

Benjamin Jolivet
From *Eaten By Another Dog*

Act I

Scene 2. New account

VANIA'S apartment. VANIA comes in and throws her bag down. She digs out the ticket and looks at it. She cackles. LUCY enters from the bedroom with a large envelope. VANIA doesn't see her.

VANIA

(Of the ticket) Idiot.

LUCY

What?

VANIA

What—nothin. What're you doin' home?

LUCY

Duke's sick.

VANIA

With what?

LUCY

He was spittin up.

VANIA

It's that cheap s*** you feed'im.

LUCY

Ma, it's Gerber.

VANIA

When you were a baby I made my own food.

LUCY

OK well will you watch'im while I run down to the farmer's market for some organic produce with all the money I got in my trust fund?

A beat.

VANIA

What's in the envelope?

LUCY

What?

VANIA

What's in the / envelope?

LUCY

It ain't money ma, talons down.

VANIA

I'm just askin what it is, Lucy.

LUCY

Duke's birth certificate. Thought I was gonna need it for the doctor.

VANIA

I hate that name.

LUCY

That's why we chose it.

VANIA

I'm just sayin I thought you had a math test today.

LUCY

Sounded more like you were makin fun'a my kid.

VANIA

They just let you miss a math test cuz your kid's throwin up?

LUCY

No usually they let 'im lie in'is own filth, but they were in a good mood today so they let me go. /
What's your proble—

VANIA

I'm thinkin about your future.

(A beat. LUCY gives her a look.)

I'm concerned about your welfare, Luce; you're my kid.

LUCY

Yeah if there's one thing you know about, it's welfare.

VANIA

You keep skippin math tests like that you're gonna end up just like this.

LUCY

I'll shoot myself.

VANIA

What?

LUCY

Nothin.

VANIA

What'd you say?

LUCY

I didn't / say anythin.

VANIA

What'd you say / smart girl?

LUCY

I said "Don't worry, ma, I won't end up like you, getting 'carpel tunnel' workin in a catalog call center."

A beat.

VANIA

Good, cuz even though you're a snotty brat, I still think you deserve better.

LUCY

Thanks.

VANIA

I mean you don't deserve better, but you deserve better.

LUCY

Thank you.

VANIA

Cuttin out on school like that, / that's not gonna get—

LUCY

I had'a take care'a Duke, ma, OK? / What the—

VANIA

I'm your mother Lucy.

LUCY

We on a reality show I don't know about? I don't get this mood. An' I coulda taken that math test today if you woulda answered your phone when the school called, but you were out somewhere an' so I had'a go.

VANIA

Dennis couldna taken'im to / the doctor, is what—

LUCY

No, ma, he couldna. OK? An' as far as this future you so suddenly care about? It's mapped: community college, then *castle in Newport*.

VANIA

It doesn't hafta / be that way.

LUCY

Yeah, ma, it does, / cuz that's the way it goes.

VANIA

It doesn't hafta be like that, Lucy, / come on.

LUCY

OK then what's the alternative, hunh? (A beat.) Where's my diapers?

VANIA

The EBT machines were down at Morgan's, / I couldn't use my card.

LUCY

I gave you like thirty bucks for those diapers.

VANIA

I needed'a put gas in my car, baby girl, OK? So I can run all these errands you send me on? I was on E, an' Manny wouldn' lemme use my EBT for cigarettes, I had'a use what I had for that.

A beat.

LUCY

Wait are you——— You tellin me you just spent my diaper money on cigarettes.

VANIA

I only got two packs.

LUCY

Oh my god you gonna be OK????