



SINFUL HEAVEN

By Ricky J Martinez

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Sinful Heaven

by Ricky J. Martinez

part of
"In God's Land: an Island Trilogy"

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Spanning a week
on a forgotten island, lingering in the Caribbean: Cuba.

THE ISLANDERS:

Luz Esperanza Catalan

(20) an innocent, yet dangerously curious soul.

Luis Anon

(late 20's/30's) a muscular, self-made mariner.

Eugeña Anon

(60's) a loyal housemaid, committed to her charge.

Señor José Félipé Catalan

(50's) an overbearing, strict, self-made business man.

PLAYWRIGHTS NOTES:

- A dash (-) denotes an interruption of thought or of another person; a fast pace mark.
- An ellipsis (...) denotes an inhale, a gesture, or a silent thought; a slower pace mark. Ending a line and beginning another line of dialogue from the same character, means an overlap with continuous energy in thought.
- All repetitions in dialogue are purposeful.

A word of CAUTION to all directors, actress/actors that approach the characters and the style of this creative, but deeply honest world of the play; avoiding melodramatic, emotionally anguished interpretations as a soap opera/ novella would call for. Strive rather for nuanced, realistic, and active choices when incorporating the magical moments.

Sentry portraits, starlit night, and row boat require keen creative production values.

SCENE 1 THE MERMAID

Caught in candlelight, in her nightgown, Luz sleeps soundly on the ground.

A book and a candle seem to guard her from the stormy night booming and flashing around her.

A rumble of thunder.

LUZ

(waking)

NOOO!

(realizing she's awake)

God, that- these nightmares with the ocean devouring me again. My heart's...

(chuckles)

UGH... and rain's trailed in; I left it open again?

(closes window)

Please, not another ruined book... my precious pearls of wisdom...

(rushes back to book; sighs)

Good, you're fine; while my heart is still drumming away-

From the dark comes a voice.

VOICE

Excuse me?

LUZ

(startled)

WHAT?! WHO?!

VOICE

Sorry- didn't mean to scare you- listen-

LUZ

Stay right there or I'll scream; I- I swear it!

VOICE

Please, don't!

LUZ

Don't move then!

VOICE

I won't- I'm...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED :

Wait, right there!

LUZ

...yes, waiting here.

VOICE

Luz fumbles for the her candle.

Then bravely takes small half-steps forwards, towards the voice in the dark; the candle extended before her.

LUZ

I- I'm bringing the light, you just-

VOICE

I see you, yes. Not moving.

Luz glimpses the drenched man, gasps, stumbles backwards, dropping the candle which blows out; instant darkness.

LUZ

No... you, shot dropped the- you- you're a man- you're a- ?

LUIS

Yes, I- I'm a man, but I won't harm you. I promise.

LUZ

How- how did you get in here??

LUIS

Through the window.

LUZ

That's impossible!

LUIS

Dropped anchor by the sea-wall, climbed up slowly-

LUZ

You- no- you climbed up the sea-wall?

LUIS

Like a crab; slowly, yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUZ

A crab? Are you a thief? Why would you climb up here?

LUIS

No- I was looking for a place to sleep.

LUZ

In here?

LUIS

Out of the rain.

LUZ

In my room??

LUIS

I didn't know it was yours- anyone's, in fact. My mother mentioned there's a wing that's not used, saw the window open; I chose the wrong wing obviously-

LUZ

Your mother??

LUIS

Eugeña, yes. I'm Eugeña's son.

LUZ

You?

LUIS

Yes- I'm Luis, and you must be- are you Luz?

LUZ

You know my name??

LUIS

My mother writes about you, of course.

LUZ

She- but Eugeña's son, here??

LUIS

Please, would you let me relight the candle, so we can-

LUZ

No- no- you stay; I'll do it- I'll do it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUIS

Yes. Of course. I'll wait right here. Won't move.

LUZ

Fell right around here... there...

LUIS

Sorry for causing you this scare. I really didn't think this through as much as I should have maybe, but...

Luz has relit the candle and stepped towards him.

Again, she darts back a second when the candlelight catches him, but this time she stops herself and gets closer; casting more light on him.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Hi... Hi, there... I'm Luis Anon; Eugeña's son. Sorry, really.

LUZ

Why are you here? And you actually climbed up the sea-wall?

LUIS

Yeah, that a- that was a crazy impulse. Hotels, see, by the port are all full; I didn't want to travel across town to my sisters; so I came here. After trying the front gate; guards just threatening me with their machetés. I... yeah, forgive me, I clearly see this was a bad idea, scaring you and... I'll just climb back out there and-

LUZ

No! Just...

LUIS

I shouldn't be in here-

LUZ

Wait! Wait, no. Please. You... you're just so... give me a second to get my heart settled and my thoughts together.

LUIS

Of course.

Standing a few feet apart from each other, a moment of observation and silence, as the storms continues to rumble.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

You're her son.

LUZ

Luis, yeap.

LUIS

You're not what I expected.

LUZ

OH...?

LUIS

Eugeña speaks about you all the time, but I- I expected someone taller. Rougher looking. With scars, and long blond hair bleached from the sun. Yet, looking at you...

LUZ

Looking at me...?

LUIS

... well, not ignoring the evident, but... your eyes... your sisters have very different shaped eyes.

LUZ

Okay...

LUIS

But you- you have very loyal looking eyes; like your mom's. A sign of trust. I can tell you're her son.

LUZ

I'm- well, I'm grateful for that. As long as you're no longer scared-

LUIS

I'm... I was... but Eugeña's son, the Luis she always goes on about... you're...

Luz extends her hand.

I'm Luz Catalan.

LUIS

Yes, well Hi, Luz...

Luis steps forward and gently shakes her hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Your hand's coarse...

LUZ

Sure- the- from the sea work.

LUIS

...Like warm tree bark.

LUZ

Is that what it reminds you of?

LUIS

Yes, trees; I like trees.

LUZ

Good, well I've never heard that one before, but they are-

LUIS

Do you sleepwalk?

LUZ

Ahhh, excuse me, do I...?

LUIS

Do you sleepwalk?

LUZ

Ahhh, no, no, I don't.

LUIS

Good. You can sleep right over there then.

LUZ

(beat)

Ahhh, I can...?

LUIS

Yes, sleep right over there.

LUZ

Beneath the- that painting of you?

LUIS

It's a portrait; and it's my mother, not me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Identical though.

LUIS

Are we?

LUZ

Are you sure you don't want me to- to find another room or-...?

LUIS

Is that spot not good enough for you?

LUZ

No- oh no, not that, I was just-

LUIS

The upstairs halls aren't safe for sleepwalkers or those who try and walk around at night.

LUZ

May I ask why that is?

LUIS

Papa lets his savage dogs roam the halls at night. Extra protection.

LUZ

Right. From?

LUIS

Outsiders. Men. Like you.

LUZ

Got it.

LUIS

But you're Eugeña's son, so... sleep there, then tomorrow morning, when the dogs are caged, I'll show you the staircase down to Eugeña's area.

LUZ

Sure.

LUIS

Also, would you- when you surprise your mother- would you please not let her know you slept here; that we've met?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

LUIS

Of course, no, I...

LUZ

They observe the old Spaniard traditions. A young women having a man sleep in her room would only signify they were married, you know, and-

LUIS

I understand.

LUZ

I'll leave the candle, here, with you, if you'd like? I know my way around in the dark pretty well.

LUIS

Ahhh... I- I don't mean to sound ungrateful or anything, but...

LUZ

What is it? Oh- you're wet, sorry, yes, I have towels in my bathroom. It's that door right there, just don't turn on the light. Strictly candlelight at night; my dad has lots of rules.

LUIS

Well, thank you; that's not what I was- but yes, I could use a towel.

LUZ

Was there something else?

LUIS

No, it was, I- I was just- just taken by surprise is all...

LUZ

You were taken by surprise?

LUIS

I mean, I took you by surprise, but then you surprised me...

LUZ

I'm not following you.

LUIS

Right, I- I'm just real grateful that you didn't scream. That you- you aren't throwing me back out into that storm or letting those dogs get at me or-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

LUZ

(chuckling)

Funny... you're not what I expected, but you're definitely Eugeña's son.

LUIS

The eyes, right.

LUZ

And the smile, too. You know, she's the only mother I've ever known. So, that would kind of make you like family to me. Unless... should I not trust you, Luis? Are you like a crab? Should I scream?

LUIS

No- no- not a crab- please, don't scream- your my mother's ward and you can- you can definitely trust me.

LUZ

(smile)

My heart agrees.

LUIS

Thanks heart. Thank you.

LUZ

(chuckling)

Funny... well, dream with the little angels, Luis.

LUIS

Haven't heard that in awhile.

LUZ

You're mother always says that to me. Every night.

LUIS

I miss that.

LUZ

As she miss you, I'm sure. Good night?

LUIS

Yes. Night.

Luz backs away into the dark.

(CONTINUED)