

PRIMA COUSINS (by Diana Yanez)

APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

ANA (20s) focused, sitting at the kitchen table, staring down at a blank sheet of paper with pen in hand.

FELICIA (30s), her cousin and roommate, walks in carrying groceries and immediately gets busy putting things away.

FELICIA

(cheerful)

Hey. They were out of that gluten free crap you call bread, so I bought you rice. You can have your to-furkey sandwich on rice like sushi.

Ana is lost in thought.

FELICIA (CONT'D)

Did you hear me?

ANA

(absently)

I'm gluten-free.

FELICIA

I know, I'm watching out. I checked the label and it said "without happiness."

Ana still doesn't react.

FELICIA (CONT'D)

What's wrong with you? I've insulted your diet twice and it hasn't aroused the vicious vegan in you.

ANA

You know Señora Gonzales?

FELICIA

The Spanish teacher?

ANA

She's dead.

FELICIA

(teasing)

Aw Ana, she was nice, why'd you do that for?

ANA

Shut up. She was like a 100. She died of natural causes.

FELCIA

Phew. Ay, how sad... and so?

ANA

They want me to speak at her memorial.

FELCIA

Y que? (So what?)

ANA

In Spanish!

FELCIA

So, you're bilingual - what's the big deal?

ANA

Girl, speaking Spanish isn't natural for me! English is my first language. If you kick me I say I say "Ow!" not:
(very Latina)
"Ayyyyy!"

FELCIA

When you're mad you get all "Trashy Latina."

ANA

That's because that's where the Spanish lives, in the angry place.

FELCIA

Just ask them if you can tell off Señora Gonzales in your speech.

ANA

What am I going to do? I can't go in there and curse like a sailor.

FELCIA

You mean like a marinero.

ANA

And on top of it all, there's a lot of words that I learned growing up that I thought were Spanish that were actually English words in Latino accent.

(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

(ashamed)

I thought that the word for vacuum cleaner in Spanish was Bacoona Cleana.

FELCIA

Aspiradora.

ANA

What's that?

FELCIA

The actual word in Spanish for Vacuum Cleaner, dummy.

ANA

See?

FELCIA

But everyone has words like that. I thought that the fabulous fabric that covered our 1970s sofa was "Belbeh Crush."

(Latina accent)

Ay, is so nize deh Belbeh Crush.

ANA

What? That's not the word for--

FELCIA

--Crushed Velvet? No, it's not. I see why you're worried.

ANA

Felicia, I'm not kidding. I could've sworn that the neighborhood we all grew up in was called, "La Souwesera."

(with flourish)

I put that on my college application: "La Souwesera!"

FELCIA & ANA

(simultaneously)

The.. South.. West.. Area....

They laugh.

FELCIA

I think you're over thinking this.

ANA

It's her memorial. I want to do right by Señora Gonzales.

(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

It would be terrible to speak Spanish badly at her service.

FELCIA

Ana, even if you did - I truly don't think anyone would ever notice.

ANA

Why?

FELCIA

Because it's Miami. Ain't no language spoke good here.