

SOUVENIRS

Written by

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FADE IN:

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

TITLE: THANKSGIVING. PHOENIX, ARIZONA

CICI ALVAREZ (26), charming and clever, takes down MUSICAL MOVIE POSTERS from the wall. She rolls them up and packs them in a BOX.

In the room are TROPHIES AND AWARDS from various children singing competitions - all with Cici's name on them. She doesn't pay them any mind.

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

AMELIA (O.S.)

Cici!

CICI

I'm coming!

She puts the photo in the box, and leaves.

INT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

BEEP. BEEP. Timers are going off. The kitchen looks like a battleground, with food and dishes everywhere.

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)

Put them on the stove. We need to get the yams in. You prepped the stuffing right?

CICI

What do you mean by prepped?

AMELIA

Mija!

CICI  
Mom, I've been busy packing.

AMELIA  
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 you out  
with all this.

AMELIA  
They're busy.

CICI  
They've been sitting on the couch  
drinking beer since Noon.

AMELIA  
They're watching the game.

CICI  
They can't multi-task? They should  
be helping you.

AMELIA  
I've got you for that.

Amelia tosses a towel at Cici, teasing her. Cici smiles.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
You know, if I had more grandkids,  
then maybe I could rely on them for  
help.

Cici's smile fades. She mashes the potatoes with more force.

CICI  
Again, you have two perfectly  
capable sons out there.

AMELIA  
They already have kids.

CICI  
I'm sure they can have more. I  
believe in them.

AMELIA

Cici, you've been with Alonso for so long, and you're still not married or have kids. Now you're moving away...

(beat)

It's not right. It's a sin.

CICI

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

AMELIA

Have you and him at least 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 have a lot of stuff going on right now. It's just not a good time.

Amelia walks over, holds her daughter's hands and gives her an endearing stare.

AMELIA

Mija, there's always time for family. You and Alonso have been together for five years, it's time to start making your own family.

Cici kisses her mother's hand.

CICI

I know.

Amelia gives her a hug and returns to cooking.

AMELIA

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

Cici smiles and continues mashing the potatoes.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

When are Alonso and his parents  
coming?

CICI

Alonso said they're closing the  
store early and then heading over.

EXT. RAMIREZ GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

ALONSO RAMIREZ (26), eager and self-assured, 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 "RAMIREZ GROCERY & MARKET - FAMILY  
OWNED & OPERATED". Alonso looks fondly at the sign.

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

INT. RAMIREZ GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS

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

ALONSO

The sign is out again.

EDGAR

Call your cousin Sergio to fix it.

ALONSO

I'm not calling him. He's probably  
the reason it's always going out.  
Call a electrician.

MARIA

Sergio is a electrician.

ALONSO

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

Alonso checks the time.

ALONSO (CONT'D)  
Are you two ready? We're late.

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

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

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

MARIA  
It's a holiday, Edgar.

EDGAR  
It's a missed opportunity.

ALONSO  
Can we argue about this in the car  
please?

INT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM

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

Alonso and his parents walk in carrying food.

ALONSO  
Sorry we're late! Happy  
Thanksgiving!

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

CICI  
Happy Thanksgiving!

She gives Alonso 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  
Alonso's car.

The two brothers reluctantly follow directions and head out front.

CICI (CONT'D)  
(to Alonso)  
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  
help you're mom finish up.

CICI  
You're the best.

Alonso and his parents head to the kitchen.

INT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - LATER

RELATIVES are all spread out through the house. Cici and  
Alonso are tucked away in the corner of the room.

DING DING DING!

JAVIER ALVAREZ (50s), Cici's father, taps his glass,  
preparing for a toast. Everyone gathers around.

JAVIER  
You know I'm not usually one for  
speeches, but this holiday is  
different. It's also a going away  
for two of our loved ones.

Everyone looks toward Cici and Alonso. Cici leans into  
Alonso, trying to shield from the attention.

JAVIER (CONT'D)  
As you know, Alonso and Cici are  
taking a big step toward that next  
chapter in their lives and moving  
to Chicago.

Amelia wipes away her tears.

JAVIER (CONT'D)  
Alonso has been offered his dream  
job at big marketing company.

Everyone claps. Cici shakes Alonso in excitement.

JAVIER (CONT'D)  
 And our baby girl, Cici, has  
 finally been promoted to a  
 headquarters position at  
 SecureQuest Bank.

Everyone cheers.

JAVIER (CONT'D)  
 I see great things in the future  
 for both of you. I see success,  
 happiness, love...  
 (to Alonso)  
 And marriage. Right Alonso?

Clapping and whistles from everyone. Alonso blushes and Cici  
 cowers.

JAVIER (CONT'D)  
 I mean come on guys. It's been  
 years. Get married, have some kids,  
 get it over with.

CICI  
 "Get it over with", inspiring words  
 to start a family.

Alonso hugs Cici.

ALONSO  
 We will, we will.

JAVIER  
 All jokes aside, we wish you both  
 love, support, and the best in the  
 world.

Everyone raises there glass.

JAVIER (CONT'D)  
 To Alonso and Cici. Salud!

EVERYONE  
 Salud!

EXT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Cici and Alonso say goodnight to everyone. They walk to the  
 side of the house, toward the GARAGE that's been converted to  
 a GUEST HOUSE.

INT. CICI AND ALONSO GUEST HOUSE - LATER

The guest house is small. LUGGAGE AND CLOTHES are all over the place. Cici is in auto-pilot as she packs her luggage. Alonso is in high spirits.

ALONSO

I can't believe today was my last day at the store.

CICI

Are you gonna miss it?

ALONSO

Hell. No. I'm so glad to be done with place.

CICI

C'mon, don't say that.

ALONSO

I can't stop saying it. My parents should be saying it to. They should just sell it to someone and get rid of it. Move on.

CICI

It's their legacy.

ALONSO

That's not gonna be ours.

Cici zips up her luggage and plops on the bed. She sighs.

ALONSO (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

CICI

Nothing...I don't know. I think it's just the move.

Alonso walks over to her and holds her hands. He stares deeply into her eyes.

ALONSO

Hey, we are going to have an amazing, wonderful life, away from all this.

CICI

But "all this" is our family. All I know is "all this".

ALONSO

Even more of reason to branch out and get some new experiences. You don't want to be like our parents do you? Settling for what they have just because it's easy.

CICI

No, I guess not.

ALONSO

You're damn right "you guess not."

Cici gives a small smiles but it fades.

CICI

Do you think it's weird that we're not married yet.

Alonso stands up. He sighs.

ALONSO

Cici, don't let them get in your head.

CICI

I'm not, I'm truly asking you.

ALONSO

We've talked about this.

CICI

Barely.

Beat.

ALONSO

Look, I love you.

CICI

I love you too.

ALONSO

We're both committed to each other right?

CICI

Yeah.

ALONSO

Well that's good enough for me. I don't need any more proof or documentation than that. At least not right now.

Cici nods.

CICI  
Yeah you're right, I think my mom  
was getting in my head about it.

ALONSO  
That's her favorite pastime.

They both laugh.

EXT. ALVAREZ FAMILY HOME - DAY

The WHOLE FAMILY is out front saying good bye to Cici and  
Alonso.

Alonso and Edgar load the last bit of luggage into his car.

EDGAR  
We could've shipped your car. Who  
knows if it'll last the whole trip  
out there.

ALONSO  
That's a waste of money.  
(Taps the car)  
She'll do fine.

Maria walks up and hands Alonso an envelope. He looks inside.

ALONSO (CONT'D)  
Mom, I can't take this. It's too  
much.

MARIA  
Take it. It's yours.

Alonso smiles and nods.

Cici, Amelia and Javier stand nearby. Cici and Amelia are  
locked in an unbreakable hug, both with tears in their eyes.

JAVIER  
Amelia, you're going to have to let  
her go eventually.

AMELIA  
Never.

CICI  
It's okay, Mom. I'll call you every  
week.

AMELIA  
Everyday.

CICI  
I'll try.

AMELIA  
In the morning.

CICI  
Okay.

AMELIA  
And at night.

They both laugh and break away.

CICI  
I love you guys.

AMELIA  
We love you too.

Alonso walks up.

ALONSO  
Sorry, we should go.

Cici wipes her tears and nods. Cici hugs her parents tightly once more then heads to the car.

The family watch as Cici and Alonso drive off toward their new life.

INT. ALONSO'S CAR - DAY

Cici looks out the window with tearful eyes. Alonso is excited as he drives down the highway. MUSIC plays from the CAR STEREO.

ALONSO  
We did it! We're out of there!

He takes in a deep breath and exhales.

ALONSO (CONT'D)  
I can finally breath. Like there's fresh air in my lungs.

CICI  
I think that's the A/C.

ALONSO

I'm telling you Cici, this move is going to be life changing. We're finally free.

CICI

...yeah.

Cici grabs one of Alonso's hands.

CICI (CONT'D)

I'm glad we're doing this together.

Alonso hold Cici's hand tight and smiles.

ALONSO

Me too.

A NEW SONG on the STEREO plays.

ALONSO (CONT'D)

I love this song.

Alonso lets go of Cici's hand and turns up the volume.

Cici's twiddles her thumbs and looks back out the window as Alonso sings out loud.