

SALSAHOLICO SIDES

This is a short story written in the second person. The right actor will narrate and perform the text with grit, but not change it. Think Riz Ahmed. An actor should also be comfortable pronouncing Spanish as there is dialogue and phrases of Spanish throughout the piece. Raaj is Indian but an accent is not necessary. I'm open to actors using authentic Indian accents as a choice.

RAAJ – a troubled man in his mid-20s who is obsessed with Salsa dancing and music. He grew up in Maine and his parents are from India.

Your girl doesn't call. Why would she? You haven't heard from her in five days. She isn't your girl. She was never your girl. Yesenia made that strikingly clear the last time you *did* speak, outside *Son Havana* in Back Bay, when she was drunk and said you were a pendejo and you told her you didn't speak Spanish. She laughed at you then. It hit you low in the chest. Yesenia's laugh, mocking, sweet, it tunneled into the hollow of your rib cage. Your fist shot out and slammed into the brick wall beside her. You weren't aiming for her, but she ran anyway. So you shouldn't be surprised, should you? Your girl's not going to call.

You've been in Cambridge for almost a year, as much time as you'd need to get a good internship at a good law firm to get a good spot at a good law school. At least that's what you told your Amma. Law school at Harvard is prestigious thing, you argued, and wasn't that something she could report back to all the Aunties in India? You did land a job. A small firm in Somerville used to pay you ten bucks an hour to organize data into neat little spreadsheets. That was before you found salsa. You told your boss it was your REASON FOR LIVING when he rode you about showing up late. Still, you didn't get fired till you called him a racist. But it doesn't matter, not as long as you're out of Maine and that house your Dad bought when he moved the family from Kerala. The house Amma keeps dark, with at least one window open all year round. She says the cold is good for you, conditions the blood, but she never used to do that when your Dad was alive.