

Maria Elena looks down and shakes her head.

MARIA ELENA
(in Spanish)
Me quiero duchar, Juan Antonio. ¿Puedo? Me quiero quitar esto ya de una puta vez.

SUBTITLES
I want to take a shower, Juan Antonio, can I? I want to get rid of these clothes.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)
In English, in English. Maria Elena, when you are here, you have to speak English, all right?

Juan Antonio points to the guest room.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)
You want to take a shower, you go there, in the guest room.

MARIA ELENA
(in Spanish)
¿Qué, estoy de invitada en mi propia casa?

SUBTITLES
So now I'm a guest in my own house?

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)
Sí. You are a guest.

Maria Elena rubs her eyes and whimpers.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)
(in Spanish)
Venga, María Elena, por favor. Venga, ahí, ya sabes dónde está el cuarto.

SUBTITLES
Go on Maria Elena, please. Go on...There. You know where the room is.

Maria Elena walks across the living room.

CRISTINA
So...what's going on?

Juan Antonio walks to Cristina.

JUAN ANTONIO
Nothing.

Juan Antonio kisses her. He then walks to the stove.

CRISTINA

What?

JUAN ANTONIO

Eh, nothing, nothing.

CRISTINA

Is everything okay?

JUAN ANTONIO

I, I think she's okay, yeah. I mean...eh...

Juan Antonio picks up a cup of coffee, then turns to Cristina.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)

Things, things didn't work out for her in Madrid and, and...she came bas-, she came back on the bus tonight, alone. Her whole world looked black and all her plans had come to nothing and...she overdosed in the bus terminal.

CRISTINA

Oh, my God, that's terrible.

JUAN ANTONIO

Yeah. She has to stay with us.

Cristina looks at Juan Antonio.

CRISTINA

What? She's gonna stay with us?

JUAN ANTONIO

Yeah. She has to stay with us. I mean, she has no money.

Juan Antonio pulls out a chair from the table and sits down. Cristina sits down on the table and looks at him.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)

She has no one capable of caring for her and...and I, I always...I was always her connection to the real life and...

CRISTINA

Uh-huh, I understand, but I mean, how can she stay here?

Juan Antonio shakes his head at her.

JUAN ANTONIO
Uh, you know, I think...

Juan Antonio stands up.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)
...I think that she can't be
trusted to stay alone. That's the
problem, because, I mean, even
if...let me think, even if I...if a
place could be worked out...

CRISTINA
Well, maybe she needs psychiatric
help.

JUAN ANTONIO
No.

Juan Antonio sits back down.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)
She's always had bad experiences
with doctors. That's--

CRISTINA
I kn-- I understand, but, but where
is she gonna stay?

Juan Antonio gestures toward the guest room.

JUAN ANTONIO
In there.

CRISTINA
Well, how long is she gonna stay
here?

Juan Antonio leans toward Cristina and clasps her shoulder.

JUAN ANTONIO
Cristina, I know...this is not what
you had in mind, but she has to
stay with us.

CRISTINA
No, I, I understand, I understand.

JUAN ANTONIO
She has, she has no one else.

CRISTINA

Like, I understand, it's only for a short time.

JUAN ANTONIO

Yes, a few months at most.

Cristina looks at him with surprise.

CRISTINA

She's staying for a few months?

JUAN ANTONIO

Listen, I've been through this with her before. So..I mean, if... Shit.

Juan Antonio stands up and paces across the kitchen.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)

Putá mierda, coño. If you had only known her when, when I first met her, I mean, her beauty...

Juan Antonio sits back down.

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)

...her beauty took your breath away.

CRISTINA

Yes, I know.

JUAN ANTONIO

And she was so talented, she was so brilliant...she was so sensual, and, I mean...she chose me...from a hundred men ready to, ready, ready to kill for her.

CRISTINA

Uh-huh.

JUAN ANTONIO

We were both sure that...our relation was perfect, but there was something missing. You know? Like, love requires such a perfect balance. It's...like the human body.

JUAN ANTONIO(cont'd)

It may turn that you have all the vitamins and minerals, but if...there is minus a single, tiny ingredient...missing, like, like, like, like, ooh, like salt, for example...one dies.

CRISTINA

Salt?

INT. JUAN ANTONIO'S HOUSE/CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Juan Antonio can be seen through a window making up the bed in the guest room for Maria Elena.

MARIA ELENA

(in Spanish)

¿Y ella quién es?

SUBTITLES

Who is she?

JUAN ANTONIO

She is the woman I live with and...you have to speak English around her. Please.

MARIA ELENA

(in Spanish)

¿Por qué? ¿Por ella?

SUBTITLES

Why? For her sake?

JUAN ANTONIO (cont'd)

Yes, exactly, out of courtesy.

INT. JUAN ANTONIO'S HOUSE/GUEST ROOM - SAME

Maria Elena sits in a chair wearing only a towel after her shower. She shakes her head at Juan Antonio as he continues to make the bed.

MARIA ELENA

(in Spanish)

No me fio, Juan Antonio. Los ojos, no los tiene de un solo color.

SUBTITLES

I don't trust her, Juan Antonio. Her eyes are not one color.

JUAN ANTONIO

You always had paranoid ideas about every woman I've ever known.