

**The Gay Divorce Play**  
**(Excerpt)**

A Consent-Forward Interactive Immersive Play/Living Room Ritual  
By Syr Beker and Nicole Jost, with Genevieve Jessee

**About:**

*The Gay Divorce Play* (TGDP) is a consent-forward interactive immersive theater ritual of a gay marriage dissolution party. TJ (“the rational one”) and Luz (“the woo one”) are getting divorced. They have invited you, their community, (the audience), to their conscious uncoupling, to bear witness, take sides, and misbehave. Audience participation is voluntary but changes the play, so that no two performances are the same. Ultimately, the community decides: Should this couple break up or stay together?

We wanted to ask together: What is queer marriage? Is marriage queer? What is love? What does it mean when two people who once loved one another separate or when a play ends: are we a community of friends, colleagues, and families, or are we just strangers in a room?

Over the eight nights of our full production, the audience voted for TJ and Luz to stay together 4 out of 8 nights.

**Production History:**

*The Gay Divorce Play* was produced at Potrero Stage in San Francisco, August 15th - 25th, directed by Nikki Meñez, with Nic A. Sommerfeld, Pam Dani Williams, Alisha Ehrlich, and Troy Rockett. The show sold out on the final night. Over 350 people danced with us, sang with us, and celebrated love.

**CHARACTERS:**

**TJ**, a queer woman. Butch/masc of center. Mid to late 30s.<sup>1</sup> “The Rational One.” Probably a Virgo or some equally grounded, detail-oriented sign. Reliable, punctual. Has exactly ten pairs of perfectly matching socks. A

**LUZ**, a queer woman. Mid to late 20s. “The Woo One.” Probably an Aquarius or some equally fanciful sign. A hugger. Her shoelaces untie themselves.

**OFFICIANT**, a nonbinary, trans, or genderqueer person. 30s or older. This is not the officiant they hired. This is the substitute officiant that no one expected. Flamboyant. A little too too. Possibly already tipsy. Are they even an, err, official officiant?

**BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE**, any gender, any age. A puppet. The collective (uncharitable?) thoughts of the crowd. A bit twittosphere/social media snark, a bit Dorothy Parker. Will help guide audience members through the interactive parts of the play.

**THEIR COMMUNITY** (The Audience).

On arrival, the audience is sorted into community characters according to preferences (coffee or kombucha? Do you like to dance?) They are given an introduction and speech about consent (they don’t have to do anything they don’t want to do, actors will ask before they hug or high five them, they are asked to do the same). There are three “teams:” People who would be on Luz’s side in the event of a break up (Team Luz); People who would be on TJ’s side (Team TJ), and wildcards. Anyone is welcome to switch allegiance. Each character is given a card indicating their tendencies and cues, which they can choose to act on or not. As in every party, each character knows at least one other character and is given a way to engage them in conversation during the cocktail hour and intermission.

***Figaro** – The Cat - Wildcard.*

***Steve** - Death, in disguise - Wildcard*

***Mel** – TJ’s sexy colleague - Team TJ*

***Chloe** – Luz’s new flame - Team Luz*

***Derek** – TJ’s dudebro friend/coworker - Team TJ<sup>2</sup>*

***Sam** – TJ’s midlife crisis cousin - Team TJ*

***Gary** – A friend of Luz’s Dad - Team Luz*

***Dr. Geigermann** – Couples’ Counselor - Team Luz*

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<sup>1</sup> At least two of the main characters must be played by actors of color, including at least one of the members of the divorcing couple (meaning that TJ, LUZ, or both should be played by actors of color).

<sup>2</sup> Cross-gender casting is encouraged, especially for Imogene. Cream and Sugar should be strangers to one another.

*Alex – TJ’s petty friend - Team TJ*  
*Veronica – Luz’s Ex, a famous singer - Team Luz*  
*Frankie – TJ’s ex, An A-Gay - Team TJ*  
*Imogene –Frankie’s pregnant wife - Wildcard*  
*Chad - Stoner - Team Luz*  
*Hazel – Stoner - Team TJ*  
*Jack – Luz’s First Love - Team Luz*  
*Lauren – TJ’s sister - Team TJ*  
*Luz’s mom - Team Luz*  
*Luz’s Dad - Team Luz*  
*Cream & Sugar – Horny couple - wildcards*  
*Junior – TJ’s Dad (dead) - Team TJ*  
*Shawn – Luz’s BFF (dead) - Team Luz*  
*Zoe – Chloe’s friend - Team Luz*  
*A-Game - Alex’s Friend -*  
*Shanti, Joy, Vira – Luz’s Yoga Buddies*  
*Yanni, Yolanda, Yoseph, et al – More Yoga Buddies*  
*Wyatt, Womeo, Wuliet, et al – TJ’s coworkers*  
*Xander, Xarah, Xomas, et al – Extended community*



*Welcome to The Gay Divorce Play!*

We’re so happy you could join your friends **TJ** and **Luz** at their divorce party- err ritual!

**YOU ARE FIGARO THE CAT**

Figaro, you are TJ and Luz's cat. You used to be TJ's cat, but Luz has been taking really good care of you and giving you so much love. You've been **HIGHLY** upset about this whole breakup ever since TJ moved out. You got to stay in your home, but you've been marking the furniture to express your displeasure.

These are your actions. How you act tonight will affect the course of the ritual.

You are a **wildcard, both Team TJ and Team Luz**. If you'd like to be pet or hugged or reassured or told you are a very good cat (you choose which you would like), you can approach TJ or Luz before the ceremony.

**Figaro**, you know a secret about **Steve**. You know Steve is secretly **DEATH** in disguise. If you see "Steve" before the ritual or at intermission, tell them you know their secret. Why is death here? Is somebody dead?

Who says cats can't dance? Not us!

**YOU WILL BE PART OF THIS RITUAL.**

**WHEN SOMEONE ASKS ABOUT YOU, MEOW SO WE CAN FIND YOU**

Do you think **TJ and Luz should stay together?**

**PLACE:** Luz’s living room (formerly Luz and TJ’s living room).

**TIME:** Now.

## ACT I

### THE COCKTAIL HOUR

#### Preshow:

*Audience members are sorted into groups (Team TJ, Team Luz, Wildcards) and given character cards. They are also given color-coded name tags to help the actors easily identify them.*

*Once they're sorted, audience members are welcomed into the space. They are encouraged to get drinks and enjoy snacks. Music plays. (Note: Music will continue to play in the background until LUZ shuts it off in Scene 3.)*

*House management and volunteers circulate among the crowd, welcoming them to the party and encouraging them to visit cafe tables that are set up in the space.*

*At the cafe tables, audience members fill out blank slips of paper with responses to the following prompts:*

1. "Love is..."
2. "What's your love language?"
3. "What's one good thing about being (gay) married?"
4. "What's one good thing about being (gay) unmarried - whether that's single, divorced, or partnered?"

*Audience members place their responses in bowls at each table.*

*The actor playing BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE (sans puppet) enters. They have a fake nametag with a fake name.*

*-- TJ and LUZ enter.*

*TJ and LUZ greet audience members individually, reinforcing the character cards (i.e. "Hello, Alex! It's been a long time..."). TJ and LUZ also help to mix up the crowd by pulling people over to meet each other ("Alex, you haven't met Mel, have you?") and reinforcing the different ways characters know one another (i.e. "Hey Mel, have you said hi to Derek yet? He just walked in. I hope you guys weren't too stressed with me not being at work today..."). TJ and LUZ also talk about what's going to happen later, the divorce ritual.*

*The only person LUZ doesn't greet is MEL, TJ's sexy colleague. TJ doesn't greet and seems not to notice CHLOE, LUZ's new "friend."*

*During this section, TJ and LUZ talk to audience members, but not to each other.*

**Act I, Scene 1: “How are you feeling?”**

*Multiple audience members have instructions on their character cards to ask either TJ or LUZ, “How are you feeling?”*

*(Note: These monologues can run simultaneously in different areas of the space, and they can be repeated if multiple people ask TJ or LUZ how they’re feeling.)*

**Act I, Scene 1a: “How are you feeling, TJ?”**

*If an audience member asks TJ how she’s feeling...*

TJ

You know... it’s for the best. I mean, breakups suck. But I’m okay. We’re just *such* different people. These things happen. So, tonight is... fuck, I don’t know what tonight is. You know Luz. “The importance of ritual.” I guess. Excuse me.

*TJ gets another drink.*

**Act I, Scene 1b: “How are you feeling, Luz?”**

*If an audience member asks LUZ how she’s feeling...*

LUZ

Thank you so much for asking. It’s a journey, you know? Painful, but full of potential. Wait ‘till you meet Rabbi Tavi! They led the most beautiful gender reveal for my dear friend Kai after his transition. Tonight is going to be *sooo* healing. Thank you for being here! Can I give you a hug?

*If the audience member says yes, LUZ embraces them. If they say no or look unsure, LUZ offers a high five, fist bump, or some other acknowledgement.*

**Act I, Scene 2: “You’re late!”**

*At a certain time, House Management closes the door to the theater. Audience members who arrive after the door is closed are sorted into teams and given character cards, but told to wait.*

*Once all Late Audience Members are sorted, House Management tells them that they can enter the theater, but they have to knock first...*

*Inside the theater, TJ keeps checking her watch and generally being pissy about time. LUZ continues to chat with people happily.*

*Late Audience Member(s) knocks on the door. Either LUZ or TJ (whoever is closer) opens the door. Late Audience Member(s) enters.*

*\*Note: The following two scene options can run simultaneously if there are a mix of Team TJ and Team Luz audience members. If the Late Audience Member(s) is a Wild Card, then whoever gets to them first (TJ or LUZ) will run their scene.*

**Act I, Scene 2a: The late arrival is team TJ.**

*If the Late Audience Member(s) is  
"Team TJ" ...*

*TJ quietly approaches the Late  
Audience Member(s).*

Hey. TJ

*TJ offers a fist bump or other bro-y  
kind of greeting.*

Thanks for coming. TJ

*TJ waits for a response.*

We're running late, I guess. Do you want a drink? TJ

*If Late Audience Member(s) wants a  
drink, TJ takes them to get a drink.  
Then TJ starts showing them the  
exits, the bathrooms, etc. -- a tour of  
the space.*

TJ  
This is where I used to live. So. The bathroom is over there, uh, there's another exit behind you,  
and this is Derek. You know each other from work...

*TJ keeps walking around with the  
Late Audience Member(s), showing  
them things like where to put their  
coat. It goes on and on...*



TJ

So... yeah. *(To LUZ)* Isn't it time to get started?

*LUZ ignores TJ and continues greeting guests.*

**Act I, Scene 2b: The late arrival is team Luz.**

*If the Late Audience Member(s) is "Team Luz" ...*

*LUZ rushes up.*

LUZ

Oh my God, [Name] hi!!! Can I give you a hug?

*If the Late Audience Member(s) says yes, LUZ embraces them. If they say no or look unsure, LUZ offers a fist bump or some other greeting.*

LUZ

How are you?

*LUZ listens to the answer.*

LUZ

How was your day so far?

*LUZ listens to the answer.*

LUZ

What did you do today?

*LUZ listens to the answer. LUZ ad libs responses based on what the Late Audience Member(s) shares.*

*This is in the style of the comedian Cameron Esposito's crowd work -- LUZ just keeps asking questions, genuinely wanting to know what's going on for this audience member, and affirming them every step of the way. It shouldn't feel scary, or at least it shouldn't feel like LUZ herself is scary (even if the people watching make it kinda awkward).*

**Act I, Scene 3: The Cupid Shuffle**

*TJ, drink in hand, picks up a blanket from the couch. She proceeds to refold it.*

LUZ

*(Sotto voce, to TJ)*

Teej. You don't live here anymore.

TJ

*(A bit tipsy by now)*

I know I don't live here.

LUZ

So. You don't. Have. To. Clean.

TJ

The priest is late.

LUZ

Officiant. Rabbi Tavi will be here soon.

TJ

Six hundred dollars doesn't cover "on time"?

LUZ

I don't think money is the most important part of this night, do you?

*The song "Cupid Shuffle" comes on.*

TJ

AY!

LUZ

TJ?

*TJ ignores LUZ. She finds DEREK or SAM, whoever is closest to her.*

TJ

Come on, man...

*TJ tries to get DEREK/SAM to dance to the song. If DEREK/SAM won't dance, TJ goes around the room trying to get someone to dance with her (she can also pull in the actor who will become BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE).*

*TJ should try to get as many people as possible (ideally everyone!) to dance. TJ can also ask DEREK and/or SAM to help bring people to the floor.*

*TJ and the audience dance to "Cupid Shuffle." This should go on almost as long as the song does.*

*LUZ exits. Suddenly, the music stops.*

TJ

What the hell, Luz? We were dancing.

LUZ

Yes, and I / was just

TJ

God, what did I do wrong *now*???

LUZ

Rabbi Tavi will be here any minute. We need to establish the ritual space. I spent a long time preparing this room.

*TJ looks around.*

TJ

*(Sarcastically)*

Looks like it.

LUZ

I'm not doing this with you /

TJ

I'm just sayin', while you were burning sage and being *present* or WHATEVER -- you could have picked up a broom /

LUZ

I'm not engaging. You chose to get drunk, so you can be the one to manage your emotions.

TJ

I am *not* drunk. See?

*TJ does some elaborate balancing trick.*

LUZ

Fine, you're not drunk. You're an ASSHOLE.

TJ

I'm an asshole? Me? I went along with this hippie bullshit / didn't I?

LUZ

It's not bullshit /

TJ

I shelled out *hundreds* of dollars /

LUZ

If you bring up money one more time /

TJ

And *you're* the reason we're getting divorced in the first place!

LUZ

THAT IS *NOT* TRUE. ... And you fucking know it.

*The doorbell rings. Neither TJ nor  
LUZ moves to answer the door.*

TJ

Rabbi Tavi has arrived.

*Beat. The doorbell rings again.*

TJ

Aren't you going to get that?

*Beat. The doorbell rings again.*

LUZ

*(To any audience member)*

Would you mind getting the door for me, hon?

*The audience member gets the door.*

**Act I, Scene 4: Not the Officiant They Hired**

*The OFFICIANT enters. The OFFICIANT is like no one you'd want to officiate your divorce. Or anything, really, except maybe a Bar Mitzvah in the 80s. Glitter. Purple. Channeling Prince. Takes up a lot of emotional energy. Gives out a lot of sexual energy. In OFFICIANT'S mind or in real life, the entrance is comically huge – fog machine, pose, music, lights. Will read the guests. Think: the first scene of Hello, Dolly!*

OFFICIANT

Well hello! Welcome! Me. Welcome me.  
The party has now officially started. I've arrived.

*Indicating self.*

Where shall I put my things?

*Drops sports bag. It makes an alarming chain sound.*

OFFICIANT

Ohhhh it's a party.  
Whom did we invite?  
Oh. Those are great pants for you. Very flattering. Here, you'll need this.

*Throughout this scene, OFFICIANT will be handing out cards. The cards say "Have you ever broken a heart?" "Have you ever been in love?" "Can hearts be mended?"*

Watch out for spilled wine. Where's the wine? Honey will you get me some wine?  
And you! It looks like you're in love? Here. Call me if you need a birth chart. You will.  
You're in love too but it's not going to work out. Have a card, I'll give you a cleansing.  
You're about to meet the one, are you ready? Take a card.

You should definitely stay away from salmon. The fish, the color, spawning, everything.  
Oops, you didn't did you. Here, have a card.  
Oh and look here, it's a regular constellation.

*Pointing out audience members, guessing  
their signs.*

Taurus is in the house getting another glass of wine, there's your Virgo on the edge of the  
couch, Gemini, nice of you to come, *all* of you -  
Is my wine ready yet?

TJ

*(To LUZ, sotto voce)*

Who is this?

LUZ

*(Sotto voce)*

I don't know.

TJ

Will you find out??

LUZ

*(To OFFICIANT)*

Excuse me? Hi?

OFFICIANT

STOP! WAIT! ! I am sensing a disturbance.  
First of all someone's late. That is not acceptable.  
Second of all, one of you has an interest in how this party shakes out. You're not just here  
for the hummus. Maybe you're here to pick up what's left over. Vultures.  
AND! Someone's haunted. Someone brought their baggage to the party.  
Who is it? One of you has a ghost attached.  
Listen, you're not paying me enough. I can do an exorcism or a divorce. You get one zip  
zap, you're free! Not two. Want two? I'll have to charge you.

LUZ

Um, hang on...

OFFICIANT

Are you talking?

LUZ

Thank you so much for coming, but I actually thought we were supposed to have someone else? I thought we were supposed to have Rabbi Tavi?

OFFICIANT

Rabbi Tavi had a bar mishap. Or was it a Bar Mitzvah? Anywho. They can't be here. So you get to have moi. Now shall we get started?

*Pulls notes from bag.*

Where's the body?

LUZ

There's no body /

TJ

It's a divorce party!

LUZ

Ritual.

OFFICIANT

Oh. Wrong dancecard.

*The OFFICIANT rifles through papers.*

LUZ

*(To OFFICIANT)*

Excuse us for a moment.

OFFICIANT

I have to leave at 10:15.

LUZ

This won't take long.



*LUZ and TJ step off to the side to confer. OFFICIANT is sorting through notes, or maybe (depending on the configuration of the space) rearranging audience members and furniture.*

LUZ

This isn't right. We've done so much preparation with Rabbi Tavi. I can't do this with a stranger.

TJ

So... what? What are you saying?

LUZ

We should cancel, of course. I'll reach out to Rabbi Tavi and find another date that /

TJ

No way!

LUZ

But /

TJ

You're here, I'm here, our friends are here. An alarming number of your exes are also here. I don't care who this person is. We're doing this *tonight*.

LUZ

Okay.

TJ

Okay?

LUZ

Yes, okay. *(To OFFICIANT)* Um. Excuse me?

OFFICIANT

WAIT! I have a visitation. *(Reads their phone)*.

I have to walk out *that* door at 10:00 sharp. And I prefer cash.

*TJ hands the OFFICIANT an envelope. The OFFICIANT kisses the envelope and pockets it.*

OFFICIANT

LET THE CEREMONY BEGIN.

***End of Act I.***

**ACT II**  
**THE CEREMONY, PART I**

**Act II, Scene 1: Opening Remarks**

OFFICIANT

Dearly Beloved,

*Long look around.*

Why are you all blinking at me from every corner of the room?

This is a ritual. Get in position.

When I say the word, I want you to get your chairs, your couches, your loveseats, your hammocks, and anything else you want to sit on and gather around the altar.

This is the Bride's side and this is the Bride's side. This is TJ's side. This is Luz's side. You sit with your team, unless of course you want to jump ship, turn coats, or flip flop. You can switch teams any time.

If you're not Team Luz or Team TJ you can sit wherever you like. Now move!

*Music. The OFFICIANT leads the audience in a (re)seating process. OFFICIANT encourages people to take care of their bodies and help one another out with advice like this:*

- Come on, get comfortable.
- Help each other out.
- Does anyone need a seat by the front?
- Does anyone need to take their giant hat to the very back row where it's not blocking someone's view of me?
- Can *you* see all of me, pumpkin?

*When they're settled, Officiant forces people to switch seats with directives like this:*

- No no no! You can't sit on that orange blanket with that purple aura. SWITCH.
- WHAT ARE YOU DOING? You two have way too much past life stuff, you can't sit together. You should know better by now, it's only been 3,000 years. SWITCH.
- Are you SURE you're team Luz? You look a little organized. Your choice.
- Now if you sit next to each other, you could fall in love. Are you prepared to take that risk? I don't think so - SWITCH!

*While this is going on, TJ and LUZ help clear cafe tables and other furniture pieces that are in the way. Once every audience member is seated, the OFFICIANT takes their place at the “altar” space. TJ and LUZ wait for their cue to join them.*

OFFICIANT

That’s better. Let’s try this again.

Dearly Beloved,

And you two.

Welcome.

*Reading from cards.*

We are gathered here as friends, community, family. We are gathered here as lovers.

*Gets distracted by audience.*

I mean potential lovers. I mean wow, this is a really cute crowd. If I weren’t currently abstaining from the pleasures of the flesh in order to purify my mind I would - but you can! Look around. Notice one person you wouldn’t mind getting to know. Or two. Or three. Hold their eyes for just a second. Alright that’s enough.

*Back to cards.*

**EXITS.** There are no exits. Oh wait. If someone gets too emotional or too haunted, the exits are here and here. Bathroom is there.

*Indicating theater exits.*

**ENERGY.** This is an unplugged ceremony. Turn off your vibrators. Cell phones. What else am I forgetting.

*Cards.*

**JUDGMENT!** There is **no** judgment here, only light and love, ((and an assortment of dips)). If the spirit moves you, you’re all welcome to get up and dance, or move, or go for a pee and come back, or visit the altar, or get some water, aren’t you a nice glass of water.

*Cards.*

**INTENTIONS.** We bring our good intentions into this space. We share our energy to support TJ and Luz as they endeavor to continue their lives with intention and mindfulness, separately. ((What we in the business call *see ya, don’t wanna be ya*)) This calls for gratitude. I thank each and every one of you for being here tonight. This is the part where you turn to your neighbor and say “Thank you for being here tonight.” They won’t bite. Yet. Go on. I’m waiting. Yes! Do you feel that energy? You’ve called up some potent, present, power. It’s downright righteous to witness!

*The OFFICIANT consults their cards.*

OFFICIANT

Now, I understand it's someone's birthday today! Happy Birthday, *(reads)* Mel!

*LUZ wants to puke, but tries hard to hide it.*

OFFICIANT

*The first week of this play was Leo season.*

Mel. You're a Leo. You have great hair, you're good looking and charismatic and you think this show should be about you so let's just give you a minute. Will you come join me at the altar?

*The first week of this play was Virgo season.*

Ohhh another Virgo! Mel, you are organized, detail oriented, great skin, a little uptight, I don't know what two Virgos do together for fun but I bet all your socks are facing the same direction.

*The OFFICIANT (with TJ's help) finds MEL and asks them to come to the altar.*

TJ

*(To MEL)*

Thank you so much for coming, Mel. It's really cool of you to be here on your birthday. I owe you one! Can I get a hug?

*If MEL consents, they hug. If not, TJ offers another option (fist bump, high five, etc.).*

LUZ

Yep, Mel's The Best!

*TJ looks at LUZ.*

OFFICIANT

Come on, children, we know the words to the song, don't we?

*The OFFICIANT starts loudly singing “Happy Birthday” and gesturing for the audience to join in. House management (or a volunteer) brings out some little trinket or a cupcake for MEL. After the song is done...*

OFFICIANT

Let’s have cake!

LUZ

Actually /

OFFICIANT

FINE, we won’t have cake. We’ll have a ritual instead ... Killjoys.

*The OFFICIANT and/or TJ help MEL back to their seat.*

OFFICIANT

Let’s welcome TJ and Luz to the ritual space. Come on up.

*A song plays. The opposite of the wedding march. Perhaps something experimental and minimalist a la Philip Glass.*

*TJ and LUZ enter the ceremony space in a “reverse processional.” Instead of arriving separately and coming together (as in a wedding), they enter the space together and then take separate places.*

OFFICIANT

Let the ritual begin then, shall we?

OFFICIANT (Cont.)

“TONIGHT we find our lovers” TJ and Luz “at the crossroads.” *Haven’t we all had a nice fork in the road?* “We honor these moments that let us alter the course of our lives to new horizons.” We get it. They made a decision. It’s a big day. Let’s skip the sermon. Instead, I want you to think about the biggest, best decision you ever made. Got it? Now on the count of 3, I want you to call it out, 1, 2, 3:

***Leaving Law School!***

Good! Ok now remember how it felt. How you felt right after. How everything felt alive and scary and how it felt to change your life.

That’s where these two are now. They’re scared. They need you. They want to process at you. They’ve prepared some opening remarks.

Who wants to go first?

*Beat.*

LUZ

I will.

*LUZ takes a breath.*

LUZ

It’s important to be rooted in my authentic self right now, and just like open to the feelings that are bubbling up... I feel really naked in front of all of you. Can you just be loving with me right now?

*LUZ waits for an audience response.  
No matter what they do...*

LUZ

Thank you. ... TJ. Five years ago we came together on a night like tonight, with friends, and wine, and so much love in our hearts, and we committed to one another for a lifetime. Part of me is saying that we failed, that five years does not a lifetime make. But another part of me *knows* that we are succeeding, because we aren’t wedded to an idea. We want to see each other happy more than anything... Sorry, this is harder than I thought it was going to be. I can’t imagine my life without you in it. You’ve been my anchor. Steady and strong. An anchor that keeps me from floating away. But also, an anchor tying me down.

OFFICIANT

Oh, I know that metaphor. I've *dated* that metaphor. In fact I think I see that metaphor right (*points to an audience member*) over there. Watch out! (*To LUZ*) Anything else?

LUZ

That's it, I think.

OFFICIANT

Alright then! TJ?

*TJ steps forward reluctantly. Pulling a piece of paper from her pocket and unfolding it, TJ begins to read without making eye contact with the audience.*

TJ

Luz. As always, you challenge me to step outside my comfort zone. I don't know what a conscious divorce is, let alone the remarks one should write for such an occasion. I committed to love, honor, and cherish you for the rest of my life. I can't say that I've deviated from that plan. The best I can surmise is that the plans haven't changed, but we have. We've come up against rough patches. We haven't been our best selves, I can admit that. But I've never encountered a problem I couldn't solve. Growing up, my dad always used to tell us, "Nothing will work unless you do."

*The OFFICIANT makes an over-the-top gesture of reverence.*

OFFICIANT

Dr. Angelou.

TJ

(*Surprised, to the OFFICIANT*) That's right. (*To LUZ*) In this case, though, I can't do the work alone. I...

*TJ looks out into the crowd and sees CHLOE.*



TJ

Hang on. *(To LUZ, pointing to CHLOE)* Who's that?

LUZ

Who's who?

OFFICIANT

Who's who what?

TJ

*(Pointing)*

This person. You.

*TJ walks over to CHLOE.*

TJ

Who are you?

CHLOE

I'm Chloe.

*If CHLOE doesn't answer, LUZ will step in and introduce them instead.*

TJ

*Chloe???*

LUZ

She's my friend.

TJ

She's your lover!

LUZ

We're also friends. We were supposed to be able to invite anyone.



**Act II, Scene 2a: Sam's Moment**

*If SAM decides to act on their  
character card...*

SAM

No, of course not. This is the stupidest thing I've ever heard of in my life.

BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE

THANK YOU! At least one person here has some sense.

**Act II, Scene 2b: Gary's Moment**

*If GARY decides to act on their  
character card...*

GARY

Actually, I think it's a beautiful idea. I read an article about conscious uncoupling.

BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE

Ooh fuck you. An article? Bleck.

**Act II, Scene 2c: Bitchy Inner Monologue's Moment**

*If neither SAM nor GARY decides to  
act...*

BITCY INNER MONOLOGUE

Anyone? Anyone??? (*Waits.*) That's what the fuck I thought.

**Act II, Scene 3: Testimonials**

BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE

Raise your hands if you've ever had a breakup.

*Audience members will all raise their hands.*

BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE

OK now keep your hand up if you had a “good breakup” and everybody behaved well the entire time and you still wanted to speak to the person and they didn’t take your favorite shirt and they didn’t break your favorite mug and they didn’t accidentally run over your favorite lawn ornament trying to drive away from you as fast as possible.

*No matter what audience configuration is:*

Well, YOU’RE ALL **LYING**. It’s not possible to separate lovingly.

OFFICIANT

We are here because we believe in loving separation.

BIM

Well someone drank the Kool-Aid.

OFFICIANT

TJ and Luz have each asked someone here to speak to us. To mark the occasion. To share their wisdom. The time has come for testimony!

BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE

Stop stop stop.

*BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE  
looks at everyone mischievously,  
taking over.*

BITCHY INNER MONOLOGUE

I think this party could use a little democracy. Don’t you want to interfere?

(End of Excerpt)