

SUPERBLOOM

a story from a time without flowers

A collaborative writing by
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Inspired by
conversations and gatherings
in the Cuyama Valley

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CHARACTERS

MARIFLOR - a kid in middle school
JOSÉ - her Father
LUPE - her Mother
CONSUELO - her Aunt

VBP - a “Very Bad Pup”
Mr.BARNES - a teacher at the middle school

CARRERA - a joyful kid
CLASS (GREG, JESÚS, MIKE, GAMIÑO, LEYLAND, FORINASH) - various middle schoolers

TOWNSPEOPLE (Sra.CARRERA, OLD TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER, Mr.MOREL, POSTMASTER, NERDY GAL, TOWNIE 1, TOWNIE 2, OTHER TEACHER)

INFLUENCER 1
INFLUENCER 2

PUPPETS

SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE - a goddess of inner light
CONFUSION MONSTER - a demon of external chaos
TRUCK
CAR
ROCKET BIKE
FALSE SUPERBLOOM
REAL SUPERBLOOM

Note about Characters and Spanish

While the characters are fictional, some are based on real people in the Cuyama Valley. Although comical at times, all people (and dog) should be depicted with respect and dignity. If this is not possible, names should be changed. This is a play about overcoming collective pain and accepting others as they are. It is about learning how to accept help.

A large amount of the text is in Spanish. That is ok. If you do not speak Spanish, you will still understand the story. If you speak both Spanish and English, you will be hearing some information twice. Let the others know that they didn't miss much.

Note about Puppets

The SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE is a back-pack puppet twice as tall as a person. The CONFUSION MONSTER grows throughout the play. At first, it's smaller than a person, and by the end it's larger than the SAINT. The TRUCK and CAR are framed structures. When “started,” a performer will pull on a pulley which encloses the structure with painted panels depicting the vehicles. When vehicles don't start, or break down, the panels do not fully pull up and fall back down. The ROCKET BIKE will shoot flames from behind. Unless you're really up for it, the flames should probably be paper cut-outs that float like a kite-tail. The FALSE SUPERBLOOM is made up of paper flowers tied on several strings that are pulled off stage when the wind blows. The REAL SUPERBLOOM is made up of paper flowers hidden in PVC pipes that pop out when pulled by hidden strings.

PROLOGUE: A Time Without Flowers
Spoken into a microphone directly to the audience

Enter VBP howling and doing doggy things

VBP
Bienvenidos mis amigos
To a play about
A time without flowers

Enter LUPE y CONSUELO from opposite sides

VBP (con't)
Oh yes, my dear sweet humans
A play about
A time without flowers

VBP hands the mic to CONSUELO to translate

CONSUELO
Ah, me? Oh!
"Un cuento de
Un tiempo sin flores"

She returns the mic

VBP
This is a story about a town
That tries to work together
Through a confusing moment

VBP hands the mic to LUPE to translate

LUPE
"Es un cuento de
Un pueblo que
Trata de unirse durante
una gran confusión"

She returns the mic

VBP
But most importantly
It's about learning how to accept the *help* of others;
To accept the *love* of others

Hands the mic to CONSUELO

CONSUELO

“Pero sobre todo

Se trata de como aprender a aceptar la *ayuda* de los demás”

LUPE discretely indicates there is more left. CONSUELO doesn't get it. LUPE clears her throat.

CONSUELO

Gracias

LUPE

(grabbing the mic)

¡No! “Y de aceptar el *amor* de los demás”

Gracias

CONSUELO

Yo dije eso.

LUPE

No lo dijiste.

CONSUELO

¡Si lo dije!

LUPE

¡No! pero está bien. Yo te ayude.

CONSUELO

¡Ah!

LUPE

¡Que?!

VBP

And I guess it's about
how we've all become a little bit of an animal
as of late.

AaaaOOOooooooo-oooo!!!

Exit all

ACT 1. Sc.1 The Morning Drive

Under the High Desert sun, the SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE rests. Her hands cover her eyes. She peaks her eyes from behind her hands. She hides once more. She peaks again, and reveals her face. Her hands go to her heart. She motions towards a child and her father. Enter JOSÉ followed by a running MARIFLOR. She passes him and makes a gesture meaning “The keys, throw them”. JOSÉ tosses the keys high into the air. MARIFLOR catches them. She quickly gets in the TRUCK. He slowly gets in the TRUCK. She gives him back the keys. They buckle their seatbelts.

JOSÉ
¿Lista?

MARIFLOR
Yeah!

They both put on flower-shaped sunglasses. JOSÉ turns the key and the explosion of the engine welcomes a loud and classic Norteña song (El Columpio by Los Rieleros Del Norte). They drive through the mountains. JOSÉ excitedly looks around every turn. He’s searching for something.

MARIFLOR
Hi! I’m Mariflor. And this is my Apá, my Dad! His name is José—

JOSÉ
Mucho gusto, nice to meet you!
(he returns to his intense search)

MARIFLOR
Yeah, he’s a little weird. You see, sometimes before school, he takes me on these “adventures”.
He’s kinda obsessed with finding this place.

JOSÉ
Obsessed no. ¡Soy dedicado!

MARIFLOR
Right. He’s dedicated to finding this weird picture. It’s not even a picture actually. It’s a logo!

JOSÉ
¡Muestralo pues, mija!

MARIFLOR
Yeah let me pull it up.
(she takes out her phone)

JOSÉ

Trabajo aquí en una compañía, y la misma foto que usan para el logo ¡un logo que veo yo todos los días, pues! esa foto fue tomada aquí en este valle. ¡En serio! Es una vista maravillosa.
¡Muestralo, hija!

MARIFLOR

Hold on, I'm getting it.

JOSÉ

El problema es que ¡no sé dónde fue tomada la foto! Pero la encontraremos,
¿verdad, hija?

MARIFLOR

Here it is! Can you see? *(shows the logo on her phone)* Wait, lemme zoom in.

(A big cardboard painting of the logo is held up)

MARIFLOR cont'd

He says the photo for the logo was taken here and that one day we will find the spot.

JOSÉ

Pos ¡claro que sí! We have to!

MARIFLOR

Who knows? I just like spending time with him. Especially now, during la pandemia ...the pandemic.

JOSÉ

Llegamos. Dale, hija, no tenemos mucho tiempo.

MARIFLOR

Let the adventure begin!

(They get out of the Truck. They compare the view with the picture on their phones. They shake their heads.)

MARIFLOR

Apá, I'm gonna go up here okay?

(JOSÉ gives a thumbs up and both exit in opposite directions)

(Enter VBP. He strikes poses trying to find something powerful and maybe a little menacing. MARIFLOR enters.)

VBP

Wait till this meek little human sees me! Ha! She's gonna run away screaming!

(MARIFLOR wanders as VBP strikes more poses. After a while she finally notices him)

MARIFLOR

Oh hello!

VBP

ROOOAAAAAAR

MARIFLOR

Uh! What a cute little pup!

VBP

Little? Cute? You must not have heard me. I said, ROOOOAOAAAAR

MARIFLOR

Come here little guy! Come'ere. You must be far from home. Are you lost? You little sweetie...

VBP

Lost!? Sweetie? How dare she! The wilderness is my home! FEAR ME, you defenseless child! I am a wild animal! A monstrous beast! I'm a, I'm a... a VBP!! A Very. Bad. Pup!
(strikes a power pose) ROAAARR!

MARIFLOR

I'm gonna take a picture and make some flyers. Your owners must be worried!

VBP

Nope, don't do that. No pictures! Get away!!

MARIFLOR

Lemme just get a close one. There! Such pretty eyes you have!

VBP

Stop! No one can know I'm up here! I won't be taken away, you hear! I'm becoming a rugged individual out here! I will be the Very Baddest Pup in the Valley! Stop it! Rawr, I say, Rawr and Bark!

(MARIFLOR gently pets VBP on the head. His leg starts to kick in that doggy way. VBP melts.)

MARIFLOR

You're not a VBP, no...you're not a Very Bad Pup... you just need a friend is all.

(A nearby rock pile starts to shake. A single wild flower blooms out of the rocks)

MARIFLOR

Woah. Look at that. What is it?

(She goes to the flower and smells it. It wiggles.)

VBP

My dear little human, if I'm not mistaken, that would be... a wildflower! *(they share a look)* The very first in years!

MARIFLOR

Apá! Apá!!! Come quick! Look what we found!

(The sound of the wind is heard and the flower is blown away. Enter JOSÉ)

JOSÉ

¿Lo encontraste, mija? ¡Nuestro tesoro! ¡La vista de la foto!!

(JOSÉ and VBP see each other. JOSÉ is disgusted. VBP growls nastily)

JOSÉ Cont'd

¡Ay madre! ¡Qué perro feíto! Ven mija, sal de ahí antes de que te peguen las garrapatas.

MARIFLOR

Apá! I saw a flower! A real flower!

JOSÉ

¿Que dijistes?

MARIFLOR

I swear it was right there, it was so bright and colorful! It smelled so sweet, I've never seen something like it!

JOSÉ

¿Una flor? Pero ayá no hay nada, mija. Espero que no te haya mordido ese animal. *(gritando a las montañas)* Ayúdenme, ¡mi hija tiene la rabia!

MARIFLOR

No Apá, I'm serious, ¡ví una flor! En serio.

JOSÉ

Claro que sí, mi amor. Ahora vámonos. No queremos llegar tarde a la escuela.

MARIFLOR

Goodbye Very Good Pup. I'll find your owner, don't worry!

(JOSÉ and VBP have a little stand off. They each try to scare the other. Both end up flinching and running away)

Sc.2 Mid day School.

A room of middle schoolers at their desks. Open windows. Mr. BARNES at the front of CLASS.

Mr.BARNES

...And that, students, is the epic tale of Nancy Kelsey, the creator of the original California bear flag. You can visit her memorial right here in the Valley. Now I'd like to take the end of class to address some questions I've been hearing about the new guidelines that our school is following.

As you know, in addition to—Mr.Forinash, your glasses please. Thank you. In addition to regularly washing our hands AND maintaining social distance—Ms. Leyland, over your eyes, not on your head please. Thank you. In addition to all that, we must now wear these face-covering safety glasses. At ALL times.

(Hands shoot up and CLASS starts talking over each other: "Do we HAVE to?" // "ALL the time, even indoors??" // "Really??")

Now hang on, hang on just a minute. I'll get to your questions. I just want to remind you to be patient, ok? The information I share with you might seem confusing or different than what I said two weeks ago, but...that's just how it is. We are all still learning about this. All of us. So, there are no dumb questions. No hay preguntas bobas. Ok, now what are your questions?

(hands shoot up again, chatter)

Mr.BARNES Cont'd

Yes, Mr. Carrera.

CARRERA

My brother says that if you get sick, you turn into a dog! It's true! He's seen it!

(CLASS laughs)

Mr.BARNES

Serious questions only, Mr. Carrera, thank you.

CARRERA

What? This is serious! He said that CDC stands for Center for Dog Control! Are we gonna turn into dogs? Do we have to wear collars?!

(CARRERA barks and acts like a dog, CLASS erupts laughing)

Mr.BARNES

Next question please. Yes, Ms. Leyland.

LEYLAND
Umm...Well...Nevermind.

Mr.BARNES
It's ok. Ask your question. Maybe another student has the same question.

LEYLAND
Is it true that you go colorblind?

Mr.BARNES
Yes, one of the symptoms is loss of your sense of color. This symptom affects *some* but not—

LEYLAND
...And...aren't umm... aren't dogs also colorblind?

CARRERA
SEE! I told you!

(CLASS laughs)

Mr.BARNES
Thank you, Mr. Carrera. As I was saying, colorblindness IS a symptom, BUT it doesn't affect everyone. And we don't know if it's permanent, or just for a little while. Yes, Mr. Gamiño.

GAMIÑO
Yeah so...If you can't see color, then how are these colored glasses supposed to help? Like, do they even work?

Mr.BARNES
Excellent question, glad you asked! The glasses help us see the world with more color. As you know, here in the valley we are used to seeing colorful flowers at least once a year. **But ever since this thing started, no one's seen a single flower.** The people that work in medicine tell us that this disease affects our physical AND mental well-being. The glasses keep things colorful—they give us hope just like in the past when we had flowers.

GAMIÑO
(raising hand again)
But if you can't see color, they wouldn't work. Like, that doesn't make sense.

(Mr.BARNES picks his words)

Mr.BARNES
Right. Good question. The glasses are *preventative*. They don't help you get better, but they help you from getting sick in the first place. Does that make sense?

(More hands and louder chatter. GAMIÑO is confused and frustrated.)

Mr.BARNES cont'd

I'm sorry if that's not a great answer, I will look into it and get back to you. Yes, Mr. Forinash.

FORINASH

Why do people get sad when they get it?

(CLASS looks at FORINASH)

Mr.BARNES

Well... I'm not sure. We still don't quite know about that part.

CARRERA

You don't get sad! Who said that? My dad got it last year and he wasn't sad at all. He's never sad. And he never cries! Not even one time. He said this is all made up!

(Louder chatter)

Mr.BARNES

Alright now, settle down. Like I said, it affects everyone a little differently. Now please raise your hand if you have a question. Yes, you there, I can't see who it—Oh! Mariflor, didn't know you were here! Lemme just mark you on the attendance

MARIFLOR

Yeah so... you said this is all happening cuz we don't have any flowers, right?

Mr.BARNES

Correct. No flowers means lots of folks aren't feeling well.

MARIFLOR

But as soon as someone sees a flower, everything will go back to normal?

Mr.BARNES

Yes, correct. Well— almost. *Everyone* has to see flowers a couple times. When enough people have seen flowers a few times then this sickness and the sadness will start going away.

MARIFLOR

So one isn't enough?

Mr.BARNES

It's a good start. What we really need is what scientists are calling a Superbloom. Now you are all too young to remember the last Superbloom we had here but it suuuure was purty. There'd be festivals back then—

MARIFLOR
Oh.

Mr.BARNES

Now don't lose hope Mariflor! A Superbloom doesn't come all at once, you know. There's always one flower to start. A brave little seed that goes first. Pretty soon a few others pop up. Then more. And before you know it, the entire mountain-side is covered in a quilted blanket of yellows, purples, blues...the town is singing and dancing, friends and neighbors are hugging, and the whole valley goes from dusty desert to a rainbow ocean! And it all starts with one quiet little seed. A tiny seed that can't hold it in anymore! It's gotta break through and show itself loud and proud for all to hear—

MARIFLOR

I SAW ONE! I SAW A FLOWER!!! I did. I saw it this morning when I was walking with my dad. It was just this tiny little thing, I swear, you coulda easily missed it. So tiny and delicate. Like a ... a butterfly! Yeah—but it didn't fly away. It stood perfectly still. It even let me smell it! It was like my mom's *perfume*. And right then, I knew! Everything is going back to normal, you guys! It's gonna be even better than normal! We won't have to follow any more of these silly rules! Right, Mr. Barnes!?

(CLASS gasps and looks at each other)

CARRERA
NO MORE RULES!!!

(CLASS explodes and starts running around. Papers, school supplies, and safety-glasses fly through the air. Mr.BARNES tries to regain control. It doesn't work. The bell rings and the CLASS stampedes outside. OTHER TEACHERS yell at the students to put their glasses on and maintain safe distance. MARIFLOR cheerily gathers her belongings.)

MARIFLOR

You have a great rest of your day, Mr. Barnes! I'll see you at the Superbloom—

Mr.BARNES
Hang on there, young lady.

(MARIFLOR turns to see Mr.BARNES with his arms folded.)

Mr.BARNES Cont'd

Now I don't know what you saw with your dad this morning, but let me tell ya: if you kids keep telling each other phony nonsense you hear from your siblings, your parents, your—

MARIFLOR
Phony? I didn't hear this from—

Mr.BARNES

Now I'm not finished! I don't care who told you this, but you do not get to come in here and rile everyone up while I'm trying to make sense of this, ok? Everyone's confused enough as it is. They don't need you—

Enter CONFUSION MONSTER

MARIFLOR

I didn't mean to rile anyone up, Mr—

Mr.BARNES

They DON'T need you spreading *misinformation* while I'm answering questions about the current guidelines.

MARIFLOR

But Mr. Barnes!

Mr.BARNES

I'm already giving you a referral for your tardiness today. Don't make me include misbehavior as well, ok? You got that?

(MARIFLOR tightens her lips and just nods)

Mr.BARNES

You're a good kid, Mariflor. One of the brightest. Now go enjoy your recess.

(Mr.BARNES exits as MARIFLOR enters the school yard. There's one basketball hoop with some kids nearby. CARRERA, GREG, and JESÚS. They stare at a cool bike.)

OTHER TEACHER

Hey you, glasses up! Please and thank you!

(MARIFLOR puts them on)

GREG

Woaaaaaaaah. That's so cool, Tyler! How'd you make it?

CARRERA

Me and dad stayed up all night on Saturday working on it. Pretty cool right?

JESÚS

Man! A rocket bike. ¡Qué chido!

CARRERA
Y'all wanna ride it?

GREG & JESÚS
Yeah! Yeah! Me first!

Enter a kid that's sick. MIKE moves slower than the other kids.

MIKE
Could I ride it, Tyler?

CARRERA
Oh, wassup Mike. Didn't know you were here today. Guys, move! Let Mike go first.

MIKE
Thanksss.

(MIKE sneezes. He goes to wipe his nose and knocks his glasses off. His eyes have become enlarged gray spirals. The other kids freak out and run away)

GREG
Mike's got it! He's gonna turn us into dogs!

JESÚS
RUN AWAY!

(Kids exit while screaming. MIKE kneels down and struggles to find his glasses. MARIFLOR approaches. She picks up the safety glasses and offers them back to him.)

MARIFLOR
Here you go.

MIKE
Thanksssss. *(Reaches for the glasses, but pulls back)* You shouldn't be so close! Six feet—

MARIFLOR
Yeah, it's fine, just— here! Take'em.

(She puts the glasses in his hands and MIKE runs away embarrassed. MARIFLOR shakes her head and exits. Growing out of the basketball hoop, two flowers pop up. No one's there to see them.)

Sc.3 Afternoon Food Delivery.

A road leading to ranches and neighborhood homes. MARIFLOR sits in the Truck looking at her phone. LUPE is at the door with Sra.CARRERA

Sra.CARRERA

...¡Ay, ustedes son unas Santas! Les agradezco mucho por los alimentos. Fíjate Doña Lupe, no hemos salido de aquí ni siquiera para recoger el correo. ¡Imagínate!

LUPE

¿Quieres que te lo busque?

Sra.CARRERA

No no, por favor, no te incomodes. Ya están muy ocupadas. Lo recoge Tyler esta tarde, pós.

LUPE

Pós si. Bueno Doña Carrera, si hay algo más por favor nos avise. Estamos aquí a la orden.

Sra.CARRERA

Que Dios les bendiga. ¡Adiós Mariflor!

MARIFLOR

Bye Doña Carrera! Make sure to leave water out for your dog!

Sra.CARRERA (*exiting*)

Ahhh...and you too! (*hablando con sí misma*) ¿Que dijo?

(LUPE enters the Truck and starts the engine. They start driving.)

LUPE

¿Viste como se puso alegre? She hasn't seen people in a long time.

MARIFLOR

So she was sick? She doesn't have the symptoms. Her eyes look normal.

LUPE

No todos tienen los mismos síntomas. Eso tu ya lo sabes.

MARIFLOR

That's confusing. How is that even the same disease?

LUPE

La naturaleza es muy misteriosa, pero todo tiene su orden y su plan. ¿Ves esas sierras ahí? Cuando llueve, es la misma lluvia que cría flores de colores distintos. ¿Verdad?

MARIFLOR

I wouldn't know. I've never seen a flower.

LUPE (*mirándole sorprendida*)

¿Ah no? No te recuerdas, ¿cuando eras chiquita en el jardín?

MARIFLOR

Nope. I don't believe in flowers, actually.

LUPE

Hm. Aquí estamos. Ponte los cubre-ojos y ayudame. Ellos tienen cuatro cajas.

Mr.MOREL

Oh Lupe and Mariflor! Thank you so much!

LUPE

Oh you are very welcome, Mr. Morel!

Mr.MOREL

You know it's just been canned beans for me every night. I love it! But the dogs...? Oof!
They can't stand it!

LUPE

Really? They don't eat it?

Mr.MOREL

Oh no, they eat it alright. They can't stand it on account of, well.... my gas.

(*MARIFLOR giggles*)

LUPE

Mariflor ¡no te rías!

Mr.MOREL

Oh it's fine, I'm just kidding around. So what do we have here today?

LUPE

Oh you know, I'm not sure. Let's open it and see. A la una, a los dos, y a las tres!

DANCING VEGGIES montage.

Vegetables run out of the boxes and dance around various neighbors. Families go from being tired and bored with canned foods, to excitedly setting the tables. Kids run through table cloths, throw plates and cups, and play waiter. The SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE watches with her hands on her heart. When everything is set, THE VEGGIES do a tik-tok style dance.

MARIFLOR

Wow Mami, this is cool!

LUPE

¿Si? ¿Te divertiste?

MARIFLOR

Wait, we're already done?

LUPE

Not yet. Falta una mas.

Act 2

Sc. 4 Late Afternoon at CONSUELO's House

A house with curtained windows. A small Car is parked in the driveway. LUPE knocks on the door. MARIFLOR holds a box. After a while, a curtain peeks open pulled by CONSUELO. She quickly shuts the curtains. LUPE and MARIFLOR give each other the look of "did you hear that?" and then shrug.)

LUPE

Hola, buenas tardes. ¡Traemos alimentos!

(CONSUELO tries sneaking out around the back without being seen. At the Car, she tries to find the right keys. MARIFLOR hears her.)

MARIFLOR

Hi Titi Consuelo!

CONSUELO *(dropping the keys)*

Ay, ¡Santa Maria! I didn't see you there!

MARIFLOR

Oh, I think your doorbell must not work. We rang it a few—

CONSUELO

Must be! Well, have a nice day ok?

LUPE

Consuelo, traemos alimentos de la organización—

CONSUELO

Oh very good, very good. You can just, uh, take those with you. Ya tenemos mucha comida.

LUPE

¿Ah sí? ¿No quieren unas comidas frescas? Unas zanahorias—

MARIFLOR

—Un tomate

LUPE

—Un pimentón

CONSUELO

Fíjate que no. Estamos muy satisfechos aquí en casa. Acabé de hacer mis compras para el mes, y además we are very organized here. We have not run out of anything! So... you can just go ahead and (*gestures to "take that away"*). Thank you!

LUPE

Well, we can just leave them aquí, ¿no?

CONSUELO

No! The dogs will get it and make a mess. Just please (*"Take that away" gesture*). Thank you!

MARIFLOR

We can ask Ted in case he wants any of—

CONSUELO

You know I'm very late right now. Me disculpen, but I need to—

LUPE

Is the shop open again?

CONSUELO

No, I'm not working there anymore. Ahora trabajo en el hotel and I'd like to maintain—

MARIFLOR

The hotel?! Oh then you *gotta* take this box with you! I'm sure someone will—

CONSUELO

Ah! Nice try but no thank you!

(CONSUELO, now in her car, tries to start it. It stalls. She mutters to herself as she keeps trying. LUPE watches.)

LUPE

Disculpa, ¿Consuelo?

(CONSUELO keeps trying and muttering)

LUPE cont'd

¿Quieres que te lleve al trabajo? Vamos a pasar cerquita al hotel.

(CONSUELO pauses. Checks watch. Tightens her lips. Nods.)

CONSUELO

Muy amable, ustedes. Si no les incomoda mucho.

MARIFLOR
Yay! Come on in!

(MARIFLOR and LUPE get in the Truck and buckle their seatbelts. CONSUELO approaches and gets in. LUPE and CONSUELO wear little smiles. They all politely nod.)

MARIFLOR
Seat belt.

(CONSUELO puts hers on.)

MARIFLOR con't
Titi, do you have safety glasses? Oh look, we have an extra. Here you go.

(CONSUELO looks at LUPE. LUPE tries not to look back.)

CONSUELO
Eso no es necesario, Lupe.

(Pause)

MARIFLOR
It's preventative. That's what we learned at school today. You have to wear them because—

CONSUELO
—You know, it's such a nice day!

LUPE
You don't have to wear the glasses—

CONSUELO
—I think I'll just walk! Thank you!

(CONSUELO exits with a forced smile. LUPE and MARIFLOR watch CONSUELO walk away. LUPE shakes her head. She starts the Truck.)

Sc. 5

Dusk on the Mountainside

VBP

I wasn't always a stray dog, you know. I used to have a family. Owners. Dog toys. Mm-hm. It was good, that life. I got treats now and then. I got bathed, if you can believe it. But you know... There's something...It's just... That life is so soft. You know? Being "pet". You ever been "pet"? What do you know, you're probably a human. Right? (*looking at someone in the audience*) Look at you. You are *definitely* human, I can tell. You probably *voted* for a human too, right? You voted *all humans*, right down the ticket, am I right? Hmm. Interesting.

You know, they'd force me to be in their Christmas card photos. Mm-hmm. I never saw those photos. They'd do photos of just me, by myself, in a sweater. A dog-sweater. An ugly dog-sweater. Mm-hmm. They'd take it, they'd laugh, they'd show each other, but they'd *never* show me! Never! You know what that feels like? Just because I'm colorblind doesn't mean I can't appreciate a Christmas card photo, ok? I know the red and the greens, I know they're different, I know that, ok, but... Just...Did you *have* to put me in a dog sweater? I run hot! And you put this pup in a sweater and ask me to be jolly?! Grrrrr, I don't think so.

(*Sighs*)

I prefer life out here. Solitaire. Solo. Solito. Despacito. Es muy bueno. Been working on my Spanish. Met another dog out here once. Another stray. There was a language barrier, but we understood each other pretty good. He was alone. I was alone. What else you need to know, you know? We were alone together. Out here. In this rough land. Aaaa-oooOOOOooOOOOO! Au Au Aooo-OOOOOO! That's how it is sometimes. Friendship. Silence. Not in a soft way. But in a... in a respectable way. We're both getting through it together. Very bad pups. Strays. Mm-hm.

MARIFLOR enters looking under rocks. She's looking to find more flowers.

MARIFLOR

C'mon... C'mon... Where ARE you? What the HECK!? Ugh! (*she gives up*) So annoying!

CONFUSION MONSTER

Ohh... Tell me about it.

(*MARIFLOR looks up*)

CONFUSION MONSTER cont'd

Put this on, take it off. Stay at home, go to school. Cases are falling. Oh! New variant! Like what's the point, right?

MARIFLOR

Uh hi...?

CONFUSION MONSTER

Hi there. You doing alright? You seem a little...confused.

MARIFLOR

Yeah, I don't know. I was just looking for some... nevermind

CONFUSION MONSTER

Your can tell me. You were looking for...?

MARIFLOR

Nothing. You wouldn't believe me even if I—

CONFUSION MONSTER

Flowers? Looking for flowers? Like the one you saw earlier?

MARIFLOR

What? You... How do you know about that?

CONFUSION MONSTER

Oh! It's the talk of the town! Mariflor says the Superbloom is coming! She saw a flower with her own eyes! I trust her, don't you?

MARIFLOR

Is that what people are saying?

CONFUSION MONSTER

Well, I don't know about all that! Where do you get your news? How do we all know this isn't all made up!?! Is there really a disease?

MARIFLOR

Yes! There is! I saw a boy today that was really sick! It's not made up! And I did really see a flower. I told my Mom I *didn't*, but I did. Why did I do that?

CONFUSION MONSTER

You're just a little... confused, sweetheart. We all are. You saw that boy with your very own eyes right? And that flower? You saw that too. I believe you.

MARIFLOR

Thanks.

CONFUSION MONSTER

It's everyone else who doesn't believe you. They're too scared to believe! They need someone strong to show them what's real and what's made up. They're confused!

MARIFLOR

That's what I tried to do. But then it got me in trouble, so...

CONFUSION MONSTER

Did you try? Looked to me like you just... talked about it.

MARIFLOR

What do you mean?

CONFUSION MONSTER

Anyone can talk, Mariflor. How many can actually get things done?

MARIFLOR

I get things done all the time. Me and my mom just—

CONFUSION MONSTER

What did Mr. Barnes say today? He said, "everyone has to see the flowers a couple times" *then* things will go back to normal. He didn't say Mariflor has to *tell* us there are flowers. Hahaha! He said they have to see the flowers.

MARIFLOR

And when they see it, the sickness and sadness will go away.

CONFUSION MONSTER

That's right.

MARIFLOR

Then they won't be confused

CONFUSION MONSTER

It's so simple. You think you can get that done?

MARIFLOR

I always get things done.

CONFUSION MONSTER

You're a good kid, Mariflor. One of the brightest.

Sc. 6. It's the Superbloom!

Early Morning. Homes and businesses surround a park. Within the park is a field and it's covered in paper flowers. Enter CARRERA on his rocket bike. He's lip syncing to Elton John's Rocket Man.

CARRERA

I miss the Earth so much I miss my wife
It's lonely out in space
On such a timeless flight
And I think it's gonna be a long, long time
'Til touchdown brings me 'round again to find
I'm not the man they think I am at home
Oh, no, no, no
I'm a Rocketman... Rocketmaaaa—

Woah, what the HECK! Is that...(he looks around) Is that really a...?

(CARRERA approaches one of the flowers. He picks it. He smells it. He melts.)

CARRERA

GREG!!!!!!!!!! JESÚS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! COME QUICK!

(GREG and JESÚS come out on their own rocket bikes.)

GREG & JESÚS

Que fue?! What is it!? No manches, ¡habla!

CARRERA

You guys, look.

Mr.BARNES

Goooooooood morning, gentlemen! It sure is a wonderful day to— oh my.

POSTMASTER

Hey you! Your Tyler, aren't ya? Your ma wants to take the mail home to her.
You were supposed to—

Mr.BARNES

Shhhh... the mail can wait.

POSTMASTER

Excuse ME, Russ! The mail can NOT wait. As the Postmaster, it is MY responsibility to —oh
would you look at that.

Sra.CARRERA
Que maravilla. Nos ha llegado un milagro.

CARRERA
So...does that mean it's over? This is a... a... what did you call it, Mr.Barnes?

Sra.CARRERA
A Super-Bloom.

Mr.BARNES
That's right. Yes. It's over. It's all over. We made it.

BACK TO NORMAL BLOCK PARTY

Everyone looks at each other. After a moment, they all scream. TOWNSPEOPLE come out of their homes. A festival ensues: Shops and restaurants flip their signs from closed to open, people hug, they throw their safety glasses in the trash, the rocket bikes parade through town, piñatas are brought on, a rock band sets up, pretty much everything you can think of.

CARRERA
Did you guys hear? Instagram is gonna be here!

GREG
Wait what? The real instagram?!

JESÚS
Instagram is coming!? Is that them right there?

CARRERA
Nnnnnnnnnnnn-no.

OLD-TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER
Now gather round you little whipper-snappers. It's time we documented this historic moment in the local newspaper! I want the big tall produce in the back, and all the baby carrots down in the front! Now move it or lose it, I'm hot! Ready now? A la una, a las dos, y a las tres!!!

(OLD-TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER has her head in the view-finder. A gust of wind is heard. The flowers are all swept away. Still with her head in the view-finder...)

OLD-TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER cont'd
Now just wait a minute, something's off. Where'd the color go? This old contraption.

NERDY GAL
Do you wanna use my smartphone? It's got a great camera!

OLD-TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER

No, I don't want to use your... Sierra Madre, what is going on?! Did one of you fidget with my—
(*she looks up at them*) Oh.

CARRERA

Why you looking at me? I didn't do nothin'!

Mr.BARNES

She's not looking at you, Tyler.

POSTMASTER

Uh, you alright there? You look like you've just seen a ghost.

(*OLD-TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER points behind the crowd. The TOWNSPEOPLE slowly turn around and a murmur starts.*)

TOWNSPEOPLE

Where'd they go? Where are the flowers? Where's the color? You saw it right? Why is this happening!? The Superbloom came, it came didn't it!?

TOWNIE 1

I saw it, I tell ya!

TOWNIE 2

I did too! And they said when the Superbloom comes, this'll all be finished!

TOWNIE 1

Well it came!

Mr.BARNES

Now hold on, fellas. It came but it didn't stay. It's gotta stay in order to—

TOWNIE 1

No, don't try that on me! I think we've all *stayed* long enough, I'm going back to work! Let's go Pete.

NERDY GAL

Wait a minute, let's make sure we have the go ahead from the County before—

TOWNIE 2

Oh the county, you say!? I don't think so. Show's over! There was a Superbloom, and that's it! You get that picture, Candis?

OLD-TIMEY PHOTOGRAPHER

Well let's see... I can't tell. I'll have the results to you in 24-72hours. Until then, I ask that you quarantine in place—

CARRERA
Quarantine!!

NERDY GAL
Shoulda used my smart phone.

TOWNIE 1
Oh yeah, why not Android? Why's it always gotta be iPhones

NERDY GAL
I didn't say iPhone, I said "smartphone". Android's a smartphone too. They're all smartphones—

TOWNIE 2
Don't try to group us all together, alright? There's a difference. Not everything is cumbaya, ok?

CARRERA
Hands off my bike, man!

GREG
Yo, this one's mine, that one's yours!

JESÚS
Where's my bike, guys!?

INFLUENCER 1
Hey fam, welcome back to my channel: TorstenTakesTrips. We're *LIVE* here in the high desert. And it is HOT! Come witness the famous Superblooms! Let ya boi here show you what's good.

VBP
Aaaaaa-OOOOOooooooooOOO!

INFLUENCER 2
Oh my gahd, Torsten? We need to go back to L.A.! Everyone's been turned into animals!

INFLUENCER 1
Ew! Hashtag Cu-YUCK-a!

INFLUENCER 2
...I think I just lost my hotspot! OMG RUN AWAY!!!

INFLUENCER 1 *(last dying words)*

—Like and subscribe below! Follow my patreon! Love you faaaaam!

(the whole town gets into a heated argument. MARIFLOR watches in horror. Nothing is going according to plan. The CONFUSION MONSTER emerges and has grown to an enormous size. The small SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE emerges.)

Mr.BARNES

Now settle down. Settle down now. I said, SETTLE DOWN!

(Just then a flower drifts by him and he picks it up.)

See everyone? There's no need to worry. The flowers *are* coming, they just got a little spooked. Patience! Paciencia. Look here. A perfectly good flo— what the. Wait a minute. This is a...

TOWNIE 2 *(grabbing it)*

—That's one of them FAKE PAPER FLOWERS!!! Who did this!?

A YEAR OF MOVEMENTS montage.

“And I think it's gonna be a long, long time.

And I think it's gonna be a long, long time.”

The ending of Rocketman repeats as a movement sequence shifts the performers. At first, they face each other as statues depicting gestures made this year (including finger-pointing, hand-washing, etc). They continue, but now face the audience.

The following lines are said directly to the audience. They carry the utmost civility and decency. The underlying pain is contained. Halfway through, however, the sparks escape and start falling on the dry grass. By the end, the voices become a wildfire. The SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE will begin to cover her eyes. The CONFUSION MONSTER points at her and laughs. The SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE pulls her hands from her eyes and ribbons of watery blue fall from her eyes as the TOWNSPEOPLE fight and bark like a fiery pack of very bad pups.

TOWNSPEOPLE

I'm done with this. I'm not waiting around at home anymore

People gotta work. We gotta live our lives.

This thing's not gonna end.

If we all did our part, it would end sooner.

This thing's not gonna end.

We gotta follow the rules. Think of others. Follow the mandates.

Mandates! No one is telling my family what to do! Especially someone from the city. Ok?

You know, you're right, the County really shouldn't be forcing these restrictions on—

They make me take tests for work, but where do I get a test? They're all out!

We are a small town. We have to take care of each other.

If the kids can't go to school, how am I supposed to work?

We are family here. We are good people.

Some people are good

Some people are vulnerable

Some people just don't care!

Some people think they're better than us!

Yeah, I never got sick

I got it last spring. It was fine.

This would be my third time. No. Fourth.

Oh no. It was bad. It was very scary.

Thank God we haven't gotten it. Thank God.

But maybe one time it was just a cold? So, three then?

It's just fear.

It's just confusing.

Yes, absolutely.

No. Uh-uh. No way.

I'm not doing that.

Everyone will do it.

Not me.

Everyone!

Not—

Our patience—

—ME!

—is wearing thin!

Not allowed!

Do NOT!

WATCH ME!

BARK!

BARK!

RUFF! ARF!

TOWNSPEOPLE bark.

Act 3

Sc. 7 Dawn before the Morning Drive

JOSÉ

Lo que he notado es que... bueno, las mínimas cosas ahora tienen valor, ¿no? El café de la mañana. Los cumpleaños de familiares, por ejemplo. Cuando nos podemos reunir, eso si es bueno. Me encanta pasear con mi hija. Buscamos una vista de un logo, no sé si les conté pero... la naturaleza de aquí... la calma que sentimos. Quizás es tonto pero, bueno, son las cositas que nos sostiene. *Do you understand? Ehh...the little things, yes? So good. For me. Consuelo, my sister, mi hermana mayor...¿como lo digo? I wish for her this. Peaceful little things.* Ajá.

Our mother, nuestra madre, was ... (makes a gesture to indicate "big personality")...no sé como se dice, pues... ella era una mujer tremenda, ¿me entiendes? Um, everybody love her! Parties, hablando con los vecinos, regalitos a los niños, en fin, ¡era la madre del barrio! Y...cuando falleció el año pasado, lo sentimos todos. Our mother was taken from us during this time.

Consuelo, cannot appreciate the little things. She is trying to fill a big thing that's missing. Es un hoyo que mi hermana nunca llenará, la ausencia de nuestra madre. Y lo entiendo yo. Si. No sé cómo ayudarla. Cómo consolarla. Mi hermana mayor que siempre me consolaba a mi. Mi Consuelo, pós. Espero que un día se acabe todo esta confusión.

(JOSÉ goes to exit. Just before he does, he gets dizzy and catches himself. A very small cough sneaks out of him. He rubs his eyes. He finds his safety glasses and puts them on.)

MARIFLOR

Finally! Today I get to go back to school! Dude, feels like I've been stuck at home foreeeeeeever! Can't wait to see my friends! Apá! Apurate, hurry up! We had to do class "online," YUUUUCK! Well, I mean, it was good sometimes, but... I don't know. I'm just glad things are normal again! Sort of. Apá, vamos! We're not gonna get to do our adventure! Oh, did I tell you? Remember that dog? The VBP? *(with air quotes)* "Very Bad Pup"? Ok turns out he's soooooo sweet! Mami let me keep him and I take him on walks everyday! So well-behaved. Wait, watch this: Gibford! I named him Gibford. You know, like the cowboy? Gibford, wanna treat?

Enter VBP running and excited

MARIFLOR

Sit!

(VBP sits. He follows all of MARIFLORS commands perfectly)

MARIFLOR

Watch this.

VBP *(to audience)*

It's not what you think. You don't understand. I'm actually the one training her!

MARIFLOR

Down. Up. Shake. Good boy! Spin. Speak!

VBP

The British are coming! The British are coming!

MARIFLOR

GOOD BOY, Gibford! Jump. Jump again! Jump again!! Aaaaaand... play dead!

(VBP let's out one big cough and goes limp)

MARIFLOR cont'd

YAAAY! Good boy!

(VBP gets up and takes his bow. He asks the audience to applaud his performance. He bows some more, then turns to MARIFLOR with his hand out expectantly.)

MARIFLOR con't

Oh right, a treat! *(She checks her pockets)* They're inside, I'll be right back. Stayyyy! Stayyyy!
Isn't he good?!

VBP *(to audience)*

Shut up. I don't wanna hear it.

(MARIFLOR opens the door and sees JOSÉ. He is in rough shape. He's very tired and his head is spinning, almost drunk. He has his safety glasses on. He tries to keep things moving.)

JOSÉ

¡Mija! ¡Ya es tarde!

MARIFLOR

¿...Apá?

JOSÉ

¿Lista?

MARIFLOR *(looks back at VBP)*

... Yeah!

JOSÉ

¡Vamos!
(She runs to the car, as JOSÉ can barely take a step out the door.)

MARIFLOR
Get in, buddy!

VBP
No treat?

MARIFLOR
Later, let's go. Apá, keys!

JOSÉ
Hmm?

MARIFLOR
¡Llaves!

(JOSÉ tries to throw them but they barely reach half way)

MARIFLOR con't
A-paaaá! You're silly! *(she goes to grab the keys)*

JOSÉ
...Mija.

(JOSÉ gestures for her to come to him, but then immediately for her to stop. He's searching for the words or perhaps just for a breath. After a while of this...)

JOSÉ
...tu madre.

MARIFLOR
Apá?

JOSÉ
Lámala.

(JOSÉ falls)

MARIFLOR
MAMI! MAAAMI!

VBP

Bark Bark! BARK!!!

LUPE (*running out*)
¡Dios me libre! Que gritaría es— Ay JOSÉ!!!!

(*LUPE gets on the ground and lifts JOSÉ's head off the ground*)

MARIFLOR
Mami, what's wrong!?

LUPE
Mi amor, vamos al hospital. Prende el carro.

MARIFLOR
¿Que?

LUPE
—El carro, mi amor, ¡prendelo!

(*MARIFLOR runs into the car, and can't find the keys*)

MARIFLOR
Keys! Where are the—

VBP
ARF! ARF! (*he runs towards JOSÉ. Tries to pull at him and get the keys that are under him*)

LUPE
¡Sal, animal! Dejaló! (*she strikes VBP*)

VBP
(YELP!)

LUPE
¡Prende el carro, Mariflor! ¡Ahora!

MARIFLOR
(*to VBP*) It's okay, buddy. (*She grabs the keys from under JOSÉ. Starts the car by herself. The engine roars.*) Okay! Now what—

LUPE
Ven, ¡ayúdame!

(They help JOSÉ up and get him in the car. MARIFLOR and VBP sit in the back with JOSÉ. LUPE gives MARIFLOR safety glasses and puts some on herself. LUPE starts driving.)

MARIFLOR
Apá! Are you ok?

JOSÉ
Mmmm.

MARIFLOR
He's sick. Apá is sick. Right? ... Mami, he's sick right?

LUPE *(focused)*
¡Si, Mariflor! It's okay. Vamos a la clinica.

MARIFLOR
How far is it?

(LUPE doesn't answer. The sound of the engine slowly begins rising in pitch.)

MARIFLOR cont'd
Mami, how far?

LUPE
No te preocupes, mi amor. Just... be with your father. It's okay.

(The engine starts to chatter and pop.)

LUPE cont'd
Ay no no no no no. No. No!!

VBP
Arf! Arf!!

(Engine dies. The unsettling quiet of the tires drifting on the road and slowing down is heard.)

LUPE
No. Por favor. No no no no. ¡Por favor!

(The Truck stops and she gets out. MARIFLOR and VBP watch in silence. LUPE takes off her safety glasses and checks the engine. She closes her eyes and searches her mind for answers, for Patience. She goes to the back of the pick up and grabs a tool kit and oil. Again, she searches within herself.)

MARIFLOR
Mami, can I help?

(After a moment, LUPE opens her eyes and looks out at the landscape. She breathes aloud and finds a calm that washes over her.)

LUPE
Señor, ten piedad en mí.

(Pause)

(A response: The sound of a distant vehicle is heard.)

MARIFLOR
Look! Mami, look! A car!

LUPE
Gloria al Padre.

(LUPE begins waving her arms. MARIFLOR gets out of the Truck and waves too. LUPE slows her wave down and then lowers her arms. She recognizes the vehicle. MARIFLOR waves harder as if her life depends on it.)

LUPE con't
Ya. Mariflor, ya. Stop waving.

MARIFLOR
Did they see us? Are they coming?

LUPE
Get in the car, Mariflor. Now. Vete.

MARIFLOR
I don't think they see us yet. Maybe we should— wait. Mami, it's Titi! That's her car! TITI! TI-TI
CON-SUE-LO!!!

LUPE
¡Basta! ¡Vete al carro, te dije! *(she grabs MARIFLOR's arm and goes to the car)*

MARIFLOR
Where are we going? Ow Mami, let go! Aren't you gonna talk to her—

LUPE
We're not talking to your Tia, ¿entiendes? Now get inside! I'm gonna make a call.

=

MARIFLOR

A call? But Mami, she's—

LUPE

¡Entra!

MARIFLOR

You're being weird! This doesn't make sense!

(MARIFLOR gets into the Truck. LUPE looks at the oncoming vehicle. She takes out her phone and searches her contacts. MARIFLOR throws her arms up. LUPE makes a call. She waits. The call doesn't go through. LUPE looks at her phone confused. MARIFLOR is appalled. She looks at VBP, he shrugs. LUPE makes another call and waits. Having lost all Patience, MARIFLOR sneaks out of the car and starts running on the road.)

LUPE

Como puede ser... Para qué sirve esta cosa... Mariflor, saca tu teléfono. Verifica si—

(LUPE sees that MARIFLOR is not in the car. She sees her running.)

LUPE

¡¡¡MARIFLOR!!!

(An oncoming vehicle turns the corner. Brakes screech! The Car abruptly halts inches before MARIFLOR.)

CONSUELO

¡AY SANTA MARIA! ¡Casi te atropello!

MARIFLOR

Titi Consuelo, we need your help!

CONSUELO

¿¡Te volviste loca!? ¿¡Qué haces en la calle!?

Casi mato a tu hija, ¿oíste? No sé dónde aprendió a tirarse en frente de carros—

LUPE

¡Mariflor! ¿Cómo te atreves a—?

Disculpa Consuelo. Esta niña traviesa no escucha a nadie—

MARIFLOR

Titi, Apá is sick. Se enfermó. We're taking him to the hospital but our car—

LUPE

Mariflor, ¡ya!

MARIFLOR
But Mami—

LUPE
¡YA!

CONSUELO
¿Qué le pasó a José?

(LUPE ignores CONSUELO. The SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE is standing over JOSÉ.)

CONSUELO cont'd
¿Está mal? ¿Lo tiene mi hermano?

(LUPE nods)

MARIFLOR
We're on the way to the clinic, but our car stopped.

CONSUELO
Pues, entren. Vamos.

LUPE
No.

CONSUELO
Ándale. Yo las llevo.

LUPE
Consuelo, ya llame a los vecinos. They are on the way.

CONSUELO
Good. But I will take you now. Let's go, Mariflor.

(CONSUELO offers her hand to MARIFLOR who accepts it.)

LUPE
Con todo respeto, no vamos a entrar en su carro. Mariflor, dame la mano. Con su permiso, suelta a mi hija.

CONSUELO
No tienes mi permiso, Lupe.

LUPE
¿Perdón?

CONSUELO
¡Él es mi hermano! Y de aquí ¡nadie se me lo va a llevar!

(CONSUELO lets go of MARIFLOR's hand.)

Mira, yo he sido muy necia contigo y con tu familia. Yo lo sé. Y me da vergüenza. *(to MARIFLOR)* I'm sorry. Tu Tia has not been nice. Ustedes me han ofrecido ayuda cuando lo necesitaba. Pero I refused your help. I am sorry. Lupe, tú no eres como yo. Te ruego, déjame ayudarte.

LUPE
Eso no es necesario, Consuelo.

CONSUELO
I know it's difficult. Lo sé. You don't have to do it alone.

(CONSUELO checks her pockets. She runs into her car and grabs something from the back. She returns and looks at LUPE. CONSUELO puts on her flower-shaped safety glasses.)

CONSUELO
¿Lista?

(MARIFLOR points to CONSUELO's Car asking if she can get in. LUPE feels the weight of her family lifted off of her. The pressure of the pandemic is released.)

LUPE
Si. Si, gracias. Disculpa, si. Llévanos, por favor.

(LUPE hugs CONSUELO. MARIFLOR hugs her Mother and Tía.)

(JOSÉ walks on with his arm around VBP.)

JOSÉ
Híjole. Look at this. Either I'm hallucinating, or this is one hell of a disease!

MARIFLOR
Apá! *(she runs to him)*

JOSÉ
Ey ey ey, ponte las lentes.

(She puts on her glasses. The others approach JOSÉ and start helping him get in the car.)

MARIFLOR
Are you feeling better?

JOSÉ
Yeah, a little bit. Me mareé un poco, pero si. Better. Hermana, ¿todo bien?

CONSUELO
Métete en el carro, viejo. Antes que te meta yo.

JOSÉ
Guau. Llegó mi ángel de la guardia.

CONSUELO
Dale, si no te deajo.

JOSÉ
Why the hurry? Is it last call at the Buckhorn?

MARIFLOR
Come on, Gibford! Let's go!

VBP
Arf! Arf!

MARIFLOR
Gibford? What is it?

VBP
Arf! Arf! Woof! Arf!

Come. Come, my sweet, sweet humans!
Come ye that live in nature, eat from nature,
yet think yourselves apart from nature.

Ye that are as much animal as I
Though you look down your apeish snout
At me. But why?

Come, my sweet, sweet humans,
Care-takers of cats, and dogs,

and of these sandy lands
with your dandy hands

Come behold the gifts of this world! A-ooooOOOOOOOOooo!

(MARIFLOR goes to VBP. She takes out her phone and compares a photo to the vista. In the distance, the SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE is seen. She is huge and freely roams.)

MARIFLOR

Apá, look! This is it. It's exactly like the Logo. Gibford, you did it! You wild animal, you!

JOSÉ

¿Será? Huh.

VBP / GIBFORD

Loving deeds
Are like quiet seeds
That wait and wait
Beneath the ground

Just waiting for
The right nature to nurture
They wait at home,
To Earth they're bound

Until one day
When the same rain
Makes different colored
Flowers found!

Just like these hills,
We hold within
Potential blossoms
Of patient love

We too await to hear the call
of splendid days that must come soon
When what's within can be with all:
A spring that sings our Superbloom

(The family watches as the desert landscape becomes filled with wildflowers.)

The End.