

WORLD CLASSIC

A Puerto Rican Diaspora Tale

By

Nelson Diaz-Marcano

CHARACTER LIST:

Papo: Male, mid-50's. An ex-baseball player from Puerto Rico, who moved to the States to make a better life.

Gloria: Female, mid-50's. Followed her husband with the promise of one day coming back. She's still waiting.

Chachi: Female, mid-20's. Papo and Gloria's niece. Moved to New York seeking a job and the hatred from her own family after she came out as lesbian.

Luisito: Mid to Late-Twenties. A good intention guy that tries his best to keep everyone happy even when he himself has things to deal with.

Miriam: Female, early-30's. The bitter older sister of Luisito. She hasn't forgiven her father for the death of their older brother.

Set: Folded chairs, a shelf and a table.

AT RISE:

A nostalgic dim light welcomes us into a room with 5 or 6 folded chairs, one unfolded in the center. On the corner there's a folded table leaning against the wall. In the back you can find a trophy on top of a shelf.

As the action starts, an old game of baseball is heard through the speakers. Specifically, the game in which Roberto Clemente hits his 3000 hit against the Mets on September 30, 1972. This is a magical moment for all Puerto Ricans and the atmosphere feels like it.

PAPO, a man in his fifties, sits down with a beer on the unfolded chair. Tired, sweaty, seems to have been working all morning and taking a break to live this moment. When the crowd roars after Clemente hits the ball, he stands up and mimics running the bases. Then as everything starts getting quiet, PAPO looks at the trophy with sadness on the back shelf before going back to drinking his beer.

As the post match interview with Roberto Clemente starts playing, PAPO sets the beer down. He smiles and nods, then the lights start dimming and he starts fading in his own brain. Eyes close, head back, thinking. Looks asleep. Lights out.

Then a second later boom!

LUISITO

WEPA!

Lights come up as soon as the Wepa is heard. This startles PAPO enough to almost fall off the chair.

LUISITO is a trip. He is wearing a jersey from the US baseball team, has his hair dyed blonde and wearing baggy jeans. He brought two bags and a cooler with him. His spanish definitely has an accent.

LUISITO

Yoo, what is up?! Ah? Game is about to start and you napping viejo?

PAPO

Muchacho--

LUISITO

You getting lazy in your old age, papi.

PAPO

Isn't that what old age is for?

LUISITO

Just be glad Mami wasn't the one that caught you, fool.

PAPO

I wasn't sleeping. Just had my eyes close and listening--

LUISITO

To what?

PAPO dismisses him as he realizes it may have been all in his head.

PAPO

Y eso? What you got there?

LUISITO

Good things papi, tu sabe. Luisito only brings good things.

PAPO

I thought Chachi was with you.

LUISITO

She's getting stuff from the car. (Beat) Sup with Miriam? She coming?

PAPO

Yeah, she call your mother. She's picking up some Hennessy and Bacardi on the way.

LUISITO

You are going to let her bring Bacardi into your house? What kind of Puerto Rican are you?

PAPO

What you talking about what kind of Puerto Rican am I when you are wearing that jersey?

LUISITO

Don't start with the hating.

PAPO

You bring a jersey like that into this house today?

LUISITO

Its the day of the finals right? And whose teams are in it?

PAPO

So you choose to root for the (Pronounced, letter by letter) U-S-A team ah? Vendio--

LUISITO

Vendio nothing, papito. I was born here wasn't I?

PAPO

You are Puerto Rican.

LUISITO

Only when you like me to be, most of the time I'm just el gringuito or el americano.

PAPO

Eso es de cariño, chico.

LUISITO

You keep saying that, but I'm not so sure-- Is all good tho', cause you may question my heart but--

BAM! He opens his jersey to reveal a Puerto Rico baseball team T-shirt.

LUISITO

(Make each one feel like a beat) Ah - Ah - AH!

PAPO shakes his head while LUISITO starts chanting for Puerto Rico. CHACHI enters with a garment bag. She has a jersey of the Puerto Rican National Baseball team on with jean shorts, or jorts as you will. Her hair is dyed blonde like LUISITO's. She joins Luisitio on the Puerto Rico chant, making up a tune to dance to the chant in the process.

GLORIA, a woman in her 50's, enters the room as LUISITO and CHACHI are getting louder. She's dressed fly as hell underneath an apron. There's a party after she cooks after all.

GLORIA

Pero que es este revolu! You guys drunk already?

CHACHI and LUISITO stop.

CHACHI

Bendicion, titi.

GLORIA

Dios te bendiga, mija.

LUISITO

Bendicion mami.

GLORIA goes to give him a kiss on the cheek, but on the way notices the jersey he has on and instead smacks LUISITO on the back of his head.

GLORIA

Y eso?

LUISITO

I'm supporting them both!

GLORIA

AY que lindo el nene! Take that jersey off, you are Puerto Rican. You can't be wearing the US jersey.

LUISITO

Diablo! I got you both to call me Puerto Rican today? Must be a holiday or something.

CHACHI

You still not Puerto Rican to me.

LUISITO

Yeah but you are one of them savages from the island. What do you know?

CHACHI gives him a look.

GLORIA

Don't listen to him Chachi. He's one of those Puerto Ricans that barely even speak Spanish and never been to the island.

LUISITO

And whose fault is that?

GLORIA

Your dad.

PAPO

How is that my fault?

GLORIA

You decided we would raise him here. I wanted to go back, remember?

PAPO

You are welcome then. Because of me you didn't have to grow in La Charca --

GLORIA rolls her eyes.

GLORIA

There he goes with La Charca again.

CHACHI

La Charca, as in the book?

GLORIA

Si mija, your uncle believes that everybody born in the island is just staying in a little pond, because of that damn book. It's like his bible.

PAPO

Not everyone, just the poor people.

GLORIA

Whatever.

PAPO

Have you read it Chachi?

CHACHI

Nah, just know its old as hell.

PAPO

You should, you'll see what I say.

GLORIA

And if you don't, he'll make you. I wish you'll read another book some day.

PAPO

What for?

They give each other a look before LUISITO breaks the ice.

LUISITO

Ay Ya! No fighting today! Let's go back to me being Puerto Rican and not talkign spanish. I prefer that over you two viejos bickering in the yarda again.

CHACHI

Ha! What you speak is no Spanish I ever heard of. Its some shit but is not Spanish.

LUISITO

It's that Bronx love, baby.

CHACHI

That spanglish power.

LUISITO

We take two awesome languages and make it one for your consideration, mami !

GLORIA, now a little more calmed, notices CHACHI has shorts on.

GLORIA

Oye Chachi, you liking the cold eh?

CHACHI

Not even a little

GLORIA

You need us to buy you pants?

CHACHI laughs.

CHACHI

Nah, the cold sucks, but I love them shorts. You know, you can take the boy out of Puerto Rico, but you ain't taking Puerto Rico out of your boy.

LUISITO

You ain't a boy.

CHACHI

Neither are you.

I'm a man.

LUISITO

Is that what you call yourself?

CHACHI

You think you are cute?

LUISITO

PAPO stands up.

PAPO

Eh! Que es? Let's start getting everything ready, people are coming. Too much joking around.

LUISITO

Si mi capitán!

PAPO

No seas sangano. (Pointing at the garment bag) Is that Manolito's jersey?

CHACHI

Yeah.

PAPO

Let me see it.

He grabs the garment bag.

GLORIA

Papo, you really going to put that up?

PAPO

It's the day.

GLORIA

Pero-- It's going to make people uncomfortable.

PAPO

Then they can leave. Today marks the tenth year since--

GLORIA

Y? I didn't know that was a cause for celebration.

PAPO

Don't you think it's an omen that the game felt today? Mira, you think it is a coincidence that United States team and the Puerto Rican national team are facing each other in the World Classic of Baseball... like Guao! Falling on the same date and everything. Don't you see it? Es una profecía!

GLORIA

No it's not, but you gonna do it anyway so why the fuck even ask.

Whoa!

LUISITO

Diablo Tio, you have titi cursing and everything!

CHACHI

Why are you all acting so surprised? I curse coño !

GLORIA

Since when?

LUISITO

Since I had you.

GLORIA

Gloria it's just one night, I even cleaned it so it doesn't smell like him anymore.

PAPO

Tomorrow morning you take it off.

GLORIA

I'll take it off after the party.

PAPO

You know Miriam--

GLORIA

I'll deal with it.

PAPO

Mas vale! I'm going to go and finish up the arroz con gandules . You guys help this viejo get ready. We don't have much time and he is getting slow.

GLORIA

Not slow, estaba napping when I came in, Mami .

LUISITO

I was taking a break.

PAPO

Luisito?

GLORIA

Yes?

LUISITO

Don't be a snitch, you were raised better than that, ah!

GLORIA

Chota.

CHACHI

Miriam will be here soon with the Hennessy and Don Q, so--

GLORIA

PAPO

I thought she was bringing Bacardi.

GLORIA

We are classy Boricuas, mijo. We don't do that.

She exits.

PAPO

Yet nobody talks about the Hennessy.

LUISITO

I fuck with some henny.

CHACHI

Yet you shit on Bacardi and then you wonder...

PAPO goes to the garment back again which prompts
LUISITO to react.

LUISITO

Espera, espera! Wait till I show you what else I got Papa.

PAPO

Que jodienda! Let me just--

LUISITO

No! Wait! I got you. Trust!

PAPO accepts this fate and waits. LUISITO opens the
cooler to reveal a box of Medalla . Medalla is a local
Puerto Rican beer known for both being just slightly
better than Bud Light, and cheap as hell.

LUISITO

(Same as before, each one is a beat) Ahh- Ah-Ah!

PAPO smiles. He is pleased.

PAPO

Vaya!

LUISITO

Gotta make the party more authentic you know?

PAPO

Esa es buena!

LUISITOA

Already feeling that Taino heat huh?

PAPO shakes his head but decides to throw him a bone.
CHACHI laughs.

PAPO
It will definitely make it something.

CHACHI keeps laughing.

LUISITO
Que es?

CHACHI
Yo, are you serious?

LUISITO
He is feeling it.

CHACHI
Taino fucking heat?

LUISITO
Hell yeah. It's catchy.

CHACHI
Stupid!

LUISITO
You don't know what the fuck you talking about. That shit would fly if I say it on the corner where I live.

CHACHI
That shit would make people get you to fly out of the window if you said that on the corner of where I used to live.

LUISITO
Yeah mami, but you in civilization now!

CHACHI
You call this civilization?

LUISITO
What would you call it, oh so wise one?

CHACHI
You wanna go there?

LUISITO looks at PAPO for help. PAPO gestures in a way that lets him know, "You did this." With no help, LUISITO concedes.

LUISITO
Nah, wherever that is, seems too early for us to arrive right now..

CHACHI
You should come with me when I go visit later in the year, so you actually know what your freaking island is all about.

LUISITO

Please, like I didn't have these two country folks raising me.

PAPO

Your mother is the country one, I'm from Caguas.

LUISITO

I don't even know what that means.

CHACHI

Oye tio? (Spanish) Oficial, oficial--, You sure this one is yours?

PAPO

Yeah we checked.

LUISITO

What do you mean you checked?

CHACHI

You sure you just don't wanna expose a bochinche?

LUISITO

Get the fuck out of here. I look just like him

CHACHI

No papito, no! Tio is not that ugly.

PAPO tries to grab garment bag.

PAPO

Come on, let's do some work. Luisito--

LUISITO takes the garment bag from PAPO then continue their cat and mouse game.

LUISITO

Who said?

PAPO

Chico, we have no time for stupid games.

LUISITO

(Sudden burst) Could you give me some love, damn!

Realizing he just slipped, LUISITO quickly moves to the bags he brought in hopes nobody noticed. PAPO and CHACHI stand confused as LUISITO takes out a blonde wig from one of the bags.

LUISITO

Here! You gotta finish the outfit, Papa.

PAPO

You think I'm going to put that on.

LUISITO

Well you refused to dye your hair like every member of the baseball team and every red blooded Boricua did, so I got you a wig.

PAPO

I'm not wearing that.

LUISITO

If you don't wear it, you might as well be wearing my jersey.

PAPO

You shouldn't be wearing that jersey.

LUISITO

Don't try to to turn it around!

CHACHI

He ain't, he is right. The whole time you been rooting for the Puerto Rican team and today you come like that?

LUISITO

Flaming the fairy tale fire, Chachi. Reality is coming in tonight.

CHACHI

We already beat you, pendejo. We beat a team 11-0 on the first game. You got no chance.

LUISITO

The U.S always gives Puerto Ricans hope so when they come to the finish line, Prakata, they take it away.

CHACHI

That ain't funny.

LUISITO

Whatever. My two kids are half American anyway, so daddy is representing for them too.

CHACHI

How are your kids?

LUISITO

Big!

CHACHI

Why didn't you bring them tonight? I actually thought I would see them.

LUISITO

Couldn't.

CHACHI

Two months here and I haven't met your kids.

Because their mom hates me. LUISITO

You cheated on her. CHACHI

She cheated on me first. LUISITO

So cabron y pendejo got it. CHACHI

Hey, cuidaito! LUISITO

Suddenly CHACHI's eyes open wide. PAPO has taken the jersey out of the garment bag to her surprise. LUISITO turns to look at what CHACHI is looking and as he takes in the moment, the lights dim till there's only a spotlight on PAPO. The same game between the Mets and the Pirates is heard again.

Everyone freezes but PAPO.

PAPO
Manolito Walker Mercado. Numero 21-- My son --

Time passes as he gets lost in his world. A sound to allude time passing accompanies the moment till LUISITO touches his arm and breaks the trance. Lights go up as PAPO jumps back. CHACHI is gone

PAPO
Luisito, you looking to give me a heart attack today?

LUISITO
You were gone, staring on the shirt and mumbling to yourself.

PAPO
(He looks around) Where did Chachi go?

LUISITO
She went to the bathroom.

PAPO
Was I out for long?

LUISITO
Just a few minutes. Everything ok?

PAPO
Just thinking. Nothing crazy.

LUISITO

You sure Papi? I did tell her to take like a little longer if you wanna--

PAPO

Estoy bien Luisito. It's all good.

LUISITO

You don't have to hide.

PAPO

I'm right here, you see me hiding?

LUISITO

Yeah--

They look at each other.

LUISITO

It's been ten years---

PAPO

And it's still hasn't become any easier.

Loud screams are heard off stage, interrupting their moment.

LUISITO

Miriam's here.

PAPO

Seem so. You know if he wasn't gone, he would be playing tonight, right?

LUISITO

I guess so.

PAPO

He would have. You were too young to see how magnificent he was, but he would've. That's what I was thinking.

LUISITO

I figured. Always him.

PAPO quietly taps him on the shoulder and gives him the jersey.

PAPO

I'm going to go check on your mother real quick, make sure she is not mad, could you put this on the wall for me?

LUISITO

Of course papi.

PAPO smiles and exits.

LUISITO takes the jersey off the hanger. He turns around and see his last name, he stares at it with a smile. As he starts the next line, he puts the jersey on.

LUISITO

Y al bate, el numero 21, Manolo Walker Mercado. He is a dangerous boy, that one!

LUISITO points to the crowd. Still mimicking both the player and the announcers. He gets into batting position

LUISITO

Who is he pointing at? Could it be his little brother Luisito . The most handsome of the family? Of course it is!

LUISITO gets ready to bat.

LUISITO

Oh the pitcher is about to throw! Get ready--

He mimics looking at the ball and then hitting it!

LUISITO

He did it! Mercado has hit a Home run!

He runs the bases, close to PAPO's reaction when listening to Clemente's. When he finishes, he takes off the jersey and fakes the sounds of the crowd going wild!

LUISITO

Numero 21!

LUISITO hangs the jersey on the wall with a nostalgic smile on his face.

LUISITO

Ten years... Who knew death had such a long shadow.

MIRIAM walks in as LUISITO starts putting the chairs.

MIRIAM

Que lo que Luisito?

LUISITO

Miri! What up baby?

They hug. Then she notices the jersey.

MIRIAM

Ay por dios, is he really putting that shit up?

LUISITO

Yeah.

Why? MIRIAM

It's the ten year anniversary. LUISITO

Y? MIRIAM

I don't know. Ask papi, he's the one that wanted it there. Mom was giving him shit too. LUISITO

Just take it off. MIRIAM

Not my decision. LUISITO

Pendejo I'll do it. MIRIAM

Just throw him a bone. LUISITO

Why? MIRIAM

Come on Miriam, you know how Papi is. LUISITO

Selfish. MIRIAM

Stubborn. LUISITO

I don't wanna see it. MIRIAM

His house. LUISITO

Why do we need a reminder? MIRIAM

It's a celebration. LUISITO

Who celebrates death? MIRIAM

Apparently we do. LUISITO

CHACHI appears with shot glasses and a bottle of Don Q rum.

CHACHI

Oh yeah we do! We even dress the bodies up and let them stand up as we party.

LUISITO

That's right.

MIRIAM

Wait what?

LUISITO

I heard about this.

MIRIAM

The hell you guys talking about?

CHACHI

Mamita you never seen this.

She pours three shots.

MIRIAM

No, why would I?

LUISITO

Shit was everywhere. Viral and all!

MIRIAM

Wait this is a real thing?

CHACHI

Yes! Salud!

They take the shot. LUISITO takes his phone out.

LUISITO

Let me look for it real quick.

CHACHI

They got one of them dressed like the lantern dude.

MIRIAM

What lantern dude?

LUISITO

The superhero.

MIRIAM

Green Lantern?

CHACHI

Yeah that one.

Na, tu me estas jodiendo. MIRIAM

De verdad, de verdad. Cross my heart, this is the truth. CHACHI

LUISITO gets excited when he finds the picture.

Check it! LUISITO

Mira vete pal carajo, ay Dios mio! MIRIAM

Te lo dije. CHACHI

Who let that happen? MIRIAM

You know how we are, Miri girl. We celebrate everything. CHACHI

Even the fourth of July. LUISITO

We might as well. CHACHI

That one makes no sense. MIRIAM

Hey, if they are going to take advantage of us, we might as well enjoy the little things. CHACHI

America the great. MIRIAM

What a couple of sell outs. LUISITO

Says the guy with a US team jersey. CHACHI

I was born here. LUISITO

Are you wearing a Puerto Rico T-shirt underneath? MIRIAM

You know it. Representing my heart. LUISITO

MIRIAM

Chachi, is he serious. And then he wonders...

LUISITO

Wonder what?

CHACHI and MIRIAM share a glance.

CHACHI

Se lo dices tu o yo?

LUISITO

Why you call me white boy? Cause I already know that, hoes.

MIRIAM

I'll do it, he is my problem. Sadly, he is the one brother I have left.

LUISITO

Sadly really? You want me to just go and---

MIRIAM

Hey!

LUISITO stops.

MIRIAM

I don't know where you going with that but let's not open wounds with sharp words ok?

LUISITO

So tell me already whatever you gotta say.

MIRIAM

What can I say that hasn't been said before.

LUISITO

Then why do you feel the need to say it.

MIRIAM

Cause you still acting stupid. It's why not even dad takes you seriously!

LUISITO

That's low.

CHACHI

How you gonna be wearing a jersey from one team with a T shirt from the other team underneath? That's some weak shit.

LUISITO

I'm representing my two nations.

CHACHI

Nah you representing the oppressor on top of the oppressed.

LUISITO

Here we go.

CHACHI

Be happy you don't know what I mean by that.

LUISITO

Whatcha gonna say now, that I suffer from white privilege?

CHACHI

Nah, just fake pride.

MIRIAM's laugh.

LUISITO

Fuck you Chachi. I'm proud. Like real proud of being Boricua. But I was born here... shit, how is that hard to understand?

MIRIAM

Baby bro, you are full Puerto Rican. You don't owe any pride to these motherfuckers.

LUISITO

Ay Miriam, that's real easy for you to say. Nobody questions who you are.

MIRIAM

Chico, it's just joking. You don't need to take it that hard.

LUISITO

I don't, not anymore.

Shows off his Jersey and t-shirt combination.

LUISITO

I learn to embrace it. Makes me unique from you and Manolito .

MIRIAM

Don't mention his name.

CHACHI

Uff el cuco!

MIRIAM doesn't find that comment amusing and makes it obvious with a hard look.

CHACHI

Just kidding, mami. (Beat) My bad.

MIRIAM

Luisito, I'm just playing. You don't have to sell your soul to feel accepted.

LUISITO

Miriam, you fucking talk like you weren't raised here and they are not the ones paying your salary. At least I'm my own boss.

CHACHI

Uff--

MIRIAM

Never lost sight of where I was born though.

LUISITO

Yet you asking me to lose sight of where I was.

CHACHI

Double hit!

MIRIAM

You going to come for me too?

CHACHI

Way I see it, you both are American as fuck.

LUISITO laughs, MIRIAM glances at her.

CHACHI

I'm just saying you are looking mighty comfortable taking their jobs and living in Connecticut away from the rowdy bunch.

MIRIAM

Oh yeah cause living around a lot of people that think you are a second class citizen is a lot of fun.

LUISITO

Yeah and I'm sure that swank apartment feels like hell. Talking a lot of crap for somebody reaping the hell out of the benefits.

MIRIAM

So what? You want me to be just a plumber like you? I went to college, and got a master, Luisito! Damn right I'm going to bleed this country for all they owe me.

LUISITO

Just a plumber? I've had a job for longer than you. Shit, at least I owned my apartment and my job. You just paying some white lady to let you stay in that big apartment.

CHACHI

Luisito is now on FIRE!

MIRIAM

You know what Chachi?

CHACHI

Don't tell me you getting offended?

MIRIAM

I just can't believe you. You know I went to Puerto Rico all the time to spend time with you and shit and now you calling me out?

CHACHI

I ain't calling you out, I'm just trying to be on both sides. You both my cousins and you both are talking about the same shit. Reaping benefits and stuff.

MIRIAM

Like you didn't?

CHACHI

What? Get benefits? Nah, in Puerto Rico I call it reparations.

MIRIAM

Convenient.

CHACHI

I'll trade the benefits for a job in the island.

LUISITO

Couldn't find one?

CHACHI

Why do you think I'm here? You think I would come from paradise to these dirty ass place just because of beef with the family?

LUISITO

Yo, don't be talking about NYC like that. You call it dirty, we call it charming.

CHACHI

All I'm saying my little grasshopper, is that I got a masters and I still can't get nada. (To Miriam) I gotta bring this motherfucker home, see the beaches and stuff.

LUISITO

One day.

MIRIAM

Luisito you never been huh?

LUISITO

You just realized that?

MIRIAM

What a shame.

LUISITO

I said one day!

CHACHI

I invited him for the summer, he said he has to stay for the kids.

MIRIAM

They live with their mom.

LUISITO

They need me here.

Bring them with you. MIRIAM

You tell their mom that. LUISITO

They are your kids too! MIRIAM

She barely let me see them as it is! If I mention Puerto Rico, she may think I'm kidnapping them. She's too much. LUISITO

I still haven't met them. CHACHI

Oh Chachi they are gorgeous! MIRIAM

He takes his phone out.

Oh shit Miriam, I have these pictures of them from last week. They are even bigger now. LUISITO

Oh let me see! MIRIAM

They gather around LUISITO to look at the pictures.

Los nenes de titi! I missed them! MIRIAM

I wanted to bring them here, but she freaked out cause is not one of my days. LUISITO

Yo what the fuck did you do? CHACHI

You already know. LUISITO

You also never said sorry and call her a bitch in front of everybody in court. MIRIAM

Why the fuck do I need to apologize? She did it first. LUISITO

You did her best friend out of spite and then posted it on Facebook. MIRIAM

Correction, her best friend did me. I was just a conduit of hate ready to explode. LUISITO

And explode you did. CHACHI

Damn right! LUISITO

He fake ejaculation while making an overly excited face gesture. You know which one, the kind teenage boys find funny. GLORIA enters in the middle of it.

Que bonito el caballero-- GLORIA

But before she continues, she is smacked by the visual of the jersey.

Ese cabron! GLORIA

Yep. MIRIAM

It makes the room ugly. GLORIA

I was gonna take it off but this idiot didn't let me. MIRIAM

Take it off. GLORIA

He's gonna flip out. LUISITO

It's going to ruin the party. GLORIA

Give him this one. LUISITO

I vote take it off. MIRIAM

We know. LUISITO

Yes, we don't need a goddamn reminder that once upon a time we had a brother that preferred not being with us thanks to him. MIRIAM

It's just a jersey. El viejo wants it. Give him this. LUISITO

GLORIA

Oye Luisito why do protect him so much? He hasn't given us anything since--

GLORIA let the thought trail off.

MIRIAM

Mom?

GLORIA

I'll talk to him when he gets back from the store.

MIRIAM

Oh so he went?

GLORIA

You know him.

LUISITO

What else do we need?

GLORIA

He went to get Bacardi because Don Q wasn't enough. Apparently we need to have the Bacardi too.

CHACHI

Cacardi is more like it.

GLORIA

What?

CHACHI

You know Cacardi because it tastes like... you know.

GLORIA

Shit. You can say it. You are not thirteen anymore. You can curse in front of your titi,

CHACHI

I rather not.

GLORIA hugs and kisses her.

GLORIA

La nena bella de titi. Could you show estos ingratos how to treat their mother? Cause I raised them to be like you and I ended with --

LUISITO

Don't be looking at me, I'm respectful as fuck.

GLORIA

You see--

CHACHI

Ay titi you know I can't work miracles.

Can I trade you for one? GLORIA

CHACHI laughs.

She got jokes now. MIRIAM

This one has turned bitter. GLORIA

I'm not bitter! MIRIAM

Just angry. And the other one-- GLORIA

What? What you gonna say? That you prefer the lesbian over us normal folks? LUISITO

What the-- Luisito. CHACHI

You call yourself normal? MIRIAM

What, I'm just-- LUISITO

That was low-- MIRIAM

Wait a second, Chachi, you said you are what? GLORIA

Oh shit-- LUISITO

MIRIAM hits LUISITO on the back of his head.

What? I didn't mean to open a can of-- LUISITO

Callate. (To Chachi) Y? GLORIA

Titi I thought you knew-- CHACHI

What? GLORIA

That I don't like boys. CHACHI

Silence

GLORIA

I don't see why would you. I just got stuck with them. What can you do?

MIRIAM

We all know. It's just one of those things the family doesn't talk about.

GLORIA

I thought you were still in the closet and that's why you hadn't say anything. Thought it was the reason you moved since everyone is so hush hush about it.

CHACHI

Nah, not the main reason. Coming out definitely drove Tio Rogelio crazy, and my dad kicked me out. Being broke, homes-less and jobless... figured it was time for me to go.

GLORIA

Oh Papo didn't mention that.

CHACHI

Tio Papo doesn't like talking about it.

MIRIAM

He doesn't like talking about much.

GLORIA

Miriam respeta, that's your father.

MIRIAM

Now you care?

GLORIA

I can say whatever I want, I've slept with the man for over thirty years, you guys gotta earn that.

MIRIAM

I don't wanna earn anything with him, I've only lost things.

GLORIA

You gotta let it go, Miriam.

MIRIAM

I don't have to let go of anything since apparently nobody does in this family.

MIRIAM points at the jersey.

CHACHI

Damn Luisito you did open a can?

LUISITO

Apparently.

MIRIAM

Discussion is over, you can close the can or throw in the garbage. Whatever you want.

LUISITO

Always La Charca this, Manolito that, dad this, Luisito that-- same conversations, same pain. Well not me! I'm ready to move on and watch the game.

He sits down as MIRIAM starts clapping.

MIRIAM

What a show! Everybody sit down and let's enjoy--

LUISITO

It's not a show.

MIRIAM

You're showing your emotions like crazy.

LUISITO

Y? Isn't that what we latinos do, or did you forget in the bleaching process?

MIRIAM

The hell does that mean--

LUISITO

Figure it out yourself, white girl.

He walks away.

MIRIAM

Oh so you just gonna go?

He is gone.

MIRIAM

Always ruining the day.

GLORIA

We may have been a bit mean. You know he is a sensitive soul.

MIRIAM

Fuck him. What did he mean bleaching? Is he saying I'm becoming white? You get a nice job and some white friends and all of sudden you betraying your heritage. What the--

She notices everyone is quiet.

MIRIAM

You got something to say?

CHACHI

Me? Nah, if I had something to say I would say it.

MIRIAM

Mom?

GLORIA

Miriam... eso es entre ustedes, you deal with it. Don't get us on this.

MIRIAM

I basically was raised in Puerto Rico. Spent almost every summer over there.

GLORIA

You are all certainly as dramatic as Papo, so I don't question it much.

MIRIAM

Don't compare me with him. I'm my mother's daughter.

GLORIA decides not to respond.

CHACHI

Titi, where's the broom?

GLORIA

In the kitchen, but don't worry about it.

CHACHI

I'll do it, it's no problem.

GLORIA

Actually, hazme un favor mamita. Could you check on Luisito? I don't want him to feel unwanted here.

CHACHI

Sure. Miriam I could bring you the broom.

MIRIAM is surprised.

MIRIAM

Hmm-- yeah I'll clean this.

CHACHI

Ok super Boricua from the summers, I'll be back.

GLORIA gives her a look, while CHACHI exits.

GLORIA

You could have gone to get it.

MIRIAM

She said she would do it.

GLORIA

So why not let her, right?

MIRIAM

Mami why are you looking for a fight?

GLORIA

I'm not looking for a fight, just saying.

MIRIAM

First you scald me about being angry with dad when you can barely stand him, then you start saying I'm bleaching?

GLORIA

I didn't say it, your brother did.

MIRIAM

You didn't disagree.

GLORIA

No, I didn't.

MIRIAM

Wow.

GLORIA

I didn't say you didn't. I'm just saying, you've distanced yourself from us.

MIRIAM

Not from you, from him! I'm haunted by this home and its patriarch!

GLORIA

But in the process, I'm the one that pays. I see you every six months if I'm luck. Hear from you whenever you remember.

Suddenly from off stage.

CHACHI (OFF STAGE)

Titi!!!! Donde en la cocina!?

GLORIA

En el closet!!!

CHACHI (OFF STAGE)

Cual?!

GLORIA

It's the one by the fridge!

CHACHI (OFF STAGE)

Oh!

MIRIAM

So you prefer her over me cause she is Puerto Rican.

GLORIA

Miriam, por favor! You are my daughter and confidant, she is my husband's niece. She just reminds me of home.

MIRIAM

You really miss it don't you?

GLORIA nods with nostalgia as CHACHI comes in with the broom. She hands it to MIRIAM which prompts GLORIA to laugh.

GLORIA
Give me that, she doesn't do jibaro work.

CHACHI
Too good for it?

MIRIAM
I'll do it.

GLORIA
I'm just joking sweetie.

MIRIAM
I said I'll do it!

GLORIA grabs the broom from her.

GLORIA
How about while she deals with Luisito, you check on the pernil ?

MIRIAM
Mom, could you let me--

GLORIA
I want to do it. Tired of being in that kitchen, at least I'm in a different room here. Between me and your dead brother's jersey. We'll have a good time.

MIRIAM
You just don't believe I can do it.

GLORIA
Mi amor, it's just sweeping. You graduated college, I think you can do it. I'm just going to put on some music and give myself a nice five minutes. Could you let me?

MIRIAM
You are just saying that--

GLORIA
Por dios! Just go, let's continue this damn day so we can move on.

CHACHI
Ven Miriam.

MIRIAM nods and CHACHI walks out. As MIRIAM is about to exit, she turns back to talk to GLORIA.

MIRIAM
Mom, if you miss Puerto Rico so much, why don't you move?

GLORIA

Ha! In another life perhaps. Your father would never abandoned his “American” dream and go back to La Charca.

MIRIAM

I’m asking you.

GLORIA

Don’t worry about me. Can you go and check the pernil . I think it might be almost ready but not sure-- oh and move the rice, por favor. Gracias

MIRIAM

Sure. I do the cooking, you do the sweeping, while Luisito goes be a little bitch and dad gets everything he wants. That’s what women are for anyway, to make them feel better.

GLORIA

No, this is what family is for.

MIRIAM

Then he should be cleaning this and you should be moving.

GLORIA

Sure. But I am cleaning, and you are checking the pernil and this conversation ends. Ok?

MIRIAM

I’m just saying.

GLORIA

Que dije?

MIRIAM stomps out like a child in her exit.

GLORIA

Y que a mi? She thinks because she is a liberated woman she can tell me how to be one. Ha!

GLORIA takes the broom and surveys the mess of confetti.

She takes her phone out.

GLORIA

She reminds me so much of myself before-- (She takes a moment)

She sighs as she starts playing an Old salsa song on her phone. What we called Salsa Gorda.

GLORIA

Eso!

She dances as she sweeps the confetti and is living for it. This is a moment for her.

She can dance with people from the audience and get everyone alive. After some time, this is interrupted as she gets face to face with Manolito's jersey. Right then the lights dim and the surreal feeling happen. The song now in a lower level.

GLORIA

Cabron! Look at what you did.

She turns around, the lights go back to normal, then the songs picks up again. The confetti on a nice mound already.

She composes herself and proceeds to grab the dust pan.

PAPO comes in carrying a bat, but with the intention of dancing with her as he heard the song from outside.

PAPO

Echale!

He puts the bat down and tries to dance with her. She shows reluctance.

PAPO

Vamos vieja mia, enseñame!

A smile form on her face before she starts letting loose on the top of the mound. They dance/

PAPO

Te acuerdas?

GLORIA

Claro... How can I forget?

PAPO

How we danced?

GLORIA

Drank.

PAPO

Love.

GLORIA

Beaches at four in the morning.

PAPO

Lechon at eight.

GLORIA

The good old days.

The good old days. PAPO

Let's go back. GLORIA

We should right? PAPO

En serio? GLORIA

It's been years since we visited. PAPO

No I mean, back, back. GLORIA

Oh, that... PAPO

Yes, that. What's holding us back? And do not mention the damn charca ! GLORIA

We have everything here. PAPO

We got nothing here we need to stay for. GLORIA

Ay mija, estas loca? PAPO

She furiously separates from him.

Oh come on mamita, don't get mad. PAPO

I want to go back. That was the plan. GLORIA

Where does this come from? PAPO

We left with the idea of going back or did you forget? GLORIA

We were kids. Would you let kids decide how your future should be? PAPO

Silence.

I'm gonna check on Miriam. GLORIA

Come on Gloria!

PAPO

He tries to grab her but she wiggles herself out. As she moves away she trips on the bat he left on the floor.

Estas bien?

PAPO

I'm fine--

GLORIA

She realizes what she tripped on.

Is that his bat?

GLORIA

PAPO

His lucky one! I should have everything out so his spirit can give the team the power.

GLORIA

So the rest of the island can be in disappointment and feel like they wasted their lives like--

Gloria stop---

PAPO

You didn't have enough with the damn jersey, now this too?

It's just one night.

PAPO

GLORIA

It's been just one night. For a long time. But it's ok, you get this, you get to stay here. We get to stay together cause I'm the woman after all, right? We built your life and I live in it.

PAPO tries to find words when suddenly firecrackers start blowing up loudly from the other room.

Que carajo es eso?

GLORIA

Mi vida--

PAPO

GLORIA

Mi vida nada, Papo. I'm done. I remember when you got it in your head we had to move, you couldn't live anymore on that pond. You were too big for it... Well, I live in your pond now. And I've been too big for it for some time.

Firecrackers again.

(She turns) Mira! Que pasa?

LUISITO (OFF STAGE)

Petardos!

PAPO

In the house!

MIRIAM enters.

MIRIAM

That's your kid.

GLORIA

Its your brother.

PAPO

You raised him.

MIRIAM

If you were around then I wouldn't have.

GLORIA

Eh, tranquila-- How's the pernil?

More explosions. They jump.

GLORIA

Mira muchacho deja eso! (To Miriam) Where's Chachi?

MIRIAM

With him.

PAPO

I almost forgot, I have to talk to her before guests arrive.

GLORIA

De?

PAPO

De que que?

MIRIAM

What's your problem?

PAPO

My problem? What did I say now? You both have been giving me attitude all day and you ask what's my problem.

MIRIAM

You should listen more often, there wouldn't be problems that way.

PAPO

Miriam que es? You and I don't even talk anymore. You don't call. Don't answer my calls and then you just treat me like I'm a nobody. I'm your father.

MIRIAM

You keep saying that, but--

She shakes her head as a bitter smile form on her face.
She then moves toward the jersey.

MIRIAM

Maybe you should ask precious over there why his jersey is up there but not yours. Or Luisito's. Or--

GLORIA

Let's not talk about this now, ok?

MIRIAM

It's never a good time right? But hey rest assured, it's not because of precious only.

PAPO

Then what is it?

More explosions!

GLORIA

Mira puñeta! Vengan aca los dos. (Turns to Papo and Miriam) And you two, leave this to another freaking time. We have a party to set up and enough explosions in the house.

LUISITO and CHACHI enter.

LUISITO

Escuchaste eso! Ayer fui por tu casa, and... Bomba!

CHACHI

Dude that's not how the Bomba song goes!

GLORIA hits him on the shoulder.

GLORIA

You destroying our house.

LUISITO

It was in the metal garbage can.

CHACHI

That's why it was so loud. This idiot said that 'dique' not to bother the neighbors.

LUISITO

You know they're white. They get all weird when we do our thing.

PAPO

You mean exploding illegal stuff close to their house.

It's firecrackers. LUISITO

Still illegal. PAPO

Ay bendito. Can't do shit right can I? LUISITO

Everybody looks at each other.

You got a good heart. PAPO

CHACHI laughs.

Missing the brain in case you didn't notice. MIRIAM

I'm not stupid. LUISITO

(To Chachi) Was it something I did to deserve them as my family? GLORIA

Don't worry titi, you got me. CHACHI

Don't add me in the same group. Just talk about the men. MIRIAM

What men? GLORIA

Eh! LUISITO

Luisito, they think that's funny. PAPO

Comedians. LUISITO

They think they are good or something. PAPO

I haven't laughed once. LUISITO

I've laughed plenty. MIRIAM

Yeah but your sense of humor has become... how do we say it... LUISITO

PAPO

Like our neighbors?

MIRIAM

I thought that was your plan? (Beat) Oh and Luisito, what the hell you making fun of me for? You can't even do the Bomba right!

LUISITO

And you can?

She smirks incredoulsy then looks at the others for approval.

MIRIAM

Shall I?

Everybody reacts as a challenge has been accepted. You know, the hype men in the back.

She starts clapping the sound of the Bomba as everyone joins her.

CHACHI/GLORIA/PAPO

La bomba, ay que rica es, es, es--
Me sube el ritmo por los pies, por los pies--
Mulato, saca a tu trigueña, a bailar esta bomba, bomba Puertorriqueña
Eso!

They all look at MIRIAM.

MIRIAM

Ayer pase por tu casa, y vi a Luisito el pendejo
Y estaba tan borracho, que no se le paraba ni el huevo, BOMBA!

Everyone screams the Bomba together. But GLORIA.

GLORIA

Did it have to be dirty--

MIRIAM

Is the only I was taught.

CHACHI

Wait no paren! Keep it going.

They do the verse again while playing. CHACHI's turn.

CHACHI

Hoy hay un juego de pelota en casa de mi tio favorito
El tiene a mi prima bella y a mi primo que es un vendio!

Everyone screams Ohhhh!

LUISITO
I said why I have this jersey on, no need---

GLORIA
Callate y dale!

They do the verse again, people starts dancing.
GLORIA's turn.

GLORIA
Yo soy una mujer bendecida con dos hijos hermosos
Asi que dios me quito el privilegio de tener un buen esposo!

PAPO just signals for them to keep going! They do and then look at him.

PAPO
Hoy estamos en familia con mucho carino y amor
Extranando a el manolito, en baseball siempre el mejor!

Everyone gets quiet.

LUISITO
My turn motherfuckers!

CHACHI takes the cue and doesn't let the silence stay long. They follow suit.

LUISITO
Aqui me dicen el gringo, aunque se español
No sere de Puerto Rico, pero ...

He lost his thoughts. They boo him as they realize that he doesn't know where to go.

LUISITO
Espera espera...

They keep booing him.

LUISITO
Almost have it.

PAPO
That's not how it works.

LUISITO
Ah!

He asks them to start. MIRIAM is by the jersey at this time.

LUISITO
Ay Aqui me dicen el gringo, aunque se español

No sere de Puerto Rico, pero de...

He forgets again, they just start booing him and saying “Pa’ fuera, pa la calle” As they are saying that and LUISITO mocks being sad, MIRIAM looks at the jersey and the lights dim. People freeze on their position.

She takes the jersey.

MIRIAM

La bomba, ay que rica es, es, es--

Me sube el ritmo por los pies, por los pies--

Mulato, saca a tu trigueña, a bailar esta bomba, bomba Puertorriqueña

Eso!

Remember those nights. This family was so happy, the times we had... but I always wonder if you ever were. Is that why you took ours away?

She goes from smiling to frowning as she puts the jersey back up. She then goes back to the same position she was before. They all unfreeze and keep the chant. MIRIAM stares off, which prompts GLORIA to notice she is not chanting.

GLORIA

Everything ok, baby?

MIRIAM

Just thinking...

GLORIA

About?

PAPO

(Not caring) Que hora es?

MIRIAM gets annoyed he talked.

MIRIAM

Nothing. The party is more important.

PAPO

The guests will arrive soon so we should finish putting stuff together.

GLORIA

There’s still plenty of time.

PAPO

Better to be prepared.

GLORIA

Your daughter was obviously--

MIRIAM
No mami, I was fine. Just lost in thought.

GLORIA
Nena, you looked sad.

PAPO
She already told you she isn't. What she is, is ready to party!!! Look at Puerto Rico beat Luisito's team ah--

He tries to play with Miriam but she just moves away.

LUISITO
I am for both teams.

CHACHI
You can't do that!

LUISITO
I am doing it anyway.

CHACHI
That's what we call a pendejo.

LUISITO
You always call me a pendejo.

CHACHI
But this time I mean it.

PAPO
(To Miriam) So you are just never going to talk to me or be friendly? I'm trying here.

MIRIAM
(To Gloria) I'm gonna go check on the food.

MIRIAM leaves. PAPO looks at LUISITO.

PAPO
Y?

LUISITO
Don't look at me.

PAPO
I'm trying, you saw that.

GLORIA
Maybe you waited too long to try.

PAPO
What do you mean?

Let it be for now. GLORIA

I'm just-- PAPO

I said let it be. GLORIA

Like the Beatles, papi. LUISITO

Till after the party. GLORIA

The Beatles. Cabron, you can't do the bomba but you can mention the Beatles. CHACHI

Since when is one exclusive to another. LUISITO

Since you root to both teams but seems like you only play for one. CHACHI

Please, don't question my love. LUISITO

I do, you never been down there. CHACHI

I mean, just been busy. LUISITO

Even as a child? CHACHI

El nene hates beaches and didn't want to go down there cause his cousin made fun of him up here. GLORIA

Then do you blame me? LUISITO

Maybe I should talk to-- PAPO

Dejala-- GLORIA

All I'm saying is that the offer still stands. CHACHI

And all I'm saying is I have two kids. LUISITO

CHACHI
Just for a week?

LUISITO
I told you their mom will flip out!

GLORIA
That's an excuse.

LUISITO
Ay mami, you know she is crazy. A week in Puerto Rico, she'll say that I'm leaving them and text me everyday... every hour. Loca.

GLORIA
You helped her get there.

CHACHI
How about this, let's make a bet.

LUISITO
No.

GLORIA
I don't know why we never sent you or took you with us by force. Maybe you've had more balls.

PAPO
Always staying with his Titi here.

GLORIA
Never actually enjoying where you came from.

CHACHI
Yet you see the flags everywhere on him. Talking like he fought for independence with Albizu.

LUISITO
Aight aight, what's the damn bet?

CHACHI
If your team wins---

LUISITO
I told you--

CHACHI
No, if the US team wins, which is your team -- (He is about to talk) shut up-- you don't have to come. But if Puerto Rico wins--

LUISITO
No!

CHACHI
See.

She glares at PAPO.

PAPO

I said we can go visit!

GLORIA

Yeah I heard you-- Anyway vamos vagonetas! This is not going to set up itself. I'm gonna go check on Miriam.

PAPO

I'll go with you.

GLORIA

Let me go first ok? Let me-- Tu sabes.

PAPO nods.

GLORIA

This better be set up soon, we don't have that much time. Uy I'm starting to get excited! We better beat Luisito's team!

LUISITO

Pero que jodienda.

She exits.

CHACHI

Excited? I didn't know Titi was so much into baseball.

LUISITO

What?! That's how you guys met right, pa'?

PAPO

Ah?

LUISITO

How you guys met? Chachi didn't know Mami liked baseball.

CHACHI

She never seemed interested and now she is excited.

PAPO

Muchacha... That woman. She used to come to all the games. When I was en la YuPi, playing for them, I remember hearing her scream on every game.

CHACHI

So you decided she was it?

PAPO

At first, Gloria didn't give me the time of day!

CHACHI

So how you got it?

PAPO

Uff that's a long story and we need to set this up Chachi.

LUISITO

Excuses! You can give us the quick version while we set up. I didn't know you needed your mouth to put shit together.

PAPO laughs.

PAPO

Now he is hustling me! Fine, set up the table over there and listen then--

They start setting up the room.

CHACHI

Pues dale!

PAPO

There's not much to it. She was one of those crazy girls with armpit hair, burning bras ten years after it was cool to do so, yet fighting everything. Very proud, very smart, very independent. And wanted independence for the country too.

CHACHI

Titi?

PAPO

Oh yeah! And that's when I thought I was going to be next Roberto Clemente. Uyy , I must have listened to his interviews and games for years. Watch him play. I was good. Good enough she noticed me. She admired Clemente as a humanitarian, and she saw me volunteering for a food drive once at a church, mano -- best idea I ever had, that's how we started talking. Funny, she used to call me El Clem for months till finally I became memorable enough to have my name.

LUISITO

I'm amazed you didn't call any of us Clemente.

PAPO

I kinda tried with Manolito and you. Your mom didn't let me. She said I shouldn't put that pressure on the kids.

LUISITO

Oh yeah cause that stopped you from putting pressure on us.

PAPO

Excuse me for wanting you guys to do better than me.

LUISITO

Right,

CHACHI

Shh chico, let me hear the damn story.

PAPO

Not much to say. We fell in love after some time then everything moved quick. Got her pregnant, got Manolo, got married, got Miriam, then moved here to play for the triple A team and the rest is history. Money never came the way we thought. I ended up being a plumber instead of a baseball star. Building a nice life instead of an extraordinary one. So things didn't really pan out how we planned. And I guess the promise of going back to the island went the same way. Got a good life though, can't really complain. Not many regrets.

LUISITO smiles as PAPO looks at him.

PAPO

Maybe some regrets.

He turns to the jersey.

PAPO

Life has a way of taking away from me what I love the most--

He smirks sadly and so does LUISITO who seems hurt. His phone rings.

PAPO

Ah tu tio Jorge! Finish setting this up, I'll be back. We do need to talk, Chachi.

PAPO phone rings again. He picks it and says "Dimelo" as he walks off stage.

After he exits, LUISITO makes a gesture of frustration. Grabbing his huevo, or flipping him off. Something rude.

LUISITO

Motherfucker!

CHACHI

Que es?

LUISITO

What he loved the most?! I try so hard to make him proud and then he throws in my face he doesn't--

CHACHI

Chico you taking it too hard, he doesn't mean it like that.

LUISITO

Then how does he mean it? I've been always the disappointment of this family because I couldn't be as good as Manolito. Always been-- Man, maybe I should jump of the damn window too.

CHACHI

Luisito tranquilo--

LUISITO

I'm calm... just fucking hurts, you know?

CHACHI

It must not be easy to lose a son like that.

LUISITO

It wasn't easy losing a brother either.

Silence.

LUISITO

We always have to deal with his sadness, but when was he there for us? Miriam never forgave him. She said it was his fucking pressure that killed Manolito, and his fucking depression that is killing us.

CHACHI

Yeah, I don't know much besides what mom told me.

LUISITO

What did she say?

CHACHI

Well over there they think he jumped cause he didn't feel comfortable coming out of the closet.

LUISITO

That's what he told everyone and it's bullshit. The truth is too much. He created that narrative just so he doesn't have to accept that Manolito hated being alive. Yet here I am! Love being alive, love being who I am and what do I get? Shit! Nothing. All I get is this discount love he can give us. Fuck! Fuck him!

He grabs the bat with the intention of hitting the shirt.

CHACHI

Luisito, no!

CHACHI grabs the bat slowly as LUISITO breathes to calm himself down. He seems like he is about to burst into tears but is able to hold it back.

He moves to set up a chair.

CHACHI

You good?

LUISITO

Just-- yeah.

CHACHI

You know I understand this is not what you want to hear, but he does love you.

LUISITO

I know, I just wish he actually did beyond what he has to.

CHACHI

He doesn't have to. Believe me.

LUISITO

All my life I've just been looking for his approval, and all I get is shamed. For being born here, for sucking at baseball, for not going to college. I've lived longer than Manolito. I've made a life. But that ain't enough because I'm a plumber like him. Death is the only thing people appreciate from life it seems.

CHACHI

But he still here right? He still talks to you, say I love you... Was your dad even ashamed about Manolito being gay?

LUISITO

He wasn't gay!

CHACHI

Fine, about the possibility of him being asi?

LUISITO

Nah, dad asked him once and everything.

CHACHI

What did he say?

LUISITO

Who, Manolo?

CHACHI

Yeah.

LUISITO

Miriam told me he just said "Maybe"

CHACHI

Maybe, that's it?

LUISITO

I was too young to get it. I was like ashamed I had a gay brother, but he wasn't.

CHACHI

And you shouldn't have been ashamed.

LUISITO

I know that now but I was way younger. You know the pressure Latino boys have when they are kids.

CHACHI

Yeah its why they grow up, disown you and send you to New York.

LUISITO

I guess it could be worse.

CHACHI

Have you ever talked to him about this?

LUISITO

Nah, he has enough. And I have enough. I'm just gonna make sure my daughters are loved equally.

CHACHI

Best you can do, and you know what's the first step?

LUISITO

What?

CHACHI

Let's them meet their cool ass cousin Chachi.

LUISITO

Deadass?

CHACHI

You know it.

LUISITO

Thank you Chachi!

CHACHI

Siempre papi, tu sabes.

They hug! PAPO enters in that moment carrying a ball and a glove. He also has a bag full of medals and one framed picture.

PAPO

Mira! In this country cousins don't do that!

He throws the ball at LUISITO who drops it.

CHACHI

You know Tio, he doesn't look like my type.

LUISITO

It's cause you got cancer on the taste baby...

PAPO laughs, as LUISITO grabs the ball.

PAPO

Muchacho, still can't catch.

LUISITO

Guess not.

CHACHI

What's that on the bag?

LUISITO takes the bag and looks inside.

LUISITO

Oh you didn't have enough with the jersey and the bat, you going to put the medals too and what is this?

He takes the picture. It's a Roberto Clemente picture with his autograph.

LUISITO

Oh wow--

CHACHI

Wait is that his actual signature?

PAPO

Claro.

LUISITO

Damn I don't remember the last time you dug that out.

PAPO

Special day.

LUISITO

What about your jersey?

PAPO

This is all about good luck, why put my jersey with its terrible one.

CHACHI

Is Tio Jorge coming?

PAPO

He is on his way. With Rogelio...

CHACHI

Oh--

LUISITO

Tio Rogelio is here?

PAPO

Apparently he came to surprise us this morning. We weren't sure if it was him, but yeah---

CHACHI

(Uncomfortable) Surprise!

CHACHI seems unhappy.

LUISITO

I haven't seen him in years.

PAPO

Well, you are seeing him tonight. Luisito could you do me a favor and go help your mother.

LUISITO

I thought you need me here.

PAPO

Chachi and I can do it together.

LUISITO

Three set of hands are better used here than in the kitchen, plus you know Mami only trusts--

PAPO

Luisito, would you give us a moment?

LUISITO

Oh! Why didn't you say that then?

CHACHI

Cause he didn't think you were that bruto, coño.

LUISITO

Hey, no need for insults, shit. It's like the family sport.

PAPO

Luisito, please.

LUISITO

Alright alright. I dont want to be here when mom sees you putting those medals anyway. Luisito out!

He exits throwing deuces in the air as he goes.

CHACHI

So Rogelio's here in New York...

PAPO

Yeah. I did not expect it.

CHACHI

So what are you going to do? You know he is going to say something.

PAPO

We all know. He is far older than me-- me and him never really talked much till we were adults. Y todavia-- He is a whole generation before me.

CHACHI

I know. I grew up with his ass as my neighbor. Always calling the cops on his own family.

PAPO

He has his ideas of respect.

CHACHI

We can call it that. And if not, he'll forcefully let you know.

PAPO

He can be stubborn. Mas que jode. Honestly we don't see eye to eye.

CHACHI

He made my life hell from day one. Didn't leave me a choice but to leave home.

PAPO

You also needed a job.

CHACHI

Once I decided to live my truth, I had to get out. Rogelio is the one that made my dad kicked me out and turned my mother against me... I don't blame her, she's never been strong, but for once..

PAPO

She's always been weak. Reason she stayed and married that dumbass.

CHACHI

Oye... my dad is not a terrible person, he's just conflicted.

PAPO

He kicked you out of your house when you told him you were a lesbian!

CHACHI

Which you are about to do too, aren't you?

PAPO

No--

CHACHI

Then what is it?

PAPO

This is going to make things uncomfortable.

CHACHI

Yes--

He breathes.

PAPO

Listen I don't want you to think anything badly about this-- you know we love you.

CHACHI

I love you too.

PAPO

You know when you asked me to help you move I didn't hesitate, te traje como pude.

CHACHI

And I will always appreciate that.

PAPO

I'm not throwing you out, but I do have a favor to ask.

CHACHI

I won't antagonize him don't worry.

PAPO

It's not that.

CHACHI

What then?

PAPO

Do you think you could put something more lady like?

CHACHI is gobsmacked by this.

PAPO

Or I don't know look a little more like what he would think a woman would look like.

CHACHI

So trade my jean shorts for jean skirts, and a shitty top?

PAPO

Just needing you to be what you are for a few hours.

CHACHI

What I am?

PAPO

You know what I mean--

CHACHI

You mean to pretend to be what I'm supposed to be.

PAPO

I don't want you to be offended.

CHACHI

No, how can I be? You are just asking me to do exactly what I escaped from having to do.

PAPO

Chachi, is just one night.

MIRIAM walks in.

MIRIAM

Papo, Mami wants you real quick.

MIRIAM notices CHACHI is upset.

PAPO

Tell your mom I'll be right there.

MIRIAM

What's going on?

PAPO

Nothing, Chachi and I are having a conversation.

CHACHI

Nah, don't worry Tio. Conversation is over. I'm just going to be out--.

PAPO

I didn't say you had to.

CHACHI

You didn't have to. I guess, I prefer leaving and being by myself than to shame you or pretend so..

MIRIAM

Wait, que paso?

PAPO

Nobody said anything about shame, just wanted to make this more comfortable for everyone.

CHACHI

Yeah, and I will be more comfortable if I'm not here. Bendicion . (She looks at Miriam)
Nos vemos Miriam--

They try to say things to each other while CHACHI exits.

MIRIAM goes after her but is stopped by PAPO.

PAPO

Miriam don't go after--

MIRIAM

What the hell did you do?

PAPO

It's not your problem. I'll talk to her.

MIRIAM

When? When it's too late?

PAPO

Miriam, this is between Chachi y yo, ok? Let's just set up.

MIRIAM

Papo! Why is it always nothing until it's too late with you?

PAPO goes to say something and decides to not to. Instead he turns around and takes Manolito's medals out of the bag. He puts them on the dresser as the next exchange happens.

MIRIAM

Are you putting his medals out too?

PAPO

Yes I am. Do you have a problem with that?

MIRIAM

Yes actually I do.

PAPO

Too bad. It's his ten year anniversary and last time I checked this is my house.

MIRIAM

So you think you are honoring his memory by putting out what he hated?

PAPO

Ya Miriam Ya! Another day we'll talk about this.

MIRIAM

You've been saying that since he jumped.

PAPO

I said not today, coño!

MIRIAM

Then when?

PAPO

Tomorrow.

MIRIAM

I've been waiting for tomorrow.

PAPO

That's the problem, tomorrow is always one day ahead.

MIRIAM

(Mumbles to herself)Y despues preguntas?

PAPO

What?

LUISITO and GLORIA come in.

GLORIA

What did you do to Chachi?

PAPO

Ay ya me jodi!

LUISITO

Papi she was fuming.

PAPO

I didn't do anything, ok?

MIRIAM

Mierda es, I came here and she was almost in tears.

LUISITO

That's how she left.

GLORIA

Mira que tu le hicistes?

PAPO

I asked her for a favor ok? She didn't want to do it, so she preferred to leave. I didn't ask her to. It was her decision.

MIRIAM

What was the favor?

PAPO

You just want to fight. Anything triggers you!

MIRIAM

No, you! Not anything, you!

GLORIA

Does this have to do with Rogelio coming?

MIRIAM

Tio Rogelio's coming? You did kick her out!

PAPO

I didn't! I just said I didn't! I asked her for a favor, that's it. Now can we please finish up, people are coming.

GLORIA

Y me importa un carajo if people are coming. What was the favor?

LUISITO

Damn Papi...

GLORIA

Papo! What was the favor?

MIRIAM

He's been dodging that question.

GLORIA

Oye escuchame, what did you ask her?

PAPO

I asked her if she could be a bit more traditional so everybody felt comfortable, that's it.

GLORIA is amazed by this, LUISITO doesn't know what to say so he sits down. MIRIAM, well-- She explodes.

MIRIAM

Ha! How do you live with this shit? Always thinking you are the good guy, how?

GLORIA

Miriam--

MIRIAM

Mami, no, let's be real here. How much shit are we going to let him say so he feels good about himself. Cause this ain't about Chachi feeling comfortable. This isn't about us feeling comfortable. This is about him not having to deal with Tio Rogelio. This is about him looking good by trying to be everybody's friends. This is, as it always been about him! Papo, el gran Papo! The man that got out of the island and the Bronx and got a big house in Long Island. Long ways from his Charca, wow!

She starts clapping.

PAPO

Yeah the same man that put you through college!

MIRIAM

So you could brag about it! Not to make me happy, not to make my life better. When did you care? If you did, you wouldn't torture us with that jersey there. If you gave a fuck, you wouldn't put the medals out!

PAPO

He was MY son! And I was proud of HIM!

MIRIAM

We know! It's all you ever been proud of! But what about us?

PAPO

What about you?

LUISITO laughs.

PAPO

What? You got something to say?

LUISITO

No nada.

GLORIA

Ya, ya! Let's talk about this later.

MIRIAM

No, mom, there's no later anymore. Stop protecting him! Let's talk about how you still here and not in Puerto Rico. Let's talk about respect and love. Let's talk about it.

PAPO looks at GLORIA.

GLORIA

Let's.

PAPO

We have a party in less than an hour.

GLORIA

You have a party.

PAPO

Gloria?

GLORIA

You have a party. I'm mourning, because ten years ago, my son jumped and killed himself. And I don't see this as a celebration. I don't see this as a reason to be happy and watch a game of baseball. I don't even understand how we stayed in this house!

PAPO

Like I said earlier--

GLORIA

Yes, yes, I heard you loud and clear: we were kids... but a promise is a promise. Home is home. And for more than you love this American dream of yours, it has only have left us with shame and death. And you like to swim in it. You created your own little pond where you can swim in circles, reliving the pain that was your past glory like it will change the outcome. But you can't!

PAPO

This is ridiculous. How dare you--

MIRIAM

We are just speaking truth.

PAPO

Your truth, not mine.

MIRIAM

And for too long we only follow yours. We tried to make you happy. You asked why I don't call you dad anymore? I mean, where were you when we needed you the most? When we lost a brother and we needed our father. When Mom needed her husband. We all were here for you, but where were you. (She laughs) You talk about making everyone comfortable yet you managed to never realize that the reason Manolo jumped was because-

GLORIA

Miriam--

PAPO

Let her say it.

MIRIAM

You want me to?

Is it going to shut you up?
 PAPO

Everybody is quiet.

MIRIAM
 He jumped not because he was in the closet. He jumped because you pushed him so much to be what you wanted to be and failed at, that he just never knew himself. He hated life cause he never had a chance to live one. And the day he jumped, was the day your last bit of hope died, and with that, we all did. We all didn't matter anymore. Even the small amount of love I needed from you, evaporated. Well, I'm tired of waiting for my Dad to come home. For me, you also died ten years ago. I just cant believe I thought one day you'd care again. That's my fault. Bye Papo!

MIRIAM walks away, GLORIA goes after her. PAPO takes a moment and like if nothing had happened, he proceeds to continue preparing for the party.

Could you help me here?
 PAPO

You are not gonna go after them?
 LUISITO

They'll calm down. They always do.
 PAPO

He goes to put a chair while LUISITO takes this in. Then suddenly LUISITO picks up the bats and starts hitting the medals!

Luisito no!
 PAPO

He goes for the bat, but LUISITO doesn't want to give it away. He finally pushes PAPO to the floor. And in a fit of rage he lifts the bat again to PAPO and he screams!

Fuck! Fuck!
 LUISITO

It's ok, Luisito, it's ok!
 PAPO

It's not! Stop saying that, stop waiting for them to calm down. Stop!!!!

He throws the bat to the floor. GLORIA enters.

Luisito?
 GLORIA

Gloria... PAPO

LUISITO
How come you don't love us as much, Pa? How come you are so ashamed of me?

PAPO
I'm not.

LUISITO
Yes you are! Fuck, you are!

PAPO
I love you.

LUISITO
You love me cause you have to, not because you love me.

PAPO
That's not true.

LUISITO
Then show me!

PAPO
How?

LUISITO
The same way you showed him! Or do I need to be a tool for you to live your dreams for you to love me?

PAPO
I don't have to love you, but I do. I'm here. I worked 15 hours a day to give you a good life. To give you all what you wanted!

LUISITO
So what? To shut me up? To look good? Man, you don't like me, you never did. You don't like me cause I married a white girl. You don't like that I didn't go to college like the other two. No, I became a plumber like you. You don't like that I was born here instead of Puerto Rico even though that was your choice. And you specially don't like the fact that I'm the one that lived instead of him. I'm the one closest to you, yet you have never made me feel like I belong. Then you ask Miriam why she stop calling you dad. And I wonder why I still do. Maybe its because all my life I wanted to be just like you.

PAPO
Why? That's the last thing I ever wanted you to be. Me? A failure? A man that moved here and couldn't make it past college. A man that was only a good player when he was in his small town. To the rest of the world he was just like everyone else. Average. Why would you ever want to be average?

LUISITO

Not average, I aim to be good! To provide, like you did! To be a good father, a brother, a husband. I wanted to have this. I love having this. Not everybody is supposed to reach greatness, the same way not everybody manages to create a good life coming from nothing like you did. Why fucking ruin it because of what you didn't have?

PAPO

Because what I didn't accomplish is a constant reminder.. Of my failure as a man... as a father.. As a... How no matter how hard I tried it wasn't meant to be! At least with him I thought our name would mean something.

LUISITO

It does. It's just too sad you don't see it.

LUISITO turns to GLORIA.

LUISITO

I'm leaving too.

PAPO

Luisito, no te vayas.

LUISITO

Nah, Papo, I have to, for me. Like Miriam says and she is right, the day Manolito died, we all did, and I don't wanna be anyone's corpse anymore.

LUISITO leaves. PAPO is sitting down, sad and still not getting it. GLORIA stands in front of him till she gets tired too and sits down. Her love evident, but her resolution too. PAPO is just lost in his own thoughts. Maybe counting his fingers, maybe scratching his head.

PAPO

You know... es que.. I don't get it... What happened?

GLORIA

You tell me.

PAPO

Where did it come from?

GLORIA

It's been there.

PAPO

I thought I was a good father.

GLORIA

You did as best you could.

PAPO

Then what else do they want from me?

GLORIA

More, Papo. They want love. They want attention. They want to know you care. I want to know...

PAPO

I do.

GLORIA

That's just words at this point, papito.

Silence.

PAPO

You know this is not all on me! All I did was give up my life so they could have a better one! Bust my ass every day for them!

GLORIA

And you resent them for that.

PAPO

I don't.

GLORIA

You do.

PAPO

Don't tell me how I feel and I don't.

GLORIA

Ay Papo, vamos a dejar de hablar de pendejazes, and let's be clear.

PAPO

All I ever done is go out there and do anything I can to make them happy.

GLORIA

Anything but listen.

PAPO

They never listen to me.

GLORIA

All we do is listen to you.

PAPO

I am their father.

GLORIA

And I am their mother.(Beat) Papo-- I need you to listen to me.

PAPO

I've been listening.

She kisses him.

GLORIA

I love you and I will always love you. You gave us a house and you really gave us all more than we had when we were growing up. A comfortable life.

PAPO

Yet here I am, crucificado! Crucified by my own family.

GLORIA

Comfort only goes so long, papito. We left Puerto Rico because you wanted to be an important man, remember? Use your clout to create something good for your family. I believed in you, I truly thought and think you could. But you only saw one path to get there. One way. And when it didn't happen... That's when I noticed you lost yourself a little. A part of you had gone, like you were blind to the million other roads you could have taken. I thought it would pass, I thought time would heal you... (She smiles) Me acuerdo como si fuera ayer. You came out with your Jeri curls and your tight pants to the bat. You had Clemente's number.

PAPO

Special request.

GLORIA

You had to have it. And I remember staring at you. That butt was such a sight then.

PAPO

You saying is it not anymore?

GLORIA

Nobody ever said that.

PAPO

Good cause you still have yours.

GLORIA

Oh you still like?

PAPO

Like when I had jheri curls. I remember, we danced that night.

GLORIA

I knew I was gonna be your wife.

PAPO

You made me work for it.

GLORIA

Then you got me pregnant quick so I wouldn't change my mind.

PAPO

You wanted to change the world.

GLORIA

So did you.

PAPO

You wanted to make Puerto Rico independent.

GLORIA

I had to raise our kids while you did you went to become a superstar.

PAPO

In a small apartment with no backyard.

GLORIA

Do you ever ask yourself if quitting was the right choice?

PAPO

No, cause I know it was. You needed me with you not on the road.

GLORIA

But you ask yourself what would have happened if you never had to make that choice, right?

PAPO

(He takes a moment) I love you. You know that right?

GLORIA sits on his lap.

GLORIA

Nobody ever said you didn't, but your love has turned sour. The taste of that first kiss to the taste of this last one has changed, and it is not your old man breath--

PAPO

Hey!

GLORIA

It's the years of disillusionment.

PAPO

I failed you too?

GLORIA

You just weren't there. You were somewhere else in your head till Manolito started showing promise on the field. Then you lost yourself in him. Gave everything to him. It was like the path you were following suddenly opened up again and your other two kids could be left behind. Because they were too much like us, and you wanted too much to be someone else. So much... that our firstborn never had a chance to be someone. To follow his own path. And once he decided to jump off the path, the further and further away you got from that jheri curl fool that went to the bat that night and stole my heart. Till you were lost-- And the worst part is that when our SON-- MY SON, died-- I was relieved. I thought if I had to go through that pain, at least I will get you back for us... But I'm still waiting, and now Life has come and gone--- This is what's left.

Silence.

PAPO

What do you want me to do?

GLORIA

I don't know. I can't answer that for you... but what I do know is that its time for me to move on.

PAPO

Are you asking for a divorce?

GLORIA

No Papi, I would never leave you, but I'm leaving this country. I'm going back.

PAPO

To Puerto Rico?

GLORIA

It's time.

PAPO

For what? The whole island is in a crisis.

GLORIA

So I'll help.

PAPO

What are you going to do, fight against the government at your age?

GLORIA

Maybe. Or maybe just relax with my nephews and talk to the viejos . Play some domino. Being fine having an accent. Being able to go to the bakery without being known as the Puerto Rican. I don't know what I'm going to do. What I do know is that I'm going.

PAPO

And what if a hurricane hits? At your age, this could--

GLORIA

Then I help rebuilt. It wouldn't be the first time a hurricane hits the island.

Silence.

PAPO

And what about me?

GLORIA

You can follow me or you can stay.

PAPO

Pero--

GLORIA

No pero's Papi. We built your life and I never questioned it, now it's my time and you can come with me or not. But for me, for them, for you... I have to go. Te amo .

She kisses him and tries to leave, but he grabs her.

PAPO
Please don't go.

GLORIA
Then come.

PAPO tries to find words. She takes his face.

GLORIA
Te esperar hasta que muera, but don't be late.

She leaves while holding tears. We hear the sounds of the door and steps around the house as PAPO thinks of moving forward... but decides not to as the sound of the door closing is heard.

His energy starts leaving him. He battles with himself till ultimately the sound of screeching tires is heard and he hangs his head in defeat.

As he closes his eyes, the sound of the Mets vs Pirates game where Clemente hits his iconic 3000 hit starts playing in the background. The lights dim back to the dream like state where Manolito's jersey gets spotlighted.

PAPO looks at the jersey. The sound of the game keeps playing while the energy starts getting back into PAPO. The moment in which Clemente hits the ball we see PAPO stand up and scream. And laugh. The roar of the crowd masking his manic behavior till he starts talking--

PAPO
Oye Manolo tu sabes, why I listen to this game so much? Why in moment of stress I always go to that moment?

He smiles.

PAPO
I was young, un nene, when it happened but guao. It was the first time I heard somebody talk good about us in the radio. It was the moment I knew we had possibilities. You know your abuelos, they didn't do anything. My brothers did less. He was the man that made me believe there was something else. That's how I got good at Baseball.

He swings an imaginary bat.

PAPO
Desde chiquito, I was good. Oh Manolito, I was really good. I did everything, everyday, it was for this. I didn't drink, I didn't smoke, I was playing day and night. Just like you did-- You loved it right?

PAPO stands there looking at the jersey.

PAPO

Wait, wait, espera, espera-- why bring sad things right now! It's a big day, we celebrating.

He takes the bag or garbage can where the confetti was put and he throws it on the floor.

PAPO

Let's go! Puñeta, Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico!

He chants like LUISITO and CHACHI did earlier.

PAPO

Let's keep the party going like before. Get us in the spirit for the game. Wanna do some bomba like we did before. (No response) Bomba !

PAPO sings the bomba.

PAPO

Don't be shy! Let's do it, dale!

PAPO does it again.

PAPO

Want me to start?

PAPO waits, and does it again.

PAPO

Dale chico--

PAPO starts the Bomba verse but stop early.

PAPO

Come on, papi this is for two people!

PAPO starts again but cuts even earlier.

PAPO

You are not even clapping! Vamos.

PAPO now sort of sings the verse while clapping very hard.

PAPO

I can't hear you clapping, clap! I can't hear you clapping! Clap! Coño , clap! Clap, coño, Clap!

He keeps a version of that for awhile. CHACHI enters at some point and looks at him with anger that turns into concern. She doesn't know how to approach him so she stays silent, letting it run its course. He finally turns around and sees her.

PAPO

Chachi! (He tries to compose himself) What are you doing here?

CHACHI

Left my wallet. They left your ass didn't they?

PAPO

I'm surprise you are even here.

CHACHI

Heard the noise from the kitchen, figured I checked it out.

PAPO

And you found this mess.

CHACHI

Are you ok?

PAPO

I'm fine.

CHACHI

No you are not.

PAPO takes a moment.

PAPO

I am.

CHACHI

You are not fine but you like to pretend like you are. Like if you just let it be for long enough things will be alright. But they are not and they won't. I pretended for years that my family would always love me. Would always be there for me no matter who I was inside-- They just pretended they didn't know, like it wasn't there, till we reached an unspoken compromise. I'll keep being a lady in front of them and they would stop asking when will I bring a boyfriend home.

PAPO

You never hid it well.

CHACHI

Well that's the thing, I didn't want to. But I did. I put the make up they wanted. I dressed the way they needed me to till it got harder and harder. Mira, there was times when the thought of leaving my room would give me anxiety attacks. I let it be for as long as I could... but like baseball the game has to end at some point and after so many innings of hit and runs, somebody had to finally be out. You can pretend, you can hide, you can run but things just don't go away.

PAPO stands up and goes to the jersey.

PAPO

He is gone, isn't he. He can't clap because-- he's---

CHACHI go to the cooler and grabs two medallas .

And so is everyone else... PAPO

I'm still here. CHACHI

CHACHI gives him the beer.

I'm sorry Chachita. PAPO

CHACHI
Yeah, you did me dirty, not going to lie. Hurt like a bitch that the one person that
always been there, would throw you to the wolves.

Or in this case Rogelio. PAPO

He laughs.

That ain't funny. CHACHI

Silence.

Am I too late, Chachi? PAPO

Nah, but you are pushing it. CHACHI

Gloria said she's moving to Puerto Rico. PAPO

CHACHI
Good for her. You are not going with her?

It doesn't make any sense. PAPO

To her it does. CHACHI

What would I do over there anyway? PAPO

Anything. CHACHI

And the kids? PAPO

They ain't kids no more. CHACHI

PAPO

What about the house? The life we built--

CHACHI

Tio, stop... There's nothing.

PAPO stands up to reflect on it, then chugs the beer.

CHACHI

Question is, what are you going to do about it?

He turns around and walks to the cooler to grab another medalla.

PAPO

Watch the game. Figure this whole thing out.

CHACHI

All I'm saying is, don't miss the good shit cause you can't let go of the past. It ain't worth missing.

He offers her a beer, as he grabbed two. CHACHI turns it down.

CHACHI

Nah, I'm actually heading out.

She chugs her beer.

PAPO

You are not staying to watch the game?

CHACHI

I got what I came back for.

She flaunts her wallet.

PAPO

You are gonna miss it if you go all the way home.

CHACHI

I'll catch it at a bar or something on the way.

PAPO

By yourself?

CHACHI

Yeah, I'm a big girl, I can take care of myself.

PAPO

I would like you to stay.

CHACHI

Yeah and put on a fucking dress?

No. PAPO

What about Rogelio? CHACHI

Fuck Rogelio. I never liked the motherfucker anyway. PAPO

CHACHI chuckles.

So another beer? PAPO

She shakes her head, looks at him and grabs the other beer.

Nobody deserves to be alone when this shit goes down. Nobody does. CHACHI

She grabs a different chair and unfolds it a little far from where his chair is. She also grabs the control remote.

She sits down, makes the room her kingdom. PAPO smiles while looking at her.

So you are staying? PAPO

It beats having to go into a bar to watch the game, plus there's a whole pernil in the kitchen, so seems like a good choice. That doesn't mean we are cool yet. CHACHI

She passes the control to PAPO. He turns on the TV. The journalists covering the event start to be heard.

She points at the TV and PAPO sits in his chair. He drinks his beer and so does she. The bell rings. Rings again and again.

You are not gonna get that. CHACHI

Nah. PAPO

What if it's Titi... CHACHI

She got keys. PAPO

The bell rings louder. PAPO looks at her smiling.

For what is worth--.

PAPO

Yeah I know, now callate!

CHACHI

The game is heard louder while PAPO refuses to go to the door as the bell keeps on ringing. CHACHI smiles. Lights fade out slowly, putting the jersey on a spotlight before fading entirely.

THE END