

THE DEUCE (by Diana Yanez)

INT. THE DEUCE

It is 1986 and The Deuce Bar is the last gritty local joint floating in a sea of fancy South Beach nouveau riche bars and hotels.

ARIANA (20s) a big-haired New Jersey born Cuban sits alone at the bar nursing one of 2 drinks she has in front of her.

GUSTAVO (20s) a cute Latino guy and a Miami Beach fashionista, enters the bar haphazard and harried. He is at once relieved and annoyed to see Ariana.

GUSTAVO

Ariana. What the hell? I thought it was an emergency!

ARIANA

How would you know if it ain't?

GUSTAVO

Well you're not bleeding out and I don't see any bruising.

ARIANA

Of course you can't see anything, it's my heart that's been ripped out.

GUSTAVO

Apparently, you don't need that particular organ to sit here and drink Cuba Libres.

ARIANA

(indicating other drink)  
I got you one.  
(then)  
Carlos broke up with me.

GUSTAVO

(mad at her then,)  
Get the frack out!

ARIANA

He did.

GUSTAVO

You said you hated him.

ARIANA

I do. But the bastard beat me to it and now I double hate him.

GUSTAVO

This is your friggin' emergency?

ARIANA

What's wrong with me, Gustavo? Why can't I get a guy to love me? Why don't I ever have a great guy like you, huh? ...Who's straight.

GUSTAVO

If I have to explain that to you again, I will seriously never go shopping with you ever.

ARIANA

You're perfect except for the cruel threats.

GUSTAVO

You'd dress like a chimp if it wasn't for me.

ARIANA

I wish I was a gay man!

She starts searching her large hand bag.

GUSTAVO

At least, you get to have boyfriends.

ARIANA

It's about quantity not quality.

GUSTAVO

No wonder your mother threw you out.

(noticing her search)

What the hell are you looking for?

ARIANA

This.

She produces a large can of "Aquanet" hair spray.

GUSTAVO

Oh my god, I just saw the alternate universe version of you. You as a gay man and you're the biggest drag queen on earth.

ARIANA  
I'm down, I need a lift.

Ariana bends at her waste and flips her head over so she can thoroughly spray her hair from the bottom up.

GUSTAVO  
A hair *lift*?

ARIANA  
(from under her hair)  
It's symbolic and it makes me feel better.

GUSTAVO  
Maybe you can spray your next boyfriend into your hair. He'd never get away... Till they cut him free... With wire cutters....

ARIANA  
(from under her hair)  
What?

A HANDSOME STRANGER walks into the bar. He silently takes at seat across the bar from them. Ariana hasn't seen him yet.

GUSTAVO  
(reacting to him)  
Ho, ho, ho.

ARIANA  
Stop calling me a ho. Ho's actually get the added bonus of money for sex.

GUSTAVO  
No, I mean, ho, ho, ho - it's Christmas morning. 2 o'clock; other end of the bar.

She sees him.

ARIANA  
It's an angel!

GUSTAVO  
It's a devil!

ARIANA  
I saw him first!

STEFANO  
I saw him first!

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)  
 No Ariana, I *literally* saw him  
 first. Remember the "Ho, ho, ho"?

Ariana answers him with a quick Aquanet spray in his face.  
 Gustavo shrieks.

Ariana approaches the Handsome Stranger.

ARIANA  
 (to Handsome Stranger)  
 Hi.

Right behind her is Gustavo still struggling to breath.

GUSTAVO  
 (to Handsome Stranger)  
 Hi.

The Handsome Stranger responds by giving both of them the  
 once over which sends chills down both Ariana and Gustavo's  
 smile. With a sexy smile, he slyly gestures for them to  
 follow him outside as steps away from the bar and heads for  
 the exit.

Ariana and Gustavo are shocked, then they call after him.

Whore!	ARIANA	Stefano	Whore!
--------	--------	---------	--------

ARIANA  
 (calling after HS)  
 Forget it! We're friends not  
 swingers!

GUSTAVO  
 (calling after HS)  
 I will never get near this woman's  
 privates even with you in between!

ARIANA  
 Wow. Really?

GUSTAVO  
 You kidding me? Please. If I saw  
 you doing the horizontal mambo I'd  
 get PTSD.

They return to their drinks and mull over the guy.

ARIANA  
 What a jerk.

GUSTAVO  
Yeah, total let down.

ARIANA  
Y'know, he probably is a  
prostitute. That was quite the  
sales pitch.

GUSTAVO  
Yeah, money for services rendered.

They realize that he was indeed a sex worker.

Suddenly they race to gather their things.

ARIANA  
Loan me \$20 bucks!

GUSTAVO  
Loan me \$20 bucks!

Then,

ARIANA  
No - \$50!

GUSTAVO  
No - \$50!

They push and shove each other out of the way, trying to get  
out before the other.

ARIANA  
Dibs!

GUSTAVO  
Oh no you don't!

He pulls her back but she sprays him the face again. She  
runs out as Gustavo struggles to recover.

GUSTAVO (CONT'D)  
I saw him first, you HO!

He chases after her.