

JUAN

The house looks good. You cleaned  
it up real good, Momma.

LILIANA

(yelling)

Yeah, you never know who's gonna  
show up.

She continues to finish the tattoo on Looney's back.

END POV:

Juan opens his bag and removes a prescription pill bottle.

INSERT LABEL: "Oxycodone: Take 1-2 tablets by mouth every 4  
hours as needed."

Juan takes one pill in his hand and grabs a glass of water.  
Then instead, he empties the bottle into the palm of his  
hand, at least 18 pills. He shakes the pills like a maracas.

Juan eyes his mother and drops all but one pill back into the  
bottle, then reluctantly pops it and chases it with water. He  
looks back at his trophies, shakes his head.

His mother watches him and misses nothing.

INT. RAMIREZ HOUSE - DINING ROOM / FRONT ROOM - DAY

Juan rolls his wheelchair into the room. Rezi stands.

REZI

Hola, Juanchito. Buenos dias, mejo.

Juan hops up on one leg and shakes his hand powerfully.

REZI (CONT'D)

You look-- Shhhh --strong homie.

JUAN

(solemn)

Rezi. Que a pasado, tío.

Juan relinquishes his grip. Rezi shakes off the empathy he  
feels for Juan, as Juan sits back down into his wheelchair.

JUAN

What's good, Scarecrow?

SCARECROW  
(eyeing the TV)  
What up, cuz?

Looney rolls over and eyes Juan.

LOONEY  
Mi hermano pequeño daaaa-yum.  
(best Forest Gump voice)  
What's crackin'? Lieutenant Dan.

Scarecrow smirks. Liliana pinches Looney's side.

LOONEY  
Ow, mama. I was just joking, eh--  
Sensitive pinche vato.

Immediately she rubs and massages the area she pinched.

Juan watches her, holds out an alabaster bottle of perfume.

JUAN  
This is for you, mama. It's from  
Afghanistan. It's very expensive.

Liliana doesn't look up. Juan sets down the bottle.

LILIANA  
That's nice, son. There's some carne  
asada and rice on the stove,  
Juanchito.

Juan rolls into the kitchen.

INT. RAMIREZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A huge 400+ lb., shirtless, tattooed man, TIMOTHY "TINY TIM"  
RAMIREZ, 25, eclipses the stove. Tiny turns around with a  
mouth full of taco.

TINY  
Too late, fool. Make some toast.

He stuffs the last tortilla into his mouth and chews away.

TINY (CONT'D)  
I gotta' gluten allergy, bro.

INT. RAMIREZ HOUSE - DINING ROOM / FRONT ROOM - DAY

Liliana finishes Looney's tattoo. Now visible is a pentagram. She pops up as Juan scoots past her. Tiny lumbers into the kitchen doorway.

LILIANA

Tiny.

TINY

(mouthful)

What, mama? Just cause lil' Juancholo got hit up in the war, I should feel sorry for that foo and forgo my eats.

(to Juan)

Eh bro, it's a war going on outside no man is safe from.

LILIANA

Come here, Tiny. Jven rápido. Undale. Más rápido.

Tiny hesitates. The big man somehow makes himself small. He slowly steps up to Liliana with his head down.

Looney leans over Juan, slaps a hand on his shoulder.

LOONEY

Welcome back, little bro. It was a mistake you left, ese. But now you back you got chores around here. Can't be slackin'.

Juan glances sideways at Looney.

Liliana takes a fist full of Tiny's tit and squeezes. Scarecrow recedes back onto the couch. Rezi neatly packs up his marijuana and vacates.

SCARECROW

Oh, snap. She's pinchin' his titty, bro.

TINY

Why you grabbin' my tit mama? Ma? Why you pinchin' my titty, eh?

Tiny turns red in pain and anger.

LILIANA

If nothing else, your hermano fought for us. Show him some respect, Timothy.

She relinquishes her grip. Tiny drops to the floor. THUD! She flips her hair.

SCARECROW

Yo, listen to your mom, G.

LILIANA

I wish my boys were more like you.

She rubs Scarecrow's shoulder and exits the room.

INT. RAMIREZ HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Juan examines his prosthetic leg, then looks at his crutches.

EXT. RAMIREZ HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Juan sits in his wheelchair without his leg, his crutches lean on the wall. He watches across the street --

SMALL PARK ACROSS THE STREET

One boy pulls off some amazing footwork before scoring a goal; then celebrates, throwing his hands up into the air.

PORCH

Juan lights a cigarette, takes two pills. Rezi steps outside and sits down next to him. Rezi watches the soccer game.

REZI

Soccer huh? You know I read somewhere in Africa, like Nigeria maybe, or I don't know.

(smirking)

Those fools be playing soccer, missing legs and arms and ...

Juan is silent.

REZI

Don't worry about those fools.

Rezi eyes Juan's cigarette. Juan motions the cigarette towards Rezi. Rezi takes the cigarette and takes a drag.

JUAN

Whatever happened to that fool Daffy?

REZI

Daffy got smoked like this Newport.  
You ain't got nothin' to worry  
'bout them Soto Boyz. You back wit  
Reyes del Varrío.

Rezi throws a sign, taps Juan; he reciprocates passively.

REZI (CONT'D)

You're alright, homie.

JUAN

Tío. I saw this soldier wearing a  
hat in the hospital. He had both  
his arms blown off, right. It said  
"I went to Afghanistan and all I  
got was disarmed".

(smirking)

Get it?

(sad, sotto voice)

Disarmed.

Rezi is silent, shakes his head, then swallows after his  
nephew's painful joke.

REZI

Yeah, I don't think I've seen that  
hat at the mall, Jaunchito.

Takes another pull on the cigarette and passes it back. Juan  
rejects it. Rezi pushes down the locks on Juan's wheels then  
heads down the steps, turns and smiles.

REZI

Gotta' stay safe, eh?  
(remembering)

Oh.

Rezi puts his fingers to his lips, the universal symbol for  
marijuana, as he walks away.

REZI

Juanchoooo. You wanna roll?

Juan shakes his head "no". Looney steps out.

LOONEY

Help your tio.

Juan stares in defiance, then struggles up, grabs his  
crutches and hops down the steps.

Rezi drops into his car--VROOM! HIP-HOP MUSIC inside. Rezi  
backs up to Juan. Juan struggles to get in the car.

REZI  
Click it or ticket.

Rezi smiles and drives away as Juan pulls on his belt.

Juan continues to watch the soccer game. He aims his finger at a boy's leg, pulls back his finger, mouths "pow."

INT. REZI'S HOUSE - DAY

Rezi walks through the door of a quaint, but simple, suburban home. TWO LITTLE GIRLS play Wii Tennis, dancing and jumping around in the living room. Juan hangs back and watches.

INT. REZI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Rezi walks into the kitchen and slaps the behind of an attractive Latina woman, NANCIA, 32, who holds a phone to her ear as she cradles an infant.

NANCIA  
Mom, it's a real designer bag, not  
one that's from the alley!

Nancia greets Juan with an awkward hug, pausing awkwardly at the sight of his missing leg. Rezi pulls a brick of weed from the bottom cabinet. Then another. Then another. He smiles.

NANCIA  
There's one more in where the  
cooking flour container used to be.

REZI grabs it, places four pounds of weed on the counter. He pulls a scale from a top cabinet, drops a pound on the scale.

He pulls a huge stack of cash from his pocket and watches Nancia as she reprimands the girls.

NANCIA  
Girls, turn that down. I'm on the  
phone, geeze.

Rezi struts into his and Nancia's bedroom. Juan saunters, following REZI. The girl's LOUD VOICES carry from the TV.

INT. REZI'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Rezi opens his underwear drawer and stuffs the cash under some boxers. Sounds of the girls' HORSEPLAY emanates from the front room with the TV.

REZI  
Cuando los niños duermen, hay paz  
en la casa. [When the babies are  
asleep, there is peace at home.]

INT. REZI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Wii Tennis match has turned into a vicious wrestling match on the couch, pulling hair and screaming. The girls see Juan behind them and stop. He reaches out his arms like Frankenstein and snarls, and they break into laughter.

INT. REZI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Rezi looks at Nancia, talks low.

REZI  
Nancia.

He nods his head toward the girls. She nods back and continues her conversation. He stuffs an empty dog food bag with the three pounds of weed, empties a dog food bowl on top. Juan frowns.

Rezi exits the house. Juan follows, nods "bye" to Nancia, blows a kiss toward the girls.

REZI  
Later niñas. [Goodbye babies.]

EXT. REZI'S HOUSE - DAY

Rezi opens his car door, checks on Juan who lingers curbside.

JUAN  
I'm not coming with you.

REZI  
Do what you gotta do, then.

Rezi drops in and VROOMS away.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Juan moves down the sidewalk on his crutches. He watches gang members on the corner. One gang member throws up a sign. Juan nods his head.