APPENDICES

1. Hybrid Identities Construction of the Main Characters

• In -between Past and Present

| No | Main | Chapter/ Page | Textual Evidence |
|----|------------|-----------------|--|
| | Characters | | |
| 1 | Carla | The Four Girls/ | The mother still calls them the four girls even though the youngest is twenty- |
| | | 40 | six and the oldest will be thirty-one next month. She has always called |
| | | | them the four girls for as long as they can remember, and the oldest |
| | | | remembers all the way back to the day the fourth girl was born. Before |
| | | | that, the mother must have called them the three girls, and before that |
| | | | the two girls, but not even the oldest, who was once the only girl, |
| | | | remembers the mother calling them anything but the four girls. |
| | | Trespass/ 151 | "Only a month ago, they had moved out of the city to a neighborhood on |
| | | | Long Island so that the girls could have a yard to play in, so Mami said. The |
| | | | little green squares around each look-alike house seemed more like carpeting |

| | that had to be kept clean than yards to play in. The trees were no taller than |
|-------------------|---|
| | little Fifi. Carla thought yearningly of the lush grasses and thick-limbed, |
| | vine-ladened trees around the compound back home. Under the |
| | amapola tree her best-friend cousin, Lucinda, and she had told each |
| | other what each knew about how babies were made. What is Lucinda |
| | doing right this moment? Carla wondered." |
| Trespass/ 154-15. | Sometimes Carla spied them in the playground, looking through the chain |
| | link fence and talking about the cars parked on the sidewalk All she knew |
| | of their family car, for instance, was that it was a big black car where all four |
| | sisters could ride in the back, though Fifi always made a fuss and was |
| | allowed up front. Carla could also identify Volkswagens because that had |
| | been the car (in black) of the secret police back home; every time Mami |
| | saw one she made the sign of the cross and said a prayer for Tío Mundo, |
| | who had not been allowed to leave the Island. |
| Trespass / 158 | Her mother called the police after piecing together the breathless, frantic |
| | story Carla told Carla and her sisters feared the American police |
| | almost as much as SIM back home. Their father, too, seemed uneasy |
| | around policemen Back home, he had been tailed by the secret police |
| | for months and the family had only narrowly escaped capture their last |
| | day on the Island. Of course, Carla knew American policemen were "nice |

| | | | guys", but still she felt uneasy around them. |
|---|-------|------------------|--|
| 2 | Sandi | Floor Show/ 174 | Sandi realized with a pang one of the things that had been missing in the last |
| | | | few months. It was precisely this kind of special attention paid to them. At |
| | | | home there had always been a chauffeur opening a car door or a gardener |
| | | | tipping his hat and a half dozen maids and nursemaids acting if the health |
| | | | and well-being of the de la Torre-Garcia children were of wide public |
| | | | concern. |
| | | Floor Show/ 175 | Around the occupied tables handsome waiters gathered, their black hair |
| | | | slicked back into bullfighters' little ponytails. They wore cummerbunds and |
| | | | white shirt with ruffles on the chest – beautiful men like the one Sandi would |
| | | | someday marry. Best of all were the rich, familiar smells of garlic and |
| | | | onion and lilting cadence of Spanish spoken by the dark-eye waiters, |
| | | | who reminded Sandi of her uncles. |
| | | Floor Show/ 176- | Sandi remembered when the famous Doctor Fanning and his wife had |
| | | 177 | come down to instruct the country's leading doctors on new procedures |
| | | | for heart surgery. The tall, slender man and his goofy wife had been |
| | | | guests in the family compound. There had been many barbecues with the |
| | | | driveway lined with cars and a troop of chauffeurs under the palm trees |
| | | | exchanging news and gossip. |
| | | Floor Show / 177 | Just as they all lifted their glasses, Mami leaned into the table. "They're |

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| | | | here." Sandi turned to see the maître d' heading in their direction with a tall, |
|---|---------|-----------------|--|
| | | | dressed-up woman, and behind her, a towering, preoccupied-looking man. It |
| | | | took a moment to register that these were the same human beings who |
| | | | had loitered around the pool back on the Island, looking silly in |
| | | | sunglasses and sunhats, noses smeared with suntan cream, and speaking |
| | | | a grossly inadequate Spanish to the maids. |
| | | Floor Show/ 178 | Sandi studied the woman carefully. Why had Dr. Fanning, who was tall and |
| | | | somewhat handsome, married this plain, bucktoothed woman? Maybe she |
| | | | came from a good family, which back home was the reason men married |
| | | | plain, bucktoothed women. Maybe Mrs. Fanning came with all the jewelry |
| | | | she had on, and Dr. Fanning had been attracted by its glittering the way little |
| | | | fishes are if you wrap tinfoil on a string and dangle it in the shallows. |
| 3 | Yolanda | Joe/ 69 | She recognizes the unmistakable signs of a flashback: a woman at a window, |
| | | | a woman with a past, with memory and desire and wreckage in her heart. |
| | | | She will let herself have them today. She can't help herself anyway. |
| | | The Human | Back then, we all lived side by side in adjoining houses on a piece of |
| | | Body/ 225 | property which belonged to my grandparents. Every kid in the family was |
| | | | paired up with a best friend cousin. My older sister, Carla, and my cousin |
| | | | Lucinda, the two oldest cousins, had a giggly, gossipy girlfriendship that |
| | | | made everyone else feel left out. Sandi had Gisela, whose pretty ballerina |

| | | | name we all envied. Baby sister Fifi and my sweet-natured cousin |
|---|-------|------------------|---|
| | | | Carmencita were everyone's favorites We were the only boy-girl pair, and |
| | | | as we grew older, Mami and Mundín's mother, Tia Carmen, encouraged a |
| | | | separation between us. |
| | | The Human | But what did we kids know of all that back in those days? The height of |
| | | Body/ 227 | violence for us was on the weekly television Western imported from |
| | | | Hollywood and dubbed clumsily in Spanish. Rin Tin Tin barked in sync, but |
| | | | the cowboys kept talking long after their mouths were closed. When the gun |
| | | | re-ports sounded, the villains already lay in a puddle of blood. Mundín and I |
| | | | craned our necks forward, wanting to make sure that the bad guys were |
| | | | really dead. |
| | | The Drum/ 290 | Then we moved to the United States. The cat disappeared altogether. I saw |
| | | | snow. I solved the riddle of an outdoors made mostly of concrete in New |
| | | | York I grew up, a curious woman, a woman of story ghosts and story |
| | | | devils, a woman prone to bad dreams and bad insomnia. There are still |
| | | | times I wake up at three o'clock in the morning and peer into the |
| | | | darkness. At that hour and in that loneliness, I hear her, a black furred |
| | | | thing lurking in the corners of my life, her magenta mouth opening, |
| | | | wailing over some violation that lies at the center of my art. |
| 4 | Sofia | The Blood of the | I'm the one who doesn't remember anything from that last day on the |

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| | Conquistadores/ | Island because I'm the youngest and so the other three are always telling |
|--|-----------------|---|
| | 217 and 219 | me what happened that last day But here's what I do remember of my |
| | | lasy day on the Island. Chucha came into our bedrooms with this bundle in |
| | | her hands Chucha started to unravel her bundle, and we all guessed she |
| | | was about to do a little farewell voodoo on us. |

• In-between Dominican and American

| No | Main | Chapter/ Page | Textual Evidence |
|----|------------|---------------|--|
| | Characters | | |
| 1 | Carla | Trespass/ 151 | Grasses and real trees and real bushes still grew beyond the barbed-wire |
| | | | fence posted with a big sign: PRIVATE, NO TREPASSING. The sign had |
| | | | surprised Carla since 'forgive us our trespasses" was the only other |
| | | | context in which she had heard the word. She pointed the sign out to |

| | | | Mami on one of their first walks to the bus stop. "Isn't that funny, Mami? A |
|---|---------|-----------------|--|
| | | | |
| | | | sign that you have to be good." Her mother did not understand at first until |
| | | | Carla explained about the Lord's Prayer. Mami laughed. Words sometimes |
| | | | meant two things in English too. This trespass meant that no one must |
| | | | go inside the property because it was not public like a park, but private. |
| | | | Carla nodded, disappointed. She would never get the hang of this new |
| | | | country. |
| 2 | Sandi | Floor Show/ 181 | As Mrs. Fanning turned to follow, she leaned towards Sandi's father and |
| | | | brushed her lips on his. Sandi didn't know whether to stand there foolishly or |
| | | | dash in and let the door fall on this uncomfortable moment Relieved, she |
| | | | now felt the full and shocking weight of what she had just witnessed. A |
| | | | married American woman kissing her father! |
| | | Floor Show/ 173 | If things ever get that bad, Sandi thought, she would sell her charm bracelet |
| | | | with the windmill that always got caught on her clothing. She would even |
| | | | cut her hair and sell it—a maid back home had told her that girls with |
| | | | good hair could always do that. She had no idea who would buy it. She |
| | | | had not seen hair for sale in the big department stores Mami sometimes |
| | | | took them through on outings "to see this new country." |
| 3 | Yolanda | Antojos/7 | In halting Spanish, Yolanda reports on her sisters. When she reverts to |
| | | | English, she is scolded, "ien español!" The more she practices, the |

| | sooner she'll be back into her native tongue, the aunts insist. Yes, and |
|-----------------|--|
| | when she returns to the States, she'll find herself suddenly going blank over |
| | some word in English or, like her mother, mixing up some common phrase. |
| | This time, however, Yolanda is not so sure she'll be going back. But that is a |
| | secret. |
| Antojos/ 13 | The radio is all static—like the sound of the crunching metal of a car; the |
| | faint, blurry voice on the airwaves her own, trapped inside a wreck, calling |
| | for help. In English or Spanish? she wonders. That poet she met at |
| | Lucinda's party the night before argued that no matter how much of it one |
| | lost, in the midst of some profound emotion, one would revert to one's |
| | mother tongue. He put Yolanda through a series of situations. What |
| | language, he asked, looking pointedly into her eyes, did she love in? |
| The Four Girls/ | The lover knew Yolanda would not have wanted him to know about this |
| 48 | indelicacy of her body. She did not even like to pluck her eyebrows in his |
| | presence. An immediate bathrobe after her bath. Lights out when they made |
| | love. Other times, she carried on about the Great Mother and the holiness of |
| | the body and sexual energy being eternal delight. Sometimes, he complained |
| | he felt caught between the woman's libber and the Catholic señorita. "You |
| | sound like my ex," she accused him. |
| Joe/ 85 | "Love," Yo enunciates, letting the full force of the word loose in her mouth. |

| | | She is determined to get over this allergy. She will build immunity to the |
|---------|-------------|---|
| | | offending words. She braces herself for a double dose: "Love, love," she |
| | | says the words quickly. Her face is one itchy valentine. "Amor." Even in |
| | | Spanish, the word makes a rash erupt on the backs of her hands. |
| The Rud | ly | I'd meet someone, conversation would flow, they'd come calling, but pretty |
| Elmenhu | arst Story/ | soon afterwards, just as my heart was beginning to throw out little tendrils of |
| 87 | | attachment, they'd leave. I couldn't keep them interested. Why I couldn't |
| | | keep them interested was pretty simple: I wouldn't sleep with them. By |
| | | the time I went to college, it was the late sixties, and everyone was |
| | | sleeping around as a matter of principle. By then, I was a lapsed |
| | | Catholic; my sisters and I had been pretty well Americanized since our |
| | | arrival in this country a decade before, so really, I didn't have a good |
| | | excuse. |
| The Rud | ly | It was the first pornographic poem I'd ever co-written; of course I |
| Elmenhu | arst Story/ | didn't know it was pornographic until Rudy explained to me all the |
| 93 | | word plays and double meanings. "The coming of the spring upon the |
| | | boughs," was the last line. That meant spring was ejaculating green leaves on |
| | | the trees; the new crocuses were standing stiff on the lawn on account of |
| | | they were turned on. I was shocked by all of this. I was a virgin; I wasn't |
| | | one hundred per cent sure how sex worked. That anyone should put all of |

| | | this into a poem, a place I'd reserved for deep feelings and lofty sentiments! |
|--------|-------------|--|
| The Ru | dv | It was a decadent atmosphere for me whose previous experience of dating |
| | • | |
| Elmenh | urst Story/ | had been mixers and parlor calls from boys at prep school. I'd go over to |
| 95 | | Rudy's, but I would drink only a sip or two of the Dixie cup he offered, |
| | | and I wouldn't dare touch the drugs. I was less afraid of what they |
| | | would do to my mind than I was of what Rudy might do to my body |
| | | while I was under the influence. |
| The Ru | dy | On the cinderblock wall opposite the bed, Rudy had put up a bulletin board. |
| Elmenh | urst Story/ | There were pennants from his ski teams and photos of his family, all lined up |
| 98 | | on skis on top of a mountain. His parents looked so young and casual— |
| | | like classmates. My own old world parents were still an embarrassment |
| | | at parents' weekend, my father with his thick mustache and three-piece |
| | | suit and fedora hat, my mother in one of her outfits she bought |
| | | especially to visit us at school, everything overly matched, patent leather |
| | | purse and pumps that would go back, once she was home, to plastic |
| | | storage bags in her closet. I marveled at his youthful parents. |
| The Ru | dy | But he didn't slip into my room and under my sheets and hold me tight |
| Elmenh | urst Story/ | against the empty, endless night. I hardly slept. I saw what a cold, lonely life |
| 99 | | awaited me in this country. I would never find someone who would |
| | | understand my peculiar mix of Catholicism and agnosticism, Hispanic |

| | | | and American styles. |
|---|-------|------------------|--|
| 4 | Sofia | A Regular | This," Manuel Gustavo says, holding the book up like a dirty diaper, "is junk |
| | | Revolution/ 120- | in your head. You have better things to do." He tosses the book on the coffee |
| | | 121 | table. |
| | | | Fifi pales, though her two blushed-on cheeks blush on. She stands quickly, |
| | | | hands on her hips, eyes narrowing, the Fifi we know and love. "You have no |
| | | | right to tell me what I can and can't do!" |
| | | | "¡Que no;" Manuel challenges. |
| | | | "No! "Fifi asserts. |
| | | | One by one we three sisters exit, cheering Fifi on under our breaths. A few |
| | | | minutes later we hear the pickup roar down the driveway, and Fifi comes |
| | | | sobbing into the bedroom. |
| | | | "Fifi, he asked for it," we say. "Don't let him push you around. You're a free |
| | | | spirit," we remind her. |
| | | | But within the hour, Fifi is on the phone with Manuelito, pleading for |
| | | | forgiveness. |
| | | A Regular | Fifi and Manuel steal off for some private time from the watchful eyes on the |
| | | Revolution/ 123 | extended family. On these drives, they usually end up parking somewhere, |
| | | and 125 | only to neck and stuff, according to Fifi As we're backing out of our |
| | | | garage, a pickup passes behind us on the motel drive. |

| | | | "Hey!" Yoyo cries out. "Is that Fifi and Manuel?" |
|---|---------------|------------------|---|
| | | | Mundín chuckles. "Hey, hey! Way to go." |
| | | | "Way to go, way to schmo," Sandi snaps. "That's our baby sister going in |
| | | | there with a guy who thinks condoms cause impotence." |
| 5 | Carla, Sandi, | A Regular | We spent the rest of the evening confessing to our giggly, over-chaperoned |
| | Yolanda and | Revolution/ 113- | girl cousins the naughtinesses we had committed up in the home of the brave |
| | Sofia | 114 | and the land of the free. |
| | | A Regular | He looks like a handsome young double for Papi, and a lot like us, the family |
| | | Revolution/ 119 | eyebrows, the same high cheekbones, the full, generous mouth. In short, he |
| | | | could be the brother we never had. When he roars into the compound in |
| | | | his pickup, all four of us run down the driveway to greet him with kisses |
| | | | and hugs. |
| | | | "Girls," Tía Carmen says, frowning, "that's no way to greet a man." |

2. The Characters' Ways in Manifesting Hybrid Identity

| No | The ways of | Main | Chapter/ | Textual Evidence |
|----|---|------------|-------------|--|
| | manifesting their hybrid identity | Characters | Page | |
| 1 | Adopting | Carla | A Regular | Carla was on for experimenting with hair removal cream. (Mami threw a |
| | American | | Revolution/ | fit, saying that once you got started on that road, there was no stopping— |
| | Life | | 110 | the hairs would grow back thicker, uglier each time. She made it sound |
| | | | | like drinking or drugs). |
| | | | Trespass/ | Besides, her English was still just classroom English, a foreign language. |
| | | | 156 | She knew the neutral bland things: how to ask for a glass of water, how |
| | | | | to say good morning and good afternoon and good night. How to thank |
| | | | | someone and say they were welcomed. |
| | | Sandi | A Regular | Some girlfriend of Sandi's got her to try a Tampax, and Mami found out. |
| | | | Revolution/ | |
| | | | 103 | |

[Type text]

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| Yolanda | The | Rudy | That night there was a knock on my door. I was in my night-gown |
|---------|--------|--------|---|
| | Elmen | hurst | already, doing our assignment, a love poem in the form of a sonnet. I'd |
| | Story/ | 91 | been reading it out loud pretty dramatically, trying to get the accents |
| | | | right, so I felt embarrassed to be caught. |
| | The | Rudy | There's more to the story. There always is to a true story. About five |
| | Elmen | hurst | years later, I was in grad school in upstate New York. I was a poet, a |
| | Story/ | 102 | bohemian, et cetera. I'd had a couple of lovers. I was on birth control. |
| | | | I guessed I'd resolved the soul and sin thing by lapsing from my heavy- |
| | | | duty Catholic back-ground, giving up my immortal soul for a blues kind |
| | | | of soul." |
| | The | Rudy | On the counter, he had left behind the bottle of wine. I had one of those |
| | Elmen | hurst | unserious, cheap, grad school corkscrews I put the bottle between my |
| | Story/ | 103 | legs and pulled so hard that not only did I jerk the crumbled cork |
| | | | out but I sprayed myself with ex-pensive Bordeaux. "Shit," I |
| | | | thought, "this is not going to wash out." I held the bottle up to my |
| | | | mouth and drew a long messy swallow, as if I were some decadent |
| | | | wild woman who had just dismissed an unsatisfactory lover. |
| | A Ro | egular | Yoyo was on for bringing a book into the house, Our Bodies, Our Selves. |
| | Revolu | ution/ | (Mami couldn't quite put her finger on what it was that bothered her |
| | 110 | | about the book. I mean, there were no men in it. The pictures all |

| | | | | sisters used to joke that they would likelier be virgins than find a |
|--|-------|---------|--------|--|
| | | | | Fifi for "going behind the palm trees." When they were younger, the |
| | | Girls/6 | 55 | uttered a word since he arrived two days ago. He still has not forgiven |
| | | The | Four | Her three sisters lift their eyebrows at each other. Their father has not |
| | | | | York, she had to travel thousands of miles to sleep with him." |
| | | 29 | | going, and since she couldn't spend an overnight with him in New |
| | | The | Kiss/ | On her vacation she went to Colombia because her current boyfriend was |
| | | | | They admired her and were always asking her advice about men. |
| | | | | boyfriends," her sisters joked, not without wonder and a little envy. |
| | | | | body and large-featured face. And yet, she was the one with "non-stop |
| | | | | the four sisters, she was considered the plain one, with her tall, big-boned |
| | | 28 | | way, though she downplayed her choices, calling them accidents. Among |
| | Sofia | The | Kiss/ | Sofía was the one without the degrees. She had always gone her own |
| | | 112 | | |
| | | Revolu | ition/ | to have a little pot to smoke when things on Island got dull. |
| | | A Re | egular | "You could try a Kotex trick," Yoyo suggested, thinking it would be nice |
| | | | | Mami said, examining the pictures, to be ashamed of. |
| | | | | their bodies were all about" and a whole chapter on lesbians. Things, |
| | | | | she had understood it up to then. But there were women exploring "what |
| | | | | celebrated women and their bodies, so it wasn't technically about sex as |

| | | palm tree in their neck of the woods. |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| | A Regular | Fifi was on for smoking in the bathroom. (She always ran the shower, |
| | Revolution/ | as if smoking were a noisy activity whose hullabaloo she had to drown |
| | 110 | out). |
| | A Regular | And she gave us the little pep talk on family and important roots here. |
| | Revolution/ | Finally she went back to bed, and to sleep, or so we thought. We turned |
| | 112 | the volume down but stayed up talking. |
| | | Fifi held up a Baggy with dregs of greenish brown weed inside. |
| | | "Okay vote time," she said. "Do I or don't I take it?" |
| Carla, Sandi | A Regular | Technically, she was right. It was her Baggy. The rest of us had had |
| and Yolanda | Revolution/ | dope only when our boyfriends rolled a joint or when, in a party of |
| | 115 | friends, a cigarette made its rounds, everyone drawing a toke. |
| Carla, Sandi, | The Rudy | We took turns being the wildest. First one, then another, of us would |
| Yolanda and Sofia | Elmenhurst | confess our sins on vacation nights after the parents went to bed, and we |
| | Story/86 | had double-checked the hall to make sure there were "no Moors on the |
| | | coast," an Island expression for the coast being clear. Baby Sister Fifi |
| | | held that title the longest, though Sandi, with her good looks and many |
| | | opportunities, gave her some com-petition. Several times Carla, the |
| | | responsible eldest, did some-thing crazy. But she always claimed she had |
| | | done whatever it was she'd done to gain ground for us all. So her reigns |

| | | | | of error smacked of good intentions and were never as juicy as Fifi's. |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------------|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | A Regular | It was a long train ride up to our prep school in Boston, and there were |
| | | | Revolution/ | guys on that train. We learned to forge Mami's signature and went just |
| | | | 108-109 | about everywhere to dance weekends and football weekends and snow |
| | | | | sculpture weekends. We could kiss and not get pregnant. We could |
| | | | | smoke and no great aunt would smell us croak. We began to develop |
| | | | | a taste for American teenage good life By the end of a couple of |
| | | | | years away from home, we had more than adjusted. |
| | | | A Regular | "Ya, ya." Tía Carmen lifts her hand for her sister-in-law to stop. "These |
| | | | Revolution/ | girls have lived so long away, they have gotten American ways." |
| | | | 130 | |
| 2 | Embracing | Sandi | Floor Show/ | The four braided and beribboned heads nodded. At moments like this |
| | American Values | | 68 | when they all seemed one organism—the four girls—. Sandi would get |
| | | | | that yearning to wander off into the United States of America by |
| | | | | herself and never come back as the second of four girls so close in |
| | | | | age. |
| | | Yolanda | Antojos/ 9- | "I'll tell you what my santo wants after five years," Yolanda says. "I |
| | | | 10 | can't wait to eat some guavas. Maybe I can pick some when I go north |
| | | | | in a few days." |
| | | | | "By yourself?" Tia Carmen shakes her head at the mere thought. |

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| | "This is not the States," Tia Flor says, with a knowing smile. "A woman just doesn't travel alone in this country. Especially these day." "I can take care of myself," Yolanda reassures them." |
|-------------|--|
| Antojos/ 12 | She pulls the Datsun over and enjoys her first solitary moment since |
| | her arrival. Every compound outing has been hosted by one gracious |
| | aunt or another, presenting the landscape as if it were a floor show |
| | mounted for her niece's appreciation. |
| Antojos/ 14 | In fact, her aunts have given her a list of names of uncles and aunts and |
| | cousins she might call on along her way. By each name is a capsule |
| | description of what Yolanda might remember of that relative: the one |
| | with the kidney bean swimming pool, the fat one, the one who was an |
| | ambassador. Before she even left the compound, Yolanda put the list |
| | away in the glove compartment. She is going to be just fine on her |
| | own. |
| Antojos/ 22 | Yolanda leans over and opens the door for him. The overhead light |
| | comes on; the boy's face is working back tears. He is cradling an arm. |
| | "The guardia hit me. He said I was telling stories. No dominicana |
| | with a car would be out at this hour getting guayabas." |
| | "Don't you worry, Jose." Yolanda pats the boy. She can feel the bony |
| | shoulder through the thin fabric of his shirt. "You can still have your |

| | | dollar. You did your part." |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| | The Kiss/ | Sofia briefly considered a belly dancer or a girl who'd pop out of a cake. |
| | 33 | But the third daughter, who had become a feminist in the wake of |
| | | her divorce, said she considered such locker-room entertainments |
| | | offensive. |
| Sofia | The Kiss/ | The youngest daughter had been the first to leave home. She had dropped |
| | 29 and 31 | out of college, in love She got herself to Germany somehow and got |
| | | the man to marry her. |
| | The Kiss/ | "Are you a whore?" the father interrogated his daughter. There was spit |
| | 30 | on the daughter's cheeks from the closeness of his mouth to her face. |
| | | "It's none of your fucking business!" she said in a low, ugly-sounding |
| | | voice like the snarl of an animal who could hurt him. "You have no right, |
| | | no right at all, to go through my stuff or read my mail!" Tears spurted out |
| | | of her eyes, her nostrils flared. |
| Carla, Sandi, | A Regular | For the benefit of an invisible sisterhood, since our aunts and girl cousins |
| and Yolanda | Revolution/ | consider it very unfeminine for a woman to go around demonstrating for |
| | 121-122 | her rights, Yoyo sighs and all of us roll our eyes. We don't even try |
| | | anymore to raise consciousness here. It'd be like trying for cathedral |
| | | ceilings in a tunnel or something Yoyo turn Manuel's interview to |
| | | Carla, who's good at befriending with small talk. Yoyo calls it her |

| | | | | therapist "softening-them-up-for-the-spill" mode. "Manuel, why do you |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|---|
| | | | | feel so upset when Fifi is on her own? Carla's manner is straight out |
| | | | | of her Psych 101 textbook." |
| | | | | "Women don't do that here." Manuel Gustavo's foot, posed on his knee, |
| | | | | shakes up and down. "Maybe you do things different in your United |
| | | | | States of America." |
| | | | | "Manuel," Carla pleads. "Women do have rights here too, you know. |
| | | | | Even Dominican law grants that." |
| | | Carla, Sandi, | Daughter of | But now, Carlos was truly furious. It was bad enough that his daughters |
| | | Yolanda and Sofia | Invention/ | are rebelling, but here was his own wife joining forces with them. Soon |
| | | | 146 | he would be surrounded by a household of independent American |
| | | | | women." |
| 3 | Preserving | Sandi | Floor Show/ | She watched the different tables around theirs. All the other guests were |
| | Dominican Cultures | | 179 | white and spoke in low, unexcited voices. Americans, for sure. They |
| | | | | could have eaten anywhere, Sandi thought, and yet they had come to a |
| | | | | Spanish place for dinner. La Bruja was wrong. Spanish was something |
| | | | | other people paid to be around. |
| | | | Floor Show/ | The dancers clapped and strutted, tossing their heads boldly like |
| | | | | |
| | | | 185 | horses. Sandi's heart soared. This wild and beautiful dance come |

| | | disquieting joy that sometimes made Sandi squezze Fifi's hand hard until |
|---------|------------|---|
| | | she cried or bullfight Yoyo with a towel until both girls fell in giggling, |
| | | exhausted heap on the floor that made La Bruja beat her ceiling with a |
| | | broom handle. |
| Yolanda | The Rudy | We would lie down under it, side by side, cuddling and kissing, Rudy's |
| | Elmenhurst | hand exploring down my blouse. But if he wandered any lower, I'd |
| | Story/96 | pull away. "No," I'd say, "don't." "Why not?" he'd challenge, or |
| | | ironically or seductively or exasperatedly, depending on how much he'd |
| | | imbibed, smoked, dropped. My own answers varied, depending on my |
| | | current hangups, that's what Rudy called my refusals, hangups. |
| | The Rudy | Instead, I did something that even a lapsed Catholic I still did for good |
| | Elmenhurst | luck on nights before exams. I opened my drawer and took the |
| | Story/ 99- | crucifix I kept hidden under my clothes, and I put it under pillow for |
| | 100 | the night. The large crucifix had been a "security blanket" I took to |
| | | bed with me after years coming to this country. |
| | The Human | Mundín faced us, his hands nervously working the snake into a rounder |
| | Body/ 234- | and rounder ball. "Go on," he said. "Take them down." |
| | 235 | Immediately, Fifi pulled down her pants and panties in one wad to her |
| | | hips, revealing what she thought was in question, her bellybutton. |
| | | But I was older and knew better. In religious instruction classes, Sor |

| | | Juana had told how God clothed Adam and Eve in the Garden of |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| | | Eden after they had sinned. "Your body is a temple of the Holy |
| | | Ghost." At home, the aunts had drawn the older girls aside and |
| | | warned us that soon we would be senoritas who must guard our |
| | | bodies like hidden treasure and not let anyone take advantage. |
| Sofia | A Regular | By Christmas, we are wild for news of Fifi's exile. From Mami we hear |
| | Revolution/ | that our sister is beautifully acclimated to life on the Island and taking |
| | 117 | classes in shorthand and typing at the Ford Foundation trade school. |
| | A Regular | Lovable Manuel is a little tyrant, like a mini Papi and Mami rolled into |
| | Revolution/ | one. Fifi can't wear pants in public. Fifi can't walk talk to another man. |
| | 120 | Fifi can't leave the house without her permission. And what's the most |
| | | disturbing is that Fifi, feisty, lively Fifi, is letting this man tell her |
| | | what she can and cannot do." |
| Carla and | A Regular | We're off to the movies or to Capri's for an ice cream and just hanging |
| Sofia | Revolution/ | out, the boys much exhorted to take care of the ladies. As the oldest, |
| | 123 | Carla must ride with Fifi in Manuel's pickup, la chaperona, at least |
| | | until we're off compound grounds. |
| Carla, Sandi | A Regular | Mundín shakes his head at his sister. Nevertheless, he is her protector. |
| and Yolanda | Revolution/ | Ever since her quip at the motel, he's been watching her closely. "Okay, |
| | 128 | okay, I'll take you." He turns to us, his cousins. "You guys have to stay |

| | | here and cover for Manuel." |
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| | | "We can't stay here without you," we remind him. Rule número uno: |
| | | Girls are not left unescorted in public. "We'll get in trouble, |
| | | Mundín." |
| | A Regular | "But what about Fifi and Manuel?" Mundín is flabbergasted. If everyone |
| | Revolution/ | except Fifi and Manuel shows up at the compound, the lovers will be in |
| | 128 | deep trouble. Rule número dos: Girls are not to be left unchaperoned |
| | | with their novios. |
| | | "We came with you, we stay with you. We don't want to get into |
| | | trouble." Our good-girl voices don't quite convince our cousin. |