

THE PART OF ME

A Pan-Sexual Bipolar Odyssey

By Kyle A Smith

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CHARACTERS

The character descriptions are my ideal, but need not be adhered to rigorously. Please do your best to reflect the diversity of NYC with your actor choices, whatever that may mean to you.

DIANA	Ethnically Ambiguous, Femme Presenting, Late 20s
LESLIE	African American, Female, Early 30s
JANET	Asian American, Female, Late 20s
AD 4, BETTY, ANGRY WOMAN, DRUG DEALER 2, KID 3	Latina, Trans Female, late 30s
AD 1, SUN, WAITER, KID 1, DRUG DEALER 1,	Any Race, Femme Presenting Non Binary, Any Age
AD 2, SWAN, DRUG DEALER 3 JO, HOMELESS WOMAN	Middle Eastern American, Femme Presenting, 30s
AD 3, TACO, WOMAN KID 2, MOM,	White, Female, late 40s
HOMELESS MAN, HOMELESS MAN 2 MAN, CHAD,	White, Male, 30s

SETTING

NYC on garbage day. Broken furniture sits on the stage with bags of trash. Whenever the actors need props or sets, they should pull it from the trash pile.

TIME

Now.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The play is performed without intermission, but give the audience at least a few beats to stare at the blood before scene 7 starts.

Missing punctuation is intentional to give the rhythm of the character's lines.

CONTENT WARNING

This play contains moments of homophobia, sexual assault, and discussions of attempted suicide.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Princess Grace Finalist - 2018

Bay Area Playwrights Festival Semi Finalist - 2019

Production at MadLab Theatre - 2020

Excerpt read at Graeae Theatre - 2021

Theatre503 Playwriting Award semifinalist - 2022

PROLOGUE

A New York street on garbage day. Our view of the street upstage is obscured by garbage bags stacked high, and pieces of broken furniture, among them a mattress, a small table, and two busted up chairs. A fire hydrant sits along the row of garbage bags.

Diana and Leslie are on the mattress spooning. They are inside their apartment. Diana stands and speaks to the audience.

DIANA

There are good and great and wonderful things in life. Lindt dark chocolate truffles. Sex with someone you actually care about. Seeing a Dali painting. Her cheekbones. The softness of her skin. Her tongue is always round, and she can do this.

(she rolls her tongue)

And can make her tongue into a clover too. Maybe she'll show you later. Two years we have spent together. She hasn't moved in with me which is really remarkable for a lesbian relationship. Not that I'm a lesbian. I'm pan. I taste all the colors of the rainbow. On our third date she took me to the beach at night. It was December, in New York. She got naked and ran into the ocean. I just watched her. Wow. Wowwow wow wow. When she got out I wrapped her towel and my body around her. She sang *What's Up* to me.

LESLIE

I SAY.

LESLIE AND DIANA

HEY. WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

DIANA

I felt a warmth. It started in my fingers and grew and grew until I was on fire. And there she was, naked. Holding her hands up to my flame. Wow. Wow wow wow wow... I'm breaking up with her in the morning.

SCENE 1

Leslie and Diana in Leslie's apartment.

LESLIE

That's not true!

DIANA

You're not hearing me!

LESLIE

I'm listening to you.

DIANA

But you're not hearing me.

LESLIE

I don't want to hear you, I want to love you.

DIANA

No, not happening.

LESLIE

Love you with my eyes. My mouth, hands, and heart. With everything, baby.

DIANA

I don't want that.

You.

I don't want you.

LESLIE

We are one.

DIANA

Two.

LESLIE

One heart.

DIANA

Two hearts.

LESLIE

One mind.

DIANA

Two minds.

LESLIE

One life.

DIANA

We are two people, and we will never understand each other.

LESLIE

I love you, baby. Give me time and you'll feel the same.

DIANA

I won't, I haven't and I won't and I never will.

LESLIE

You don't mean that.

DIANA

(rapid speech)

You don't know what I mean.

LESLIE

Slow it down, baby.

DIANA

(Rapid speech)

You don't get me you've never understood me you tell me to slow down This is me and I can't change for you Leslie.

LESLIE

I can't understand you when you're talking this fast.

DIANA
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ME PERIOD.

...
I won't be bogged down.

LESLIE
I'm not a swamp.

DIANA
You are muck and mire, and I must get out of you before I become stuck forever.

LESLIE
Is that so bad? Mammoths are stuck in tar. They're happy, they'll be there forever.

DIANA
They're mammoths, Leslie.

LESLIE
Do you remember when we first made love?

DIANA
No. I blocked it out, along with the rest of my memories of you.

LESLIE
We were in the back alley of a disco bowl.

DIANA
I don't remember.

LESLIE
I had an Afro wig and red silk bell bottoms.

DIANA
I said I don't remember!

LESLIE
And you were wearing overalls and a red striped shirt and lesbian chic boots. You looked like a dyke fresh out of a nineties sitcom. I put my mouth on you and lost myself in you.

DIANA
They were army boots. Stop changing the subject.

LESLIE

I was in a different dimension. We were so happy.

DIANA

You might have been.

LESLIE

Don't deny me this. You were happy.

DIANA

Maybe. Then. But since. It's been a long walk to nowhere.

LESLIE

I am not nowhere.

DIANA

But this is. I thought it was somewhere but there's nothing fucking here.

LESLIE

We're here, baby.

DIANA

I'm not.

The first time I've been happy - fully deliriously happy -

LESLIE

-Deliriously happy.

DIANA

Yes! Don't interrupt me! The first time I've felt that, felt like I was clawing out of a cocoon and becoming me, fully gloriously me, the first was thinking about this, what's happening, here, now.

LESLIE

You think that little of me.

DIANA

It doesn't matter what I think of you, it matters that I'm free I need that freedom Leslie.

LESLIE

You've got it, baby, it's here for you to take.

DIANA

It's not!
It can't be. I'm a bird with clipped wings.

LESLIE

You can fly with me, baby.

DIANA

I can't. We've been exclusive for years.

LESLIE

Two years.

DIANA

You can still pluralize "two" last time I checked.

LESLIE

So? So what? You want to see other women, see other women! Just don't drop me, that is the one thing I could not deal with. That's what this is about? See other women.

DIANA

Or men.

LESLIE

Oh, you're straight now?

DIANA

I'm pansexual!

LESLIE

Right. Anyone and everyone.

DIANA

I'm very discerning.

LESLIE

Your sexual preference is literally "who's up next."

DIANA

This is why this isn't working! I don't want to stop loving other people. I want to be with someone!

The Part Of Me 7.

LESLIE

You have me.

DIANA

Someone not you.

LESLIE

Like a man?

DIANA

I don't know, maybe?

LESLIE

Have you ever even dated a man?

DIANA

Roger.

LESLIE

Outside of middle school?

DIANA

Roger and I kissed. Thrice.

...

We were serious!

LESLIE

So the count is one boy, thirty women?

DIANA

Don't do that.

Diminish me.

LESLIE

That's not what I was trying to -

DIANA

My feelings. My sexuality.

LESLIE

I'm not, I'm helping you come to the glorious realization that you're a god damned dyke!

DIANA

My track record does not indicate my sexuality.

LESLIE

Read the trends. Those are what lead you.

DIANA

No. My heart, my loins lead me.

LESLIE

My loins led me to you, and you're apparently a dead end. Why don't you let your brain lead you?

DIANA

Your loins are underdeveloped then. Mine know what they're doing. Yours made a mistake.

LESLIE

My clit doesn't make mistakes, baby.

You love me. You're freaking out for no reason. You do this, you get over excited or over sad, and you purposefully try to fuck your life up. You don't know you like I know you.

DIANA

Just because you can't see-

LESLIE

I can see the whole world from where I'm sitting.

DIANA

It's just.

I need.

LESLIE

You want.

DIANA

I need to see other people.

LESLIE

Do it, just stay with me.

DIANA

I need someone else. I need to see what's out there. I need to fall in love, again.
I'm exhausted from seeing you every day. From shouldering the weight of loving you.

LESLIE

We can forget this ever happened, baby, please.

DIANA

I can't do it anymore.

LESLIE

We can do anything together.

DIANA

Can't see the same face. The same body. Breasts, toes, and tongue. I need change.

LESLIE

...You do...

DIANA

I'm not afraid of change.

LESLIE

I can change.

DIANA

That's all I need.

LESLIE

All I need is you.

The following are all Diana's lines, though half
are spoken by Leslie.

DIANA

You'll see -

LESLIE

- It's refreshing -

DIANA

- Like a cold shower after a run -

LESLIE

- To do away -

DIANA

- With a part of you that's developed as much as it can -

LESLIE

- You'll see -

DIANA

- When this is over -

LESLIE

- When "us" is in the past -

DIANA

- When all that's left is glorious -

LESLIE

- Deliriously happy -

DIANA

- Me -

LESLIE

- You'll see -

DIANA

- It's for the best -

LESLIE

...The best...

DIANA

(radiant)

The best.