CONQUISTADOR

By Sam del Rosario

WOMAN: South Asian or Asian. A nice, normal, headstrong girl.

CONQUISTADOR: Asian or Non-White. Wearing a Conquistador helmet and a Conquistador-appropriate moustache. Overly confident and not a little creepy.

WOMAN IS SITTING AT A TABLE HAVING A DRINK AND READING A BOOK. CONQUISTADOR WALKS IN, TAKES A BEAT TO NOTICE HER, THEN STARTS TO MAKE A MOVE.

CONQUISTADOR

Good evening. Is this seat taken?

WOMAN

Actually, I...

CONQUISTADOR

The pleasure is all mine. I could not help but notice you from across the room. Your eyes, your hair, your lips. Everything about you compelled me to go from there to here. And your scent; it's something that is so mysterious, something that adds to your allure. I must know. What is that perfume you are wearing?

WOMAN

It's secret.

CONQUISTADOR

You are too coy. Your scent conjures up visions of waterfalls and rare flowers, fertile untouched corners of the earth, kimchi and ancient sexual positions passed down from virgin to virgin.

WOMAN

No, it's Secret. Powder Fresh Scent.

CONQUISTADOR

Secret, you say? Well, on you, it's an enigma. (pause for a beat). You haven't told me your name.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

    WOMAN
    I know.

    CONquistador
    I must know. Let me guess.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Asia?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Kiana?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Mulan?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Jade?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Chun Li?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Rupal?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Kama Sutra?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Leilani?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Ginseng?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Darjeeling?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Aloe?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Vera?
    Woman
    No.

CONquistador (CONT'D)
Pocohontas?
    Woman
    What the...? No!

CONquistador (CONT'D)
So, then tell me.

Woman
(sighs) Anna.
CONTINUED: (2)

CONQUISTADOR

Anna...

WOMAN

Anna.

CONQUISTADOR

Is that it?

WOMAN

What do you mean, is that it?

CONQUISTADOR

It's just that in my country, Anna is so... plain.

WOMAN

Listen, jackass, in my country, this country...

CONQUISTADOR

(interrupting) Oh, of course! You must be named after the Cambodian goddess of harvest, Aninu!

WOMAN

You need to go.

CONQUISTADOR

But we're just getting to know each other.

WOMAN

What, you think you know me because you watched Memoirs of a Geisha or, or you can use chopsticks or, or know what baba ganoush is?

CONQUISTADOR

(thinking) Squash?

WOMAN

Eggplant!!

CONQUISTADOR.

(to himself) eggplant, eggplant.

WOMAN

Look, I'm not going to be your concubine, your cherry blossom, your harvest moon goddess. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
WOMAN (CONT'D)
You think you're the first guy to play the exotic card? Please. I REALLY think you need to go.

CONquistador
(breaking character) Ok, I'm sorry. Look. I know. This is ridiculous. This isn't really me.
(takes off helmet and moustache)
It's just that... women... women I find interesting, tend not to go for guys that look, well, like me.

[It will be necessary to modify the next line to accommodate the actor's ethnicity. -- sdr]

CONquistador (CONT'D)
I just figure I'll have a better chance if I'm less... Asian.

WOMAN
Ok, listen, do you just want to start over?

CONquistador
That'd be great.

WOMAN
I'm Anna. (sticks out her hand)

CONquistador
Cortez.

WOMAN
Nice to meet you.

Awkward silence for a few beats.

CONquistador
Um... (trying to find something to talk about) Hey! did you see the [Cubs] game last night

WOMAN
No, I'm actually a [Sox] fan and -

CONquistador
(interrupting) Oh, it was GREAT! [(improvising) goes on for a couple beats to talk excitedly about the game]
WOMAN
Do you want to get something to eat?

CONQUISTADOR
Sure!

WOMAN
[(improvising) I know this great little vegan coop just down the street. It's actually where I siphon the used vegetable oil from the dumpster to power my biodiesel Beemer. Nothing like beating the system, ya know.] Oh, and maybe I could pick up my kids on the way.

At the mention of her children, CONQUISTADOR slowly gets up and moves away from the set, off stage, through and past the audience. WOMAN continues talking, eventually getting out of her chair, talking louder and louder at him the farther away he gets.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
[I mean, we'd have to make a couple stops. My son, Carmen, he goes to the alternative school across town, and I have to sign him out with my fingerprint, and Lola, my little angel, she's at the Terrible Twos Daycare Center just a few blocks away.] I just have to bring her the extra battery for her WHEELCHAIR!...

CONQUISTADOR exits. WOMAN calmly settles back into her chair and back to her book.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
(after a couple beats)
Works every time.

SCENE