

SOUVENIRS

(Excerpt)

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FADE IN:

INT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - CICI'S BEDROOM - DAY

TITLE: THANKSGIVING. PHOENIX, ARIZONA

CICI ALVAREZ (26) takes down MUSICAL POSTERS from the wall. She rolls them up and packs them in a nearby MOVING BOX.

In the room are TROPHIES AND AWARDS from various singing competitions - all with Cici's name on them.

Cici finishes packing her items and spots a FAMILY PHOTO - featuring herself, her parents and two brothers. She grabs it, admires the photo.

AMELIA (O.S.)

Cici, I need you in the kitchen!

CICI

I'm coming!

She puts the photo in her box, and leaves.

INT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kitchen looks like a battleground - food and dishes everywhere.

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. Timers are going off. AMELIA ALVAREZ (50s) multitasks between several different dishes she is cooking. Cici enters.

AMELIA

Cici, get the empanadas from the oven.

Cici rushes to the oven.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Place them on the stove and put the yams in. You prepped the stuffing right?

CICI

What do you mean by prepped?

AMELIA

Ay, Mija!

CICI

Mom, I've been busy packing.

AMELIA

It's fine. I'll take care of it.  
Can you get the potatoes ready?

Cici and Amelia efficiently work around the chaotic kitchen.  
Cici starts mashing potatoes.

CICI

You know you have two perfectly  
capable sons who can help out with  
all this.

AMELIA

They're busy.

CICI

They've been sitting on the couch  
since noon. They've only got up to  
go pee or grab another beer.

AMELIA

If I had some grandchildren then I  
could have some more help out  
around here.

CICI

Oh god, now I need a beer.

Cici mashes with more force.

AMELIA

I'm just saying, it's not right for  
you and Alonso to be together for  
so long without being married or  
having kids. It's a sin.

CICI

So is gluttony, yet we make this  
feast every year.

AMELIA

Have you and Alonso talked about  
it?

CICI

Our sins?

AMELIA

Ugh, I can never get a straight  
answer out of you.

Cici stops mashing.

CICI  
 (sighs)  
 Yes, mom. We've talked about all  
 that.

AMELIA  
 And?

CICI  
 We just have a lot of stuff going  
 on right now. It's just not a good  
 time.

Amelia walks over and comforts Cici.

AMELIA  
 You need to always make time for  
 family. Family is the most  
 important thing. You and Alonso  
 have been together for years, it's  
 time to start making your own  
 family.

CICI  
 I know.

Amelia gives her a hug.

AMELIA  
 And like I said, I need the help so  
 get to it.

Cici smiles and continues mashing the potatoes.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
 What time are the Morenos coming?

EXT. MORENO GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

ALONSO MORENO (26) finishes packing CONTAINERS of food in the  
 trunk of his old beat up CAR.

He shuts the truck and turns to look at his family's store. A  
 NEON SIGN at the top says "MORENO GROCERY - FAMILY OWNED &  
 OPERATED". Alonso looks fondly at the sign.

ZZT. The sign flickers, causing some of the letters to go  
 out. Alonso sighs.

## INT. MORENO GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS

The small store is empty. EDGAR MORENO (50s) locks up the refrigerators in the store. MARIA MORENO closes the registers. Alonso enters.

ALONSO

The sign's out again.

EDGAR

I'll call your cousin Chuy. He'll fix it.

ALONSO

Don't call Chuy. He's probably the reason it's always going out. Call an electrician.

MARIA

Chuy is a electrician.

ALONSO

A professional electrician. Not someone who thinks everything can be solved with electrical tape.

(beat)

Are you guys almost ready? We're running late.

MARIA

Why do we have to always go to the Alvarez's house for Thanksgiving?

ALONSO

I don't know Mom, it's just tradition.

EDGAR

I don't see why we even need to close the store early.

MARIA

It's a holiday, Edgar.

EDGAR

We could stay open for last minute shoppers.

ALONSO

Can we argue about this in the car please? We're late.

INT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM

The house is filled with RELATIVES. Cici plays hide and seek with her younger NIECES AND NEPHEWS.

Alonso and his parents walk in carrying food.

ALONSO  
Happy Thanksgiving! Sorry we're  
late.

Cici sees Alonso. She walks over to him, all smiles.

CICI  
Happy Thanksgiving!

She gives him a kiss.

CICI (CONT'D)  
Is there more food?

ALONSO  
Yeah in the trunk.

Cici turns to her brothers GABE ALVAREZ (30s) and JUAN ALVAREZ (30s) who are zoned in on the TV, drinking beers.

CICI  
Gabe, Juan, go get the food from  
the car.

The two brothers reluctantly get up and head out.

CICI (CONT'D)  
Those two have been sitting around  
all day. I'm trying to pack and  
help my mom with everything, it's  
been crazy.

ALONSO  
We'll take these in the kitchen and  
I'll help you're mom finish up.

CICI  
You're the best.

Alonso and his parents head to the kitchen. Cici looks at Alonso with a lovely smile.