

NIKO SIDES (Massacre)

This is a short story with a narrator, two main characters (Niko and Hannah) as well as other minor characters. There are two short scenes. These scenes have been condensed. The right actor will be comfortable speaking Spanish. An actor could use an accent or not.

NIKO – a gay, Latina woman in her early 20s, working as an assistant at Ashmir Development. Her mother died six months ago. She and Hannah are close friends.

CHARLES – Niko's boss

RICK – just some guy

SCENE 1: in Charles' office at Ashmir Development LLC

CHARLES

Please sit down

NARRATOR

Once she was seated he seemed to look at her for the first time. Concern broke out on his face before he relaxed it away.

CHARLES

Everything ok?

NIKO

Yeah.

(clears throat)

CHARLES

Ok. *(beat)* Niko, your ... *(long pause)*

May I ask what is your heritage?"

NIKO

My heritage?

CHARLES

Well, yes. Where are your parents from?

NARRATOR

The stone she kept in the pit of her belly suddenly shot into her throat.

NIKO

My father died when I was two and my mother...

NARRATOR

She took a deep breath but it was too late. She could feel the tears careening down her cheeks.

NIKO

Sorry. (*beat*) She died a few months ago

CHARLES

I'm sorry.

NIKO

She'd been sick for a long time. Cancer. It's hereditary, I guess. I should probably get checked, right?

CHARLES

Do you need a moment?

NIKO

Thanks. No. Sorry. Still kind of... Sorry. You asked about my race?

CHARLES

If that's how you define it.

NARRATOR

Niko dabbed at her nose. It was times like this that reminded her she was swimming in a white, corporate sea.

NIKO

My father was Puerto Rican and my mother was Cuban, so I guess you could say I'm Latina, or Hispanic, or whatever.

CHARLES

Ok. Thank you for sharing that with me. I just wanted to check in with you in the case you had... More Native American heritage.

NIKO

Ah, yes.

CHARLES

Of course it wouldn't have been an issue if you had been. We just wanted to be sensitive to our employee's feelings. Check-in with you.

NIKO

I understand.

SCENE 2: At a salsa club in Boston

NARRATOR

He said his name was Rick. She shrugged her shoulders.

NIKO

No hablo ingles

RICK

Hablo un poco

NARRATOR

When the dance was done he kept her hand.

RICK

Un mas

NARRATOR

He said and she agreed without smiling. He pressed against her thigh as he dipped her. He held her hand as she walked toward the door. What the hell, Niko thought. Desire is desire. They diverted to the bathroom. His hands swirled around her. They grabbed at her flesh, squeezed, infiltrated, but she was far away, tucked inside the eye of a tornado, sacrificing her body to the winds.

RICK

Estas bien? Che es problema?

NIKO

Si, claro... Todo esta bien. I just think it's time for me to stop doing things I don't want to do.

RICK

What the fuck!

NARRATOR

Niko felt herself start to smile, the first genuine smile she'd had in a long time. He zipped up his jeans.

RICK

Crazy bitch

NIKO

(laughing)

Adios