

Setting the Record Straight

A 10 Minute Play

By Andrea Ortiz

Characters:

LUISA: the daughter

MOTHER: Luisa's parent

RENNY: Luisa's other parent

MOTHER and RENNY sit patiently as they converse, waiting for a certain someone to come home. LUISA walks in through the door. Both MOTHER and RENNY stand.

LUISA: Mom! Renny! I'm- woah.

MOTHER: Hi sweetie, how was your day?

LUISA: Good but... why are you guys standing there like that?

RENNY: Well we were waiting for you.

LUISA: Oh my god did I do something?

MOTHER: No honey it's just... here. Come have a seat.

LUISA goes to take a seat as MOTHER and RENNY sit.

LUISA: Oh my god what did I do?

MOTHER: Nothing! Nothing. Seriously you didn't do *anything* wrong. We just...

MOTHER looks over at RENNY.

RENNY: We just wanted to let you know that if you have something to say or have certain thoughts, or... *feel* a certain way, know that we are here for you.

MOTHER: Yes, yes. We are always here to listen darling.

LUISA: Do you think I'm hiding something from you?

RENNY: No, no! That's not what we're saying at all.

MOTHER: Not at all!

Pause.

RENNY: It's just that...

MOTHER: It's just that we've noticed things about you. Things that are...

RENNY: Different! Different from... other people.

MOTHER: Yes! Yes. Different.

RENNY: And there's nothing wrong with that! Absolutely nothing wrong with it.

MOTHER: Absolutely nothing. In fact I always thought of us as a very open-minded family.

RENNY: Oh definitely!

MOTHER: And so we just wanted to let you know that we love you honey. No matter what, you are our child and we love you for who you are. Nothing can change that.

They smile at LUISA.

LUISA: Um... thank you but I still don't understand why we're sitting here.

RENNY: Oh! Um... okay, um... I guess I will say it, um... Luisa we... um... We wanted to ask you... um... We know, um... We've all gone through this phase before and... we just-

MOTHER: OH MY GOD I'LL JUST SAY IT. Luisa, are you straight?

LUISA: (*stills*) What?

MOTHER: Are you straight? Do you like boys? Are you a heterosexual?

LUISA: What? No. No! Wait. What!? You- You think I'm straight? Is this because I told you I didn't want to play basketball anymore?

RENNY: What? Nooo, it's not that.

Luisa gives them a look.

RENNY: Okay yes, yes it is.

MOTHER: But it's not only that. It's other things, too.

RENNY: Yes, other things.

MOTHER: And I feel like we've always kind of known.

RENNY: Ever since you were little we always noticed something different about you. It took us a while to figure it out but the signs were so obviously there.

MOTHER: Since you were in kindergarten you've refused to wear flannel.

LUISA: It's ugly!

RENNY: And one time when I suggested we rent a U-Haul you went on a rant about how much you hated them.

LUISA: Penske truck rental is much more ethical!

MOTHER: And you don't even like cats. Cats!?

RENNY: Cats are so cute!

LUISA: I'm allergic.

MOTHER: Hm, I bet that's not the only type of cat you're allergic to.

RENNY: Oh! That's not-

MOTHER: Oh, and I remember how excited I was to get you your first carabiner. I thought you were going to love it but instead you threw it away!

RENNY: Oof, I remember that.

MOTHER: Yeah. It broke my heart a little but now I understand why you did it, and it's okay honey. I get it now.

RENNY: Yeah, we learned our lesson there.

LUISA: Wait. Hold up. Wait a second. You guys think I'm straight because of a stupid carabiner!?

MOTHER: See, that's what a straight person would say.

RENNY: No, no it's not that honey it's... do you even like Joan Jett?

LUISA: She's okay.

RENNY: Well how about Tracey Chapman? Chavela Vargas? Kehlani?

LUISA: ...I-

MOTHER: Aha! See!?

LUISA: What? No! Just because I don't listen to them doesn't mean I'm straight. I mean- I listen to Taylor Swift, and you guys know how much I *love* Taylor Swift.

MOTHER: (*inhaling deeply*) Oh sweet Sappho.

RENNY: Luisa. Girls who listen to Taylor Swift don't listen to her because they're gay. They listen to her because they're...

LUISA sees what RENNY is getting at.

LUISA: No, no, no. You've got it all wrong.

MOTHER: Well if we're wrong then why do you have a poster of Jacob Elordi in your room?

LUISA: He's just... a really good actor.

RENNY: He's shirtless on the poster.

LUISA: I admire his work ethic.

RENNY: Sweetie. I get that some queer girls like men but the question is do you even like women? You've pushed yourself away from them without you even realizing it. All these things you do point to this.

LUISA: What? No. Just because I don't like the same things you do doesn't make me straight. Plenty of queer people don't like those things either.

MOTHER: Well, I guess that's true. I don't even like it when Renny takes me to Lowes.

RENNY: Wait, you don't like going to Lowes?

MOTHER: I... *love* spending time with you.

LUISA: My point still stands.

MOTHER: Yes, but sweetie it's different with you.

LUISA: Different? Why is it different with me?

MOTHER: Luisa. Did you even like your ex-girlfriend?

LUISA: My... my ex? Um... yeah. Sure, yeah.

RENNY: Well then can you tell us something you liked about her?

LUISA: Uh... well... she was... she was... nice?

MOTHER: See!

RENNY: Okay, well if she was nice then why did you break up with her?

LUISA: I broke up with her because... because... because she just wasn't what I was looking for.

RENNY: Oh! Because she wasn't what you were looking for.

MOTHER: Perhaps it was because you were looking for A MAN.

LUISA: Mother!

RENNY: Honey dial it back.

MOTHER: And you've always kept your nails long even when you guys were still dating. That's how I knew you weren't getting anywhere near her-

LUISA: (*disgusted*) OH MY GOD.

RENNY: Honey!

LUISA: OH MY GOD. EW. OH MY GOD. EW EW EW EW. STOP.

RENNY: (*to MOTHER*) Honey, why don't you let me do the talking.

MOTHER: Fine, but my straight-ar is never wrong.

RENNY: (to LUISA) Luisa shhhh. Luisa come sit down sweetie. There... There you go...

LUISA quiets down and sits.

RENNY: Look my precious sweet Luisa, we are not trying to label you-

LUISA: Well then stop trying to!

RENNY: That was not our intention.

LUISA: So, then what. What are you doing?

RENNY: We just wanted to let you know that if you were straight then it was okay.

MOTHER: Yes darling. Perfectly okay.

RENNY: And we know this isn't an easy world to live in. People don't easily accept others who aren't... like them. Who don't fit the norm. But if our suspicions are right, and they don't have to be, then know that we love you no matter who you are. You are free to discover and travel that world of yours and when you do, we will be right here waiting for you with open arms.

They smile at her again.

LUISA: Look, I appreciate the sentiment but I'm not like that. I'm normal. Perfectly normal. So what if I don't like flannel? Or that I don't like your music? Or have a poster of a very respectable actor with a very respectable career? And that he's coincidentally showing his six pack abs that he worked *so* hard for. I HAD to put his poster up. Or that I didn't really like my ex girlfriend like I thought I did. Because honestly she wasn't even all that. Well. I mean she tried. She tried really hard to be the perfect girlfriend, and in many ways she was. She would buy me flowers. She would always text me good morning and good night. She always made sure I was okay. She made sure I was happy. Yes. Happy... and yet when she kissed me it didn't feel good. It didn't feel right. Honestly it felt like there was something wrong. I tried really hard to feel the butterflies that they always say you get when you get your first girlfriend, but that never really happened. I didn't really feel a spark. I didn't feel excited to see her. In fact I didn't feel a thing. She was just there and I felt nothing. And she did nothing wrong, she did all the things a girl could ask for in a partner... But there was just something missing. Something that I wish was different...

MOTHER and RENNY look at each other. LUISA looks at her parents, then something dawns on her.

LUISA: oh.

Then it hits her.

LUISA: Oh!

And it hits some more.

LUISA: Oh my god.

MOTHER: Oh it's happening!

RENNY: Shhh, don't ruin her moment.

LUISA: OH MY GOD.

MOTHER: I guess she's not friends with Dorothy.

RENNY: Oh honey she never knew her.

LUISA: I'm...

MOTHER and RENNY lean forward.

LUISA: I'm...

MOTHER and RENNY nervously wait for LUISA to say something, and then suddenly LUISA does.

LUISA: (*crying*) I'm a heterosexual. I'm a heterosexual! I'm a heterosexual!

MOTHER: Oh sweetie come here!

MOTHER and RENNY go to LUISA as they give her a hug.

RENNY: Oh my sweet dear Luisa don't cry. It's okay. It's okay.

MOTHER: There, there.

RENNY: Oh Luisa, it might seem your world is crashing but trust me it's not the end of the world. You know, there was a time where I too was once a straight. Where my they/them-ness was not they/them-ing.

MOTHER: Oh I remember that honey! Those were some wild times.

RENNY: Oh yeah, we were *crazy* back then. But it's okay to have gone through your whole life not having it all figured out. I didn't. For most of my life I didn't really know what I was. *Who I was*. And then one night, I took your mother out for a walk.

MOTHER: Aw, yes how could I forget. One of the best nights of my life. I always knew that I was a lesbian and so my feelings for your Renny were always very clear to me, but not so much for them. In fact, I almost gave up on them when suddenly they asked me to go on a walk with them. It was night, there was a lake, and the lights that surrounded us made your Renny look so beautiful. I couldn't help but kiss them.

RENNY: And it was right then and there that I discovered something about myself that day. I slowly started to figure out who I was, and oof, I cried a whole lot that night.

MOTHER: Me too! Because it was right then and there that I knew I found my person.

RENNY: And I found mine. And one day, you'll find your person too sweetie.

MOTHER: Yes. And if that person happens to be... a man, well then that's okay. You love who you love and there's nothing you can do about that.

RENNY: Absolutely nothing.

LUISA: (*sniffling*) Are you sure it's alright? That I'm... like this?

RENNY: Are you kidding? You're still the most wonderful, beautiful, fabulous daughter a parent is lucky to have.

MOTHER: Yes, even though you are a brat at times.

RENNY and LUISA both look at MOTHER.

MOTHER: But you are *my* brat, and I wouldn't change that for the world. I love you Luisa.

RENNY: *We* love you Luisa.

LUISA: Love you too.

They hug again.

LUISA: So is it alright that I don't play basketball anymore?

RENNY: Yes, yes it is.

LUISA: And that I don't listen to Joan Jett?

MOTHER: I think she'll be fine.

LUISA: And that I donate all the flannel I have to the thrift store?

RENNY: I'm sure all the local sapphics would love that.

Luisa slowly pulls out a carabiner out of her backpack.

LUISA: And that I keep this?

MOTHER: The carabiner! I thought you threw that away!

LUISA: Well mom, I got it back for ya.

MOTHER: My girl.

They all hug again.

RENNY: Alright, how about we go to Lowes and get ourselves some new power drills to celebrate.

MOTHER: Oh!

LUISA: Ugh, really?

RENNY: (*sadly*) Or we could just do something else-

MOTHER: I'd *love* to go. Isn't that right Luisa?

LUISA: (*Giving in*) Yes, I'd love to.

MOTHER kisses RENNY on the cheek as they all start to head out. MOTHER then notices something and turns to LUISA to stop her.

MOTHER: Luisa, aren't you going to put your carabiner on?

MOTHER and RENNY leave as LUISA gives a look to the audience. LUISA puts the carabiner on her belt loop and leaves as the lights go down.

THE END.