

PATTY

So romantic.

BEN

So many stars.

PATTY

I don't remember that.

BEN

You were asleep. The windows were open and my hand was out, *(Holds one hand out, fingers wiggling)* catching the wind. And suddenly I smelled something— warm cinnamon, and pine trees, and ripe pineapples.

PATTY

Probably a roadside taqueria.

BEN

I always imagine that's what colitas smell like. *(Singing)* Warm smell of colitas, rising up through the air..

PATTY

*(Laughing)* I'm pretty sure colitas is slang for marijuana.

BEN

Really?

PATTY

I think NPR did a piece on it.

BEN

Hmm, that's anticlimactic. Anyway, you were sleeping, slightly snoring—

PATTY

*(Indignantlly)* I never did!

BEN

And I looked at you and it just clicked.

PATTY

And that's why that's my song.

BEN

Yes. It's an anchor memory. *(Ticking off fingers)* Smell of colitas, feel of warm wind, sound of the tires on highway, seeing you sleeping while I drive, taste.. well what was it? *(Beat)* Yes! I've remembered! *(He looks lovingly at Patty)* Goddess! Savior! *(He scribbles in his notes.)*

GIL

Dad.

BEN

I can't. I have to do a lecture.

GIL

Dad, look at me. (*Takes Ben's hands.*) It's mom's funeral.

BEN

(*Agitated, wrenches hands away*) Mom? My mom's been gone for years. (*Suspiciously*) Who are you? What do you want?

GIL

(*Steps closer*) No, dad, not grandma. Mom. (*Whispers*) Patty.

*GIL reaches out to touch BEN, but BEN avoids his hands.*

BEN

(*Stares at him in confusion. He looks around him. Looks at his cards.*) Patty? No-no, Patty isn't dead. She was just here. She-she just left. (*Loudly*) Patty? She's in the other room. Um, something about warm colitas. For the pain...(*Looks at the cards in his hands*)

GIL

(*Voice breaking*) No, dad. Patty's gone. Today's her funeral. (*GIL sits on chair, sobbing, hands cover face*)

BEN

(*Angrily*) Who are you? Answer me!

GIL

It's me, dad. Your son.

*The card drops out of BEN's hands. He stoops to pick them up. GIL helps him. BEN reads a note. When he gets back up he looks at Gil wonderingly.*

BEN

What did you say your name was?