Scene Eleven

(Backyard. LAURA dancing seductively.)
(Dance music continues. The music rouses
CORKY, who has been ravaged.)

CORKY. (Sees her.) Laura.
LAURA. Are you doing any better, honey?
CORKY. No.
LAURA. Tell me.
CORKY. What I've done.
LAURA. You haven't done anything.
CORKY. Yes, I have. Gerald came out here and you were
upstairs and it was like he brought out this part of me
that...that...
LAURA. That what?
CORKY. ...That I didn't even know was there. And all these
things were coming up inside me and all of a sudden...

(Suddenly CORKY's body jolts. Then it jolts
again. She points to her head.)

LAURA. What is it?!
CORKY. MY HEAD IS EXPLODING. OH GOD THERE
IT IS AGAIN. MY HEAD IS EXPLODING.
LAURA. You just need to relax.
CORKY. No, I can't! I've hurt you! And Norm. And myself.
LAURA. Shh.

(Boom. Another explosion in her head.)

CORKY. You seriously can't hear that?

(She moans, sits, calms.)

Marriage has always been so difficult for me.
LAURA. Easier for you now.

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CORKY. Norm and I worked so hard. How do you do it?
LAURA. You learn. Little things, they add up. Like, never be the first one to break a hug.
CORKY. I can see that.
(Downing awareness.) I think I did that to Norm. I broke first!
LAURA. Corky, you're so sensitive.
(Then.) Where did you grow up?
CORKY. Do we ever grow up?
LAURA. Corky, you have a way of making a cliché new again.
(Then.) Where did you grow up?
CORKY. Cleveland. Where are you from?
LAURA. Tierra del Fuego.
CORKY. Tierra del Fuego? You just don't seem like you're from Tierra del Fuego.
LAURA. I hear that a lot.
CORKY. What language do they speak?
LAURA. Tierra del Fueganese.
CORKY. Can you speak it?
LAURA. Si.
(Then.) Si, si.
CORKY. Can you say...complex things?
LAURA. Oh, Si. Si, complexico.
CORKY. That's wonderful.
LAURA. It can be a burden. There were two del Fuegan men who worked in the Vogue office. They didn't know I spoke del Fueganese. They said awful things about me. Mostly soccer metaphors, "I'd like to score in her goal." Things like that.
CORKY. That's awful.
LAURA. Then one day I said to them, "¿Por qué no ponen sus pollas en un sacapuntas eléctrico?"
CORKY. What does that mean?
LAURA. "Why don't you two put your dicks in the electric pencil sharpener."

(They both chuckle.)

And you know who they fired? Me.

(Fingers CORKY's dress, lingering on her breasts.)

This is nice this fabric.

CORKY. Well, thank you. There's this really cute store in town...

LAURA. (Sees a meteor.) Oh, did you see that?

(LAURA moves closer to CORKY.)

CORKY. I did. Gerald is so right, they're heart-stopping.

(Then.) Oh, Laura. I just realized the explosions are gone.

LAURA. Yes.

(She puts her arm around her.)

CORKY. That feels good.

LAURA. Just a caress.

CORKY. I feel better.

LAURA. I know.

(LAURA kisses her cheek.)

CORKY. You're warm.

LAURA. You need warmth.

CORKY. I do.

LAURA. You need it now.

CORKY. (Sees a meteor.) Oh, you missed it.

(They stand apart.)

LAURA. I want you.

CORKY. I know.

LAURA. Come.

CORKY. I've never done this before.