

Las Soldaderas

By Nelly E. Cuellar-Garcia

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AUDITION 1

ADELITA: Last night as I sat watching the night sky, I saw a red star fall and lose its glow. My heart fluttered as a great dark shadow descended upon it. How I wish my mother were still alive to interpret the signs of the universe. She used to tell me, "God is always watching, and if you look around carefully, you will see the omens that will help you on your journey." But God has fallen asleep and left us alone to face the revolution. People of the same faith and with the same descendants fight and grapple for control of what could be a great and wondrous nation. Mama, where are the signs to guide me? The mountains are silent... oh night, pity me; grant me a moment of peace in a world of violence.

AUDITION 2

CONCEPCION: My life began as the pampered daughter of well-to-do artists. By the time I was eighteen I had made my formal debut at the Degollado Theatre and earned more fame and acclaim than most artists will gain in a lifetime. *(Pauses and remembers her life.)* I was young and foolish, admired and envied by all – and I thought of no one other than myself; life was mine for the taking.... All that changed the day I caught the eye of a man -- a general -- by the name of Victoriano Huerta. He came to see me sing and dance one spring night and turned my life from a fairy tale to a horror... Huerta was a man consumed by raging fire. His soul was dark, evil, dead... and he would not take no for an answer. So when I refused him a second time, he arrested my parents and had them branded as traitors to the government. Victoriano sent word to me that if I wanted to see my parents set free, I was to be in his bed that same night. I went...dressed in my finest furs and smelling of the sweetest perfumes. He was an animal, and as he pawed and clawed his way through my body, he was overcome by his own desires..... I laughed in his face at his failure. It was a dangerous mistake. That laughter cost me my parents. The next day I was informed that my parents had been executed in the plaza. I went into the nearest cantina, got drunk for the first time in my life, found Hilario, and have never been that woman again.... The only thing I can tell you about love is that Hilario and I share heat and nothing else, and when this Revolution is over, we will go our separate ways and remain friends till our death.

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