

INT. UPSCALE SUBURBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Afternoon light pours into the beige home. EVAN BERRERA, 20, sits sheepishly as his stern father, ROBERT, 50s, lectures him. Evan's been crying. He holds a back pack at his feet.

EVAN

Just because I'm here for the summer you can treat me like a prisoner?

ROBERT

A prisoner? This isn't about you, it's about the fact that there's no one to watch your grandfather.

EVAN

He's 80 years old!

Evan's grandfather, HECTOR BERRERA, 80, shuffles through the hallway. He has one arm and holds a cane.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

Does anyone know where I put my Mickey Mouse robe?

EVAN

It's a Felix the Cat robe, and it's mine.

ROBERT

Evan, please.

Robert approaches Hector and treats him like a child.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Your Mickey Mouse robe is in the dryer, Dad.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

What?

EVAN

He doesn't understand English anymore.

Robert helps Hector out of the room and shoots Evan a look.

CONTINUED:

EVAN (CONT'D)
You can't make me stay.

ROBERT
Fine. Go with your girlfriend, come home whenever you want. But you're abandoning the family, and it's a pattern.

EVAN
Jesus!

HALLWAY

Robert leads Hector through the hallway. Evan comes in.

EVAN (CONT'D)
I have a life too you know. Just because I'm leaving doesn't mean I don't care about the family.

Robert waves goodbye to Evan without looking at him as he leans over to listen to Hector.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
He's a good boy, Evan.

Evan watches them disappear down the hall.

EVAN
Dad?

For a second he wishes that his dad would make him stay. When he doesn't, Evan charges out the front door.

EXT. UPSCALE SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

Evan hides between the house and some bushes as he takes off his pants while making a call on his cell phone. There is a bedroom window behind him.

He pulls a pair of bright orange firefighter pants with suspenders out of his back pack and steps into them as he fumbles with his cell phone.

EVAN
Hey, it's me Evan, if you wouldn't mind -- Evan Berrera -- picking me up at the, uh, at the Boston Market at Northgate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hector appears in the window wearing the black Felix the Cat robe. He sees Evan, and his tired eyes squint, concerned.

EVAN (CONT'D)

At like 8 would be good. Is that alright? Oh wait-- this is a message. Text me if it's not alright. Okay bye. Thanks. Bye. See you then. Evan Berrera.

Evan hangs up the phone, and is now excited; things are happening. He shoves his old pants in the back pack and runs across the lawn.

THROUGH THE WINDOW

As Hector watches him leave, he opens his robe and takes A RING out of the breast pocket of his dress shirt. He takes off the robe, picks up his cane, and exits.

EXT. BOSTON MARKET AT NORTHGATE - DUSK

An upscale suburban mini-mall. The sun sets through autumn leaves as a few hybrids woosh past and instrumental Elton John plays softly on the mall's invisible sound system.

Evan arrives in the bulky orange pants. He takes off his sweatshirt revealing a shirtless firefighter's costume. He takes out a post-card flyer.

INSERT: There is a picture of a nearly-nude man, oiled up and wearing a shirtless firefighter's costume. The post-card reads "**Hawt Hawt Hawt! The Gayest Party of the Year-- Smmmmokin'!**" then below, "**Saturday.**"

Evan looks at the man in the picture, then at his own reflection in the Boston Market window. He flexes his abs, but it's no use. He's not a hunk. He spreads a bottle of glitter on his chest, fumbling. He's now covered in glitter.

EVAN

Shit.

A TAXI passes slowly. Hector is in the back seat pointing at Evan. The taxi lurches to a stop. Hector carries a cane. Evan rushes over to help him out of the taxi, but Hector shoos him away.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Papa!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Evan scrambles for his shirt, and it falls in the gutter and gets covered in mud. Hector doesn't seem to notice Evan's ridiculous costume.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
*I have to give you something before
your date.*

EVAN
My date?

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
Your date, with your girlfriend.

Off Evan's look--

I/E. MOVING SUV - NIGHT

Three 22-year-olds, TREVOR, STEVE, and DERRICK, talk fast and listen to loud hip-hop music. They are all wearing the same fire-fighter costume, but they're way hunkier than Evan.

TREVOR
Oh shit, I forgot, we have to pick
up that kid Evan.

General groaning and eye rolling.

STEVE
Flip a bitch, bitch.

Derrick turns the car around.

EXT. BOSTON MARKET - NIGHT

Evan pulls the muddy sweatshirt over his glittery body as his grandfather slowly sits down on a bench. Evan gets a text message and checks it discreetly as his grandfather talks.

INSERT: **"From: Trevor. Late Sry ;)"**

Evan smiles at the winky face. As Hector talks, Evan rushes to sit next to him so he won't notice that he was distracted.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
*Evan, I've been wanting to have
this talk with you and now is the
right time. Wait, I'm stiff from
the car ride.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hector does unusual one-armed grandfather stretches at the curb in front of Boston Market. Evan leans over on the bench to look down the road as he clutches his cell phone.

EVAN
(in Spanish)
What is it Papa?

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
You're impatient.

EVAN
(in Spanish)
She's going to be here any minute.

Evan gets up to join Hector at the curb. Hector holds Evan's shoulders and speaks to him with grave seriousness.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
I am going to die very soon and my skin will become jelly and melt into the Earth. I'm going to put seeds on my eyes so that vines will grow from my empty eye sockets and cover the front of the family home; your father said it was okay.

Evan scowls at the image.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
Evan, I am not afraid of the life-cycle. The life-cycle is what keeps the family alive. But you are the only one who can carry the family name. That is why I am giving you this.

Hector places a BEAUTIFUL PEARL RING in Evan's hand with pride. Evan deflates when he realizes what it is.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
This was given to me by my grandfather before I asked my sweet Jennifer to marry me--

EVAN
Keep it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hector smacks him, firm but harmless. a YOUNG COUPLE passes them, walking quickly, eyes averted.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
You will ask this girl to marry you tonight.

Evan bursts out laughing.

EVAN
I'm not going to do that.

I/E. MOVING SUV - NIGHT

The young hunky guys listen to techno and drink Red Bulls.

TREVOR
He likes me...

DERRICK
Please, he likes all of us.

STEVE
You're so shallow.

TREVOR
Whatever, he just has this like desperate vibe.

ALL HUNKY GUYS
Yeah...

They drive into the night, and the stars shine.

EXT. BOSTON MARKET - NIGHT

HECTOR (OVER)
(in Spanish)
Look at the stars Evan!

Reveal Hector lying on his back looking up at the stars. COSTUMERS nearly trip over him as they exit Boston Market. Evan stands away from him.

EVAN
Papa, I don't want you here. And I don't want this ring. Okay?
(re: the ring)
This is none of your business.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hector THWACKS Evan's knee with his cane, toppling him to the ground. They look at the stars together.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
It is the family name, Evan.

EVAN
It's too much pressure. Why can't
you people just leave me alone?

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
*Family is the most important thing.
You can't even wash your clothes!*

Hector prods the mud on Evan's shirt with his arm stub.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
What is this, fairy dust?

A FAMILY exits the Boston Market. The MOTHER scowls at Evan.

EVAN
Everyone dresses like this.

Hector lights a cigarette and the two stare into the heavens. Hector studies Evan. Sees the orange pants, the glitter covering his muddy fingernails, and Evan swallowing nervously. He knows something is up.

Evan looks at his phone. He gets up and looks down the road.

EVAN (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
Now go away, she's almost here.

Hector painstakingly gets up, shooing away Evan's help.

He takes out another cigarette and lights it so that he has two cigarettes in his mouth.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
Look at me, I'm the Marlboro Man!

He does an old-man jig. Evan laughs as Hector beckons him.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
(in English)
Dance, dance! Practice!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hector grabs Evan and they waltz on the sidewalk, both laughing and having a good time. Hector slips one of the cigarettes in Evan's mouth.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
 (in Spanish)
We love you. We just want to help.

Evan looks over Hector's shoulder and sees the black SUV speeding down the road toward the Boston Market.

EVAN
 That's them!

Hector turns, like "who?" Evan grabs Hector and rushes him over to the bench.

I/E. MOVING SUV - NIGHT

There's a party going down. Thick smoke fills the carriage as the guys all sing their hearts out to "We Belong" by Pat Benatar while passing around a joint.

GUYS
 (singing)
 "We belong to the sound of the
 words we've both fallen under!
 Whatever we deny or embrace, for
 worse or for better, we belong, we
 belong--"

EXT. BOSTON MARKET - NIGHT

Hector protests as Evan hastily sits him down on the bench. The SUV approaches.

I/E. SUV - PARKED - NIGHT

The guys stop in front of Boston Market, but Evan is still helping his grandfather. Hector looks over Evan's shoulder and sees the guys.

STEVE
 What does he look like?

Steve sees Hector's wrinkled face and frowns. Hector frowns back.

TREVOR
 Honestly, I don't even remember.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK

He's not here.

Trevor scans the scene and just sees Evan's back as he tries to get his grandfather to stay on the bench.

BOSTON MARKET

EVAN

She's here, I have to go.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

I want to meet her!

SUV

The guys stop looking for Evan and are already so bored that they've become engrossed in their cell phones. Evan finally approaches the SUV, his hopeful face unseen by the guys.

TREVOR

5. 4. 3. 2. annd 1. K, we waited,
let's peace.

BOSTON MARKET

Evan smiles, reaches for the door handle...and the SUV speeds away. He can't believe it. Hector calls from the bench.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

Who were those idiots?

Evan is speechless. Hector sees that something is wrong. He slowly gets up and hobbles over to Evan with great effort. He puts a hand on Evan's shoulder. Evan shakes it off.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Evan!

Evan turns around and sees his grandfather's concern, but he looks like a complete stranger.

EVAN

I'm the most pathetic person in the
world.

Hector doesn't understand his English. Evan gets frustrated, and with some struggle, he tugs the ring out of his pocket. He holds it out for Hector, with tears in his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVAN (CONT'D)

I don't want this. I'm never going to use it.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

Don't cry over stupid boys.

EVAN

Take it!

Hector won't take it. Evan shoves the ring in Hector's breast pocket. Evan sits on the curb. Hector watches on, dismayed.

EVAN (CONT'D)

This was really important to me.

Hector comforts him, but Evan gets up and walks away, stonewalling Hector. Hector tries to stop him.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

Tell me what's wrong with you!

Evan finally stops.

EVAN

(in Spanish)

I don't have a girlfriend, Papa! Those boys-- I wanted them to like me, so I dressed up like an idiot for them and left them a thousand messages and they just drove past me because I don't matter! I don't matter to anyone I care about.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

What boys?

EVAN

(under his breath)

A bunch of gay guys.

HECTOR

(in Spanish)

What?

Evan dances around like a fairy.

EVAN

A bunch of gay guys!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Hector begins to understand. He is flustered for the first time. He crosses himself and puts the ring back in Evan's hands and closes them while saying a prayer.

HECTOR
 (in Spanish)
*Oh God who are the only source of
 health and healing, the spirit of
 calm and the central peace of this
 universe--*

Evan rips his hands away from Hector's and the ring flies out, bouncing on the sidewalk. Hector chases after it, and painstakingly bends over to grab the ring. Evan looks away, unable to watch Hector struggle.

Hector's face falls. The BEAUTIFUL PEARL HAS BROKEN IN HALF. Hector sinks to the curb. Evan rushes to help.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
 NO!

Evan moves back. Hector glares at him with a deep hurt in his eyes. Evan can't bear to see him like that.

EVAN
 It's not my fault.

Hector doesn't respond. Evan throws his arms up and begins to leave.

HECTOR
 (in Spanish)
I'm disappointed in you.

This stops Evan. He turns and finally sees the broken ring in Hector's hands.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
 (in Spanish)
*You think standing outside of the
 Turkey Store waiting for these
 stupid boys is important? This was
 important.*

Evan shrinks down to the curb in shame.

EVAN
 I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
Why apologize?

EVAN
What can I do?

Hector shakes his head. As the two sit on the curb, Hector looks off into the distance.

EVAN (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
Will you tell me about her?

Hector doesn't respond. He's lost in a memory.

EVAN (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
Really. I want to know what it was like.

HECTOR
(in Spanish)
She died after your father was born. When I lost her it was like losing my heart. She was the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen.

Evan watches Hector deeply, hanging on every word.

Hector puts his hand on his heart and meets Evan's eyes.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
I didn't know how much I still miss her. You can never know. That's what love will do to you. I still love your grandmother but I've had to hide it for many years because it is too painful. You don't know this yet, but love is good. For you it's only pain. But when it's good there's no pain in the entire world.

Hector kisses his wife's wedding ring and puts it back in his breast pocket.

EVAN
I don't think I'll ever feel that way about someone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Hector takes off his own GOLD BAND and gives it to Evan.

HECTOR
 (in Spanish)
*You have to try. I want that for
 you Evan. Never lose faith that
 there's love for you somewhere.
 There is. I wouldn't give this to
 you if I didn't think so.*

Evan's phone vibrates. It's Trevor. You can tell because his smug face shows up on caller ID. Evan doesn't pick up.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
 (in Spanish)
Those are not good boys, Evan.

Evan laughs a little bit.

EVAN
 You could tell that already?

HECTOR
 (in Spanish)
*They're too good looking for you
 anyway.*

EVAN
 Hey!

HECTOR
 (in Spanish)
*You need a man who's very rich, but
 kind. He doesn't have to be good
 looking. But if you're going to
 marry a man, he might as well be
 rich.*

EVAN
 I never thought of that.

HECTOR
 (in Spanish)
You always need to be thinking.

Hector taps Evan's head. Evan helps him up, and gives him his cane. The slowness of this routine calms Evan.

The two walk down the road home. Evan carries Hector's cane and Hector holds on to Evan's arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Suddenly, Hector and Evan are lit by bright headlights as the black SUV comes tearing up curb to the mini-mall. There are fucked-up hunky guys spilling out of the windows.

TREVOR

Devon!

EVAN

Evan, but okay.

DERRICK

God, I haven't been to Boston Market in like 10 years, seriously.

Evan looks to his grandfather for approval. Hector nods.

EVAN

Hey guys, maybe I should drive.

DERRICK

Does your brother need a ride?

Derrick winks drunkenly at Hector, who frowns at the boys.

I/E. BLACK SUV - NIGHT

Hector sits in the backseat of the SUV between Derrick and Trevor. Evan drives with Steve next to him in the front seat. A techno love-ballad plays as Evan and Steve laugh.

Hector watches Evan like a hawk as he flirts with Steve. Hector tries to wink at Evan through the rearview mirror as the car drives into the night.

Explanation of Changes

I mostly tried to incorporate notes from class. The main note was to sort out how many times we see the SUV and what happens when it arrives. I decided to make the reason that the SUV misses him the first time is because Evan is hiding his grandfather. I also added a bit in the beginning to A) make it less generic, and B) to establish that the grandfather is going senile. This I think makes his behavior a bit more believable and allows the grandson to see him as obsolete in the beginning.