

THE ACT OF GENTLY HOLDING SOMETHING THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL
FOR GREAT VIOLENCE

By

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Date: September 1, 2025-April 13, 2026

Working Script: Excerpts from the complete script performed
by Aurora San Miguel on May 9, 2026 and June 6th, 2026

INT. KITCHEN - MIDDAY- CLOUDY (pg. 2-4)
INT. ON THE PORCH - MIDDAY - SUNNY (pg. 8-11)
INT. ON THE PHONE - AFTERNOON (pg. 12-17)
INT: LATE MORNING - SITTING AT THE DINING TABLE - WORKING
ON PAPER WORK (pg. 29-32)
INT. STUDIO - MIDDAY (pg. 40-43)

The Complete Script exists as an edition of 2. And is only
available to read,touched and handled in person.

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INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - CONDUCTED OVER THE COURSE OF
MANY DAYS -

CHARACTER 1 CAN BE PLAYED BY 1 PERSON OR BE PLAYED BY NO
ONE. (SILENT BREAKS REPRESENT MISSING DIALOGUE)
CHARACTER 2 REPRESENTS A MULTIPLICITY OF PERSPECTIVES
PLAYED BY 1 PERSON.

INTRO:

These are factual interview(s) with minor redactions to preserve the anonymity of participants. Some of the language in this text portrays racialized and sexualized violence and instances of suicide as experienced by interviewee(s). For those of you who might be negatively affected, we suggest that you observe the visual and gestural aspects of the performance through the windows removed from the sound portion of the performance. In this case you might choose to read the script in your own time and in a way where you have more agency. It's OK to laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MIDDAY- CLOUDY

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause & C2 listens)

CHARACTER 2

No.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause)

CHARACTER 2

Yeah.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause)

CHARACTER 2

Yeah, um, I was 23 and my mom had just gotten together with _____ and _____ was really into weapons and she wanted us to bond. and so we went skeet shooting with shot guns out in _____ and it was when I first started wearing glasses and I forgot my glasses. But I was still surprisingly a good shot because I, like, went with the gestalt.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I was, like everyone who shoots a gun for the first time, a little surprised by the recoil. It was shocking.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

No.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Uh...I would write it like *ptccgghh*

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

6

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I remember some very like country neighbors of mine when we lived in the farmhouse shooting mistletoe out of a tree with a shotgun. And I remember my grandpa_____ had a high caliber rifle, like a 30 ought six in the closet in the back on a landing, like a long barrel, like for shooting elk. This was actually the first gun I maybe saw and I was like 5.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Not really. I knew that I wasn't supposed to. I played a lot of, like, stick guns. Yah mostly stick guns.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Yah, like it already existed as an abstract tool category before I saw one. Like I didn't even have a tv, so it's not like I saw it in a movie. *PUH Pghhh pghhhh.pghhh pgh pghhh PUH*

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - EVENING - COLD

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)

No.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Yes.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CUT TO:

INT. ON THE PORCH - MIDDAY - SUNNY

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)
No.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
No.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Yes. I was 12 years old and I was hanging with my cousin. And fired. We were shooting at a fence post and I was immediately filled with remorse and I didn't want to shoot it anymore. And he called me a f_____ and I broke my hand on his head when I hit him.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
I don't own a gun and I will never own a gun because there is too much suicide in my family.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
They make a, like, a popping sound that doesn't sound like tv at all. More like a firework.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Of the 4 times I had a gun pulled on me. One time I stole a car and a cop. I was sleeping in a car that I had stolen and I woke up to a barrel and a flashlight. And it was a cop.

Another time I was on an army base and the cops swarmed me and made me lay on the ground and when I adjusted my body they pressed me down with a gun.

Another time I was homeless and this nazi punk and I broke into a truck and I stole a leather jacket and he stole a gun. We smashed out that back of the truck. It was a rifle. And he said he wanted to go kill black people. And I said I didn't want to so he pointed the gun in my face and called me a f_____.

The last time was just a random dude who pulled up and stuck his gun out the window and said "say something." "Say something." I was like a 9th grader.

And then lots of times my family have pulled out guns. My uncle would pull out guns and fire them into the air. A pistol and a rifle.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Too young to remember.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

At my uncles house and my cousin had committed suicide with one of his dads guns and I remember that they were lying around in every room. The story was that everyone said that it was an accidental shooting but it was not. It was a suicide. But they were always around, like hanging on the wall at my mee-maws house or at holidays.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I was really afraid of them. I felt like they were heavily charged with shame for me. I felt like they were really bad. I don't know why but they made me feel deep regret and shame.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

In the 6th grade in Mr G's class there was a sub. And he was like a really strict sub with starched white shirts and a bowtie and Gerry curl. And a kid was doing something wrong and the teacher grabbed him by the shirt and shook him and a pistol fell out of the kid's pocket and I have a really distinct memory of the sound of it hitting the green linoleum floor.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Constantly. Starting a war with the neighbors. We were not allowed to have toy guns. Because there were a lot of accidental shootings. There was a black kid, he was killed by the police. I knew from a young age that police killed black people. My mom told me that if you played with guns the cops would shoot you. And she would take the guns out of the starwars figure's packages. So I really wanted them.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I don't remember. All I remember is feeling like I had done something really wrong and that turning into anger and I had to, like, defend myself.

CUT TO:

INT. ON THE PHONE - AFTERNOON -

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)

No. What kind of gun? I have a glue gun and a tufting gun.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Yes. When I was a teenager. Like, in the hills friends had shot guns and we would shoot old tvs and cans.

I Shot a Shotgun.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Loud sounds.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
In person? I probably... In elementary school, on a police officer. But I don't remember it. There were lots of guns around. I grew up in _____.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
As a little kid I don't remember. As a teenager I really hated them. Curiosity I guess.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
No.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
No.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Kind of like, I don't remember enjoying it.

CUT TO:

INT. ON THE PHONE - AFTERNOON -

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)
"...They did a cover of Take me to the River that was, like, amazing.

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)
I love jam bands. I grew up with
the grateful dead. There will
never be another band like them
ever again.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Because they were all incredibly
talented musicians with a high
level of musicality and they
played together their whole lives.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Yes

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
I have 3 hand guns and 3 rifles.
Long guns they call them now.
Basically 6

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)
I have a Sig Sauer 365 macro,
which is a concealed carry gun
which you can't see under clothes
because it has a very discreet
profile. A glock, that is a remake
of the very first glock which is a
great gun. And a CZ competition
gun which has all the extra stuff
to make it super accurate. A ruger
22 long rifle semi auto so that me
and the guys could plank shit. And
a AR15 with a laser optic system
which makes it super accurate. AR
10 308 caliber which you can hunt
deer with. Oh yah I don't waste
anything. I use everything.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Yes.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

From a gun store

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

They are really fucking loud. Its like a major fucking explosion. And if you shoot it in the dark flame would shoot out of it. I couldn't even do it.
PGHHKKKKHHuowwwffff

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Depends on what you are shooting. 22, not so bad. The hand guns are pretty hard recoil. You train to bring it back on target. You can't go off what you see on tv. @ hands. You gotta train if you are gonna fucking have a gun.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I went to camp and my mother had me lie about my age and you were supposed to be like 9 or 10 and I was 8. And we had to shoot 22. Very regimented. A whole NRA program. I got, like, advanced marksman awards. It was a church camp. It was an awesome camp. That's how I learned to swim. I woulda never learned to swim. Sailing, mountains, shooting guns, archery. I did it all.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I always respected them. I liked them because I am like an American _____. But I always respected them like I never wanted to shoot anyone. Even now. I think there are some twisted individuals in this country right now who want to kill people.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

It formats me for dialog. But say you were over at my house and 2 guys broke in and they had guns or knives of their own. I would say "I am calling the police." And if they came at me I would fucking shoot them. But the thing is in America you have to shoot them or they will fucking shoot you. Or if the zombie apocalypse comes... I am prepared. HAhah.

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)

Do you know about people who prepare for things but they, like, don't believe in guns... they are just saving shit for the people with guns to take. Not me. I'm not a bad guy. But then they will come to me to protect them from the bad guys with the guns. People talk about gun control. But just like with AI. It could be a good thing, could be a bad thing, but they left the barn door wide open. There needs to be much stricter standards about who has guns.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Well ill tell ya. We had cap guns. And I fucked around with them a little bit. We played Indians and cowboys. I liked being Indians better. I found a bb gun my dad had and we fucked around with that a little bit, shot cans. I didn't like playing with fucking guns and shit. The real shit I like. I don't wanna play make believe.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

John Dillinger, the lady in red who set him up when he came out of the movie theatre. Yeah.

I would imagine he was using a colt. It wasn't a snub nose. Most of the gangsters didn't fuck around with cheap shit because it was their business.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Most of the gangs would have used a Thompson sub machine gun; it was a round drum that would hold 200 rounds. It was a 45 caliber gun too. You could shoot down planes with them. I think they were made illegal in the late 30's or 40's but the gangsters still use them. Actually you can own an old one. It's a really intense permitting process. They used them in 1945 in the war.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

A Constitutional Carry State. You have the right to carry built into the state constitution without a permit. Nut jobs have too many guns they can't even keep track of it. I'll take you out sometime if you want.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CUT TO:

INT. ON THE PHONE - MORNING -

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)

Yes.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

1, a handgun.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

No.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

From a gun store.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Yes.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)

Oh there was a 3rd time that I shot a gun. And it was at some kind of camp and it was also like a 22. I can't really remember but it was very brief. I was definitely a kid. and this wasn't at the normal summer camp I went to. Maybe I was with my grandparents on some summer trip. Or I was, maybe, with my mom. Maybe it was some random hotel recreation thing. I do think I was impressed. I was surprised by how... they showed me the bullets and I shot the gun and I remember being surprised by how small the bullets were. And I remember that they told me that they would only be used to shoot a squirrel or a target. So maybe that's why I wasn't impressed. Maybe that's why I forgot about it at first.

My cousin and brother and I would do a lot with slingshots when we were kids. And we were given these really really powerful slingshots that shot these metal balls. And I kind of, like, think those would have been more powerful than guns. You could probably go hunting with them.

CUT TO:

INT: LATE MORNING - SITTING AT THE DINING TABLE - WORKING
ON PAPER WORK

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)

No.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I do not. I've got these guns
(shows off muscles) I mean.
Hehehe

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

popopopopop.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Stzzchhc (sucks teeth). Like in person?

I remember seeing a gun in my ex boyfriend's basement. He and his dad would go hunting and they had shot guns. Oh no my aunt and uncle had guns all over the house all over the walls because they worked for the FBI. They were like all over the house. They were like for show. You could like, open a drawer and there would be a gun but most of them were for show like trophy guns. Important guns that did important work. "THIS IS THE GUN THAT ____." (Gestures)

Yah know?

WELL THERE IS ONE gun situation that I really like. I hate guns but .. there is one gun that... I want that gun:

Apparently my great grandmother had to run away from an abusive husband with her 3 daughters from Oklahoma to Texas. She had to hitch hike the wagon train. And then she got to Texas and he came and chased her and followed her and she shot him. And I want that gun.

Well I don't know if he died. I really don't But I want that gun.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).C2 Listens

CHARACTER 2
I don't know.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).C2 Listens

CHARACTER 2
Ummmmmmmm I didn't really have a relationship to guns. They weren't around me personally and the only people who had them around me were police officers and I didn't like police. I would see the gun in the black holster on their hip and it just made me want to get away from there. Scary.

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)
(Long Pause).C2 Listens

CHARACTER 2
Probably. Finger murdered a few times. (holds up finger guns). In the neighborhood . No gun toys. Like, friends' little brothers in houses and stuff like that?

I wasn't around that at all. We grew up in the city. Yah know so like guns were in... like, played a different part in different parts of the city and for some people they played a daily part and some of those neighborhoods were really nearby. And I didn't live near the country.

Also it was the thing like guns you would hear a lot on the 4th of July or like other holidays. Or if somebody won a football game.

And the last time I was there and AR 15 was going off and I was like what is going on and they were like it was just that the _____ won the game and I was like jesus christ!

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).C2 Listens

CHARACTER 2
My organism is repulsed by them. I
do know some people who were
more...(gestures)

CUT TO:

INT: IN THE STUDIO - MID AFTERNOON.

CHARACTER 1 (CONT'D)
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)
Yes. Yah so um I was a teenager
and I was at a friends house he
was one of my brothers friends
they were closer. I believe that
the gun he had was his fathers. It
was described to me as an assault
rifle. And I don't know if they
had AR 15s back then. And we shot
a stump with that. And it made me
go deaf for a while. Like my ears
were ringing for, like, what
seemed like at least a few
minutes.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

Uh it gradually got better. There
is a reason that they use that ear
protection at the shooting range.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
i don't own a gun

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
There is usually this, like, crazy
kickback . But when you shoot a
gun that doesn't...___

When you shoot a gun it kicks the
gun back because the velocity of
the bullet going out of the gun
makes the gun lurch backwards. So
it's like you feel its force a
bit. And the fancier guns, you
feel that, less and less . But
that's scarier to not feel it .
Somatically I did not like the
feeling.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - MIDDAY

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2 (CONT'D)
Yes.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Oh man. 8? Maybe.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
Um pistols I have an AR15, AK47
Remington 308. Do you want to know
all the pistols? I just have a
bunch of pistols

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2
I do not.

CHARACTER 1
(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

um. I bought them all. usually gun stores. I used to buy a lot of guns at gun shows. which is a weird scene btw. I bought stolen guns. But not anymore. That was back in the day. That was in the olden days.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

I have. Some of my favorite times shooting are, I think, like, growing up, when we are all teenagers. And we all had shotguns and we would play like skeet shooting games. Just like all my friends in high school. We would just do it everywhere. We just always had shotguns in our cars. And like tons of drugs. Huh huh huh. We would definitely always be drinking. That being said, I do consider myself a safe gun user even if it doesn't sound like it. I have friends who are, like, insanely unsafe with guns. To the point where I won't shoot with them at all.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

um. It's like bang, exactly. It's more of a crack with like an extended echo/

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

oh god like 4.? HHHhhh it was probably a shotgun or a pistol. My uncles were always shooting stuff in the country. One of my uncles was bipolar and he lost, like, two loaded guns at our summer house and they were like never found.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause).

CHARACTER 2

Well when I was a kid. starting from when I was like 3 yrs old I wanted to be a cowboy. But I also wanted to be a _____. I always had cowboy boots on and I always had a pistol. But it was like a cap gun. Because I didn't start shooting guns till I was like ten.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause & C2 listens)

CHARACTER 2

yah. like we grew up playing cops and robbers. cowboys and indians. sorry native americans. Lone Ranger, Bonanza, all that shit. My kids mostly played 'shoot at each other'. But it didn't have a name for it. It was just, kill or be killed. It's just society's relationship to guns. It's like the traumatic moment when you change something into something else.

CHARACTER 1

(Long Pause)

CHARACTER 2

It's kind of exhilarating. Especially early on. When you are young it's, like, exciting. It taps into some primal i don't even know what it is. I don't even know how to describe it. It's, like, dangerous. because danger is exciting.