

And walks off. Paulie looks after him. He was watching from the dark. He walks off into

Scene 4

The next day. It overcast. A battered box and an overflowing garbage can. Sitting on the box is Hector, eating garbage and drinking liquor. Hector spots Paulie looking at him.

HECTOR

What you looking at, Paco?

PAULIE

Nothing.

HECTOR

Who you callin' nothin'? Gimme a dollar.

PAULIE

That's all I have for food.

HECTOR

You can't get nothing for a dollar.

PAULIE

Yeah, you can.

HECTOR

Give it to me. Come on.

Paulie gives him the dollar. Hector scrutinizes the boy.

PAULIE

You're Esperanza's father.

HECTOR

Why you tellin' me who I am? I seen you starin' at me yesterday.

PAULIE

So?

HECTOR

You see something?

PAULIE

They say you have rabies in your balls.

HECTOR

Who doesn't?

PAULIE

Why don't you go to a doctor?

HECTOR

The doctor ain't been born who I want to see. I got a lawyer though. City got me a lawyer. How 'bout that shit? City's crazier than me. What's that I see in you?

PAULIE

In me?

HECTOR

You want to get fucked up the ass?

PAULIE

What?! No!

HECTOR

I know you.

PAULIE

I was at your house for the birthday party.

HECTOR

That's not what I mean.

PAULIE

I don't understand.

HECTOR

Yeah, you do. I have a car. You want to go for a ride?

PAULIE

No.

HECTOR

Yeah, you do.

PAULIE

I gotta get to school.

HECTOR

You gotta go, but you don't go. Come here for a minute.

PAULIE

No.

HECTOR

Do what I tell you. Don't make me come to you. Now!

Paulie hesitates, then goes to Hector. Hector takes him by the neck, and then puts three fingers in his mouth. The boy struggles halfheartedly, then goes slack, submissive. Hector is satisfied, and lets him go.

PAULIE

Why'd you do that? That's not right.

HECTOR

You're not right, Paco.

PAULIE

What do you mean?

HECTOR

You got a sideways eye and you smell like stale bread. No. Oatmeal.

PAULIE

I smell bad?

HECTOR

I didn't say that. You smell like me. If we was dead and buried, the same dog would dig us up.

PAULIE

I have to go.

HECTOR

You're not going. You know my daughter?

PAULIE
Yeah.
HECTOR
She got a boyfriend?
Paulie doesn't answer.

HECTOR
You don't like that, do you? Me neither. You know where she is?

Paulie doesn't answer.

HECTOR
Where? Where?

PAULIE
You're not going to hurt her?

HECTOR
No.

He holds out the liquor.

HECTOR
Drink some.

Paulie takes a sip, coughs.

PAULIE
They're going to meet tonight.