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PRIMO

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UTV DRAFT

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COLD OPEN

INT. RAFA'S BEDROOM - MID-MORNING - SATURDAY

RAFA (16, sweet, nervous, well-intentioned) is in his small, messy room, laying in bed, scrolling through Instagram. There's a blanket hung up in front of the window to keep the light out. It's quiet and peaceful. Rafa gets a text from MIGUEL, one of his friends (words appear on screen).

MIGUEL
(via text)
Yo is ur mom cooking?

Rafa squints his eyes, tries to sense if his mom is making breakfast. He catches a food smell in the air. He texts back.

RAFA
(via text)
Yeah

MIGUEL
(via text)
I'ma come over
(then)
What happened w/Mya? Did u ask her out?

RAFA
(via text)
No. I got too nervous.

MIGUEL
When u ask her out r u gonna do what ur
Uncle Rick said to do lol

OFF Rafa's face--

EXT. RAFA'S FRONT PORCH - A WEEK AGO - FLASHBACK

Rafa and UNCLE RICK (35, bald, tattooed, wild man).

UNCLE RICK
If you like a girl, you ask her out on a
date to the movies at night. Then, when
the movie's over...you leave without
telling her.

RAFA
...What?

UNCLE RICK
Abandon her there. You have to find out
early on if she's resourceful. You want a
resourceful woman.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE RICK (CONT'D)
One who can take care of herself.
(beat)
Can you get me another beer? I don't
wanna go all the way to the kitchen.

Off Rafa --

BACK TO PRESENT

Rafa texts back --

RAFA
(via text)
Probably not.

ANGELA (O.S.)
Rafa! Time to get moving!

He walks to his bedroom door, then takes a deep breath, like he's about to dive off a 10-meter platform. He opens it --

INT. RAFA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

-- and it's like he's been dropped into Times Square. Everything goes from quiet and peaceful and dark to kinetic and chaotic and loud. (Shot as a single unbroken take.)

ANGELA (34, whip-smart, always a step ahead of you) buzzes past him, doing laundry.

ANGELA
Hurry up and get some food before your
uncles eat it all.

RAFA
Okay mom. Just gotta go to the--

Rafa opens the bathroom door, but Uncle Rick jumps past him --

RAFA (CONT'D)
(frustrated)
Uncle Rick, c'mon!

UNCLE RICK (O.S.)
(through the door)
Too slow.

RAFA
What are you talking about "too slow?" I
was here first.

UNCLE RICK (O.S.)
Too fast then.

(CONTINUED)

RAFA

Too fast? That's not even a thing. How long are you gonna be in there?

UNCLE RICK (O.S.)

Hard to say. We're all just slaves to our buttholes.

Rafa, grossed out, walks away.

UNCLE RICK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

How did it go with that girl? Did you do what I said? Did she make it home okay?

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Rafa walks into the kitchen. UNCLE MATT (31, short, muscular, ex-military) and UNCLE MANUEL (36, artistic, slight hippie vibe) are wolfing down breakfast and loudly arguing --

UNCLE MANUEL

Are you nuts? It's an American classic!

UNCLE MATT

I'm sorry, Toy Story 3 was awful. Lots-O'-Huggin' Bear's counterinsurgency measures were remedial, at best.

UNCLE MANUEL

"Counterinsurgency measures"? It's a movie about talking toys. Everything's not the military, Matt.

(sees Rafa)

Rafa, settle an argument. Your Uncle Matt thinks Toy Story 3 was bad because of the...lackluster warfare, I guess. I say it was great. Who's right?

Angela comes buzzing back through --

RAFA

Ma, Uncle Matt and Uncle Manuel ate all the breakfast.

ANGELA

There's more coming. I have to go meet with someone before work.

RAFA

Who? About what?

She gives him a look: "do not ask me questions like that."

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE MANUEL

So Primo -- who's right? About the movie?

RAFA

It came out like 10 years ago. How are y'all just now seeing it?

UNCLE MATT

(to Rafa)

Hey, what ended up happening with that girl? Did you take my advice?

Off Rafa's face --

EXT. PARK - THREE DAYS AGO - FLASHBACK

Rafa, Uncle Matt, and Uncle Manuel sit at a table. The other uncles and Angela are in the b.g. barbecuing and talking.

UNCLE MATT

Primo: if you wanna impress a girl, you have to show her how strong you are.

UNCLE MANUEL

Or how tall you are. But Matt can't do that, so he goes for "strong."

UNCLE MATT

Every first date I go on, I figure out a way to do push-ups in front of the girl.

UNCLE MANUEL

That's why he never has a second date. That and the fact that he's 3 feet tall.

Matt attacks him and they start WRESTLING--

BACK TO SCENE

Rafa walks into the front room. UNCLE BRIAN (29, low-grade corporate) walks in, wearing a SUIT.

UNCLE BRIAN

Oh hey Rafa. You're probably wondering, and yeah, it is a new suit. My job kind of requires that I look nice, so...

RAFA

(confused)

...Do you think I said something?

UNCLE BRIAN

Is Rick still in the restroom? I'll go use the other one.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE BRIAN (CONT'D)

("remembering")

Oh yeah -- y'all only have one bathroom.
I always forget that. My house has two
bathrooms. That's probably why.

Rafa sighs -- he's heard this "brag" before. The front door opens. It's UNCLE JESSE (35, small business owner, self-reliant), yelling to everyone and no one before he's even in the house, because Uncle Jesse is a goddamn tornado--

UNCLE JESSE

Terry's sick! We're short a man, and I
got four irrigation systems to install.
Which one of y'all is coming to work with
me today?

Angela walks toward the table and sets a plate of food down.

ANGELA

Stop being so loud, Jesse.
(calling off)
Rafa! Breakfast! I'm going to work.

She leaves. Uncle Jesse picks up the plate and starts eating.

UNCLE JESSE

(sees Rafa)
Primo! How'd it go with the girl?!

Uncle Rick enters --

RICK

Oh good, more food!

He starts eating. Rafa's phone buzzes -- it's Miguel again.

MIGUEL

(via text)
Wait. Who's over there? How many uncles?

Rafa watched Brian, Jesse, Rick, Matt and Manuel all bicker and laugh and fight and squabble.

RAFA

(via text)
All of them

MIGUEL

(via text)
Oh. Nvm then

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Rafa sits across from BETSY, his guidance counselor, and forces an uneasy smile (not sure whether he's in trouble).

RAFA

Before you start, can I just say that whatever you think I did, I didn't do it, or if I did, I didn't mean to, or if I did mean to, I didn't know it was wrong --

BETSY

(interrupting)

Mr. Gonzales, where do you think you might want to go to college?

Rafa is caught off-guard.

RAFA

...I'm sorry?

BETSY

College. Surely you've thought about it. I know I have.

RAFA

(confused)

You haven't gone to college yet?

BETSY

...I meant for you.

She hands him a FORM.

BETSY (CONT'D)

There's a college prep program here that I'd like you to join. It helps our junior-year students prepare for the college application process. It's an hour after school, once a week. Just sign that form, and you're in.

RAFA

I don't think that's for me. I'm probably not... right for college.

BETSY

What does that mean? "Not right."

RAFA

(smiles)

Come on. We both know that I... come on.

(CONTINUED)

She looks at him for a beat, then hands him a manila folder.
Inside are test results.

BETSY
Do you know what that is?

RAFA
...No, but it's definitely good news.
There's a lot of green here.

BETSY
(curious)
Does that matter?

RAFA
Yes. If you get a thing from a teacher in
school and it has a lot of green on it,
then that's usually good for you. Red is
usually bad. So whatever this is, I
probably did good on it.

She smiles. Camera slowly PUSHES IN on Rafa as she talks.

BETSY
Those are the results from the
standardized test you and your classmates
took at the end of your sophomore year.
You scored in the 93rd percentile. That
means you scored higher than 92 percent
of all the other sophomores in the state
of Texas.
(leans in)
You're telling me you're not right for
college, Mr. Gonzales. I'm telling you
you're exactly right for college. And
that paper you're holding proves it.

Rafa looks excited, maybe a little scared...

EXT. STREET - LATER

Rafa walks along with his friends (MIGUEL, MYA, and HARRIS).
They're all 16. Mya is African-American, and more self-
assured than Rafa. Harris is looking at Rafa's test results.

HARRIS
Yo! You're a genius!

RAFA
No I'm not. I just did well on one test.
Now the guidance counselor wants me to
take this college prep program class.
Did y'all know about that?

(CONTINUED)

MIGUEL

I honestly didn't even know we had a guidance counselor, so no, I don't think I'll be joining the college prep program.

MYA

She told me about it. All the new students had to meet with her, and she brought it up. She kept calling me "Ms. Jones." Made me feel like a grandma.

HARRIS

College could be cool.

MIGUEL

Yeah, maybe. I've always wanted to remodel an old house. That might be fun.

(off their confusion)

In the movies, if there's a college part in it or whatever, there's always a scene where the friends get together and fix up some old house. They're all painting real fast, somebody squirts someone else with a hose, another person falls off a small ladder into a bush. Seems fun.

RAFA

You...you know that's not what college is, right? That's just painting. You don't have to go to college to paint a house.

HARRIS

No way I'm going to college. College is for white people, and maybe rich Asians.

MIGUEL

(nods)

No Mexican has ever gone to college. Ever.

RAFA

There's no way that's true.

MIGUEL

Selena didn't go to college. She didn't go, so I'm not going.

MYA

Man, Selena never got to restore an old house? I feel bad for her.

Rafa laughs, she smiles at him. They pass the store where Angela works.

(CONTINUED)

RAFA
Y'all give me a minute. I'ma say what's
up to my mom.

INT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS

It's not busy. Rafa sees Angela talking to a MAN. She's holding a medium-sized box and shaking his hand. She notices Rafa, then says goodbye to the guy, who then leaves.

RAFA
Who was that? Do I know him?

ANGELA
He works at the grocery store.

RAFA
What'd he give you? That box?

ANGELA
(sharply)
Did he give it to you or to me?

Rafa knows that tone. He stops his line of questioning.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
How was school?

RAFA
It was school. Just regular.

Her eyes flash a little, knowingly. She sees Mya in the b.g.

ANGELA
Is that our new neighbor? Mya? The one
you like?--

RAFA
(quickly)
OK bye I'm going to Harris's house.

ANGELA
I need you home tonight by seven.

RAFA
Why?

She gives him a look. Same as the tone, Rafa recognizes it.

RAFA (CONT'D)
Your looks are getting scarier every day.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA

You're getting older every day -- takes
more to scare you. Be home by 7.

Rafa leaves the store. Angela opens the box the guy gave her
(we can't see what's inside) and smiles.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Bang.

INT. RAFA'S HOUSE - 6:30 P.M.

Angela and the uncles are putting the finishing touches on a
surprise party for Rafa. There about 15 PEOPLE in attendance,
including Angela and the five uncles. Brian and Jesse are
hanging a BANNER we can't read yet. Matt is sitting at the
table. Angela sets an all-white cake down on the table.

ANGELA

Matt? This is your job.

She hands him a plastic baggie filled with blue icing, tears
a small piece of the corner off the bag, then squeezes it so
some of the icing comes out.

UNCLE MATT

What am I supposed to do with this?

ANGELA

Use it to write on the cake. Write:
"Congratulations, Rafa!" on there.

UNCLE RICK

If you can't see, I'll get you a phone
book to sit on.

Matt swipes at Rick.

ANGELA

(to the room)

And I need to talk to y'all about
something. Listen up, dumb-dumbs!

All of the uncles stop what they're doing and look at her.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Rafa's guidance counselor called me a few
weeks ago. She said he scored really well
on some test, and she thinks he has a
good chance at going to college when he
graduates. He hasn't said anything about
it, but I know she met with him today.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE BRIAN
How do you know that?

ANGELA
Because I'm smarter than all of you.

UNCLE JESSE
It's a mistake!

They all look at him.

UNCLE JESSE (CONT'D)
He should be working. He's 16 now! He'll be 17 by the end of the school year, and soon he'll be 18!

RICK
Jesse's right. That is how numbers work.

Manuel and Rick laugh. Jesse grits his teeth.

UNCLE JESSE
I'm glad he's gonna graduate high school. That's great. But if Rafa starts working for me now, he'll be ready to run his own crew by the time he graduates.

UNCLE BRIAN
You're an idiot.

UNCLE JESSE
No, I'm a guy with a plan.

ANGELA
This is exactly what I wanted to talk to you about. I don't want y'all in his ear about this like y'all are with everything else. Nobody say a word to him about it.

Uncle Jesse begins to say something. Angela cuts him off.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Not a word. Leave him be.

She heads off. Jesse looks angry. Rick twists the knife.

UNCLE RICK
Hey yo Jesse -- after Rafa is 18, what age does he turn next? Do you know?

EXT. RAFA'S STREET - EARLY EVENING

Rafa and Mya walk.

(CONTINUED)

MYA

So you gonna do that class? Become a college boy?

RAFA

Part of me wants to. Nobody in my family has ever been to college before. It'd be neat to be the first one. And my mom would freak. She'd be so happy.

(then; realizing)

But if I even bring it up, all my uncles are gonna be all over me about what I should do.

MYA

"All" your uncles? How many do you have?

RAFA

Five. Feels like 50 sometimes, though. My dad left when I was little, so the uncles are super protective of my mom and me. It's weird. I have no dad but also five dads.

MYA

Ha. What's that like?

Rafa thinks.

RAFA

Have you seen that movie Inside Out? Where the different emotions are all inside the girl's head controlling her? It's like that. Except but there's cussing.

MYA

That sounds kinda fun.

RAFA

It's very not. They're everywhere! Always at my house, every morning and night...I even work part-time with my Uncle Jesse at his construction jobs, and all the other uncles are there sometimes.

MYA

(chuckles)

You work construction? How's that go?

Off Rafa's embarrassed grin.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - FLASHBACK

We see Rafa struggling to dig a trench. He's sweaty and exhausted. Uncle Jesse walks by in the b.g.

UNCLE JESSE
How's it going bud?

RAFA
Pretty good. Except my arms are on fire,
and everything hurts, and I'm dying. How
long have I been doing this?

UNCLE JESSE
(checks watch)
Eight minutes.

END FLASHBACK

Rafa and Mya are still walking.

MYA
At least you get paid, right?

RAFA
Yeah, that part is nice.
(re: house)
This one's my house.

MYA
Cool. Thanks for walking with me. I still
don't know the neighborhood that well.

RAFA
Yeah, no problem. You're only a couple
houses away, so we can walk together.
Anytime. If you want to go anywhere. For
any reason. Or whatever.

She looks at him, confused. He blushes and averts his eyes.

RAFA (CONT'D)
(quickly)
Anyway, later. I'ma go hide from my
uncles --

Rafa opens the front door.

EVERYONE
SURPRISE!

Music starts to play. Everyone is clapping and yelling. Rafa
and Mya are both, indeed, surprised.

(CONTINUED)

MYA
...I think they found you.

INT. RAFA'S HOUSE - LATER

Music playing, party in full swing. Rafa and Mya. She looks around, sees the BANNER.

MYA
Does that sign say, "You're a Junior!"?

RAFA
(slightly embarrassed)
Yes. It's just what my mom does. Every time I do a thing that she's proud of, she throws a party.

INT. RAFA'S HOUSE - FLASHBACKS

We see a series of similar BANNERS and PARTIES:

--"Congrats on Your Lifeguard License!"

--"You Finished Watching All The Episodes of Mad Men!"

--"Happy Subway Sandwich Punch Card Completion!"

BACK TO SCENE

Mya and Rafa.

MYA
What's Mad Men?

RAFA
It's a show that if you pretend to like it, people think you're sophisticated. Uncle Brian made me watch it when he got a Netflix account.

Angela comes over and hugs Rafa.

ANGELA
Gather around everyone! I just wanna say how proud we all are of our Primo. I can't believe you're already a junior.

Angela hands him a BOX.

RAFA
What's this?

ANGELA
It's a present.

(CONTINUED)

RAFA

I mean, I know. I was asking what's
inside.

ANGELA

Why do you not know how presents work?

Rafa opens the box to find a nice SPORTCOAT.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

It's for you to wear at the party! And
whatever other events you might attend
this year...or beyond.

Rafa smiles. It feels like everyone is pumping good vibes
into him. Overcome with happiness, now he can't help himself.

RAFA

I actually have an announcement to make.
I met with my guidance counselor
today...And I'm going to college!

His mom is overjoyed. The room is overjoyed. He's glowing,
and Angela is glowing, and everyone is cheering, and it's a
great moment. Until it's not.

UNCLE JESSE

(with great authority)

Over my dead body!

Everyone shuts up. Rafa looks scared. Angela looks furious.
Mya looks thrilled.

MYA

(to Rafa)

This party is great!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. - LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Uncle Jesse and Uncle Brian have pulled Rafa aside. Angela is out of sight. Uncle Rick is in the b.g. drinking a beer. Other people are around, but they're mostly all keeping to themselves. There's an awkwardness in the air.

UNCLE JESSE

Listen, I know you're very excited right now. But college... it's not the way to go. You should be working, contributing to the family, helping your mom.

UNCLE BRIAN

It absolutely is the way to go. Education is crucial. Look at me -- I went to trade school for two years, got a degree, and now I make the most money of anyone in the family.

UNCLE JESSE

You made \$800 more than me last year.

UNCLE BRIAN

("trump card")

My house has two bathrooms, Rafa. Two.

Angela materializes out of thin air --

ANGELA

Enough. Both of you.

UNCLE BRIAN

(surprised)

Where did you come from?!

ANGELA

Rafa, get out of here. And you two, I already told you: leave him alone.

(heading off)

I need to check on the cake.

RAFA

Cake? What cake? Ma, this is important...

Uncle Brian and Uncle Jesse continue arguing. Rafa, sensing an opportunity to escape, slips away...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Uncle Matt is writing with the icing. Uncle Manuel, who is wandering past, looks at the cake.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE MANUEL

You spelled it wrong, dummy. There's supposed to be an apostrophe in "congratulations."

UNCLE MATT

(looking at the cake)
No, there's not.

UNCLE MANUEL

Yes, there is, before the "S." Like this.

Uncle Manuel picks up the icing bag and adds the apostrophe. They both look at it.

UNCLE MANUEL (CONT'D)

See?

UNCLE MATT

Nope. That's definitely wrong.

Uncle Matt scrapes the apostrophe off, which makes the cake a tiny bit messy.

UNCLE MANUEL

(louder)
It needs the apostrophe! Brian -- who's right, me or Matt?

Uncle Brian walks over, looks at the cake...

UNCLE BRIAN

You know, I saw this documentary on Netflix about wealthy families and the parties they throw. They have these gigantic, very ornate, very expensive cakes. I'm talking thousands of dollars for a cake. Thousands.

A beat. Uncle Manuel looks at him.

UNCLE MANUEL

...So is there an apostrophe or not?

UNCLE BRIAN

No idea. It was a good documentary, though. You should watch it.

INT. RAFA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

He closes the door, sits down on the edge of his bed. After a second, he reaches into his pocket and takes out the form the counselor gave him -- there's a URL at the top that says "for more information..."

(CONTINUED)

He walks to the computer in his room, toggles the mouse and the screen comes on -- it's a bank account screen. He sees the username (AngelaGon***) and realizes his mom must've used the computer last and forgot to close the browser window.

He sees that her password is autosaved, so he clicks the login button...and sees that she has exactly \$52 in her account. He looks down the jacket that she gave to him as a gift, and then out at the party...

RAFA
(to himself, solemnly)
Damn.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Uncle Matt and Uncle Manuel are arguing again about the apostrophe. Uncle Rick is nearby.

UNCLE MATT
(re: cake)
Just tell me, is this right?

UNCLE RICK
It's ugly. So if you meant for it to be ugly, then yes, it's right. Good job.

Uncle Manuel yet again adds an apostrophe on there.

UNCLE MANUEL
Now it's right.

UNCLE MATT
No, damnit. That's not what an apostrophe is for.

UNCLE MANUEL
Then what's an apostrophe for?

UNCLE MATT
(no idea)
...Not that!

UNCLE RICK
(sips his beer)
An apostrophe shows ownership. Or it combines words.

UNCLE MANUEL
Rick's right. And it's Rafa's cake, so he owns it, so it needs an apostrophe. Incidentally, "Rick's right" also has an apostrophe in it.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE MANUEL (CONT'D)
...Maybe the apostrophe goes after the S?

UNCLE RICK
(sarcastically)
Maybe try it before the S and also after
the S, too.

UNCLE MATT
You know what? That's a good idea. Why
don't we just put apostrophes every-
goddamn-where!

He starts icing everywhere. Angela storms in --

ANGELA
What is going on in here?! Did you finish
the cake?

UNCLE MATT
...Kind of?

She takes a look:

ANGLE ON the cake: SC'ONGR'A'TULAT'ION'S' RAFA!

A complete mess. She's madder.

ANGELA
Literally all you had to do was write two
words on a cake!

UNCLE MATT
It's Manuel's fault!

UNCLE MANUEL
Shut up!

Uncle Matt shoves Uncle Manuel backward. He crashes into the
table and KNOCKS THE CAKE on the floor.

They all look ashamed. Angela fumes.

ANGELA
I will not let you dolts ruin this. Get
me a knife.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Angela enters carrying a TINY CAKE -- she's cut out the
middle chunk that wasn't ruined: just a tiny fist-sized cake
with "Rafa!" written on it. Doing her best to keep a positive
energy:

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA
Cake time, everyone!

Mya and Rafa are on the other side of the room.

MYA
(to Rafa)
Why is that cake the tiniest cake in the world? Are you the only one who gets to eat cake? Mexicans have weird traditions.

Rafa walks over to his mom, serving the cake as best she can.

ANGELA
There you go, Rick.

Rick looks down at the thimble-sized piece of cake.

RICK
I guess I'll eat half now and save the rest for later.

He walks off.

RAFA
Ma, don't get mad, but I was getting on the computer and your bank account page was up, and I saw that you only have--

ANGELA
(cutting him off)
Don't worry about it, Primo. I have it under control.

RAFA
What do you mean "don't worry about it?" It's the 9th of the month and you only have \$52 in your account. And I'm wearing this coat you got me that cost who knows how much, but definitely more than \$52, and there's this party going on --

ANGELA
(cutting him off again)
You have small eyes, Rafa. You can't see the whole picture yet.

RAFA
Ma, I'm tryna talk to you about real, actual issues. Why are you talking like The Oracle from The Matrix? College costs money that you don't have. That we don't have.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA

You sound like your Uncle Jesse. Did
Uncle Jesse just put ideas in your head?
(off his look)
This party wasn't an impromptu purchase.
Neither was that jacket. I've been
working toward it for weeks.

INT. GROCERY STORE - A MONTH AGO - FLASHBACK

Angela and a MAN chat at the grocery store...

ANGELA (V.O.)

A guy at the grocery store was talking
about how he had this rash on his foot.

INT. CORNER STORE - FLASHBACK CONTD

Angela makes a deal with a NURSE.

ANGELA

So, you know the nurse's aide who comes
into the corner store? She traded me some
samples of the rash medicine, for some
bus passes, because I know she rides the
bus, because it stops near the store and
I see her getting on it each morning.

RAFA (V.O.)

How'd you get the bus passes?

EXT. BUS STATION - FLASHBACK CONTD

Angela gives the BUS DRIVER a BIG PLATE OF FOOD. He smiles.

ANGELA (V.O.)

I always hear the bus driver complaining
about eating a cold lunch because his
break isn't long enough to get off the
bus and pick food up somewhere. So I made
him a hot plate every day for a week, and
he slipped me a handful of bus passes.

END FLASHBACK

ANGELA

So: hot food to bus driver, bus tokens to
nurse, foot medicine to guy in the
grocery store -- and he has a booth at
the flea market where he sells clothes,
so he gave me a coat for you.

(CONTINUED)

RAFA

You bought this coat with food medicine?
I'm wearing a foot medicine coat?

ANGELA

Who cares how I got it? It's new and it's
yours.

RAFA

What about all the food at this party?

ANGELA

Easy!

EXT. STREET - A MONTH AGO - FLASHBACK

Angela walks along and sees a WOMAN in a BROKEN-DOWN CAR --

ANGELA (V.O.)

A month ago, I saw a woman up the street
whose car wouldn't start. She needed to
find an alternator --

RAFA (V.O.)

Stop stop stop.

END FLASHBACK

RAFA

I can't take it. It's too much, Ma. Our
whole life is a Jenga tower!

Angela takes Rafa's face in her hands.

ANGELA

Don't worry about any of that, Rafa.
That's my job. Your job is to just wear
your new foot coat.
(smiles)
Big eyes.

She kisses him on the forehead and walks away. Rafa watches
her walk into the living room, moving from person to person,
working the room. He looks around the house, then makes a
decision --

He reaches into his pocket, takes out the form the counselor
gave him, looks at it one last time, then crumples it up and
throws it in the trash.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. STREET - 3:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY

Rafa walks with Miguel, Mya, and Harris again after school.

MIGUEL

How was your party last night?

RAFA

...Fine I guess.

MIGUEL

Your ma invited me. I was gonna come, but then I didn't because I didn't want to.

MYA

I went. It was crazy. My favorite part was the tiny cake. My least favorite part was every other thing.

Rafa purses his lips.

MYA (CONT'D)

Hey, why does your family call you "Primo?" I kept hearing that. Doesn't that mean "cousin?"

RAFA

Yeah. It started when I was a baby. 'Cause of how my uncles are kind of my dad? -- they gave me the nickname. It kind of makes sense. Everything in our family kind of makes sense.

She chuckles.

HARRIS

Did you figure out if you're gonna go to college or are you gonna work?

RAFA

Probably work. My mom doesn't have a lot of money. I wanna help.

(off Mya's look)

What?

MYA

I just figured you'd pick college. And your mom doesn't really seem like she needs a lot of help.

Rafa thinks about that as they walk...

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - LATER

Rafa walks through the construction site, past Jesse's truck parked out in front of the site's temporary trailer.

INT. CONSTRUCTION TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Rafa walks in. Uncle Jesse is working.

RAFA

Hey, Uncle Jess. You got a minute?

UNCLE JESSE

Yeah, but not much more. I got your Uncle Rick, Matt and Manuel working today, so we're running late, because Matt keeps fussing at them about how the kid from E.T should've never been able to outflank the government agents. What's up?

RAFA

You've been saying I should start coming to work with you more hours. Is that offer still available?

Uncle Jesse looks at him. His interest is piqued.

RAFA (CONT'D)

I think it's time I started helping my m--

UNCLE JESSE

(pulls out his cell phone)
One second.

Jesse dials and puts the phone on speaker. After a few rings--

UNCLE BRIAN (V.O.)

(over speaker)
This is Brian.

UNCLE JESSE

Hey, stupid. Rafa's here right now. I want you to hear this conversation him and I are about to have so you can know that I beat you.

UNCLE BRIAN (V.O.)

(over speaker)
What are you talking about?

UNCLE JESSE

Go 'head, Rafa.

(CONTINUED)

RAFA
(loudly)
...Hi, Uncle Brian. I was just telling
Uncle Jesse that I think I'm ready to
start work--

The door to the trailer flies open: Manuel and Rick.

UNCLE MANUEL
-- the point is, Elliot's bike was magic,
and Matt refuses to acknowledge --

UNCLE RICK
Yeah, I don't really care.
(sees Rafa)
Primo! What are you doing here?

UNCLE JESSE
Good, everyone's here. Now you can all
hear what Rafa was about to say, because
it makes me the winner.

UNCLE BRIAN (V.O.)
(on phone)
Wait, everyone's there? Matt, too?

RAFA
No, Matt's not here.

UNCLE RICK
Well, not that we can see, but it's Matt,
so he could be anywhere. Check to see if
maybe he climbed inside a desk drawer and
took a nap.

RAFA
Uncle Jess, I kinda wanted to talk to
you, like, one-on-one.

Uncle Matt bursts in --

UNCLE MATT
What's going on in here?

UNCLE RICK
There he is! Where were you, little
buddy? Hiding in a teacup or something?

UNCLE JESSE
Glad you're here, Matt. Rafa said he
wants to have an Uncle Meeting.

(CONTINUED)

RAFA

No I didn't. I don't want that. I never want that. In fact, I want the opposite of an Uncle Meeting.

UNCLE MANUEL

An... aunt... separation?

UNCLE RICK

That was pretty good.

RAFA

(frustrated)

I just wanted to come here and talk to Uncle Jesse about working. That's it. But what's happening right now --

(gesturing to everyone)

-- is what happens all the time. You guys just come over the top of everything and it's all chaos and nobody listens to what I'm saying.

UNCLE BRIAN (V.O.)

What happened to college?! You should do that! Because it's the best way to build a bright future, and also because then I'll win!

UNCLE JESSE

No, he should work!

UNCLE MATT

If the concern is money, you should know that the military will pay for your school if you serve for four years. That's what I did.

UNCLE RICK

You didn't go to college.

UNCLE MATT

I mean, I did the first half of that agreement, is what I'm saying.

UNCLE MANUEL

Rafa should follow his heart. When the winds of change blow, it's best to open your sail and harvest their energy.

UNCLE MATT

Hey, Shakespeare. How about you blow those winds of change out of your ass?

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE RICK

If it's Manuel's ass, then there's an
apostrophe in it.

UNCLE JESSE

If I had to guess which one of y'all had
an apostrophe in your ass, Manuel would
absolutely be my first guess.

RAFA

(losing it)

What is anybody talking about right now?

The door to the trailer opens. It's Angela, once again
seeming to materialize out of thin air.

ANGELA

(in a loud, stern voice)

What. Are. Y'all. Doing?!

All the uncles stop talking. Uncle Jesse sits down and
pretends like he's typing on a computer on the desk.

UNCLE BRIAN (V.O.)

(through phone; nervous)

...Is that Angela?

ANGELA

Yes.

UNCLE BRIAN (V.O.)

Oh [bleep].

He hangs up quickly.

UNCLE JESSE

Angela? Good news. Rafa has decided he
wants to start wor--

ANGELA

Close your mouth.

(to Rafa)

Your friends are at Miguel's, waiting for
you. Go. And be home for dinner.

Rafa sighs and leaves. Angela turns to her brothers and
composes herself.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

(quietly)

I took the bus here. Could one of you
please give me a ride home? I'll wait
outside.

(CONTINUED)

She leaves.

UNCLE MATT
Oof. Her super quiet calm voice.

UNCLE RICK
(nodding)
The scariest one. She's pissed.

Jesse follows her out.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - LATER

Angela walks to Uncle Jesse's truck. Jesse and Manuel follow.

ANGELA
It's been a long day, so I don't want to
hear anything from any of you about
yesterday, or the day before that, or any
day before any day or any night before
any night. You understand?

Yeah. UNCLE MANUEL UNCLE JESSE
Fine.

Beat.

UNCLE JESSE (CONT'D)
I just don't understand why you're mad!
Rafa came to me. I didn't go to him. He
came to me and said he wants to work. How
is that bad?

ANGELA
He decided that because you pressed him.

UNCLE MANUEL
Don't you want Rafa to go to college?!
Why aren't you tell him that? Why aren't
you telling him anything? He doesn't know
what you want. Nobody does.

ANGELA
What I want is for you all to leave him
alone about all of this.

UNCLE BRIAN
Okay, but...

ANGELA
There's no "but." Y'all need to
understand that the influence you have on
him is meaningful. This isn't just you
showing him how to ride a bike.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA (CONT'D)

He's not a kid anymore. You might push him toward making a decision that he'll regret for a long time.

(before they can object)

I hope he goes to college. That's what I want. But it's a decision he has to arrive at on his own, or it won't work.

UNCLE JESSE

That doesn't make sense. If you want a thing, speak up! It's like a restaurant. You don't just hope for the waiter to bring you what you want. You tell him.

Angela smirks at him.

ANGELA

You're smart today, huh?

UNCLE JESSE

(cocky grin)

Every day, Sis.

ANGELA

Your shirt's buttoned wrong.

Jesse looks down. He realizes he missed a button.

UNCLE JESSE

Damnit.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NOXT MORNING - 7:00 A.M.

Rafa gets ready for school. Uncle Rick is on the couch watching TV.

UNCLE RICK

Your mom left for work already. She left food for you on the table.

Rafa looks -- there's nothing there.

RAFA

...And then you ate it?

UNCLE RICK

(nodding)

I ate the food, yeah. Sorry.

Rafa shakes his head sadly and decides to just leave. He snatches up his backpack and heads toward the door.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE RICK (CONT'D)
(from the other room)
Hold up, boy. You forgot something.

RAFA
(snidely)
What I'd forget, Uncle Rick? My breakfast
that you ate?

Rick hands him the crumpled up college prep program form.

RAFA (CONT'D)
(confused)
...I threw this in the trash like, two
days ago. How'd you know I threw it away?
Or even what it was?

UNCLE RICK
I didn't. I was looking for chicken wings
that people might've tossed out. Most
people only eat, like, half the meat on a
chicken wing. If you gather enough of
them, it's basically a whole extra meal.
I call it "trash meat."

(then)
Anyways, I found the paper, looked
important, so I put it in my pocket.

RAFA
...Have you been wearing the same pants
for three days?

UNCLE RICK
Never mind that. What's going on? Sit
down, Primo. Talk to your Uncle Rick.

Rafa sits back down.

RAFA
It's just too much. There are too many
opinions about what I'm supposed to do.
And Uncle Jesse is probably right. It's
better for me to start working right now.
I can't leave. Ma has, like, \$50 to her
name. Who's gonna take care of her if--

Uncle Rick cuts him off.

UNCLE RICK
Wait, wait, wait. First of all, you don't
really think you take care of your mom,
do you? Because you don't. She's been
taking care of everyone else since she
was, like, 9 years old.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE RICK (CONT'D)

You saying you take care of her is like a flower saying it takes care of the sun.

RAFA

Why is everyone so philosophical all of a sudden?!

UNCLE RICK

And second: boo hoo. You got six people who give a damn about what happens to you. How terrible that must be.

That hits Rafa a little -- he'd never seen it that way.

UNCLE RICK (CONT'D)

Look, I don't wanna tell you that we're not gonna keep shoving advice into your face. Because we are. It's what we do. We've done it since you were tiny. We'll do it until we're all dead. But ultimately it's your call. Whatever you decide, we'll be fine. Your mother'll be fine. Because besides her own toughness, she also has us. Her brothers. Every single one of us would serve jail time for her. And I already have!

RAFA

You didn't serve jail time for her. You served jail time because you crashed your motorcycle through the plate glass window of a Whataburger.

UNCLE RICK

And I'd do it again, if your mom asked me to. Because I'm her brother.

Rafa takes a deep breath.

RAFA

Maybe you're right. Maybe it's good for me to have all these voices in my li--

UNCLE RICK

(already disinterested)

Yeah yeah yeah okay be quiet, I'm tryna watch TV. Bug off.

Rafa smiles a little, and heads out.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - LATER THAT MORNING

Betsy walks in, tosses her stuff on her chair, and heads to her desk. She sees something -- a WRINKLED, SIGNED form from Rafa. A POST-IT NOTE attached to it says: "I'm in! -- Rafa." She smiles. Over this, we hear --

RAFA (V.O.)
Okay, listen up, I have an announcement
to make.

INT. RAFA'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

Rafa addresses everyone as they are gathered for DINNER.

RAFA
I'm gonna try to get into college. Some
of you think it's a good idea, some think
it's a bad idea, but it's my call, and
I've decided I'm going to try.

It's quiet and still for a second. Then we see a fist get extended out. It's Uncle Rick's, who's not even looking at Rafa because he's too busy eating his food. Rafa smiles, reaches out and taps Uncle Rick's fist with his own.

RAFA (CONT'D)
So, what that means is--

UNCLE MATT
I feel like we get it. You're going to
college. Can we skip to the end here?

UNCLE MANUEL
Yeah, dude, let's eat!

UNCLE BRIAN
Rick's already eating so I'ma eat too.

ANGELA
Everyone shut up and let the boy talk!

RAFA
My life's gonna change now, so I'm gonna
need to lean on all of y'all -- at the
appropriate times -- for advice on
different things.

UNCLE JESSE
Like whether you should take on a real
part-time job?

(CONTINUED)

RAFA

Maybe.

UNCLE BRIAN

And what extracurricular activities you should join to help your college applications?

RAFA

Maybe.

UNCLE MANUEL

Or when you're gonna ask Mya out?

RAFA

...I mean, we're getting a little off track here, but maybe...

UNCLE MATT

And how to ask her out?

RAFA

No, not... no.

UNCLE MANUEL

Has anyone here ever dated someone who wasn't Mexican?

RAFA

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THE APPROPRIATE TIMES.

The uncles and Angela all share a look, surprised that Rafa just stood up for himself. Angela smiles.

RAFA (CONT'D)

Point is, I'm grateful for you guys. You're looking out for me. I'm lucky.

UNCLE MATT

How much longer is this gonna go on? I gotta go to the bathroom.

UNCLE BRIAN

Me too, I'll use the other one.

("realizing")

Oh right, this house only has one bathroom. I get confused because mine has two.

ANGELA

Zip it, Brian!

They all ARGUE and BICKER as we FADE OUT--

END OF SHOW