

QUETZALCOATL PUDDLE
by
Irela de Villers

translated by
Rogelio Martinez
dec. 3/2009

contact:
Irela de Villers (idevillers@yahoo.com)

Rogelio Martinez
Contact:
Bruce Ostler/ Mark Orsini
Bret Adams Ltd.
448 West 44th Street
New York - NY 10036
212 765-5630

This translation was commissioned and developed at the Lark Play Development Center,
New York City, as part of the U.S./Mexico Playwright Exchange Program

CHARACTERS

CLAUDINA, voluptuous and ageless

ALECCO, late twenties, maybe a little older.
A revolutionary -- maybe. Frustrated
idealist.

RICARDITO, thirties, maybe a little younger.
What hair he has, it's jet black and
intense.

ACT I

A couple sit comfortably on beach chairs. They wear sunglasses and look toward the horizon.

CLAUDINA

(looks to the horizon, takes a deep breath)

...

ALECCO

(looks at Claudina, looks back at the horizon and smiles)

...

They look at the horizon together. After a few moments...

CLAUDINA

(takes another deep breath, eyes fixed on the horizon)

...

ALECCO

(looks at her and smiles)

...

CLAUDINA

(takes an even deeper breath, looks out at the horizon, of course)

...

ALECCO

(again smiling, this time more honestly)

Satisfied?

CLAUDINA

What?

ALECCO

You look satisfied. Filled. Fullfilled. Ecstatic.

CLAUDINA

Really?

ALECCO

Yes. You mean you're not sure?

CLAUDINA

About what?

ALECCO

I'm sure that you are filled, fullfilled--

Claudina laughs.

ALECCO (CONT'D)

What are you laughing about? You're making fun of me?

CLAUDINA

(out of control laughter)

Nope.

ALECCO

You are. If you weren't filled and fullfilled you'd have said something earlier. Now it's too late for me to fix things. Now in front of all these people, I can't do anything. If you weren't filled and fullfilled you should have said something in the room, in the middle of...I would have been able to fix things. A longer kiss. A longer touch. Hold you tighter. Even...bite you softly where you most...you most...where you most like. Maybe I should have asked you if you liked those little bites even though it was obvious that you did. Maybe it was the kiss...that kiss that I...before I did...you remember?

(beat)

You know which kiss I'm talking about, right? No, you don't know which kiss I'm talking about. Well maybe it wasn't as good as I thought. I thought that that long kiss, soft kiss...because it was long enough and soft enough for you to...because it was before...because when I fucked you, when I fucked you it was hard, deep, sublime, quick, strong, strong but loving, deep, loud, rhythmic, it had rhythm -- you can't deny that it didn't. It was with rhythm, don't deny it! And then you faked it. You lied to me the whole time. Is that right? Faked it? Tell me? Faked it?

CLAUDINA

Listen carefully to what I'm about to tell you because I'm only going to say it once. If you were to touch me right now, I'd cum. Just a few minutes ago I kissed you and sucked you...your whole body like a piece of candy. And you shook. I shook. I really shook. We shook together, came together. Not only did we cum together to that eternal shaking, but if you were to right now...right now if you touch me I am wet. I am needing to...I want to rip those clothes off you...and you ask me, you question, you doubt that...you accuse me of faking something, that I'm just like all the others who fake it. Don't, don't look at me like that. Listen to me. I don't fake it. Never. And get that fucking ridiculous smile off your face.

(beat)

You want to fuck again?
 ALECCO
 No.
 CLAUDINA
 No?
 ALECCO
 No.
 CLAUDINA
 No?
 ALECCO
 No. I'm exhausted.
 (beat)
 Have you ever done it in the water?
 CLAUDINA
 In the waves?
 ALECCO
 Yeah.
 CLAUDINA
 No.
 ALECCO
 ...
 CLAUDINA
 You want to...go in?
 ALECCO
 Too many people.
 CLAUDINA
 They're all doing their own thing. Happy. Playing in the sand.
 Look at them. Sand castles.
 ALECCO
 Those aren't sand castles.
 CLAUDINA
 No. It's their attempt at one. I mean what does a person expect
 to do when he comes to the beach? Make a sand castle. Every
 single person in the world knows that. All these people are happy
 doing what they're supposed to be doing when they get to the beach.
 They're making sand castles. It's a thing that's passed down.
 They teach their children, their children teach their children,
 their children...look at that little boy with his cute bare ass.
 (MORE)

ALECCO (CONT'D)

What is his father doing? Teaching him to make sand castles...and he just hit....he just hit him again...he's hitting him, the poor kid. The guy looks drunk...yep he's drunk, done, fell flat on his face on the sand castle.

CLAUDINA

That was not a sand castle.

ALECCO

Well it was an attempt at one.

CLAUDINA

Attempt?

ALECCO

Yeah, he tried to make one.

CLAUDINA

Tried?

ALECCO

Tried, yes. That's right.

CLAUDINA

Tried!

ALECCO

Tried. That's the way you try. Ask that drunk if there's another way.

CLAUDINA

Tried, yes. Tried. That's what happened to us, living the infinite, tentavive, frustrated life.

She begins laughing.

ALECCO

What are you laughing about?

CLAUDINA

Head hurts. Sad attempt at a sand castle. There's the mom now. It looks like she is also angry at the little kid.

ALECCO

Let's get out of here. I don't want to see any more kids piss in the sand.

CLAUDINA

When you were a kid you didn't pee on some beach somewhere?

ALECCO

After being hit? No.

Pause.

CLAUDINA

Want to go into the water?

ALECCO

Nope. No sex for me. What healthy person would want sex after seeing how they dragged that kid -- like a rag doll.

Claudina moves her chair
away.

ALECCO (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CLAUDINA

I don't want to see you. I don't want to have sex after seeing how they dragged that kid, is that clear? I'm leaving. In five minutes. I don't know why you brought me here.

ALECCO

I didn't bring you. It wasn't against your will. You wanted to come. Why are you talking like this? Why do all women talk in these terms?

CLAUDINA

What terms?

ALECCO

"I took her out, I brought here here, we went out for a stroll." It's like as if you were some dog -- little french poodle one takes out for a walk. I didn't bring you here. We arrived together.

CLAUDINA

French poodle?

ALECCO

French poodle.

CLAUDINA

Let me ask you something. Last night. When you were down between my legs, did I look like a French poodle then? Now that you wake up with me, do I look like a French poodle? And if I stay one more night with you, are you going to hear me bark in my sleep, without me waking up. I'm leaving. You can fucking keep your little beach chair.

She kicks the chair.

ALECCO

Come here. Where are you going. I want to kiss your ass.

CLAUDINA

No.

She starts barking like a
dog.

ALECCO

Even if you bark and bark that's how I want it. Come over here
beautiful.

He tries to hug her and
kiss her.

CLAUDINA

I don't want to. Your lips are tender like figs. The devil
himself tastes like you. Don't come any closer. Move back. I
don't want...

They kiss. Passionately.
We hear the highly
exaggerated sound of
seagulls flying. A moment
later everything goes black.
The sun disappears. No
more sound.

Total darkness.

CLAUDINA (CONT'D)

The sun.

ALECCO

They cut us off.

CLAUDINA

We paid to get into this place. The price covered continuous
sun.

ALECCO

You have the ticket?

CLAUDINA

(giving him the ticket, he
takes out matches to read
it)

It says it right there. 20 dollars. Sun included. And look.
It's even got that little seal proving we paid for it.

ALECCO

Look at the fine print. "We cut off power at 8:00pm on the dot.
Please make sure that you take all proper precautions and leave
in anticipation of said event. Thank you. Virgin Beaches In
Love."

(MORE)

ALECCO (CONT'D)

(beat)

What a name.

CLAUDINA

It's the only one that guarantees continuous sun. The others just offer those awful spotlights that only really imitate the real thing.

(beat)

Alecco...Alecco!

ALECCO

What?

CLAUDINA

This desire suddenly arrived in me to kiss you and touch you. Come here. Let's at least take advantage of the darkness.

ALECCO

I want to see you. I want to wait for the sun to return. I love to see your breasts float when I touch you.

CLAUDINA

You are turning me on just saying that. I want to see you naked. Come closer. Let me take your clothes off.

ALECCO

No. It's too soon. Yo! Light Guy! Turn the lights back on! Anyone there! No, no wait before you take my clothes off. Anyone listening! Stop it, woman. Stop!

CLAUDINA

You're not going to take your clothes off!

ALECCO

No!

CLAUDINA

Fine. Your loss.

Silence.

ALECCO

Beautiful-gorgeous. What time is it?

CLAUDINA

It's only four and they were supposed to turn them off at eight. They just robbed us of four hours.

ALECCO

That's how a monopoly works. Thieves. Light Guy, give us back the sun.

HELLO! CLAUDINA

Turn them on! ALECCO

Light Guy! CLAUDINA/ ALECCO

Silence.

ALECCO CLAUDINA
Alecco, I feel alone, suddenly. Are the people still in the water?

ALECCO
They look a little nuts and even violent but there they are.

CLAUDINA
They should start screaming. If they're nuts and violent what they need to do is just start running and screaming.

ALECCO
They're going to scream alright. Just wait until the party.

CLAUDINA
What party?

ALECCO
What?

CLAUDINA
What party are you talking about?

ALECCO
You know there's always a party. The party always comes. That's for sure. They're going to scream. When they're no longer able to hide behind their blank faces, they're going to rip their chest apart and they're going to scream so much that their masks will break. And that's when we're going to know the truth. But while we wait for that we scream. Thieves! Give us back the sun!

CLAUDINA
Losers! Come on thieves, give us back the sun! Thieves!

The sun returns. Seagulls
are heard.

CLAUDINA (CONT'D)
Finally. And then there was light! Come on. Too many people swimming. I want to go fuck.

ALECCO
Wait a sec...isn't that...isn't that your husband coming over?

CLAUDINA

What are you saying?

ALECCO

Your husband. That guy coming this way...your husband.

CLAUDINA

Are you out of your mind? Where?

ALECCO

Over there. Swimming. You see him?

CLAUDINA

Where?

ALECCO

(giving her the binoculars)

Next to the oil tanker over there. You see him?

CLAUDINA

I see something moving right there next to the buoy.

ALECCO

That's him.

CLAUDINA

It can't be. It looks...That is him! It is! I can see his flowing mane of jet black hair.

ALECCO

Flowing mane of jet black hair.

CLAUDINA

The waves just swallowed him.

ALECCO

(looking through the binoculars)

Nope. There he goes again. Still swimming and coming...headed this way. For you. Where the fuck did he learn how to swim like that?

CLAUDINA

Like a dolphin. Determined. When he is after something nothing stops him.

(beat)

ALECCO

Claudina? You love him?

CLAUDINA

Who?

(beat)

You love him?
ALECCO

...
CLAUDINA

I'm leaving.
ALECCO

You're not leaving.
CLAUDINA

Really? No?
ALECCO

CLAUDINA
You can't go. Even if you want to you can't. You're not even thinking about it. You want to smell me, suck me, fuck me.

ALECCO
Don't be so sure.

CLAUDINA
(flashing him her breasts)
No?

The two embrace and kiss.
A few moments later
RICARDITO, Claudina's husband, appears. He is completely wet and holding a cup of coffee in his hands. He searches for his wife. Moments later, he stops directly in front of Alecco and Claudina and locks eyes with them.

RICARDITO
(he points to his wife and walks up to her)
Yeah. You. Well you're looking at me. Do you mind me asking. Have you seen this woman?

(He takes out a picture.
It's all wet.)
I'm looking for her. Have you seen her around here?

Claudina does not respond.
Instead she continues to lock eyes with her husband.

RICARDITO (CONT'D)

I really need to find her. I know that she came to this beach.

Claudina is now looking at
Alecco.

RICARDITO (CONT'D)

And you? Yeah. You! Look at the photo. Look at it carefully,
please. You've seen her? She has to be around here. She told
me she'd be here. She told me to come here.

ALECCO

What? She told you...?

CLAUDINA

That's not true?

RICARDITO

Claudina?

CLAUDINA

...

RICARDITO

Claudina?

CLAUDINA

...

RICARDITO

It's you?

CLAUDINA

(barely audible)

Ricardito?

RICARDITO embraces her.

RICARDITO

Claudina! Jesus, you've changed. You look...I don't know...you
look. You gained weight? You look very different...you look...

ALECCO

Filled, fullfilled, ecstatic and in love.

RICARDITO

(getting right in Alecco's
face)

Ja!

(to his wife)

Let's go. Home waits for you.

CLAUDINA

No.

RICARDITO

You have to. Let's go home. I want cafe. This morning there was no cafe. I miss the smell of cafe in the morning. Let's go. Home waits for you.

CLAUDINA

No.

RICARDITO

You need to come.

CLAUDINA

No!

RICARDITO

Look at me carefully, Claudina.

CLAUDINA

What?

RICARDITO

Look at me, I said.

CLAUDINA

I'm looking at you.

RICARDITO

Look carefully at my eyes. You're looking? Look at how I have dark circles under my eyes. Dark, dark circles, why? Because I have not been able to sleep. Are you listening? I have not slept because you are not home with me. You're not home. Your home. Your home waits for you. Let's go.

CLAUDINA

...

RICARDITO

You're not coming? Let's go. I'm taking you on my shoulders. We're going to swim across the sea.

CLAUDINA

No, no, Ricardito, no, no, no, no...

RICARDITO

I knew it. I knew you'd say no. I don't have a choice. You went looking for it and now you found it. DON'T MOVE!

He exits.

ALECCO

Where is he going?

CLAUDINA

Looks like he's headed straight back to the water. Yeah. Look at him. The way he swims. It's something to admire.

ALECCO

You admire him?

CLAUDINA

Yeah. Admire. Well look at him, Alecco. He already got to the tanker.

ALECCO

Incredible. Now he's on his way back.

Ricardito returns. Again,
he's all wet. He starts
to build a tent.

CLAUDINA

What are you doing?

RICARDITO

If the wife doesn't return to the home, then the home must be brought to the wife.

ALECCO

Look, Ricardito, I think it's best that...you should know--

RICARDITO

Shhh! Shhhhh! Shhhhh! Don't say another word.
(continues to build the
tent)

"Friendship: Mutual trust and love for one another. When people are said to be good friends, they are said to have a harmonious relationship, one that involves complete trust." JA! A thousand times. JA!

ALECCO

Ricardito, there are just a few little details--

RICARDITO

Shhh. I'm working.

(to his wife)

This man. This man who knows my name and is eager to talk to me. Do you know who he is? Of course you know him since a moment ago he was lying between your breasts in total bliss. I mean, I'm not wrong here, right? Most women only allow men who they know full access to their very tasty, oh so fucking delicious breasts. Oh, wait, I'm wrong? You and him...you who know him very well, can you please tell him that I'm busy right this moment, that I can't really pay any attention, that I'm working, and that when I work alone, I only pay attention to the work.

(MORE)

RICARDITO (CONT'D)

Now because I work and work a lot I do know that I must somehow distract myself, and that's when I give my time to those I love, like my friends for example. What I do is I pick up the telephone and I talk to my one and only friend. You only have a few friends in life, everyone knows that. Wait. Now that I think about it, tell your friend over here that I once had a friend that bore a striking resemblance to. Your friend. Now this friend. This friend found his death between some woman's legs. He died because of his desire for pleasure. No. No. Tell him that that's how my friend wanted to die. Tell him he died when a very jealous husband took a very large machete and struck his head with it. Tell him he's now very dead. WHAT? You don't want to give him my message? Then don't do it. You know this place is great. Right here. I'm going to stay right here. You have café? I want café, woman. Give me café. Be sweet and nice with me, bring me café.

CLAUDINA

(to Alecco)

Let's go.

ALECCO

I'm not scared.

CLAUDINA

He's going to kill you.

ALECCO

Let's just see. Kiss me.

CLAUDINA

They're turning off the lights at eight. Let's go.

ALECCO

I want a hot, hot kiss.

They kiss. The sunlight
goes and we hear the
seagulls.

RICARDITO

Enough. This is abuse. This is not how it's going to be.

Ricardito exits. A few
moments pass before...

Gunshot. Lights return.

Ricardito returns.

RICARDITO (CONT'D)

I killed him. I killed Light Guy. I had to kill that little jerk. The little prick didn't know nothing about nothing.

CLAUDINA

You killed him?

RICARDITO

He was a little too distracted with the ticket taker's breasts.

CLAUDINA

But...

RICARDITO

Be quiet. No one cares. The important thing is that now there's light. And that's how it's always going to be. Move over. I want to keep enjoying the sun. This is life! The beach, the seagulls, the fish, dolphins, the blue sky...Claudina. Do you see what I see, Claudina?

CLAUDINA

No.

RICARDITO

Over there in the distance there is a party. That's where the party is. The party is here!

CLAUDINA

A party. Where?

RICARDITO

On the oil tanker. There is a fiery explosion in the sky, you see it? Bright, golden sparks, red, green, yellow. Are you listening, Claudina? Listen. They are songs, cries and screams, yelling, insults, gunshots, slashings, happiness, a frenzy. You hear the mariachi? ...y mi palabra es la ley...no tengo trono... You hear it? Yajuuuuua. I want tequila. Tequila. I want to make a toast with tequila and then I want to kiss my wife.

CLAUDINA

Later, yes, later.

RICARDITO

This is the moment to party. Let's drink tequila. And you want tequila.

ALECCO

...

RICARDITO

You who are the friend, of course, you want to drink tequila.

ALECCO

Give me the tequila.

RICARDITO

And you? The modern woman. You should absolutely drink tequila.

He serves the tequila.

RICARDITO (CONT'D)

To your health! Salud! Drink your tequila.

(Alecco and Claudina drink
a little.)

You look like starving little birds. Famished. Tequila you drink
right to the bottom. One swig. Salud! To friendship!

(Alecco and Claudina drink
their shots.)

That's it! That's how you do it. Another? You want another
shot?

(pours out more)

I'm waiting for you.

(Alecco and Claudina drink.)

Great. Now we're going to make a toast. To the good times.

Salud! Another shot? A little one.

(serves another one)

To the bottom! And now the time has come to wish my friends
Health. Salud! For my wife. Salud! For betrayal. Let's toast
to betrayal. Come on. Be merry and drink to betrayal.

CLAUDINA

(laughing uncontrollably)

He wants to toast to betrayal. Fine, let's do it and let's
say...Salud! Salud for that thing we call eternal distrust.

RICARDITO

And you are not going to toast? The friend has to say something.

(pours him another shot)

ALECCO

(to Ricardito)

Sure. Salud, to your health for your pretending. Salud for
treating her like dirt.

RICARDITO

(to his wife)

That's creative. Let's just say Salud for...to feeling resigned.
To that ever powerful feeling of resignation. To your health, my
dearest wife. Salud!

ALECCO

(to Ricardito)

Salud! To suspicion. To your health.

RICARDITO

Salud! To skepticism. To your health.

CLAUDINA

(to Ricardito)

Salud to the always cautious and always just around the corner
disillusionment. To your health.

She laughs uncontrollably.

RICARDITO

(to Claudina)

Let's toast to the lies. To the marvellous lies. To your health.

He laughs uncontrollably.

CLAUDINA

Salud to brutality. To your health for the brutality.

RICARDITO

(to Alecco)

And what did the poet say. Salud to the possibility of fucking and being fucked. To your health.

CLAUDINA

(to Ricardito)

I want to toast to separation. Separation. To your health.

She is cracking up.

RICARDITO

(to his wife)

Okay. I got a good one. Listen up. Salud to splitting up our fortunes and our furniture. Ninety percent for me and ten for you. Salud to poverty as you walk the streets emptyhanded.

Ricardito is laughing louder
than his wife now.

ALECCO

(to Claudina)

Salud to your new life.

(to Ricardito)

Salud to the impossibility of being. To your health.

RICARDITO

Salud and a thousand times salud to your backward, infinite, economic dependence.

Silence.

RICARDITO (CONT'D)

Salud, brother. Let's say salud so that this beautiful woman dances. Let's get rid of any bad feelings that may exist, brother. Have you seen her dance? We want you to dance. The two of us want you to dance. Dance.

CLAUDINA

You want me to dance? You both want me to dance? Fine. What's that saying? When loneliness strikes, dance. I dance and I dance some more in spite of you both, in spite of the people on the beach, and I represent every bad woman out there. I will dance.

She begins to sing and dance.
She sings CIELITO LINDO.
The men follow suit and
take over the singing.
Soon RICARDITO is near
her. ALECCO watches
helplessly. She continues
to dance and dance until
she falls unconscious in
the chair.

END OF ACT I