

This Babe's Really Out There

Oh Shhhh. You know I was... And I was.... I was trying to work. You know, I was at home in New York and I'm walking around. And the phone rings and it's my friend, Joe Lewis. He's from NY, but he's living in L.A. He said, "Hey Jana. I just got off the plane from Chicago. I was working at the Art Institute for a few days." He said, "I saw your poster there. And while I was looking at it, this guy walked up to me and he said, "Yeah I saw her videotapes. That babe is really out there." And I said, "Joe, do I feel a chill from the Windy City? Oooo. I wonder if that's the consensus in the Windy City. Oooo." I said, "Sure glad some people call me an artist or they may just put me away. Oooo." Then I thought about it and I said, "I know it's OK in Chicago because I've been on the phone with Mary Jo Snell and she's been OK from the first step and all the way through. OK." So I thought maybe I'd just bundle up and go to the w.... Oooo. Then I got this call from Eileen Cherry at what she described as "definitely not an elitist institution, where I'm going to do a class. And she was incredible. She was so unguardedly generous and warm and smart and had a good attitude. And she said, "Bring anything. Just be yourself." And I said, "Yes, now I'm really glad I'm coming." And I got off the phone and I said "I want to bring them something special. I want to bring them a gift to Chicago. I want to bring them something that makes them feel, I mean, good, good, like good all inside. I want to bring them some special gift that makes them feel happy, inspired and full of life. Happy to be alive. I want to bring them something special, a gift, something really good. The trouble is I've been wandering around my loft, babbling to myself, for weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks. Nobody knows what happened to Jana. Says, "Where's Jana?" "Oh, she's in her loft, babbling to herself." And see, I've been looking for this little silver bead. I lost this little silver bead. Now it's not worth anything, but I know it's down there, it's down there somewhere. I think it's probably like between one of the floorboards or something. You know, if you could look around. I've been looking for it for weeks and I really, you know I know it's there. And I'm just trying to find something, like I'm trying to get my hands on something that I can, something that I can bring. Like I really am trying to find something, something that's worth something. And you know I talked to my friend Nefretete and I said, "Nefretete, I'm trying to write something, I'm trying to talk, I'm trying to say something about what's happening out there in the world." "Well", she said, "there sure is a lot to draw from." And I said "Yeah Nef, but you know, in the face of it all, all I seem to be able to say is: _____." She said, "That's a good place to start." I said, "Thanks a lot Nefretete, but you know what. I think we need to make an appointment for some very deep hypnosis." So I've been wandering around. I've been listening to things. I've been reading the newspapers. Ooooh. And I've been listening to the news and TV commercials. I've been listening to everybody sell everything. From sprays and soaps to presidents and

popes. Oh. Over here, buy us, buy us, buy us. Buy us, one size fits all 'cause we shrink to size to accommodate a mate, a male, that's female style. I'm nice, precisely like you like me, and you can come any time you like. Oh man, please want my empty, pleading pubic pocket. I polished my pussy and personality for your pleasure. Then I tried to figure out what David Duke's TV commercials are gonna be like. Hmm. Says, "Vote for me for president. If you are black or Jewish or anything but just like me, pretty and pink, vote for me because if I am president, all your troubles with the economy will be over. In fact all your concerns will be over. I will put them all to rest." Ooooh, it's scary out there. Ooooh, it's scary out there. Ooooh, it's scary out there. It's scary out there. So I said "OK, I'm gonna go out. I'm not staying in anymore, I'm going out." But you know, it's kind of hard to go out in NYC, it kind of tears you up. You open the door and you walk out: 70 to 90 thousand homeless people right there. Ach. So I take a plane to Chicago. Maybe it'll be better. 25 to 30 thousand homeless people. Ahhh. "Any spare change, Miss? Georgie, how about some spare change of priorities, please? So then, you know, I said I'm gonna do something that's valuable. I'm gonna do what I usually do. I go up to the hospital every week to the babies with AIDS. So I go in my rolodex, I said now, I'm gonna get outa' the house. "Hi this is Jana, I'm coming, I'm coming up to take care of the babies." They said, "There's all dead. _____ reported pediatric AIDS deaths in NYC. _____ reported pediatric AIDS deaths in the United States. I said, "Oh, well maybe I'll go massage or Reiki and adult or adolescent with AIDS. I called up, I said, "I'm coming, It's Jana I'm coming up, I'm coming up right now." They said, "They're dead. 23,800 reported adult or adolescent AIDS deaths in NYC. Ahhh. 136,800 reported adult or adolescent AIDS deaths in the United States. Oh, well I guess I'll stay home. They said, "No, come anyway. 213,700 reported cases in the United States. And that's a million or a million and a half infected:, they say. The said, "Come anyway. Send help or they'll all be dead." And it was getting really depressing, really depressing. So my friend Evie Fannin called me up to cheer me up. And she said, "How're you doing, Jana?" Said, "I just saw this amazing videotape of torture and execution in Iraq. It's on VHS. Everybody's seen it. You can get it too. It's on Home Video. They throw people in the pits and then they shoot 'em up. And then they tie them to chairs or to poles and they torture them and they shoot them lots of times and they show it to other people as an intimidation tactic, so they'll know what happens to them if they oppose the regime. And, and it's so amazing, and I'll get you a copy. It's on VHS. Everybody's seen it." Georgie, have you seen it? "Not now, I'm busy." (fishing)

So then I decided, no more phone calls. I started to read the mail. See I've got this big plastic bag. I mean it's a really, really big plastic bag, all filled with 6,472 envelopes of requests for contributions, and I have no money. But they send them to me anyway

and I keep them because they know and I know that if I get some and when I get some, I'm gonna send it to them. I really mean it. And the first one that's gonna get it is Red Cloud Indian School and Native American Youth Services because they send me these really wonderful presents. I mean they're really beautiful little presents, I mean really beautiful presents, not this token shit, but stuff you really want to use. You know it's the Indian way, give away. And I figure, shoot, I've been paying rent every month, I don't know how, we all pay rent every month. Outa' pay them some damn rent. Or at least some rights and respect and reverence. Rrrrrrr.

So I said, what else am I gonna read? Shoot, what else am I gonna read? You know I want to read something happy. So I started to read, I started to read about parties in South Africa. They're having masquerade parties in South Africa. Did you hear about it? It's like Halloween and Mardi gras. The South African police are dressing up as Inkatha. Well, you can see the white skin on some of them. But anyway, they're dressing up as Inkatha and they're going and having raids and they're slashing up union leaders and beating men, women and children ANC supporters. And the security forces are watching, and then they're arresting the ANC, and then the international press is reporting it as Black on Black violence that's interfering with de Klerk's negotiations. Ohhh.

So I decided I wasn't going to read anything more either. I've just been, you now I'm a little disgusted, a little disgusted. So I said, "I need a chance of pace." And phew, the phone rang, and it was Annette, and she said, "I'm having a party in the Bronx Sat. night, come on." I said, "yeah." Then Natasha called. "Hi, I'm having a party Sat. night, 121st St.; it says Harlem Muscles." "Yeah, be there."

It was Saturday night and I was getting sick, but I had to get out. So I put on all my jewelry. I mean I put on all my jewelry. I put on my late aunt's turquoise and silver beads and my late aunt's silver beads and her turquoise beads and her other turquoise beads and her other turquoise beads. And I put on her silver bracelet that she made and her other silver bracelets. And I put on her silver and turquoise bracelets, and I put on my mother's silver bracelets on. And I put on the silver bracelets my brother gave me. And I put on my mother's silver and turquoise bracelets that she gave to my sister who gave them to me because she's really the pearl type.

And then I took the subway to the Bronx because I was 3 hours late for that party, whereas I was only 2 hours late for Natasha's party. So I went to the Bronx. And I walked in and I started talking to Bernadine. And it was really nice except there were these sweet potato pies, that just kept going... I said, "No, No No, I'm getting sick. I can't eat sssweets, I can't eat sssweets, I can't eat sugar, I can't eat milk, I can't eat eggs, No save me."

But they kept going.... I said, "Bernadine, save me." And she was eating celery. But these sweet potato pies kept sucking me in, and sucking me in. And finally there I was

and I ate 'em all. I mean I ate 3 pieces, one from each pie, 'cause you know, I know what it's like to be left out.

So then I left quick. And I went across to Natasha's party, and it was almost over. But I danced a little bit and I ate a little bit more. And I showed off my jewelry; I showed off my jewelry to Jessica and Dabeda and Delilah, and anybody else who would see. I showed it off. I was like a walking heirloom. And then I put on all my clothes and I got in the subway to go home. And I mean I put on all my clothes. I had all my clothes on 'cause I was getting sick and it was cold. I had All my clothes on, All my clothes on. I could barely walk. I sat there on the subway. I looked like a homeless woman; All my clothes on, could hardly move; see my little face sticking out. Sat there. And then some guy walks into the subway, had these skinny little ripped up pants on. You could see down, he stuck his hands right in, touching his legs, skinny little pants, ripped up and this skinny little shirt on, and sat down across from me. And Oooooo, Oooooo, Wooooo. At least 3 months marinated sweat - 3, 4 easy. Ooooh. He said, "Miss, you have any spare change?" So I gave him a quarter. He said, "Thank you." He said, "You're a dancer, aren't you?" I was shocked. There's no way in hell he could've seen my body, and I didn't move. He said, "Yeah, I knew you were. I'm psychic." I believed him. He said, "I used to play for dancers when I was into music." I said, "What'd you play?" He said, "Saxophone, and flute." Said, "I was an alto player." He said, "Alto's nice for dancers." He said, "Soprano's good for dancers too." He said, "Flute's really nice for dancers." I gave him another quarter. "Thank you", got up, told 3 young women to get home safely and went on to the next car, and then came back, I all disturbed something he saw, and went to this woman and said, "Don't be sad. Don't be so sad." He said, "I got nothing, no family, no friends, no home, no job, no money, no food; I'm happy. Don't be so sad." And he went on his way. And it fucked me up. I mean it fucked me up. 'Cause this man sounded exactly, exactly like Ornette Coleman. I mean he sound exactly like Ornette Coleman. He had this gentle voice, and when he talked to me, he had this little funny way of talking, almost like a little lisp, kind of funny way that Ornette talks. And I said "Ooooooh". I said, "That could've been Ornette. That could've been Ornette. He's an alto player. A black man in a hostile environment. What if his luck had turned on him? Oooh, we would've missed all the brilliance of his music and being. I mean, he revolutionized Jazz when he came around again. I said, "Oooh, that could've been Ornette." I said, "What about this man? What about his brilliance? I know he's got some." Said, "I'm psychic too." I could see through his clothes too. So I went home and I haven't come out since. I've just been wandering around and kind of babbling to myself. And I'm looking for that damn little silver bead, you know I'm sure, I know it's there. I need to look up, but I walk around for hours looking for that silver, you know. 'Cause I'm looking for some, like something concrete, that I can kind of get my hand, you know, like get my teeth into, you know like something... 'Cause I really wanted to bring something special, you

know, and I came all the way from New York, and I wanted to bring you something, I wanted to bring you a gift, something special. You know I wanted to say something, I wanted to bring you something special. I came all the way to Chicago, and the only thing I seem to be able to say is, "Ooooooo. Ooooooo." I came all the way here, and the only thing I can get out of my mouth is, "Ooooooo, Ooooooo, Ooooooo, Ooooooo, Ooooooo." And I came from New York to Chicago and the only thing I can say is, "Ooooooo, we're in trouble, we're in trouble, we're in trouble." Said "Ooooooo, we're in trouble. We're in Trou ble." I said, "Ooooooo." I said, "Ooooooo, we're in trouble, we're in trouble. Ooooooooooooo. We're in Trouuuuu ble. Ooooooooooooo, we're in troublllllllle. And we not gonna get outa' this one alive. You know I've seen it, I know it, I mean, you know. I said, "ohhhh. ooo." Said, "ooo." I said, "Better run for your life. Better run for your lives. Better run for your life." I said, "Wooo, we're in trou ble. You better run for your life." Said, "oooooo. Oooooo." I say, "oooooo, we're in trouble." We better run for our lives, better run for your life. Better run for your life." You say, "Where are we gonna run to?" I said, "Better run to each other. Better run to each other." I said, "ooo, ooo, we're in trouble. Better run for your life." Say, "Where we gonna run to if you're so smart?" "Better run to each other. Better run to each other. Better run to each other." I know that damn bead's down here. Is this it? A piece of little kitty litter shit.