Nadine Rodgers

CASTING SPELLS
(for Nazirah and Nehessaiu)

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Act I  Scene I: At the crossroads in Squaw Valley, California

[Enter the three witches]
When shall we three meet again,
in thunder lightening or in rain?
When the hurly burly’s done,
When the battle’s lost and won.
Then the magic will be on.
Where the place?
New York, Rhode Island, or DC,
There to stir up creativity.

Witch 1: I must awaken the people
Witch 2: I’ll give them hope
Witch 3: I’ll use my sixth finger....
[Exeunt]

Act I  Scene III: An airport somewhere on the East Coast of the USA

[Enter the three witches]

Where hast thou been sistah?
Killing swine.
Sistah, where thou?
A brother thought he had a serious rap,
And talked, and talked, and talked: “Silence,” qouth I:-
“Later for you, witch!” the trifling negro cries,
He on a business trip is gone, to close a deal.
But on a metaphor I’ll thither sail
And with my art I’ll make him fail;
I’ll do, I’ll do, I’ll do.

Witch 1: I’ll give thee a sharp word
Th’art kind.

Witch 3: I’ll lend you my sixth finger
I myself have all the other.
[Voices fade. Dim lights to black]

Act IV Scene I: Gasparee Caves, Trinidad. In the middle, a boiling cauldron.

[Enter the three witches]
Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison’d entrails throw.
Eye of molester, liar’s tongue,
Sappho hater, lovers gone;
Thigh and wishbone, neckbone too,
Stir them in there, fix a stew;
Absent father’s old gold tooth,
Secretive mother’s vow of truth,
Nappy hair strand coiled and strong,
Black girl’s genetics hidden long.
Double, double toil and trouble:
Fire burn; and, cauldron, bubble.
Cool it with agouti’s blood;
Then the spell is firm and good.