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Marilyn's mustache

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traducción de
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(fragmento en inglés)

MARILYN'S MUSTACHE

A TRAGICOMEDY FOR FIVE ACTORS, TWO MARIONETTES
AND A SHADOW

CHARACTERS:

GROUCHO

MARILYN

CATI

JULIO

FATHER

MOTHER

MAN

WOMAN

NOTE: Groucho and Marilyn are the most prototypical Groucho Marx and Marilyn Monroe, i.e., Groucho with his mustache, jacket, cigar, and Marilyn in her white dress from *The Seven Year Itch* publicity shot. Their appearances remain the same through the work. They can be played by two marionettes, by two actors, or by two actors pretending to be marionettes. The Mother is an invisible character, a presence always hidden in a dark place, illuminated only by her voice.

SCENE 1.

(MARILYN Monroe and GROUCHO Marx. Limbo space. Perhaps they don't see each other. Perhaps all they do is look at each other.

GROUCHO

Answer the second question first.

MARILYN

No.

GROUCHO

No?

MARILYN

No.

GROUCHO

No. All the women reject me. The same as my Mother when I asked for her breast, and she said the cigar smoke bothered her.

MARILYN

I'm sorry, Groucho. But don't forget I asked first.

GROUCHO

When?

MARILYN

Just a moment ago . . .

GROUCHO

You think I was paying attention?

MARILYN

Oh, Groucho. I don't know why I talk to you.

GROUCHO

Ha, ha. Don't get mad. I love it that you're so ingenuous. If I decide to, someday I'll convince you that you don't exist.

MARILYN

You crazy man. Are you going to answer me or not?

GROUCHO

It's hard to say. The question was badly put.

MARILYN

Why?

GROUCHO

Because it implies things. If you ask what's my favorite book, you're implying I know how to read.

MARILYN

I give up. I just want to know what you like. That's all.

GROUCHO

That's all? You don't want to know what size shoes I wear? That information you could get for a reasonable price.

MARILYN

Sweetheart, please. I just want you to answer me. Forget about all the stuff in the books. The only thing I want is to get to know you better. What kind of things do you like? What's the thing you like most in the whole world?

GROUCHO

The world . . . You really think I can like something from that place? There're far too many people like me.

MARILYN

Groucho. I don't like it when you put yourself down so much. Not even as a joke.

GROUCHO

Why not? It's a lot cheaper than hiring a psychiatrist. (professional belittler)

MARILYN

Right. Gotcha. So tell me right now what you like most in the whole world. Most of all.

GROUCHO

I like the way you look at me from the movie poster in my room.

MARILYN

Groucho. You know very well I'm not like for real.

GROUCHO

Yea, I know. But in that photo you look like you really love me.

MARILYN

And I really do love you. But that's not who I am . . .

GROUCHO

You love me? That means your answer is "yes".

MARILYN

What answer?

GROUCHO

To the earlier question.

MARILYN

Again? I told you "no".

GROUCHO

Not even one little date? One evening? One afternoon? To get to know each other.

MARILYN

We already know each other.

GROUCHO

Yea, but it's not the same. You know what I mean?

MARILYN

Yea, and that's why. I don't want you make the mistake of getting your hopes all up and then be disappointed.

GROUCHO

What do you take me for? I've never been disappointed by anybody without their permission. What's going on here? Does "your heart belong to Daddy" or what? (*Pause.*) No answer?

MARILYN

Listen, Groucho.

GROUCHO

I'm listening, Marilyn.

MARILYN

You miss so much someone loving you?

GROUCHO

Someone? Are you referring to yourself?

MARILYN

No. I'm referring to someone, in general. Really, you must need it if what you like most is having a piece of paper look at you.

GROUCHO

It's not a piece of paper. It's you.

MARILYN

Exactly.

GROUCHO

I'll tell you two things, lady. First: you're too devious to be calling yourself Marilyn. Change your name. How about Groucho?

MARILYN

I don't look good with a mustache.

GROUCHO

Second. Yes, I do need someone to love me. But that someone can only be you.

MARILYN

Only me? You're that lonely?

GROUCHO

Yes.

MARILYN

But, why? What about your family? You never talk to me about your family.

GROUCHO

Harpo is making great progress. Before you know it he'll be honking his horn in five languages.

MARILYN

I'm talking about your real family. *(Pause.)* Groucho? *(Pause.)* You don't want to comment on that?

GROUCHO

No. Look, don't you listen to me when I talk to you?

MARILYN

OK. By the way, I found that film. The one we were in together. *Love Happy*.

GROUCHO

Love Happy? How did you find it? It's unfindable.

MARILYN

I have my connections

GROUCHO

So, when will you let me have it? When can I see it?

MARILYN

I'll keep it for now. I know you can't get it anywhere else, so this way you won't lose interest in me. I'll give it to you when I don't need to get your attention any more.

GROUCHO

All you need to do is breathe to get my attention. So it's better if you keep breathing if you don't want to make me mad.

MARILYN

Listen, Groucho. You need me to love you. And you? Do you love me?

GROUCHO

Yes.

MARILYN

Without even knowing me . . .

GROUCHO

I know you enough.

MARILYN

Well, if you really love me, please, pay attention to me. We'll keep talking like this, but we won't see each other.

GROUCHO

I'll see you though. Every night before I get into bed.

(Blackout.)

SCENE 2.

(CATI is waiting. JULIO enters.)

JULIO
Am I late?

CATI
Only an hour and a half. Don't worry about it.

JULIO
It was this one, right?

CATI
Thanks.

JULIO
No problem.

CATI
Did you like it?

JULIO
Yea. It was good.

CATI
I'll let you have some more. I've got some other pretty good ones I think you might like.

JULIO
Great. Bring'em on.

(Silence.)

CATI
Are you seeing anyone else from the class?

JULIO
No. What for? I don't need anyone else's notes now.

CATI
I mean, it's possible. How can you be so . . . ?

JULIO
What about you? Are you seeing anyone?

CATI

No. only you.

(Silence.)

CATI

What's with a . . . ?

JULIO

Marilyn? Good. Yea.

CATI

You've seen each other then? You've met then? I mean, in person?

JULIO

No. She wants to, but I told her it wasn't time yet to take that step. I didn't want her to get her hopes up and then be disappointed, you know.

(Pause.)

CATI

Liar.

JULIO

No. Not yet.

CATI

So, you and she . . .

JULIO

Yea, I mean, it's serious.

CATI

Ah.

JULIO

Truth is, I like her a lot. I think it could turn into something.

CATI

Has she told you anything about herself? Her life?

JULIO

No. But I know what she is. She's Marilyn.

CATI

Julio, that's only her chat room nickname. She could have put, I don't know, Mary21 or Lolita or Madonna. Anything. It's pure coincidence.

JULIO

No. It's not coincidence. I wouldn't have talked to her if she'd had another name. And if that's what she put, there's some reason. Coincidences don't exist. I know it's her. I mean . . . I'm not saying she's a platinum blonde. Almost better. Maybe she's not even good looking. But it's her. The way she talks, I don't know, it's so . . . caring sweet, so . . . ingenuous . . . No, it's not just that. With her I'm not lonely. It's that. With her I'm not lonely.

CATI

What do you mean, lonely? What about all the chicks you've been with?

JULIO

They weren't Marilyn. I've spent years looking for her, and now I think I've found her. She's not like the others. With them it was only physical. It wasn't any different from when I was by myself. Five minutes later I'd forgotten them. Not now. Now there's someone who understands me. For the first time. Before nobody was ever really interested in me.

CATI

You're sure?

JULIO

(*Ignoring her.*) And I need it. I've had it. I feel so lonely. And now, when Marilyn looks at me, I feel like I'm living inside of her eyes. I don't know.

CATI

How do mean, she looks at you?

JULIO

I know what I mean, Cati. And I know this time I'm not wrong.

CATI

But, Julio . . .

JULIO

(*Interrupting her.*) You know any new jokes?

CATI

Jokes?

JULIO

Yea. You know, the kind I like.

CATI

I know a few. You want me to tell them?

JULIO

Yea.

CATI

Now? Like right now?

JULIO

Why not?

CATI

They're pretty bad, you know.

JULIO

Tell them.

CATI

OK. But don't say I didn't warn you. Why does the cow wag his tail?

JULIO

Why?

CATI

Because the tail can't wag the cow. (*JULIO laughs a genuine laugh.*) What does Superman put on when he comes out of the shower?

JULIO

What?

CATI

Su-perfume. (*JULIO laughs even harder.*) What's every electrician's wish?

JULIO

What?

CATI

To be currently out of touch. (*JULIO can't stop laughing.*) You take a picture without flash, so Flash isn't in the picture. Mommy balloon and baby balloon go for a walk in the desert, and baby balloon yells, "Mommy a cactusssssssssssssssss."

JULIO

(*Doubled up with laughter.*) Stop! That's enough! They're great.

CATI

Really? You like them?

JULIO

I love your jokes.

CATI

Thanks. I'm glad you like them.

JULIO

That's the only thing wrong with Marilyn. If she could tell jokes like you . . .

CATI

No one's perfect.

JULIO

You ought to give lessons.

CATI

Right. Yea. You know what? I might be taking off, if I'm lucky.

JULIO

Where to?

CATI

I've applied for a scholarship to Germany.

JULIO

(Pleading.) No. Don't go . . .

CATI

No, really. My mind's made up.

JULIO

(His pleading obviously a joke.) What will happen to me without your jokes?!

CATI

I think you'll survive. Anyway, maybe I won't get it, and I'll just stay here. The thing is my father suggested he'd pay my way if I don't get the scholarship. But I don't like being dependent on him. If I were to do that, he'd spend the next twenty-five years thinking the best father is the one who writes the most checks for his kids. It would have been enough for me if he'd have just walked with me to a kiosk to buy trading cards with the nickels he gave me for being a good girl. *(Pause.)* Why am I going on like this? Am I boring you?

JULIO

Yes.

CATI

Ah . . .

JULIO

No. Really. I'm kidding. Ha, ha . . .

CATI

If I don't get the scholarship, there's always Burger King.

JULIO

You work at a Burger King?

CATI

Over a year now, Julio. You know that. We'll see if you ever show up.

JULIO

I will. Reserve your best burger for me.

CATI

I already did. For that day you told me you were coming. Yesterday a bunch of scientists picked up. They're doing a carbon-14 dating on it because they think the bread is from the Last Supper.

JULIO

(Laughing.) That's good! I mean it; I love your jokes.

CATI

So, what about you? What's going on with your video club idea?

JULIO

I'm still saving up.

CATI

It's going to be just classic stuff, right?

JULIO

Yea.

CATI

I hope it works out. It's a great idea.

JULIO

I know. The idea's good. But I think I'm gonna have to prostitute myself.

CATI

How about your father?

JULIO

What about my father?

CATI

Nothing. I mean, couldn't he help you?

JULIO

He's hard at work modernizing his bar. You know he's put in a cyber-café section?

CATI

That's a great idea! Isn't it?

JULIO

It's kind of a mismatch. In there with the bullfight posters and the slot machines. It's like Bill Gates opening up a place for drunks. It's crazy.

CATI

I'm sure lots of drunks like to "chat."

JULIO

Like the old dudes are gonna play ciber-pinochle with their friends in Japan. He's probably going to need somebody to help people with the internet and keep them from spilling alioli all over the keyboards. You should come over. For sure it's not as boring as Burger King.

CATI

I'll come by. I'm tired of wasting time with useless job interviews.

JULIO

(Yawning.) Cati. I gotta go.

CATI

You gotta go?

JULIO

Yea. I gotta go. Stuff to do. Later.

CATI

See you then.

JULIO

Something of yours I need to return?

CATI

No, why?

JULIO

I mean, the way you said, "see you."

CATI

It's a way of talking. See you . . . when we see each other.

JULIO

Oh, OK. Well, then, see you. Ha, ha. *(He goes.)*

CATI

(Alone.) Later.

(Blackout.)