

PLAYWRIGHT

#1

In a little while, Della Gonzalez is going to get what she wants. Her son is gonna drop her off at work.

And when she walks into the building, she will hold her head up high. But it won't have the effect she hopes.

Instead of looking at Elliot with awe or jealousy, the men and women of the Fillmore Best Western will note the car, the boy, and the clothes, and they will turn to each other and ask: "What? She think she white now?"

And then they will go back to work.

But they will never again tell her about their grandkids.

Nor--and this will hurt the most--will they ask about hers.

#2

For all their differences, there's a lot Willow Miller and Dolores Gonzalez have in common.

For example:

Both women were born in small towns.

In the summer.

In 1957.

Which means that, in a few short weeks for Dolores and in exactly one month for Willow, both women will mark forty seven times around the sun.

A fact which strikes both of them every morning while they stand in their separate kitchens, in their separate homes, drinking their separate beverages.

When both women were young, they used to dream of living exciting lives in exciting places.

But now they both believe that dreams, like excitement, are meant to be given up.

Which is, maybe, why both women married in the summer of 1980. To the first men they had ever really loved.

And why, six years later, both women found themselves pregnant. With boys.

They were twenty-nine.

Which was early for Willow.

And late for Dolores.

Not that the timing mattered much in the end.