

Characters:

Veronica, a young, naive, ditz.

Madame Sophia. Any age. A charlatan.

The scene is a cluttered sitting room tastelessly decorated. Veronica enters. Madame Sophia de Cluck, going in and out of a bad gypsy accent, rises to greet her.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Enter. Velcome. Entre vous. Come  
in. Please sit here.

She moves a stack of newspapers off a chair.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
How do you do. I am Veronica Pesto  
de Hampton. Perhaps you've heard of  
my family.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Of the New York Pesto de Hamptons?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
No, they're distant cousins.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
The Louisiana Pesto de Hamptons?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Goodness, No. Its an embarrassment  
to even think of them.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Texas?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Trash.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
California?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Posers. We're from Conn..

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
neticut. I knew it. You have that  
East Coast ele-ghaaance

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Incredible! You knew! YOU must be  
the brilliant psychic, Madame Sophia  
De Cluck

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Cluke. Its pronounced 'Cluke' As  
in 'Buke'

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Book?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
That's what I said. Buke.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Anyway, I don't normally consult a  
psychic, but life is a bit much now,  
and you came highly recommended.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
I sensed you are in need. What is  
the problem?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Its daddy. He doesn't approve of  
the boy I'm seeing. The boy is poor,  
and Daddy has a lot of money.  
Somewhere in the kajillion dollar  
range. Daddy's picture is in  
newspapers and on magazine covers.  
He made other people a lot of money  
by investing for them.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
He sounds very available? And  
Handsome. And the boy you are seeing?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
He's a drummer. Well, he doesn't  
have drums, yet, but he did buy  
drumsticks.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Its a start.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
He's almost forty. Lives at home  
with his parents. No job, but he  
does think about getting one someday.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
How does he juggle it all?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Maybe you should meet him?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
I already know him.

VERONICA HAMPTON

You could tell me what kind of 'vibe'  
you get from him.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK

The best way for me to pick up his  
vibe would be if you brought me  
something of his, like, a diamond  
ring, or an expensive watch.

VERONICA HAMPTON

I could borrow his drumsticks.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK

Jewelry is a better conductor of  
vibes.

VERONICA HAMPTON

I could buy him an expensive watch.  
Would that work?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK

Well. If that's the way it has to  
be...

VERONICA HAMPTON

I'll have to get the money from daddy.  
What's a nice watch run these days?  
Thirty thousand? Forty?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK

Forty? You don't want him to think  
you're cheap, do you?

Madame swoons

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK (CONT'D)

Ooh. Ooh. Someone has put a curse  
on your boyfriend. It is a troubling  
energy, and now it has crossed over  
and covered you like a thrift store  
dress, size 33. I see a grey cloud  
surrounding you, a tornado is swirling  
around you.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON

Oh, my hair!

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK

Not a real tornado. Just the winds  
of trouble, pushing true love back  
to the outer edges of sanity, allowing  
a carnival of chaos to fill the void  
where there once was peaceful clarity.  
Do you understand?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
I think so. My hair's ok, then?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Touch up the roots...A little while  
back, you broke a boy's heart.

VERONICA HAMPTON  
Last year. He was only interested  
in one thing. My trust fund, and  
professional wrestling.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
He has cursed you. I must cast a  
protection spell over you. But...

VERONICA HAMPTON  
Yes?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
It's very expensive.

VERONICA HAMPTON  
What's a good protection spell run  
these days?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Do you want a lifetime warranty?

VERONICA HAMPTON  
Oh, yes.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
The basic package would cost ten...  
Thousand?...twenty if you wanted the  
premium package. You know, burning  
a candle for you, thinking good  
thoughts. That sort of thing.

VERONICA HAMPTON  
For a lifetime?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Certainly.

VERONICA HAMPTON  
What if you die before me?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
I refund the unused portion.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Wait. What about my problem?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Which one. I get the feeling there's  
a lot to choose from.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
I'm sick of begging the lawyers for  
my trust fund allowance. I want to  
make it on my own. My own money, my  
way.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
No more living off of daddy's money?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Oh, what's the point? He'll be broke  
soon. He's in hiding. He's wanted  
by the FBI for money laundering and  
running a Fonzi scheme.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
A what?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
SCHEME! There's a ten million dollar  
reward for him. So, should I turn  
him in so I'll have the money to pay  
for my boyfriends clarinet lessons?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
You mean drum lessons?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Which boyfriend am I thinking of?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
The drummer?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Oh, him.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Where is your daddy hiding?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Santiago.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Chile?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
I'm not hungry, thanks, maybe later.  
Daddy's in Santiago.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Chile?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
No, this is long sleeved. Daddy's  
in Santiago.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
South America?

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Maybe North America. I don't  
remember. I wasn't very good at  
geometry.

(This section quickly?)

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
You weren't very good at GEE-AH....

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
AHH-LO-GY?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
AH-GRAPHY

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
GE-AH-LA-GRAPH-Y???

A dramatic swoon from Madame

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Wait! A vision! I see him now. In  
a house.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Brilliant! But its an apartment.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
An apartment building, near some  
type of...

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
A market,

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
...market.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Brilliant!

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Next to the..

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Alley.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Alley.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
Brilliant! Yes you're right, you go  
down that alley...

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
I see a number,

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
47 Samba Way. Apartment 12.  
Brilliant!

Madame scribbles on a pad.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON (CONT'D)  
How did you know? What should I do?

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
I'll meditate on it. Come back in a  
few days. Now, would you excuse me,  
please. I have to answer the phone.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
It didn't ring.

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Who's the psychic here, you or me?  
Now move along.

She pushes Veronica towards the door.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
OK, thank you Madame Sophia De Cluck  
I'll contact you in a few..

door slams, Madame picks up a phone,

MADAME SOPHIA DE CLUCK  
Hello, FBI? Fugitive reward  
department, please.

A knock on the door, door opens, Veronica sticks her head  
in.

VERONICA PESTO DE HAMPTON  
I'll bring drumsticks back. Then  
I'll try your chili.

Blackout