

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Two college students lean against a wall looking to the street as they chat. They are heading back to the dorms after having picked up a few decorative objects for their room. On the left is SANTIAGO, an international student from Uruguay, he gets off the wall to stretch as CONNOR, his roommate, picks at the things he bought, figuring out where he'll put everything. Santiago leans back onto the wall and looks at his phone.

CONNOR

The Grateful Dead poster was a mistake.

He fully takes the rolled up poster out of the bag and examines it.

SANTIAGO

You bought it.

CONNOR

Yeah but I don't even listen to them and I don't want anyone calling me a poser or talking shit.

SANTIAGO

Then why did you buy it.

CONNOR

I liked how psychedelic it was but it doesn't match anything else.

SANTIAGO

Give it to me, I can put it on my side.

CONNOR

Sure

He hands him the poster. Santiago examines the display image on the roll.

CONNOR

I might ask for it back.

SANTIAGO

What?

CONNOR

I said I might ask for it back.

SANTIAGO

Oh, of course.

No one says anything for a moment.

CONNOR

How'd you hear about Pitt all the way in Uruguay?

SANTIAGO

Eh... I think my dad had a friend who taught here and recommended it.

CONNOR

That's tight, what kind of house do you have down there?

SANTIAGO

A normal house I think.

He takes out his phone and shows Connor a picture of his house.

CONNOR

That is a normal house. Is school different here?

SANTIAGO

In a different language.

CONNOR

Ha, that is true, your English is really good tho, so you probably don't struggle that much with it.

SANTIAGO

Thank you, haha, it's not too bad.

Santiago awkwardly scratches the back of his head.

CONNOR

Is there ever anything I say that you don't understand?

SANTIAGO

Some words but almost everything.

CONNOR

Yeah I didn't think so, still, I can always help you out with that if you need.

SANTIAGO
Of course, thank you.

CONNOR
You're my boy, homie we're going to be
living together so we gotta look out
for each other right?

Connor extends his arm in search for daps.

SANTIAGO
Yeah man.

Santiago gives him daps.

CONNOR
I've only met one other person from
Uruguay and she wasn't even born
there. She did have the weird accent
when she'd speak Spanish, like you.

SANTIAGO
Everyone has that accent in Uruguay,
haha.

CONNOR
Lemme hear it bro.

There is a moment of silence as Santiago thinks of something
to say.

SANTIAGO
I never know what to say when people
ask me that.

CONNOR
Just say "Hello, my name is Santiago"

SANTIAGO
Hola, me llamo Santiago.

CONNOR
Ha, I always love hearing people speak
other languages.

SANTIAGO
Yeah.

Santiago looks away, the two sit in silent for bit, the bus
arrives.

INT. BUS - DAY

Santiago and Connor sit together on the bus, the two look spent after walking around all day. Santiago, rests his eyes as Connor looks at what he bought the same way he did at the bus stop. The bus is not full, but definitely not empty. Santiago is shook out of his rest by an incoming call.

SANTIAGO

Que pasa Mama...ah, no puedo hablar ahora, estoy en el autobus, si quieres te digo cuando llegue al cuarto y me llamas entonces, vale?...Si, si, estuvimos comprando cosas para el cuarto y comimos en un sitio Tailandes...vale, vale, un beso, si, vale, adios, si, adios.

As Santiago speaks to his mother, some people on the bus notice, others are unbothered. Some that notice stare, others smile, some are made uncomfortable, some sneer, but no one says anything.

INT. DORM - NIGHT

Santiago and Connor start an old karate movies with a few friends from the floor.

CONNOR

Swear these are so good if you just don't take them too seriously. The Wu-Tang Clan was really into karate and kung-fu movies.

The room mumbles in agreement as the titles fade. Santiago receives another call from his mother. He leaves the room and gestures to the others so they stop the movie, getting out of his seat and moving away from the group without leaving the room.

SANTIAGO

Hola Mama, estamos mirando una pelicula.

MOTHER

Que bien, que pelicula es?

Santiago looks at the TV but the title has passed.

SANTIAGO

Una vieja de karate o algo asi.

MOTHER

Como las de Jackie Chan?

SANTIAGO

Creo que parecida, creo que esta es de Bruce Lee.

MOTHER

Pues muy bien, como va todo por alli?

SANTIAGO

Bien, bien, estoy conociendo a gente, y por ahora las clases van bien. Hecho de menos un poco estar en casa, y a toda la gente tambien.

Santiago looks at his "friends" for the first sentence but looks away for the second.

MOTHER

Eso es normal, estar en un pais nuevo nunca es facil, muchas cosas son similares pero nunca iguales.

SANTIAGO

Claro, pero siento que siempre estoy un poco aislado de todos, que por el acento o algo, no me entienden del todo y que yo no los entiendo a ellos del todo.

The room is silent but Santiago isn't bothered as no one in the room can understand what he's saying.

MOTHER

Eso seguro que mejora con el tiempo, todos empezaran a conocerte mejor y vice versa. Algunas cosas no cambiaran, siempre seras diferente, pero no hay porque verlo como algo malo, tambien es importante destacar no?

SANTIAGO

Pues si.

MOTHER

Tambien te acostumbraras a sus costumbres, y ellos a las tuyas. En los Estados Unidos nunca te averguenzes de tu sangre, y practica

*el Español, que no quiero que vuelvas
hecho un americanito.*

Santiago smiles.

SANTIAGO

*Jaja, claro que no, bueno me estan
metiendo prisa que la película esta en
pausa.*

MOTHER

*Bueno, un beso muy grande, come bien y
duerme bien, cuidate.*

SANTIAGO

Claro, claro, un beso, adios.

MOTHER

Adios.

Santiago ends the call, puts the phone in his pocket as the karate movie resumes.