

CHULA VISTA

Written by

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EXT. FRONT PORCH OF STEVIE'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "1979 Phoenix, Arizona"

A door opens. IGNACIO (34) and his son ENRIQUE (17) stand on the porch of a nice house in a nice neighborhood. Their muddy clothes, work boots, and eye protective goggles make them look slightly out of place.

MR. LAWSON (45), dressed for racquetball at the country club, stands in the doorway, polite, but slightly annoyed.

Enrique does all the talking, while his father stands by quietly.

ENRIQUE

Hello, sir. We do the landscaping for your neighbors, the Blakeleys, and we noticed your grass is getting kinda high.

MR. LAWSON

Yeah, I haven't had a chance to get to it. The Blakeleys, huh?

ENRIQUE

Yes, sir. We come out every week to cut Mr. Blakeley's lawn, do the edging, apply fertilizer as needed-

STEVIE (17), cute, new age stoner vibes, steps out from behind her father in the doorway.

STEVIE

How's it going, Enrique?

Enrique acknowledges Stevie with an almost imperceptible nod.

ENRIQUE

We can start today and take care of it for you, sir.

MR. LAWSON

How much?

ENRIQUE

We charge thirty dollars a month. That includes fertilizer and mulch.

MR. LAWSON

Sounds fine. Go ahead and get started.

Enrique starts to put his hand out in order to shake Mr. Lawson's hand, but Mr. Lawson just closes the door. Stevie waves to Enrique as the door closes. Ignacio and Enrique turn and start walking back to their truck to get their equipment.

IGNACIO
 (In Spanish)
What a fucking asshole. Who was that girl?

ENRIQUE
 (In Spanish)
Some girl from school. I don't know her.

IGNACIO
 (In Spanish)
Sure.

Ignacio pats Enrique's shoulder.

IGNACIO (CONT'D)
 (In Spanish)
That's what I said about your mother.

Ignacio pulls down his goggles and walks away from Enrique.

INT. ENRIQUE'S TRUCK - DAY

Finished with their landscaping jobs for the day, Enrique and Ignacio drive through the fancy neighborhood, headed for the exit. Enrique is behind the wheel of a green '77 Ford F150 that has seen better days. On a sign, we see that the name of the neighborhood is "Chula Vista".

Ignacio whistles.

IGNACIO (CONT'D)
 (In Spanish)
Man, this view never gets old. You can see the whole valley.

ENRIQUE
 (In Spanish)
When I'm a doctor, I'll buy you and Mami a house here. You won't have to work anymore.

Ignacio snorts and looks out the window. He sips a beer.

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOUSE - DAY

Enrique and his siblings get ready for school in the morning. It is chaos.

Enrique and his sister, LALA (15), help get the younger children, DREA (12), ANGEL (10), and FRANCISCO (9), ready for school.

Enrique barely has time to grab his homework laid out on the desk and stuff it in his backpack. The bags under his eyes hint at the fact he has not slept very much.

As Enrique is about to leave the house, his mother, ROCIO (32), calls out to him.

ROCIO
(In Spanish)
Sweetheart, wait.

Rocio attempts to hand him four burritos carefully wrapped in tin foil, but he doesn't take them.

ENRIQUE
(In Spanish)
Thanks Mami, but I was gonna buy something at school.

IGNACIO
(In Spanish)
Amor, he is too good for burritos. He's going to be a doctor someday, you know.

Enrique sheepishly takes the burritos and puts them in his backpack.

He gives his mom a kiss on the cheek.

Ignacio walks away before Enrique can say goodbye.

INT. MR. MADISON'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Enrique stands in front of green dusty chalkboards, at the head of a classroom.

ENRIQUE
Meanwhile, as the wheels of bureaucracy turn, the overgrazing of cattle near the Salt River continues to damage the fragile ecosystem around them.