

MID-ACT I, SCENE 2:

JULIAN

Tía! What are you—what are you doing here?

RAMONA

What you doing here? Is two thirty. You should be at work, no?

JULIAN

I am. I had to cover for someone at work, so I didn't get lunch until late. What are you doing here? And what were you doing in our bedrooms?

RAMONA

I not find my sewing box. Maybe I left here yesterday? I just look in kitchen now and no find. I have woman who wants me to get some clothes done for her this week and I make that woman Russian's tablecloth still. Do you know where is my sewing box?

JULIAN

No, I haven't seen it. Are you sure it's not at your apartment? Maybe you missed it.

RAMONA

I look everywhere! What I going to do? I have to sew work for her! She pay very well. It almost half rent!

JULIAN

I'm sure we'll find it. Why don't you go back to your apartment and look more and I'll look some more here and if we don't find it, we'll ask Pilar tonight, okay?

RAMONA

(anxious)

Tío Augusto buy me sewing box when he bring me to America! Is the only thing I have left from him!

JULIAN

We will find it. I promise.

(HE looks at watch)

RAMONA

You no look good. You are sick?

JULIAN

What? No, I'm fine. I'm hungry. I have to hurry to eat lunch. My boss doesn't like it when I'm late getting back from lunch.

RAMONA

He one tough, no?

JULIAN

Yes.

(HE starts to make lunch)

RAMONA

You good worker. He see. Oh, Julian, I forget! I glad I see you. I get the next papers for you from the place Pilar go.

(SHE takes out papers from her bag)

JULIAN

(looks at papers)

This has gotten very expensive!

RAMONA

(angrily taking papers from him)

You should not be worrying about this thing! It is your mama who worry about this. You are little boy still!

JULIAN

No, I'm not!

(taking papers back)

Mamá said she wants me to have those papers so I have to know the things that are inside. I'm in charge of Pilar right now.

RAMONA

If I stay in your mama's room, I help with rent. You not worry about money.

JULIAN

Tía, I don't want to talk about this again!

RAMONA

Is what we do in Chile, Julian! Is right way!

JULIAN
I can take care of us.
Everything will be fine

RAMONA
Family stay in same house.

RAMONA
Oh, you think you such big man without your mama, don't you?

JULIAN
I'm twenty-two now! I even voted in the presidential election last month!

RAMONA
Oh, yes, big wrinkly man make new president in America.

JULIAN
At least I can vote in America. *Mamá* wasn't even allowed to vote in Chile until she was twenty-seven and...

RAMONA
Oh, wrinkly man know everything about Chile now? Because you go to big American university and read book? Let me tell you, Julian, there are thing you no read in your books! Old man know so much, no?

JULIAN
That's not what I...

RAMONA
Big school teach you everything?

RAMONA
You no need your mama, you no need *Tía*, you no need nobody. I tell your mama when I write her next. Little Julian no need mama.

JULIAN
(sharply)
No!
(RAMONA looks taken aback.
JULIAN changes tone)
Please don't talk to *Mamá* about me in your letters, *Tía*.

RAMONA
You very rude today! You tell me what to write to your mama?

JULIAN
I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be rude.

(HE looks at watch)

I really need to have my lunch so...

RAMONA

Tía should go home now so big man can be in charge. Is not right, Julian. You know how to be little boy better.

JULIAN

(muttering)

I'm not...

(to RAMONA)

I didn't mean to be disrespectful.

(Indicates the papers)

Thank you for picking these up, Tía.

RAMONA

You are welcome, Julian. Sometimes you need your tía, no?

JULIAN

Yes, Tía. Sometimes I need my tía.

(HE leans over to hug her and
kiss her)

But not always. Sometimes I can do things on my own.

RAMONA

Yes, big man. You eat. I see you tonight, *mi cachorrito*. Please say to me if you find my sewing box. *Por favor*.

JULIAN

I will.

RAMONA

I see if Saint Anthony help me find. *Que Dios esté contigo*.