

VONELLE

written by

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VONELLE

EXT. - BALCONY - DAY

VONELLE, beautiful black transsexual, 40s - 50s, leans against a balcony overlooking the Miami coastline.

VONELLE

Hi, my name is Vonelle. And I didn't mean to do it.

INT. - APARTMENT - NIGHT

Vonelle is with PETER, 40s, Caucasian, businessman.

PETER

Get out of my house.

VONELLE

But you said you loved me!

PETER

I must have been drunk.

VONELLE

You weren't drunk. You've been saying it ever since you met me. What happened?

PETER

Nothing.

VONELLE

What?

PETER

Nothing... Someone saw us.

VONELLE

So?!

PETER

I told you! I can't be seen with you. I'd lose my job.

VONELLE

You'd lose your job? You fucking pussy!

PETER

Vonelle, you know I care for you... But I can't live like this.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
I can't lose my position. Who am I
without this kind of money?

VONELLE
Same as you are with money. A
fucking dick.

Vonelle starts to leave.

PETER
Vonelle, please...

VONELLE
Don't play these games with me.
You've tried it one time too many.
I told you from the beginning - all
or nothing. I wouldn't stay if you
paid me.

PETER
But Vonelle...

VONELLE
How come I'm the only one with
integrity around here?

Vonelle leaves.

EXT. - RIVER BRIDGE - NIGHT

Vonelle leans over the bridge toward the water. A couple
strolls by - RICK, caucasian, early 30s, and SANDRA,
caucasian, 20s.

RICK
I never felt like this about anyone
before.

SANDRA
Really?

RICK
Really.

SANDRA
That's nice.

RICK
I've never not cheated before. You
make me feel different.

SANDRA
I love that.

RICK
I love you.

SANDRA
I... I love you too.

They kiss. Vonelle leaves.

INT. - HAIRDRESSING SALON - DAY

Vonelle talks to ANGELA, 30S, and SHEILA, 40S, at the back of the salon. NOREEN, 50s, works the front desk.

VONELLE
So I said to him - I wouldn't stay
if you paid me!

ANGELA
So what did he say to that?

VONELLE (MIMICKING)
He goes - "Vonelle, Vonelle, I
didn't mean it!" 'Looked like he
was just about to bust out crying.

SHEILA
No.

VONELLE
Yes. And then...

NOREEN (SHOUTS)
Vonelle!

VONELLE (SHOUTS)
Ok baby!..
I'll tell you the rest later.

Vonelle walks to the front desk and sees that Sandra is her customer.

VONELLE (CONT'D)
God works in mysterious ways.

NOREEN
What?

VONELLE
I was just saying to myself - I
sure would like some lovely blonde
hair to work with this afternoon.
Your hair is beautiful, honey!

SANDRA
Well thank you.

Vonelle leads Sandra to her station.

INT. - HAIRDRESSING SALON - DAY

Sandra sits at Vonelle's station.

VONELLE
What do you want doing today,
honey?

SANDRA
Well, I was thinking - can you do
like those wavy ringlets? Those
romantic-looking tendrill things?

VONELLE
I sure can honey... So, what you
got going on to be going to all
this trouble?

SANDRA
My boyfriend - we're going to
dinner tonight.

VONELLE
You got that look of love on you.

SANDRA
Yes! And he's taking me somewhere
really romantic - the Tres Amigos.
You know it?

VONELLE
OMG, that Italian place? It's
INSANE. Yeah, you gotta look good
for that. I got you.

EXT. - JEWELLERY STORE - DAY

Rick enters the store.

INT. - JEWELLERY STORE - DAY

Rick stands before several display cases of rings on the
counter.

RICK (POINTS)
That one!

ASSISTANT

That's a very fine choice, sir. I'm sure your fiancée will love it.

INT. - HAIRDRESSING SALON - DAY

Vonelle works on Sandra's hair.

SANDRA

It's really amazing how we hit it off. He was such a playboy but now he's stopped all that.

VONELLE

How you know that?

SANDRA

Well, he's with me most of the time. He works, and then he goes for one drink. And then he comes home to me.

VONELLE

One drink?

SANDRA

Yeah. He goes for one martini after work at the Rogue Bar. Any more than that, he goes crazy.

VONELLE

The Rogue Bar... I heard of that. The financial district?

SANDRA

Yes. All men in there. So I hear.

VONELLE

You say he can't do more than one martini?

SANDRA

No.

Vonelle puts a mirror at different angles to show how Sandra's hair looks.

VONELLE

OK girl, what you think?

SANDRA

Love it!... What about you. Are you in love too?

VONELLE

'Thought I was. But we just finished.

SANDRA

Why did you do that?

VONELLE

He changed his ways. I saw it coming. 'Wasn't proud about being seen with me. Stuff like that.

SANDRA

No! Why wouldn't he want to be seen with you? You're such a beautiful woman.

VONELLE

Well, we were a mixed race couple. That was part of it.

SANDRA

Oh.

VONELLE

Yeah. And you know how racist the good ol' USA is.

SANDRA

I'm sorry to hear that. I hope you find someone who really appreciates you.

VONELLE

Me too.

INT. - ROGUE BAR - AFTERNOON

MARKY, 40s, Italian/Irish, tends bar. At 3.10pm, Vonelle enters.

MARKY

Vonelle. What you doing here?

VONELLE

You mean, why am I not at Crème, ghetto of the transsexual and gay male world?

MARKY

Don't get bitchy with me. I never saw you here before and I don't think the people who come here are exactly what you're used to.

VONELLE

You'd be surprised. Very surprised about what I'm used to. However, moving on... I did actually come here to see the most handsome bartender in the world...

MARKY

Why would that be?

VONELLE

I wanted to remember what pure beauty is.

MARKY

You sure are a flatterer, Vonelle. But I don't mess around like I used to. I got married man. And I found GOD.

VONELLE

I know you did honey. And I'm happy for you. I truly am. Believe me, I'm not here to tempt you away from your new-found sexual sobriety. But yes, I am newly single... Truth to tell, I do like me a nice white man... Like that one over there.

Vonelle indicates Rick.

VONELLE (CONT'D)

Tell me about him.

MARKY

Nothin'. He just comes in here every day and has one martini. That's it.

VONELLE

Which way do you think he swings? You think he available?

MARKY

I don't think so.

VONELLE

Why not?

MARKY

Has one drink, leaves. Doesn't look like he gets into too much trouble. Maybe he's married.

VONELLE

Looks can be deceiving, can't they?

MARKY

Don't know what you're talking about.

VONELLE

Yeah... But that one, I don't think he's married.

MARKY

Don't know.

VONELLE

So I guess he's fair game, right?

MARKY

Vonelle, c'mon... Don't start messing around here. Management is strict.

VONELLE

What? No gays? No transsexuals? No NEGROES. Or is it just - no women?

MARKY

I don't know how far it goes. But this is a really conservative place.

VONELLE

And we all know what's likely to be on the other side of that, don't we?

INT. - ROGUE BAR - AFTERNOON

Vonelle sits next to Rick.

VONELLE

Excuse me for intruding, but you look so like my son, William...

RICK

Your son is white?

VONELLE

'Sure as I'm black... Well, he was.

RICK

Freakish things do happen, I suppose.

VONELLE

Freaky things can happen, young man.

Marky puts another martini in front of Rick.

VONELLE (CONT'D)

I don't mean to presume, but I do hope you will join me in a drink to celebrate his passing. Ten years ago today. He always used to drink here.

RICK

I can only really manage one drink...

VONELLE

Please? It's on me. I would really appreciate some company at this difficult time.

RICK

Just a sip.

Vonelle draws closer.

THE END