

The Sunshine State

A short play

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CHARACTERS

ROSA - she/her, any age.

FLORIDA - any gender, any age.

LOCATION

A big office at a PR firm

TIME

May 2023

SCENE

A big office at a PR firm.

ROSA is sitting at a desk. FLORIDA stands in the doorway, not wanting to go in.

ROSA
Will you please sit down?

FLORIDA
...

ROSA
Please?

FLORIDA
No.

ROSA
Come on, just sit down.

FLORIDA
I don't want to!

ROSA
Okay, why don't we just -
Do you need some refreshment?
A coffee? A tea?

FLORIDA
Don't want anything.

ROSA
All right.
Could you at least come all the way into the room.

FLORIDA
Why should I?

ROSA

I don't know how we're supposed to do this meeting if you're going to hover in the doorway like that.

FLORIDA

I don't want to have this meeting at all!
I don't see the point of it!

ROSA

Will you just sit down?

FLORIDA

I'll sit when I want to sit!

ROSA

Fine.
Then we'll just wait.

Beat.

FLORIDA takes two steps into the room and plops down on the floor.

ROSA

Close enough.
Florida? You okay down there?

FLORIDA

No, I'm not okay!

ROSA

Okay. Do you want to tell me what's going on?

FLORIDA

Oh, I don't know.
Have you opened up your phone at any point in the last week?
Hell, the last half century?!

ROSA

It's been a tough time, we acknowledge -

FLORIDA

I am a JOKE.

ROSA
You're not a joke.

FLORIDA
Hahahahahahaha!
That's funny.

ROSA
Look -

FLORIDA
You should've gone into comedy, not PR.

ROSA
Can we get back on track here -

FLORIDA
You know who's been laughing at me?
Alabama.
Kentucky.
Idaho.

ROSA
Well, we all know that they are -

FLORIDA
IDAHO LAUGHED AT ME
IDAHO

ROSA
You can't take any of those clowns seriously -

FLORIDA
And what's worse is that I see their point!
Do you see their point, Rosa?
Huh? Do you?

ROSA
I mean -

FLORIDA
I've got DeSantis - who might actually be the actual devil - running things and running his mouth and ruining my reputation!

My reputation which - let's be honest here - was already hanging by a fucking thread to begin in with before that fuckwad motor mouth came to power!

ROSA

Yes well -

FLORIDA

His stupid anti-immigration bill that he somehow managed to pass doesn't even go into effect until later this summer but surprise, surprise! It's already causing problems! People are literally moving away, not working, and there are empty job sites all over. My crops are blistering in the heat and rotting in my fields because of his targeted anti-immigration bullshit!
Oranges, strawberries, grapes, tomatoes, watermelons -

ROSA

Sweet potatoes -

FLORIDA

Whose going to pick my crops?
Who?

ROSA

Well, we have been encouraging the farmers to hire local Americans to -

FLORIDA

Those pussies?
They show up late, they barely make it to lunch, they don't work fast enough -

ROSA

There's a learning curve here -

FLORIDA

They quit after one day!
One day!

ROSA

Okay.

FLORIDA

Have you seen Hispanic Tiktok?
They are calling for an all-out boycott starting on June 1st!

You know what they're boycotting?
ME.

ROSA

We're aware of the situation and -

FLORIDA

Are you?
That's great because I want to know what the fuck you plan to do about it!

ROSA

Our team has been working diligently -

FLORIDA

Do you know what June 1st?

ROSA

The start of June?

FLORIDA

The beginning of the hurricane season.

ROSA

Oh.

FLORIDA

Truck drivers are boycotting me.
Landscapers.
Childcare workers.
Construction workers.
Tell me this - whose gonna repair all the damage done by hurricanes this season?
Hmm????

ROSA

We are hopeful that -

FLORIDA

And Disney.
Disney, Disney -

FLORIDA curls up on the floor.

ROSA

I need you to breathe -

FLORIDA

My crown jewel.

They're leaving.

ROSA

They're not leaving entirely -

FLORIDA

They were supposed to build a huge \$1 billion development site but now they aren't because of - guess who?

ROSA

I know, it's bad right now -

FLORIDA

No, no, I want you to guess.

It's just so fun.

Guess. Who.

ROSA

I know who, I'm not playing this game -

FLORIDA

DeSantis again!

ROSA

Yes -

FLORIDA

And you know where they're going?

ROSA

Florida, don't go down that road, you know how much it hurts when you talk about -

FLORIDA

CALIFORNIA

My fucking nemesis, "the Golden State."

What's so golden about California anyway?

ROSA

It's not healthy to be so fixated on California, your therapist told you -

FLORIDA

California.

All cool and hip and...cool.

No wonder Disney is going there! And leaving me behind!

ROSA

(to herself)

I need an antacid.

FLORIDA

I am the goddamn Sunshine State!

And I think it can be argued that sunshine is better than gold.

You can live without gold, but you can't live without sunshine.

ROSA

That's very true, which is why you are the superior one here -

FLORIDA

Don't blow smoke up my ass, Rosa.

What's so sunshiny about a place that has rotting crops, fleeing migrant workers, and the stupidest man on the planet as Governor?

And I haven't even started talking about the book burning, the targeting of queer people, the KKK, and *Florida Man* -

ROSA

We've talked about this.

You can't take the whole Florida Man thing so seriously, it's a basically a meme.

FLORIDA

Yeah, a meme that mocks me.

ROSA

Okay!

Okay.

I feel like we've just had a great purge of negativity, which is good. I know it can be a bit disheartening, but this spiraling isn't helping you and it isn't helping.

FLORIDA

Whatever.

ROSA

Wouldn't you agree?

FLORIDA

.....I guess.

ROSA

Great. Then let's talk a path forward.

Can you do that with me, Florida? I'm on your team here.

FLORIDA

Fine.

ROSA

We were thinking about a rebranding campaign.

We take the idea of the Sunshine State and we turn it up a few notches.

We highlight all your natural splendor, the beaches, the wildlife.

The sexy nightlife.

Magical times at Disney world.

Harry Potter Land!

FLORIDA

(muttering to himself)

Universal Studios...

ROSA

The fact that the very popular TV show *Dexter* was shot in Miami.

FLORIDA

.....you know what? I've got a better idea.

Just let me fall into the sea.

The sea is already lapping greedily at my shores.

Can't we do something to just speed up the process?

ROSA

Florida -

FLORIDA

Just let the waves drag me under and be forgotten!

ROSA

That's not -

FLORIDA

And I'll take DeSantis down with me!

ROSA

Enough!

Now. I understand you're upset, but that is not the right solution here.

FLORIDA

Oh no?

ROSA

No, it isn't.

FLORIDA

Well.

You're fired.

ROSA

.....what?!

FLORIDA

Yeah. You're fired.

I'm so tired of coming here, telling you my problems, and then you pat me on the head and are like, "oh Florida that's terrible, here are eight solutions that don't actually solve anything of substance."

And *Dexter* was shot in California.

ROSA

Oh. Was it?

FLORIDA

Yes.

It was just set in Miami.

ROSA

Are you sure because -

FLORIDA

You can't even tell the difference between me and California so why you don't just work for him, then?

ROSA

Florida, I'm sorry that -

FLORIDA

No!

I'm done with you and I'm done with your PR firm, so you can just get out!

ROSA

.....this is my office.

FLORIDA

Oh. Right.

Then I'm leaving!

FLORIDA huffs out.

ROSA stands there for a moment, then pulls out her phone to make a call.

ROSA

(into her phone)

Johnny? Hey, it's Rosa!

Can you call California and see if he'd take a meeting with us?

Great. Thanks.

She hangs up.

BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY