

Scene I: The interior of a store in May.  
There are cowboy hats, leather jackets,  
leather wallets, leather boots, and other  
types of shoes lining the walls of the space.  
Elizabeth, age 20 and dressed in overalls, is  
dusting a column of boots as Raul, age 25  
and a Space Cowboy, walks in.

RAUL:

Hello there!

ELIZABETH:

Hi. Can I help you with anything? We have leather jackets, leath--

RAUL:

--No need for that. I've been here before. I was just looking for Jorge.

ELIZABETH:

He's in the back, taking care of new merchandise. I can call him. JORGE!

JORGE:

(Offstage) Yeah?

ELIZABETH:

Um...

RAUL:

Raul.

ELIZABETH:

Raul is here to see you!

JORGE:

(Still offstage) I'll be right there.

ELIZABETH:

Nice to meet you, Raul. I'm Elizabeth.

RAUL:

The pleasure's all mine.

Jorge enters and shakes Raul's hand. Jorge is also 25 and wears clothes very similar to Raul's.

JORGE:

What's new man? Looking like a true Space Cowboy.

RAUL:

What about you? Did you look at yourself in the mirror before you came to work today?

Jorge turns to Elizabeth.

JORGE:

Elizabeth, can you go take care of the boxes in the back room? Just put the lighter ones on top of the heavier ones.

ELIZABETH:

So shoes and wallets on top of jackets?

JORGE:

That's right! Good to see you're learning more about the job. Labeling the boxes in big letters wouldn't hurt anyone, either. You can use this marker.

Jorge takes a marker out from his back pocket.

ELIZABETH:

I have one right here.

JORGE:

Jumbo size, even better.

Elizabeth exits.

So what brings you here, Rules?

RAUL:

This is the only place I can ever find you. We have another important match this weekend.

JORGE:

Don't tell me it's against the Mars Monsters.

RAUL:

It is.

JORGE:

I told you not to tell me. I'm so ready for this, man! Thanks for letting me know. I'll be there this weekend, but I really need to get back to work now.

RAUL:

You may see me sooner than that.

Raul looks to where Elizabeth exited.

Now you're not the only reason I should come to the store.

END Scene I.

Scene II: Same store from Scene I, still May.  
Jorge stands behind the cash register.  
Elizabeth is organizing wallets in a counter.

JORGE:

Why do you always wear overalls?

ELIZABETH:

I like them. They're comfortable. Why do you always dress up as a cowboy?

JORGE:

First of all, it helps to advertise the stuff we sell. Second, and most importantly, this is what a true SPACE cowboy wears.

ELIZABETH:

You're overdoing it.

JORGE:

And you're missing the point. It's all about tradition and loyalty. The Space Cowboys of Jalisco has been a respectable soccer team for as long as anyone can remember, and being a part of it is a privilege. This is the least I can do to show my respect.

ELIZABETH:

Wait, so you play soccer in that crazy outfit?

JORGE:

Of course not, but outside the field, everyone who's interested enough in soccer knows how to recognize a Space Cowboy.

ELIZABETH:

Right.

JORGE:

It's obvious that soccer's not your thing. The Mars Monsters copied us by wearing those red bandanas on their heads.

ELIZABETH:

I always thought they were gang members.

JORGE:

They are, but they're also really good at soccer. Not as good as us, but you get what I mean.

Raul pokes his head through the door.  
Elizabeth has her back to him, so she  
doesn't notice him. Jorge does.

You think you can fit more wallets in there?

ELIZABETH:

Probably.

JORGE:

I'll get more from the back.

He exits and Raul enters.

RAUL:

We're not gang members.

Elizabeth turns to see Raul.

ELIZABETH:

Of course not. Gang members don't dress like you guys do. Jorge's in the back.

RAUL:

I'm not here to see Jorge.

ELIZABETH:

Need a new hat? Boots?

RAUL:

No, I was wondering if you wanted to be my date for a wedding I'm going to this weekend. It should be fun.

ELIZABETH:

Are you going to be dressed like that?

RAUL:

Something like it, or I could wear my soccer jersey and cleats. The question is, are you going dressed like that?

ELIZABETH:

Something like it, or I could wear a dress. I do have dresses.

RAUL:

So is that a yes?

ELIZABETH:

Only if I can wear a red bandana on my head.

RAUL:

Don't even joke about that, or you'll make me rethink my decision.

END Scene II.

Scene III: A park in July. Raul and Elizabeth  
are sitting on the same bench.

RAUL:

Ready for Saturday?

ELIZABETH:

Yes, I washed my favorite pair of overalls last night.

RAUL:

What a coincidence! My mom just cleaned my soccer cleats too. Speaking of mom, are you ready to meet her? She's coming to the wedding.

ELIZABETH:

I didn't know she was going.

RAUL:

They all are. My brothers and sisters, too. You'll meet the whole family.

ELIZABETH:

That's great.

RAUL:

Sarcasm?

ELIZABETH:

No, it's nice to know that you're a family cowboy.

RAUL:

Not just a cowboy--

ELIZABETH:

--A Space Cowboy, I know. (Beat) Is there anything I should know about your family?

RAUL:

Not a whole bunch, really. Perhaps that they are as passionate about soccer as I am.

ELIZABETH:

So I have to talk about soccer?

RAUL:

Not at all. Just don't be surprised by how passionate they are, especially mom. You should come to one of my soccer matches sometime. All the referees are intimidated by her. She's a yeller. A very loud one, too.

Looks at Elizabeth.

But you have nothing to worry about. She'll love you.

ELIZABETH:

You don't seem convinced.

RAUL:

I'm not. But it'll be fine.

ELIZABETH:

That's just one person. What about your siblings?

RAUL:

Seven of them. Three brothers: Meño, Teto, and Chuy. Four sisters: Yola, Imelda, Mari, and Pina. They're all really likable, except for...

Looks at Elizabeth.

You don't have to worry about them. Just worry about mom.

ELIZABETH:

That's a lot to keep track of. What's your mother's name? You never told me that.

RAUL:

That's right, my bad. Her name is...

END Scene III.

Scene IV: A Tortas (Mexican Subs) restaurant named “Tortas Biby,” in September. Raul and Elizabeth sit in a table across each other.

RAUL:

Had you ever eaten here? Their tortas are amazing.

ELIZABETH:

Yes, a friend of mine works here.

RAUL:

Oh. (Beat) So how did you like the wedding last weekend? It was fun, huh?

ELIZABETH:

Yes, it was.

RAUL:

What did you think of mom this time?

ELIZABETH:

We’re getting there. It wasn’t as bad as that first wedding we went to.

RAUL:

That wasn’t a disaster.

ELIZABETH:

I agree, but never had I felt such a strong connection to referees in my life. She was intimidating, and she still is.

RAUL:

That’s true. It takes a while to get used to her ways. I’ve known her my whole life, and she’s never failed to surprise me.

ELIZABETH:

What about my parents? What do you think of them now compared to five months ago?

RAUL:

First of all, your mother is nothing like my mom. She’s too nice, and her cooking is perfect. I hope you’ve learned from her.

ELIZABETH:

I don’t know about that.

RAUL:

Then there's your father, who's more like my mom. He can be scary. He'll be the real challenge next week.

ELIZABETH:

You think so?

RAUL:

We both know Doña Rosa is expecting it. But I don't think Don Javier is. Asking him for your hand will come as a surprise to him, I'm sure.

ELIZABETH:

As long as he doesn't say no.

RAUL:

That's one way to look at it. You being his only daughter makes matters more difficult.

ELIZABETH:

I didn't choose to be the only girl among five children. There's my brothers, too. Aren't you worried about them?

RAUL:

I didn't think I needed to be. Should I be worried? Are they like your father?

ELIZABETH:

No, you shouldn't worry about them. They've always done their own thing. (Beat) Where's our food? It's taking them a while.

RAUL:

You're right, this is odd. I'll ask them about it.

ELIZABETH:

I'll be right back.

RAUL:

Hopefully the tortas will be here by then.

Elizabeth exits. People in the restaurant start screaming and running to the nearest exit. A mustached dinosaur wearing boots and a cowboy hat enters, chasing people off the stage. The dinosaur notices Raul, still on his seat, and approaches him slowly. Raul motions him to stop.

Don Javier, please take a seat. I have to talk to you about a very important matter.



END Scene IV.

Scene V: A park in November. Elizabeth is sitting on a bench, looking straight ahead. Raul enters, running and panting. He wears his soccer attire.

ELIZABETH:

What happened?

RAUL:

Nothing, I just switched out. Felt this pain in my knee. It'll be fine.

ELIZABETH:

Now what?

RAUL:

I think we can go, unless you want to hear more of my mom's yells.

ELIZABETH:

I think I'm good. What about the score?

RAUL:

We're up by four goals. There's no way the other team can catch up.

ELIZABETH:

Are you sure about that?

RAUL:

No, but in the end, it's all just a game, and that's the fun of it. You go in to be a part of it, but ultimately, the outcome is, to a big extent, completely independent of what you did throughout it. But you're always glad for being a part of it. (Beat) Are you glad?

ELIZABETH:

Very glad.

RAUL:

Very well. You know I love you--

ELIZABETH:

--Very much. That's why we're getting married--

RAUL:

--Very soon. Let's go, mi Modelito.

They hold hands and exit.