

Sonny Mendelssohn and the Angel-Induced Sexuality Saga

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Characters

Ari “Sonny” Mendelssohn, 21; young man struggling with his identity in the wake of his father’s death, a smartass who would do anything to not talk about his feelings

The Angel/Angie, age unknown but seems to be in early adulthood; a creature

Evren Mendelssohn, 57; Sonny’s mother, simply trying to hold it all together

Samira, 22; Sonny’s best friend, takes no shit, is often angrily texting her boyfriend

Lilija, 20; Sonny’s friend, insanely smart, she likes him but can’t tell if he likes her

Tyler, 21; Sonny’s friend, an all-around sweet guy, desires approval

Announcers 1 & 2 (they could be your uncles) / Guys 1 & 2 (creeps)

Locations

1. A bar in Lower Manhattan. Kinda dingy but has a nice vibe; the kind of place that wouldn’t card.
2. Sonny’s bedroom in a very expensive townhouse off of Central Park West. Should be a mix of childhood memorabilia, a horny and self-hating teenage phase that led to the destruction of some of the childhood memorabilia, and then touches of a more adult man coming into his own. Some things should feel overwhelmingly straight while others feel a touch out of place. In short, room should be as confused as Sonny is.

Thanks to my peers and professor Sánchez for their feedback (and their bringing my characters to life).

SCENE ONE

Four twenty-somethings sit in a booth at a bar that takes up half the stage. The other half is dark.

SONNY and SAMIRA have beers. Sonny peels at the label or does something else that makes it clear he's anxious. Samira is texting someone. She is always looking at her phone unless stated otherwise. TYLER has an Old Fashioned, which he doesn't like but is his regular. LILIIJA has a Sidecar. She's the only one that looks cool.

SONNY
(hesitant)

Is it gay to fuck an angel?

All answer at the same time:

TYLER

I don't think so.

SAMIRA

Well, duh.

LILIIJA

Depends on the source text. Are we talking Abrahamic, or are we talking *The Good Place*, *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, etcetera? What are we working with?

Beat.

SONNY

Why yes and why no? And why duh?

TYLER

Why would it be gay to fuck an angel? It's an angel. They're, like, cherubic. That is pedophilia, though.

SONNY

Not a baby one, man. You didn't need to take it there. I wouldn't be fucking a baby. That's fucked up.

LILIIJA

Come on, Ty.

SAMIRA

Yeah, Ty.

SONNY

Also wouldn't the baby angel be old anyway? Yeah, it died a baby, but it's centuries old.

LILIJA

You're taking it there.

SAMIRA

It's still a baby. The body is the problem. Or. Well.

TYLER

So you get to take it there, but I don't? That's fucked up.

LILIJA

Hey Sam, how long of a text are you sending there?

SAMIRA

As long as it needs to be, *Lil*. And duh because angels wouldn't subscribe to gender the way we think about it. Do they even have sexual organs?

TYLER

Would they even be hot?

LILIJA

It seems like we're going Abrahamic.

SAMIRA

Of course they'd be hot.

TYLER

Why are you so sure?

SAMIRA

Because they'd be hot. They'd be super hot. They're holy beings. They exist in dimensions we can't even imagine. They're beyond comprehension. You'd jizz in your pants looking at them.

TYLER

Why would I jizz in my pants? This isn't about me.

SAMIRA

No, it's about Sonny. He's the one fucking the angel.

SONNY

What are you talking about? This is hypothetical. I never said I was fucking the angel.

SAMIRA

Yes you did.

TYLER

You did, man.

LILJA

You said you wouldn't fuck the baby, implying this is about you specifically fucking angels.

They all stare at him.

SONNY
(lying)

No, I didn't.

LILJA

Why'd you bring this up, anyway?

SAMIRA
(to Tyler)

You don't have to drink that.

TYLER
(disgusted)

I like it.

LILJA

Sonny?

Everything freezes except Sonny. He puts his drink down, gets up, and crosses to the other half of the stage. Lights go down on the bar.

Sonny turns on a lightswitch. Lights come up on the other half. It's his childhood bedroom. There are three posters hung up of Megan Fox from three separate properties. There is one poster of Ringo Starr. Next to his bed is a nightstand, behind which is a windowsill.

Sonny drops onto the bed and turns on the radio on his nightstand.

ANNOUNCER #1

Jarren Duran is up to Bat for the Red Sox. Duran is up to bat.

ANNOUNCER #2

While he's warming up, I'll let the folks at home know — it's a beautiful night here at Yankee Stadium. Gorgeous sunset tonight.

ANNOUNCER #1

Gorgeous. Duran swings- aaand he misses. Strike one. The crowd is roaring — they know he's a big hitter.

ANNOUNCER #2

We're at risk of losing everything if he gets a homer.

ANNOUNCER #1

Another pitch from Cole — fastball — Duran stays. It's a ball. One ball, one strike. This could go either way, folks.

ANNOUNCER #2

Either way. It's only the top of the fourth, it's still anyone's game.

ANNOUNCER #1

Duran swings — and it's a hit! Oh, it's more than a hit, it's soaring! It just might be out of the park!

ANNOUNCER #2

Wow, look at the air on that thing. One could say it's defying gravity. Everyone on the field is in awe — even Duran, and he should be taking his victory lap.

ANNOUNCER #1

Oh, wait. Is that what I think it is?

Sonny, who has shown little interest in the game so far, shows some.

ANNOUNCER #2

What?

ANNOUNCER #1

Coming from that cloud. Look there. Do you see the light?

ANNOUNCER #2

If that's what you think it is-

ANNOUNCER #1

It's too early in the season.

ANNOUNCER #2

Well, hopefully it's far enough away that it won't interfere with the game.

ANNOUNCER #1

Duran is starting to take a slow lap around the bases-

ANNOUNCER #2

It hit it! It hit the ball back into the field!

ANNOUNCER #1

The ball has been knocked back into play, and despite it being a little charred, Soto's picked it up and is tossing it home! Duran is none the wiser!

ANNOUNCER #2

Oh, Boston is not gonna like this.

ANNOUNCER #1

In an unpredictable and, frankly, miraculous turn of events, Duran's homer has been taken home! It's not out of the park, it's an OUT!

ANNOUNCER #2

The crowd — and Duran — are all in disbelief.

ANNOUNCER #1

I'm in disbelief. The angels shouldn't be falling until late August, earliest.

ANNOUNCER #2

Well it's July and God just cost the Red Sox a home run.

Sonny turns the radio off. He lays in bed, pondering.

Outside his window: An animal cry. Like a wounded bird.

Sonny starts. He goes to his window and peers outside, back to the audience. He shrieks.

SONNY

(out the window)

What the hell?

SONNY (CONT'D)

(leans back into his room, then out again)

What are you? What's going on? How'd you get up here?

The animal burbles in response. Sonny softens.

SONNY

What are you doing?

(burble)

Whaddya got there?

(burble)

Don't eat that. That's garbage. It's not good for you.

(burble)

Come on, really. Don't eat that. I bet some guy wiped his ass with that. And not a clean guy. A dirty guy. A guy dirtier than most guys.

There is a scuffling sound. Sonny leans further out the window — he shouts unintelligibly, perhaps.

SONNY

Hey, maybe you should come in here. Yeah, come on. Take my hand and- like that. Come on. Careful- the ledge. Okay. Almost there-

He hits his head on the edge of the window and falls backwards into his bedroom.

Coming off the windowsill and stepping on top of him is THE ANGEL. It looks more and less human than one would think. It has wings instead of arms, is naked, and has long hair covering its face. Perhaps it has hooves instead of feet. It's a little off and not-so-immaculate, but it's also undeniably beautiful. And creepy.

The Angel stumbles over Sonny and falls towards the bed. It tries to secure itself by biting into the pillow.

Sonny gets up. He is half scared, half intrigued.

SONNY

Well, here it is. Inside.

The Angel studies the hole it made in the pillow.

SONNY

Were you at the game just now? You a Yankees fan?

The Angel squawks at the feathers now spilling onto the floor.

SONNY

Sorry.
Red Sox? Mets?

The Angel gives him nothing.

SONNY

Um... Do you need anything? Want anything? Water? I can get you water? I'll get you water.

He runs off.

The Angel looks around his room — crawls on his bed, climbs things, knocks some stuff over, smells things, tastes them. At some point in this process, when their back is to the audience, they pause, hold a moment, and then slowly turn to face everyone. They scan every face. Then they sit back down.

Sonny comes back through the door with a glass of water.

SONNY

I shoulda got a straw.

The Angel looks to him, eyes covered by their hair.

SONNY

Can you even see anything like that? Hold on-

He walks to The Angel, parts their hair with his hands.
He is struck.

SONNY

Hi.

The Angel looks at him.

LIGHTS OUT on the bedroom and UP on the still-frozen bar. Sonny moves through the door. Everything is still until he sits back down.

SONNY

I told you, it's hypothetical.

They accept this. Samira is still texting whoever she's texting.

LILIJA

No one knows why they fall, anyway. Or where they land.

SAMIRA

I'm sure someone knows.

TYLER

Yeah, to hell. To join Lucifer.

SAMIRA

Don't tell me you believe that.

TYLER

Why wouldn't I?

SAMIRA

You need to get off Reddit or 4Chan or whatever godforsaken website you read that on.

LILIJA

Samira...

TYLER

What?

SAMIRA

It's just a thing that happens. Like rain. They fall. It's gravity.

Long beat.

SONNY

(raising his drink jokingly)

And what goes up-

ALL

(toasting, in on the joke)

-must come down.

They drink.

SCENE TWO

Sonny's bedroom. He is laying in bed. The Angel — now wearing a Yankees jersey and

gym shorts — sits on his stomach. It holds a notebook open for him as he writes. There is a nest made of plastic straws in the corner.

THE ANGEL

Dear Diary, it's been about two weeks since Angie appeared. All my friends think I'm sleeping with someone — which is true, but it's distinctly nonsexual. I'm not even sure Angie's sleeping. She twists her body into these weird shapes and then goes still. And I'm only half-sleeping because sometimes she starts vibrating and makes a noise like when your computer is about to blow up. It's annoying but fascinating. Maybe it's the beyond-comprehension-jizz-in-your-pants thing Sam was talking about. Not that I'm jizzing in my pants, I'm not-

SONNY

(interrupting)

Can you read what I'm writing?

The Angel shakes its head.

SONNY

Okay. Good.

He continues.

THE ANGEL

-jizzing in my pants. I'm not thirteen.

Ty says he wants to meet whatever girl I'm hanging out with and see whether or not “she's out of my league.” Sam said she probably is. I'm deciding not to take any of that to heart. Lil hasn't said anything about it. I'm surprised she hasn't given her two cents yet. She loves to give two cents.

I've barely been able to make it to the bar this past week besides the time I proposed the is-angel-sex-gay question. I'm falling way behind on homework. Angie keeps eating it. I don't know if that's how she retains information. If this were a movie, there'd be some section of the library dedicated to whatever she is, but there isn't one. I checked. The one on Fifth Ave. If they didn't have anything...

I kinda wanna bring Angie to Washington Square Park and see if anyone reacts. I think I could stick her in the fountain and people would think she's a performance artist. Maybe she's just a homeless woman and my room has become a homeless shelter. I'm the one paying with my time, sleep, and food supply. Or I guess Mom is.

Angie's destroying the Oreo supply. She's lucky she's cute. I had a dream-
(suggestive)

Hm.

Sonny continues to write, but The Angel no longer reads aloud.

THE ANGEL
(to themself)

Fascinating. That plus... I am not sure of the efficacy, but-

SONNY

Are you reading this?

The Angel shakes its head again.

SONNY

Really? Angels can't read English?

The Angel shrugs.

SONNY

Why don't I believe you?

The Angel makes a non-committal gesture.

SONNY

I guess the Torah wasn't written in English. Or the Bible. Or the Qur'an.

The Angel closes the notebook.

SONNY

You know, you can use your words if you'd like.

Nothing.

SONNY

Okay, what do you want? I'm not gonna keep giving you straws. You made a nest out of them and you don't even use it.

They both look at the nest made of plastic straws.

SONNY

(seeing the time)

I have to go. Are you gonna be alright by yourself?

The Angel makes a face.

SONNY

I don't know what that means. I'm gonna go.

He gets to his feet. The Angel slides off him.

SONNY

Um, if you need anything... don't let my mom know you're here. She doesn't know you're here, right?

Nothing.

SONNY

O-kay. Bye.

He walks through the door to the bar. It's somewhat empty. Samira and Lilija are chatting in their booth.

The Angel sits on the other side of the door, listening.

SONNY

Sorry I'm late.

SAMIRA

You're not late, Tyler's late.

SONNY

He's always late.

LILIJA

I don't think he's coming. He has a midterm paper due for Donofsky at midnight and he just started.

SONNY

Donofsky? He's screwed.

SAMIRA

Well, if Ty's not coming, then let's just start.

SONNY

Start what?

SAMIRA

Your intervention.

On the other side:

EVREN, Sonny's mother, enters and begins to put laundry away. When she gets close to The Angel, they moves their feet so Evren can walk past. Evren shows no sign of seeing them.

SONNY

What?!

LILJA

We agreed we weren't gonna call it that.

SAMIRA

Ty and I agreed we would. You were agreeing to disagree.

LILJA

I wasn't agreeing to disagree.

SAMIRA

To us, you were.

LILJA

Samira-

SAMIRA

Sonny, you've been seeing someone. Who is it?

SONNY

My intervention is about this? Of everything it could be about, it's this?

SAMIRA

Well, do you want to talk about your father, or your major, or what you're doing with your life? Because we can do that.

Sonny is quiet. He's hurt.

Evren exits.

LILJA

What Samira is trying to say is that we're worried about you. You've been gone a lot lately without telling us why. You ditched me last Sunday when we were supposed to have a study date. You've never done that before.

The Angel perks up.

SONNY

Study session.

LILJA

Yeah, whatever. I- we know these last few months have been hard for you. And you haven't wanted to talk about it, so we haven't pushed-

SONNY

There's nothing I need to talk about.

Beat.

SAMIRA

Sonny, your dad died.

The Angel looks at the door like they can see through it.

SONNY

I recall.

LILIJA

We don't have to talk about it-

SONNY

What is there to talk about? He died. His heart gave out. Do you need me to break it down for you? It wasn't pumping enough blood. He was cold all the time. He had to wear those stupid mittens. What about that do we need to discuss?

LILIJA

How you feel.

SONNY

I feel fine. Dandy, even.

SAMIRA

It's not just your dad, Sonny.

SONNY

Then what else is there? Come on. If this is an intervention, then by all means, intervene.

Samira and Lilija share a look.

SAMIRA

Sonny, what do you want?

SONNY

What?

SAMIRA

What do you want? You haven't been acting like yourself. Even before this week and ditching Lilija. I feel like... it's hard to word it. I feel... I feel like I see something, and I don't know if you see it, but I see it. You always seem... uncomfortable. Like you're sitting on something. Inside.

SONNY
(caught)

I don't know what you mean.

SAMIRA

Sonny, have you ever thought that maybe-

LILJA
(interrupting)

This wasn't meant to be an actual intervention. This was supposed to be a conversation about what's been going on with you. Tyler thinks you're seeing someone. Is that true?

Sonny considers whether or not to explain.

SONNY

Yes. I'm seeing someone.

The Angel looks to the audience.

LILJA
(awkward)

Great. That's great.

SAMIRA

Can we meet them?

SONNY

It's new. Very new.

SAMIRA

But can we meet them?

SONNY

I have to think about it. I have to ask- her.

SAMIRA

Ask and get back to us.

LILJA

I'm sure she's great.

SONNY

I think I'm gonna go.

Sonny- LILIJA

I'm tired. SONNY

We didn't mean to- LILIJA

We'll see you tomorrow. SAMIRA

Yeah. SONNY

Yeah. SAMIRA

Sleep well. LILIJA

Sonny walks through the bar door back to his room. The Angel scrambles out of the way.

What were you doing? SONNY

The Angel does not answer.

Fine. Whatever. I'm going to bed. SONNY

He starts to get ready — takes off his shoes, shirt, etc. The Angel is waiting for something. Then they realize Sonny's not going to ask.

Your friends want to meet me. THE ANGEL

What? SONNY
(shocked)

THE ANGEL

Your friends said they want to meet me.

SONNY

You can speak English?

THE ANGEL

Of course I can speak English. Why did you not ask me? You told them you would.

SONNY

How do you know that?

No answer.

SONNY

That's an invasion of privacy. Whatever you did. You can't spy on me like that.

THE ANGEL

Why not? What are we to each other except man and observer?

SONNY

We're not anything to each other. You're crashing here until...

THE ANGEL

You told your friends you are seeing someone.

SONNY

I am seeing someone. I'm seeing you right now.

THE ANGEL

They want to meet me.

SONNY

They don't know who you actually are.

THE ANGEL

They could.

SONNY

How would that work? You gonna hop the turnstile with those wings?

THE ANGEL

I don't think anyone would be alarmed. They would assume it's the weekend of Comic-Con.

SONNY

Can we talk about this some other time? I'm tired. I have a headache and I want to go to sleep.
Can we sleep?

THE ANGEL

Yes. We'll sleep.

They get into bed together.

SONNY

I can't believe you speak English. Can you read it too?

THE ANGEL
(sarcastic)

No, I'm illiterate.

SONNY

Okay, great. Good.

The Angel is fed up. Sonny turns over to sleep.

SONNY

Good night.

THE ANGEL

Good night.

SCENE THREE

Sonny's bedroom.

Sonny stands in front of his mirror in his towel. He considers himself, flexing his muscles and tracing his own jawline with a finger. He does this for a minute or two, then looks dissatisfied.

The Angel walks in the door. Sonny startles.

THE ANGEL

Please, continue.

Sonny looks at them for a beat, frustrated, before getting dressed.

SCENE FOUR

Sonny's bedroom.

Sonny and The Angel watch a horror movie. Sonny jumps at every scream.
The Angel watches with bored fascination.

SONNY

Do you want some snacks?

THE ANGEL

Mm.

SONNY

A break? Do you wanna take a break?

THE ANGEL

It's getting interesting.

SONNY

Let's take a break. I'll go get snacks.

He pauses the TV and goes out the front door of his room. The Angel waits.

The door opens again. It's Evren. She carries a laundry basket, which she places on Sonny's bed without seeing The Angel. She starts to open his drawers and closet and put his folded clothes away.

Sonny returns through the open door.

SONNY

I got popcorn- Oh. Mom.

EVREN

You got popcorn.

Sonny looks to The Angel, who gives him nothing. Evren moves without perceiving them.

SONNY

Yeah, I got popcorn.

EVREN

That's exciting.

Loooooong beat. Evren folds clothes.

SONNY
You doing okay, Mom?

EVREN
(false)
Yeah. Everything's great.

SONNY
You sure? You seem...

EVREN
I seem...?

SONNY
I just want to know that you're okay.

Beat.

EVREN
I'm okay. Really.
(picks up basket and pats Sonny's cheek)
And it's not your job to worry about me. Enjoy your movie. And your popcorn.

She exits.

Sonny sits on the bed, lost in thought. After a moment, The Angel scoots behind him and wraps their legs and wings around him in a hug. They sit like that for a long while.

SONNY
Why couldn't she see you?

THE ANGEL
Do you want her to see me?

Silence.

SCENE FIVE

Sonny's bedroom.

The Angel and Sonny lie in bed, distinctly apart. The Angel seems to be asleep.

SONNY

Are angels gay?

THE ANGEL
(eyes still closed)

What?

SONNY

Nothing.

THE ANGEL

What did you ask? I was tuned to another frequency, so I didn't hear.

SONNY

Another frequency? Like a radio?

No answer. They sit in silence.

SONNY

Are you a woman?

THE ANGEL
(eyes still closed)

No. Do you want to talk, or are we sleeping?

SONNY

We'll sleep. I just... have questions.

THE ANGEL

So we're talking.

SONNY

You can sleep if you want.

THE ANGEL

I am here for you. Ask.

SONNY

Oh. Well... Have you been watching me for a while? Are you like "my guardian angel" or something?

THE ANGEL

You people are so self-centered.

SONNY

What? I didn't mean-

THE ANGEL

I know, you're curious.
What qualifies as a while?

SONNY

I don't know... my whole life, or something.

THE ANGEL

Not that long.

SONNY

How long, then?

THE ANGEL

Hm. Remember... do you remember the weekend you stayed at your grandparents' house by yourself? You were young. Eight or nine years old.

SONNY

(pretending he doesn't)

Maybe...

THE ANGEL

(as if they didn't hear)

Your grandmother was out shopping and your grandfather was taking a nap upstairs. He'd taken his hearing aids out. You thought they looked like white beans on the nightstand. Being alone, you took the opportunity to snoop. You were a nosy child.

You went through your grandmother's jewelry, both of their clothes, their shoes. You went through the closets in the hall, but it was all towels and sheets. Boring. Then you went into your grandfather's study. You had only been in your father's study once or twice at this point. You'd never been in your grandfather's.

The door was unlocked. You left it open — easier to hear if your grandfather awoke. You looked at the books, touched everything on the desk. Then you went through the drawers. Cigarettes, an old pipe, cash — you took fifty bucks — and in the bottom drawer, a gun.

You took it outside. The dog followed. Their house is at the edge of the woods, so you went in, play-hunting. You imagined you were at war with the most evil men anyone could think of. You pretended to shoot them. Your finger was on the trigger. The dog ran circles around you, happy to be out, bouncing off your glee. You went deeper into the woods. The dog ran off, came back. You pointed the gun at it, pretending it was a vicious monster. You pretended to shoot. But you pressed too hard.

THE ANGEL (CONT'D)

You left the dog there. You ran back, horrified. Your father'd told you that all life is precious and you'd ended one. You'd never felt worse in your whole life. You vomited on a bush. The gun was hot in your hand. You put it back where you found it and got into bed. You cried yourself to sleep. You thought maybe your life was a little less precious now that you'd killed something.

You woke up a little while later to your grandmother at your door. She asked if you knew where the dog went. Your grandfather was still asleep. You shrugged sleepily. She thought the tears on your face were from a bad dream and decided not to call attention to them in case you were embarrassed. She went downstairs. Everyone supposed the dog just ran off. He did that sometimes. Your grandparents were sad, but not too sad.

You found the fifty bucks in your pocket when you got home on Sunday night. You hid it somewhere instead of using it or even throwing it away because then the dog would really be gone and you'd be able to absolve yourself. You try to forget that any of it happened — but some nights you hate yourself enough to remember the look in his innocent blue eyes.

As the monologue goes on, Sonny looks increasingly horrified.

SONNY

I've never told anyone that.

THE ANGEL

That's when I started paying attention.

SONNY

That's a long time.

THE ANGEL

Some time, yes.

SONNY

He didn't know what was happening.

THE ANGEL

No.

SONNY

It was horrible.

THE ANGEL

Of course it was. But it was also an accident.

SONNY
It doesn't matter.

THE ANGEL
You didn't mean to do it.

SONNY
I still killed him.

THE ANGEL
Ollie.

SONNY
Ollie. My grandpa loved that dog.

THE ANGEL
Now he has another.

SONNY
Yeah, but-

THE ANGEL
You should sleep, Sonny.

He shifts into a sleeping position.

THE ANGEL
And, to answer your question, some of us are gay. Some aren't.

SONNY
Right. That makes sense.

The Angel goes to sleep.

SONNY
They were so blue...

SCENE SIX

The bar.

Sonny and Lilija sit on the same side of the booth. Tyler is talking to someone at the bar.

I'm tired of guys.

LILJA

You're tired of guys?

SONNY
(confused)

Yeah. They exhaust me.

LILJA

So this is an us and them situation?

SONNY

It's a me and you situation.

LILJA

What?

SONNY

Because you're a guy. And I'm not.

LILJA

Right. Yeah.

SONNY

I don't get it. Riddle me this: A guy will make all these plans with you, and he'll laugh at all your jokes, and he'll look at you when none of your other friends are looking at you, and then he goes and starts dating someone else. What do you think, Sonny? What should I do in that situation?

LILJA

Um. I don't know.

SONNY

You don't know? Have you ever been in that sort of situation, Sonny? On either side of it?

LILJA
(somewhat self-satisfied)

What are you getting at?

SONNY

Getting at? I'm not getting at anything. I'm not getting *any*. That's the conundrum.

SONNY

You seemed fine with everything before.

LILIJA

I guess my patience has worn a little thin.

SONNY

(is this about me?)

Right.

Tyler returns. Samira arrives and joins the crew.

TYLER

Oh Sonny, I've been meaning to ask: How's Evren?

SAMIRA

You're on a first name basis now? I thought you were too afraid to not call her Mrs Mendelssohn.

TYLER

We had a nice chat at the wake, so I've been feeling better about it.

LILIJA

You talked to her at the wake?

TYLER

Yeah, we got all existential and shit. No biggie. That's why I'm wondering how she's doing.

SONNY

She's fine.

TYLER

Just fine? You sure?

SONNY

I think I know how my mom's doing, thanks, Ty.

TYLER

I don't know, man — the shit she was saying... I was getting a little concerned.

SONNY

The shit she was saying?

TYLER

Yeah, man, just like... she was all weepy and shit. She seems to have a lot on her plate, that's all.

SONNY

She does not have a lot on her plate. She's fine. Stop worrying about her. And don't call her Evren, it's weirding me out.

TYLER

That's literally her name.

SONNY

Yeah, but don't... It doesn't matter. I think I'm gonna go. I have a headache — I didn't sleep well.

LILIJA

Mhm.

SONNY

What was that?

LILIJA

If you're gonna go see your girlfriend, you can tell us. You don't have to lie.

SAMIRA

Lilija-

SONNY

I don't have a girlfriend. Can you move? I'm leaving.

LILIJA

Fine.

Lilija scoots out to let Sonny out. When he stands, there's an awkward moment between them.

SONNY

Bye.

SAMIRA, TYLER, LILIJA

Bye.

He exits.

LILIJA

So he's seeing someone, but he doesn't have a girlfriend? Hmph. Something's off.

TYLER

Maybe they just haven't had the talk yet.

LILIJA

(just now realizing...)

Do you guys ever wonder if Sonny's...

TYLER

If Sonny's...?

SAMIRA

(interrupting)

He's just having a moment. Let it die.

LILIJA

Yeah. Okay.

TYLER

How many quarters do you guys think I can stick to my face?

Beat.

SAMIRA

Maybe you need to sober up.

SCENE SEVEN

Sonny's bedroom.

The Angel grins and pulls a fifty dollar bill from the pages of a children's book.

SCENE EIGHT

Sonny's bedroom.

Evren is finishing putting Sonny's clothes away. Her eyes catch on the fifty dollar bill sitting on his desk.

Sonny enters, looking at his phone.

EVREN

What's this from?

SONNY
(first he's seeing it)

Oh, uh. I don't know.

EVREN

You don't know?

SONNY

No, I, uh... it must be yours. The cleaning lady probably found it in the hall and left it in here thinking it was mine.

EVREN

The cleaning lady hasn't been here in a month.

SONNY

I don't know.

EVREN

Sonny. Be serious.

SONNY

Take it. I don't want it.

EVREN

My son doesn't want fifty dollars? Is something wrong? Do you have a fever?

She puts the back of her hand to his forehead. He swats it away.

SONNY

My mother doesn't want fifty dollars? Is something wrong? Do you have a fever?

EVREN

Shut it.

(picking up the bill)

If you really don't want it...

SONNY

I don't.

EVREN

Suspicious. Are you dealing?

SONNY
What the fuck?

EVREN
I'd still love you. I'd love you regardless.

SONNY
Regardless of?

EVREN
Everything. Anything. All of it.
(beat)
Would you love me regardless?

SONNY
Yeah.

EVREN
You would?

SONNY
Yeah. Of course.

Long beat.

EVREN
I don't want you to do anything stupid, Sonny.

SONNY
Mom-

EVREN
I'm serious. I-
(sad)
You're all I have now. You're my little boy.

SONNY
And if I wasn't?

EVREN
Wasn't what?

SONNY

I don't know. Your little boy. Everything you have. Now you have fifty dollars. So it's not just me.

EVREN

Are you trying to tell me something?

SONNY

No, Mom-

EVREN

Sonny. I love you regardless. Take your fifty dollars and buy a skateboard or something.

SONNY

I don't want the money, Mom.

EVREN

What kind of insane young man have I raised for him to not want money?

SONNY

(angry/exasperated)

Can you just leave me alone?

EVREN

(taken aback)

What's going on, Sonny?

SONNY

It's always Sonny this, Sonny that. What about you? What's going on with you?

EVREN

I'm doing the laundry. Dishes next. You know the drill.

SONNY

And Dad's death- what? No impact on that?

EVREN

I don't know what you're getting at-

SONNY

Really?

Beat.

EVREN

Sometimes I look at you and think you're all grown up and I miss my little boy, and then you act like you're still nine years old and I remember how wonderful it was when the tantrums stopped.

(puts the fifty back)

I don't want your mystery money.

SONNY

No, you just want to sit alone in this house and be sad.

EVREN

I'm not sitting around the house, I'm cleaning up after you and handling the insurance and the mortgage and I'm looking to possibly go back to work and...

Sonny, I'm exhausted. But I still show up for you. Because that's my job. Maybe you should focus on yours instead of berating me-

SONNY

I didn't know I had a job.

EVREN

Yeah, you do. It's to be my son.

Beeeeaaaaaat.

EVREN

I'm going to bed. Good night.

SONNY

I'm sorry.

EVREN

Yes, I know.

SONNY

Mom...

EVREN

Yes?

SONNY

Regardless?

EVREN

Even when it pains me.

SONNY

I...

EVREN

I know, Sonny. Good night.

She exits.

Sonny looks at the fifty dollars.

SCENE NINE

Sonny's bedroom.

The Angel tries to get comfortable in its nest made of plastic straws.

Evren enters with cleaning supplies. She does not notice the Angel. She starts to wipe down Sonny's desk, then moves to the dresser, and so on.

The Angel stops in their rearranging themselves to watch her.

Once Evren starts to neaten Sonny's bed, the Angel stands. From behind, without being seen, they press a hand to the center of Evren's back.

Evren gasps/inhales/shows shock in some way. Then, after a moment, she starts to cry. She sits on Sonny's bed and weeps.

The Angel gets back in their nest and watches.

SCENE TEN

Outside the bar.

Sonny, Samira, Liliya, and Tyler are smoking and chatting.

From the shadows: A gorgeous woman. The absolute dream. Long dark hair, big eyes, short bodycon dress, long legs. All of them stare as she approaches. She looks a little like Liliya.

Sonny is confused — she seems familiar.

She seems like she's going to pass them, but then she stops in front of Sonny. She takes the cigarette from his hand, takes a long drag while making full eye contact, and blows the smoke into his face. Then she hands it back, smiles, and walks into the bar.

Who- LILIJA

-the fuck- SAMIRA

-was that? TYLER

Angie. SONNY
(tossing his cigarette and going inside)

Inside, Angie is ordering a drink. Everyone is looking at her. Sonny goes up to her; his friends follow and stand behind him.

What are you doing here? SONNY

Your friends wanted to meet me, right? ANGIE

You didn't tell me you were coming. SONNY

Did I need to? ANGIE

Where'd you get this outfit? SONNY

Just because you're used to seeing me naked- ANGIE

Ange. SONNY

Ari. ANGIE

The four friends are taken aback, Sonny most of all.

TYLER

The booth is free. Let's go sit.

SONNY

Yeah, let's go to the booth.

ANGIE

I'm good here.

SONNY

The booth, Ange.

ANGIE

The bar, Ari.

SONNY

Don't call me that.

ANGIE

Why not? It's your name.

SONNY

It's not my name. Not really.

ANGIE

And Angie's not my name. Not really.

LILJA

How about you guys go sit and Sonny and I will handle the drinks. How about we do that?

ANGIE

Great suggestion, *Lil*, thank you.

Tyler and Samira head towards the booth. Angie goes after them.

LILJA

What is going on? Why is she calling you Ari and me Lil? Why does she look like me?

SONNY

I don't know what- Hey, what do you think that's about?

Two guys approach Angie and start talking to her. She tolerates them.

Sonny, I'm trying to talk to you. LILIJA

You're not trying very hard. SONNY

What the fuck is your problem? LILIJA

What's your problem? SONNY

My problem- I don't- You- LILIJA
(exasperated)

Sonny, do you like me? SONNY
(playing dumb)

Of course I like you. You're one of my best friends. LILIJA

I mean like me, like me. SONNY

Like you like you? Is this fourth grade? Are we ten? LILIJA

I thought I liked you. SONNY

Thought? LILIJA

Right now, I don't like you at all. SONNY

Lilija- LILIJA

I don't get it, Sonny. I feel like you're always trying to get me alone. We all meet up and then you linger after both Samira and Ty have gone home with your hands in your pockets and your "aw, shucks" face and... you're cute. You've always been cute, but you act cute around me,

LILJA (CONT'D)

like you're... and I thought something was happening and then you ditched me and you tell us you're seeing someone and she's calling you *Ari* — none of us have ever been allowed to call you *Ari* — and she looks like me, Sonny! I thought I was losing it and then you bring a girl who looks like me to the bar! What the fuck?!

SONNY

She doesn't look like you.

LILJA

Look at her! We're wearing the same goddamn dress! We have the same hair!

SONNY

She doesn't look like this normally.

LILJA

Then why does she look like this now?

On the other side of the bar, Samira and Tyler fight at the jukebox. Angie is alone.

GUY 1
(to Angie)

So. You wanna get out of here?

GUY 2
I think you're gorgeous. Don't you know you're gorgeous?

Angie sips her drink through a straw.

GUY 1
My place is reeeeeaaaaal nice. I got a Queen bed and everything.

GUY 2
This dress, babe, this dress.

He puts a hand on her bare thigh. Angie takes his hand and bites a chunk out of his forearm. Samira and Tyler turn at the noise. Samira gags and Tyler squeals.

GUY 2
HOLY FUCKING SHIT

GUY 1
YOU BIT HIM

YOU BIT ME

GUY 2

FUCK FUCK FUCK

GUY 1

YOU FUCKING BITCH I'M GONNA GET YOU FOR THIS

GUY 2

Lilija, I need to-

SONNY

Do you not have anything to say?

LILJA

He moves towards Angie.

LILJA
(noticing what's going on)

Oh my God.

She follows.

SONNY

Angie? What happened?

GUY 1

Are you her boyfriend?

SONNY

I'm-

GUY 2

YOUR BITCH OF A BITCH FUCKING TOOK A BITE OUT OF ME SHE ASSAULTED ME
WHAT DO YOU-

SONNY

Shut up for a second, will you? Ange, are you good?

TYLER

Sonny, your girlfriend is scary.

ANGIE
(to the guys)

I could smite you where you stand. From dust, to dust. You know.

SONNY
She's not my girlfriend.

GUY 2
YOU FUCKING-

GUY 1
I'm getting out of here. Jesus Christ, you can forget about my place.

GUY 2
IS ANYONE CALLING THE FUCKING COPS

SONNY
Ange, what'd you do?

ANGIE
Why do I have to have done something?

SONNY
Did you or did you not take a bite out of that guy's arm?

ANGIE
I did.

SONNY
Why would you do that? Why are you here?

ANGIE
You know why.

SONNY
I know why?

ANGIE
Yeah.

SONNY
No I don't.

ANGIE
You do.

CALL 911 CALL 911

GUY 2

TYLER

Is anyone calling? Should I be calling?

GUY 2

YES, FUCKING HELL WHAT THE FUCK CALL 911 YOU MOTHERFUCKER

TYLER

Don't take that tone with me.

SONNY

Ange-

ANGIE

Can we go home?

SONNY

Of course we can go home.

She takes his hand.

GUY 2

FOR GODS SAKE JESUS CHRIST ARE YOU CALLING-

TYLER
(on the phone)

Yes, YES, hello? Hi, um... this girl bit this guy's arm and he's bleeding A LOT...

SONNY

Lilija, can you say goodbye to Samira? Wherever she went.

LILJA

Um. Yeah. Okay.

TYLER

No, I think the bite was in good humor... No need to press charges... Uh huh...

SONNY

Thanks. I'll talk to you... sometime. Get home safe.

LILJA
(half-hearted)

Yeah. You too.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE ELEVEN
Sonny's bedroom.

A long, uncomfortable moment of silence.

ANGIE

Do you even like me like this?

He gives her a long look.

SONNY

I don't think so.

ANGIE

I didn't think so either.

(beat)

I don't like me like this.

SONNY

Who are you?

ANGIE

I'm Angie. Like you wanted.

SONNY

I didn't want this.

ANGIE

Yes you did. You call me Angie in your journal. You write about bending me over in the shower-

SONNY

So you're not illiterate.

ANGIE

No, I'm not illiterate. I'm all-knowing.

SONNY
What are you? Why are you here?

ANGIE
You know.

SONNY
I don't.

ANGIE
You do.

SONNY
I'm telling you, I don't. All I know is I look at you like this- and all I can think is you were better before.

ANGIE
I did this for you.

SONNY
Well, I don't like it. You were right.

ANGIE
All of this is for you, Ari.

SONNY
Why are you calling me that?

ANGIE
It's your name.

SONNY
It's my father's name.

ANGIE
And your name.

SONNY
No one calls me that.

ANGIE
They didn't call you that because he was alive. Now he's dead. The spot's open.

SONNY

I don't want to be Ari.

ANGIE

Then what do you want to be? Honestly. What do you want to be?

SONNY

I asked you first.

ANGIE

I'm here because you want me to be here. That's how it works. It's not gravity or Satan or whatever. You want me here. So I'm here.

SONNY

Why do I want you here?

ANGIE

I can't tell you why you want things, Sonny. You're the only one that knows why you want them.

SONNY

You're telling me you can hear my friends and I at a bar across town but you can't tell me why I want things?

ANGIE

I could, but how would that help you? What good does it do for me to just tell you what you want? I'm not your mother and I'm definitely not your father. I'm not here to order you around.

SONNY

I don't want anyone to order me around.

ANGIE

You don't? You don't miss how your dad planned your days down to the minute? You don't want him to tell you that you should major in Business one more time? You don't want me to say that he sent me here to look after you?

Sonny is trying not to cry.

ANGIE

What do you want, Sonny? Where do you want to go from here?

SONNY

I want you to be you again.

ANGIE
What else?

SONNY
I want you to show me your teeth.

She bares her teeth. They're bloody.

SONNY
I want you to kiss me. I want...

ANGIE
You can tell me.

SONNY
(reluctant)
I want to be like you.

ANGIE
Like me?

SONNY
Like you.

ANGIE
What does that mean, Sonny?

SONNY
You know.

ANGIE
And if I wanted you to tell me anyway?

SONNY
I wouldn't. Not yet.

ANGIE
You still want me to kiss you?

Sonny nods. They kiss.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWELVE

Sonny's bedroom.

Sonny and The Angel — back in true form — lay in bed together.

SONNY

So, was it you at the game?

THE ANGEL

The game?

SONNY

The baseball game. Did you knock the ball back into the stadium?

THE ANGEL

Oh. Yeah.

SONNY

Really? Did you jump on purpose? Were you trying to help the Yankees?

THE ANGEL

I thought it was the Yankees' ball.

SONNY

What?

THE ANGEL

I thought the Yankees were at bat. That's why I jumped when I did. I was trying to help the Red Sox.

SONNY

No.

THE ANGEL

Yes.

SONNY

Holy shit.

THE ANGEL

Yeah. I've been a fan since '46.

Holy shit.

SONNY

Yeah. My bad.

THE ANGEL

Wow.

SONNY

Long, considering beat.

SONNY

I should probably call Lilija.

THE ANGEL

Yeah?

SONNY

Yeah.

THE ANGEL

And say what?

SONNY

Apologize. I don't think I ever did like her. In that way. And I think I knew the whole time. But I knew it'd be easy if I did. And I wanted it to be easy.

THE ANGEL

Everyone wants everything to be easy.

SONNY

Well, it's not. I keep catching my mom lingering in my dad's study. She hasn't moved anything in there since he died. She hasn't even opened the window. She sits in there and smells what he used to smell and touches what he used to touch and I catch her at it all the time. She pretends she's reorganizing.

The Angel is quiet.

SONNY

I miss him. Sometimes. Less than I should.

THE ANGEL

There's no should.

SONNY

There's always a should.

THE ANGEL

You should like Lilija, but you don't.

SONNY

I don't.

THE ANGEL

You should miss your dad more, but you miss him when you do.

SONNY

Not enough.

THE ANGEL

You should be happy we had sex, but you're busy contemplating everything you've been ignoring for the past few months.

SONNY

Sue me.

THE ANGEL

I'm sure Lilija would appreciate you calling.

SONNY

I fucked that up. Samira's gonna kill me.

THE ANGEL

She won't. Not after you tell her everything.

SONNY

I'm not gonna tell her everything.

THE ANGEL

Why not?

SONNY

I don't do that.

THE ANGEL

You could if you wanted to.

I don't want to.

SONNY

You don't?

THE ANGEL

Beat.

SONNY

Maybe I do.

THE ANGEL

She'll understand. So will Ty. And so will Lilija, even if it takes some time.

SONNY

I'm sorry all of this is always about me. We don't talk about you.

THE ANGEL

What's there to talk about?

SONNY

What your life is like. Up there.

THE ANGEL

It's good. It's really, really good.

SONNY

How long ago did you die?

THE ANGEL

Some time ago.

SONNY

How'd you die?

THE ANGEL

Not yet.

SONNY

Not yet?

THE ANGEL

I'm not telling you yet.

SONNY

Oh. I guess that's fair. When will you tell me?

THE ANGEL

Sometime.

Sonny is starting to doze off.

SONNY

Do you think I'd like it up there?

THE ANGEL

I think that one's about you again.

SONNY

Yeah, but, would I?

THE ANGEL

You would.

You could come with me, if you'd like.

SONNY

Really?

THE ANGEL

Yeah. But only if you want to.

It'd be easy.

Long beat.

SONNY

I think I'm good.

THE ANGEL

Okay.

SONNY

I bet it's like the fucking Plaza up there.

THE ANGEL

It's... what it is.

SONNY

I bet it's great.

THE ANGEL

It is.

Sonny struggles to keep his eyes open.

SONNY

That's great.

THE ANGEL

Everyone up there would love you.

SONNY

I'll see them when I see them.

(beat)

Is he up there?

THE ANGEL

I don't know.

SONNY

You don't know or- [you won't tell me.]

THE ANGEL

That's not my area.

SONNY

What's your area, then?

THE ANGEL

Confused boys.

SONNY

Funny.

THE ANGEL

It's basically true.

SONNY
(sleepily)

Hm.

THE ANGEL

You're a nice boy, Ari. And the hard stuff will get easier soon enough.

SONNY

Ari.

THE ANGEL

That's your name.

SONNY

It's my name.

Sonny passes out.

The Angel holds him for a moment longer. Then they press a kiss to his forehead and climb out of the bed. They pick up the fifty dollars they left out on the desk and, after considering it, eats it.

They climb out the windowsill and perch there, studying Sonny for a long moment. Then they disappear out of the window.

We hear the birdlike warbling from the beginning. Sonny shifts in bed, fast asleep.

Evren enters with the laundry basket. Noticing Sonny is asleep, she stands at the door and watches him.

A car horn honks. Evren walks over to the window, shuts it. Everything is quiet.

She heads back to the door but pauses at Sonny's bedside to brush his cheek with the backs of her fingers. She leans down and presses a kiss to his forehead. She takes the basket and as she closes the door: BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY.