

The Sky Is Blue With Lies

:

TRIBECA Phaedra

John Reed

PLAYERS

PO: a handsome young man with long hair.

FARA: a young wife with short hair.

TOMMY: husband to FARA, father to PO, runs the family bar.

PAUL: father to TOMMY, owner/founder of the bar.

DONNY: PAUL's right hand.

CANDY: barmaid/waitress.

CHORUS: the CHORUS is comprised of those who answer the questions posed by the script. Members of the CHORUS should be credited as themselves.

STAGE DIRECTIONS

Players may perform any actions or movements. Players may be actively performing whether or not they are speaking.

Any member of the Chorus may deliver any line assigned to the Chorus.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTIONS

The questions included here are not to be performed. Only the answers are to be performed. Answers are to be provided by members of the Chorus, who are to draw upon their own lives. Questions may be answered by individual or multiple chorus members.

Via digital production and/or live performance, selections from the answers are to be integrated into the play. Only those selections that integrate seamlessly into the action of the play are to be utilized. With digital production, the selection are to be integrated via video editing; with live performance, the selections are to be integrated and shaped by workshop rehearsals.

SET

Any.

WARDROBE

Seventies.

CHORUS

1 Yeah, he was living on the West Coast with his mom. I don't know why he came back. 1

Chorus: answers to questions about Po.

Questions about Po

2 Have you ever known anyone who left the city and came back? 2

3 Why did they come back? 3

4 Do you have any specific memories about that person? 4

CHORUS

5 They knew each other as kids. ... What? ... Oh, yeah, no. Not Tommy and Fara. Fara and Po. She was only a few years older than him. Some kind of country, summer thing. 5

Chorus: answers to questions about the summer.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUMMER

6 Did you ever spend the summer in the country? 6

7 What were your favorite things to do? 7

8 Do you remember the other children? 8

9 Could you describe them? 9

10 Have you ever spent the summer in the city? 10

11 Do you have any strong memories of the city in the summer? 11

12 Stories? 12

13 Details? 13

DONNY

- 14 It was slow in the summer. The kids jumped off the wharves. They'd come into the bar—the same kids that went to Chinatown, got the racing forums for the old men. They'd dry themselves off with dishtowels. 14

Chorus: answers to questions about Magoos.

QUESTIONS ABOUT MAGOOS

- 15 Do you remember any old fashioned bars? Places that you maybe went as a kid, or when you were younger? Places that are gone? 15
- 16 Can you describe any of those places? 16
- 17 Do you have any stories about those places? 17

DONNY

- 18 Tommy had a few girls he kept upstairs. Not every night but he knew when. They played pinball downstairs, unless Tommy told them to go watch TV. 18

Chorus: answers to questions about games.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GAMES

- 19 Have you ever had a favorite pinball or arcade game? 19
- 20 Can you describe it? 20
- 21 Was there a culture around the game? 21
- 22 Who were the other players? 22
- 23 Can you describe them? 23
- 24 Do you have any stories about it? 24

DONNY

- 25 Yeah, Candy was always tilting the machine. Everyone thought she was Tommy's daughter but she wasn't. 25

Chorus: answers to questions about Candy.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

26 Have you ever known a woman who was oozing sex appeal? Not necessarily a beautiful person, but someone who just had “it”? 26

27 Could you describe her? 27

CHORUS

28 Candy was all right. She didn’t like burgers waiting on the bar, so she’d bring ‘em out herself. 28

CHORUS

29 When Po was a kid, you know, a little boy, he had a crush on her—and she thought he’d come back for her. 29

QUESTIONS ABOUT CRUSHES (FOR MALE CHORUS MEMBERS)

30 Do you remember your first boyhood crush on a grown woman? 30

31 What was it about her? 31

32 Could you describe her? 32

DONNY

33 Oh yeah, it was a good time in the summer. I had a good time. 33

Chorus: answers to questions about Donny.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DONNY

34 Have you ever known someone wonderfully charming? 34

35 Could you describe that person? 35

36 Do you have any specific memories or stories about that person? 36

37 Have you ever known someone wonderfully charming that you couldn't trust? 37

38 Could you describe that person? 38

39 Do you have any specific memories or stories about that person? 39

DONNY

40 He was gunna join the air force. The war was over. He thought he'd maybe be a mechanic but everyone told him they'd put him in a plane. He could work for the airlines. It was a plan, you know. He wanted regular things. He was a pretty boy, but he wanted regular things. 40

CANDY

41 Donny was never the same. He came back from the war like he was going on shore leave for the rest of his life. 41

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MILITARY

42 How do you feel about the role of the U.S. Military in the rest of the world? 42

43 How would you feel about a young man in your family joining the military? 43

DONNY

44 Candy wasn't a big fan of the army, no. 44

CANDY

45 Po was a very sweet child. I would take him to the beach, to Coney Island. Up to when he 45
was thirteen. We would ride the Wonder Wheel. You know how some people, no matter
how old they are, make you feel like you spent your whole life laughing?

QUESTIONS ABOUT PO

46 Have you every known a child who felt overly wise for their age? 46

47 Could you describe that child? 47

DONNY

48 She thought he was me. But she wasn't even her. 48

CANDY

49 I went out to visit his mom a few times. He showed me around "Venice." I could see, you 49
know, he was boy but he had changed. He was looking at me now.

DONNY

50 Back when we got out of school, love wasn't free. 50

CANDY

51 Oh I don't know, what happened in Venice was beautiful. 51

QUESTIONS ABOUT OBSESSION

52 Have you ever been obsessed? 52

53 What are the symptoms? 53

54 Has a friend of yours ever been obsessed? 54

55 What were the symptoms? How could you tell? 55

56 Have you ever had a friend who was obsessed with someone you didn't approve of? 56

57 Did you ever say anything to your friend about it? 57

58 What did you say? 58

DONNY

59 When we got out of school, we were thinking about motorcycles and sunglasses and hair. 59

QUESTIONS ABOUT DONNY

60 Have you ever known anyone who went into the military? 60

61 How did it change them? 61

62 How did it change them for the better? 62

63 How did it change them for the worse? 63

DONNY

64 Yeah, she'd sit in the back and watch Po at the pinball machine. And then when it slowed down she'd sit at a table and drink cocktails like she'd danced the hula hula. She sat there and watched Po at the pool table and licked her chops like a wolf. 64

CANDY

65 So I was sweet on him. I was very shy. 65

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

66 Have you ever had a quiet crush on someone? 66

67 Can you say what it's like? 67

68 Have you ever seen someone watching a person they have a crush on? 68

69 Could you describe what they were like? 69

CANDY

70 No, Donny didn't come back to sit with me. He sat at the bar. He was always at the bar with his girlfriends. 70

QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

- 71 Have you ever been in an old industrial town? 71
- 72 What was the feeling of being in that town? 72
- 73 What was the feeling of all those people who used to work and live there? 73
- 74 Could you describe that place? 74
- 75 Do you remember any of the buildings or places? 75

DONNY

- 76 She came from one of those godless towns up north. You know, with a factory that had two people working in it, and everyone talking about their daddy. 76

CANDY

- 77 She wasn't big on Tommy, no, but he bought her a diamond. 77

QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

- 78 Have you ever known a gold digger? 78
- 79 Do you remember any of the things she said? What were they? 79

DONNY

- 80 No, Fara liked him. She was a cool glass of water and she didn't need a handsome man. She liked him how he was. A fat and happy man. She was an old time gal like that. 80

CANDY

- 81 She wanted to try again, but she'd lost the first one. 81

DONNY

- 82 Tommy was a good provider, even for Po. 82

QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

- 83 Have you or anyone you've known ever had a miscarriage? 83
- 84 What happened? 84
- 85 What was the emotional experience like? 85
- DONNY
- 86 About a year, but Tommy told me she wasn't back to usual yet. 86
- CANDY
- 87 She stopped getting her period. She always looked like a little boy. 87
- CHORUS
- 88 Tommy liked to say she went to Harvard. She took a nursing class there and worked as a cocktail waitress. A guy with a place on the Upper East Side said he'd hire her so she bought a pair of high heels and moved here. She didn't like that place but she made good money. Then she met Tommy. 88

DONNY

89 This is the thing. Nobody cared about Candy. And nobody cares about you either. 89

CANDY

90 Donny could be very beautiful sometimes. He was a man. 90

QUESTIONS ABOUT TOMMY

91 Have you ever known a heavier person who was very athletic? 91

92 What was it like to watch that person? 92

DONNY

93 Tommy could surprise you. One time we got a new refrigerator, and Tommy had already signed for it, but then he saw it wasn't the one he ordered. The delivery guy wasn't going to take it back, and he got into his truck and started it up. Tommy got so pissed he picked up the fucking refrigerator and ran half way down the block with it, and threw it back into the guy's truck bed. The driver was so fucking terrified he didn't get out. He just drove away when the light changed. 93

CANDY

94 Tommy played football in high school. He could move. 94

QUESTIONS ABOUT PO'S MOTHER

95 Have you ever known someone who seemed like they might be enlightened? 95

96 What was that person like? 96

CHORUS

97 Sarah? Tall and blonde. Thin like she was just one long leg. She talked slowly and she was always paying attention. She couldn't remember anyone's birthday. Not her kids, not her husband's not her own. She couldn't bake a cake or drive a car without denting it. But she listened. And when you were talking to her, she loved you. 97

DONNY

98 Yeah, Po got a lot from his mother. His grandfather too. Paul was big like Tommy but without the gut. 98

CANDY

99 She just woke up one day and told Tommy she was moving to California. She'd had a vision of Po on a surfboard. When he came back to the city, his hair was down to his shoulders and it was blonde. He got so tan I didn't recognize him. When I first went to visit them and he was walking around the house I whispered to Sarah that he was much too young for her and she told me it was Po. It took about two months of him playing pool in the bar for me to see that little boy, that he was still in there. 99

QUESTIONS ABOUT PO

- 100 Have you ever known a tall thin person who was very athletic? 100
- 101 What was it like to watch that person? 101
- DONNY
- 102 She sat there and watched him, like she was twelve years old. 102
- DONNY
- 103 No, Candy was the only one taking orders. 103
- DONNY
- 104 Yeah, so what? Everyone's waiting on too many tables. 104
- DONNY
- 105 Tommy was in the Catskills. Fara was tending the shop. You have to remember, she could be a tough kid, Fara. You see kids like Fara, skinny kids but with eyes like stones, you see them when you drive through that town that's got old Chevys for sale in a couple driveways, and abandoned cars and lawnmowers on the lawns, and a retarded kid sitting by a doghouse. You know, towns like that, a butterfly on the front door—like, a paper one or a glass one—that means there's a retard in the house? Fara could take care of things. 105
- DONNY
- 106 Oh, she met Tommy when her dad came to the city. They went to Magoos because he had some business with Tommy and Paul. Some fucking thing with the Catskills. 106
- DONNY
- 107 Yeah, that's where she met Po. Way before she met Tommy. Paul would take the whole family up there ... But uh, she was always ... She was never a child. She worked at this camp and Po went there. She worked in the kitchen. And when she came back to the city and found Po standing around, she kept treating him like that. Like she was getting him something from the kitchen. And half the time she was. 107

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

- 108 Have you ever been rejected? 108
- 109 What does that feel like? 109
- CANDY
- 110 Yes, I wanted him. 110
- DONNY
- 111 She started going to weirdo shit. Like yoga. 111

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

- 112 What would you consider a “flaky” activity? New age or culty or over-the-top spiritual, or
whatever? 112
- 113 Can you describe any of those activities or meetings? And if not, what is it like in your
imagination? 113
- DONNY
- 114 She did this one thing where a guy screamed at you and told you you didn’t want what you
wanted. He might keep you awake for two days, and he’d scream at you, and then when
he went home other people would scream at you until he came back fresh. “You don’t
really want it!” Candy told me about it. You did it so you could get what you want. 114

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

- 115 Have you ever taken psychedelics? 115
- 116 Which ones? 116
- 117 When people take psychedelics for a spiritual experience, what do you think they’re
looking for? 117

DONNY

118 Haha, yeah. There was always someone, you know, late night. Candy kept a stash under 118
the bar. They'd lock the doors. I sat around with them a few times but Jesus man I've
already watched a million fucking games of pool.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

119 Have you ever known someone who thought they were enlightened, but wasn't? 119

120 Could you describe that person? 120

121 Was that person ever annoying? Howso? 121

DONNY

122 Oh yeah, she started saying some pretty whacked out shit. But I don't know ... She made 122
sense, sorta. Not when I was high, then she was a nut job. But when I was sober, or
maybe had a couple drinks. Then I'd get to thinking she was a good girl, a good lonely
girl. And I'd think it was kinda sad. All the crazy shit I put her through. So she goes out
and melts her brain. And that's when she starts making sense to me.

CANDY

123 No, I didn't care about Donny anymore. I was finally over him. He didn't like it one bit, 123
but the mirror on the wall didn't have good news for him.

DONNY

124 Sometimes she'd push her tits so close to his chin I thought she was gonna grab his head 124
and pull him in.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DONNY

125 Have you ever known someone who couldn't love? 125

126 What was that person like? 126

127 Was there anything sad about that person? 127

128 Do you have any stories about that person? 128

CHORUS

129 One of the ideas Candy had was to get Po in bed, and then when he was sleeping she was 129
going to saw off his foot. She had a whole methodology on how she was going to do this.
She wasn't going to give another one to the army, she kept saying.

CANDY

130 He couldn't join up until he was 18. I figured I had a while. He couldn't last that long. 130

DONNY

131 He wanted, you know, nice people around him. He wanted, uh, green grass, and a mower. 131
He wasn't, you know, tormented. He wanted a peaceful life. You got Venice Beach here,
and New York City here, and the air force here, and after the air force you got the engineer
degree and Connecticut.

CANDY

132 He was a boy. Once I got I under his skin, I could handle him. 132

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

- 133 Have you ever spent the summer with a broken heart? 133
- 134 How does the summer feel different when your heart is broken? 134
- DONNY
- 135 I don't know if Fara knew what was going on. She thought Candy was going through something. I think that's about as far as she took it. 135
- DONNY
- 136 Fara wasn't a real fun person, but those were late nights, with Tommy out of town. She got to sitting with the space cases by the pool table. 136
- DONNY
- 137 No, it wasn't good for her. Candy convinced her to go to a few of the screaming things. Fara would come back to the bar shaking. She didn't want anything, and that, evidently, was not good. It got so she was pretty out there. 137
- DONNY
- 138 Candy was running the bar. Guys were pouring their own drinks. It was my job to tell Paul, but I just told Tommy to leave his Dutch girlfriend or whatever the fuck he was doing and get back to the city. 138

CANDY

139 No, Po never said a word. He just kept playing. 139

CANDY

140 His hair wasn't blonde like Fara's. No. His hair was ocean blond. Her hair was sick blonde. New England blonde. 140

DONNY

141 Yeah, they looked a little alike. They both looked like skulls. You know what I mean. Good looking people look like skulls. 141

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY AND DONNY

142 Have you ever thought someone was so beautiful you hated them? 142

143 Could you describe that person? 143

144 Could you describe that emotion? 144

CANDY

145 If he joined the army, he was going to die. He wasn't strong like that. He had beautiful arms. But he wasn't strong. 145

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

146 Have you ever wanted to protect a young person from things you couldn't protect them from? 146

147 What was it like to look at that person and have that emotion? 147

DONNY

148 It was like they were wherever he was. When he was playing pool, they were watching from the table by the jukebox. When he was playing pinball, they were behind the bar, down by the machines. When he was upstairs, sitting in his window, they were sitting at one of the tables in the yard, smoking and watching him. Sometimes real late night, when the bar was locked up, a few people would head upstairs. There were the rooms on the second floor, the girls when they were there, Tommy's desk and a few things on the third floor, and the apartment on the fourth. There was an old man there for a long time. A merchant marine. Tough old guy. Then he died. And Paul didn't rent it. There was an airshaft and alota noise from the bar. 148

CANDY

149 Donny killed the old man. Poison. Paul had him do it. The old man drank at the bar every night. Everyone knew. Tommy didn't like it because the old man, well he wasn't nice to Po, but the old man only had one good thing. It was a pair of scissors, an old pair of scissors that was in the shape of a crane. An antique. And one day he decided to sell it to Po for a dime. Po was maybe 8 then. 149

DONNY

150 I went upstairs a few times, looked in on the late crowd. There was always a little junk around so they weren't usually too active. Po would be sleeping by then. He didn't care about the people. He grew up like that. His mom was like that. Her biker scene in Venice, you know? Jesus, I'd be in there—I was only in there seven or eight times, but every time I'd open my eyes in the morning to see that bitch Candy standing naked in the door. She'd leave when she saw me. I think she got into bed with Po just about every night. But he didn't want her. She looked good. Even I thought she looked good. She still looked pretty fucking good. But he didn't want some crazy old broad. That was mom stuff. 150

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY AND PO

- | | | |
|--------|--|-----|
| 151 | Have you ever wanted something so much you started going crazy? | 151 |
| 152 | Can you describe that experience? | 152 |
| 153 | What's it like to watch that experience in someone else? | 153 |
| 154 | Do you have any stories about that? | 154 |
| DONNY | | |
| 155 | Yeah, well I'd say she had a little too much energy. She'd sit there talking to Fara all night. They'd be watching Po at the pool table, Po at the pinball machine, Po at the window, Po, sleeping on his bare mattress, and she'd be filling Fara's head with Po. Fara sat there, looking kinda cosmic and not too with it. Looking kinda white, really white and softer than she should have looked, like, I don't know, like lobster meat, and then she had a mystical experience. ... Oh, no, not Candy. Fara. | 155 |
| CHORUS | | |
| 156 | Donny doesn't know what he's talking about. Nobody was naked. | 156 |
| CANDY | | |
| 157 | Donny's a good liar. Most of the time he's telling the truth. | 157 |

QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

158 Have you ever seen someone, someone who didn't usually take drugs, get really high? 158

159 What were they like? 159

DONNY

160 Fara didn't always know what she was taking. She didn't know and she didn't really want to know. She wasn't planning on making it a regular thing. Tommy didn't like it. 160

CANDY

161 Tommy usually came back in a couple days. A couple weeks was a long time for him. 161

DONNY

162 Oh yeah, Candy knew. A pinch of this and a pinch of that. She could be kinda a witch. You know, a witch, but a stupid one. 162

QUESTIONS ABOUT CANDY

- 163 Have you ever known anyone who manipulated other people through the use of alcohol or drugs? 163
- 164 What do you think that person's attitude was about it? 164
- 165 Do you have any stories about that person, or what they did, or what happened to a person they were trying to manipulate? 165
- DONNY
- 166 Oh I don't know. I think maybe she thought she could get Po started on Fara, sorta shake him loose like that, or maybe she thought she could get him started on her and Fara, and then take over. Fara was his stepmother, it wouldn't be too hard to scare her off. 166

QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

- 167 Have you ever seen someone lose touch with reality? 167
- 168 Can you describe the expression on that person's face when it happened? 168
- DONNY
- 169 Yeah, Fara had a mystical experience. 169
- CHORUS
- 170 She and Candy were holding hands. 170
- DONNY
- 171 Candy led her in there. 171

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

- 172 Have you ever seen sex at a party or something like a party? 172
- 173 If yes, what happened? Can you describe it? 173
- 174 If no, what was the closest you ever saw to sex at a party? Kissing? More? 174
- 175 Could you describe what you saw? 175
- Tommy howls.
- DONNY
- 176 I heard about it when I heard Tommy howl. 176
- DONNY
- 177 Candy came into the room. Tommy had been back for a few hours already. It was 3 maybe. We were having lunch. 177
- DONNY
- 178 Candy was the only other person upstairs. I know, I talked to a lot of people. 178
- CANDY
- 179 Well, it just didn't come out right. 179
- DONNY
- 180 Look, me and Candy have been through a lot. I've known her a long time. I can tell about her, and she wasn't lying. Candy lies, yeah, but she could never lie about something like that. Never. 180
- CANDY
- 181 It wasn't just us in the room. It was me and Po and Fara but there were seven or eight or nine other people in there. Some of them were sleeping, yeah, but I didn't think anyone would believe me. There were plenty of people to talk to. They don't say exactly the same thing, none of them do, but nobody says it was a rape. 181
- DONNY
- 182 It was a long time coming and he was no choir boy. He was in the mix with the rest of them. They had reds and evil shit like I hadn't seen in a long long time. The girls were weak and he was a hundred miles an hour. Did Candy tell you about the bruises? She had bite marks all over. On her tits, yeah, but also all over her face. 182

CANDY

183 Nobody would talk to Donny. They were scared to death. That guy could do anything. 183

DONNY

184 I think a few people were in the room and didn't want to see. So they left. 184

CANDY

185 Donny didn't work for Tommy, he worked for Paul. He went to Paul. 185

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

186 Have you ever been really afraid that someone you knew was going to hurt someone else 186
you knew?

187 What happened? 187

188 What was it like to have that fear? Can you describe how you felt? 188

CANDY

189 No, nobody knew where they were. Tommy was looking for them, and Donny was 189
looking for them too.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

190 Has anyone you're close to ever gone missing? 190

191 What happened? 191

192 What did that feel like? 192

DONNY

193 No, nobody saw Po till he fell. 193

CANDY

194 I don't know. We were all looking for him. He must have slipped in. He was young, you 194
know? He could sneak around like a kid. But Donny was waiting for him.

CANDY

195 Or, yeah, Donny could have followed him. 195

DONNY

196 Yeah well they say that but it's not true. I was standing in the street. He just, I don't know. 196
He just fell out. He was sitting in the window.

CANDY

197 Yeah, everyone came out. Tommy came out. Paul came out. It was late but everyone was 197
up. Tommy was yelling at everyone.

DONNY

198 Tommy was yelling that he wanted his son. He was shaking Paul. His own father. I 198
thought he was going to break the old man's neck.

CHORUS

199 No, Tommy never believed Candy. Po wouldn't do that. 199

CANDY

200 He wanted his son. He was calling out for his son. 200

QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

201	Have you ever tried to go home after a long absence?	201
202	What was it like? The journey?	202
203	Have you ever had the feeling that your home wasn't there anymore?	203
204	When? Why?	204
205	Have you ever taken a long bus ride?	205
206	What's it like to be on a bus for a long time?	206

CANDY

207	She took everything I had at the bar.	207
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QUESTIONS ABOUT FARA

208	Have you ever known someone who overdosed?	208
209	What had they taken?	209

DONNY

210	A terrible thing had happened to her.	210
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CANDY

211	No.	211
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DONNY

212	No.	212
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CANDY

213	I don't know.	213
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DONNY

214	I don't know.	214
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CANDY

215	On the bus.	215
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DONNY

216	The bus driver.	216
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217	No.	CANDY	217
218	No.	DONNY	218