

CAKE

An Excerpt

by

Shawn Nabors

*"Cake" was the premiere production of the 2012 Araca Projects.
This debut production took place at the American Theatre of Actors
in New York City, under the direction and mentorship of Rod Gales
OBC.*

Shawn Nabors
Scnabors1@gmail.com
347-423-6868

Pages 75-78 of 90.

In this scene, our protagonist or anti-hero, MESSIAH, is confronted by his ex-girlfriend from College, TRUE. The two had a daughter together who they gave up for adoption. They've recently learned that she has passed away.

You saw her.
TRUE

Who?
MESSIAH

TRUE
You know who I'm talking about Messiah. Destiny. You went and saw her without me, didn't you.

MESSIAH
Nooo

TRUE
Didn't you?

MESSIAH
Did you still wanna get to work on that baby?

TRUE
Messiah-

MESSIAH
I'm just saying because we probably should get started if we're gonna-

TRUE
Tell me the truth!

MESSIAH
Yes! Okay. I saw her.

TRUE
When?

MESSIAH
Last year. This time last year.

She doesn't say anything.

MESSIAH
You want to talk about something else now?

TRUE
How many times?

MESSIAH
What's a number really?

TRUE
How many times?!

MESSIAH
I never missed a birthday.

TRUE
Wow.

MESSIAH
This is the first one that I've missed.

TRUE
So twice. You saw her twice without me.

MESSIAH
Only her on her birthdays though.

Silence.

MESSIAH
Are you all right?

TRUE
You fucking bastard.

Suddenly she starts spastically
throwing pieces of cake at him.

MESSIAH
Hey-

She continues.

MESSIAH
Hey, that's perfectly good cake you're wasting True!

TRUE
And nobody thought to call me?

MESSIAH
I called him. I got in touch with Frank both of those times.
He didn't reach out to me.

TRUE

So why didn't you think to call me then?

MESSIAH

I needed to see her by myself.

She throws more cake at him.

MESSIAH

I couldn't get her out my mind True. I can't have a piece of me out there and never see her.

TRUE

I didn't get to!

MESSIAH

I wasn't thinking about you.

She's about to throw more cake at him.
He stops her.

MESSIAH

Just hear me out!

Pause. She's tired.

MESSIAH

She never left my mind. She wouldn't. That little girl, she-I kept having these dreams

TRUE

I don't care about your dreams right now Messiah.

MESSIAH

It's night time and there's a baby lying there next to me. An infant. Like, it's wrapped in a pink blanket. That's how I know that it's a girl, because of the pink blanket. She's really little. Like...if I pick her up and hold her, she's gonna just fall right through my arms. Like...if I pick her up...I'm gonna drop her. I'm so scared that I'm gonna drop her. So...I don't touch her. I just leave her lying there beside me. Right there next to me. And I just watch her breathing. In and out. In and out. Everything so simple. Everything so peaceful. Just lying there still. So beautiful, my little girl. Just - just breathing. (Beat) And...and all of a sudden I start feeling like all of my energy is being sucked away from me. Like I'm getting weak but I don't understand why because I'm not doing anything. I'm not moving. I'm just lying there still. Just watching her. Me myself just breathing. And...that's when I notice that there's this little tube lying there between us. Between Destiny and me. The tube, it - it's connecting us.

And in it there's this white stuff. It looks like milk. I don't know how, and I don't know why, and I don't even know that this makes any sense but...I'm guessing that it was breast milk? Don't ask me how in the world I was producing breast milk, but I was. I really was True. I think that's what I was doing. I think that I was breast feeding our daughter!

Pause.

A large piece of cake flies straight at his face. SMACK.

TRUE

You're an asshole Messiah.

MESSIAH

Okay. I deserve that but...