

## *Paper Hangers*

By Emily Brauer Rogers

### **Synopsis:**

Based on Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*, *The Paper Hangers* takes a modern look at Me's struggle to deal with postpartum depression when society, particularly her mother and husband, expect a new mother to embrace motherhood and domesticity.

### **Characters:**

Countryside - Female. 20's-40's. She's literally the outdoors.

John - Male. 20's-40's. Husband to Me.

Me - Female. 20's-40's. So lost she doesn't even have a name. Mother. Female. Old enough to be Me's mother.

Yellow - Non-binary. Personification of Yellow Wallpaper.

## *Butterfly in the Ashes*

By S.M. Fontes

### **Synopsis:**

*Butterfly in the Ashes* is the study of four Mexican-American women living somewhere between "I Don't Give A Flying Fuck" and "Trying Desperately To Fly--the Hell Outta Here". Not a portrait, but surveillance footage of their interdependent relationships through mental illness, imposed guardianship, twisted fairytales, the "light side" of abortion and alcoholism, and why the hell those Girl Scouts never come up with any new cookie flavors that someone would actually like.

### **Characters:**

*All principals are Mexican-American women.*

Mariposa (Spanish for "butterfly") - She might be 20, she might be 30, plays make-believe, dresses like a five-year-old, pigtails and all. (There is no "Lolita" vibe; she's just an over-sized kindergartener, not a sex fantasy.)

mentally ill but (probably) not dangerous (most of the time); we're not sure how crazy she really is vs. how much is an act. i.e. Is she just totally screwing with us?

Woman - Caretaker and likely older sister (possibly aunt) of MARIPOSA, self-absorbed, hyper-critical, ridiculous, not much interested in Life Outside, surprises us with maturity and depth

(but, rarely), seems to truly believe her own bullshit. (But is she also screwing with us, for her own entertainment?)

Friend (of Woman) - Daughter of Mexican immigrants, a bit goofy and gullible, rather a willing/easy target, best/only friend of WOMAN, otherwise seems like a nice, normal girl who could get better friends; we're not sure why she takes the abuse.

Tía (Spanish for "aunt") - WOMAN's aunt, about 60 years old (could be older, but minimum 50), fullshit and 100% sincere, invasive know-it-all, ill-gotten confidence, Old School party girl, still a barrio fixture, man-chasing, dresses like a cheap whore: skin-tight micro-mini, stilettos, gaudy jewelry, overly made-up and probably wears very obvious fake lashes, perhaps tatted (gang tatt?), big poofy hair dyed Fire Engine Red: The Mexican Peggy Bundy in her granny years.

Posie Age Five - Child version of MARIPOSA, sweet, bright little girl. Reappears at end of play as WOMAN's DAUGHTER.

*The following roles may be doubled:*

Butterfly Mother Posie's and Woman's Mother (Mexican American) - a beautiful, graceful dancer, a human butterfly, ethereal and ageless like a goddess

2 Jehovah's Witness Women - As sincere as they are overly cheery and oblivious, any age/race

Wolf Woman - Neo shamaness/hippie/New Age/wiccan, leads women's empowerment workshop, " 'V' is for Vagina" which FRIEND attends. Braless woman with long, flowing gray hair. She should be visually striking in a laughter-evoking way.

Al Jolson Type - Does a very brief (comedic) song/dance bit (does not necessarily have to be a good singer/dancer)

Generic Male in Generic Sex Scene (can double as Jolson) - Basically just makes sex noises during non-sexy (stylized) "sex scene" with WOMAN. Actors are fully clothed, don't touch each other, don't face each other, and are otherwise robotically devoid of passion

Giant Talking Chihuahua - Taco Bell commercial on acid, attacks TÍA at WOMAN's command

Rabbit (Energizer Bunny) - First appears in Bunny Tales scene, execution/firing squad-style, later appears in nightmare-esque sequence, in nurse's whites, pushing pregnant WOMAN in wheel chair

VARIOUS DANCERS:

TAP-DANCING STORK

MALE and FEMALE PIGEON They dance the French Apache

COPY MACHINE male, does a tango with FRIEND  
VARIOUS NON-SPEAKING (milling around in nightmare-esque sequence):  
MANIACAL GIRL SCOUT  
NUN  
SPACE ALIEN  
SPY IN TRENCH COAT  
MAD HATTER  
CHARACTERS FROM CANDYLAND (the children's board game)

## *Deanna and Paul*

By Dagney Kerr

### **Synopsis:**

Deanna's a quirky waitress with a strict no tipping policy. Paul's a surly customer with a tight lid on his heart. Their lonely worlds collide one day in a small-town diner, where one cup of coffee can change everything.

### **Characters:**

Deanna - A sensitive spirit who sees potential in everything.  
Paul - Has the weight of the world on his shoulders, and a tight lid on his heart.

## *Gargoyles*

By Diana Burbano

### **Synopsis:**

Aurora, a sculptor and ex silent film star, moves her teenaged daughter Daisy to a small village in Mexico, far from temptation and men. Their dull existence is upended when a “monster” moves into their secluded village. The monster turns out to be an English soldier with a disfigured face. Daisy is fascinated and takes him on as a project. Aurora in her desire to protect Daisy from all hurt, takes on the Soldier herself. She soon discovers that, both monsters, they have much in common. Aurora has to choose between her self loathing and fear, and the promise of an unconventional love with a man who has suffered as much as she has.

### **Characters:**

Aurora - 50's F, A faded silent film star, also a sculptor. Latinx

The Soldier - 30's M, British. Fought in WWI. Has facial damage from the war. Any ethnicity.  
Daisy - 15 F, Aurora's beautiful, bright daughter. Latinx.  
Reyna - 15 F, Auroras housemaid, shy and smart Latinx/Indigenous  
Raymundo - 40 M, A priest. Worldy. Afro-Latinx

Characters double as:

Sculptress (Aurora) - 30 F, An American woman eager to help soldiers in WWI  
Nurse (Daisy) - 20's F, She is no nonsense and inured to horror. Or so she thinks.

## ***Bureaucrazy***

By Kate Danley

### **Synopsis:**

Grace and Amy are just two regular girls working as secretaries in a soul-sucking office. But when their boss chokes on an oatmeal raisin cookie, it starts a domino effect of death and disaster in this female-driven comedy about office politics and classism.

### **Characters:**

Grace - female, 20s-40s, a secretary female, 20s-40s, a secretary  
Amy - female, 20s-40s, a secretary female, 20s-40s, a secretary  
Helen - female, 40s-60s, vice-president, social climber, power woman, loves Peru  
Molly - female, 20s-40s, overly friendly secretary, smells of Patchouli  
Vivianne - female, 40s-60s, president, a power woman  
Waterman / Janitor / AC Guy: male, 20s-40s, a man of all trades and a million faces