

FRIENDS BEYOND THE GRAVE

Written by

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EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

It's cloudy, as most graveyard scenes are. Very cold. We focus on a big hole, nearly five feet deep, a casket just next to it.

Two women are digging in the hole, wearing fashionable oversized coats. These women are:

JULIA - 26, black, tall. Fashionable, quick-witted, kind but sarcastic.

NANCY TORRES - 27, Latina, petite. Fashionable, doesn't always think before she speaks.

The two are covered in dirt, both digging their shovels into the ground.

NANCY TORRES

I cannot believe we are the only two that showed up. Not even the gravedigger showed.

JULIA

No, they showed. They just left the actual gravedigging to us. And a sweet note, too.

NANCY TORRES

Ugh, my mother-in-law bought me this coat.

JULIA

You finally made it look nice.

NANCY TORRES

She's sick!

JULIA

And Marilyn's dead.

NANCY TORRES

It's the least I can do for my mother-in-law.

JULIA

She knew Marilyn?

NANCY TORRES

I talked about her.

JULIA
Ah, you "talked about her".

NANCY TORRES
All good things.

JULIA
I'm sure.

NANCY TORRES
Be sure. From this day forth, all I'll
do is say nice things about her.

JULIA
So yesterday when we got drinks
together, and you said she acted like
an ankle-biter, that was you being
nice?

NANCY TORRES
I was drunk. You made me drunk!

JULIA
I only bought you the shots you wanted.

NANCY TORRES
It was supposed to be my treat.

JULIA
Well, now it's mine.

Julia stops digging and pulls out a wine bottle from her fancy
coat. Meanwhile, Nany is still digging.

NANCY TORRES
Where'd you buy that?

JULIA
Down the street.

NANCY TORRES
Wait, did you go to the-

JULIA
Mhm.

NANCY TORRES
JULIA!

JULIA

I thought more people would show.

NANCY TORRES

Ah, yes, you were definitely going to share that.

JULIA

Only with you and Daniel.

NANCY TORRES

Oh my *God*—

JULIA

Using the Lord's name in vain?

NANCY TORRES

No, not even Daniel showed! Ugh, and he was blabbing his mouth the whole time on proposing to Marilyn.

JULIA

Did he call her Mari?

NANCY TORRES

Yes, and it was the sweetest nickname I'd heard.

JULIA

No, that was just Mari Langley he was talking about.

Nancy stops digging.

NANCY TORRES

Shut up.

JULIA

It's true.

NANCY TORRES

(gasp)

So when Marilyn talked about sleeping with him—

JULIA

He was just going around women.

NANCY TORRES

I'll be cutting him off after today.
How dare he do something like that to
someone like Marilyn?

JULIA

She knew.

NANCY TORRES

She *knew*!?

JULIA

It's why she went after him.

NANCY TORRES

Oh goodness, Marilyn...

JULIA

I actually admired that about her.
She'd find a person she liked, and
regardless of the situation would find
a way to make them hers. Remember that
father she dated?

NANCY TORRES

You mean my ex-husband?

JULIA

No, no, Mr. Carson, the man who lived
down the street from the coffee house.

NANCY TORRES

Oh, Carrie's husband. She hasn't found
out yet, has she?

JULIA

Nope. Pretty sure the housekeeper
knows, but she's a bit..

NANCY TORRES

Close to her candies?

JULIA

Who says that?

NANCY TORRES

Me, just now.

JULIA

Alright, I'll make sure to tell the comedian to add it into their next act.

Nancy slaps Julia lightly.

NANCY TORRES
Shut it. And keep digging.

Julia gets back to digging the hole with Nancy.

NANCY TORRES
If we are talking, we shouldn't even be talking about ourselves. We should be talking about Marilyn.

JULIA
We were. We just got to the part where she attracted all the men she laid her seductive eyes on.

NANCY TORRES
And that one woman.

JULIA
Oh, I'm sure there were more than just one.

NANCY TORRES
Well, we shouldn't spread that.

JULIA
Wasn't planning to. All those women already socially killed themselves before we got the chance.

NANCY TORRES
Didn't one of them—

JULIA
We're talking about Marilyn.

NANCY TORRES
Right.

JULIA
It would be tragic, though. Her and that woman died the same way.

NANCY TORRES

You think they loved each other?

JULIA

No, Marilyn only ever had one true love.

NANCY TORRES

Johnny.

JULIA

Herself.

NANCY TORRES

That too. Oh, she was always more focused on how *she* looked in a relationship.

JULIA

And friendships.

NANCY TORRES

And family gatherings.

JULIA

And bars she went to.

Nancy pauses her digging.

NANCY TORRES

Ugh, and don't even get me started on weddings. Wait, I shouldn't be speaking badly of her.

Nancy keeps digging.

NANCY TORRES

She was such a great wedding planner!

JULIA

I believe that the best time to talk badly about someone is when they're dead.

NANCY TORRES

That's horrible.

JULIA

It's true. What would happen if I said the words 'Marilyn is a bimbo' right now?

NANCY TORRES
You just said them!

JULIA
Exactly.

NANCY TORRES
And they were terrible. You should never speak ill of the dead.

JULIA
It's not like she'd stop us, and she did it all the time. Do you remember when the three of us went to Mr. and Mrs. Patson's funeral? All Marilyn did was talk about how annoying they were, and she was right!

Nancy stops digging.

NANCY TORRES
Those were my neighbors!

Julia stops digging.

JULIA
Oh please, all you'd say about them was how much they would yell and fight with each other, and how you could hardly go to bed without having to hear it.

NANCY TORRES
One thing is the fighting, they were good people.

JULIA
Good people with odd Christian values.

NANCY TORRES
I never said they had good morals.

JULIA
You believe everyone has good morals.

NANCY TORRES

How about this, then? Everyone starts off with good morals but eventually realize they are just morals?

JULIA

I could agree with that.

NANCY TORRES

Then I'll agree that Marilyn was a bit of a bimbo.

Nancy and Julia get back to digging

NANCY TORRES

She was really intelligent though. Best in our college class.

JULIA

Intelligence only goes so far.

Nancy pauses her digging, Julia continues digging.

NANCY TORRES

Let me ask you this, Julia, if you believe that the best moment to speak badly about someone is when they're dead, are you going to do that to me?

JULIA

Of course. And you should do it to me. For all I know I'll be dead at 72 and you'll be kicking it 'til 93.

NANCY TORRES

You think I'll live that long?

Julia pauses her digging.

JULIA

Nancy, your great grandmother was still alive at 95.

Julia gets back to digging and Nancy follows.

NANCY TORRES

I appreciate the sentiment. But I'd have nothing bad to say about you. You're wonderful, whether you believe that or not.

JULIA

Thank you. You are, too. A bit ditzy and more or less the same kind of ankle-biter as Marilyn, but you're also quite wonderful.

NANCY TORRES

Thank you.

The two keep digging, until Julia pauses

JULIA

This should be enough.

NANCY TORRES

Really?

JULIA

We keep going, and it won't just be Marilyn in here.

NANCY TORRES

That's true.

The two plant their shovels and take a breather

NANCY TORRES

What should we say about Marilyn, then? Now that we've said most of the bad things.

JULIA

Hm...

Julia opens the wine bottle, and lifts it up into the air

JULIA

To Marilyn. Friend, sister - an admirable slut.

NANCY TORRES

Very admirable.

JULIA

Though we're the only two who showed up, I think that says all we have to say. Here's to you.

Julia takes a drink from the wine bottle

NANCY TORRES

That was her favorite wine, right?

Julia hands over the wine bottle to Nancy

JULIA

Our favorite.

Nancy smiles, and raises it to the air

NANCY TORRES

To you, Marilyn. May the doors of heaven and paradise open up to you - even if you never believed in that. We love you, Marilyn.

Nancy takes a drink from the bottle. Julia pats her on the shoulder.

NANCY TORRES

You know, I always thought Marilyn was a witch.

Nancy looks at Julia very seriously, while Julia blinks a few times.

JULIA

Well, that makes the fire a bit more tragic.

Nancy and Julia look at each other, and burst into laughter. Their laughter echoes in the hole, reaching the casket.

CUT TO:

We focus on a tombstone that reads:

'Marilyn White - 1926-1952 - Daughter, Friend, and Possible Witch'

END