SDC 22 Scene Benjamin Benne’s Querencia pages 93-102

**MOVEMENT XIII**

*time shifts: later that night*

*space transforms: the living room of MILO’s house*

*TIA NETTA peeks under the cover of the parrot’s cage*

TIA NETTA

Ay, Isa, you know what?

You remind me of somebody.

Somebody who had soft, silky skin—like your feathers.

*The parrot squawks*

TIA NETTA

Shhhh.

Yeah, she had a voice like a firecracker, too.

*MILO enters*

*the parrot squawks*

TIA NETTA

You didn’t think I’d notice if you were gone all night?

MILO

You closed the window, didn’t you?

TIA NETTA

You think I’m stupid?

MILO

Uh. What’s with the bird?

TIA NETTA

*No importa*.

Look, I got some nail polish remover.

It’s in the bathroom. Under the sink.

MILO

Hey, don’t you notice anything different about me?

TIA NETTA

I’m not gonna tell you again what’s gonna happen if they see your nails all painted like a girl.

MILO

Seriously nothing?

TIA NETTA

Just go take that shit off, OK?

MILO

Don’t I smell different?

Walk different?

/ Talk different?

TIA NETTA

*(to the parrot)* Ay, *este niño*.

MILO

/ Something?

TIA NETTA

You want me to take it off for you?

MILO

You said it would be obvious—that you’d be able to tell!

TIA NETTA

*Callate*. / You’re gonna wake them up.

MILO

I feel sick.

My stomach hurts.

TIA NETTA

Aw, you want a banana?

*the parrot laughs*

TIA NETTA

That was a good one, eh, Isa

MILO

I did it.

TIA NETTA

Did what?

MILO

What you said.

TIA NETTA

You...?

TIA NETTA

Wait...

You mean, you actually...[had sex]?

MILO

Yeah.

TIA NETTA

Really?

*MILO nods*

TIA NETTA

With who?

MILO

The girl next door.

TIA NETTA

For real?

She let you...?

MILO

Yeah.

TIA NETTA

So you put your—in her...?

*MILO nods*

TIA NETTA

Really?

*a beat*

*TIA NETTA begins to laugh*

TIA NETTA

Nooo—you didn’t!

*(to the parrot)* You hear that, Isa?

He thinks he’s being funny.

*the parrot laughs*

MILO

I’m serious.

96

TIA NETTA

Ay, stop. Just stop.

MILO

You stop.

If *mamí* and *papí* wake up—it’ll be because of you and that fucking bird.

*a beat*

TIA NETTA

So...you really...[had sex]?

MILO

Yeah.

TIA NETTA

With that girl?

MILO

Yeah...but...I...um...

TIA NETTA

You what?

MILO

*Tia*, I’m gay.

*TIA NETTA slaps his mouth lightly*

TIA NETTA

OK, I warned you about that.

Careful with that mouth.

Now, go take that shit off your fingers and go to bed.

*TIA NETTA begins to exit*

MILO

*Tia*, I started thinking about a guy / when I was doing it.

TIA NETTA

You don’t know what you’re talking about.

/ Just go to your room.

MILO

Yeah, I do.

I thought maybe it was just a feeling.

MILO (cont’d)

Maybe it wasn’t totally real.

But now, I know it was.

And you’ve always known, haven’t you?

*a long beat*

TIA NETTA

You’re a stupid boy.

MILO

What?

TIA NETTA

To like men.

Stupid.

They’re the worst.

*En serio*.

Don’t you see the way your *papí* treats your *mamí*?

But, you know what?

*Possiblemente*, you’ll be lucky—because no man is ever gonna love you back.

MILO

OK. Whatever. I don’t care.

TIA NETTA

If I were you, I’d be smart and I wouldn’t tell this to nobody else.

MILO

But I’m not you.

And you know what?

That weight that I’ve been carrying in my stomach is gone!

So maybe I will tell the kids at school and *mamí* and *papí*.

You know what? I’m gonna wake them up and tell them right now.

TIA NETTA

Did you go crazy or something?

*TIA NETTA grabs onto MILO’s ear*

MILO

Let me go! *Mamí! Papí!* / Wake up!

TIA NETTA

Don’t do that—do you know what they’ll do to you?!

MILO

I don’t care!

TIA NETTA

But I do!

*TIA NETTA slaps her hand over his mouth.*

*MAMA FE appears*

MAMA FE

*¿Qué es todo este ruido?*

TIA NETTA

Nothing.

It’s nothing.

MILO

Let me go!

MAMA FE

What the hell is going on?

MILO

/ *Mamí*—

TIA NETTA

*Nada.*

MAMA FE

*¡Callate!*

What are you still doing up?

MILO

/ Nothing, I—

TIA NETTA

/ The bird woke him up.

MAMA FE

You know what time it is?

MILO

Yeah.

MAMA FE

And you know what time your *papa* needs to get up?

MILO

Yeah.

MAMA FE

You’re lucky he sleeps like a rock—but you better not wake him up.

*Ahora*, go to bed.

*MAMA FE notices MILO’s painted fingernails*

MAMA FE

*¿Qué es so?*

TIA NETTA

*Nada*. I was just practicing on him.

MAMA FE

You?

TIA NETTA

Yeah, I was just feeling a little rusty.

/ And you wouldn’t let me do yours—

MAMA FE

Go take that off. Right now.

TIA NETTA

He is. Right now.

*MAMA FE turns to go*

MILO

*Mamí*, wait.

MAMA FE

*¿Ahora que?*

TIA NETTA

It’s nothing. He’s gonna go take that shit off right now. I swear.

Milo, come on.

MILO

*Mamí*—

MAMA FE

What?

MILO

I’m gay.

TIA NETTA

Ay, he doesn’t know what he’s saying. / He’s sick—

MILO

Did you know that?

MAMA FE

Shhhhhhh!

*a long beat*

MILO

Did you hear me? I’m gay.

MAMA FE

*Que no pudíera*.

MILO

Do you understand?

MAMA FE

*Esto no está pasando*.

MILO

I had to say it.

MAMA FE

*Silencio*.

MILO

Out loud to you. And *papí*.

MAMA FE

I said *silencio*.

*MAMA FE looks at him as if she’s never seen him before:*

*he’s a stranger, an alien, a unicorn…*

MAMA FE

No.

No.

*MAMA FE paces, working out a problem in her head*

MAMA FE

*Damé tu llave*.

MILO

Why?

*MAMA FE hits MILO in a sudden flurry*

MAMA FE

*Damélo.*

*TIA NETTA moves to impede MAMA FE*

TIA NETTA

Fe, stop!

*MILO gives MAMA FE his key*

MAMA FE

Out.

MILO

What?

TIA NETTA

Fe, no.

MAMA FE

Get out.

TIA NETTA

*Por favor—no hagas esto*.

MILO

*¿Mamí*?

MAMA FE

Get out of this house.

Get out!

MILO

Please don’t, *mamí*, please!

MAMA FE

Get out.

I said, “Get out!”

MAMA FE (cont’d)

OUT!

*MAMA FE shoves him out*

*the parrot squawks furiously*

*MILO pounds on the door*

MILO *(off)*

*Mamí*, please!

Please let me in!

*MAMA FE*