

**MON CHATON**

By  
Thembi Duncan

**Characters**

**VIRGINIA:** African American woman, twenty-six, attractive, beautiful eyes.

**OLA:** African American woman, twenty-two, sturdy and energetic.

**GEORGIE:** African American woman, forty-seven, tall and large.

**OSCAR:** African American man, twenty-eight, light-skinned and virile.

**THADDEUS:** African American man, thirty-five, striking and elegant.

**KITTY:** White woman, thirty-five, poised and magnetic.

**SALVATORE:** White man, late thirties, tough with a sense of humor.

*The following roles are played by the three male actors:*

**DRIVER:** African American man

**MR. FISHER:** African American man, distinguished.

**VOICE 1:** Off-stage, young male voice.

**VOICE 2:** Off-stage, young male voice.

**VOICE 3:** Off-stage, older male voice.

**POLICE OFFICER:** Played by the actor who plays Salvatore.

The play takes place during the summer of 1926 in Harlem, New York City.

**MON CHATON**

ACT I

Scene 1 ...Virginia's Flat.....Friday, late afternoon  
Scene 2 ...The Daisy Chain.....That evening  
Scene 3 ...A street in Harlem.....Later that night  
Scene 4 ...Kitty's Boudoir.....Saturday morning  
Scene 5 ...Kitty's Boudoir.....A little later  
Scene 6 ...Virginia's Flat.....That evening  
Scene 7 ...The Daisy Chain.....Later that night

ACT II

Scene 1 ...Virginia's Flat.....Sunday night  
Scene 2 ...Virginia's Flat.....Monday morning  
Scene 3 ...The Front Stoop.....Monday afternoon  
Scene 4 ...Virginia's Flat.....Two months later  
Scene 5 ...Virginia's Flat.....That evening

**ACT II, SCENE FIVE**

(That evening. Virginia's flat. Virginia, Oscar, Ola, and Thaddeus are chatting and drinking. No one really wants to be there. Oscar is very drunk. They are all dressed to the nines. The door is ajar. Georgie enters in her white tuxedo.)

VIRGINIA

You're late, darling! Welcome to the Salon de Chaton. Have some champagne.

GEORGIE

I don't drink on work nights. Say, I can't stay too long. (To the others.) Where y'all headed to after this?

VIRGINIA

I think the gang is going to the Daisy. I, on the other hand, will be attending the ballet.

GEORGIE

How you pull that one off?

VIRGINIA

Have Kitty will travel. Puis-je avoir votre attention s'il vous plaît? [*May I have your attention, please?*]

(People are still talking.)

VIRGINIA

May I have your attention!

(Everyone quiets down.)

VIRGINIA

Thank you. Now, I know that everyone's upset with me because of the recent changes around here.

(The group grumbles.)

VIRGINIA

Listen! I am doing these things for the good of all. This old place needs some improvements! And in order for it to realize its full potential, I need to make adjustments in our rental policy! Taking the reins of this establishment

is no small feat, considering the unique challenges of this particular group. I've had to make some difficult decisions around here—

OLA

Why can't you use that money for the improvements?

VIRGINIA

What makes you think I've found it?

OLA

You ain't find it?

VIRGINIA

What makes you think I did?

OLA

I don't know. Seem like all of a sudden you been wearin' all kinda fancy clothes, doin' all kinda fancy—

THADDEUS

I'll bet Kitty's paying for all those clothes. She wouldn't dare be seen with her in those dowdy Big Island rags.

OSCAR

Hmmph.

VIRGINIA

Come on now, everyone! No matter what, we've got to stick together, right?

OSCAR

I'll never stick with the likes of you.

VIRGINIA

Now Oscar, you need to accept that Ms. Kitty does not want you and neither do I! We are very much in love, and there is nothing you or anyone else can do about it. We might even get married.

OSCAR

You don't know what the hell you're talking about. You don't even know her.

VIRGINIA

Oscar, please be civil.

OSCAR

No, you be civil. Ever since you and Ms. Kitty got serious, you've been putting on more airs than a little bit. (To the others.) Ask her why she's not going to the Daisy with us. Ask her why she hasn't been seen in public with us since she got hot and heavy with Kitty Coleman.

VIRGINIA

Darling...please!

OSCAR

Since when have I been your darling? That's not your word! That's Kitty in your mouth!!

VIRGINIA

(Looking out the window.)

My chariot awaits. Time to vamoose, dearies! Ta-ta!

OSCAR

(Becoming agitated and beginning to stutter some of his words.)

We'll see how fancy you are when you find out the truth.

VIRGINIA

Truth about what?

KITTY

(Appearing in the doorway.)

Darling! I came up to have a quick nip before we go. (She notices the group.) Oh, hello, all! (Pause.) Oscar.

OSCAR

Hmmph.

KITTY

Still sour grapes after all this time? I got the girl. I win. I always do. Accept it and move on.

OSCAR

Oh, yeah?

KITTY

Yeah!

OSCAR

I don't even want her anymore. You can have her. You made her in your own image, after all. Congratulations!

KITTY

Shut your stuttering trap or I'll have it permanently shut, you get it?

OSCAR

You threatening me?

KITTY

I'm guaranteeing you.

OSCAR

You only got her because of that mask! Take it off! See if she still loves the hideous face underneath! I'll bet she won't ever love that!

KITTY

Don't you dare. Don't. You. Dare!!

OSCAR

Or you'll have my mouth permanently shut. But you know what? I don't know if you have the guts. I'm all you've got. I'm not so sure you even—

KITTY

I'll show you guts if you don't—

OSCAR

My whole life, I've been living this lie, until I felt like my head would explode! Well, you know what? I'm finished. The jig is up, Nadine!

VIRGINIA

'Nadine?'

KITTY

I'll tear you limb from limb!

(Kitty attacks Oscar. They tussle.)

OSCAR

You disowned me! You treated me like I was nothing, while I carried around your filthy secret! I'm something! I'm something! I'm SOMETHING!!

KITTY

I hate you! I'll kill you dead, I swear it!

(Salvatore appears and pulls Oscar away from Kitty.)

SALVATORE

What the hell's goin' on in here? (To OSCAR.) You again?

OSCAR

Let me go!

KITTY

(Calming down.) It's fine. He's fine - it was my fault. Just go down and wait by the car. (SALVATORE hesitates.) Go!

OSCAR

(Gathering himself.) No, don't go down to the car just yet, Salvatore. Nadine's got something to tell you! Tell him, Nadine!

THADDEUS

Oscar, shut up!

GEORGIE

Boy, you crazy?!

SALVATORE

Tell me what?

OSCAR

If she won't tell you, I will!

OLA

He's drunk!

THADDEUS

Don't listen to him!

SALVATORE

Everybody shaddup! Now, what's the story, buddy?

OSCAR

She had you fooled! She's colored! You hear me? She's colored! All this time, you've been waiting hand and foot on a Negro! What do you think about that, Salvatore?