



LEARNING RESOURCE

SPA - CREATIVE WRITING

STORYTELLING AND LANGUAGE

QUARTER 4

the
PerfLab
INCORPORATED

LEARNING RESOURCE for SPA CREATIVE WRITING

QUARTER 4 – GRADE 10

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FOREWORD

Welcome to this Learning Resource for Creative Writing.

This Learning Resource was developed by experts from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as a reference to aid you in developing rich, meaningful, and empowering learning in the creative fields.

Every effort has been exerted to produce a Self-Learning Learning Resource that incorporates the most fundamental elements and principles of each discipline, while providing a spiraled, scaffolded, and multi-sensory approach to allow you to explore your innate creativity while building discipline and rigor in your chosen discipline.

Each lecture, activity, or reflection here is designed to be meaningful. Each one designed to build from the previous one, and each one with the objective of building up for the next skill or competence. We hope that you will find these activities challenging but empowering, and that your potential as a Filipino artist and Creative is further enhanced and inspired. These Learning Resources take into consideration the various limitations and challenges brought about by the current situation, and provides you with the flexibility to manage content and pace to your individual needs while maintaining standards for creativity, embodying 21st Century skills, and aspiring towards artistic excellence. Beyond compilations of dry information, these Learning Resources seek to develop Higher Order Thinking Skills of Analysis, Evaluation, and Creation.

If you are planning to use this Resource as a facilitator or teacher, you are expected to guide and orient your learners in the proper and efficient use of this Learning Resource. Most, if not all, activities will entail exploration, investigation, and experimentation, as such it is imperative that you, as the facilitator, establish the guidelines which will allow your students to be creative but within responsible, safe, and academically-sound limits. Your guidance and mentorship is expected and encouraged throughout the learning process. We look forward to your journey as an artist, MABUHAY!

CONTENT AND ACTIVITIES

Part 2: Activity 2

By the manner of storytelling and language, we can deduce that the short story was written many years back. Even so, the narrative is clear about the issues. What are they? Are they still relevant nowadays? Are they still happening? Please explain your stand.

Comment on the temperament or mood of the play. How does it affect you?

We move on to more recent times in the third piece, a play written by Bonifacio P. Ilagan. Inspired by Bertolt Brecht's *A Respectable Wedding*, it was first performed by The Xavier Stage (TXS), Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City in 2012; and staged by Tag-ani Performing Arts Society in Tanghalang PUP, University Center for Culture and the Arts, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila, 2015. This version, revised in 2019, has not yet been performed.

Mabuhay ang Bagong Kasal!

By Bonifacio P. Ilagan

Cast of Characters:

Bea the Bride

Newlywed, pretty, snobbish, sassy; late 20s

Justin the Groom

Newlywed, good-looking, gentle-mannered; late 20s

Mama the Ex-Bride

Bea's mom; pretentiously high society; late 50s

Papa the Ex-Groom

Justin's dad; pretentiously debonair; late 50s

Greg the Groom-to-Be
Hotel room service crew, 20s

Sonia the Bride-to-Be
Hotel room service crew, 20s

Techie the Maid of Honor
Newlyweds' best friend; late 20s

Tony the Best Man
Newlyweds' best friend; late 20s

Location Setting:

A hotel suite that has seen better days, and now threatens to fall apart; the deterioration is apparent in the stained walls, the pretentious chandelier hanging askew, the old tattered linen sprawled on a bed that has been pushed in a corner to allow for a dining table for four, the antique-looking but mismatched pieces of furniture, some of which will break in the course of the play, and the big cracked mirror on the wall

Time Setting:

The present, year 2019

GREG and SONIA carry a dining table inside the hotel room. On top are a table cloth and other accessories. He is uptight. She tries to be subdued, even as she struggles with the weight of the table. As they argue, they unfurl the cloth to put over the table but end up doing some tug-of-war with it, underscoring a lovers' quarrel.

GREG

Bakit kasi nakibuhay ka pa! Katulong ko na si Maxie, pinalitan mo pa!

SONIA

Kailangang magkausap tayo!

GREG

Malapit na ang breaktime!

SONIA

Hindi na ako makakahintay, Greg!

GREG

Ewan ko sa iyo... Maliit na isyu, pinapalaki mo!

SONIA

Hindi ako maka-concentrate sa trabaho! Greg, isang pinggan at isang baso na ang nababasag ko, umaga pa lang! Malaki na ang multa ko!

GREG

Sisihin ba ako! (Steps to leave.)

SONIA

Saan ka pupunta?

GREG

Asan ang mga kutsara at tinidor mo? Ang mga baso? Saan iinom ang bagong kasal, sa palad nila? (Steps out.) Lord!

SONIA fidgets around. GREG is back quickly with a cart loaded with glasses and some other utensils.

SONIA

Short explanation lang naman, Greg... Bakit hindi mo ipinagtapat sa akin ang tungkol sa inyo ni Gigi?

GREG

Kulit! Hindi kami naging kami! Tsismis 'yon! Tsismis!

SONIA

May witness ako, bespren ni Gigi!

GREG (Alarmed.)

Bespren ni Gigi? Sino?

SONIA

Nangako ako sa kanya. Hindi ko sasabihin kung sino siya.

GREG Huwag mong ipagyabang ang witness mo! Takip-mukha naman pala!

Silence. Then, gunshots, not too far off, rend the air. They keep quiet to listen to it.

SONIA

Ano 'yon?

Another series of gunshots.

GREG

Sabi ko, ang witness mo walang yagbols!

Last three gunshots.

SONIA

Putok ng baril 'yon!

GREG

At putok ng butse mo!

SONIA starts to cry at the humiliation.

GREG (Sighs heavily and shakes head.)

O, siya, siya . . . huwag ka nang mag-inarte diyan. Pwede ba, move on na tayo?

SONIA

Move on? Marcos loyalist ka ba?

GREG (Irritated.)

Kung makahugot ka... Anong koneksyon?

SONIA

Paano magmo-move on kung wala namang justice? Kung ang nagkasala, hindi umaamin?

GREG

Eh wala nga akong kasalanan!

SONIA

Umamin ka muna bago ka mag-demand ng “move on”!

GREG

Sige na nga! Inaamin ko . . . na ikaw naman talaga ang mahal ko!

SONIA (Looks at GREG longingly.)

Promise?

GREG Oo!

Touched by GREG’s statement, SONIA sobs in relief and blows her nose. He caresses her.

SONIA (Composes herself.)

Sige, move on na tayo... Sasabihin ko na ang pangalan ng witness ko.

GREG turns stiff.

SONIA

Maira.

GREG (Upset again.)

Maira? Walang Maira na bespren si Gigi! Alam ko ang lahat tungkol kay Gigi!

Again, silence. GREG's words weigh heavily on SONIA, who nods with sarcasm.

SONIA (Stern.)

Ganoon. Alam mo ang lahat tungkol kay Gigi. (Suddenly breaks into tears again.) Lahat-lahat?

GREG

Pero hindi nga kami naging kami! Pakshet naman, oo! Iharap mo nga sa akin ang hinalipak na Maira na 'yan!

SONIA

Paano kung ayaw?

GREG

Kung ayaw, huwag mong paniwalaan! Ang witness na nagsasabi nang totoo, handang tumestigo hanggang Senado!

SONIA

Gaya nung kahiya-hiyang Supreme Court justices na tumestigo laban kay CJ Sereno? Ang kakapal ng meyk-ap! Ng mukha pala!

Silence, except for SONIA's sobbing.

GREG

Alam mo, Sonia, dahil sa ugali mong 'yan, nagdadalawang-isip na ako sa kasal-kasal!

SONIA (Sobs again.)

Naman, Greg! Sobra naman iyan! Curious lang ako!

GREG

Maraming pusa ang namamatay dahil curious, alalahanin mo sana!

SONIA

I am not a cat!

GREG

Isa pa, ang pagpapakasal, sabi ng matatanda, ay hindi gaya ng mainit na kaning isusubo, na pag tayo ay napaso –

SONIA

Alam na ng pamilya ko at pamilya mo ang ating pagpapakasal! Alam na ng mga kaibigan natin, ng co-employees natin! Anong mukha ang ihaharap ko sa kanila?

GREG

Ang daldal mo kasi! Nagdi-discuss pa lang tayo, in-upload mo na agad!

BEA and JUSTIN enter the room, their steps measured and their expression not ecstatic. SONIA and GREG hurry with their business.

SONIA and GREG

Magandang tanghali po!

GREG

Mabuhay po ang bagong kasal!

BEA feigns a gracious smile and nods to acknowledge.

JUSTIN

Salamat. Mabuhay din kayo . . . sa inyong binabalak!

GREG and SONIA look at each other, intrigued.

GREG (Hushed, to SONIA.)

Pati sa kanila, idinaldal mo ang pagpapakasal natin?

SONIA

Hindi ah! Ngayon ko nga lang sila nakita!

GREG and SONIA exit, closing the door after them. BEA and JUSTIN remain silent.

BEA

Paki-lock ang pinto.

JUSTIN obliges.

BEA

Ang mga bintana, sarado ba?

JUSTIN

Oo. Naka-aircon tayo.

Without a warning, BEA screams. JUSTIN knows it is going to happen, so he takes it matter-of-factly.

JUSTIN

(Calmly, after her scream has died down.) O . . . okey ka na?

BEA

What a question! Our wedding just got sabotaged, paano ako magiging okey?

JUSTIN

Honey, wala na tayong magagawa. Accept na lang natin.

BEA

Kaya hindi umuunlad ang ating bayan, kasi, accept na lang tayo nang accept!

JUSTIN

Eh, paanong gagawin natin?

BEA (Under her breath.)

What a question again!

(Takes a deep breath, 28 and another one.) From afar, we hear the wailing of sirens of police cars and ambulances.

JUSTIN

Ayan. Tama iyan.

Deep breathing.

BEA (Resents JUSTIN's calmness; surveys the room.)

Tingnan mo ang kwarto na ito! Ito ba ang suite?

JUSTIN

Honey, maayos naman ah!

BEA

Can you repeat what you just said? Without the "Honey"?

JUSTIN

Honey

BEA

Stop! That word! Masakit sa tenga!

JUSTIN

Bea, masanay na tayo sa tawagang iyan! (Caresses her.) Wedding day natin ito. Simula ng bagong buhay natin, Honey!

BEA (For a while, it looks like she will give in to him, but she disengages.)
Fine... Look,

Justin

Honey... Ang pangako ng Eustaquio na iyon – Naku! Buti na lang at hindi siya dumating! JUSTIN (Chuckles.) Akala ko nga, uumbagin mo ang proxy niyang hiyang-hiya!

BEA

Ang pangako ng Eustaquio na iyon, sagot niya ang buong reception package sa Le Chic Hotel. ‘Yun pala, dito lang sa bulok-bulok na . . . my god! Imagine, ang nasa invitation natin, Le Chic Hotel, tapos, mag-a-announce tayo sa simbahan . . . “Your attention, please! There’s been a change in the reception venue. It’s complicated. But our new venue is.... (Begins to sob.)

JUSTIN

If I may refresh your memory . . . ang iyong Mama – repeat, ang iyong Mama – ang nag-insist na maging ninong natin si Governor Eustaquio!

BEA

Anong Governor? Ex-Governor! Ex-Governor Eustaquio! Kahit ninong na natin ang trapong iyon, hindi ko siya iboboto sa darating na eleksyon! Never! Imagine, iniwan ba naman ang dati niyang Partido na siya ang founder, at lumipat sa... Sabagay, pare-pareho naman sila!

JUSTIN

Pulitikang Pinoy! Kung ano ang partido ng nanalong presidente, dun naglilipatan ang mga paro-paro!

BEA

Oh, how I hate Eustaquio and his kind!

JUSTIN

Praktikal lang sila! Don’t hate them so much.

BEA

Justin naman! Manhid ka ba or something worse? Sinira ni Eustaquio ang kasal ko, ang kasal natin!

JUSTIN

Eh bakit kasi ang iyong Mama, hot na hot sa kanya!

BEA

Good question. Bakit hindi mo tanungin si Mama?

JUSTIN

Naku, ikaw na lang. Baka . . . may family secret kayo.

BEA

Son-in-law ka na ngayon ni Mama.

JUSTIN

Ayoko pa ring makialam. At ayokong sisihin si Mama. Praktikal lang siya.

BEA

Hindi ko gets iyan, Honey!

JUSTIN

Look, iniisip lang ni Mama ang ating future. That's why kumuha siya ng mga bigating ninong at ninang, gaya ni Ninong Eustaquio. Malakas si Ninong Eustaquio kay Speaker Cahit-ano –

BEA

Ewww!

JUSTIN

Na malakas naman kay Senator Bato-bato.

BEA

Ewww!

JUSTIN

Isa si Ninong Eustaquio sa magiging official candidates ng administration party, di ba? Super majority, bongga! Pag nanalo siya sa eleksyon, nakasandal tayo sa pader!

BEA

Honey, hindang-hindi siya mananalo, except kung mandaya siya o mamudmod ng pera like what their idol the dictator always did! Kaya ngayon pa lang, ikaskas na natin ang ating mga mukha sa pader!

JUSTIN

Aray ko.

BEA takes a seat. The chair gives way. BEA screams.

JUSTIN (Turns head and closes eyes.)

Aray ko!

BEA (Infuriated.)

Hindi mo ba ako tutulungan?

JUSTIN helps her.

BEA

Pwede kong ihabla ang hotel na ito -- ang hotel na ito at ang Eustaquio na iyon! Hari siya ng corrupt!

JUSTIN (Quickly.)

Mananalo, kung ganoon! But correction, Honey... Ang hari ng corrupt, hindi si Eustaquio kundi ang idolo niyang ipinuslit sa Libingan ng mga Bayani!

Someone knocks. JUSTIN opens the door. Enter GREG and SONIA bringing fruit juice and water to drink, and more glasses. BEA poises to assault them. GREG and SONIA are unmindful of her. JUSTIN restrains her.

JUSTIN

Huwag! Wala silang kasalanan! Employees lang sila dito!

GREG

Compliments of the house po, para sa bagong kasal.

JUSTIN

Oh, how sweet!

GREG (Notices an upset BEA holding the broken chair.)

May . . . may problema po ba, ma'am?

JUSTIN

Hehehe.

(Takes broken chair from BEA.) Kaunti lang naman. Umupo ang misis ko – sa silya ninyong sira. Natural, ang puwet, lumagapak sa sahig!

GREG

Naku! Sori, ma'am! Irereport po namin sa manager!

SONIA quickly carries the broken chair, goes out, and comes back with another chair.

BEA

Justin, baka naiinip na ang mga tao sa ballroom!

SONIA

Ma'am, mga sampu pa lamang ang dumarating sa mga bisita ninyo.

BEA

What?

SONIA

Para pong isang pamilya sila. Limang bata, tatlong matanda, at dalawang matandang-matanda.

BEA (Squints eyes and looks afar.)

Hindi na-gets ng mga bisita natin ang announcement sa simbahan! They are now roaming the city aimlessly! This is getting to be a real disaster!

JUSTIN

Yes, I think so.

SONIA

Nag-detour po kasi ang traffic. Lahat ng sasakyan, iikot pa sa rotunda, diretso hanggang pier sa boulevard, at saka lang makaka-left turn sa J. P. Rizal papunta dito.

JUSTIN

Baket? Hindi naman kami nire-route papunta dito! Diretso lang kami!

GREG

Siguro po, noong dumaan kayo, hindi pa nangyayari ang masaker.

JUSTIN

Anong masaker?

GREG

Tokhang po.

SONIA

Isang barangay na po ang tinokhang dahil wa epek raw 'yung paisa isang adik na itinutumba!

Silence. Then, we hear the wailing of police cars and ambulances again.

BEA

Isang buong barangay, tinokhang. Iyan, at hindi ang aking kasal, ang front page!

JUSTIN

Ilan ang namatay?

GREG

Hindi pa po tapos magbilang ang Soco.

JUSTIN goes to the TV set to turn it on.

SONIA

Sir, sira po ang TV. Bukas pa naka-iskedyul ang replacement.

Enter MAMA, agitated. GREG and SONIA exit, greeting the new arrivals.

MAMA Salamat sa diyos, safe kayo! Okey ka na ba, Bea?

BEA shrugs her shoulders.

MAMA

Justin?

JUSTIN smiles wanly.

MAMA (Goes to BEA.)

Bea, anak... smile ka naman.

BEA

Mama, sa simbahan, smile ako nang smile, kahit ayokong mag-smile. Ngayon lang ako pwedeng maging ako! Arrgh!

MAMA

Nagpaliwanag naman si Tucky, di ba?

BEA

Tucky? Sinong Tucky?

MAMA

Si Eustaquio! Tucky ang pet name ko sa kanya, nakalimutan mo na ba?

JUSTIN

Tucky. Rhymes with “yucky.”

BEA (Seethes in anger; looks around.)

Dumating siya? He is here?

MAMA

Wala! Yung proxy niya ang nag-explain, di ba? Nagkamali daw ang secretary ni Tucky tungkol sa hotel reservation. Ipinasikaso niya sa kanyang secretary ang lahat. Kaya ang Le Chic Hotel, naging, oh well, dapat kasi, dinobol-tsek niya.

BEA

Di-noublecross! That’s what he did to us! Look, he’s not even here!

MAMA

He’s not here because he is in the palace! Big time! Ipinatawag siya sa Malacañang!

BEA

Mama, may tanong si Justin. Tungkol sa iyong si Tucky.

MAMA (Startled.)

A-ano iyon, Justin?

JUSTIN

Naku, wala po!

BEA

Bakit daw hot na hot –

JUSTIN

Bea!

BEA

Bakit daw hot na hot kayo –

JUSTIN

Bea!

BEA

-- Na maging ninong namin ang pulitikong laos na iyon?

JUSTIN

Not my words, Mama! Not my words!

Enter PAPA.

PAPA

Sino ang pulitikong laos? At sino ang hot na hot?

MAMA

Ha? Ang hot-hot naman dito! Mahina yata ang aircon!

BEA

Kasi nga, Mama, this place is going to the dogs! And this is right where we are, courtesy of your very good friend the ex-governor!

PAPA

So! Iyon ang koneksyon! Hindi mo sinabi sa akin, Balaeng Concha, very good friend mo pala si Gov Eustaquio!

MAMA

At bakit ko naman kailangang sabihin sa iyo?

PAPA

May negosyo akong gustong ilapit sa kanya!

BEA

Good luck, Papa! It's ex-governor, by the way! Bakit ba dito sa Pilipinas, sinipa na ang mga dapat sipain, iginagalang pa rin!

MAMA

Change topic. Pag-usapan natin ang . . . ang barangay na tinokhang!

BEA

I cannot, for the love of me, believe that all of you seem to be taking this matter of my disastrous wedding reception so . . . so lightheartedly!

PAPA (To JUSTIN.)

Maswerte ka talaga, anak... Galing mag-Ingles ng asawa mo!

JUSTIN flashes a thumbs-up sign.

BEA

Ang dapat itokhang, 'yang si Eustaquio!

MAMA

That's double standard! Si Eustaquio man, may karapatan din sa due process! (To herself.) Bea, anak... Kung alam mo lang kung sino si Tucky sa buhay mo... Nag-share siya sa tuition fee mo sa exclusive school, dahil, dahil siya ang... (Repentant.) Oo na! I'm sorry na! Kasalanan ko, Bea, anak. Hindi ako dapat nagtiwala sa isang pangako. Reception pa naman. (To BEA.) Oo na, anak. Isang pagkakamali na pinagtiwalaan ko nang buong-buo si Tucky.

PAPA

Tucky?

MAMA (Snarls at PAPA.)

Nick name nga ni Eustaquio!

BEA

Isang pagkakamali na pinagtiwalaan mo siya at all, Mama! Hindi ka 36 na nadala sa kanya!

PAPA (Siddles up to MAMA; asks in a low voice.)

Concha, meron ba kayong, ahem, pinagdaanan ni Tucky?

MAMA

Marumi ang isip mo (turns to audience), gaya ng iniisip ninyo! (Turns to PAPA.) Iniisip ko kasi, expert na siya sa mga wedding reception dahil, dahil tatlong beses na siyang ikinakasal – (aside) at hindi ako isa sa tatlo.

BEA

Hear ye, hear ye... Kaya pumoporma nang bonggang-bongga, at dumadalo sa mga kasal ang ninety percent ng mga tao, ay dahil sa wedding reception! Kaya napakahalaga ng wedding reception!

PAPA

Ninety percent, Bea?

A knocking at the door halts BEA's speech. JUSTIN opens the door. TECHIE and TONY enter tentatively, sensing that something grim is going on.

JUSTIN (Softly; hurries up the two.)

Pasok, pasok na!

TONY (Hushed.)

Anong ganap?

BEA

Ninety percent ba ang sinabi ko?

PAPA

Ninety percent ng mga dumadalo sa mga wedding, ang interes lang ay ang reception, the food. Iyan ang sinabi mo.

BEA

I did.

PAPA

Interesado ako sa data mo, iha. Bago iyan sa akin.

TECHIE

Pasensya na kayo. Hindi namin inabutan ang umpisa ng discourse.

BEA

Let me repeat, and correct, myself... Kaya nagbibihis nang bonggang-bongga, at dumadalo sa mga kasal ang ninety-five percent ng mga tao, ay dahil sa wedding reception! Ang puno't dulo ng wedding ceremony ay hindi ang simbahan, kundi ang restaurant!

MAMA (Horried.)

Totoo ba iyan, anak?

PAPA

Napakalungkot na komentaryo tungkol sa kasal. Lumalabas na nababalewala na ang esensya ng matrimonya.

JUSTIN

I don't know. More data ang kelangan para magbigay tayo ng final analysis sa statistics.

MAMA

Dapat na magkaroon ng campaign para ibalik ang tunay na kahulugan ng kasal!

BEA

Now you understand . . . kung bakit galit na galit na galit na galit ako. . . na hindi sa Le Chic Hotel ang reception ng aking kasal! Kumakabog ang dibdib ko kung anong klaseng menu ang inihanda ng god-forsaken hotel na ito! Silence. Again, the wailing of police cars and ambulances.

BEA (Suppresses anger.)
Mama! Mama!

TECHIE (Hushed.)
Ayan, Tony! 'Yan ang sinasabi ko! Ang kasalan ngayon, dapat simple-simple lang!

TONY (Hushed.)
Walang problema sa akin. Basta may tradition at solemnity, kahit matipid.

MAMA
Pwede na ba tayong mag-change topic? Halimbawa . . . nagbubulungan ang maid of honor at best man, baka gusto nilang iparinig sa atin.

PAPA
Narinig ko, kasal ang pinag-uusapan nila!

JUSTIN
Kayong dalawa . . . akala ko ba ay secret iyan?

TONY
Might as well say it now!

MAMA
Oh, how romantic! Ikakasal rin kayo? Ah, lahat talaga ng tao, nangangarap ikasal!

PAPA
Ako na ang unang babati sa inyo, Tony, Techie!

TECHIE

Thank you po, sir!

PAPA

Ano bang tungkol sa kasal ang inyong pinagbubulungan?

TECHIE

Sabi ko kay Tony, simple na lang ang kasal namin.

TONY

Sabi ko naman kay Techie, basta may tradition at solemnity, approved sa akin.

MAMA

Oh how . . . how sensible!

TECHIE

Problem is, pag tradition, ayan na ang trahe de boda, wedding entourage, maraming bisita, magarbong handaan, wedding cake, et cetera, et cetera!

TONY

Ikaw naman. Open naman ako sa suggestions.

TECHIE

Ano kaya kung ang budget natin sa kasal, i-donate natin sa mga biktima ng bagyo at baha at endo!

TONY 39 (Grim.)

Tapos?

TECHIE

I-limit natin ang imbitasyon sa mga pamilya natin. Tayo-tayo na lang. Potluck.

TONY

Techie! Pwede ba? Minsan lang tayo ikasal, ano! (Horried.) Potluck!

MAMA

Pwede na ba tayong mag-change topic? Ang tokhang naman ang pag-usapan natin! O ang eleksyon! O ang endo!

BEA

If you ask me, pareho lang ang tatlong iyan! Parehong nakamamatay! But – I hate to admit it, ang mga iyan ang pinakarelevant ngayon.

MAMA

Sana naman ay hindi ito senyales ng masamang hinaharap ng ating mga anak, Balae!

PAPA

Ikaw naman, Balae... Walang koneksyon ang mga nangyayari ngayon sa kinabukasan ng mga bata... Ay..! Parang meron!

BEA And why does it have to happen right on my wedding day! (Begins to sob again.)

PAPA (Nudges JUSTIN to go comfort his bride.) Justin.... JUSTIN abides and rushes to BEA to comfort her.

JUSTIN

May nasagap ba kayong balita sa labas, Tony? Tetchie?

TONY and TETCHIE

Ganito raw ang nangyari –

BEA

I don't want to hear it, Tony, Tetchie, please! Because -- alam ko na... Ang buong barangay, nanlaban, kaya niratrat! Bata, matanda, lalaki, babae!

TONY and TECHIE

Exactly.

BEA

At alam ko rin na gutom at uhaw na ang mga bisita natin na na-stuck sa nakamamatay na trapik dito sa Metro Manila!

PAPA

Be careful what you say, iha! Walang transportation crisis, sabi ni Salvador Pomelo.

BEA

I am simply stating a fact!

PAPA

Baka mahabla ka ng sedition! Alam mo naman these days!

JUSTIN

Honey, maaaring iyan ay isang blessing!

BEA

Blessing? Honey?

MAMA

Ohhh how sweet naman..! Honey ang tawagan ninyo! Honey ang tawag sa akin ng yumaong mister ko, ang Papa ni Bea.

PAPA

Kami naman ng Mama ni Justin, Babes -- MAMA Babes! (Makes a throaty sound.) Feeling bagets! PAPA -- Bago kami nag-file ng legal separation... (Softly, to MAMA.) Pwede bang Babes na rin ang itawag ko sa iyo?

Flattered MAMA wiggles.

BEA

Paanong magiging blessing kung ang mga bisita natin ay nagtutumbahan sa daan dahil sa gutom at uhaw?

JUSTIN

Ganito iyon, Honey... Hindi ba, nagwo-worry ka sa menu ng hotel na ito? Well, kahit ano pa iyon, kung hayok sa gutom ang mga bisita natin, magugustuhan nila ang food! Blessing! Kahit synthetic powder ang juice, refreshing!

BEA (Exasperated.)
I give up!

JUSTIN
That's my bride! Now, let's move on, Honey! Bride and groom kiss lightly.

PAPA and MAMA are delighted. We hear the wailing of police cars and ambulances.

PAPA
Ohh how sweet! (Puts an arm over MAMA's shoulders.)

MAMA
Balae....

A knocking at the door.

BEA and JUSTIN
Come in!

SONIA and GREG enter again, now bringing a plate of slices of cake. SONIA holds a folder in one hand.

GREG
Excuse po. As they set the food stuff on the table, everybody freezes, except PAPA and MAMA.

PAPA
Napakatagal nang panahon!

MAMA
Ang alin?

PAPA and MAMA freeze. All move.

BEA (To GREG.)
Ano iyan?

GREG
Compliments of the house po.

BEA
I am touched.

All freeze. PAPA and MAMA move.

PAPA
Miss na miss ko na!

MAMA
Ang alin?

MAMA and PAPA freeze; the rest move. BEA (Examines the plate.) Ang bait n'yo naman! Anong cake ito? SONIA Chocolate fudge, ma'am. With fondant icing. BEA tastes the cake. She does not like it, so she makes faces. All freeze while PAPA and MAMA move. PAPA Alam mo kung ano ang miss ko na, Concha? MAMA Syempre hindi! PAPA It's been a loooong time! MAMA Ang mga bata, baka makahalata! Behave! PAPA Oh, forgive me! Palibhasa, ang ere ay napakalagkit sa romansa! PAPA and MAMA freeze; the rest move. BEA Hindi masarap! SONIA Pinagtabasan po iyan ng wedding cake ninyo, ma'am! 43 BEA Arrgh! (Turns to SONIA.) I am sorry pero hindi talaga masarap. No offense meant. SONIA Okey lang po. Hindi naman ako ang nag-bake. GREG Bayaan ninyo, sasabihin namin sa bake shop. All freeze; MAMA and PAPA continue to flirt. MAMA (Tough.) Enough! PAPA stops his antics, afraid that he could have offended MAMA – but no. MAMA Pero alam mo,

sometimes, gusto ko ang maginoong bastos – for a change. PAPA Ahahay! Paborito ko ang lumang kantang iyan! Now they all move. JUSTIN Marami na bang tao sa ballroom? SONIA Kaunti pa lang po. Mga twenty siguro. GREG Thirty. SONIA Hindi na nga po mapalagay ang wedding coordinator. BEA Ano ba ‘yan! Will it take forever? TONY Kasi, nagkabuhol-buhol na ang traffic. Hindi na gumagalaw ang mga sasakyan. May nagsuntukan na nga. Kami nga ni Techie, naglakad 44 na lang. TECHIE Kaya nga, sabi ko sa iyo, huwag ka nang mangarap magkakotse. TONY Ang corny mo talaga! TECHIE (Evades TONY; turns to BEA.) Hindi naman pala masyadong masama ang hotel na ito, Bea. GREG and SONIA Salamat po. BEA And I thought you had taste, Techie! (Motions to GREG and SONIA.) Sila, naiintindihan kong sumimpatya sa hotel na ito. Pero ikaw, to say something complimentary about this place – TECHIE Ang ibig kong sabihin – BEA Pagagaanin mo pa ang kaso ng nagkasala sa akin! Cake, anyone? TONY (Helps himself.) Medyo gutom na nga ako . . . kahit alam kong ang wedding cake ay panghuli sa programa. (Offers TECHIE.) Techie? SONIA Buo pa naman po ang cake sa ballroom. Pinagtabasan nga lang iyan. TECHIE also partakes of the cake and drinks that have been set on the table. So do MAMA and PAPA. And JUSTIN. Eventually, they end up crowding around the table. Everybody is apparently hungry and thirsty, except BEA. MAMA Sa totoo lang, Bea, napaka-historical ng hotel na ito. Ito ang pina high class right after Liberation! BEA Liberation? 45 MAMA Oo! When the Americans liberated us from the Japanese! BEA Mama! You call that Liberation? MAMA Well, ‘yun ang tawag ng matatanda! Ginagaya ko lang sila! BEA Well, ang tamang tawag doon ay historical revisionism! JUSTIN Parang ‘yung ginagawa ng isang pamilyang gustong bumalik sa kapangyarihan? TECHIE Alam ko kung sino sila! TONY Alam ko rin! MAMA Basta. Napakaraming nangyari rito, punong-puno ng mga alaala, makasaysayan. The chandelier moves. They all remain still looking at it. It continues to move, more threatening now. Slowly, everybody steps away from the table and the chandelier. MAMA Sori po! Baka may natawag akong mga espirito! BEA Will somebody please call security? JUSTIN Will somebody please call an exorcist? MAMA Parang room service ang tinatawag sa mga ganitong okasyon. GREG Kami na po iyon. 46 BEA On the other hand – (Jumps around, pans the wind toward the chandelier, as if teasing it to move some more.) MAMA Bea! Anong

ginagawa mo? BEA If it's going to fall, it's going to fall! Murphy's Law, so-called! MAMA Huwag mong hamunin ang mga espirito! SONIA Matibay po iyan. Hindi iyan babagsak. Promise. BEA walks right under the chandelier. MAMA shrieks. JUSTIN (Rushes to pull BEA away.) Bea Honey! But BEA, laughing, holds on to him and pulls him under the chandelier where they horse play. The chandelier keeps on moving. Everybody shrieks. PAPA and TONY move to pull the newlyweds away from where they stand. But they do not enter the danger zone - - under the chandelier, fearing for their lives. MAMA Diyos ko po... Nababaliw na yata ang anak ko... Tucky, kasalanan mo ito, hayop ka.... BEA's attitude now infects JUSTIN. He also laughs. MAMA Pati ang son-in-law ko, diyos ko po, nababaliw na rin yata! GREG (Happily.) Tingnan mo sila! Nakakatuwa sila! Kahit may problema, enjoy sila! SONIA (Happily, too.) Oo nga! GREG 47 (Snarls at SONIA.) Hindi gaya mo! SONIA's face sours. In slowmo, BEA and JUSTIN move playfully and laugh soundless under the chandelier. SONIA Matibay po iyan talaga. GREG Limang taon na pong ganyan iyan. Hindi naman bumabagsak. GREG Mula nang magsimula kaming magtrabaho sa hotel na ito, ganyan na iyan. PAPA Matagal na pala kayo dito? SONIA Yes, sir. Hindi pa po uso ang salitang endo, contractual na kami. Mababa ang sweldo, walang bonus. Now, BEA and JUSTIN move about normally. The chandelier no longer moves. GREG Walang benefits. SONIA Akala nga namin, ipagbabawal ng presidente ang endo! GREG Naniwala naman kayo? BEA Narinig na ba ninyo 'yung "In unity there is strength?" I mean, union! Bakit hindi kayo mag-organize into a union? GREG Contractual nga po kami, di pwedeng mag-unyon... Pero matibay po talaga ang ano na iyan. SONIA Chandelier. JUSTIN 48 Anyway, gusto ko ang sinabi mo, Honey. Tamang-tama din sa mga mag-asawa. BEA What did I say? JUSTIN "In unity there is strength!" (Gets a plate of cake and offer a spoonful to BEA.) Buka ang bibig. BEA obligess. Everybody claps. TONY Mabuhay ang bagong kasal! EVERYBODY Mabuhay! TECHIE Wait! Wait! (Gets glasses to give to everyone to toast.) SONIA and GREG give glasses to everyone. SONIA Kukuha po kami ng wine? GREG Red o white? TONY Compliments of the house ulit? SONIA Ay, hindi na po. May bayad na po. PAPA Okey na itong juice. SONIA and GREG serve juice to everyone. TECHIE Sa maligaya at masaganang pagsasama nina Bea at Justin! TONY Mabuhay ang bagong kasal! 49 EVERYBODY Mabuhay! (They clap.) MAMA (Referring to GREG and SONIA.)

Pwede na ninyo kaming iwan. Okey na kami. PAPA's chair gives way. They shriek. They help PAPA. PAPA Aray ko po! MAMA (To SONIA and GREG.) Sandali! Hindi pala kami okey! BEA Strike two! Ihahabla ko na talaga ang hotel na ito! GREG and SONIA take the broken chair. PAPA No problem, folks! Malayo ito sa bituka. Medyo nabugbog lang ang puwet ko. MAMA (Massages PAPA's right behind.) Ito ba? PAPA (Aroused, moans.) Oo! Idamay mo na rin kaya ang kaliwa! MAMA massages PAPA's both buttocks. BEA and JUSTIN clear their throats. MAMA discontinues her act of mercy. TECHIE Suggestion ko po, mag-serve na sa mga bisita. TONY Iyan din po ang iniisip ko. MAMA Hindi! Wala pa ang bagong kasal sa ballroom! Hindi pwede iyon! Ang tradisyon -- TECHIE Palagay ko, kailangang i-adjust na natin ang program. Pati ang 50 tradisyon . . . Force majeure naman po ito. MAMA Ano 'yon? TECHIE Force majeure. Pangyayaring labas sa ating kontrol, gawa ng nature, gaya ng mga bagyo at lindol. BEA But this one, gawa ito ni Eustaquio! GREG Excuse me po... May advisory po ang manager. (Shows folder.) Hindi raw po magse-serve ng pagkain – SONIA Hanggang hindi ito naka-klaro. Everybody is puzzled. PAPA takes the folder, reads the letter. He grows somber. PAPA Downpayment. Wala pa palang downpayment. MAMA (Reads the letter.) Hindi nag-downpayment si Governor Eustaquio? GREG Tumalbog po ang tseke, ma'am... Pwede raw po bang makipag-usap kayo sa manager? MAMA Si Tucky ang dapat makipag-usap! BEA Eh missing in action nga ang Tucky mo, Mama! SONIA Sabi po ng secretary ni Governor Tucky – BEA Girl, nakiki-Tucky ka na rin? SONIA 51 -- Ni Governor Eustaquio, tatawag siya sa general manager, eight o'clock. Twelve o'clock na po, wala pang tawag. BEA Ano nga ulit ang sabi ninyo? Hindi magse-serve ng pagkain hanggang hindi nakakapag-downpayment? SONIA and GREG Opo. Everybody throws dagger looks at SONIA and GREG. SONIA and GREG (Fearfully.) Hindi po kami ang nagsabi niyan -- SONIA Ang general manager. GREG Po. BEA This is it! This is it! Sisigaw ulit ako! They all rush to BEA to restrain him. GREG and SONIA look at each other. GREG Exit na po kami. SONIA and GREG rush out. TONY (Takes out his wallet.) Meron po akong two thousand fifty pesos. TECHIE Ako po, mga eight hundred. PAPA Relax, everybody. Aayusin ko ito. Nasaan 'yung dalawa? TONY (Opens the door.) Room Service? GREG and SONIA appear by the door. 52 PAPA (To the two.) Samahan ninyo ako sa general manager ninyo. All the while, BEA has kept

still, emotionless, while the rest are agitated. JUSTIN Pa, anong gagawin mo? Wala ka namang pera! (Hushed.) Cancelled na ang credit card mo! 'Yung check book mo, paso na! PAPA Shh! Ang credit card mo? JUSTIN (Hushed.) Hindi na-approve ang aking application! PAPA Meron akong cash. Five thousand. Si Tony, may two thousand fifty. Si Techie, mga eight hundred. Ikaw? JUSTIN Papa, kahit pagsama-samahin ang pera natin, kulang pang downpayment. Hindi tatanggapin ng general manager. Para sa one hundred and fifty katao ang inihanda nilang pagkain... Oo nga pala, may cash gifts! PAPA (To SONIA.) Istriko ba ang general manager ninyo? SONIA Super po. Siya po ang number one na kontra-manggagawa. JUSTIN Patay. Anong gagawin mo, Pa? PAPA Ewan ko, anak ko. Bahala na. Everybody! I-pray over ninyo ako! Hurry! They quickly encircle PAPA and pray over him. PAPA I believe in the power of prayers! MAMA Quiet! 53 They keep still. MAMA Amen! ALL Amen! PAPA, GREG, and SONIA rush to exit. BEA screams. We hear the wailing of police cars and ambulances, this time, nearer. JUSTIN and TECHIE rush to comfort her. TECHIE Bea, ang makeup mo, masisira! Baka hindi lang re-touch ang gagawin natin! BEA stops crying to preserve her makeup. MAMA (Aside.) Tucky, hayop ka! Hindi na baleng niloko mo ako, dahil nagpaloko naman ako sa iyo! Pero para gawin mo ito sa anak ko, na palagay ko ay iyo ring – BEA Ano 'yon, Ma? MAMA (To herself.) I am not sure. Lasing ako noon... Ah, dapat talaga ay ipina-DNA ko na sina Bea at Tucky, gaya ng palaging ginagawa sa mga telenobela, para matiyak ko ang katotohanan! BEA Stop mumbling, Ma, and comfort me! MAMA Nagdadasal ako, ano ka ba! TONY (To TECHIE.) Dapat, lalaki ang sumasagot ng gastos sa kasal. BEA Tony is right! Bakit kasi inako mo ang gastos sa reception, Mama! Tapos, ipapasa mo pala kay ... oh, ni hindi ko ma-pronounce ang pangalan ng tunggak! 54 MAMA Huwag mo siyang tawaging ganoon, Bea! (Aside.) Maaaring siya ang iyong tunay na – Everybody looks at MAMA. MAMA Ninong! TECHIE Matandang ugali na iyang sinasabi mo. Ngayon, sharing na ang pamilya ng lalaki at babae. JUSTIN Kung tutuusin, fault po namin ni Papa. Kami dapat ang gumastos. MAMA Kayo na ang nagbayad ng trahe de boda. JUSTIN Mura lang naman po iyon. BEA What? Pinagsuot mo ako ng mumurahing wedding gown? JUSTIN I mean, mahal din pero hindi naman umabot ng . . . thirty thousand. TECHIE Wow. Hihiramin ko na lang ang wedding gown ni Bea. JUSTIN Plus 'yung damit ng mga abay na babae at

bata. BEA Magkano? JUSTIN Plus another fifty thousand po, more or less. MAMA Kayo na ang nagbayad ng printing ng imbitasyon. JUSTIN Mas mura po iyon kesa sa wedding gown. 55 MAMA At ang décor ng simbahan, ang mga bulaklak, ang donasyon sa simbahan. JUSTIN Nakihatid po kayo sa gastos. BEA Sana, Mama, hindi ka na nakialam sa reception. Pwede namang . . . pwede namang sa Mang Donald na lang sa may terminal ng dyip – kung talagang wala..! My god, Mang Donald! Arggh! MAMA Kasi nga, umasa ako sa salita ni Tucky! Sabi niya, stockholder siya sa Le Chic Hotel... Gusto ko kasing matulungan si Balae, ang Papa ni Justin. Alam kong mabigat ito para sa inyo. Gipit din naman kayo. JUSTIN Nagtatapat si Papa tungkol sa kabuhayan namin? MAMA Parang . . . ganoon na nga. JUSTIN Close kayo? Close na close kayo? MAMA Well.... JUSTIN Last month lang namin kayo pinag-meet and greet! MAMA Mabilis ang Papa mo! Meet and meet! Ibig kong sabihin, very friendly siya! Mabilis . . . na-develop . . . ang friendship . . . namin! PAPA is back. He is laughing like Santa Claus. Everybody is pleasantly surprised. BEA Papa! That was a quicky! ALL Quicky? 56 BEA I mean, that was quick! JUSTIN Kumusta, Papa? MAMA Naareglo mo, Balae? PAPA Natural! Ako pa? Sinabihan ko na ang wedding coordinator, mag serve na 'ikako ng pagkain sa mga bisita. MAMA What? PAPA Kasi, may nagbabanta na raw magpiket! Over hundred na ang nasa ballroom. Gutom na lahat! Let's go! To the ballroom, everyone! TECHIE I-retouch na natin ang makeup mo, Bea! TONY Mag-freshen up ka na, Justin! MAMA Sabihin mo sa amin, Balae. Anong milagro ang ginawa mo? Proud PAPA takes a seat. The chair wobbles. Everybody rushes to hold on to it or else catch him. But PAPA nonchalantly stands up. PAPA Eh di naroon na nga ako sa office ng general manager. Medyo matabang babae. No, hindi mataba . . . vol... ano ngang word iyon . . . vol, seksing malusog, malaki? (Motions big breasts.) BEA Did you mean voluptuous, Pa? PAPA Voluptuous! Yes! Nice word! Voluptuous! MAMA Hindi kami interesado sa itsura ng babaeng manager! Interessado kami sa kung paano 57 mo nilutas ang problema ng wedding reception ng mga bata! PAPA Ganito nga... Sinabi ko sa general manager ang isang makabagbag damdaming kwento ng pag-ibig ng mga batang ngayon ay naririto sa makasaysayang hotel na ito upang idaos ang isang pambihirang okasyong hindi na muling mauulit sa tanang buhay nila. MAMA gives him a glass of water which he takes and drinks. PAPA At ako'y isang amang walang

ibang hangad kundi ang kaligayahan ng mga anak na bagong kasal. Maatim ba niyang masira ang -- BEA Sorry, Pa. But these days, it doesn't make much for an alibi. PAPA And why not? BEA Kung ako ang matinong general manager, ang isasagot ko sa isang gasgas na sob story ay, quote, In God we Trust – BEA, TONY, and TECHIE All others pay cash. BEA Unquote. Business is business. Period. BEA You must have done something else! MAMA (Hushed.) Nilandi mo ang matabang manager, ganoon ba? PAPA Patapusin ninyo ako... Habang ako'y nagsasalita, napansin ko na ang general manager ay titig na titig sa akin. MAMA Nilandi mo nga! Tiningnan mo ng malalagkit mong tingin! Magpinsang buo siguro kayo ni Tucky! PAPA Wala akong ginawang ganoon, sumpa man! Naasiwa nga ako! 58 Nauubusan na ako ng sasabihin. Buti na lang, ako naman ang pinigil sa pagsasalita ng general manager. MAMA Ng matabang manager. PAPA At ang tanong ba naman, "Batch 69? Tamundong Elementary School? Batch 73, Sacramento High School?" Oo, oo, puro oo ang sagot ko! (Laughs.) Magkklase pala kami mula elementary hanggang hayskul! Si Nemesia! Si Nemmy! MAMA Ex-girlfriend mo? PAPA (Laughs.) Uy, dyeling ang balae ko! Uy! MAMA Ex mo? PAPA Secret! BEA Naeeskandalo ako! They hear a faint sound – of over a hundred glasses being struck by spoons and forks. TECHIE retouches BEA's makeup. TONY helps JUSTIN fix his attire. MAMA and PAPA help each other look good. TONY Tayo na! TECHIE Bea, pahiram ng gown mo, ha? BEA Oo naman! Alisin mo lang ang mga borloloy para mas disente. TECHIE Disente naman ah! BEA Your taste, Techie! Your taste! 59 JUSTIN Hindi mo ba hihiramin ang coat and tie ko, Tony? TONY Kung hindi pa nabibili ang ipina-reserve ko sa ukay-ukay! They all head for the door – except BEA and JUSTIN. But before they finally exit, MAMA has one last question. MAMA Gringo? PAPA Yes, balae? MAMA Kailangang sagutin mo ang aking tanong. Last na ito. PAPA Shoot! MAMA Hindi pwedeng porke magkklase kayo mula elementari hanggang hayskul ay pumayag na ang manager na hindi tayo magbabayad! PAPA Magbabayad tayo, aba! Iyon ang pangako ko! MAMA Payag siya sa pangako? Business is business, aba! PAPA Pumirma ako sa promissory note! MAMA Too good to be true, sabi nga ng anak ko. PAPA Sige, magtatapat na ako... Gusto ni Nemmy, noong general manager . . . na lumabas kami. We will eat out. MAMA (Face reddens in anger, eyes squint, but takes hold of herself.) Magkakainan kayo? The nerve! 60 PAPA

For old time's sake lang naman, Concha! Kwentuhan lang naman! MAMA Kwentuhan mong mukha mo! Isasama mo ako! PAPA Pero, Concha – MAMA Ayaw mo? Madali naman akong kausap! Ayaw mo? Good bye, Gringo! (Storms out.) PAPA Concha! Concha! Hindi ka pwedeng sumama sa aming eat out! Ayoko ng threesome! Concha! Hindi riyan ang papuntang ballroom! Papuntang storeroom 'yan! JUSTIN Pa, habulin n'yo! PAPA runs after MAMA. BEA Talagang naeskandalo ako! TONY and TECHIE Kami hindi. TECHIE Ang saya nga eh! BEA Well, nagbabago ang lahat, pati moralidad. The sound of glasses being struck is heard again. JUSTIN Susunod kami. Ten minutes. TONY Tama! Grand entrance dapat ang bagong kasal! The sound is heard again – a bit louder now that the door has been opened. TONY and TECHIE exit. JUSTIN closes the door. 61 BEA Parang, parang gusto kong – JUSTIN Sumigaw ulit? Sige lang. Sarado naman ang pinto... Pag magkasama na ba tayo sa iisang bahay, palagi ka pa ring sisigaw? BEA It depends. JUSTIN Depends saan? BEA Sa iyo. Kung paano mo ako bibigyan ng dahilan para – (erotic) -- sumigaw. Kung paano mo ako mamahalin... Kung magiging tapat ka, forever... Justin, pasensya ka na, ha? JUSTIN Saan? BEA Oh, you know. Sa lahat. Parang, parang we started off on the wrong foot . . . ang buong ideya ng magastos na engrandeng kasal at pag imbita sa buong barangay. JUSTIN We've only just begun, Honey. We have all the time in the world. They embrace and start to kiss. Somebody knocks on the door. JUSTIN opens it. It's GREG and SONIA again. JUSTIN Kayo na naman? GREG Opo. Pasensya na po! Hinahanap kayo ng manager namin. JUSTIN Bakit? Hindi ba inareglo na ni Papa ang problema? SONIA Yes, sir. Pero may mahalaga pa siyang sasabihin. Nasa ballroom na po siya. 62 BEA Anong sasabihin niya? SONIA Ay! Our lips are sealed po. BEA Pero alam ninyo? GREG Medyo po. BEA Then tell us. This time, ayoko ng surprises. Tell us. SONIA and GREG look at each other. SONIA Ang general manager po namin, may gift sa inyo. Compliments of the house po. JUSTIN and BEA wait for the next word. SONIA (Ecstatic.) One night and one day free stay! Dito na raw kayo mag honeymoon -- GREG Kung wala pa kayong honeymoon plan. BEA Hmmm. Not bad. JUSTIN Bea, I can't believe you like the idea! BEA Charity, charity! GREG Salamat nga po pala sa inyo. BEA For what? SONIA 63 Dahil sa inyo, nalinawan kami. Napasimple ng problema namin, dapat naso-solve agad. Di gaya ng mga problema at pamilya ninyo, complicated. BEA clears her throat

threateningly. JUSTIN Ah eh, kailan ba ninyo balak magpakasal? GREG Sa twenty twenty-two pa naman po. Pag iba na ang administrasyon. JUSTIN Good... Kailangan, medyo payapa na ang mundo. GREG Mabuhay po ulit ang bagong kasal! JUSTIN Mabuhay rin kayo! (Closes the door as the sound of glasses is heard again.) BEA Paano mo nalaman na ikakasal sila? JUSTIN Hinulaan ko lang. Ang mga nagbabalak pakasal, nakikilala sa kanilang pag-aaway. BEA Another of Murphy's Laws? JUSTIN No. My law. BEA You're so . . . keen!

JUSTIN and BEA cling to one another and move about like they are dancing -- we can have some erotic music here. Then, slowly, he leads her to the bed. Now in bed, they start romancing – but the furniture gives way with a thump. They let out a crispy laughter. Then the laughter becomes a moaning. Then, silence. Another thump. Lights dim as the sound of glasses being struck by spoons and forks grows stronger and stronger. Blackout.

THE END

Part 2: Activity 3

How did you find the play? What can you say about the mood? What personal, moral, social, and political issues did the characters take up? Did the playwright's choice of dramatic style affect your appreciation of these? In what way?

Part 3: Beyond Social Realism On our topic page is written a six-word one-liner that says a lot about the writer's commitment to the people. "To write is already to choose" is the slogan of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP). Founded in 1931, it is the oldest and the only existing intercollegiate alliance of student publications in the Asia-Pacific global region. It is heartwarming that young writers in our campuses are early on encouraged by this organization to be firm about their commitment to the

profession. Truly, once you have decided to commit your thoughts on paper (or its equivalent in today's computerized world), you have likewise made a decision to perform your social responsibility. To cap our discussion about literature and society and the artists' social responsibility, and to take us closer to the times, let us study the following piece written by the eminent filmmaker Lino Brocka (1939-1991) who directed such remarkable films as *Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim*, *Orapronobis*, *Insiang*, and *Maynila, Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag*. In 1997, he was posthumously honored as a National Artist for film.

Artist as Citizen By Lino Brocka

The filmmaker, like his fellow artists in different media, has now realized that the artist is also a public person. He does not work in isolation from society. Instead of working alone in his ivory tower he is a citizen of the slums, of the streets, of the battlefield if need be. The artist is always a participant. He tries to be true not only to his craft but also to himself. For it is the supreme duty of the artist to investigate the truth, no matter what forces attempt to hide it. And then to report it to the people, to confront them with it, like a whiplash that will cause wounds but will free the mind from the various fantasies and escapist fare that the Establishment pollutes our minds with. To the best of our abilities, and even if we oftentimes fail, we want to do works that will hurt, films that will disturb, films that will not make you rest. For the times are really bad, and given times like these, it is a crime to rest. We cannot rest, and we should not, while there's a fellow Filipino starving in Negros, an Aquino or Galman crying for justice, a salvage victim lying in a mountain of garbage while a corrupt family rules the country with uncontrolled power and wealth. While it is the duty of the artist to work for what is true, good, and beautiful, first we have to expose and fight for what is wrong. In these times when most of the media hide the truth from us, when most of what we get from the media are silly gossip and petty flesh and sensationalized crimes, we go to the streets to find out what's happening. We listen to those artists who dare risk their lives and livelihoods, who reiterate once more the utmost duty of the artist — that the artist is a committed person, that he will always take the side of any human being who is violated, abused, oppressed, dehumanized whatever his instrument — the pen, the brush, or the camera.”

NOTES TO THE LEARNER (AND TO THE TEACHER, AS WELL): BY WAY OF AN ASSESSMENT

Reminder to the Learners before we close: Keep your journal and collection of works intact and complete; otherwise, you will have a huge problem in the last quarter. No kidding.

It has been an exciting penultimate quarter, perhaps more than how the first two energized you. Just as well. You have been taught about the principle of the rising action as you approach the climax of your story or play, right?

More than the excitement, however, our lessons in this quarter are meant to capture your attention to the social responsibility of artists and writers. We just hope that we didn't do it at the expense of anything. Nonpartisanship, for one. But then again, is there such a thing?

Keep an open mind. Use your critical thinking.

Finally, to paraphrase an anonymous quotation, think about this: While the world suffers because of bad people, it suffers more because of the silence of the good ones.

Now, come up with our strengths and weaknesses in the third quarter – and see you again soon.

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