

**FOLDING DANICA**  
**By Chima Chikazunga**

CAST BREAKDOWN

CHELSEA: 25, Asian

DANICA: 25, Latina

**Laundromat. Night. Danica is folding clothes. Enter Chelsea.**

DANICA

Thanks for coming by. My friends still think it's weird we live so close.

CHELSEA

Mine too. I was just walking in the door when I got your text. ...So what's up?

DANICA

I was here thinking of you and well, today's the 5th.

CHELSEA

So?

DANICA

9/11 is next week... Look, Chel, I'm not tryin to upset you if this is a sore subject.

CHELSEA

It's not. You're fine.

DANICA

Are you sure? Because if it's a problem you can tell me.

CHELSEA

What is it you want to know?

DANICA

What was he like? Do you think he would've liked me?

CHELSEA

I like you, isn't that enough.

DANICA

Of course. But I'm just curious what you think.

CHELSEA

I'd like to say he would. I mean, my mom does and practically set us up so...

DANICA

True.

CHELSEA

His death wasn't easy for me. It's the reason I go to therapy. It's been rough. I'm definitely a daddy's girl.

DANICA

I would've thought you were a mommy's girl.

CHELSEA

My mother and I are only close because of his death.

DANICA

You weren't close before.

CHELSEA

Not really. She worked a lot and I was always around him.

DANICA

Interesting.

CHELSEA

People say that's where I get my sense of humor.

DANICA

Your what?

CHELSEA

Cute. Don't play dumb. You laughed at my joke about the cannibals on our first date.

DANICA

Yeah that shit was hilarious, and unexpected.

CHELSEA

My dad was always finding humor in things...It's funny. On the day I found out he died, obviously I couldn't sleep. I was restless- if you can imagine...I remember the night before the funeral. I had this dream... I was standing alone in a backyard on a hot summer night gazing at a full moon. All I did was stand there, looking into the abyss... and right before I woke up, I get a tap on my shoulder... " It'll be ok. I'm still here." I woke up and cried... but I felt safe.

DANICA

Wow... that's deep. But this doesn't sound like you.

CHELSEA

What do you mean? I bring that dream up all the time in therapy.

DANICA

It's just...What does your mom think of that story? Never mind. I'm glad she introduced us Chelsea.

CHELSEA

Me too but she doesn't know. But yeah... Your turn. Who do you favor, mom or dad?

DANICA

I didn't tell you I grew up in an orphanage? Never got adopted.

CHELSEA

I'm so sorry.

DANICA

My best friend, well he's my brother. The only family I've ever had. He didn't get adopted either and we always stayed together. Part of the reason things never worked out. We were like a package deal. Sometimes, one would get adopted and they would take us both but then something would happen. Dumb stuff, out of our control... and how did we get on this? Sorry for rambling... but yeah, we never met our parents.

CHELSEA

We? Siblings? Oh wow, I had no idea. Wait...You could track them down.

DANICA

For what? They could have done the same if they wanted.

CHELSEA

Hold that thought, I need to call my mom.

DANICA

Go for it Daddy's Girl. I'll see you around.

CHELSEA

Wait no, it's not like that. What's wrong with you?

DANICA

Nothing.

CHELSEA

No what is it? Tell me.

DANICA

Nothing I'm fine. It's getting late. I should probably head out.

CHELSEA

I'm here, talk to me Dani. What's on your mind?

DANICA

Do you think you're better than me?

CHELSEA

What?! Of course not.

DANICA

Hearing you say I should go search for them. Like I'm hopeless.

CHELSEA

That's not what I meant by that at all.

DANICA

Really?

CHELSEA

Yes, please, you have to believe me.

DANICA

Ok. I didn't think so but I had to ask, nobody's promised tomorrow. Either of us could go to bed and never wake up.

CHELSEA

Where's this coming from D? This isn't you.

DANICA

It's me. You've changed.

CHELSEA

Now I've changed? How?

DANICA

You used to excite me. When you'd walk in the room, I'd always feel something in my stomach. Nerves or butterflies, who knows what you call it but it was always there when I looked at you.

CHELSEA

So they weren't there today?

DANICA

No, they were...but you weren't. You're aura, your glow it's off. There used to be a time when I could look at you and I knew.

CHELSEA

Knew what?

**Suddenly Chelsea's cell phone rings.**

CHELSEA

I'm sorry, one sec. (to the phone) Hello? Yeah, can I call you right back, I'm kinda in the middle of something. Huh? What? No I'm busy- ok fine make it quick.

**Danica, frustrated, grabs her bag of laundry and slams it on the ground. She lets out silent scream, Chelsea shocked as Danica grabs bag and heads out.**

CHELSEA

Dani wait! (to phone) I'll call you back.

Danica stops. Danica wipes tears

CHELSEA

You called me for a reason. I mean it's not like this is the first time we've broken up. But it is the longest we've been part...What's up? Why are you crying?

DANICA

There's a lot you don't know.

CHELSEA

Like what?

DANICA

I should go.

CHELSEA

Look I know we kinda got off topic when I got here but I'm here now. I'll listen. Go ahead...

DANICA

Actually, I kinda don't want to think about it.

CHELSEA

Ok. You don't have to.

DANICA

It's just strange not knowing, you know?

CHELSEA

Knowing what?

DANICA

The choices we make in life.

CHELSEA

Well you made one good one today. You called me. Well you texted me. Still counts.

DANICA

Because I was curious if you'd come, curious if I'd tell you.

CHELSEA

So you gonna tell me?

DANICA

You'll say I'm being dramatic.

CHELSEA

No I won't. I mean whatever you want to tell me..

DANICA

Fine...Did they look at me and think I wasn't gonna be a good daughter?

CHELSEA

Of course not. You can't blame yourself for not knowing them.

DANICA

Why can't I? They knew what they were doing. I'm not gonna make the same mistakes as them.

CHELSEA

Don't talk like that.

DANICA

Like what? It's the truth. Besides, you don't know what it's like want to-

CHELSEA

-to start a family on your own terms? I'm all ears. What you're doing is a beautiful thing.

**Chelsea takes Danica's laundry bag and dumps it on the table, starts folding. Suddenly, Danica starts crying. Chelsea goes to her, they hug as lights shift to a small spotlight on Chelsea.**

CHELSEA

And I remember just holding her. She even got me to cry. I don't know why but we both needed it. It felt good. Strangely enough, we didn't really talk. It'd be 4 months until we did... to my surprise she was in the hospital.

**Lights shift to full. Danica, in a hospital bed, bald. Chelsea in doorway**

CHELSEA

Knock knock Little Alchemist.

DANICA

You came. Awe, you remembered.

CHELSEA

Why wouldn't I... you called and I missed you. How are you feeling?

DANICA

Chemo helps the pain- sometimes. Thinking about what I'm leaving behind.

CHELSEA

I wish I could've made you feel safe. I should've paid more attention to your spells.

DANICA

You did... you're here.

CHELSEA

That's not what I meant. It's been 4 months since that day, in the laundry mat. I could've...I don't know why I was so stubborn.

DANICA

Don't, I was. Let's not, ok? For what it's worth I did miss your touch. But sometimes we just need someone to listen.

CHELSEA

This place has a connection to certain experiences. Born in one of these places might as well die in one.

DANICA

You don't see me as I do you? Never mind. I don't want to argue.

CHESLEA

We're not arguing but let's be honest that day, in the laundry mat. If you told me... do you think I'd be here now? Or would you have taken that phone call. (no response. Wipes a tear) Look at you now...your belly, it's so big.

DANICA

There's no way you could've known. And I'm glad you showed up, even though I was kind of acting like a douche.

CHELSEA

No Dani, listen. So was I.

DANICA

Hey...can you just lay with me...visiting hours are done soon and-

**Before she can finish, Chelsea is in bed with her. They cuddle for a minute. It's soft, and needed. Suddenly...**

DANICA

Thank you. You smell nice. Hey Chel...do you have your phone?

CHELSEA

Yeah, why? Oh you want to hear that song?

DANICA

How'd you know? Would you play it? I miss you holding me.

CHELSEA

Shhhhh...you have a heart of gold. Always have. Let me play this for you and we'll let magic turn mine into yours so we'll be one.

**Chelsea takes out her phone and plays <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gikGLzkKElw> from her phone. We hear a bit as lights fade to black. End of play.**