

Standing on the Cat Ice

[Selected Scenes]

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CHARACTERS

Todd: An architect with no beard and of medium height, always dresses tidily with shirts in pink, pants in grey, leather shoes in black or brown, as well as a violet bow tie. He is controlled and constrained by his mother over his lifetime. In this play, he expresses a special obsession with Coral.

Coral: A slender prostitute with long curly violet hair, wearing a skirt, high heels in black; however she ties a ponytail with tank tops and shorts in light colors when she is not working. Her father leaves her a profound shadow haunting her for the rest of her life.

Brandie: Coral's homosexual lover, wearing discounted brand clothes.

SETTING

There are two stages employed in this play—the main stage (Stage A) and the secondary stage (Stage B), each representing the dream and the reality.

The [Music] called “winter bokeh”, a psychedelic image for audience and the [Music B] called “。 。 ” from Jetson can bring a depressive atmosphere to the audience.

The lighting design contains the main lights, and three beam lights in front of the stage illuminating the front stage. Besides, two following spotlights with the electric lights that can change color by coding.

SCENE TWO

[Change the light into main lights and all beam lights on, one follow spot toward Stage A. Actors are show up together on two stages.]

Stage A [One follow spot]

Todd is impatiently lying on the sofa. He checks his watch several times while drinking a cup of water placed on the table, but then he fiercely throws the cup on the ground.

Coral: [Walk in and sit on the chair] You arrived a bit earlier today.

Todd: What do you think? Have you ever seen a fish that died of thirst? Have you bought an empty box of chocolate? Have you ever jumped into a pool without water?

Coral: Where are the paintings you drew for me? You promised me that you would bring them to me today.

Todd: A mirror, [Pause] those are the mirrors made by myself, I can picture you as well as picturing myself. I will show you.

Coral: These are beautiful! I can see what you say, but they are your images, not mine.

Todd: [All lights off but on follow spot] (Angry) How can you say so? My lady, don't you see these lines and shapes and all these colors in the pictures? They are all prepared for you! I draw a line for you, and you can never say you don't accept it. (Angry and cold) My lady, what you can do is to follow my words. (Calm and sit on the sofa, and the main lights on) You have no choice. This is my shrine.

Coral: You're right, I am yours. [Sit on the chair and the follow spotlight off]

"She is my family. Who are you, Mr. Poem? She gives me all, and I love her. [Cry] You? You're just nothing to me."

SCENE FIVE

Stage B [Conversation in dark]

Todd: Who is this?

[Music B]

[All main lights on] Coral: This is my friend Brandie, I've told you about her before, and this is Todd.

Brandie: Hi, young man, how do you do?

Todd: Hi, I didn't have any bad dreams, is that fine in the daytime?

Brandie: If you have a nightmare in the daytime, you should really be with my colorful honey. [Kiss with Coral]

Todd: [Pause] I don't know you are colorful, Coral.

Brandie: You don't have to be so upset, young man. We are not balls. We share a common covering and... common mind, common soul, common bed. Common legs and also, long, long, long arms.

Todd: I'm sure you do, but, Coral. [Pull her aside] I thought, I thought you were mine.

Coral: I am not yours, and she is...my friend.

Todd: Your friend? A friend wouldn't have shared a common bed with you. A friend wouldn't have shared your arms, your legs, and your dreams.

Coral: You know nothing, Mr. Poem. Have you ever been deceived by a person you trusted the most, like your mother...your...father? Have you ever seen raindrops carrying tears? Have you ever seen a red sheet, or a glaring camera lens? I've run away from my home for so many years, and no one was willing to keep me, except her. You know nothing, nothing about me. How could you announce I am yours? [Walk down the stage]

[Music]

Two actors walk to Stage B [Main lights on]

Todd: You know, you can't have both.

Coral: Both of what?

Todd: Both of... [Angry] Mind! - Both of... [Angry] Mind!

Coral: You mean Brandie?

Todd: Who else am I talking about?

Coral: I love her, and...you.

Todd: Can a water-drop split into two? Can grit blow to the east and the west at the same time?

Coral: I am not full of coconuts and ocean waves. I am not an island for anyone.

Todd: I know.

Coral: And?

Todd: I'll be with you all the time. All the mixed sides in the way can't stop me from staying with you. And...you'll, you will stay here. There is nothing you can skip over. I can give you all I have, my love, body, and...my money!

Coral: You can't buy my love, Todd. No one can have my love with money. You can't buy love from anyone.

Todd: Sure, Sure, but I can hold your love, on my hand.

[All the lights off except a follow spot. He picks up a long garter, and she struggles for a while but she is still strangled]

SCENE EIGHT

Stage B

Coral: [Eating] Why are you selling my pictures on the Internet? You never asked me. I can't imagine how you priced them. How much should I price myself?

Brandie: Have you seen my purse?

Coral: What about your purse?

Brandie: Have you seen my purse?

Coral: [Pause] Yes, on the fridge.

Brandie: Oh, so I believe that you know it's empty. We need to fill it up.

Coral: Fill it up? By selling my photos? How? ... how... I can never fill up a tree hole. [Hysterical] You know how much I hate to be an object photographed and observed by people! You just uncovered my scar and sprinkled salt on it. I never doubted you, your so-called love. You are just way more horrible than my father.

[Music]

Stage A [beam lights and one follow spot light]

Coral: What does a cat dance look like? I have only seen the shadow sneaking out of the window, leaving only gray feathers. Where do they go? Are they going home? Do they have a place to rest? What about me? I went into a maze and was trying to find an exit. But I failed... Someone was calling my name. I saw the white gulls flying out of the green jungle; I saw the bright red fish flying out of the blue sea. I went straight on, and I thought that since I can't live with these scars, I will give myself a little courage, to face the devil. I am longing to die, as an seagull longing to fly to its familiar sky. I need a hand to help me out. I think he is the hand.

[Music B]

Stage B [Main lights on]

Todd: Where were you? I've been thinking of you all the time. I miss you so much. [Try to hug her but she refuses to do so]

Coral: Can't you just leave me alone? [Smile] Since that day, I made a promise that I will never love any men. You see what I mean?

Todd: So you compare me to your father, and you will not stay with me as long as you are considering your father and your girlfriend?

Coral: She is my family. Who are you, Mr. Poem? She gives me all, and I love her. [Cry] You? You're just nothing to me.

Todd: [Face changed] What you said means nothing to me. Nothing! [Angry] This was not supposed to happen! I am here to listen to you, and you are here to hear me, to serve me. This is wrong.

Coral: I am standing right here in front of you. Kill me, you dare? You mama's boy.

[Todd puts his head in hands, the light changes into spark.]

[Dark around]

[Music]

End



Photograph from Yang Ni, Paris, France, Jul., 2017