

The Brunch Crowd
by Dillon Yruegas (he/él)

CHARACTERS

DALLAS—Mid-late 20s. Trans man (he/him). Queer. POC.

Don't let his outward appearance fool you, with his messy hair, scruffy facial hair, hipster glasses, plain t-shirts, trousers covered in paint, and torn canvas shoes: this artist uses his medium to highlight his journey through life as a queer transman of color. He is the most soft-spoken of the group, but when he does speak, it is either poignant and full of wisdom beyond his years or with an understated, dry, sarcastic humor. In a relationship with ERIK.

ERIK/LA BRUJA-JA—Late 20s-early 30s. Non-binary (he/they). Queer. Latine.

Activist by day and drag queen by night. He works for a local non-profit that helps those living with HIV/AIDS to find various resources, including safe housing and low-cost medical care. Through their performances as LA BRUJA-JA, he puts their theatre degree to use with over-the-top costumes and story-line presence in even the most mundane pop songs. In a relationship with DALLAS.

FLOR—Mid-late 20s. Trans woman (she/her). Bisexual. Afro-Mexicana.

A busily working actress, she is rarely able to hang out with the group due to her various rehearsal and shooting schedules, but always makes time for brunch. Her hard work is paying off as she is already a well-known name amongst the theatre/film scene in Texas. She is contemplating a move to either NYC or LA.

Q—Early-mid 20s. Non-binary (they/them). Queer. Black or Afro-latine.

Resident social media extraordinaire. They have a goal for becoming the next big influencer and they actually can boast a decent following. The group often pokes fun at them as they are often recognized out and about. Probably a Leo, but their animal is a peacock.

ASHLEY—Early-mid 20s. Cis woman (she/her). Questioning. White.

Q's long-distance partner from college. She is a self-proclaimed ally, attempting to be the champion for all under-represented people and animals. Dresses in boho-chic fashion, probably from Free People, though will tell people an item's country of origin like she bought it there in-person.

SETTING

A neighborhood in East Austin that's experiencing the mid-late stages of gentrification. Their regular brunch spot, Taqueria Maria Félix, is a small, traditionally decorated Texas-Mexican restaurant. It is one of the last original businesses holding out.

TIME

2019/20.

Playwright's Note:

The half scenes are scene transitions with texts and social media post projections. Feel free to play with staging this with just projections, with the actors coming on stage, whatever works with your vision and resources.

SCENE 1

(The group's regular brunch spot. A faint Ranchero or Mariachi song plays in the background. FLOR, ERIK, DALLAS, and Q sit in a corner booth. All their glasses are raised, toasting the first mimosa of the morning.)

FLOR

Cheers, queers!

Q

Hold it; I'm taking a pic.

FLOR

Q, like you don't have hundreds of pics exactly like this.

Q

You're one to talk, Flor. I'll be awaiting a similar pic in your Insta story.

FLOR

Ay, whatever. Take the damn pic. *(A beat, perhaps after at least a couple of pictures are taken.)*
Wait! Let me switch hands; I want to show off my new ring I got in México.

ERIK

Ooo girl, let me see! *(FLOR extends her hand across the table.)* That's so cute! And your nails look flawless, as always.

FLOR

Thanks! My tía has her own salon in Cuernavaca.

DALLAS

So that's why you weren't here last week.

FLOR

Yeah, it was my cousin's wedding. Her mom closed down the salon for two days so all of us could get ready. Free manis, pedis, eyebrows, y todo. Are you still not on Facebook or anything, Dallas? I have an entire album of it.

DALLAS

Well, yeah—

ERIK

Ay, but he never checks it.

DALLAS

I do, too, Erik! Just because I'm not constantly scrolling through my newsfeed, it doesn't mean I'm never on it.

ERIK

True, but tell me, if you didn't need it as a "networking opportunity" for your art, would you have one at all?

Q

(*Laughing.*) I can answer that: no. He barely has any social media presence outside of his art.

DALLAS

That's all the presence I need. Besides, if I did, I wouldn't want to surpass you, Q: Influencer.

Q

Well, thank you for your generosity, kind sir.

FLOR

Oh my god, did I tell you that a lot of mis primitos and their friends actually follow you?

Q

In Mexico? Wow, cool!

ERIK

Oh, I didn't know we had a celebrity among us!

FLOR

Right? They were watching your video about *Frozen* and got all excited when I told them I knew you personally.

DALLAS

You did a video about *Frozen*? Why?

ERIK

I remember watching it. You said that Elsa's powers were just a magical manifestation of anxiety—

Q
—and depression, yeah.

DALLAS
Interesting. How so?

Q
Well, she's born with these powers that neither she nor her parents are willing to understand and so they live in fear of them, even of Elsa herself, right? This fear leads to isolation and loneliness and then evolves into accidental violent outbursts. As the story continues, she further isolates herself in a refusal to actually understand how her powers manifest or even to control them. Eventually, through the help of her sister, she learns ways to cope & manage her powers.

DALLAS
So how do her powers translate into mental illness?

Q
It's mostly in the way they're portrayed, really. Anxiety shows itself in many ways, but mostly in debilitating fear and feelings of helplessness. Elsa was afraid of her powers and they would spiral out of control the more overwhelmed she became. That caused depression which was shown by her wanting to isolate herself from the world.

DALLAS
Oh wow, I never really thought of it like that. Are you going to do a follow-up with one on *Frozen II*?

Q
Duh! I've already written and recorded it; I'm in the process of editing and trying to get around copyright issues. I'm addressing her Indigeneity and its Disney-fied decolonial message!

FLOR
I still need to watch it, though I wasn't a huge fan of the first one.

Q
It's so much better than the first! Which is super rare for Disney/Pixar.

FLOR
Yeah, that's why I've been hesitant.

Q

We should have a little watch party sometime!

ERIK

Ooo yes, but as soon as I'm done producing my next drag brunch. That'll take up all my free time for the next few months.

FLOR

Oh my god, I'm so excited; I can't wait! Remind me when it is again? I wanna make sure I can keep it open around my next shooting schedule.

ERIK

The 23rd at 11.

FLOR

Perfecto!

Q

Have you decided what you're going to perform yet?

ERIK

Ay no. It's definitely going to be themed around La Reina's birthday, but I don't know which song of hers I want to perform.

DALLAS

Well you do already have that amazing outfit from her Houston Rodeo performance.

ERIK

Pues sí pero I don't want to be that tired old queen who parks and barks *Como la flor*. As amazing and perfect and iconic as it is, gracias a Santa Selena.

(They all make a gesture/noise in praise of Selena.)

DALLAS

I'm sure you'll come up with something, baby.

FLOR

Sí sí sí, you haven't done the disco mash-up medley thingy at that performance yet.

ERIK

Ooo buen idea!

FLOR

Pues claro, mi querido!

Q

Y'all, I think we're finally hitting the "speaking mostly in Spanish" level of drunk.

FLOR

Pendeje, you know damn well this one little pitcher ain't doin' shit.

Q

True...

ERIK

Yeah, not for this group of borrachos!

(ERIK raises their glass to cheer and starts to dance in his seat. The rest of the group joins in for a mini dance break. Collectively, they are loud and expressive without a care as to whomever is around or blessed enough to witness this act of pure joy. Once they quiet down a bit, DALLAS gets up from the booth.)

DALLAS

I'm gonna load up another plate from the buffet and get us another round. Y'all need anything?

Q

Nah, I'll come with you.

FLOR

Can you bring some more fruta?

DALLAS

Yeah, def.

FLOR

Like, a bigass plate.

Q

Oh my god woman, yes!

FLOR

Gracias mis amores!

DALLAS

Erik?

ERIK

Estoy bien. (*He kisses DALLAS on the cheek.*) ¡Gracias cariño!

Q

(*Turning to walk away.*) GAAAAAYYY!

DALLAS

Shut up....

(*They exit.*)

FLOR

Soooo...

ERIK

Yes...?

FLOR

So when are you gonna do it? I've been waiting for you to bust out that gorgeous ring you bought since we first walked in!

ERIK

Ay, I don't think I'm gonna do it today.

FLOR

(*Almost yelling.*) Chingao pendejo, por qué no?

ERIK

Oh my god, Florinda! ¡Cállate!

FLOR

Pues dímelo!

ERIK

Well I brought it up last night, just the subject of marriage in general, and he went off on one of his rants about how it's "an archaic ritual of patriarchal ownership" and "a plot to uphold inherent white supremacy." And like, he's not wrong, but it's still disheartening.

FLOR

Ay, queride I'm sorry. You know he's just being a total cynical Capricorn and is completely head over heels in love with you, right?

ERIK

Sí yo se, pero, today's just not the right time.

FLOR

(Bringing them in for a hug.) Of course, mi amor.

(Q and DALLAS arrive back at the booth with a couple of plates, a carafe of mimosas, and a small tray mounded with a variety of fruits. FLOR and ERIK are still embracing, but break apart once the fruit tray is placed on the table.)

Q

Aw, y'all are so cute! I want in on this little love fest.

FLOR

(Noticing the tray.) Ojalé, y'all! That's a ton of fruit!!

DALLAS

Well you said you wanted a bigass plate so....

FLOR

I mean yeah, but I didn't... how did y'all manage to get a tray...?

DALLAS

Oh I just asked.

ERIK

And they just gave it to you?

DALLAS

Yeah—

Q

(Pouring the next round of mimosas.) Nah, this fool tried to walk away with the entire tray that was already there, but one of the staff caught his ass. Thankfully they know us so well that all he had to do was explain what he was doing and they got him a fresh tray from the back.

ERIK

Oh my god cariño...

FLOR

Well damn, all right!

DALLAS

(Shrugging) Hey, it worked!

Q

Anyways, cheers queers! We better start working on this bigass plate of fruit.

(Fade to black as they dive in and continue chatting.)

SCENE 1.5

(FLOR *texts* Q.)

FLOR

I can't believe that Erik chickened out!

Q

Chickened out from what?

FLOR

OMG did they not tell you?? He wanted to propose to Dallas at brunch today!

Q

STFU NO WAY

FLOR

Sí, wey!

Q

Lol stop

FLOR

Never ;)

But yeah, Dallas was being his Capricorn self disparaging the institute of marriage the night before so that gave Erik cold feet.

Q

Oh bless his heart, poor thing.

FLOR

We gotta help them out.

Q

Of course, they're meant to be! Operation Get-Dallas'-Head-Out-Of-His-Ass is a go!

FLOR

Yes, but we're choosing a different name.

Q

UGH fine lol
Ima text the group chat

FLOR
WAIT
What are you gonna say?

Q
I found an article with some gorgeous photos about how same-sex marriage is now legal in Nueva León.

FLOR
Oooo that's perfect! Commence Operation Erik Does Dallas.

Q
skull emoji

SCENE 2

(The ringtone for a Skype call is heard. Q, in their bedroom, picks up excitedly.)

Q

Bonjour, mon amour! I have so much to catch you up on!

ASHLEY

Oh, hey... Uh, cool.

Q

Alright, so you remember how I was supposed to meet with that friend of a friend who's an up and coming casting director in town? We met for coffee earlier and he is so fabulous and so wonderful and such a good connection to have! He knows so many of the right people, not just here in Austin, but in New York, Chicago, and LA as well! Like, I don't know how he hasn't solidly become a casting director before now because he is such a network hub. Do you remember Rebecca Lancaster, the writer who did a master class the semester we were in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* together?

ASHLEY

Yeah.

Q

Well, apparently, she and Miguel went to university together. Isn't that so cool?

ASHLEY

Yeah, definitely.

Q

Like, those are the kind of random connections he has! It's so perfect that I was able to meet up with him; I have such a good feeling about the future now. He said he was certainly going to keep me in mind for any projects that come up and especially if he ever needs help on any larger projects that he may need an assistant. That's so great, right?

ASHLEY

Oh yes, of course. That's great, babe.

Q

So how are classes going? How's the provincial life? Tell me everything!

ASHLEY

(Hesitantly.) Classes are okay. Marseille is hardly provincial though.

Q

You know what I mean.

ASHLEY

Yeah, yeah.

Q

Well? Tell me all about it! How are your classes going?

ASHLEY

I'm doing fine. I like it a lot, but it's a bit intense or whatever.

Q

Honey, what's wrong? Did something happen? Are you feeling okay? Is school getting stressful already? Are you homesick?

ASHLEY

Well, kind of, but that's not really-

Q

What's wrong then? Tell me.

(Pause.)

ASHLEY

I, um, well, I need to talk to you about something.

Q

Oh, okay.

ASHLEY

Well, I, um—

Q

Babe, come on. What is it?

ASHLEY

Look! This is really hard, okay?

Q

I'm sorry, it's just... you know you can talk to me about anything right? I mean, we have been together for about two years now.

ASHLEY

Yeah, I know. Like I said, this is really difficult for me.

Q

Alright, babe. Take your time. It's just me, right?

ASHLEY

That's the thing, it's about you. About us.

Q

What do you mean?

ASHLEY

Well, I've been doing a lot of thinking lately—

Q

About us? What about us?

ASHLEY

This distance, only seeing each other over Skype... it sucks.

Q

Of course it's sucked, babe, but it's only for a few more months. I mean, you were the one who wanted to study in France for a year.

ASHLEY

Yes, I am very aware of that and I don't regret my decision.

Q

Then what are you trying to say?

ASHLEY

I don't think I can do this anymore.

Q
This? What, us? Our relationship?

(Pause.)

ASHLEY
Yes.

Q
Are you being serious right now? Are you actually being fucking serious about this? You're breaking up with me? Over Skype? While you're an ocean away cavorting in southern France, living this amazingly privileged life that I could only dream of? I can't fucking believe this!

ASHLEY
Look, it's not like I wanted this to happen. I just—

Q
You just what? Wanted to be free? To cut all your ties back home so you can live out your perfect fantasy? You want to fuck as many cute French boys as possible?

ASHLEY
Q, stop.

Q
No, tell me. Is there someone else?

ASHLEY
No! Stop, that is not what this is about.

Q
Oh, then pray tell, what exactly is this about? Because from my standpoint, this is you and your selfishness taking precedence over me and my feelings.

ASHLEY
(Stumbling over her words.) Well, I just, wanted to, I—

(Q sighs exasperatedly.)

ASHLEY
Oh, come on! Stop that.

Q

Stop what? Expressing my disbelief at this entire conversation is even happening because you can't even give me a good reason as to why you want to break up with me?

ASHLEY

For judging me and not being as quick-witted as you! You know I need to take my time to gather my thoughts and—

Q

Well, it's obvious that you didn't think this through whatsoever. You just thought of this on a whim because living abroad is getting too hard for you even though this is exactly what you wanted in the first place.

ASHLEY

I have thought through this. This was not an easy decision to make.

Q

Oh, was this such a painstaking decision to decide to break my heart while you are thousands of miles away?

ASHLEY

I really did not want to do this.

Q

I'm sure.

ASHLEY

I still love you.

Q

But not enough to cross an ocean or withstand time.

ASHLEY

Stop being so overdramatic and making this all about you.

Q

Well, excuse me for feeling so overwhelmed by this apparently lengthy decision you came to even though I had no idea it was something you were even considering as a possibility.

ASHLEY

I don't know how else to explain it, to make you see my side of—

Q

You could have at least said this to my face.

ASHLEY

This is the best I can do right now! I won't be back in the States for a few months and even then, you're in Texas, I'd be home in Colorado, and who knows how long it would have been before we saw each other in person? I didn't think it would be fair to you to drag this out any longer than it needed to be.

Q

Oh, well at least you thought of my well-being in that regard.

ASHLEY

Come on, you know I'm right. It would have been wrong to drag it out and have you falsely believe in a relationship that I wasn't fully invested in.

Q

Uh huh.

ASHLEY

I'll always be grateful for what you've taught me about myself.

Q

Right.

ASHLEY

Q...

Q

No.

ASHLEY

Q—

Q

No, I am done with this conversation.

ASHLEY

But—

Q

Do not try to contact me. I will email you or something whenever I have processed this ridiculousness and am ready to talk with you.

ASHLEY

I... okay. Whatever you need.

(Q slams their laptop shut and exits. Blackout.)

SCENE 2.5

(The group chat, Bronche Babes. DALLAS shares Q's newest video on Frozen II.)

DALLAS

Wow, Q! This is such a great take!

ERIK

Felicidades querida! It's already got so many views <3

FLOR

Our baby influencer is about to blow tf up!

ERIK

Hell yeah! That YouTube partnership is just around the corner, I can feel it!

(After some time has passed.)

FLOR

Everything okay bb?

ERIK

Oh, I think they were talking with Ashley this afternoon.

FLOR

Ah.

ERIK

Hope y'all have a good catch up and again, felicidades <3

(After some more time has passed.)

Q

<3 <3 <3

SCENE 3

(Another brunch at their regular corner booth, but only DALLAS, ERIK, and Q are present. They are already drinking, but a fourth glass awaits FLOR's arrival. There's a slight tension between the three as Q slams back their drink, refills it, downs it, and refills it again.)

ERIK

Q, queride, I know you're dealing with a lot right now, but maybe you should slow down a bit. At least, until we get our food.

(Q just stares at them. A dare.)

ERIK

Or not...

DALLAS

Let them be, babe.

(Q pauses, contemplating on chugging this drink too. They think better of it, take a sip, and set the drink down. An awkward pause before FLOR enters.)

FLOR

¡Buenas, mis amores! Oh, gracias for the drink; I need this.

(She downs her drink, goes to refill it, and finally notices the awkward tension.)

FLOR

Damn y'all, why are y'all acting like someone just told you that your dog died?

DALLAS

Has Q told you yet?

FLOR

Told me what?

ERIK

Ashley broke up with them.

FLOR

¿Qué qué? Over Skype?

ERIK

Yes! The gall!

FLOR

The audacity!

ERIK

The caucacity!

FLOR

Por supuesto esa pinche güera se—

(DALLAS clears his throat to stop ERIK and FLOR from getting started. They are both quick to catch themselves, but another awkward pause ensues.)

FLOR

Q, queride, I'm so sorry. What do you need right now?

Q

A distraction! This brunch shouldn't be about me and my drama. We're celebrating y'all's anniversary!

FLOR

Ay yes, of course queride. *(Raising her glass.)* Felicidades a Erik y Dallas! Cheers queers!

(They hold up their glasses and cheers.)

FLOR

I know we were all there, but let's reminisce on the early years when y'all first got together.

Q

You mean when they finally decided to make it official.

FLOR

Oh but for real though! Y'all took forever to do that.

ERIK

I didn't want to rush him into putting a label on our relationship.

DALLAS

Yeah, but like I knew we would be in each other's lives for a long time. I didn't want to scare you off with that kind of thinking too soon.

FLOR

Awww qué romántico!

Q

I think one of my fave stories is the one about the rainbow bracelet.

ERIK

Ugh, that trash I got that one year all the big box stores decided that it was a good idea to start investing in rainbow capitalism?

DALLAS

Aw that was a lovely night though! I still have that bracelet, ya know?

FLOR

Oh my goddess, that's so cuuuute. Dímelo! I wanna hear the story again.

ERIK

Ay fine, so...

SCENE 4
FLASHBACK

(ERIK'S bedroom in his childhood home. ERIK is finishing packing the last of his suitcases before he leaves for Connecticut in the morning. DALLAS is seated on the floor next to his bed.)

DALLAS

So, what else do you need to pack?

ERIK

Just clothes really. I don't want to take anything that I won't use, especially because it'll get so cold there, I doubt any of my jackets will be of any use.

DALLAS

Yeah, plus it'll be a good excuse to update your wardrobe to make it extra fabulous.

ERIK

Exactly! You know I need to impress all the bourgeois bitches at *(Pretends to flip their hair.)* Yale.

DALLAS

(Laughing. Perhaps they both put on an affected Northeastern US old money accent for these next few lines.) Of course! How ever else would you be able to earn your MFA and your MRS?

ERIK

Precisely! You know I'm going to be swimming through an ocean of modest, repressed, WASPy gay boys who are just aching to realize the full potential of their teeming sexuality.

DALLAS

And how convenient that you are so wise and possess worldly experience that you may bestow upon them your sage wisdom.

ERIK

It is my duty that I take very seriously.

(Beat as they both dissolve into a giggle fit.)

ERIK

Speaking of imparting my sage wisdom, I have a surprise for you, my dear.

DALLAS

Oh do you, now?

ERIK

Yes, I do. *(He rummages in a bag, obviously for dramatic effect.)* It's something that I happened upon, in Target of all places, but I immediately thought of you and just had to get it.

(ERIK moves toward DALLAS, sits beside him, and presents a rainbow bracelet.)

ERIK

Here you are, querido.

DALLAS

I, wow. Thank you. This is... yeah, thank you.

ERIK

You're welcome! And I have another surprise for you.

DALLAS

Oh?

ERIK

(Pulling out a matching bracelet.) I bought one for myself as well. Now we have our own special, very gay friendship bracelets.

(DALLAS is speechless. He and ERIK just stare at each other for a few beats.)

DALLAS

I'm going to miss you so much.

ERIK

Me too. So much.

DALLAS

I'm so proud of you though. It's so amazing and I just love you so much.

ERIK

Thank you. I love you too.

DALLAS

You're going to do such wonderful things with your life. I'm so glad that I get to be a part of it.

ERIK

You too, cariño. Thank goodness we live when we do because we'll still be able to keep in contact across the country.

DALLAS

Right?? Thanks internet!

ERIK

(After a pause, uncharacteristically vulnerable) We'll be fine, right?

DALLAS

Yes, we most definitely will.

ERIK

Good, because you're gonna be in my life por vida sabes?

DALLAS

I wouldn't have it any other way.

END FLASHBACK

SCENE 5

(Lights back up on their corner booth.)

FLOR

Ay, that's too damn cute. But I thought y'all didn't start seeing each other until after Erik came back?

DALLAS

Oh, we totally slept together that night.

FLOR

ORALE!!!

ERIK

Oh my goddess, Dallas!

DALLAS

What?! We did! And it was obviously so unforgettable that you just had to come back home and claim me for your own.

FLOR

I thought y'all got together rather quickly after Erik graduated, but little did I know...

ERIK

I hate y'all.

DALLAS

Love you too, honey.

ERIK

Anyways, do you want to tell these two about your good news?

Q

Nice deflection.

DALLAS

No, no. We'll be nice after embarrassing his poor, delicate sensibility. I got asked to do a solo show at the Red Bird!

Q

Ah, really? Congrats!!

FLOR

Mi amor, that's amazing!!

DALLAS

Aw, thanks y'all.

FLOR

Have you thought about what your theme is going to be yet? Or do they already have one in mind for you?

DALLAS

Um, yeah actually. Thankfully I got to choose my own. I know it's kinda cliché, but I've been thinking a lot about astronomy, astrology, how they've been weirdly gendered, and how it doesn't make any sense why they can't inform each other.

Q

Honey, how is that cliché?

DALLAS

Oh you know, trans masc obsessed with astrology and gender.

ERIK

Querido, not at all! Tell them what you told me, how you explained it.

DALLAS

Well, the way I see it and how I justify my belief in astrology is that we come from stars, right? "Our bodies are made of stardust." Our bodies come from ancient genderless energy that has been reused and reworked and refined from these celestial bodies, so why wouldn't our beings be influenced by or reflected in the planets and stars? These are our origins, our home, no matter what we may look like in this incarnation on Earth. Why wouldn't we identify ourselves with them? Even science admits that the phases of the moon control the tides and that our bodies hold a lot of water, so why wouldn't they affect us as well?

(A beat to take this all in.)

Q

Wow.

FLOR

Qué mágico!

Q

Yeah, you'd've made a believer outta me if I wasn't already!

ERIK

I told you so, cariño. You're brilliant and it's an amazing theme for a show that will highlight that maravilloso mind of yours.

DALLAS

Thanks, y'all. You really know how to make a guy feel special.

FLOR

Pues querido, you are!

DALLAS

Stooooop, I'm getting embarrassed! I'm gonna go get another pitcher...

ERIK

Fine, mi amor. Go sit in your feels a bit and come back with tasties.

(DALLAS audibly rolls his eyes and exits.)

Q

ERIK!

ERIK

(Startled because he was watching DALLAS' ass as he exited.) Chinga tu pinche madre, what?!

Q

Damn, gurl chill.

FLOR

Yeah, it's not Q's fault you were lusting after Dallas' hot ass.

ERIK

So??

Q

SO! Why did I have to hear from Flor that you wanted to propose the other day at brunch?

ERIK

Because I know how much of a chismose you are and how difficult it is for you to keep a secret.

Q

There is not one of us who doesn't love their chisme so don't even try that excuse with me honey.

ERIK

Listen, I'm just really nervous about it, okay?

Q

Of course you are, darling! That doesn't mean that Dallas isn't head over heels in love with you and won't say yes.

FLOR

¿Qué te digo?

ERIK

¡Sí, yo sé! This is why I didn't wanna tell you too, Q. I knew that both of y'all would team up against me, pressure me, and all that.

Q

We're just trying to help you out, boo. If anyone deserves to have a cute af ceremony with a lit reception celebrating your undying love for each other, it's you and Dallas. Sometimes that means that you need fairy godparents to keep your hopes up and that little nagging negative voice away. (*Quieter, more to themselves but still loud enough for the others to catch.*) And maybe knock some sense into that thick-headed boy...

ERIK

No! Dallas cannot even have an idea that I want to propose soon.

FLOR

¿Pa' que no? It's not like y'all haven't talked about it before.

Q

Right, so where's the surprise?

ERIK

Well, yeah, but it's always a "what-if" kinda thing. Like talking about the future in an abstract way. The most serious marriage talk gets is only when there's an important, more immediate thing coming up like renewing our lease or planning for holidays or when our health insurance changes.

Q

(Notices that DALLAS is wrapping up and about to head back.) Listen, he's almost done so I'll just say this: Dallas loves you, probably more than he ever has loved anyone in his entire life. He talks a big game, but deep down, I think he wants nothing more than to spend the rest of his life with you and would absolutely want a fantastic and fabulous party to celebrate your love.

FLOR

Exactly! Even if he does act like a total pendejo sometimes.

(They all laugh as DALLAS returns to the table.)

DALLAS

Here we go. It's a good thing they like us here 'cause y'all are rowdy already.

Q

Of course they do! Between how often we come here and Erik's drag brunches, we practically keep the place afloat.

FLOR

Plus we're supporting one of the last original familia places on the East Side. Did you see that they closed down Los Tacos Felizes?

ERIK

Yeah, I heard they were gonna try out a taco truck instead since renting out a space is so expensive nowadays.

DALLAS

It's a damn shame how many places are closing or downsizing because of that.

Q

That or because younger family members don't wanna take over the business or just want the immediate payout and sell it to developers.

DALLAS

It makes me sad to see so few places left.

ERIK

Makes me miss the old Austin.

FLOR

I know... But we can think of that right now! Let's drink and celebrate el gran amor de mis favoritos, Erik y Dallas. Cheers queers!

(They cheers and drink. As they put their drinks down and pick at the chips and salsa, there is still a melancholy air about them. Still, they try to remain jovial, enjoying each other's company. Fade to black.)

SCENE 5.5

(ERIK sends a photo to the group chat, Bronche Babes)

ERIK

Barton Springs day! Come join us <3

Q

OMG on my way!!

FLOR

Ay wish I could :(Shoot day...

(FLOR sends an on-set selfie.)

ERIK

Cute costume though!!!

DALLAS

starry eyed emoji

Q

OMG can you snag that top afterwards? It would go fantastic with these new jeans I just got.

FLOR

Lol I'll see what I can do...

SCENE 6

(Projection of Q's YouTube video. Their usual set-up at a desk in their room.)

Q

Listen up, y'all. I'm about to go off on something that may be a bit, okay, I mean, A LOT controversial because too many of y'all are so sensitive when it comes to this. But anyways, here it goes, I guess: Supreme, Off-White, A Bathing Ape, all these "hype fashion" brands (yes, even the "high end" ones like Balenciaga or Balmain) are basic and ugly and y'all are dumb af for falling for this bullshit capitalist scheme. Like, c'mon y'all! What are you doing paying as much as at least a month's, if not two month's, rent for a damn t-shirt or belt or whatever. Are you happy with these choices? Are you happy going broke for something that probably only cost a coupla dollars to make in a sweatshop? Are you happy making your parents work that damn hard for a cheap, basic, and boring t-shirt with a stolen logo on it? And for what, so you can feel special? Feel cool? Sorry not sorry, but being hella into hype fashion is not a personality trait, especially when it's something that is so directly affecting so many people's livelihoods, late-stage capitalism, and the climate crisis. Yes, don't roll your eyes at me or try to prove me wrong. There are too many accredited studies on how horrible the fashion industry is for the planet. Please look it up, y'all.

(They take a deep breath.)

Damn. All right. Anyways, that's the rant of the day. I think Mercury must be in retrograde in Aries or something because your nonbinary fave just went off... Until next time, Q-ties!

(As the screen goes dark, lights up on Q and FLOR in Q's room. Q shuts their camera and microphone set-up off. They take a breath, look at FLOR, and they both start cackling.)

FLOR

I mean, DAMN, Q! All right!

Q

Yo, I don't even know where that came from.

FLOR

But for real tho! That was definitely one of your saltier rants. You dehydrated, babe?

Q

Shut up! I am perfectly seasoned.

FLOR

(Laughing.) You have a great point though. I don't know how people can spend that much money on some blah-looking clothing or accessories. Like don't get me wrong, I'm definitely up-to-date on my looks and have some high-end pieces, but ya girl found them at a thrift store because mi mamá didn't raise no fool.

Q

Oh, you know it baby!

(They both laugh a while, then Q gets a serious distant look on their face.)

FLOR

Ay, what is that look for?

Q

What? What look?

FLOR

You know what look. That sad, spaced-out, distant, *Dondé está, mi amante perdido?* look.

Q

Girl, bye. I am not in a novela.

FLOR

I mean, ever since la pinche güera broke up with you—

Q

Wooooow... really? Is that how you really felt about her?

FLOR

Queride, look. I know how much you cared about each other and how much this break up sucks, pero no, she wasn't my favorite person in the world.

Q

Well damn, okay then.

FLOR

Ay, come on now, this is no surprise.

Q

Nah, it kinda is...

FLOR

Honey you know how I feel about the white and the cis, especially the white AND cis.

Q

Yeah, but she's diff—

FLOR

Uh uh, I'm gonna stop you right there, mi amor, and I need you to listen. You are a Black queer trans person living in a world that would rather see you die or conform to its unachievable standards than to see you thrive and be fully loved. Fuck that. You deserve to be surrounded by those who will recognize, respect, and celebrate all the beauty, kindness, and divinity in you. Little Miss was unable and unwilling to do the very basic thing of seeing you for you and not as some experimental dive into our community or as some poor wretch to be saved with her false idea of love. So she can go right on ahead and live out the rest of her boring ass life married to a boring ass man and their boring ass twice-a-year quiet missionary sex that somehow produces their boring ass two point five children. Queride, you are so much better than any of that and you deserve so much more.

Q

(Quietly.) Yeah, you're right. Thank you.

FLOR

Of course, mi amor. I'm always here for you and ready to set those thoughts right. It's okay to feel sad and to grieve the loss, but I promise you that it'll pass so soon and you'll be so better off without Miss Birkenstocks and TERF bangs.

Q

OH MY GOD! She does have TERF bangs!!

FLOR

Honestly, that should have been your first warning when she got them cut as soon as she got to France.

Q

Yo, but for real tho!

FLOR

Come on now, we've given that Urban Outfitters reject enough time today. Let's go out to la fruteria; I'm craving a mangonada.

Q

Okay, yeah that does sound good.

FLOR

And we can get you a paleta or raspa.

Q

Mmm, I want a coconut paleta.

FLOR

(Laughing.) All right, nos vamos!

(Fade to black as they exit.)

SCENE 6.5

(ERIK *texts the Bronche Babes.*)

ERIK

OMG are y'all at Bigote Elote still?? Bring me a chamoy mangonada pleeeasssee <3

Q

Isn't it super close to your office? Come meet us here!

ERIK

PussInBoots.gif

FLOR

Pues fiiine.

Q

But we're kidnapping you to go to happy hour at Thalia's.

ERIK

That's a fair trade, I suppose.

(DALLAS *sends a selfie.*)

DALLAS

I'm already at Thalia's! Bring me an elote con todo please <3

FLOR

*eye roll emoji*mango emoji*corn emoji*drinks emoji*heart emoji*

SCENE 7

(Another brunch at their regular corner booth.)

FLOR

Cheers, queers!

Q

Let me take a Boomerang real quick.

DALLAS

Ugh, do we have to? You know we suck at that.

Q

Yes! You just never remember my art direction, Dallas.

ERIK

Pendeje, that's because you always change it up. I told you the best way to take a Boomerang is to do it backwards.

DALLAS

See, you say that and it still doesn't make sense to me.

ERIK

It's just the way the loop resets. It works better if you do whatever motion you want to repeat backwards. Mira, let's try it y'all.

Q

Oh we have a new art director now, do we?

ERIK

Bet. Let's do it and you'll see.

Q

Fiiiine...

(The group lifts their glasses to the center. ERIK gives them either a signal or verbal go and it doesn't work out too well. Instead of getting frustrated, they all laugh at their pendejadas and try again. After a couple of tries, success! The actors should all adlib their own sounds and/or words of reaction to these failed

attempts, but keep it lighthearted and goofy. Even though they knew this would happen, they still love being silly with each other.)

Q

(Through their laughter.) Oh my god, finally!

ERIK

You're welcome, queride.

Q

Yeah, yeah it does look good or whatever...

FLOR

One of these days, we'll get it right the first time.

ERIK

But today is not that day.

Q

But today is the day that your nonbinary fave officially got their YouTube partnership offer!

(They all erupt into raucous cheers of "Oh my goddess!" and "BIIIIITCH!")

FLOR

I'm so proud of you!

DALLAS

That's so amazing! So what's next?

Q

Well I'm waiting on TikTok to add me to their creator fund which should happen any day now.

ERIK

I bet they will hop on that soon since they don't want YouTube to get all your content.

Q

Trust!

FLOR

Are you gonna try for sponsorships?

Q

Of course! I really want to get new equipment so I can have a better setup and don't have to spend so much time on edits correcting color or audio.

DALLAS

Your videos already look and sound so well though.

Q

Aw thank you but I should show you the unedited versions sometime. Thank goodness I took that film editing class I took in college because my shit looks real profesh!

FLOR

I know that's right baby!

DALLAS

Ugh I miss all the cheap or free supplies and software we could get as students. Sometimes I think about getting my master's just so I can update all of mine for free.

Q and FLOR

(Singing) I wish I could go back to college! How do I go back to college?!

ERIK

Ay pinche musical theatre nerds. *(To DALLAS)* Querido, I will support your educational and artistic endeavors, but por favor do not rack up all that debt just to get free shit. It doesn't end up being free then. *(Getting up from the booth.)* Oh, I need to talk with Ramón about the final details for this month's drag brunch. This might be a while and I have to get to work, so don't wait for me. I'll see y'all later. *(To DALLAS)* Tell them the good news! Te quiero, mi amor.

DALLAS

I love you too, babe.

Q and FLOR

(Singing) So long! Farewell! Auf wiedersehen! Adieu!

(Exacerbated, ERIK exits.)

Q

So what's the big news, Dallas?

DALLAS

Well you know how I got that solo show at Red Bird later this month?

FLOR

Yes! Thankfully the opening reception is the day before my next project starts so I hope to be full and inspired y todas buenas vibras from celebrating all your brilliance and taking those into the shoot.

DALLAS

(Blushing) Stop... anyway apparently it's already getting some buzz because I was invited to create a mural in the neighborhood.

Q

Oh okay then! Look at you!

FLOR

Ay mira!

DALLAS

Thanks!

FLOR

Where's the mural going to be?

DALLAS

On the inside of Echeverrias down on Holly Street.

Q

Omg I love that place!

FLOR

Right? I love to sit there with a little cafecito surrounded by all the succulents. It's the closest thing I can have to owning one since all mine always seem to die.

Q

Isn't that ironic, with the name you chose and all?

FLOR

Ay cállate pendeje.

DALLAS

Also, I may have received a residency for the summer.

Q

Bitch what?! Where?

DALLAS

Provincetown?

Q

You mean the queer capital of New England, Provincetown?

DALLAS

Yeah!

FLOR

AAHH!! ¡Felicidades querido!

Q

Oh my goddess Flor, we should visit!

FLOR

Pues claro! I've never been and I wanna see what the hype is all about.

Q

I hear they have different themed weeks and drag shows every night.

FLOR

Ay but isn't New England like super white?

DALLAS

Yeah, but Ptown is like super artsy and a tourist destination since it's at the end of the Cape and like a short ferry ride from Boston. Plus I think one of the themed weeks is around people of color?

Q

Yes! There's even a bear week!

FLOR

We'll go then and get you a shirt that says, "Dip me in honey and throw me to the bears!"

Q

OMG but for real though! And we can literally do that too right?

FLOR

Ay you and your suciedades...

Q

You love it! (*to DALLAS*) What about Erik? Are they gonna go with you?

DALLAS

(*Hesitant*) Uh, maybe? I don't know. I don't want to pressure him into it. I know they're always so busy with his work with Safety House and fundraising with their drag performances. I don't want to take him away from that for too long.

FLOR

Ay, pero they need a break too. A well-deserved vacation. How long is the residency?

DALLAS

For all of June.

Q

Of course.

FLOR

And that's one of Erik's busiest times for fundraising too, no?

DALLAS

Exactly, so I don't know—

FLOR

Dallas, cariño: don't worry about it right now. You and Erik will figure out what's best for y'all. Besides, one month is nothing for how long y'all have been and will be together. Right now, we're celebrating you and your art and your achievements!

Q

Yes, honey! This is a big deal and you deserve to be happy and excited and joyful in this moment. Your art is finally getting the recognition it deserves and we need to celebrate that!

DALLAS

Thanks, y'all. I know I need to be better about being in the present and not always let my anxieties about the future get in the way of that.

FLOR

That's why you have us, querido!

Q

Always! Just don't forget us when you become this big famous artist.

DALLAS

Well don't forget me whenever you become this big famous influencer, Q. Or you, Flor, when you become this big famous actress.

FLOR

Ay, I could never forget y'all. You're stuck with me por vida. *(Raising her glass)* To Dallas, to his amazing art, and to his brilliant future. Cheers queers!

(They all cheers and down their drinks. Q and FLOR hug DALLAS and start to take selfies together as it fades to black.)

SCENE 7.5

(DALLAS *sends a selfie to the Bronche Babes.*)

DALLAS

Work day at Echeverrias!

ERIK

heart eye emoji

Q

I can't wait to see the finished mural! It'll be the perfect backdrop for some new content.

FLOR

Mira que purty!!

DALLAS

Thanks y'all <3

FLOR

We definitely need to have a photoshoot with all of us and your work!

Q

Yes! We should ask Shondrika to shoot it.

FLOR

PERFECT!

DALLAS

Y'all are too kind.

FLOR

We gotta blow up your amazing work bb <3

Q

Exactly! This is the first of many more murals to come <3

SCENE 8

(Projection of Q's video. Their usual set-up at a desk in their room.)

Q

Hey there Q-ties! It's your nonbinary fave coming to you with a special message. I don't know who needs to hear this right now. Hell, maybe it's me who needed to hear this when I was a little gayby growing up in middle-of-nowhere Texas. Either way, I felt compelled to share this message with y'all today. Anyway, listen up! No matter where you are on your journey in life, if you're questioning, if you're not able to be out and proud, or if you're having a difficult time right now: please know that you are not alone in your struggle. You are a divine being inhabiting a body who is in an ancient lineage of transcendent ancestors who know the fullness of humanity. I'm proud of you and I love you. Thank you for existing. Thank you for staying. Thank you for your resilience. I hope you can soon find clarity, peace, joy, and rest. If you need help, someone to listen to you vent, or to connect with various resources, please check out the link in my bio or DM me. Until next time, Q-ties!

(As the screen goes dark, lights up on Q and FLOR in Q's room. Q shuts their camera and microphone set-up off. They look at FLOR and they just stare at each other a while.)

FLOR

(With confidence) Come with me to LA.

Q

Wait, I'm sorry. What?

FLOR

Ay, no seas pendeje. Come with me to LA.

(For once, Q is speechless.)

FLOR

Listen, now that you have your YouTube partnership secured, your TikTok one is coming through any day now, and you're no longer pining for that güera, what do you have holding you here? And don't say Erik and Dallas because we know they'll always be here to visit, plus I know they'd be more than excited to come out to visit us, too. You always said that you moving to Austin for college was just to get you out of that tiny little nowhere town and a stepping stone to somewhere else. Why not try living anywhere other than Texas? You loved LA whenever we visited and you have other friends from college who moved there, so come with me!

Q

Even with all these new changes, I have been feeling kinda stuck lately. Like I'm not really fitting in here, other than with y'all. Do you really think LA would be any better?

FLOR

I don't know queride, but for me... Austin hasn't felt like home lately. Sure, it's helped shape me, got me through some of my toughest times and lessons, and it's where I met all y'all and I will always be grateful for that, but it's changed. I've changed. I feel like there's a bigger change coming and not for the better. I don't wanna stick around and find out what it is.

Q

Yeah, I've been feeling that too. Like I have to look over my shoulder more, make sure I have my knife on me whenever I'm out and looking more femme. These white queers will gas me up in the club, but then suddenly it's like I don't exist whenever some fucking idiot verbally harasses me on the street. It's getting worse.

FLOR

Honey, why do you think I stay so booked and blessed? I don't go out unless it's for work or I'm hanging with y'all and I know that I'm around people who I know got my back.

Q

So what will make LA any different?

FLOR

To be honest, yo no sé. But I know that the queer scene is different depending where you are and there's definitely more Black and brown people than here. That plus getting more acting gigs is all I need.

Q

I guess I don't want to romanticize it too much. That's what I did with Austin, ya know? The blue oasis in the middle of red Texas. What a crock of shit...

FLOR

But for real though!

Q

Like yeah, it's lightyears ahead of my hometown, but it's still Texas. And then all the changes it's going through, all the fintech bros who keep moving in and taking over... I don't know. I don't want to be disappointed again.

FLOR

Ay sí. That's just our realidad. There isn't anywhere truly safe for us except for together. We truly only got us, querida. So let's get outta this town and be our own somewhere safe. Together.

Q

Together?

FLOR

Siempre.

(Beat.)

I don't know about you, but all this heavy talk really makes me want something sweet.

Q

Some fruta for my puta?

FLOR

Bitch, which chingaso Instagram shitpost account did you get that from?

Q

Oh my god, you! It's a meme you sent the group chat. You're the chingaso shitposter.

FLOR

Ay, shut up! I do want fresa con crema though.

Q

Mmm hmm!

FLOR

No seas tan nasty! Get your head out of the gutter.

Q

But where else can I afford to live?

FLOR

Ay ay ay, don't make me regret asking you to come with me.

Q

Whatever, you know you love it.

FLOR

Yeah yeah, nos vamos! Chihuahua...

(Fade to black as they exit, continuing trading loving barbs back and forth.)

SCENE 8.5

(ERIK *sends a selfie to the Bronche Babes.*)

ERIK

Here's a little tease of the beat!

Q

A M A Z I N G !

FLOR

YES! I can't wait to see the rest queride!

DALLAS

heart eyes emoji

(Q *direct messages* FLOR.)

Q

OMG what are you wearing?! I need help :(

FLOR

Something inspired by La Reina, duh!

Q

Ugh, idk which lük tho...

FLOR

I know they're all so good!

Q

Can you come help pls

FLOR

Ayy fine I'll come over

Q

Thanks bb <3

SCENE 9

(Another brunch at their regular corner booth, but this time all the different pride flags are interwoven with the already bright Mexican decor. It's busy! DALLAS, FLOR, and Q enter individually, strutting to their seats like on a catwalk to show off their fabulously themed outfits. Perhaps underscore this with RuPaul's "Cover Girl: Put the Bass in Your Walk" or an equally fierce instrumental song. There is a carafe for each of them and a stack of ones for the performers easily accessible in the middle of the table.)

FLOR

Cheers, queers!

Q

Let's take some pics with our carafes and our dolla dolla bills!

(They pose, take selfies and photos of each other. Not just one or two, this is a whole photoshoot!)

DALLAS

Wow there are so many people here.

Q

Well it is for Selena's birthday. She's just been getting more and more popular now that the 90s are back.

FLOR

Gracias a La Reina! She deserves that and more!

Q

The other day I saw something about them trying to do a Selena-themed cruise.

DALLAS

Ew, really?

FLOR

Ay pobrecita, why won't people just let her rest in peace?!

Q

Right? Like I love her, but I can't imagine being stuck on a boat with hundreds of people just to "celebrate" her in such a consumerist way.

FLOR

Exactly! I think events like this are such a great way to honor her memory without exploiting it.

DALLAS

Yeah, I think Erik does a really good job of doing that and some of the other community events around town.

FLOR

Oh yeah, I kinda want to go to Tuesgayz this week but I'll be working all day.

Q

Oh my goddess, let's go! This is the first time in forever that I've actually wanted to go and you know I don't like going alone.

DALLAS

I haven't been in a while. It might be nice to check it out.

FLOR

Yesss! Nos vamos!!

DALLAS

I'll ask Erik if they want to go, but I'm sure he'll say yes.

Q

He might need to call in sick the next day, but he'll be there!

FLOR

Pero pa' La Reina, it'll be worth it!!

—

(Lights shift drastically. We are transported to a place in our queer dreams; we are no longer in the restaurant. We hear the beginning of Selena's disco medley. Spotlight on LA BRUJA-JA in Selena's last performance outfit at the Houston Rodeo. They perform the entire song to perfection: lip sync, dance moves, and all. If the stage permits, perhaps LA BRUJA-JA performs amongst the audience á la a real drag performance. After the song ends, they address everyone like an MC.)

To the actor playing them: Feel free to ad lib around this introduction with catching your breath. You did that! Be in the moment with it!)

LA BRUJA-JA

Gaydies and gentlethems! Boys, girls, in-between, and neither! Bienvenides a todes mis querides! As you may know my name is La Bruja-ja, your resident host of Drag Bronche here at Taqueria Maria Félix. Today we are celebrating the fabulous yet tragically short life of La Reina de la música tejana, Selena Quintanilla-Perez! We have an amazing lineup for you today with everyone performing a song from the great Selena y Los Dinos songbook. Also, all our fantastic performers are graciously donating all their tips today to Safety House. For those of you who may not know, Safety House helps those living with HIV/AIDS to connect with a number of resources, including safe housing and free to low-cost medical care here in our beautiful hometown of Austin, Texas. So reach deep into your pockets to tip your performers, especially our next diva from the House of Pantuflas: Concha Rosa!

(Lights shift back to the corner booth. LA BRUJA-JA joins everyone at the table where an extra carafe has magically appeared for them.)

DALLAS

(Kissing them) That was great, babe! Congrats.

Q

Yes, darling! Here is your hard-earned drink!

FLOR

Feliciades mi queride! Cheers queers!

(They raise their carafes and cheers.)

LA BRUJA-JA

Ay yi yi! What a day trying to get this hot mess off and running.

DALLAS

Ugh, who didn't show up this time?

LA BRUJA-JA

Estrella, cómo siempre. I wouldn't be surprised if she double booked herself again.

Q

Yeah, I see that girl everywhere! She stays booked and busy.

LA BRUJA-JA

Exactly! And I don't ever blame anyone for taking the paid gigs, but don't lie to my face like you're not gonna blow me and my work off.

DALLAS

I get that, babe. So why don't you just stop asking her to join then?

LA BRUJA-JA

I don't know. I don't want to be that asshole. There's enough catty queens in the community.

FLOR

True, but you could have filled her spot with someone else.

LA BRUJA-JA

I suppose yeah... Oh, Concha's almost done. Be right back!

(They exit.)

FLOR

I wonder who else we're going to see tonight then.

DALLAS

I know for sure that Panicka Tack and Madame Diamante are performing.

Q

Aw, those two are such sweethearts! They're always doing so much for the community.

FLOR

I know! I heard that they're heading up this year's Queer Bomb Extravaganza before the march.

DALLAS

Oh too bad I'll miss that since it's during my residency.

Q

Speaking of! Flor and I are going to visit you toward the end of it to make sure we can go to the opening night of your exhibition.

DALLAS

Aw, really? Thanks y'all, that means so much!

FLOR

Por supuesto, querido! We're so proud of you and will always support you.

(LA BRUJA-JA *returns.*)

LA BRUJA-JA

What'd I miss?

DALLAS

Flor and Q are gonna come to the opening night of my exhibition for my Ptown residency.

LA BRUJA-JA

Y'all!!! That's so sweet! Okay, I really need to plan ahead with work now so I can make it too.

DALLAS

Oh, babe—

LA BRUJA-JA

No, cariño. This is important and I want to be there for you. Plus I don't get vacation days for nothing!

Q

OMG yay! Girls trip!!

FLOR

The other thing I wanted to tell y'all is that, right after coming to see you, the shoot for my next project is starting in LA.

LA BRUJA-JA

Oh my goddess, you got the gig?!

FLOR

Yes! I signed my contract today.

LA BRUJA-JA

Felicidades querida!! I'm so excited for you! Wait, put a pin in this. I'll be right back!

(*They exit.*)

DALLAS

I'm so happy that y'all are coming to Ptown. I don't know how much I'll be able to do with everyone as a group, but hopefully by then I'll know some fun places for y'all to hangout while I'm working.

Q

All I want to do is be as big and as gay and as flamboyantly me as possible.

FLOR

And to also dip you in honey and throw you to the bears.

Q

Obviously that goes without question.

FLOR

I really want to have at least one just beach day.

DALLAS

Well I'm sure that won't be difficult to do at all.

(LA BRUJA-JA *returns.*)

LA BRUJA-JA

Ok! So, how long will you be in LA then Flor?

FLOR

Well the shoot is for a few months, but I'm thinking that this would also be a good time for me to stay a little bit.

DALLAS

Wait, stay as in move?

FLOR

Maybe? I mean, I hope so.

LA BRUJA-JA

Querida, that's amazing! This could absolutely be the jump-start you need to make a move that you've been thinking about making forever now.

FLOR

You really think so? I'm so nervous.

LA BRUJA-JA

Are you nervous about the change?

FLOR

Yeah, like what if I fail?

DALLAS

Are you more scared about failing or of succeeding?

FLOR

Oh my goddess, y'all cannot make me cry at Drag Bronche right now.

Q

True, no tears for this happy occasion! Besides, I decided to take you up on your offer.

LA BRUJA-JA

Her offer?

Q

I'm gonna move to LA with Flor.

DALLAS

Oh wow, you too?!

Q

Yeah, we talked about it the other day and I had some time to think about it. You're right, Flor. I've been feeling stuck and this could be a great chance to grow. Who better to take this giant next step with than my best friend?

LA BRUJA-JA

Chingada madre now y'all are gonna make me cry. UGH I need to go introduce the next performer. BRB.

(They exit.)

FLOR

Aw Q, I'm so excited that you want to come with me to LA. We have so much to plan!

Q

I know! Because I am not gonna be one of those broke bitch starving artists. Our life will be bad and bougie to the fullest!

FLOR

I know that's right!

DALLAS

Aw, I'm so happy and excited for y'all. Hopefully I'll be able to get a residency or some contacts out there so I can visit.

Q

Oh absolutely you are! Remember, you're gonna be a badass famous artist and the west coast will be fawning over you soon enough.

(LA BRUJA-JA *returns.*)

LA BRUJA-JA

Okay, so I've decided that we're gonna help y'all move, whenever that will be, with a fantastic going away Drag Bronche. I want to fundraise a bit so y'all don't have to worry too much about money when you first move out there.

FLOR

Ay queride, that's too sweet of you.

Q

Thanks, friend.

LA BRUJA-JA

It's the least I can do to set y'all up for success.

DALLAS

Yeah, let us know whatever you need to help with this journey. You both deserve all the best with it.

Q

And we'll definitely be here for y'all's.

DALLAS

Wait, what do you mean?

Q

(Realizing that they almost let a secret slip.) Oh, you know...

FLOR

Wherever your journey takes you.

LA BRUJA-JA

Actually, mi amor, there's something I've been meaning to ask you. Give me a second, Madame Diamante's almost done.

(Instead of fully exiting, they once again address the audience as MC.)

Gaydies and gentlethems! Boys, girls, in-between, and neither! How are we doing? Gracias a todos for your generous support for all these fabulous performers. They are working their asses off up here and y'all are a fantastic audience today. Before we wrap up, I'd like to shout out my lovely chosen family over there sitting in our regular corner booth. We have Flor who is an amazing actress around town. You may recognize her from her work with the Manor Road Collective or her guest spot on The Cult. We have the indomitable Q, our influencer on the rise. Be sure to follow them on all major platforms as @TheQfluence. And we have my wonderful partner, Dallas. He is a brilliant artist whose work can be seen at Echeverrias, Thalia's, and at an upcoming solo exhibition at Red Bird. Dallas, cariño, can you come up here please?

(Unprepared and shocked, DALLAS rises from his seat with some helpful playful nudging from Q and FLOR.)

Dallas, I love you with all my heart and soul. I can say that with confidence because you have taught me to love myself in that way. My love for you is reflected in the love you have for me. Growing up, I never thought a great, epic love was meant for me and in some ways, I was right. Your love isn't the cliché rom-com of miscommunication and wrong timing. Your love isn't the volatile and dramatic romances of telenovela divas. Your love is steadfast and warm and comforting and exciting and adventurous. It has been an honor and a privilege to share our lives these past few years. I want to continue to share mine with you because you are gonna be in mine por vida.

(During their speech, Q and FLOR move to stand by ERIK/LA BRUJA-JA, produce a small jewelry box, and hand it to them. ERIK/LA BRUJA-JA kneels and opens the box which contains a gold chain bracelet.)

Dallas, el gran amor de mi vida, will you do the honor of marrying me?

DALLAS

Yes. Yes! Absolutely, yes.

(ERIK/LA BRUJA-JA rises to their knees and embraces DALLAS. Once they break apart, Q and FLOR rush to embrace them as well. ERIK/LA BRUJA-JA places the gold bracelet on DALLAS' left wrist. They kiss as Q and FLOR take tons of photos from different angles. Perhaps confetti falls from above as Selena's "I Could Fall in Love" plays. Fade to black.)

EPILOGUE

(Projection of Q's YouTube video. They're out on the beach.)

Q

Hey there Q-ties! It's your nonbinary fave: beach edition. But surprise! It's not the regular-degular Gulf beach that you're used to. Bestie Flor and I are literally on the other side of the country in Provincetown, gaying it up on the tip of the Cape. We're out here visiting Erik and Dallas for the week since Dallas' opening reception for his exhibition is later this weekend. What Dallas doesn't know (and I have him blocked from seeing this just in case) is that we're also here to witness their elopement! Don't worry Texas friends, they still plan on having a big party celebrating their love with all of you, but after the epic public proposal at Drag Bronche, Erik thought it would be romantic and special for Dallas to have something more intimate and lowkey. I'm gonna take a bit of a break from posting while we're here, but I can't wait to share all the fantastic professional photos and videos with all of you, especially of my fabulous fit. Until next time, Q-ties!

END OF PLAY