

she is a low-class person.  
 What I mean by that is that we have absolutely nothing in common.  
 As her caseworker I realize that maintenance of the system depends  
 on a well-drawn boundary line  
 and all parties respecting that boundary.  
 And I am, after all,  
 I am a married woman.

*Welfare exits. Hester reenters, watches Welfare exit.*

**Hester**  
 Bitch.

*Hester, alone on stage, examines the cloth Welfare gave her.*

**Hester**  
 Sure is pretty cloth. Sewing can't be that hard. Thread the needle stick  
 it in and pull it through. Pretty cloth. Let's see what we making.  
 Ooooooh. Uh evening dress. Go to a party. Drink champagne and  
 shit. Uh huh, "Don't mind if I do," and shit and la de dah and come  
 up in a limo and everybody wants a picture. So many lights I'm blinded.  
 Wear dark glasses. Strut my stuff.

*Hester has another painful stomach attack  
 which knocks the wind out of her and doubles her over.  
 Far away, Chilli walks by with his picnic basket on his arm.  
 He pauses, checks his pocket watch, then continues on.  
 Hester, recovering from her attack, sees him just before he disappears.*

**Hester**  
 Chilli!

**Intermission**

BEGIN

SCENE 5

**Small Change and Sandwiches**

*Late at night. The children inside, all sleeping.  
 Lots of "A's" written in Hester's practice place.  
 Hester, working on her sewing, tries to thread the needle.*

**Hester**  
 Damn needle eyes too damn small. How my supposed to get the  
 thread through. There's a catch to everything, Hester. No easy money  
 nowheres. Wet the thread good. Damn.

*She squeezes her eyes shut and opens them,  
 trying to focus. Having difficulty threading the needle,  
 she takes out an object wrapped in brown paper.  
 Looks cautiously around. Begins to unwrap it.  
 A sandwich.*

**Hester**  
 Put something in my stomach maybe my eyes'll work.

*Amiga Gringa comes in.  
 Hester stashes the package, picks up her sewing.*

**Amiga Gringa**  
 Mother Hubbard sewing by street lamp. Very moving.

**Hester**  
 I got me uh job. This here is work.

**Amiga Gringa**  
 From Welfare?

**Hester**  
 She's getting me back in the workforce. I do good on this she'll give  
 me more.

**Amiga Gringa**  
 What's the pay?

**Hester**  
 It's by the piece.

**Amiga Gringa**  
 How much?

**Hester**  
 10 bucks maybe.

**Amiga Gringa**  
 Maybe?

**Hester**  
 I get a bonus for working fast.

**Amiga Gringa**  
 Very nice fabric. Very pretty. Very expensive. And ooh, look at what  
 yr making.

**Hester**  
 You good with needles? Thread this. My eyes aint good.

*Amiga tries halfheartedly to thread the needle. Quits.*

**Amiga Gringa**  
Sorry.

*Hester continues trying to thread the needle.*

**Hester**  
Today we had uh E-clipse. You seen it?

**Amiga Gringa**  
Cant say I did. Good yr working. Getting some money in yr pocket. Making a good example for the kids. Pulling yrself up by yr bootstraps. Getting with the program. Taking responsibility for yr life. I envy you.

**Hester**  
Me?

**Amiga Gringa**  
Yr working, Im—looking for work.

**Hester**  
I bet I could get you some sewing.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Oh no. Thats not for me. If I work, Hester, I would want to be paid a living wage. You have agreed to work for less than a living wage. May as well be a slave. Or an animal.

**Hester**  
Its a start. She said if I do well—

**Amiga Gringa**  
If you do well shes gonna let you be her slave *for life*. Wouldnt catch me doing that. Chump work. No no no. But its a good thing you are. Example to the kids.

**Hester**  
I aint no chump.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Course you arent. Yr just doing chump work is all.

**Hester**  
Its a leg up. Cant start from the top.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Why not? Plenty of people start from the top. Why not you? Sure is pretty fabric.

**Hester**  
All I gotta do is sew along the lines.

**Amiga Gringa**  
~~But the fabric~~ cost a lot. I wonder how much we could get for it—on ~~the open~~ market.

**Hester**  
~~Aint~~ mine to sell. Its gonna make a nice dress. Im gonna sew it up ~~and try~~ it on before I give it to her. Just for fun.

*But Hester still hasnt been able to thread the needle.*

**Amiga Gringa**  
~~But~~ we could get 100 bucks. For the fabric. A lot more than youd get ~~for~~ sewing it. And you wouldnt have to lift a finger. I'd sell it tonight. ~~Have~~ the money for you in the morning.

**Hester**  
~~No~~ thanks.

**Amiga Gringa**  
~~Suit~~ yrself.

*Hester continues trying to thread that damn needle.*

**Amiga Gringa**  
Chump work.

**Hester**  
They make the eyes too small, thats the problem.  
(*Rest*)  
I seen Chilli right after I was with the Welfare. You said he was looking for me and there he was! Jabbers daddy walking right by with a big gold pocket watch. But did I tell? Did I run after Welfare and say, "Theres Jabbers daddy?" I did not. Can you imagine?

**Amiga Gringa**  
I told ya he was looking for ya. Hes gonna find you too.

**Hester**  
Jabbers daddy, after all these years!

**Amiga Gringa**  
Maybe yr lucks turning.

**Hester**  
You think?

**Amiga Gringa**  
Maybe.

**Amiga Gringa**  
**Hester**

(Rest)

**Amiga Gringa**  
I missed my period.

**Hester**  
Dont look at *me*.  
(Rest)

Whatcha gonna do.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Have it, I guess.

**Hester**  
You may not be knocked up.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Theres something in here all right. I can feel it growing inside. Just my luck.

**Hester**  
You shoulda been careful.

**Amiga Gringa**  
—Whatever.

**Hester**  
So get rid of it if you dont want it.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Or birth it then sell it.

**Hester**  
You as crazy as they come.

**Amiga Gringa**  
**Hester**  
**Amiga Gringa**

*Amiga leans toward Hester to kiss her.  
Hester pulls back a bit.*

**Amiga Gringa**  
Whassamatter?

**Hester**  
I dont got no love for nobody cept the kids.

*Amiga pulls back, takes up the fabric.*

**Amiga Gringa**  
I'll get you a lot of money for this.

**Hester**  
**No.**

**Amiga Gringa**  
**Whassis?**

*Amiga Gringa discovers the brown paper package.*

**Hester**  
**Nothing.**

**Amiga Gringa**  
Smells like something. Smells like food. Smells like egg salad.

**Hester**  
I was saving it.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Lets celebrate! Come on itll be fun. Kids!

**Hester**  
They *sleep*. Let em sleep.

**Amiga Gringa**  
Lets toast my new kid. Just you and me. A new life has begun. Am I showing? Not yet, right? Will be soon enough. Little Bastards in there living high on the hog, taking up space. Little Bastard, we toast you with: egg salad.

*Amiga takes a big bite out of the sandwich.  
Hester grabs at it but Amiga keeps it from her reach.*

~~Daily comes outside~~

~~Daily~~  
~~Substance~~

~~Hester~~  
~~Yes, Daily.~~

~~Daily~~  
~~Substance~~

~~Hester~~  
~~is unhook~~

~~Daily comes over. Hester opens her mouth.~~

~~Daily~~  
~~Substance~~

~~Amiga Gringa~~  
~~Reach into your messies sandwich~~

*Amiga gives the sandwich to Hester*

~~who almost takes a bite but sees Dally looking on and~~

~~Hester gives the sandwich to Dally. Dally eats~~

*Hester gives Amiga the fabric.*

**Hester**

Cheat me and I'll kill you.

**Amiga Gringa**

Have a little faith, Hester. Amiga will sell this fabric for you. You will not be a chump. In the morning when the sun comes up yll be 100 bucks richer. Sleep tight.

*Amiga takes the fabric and leaves.*

~~Dally sits with her mother, licking her fingers~~

END

### THIRD CONFESSION: AMIGA GRINGA

"In My Head I Got It Going On"

**Amiga Gringa**

In my head I got it going on.  
 The triple X rated movie:  
 Hester and Amiga get down and get dirty.  
 Chocolate and Vanilla get into the ugly.  
 We coulda done a sex show behind a curtain  
 then make a movie and sell it  
 for 3 bucks a peek.  
 I had me some delicious schemes  
 to get her out of that hole she calls home.  
 Im doing well for myself  
 working my money maker.  
 Do you have any idea how much cash I'll get for the fruit of my white  
 womb?!

Grow it.  
 Birth it.  
 Sell it.  
 And why shouldnt I?

*(Rest)*  
 Funny how a woman like Hester  
 driving her life all over the road  
 most often chooses to walk the straight and narrow.  
 Girl on girl action is a very lucrative business.  
 And someones gotta do something for her.  
 Im just trying to help her out.

And myself too, ok. They dont call it Capitalizm for nothing.

*(Rest)*

He liked the idea of the sex  
 at least she acted like it.

Her looking at me with those eyes of hers.

You looking like you want it, Hester.

Shoot, Miga, she says thats just the way I look she says.

It took a little cajoling to get her to do it with me  
 for an invited audience.

For a dime a look.

Over at my place.

Every cent was profit and no overhead to speak of.

The guys in the neighborhood got their pleasure

and we was our own boss so we didnt have to pay no joker off the top.

We slipped right into a very profitable situation  
 like sliding into warm water.

Her breasts her bottom

she let me touch her however I wanted

I let her ride my knees.

She made sounds like an animal.

She put her hand between my legs.

One day some of the guys took advantage.

Ah, what do you expect in a society based on Capitalizm.

I tell you the plight of the worker these days—

Still one day Im gonna get her to make the movie

cause her and me we had the moves down

very sensual, very provocative, very scientific, very lucrative.

In my head I got it going on.

### SCENE 6

#### The Reverend on the Rock

*Late at night. Down the road, Reverend D. cleaning his  
 cornerstone, a white block of granite bearing the date  
 in Roman numerals, and practicing his preaching.*

**[Reverend D.]**

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a  
 rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And you hear that and you  
 say, let me get a tax shelter and hide some of my riches so that when  
 I stand up there in judgment God wont be none the wiser! And that is  
 the problem with the way we see God. For most of us, God is like the  
 IRS. God garnishes yr wages if you dont pay up. God withholds. The