

THE OLD BEATNIK

a play in one act

by Charles Deemer

Contact: cdeemer@yahoo.com, amelia693@yahoo.com

THE OLD BEATNIK

CAST:

LOLA-80 ... Lola in her 80s, bohemian, unreformed Beat poet, early dementia

LOLA-20/30/40... Lola when younger

EVELYN ... Lola's granddaughter, 20s

FRANK ... Young Lola's boyfriend, father of Lola's child, Evelyn's mother, 20-30s

PAUL ... Evelyn's fiancée, 30s

SET:

Split set ... one half contemporary Starbucks, one half 1950s coffee house

TIME:

Present and past as indicated

ACT IScene 1

Split stage: left, a contemporary Starbucks; right, a 1950s era coffeehouse.

AT RISE: focus on LOLA-20 in coffeehouse, reading a poem. Dressed in black. It is 1954.

LOLA-20

O America / if Paris had kept his cock in his pants / would a thousand ships never have launched?

CROSSFADE to Starbucks. EVELYN alone at a table, on her cell phone. Her attire reveals wealth. It is 2015.

Baristas, customers, represented by cardboard figures. Or not at all.

EVELYN

I don't think she's coming, Paul. You might as well join me....You know how on again, off again, she was about meeting me. ...We're here, we might as well make the best of it....--Wait a minute. I think she just came in.

On Lola-20 in coffeehouse.

LOLA-20

O America / if you had kept your cock in your pants / would you have built your city not on a hill but in the valley? / If you had kept your cock in your pants, / would you have settled for a destiny less than manifest?

In Starbucks. Lola-80 slowly approaches Evelyn's table. The black clothes have turned shabby. One might guess she is homeless, though she isn't.

EVELYN

Lola?

LOLA-80

Hello. Are you the one I'm supposed to meet?

EVELYN

I'm Evelyn.

LOLA-80

Did we talk on the phone?

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

Several times.

LOLA-80

Who are you again?

EVELYN

Angel's daughter. I'm your granddaughter.

LOLA-80

My granddaughter. Isn't that something?

EVELYN

I'd almost given up on you.

LOLA-80

I was standing out there for the longest time. I had no idea what I was doing here. I've never been inside a Starbucks before. I avoid them. Then I saw you through the window. You looked familiar.

EVELYN

You've never been to Starbucks? Are you serious?

LOLA-80

I'm always serious. Places like this frighten me. I don't want to become infected.

EVELYN

I'm sure there's no danger. They keep it very clean.

LOLA-80

Spiritually infected. Abandon my values for convenience. Look at this place. It's antiseptic. It's like a waiting room in a hospital. Who would want to get it on here?

(singing)

Why don't we do it in the road?

EVELYN

Grandma!

Lola-80 sits down.

LOLA-80

Grandma. I've never been called that before.

EVELYN

It just came out. I'm sorry if--

LOLA-80

Never apologize for speaking the truth. What was your name again?

EVELYN

Evelyn.

LOLA-80

Right. My granddaughter.

EVELYN

Yes.

LOLA-80

Isn't that something?

EVELYN

Yes, it is.

LOLA-80

My granddaughter. You found me.

On Lola-20 in coffeehouse.

LOLA-20

O America / if you keep your cock in your pants, / will
our sordid history finally come to an end? / Let me
tell you the sad truth, America: / your history has
been driven by the one-eyed tyrant between your legs.

In Starbucks

EVELYN

Everybody told me you were dead. I only learned
otherwise last year after mom died.

LOLA-80

At my age I sometimes feel dead.

EVELYN

Paul googled you. My fiancée. He was looking if you had
any other books.

LOLA-80

Why?

EVELYN

He knew how intrigued I was about the one I found in
mom's stuff. He was looking for a birthday present,
something special. But Wikipedia said you had just the
one book of poems ... and nothing was there about your
death.

LOLA-80

I have no idea what you're talking about. Wiki--?

EVELYN

Wikipedia. It's online, a kind of group encyclopedia.

LOLA-80

You mean on a computer?

EVELYN

Yes, of course.

LOLA-80

I don't like computers. I still have the Remington I bought used in San Francisco in 1971. Not that I use it very often. It's getting painful to type. It's hard to find ribbons.

EVELYN

It must be an antique.

LOLA-80

I've kept it longer than any of my lovers. Of either sex.

EVELYN

Grandma-- ...

She stops.

LOLA-80

Never censor yourself.

EVELYN

You don't use a computer. You never went to Starbucks until now. You're like Robinson Crusoe. Only a little X-rated.

LOLA-80

X-rated? You should read Lenore Kandel if you want x-rated. Her love poems were banned as obscene. When was that? Nineteen sixty something.

EVELYN

I didn't say--

LOLA-80

--Lenore called her poems holy erotica. Cocks and cunts were part of the cosmic dance.

EVELYN

Grandma--!

LOLA-80

(reciting from memory)

"There are no ways of love but beautiful / I love you
all of them / I love you / your cock in my hand / stirs

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOLA-80 (cont'd)

like a bird in my fingers / as you swell and grow hard
in my hand--"

EVELYN

Grandma, not so loud ...

LOLA-8

(whispering)

Lenore called this the God/Love poem. They arrested her
for it.

EVELYN

I didn't mean you had to whisper.

LOLA-80

She died a few years ago. Wonderful lady. Very smart.
Very sensitive.

EVELYN

Was she a friend of yours?

LOLA-80

Only casually. Lenore never compromised. Her poems told
the truth. I always looked up to her. She turned down
comfort to follow her vision.

EVELYN

She sounds fascinating.

A silence.

LOLA-80

Do you have a credit card?

EVELYN

Yes, of course.

LOLA-80

I've never had a credit card.

EVELYN

Why do you ask?

LOLA-80

I'm sorry I mentioned it.

EVELYN

Grandma, what are we talking about?

LOLA-80

Nothing really. I never realized credit cards had
become such a big deal. Where were we?

EVELYN

You were telling me about an x-rated poet.

LOLA-80

Only the censors thought of her that way.

Silence.

EVELYN

What was it like to be a beatnik?

LOLA-80

I hate that term.

EVELYN

That's what everybody called you. The beatnik of the family.

LOLA-80

I wasn't interested in becoming a housewife.

In the coffeehouse. Lola-30 at the podium, reading a poem. 1960s.

LOLA-30

America, here are your divorce papers / I can't live with you any more / We are too different // You get noisier every year / with your ad campaigns / with your patriotic speeches / and I cherish silence / for reflection and self-discovery // You think change is progress / and I think change also kills what does not need changing / rituals and cycles lost forever // You are forever buying things / a hoarder of possessions / and my mantra is Less Is More / my essentials on my back // You worship the dollar / and I worship the blade of grass / breaking through the sidewalk // You want to save the world / and I want to save myself // America, here are your divorce papers / I don't want your City on a Hill / I don't want your Manifest Destiny / I sing the music of the universe / My soul is dancing to Mulligan and Miles / and my spirit soars like a bird

Continuing at Starbucks.

EVELYN

There's an inscription in mom's book. I assume Grandpa Frank wrote it. I can remember it almost word for word. "This is a book of poems by your mother. She was a very good poet. Unfortunately the world is not kind to poets and she left us too early."

LOLA-80

I didn't leave my daughter. Frank took her away from me. He thought I was dangerous. I'd raise her to be a free spirit.

EVELYN

That's funny. I can remember fights when I was young when mom would scream at dad, Watch out! I have a trickle of free spirit in my veins!

LOLA-80

Good for her.

EVELYN

But she wasn't a free spirit. She was addicted to all the drugs the doctors gave her.

LOLA-80

Did you tell me she died?

EVELYN

Of a heart attack. Shortly after after her latest try at treatment. She was in and out most of her life. I swear, my top priority is to keep my children off drugs.

LOLA-80

You have children?

EVELYN

Not yet.

LOLA-80

Are you pregnant?

EVELYN

No, thank God. I'm not ready.

LOLA-80

Why do I think you're married? Did I meet your husband?

EVELYN

You talked to Paul on the phone.

LOLA-80

Really? My memory isn't what it used to be.

EVELYN

What does your doctor say about that?

LOLA-80

Not much. Tell me about your husband.

EVELYN

My fiancée, and I'm not pregnant.

LOLA-80

No woman who isn't pregnant should even be thinking about marriage.

EVELYN

Paul and I love each other.

LOLA-80

Love has nothing to do with it. Marriage exists for children, to give them parents. Otherwise just live together. But no pregnancy, no marriage license. I'd pass a law.

EVELYN

Well, that's a unique way of looking at it.

LOLA-80

It's a very old idea. Bertrand Russell wrote a book about it over 100 years ago. Put "Marriage & Morals" on your reading list. Do young people still read?

EVELYN

Of course I read. The book sounds interesting

LOLA-80

So what do you do, other than avoiding pregnancy?

EVELYN

I'm between jobs actually. My last one was in advertising.

LOLA-80

Lying for a living.

EVELYN

I never looked at it that way.

LOLA-80

You persuade people to buy what they don't need.

EVELYN

It was a job. The agency's been in Grandpa Frank's family for generations.

LOLA-80

Frank was a good artist before he sold out. Is he still alive?

EVELYN

He passed away quite a while ago.

LOLA-80

He used to draw me nude.

EVELYN

No way.

LOLA-80

Are you calling me a liar?

EVELYN

No, I just meant--

LOLA-80

I can remember those days like they were yesterday. If you want to argue about it--

EVELYN

I didn't come here to argue with you.

LOLA-80

What did you come here for?

EVELYN

To meet my grandmother. Why did you agree to see me?

LOLA-80

I did?

EVELYN

Finally, on the phone. You kept changing your mind.

LOLA-80

I don't remember why. I think I had a favor to ask.

EVELYN

What?

LOLA-80

I can't remember.

EVELYN

Maybe you were in shock to learn you had a granddaughter.

LOLA-80

Well, I was certainly surprised.

EVELYN

Me, too, after thinking you were dead for so long. But I knew I had to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

LOLA-80

You deserve to know where you come from.

EVELYN

I'm curious about you, too. Especially after reading your poems.

LOLA-80

What poems?

EVELYN

In your book. Mom had a copy.

LOLA-80

Did you tell me that?

EVELYN

Yes.

LOLA-80

I'm sorry. Sometimes I don't remember things.

EVELYN

Nothing to apologize for.

Silence.

EVELYN

So what do you do to keep busy?

LOLA-80

Why would I want to keep busy?

EVELYN

I was just curious how you spend your dsy.

LOLA-80

I take a dump first thing in the morning.

EVELYN

Grandma ...

LOLA-80

Then I meditate. I read. I go to a lovely park near my apartment. I read and meditate some more.

EVELYN

Do you have friends?

LOLA-80

I've been blessed with many wonderful friends. I outlived them.

EVELYN

Have you made new ones?

LOLA-80

Old friends can't be replaced.

EVELYN

But it's good to have someone in your life.

LOLA-80

I have my memories.

EVELYN

That sounds lonely.

LOLA-80

Oh no, they're wonderful memories. I'm blessed to have them.

EVELYN

As long as you're happy.

LOLA-80

As long as I keep to myself. All this madness can be catching. The only immunity is isolation.

EVELYN

And the madness is ...?

LOLA-80

Everything! Look around you. Buy this, buy that! Let's have a sale! You don't agree with America? Let's have a war! It gets harder to hide and mind your own business every year.

EVELYN

You're one of a kind, Grandma.

LOLA-80

So are you.

EVELYN

I don't feel like it. I think I have too much time on my hands. I need to get a job.

LOLA-80

What kind of job?

EVELYN

Good question. I'm still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up.

LOLA-80

Who says you have to grow up?

Silence.

EVELYN

You were going to tell me where I come from.

LOLA-80

What would you like to know?

EVELYN

How did you meet Grandpa Frank?

*In the coffeehouse, Frank is at the podium, 1950s,
as scene continues back and forth.*

LOLA-80

I met your grandfather at the Genesis Angels
Coffeehouse. We were in college and both read poems at
the same open mic ...

FRANK

(his poem)

Fuck! Gray! Flannel! / Fuck! Brown! Briefcases! / Fuck!
the Watercoolers! of America!

LOLA-80

I'd seen him on campus a few times. He reminded me of
James Dean.

EVELYN

Love at first sight?

LOLA-80

More like lust at first sight.

EVELYN

Are you kidding me? In the 1950s?

LOLA-80

The fifties were the most radical and liberating years
of my life.

EVELYN

Not moreso than the sixties.

LOLA-80

The sixties started in the fifties, but then the
hippies went on to popularize and pervert the energy. I
knew a few people who sold out and became hippies. Most
of us hated the attention. We were creating new values,
new ways of living. They weren't for everyone, and that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOLA-80 (cont'd)

was fine. We were ignored, so we didn't have to make compromises. There weren't many of us, and we were underground. Coffeehouses like Genesis Angels let us find one another.

EVELYN

And that's where you met grandpa Frank.

Lola-20 and Frank at a table. Frank is sketching Lola.

Others in the coffeehouse are cardboard figures. Or not there at all.

LOLA-80

He was a better artist than a poet. He came from a wealthy family. It perverted his sense of reality. We were doomed from the beginning.

Frank gives Lola the drawing.

LOLA-20

I'm naked.

FRANK

Wishful thinking.

LOLA-20

I don't look anything like that. My breasts are smaller.

FRANK

Educated guess. Sorry.

LOLA-20

I love my breasts.

FRANK

Did the best I could under the circumstances.

LOLA-20

It's not as if you asked.

FRANK

Meaning ...?

LOLA-20

Is that a question?

FRANK

My pad's only a few blocks away.

LOLA-20

That's convenient.

FRANK

Want to see it?

LOLA-20

Will you draw me nude?

FRANK

If you like.

LOLA-20

I would like.

FRANK

Cool.

EVELYN

Is this the night mom was conceived?

LOLA-80

Heavens no. That comes much later. I moved in with Frank after we graduated and we lived together for several years before everything fell apart. Did I already tell you this?

EVELYN

Grandma, we just met. How did everything fall apart?

LOLA-80

It was the early sixties, and the whole world was beginning to fall apart. Frank came from generations of money but was the family black sheep. He was living on an allowance from his mother. She wanted Frank to go to art school. But we were just hanging out, writing, drawing, doing some traveling ... it felt like paradise for the first year or so.

EVELYN

What happened?

LOLA-80

His dad wanted him to get an MBA and join the family ad agency. There was a lot of pressure on him. Then I got pregnant.

In the coffeehouse.

FRANK

This is not a problem. My sister got knocked up last year. A few days in Mexico, and it's taken care of. She said it was like going to a first class hotel.

(CONTINUED)

LOLA-20

Isn't it expensive?

FRANK

I'll take care of it. Okay?

No reply.

FRANK

Lola, okay?

LOLA-20

Okay.

In Starbucks.

EVELYN

But you didn't go through with it.

LOLA-80

I went to Mexico and chickened out.

EVELYN

How did he take it?

LOLA-80

I never told him. I phoned and planned to. But before I had a chance, he had news of his own. He'd been accepted at Harvard Business School. I couldn't believe it. I told him to go fuck himself and hung up.

EVELYN

This was in Mexico?

LOLA-80

Yes.

EVELYN

Was mom born in Mexico?

LOLA-80

Almost. I stayed for a few months in Ajijic, where there was a large colony of American writers and artists. I loved it there. But my parents tracked me down and convinced me to come home. Angel was born in San Francisco.

EVELYN

When did grandpa Frank find out?

LOLA-80

Not for several years. Then he took Angel away from me. The court gave him sole custody.

EVELYN

What happened?

LOLA-80

He found me at a very bad time. We were living in a car. I was doing a lot of drugs. Money was tight.

EVELYN

Were you writing?

LOLA-80

I was always writing.

EVELYN

Why didn't you publish more books?

LOLA-80

I was more interested in doing readings. I liked to see the reaction of the audience.

EVELYN

Did you try to get joint custody?

LOLA-80

Of course. The judge said I was a bad mother.

*In the coffeehouse. Lola-30 and Frank. Late 1960s.
Frank dapper in suit, Lola scruffy.*

FRANK

When you get your act together, we'll talk about visitation rights.

LOLA-30

Why are you doing this to us?

FRANK

Look in the mirror, Lola. You're a goddamn mess.

LOLA-30

At least I didn't sell out.

FRANK

What I did is grow up. It's time for you to do the same.

LOLA-30

What happened to "fuck the water coolers of America"?

FRANK

Go through a treatment program. Then maybe we can talk about Angel.

(CONTINUED)

LOLA-30

I've never been more together.

FRANK

Bullshit. You've never been more strung out. The way you're using, you wouldn't live to see her in high school.

In Starbucks.

LOLA-80

He had a point.

EVELYN

Tell me.

LOLA-80

My demon lover was cocaine. When I got clean the first time, I wanted to arrange time with Angel but Frank had disappeared. I knew he was keeping her from me.

EVELYN

I knew nothing about any of this.

LOLA-80

How could you?

EVELYN

How did you finally get clean for good?

LOLA-80

I got older. Too many of my friends overdosed. Rehab worked when I quit everything.

EVELYN

Wikipedia said you were an English teacher.

LOLA-80

I went back to school and got a teaching job. Good thing, too. It gives me the little Social Security I live on. I'd be homeless again without it.

EVELYN

Grandma, if you need some help--

LOLA-80

I don't. Under the circumstances, I get along just fine.

EVELYN

If you ever need anything--

LOLA-80

I have very few needs. My day is as slow and silent and peaceful as I can make it.

EVELYN

But if something comes up, you have an emergency--

LOLA-80

You're very wealthy. I get the picture.

EVELYN

I won't apologize for being comfortable.

LOLA-80

Is that what you call it?

EVELYN

Why are you attacking me?

LOLA-80

Is that what I'm doing?

EVELYN

Fine. Don't let me help you.

Silence.

LOLA-80

I made you angry.

EVELYN

You have your values, I have mine.

LOLA-80

Very true.

EVELYN

Pardon me if I'm not who you expected.

LOLA-80

I didn't expect anything. Actually you impress me.

EVELYN

How can I possibly impress you?

LOLA-80

You impress me as being a little lost.

EVELYN

What's impressive about that?

LOLA-80

If you're lost, you haven't sold out.

EVELYN

Well, any day now ...

LOLA-80

Maybe. Maybe not. There's no rush, one way or the other.

EVELYN

I don't even know what you mean by selling out.

LOLA-80

Doing whatever is easiest without thinking about it. Living your life out of habit. I can't tell you if you are. Only you can do that.

EVELYN

They're right. You dance to a different drummer.

LOLA-80

I just listen to myself. But it's not easy with all the noisy distractions.

Silence.

EVELYN

I'm glad we met.

LOLA-80

I'm glad we met, too. It's ... Evelyn?

EVELYN

Yes.

LOLA-80

My mind is going.

EVELYN

You seem okay most of the time. When's the last time you saw your doctor?

LOLA-80

Not long ago.

EVELYN

And he said ...

LOLA-80

I'm fine for an old relic from the past.

EVELYN

Good. Grandma, I'm serious about being here for you if you need help.

LOLA-80

Thank you.

Silence.

LOLA-80

There is something.

EVELYN

What?

LOLA-80

I need to rent a car. Apparently you need a credit card. Would you do that for me?

EVELYN

When do you need it?

LOLA-80

As soon as possible. Tomorrow.

EVELYN

I assume you have a driver's license.

LOLA-80

Of course. And never got a ticket.

EVELYN

How long do you need it for?

LOLA-80

Just the day. I have the money.

EVELYN

Yes, I can do that. I can drive if you like.

LOLA-80

I'm doing a day trip with friends.

EVELYN

Then you do have friends.

LOLA-80

Of course I have friends.

EVELYN

I'm sorry. I must have misunderstood you before. We'll rent a car tomorrow morning then.

(CONTINUED)

In the coffeehouse. Lola-40 at the podium. 1972.

LOLA-40

Welcome to Show & Tell Night at Genesis Angels. I want to begin by reading from a manifesto by Lenore Kandel. She wrote this four or five years ago. It was never published but circulated in manuscript among her many friends and admirers.

Lenore Kandel: "Poetry is never compromise. It is the manifestation/translation of a vision, an illumination, an experience. If you compromise your vision, you become a blind prophet."

In Starbucks. Evelyn and Paul at the table.

PAUL

You've got to be kidding.

EVELYN

Paul, don't make a mountain out of a molehill.

PAUL

I can't possibly stay over.

EVELYN

I'm not asking you to. I'll rent the car tomorrow, return it the next day, and fly home that night. Two days.

PAUL

How old is she?

EVELYN

Eighty something.

PAUL

And she has a license? She can drive?

EVELYN

Never had a ticket. And she'll be with friends.

He thinks about it.

PAUL

So I'll see you in two days.

EVELYN

Thank you. I love you.

Continuing in the coffeehouse.

LOLA-40

"Two poems of mine, published as a small book, deal with physical love and the invocation, recognition, and acceptance of the divinity in man through the medium of physical love. In other words, it feels so good that you can step outside your private ego and share the grace of the universe. This simple and rather self-evident statement, enlarged and exemplified poetically, raised a furor difficult to believe."

Starbucks. Two days later. Evelyn at table, on phone.

EVELYN

Paul, I hope you get this before you head to the airport. Grandma never returned the car. I have no idea where she is or what's going on. I'm worried about her. I cancelled my flight. I'll call you at home tonight. Hopefully I'll know more.

Continuing in the coffeehouse.

LOLA-40

"When a society becomes afraid of its poets, it is afraid of itself. A society afraid of itself stands as another definition of hell."

Starbucks. A few days later. Paul and Evelyn by the table, embraced. They sit.

PAUL

Unbelievable.

EVELYN

I feel so guilty.

PAUL

It wasn't your fault.

EVELYN

I should've demanded to see her license. She didn't even have one. No friends with her either.

PAUL

Don't beat yourself up. She was a demented old lady.

EVELYN

I don't think so. She carefully planned it. She even had the poem on the seat beside her.

PAUL

You mentioned that on the phone. A poem instead of a note. I couldn't follow.

EVELYN

She told me how much she admired this poem and the circumstances of the poet writing it. It all struck me as pretty weird at the time -- but maybe it was a clue about what she was thinking. And I missed it.

PAUL

This guy climbs a mountain and takes off his clothes ...?

EVELYN

... and shoots himself. It's an offering to the buzzards so he can be reborn as a bird. By entering the food chain, he becomes immortal.

PAUL

Looney tunes.

Continuing in the coffeehouse.

LOLA-40

We lost Lew Welch last year. This is the ending of his last poem, the remarkable "Song of the Turkey Buzzard."

"Hear my Last Will and Testament: / Among my friends there shall always be / one with proper instructions for my continuance. / Let no one grieve. I shall have used it all up / used up every bit of it. / What an extravagance! What a relief!"

Continuing in Starbucks.

EVELYN

She said she wouldn't have the courage to kill herself that way. A cosmic death, she called it. But she certainly got creative, I'll give her that.

PAUL

Not that creative. It was almost an epidemic in Japan some years back. They called it Suicide By Hibachi.

EVELYN

And I rented her the small space she needed to pull it off.

PAUL

Evey, there's no way you could have known what she was up to.

Continuing in coffeehouse.

LOLA-40

"On a marked rock, following his orders, place my meat.
/ All care must be taken not to frighten the natives of
this barbarous land, / who will not let us die, even,
as we wish."

Continuing in Starbucks.

PAUL

You don't have to do this.

EVELYN

I want to. She has no one else.

PAUL

How much time will you need?

EVELYN

A few days, I guess. She owns almost nothing. Lots of
writing, which I'll save. She mentioned a park where
she liked to read and meditate. I'll spread her ashes
there.

PAUL

I need you home by next Saturday. There's a company
dinner for a new client.

EVELYN

Shouldn't be a problem.

PAUL

Good. I took the liberty of making you a reservation
for Wednesday. Give you a couple days to get back to
normal. I want you at your sparking best Saturday
night. I need to impress this guy.

Continuing in the coffeehouse.

LOLA-40

"With proper ceremony, disembowel what I no longer
need, / that it might more quickly rot and tempt my new
form / NOT THE BRONZE CASKET BUT THE BRAZEN WING /
SOARING FOREVER ABOVE THEE O PERFECT, O SWEETEST WATER
/ O GLORIOUS WHEELING BIRD" Lew Welch.

Starbucks. Two days later. Evelyn on the phone.

EVELYN

Paul, it's me. I'm not coming home for a while. I'll be
staying with a girlfriend from college. I'm not giving
you the number because I don't want you trying to talk
me into coming home before I'm ready. This is not about
you, and I do love you. This is not about us. This is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN (cont'd)
about me. I've been living my life on automatic pilot,
and it's time to stop. I need to find my bearings. I
don't know how else to explain it.

Silence.

EVELYN
I hope your dinner with the client goes well. I'll be
in touch. I love you.

She hangs up. She dials another number.

EVELYN
I need to cancel a reservation.

BLACKOUT. The play is over.