

"CUCARACHA"

Written by

Diana Yanez

An Excerpt From:  
LATINA CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

7190 W. Sunset Blvd. #165  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
(323) 394 - 6500

Wga #1762712

"CUCARACHA" by Diana Yanez  
An Excerpt from LATINA CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

INT. SANDRA'S LIVING ROOM, HOLIDAY PARTY

DIANA

Let me take you back to one 1970s Christmas when I was maybe 10 and Andrew was 7. So, after Christmas dinner we decide, hey, let's play our favorite board game, Clue.

VISUAL: Projected - The famous board game, CLUE.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Or as it is known in Spanish: Clue-eh. ... So, we're all having a good time sitting around the dining room table, playing the game. My brother gives the dice a flamboyant toss. (shows) ... then, I cannot tell you how scary it was. A mysterious shadow passes over the board. Whoosh.

VISUAL: The light pulses, giving the illusion of a shadow passing over the main light.

DIANA (CONT'D)

We are literally stunned into silence. ... Which is very rare in my family! ... Then ... it happens again. Whoosh.

VISUAL: The light pulses again as before.

DIANA (CONT'D)

We start to look at each other... shivers of terror crawling up our spines. We slowly look up to see -- (she looks up and is horrified) --And there! Dangling above us! Hanging by its hind legs - swinging back and forth...like a nightmare trapeze act ... is the biggest friggin' roach I have ever seen!

Diana shows us the size of it with her hand. It is 4 inches long!

DIANA (CONT'D)

This big! (shows) ... And it's swinging back and forth and back and forth! ... Creating mini-eclipses every time its massive body passes in front of the light!

Diana becomes the calm Professor Diana.

PROFESSOR DIANA

In Florida, they are known as "Palmettos."

Diana becomes a fearful Cuban.

DIANA

But in Cuba they are, "*Cucarachas de Carajo!*"

Diana shudders.

DIANA (CONT'D)

And then, the worse possible thing happened ... Fssst. It had WINGS! It was a FLYER! (shock)  
(she screams)  
AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAHHHH!

Diana flips back off the chair, and knocks the bar stool to the floor demonstrating,

DIANA (CONT'D)

The board, the table flips over! Miniature murder weapons and game pieces go flying! My dad is throwing things at it! My parents are screaming.

Diana starts to give a blood curdling scream but she stops herself. She needs the audience to understand.

DIANA (CONT'D)

You guys, we were little kids! So, my parents are screaming,

This time she gives herself to her parents' blood curdling scream.

DIANA AS PARENTS

(classic horror)  
AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAHH  
HH!

DIANA  
So we're like,

She becomes her child-self and screams

DIANA AS CHILD  
(classic horror)  
AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAHHHH!

Diana uses her hand to make show that the bug is fluttering and flying in a spiral pattern.

DIANA  
And it's flying like this - making this horrible fluttering sound and spiraling. And why oh why do they always fly right at you?! ... Then - I see this horrible giant twirling monster is heading straight for my mom!

DIANA AS CHILD  
(horror)  
Mami! Nooooo!

DIANA  
And my mom was like,

DIANA'S MOM  
(horrified scream)  
AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAHHHH!

Diana twirls her hand like the flying bug as it approaches her screaming mom and indicates where it lands.

DIANA  
And it lands on her lapel...  
(horrified beat)  
Everything goes into slow motion.

In slow motion, Diana's Mom swats the roach off her lapel while screaming in slo-mo.

DIANA'S MOM  
COOOOO-ññññññññooooOOO!

DIANA  
And the bug lands on the floor but before it can get away, my dad comes with his giant shoe!

Still in slow motion, Diana becomes her dad. He comes down big and hard on the bug using his shoe like a huge hammer!

DIANA'S DAD  
 (slow motion)  
 AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAHHHH!

SOUND: small boom.

Diana's Dad repeats the motion again even harder!

DIANA'S DAD (CONT'D)  
 (slow motion)  
 AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAHHHH!

SOUND: bigger boom.

Diana's Dad takes the shoe into both hands and really slams this one down with all his force.

DIANA'S DAD (SLOW MOTION) (CONT'D)  
 AAAAaaaaaaAAAAAAHHHH!

SOUND: GIANT BOOM and splat.

Diana's Dad crumbles to the floor. He looks up - his face worn and horrified.

DIANA  
 And it was finally over. ... and my  
 brother and I were huddled by the  
 over turned table.

Diana becomes herself as a 10 year old, shivering and traumatized from the encounter.

DIANA (CONT'D)  
 And my dad was like,

DIANA'S DAD  
 Is eberyone okay? ... Are joo okay?  
 (picking up the overturned bar  
 stool) ... Is eberyone okay?

DIANA  
 And we were all looking at each  
 other, you know, with these faces  
 like... we just survived an  
 earthquake... or a harrowing car  
 accident...

Diana's face is all the terror of what they went through, she's on the verge of tears. Or so we think and what would've been a wail becomes a deep and hearty laugh.

DIANA (CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
And then,

Diana's traumatized face has melted into hysterical laughter.

DIANA (CONT'D)  
We all start laughing and laughing!  
Till the tears are streaming down  
our faces and we are clutching our  
tummies because we're laughing so  
hard. ... And I think:  
(beat)  
Wow! Christmas at Casa Yanez! ...  
Haunting.... Disturbing....  
Traumatic...Crazy! Chaotic! Cuban!  
Cucarachas!

DIANA'S MOM  
And... Christmas was perfect, coño.