

# SUPERBLOOM

un cuento de un tiempo sin flores

Un libreto colaborativo por  
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Inspirado por  
conversaciones y encuentros  
en el Valle de Cuyama

Con el apoyo y dirección de  
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## **PERSONAJES**

MARIFLOR - una joven en escuela intermedia

JOSÉ - su Padre

LUPE - su Mother

CONSUELO - su Tía

VBP - un "Perro Muy Travieso"

Mr.BARNES - un maestro de la escuela intermedia

CARRERA - un joven alegre

CLASS (GREG, JESÚS, MIKE, GAMIÑO, LEYLAND, FORINASH) - varios estudiantes

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

INFLUENCER 1

INFLUENCER 2

## **TÍTERES**

SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE - una Santa de amor, paciencia, y luz personal

CONFUSION MONSTER - un demonio de confusión y caos exterior

TRUCK

CAR

ROCKET BIKE

FALSE SUPERBLOOM

REAL SUPERBLOOM

### **Nota sobre los personajes e inglés**

Mientras los personajes son ficcionales, la comunidad es basada por la gente del Valle de Cuyama. Aunque a veces son cómicas, todas personas (y perro) deben ser representadas de manera digna y respetuosa. Esta obra se trata de superar el dolor colectivo y aceptar a los demás así como son. Se trata del aprendizaje de aceptar la ayuda.

Mucho del libreto está escrito en inglés. No se preocupe. Si no habla inglés, todavía entenderá la mayoría de la historia. Si habla español e inglés, escuchará alguna información dos veces. Dé confianza a los demás que ellos no han perdido mucho.

### **Nota sobre los Títeres**

La SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE es un títere gigante de mochila dos veces el tamaño de una persona. El CONFUSION MONSTER crece durante la obra. Al principio, él es más chiquito que una persona, y llegando al final es más grande que la SAINT. La TRUCK y el CAR son estructuras cuadradas. Cuando se "prenden," un actor jala una cuerda que encierra la estructura con pantallas pintadas representando los vehículos. Cuando los vehículos no se consiguen prender, o se trancan, las pantallas no suben completamente y se caen. La ROCKET BIKE tira fuego por detrás. Sugiero no usar fuego de verdad pero una cuerda de papel como la cola de un papagayo/chiringa. El FALSE SUPERBLOOM es hecho de varias cuerdas con flores de papel que son removidas cuando sopla el

viento. El REAL SUPERBLOOM es hecho de flores de papel escondidas en tubos de PVC que se revelan cuando son jaladas por cuerdas escondidas.

PRÓLOGO: Un Tiempo Sin Flores  
*Hablado con micrófono directamente al público*

*Entra VBP aullando y haciendo cositas de perro*

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

*Entran LUPE y CONSUELO de lados opuestos*

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

*VBP le da el micrófono a CONSUELO para la traducción*

CONSUELO  
Ah, me? Oh.  
“Un cuento de  
Un tiempo sin flores”

*Ella entrega el micrófono*

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

*VBP le da el micrófono a LUPE para la traducción*

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

*Ella entrega el micrófono*

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

*Le da el micrófono a CONSUELO*

CONSUELO

“Pero sobre todo

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

*LUPE indica discretamente que falta más. CONSUELO no lo entiende. LUPE se aclara la garganta.*

CONSUELO

Gracias

LUPE

*(agarrando el micrófono)*

¡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 ayudé.

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!!!

*Todos salen*

ACTO 1. Escena 1. La Vuelta en la Mañana

*Debajo del sol del Desierto Alto, la SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE descansa. Sus manos cubren sus ojos. Sale de por detrás de sus manos. Se esconde de nuevo. Sale una vez más y muestra su cara. Sus manos bajan a su corazón. Mociona hacia una niña y su padre. Entra JOSÉ seguido por la MARIFLOR corriendo. Ella le pasa y mociona para que él <<tire las llaves>>. JOSÉ las tira y vuelan en el aire. MARIFLOR las agarra. Ella entra en la TRUCK rápidamente. Él entra en la TRUCK lentamente. Ella le devuelve las llaves. Se abrochan los cinturones.*

JOSÉ  
¿Lista?

MARIFLOR  
Yeah!

*Se ponen lentes de sol que tienen forma de flores. JOSÉ prende el vehículo y la explosión del motor introduce una Norteña clásica en alto volumen (El Columpio por Los Rieleros Del Norte). Manejan entre las montañas. JOSÉ mira alrededor de cada curva animadamente. Esta buscando algo.*

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

JOSÉ  
Mucho gusto, nice to meet you!  
*(regresa a su busca intensa)*

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, hija!

MARIFLOR  
Yeah let me pull it up.  
*(saca su teléfono)*

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? *(muestra el logo en su teléfono)* Wait, lemme zoom in.

*(Una pintura en papelón grande con el logo es mostrada)*

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!

*(Salen del TRUCK. Comparan la vista con la que tienen en sus teléfonos. Mueven la cabeza al decir que no.)*

MARIFLOR

Apá, I'm gonna go up here okay?

*(JOSÉ lo afirma con un pulgar y los dos se van en direcciones distintas)*

*(Entra VBP. Presenta poses en busca de algo poderoso y quizás un poco amenazante. Entra MARIFLOR.)*

VBP

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

*(MARIFLOR pasea mientras VBP se esfuerza con poses. Finalmente ella lo vé.)*

MARIFLOR

Oh hello!

VBP

ROOOAAAAAAR

MARIFLOR

Uh! What a cute little pup!

VBP

Little? She 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!?! 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!  
*(haciendo una pose poderosa) 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 town! Stop it! Rawr, I say, Rawr and Bark!

*(MARIFLOR suavemente acaricia la cabeza de VBP. Su pierna empieza a moverse en esa manera de perrito. VBP se derrite.)*

MARIFLOR

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



*(Unas piedra cercanas empiezan a moverse. Una flor silvestre solitaria sale de las piedras)*

MARIFLOR

Woah. Look at that. What is it?

*(Ella se acerca a la flor y la huele. La flor se menea.)*

VBP

My dear human, if I'm not mistaken, that would be... a wildflower! *(comparten una mirada)* The very first in years!

MARIFLOR

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

*(El sonido del viento se oye y la flor es llevada en la broza. Entra JOSÉ)*

JOSÉ

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

*(JOSÉ y VBP se ven uno al otro. JOSÉ está horrorizado . VBP gruña desagradablemente)*

JOSÉ Cont'd

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

MARIFLOR

Apá! I saw a flower! A real flower!

JOSÉ

¿Que dijiste?

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, hija. 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 y VBP se cuadrán. Tratan de asustarse el uno al otro. Los dos se espantan y salen corriendo)*

Escena 2. Mediodía en la Escuela.

*Una sala con estudiantes intermedios en sus pupitres. Ventanas abiertas. Mr.BARNES en frente de la CLASS.*

Mr.BARNES

...And that, students, is the epic tale of Nancy Kelsey, the creator of our California 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.Williams, your glasses please. Thank you. In addition to regularly washing our hands AND maintaining social distance—Ms. Cruz, 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.

*(Manos levantan y la CLASS empieza hablando por encima de todos: "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?

*(Se levantan las manos otra vez, charla)*

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 se ríe)*

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 ladra and actúa como perro, CLASS estalla en carcajadas)*

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 se ríe)

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  
(levantando la mano de nuevo)  
But if you can't see color, they wouldn't work. Like, that doesn't make sense.

(Mr.BARNES escoge sus palabras)

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?

(*Más manos y más charla. GAMIÑO esta confundido y frustrado.*)

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 mira a 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!

(*Charla aumenta*)

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!?

*(La CLASS jadea y se miran)*

CARRERA

NO MORE RULES!!!

*(CLASS explota y empieza corriendo caóticamente. Papeles, materiales escolares, y cubre-ojos vuelan en el aire. Mr.BARNES trata de mantener el control. No funciona. La campaña toca y la CLASS corre hacia afuera. OTHER TEACHERS gritan a los estudiantes para ponerse las lentes y mantener distancia. MARIFLOR alegremente recoge sus cosas.)*

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 se vira a ver Mr.BARNES con sus brazos cruzados)*

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—

*Entra 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 aprieta los labios y asiente la cabeza)*

Mr.BARNES

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

*(Mr.BARNES sale mientras MARIFLOR entra la plaza de recreo. Hay un poste de baloncesto con jóvenes al lado: CARRERA, GREG, y JESÚS. Admiran una bicicleta nítida.)*

OTHER TEACHER

Hey you, glasses up! Please and thank you!

*(MARIFLOR se las pone)*

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!

*Entra un niño enfermo. MIKE se mueve más lento que los otros jóvenes.*

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 estornuda. Empieza limpiarse la nariz cuando se le caen los espejuelos. Sus ojos se han virado en espirales grises agrandadas. Los otros jóvenes se espantan de horror y salen corriendo.)*

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

JESÚS  
RUN AWAY!

*(Los jóvenes salen gritando. MIKE se arrodilla y tiene dificultades recuperando sus lentes. MARIFLOR se acerca. Ella recoge las lentes y se las ofrece a él.)*

MARIFLOR  
Here you go.

MIKE  
Thankssss. *(Vá a agarrar las lentes, pero se mueve para atrás)* You shouldn't be so close! Six feet—

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

*(Ella pone las lentes en su mano y MIKE sale corriendo con penita. MARIFLOR sacude la cabeza y sale. Creciendo del poste de baloncesto, salen dos flores. No hay nadie hay para verlas.)*



Escene 3. Distribución de Alimentos en la Tarde

*Una calle hacia ranchos y casas vecindarias. MARIFLOR se sienta en la TRUCK mirando a su teléfono. LUPE platica con Sra.CARRERA en su puerta.*

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. ¡Imaginate!

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 (*saliendo*)

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

*(LUPE entra la TRUCK y prende el motor. Empiezan a manejar.)*

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 suelta risitas*)

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.*

*Vegetales salen corriendo de su caja y bailan entre varios vecinos. Familias viran de ser cansados y aburridos con comida en lata, á preparando el comedor con mucha emoción. Niños corren por debajo de manteles, tiran platos y vasos, y juegan al mesero. La SAINT OF LOVE*

*AND PATIENCE los mira con sus manos en el corazón. Cuando todo está pronto, los VEGGIES hacen un baile estilo Tik Tok.*

MARIFLOR

Wow Mami, this is cool!

LUPE

¿Si? ¿Te divertiste?

MARIFLOR

Wait, we're already done?

LUPE

Not yet. Falta una mas.

ACTO 2

Sc. 4 La casa de Consuelo en el final de la Tarde

*Una casa con cortinas en las ventanas. Un pequeño CAR esta estacionado al lado. LUPE toca en la puerta. MARIFLOR tiene una caja. Después de un rato, CONSUELO abre una cortina con cuidado a no ser vista. Rápidamente lo cierra. LUPE y MARIFLOR se miran para decir <<¿Oíste eso?>> y se encogen los hombros.)*

LUPE

Hola, buenas tardes. ¡Traemos alimentos!

*(CONSUELO trata de escapar sin ser vista. Cuando llega al CAR, trata de sacar las llaves. MARIFLOR la escucha.)*

MARIFLOR

Hi Titi Consuelo!

CONSUELO *(dejando las llaves caer)*

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 (*mociona a decir <<llévalo>>*). Thank you!

LUPE

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

CONSUELO

No! The dogs will get it and make a mess. Just please (*mociona a decir <<llévalo>>*). 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, ahora en el carro, trata de prenderlo. No prende. Murmura a sí misma y sigue tratando. LUPE la mira.*)

LUPE

Disculpa, ¿Consuelo?

(*CONSUELO continúa tratando y murmurando*)

LUPE cont'd

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

(*CONSUELO pausa. Chequéa su reloj. Aprieta los labios. Asiente con la cabeza.*)

CONSUELO

Muy amable, ustedes. Si no les incomoda mucho.

MARIFLOR

Yay! Come on in!

*(MARIFLOR y LUPE entran en la TRUCK y abrochan los cinturones. CONSUELO se acerca y entra. LUPE y CONSUELO tienen sonrisitas. Todas asienten las cabezas amistosamente.)*

MARIFLOR

Seat belt.

*(CONSUELO se lo abrocha.)*

MARIFLOR con't

Titi, do you have safety glasses? Oh look, we have an extra. Here you go.

*(CONSUELO le mira a LUPE. LUPE trata de no devolver la mirada.)*

CONSUELO

Eso no es necesario, Lupe.

*(Pausa)*

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 sale con sonrisa forzada. LUPE y MARIFLOR miran a CONSUELO mientras camina. LUPE sacude la cabeza. Prende la TRUCK.)*

Escena 5.  
Anochecer en la Sierra

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? (*mirándole a alguien en la audiencia*) 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.

(*Suspira*)

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 entra mirando debajo de piedras. Busca más flores.*

MARIFLOR

C'mon... C'mon... Where ARE you? What the HECK!? Ugh! (*se rinde*) So annoying!

CONFUSION MONSTER

Ohh... Tell me about it.

(*MARIFLOR le mira*)

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

You 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.

Escena 6. ¡Llego el Superbloom!

*Mañana temprano. Casas y negocios alrededor de un parque. Dentro del parque hay un campo cubierto con flores de papel. Entra CARRERA con su rocket-bici. Lip-synquéa la canción Rocket Man por Elton John.*

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...*(mira alrededor)* Is that really a...?

*(CARRERA se acerca a una de las flores. La arranca. La huele. Se derrite.)*

CARRERA

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

*(GREG y JESÚS salen montados en sus propias rocket-bicis)*

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.

*FIESTA DE BLOCO: VOLVIENDO A LO NORMAL*

*Todos se miran. Después de un momento, gritan. TOWNSPEOPLE salen de sus casas. Comienza un festival: negocios y restaurantes viran sus placa de cerrado a abierto, la gente se abraza, botan sus lentes de protección en la basura, las rocket bikes hacen desfile por el pueblo, piñatas se cuelgan, una banda de rock se monta, básicamente todo lo que puedes imaginar.*

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 tiene la cabeza en la busca-vista. Se escucha un soplo de viento. Todas las flores se llevan y desaparecen. Todavía con su cabeza en la busca-vista...)*

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—  
(*sale para mirarlos*) 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 apunta hacia detrás del grupo. Los TOWNSPEOPLE lentamente se viran y un murmuro empieza*)

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. We all saw it. 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-OOOOOooooooOOO!

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 (*últimas palabras agonizantes*)

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

*(El pueblo entero empieza un argumento bravo. MARIFLOR lo mira en horror. Nada esta siguiendo su plan. El CONFUSION MONSTER entra y a crecido a un tamaño enorme. La pequeña SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE entra.)*

Mr.BARNES

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

*(Una flor llevada por la brisa se acerca y él lo agarra.)*

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 (*agarrándola*)

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

*UN AÑO DE MOVIMIENTO montage.*

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

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

*El final de Rocketman repite durante un secuencia de movimiento cambia los actores. Al inicio, se enfrentan como estatuas representando gestos de este año (incluyendo apuntando la culpa, lavándose las manos, etc.). Continúan pero ahora enfrentan al público.*

*Las próximas frases son habladas directamente al público. Llevan la más alta civilidad y decencia. El dolor que cargan es contenido. Sin embargo, al llegar a la mitad, se escapan las chispas cayendo en la grama seca. Llegando al final, las voces viran a un incendio forestal. La SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE empieza a cubrirse los ojos. El CONFUSION MONSTER apunta y se ríe de ella. La SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE saca las manos de los ojos y cintas de azul caen de sus ojos mientras los TOWNSPEOPLE pelean y ladran como un grupo ardiente de perros callejeros.*

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 ladran.*



### ACTO 3

#### Escena 7. La Madrugada antes de la Vuelta de la Mañana

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 ...(un gesto indicando “tremenda personalidad”)...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 empieza a salir. Se marea y se recupera. Una tos casi imperceptible se le escapa. Se toca los ojos. Encuentra sus lentes de protección y se los pone.)*

MARIFLOR

Finally! Today I get to go back to school! Man, 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? (*entre aspás*) “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?

*Entra VBP corriendo animadamente*

MARIFLOR

Sit!

*(VBP sienta. Sigue todas las comandas perfectamente.)*

MARIFLOR

Watch this.

VBP *(al público)*

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 suelta una tos fuerte y se vuelve flojo)*

MARIFLOR cont'd

YAAAY! Good boy!

*(VBP se levanta y hace un reverencia al público. Pide que la audiencia le aplauda. Hace más reverencias, y vira hacia MARIFLOR con su mano para fuera expectante)*

MARIFLOR con't

Oh right, a treat! *(chequeando sus bolsos)* They're inside, I'll be right back. Stayyyy! Stayyyy!  
Isn't he good?!

VBP *(al público)*

Shut up. I don't wanna hear it.

*(MARIFLOR abre la puerta y ve a JOSÉ. Él está mal. Está bien cansado y su cabeza se menea, casi borracho. Tiene sus lentes de protección. Trata de continuar positivamente.)*

JOSÉ

¡Mija! ¡Ya es tarde!

MARIFLOR

¿...Apá?

JOSÉ

¿Lista?

MARIFLOR *(mirándole a VBP)*

... Yeah!

JOSÉ

¡Vamos!

*(Ella corre al TRUCK, mientras JOSÉ apenas mueve uno o dos pies.)*

MARIFLOR  
Get in, buddy!

VBP  
No treat?

MARIFLOR  
Later, let's go. Apá, keys!

JOSÉ  
Hmm?

MARIFLOR  
¡Llaves!

*(JOSÉ trata de tirar las llaves pero ni logran alcanzar la mitad de la distancia)*

MARIFLOR con't  
A-paaaá! You're silly! *(recogiendo las llaves)*

JOSÉ  
...Mija.

*(JOSÉ mociónala hacia él, pero de repente la pide que se pare. Busca las palabras, o quizás busca solo respirar. Después de un rato...)*

JOSÉ  
...tu madre.

MARIFLOR  
Apá?

JOSÉ  
Llámalas.

*(JOSÉ cae)*

MARIFLOR  
MAMI! MAAAMI!

VBP  
Bark Bark! BARK!!!

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

*(LUPE arrodilla y levanta la cabeza de JOSÉ del piso)*

MARIFLOR  
Mami, what's wrong!?

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

MARIFLOR  
¿Que?

LUPE  
—El carro, mi amor, ¡prendelo!

*(MARIFLOR corre hacia la TRUCK y no encuentra las llaves.)*

MARIFLOR  
Keys! Where are the—

VBP  
ARF! ARF! *(corre hacia JOSÉ. Trata de moverlo para recoger las llaves que están por debajo.)*

LUPE  
¡Sal, animal! Dejaló! *(Le bate a VBP)*

VBP  
(YIP!)

LUPE  
¡Prende el carro, Mariflor! ¡Ahora!

MARIFLOR  
*(a VBP)* It's okay, buddy. *(Agarra las llaves de por debajo de JOSÉ. Prende la TRUCK. El motor ruge.)* Okay! Now what—

LUPE  
Ven, ¡ayúdame!

*(Ayudan JOSÉ a levantarse y montarse en la TRUCK. MARIFLOR y VBP se sientan atrás con JOSÉ. LUPE le da a MARIFLOR las lentes, y las dos se las ponen. LUPE empieza a manejar.)*

MARIFLOR  
Apá! Are you ok?

JOSÉ  
Mmmm.

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

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

MARIFLOR  
How far is it?

*(LUPE no da respuesta. El sonido del motor aumenta en tono.)*

MARIFLOR cont'd  
Mami, how far?

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

*(El motor empieza a trancar.)*

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

VBP  
Arf! Arf!!

*(El motor muere. Se escucha el inquietante sonido de las ruedas moviéndose en la carretera y disminuyendo de velocidad )*

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

*(La TRUCK para. LUPE sale. MARIFLOR y VBP asisten en silencio. LUPE se quita las lentes y chequea el motor. Ella cierra los ojos y busca alguna solución, busca Paciencia. Vá a la caja de la TRUCK y regresa con aceite y equipaje de auto. De nuevo, busca alguna solución.)*

MARIFLOR  
Mami, can I help?

*(Después de un momento, LUPE abre los ojos y mira al paisaje. Respira profundamente y encuentra una calma que la pacífica.)*

LUPE  
Señor, ten piedad en mí.

*(Pausa)*

*(La respuesta: se escucha el sonido de un vehículo en la distancia)*

MARIFLOR  
Look! Mami, look! A car!

LUPE  
Gloria al Padre.

*(LUPE comienza a señalar con los brazos. MARIFLOR sale de la TRUCK y señala también. LUPE disminuye el movimiento y baja los brazos. Ella reconoce el vehículo. MARIFLOR sigue señalando con una fuerza brava.)*

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! *(A agarrando el brazo de MARIFLOR y caminando a la TRUCK)*

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 entra en la TRUCK. LUPE mira al vehículo acercándose. Saca su teléfono y busca por sus contactos. MARIFLOR tira sus brazos renunciándose. LUPE hace la llamada. Ella espera. La llamada no pasa. LUPE mira a su teléfono confundida. MARIFLOR está harta. Le mira a VBP, y él da un encoge de hombros. LUPE hace otra llamada y espera. Perdiendo toda la Paciencia, MARIFLOR escapa de la TRUCK y empieza a correr en la calle.)*

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

*(LUPE ve que MARIFLOR no está en la TRUCK. La ve corriendo.)*

LUPE  
¡¡¡MARIFLOR!!!

*(Un vehículo que se aproxima dobla la esquina. ¡Los frenos gritan! El CARRO se detiene bruscamente centímetros antes de 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 ignora a CONSUELO. La SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE está encima de JOSÉ.)*

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

*(LUPE asiente la cabeza)*

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 ofrece la mano a MARIFLOR y ella la acepta.)*

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 suelta la mano de MARIFLOR.)*

Mira, yo he sido muy necia contigo y con tu familia. Yo lo sé. Y me da vergüenza. *(a 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 chequea los bolsos. Corre hacia el CAR y agarra algo. Regresa y le mira a LUPE. CONSUELO pone sus lentes protectoras de forma de flor.)*

CONSUELO

¿Lista?

*(MARIFLOR señala al CAR de CONSUELO preguntando si puede entrar. LUPE siente el peso de su familia aliviándose. La presión de la pandemia es liberada.)*

LUPE

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

*(LUPE abraza a CONSUELO. MARIFLOR abraza su Madre y su Tía.)*

*(JOSÉ entra con el brazo encima de VBP.)*

JOSÉ

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

MARIFLOR

Apá! *(acercándose rápidamente)*

JOSÉ

Ey ey ey, ponte las lentes.

*(Se pone sus lentes. Los demás se acercan a JOSÉ y le ayudan a entrar en el 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 se acerca a VBP. Saca su teléfono y compara una foto con la vista. En la distancia, la SAINT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE aparece. Ella es enorme y pasea libremente.)*

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

*(La familia asiste mientras el paisaje del desierto se llena con flores silvestres.)*

Fin.