you know that I really don't care? *(to Alex)* Don't take this the wrong way, but why are you-of all people-being interviewed?

ALEX Kyle's boss wanted him to interview a flawless gay man.

Todd laughs, prompting Roberta, Mike and Stefano to laugh too.

TODD *(to Roberta)* What's so funny?

ROBERTA I'm recalling Lucy episodes to distract myself from my painful break up. The grape stomping episode popped into my head.

TODD Speaking of grape stomping, where's my beverage?

ROBERTA *(Searching his handbag)* My pills aren't in here! But I put them here! Oh, no! Without my medication, I'll be dead!

TODD Darling, from the chin up, you're already dead.

ALEX Be nice.

TODD Not until I'm sufficiently plastered.

Alex gives Stefano a "play host, I'm overwhelmed" look -which Stefano obliges.

STEFANO *(to Todd)* Screwdriver? Brandy? Strychnine?

TODD I'll take a screwdriver. Actually, I'd prefer a screw-with a desirable man, of course. *(Smiles at Kyle)*

STEFANO What would you like, Roberta?

ROBERTA I'd like Gary! *(Beat)* "We're all odd." Mr. Meriweather uttered that line in the *I Love Lucy* séance episode.

KYLE Séance episode?

ROBERTA Ethel to Tillie! Ethel to Tillie! Come in, Tillie!
(Laughs)

KYLE Who's Tillie?

ALEX Unless you're a Lucy fan, you won't understand. Stefano: Would you please make two screwdrivers?

Stefano prepares drinks. Kyle removes his shirt. Kyle's bulging muscles arouse all the men except Mike, who only has eyes for brother Alex.

KYLE It's not even May and I'm hot!

TODD Darling, you're hot every month of the year. Are you from Tennessee? Because you're the only *TEN* I see!

KYLE You must be from Istanbul, because you sound like a real turkey.

Stefano serves the drinks.

TODD Thank you, darling! *(Sips drink)* God bless you for not being stingy with the vodka. Alex: after your interview, you're helping me with my poetry book.

ALEX We agreed not until the twenty-seventh!

TODD It *is* the 27th. You said the twenty-seventh *without fail*"

ALEX I did NOT say "without fail." You're putting words in my mouth!

TODD If I'm going to put *anything* in your mouth, I assure you it *won't* be words. A promise is a promise.

ALEX How can I help you with a death prediction? Valarie said, and I quote: "Someone close to you will die. The death will be a blessing and a curse."

MIKE Live in reality, handsome. Nobody you know will die.

ROBERTA It's me. I'll die of a stroke because I lost my blood-thinners!

STEFANO You won't die of a stroke.

ROBERTA Then I'll die of a broken heart. Why can't I move on with my life? Was I too needy? *(to group)* Did I demand too much attention? I need you all to *listen to me*. It's so painful!

ALEX You dated Gary for *two* months and you've been depressed for *seven*. You didn't invest that much time in him to be this depressed!

ROBERTA Time isn't important. I loved him!

TODD It wasn't love. It was lust.

ROBERTA I still hear his voice in my head-especially those three words.

ALEX I love you?

ROBERTA His last words were, "It's not working." For the two months I was with him, I felt immortal. Even Monday mornings felt like Christmastime because someone actually cared. Then his eager calls stopped and he made excuses for why he couldn't see me. What good is falling in love if it isn't gonna last? If only I knew why he dumped me.

ALEX I know why.

ROBERTA *(to Alex)* Why didn't you tell me before?

ALEX I didn't think you'd want to know. *(Beat)* I heard Gary met someone from Brooklyn Heights and he's really happy.

ROBERTA *(Sighs deeply)* Now I'm *really* depressed. Knowing he's having sex with somebody else is agony. And the suspense of *not* knowing who's dying today is excruciating! This is all too much!

TODD *(to Alex)* Getting back to our agreement: You promised you'd help me with my poetry

ALEX It can't be today.

TODD Why not?

Alex gives Stefano an "I'm overwhelmed, speak for me" look.

STEFANO Lucille Ball is dead, Alex thinks someone close to him will die AND he's being interviewed. If that weren't enough, Roberta isn't supposed to be here until May 1st. (*Looks at Roberta*) No offense, Roberta. (*To Todd*) Since Alex didn't make a big deal about being inconvenienced, the least you can do is be understanding about the delay of your writing project.

TODD Why do you speak for Alex? What are you to him?

STEFANO That's nothing for you to worry about, "darling."

ALEX Tallulah Bankhead called everyone "darling" when she was on the *Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour*!

ROBERTA (*Looks in handbag again*) No Warfarin! This'll be the day I'll die-sans the media coverage Lucy received.

ALEX What's Warfarin?

STEFANO It's a medication that reduces the risk of strokes.

TODD Not only are you Alex's speaker, you're his personal encyclopedia. What other purposes do you serve?

MIKE I wish I lived in Philadelphia. What I want to do is legal over there because it is the city of brotherly love.

ALEX (*Dialing wall phone*) Maybe my pharmacist can supply blood thinners until Roberta finds her medication.

Alex turns away from the others to speak indistinctly into phone.

MIKE (*to Roberta*) To prevent blood clots, you better move around.

ROBERTA Move around?

MIKE Get physical!

TODD Roberta's the last person I want to see getting physical (*Smiles at Kyle*) You're the one I'd love to get physical with. I'm in ecstasy imagining you naked.

STEFANO (*to Kyle*) On Todd's behalf, I apologize for that remark.

TODD It's bad enough you speak for Alex, *must* you speak for me? *Don't*. I do quite well on my own, darling.

ROBERTA How should I be physical?

TODD Spread your legs like any common whore!

STEFANO Enough, Todd!

TODD I hate men that pretend they're women. What lucid man would have sex with a freak like you?

Roberta slaps Todd's face.

ALEX Forgive him, Roberta. You know how he gets when he hasn't had any.

STEFANO Get up, Roberta. *(Roberta stands)* Do some twists. *(She complies)* Lift both arms! *(She does)* When was the last time you took a blood thinner?

ROBERTA I don't remember. What I remember well is how I felt the last time Gary held me tight and kissed me all night. *(Sighs deeply)* How will I live without his love?

KYLE May I say something?

TODD Darling, with your looks you don't have to exert yourself by speaking. Even if you talk gibberish it'll be a pleasure watching your seductive lips forming words.

KYLE Roberta's being physical won't matter. Blood thinners stay in the body for a long time.

MIKE You know that for a fact?

KYLE *(to Mike)* No. *(to Roberta)* Run in place. *(Roberta complies)* It's a good idea to work up a good sweat.

TODD *(to Kyle)* I'd love to work up a good sweat with you, darling. Is your last name Campbell? I wonder that because you're like Campbell Soup. You're Mmm mmm good.

KYLE Your nickname must be Dirt Devil because tonight you'll be alone with the power of an upright in the palm of your hand.

Alex hangs up and makes an announcement.

ALEX Dennis placed a rush order. The blood thinners will arrive at four. I love Dennis!

TODD You love every man.

STEFANO Who's Dennis?

ALEX My pharmacist.

TODD Didn't you go out with him around Christmastime?

ALEX (*Dying to change subject*) Roberta: lift your legs higher!

Henceforth, whenever Roberta speaks she shakes an arm, leg or runs in place. She remains still when another character speaks.

TODD (*Sipping drink*) You're a fabulous bartender, Stefano!
(*Another sip*) It's so tasty, too: tastes just like candy!

ALEX The news coverage for the first lady of television was astounding.

KYLE What's her name again?

ALEX Lucille Ball. She received more coverage than Elvis Presley and John Lennon *combined*.

TODD Darling, when you worship somebody you tend to exaggerate a tad.

ALEX Do I exaggerate, Stefano?

STEFANO Alex does *not* exaggerate.

TODD Shut the fuck up, Stefano!

STEFANO Alcohol makes you obnoxious. What's your *problem*?

TODD Her! (*Pointing to Roberta*) Those movements are getting on my nerves. (*Takes Roberta's handbag and searches*) Those pills better be in here!

ALEX I didn't shed a tear when my father died; Yesterday, for a Hollywood legend, I cried like a baby.

TODD (*Holding a gun*) Oh, my God: a gun! (*To Roberta*) What are you doing with a *gun* ?

ROBERTA It's for self-defense. When I find the homophobes who attacked me, I'll shoot them dead.

TODD (*Holding gun by his pinky finger*) Someone take this from me!

Alex takes gun from Todd.

ALEX (*to Roberta*) Who gave you this?

ROBERTA It cost me two hundred and thirty dollars.

ALEX I don't care how much you paid. Who sold it to you?

ROBERTA Someone by the name of John Doe.

Alex examines gun to determine whether it's loaded. He places gun in a drawer of a bureau behind him.

ALEX The scary part: *it's loaded* .

ROBERTA (*Eager to change subject*) Yesterday was Carol Burnett's birthday. Lucy died on Carol's birthday.

KYLE Does the entire gay population idolize Lucy?

TODD (*to Kyle*) Where have you been living-on *Mars* ?

ALEX Speaking of Mars: Remember when Lucy and Ethel went to the Empire State Building to pose as Martians? (*to Stefano*) Did you like that episode?

TODD *I* do-not that you asked *me* . What *I* like doesn't matter; it's only *Stefano's* opinions that really matter.

STEFANO (*Ignoring Todd*) It wasn't as funny as the chocolate factory episode.

ALEX (*to Kyle*) You have no idea what we're talking about, do you?

KYLE No, but I love how you guys light up talking about this comedy legend.

ALEX We light up because we're "light in the loafers." Isn't that what you straights say about us? (*Beat*) How old did you say you were?

KYLE I didn't. *(Beat)* I'm 28.

ALEX You weren't serious when you said you never heard of Lucy.

KYLE I never cared for her. She was too silly for my taste.

ALEX You're entitled to your unpopular opinion. What I admired most about Lucy was her habit of giving credit to her writers. "I'm not funny" she claimed, "I have funny writers."

KYLE While we're on the subject, do you think the public respectfully appreciates writers?

TODD No.

MIKE For writers to be appreciated, they have to do something remarkable or scandalous. Except for a few like Tennessee Williams and Norman Mailer, writers go uncelebrated.

KYLE Life's full of injustices. What are you gonna do?

TODD What you said is so trite, but since you're handsome, you're forgiven. You have a magnetic voice and a body that begs to be worshipped.

Todd walks to Kyle and kisses him passionately. Todd returns to his seat. After Kyle wipes his mouth, he walks to Todd and looks outraged.

KYLE Don't ever, ever do that again. You are never to touch me!

ROBERTA *(to lighten mood)* Carol Burnett is more talented than Lucy.

MIKE *(to Roberta)* Don't move another muscle-- including your mouth!

TODD *(to get a rise from Alex)* Carol Burnett has the gift of versatility. Her variety series was like a weekly Broadway show. She sang, danced and became different characters unlike Lucy, who could only...

ALEX Only what?

