

Pablo's Confession
a monologue

Gordon Blitz



A bare stage, a young man faces the audiences, he's on his cell phone, the call ends, and PABLO is talking to the audiences as if it is his lover.

PABLO

Oh, that was Bernardo. He wants to go rent bicycles, and, get this, we would start at Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades and take the trail all the way to Venice Beach. I would ask you to go with us, but I know your knees can't handle bicycling.

Pause as if PABLO hears his lover wants to talk to him about something serious

PABLO

Uh . . . can't it wait until I get back from the beach. Bernardo wants me at his place at eleven. . . . Are you accusing me of something, Isaac? Do you have a problem with me being friends with Bernardo? I thought you were happy I had someone else to rely on besides you. I don't want to talk about this. I have to meet him now. Goodbye.

Lights dim and then come up. Four hours have passed. PABLO is sweaty and returned from the beach. PABLO uses a towel to wipe away the sweat and grabs a glass of ice water.

PABLO

Isaac, wow, our bicycle trip was amazing! . . . Look, I've wanted to talk you about Bernardo for a while now, but I couldn't get up the courage. Yes, I *have* been spending a lot of time with him. Frankly, your traveling was getting to me. And I know we tried doing things together like reading the same book or watching the same movie, even though we were in different cities. And you were tired when you would get home from your trips. Plus, on the mornings you were traveling, you went to bed really early because you had to get up at four in the morning to catch a flight. I was lonely. I should have talked to you about it. I just didn't want to bother you. You seemed really happy getting away from your desk. Anyway, I liked spending time with Bernardo because we had that Hispanic connection. And we liked the same music -- Ricky Martin and Prince. Yes, you're going to say that you kept up with current artists, but I could tell that you would rather be listening to old Motown or Broadway stuff. And don't get me wrong. I really

don't care about the generation gap. It's not important to me.

PABLO pauses, pours more water into a glass and sips.

PABLO

Then out of nowhere, Bernardo would tell me about all these guys he dated and his sexual experiences. I felt really uncomfortable when he was bragging about his conquests especially because you're the only person I've ever slept with. And I was afraid to tell him that. But he kinda' guessed and said, 'I can see you really love Issac, but haven't you ever wondered what it would like to have sex with someone your own age and who is Latin? You're so young, and to never have had sex with anyone else? I mean, you're like a girl from the 1950s who waited to have sex until she got married, and that was it. To go through your whole life without any experiences! It would be a crime!' I didn't know what to say. I wondered what was going on, and then he tried to kiss me, but I turned away, so he only kissed my cheek. Now, I understood. Before I could do anything else, he grabbed hold of me and started to unzip my pants. I was so torn. I didn't know what to do. But I have to be honest with you, Issac. I was getting turned on.

PABLO stops and is about to leave the stage to run after his lover.

PABLO

Don't walk away, Issac. It's like when you tell me not to throw a tantrum. Just hear me out. Bernardo was so different from you. You are so gentle and slow and sensual, never forcing yourself on me. You always ask what I want to do. He was rough, and I almost felt like I was being attacked, but I *enjoyed* it. At the same time I knew it was wrong. I love you so much. I didn't want to do anything that would jeopardize our relationship. I pushed him away and told him I didn't want to do this. I have a lover. He looked surprised and said, 'I thought this is what you wanted. You were giving me signs that you wanted sex.' I couldn't remember ever telling him that. I firmly told him 'No!' and that if he tried again, we couldn't be friends anymore. He smiled and said he understood. This thing with Bernardo happened a month ago. We still

saw each other in conversion class at the temple but haven't really done much outside of class. I guess it was awkward.

PABLO, clenches his fist so that the whites of his knuckles appear. He walks around the stage until he calms down.

PABLO

I was so mad at you this morning, Isaac. To actually be accused again; you thinking that I would cheat on you, someone whom I love. In a way I was glad Bernardo called this morning, I needed to get out of here. Clear my head. I was afraid I might have said something awful to you. Halfway through the day, we found a safe place to lock our rented bikes near the Venice Canals. On that first trip we had missed the Venice Boardwalk and the Canals. Bernardo said it was one of his favorite places. I felt like I was in another country. So serene. And all those different bridges. Every house had a dock and some kind of boat. We must have spent an hour strolling. And when we found a private spot, I grabbed Bernardo's hand and said I really liked him.

PABLO stops, tries to take breaths but they are shallow.

PABLO

At first when I kissed him, it felt so strange; his tongue and smell were so different. I'd never kissed anyone besides you, Issac. The newness got me excited. But then when Bernardo grabbed my crotch, I got scared. He could tell I was shaking, and I started to cry.

PABLO pauses and cries.

PABLO

Then Bernardo stopped and said, 'No, you were right. I can see how much you love Issac. I don't want to be responsible for you guys breaking up. I know you're mad at him, but go back and tell him why you're angry. God, you should be lucky you have someone. I'm twenty-six, and I've never had a steady boyfriend. Just hookups.' I worried about him being safe, but he assured me that he always used a condom. Thank god, he was a *mensch* -- that's the right word isn't it? So I didn't do anything really stupid. I wonder if

you'll say that we should have make-up sex now, but for now can we just cuddle? It's one of my favorite things we do together.

PABLO runs off stage into the audience.