

# The Beneficiary

Libretto by Sandra Flores-Strand



## Characters

Ellis – A woman in her late 20's who just reconciled with her mother, Soprano

Akeema – Ellis's girlfriend, Mezzo-Soprano

Nora – Ellis's older sister, Alto

Mikey – A small fluffy dog

## Synopsis

Ellis is on the phone with her girlfriend Akeema discussing the success of her mother's recent visit. Ellis has been estranged from her mother since coming out to her. The next call she receives is from her sister, Nora, with news of her mother's death. Days later, the women meet, and Nora discloses the tragic events and the rehoming of their mother's last companion, Mikey. The night that Mikey arrives at her home, Ellis and Akeema are awakened by a sound in the living room. Upon further investigation they are faced with a life changing decision.

## Scenic Breakdown

Scene 1, Ellis's Apartment and Akeema's Apartment (Vignettes of both locations)

Scene 2, Nora's House, The living room

Scene 3, Ellis's Bedroom

## Act 1 Scene 1, Ellis's Apartment, Akeema's Apartment

*(Ellis is in her apartment in the city talking on the phone to her girlfriend Akeema.)*

Ellis: Ten years of therapy were a complete waste.

Akeema: I take it your mother actually visited this time.

Ellis: All these years I've been eating off the dollar menu, when I could have just had her over to hash it out.

Akeema: So, it went well? I'm sorry I missed her visit, but I'm glad you had time together.

Ellis: I wish you could meet her. . . She's amazing, she inspires me.

Akeema: Well, what did she say to turn things around?

### Aria

Ellis: She said sorry,  
Sorry,  
Sorry for being withholding.  
  
Then she listened,  
Listened,  
Listened to my words as I cried.

I never thought she would hear me out,  
I never knew that she would care.  
Mother, you have finally met your daughter.

Eyes full of tears,  
Streaming,

Streaming down from both our eyes.

Then hugging,

Our hugging,

Embracing our truth as one.

Sorry for the years of strife.

She listened and she heard my side.

We celebrated and embraced our new life.

**Recitative**

Ellis: I think she gets it.

Akeema: Hon, I'm so glad to hear it. It's so great that you can both talk freely.

*(Phone buzzes or rings.)*

Ellis: Hold on, I have another call. It's Nora.

Akeema: This is real progress. I'm sure she feels so much better having worked things out.

Ellis: Hold on a sec.

Akeema: No problem.

Ellis: Hey, Nor!

Nora: Ellis, Oh Ellis. . . Mom is dead.

End of Sample