

GRANDPA JUAN (by Diana Yanez)

EXT. GARCIA HOUSE FRONT PORCH - DAY

JUAN GARCIA (60s-70s), sits on the front porch of his working class house enjoying a cigar and drinking a small cup of espresso.

His daughter, MARISA (20s-30s) has driven up. She exits the car angrily as she approaches him.

MARISA

Did you tell Melly to hit a little girl at school?

JUAN

No.

MARISA

What?

JUAN

I taught her how to hit a little girl at school.

MARISA

She punched a 7 year old in the mouth.

JUAN

She had it coming.

MARISA

Papi, no.

JUAN

No what? That girl had to be put in her place.

MARISA

Papi, no - you are not going to ruin Melly like you ruined Juan Junior.

JUAN

What's wrong with Juan Junior?

MARISA

He's been arrested twice for assault. He can't express his feelings. Even his court appointed therapist is afraid of him.

JUAN
That's my boy!

MARISA
You are so frustrating!
(beat)
That's it. I'm not going to let you
be around Melly if you're going to
teach her to solve all of her
problems with fists and bravado.

JUAN
She's a little girl, don't worry.
She doesn't have to be the man.

MARISA
Is that what you think happened to
Juan Junior? He's "the man" and so
this is what men do?

JUAN
Ay, you and your stupid Oprah show.
What are you going to do now? - Ask
me to manifest that Juansito didn't
get in trouble with the law?

MARISA
Besides being arrested twice, not
having a job and struggling to get
by, you notice anything else about
my brother?

JUAN
Que? He could do better, I know.

MARISA
He doesn't have a woman in his
life. He doesn't have his own
family. He is a lonely angry person
and he doesn't have a real friend
he can talk to.
(meaning Grandpa Juan)
Remind you of anybody?

He busies himself with his cigar while he thinks of an
answer.

JUAN
I'm his friend.

MARISA
Really? What does Juan Junior fear
the most?

JUAN

He has no fears. He's a man!

MARISA

He's afraid of you, Papi. You'd know that if you were actually his friend.

This has hit a button in Juan but he won't give in.

JUAN

That's called respect, Marisa.

MARISA

Were you friends with your father, Papi?

She's right of course and Juan is stunned.

JUAN

Are you afraid of me?

MARISA

I used to be. Now I'm just afraid for you.

JUAN

What does all this have to do with Melly?

MARISA

You know what it means.

JUAN

Ay, you're just like your mother: all judgemental and crazy.

MARISA

That's funny. And how did that work out for you and Mami?

This really effects Juan.

JUAN

Fine. I will try to be more like the almighty Oprah. I won't teach her how to fight anymore. And I'll be all girlie.

MARISA

What does that mean? You're going to wear a dress and play tea-party?

JUAN
 Insults! Obviously you really
 aren't afraid of me.

Off her look.

JUAN (CONT'D)
 I mean, I will try be more
 balanced. Less macho, if that's
 what you want.

MARISA
 You're gonna have to do better than
 that. Juan Junior isn't the only
 one on parole anymore, understand?

JUAN
 Niña, what more do you want from
 me?

Marisa finds her keys as she makes to leave. She doesn't even
 look at him.

MARISA
 Don't expect Melly today after
 school. She's going to play with
 other little girls, with girlie
 things, and talk things out and
 have friendships.

JUAN
 Marisa, don't be so mean.

MARISA
 Mean?

JUAN
 You know I don't have anyone. And
 even though you are being a pain
 right now I'm glad you are here.
 It's nice to talk with you.

MARISA
 Papi. You're faking it.

JUAN
 No, really. And if you must know.
 I have my girlie side - but don't
 tell anybody.

MARISA
 What?

JUAN

It's a secret.
(struggling to confess)
I have a thing for kittens.

MARISA

(doesn't buy it)
Right. Get it together, Papi...
Or the only time you'll see Melly
is on holidays.

Clearly disappointed, she gets in her car and drives away.

We suddenly hear the meow of a little kittens inside the door of his house.

JUAN

(referring to kittens)
You guys missed your cue.
(getting up)
Coming Fluffy. Coming Toby.

As he enters the home we hear above their delightful meows:

In subtitled Spanish (*indicated by italics*), Grandpa Juan enters to the delight of the kittens.

JUAN (CONT'D)

(sweetly to them)
Oh my beautiful little kittens!
That was Marisa, my daughter. I
taught her not to be afraid of
anything.