

THE BANANA WAR

A One-Act Play

by

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Scene One

SETTING: a small cell somewhere in the Caribbean. TIME: the present, Day One.

(As the lights rise, LUCY is sitting on the edge of a straight-backed wooden chair. She is dressed in the fashionable resort-wear of the moment: perhaps shorts and a top, perhaps a long flowered dress. She holds a large purse/beach bag. She sits without moving, and JOSÉFINA enters, wearing a crisp, unidentifiable uniform with a holstered pistol and carrying a camera and a newspaper. They look at each other for a moment.)

JOSÉFINA

*Buenos dias, Señora Hamilton.*

LUCY

Please, I don't speak Spanish. My husband speaks a little, but I only know *muchas gracias* and *de nada*.

JOSÉFINA

No, Mrs. Hamilton, you don't speak Spanish, do you? *Buenos dias*, however. Everyone knows this. "Good day." "Hello."

LUCY

I know *buenos dias*. I thought you were going to keep on speaking Spanish after that. Anyway, I'm not having a good day.

JOSÉFINA

Have we not been treating you with consideration?

LUCY

Ah, *Señora*, so you share the name of the great revolutionary.

JOSÉFINA

(Impressed that LUCY recognizes the name.)

Do not call me *Señora*. I have no title. No rank. My father read *Guerrilla Warfare* to us when we were small. He had no sons to give this name to. I was his last daughter.

LUCY

Are you a Communist, too?

JOSÉFINA

I am a woman who loves her people. I am a woman who wants a good life for her family.

LUCY

Then we're not so different. Please, Joséfina Guevara. Tell me about your family.

JOSÉFINA

(Realizing she has probably told LUCY too much.)

No, Mrs. Hamilton. I have no more time today. You will be comfortable here. There is a bed. There is water. Food. This basement is cool and well-ventilated. You are better cared for than most of my people. All-inclusive.

(She exits. LUCY sits for a moment. She stands, walks to the opposite wall, walks around the room to the door, fingers on the wall. Then she returns to the bed and sits.)

LUCY

A little more all-inclusive than I needed.

(The lights fade to black.)