

Post No Bills

By Mando Alvarado

Characters:

REY FLORES - 17 years old. Originally from Laredo, Texas. She is a young abrasive teenager that has moments of honest vulnerability.

ESTEBAN ALONZO - 45 years old. He plays every day for money. Some days good. Some days bad. He smiles as people walk by but he is a man that slowly fights every day to put that smile on his face.

SAL DEBERRY - 60 years old. He is an African - American. Blind, built like a tank, but moves like a cat.

EDDIE HARPER - 28 years old. He's a writer. He's a mixed kid. From LA. He's got a good soul. Goes with the flow. Funny, charismatic, smooth and talented.

Setting: Port Authority Tunnel

Time: Present

"Cause me and my boys got this rig unwound
and we've come a thousand miles from a Guitar Town."
-Steve Earl

Subway station corridor in Time Square. Bustling sounds of commuters heading to work. A train announcer, a bell, metal grinding on the tracks. It's New York City so you know it's loud.

Lights up. A man, ESTEBAN, comes in and unlocks his case. He methodically removes his guitar, a speaker and a radio and sets up his work place.

ESTEBAN picks up his guitar and begins to play.

Ole' Brownsville

ESTEBAN

*I met a girl in Toledo
I didn't know anyone else
She had one tooth and a gold earring
But she could cook like hell.*

*Took her with me to San Francisco
Wanted to see the Golden Gate
Left her at the end of the porch wall
And headed out for ole Brownsville*

*Woke up alone in Texarkana
6 pack of beer to pay the rent
Broken tooth
Black and Bloody
Sissy was the best one yet.*

*Took her with me to Corpus Christi
Wanted the Gulf of Mexico
Left her at the end of the Jetti
And headed out to ole Brownsville.*

*Listen to me when I talk to you
Don't care how you feel
Don't sit there with your judging
Just want to head out to ole Brownsville.
Just want to head out to ole Brownsville*

ESTEBAN finishes. He stands there. Alone. Lights down.

Lights up.

As the train rattles through, REY makes her way over to Esteban. Beat. She smiles at Esteban. He doesn't smile back. Silence.

REY

I like your music.

ESTEBAN

...

REY

I like the way you play.

ESTEBAN looks at her.

ESTEBAN

You going to put a dollar in my bucket?

REY

I'm broke.

ESTEBAN

Then move it along.

REY

I grew up listening to your music. I'm from Laredo. Don't judge.

Beat

REY

I like that song you just play. About Brownsville. It's an old song right?

ESTEBAN

Some days older than others.

REY

My dad recorded you on a VHS tape. When I was little, he would make me watch you on The Johnny Cannales Show. He called you the Mexican Johnny Cash.

ESTEBAN

That was a long time ago.

REY

How did you end up here?

ESTEBAN

It's the greatest city in the world.

REY

You had a number one hit. *Drink up baby*. What happened?

ESTEBAN

This is where I work.

REY

Playing in a subway in New York City? You were on Jonny Cannales man.

Esteban puts his guitar back in the case. He locks it.

ESTEBAN

I've been seeing you around here the last few days. Tomorrow, when I come back, I don't want see your face.

REY

What?

ESTEBAN

This is a big city.

REY

Don't be so sensitive.

ESTEBAN

Go find another spot.

REY

I don't know why you have to act like such an asshole. I was giving you a compliment.

Esteban walks off. She stands there. Alone.

Lights out.

Lights up.

A burley blind man, SAL, unloads a stack of papers. He waits quietly.

ESTEBAN walks in and begins to set up.

SAL

Good morning! Welcome to the Post No Bills. Home of back aches and heartbreaks. Where dreams are made, passions fade, and love is the only true currency.

ESTEBAN doesn't say anything.

SAL

Lovely day outside. Little Rain. The drizzle bringin' down the sizzle. Yes sir. Still a lovely day. Bringing folks into the tunnels. Taking the trains. Reading the paper. That's right! AM NEW YORK! Got it right here. For your perusal! AM AM AM NEW YORK NEW YORK NEW YORK!

ESTEBAN walks over. They stare at each other.

ESTEBAN

Give me a paper.

SAL

First one of the day.

ESTEBAN

What's the damage?

SAL

Paper's free baby. But my company will cost you.

ESTEBAN

How about I give you a nickel?

SAL

How about I give you a "fuck you?"

They laugh. ESTEBAN walks back.

SAL

You see that girl?

ESTEBAN

Which one?

SAL

Curly. Down the hall.

ESTEBAN

Ah yeah...how do you do that?

SAL

Curls break up the wind. What do you think?

ESTEBAN

Pretty.

SAL

It's nice. She got big hair. Want to run my fingers through it.

ESTEBAN

Your fingers are too fat.

SAL

I know.

ESTEBAN

You'll pull her hair out with those fat fingers.

SAL

Lydia's got nice hair.

ESTEBAN

Who?

SAL

My wife. Her hair is nice but it's graying. Gets peasy in the humidity, look like Medusa. But I like it. She's a good woman.

A moment.

SAL

Lydia's going to be on chemo.

ESTEBAN

Sorry to hear that.

SAL

She got the cancer.

ESTEBAN
How long?

SAL
Been with it about a month.

ESTEBAN
What the Doctors say?

SAL
Never thought I could love a shiny bald headed woman.

ESTEBAN
Sometimes you don't have a choice.

SAL
What's your woman like?

ESTEBAN
I ain't got no woman.

SAL
How come?

ESTEBAN
I don't want one.

SAL
You don't like women?

ESTEBAN
Fuck you.

SAL
You ain't ugly.

ESTEBAN
I know this.

SAL
Someone broke your heart?

ESTEBAN
No.

SAL
So what's the story?

ESTEBAN
I ain't got the time.

SAL
No time for the love?

ESTEBAN
No time for the pain.

SAL
What was her name?

ESTEBAN
Who?

SAL
The woman that brought you the pain.

ESTEBAN
Rose.

SAL
She been dead a long time?

ESTEBAN
Who said she died?

SAL
I can smell the loneliness all over you.

ESTEBAN
...7 years.

SAL
You ever tried?

ESTEBAN
Tried what?

SAL
Get another woman.

ESTEBAN
For what?

SAL
It's okay to let yourself smile for another woman.

ESTEBAN
I'm not interested.

SAL
Come on Latino lover.

ESTEBAN
Sal, let it go.

SAL
It's not that big a deal.

ESTEBAN
When yours fucking dies, then you can talk.

SAL
Yes sir, AM NEW YORK! GOT YOUR NEWS TODAY!//NEW YORK!

ESTEBAN
SAL. SAL. SAL. SAL!

SAL
TODAY//FIND OUT WHAT'S TICKING!//READ ABOUT THE UGLY SIDE OF
PEOPLE!

ESTEBAN
SAL!

SAL
What?

ESTEBAN
I know she's sick but at least you still got yours.

SAL
So?

ESTEBAN
It's not the same.

SAL
Don't matter.

ESTEBAN
You haven't lost.

SAL

I've lost.

ESTEBAN

Not like that.

SAL

Grief is grief.

ESTEBAN

It ain't even in the same ballpark.

SAL

You know, I don't know what I'd do if (god forbid) she don't make it. But I know I'd figure it out. I know I wouldn't waste a second getting on with my life.

ESTEBAN

I don't think my life is waste.

SAL

I know a man needs to move on.

ESTEBAN

Shut up.

SAL

Needs to get his soul up out of the mud.

ESTEBAN

JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP SAL! JESUS FUCKING CHRIST. You talk and talk. About shit, you don't even know about. Just pass out your fucking papers and mind your own fucking business.

Beat

SAL

I didn't mean to butt in.

ESTEBAN

She died cause of me.

SAL

I'm sure that's not the case.

ESTEBAN

I wasn't there. When I should have been.

SAL

Understood.

*ESTEBAN looks at SAL. A rest.
A sound of a rumbling passing train. REY sneaks in not
completely out of sight but away.*

SAL

That kid is back.

ESTEBAN

She's a pain in the ass.

SAL

What she doing?

ESTEBAN

She's just standing there. Looking around.

SAL

What she wearing?

ESTEBAN

Same thing as yesterday.

SAL

Looking like an angel.

ESTEBAN

Well, not like the ones in the bible but sure. I guess. She could be an angel. An ugly angel but still an angel.

SAL

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

ESTEBAN

Well, right now, I'm beholding she's ugly.

SAL

What you think her story is?

ESTEBAN

Runaway.

SAL

You should go over to her.

ESTEBAN

I don't think so.

SAL

Go ask her if she's hungry.

ESTEBAN

I don't want her around.

SAL

Go talk to her.

ESTEBAN

I did. And I didn't like her.

SAL

I'm sure you were a real charmer.

ESTEBAN

I told her to go somewhere else.

SAL

If your daughter was here amongst the POST NO BILLS in the Port, would you want someone like you to talk to her, help her out, or someone like the Chester Molesters?

ESTEBAN

If you're so concerned about her well-being, you go talk to her.

SAL shifts.

SAL

You got any snacks? Esteban, you got anything I could give her? The girl needs to eat.

ESTEBAN digs into his bag. He looks over at Rey. He goes over.

ESTEBAN

Hey! You! What did I tell you?

REY

You touch me, I'm going to shove a bazooka up your ass and pull the trigger.

ESTEBAN

That's stupid. A bazooka. Where the hell are you going to find

a bazooka? And if you do happen to find one. Go ahead. Shove it up my ass. I would like to see that.

REY

Fuck you.

ESTEBAN

Now, that one, I heard before. Not much on the creativity like the last one but it works.

REY

I'm not in your space anymore!

ESTEBAN

But you're in my area.

REY

It's a free country.

ESTEBAN

Last I checked.

REY

So I can stand wherever the fuck I want!

ESTEBAN

You hungry?

REY

No.

ESTBAN

Can't say I didn't ask.

REY

What you got?

ESTEBAN

A granola bar.

REY

Granola bar?

ESTEBAN

I need the fiber. I get clogged up. So you know, got to let it flow.

REY

That's disgusting.

ESTEBAN

Hey, at my age, all I got is bowel movements.

REY

That's still disgusting.

ESTEBAN

You want it or not?

REY

I'm not going to suck your dick.

ESTEBAN

What?

REY

Your dick.

ESTEBAN

Hey!

REY

I'm not going to suck it-

ESTEBAN

I wasn't-

REY

Because you give me-

ESTEBAN

This isn't

REY

A granola bar.

ESTEBAN

HOLD UP COCHINA. I don't need you to suck nothing.

REY

Then what do you want?

ESTEBAN

Nothing. I was just being nice.

REY

You weren't nice yesterday.

ESTEBAN

I know.

REY

You were an asshole.

ESTEBAN

You fucking hungry or not? Shit.

REY

I don't know. I'm picky.

ESTEBAN

I guess you're not that-

She takes the bar.

ESTEBAN

Who taught you to talk like that?

REY

Your mother.

ESTEBAN

Enough. I get it. You're a bad ass. Can you just not talk like your mouth is the ass end of a toilet?

REY

Why? It's not lady like?

ESTEBAN

It makes you sound stupid.

REY

Why does that big guy keep staring at me?

ESTEBAN

He's not staring.

REY

He's got funny eyes.

ESTEBAN
He's blind.

REY
Oh.

ESTEBAN
Oh.

Beat

ESTEBAN
What's your story?

REY
Just chillin.'

ESTEBAN
You new to the city?

REY
Yeah.

ESTEBAN
Just a warning. It ain't safe around here. Got to watch out for the Chester Molesters.

REY
What the hell is that?

ESTEBAN
Perverts who like to take little girls into the subway tunnels and turn them inside out.

REY
Is that what you are?

ESTEBAN
They especially like little girls who are smart asses.

REY
I'm not a smart ass.

ESTEBAN
You runaway from Laredo?

REY

No. I left. I didn't run a way.

ESTEBAN looks at her.

REY

My name is Rey.

ESTEBAN looks at SAL. Turns back to Rey.

ESTEBAN

Well, it's nice to meet you Rey. Watch yourself. And if I can help you with anything, just ask. I'll see what I can do.

REY

Can I sit with you?

ESTEBAN

For what?

REY

The sound is better over there.

ESTEBAN

It sounds the same all over the place.

REY

There's a bad echo over here. I want to hear the full sound of your beautiful music.

ESTEBAN

Don't bullshit-

REY

-A bullshitter. Just let me sit with you.

ESTEBAN

I don't know. Not sure I want some hipster ass chick around spoiling my mood.

REY

A what? What the hell is that?

ESTEBAN

Crazy gringos with funny hair and tight pants. They run in packs. See.

REY

I'm not a hipster. I'm Mexican.

ESTEBAN

Doesn't mean you can't be a hipster.

REY

My hair's not funny.

ESTEBAN

Looks like the end of an old broom.

REY

Fuck you.

ESTEBAN

You look all crazy.

REY

I'm NOT CRAZY!

ESTEBAN

Easy.

REY

And if you ever call me crazy, I will cut those little balls off and shove them down your throat.

ESTEBAN

Little, check again.

REY

I'm serious cabron.

ESTEBAN

Okay. Okay. I heard you.

REY

So can I sit with you?

ESTEBAN

For how long?

REY

I don't know. For today.

ESTEBAN

No.

He walks over. REY flips him off.

SAL

That's a lot of hate you throwing our way.

REY

How'd you see that?

SAL

Can I help you?

REY

Hi. How you do that?

ESTEBAN

He can smell you.

REY

No he can't.

SAL

Who this?

ESTEBAN

This is Rey. Rey. Sal.

SAL

Let me feel your face.

REY

I don't think so.

SAL

Come on.

REY

Are you a Chester Molester?

SAL

Don't be scared.

REY

I'm not scared.

ESTEBAN

His fat fingers let him know what kind of soul you got.

REY

I don't want him to touch my face.

SAL

I just want to see what your face looks like. ESTEBAN's full of shit. Ain't no voodoo in these hands. Come on. Tell you what. You in control. You can touch my face if you want.

She leans in.

REY

Just my face. Don't touch me anywhere else.

SAL

Nice cheeks. Eyebrows could use a brush. Lines on the forehead. You what? 17?

REY

I'll be 18 next month.

ESTEBAN

A baby.

REY

I'm not a baby.

SAL

Early lines for someone so young. Let's see, chin is stern but smooth. She ain't ugly Esteban.

REY

Ugly?

SAL

Esteban called you ugly.

REY

You called me ugly?

ESTEBAN

Yeah.

REY

You're a real asshole.

ESTEBAN

Ugly like dirty. You know, your ass stinks. When's the last time you washed it?

REY

When's the last time you saw a dentist. Cheeseburger mouth. You got stank breath that could stop time.

SAL

Oh shit!

ESTEBAN

WHAT!?! My breath doesn't-

REY

Its stinks. I can smell it from here.

SAL takes off his shoes.

SAL

I GOT SMELLY FEET. You want to smell them?

REY

Uh No!

ESTEBAN

Jesus Sal.

SAL

Hey! We all got things that stink. So everybody relax. This ain't a school of hygiene. It's the Post No Bills. You gonna sit here with us?

ESTEBAN

No.

REY

Why not?

ESTEBAN

Because this is a place of business. We don't appreciate loiters.

REY

I'm not a loiter.

SAL

He's right. You want to stand here. You need a job.

REY

I can sing.

ESTEBAN

I'm the only singer on this block.

REY

Okay. I took tap when I was a kid.

ESTEBAN

What?

REY

Tap. Watch. One dolla for tippity tappa

She taps.

SAL

How did it look?

ESTEBAN

Like two pigs and a rooster fucking.

SAL

Next.

REY

I can yodel.

SAL

Ain't nobody done that before.

ESTEBAN

There's a reason for that.

SAL

Let's see.

REY

One dolla for a holla. Yodel request sir. I can Yodel a tune!

She yodels.

SAL

That's different. Well, I see you prefer the musicality of life. Maybe you can train her to be your percussionist.

ESTEBAN

I don't need a drummer.

REY

I can keep rhythm.

ESTEBAN

Clearly.

SAL

It may increase your tips.

ESTEBAN

I do alright alone.

SAL

I know there are days they ain't no thumps at the bottom of that bucket. People love a duet. A team. Like Donnie and Marie. But you guys are like a Mexican version.

REY

Who's that?

SAL

Nevermind. Think Peaches and Herb.

ESTEBAN

Who's that?

SAL

Jesus. Just try her out. See what she got.

They look at each other.

ESTEBAN
(To REY)

Let me hear a 2/3.

REY

I don't know what that is.

ESTEBAN

1.2.3.1.2.3. Clap.

*She begins to clap out the 2/3
ESTEBAN picks up the Guitar.*

Mi dolor

ESTEBAN

*El amor que te mande para el cielo.
 Con la noche de bendiciones
 Te dejó en el piso
 Sin zapatos y un corazón
 Me voy al pueblo
 Con tus ojos y tu reloj
 Te dejó en el piso
 Con el cuchillo de mi dolor
 Mi dolor...mi dolar*

Translation:

*The love that sends you to heaven
 With the blessing of the night
 I leave you on the floor
 Without your shoes and your heart*

*I'm going to town
 With your eyes and your watch
 I left you on the floor
 With the knife of my pain...of my pain.*

*He stops playing. She continues and notices that he's
 stopped in the middle of the song.*

SAL

What you think?

ESTEBAN

She knows how to clap.

REY

You see, I can stay on beat.

ESTEBAN

Ever had any training on an instrument?

REY

No.

ESTEBAN

Tomorrow, bring in a couple of plastic buckets and we'll work
 out something. Start small and see what we got.

REY

What's my cut?

ESTEBAN

Get the fuck out of here. I'm doing you a favor. I don't have to pay you shit. In fact, that's what you get today is a big pile of my shit. I'm going to the bathroom. I'll be right back with your cut.

SAL gets up and follows.

SAL

Esteban, come on.

ESTEBAN

First you show up. It's cool. You in my spot but we work it out. Now her? When did she become my problem? Just because I gave her a granola bar doesn't mean I'm need to give her my space.

SAL

What you got against her?

ESTEBAN

She's a smart ass.

REY

I'm right here. You can say it to my face.

ESTEBAN

You're a smart ass. And smart asses are too smart for their own good. Because they think that shit is owed to them. No one owes you nothing. You earn it. And when you get a break, you are thankful for it. Cause god only gives you a couple of them. But smart asses are too stupid to appreciate them. They make a smart ass choice. And by then, they're wrong... and all that smartassness ain't no use when you're alone.

REY

I'm sorry. You're right. I'm a smart ass. And that stops right now. Let me stay. Can I stay?

SAL

Let her stay.

SAL

Listen, with the whole Lydia thing, it's nice to worry about something else. Give it a couple of days.

ESTEBAN

You owe me.

REY
So can I sit here?

ESTEBAN
Don't fuck up.

REY
I won't.

ESTEBAN
We'll see. Start clapping.

REY
For what?

ESTEBAN
Got to make money for lunch. Clap.

SAL
Money time! One dolla! One dolla for an insult. You sir-

*ESTEBAN picks up the guitar and REY follows. He plays
"Headed out for old Brownsville."*

"Success is so fleeting but it makes me feel like I'm winning"
-Elliot Smith

Hours have passed.

REY sits on the cold concrete ground. She fidgets.

ESTEBAN stares at his guitar.

SAL rocks back and forth.

REY

You guys make a lot of money here?

SAL

It depends.

REY

On what?

SAL

The more passing of the flow, the more passing of the dough.

REY

No one's around.

SAL

It's what you call a lull.

REY

Looks busier over there.

SAL

You got to be patient.

REY

We should go over.

SAL

This is a balanced eco system with its own ebb and flow. Just gotta understand the way it works. It's got its own life. Its own rules.

REY

It stinks in here.

SAL

It's called Nasal Ambience.

REY

Stevie, want to play another song?

ESTEBAN

No.

REY

Jesus. I'm bored.

ESTEBAN

Can you shut up?

A rest

REY

How you get into this Sal?

SAL

People need information and someone's got to give it to them. That's where I come in. You see, people ain't got time to read a whole paper. So this is a good substitute. And I provide a service of disbursing world events at the flick of a wrist. Work my own hours, make tips, my own boss. Good a job as any. I used to work up in Union Square. I do miss the fresh New York air, but there are more people here. Got the medical bills. So...Plus I take the 7 home. Faster commute.

REY

Where does the 7 take you?

SAL

To the home of my Queen.

REY

Where's that?

SAL

In Queens.

REY

And you, Stevie, where do you live?

ESTEBAN

Brooklyn.

REY

What train do you take?

ESTEBAN

A to the L.

REY

(She tries to rap)

A to the L to the L to all aboard the Brooklyn train. Ain't no trouble ain't no shame to be all aboard the Brooklyn train.

They stop and look at her.

REY

Who's that?

SAL

The Jesuit.

REY

Who?

ESTEBAN

A drunk who vomits out the bible.

REY

What about them, the little kids?

SAL

Poets.

ESTEBAN

They ain't shit. They have no show. People supposed to give them a dollar cause little inner city kids spew out poetry. Bullshit. This is New York City. People want to be entertained.

REY

Who's that working over there?

ESTEBAN

Metro!

SAL

They're my main competition!

Sal riles himself up and makes his way toward their direction.

ESTEBAN

Oh Jesus Christ, Sal. No.

SAL

I got the news baby! They're all fluff. Ripping off what AM brings to the NYC!

ESTEBAN

They're okay.

SAL

They envy our spot.

ESTEBAN

This ain't the best spot.

SAL

Bullshit. We are in a fire of triangulation here. All sides covered. Exit train 7. NRW. 42nd. 1,2,3, ACE uptown, downtown. Right there. We da shit baby. Post No Bills is a gold mine.

REY

How come you call it Post No Bills?

ESTEBAN

This is the only place you can't post any advertisements. You see. POST NO BILLS.

REY

Must have seen a lot of people pass through?

SAL

All kinds.

ESTEBAN

Half the time, they don't even know we're here.

SAL

People got places to go. People to see.

ESTEBAN

And we're the ones that got left behind.

REY

I won't be left behind.

ESTEBAN

Where you going? You got nowhere to go.

REY

Maybe not today. But I'll go somewhere.

SAL

If you can't think big than don't bother thinking at all.

REY

I'm gonna be famous.

ESTEBAN

Playing on plastic drums on a subway platform?

REY

Exactly.

ESTEBAN

Go back to Texas Rey.

REY

Why are so...you're like this grumpy ole bitter crab.

SAL

It's his bowel movements.

ESTEBAN

Shut up.

SAL

Man hasn't been regular in years.

ESTEBAN

Alright already.

REY

I like being here. In NYC. And I see nothing but good thing. For all of us.

SAL

You got that right Lady Rey!

REY

What did you call me?

SAL

Lady Rey. That's your stage name.

REY

Makes me sound like a drag queen.

SAL

No it don't. It's got style. Sounds like you got sophistication.

REY

What about you, Stevie? You like it?

ESTEBAN

You're no lady.

REY

And the compliments continue to pile on. Thank you. (A moment)
My mom had a stage name.

SAL

What was it?

REY

Flor de la luz.

SAL

Flor de la luz. What she do?

REY

She was a dancer.

SAL

What kind?

ESTEBAN

Exotic.

REY

Modern. She was on tour a lot.

SAL

She must have been good.

REY

She had rhythm.

ESTEBAN

You're mom back in Texas?

Uh...She retired.

REY

Yeah?

SAL

Yeah. Last month.

REY

What about your dad?

ESTEBAN

Retired along time ago.

REY

I wish we could retire. Head to a beach. Lydia would love the beach.

SAL

Jamaica's nice.

REY

So is Hawaii, maybe Bermuda.

SAL

Where's she now?

REY

Fightin' retirement.

SAL

You married Esteban?

REY

You asking? I think I'm too old for you.

ESTEBAN

Come on.

REY

I was.

ESTEBAN

Not anymore?

REY

ESTEBAN
Not anymore.

REY
Divorced?

SAL
His wife died.

ESTEBAN
Mind your own business Sal.

SAL
Sorry, I didn't-

REY
How?

ESTEBAN
How what?

REY
How she die?

ESTEBAN
I don't want to talk about it.

REY
Ok. *(Beat)* How did she die?

ESTEBAN
She just did.

REY
Is that why your voice sounds like that?

ESTEBAN
Like what?

REY
I don't know. My dad used to say that you sung like a bird. But now, you sound like...you got a motor in your throat.

ESTEBAN
That's how I sing.

REY

I like that you sing like that...it sounds real.

ESTEBAN

She died giving birth to my daughter.

REY

You got a daughter?

ESTEBAN nods no. He begins to pack his stuff.

REY

Sorry.

ESTEBAN

People die.

REY

You going home?

ESTEBAN

There's a beer with my name on it waiting for me.

SAL

Punch out.

ESTEBAN

Tomorrow?

REY

Yes.

ESTEBAN

Okay.

REY

You know, I think you would've been a good dad.

ESTEBAN stares at her.

ESTEBAN

You stink. If you're going to be working here with me, you got to clean yourself up. We can't go around looking like a bunch of hobos.

REY

Okay. Where?

ESTEBAN
Where what?

REY
Where can I do that?

ESTEBAN
You ain't got a place?

REY
No.

SAL
Where do you sleep?

REY
Over there.

ESTEBAN
Jesus. Fucking strays. You got fleas?

REY
Nothing that can't be washed out with a hot shower.

SAL
Send her to the shelter.

REY
I ain't staying in no shelter.

ESTEBAN
Then, I can't have you around us. We got to look professional.

SAL
You sure you don't know nobody?

REY
I know him.

ESTEBAN
No.

SAL
That's not a bad idea.

ESTEBAN
Hell no.

SAL
I know you got the room.

ESTEBAN
My place is too small.

REY
Please?

ESTEBAN
It don't look right.

SAL
I know you got a couch.

ESTEBAN
Goddamn it! I said no.

ESTEBAN leaves. Sal packs up his stuff. He looks at Rey.

SAL
My wife. She...

REY
I understand. It was really nice meeting you Sal.

SAL
See you tomorrow?

REY
Sure.

Sal walks off. Rey sits down. Silence. She lies down and begins to sing to herself.

Funny Goodbyes

REY
*There's a window
Cracked into her eyes
Realize the subtle smile
Gonna make it all right.*

*Cradle me baby
Soothe the broken lines
Carry me honey*

Gonna make it all right.

*Cause life ain't so easy
And love ain't so nice
But you're near me
Trouble is saying goodbye
When you're the one for me
Trouble is saying good bye*

*You're the only one
I refuse to blame
Take my hand
And lose the pain*

*Cradle me baby
Won't you hold me tight
Carry me honey
Gonna make it all right.*

*Cause life ain't so easy
And love ain't so nice
But you're near me
Trouble is saying goodbye
When you're the one for me
Trouble is saying good bye*

*So lift your head
And close your eyes
Funny is just a thought
Gonna make it alright.
Ain't nothing like a wheel
To make it alright.
Nothing like a wheel
To make it alright.*

Lights down.

"So glad to meet you Angel eyes."

-Elliot Smith

Next day in the Port.

It's early in the morning.

Very little foot traffic.

REY sets up the spot with a couple of buckets.

EDDIE comes in.

EDDIE

Yo baby girl, this spot taken?

REY

What did you call me?

EDDIE

Spot taken?

REY

What you think?

EDDIE

I'm asking.

REY

No vacancy.

EDDIE

Okay.

REY

Take your ass somewhere else.

EDDIE

Listen baby girl,

REY

Baby, check again.

EDDIE

Just looking for a spot.

REY

Other side.

Nah. EDDIE

What? REY

Not going over there. EDDIE

No? REY

Gonna sell right here. EDDIE

Don't think so. REY

Gotta- EDDIE

Get out! REY

Gotta permit. EDDIE

Fuck your permit. REY

He turns to open his case revealing his crime novels.

This is our spot. REY

Don't give a shit. EDDIE

Asshole. REY

She pushes him.

Don't push me. EDDIE

REY
Move.

EDDIE
No.

REY
I said-

EDDIE
No.

REY
Move.

*She kicks his case of books.
He has a look of disbelief.*

EDDIE
Don't fucking-

REY
What?

EDDIE
Kick my case.

REY
Then move.

EDDIE
Can't believe I'm having this-

REY
What you waiting for?

EDDIE
Fucking child.

She grabs his cap.

EDDIE
Yo, give that back.

REY
Who's the child now bitch?

Give it back. EDDIE

No. REY

GIVE IT BACK! EDDIE

*He runs after her.
She takes off.
He's chasing her down the port.
She turns the corner.
But he can't stop and runs her into the wall.
Busting her in the nose.
She's bleeding.*

Oh shit. EDDIE

Get off me. REY

I'm so sorry. EDDIE

Stop laughing. REY

I don't mean- EDDIE

Broke my nose. REY

Jesus. EDDIE

Bleeding. REY

I thought- EDDIE

What? REY

EDDIE
You were running.

REY
You're blaming me.

EDDIE
You stopped.

REY
Should've moved.

EDDIE
You grabbed my cap.

REY
You busted my nose.

EDDIE
An accident.

REY
Asshole.

EDDIE
I know. Here.

Hands her a handkerchief.

REY
I'm not going to-

EDDIE
It'll stop the bleeding. Lean your head back.

REY
Does it look bad?

EDDIE
It's not broken. Just. It's bleeding.

REY
I can't believe you did that.

EDDIE
I didn't expect you to stop.

*She looks at him.
They laugh.*

REY
Is it still bleeding?

EDDIE
No.

REY
Good.

EDDIE
You ok?

REY
Sore.

EDDIE
My bad.

She punches him in the nose.

EDDIE
You fucking punched me.

REY
It stings huh?

EDDIE
Is it bleeding?

REY
Eyes got a little watery?

EDDIE
We're even right?

REY
Yeah.

EDDIE
Fucking sucker punch.

*ESTEBAN enters.
He begins to unpack. He spots a poster on the wall.
ESTEBAN looks around and notices that REY's face is*

*red. He spots the blood and runs towards her.
He grabs EDDIE by the shirt and flings him against the
wall.*

Hey!

EDDIE

ESTEBAN

What the fuck did you do?

EDDIE

It was an accident.

REY

It's ok. It's okay.

EDDIE

Jesus!

REY

Calm down, Stevie.

ESTEBAN

What happened?

REY

This guy-

EDDIE

Eddie.

REY

Lady Rey. Eddie-

EDDIE

That's a cool name.

ESTEBAN

What?

EDDIE

I like it.

REY

Thanks.

ESTEBAN

No. Shut up. What happened?

REY

Eddie was trying to take our spot.

ESTEBAN

There's no space.

EDDIE

I know. She told me.

ESTEBAN

So why didn't you listen?

EDDIE

I gotta permit.

ESTEBAN

Let me see.

*EDDIE pulls it out and hands it over.
ESTEBAN pretends to be interested in it.
He tears it.*

ESTEBAN

Now you don't gotta permit no more.

EDDIE

What the fuck you do that for?

REY

I told you to move.

EDDIE

That shits messed up.

ESTEBAN

Mira, go now or I tear something else.

REY

LIKE YOUR BALLS.

ESTEBAN

Yeah. Your...your uh balls.

EDDIE

Okay okay. Jesus.

EDDIE picks up his case of books and moves down to the other side. ESTEBAN and REY are left alone. Awkward silence.

ESTEBAN

You bring the plastic cans?

REY

Yeah.

SAL enters.

SAL

What the fuck is that on the wall?

ESTEBAN

A poster.

SAL

What the fuck is it doing there?

ESTEBAN

I don't know.

SAL

Why can't people just let shit be? Shit.

ESTEBAN

Posters all over the place Sal.

SAL

I smell blood.

ESTEBAN

She had a nosebleed.

SAL

You okay Lady Rey?

REY

I was just trying to protect the spot.

SAL

It happens.

REY

Fucking got a nosebleed.

ESTEBAN

At least it ain't broken. Then you'd look even uglier.

REY

Thanks.

ESTEBAN

Go set up.

She begins to set up the plastic cans.

SAL

She alright?

ESTEBAN

Yeah. She'll be fine.

SAL

What a fucking morning.

REY

Alright. All good.

ESTEBAN

Here. I got you some sticks?

REY

Yeah? Cool.

ESTEBAN

You sure you alright?

REY

I said yes okay.

ESTEBAN

Okay. Hold them.

REY

I am.

ESTEBAN

No. Not like that.

REY

Like this?

ESTEBAN

No. Hold the drumsticks in the middle, between your thumb and second and third finger. Relax. Don't get too tight. Keep it smooth and relaxed. Helps with the rhythm. Get behind the cans.

She sits on the ground.

ESTEBAN

You didn't get something to sit on?

REY

You didn't tell me.

ESTEBAN

You can't play sitting on the floor.

REY

You should've told me.

ESTEBAN

Listen, do I got to tell you everything. You got only you in this world. I ain't going to tell you how to live in it. How can you go fishing with no bait? It makes no sense.

REY

Alright. Shit. I'll go get something to sit on.

She leaves. SAL glances over at ESTEBAN.

SAL

You don't have to be so hard.

ESTEBAN

She forgot a stool.

A rest

EDDIE begins to read out loud.

EDDIE

"Frank Locke was a son of a bitch. He had a face that could cut ice and look that could melt panties."

SAL

What the fuck is that?

ESTEBAN

The kid that hit Rey.

SAL

Hey! Motherfucker, you need to quit that shit!

ESTEBAN

Calm down.

SAL

Do you hear me! GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!

SAL goes over.

SAL

Hey. Didn't we tell you to move?

EDDIE

I did.

SAL

This is our corridor!

EDDIE

I heard you.

SAL

So go read your shit on the other side of the port.

EDDIE

Just trying to make some money, man.

SAL

We all are.

EDDIE

Alright.

SAL

Get the fuck out! Get the fuck out! Get the fuck out!

EDDIE

I heard you. Jesus.

EDDIE leaves.

ESTEBAN
What's the matter with you today?

SAL
I'm just tired of this shit.

ESTEBAN
It's no big deal.

SAL
Yes it is motherfucker!

ESTEBAN
Relax Sal.

SAL
This is *my* shit.

ESTEBAN
I know.

SAL
My dollars and bits. Motherfuckers always got to be comin' in,
trying to steal shit!

ESTEBAN
It worked out Sal.

SAL
Fuck you man!

SAL begins to pack up.

ESTEBAN
Where you going?

SAL
I'm done with it. The working, praying, fucking doctors. It don't
matter cause in the end, we ain't got shit...fuck it.

ESTEBAN
You leaving?

SAL
Why you care? Selfish ass motherfucker.

ESTEBAN

Hey.

SAL

Hey what?

ESTEBAN

You alright?

SAL

Don't act like you give a shit man. Cause I know you don't.

ESTEBAN

What happened?

SAL

Doctor gave a couple of months. Can you believe that shit? How am I supposed work when all I got with her is a couple of months?

ESTEBAN has no answer.

SAL turns to leave.

ESTEBAN

Sal?

SAL

What? That's what I thought.

SAL walks off. ESTEBAN begins to pack as REY enters with a milk crate.

REY

I got something to sit on. Where's Sal?

ESTEBAN

He left.

REY

What are you doing?

ESTEBAN

You should go to a movie or check out the park. You got the day off.

REY

I don't want the day off.

ESTEBAN

We're not working today.

REY

I got the crate. I got the buckets. I want to work. Please? If I have to go through another day of just walking around, I'm going to shoot myself in the head.

ESTEBAN

Sit down, drama queen.

She does.

ESTEBAN

Okay, first you got Texas style beat. 1,2,1,2,1,2...Like a train. Rolling down the tracks. 1,2,1,2,1,2. See.

REY

Like Johnny Cash?

ESTEBAN

Yeah.

REY

1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2...got it.

He taps on his chest. She copies.

REY

Okay.

ESTEBAN

Next is a simple Ranchero rhythm. Pun chan chan. You hear it in the old Tejano songs. It's like a heart beat. Keeps going. That's why they dance around in a circle. Cause the circle never stops. Keeps going round and round. Pun chan chan. Let me hear it.

REY

Pun chan chan. Pun chan chan

*He pulls out his guitar.
Begins to play.*

El Sancho

ESTEBAN

*Corazon. Corazon, querida
 Por que me das dolor?
 Chica. Chica dulce
 Voy a su casa sin mi calzon
 En la luz te pareces dormida
 Enscodidas tus palabras de maldicion
 Pero yo se que estas despierta
 Y vas a joder con otro cabron*

Translation:

*Heart. Heart of mine
 Why do you hurt me so?
 Baby. Sweet girl
 I'm coming over with no underwear on
 In the light, you look like your sleeping
 Hidden are the words of disdain
 But I know you're awake
 Waiting to fuck another dude.*

REY

That one's ugly.

ESTEBAN

Love has to be ugly. All this fantasy, ooh laaa laa love is bullshit.

REY

Was your love ugly with your wife?

ESTEBAN

Real ugly.

REY

How did you guys meet?

ESTEBAN

Why do you keep asking about my wife?

REY

Well, I've never been in love much less the kind of love you would call ugly.

ESTEBAN

You will.

REY

But how will I even know what it is, when it happens?

ESTEBAN

I was in the army. I got back from Germany. Didn't have any money. Went across to Matamoros. A dude owed me some cash. I stopped by his house and this girl was on the porch. Sweeping. Singing. She had a voice that stopped birds from singing. Her brother, the dude that owed me money, comes out. I asked him for the cash. He's like, "I don't have it." I pull out my gun.

REY

What?

ESTEBAN

To scare him. He pisses his pants. Tells me that he wants to cut a deal. I ask him who the girl is and to get me a date.

REY

You traded a date for your wife?

ESTEBAN

Listen, so he goes up to her and whispers in her ear and she fucking slaps the shit out of him. She looks at me and runs at me with the broom. She beats the shit out of me. She's screaming, "I'm no goat cabron! If you want to go out with me, you ask me!" I look up, all cut up and bruised and asked her out. She said yes.

REY

That's crazy.

ESTEBAN

That's how it starts. If it don't scare the shit out of you, then it ain't real.

REY

My parents love wasn't ugly. Just cold.

ESTEBAN

They know you up here?

REY

Uh, yeah. I've been calling them everyday.

ESTEBAN

Really?

REY

Yeah.

ESTEBAN

Then how come you were living in the port?

REY

They support my decision.

ESTEBAN

And they don't want to help you find a place.

REY

I didn't want their help.

ESTEBAN

You a big girl?

REY

Yeah.

ESTEBAN

Did you finish high school?

REY

There's nothing for me in high school.

ESTEBAN

And there's something for you here?

REY

Yeah. There is.

ESTEBAN

What's that?

REY

If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere right?

ESTEBAN

Don't base your life philosophy on a bullshit song.

REY

It's a start.

ESTEBAN

You know what I think?

REY

I don't give a shit of what you think.

ESTEBAN

I don't think there's been any calls.

REY

Can we practice?

ESTEBAN

I think that your parents don't give a shit about you.

REY

Okay.

ESTEBAN

That they don't love you.

REY

Shut up.

ESTEBAN

That your smart-ass mouth probably pissed them off.

REY

You need to shut the fuck up.

ESTEBAN

What kind of parents let their baby girl live in a rat hole like this?

REY

They're dead! Okay. You happy?

ESTEBAN

When they die? (Beat) When did you parents die?

REY

My dad died of a heart attack when I was 9 and my mom died last month.

ESTEBAN

How?

REY

Man, you're really pushing it.

ESTEBAN

You don't like it. You go anytime.

REY

She kept hearing voices. So she put a gun to her head so she didn't have to hear them anymore. Anymore questions?

ESTEBAN

I'm going to tell you this just once. Life is going to suck. Life is going to be great. And sometimes life is just okay. Ups and downs, fights, broken hearts, disappointments, drinking, getting kicked out of bars, pissed off lovers, and thunderous applause. None of it matters as long as you know what you want. Do you know what you want?

REY

I want to be better than where I'm from.

ESTEBAN

Do you know how you're going to do that?

REY

No.

ESTEBAN

You're going to have to learn.

REY

How?

ESTEBAN

Never quit.

REY

I don't understand.

ESTEBAN

It takes time. (A deep breath)
It's a small place. Where I live.

REY

I only need a little corner.

He nods "ok." They pack up. Lights fade as the trains roll by.

"I don't know you, but I want you. All the more for that. Words fall through me. Always fool me and I can't react."

- Glen Hansard

*The wall that was Post No Bills, opens up.
Revealing a small bedroom.
A lamp flicks on.
ESTEBAN and REY enter the studio apartment.*

ESTEBAN

So...this is it. This is where... you're gonna stay.

REY

It's nice. Comfy. Fits you.

ESTEBAN

What's that mean?

REY

Just that... It's a bit rough around the edges, but it feels like home at the same time.

ESTEBAN

Its rent controlled.

*They stare at each other.
REY jumps on the bed.*

REY

SHOTGUN!

ESTEBAN

Wait a minute Chiquita, you're sleeping on the chair.

REY

What?

ESTEBAN

The chair, perra.

REY

No! Come on, I haven't slept in a bed in like three weeks.

ESTEBAN

No.

REY

Please Stevie? Backs all fucked up from sleeping on park benches, bus terminals, and the stupid subway trains. Just for tonight. I promise. Please?

ESTEBAN

That's the kitchen. Restroom's right there. And that TV. That's mine. We watch what I watch. I'm not bending on that one.

REY

Okay. Deal.

ESTEBAN goes to the bathroom. REY crosses to the record player and plays a record.

"Drink Up Baby" starts to play. She puts on a cowboy hat that hangs on a hook that sits next to a framed photograph from his performing days.

ESTEBAN comes out of the bathroom.

ESTEBAN

Rey, stop playing with that.

REY

It's your number one hit!

ESTEBAN

Take that off.

REY

"Drink up baby drain the whiskey from the glass." (*singing the lyrics playing*)

ESTEBAN

NO! Goddam it little girl! Put that shit away. Now!

REY

I'm sorry.

ESTEBAN

Don't touch my shit. My records. My record player. My hat. My-

REY

Your TV.

ESTEBAN

Right. Just. Don't touch them.

REY

What can I touch?

ESTEBAN

The chair. The bathroom. One plate. One glass. And that plastic milk carton. Everything else, off limits.

REY

What about the shower? Can I use the shower?

ESTEBAN

Yes.

REY

Towels?

ESTEBAN

One. In there.

*She goes into the bathroom.
He sits. The thought of another person in house
apartment overwhelms him. He grabs a beer. She comes
out in a towel.*

REY

Do you have any conditioner?

ESTEBAN

No. Just shampoo.

REY

It sucks.

ESTEBAN

It's Pert. All in one. Now, take a shower, you stink.

REY

Okay.

She goes back in. ESTEBAN drinks his beer.

ESTEBAN

How long do you need to stay here?

REY (os)

I don't know.

ESTEBAN

There's no being here forever.

REY (os)

I know. Just for a little bit. Till I figure it out. Okay?

ESTEBAN

Okay.

She comes out.

REY

I'm clean.

ESTEBAN

You smell clean.

REY

Good.

REY

Hey, I'm sorry about the record player.

ESTEBAN

I don't play that song any more.

REY

That's too bad, it's my favorite.

She sits on the bed.

ESTEBAN sits on the couch.

Starts to take off his boots.

She helps him.

ESTEBAN

I got it.

REY

Let me help you.

ESTEBAN

It's okay.

REY

Let me help you, you stubborn old mule.

ESTEBAN

Doesn't mean I forgive you for touching my shit.

REY

I know.

She takes them off.

He lies down.

She sits on the edge of the bed.

REY

Do you ever miss them?

ESTEBAN

Who?

REY

Your wife and your daughter.

ESTEBAN

Why you asking?

REY

Just curious.

ESTEBAN

Everyday.

REY

You think they would have liked New York?

ESTEBAN

No. Maybe. I don't know.

REY

I like New York.

ESTEBAN

Beats Laredo.

REY

Your socks smell.

ESTEBAN

Yeah. Sorry about that.

REY

It's okay. Reminds me of home. Thanks Stevie.

ESTEBAN

For what?

REY

For letting me crash with you. You're a softy after all.

ESTEBAN

Go to bed.

REY

Good night.

ESTEBAN

Go to bed.

REY

Sweet dreams my king.

ESTEBAN

Rey?

REY

Yes.

ESTEBAN

Shut the fuck up and go to bed.

*He flicks the light off.
She begins to hum herself to sleep.
End of Act 1.*

"Walk with me, Suzy Lee through the park and by the tree...I can tell that we are gonna be friends."

- *White Stripes*

On the Post No Bills.

Morning.

A month later.

EDDIE

Hey! Remember me?

REY

You're the guy who physically abused me.

EDDIE

I didn't-

REY

Relax. You found another spot?

EDDIE

Had to. Been looking for you.

REY

I've been here the whole time.

EDDIE

Was finding the right moment.

REY

It took you a whole month?

EDDIE

What you got there?

REY

Magazine.

EDDIE

Anything interesting?

REY

No.

EDDIE

Why you reading it?

REY
Why you give a shit?

A rest

REY
Anything else? Or is the moment you were waiting for?

EDDIE
No. Got some time for some food?

REY
Ate a Pop tart.

EDDIE
That's not food.

REY
It worked.

EDDIE
Come on, I'll get you a real breakfast.

REY
It's alright.

EDDIE
Come on.

REY
Gotta work.

EDDIE
Drumming?

REY
I sing too.

EDDIE
You're like the next Sheila E.

REY
Who?

EDDIE
A Glamorous Life baby.

REY
How old are you?

EDDIE
Twenty-eight.

REY
Man you old.

EDDIE
How old are you?

REY
I'll be eighteen in a couple of months.

EDDIE
You're just a baby.

REY
At least I ain't a real old man.

EDDIE
Twenty-eight ain't that old.

REY
When I was starting kindergarten, you already had hair on your balls.

EDDIE
Who taught you to talk like that?

REY
Your mother.

EDDIE
Seriously.

REY
What's a matter?

EDDIE
Look, there's no reason to make things difficult.

REY
Anything worth anything is difficult right?

EDDIE

Personally, I don't see the need to put up a front. We cool alright. I know it's weird. Awkward. We just met. But I like you. I want to know who you are.

REY

Why?

EDDIE

Don't got a lot a friendly faces in my life.

REY

You think my face is friendly?

EDDIE

Yeah. I do.

REY

And you like me?

EDDIE

Yeah.

REY

Why?

EDDIE

Cause, I busted your nose.

REY

Fuck you.

EDDIE

No, listen. It's a memory. When people ask me about Lady Rey, I'll say I met her and busted her nose. And she was cool. Real cool. She was relatable.

REY

So you want to relate?

EDDIE

Have a real conversation.

REY

Conversate.

EDDIE
Talk.

REY
Like friends.

EDDIE
Yeah.

REY
You'd make Oprah proud.

EDDIE
Fuck you.

REY
Come on, don't be a pussy.

EDDIE
Have a good life.

REY
Eddie. I was just fucking with you. Come on. I'll eat breakfast with you.

EDDIE stops.

REY
Come on. Let's get some ham and eggs. Help us make a new memory. So when people ask me about Eddie, I'll say, we had a nice conversate over ham and eggs once.

*He pulls out a bag.
Unwraps two sandwiches from McDonalds.*

REY
McDonald's? You call that a real breakfast.

EDDIE
It's better than a pop tart.

REY
I don't think so.

EDDIE
You got eggs, protein. You got bread, grain. Bacon, meat, and cheese equals dairy.

REY

And grease equals heart attack. No thank you.

EDDIE

What are you talking about? Pop tarts have like 80 grams of sugar. You'll end up with diabetes.

REY

Cause I'm Mexican. Man, that's racist.

EDDIE

No, because of... the fructose... it's bad for everyone. Mexican. American. Koreans.

REY

Just playing, bro.

EDDIE

So you're Mexican?

REY

Mexican-American. My dad's from the DF, mom's from Laredo.

EDDIE

You don't look like a Mexican.

REY

What does a Mexican look like?

EDDIE

I don't know. Lot's of make up. Big hair with that fender teased out up front. Blue eye shadow. Walking around saying "Maria, Maria, tacos, enchiladas, flores flores de los muertos."

REY

What the fuck?

EDDIE

Now, look whose sensitive?

REY

You just-

EDDIE

I was playing.

REY

What do you mean, I don't look Mexican?

EDDIE

Just that, you look like you could belong no place and every place all at once.

REY

Oh. What about you?

EDDIE

I got mixed parents.

REY

Let me guess. Irish and Japanese.

EDDIE

No.

REY

Samoan and Russian.

EDDIE

Not even close.

REY

Californian and Canadian.

EDDIE

That's not even a race.

REY

Then what?

EDDIE

My mom was African-American and my pop's Jewish.

REY

And you like to write books.

EDDIE

Crime novels.

REY

You any good?

EDDIE

I like to think so.

REY

Let me hear something.

EDDIE

Like what?

REY

Just read me something.

He opens one of his books.

EDDIE

"She had a silky way about her. The way she walked. The way she laughed, wide mouthed, without a worry about connotations. Confident. Like Sophia Lauren and Pam Grier. She made me tremble but I wasn't going to give an inch. She knew the truth. She knew what happened. But she was going to make me earn it. And for once in my life, I was ready. Ready to step up and be man. No more pretending. No more chest-pumping. I was going to stand there. And prove it once and for all. Because she was worth it. Or at least I fooled myself into believing that. That's what I brought with me when I walked into the Falcon's Den." And he goes and finds the truth and almost gets killed. But he doesn't.

REY

Hello? Spoiler alert.

EDDIE

Sorry.

REY

I liked it.

EDDIE

Yeah?

REY

Yeah.

*She stands there.
He kisses her.
She's stops him.*

REY
I think you should go.

EDDIE
Wait.

REY
Stevie will be here soon.

EDDIE
I didn't mean-

REY
Go.

EDDIE
Listen, a few of us read at this spot on Saturdays. It's like an open mike. You interested in coming along? Maybe you can sing something.

REY
Are you inviting me cause you feel like a pedophile cause you're 28 and you just tried to make out with a 17 year old?

EDDIE
No. I just thought. Forget it.

REY
You gonna try to make out with me again?

EDDIE
Only if you want me too.

ESTEBAN enters.

REY
You know where to find me.

He sees EDDIE and REY standing close together.

EDDIE
Peace out Lady Rey.

REY
Catch you on the flip side Eddie.

EDDIE picks up the handle to his rolling case of books

and walks away.

REY begins to drum. She stops and smiles.

ESTEBAN

Making friends?

REY

He's harmless. You ready?

ESTEBAN

Let me hear a 4/4.

As she taps away, ESTEBAN looks off in EDDIE's direction.

"I hope that you like it in your little motel and I hope that the suite sleeps and suits you well."

-Modest Mouse

One month later. REY lays in bed, listening to music. She sings along. ESTEBAN's apartment is different. Clearly, it now has a woman's touch. It's cleaner, there's color. ESTEBAN walks in through the door. He watches her sing for a bit. Then, taps her on her forehead.

REY

You scared me.

ESTEBAN

Where'd you get that?

REY

It's just an ipod.

ESTEBAN

That's how you're spending your money?

REY

It's my money. I made it.

ESTEBAN

Not lately.

REY

What does that mean?

ESTEBAN

Where you been?

REY

Rehearsing.

ESTEBAN

For what?

REY

Trying to get better.

ESTEBAN

Haven't been by the port in a while.

REY
I know. Busy.

ESTEBAN
Right.

REY
How's Sal?

ESTEBAN
Good. He misses you.

REY
I miss him.

ESTEBAN
Look, I'm not gonna bullshit you. The drop in the bucket is not the same without you. So. I need to know when I can expect you back at the port.

REY
Sorry about that.

ESTEBAN
I got bills to pay. It's not cheap since you moved in. Gas, light, all that shit goes up with another person living here.

REY
You want some money, I just cashed my pay check.

ESTEBAN
I don't... Just tell me when you're coming back.

REY
Well, we're... Eddie got me a gig with a band and between that and the lunch shift... should be done in a week or so.

ESTEBAN
What are you working on?

REY
I want to surprise you.

ESTEBAN
I hate surprises.

REY

I know.

ESTEBAN

Come on, tell me.

REY

Come here.

ESTEBAN sits on the bed.

REY

Listen to this. It's my new song. They go in your ears.

ESTEBAN

I know.

ESTEBAN hesitates. Puts on the earphones. Listens. He stops. Gets up. Pulls a beer out of the cooler.

REY

What do you think?

ESTEBAN

It doesn't matter what I think.

REY

It fucking matters to me. You're like my mentor.

ESTEBAN

Eddie. Do you like him?

REY

He's a good guy. Talented.

ESTEBAN

Do you like him?

REY

I don't know.

ESTEBAN

Do you like him?

REY

What the fuck is wrong with you?

ESTEBAN

I know guys like him.

REY

It's fine. It's just business.

ESTEBAN

That's it?

REY

Yeah. Don't be acting all crazy and shit.

ESTEBAN

You trust him?

REY

Yes. I think you'd like him if you gave him a chance.

ESTEBAN

Don't think so.

REY

He's fine. He knows the scene. He's just helping me get my foot in the door.

ESTEBAN

So it's just business?

REY

Why do you keep asking me that?

ESTEBAN

I DON'T LIKE HIM! I DON'T LIKE HIM! EDDIE, ESTEBAN does not like.

REY

Why?

ESTEBAN

I don't trust him.

REY

Trust me.

ESTEBAN

Okay. That I can do. Him. Fuck him.

REY

Okay Stevie. God. Don't be so protective. I can take care of myself.

ESTEBAN

I know.

Beat

REY
(Teasing)

You like me.

ESTEBAN

What?

REY

You got all jealous.

ESTEBAN

Hey! I don't. I wasn't jealous. I was concerned for your well-being. That's all.

REY

Yeah right. YOU LIKE ME! YOU LIKE ME! YOU LIKE ME!

ESTEBAN

Rey ya!

REY

It's okay to like somebody.

ESTEBAN

I know. I'm not saying I do. But I know.

REY

Okay. So did you like the song?

ESTEBAN

I liked hearing you sing.

REY

That's a good thing right?

ESTEBAN

For today. Yes.

REY

A compliment. I knew you were capable of being nice.

ESTEBAN

Don't get used to it.

REY

I won't. It's a rarity so I know when I need to treasure it.

ESTEBAN goes to his guitar. He brings it over the couch.

REY

What are you doing?

ESTEBAN

Teaching you how to play guitar.

REY

REALLY!?

ESTEBAN

Yeah. It's time// Calm down. Yes. So.

REY

REALLY For the reals. Can you play Drink Up Baby?

ESTEBAN

No. *(She sits next to him)* These are frets. And you got six strings. 1,2,3,4,5,6. So when I say, ring finger, second fret, first string. This is what it looks like. My dad. When I was 5. He sat me down. Showed me a C chord. First chord I ever learned to play. Watch. First finger, first fret, second string, second finger, second fret, fourth string, third finger, third fret, fifth string. *(He strikes it)*

REY

That's pretty.

ESTEBAN

You try.

REY

Okay.

ESTEBAN hands her his guitar. She puts her hands around the neck of the guitar.

REY

My fingers don't reach.

ESTEBAN

Got to stretch. Them. Come on. You can do it.

She strikes. It sounds off.

REY

That wasn't so pretty.

ESTEBAN

You have to practice.

ESTEBAN grabs another beer. He sits back on the sofa, watching her play. She strikes and strikes. He lays back. She strikes and it sounds like a c chord. He looks up.

ESTEBAN

You know, this is the first time I played my guitar in this place.

REY

Why?

ESTEBAN

Never had reason too.

REY

Stevie. I like you too.

ESTEBAN

Keep practicing.

She continues to play. Lights out.

"Que Linda estan las Manas!"

SAL and ESTEBAN walk into the apartment.

SAL is wearing a sign:

"Will give you a hug for a dollar birthday girl!"

ESTEBAN walks in carrying a cake and balloons.

He tapes the balloons to the wall.

SAL

So this is where the magic happens.

ESTEBAN

Sal.

SAL

Its cozy. About what 450 square feet?

ESTEBAN

You want something to drink? Do you drink?

SAL

I'm a congac man. Hennesy VSOP.

ESTEBAN

Got Miller Lite.

SAL

Pass. Smells like passion fruit in here.

ESTEBAN

She's...she got it from pier one.

SAL

Domesticated.

ESTEBAN

It's these sticks. In a jar. I don't know. Smells nice.

SAL

It's the woman's touch.

ESTEBAN

She's taken over.

SAL

They tend to do that.

Where she sleep?

ESTEBAN

What kind of fucking question is that?

SAL

Just wondering where she sleeps that's all.

ESTEBAN

In the bed.

SAL

Ooh!

ESTEBAN

I sleep on the chair.

SAL

How doe it feel?

ESTEBAN

Weird.

SAL

In what way?

ESTEBAN

You forget...

SAL

Forget what?

ESTEBAN

What the walls sound like with another person in the room.

SAL

One sound is a lot for a man to bear.

ESTEBAN

I guess I got used to it.

SAL

You don't have a monopoly on loneliness motherfucker. We all scared of being alone.

ESTEBAN

How's Lydia?

SAL
Still bald.

ESTEBAN
That's sexy.

SAL
You got that right.

ESTEBAN
Good to see you smiling again.

SAL
You too.

ESTEBAN
I know we haven't talked much but are we all right?

SAL
We cool Esteban. You like family now. Sometimes I hate you and sometimes, I couldn't imagine not seeing you.

REY enters.

REY
What the hell is this?

Both
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

They are standing in front of balloons.

REY
Oh my god!

ESTEBAN
Thought it would be nice. You've done a good job the last couple of months. Worked hard.

SAL
But wait there's more. Give it to her.

ESTEBAN shows her the cake.

ESTEBAN
Happy Birthday.

REY

Thank you.

SAL

What's kind of cake is it?

ESTEBAN

It's a sunshine cake.

SAL

What it look like?

ESTEBAN

Three layer cake with butter cream in each section.

SAL

Did you put the shiny sprinkles on top for our shining star?

ESTEBAN

Yes I did.

REY

Ahh. This is too much.

SAL

Light the candles so you can blow them out.

ESTEBAN does.

ESTEBAN

Make a wish.

She closes her eyes. Blows.

SAL

Now cut it! I'm hungry.

ESTEBAN

Go ahead. Get him a piece.

REY

I can't.

ESTEBAN

What?

REY
I got to go.

ESTEBAN
You just got here?

REY
I came by to pick up some things.

SAL
It's your birthday party.

REY
I got to ready for tonight.

ESTEBAN
What's tonight?

REY
I didn't tell you?

ESTEBAN
No.

REY
I got a gig.

ESTEBAN
What?

SAL
That's great!

REY
Yeah.

ESTEBAN
How?

REY
Eddie hooked it up.

SAL
That's fantastic.

ESTEBAN
Where?

REY
Some bar in the village. No big deal.

SAL
It's a big deal sweetheart.

ESTEBAN
You can't go.

REY
What?

ESTEBAN
The music business is shady. Lots of people
look to take advantage of a pretty girl like you.

REY
It's just a gig.

SAL
You getting paid?

REY
50 bucks.

SAL
That makes you a professional.

REY
Fuck yeah.

SAL
Beats playing in the port.

ESTEBAN
There's nothing wrong in playing in the port!

REY
It's just a stupid little gig.

ESTEBAN
Then don't go.

REY

What? Why?

ESTEBAN

Because.

REY

Don't be stupid.

ESTEBAN

Sal surprised you with a party. You can't leave. It's disrespectful.

REY

Sal. My blind love bunny. Do you mind if I bounce?

SAL

Bounce away sweetie. I'm proud of you. Go knock them dead.

ESTEBAN

Maybe we can come?

REY

NO! That's not a good idea.

ESTEBAN

Why?

REY

You would make me nervous. It's my first gig. I got too much pressure already. Let me figure this one out and maybe you can come to the next one.

SAL

We'll support you in spirit.

ESTEBAN

Don't go.

REY

I'll be back.

ESTEBAN

You didn't even finish your cake.

REY

I'll eat it later. Wish me luck.

SAL

Luck.

She leaves.

SAL

Look like she wears the pants in this family.

ESTEBAN

Sal. Shut the fuck up.

"I found a new face. New image staring back at me. Let
the Cool Goddess rust away"

-Clap Your Hands and Say Yeah.

Back stage.

Center light.

Club crowd noise.

REY fiddles in her seat.

Give In

REY

The weather is cold in Brooklyn

This time of year.

A bundle up in my boots and heaviest gear

Chap stick comes handy when your facing the wind.

Let down my guard and give in.

Come on, give in.

There's nothing left to win.

Come on, let go.

There's nothing left to show.

Come on, give in.

There's nothing left to win.

Come on, let go.

There's nothing left to show.

"I know a place where no cars go."

- Arcade Fire

The Post No Bill wall turns.

Back into ESTEBAN's small apartment.

REY explodes through the door.

REY

Oh my god! My arms are still shaking. SHAKING! Jesus, tonight was amazing! The sounds, the music, bam! Fire! Fire baby! Electricity. We killed it! Killed it. FUCKING KILLED IT! And EDDIE. He is such a pro. He blew me away. AND THE CROWD. They were with me poppa. Living it through me. Living through the music. I was up there. Living it with them. Like this symbiotic vibe. It was...fucking off the fucking chain.

ESTEBAN

You eat?

REY

Uh. No. What? No. Didn't have time.

ESTEBAN

I got you a sandwich.

REY

No thanks.

ESTEBAN

Okay.

REY

If it's like this, I want to do it for the rest of my life.

ESTEBAN

You staying here tonight?

REY

I think so.

ESTEBAN

Sometimes you don't come home.

REY

Sometimes I got other places to be.

ESTEBAN
And tonight you don't?

REY
No.

ESTEBAN
Just checking.

REY
I mean, do you want me to stay?

ESTEBAN
If you want.

REY
I don't have to.

ESTEBAN
I'm just saying, you been living with me for a couple of months,
maybe it's time you get your own place.

REY
What?

ESTEBAN
It don't look right.

REY
What doesn't look right?

ESTEBAN
You, living with an old man.

REY
Come on, you're not that old.

ESTEBAN
It don't look right.

REY
So you want me to move out?

ESTEBAN
You're a big girl now.

REY

Ok. I'll go get my stuff.

She begins to gather her things.

REY

You know, this is really fucked up. You know that right?

ESTEBAN

So?

REY

This sucks. SUCKS.

ESTEBAN

Yeah yeah, life is so bad, poor you.

REY

You always got to do that.

ESTEBAN

Do what?

REY

Shit on everybody else's happiness. You're miserable so you got to make everyone around you feel like shit.

ESTEBAN

I didn't do nothing.

REY

I tell you that I had an amazing night and you fucking shit on it.

ESTEBAN

It was a gig. That's all. Not some spiritual moment.

REY

How do you know what it was?

ESTEBAN

Cause I've been doing this a long time. I know what the ride is. And it don't involve some pendejadas de symbiotic vibe chingadera you were talking about.

REY

That was my experience. MINE.

ESTEBAN

It don't work that way.

REY

For me it does.

ESTEBAN

I know how it goes.

REY

You don't know shit.

ESTEBAN

I know that you don't live with me anymore.

REY

At least I got the balls to play in front of a real audience. Not some bullshit Post no bills where the people don't even care. Just walk by paying you no mind.

ESTEBAN

What the fuck are you talking about?

REY

I don't know what happened to you. But you gave up on the music man. Gave up on the life of it. Just playing old songs about beat up regret.

ESTEBAN

What the fuck do you know about playing real music? You play your first gig and all of sudden you know what real music is. Music is pain. Music is the dark corner of your soul where nothing else matters. And you expose that side. You love that side to a point that nothing else exists. Not your wife. Not your baby daughter. Not your fucking life. But it'll eat you up. Sharing that darkness with the losers, the drunks, the stuck up pochos, and gringos, and Uncle Sam and the useless assholes like your dad. What's left? What have you done with it? For all that love? Nothing. So I play in the Post No Bills. I own that place. My music on my terms and I don't have to share it with no one.

REY kisses him.

REY

You shared it with me.

*She leaves.
He goes after her.*

ESTEBAN

Stop! Why did you do that?

REY

Do what?

ESTEBAN

You know what you did?

REY

You told me to leave.

ESTEBAN

No. The kiss.

REY

Felt like it. Wait. What is this? You pissed me off. You told me to leave. I'm leaving.

ESTEBAN

Stay.

REY

Because I kissed you. What? You think that you can get in my pants now?

ESTEBAN

Hey! Come on cabrona.

REY

Because that don't look right.

ESTEBAN

I don't want you to go.

REY

Why?

ESTEBAN

Because, I was wrong okay?

REY

You can't ever do that again. You can never make me feel like that again. It's bullshit. I felt good. I felt really good about myself. Everyone's always trying to bring me down. And you can't do that no more. You crushed me. You can't do that again.

ESTEBAN

I won't.

REY

Fuck you.

ESTEBAN

Listen to me Rey, when I saw the smile on your face. I just, it pissed me off.

REY

Why?

ESTEBAN

Because I wanted to give that to you.

REY

Listen Stevie, the only reason I even have the courage to do this is because of you. And it feels real good right now. So let me enjoy it.

ESTEBAN

Stay.

REY

No.

REY walks out.

*"You got to learn to live and live and learn. Learn to give or wait your turn or you'll get burned."
-The Raconteurs*

Wall turns.

EDDIE walks up to REY

She's sleeping near the Post No Bills.

REY wakes up.

Little confused and a little embarrassed.

	EDDIE
Hey.	
	REY
What time is it?	
	EDDIE
Like three.	
	REY
What are you doing here?	
	EDDIE
We were supposed to meet up.	
	REY
Fuck.	
	EDDIE
It's alright. We'll figure something out.	
	REY
Figure what out?	
	EDDIE
Can you just. Just. Relax.	
	REY
Why?	
	EDDIE
Because. You were nice and quiet.	
	REY
Sorry to disrupt your quietness.	

EDDIE

That's not what I meant. You're beautiful when you're still.

REY

Don't start your poetic shit.

EDDIE

I'm serious.

REY

Oh please. Look, I fucked up. I should get my ass home and apologize.

EDDIE

Back to your "daddy's."

REY

Don't fucking call him that.

EDDIE

Then what?

REY

I ain't got no place to go okay.

EDDIE

Come crash with me.

REY

What?

EDDIE

Come live me.

REY

Get the fuck out of here.

EDDIE

I'm serious.

REY

Go home Eddie.

EDDIE

What? Why?

REY
Cause you are talking a lot of bullshit.

EDDIE
No I'm not. Live with me.

REY
No.

EDDIE
Why?

REY
Cause I got a place.

EDDIE
But you can't live there.

REY
Why?

EDDIE
He's old.

REY
He's been good to me.

EDDIE
I mean, are you guys fucking?

REY
What the fuck did you say?

EDDIE
Are you fucking the old man?

REY
Who I fuck or don't fuck is none of your fucking business.

EDDIE
So you are fucking him.

She runs up to him and grabs him by the balls.

REY
Listen to me, forget the pain and you fucking listen to me. You hear me? Good. That man has given me a place to stay, food,

offered me hope. He's been more of a man to me than you will ever be. So don't you ever disrespect him again. You get me puto?

EDDIE

Got it.

A half rest

EDDIE

Move in with me!

REY

What's wrong with you!

EDDIE

I've fallin' in love with you.

REY

Oh please.

EDDIE

I'm serious.

REY

Shut up Eddie.

EDDIE

Listen baby girl, I love you. And that shit ain't easy for me to say.

REY

No Eddie.

EDDIE

Why?

REY

Cause things don't last. And when you leave me, Where am I gonna go? I can't go back to Esteban. I can't go to the Post No Bills. I can't go home. Where does that leave me? Homeless and why? Cause I stupidly believed in something that ain't real.

EDDIE

My love won't fade.

REY

Just shut up.

EDDIE

Don't be such a chicken shit. Take a risk.

REY

For what? You?

EDDIE

Yeah. It's called trust. You know how to do that right?

REY

Fuck you.

EDDIE

Who hurt you?

REY

Don't.

EDDIE

Come on.

REY

Fucking get off of me.

EDDIE

You won't kiss me.

REY

Eddie, back the fuck up.

EDDIE

You won't touch me.

REY

EDDIE!

EDDIE

I want to know.

REY

Stop it! STOP IT! STOP! Don't. STOP! YA!

She cuddles up into a little ball.

EDDIE

Hey. I'm sorry. You okay. Hey.

REY

I'm a fucking mess. You want that?

EDDIE

I can handle it.

REY

You're an idiot.

EDDIE

Come on, I'm not gonna leave you.

REY

Better not.

"In the morning after night, I fall in love with the light. It is so clear I realize here at last I have my eyes."

-Califone

SAL and ESTEBAN sit next to each other.

SAL
She ain't coming back.

ESTEBAN
I know.

SAL
She left.

ESTEBAN
Just you and me compadre.

SAL
How could she leave?

ESTEBAN
No matter what you do.

SAL
No matter what you say.

ESTEBAN
You can fight.

SAL
You can pray.

ESTEBAN
You can be nice.

SAL
You can hope.

ESTEBAN
But they still leave.

SAL
The shit don't do any good.

ESTEBAN

We never should've tried.

SAL

Dirty bitches dig their way into your heart.

ESTEBAN

We never should've let her in.

SAL

Should've closed the door.

ESTEBAN

That's what happens.

SAL

Fucking strays. Come on in. Fool us. Fuck her.

ESTEBAN

I told you we should've minded our own business.

SAL

She lied to me.

ESTEBAN

She didn't lie.

SAL

She promised me.

ESTEBAN

Promised what?

SAL

She told me she'd never leave me.

ESTEBAN

What the fuck are you talking about SAL?

SAL

She's gone Stevie.

ESTEBAN

I know. It's no big deal.

SAL

You don't understand. My Lydia. She's gone. She's gone. She's fucking gone.

ESTEBAN

I'm sorry bro.

SAL

Why she lie to me?

ESTEBAN

I don't know.

SAL

Tell me Stevie.

ESTEBAN

I ain't the best person to talk to about this.

SAL

You're my best friend.

ESTEBAN

SAL, she was sick.

SAL

She promised.

ESTEBAN

You shouldn't believe in those kinds of promises.

SAL

Fuck you!

ESTEBAN

It wasn't her call.

SAL

She closed her eyes.

ESTEBAN

Nothing you could do.

SAL

Closed her eyes and didn't even say bye.

ESTEBAN

At least you were there.

SAL

She's gone.

ESTEBAN

At least you were fucking there.

SAL

She bulldozed a hole in my chest.

ESTEBAN

That's what you get for letting them in.

SAL

And all that prayin', hopin', and faith, it's all bullshit.

ESTEBAN

I told you.

SAL

You told me what?

ESTEBAN

That the pain ain't worth the love.

SAL

It was worth it. This, what I feel, it was worth it.

ESTEBAN

So those wise words you had for me, they helping you now?

SAL

I'm doing fine.

ESTEBAN

You've moved on?

SAL

A man has to grieve.

ESTEBAN

You know Sal, you're full of shit.

SAL

A man's got to let the loss run through him.

ESTEBAN

So live with it. I want to see you live with it. Get to work, make a dollar off the pain.

SAL

What the fuck happened to you?

ESTEBAN

Nothing.

SAL

Devil himself is scared of you.

ESTEBAN

Don't turn your shit on me.

SAL

You fucked it up again didn't you?

ESTEBAN

I didn't do shit.

SAL

Where's Lady Rey?

ESTEBAN

She's gone.

SAL

She gone cause of you!

ESTEBAN

Not my fault.

SAL

Denial, stage 1.

ESTEBAN

Fuck you!

SAL

Anger, stage 2. That's good.

ESTEBAN

I'm not...If you don't shut your mouth, I'll shut it for you.

SAL
Bargaining, stage 3. What's next?

ESTEBAN
Get the fuck out of here SAL.

SAL
And straight into depression.

ESTEBAN
SAL, you need to shut the fuck up.

SAL
Tell me Stevie. How did you fuck it up this time?

ESTEBAN
What do you want me to do? She fucking left!

SAL
She gave you a chance at another smile.

ESTEBAN
Not my fault.

SAL
Fucking wasted it.

ESTEBAN
She didn't want me okay.

SAL
Didn't want the poison you got.

ESTEBAN
And what do you got? Balloons and fairy tales. What good did that bullshit do you? You alone in this world just like me.

SAL
I ain't like you.

ESTEBAN
Now who's in denial?

SAL
I don't deny the pain.

ESTEBAN

Yeah, but you're bitch is dead just like mine.

SAL

I didn't make this choice.

ESTEBAN

No. You chose to believe in an unrealistic promise.

SAL

At least I believed.

ESTEBAN

And what did that get you?

SAL

Love.

ESTEBAN

Look, they're gone. And all we got is each other now. Our dollars and bits.

SAL

I don't want this.

ESTEBAN

Don't pussy out on me now SAL.

SAL

She's gone. And I don't want this.

ESTEBAN

Then get the fuck off the wall. You fucking pussy cry baby! Be a man. She's dead. Get over it!

SAL

You sure you want to end up like this? Cause when's done. It's done.

ESTEBAN

Get the fuck out of my life.

SAL

Thank God for the darkness so I don't have to see your fucking face.

SAL walks away. Leaving ESTEBAN alone.

"Love is the province of the brave."
-TV on the Radio

At the Post No Bills.
ESTEBAN sits by himself.
He's disheveled.

Solo

ESTEBAN

la canción afuera
En la oscuridad
vidas sin una cara
Buscan con los dedos
La luz de
Afuera del dia

Translation:
The song outside
In the dark
Life without faces
They look for fingers
And the light
Outside in the day

In walks REY.

REY

Hey.

ESTEBAN

Look at you. All famous singer right?

REY

No. Not famous at all.

ESTEBAN

You come to visit the little people?

REY

You look like shit.

ESTEBAN

I'm trying a new act.

REY
What's that?

ESTEBAN
Looking like shit.

REY
It's working.

ESTEBAN
Rey.

REY
Yes.

ESTEBAN
What the fuck you doing here?

REY
I came to say goodbye.
He looks up.

ESTEBAN
Where you going?

REY
Moving back to Texas.

ESTEBAN
What about your boyfriend?

REY
He fucked me over. You were right.

ESTEBAN
I told you.

REY
Don't be an asshole.

ESTEBAN
That's what I do best.

REY
Just thought you should know.

She turns to leave.

REY

I got booed tonight.

ESTEBAN

So?

REY

They booed me Stevie.

ESTEBAN

It happens.

REY

It's not supposed to happen to me.

ESTEBAN

It happens to everyone.

REY

You were right. I wasn't ready. I wasn't good enough. They hated me.

ESTEBAN

Don't suck and they won't hate you.

REY

I've never been hated like that before.

ESTEBAN

Well, fuck em'.

REY

You ever been hated like that?

ESTEBAN

No ones hated me more than me.

REY

How do you make it stop?

ESTEBAN

What stop?

REY

All that hate.

ESTEBAN

Why you asking me?

REY

Because.

ESTEBAN

Does it look like I've figured that one out?

REY

Don't you want it to stop?

ESTEBAN

No.

REY

Why?

ESTEBAN

Stop asking stupid questions.

REY

Aren't you tired of all the Hate? I am. Tired of hating you, me, this fucking place, Eddie, blaming everyone. I hate it. Hate it all. And I don't want it anymore. Don't you want it stop?

ESTEBAN

I don't know any other way to be.

REY

You'd be you.

ESTEBAN

Nobody wants the "you" I am.

REY

I do.

ESTEBAN

Stop.

REY

I want you.

ESTEBAN

Rey, yah!

REY

Come back home with me.

ESTEBAN

To Texas?

REY

Yes.

ESTEBAN

Fuck no! I'm not going back there.

REY

Why?

ESTEBAN

Cause. I ain't ready.

REY

Maybe it's time you give it up.

ESTEBAN

To give it up? I may play in a fucking subway tunnel. But I do it on my terms and I ain't giving that up for nobody.

REY

Not even for me.

ESTEBAN

Not even for you.

REY

Don't you want to be with me?

ESTEBAN

Be with you?

REY

Yes.

ESTEBAN

What the fuck is wrong with you?

REY

What?

ESTEBAN

We can't fucking "be together!" What's a matter with you?

REY

What? Why?

ESTEBAN

Listen, what did I tell you? You don't give that up for no one. And you sure as hell don't give up on it so easily.

REY

I'm scared.

ESTEBAN

Rey! Yah. Stop being a little girl. You want to be a singer, be a singer. Stop you're whining. So you got booed. It won't be the first and it sure as hell won't be the last.

REY

How?

ESTEBAN

How what?

REY

I don't know how to do it anymore.

Esteban picks up his guitar.

Drink up Baby

ESTEBAN

*I see what you were
And I know what it is
Drunken eyes filled with tears
Loose hearts stretched too far*

*Drink up baby
Let the stories flow
Of a time you were my man
And I was your glow
Drink up baby
Drain the whiskey from the glass
Cause the bottom of the rim
Is where love fights the past*

ESTEBAN

Sing. (They sing the end together)

*I see what you were
And I know what it is
Drunken eyes filled with tears
Loose hearts stretched too far*

*But we got the light
Between our eyes
I got you and you got me
And no wine can pull you away from me*

He looks on her with a proud smile.

ESTEBAN

Rey...

REY

Yes.

ESTEBAN

You can't go back to Texas.

REY

Where am I supposed to go?

ESTEBAN

You can't stay here.

REY

You promised!

ESTEBAN

Promised what?

REY

Not to crush me.

ESTEBAN

I'm doing this for your own good.

REY

Fuck you. Fuck you, you fucking asshole. What am I supposed to do now?

ESTEBAN

Don't quit.

REY

Fuck you.

ESTEBAN

You can't fucking be here no more. Playing with me in the Post No Bills. You're better than this. You're better than me.

REY

No I'm not.

ESTEBAN

I can't give you what you want.

REY

I just want to make you smile.

ESTEBAN

Mija, you do.

REY

Then let me stay.

He hands her the guitar.

ESTEBAN

Go.

REY

What?

ESTEBAN

Get out of here.

REY

I don't want that.

ESTEBAN

Go.

REY

Stevie.

ESTEBAN

GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE! GO! GET YOUR ASS OUT OF HERE AND DON'T

COME BACK!

She walks to the corner. She turns and gives him another look.

REY

I love you.

ESTEBAN

I know. Go.

She leaves. He sits. Lights down.

End of Play.