

**TITO / ESPERANZA CB SIDES**

The Lights fade.

Scene 5

Night. A church graveyard. Fake stars flicker overhead. Tito is waiting on a little hill, looking at the stars. Esperanza enters.

**START**

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ESPERANZA

I can't stay long.

TITO

You can't start by leaving. I've been missing you.

ESPERANZA

I had to sneak out.

TITO

Who you worried about?

ESPERANZA

My foster parents. And my father.

TITO

Your father?

ESPERANZA

Paulie's been talking.

TITO

To who?

ESPERANZA

He's been telling people you're in love with me. Is it true?

TITO

Paulie got jealous.

ESPERANZA

Is it true?

TITO

Yes!

ESPERANZA

Oh my God! This is the best moment of my life!

She runs to him and they kiss.

ESPERANZA

Tito.

TITO

I don't know what's happening to me.

ESPERANZA

To us!

TITO

What is it?

ESPERANZA

We don't belong here anymore.

TITO

Where?

ESPERANZA

With these other people. We've gone to another town, under the ocean or something. There's all this sick bad shit, and then there's us.

TITO

But what do we do? I mean, what can we do? We're ten.

ESPERANZA

I know.

TITO

I don't even have hair on my balls yet.

They laugh.

ESPERANZA

Look how many stars!

TITO

Yeah.

ESPERANZA

It hurts almost.

TITO

Yeah. It's like needles. They said on the news there's going to be a shower tonight. Meteorites.

ESPERANZA

When's it supposed to start?

TITO

Now? I wonder if my mother felt like this. Once upon a time.

ESPERANZA

Like what?

TITO

Happy.

ESPERANZA

I don't know.

TITO

Cause now she does nothing but suffer.

ESPERANZA

That's not gonna be us!

TITO

I don't ever want to be like that.

ESPERANZA

I don't want anything but now and you.

TITO

But is that going to happen to us? Things don't stay the same. Am I going to be like your dad some day?

ESPERANZA

No.

TITO

Or you like your mom?

ESPERANZA

No.

TITO

How can you be sure?

ESPERANZA

Because I'm great! Because I have something in me that won't let that happen to us! I can make the dead people in these graves stand up and dance if I want!

TITO

I believe you.

ESPERANZA

I'm in charge of everything!

TITO

See? This is why I prayed to you.

ESPERANZA

And I won't let you down!

TITO

But I should be saving you!

ESPERANZA

We'll save each other.

TITO

Okay.

ESPERANZA

Right now is good, right?

TITO

The best!

ESPERANZA

Well, right now will always be one of the things that's happening. We can always come back to that.

TITO

I'm scared.

ESPERANZA

Why?

TITO

I can tell you're about to go.

ESPERANZA

Tito. I have to.

TITO

Why so quick?

ESPERANZA

I'm not supposed to be out. My foster mother, she's probably already looking for me.

TITO

But what are we going to do? We're surrounded by bad futures.

ESPERANZA

The future can't hurt us here.

TITO

Everything's going too fast. Can't you please stay for the falling stars?

ESPERANZA

No.

TITO

I'm scared. It's like you're my courage and you won't stay.

ESPERANZA

We already heard the fireflies sigh, Tito. That's the moment we became love. We're love now. That doesn't stop. That doesn't end. We're safe now. Even if we don't know how.

TITO

Okay.

**END**

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She kisses him again, and runs off the way she came. He lays down on the grass and looks at the stars. One star shoots. He notes it and calls after her.