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# Right where the soul breaks

de / written by  
Marco Magoa

traducción de / translated by  
Marco Magoa

*(fragmento en inglés / english version)*

## SCENE VI

*(Parking outside of a hospital. Aurelio finishes his cigarette and steps on it. He's waiting for Juana. He has his coat and cup on. Juana comes in from the left.)*

JUANA

Hello. The taxi driver could find the hospital...

*(Aurelio looks at his watch. He doesn't say anything.)*

JUANA

I'm sorry. (She tries to cover her shoulders with the small shawl she has.) It's freezing! Are you here, outside, from too long?

AURELIO

I don't know. I needed to breath. I spent the whole day inside the factory with no windows. It's not that cold.

JUANA

You are covered up.

AURELIO

It's normal. Look what you're wearing... Do you think it's summer?

JUANA

I come from a party.

*(Silence. Aurelio tries to warm up his hands. He looks for a cigarette but He has no cigarettes left. Juana takes her mobil phone and starts to write a message.)*

AURELIO

Do you have a cigarette?

JUANA

Hold on.

*(We hear the sound of an ambulance. Juana finishes to write the message and sends it. Aurelio waits uncomfortable.)*

JUANA

Ok, done. I was sending a message to the girl.

AURELIO

Do you have a cigarette?

JUANA

I don't smoke. You know that.

AURELIO

I don't know. I don't see you very often. I don't remember.

JUANA

You look good. You are ok. When was the last time we saw each other? Four months ago?

AURELIO

Almost one year ago.

JUANA

One year? Oh my gosh! This city... How are you doing? What about your job?

AURELIO

Well...

JUANA

I left the girl alone at home. I'm sorry but I don't have too much time...

AURELIO

Me neither. I'm meeting a women in half an hour. How is the girl doing?

JUANA

She's beautiful, but she thinks she is a teenager. And She is only twelve! Do you remember when we were twelve? We were just kids. Now they want to grow up very fast. We... Do you remember?

AURELIO

No.

JUANA

In the Dominican Republic..., all day long in the street..., I was falling all the time..., with my knees bleeding every two days... I still have a scarf (She looks at her knee.)

AURELIO

I don't remember. I want to go back some day for vacation. Maybe next year if I save some money. They don't pay us too much in the factory.

JUANA

I haven't come back for so long. Seven years... Since mum past away.

*(Silence. They look uncomfortable together.)*

AURELIO

The doctor says that she is at the final phase... one more week, or two..., maybe three because she is strong. How can she be strong like that? She is so skinny now. She looks like a little girl. Doctors

don't understand how she is able to be still alive.

JUANA

She's always done the opposite of what people told her. I'm not surprised.

*(Silence.)*

AURELIO

We have to think about how we are going to organize this.

JUANA

What do you mean?

AURELIO

We should make turns these days to spend the nights with her.

JUANA

Aurelio... I can't stay.

AURELIO

You'll have to stay some days.

JUANA

No.

AURELIO

She is your sister.

JUANA

Don't make me laugh. I don't wanna talk.

AURELIO

You are always with the same...

JUANA

No. You are always with the same. With that story about family that makes me sick. I don't wanna talk, really. *(Silence.)* I haven't talked to her since... since seven years. She's stranger for me now. In the last ten years, how many times I've seen her? Four times? Three? Three times! What are three times? What sister do I have, Aurelio? Can't you see I don't have a sister?

AURELIO

You have one sister. She is your sister.

JUANA

That's something that only me can decide.

AURELIO

You can say whatever you want, but she is your sister.

JUANA

I won't stay once at the hospital. Not even one night. I'm not coming back. I'm sorry. (Silence.) This is the last day I come here. I wanted to tell you this here, not by phone. I'm not going to be so cynical to come here these days and hold her hand while she is...

AURELIO

So, I'm alone in this.

JUANA

Whatever you decide you want to do, it's up to you. I was also alone when mum died. You and her didn't come.

AURELIO

It was different. She was at the Dominican Republic.

JUANA

You didn't show up, right? That's it.

AURELIO

(Speaking ironically. With an insulting tone.) You are a very special woman... I'm looking at you... with that dress... How much did it cost you?

JUANA

Did you pay for it?

AURELIO

(Without hearing to what she said.) Pretending you're very important... and look... Yes, you are a very special woman! You almost got rid of your Dominican accent.

JUANA

It's funny! They just told me the opposite at the party a moment ago. You can't offend me.

AURELIO

People like you...

JUANA

No! People like you! Do you know what I feel about her? Nothing. It's been ages since I talked to her last time. It's not possible to be mad for so long. I feel nothing about her. If I saw her now... it would be like... like seeing a resurrected dead person about to die again... It's ridiculous. I'm not into those dramas.

AURELIO

I don't want to see you again. I guess she doesn't care either. We don't want to see you around here. You can go with that man.

JUANA  
My husband.

AURELIO  
Your husband?

JUANA  
Don't say another word.

AURELIO  
I haven't said anything. Did you get married?

JUANA  
We are still...

AURELIO  
You are still... Not! (He laughs.)

JUANA  
I have to go. Is there anything I should do? Sign any paper for her... Anything about the last medical decisions? This this is the moment because I'm not coming back. I'm asking you. Do you want to sign anything at the hospital?

AURELIO  
No.

JUANA  
Better. You have to understand me, Aurelio.

AURELIO  
I don't understand you.

JUANA  
I don't love her. I don't love you either. What do you want me to do? You are not better than me just because you're here... now that she can't even talk. (Silence.) I would like to ask her if she ever loved, but any of the two possible answers would hurt me... a yes or a no... anything could hurt me. It's not worth it. If I don't come into the hospital, it's because I want to respect her and respect myself. It's a matter of mercy. It doesn't make any sense to add a little bit of pain at the end. The fact that I don't love her doesn't mean that this is easy for me.

AURELIO  
You never loved her. Never understood her.

JUANA  
I never understood her. It's true and that's my fault... but I loved her. (Aurelio laughs.) Yes! Many years ago... so many that you probably don't even remember.

AURELIO

You right, I don't remember. Do you think that you are going to convince me! If you are selfish, assume it and leave. Don't try to invent memories from the past. Things that never happened. Feelings that you never had.

JUANA

You're very much like her.

AURELIO

I'm not like you.

JUANA

No, you are not. The three of us are not alike at all. Since then are you interested whether I'm married or not?

AURELIO

I'm not interested.

JUANA

I think you are.

AURELIO

No, I'm not. I wonder how two persons like you and him are able to live together...

JUANA

We live very well. We have a quiet life. It's possible to live without having the police every night knocking at your door. You don't even know what that is.

*(Aurelio tries to get close to Juana.)*

JUANA

Don't get closer.

AURELIO

Mother fucker!

JUANA

May be... But my husband doesn't raise his hand against me. He's not like you. Do you know that there are men that are not like you?

AURELIO

There are not too many men out there.

JUANA

Not too many like you thanks God. He doesn't scream at me.

AURELIO

Of course not. You're the one who screams.

JUANA

I've never seen the police in my house. Do you know what you are?

AURELIO

What? Tell me. Go ahead! (He gets closer to her in order to intimidate her.)

JUANA

You don't scare me. (Silence.) How did end up the story with that girlfriend that you lived with? The one that was always hiding her face behind her sunglasses. There are things you can't hide with sunglasses...

AURELIO

Be careful!

JUANA

Wasn't that girl the one that reported you to the police? She had to come back and deny everything, am I right?

AURELIO

She was crazy...

JUANA

You're not with her any more. Are you dating another one?

AURELIO

Of course.

JUANA

How dare you talk about me and my husband?

AURELIO

He's not your husband.

JUANA

Yes he is. We're getting married.

AURELIO

That asshole is not getting married to you...

JUANA

He's not a asshole.

AURELIO

(Imitating her.) "He's not an asshole" You should look at yourself from here. You look like one of

those women from a soup-opera.

JUANA

How come you're so similar to him? It's not possible...

AURELIO

He's dead.

JUANA

You are just like our father. Why...? How...? I... did everything... everything I could... to help you, to protect you... I swear... (Silence.) You were just a kid, but her... she knew it... like me. Both of us could see how he treated mum... I got used to that..., but I was so worried about you. About you and her. I was the older one. Mum wasn't able to defend you from him. She wasn't a woman at that moment, not even a human being. She was nothing... he had convinced her that she wasn't... Look at me! I got ride of him. I throw him out of home. Me! When I was just fourteen. I told him not come back again or I would kill him while he was sleeping... (She laughs.) And he believed me! Our sister was twelve years old. She told me that she will never forgive me. And she has never forgiven me.

AURELIO

That's not true. You're such a liar.

JUANA

I'm still waiting that one day one you come and tell me "Thank you". That she thanks me for what I did. She's going to die without saying a word. (Silence.) She loved our father... she was just a girl then... I understood it. But later... during these years, she never said "Thanks sister, I understand it now. I know why you did it." She never said "I love you", never. I can't and I don't want to forgive her now. Always looking at my that way. With that look... How dare she look at me like that?

AURELIO

She also defended mum.

JUANA

No. Never. Not even once... One year later she come back home with him. She went to grandpa's house to look for him. He was drunk. She was smiling. She thought that she had won me that battle. "Dad is her", she said. I remember that perfectly. He didn't get to come inside. I didn't let him. Mum was about to have a heart attack when she saw him in front of the house. I pushed him when he was at the entrance. He fell down on the garden. One our uncles came and took him away. We never saw him again. You have to remember that, you were not a kid any more... he fell down on you... you were laughing, nervous. Then you started crying. Don't you remember? Do you?

AURELIO

I don't remember.

JUANA

Yes you do. You remember everything.

AURELIO  
No. No.

*(Silence.)*

JUANA  
I have to go.

AURELIO  
Me too. Good bye.

JUANA  
When I look at you... These last ten years. You..., her... Do you know what I see? (Pause) I see hell.

*(She places her shawl on her shoulders. She walks away in silence. After a few steps she stops and turns to say something.)*

JUANA  
Don't call me when she dies. Don't call me again.

AURELIO  
(In a low voice, almost to himself.) Mother fucker.

*(The lights change.)*