

Elizabeth, NJ a short play by B.V. Marshall

Characters in the play

Milagro            Latina , 40's a settled woman.\*

Nieve             Latina, a little younger. She appears fragile but is not. \*

Alphonse         a guard non- Latino male. 20's acting on 60

Actor One        Plays multiple parts on the TV shows and commercials.

Actor Two        Plays multiple parts on the TV shows and commercials.

Setting: The waiting room of an ICE detention center in Elizabeth, NJ. Now.

\* During the play, there are times when Milagro and Nieve have a Mexican and Dominican accent respectively, and there are other times when they speak to each other without those accents.

A waiting room. Institutional. Grey. Some chairs. There is a television screen with two actors who enact the commercials, sometimes silent and sometimes speaking. Seated are Milagro and Nieve. Nieve is engrossed in the TV; Milagro is restless. When they speak to each other, they do not have perceptible accents.

MILAGRO

There are no dreams in a place like this. Only Bricks. Each brick is a coffin. Each coffin holds the corpse of a dead dream.

NIEVE

Shhh I can't hear the television.

They watch the actors enacting a game show.

ACTOR ONE

(As game show host)

Now, Terry, for your final answer, who wrote the 1995 hit song "Turn the Beat Around?"

ACTOR TWO

(A dimwitted contestant)

Turn the Beat Around? 1995. Geeze.

ACTOR ONE

30 SECONDS.

ACTOR TWO

How am I supposed to know that? I was born in 1997.

MILAGRO

The television is a box of dead dreams. . .

NIEVE

SHHH. I want to hear it anyway.

MILAGRO

(To Nieve)

Whatever you hear you cannot bear to repeat. Not to your family. Not to your husband, not to your grandmother.

Nieve watches the actors in the 'TV.' They change to a detergent commercial.

ACTOR TWO

My little angel likes to play dress up. But one day, I let her run around in her jammies.

ACTOR ONE

So you can use the convenient, pre - measured pod, to keep her costumes clean and fresh.

MILAGRO

(To Nieve)

I am a box of pods. A bag of pods. A bag of tiny pods. I have all my colors and I can make you smell like a spring meadow in winter.

NIEVE

What did you say about winter?

MILAGRO

I was talking about the pods. Detergent. They have to package everything.

NIEVE

Do you think people really eat those things? Those pods. I heard that they eat those things.

MILAGRO

Yes. They make your insides smell good. A beautiful Spring day on the inside.

NIEVE

I don't feel like Spring on the inside.

MILAGRO

It's a joke.

NIEVE

Okay. I want to ask you something.