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The Burning Plain

By Guillermo Arriaga

Get up.

What?

You fell asleep again.

Just 5 more minutes, please.

No... get up.

Hey.

Late night?

- I guess.

- Again?

- Again.

- Hm, same guy?

- No.

- Do I know him?

Maybe.

Does he know me?

Good morning everyone.

- Good morning.

- Good morning.

Talk to me, Lawrence,

what we have for specials?

- Lobster in white wine sauce.

- Mh'hm.

- What else?

- Spinach and almonds.

Linguini in a tomato sauce.

That looks good.

More than 25 no-suger

for Marshalls wedding?

Welcome back,

Mr. and Mrs. Dunning.

- So nice to see you again.

- Nice to see you too.

You remember Sophie?

She'll escort you to your

usual table, have a lovely meal.

Follow me.

Sylvie, table six

needs help with wine.

Alright, thank you.

- Good afternoon.

- Hi.

Huh... Vivian just told me

you need a wine recommendation.

Yeah, we're having

the "Petite Filet".

Um...

I would... highly recommend
the 87 "Castle Chateau".

- It's a beautiful Bordeaux.

- Hm...

no, I haven't heard of it.

It's not on our list...

we have it on special reserve
down in the cellar...

I think you really
would enjoy it.

Why, thank you,
that would be fantastic.

Be right back.

- Um, table 18 wanted their checks.

- Okay.

What's the matter?

Excuse yourself...

- and get Vivian to do it.

- You Sure?

Going out for a quick
cigarette, alright?

Okay.

That was great suggestion,
that "Chateau Castle.

It's one of my favorite.

Yeah, what other kind
would you recommend?

That'd be depending
on the meal.

Well, if that's okay to figure
that out, tonight over dinner?

I don't socialise
with customers.

This is where my father
and that fucking slut burned.

How the fire start?

The cops said they left
the gas on and it exploded.

So, it was an accident?

Yeah...

That's what the Sheriff said.

So, he was fucking

when he died.
Their bodies still stuck
together because of the fire?
I had use a knife
to cut them appart.
And who was the bitch?
Some weird woman,
from I don't kow.
Here's where they met.
Catholic pinko town.
Now, what're you doing?
I think this was going,
after dads head was burning.
Why'd you bring, Xavier?
Because he's my friend.
You bury your dad tomorrow
you're running a circus.
I'm running a circus, bitch.
Fuck you.
Hi, mama, aunt, Rebecca...
Did you fight with Cristobal?
No.
Because, I don't wanna hear
anyone fighting.
Now more than ever.
Okay.
That's my dad's whiskey.
Is it?
When the hell is he
gonna drink it?
Santiago?
- Excuse me, father.
- Cristobal.
Your mom ain't going
to the funeral.
Neither Rebecca and me
ain't going either.
This son of bitch doesn't
deserve this funaral today, damn.
Take care of everything,
the both of you.
...protecting us from evil.
For thine
is the kingdom in Heaven...

forever and ever.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Amen.

- Amen.

Who are they?

I don't know.

And now we bid farewell,
of our brother, Nick Martinez.

I hope your father's
rotting in hell.

That wetback piece of shit took
away the best thing I ever had.

Hey! Leave the boys alone.

Alone?

It's their father's fault
that my kids lost their mom.

And I hope you rot too.

What's the location?

There's a job over in
the Free Azt calcium area.

- Anybody interested?

- Good.

How much does the job pay?

How much do you pay?

- It's 80 acres.

- Good, I'll do it.

The plane's ready to take off.

One, two, three,

four, five...

Maria, come on!

I'm coming.

Maria, let's go!

Maria, stop playing and do
what your papa tells you.

See you later.

- Do you fly?

- Yeah, I do.

Hey, Daddy, what up?

Hey, honey, we have a job.

- Can I stay with my friends?

- Sorry honey, we gotta go.

Please...?

- Please, dad.
- No, honey.
- Come on... Come on...
- Stop...

We gotta a job to do,
let's go.

Alright, we're ready
to take off.

You have the coordinates?

Yeah... I just remit it
to the G.P.S.

This is the farm area.

- Hello.
- Good day.

Santiago Martinez,
this is my partner.

- Nice to meet you.
- Hi.

This whole area, about 80 acres,
that need to be sprayed.

We also have a cabin
ready for you to use...
while you're doing this job.

It's over there, it has a
kitchen, you can make tortilla's.

- You need anything else?
- No, thank you.
- We'll be fine, See you.
- See you.
- See you.
- See you.

Hey, a question,
can we use the bike?

- Sure, use it.
- Great.
- What?
- Who's gonna use it first?
- Let's toss a coin.
- Toss the coin.
- Call it, heads or tails?
- Heads.

Tails.

- Go ahead and take my turn.
- Appreciate it.

You stay here and help him.
untill I get back.
Be back in a minute.
Hey, what's the matter?
You forget how this works?
- I'm gonna go buy some cigarettes.
- Okay, I'll finish my chores.
Good.
I'm sorry I'm late.
I... couldn't get away.
Don't worry.
Can I get in?
Sure.
Hi.
Not there...
Please.
If you want we could
do this some other day?
No. No.
It's okay.
Listen...
My cousin lend me his place.
I never been there.
But he tells me,
it's far from everything.
You wanna go?
It isn't the Hilton.
I want cereal, Mariana.
I wanted mine over easy.
Well, that's to bad, eat these
because I got 'em all done.
Hey, Mariana,
what's for dinner?
You can fix you and your
friends some cereals.
Hi, all.
The supermarket was packed.
The lines were wrapped
around the isles.
Did your daddy call?
Yeah, he said he's gonna
be back day after tomorrow.
He's making a delivery
to Abilene.

That's okay.
I'll do it.
Hey.
Hey, guess what?
Senator Parks office
just called.
He's coming in today for lunch
with a party of eight.
Shit! He couldn't
call a day ahead?
Lawrence?
Senators party is coming in
in 2 hours, they want the usual.
Two hours? Was he expecting
to get everything?
I'm gonna call Forresters
fish market see what they got.
Where were you last night?
What?
Where were you last night?
Home.
Who with?
You promised
never to ask any questions.
Who the fuck with?
I have work to do.
I'll be right back with another
bottle, you all enjoy your meal.
Why is the Senators
wine glass empty?
Sylvie, I'm sorry.
The Senator seemed pleased.
I'll say.
He left a 500 dollar tip.
I think he wants us to vote
for him in this next election.
- You're unbelievable.
- No, I'm not.
That's what I want
for Christmas next year.
Remember that.
Have fun.
Sylvie!
Who the hell's this guy?

Jesus christ, John,
don't do this right this minute,
It's just a friend, okay?
He's a costumer, I saw him
having lunch here yesterday.
Yeah, yesterday.
Hey, wait.
Just...
Fuck whoever you wanna fuck...
and that's it?
When you leave your wife...
then you can talk.
Let's go.
- Jesus christ.
- I wanna talk to you.
- Unlock your door.
- Hey.
- Come on! Talk to me!
- Hey, come on, leave her alone.
Fuck off.
- Sylvie!
- What?
- What's your problem?
- I wanna talk to you.
- My friend, leave her alone.
- I told you to fuck off.
- Hey!
- John. John!
Jesus christ!
What're you? Seven?
- What're you doing?
- I wanna talk to you.
Ah, this is bull-shit.
I leave you to figure this shit
out with your boy-friend.
- He's not my boy-friend.
- Why'd you do this?
Don't touch me.
Give me five minutes.
What'd you think?
Just keep fucking following me!
- Hey, Sylvia.
- You don't own me, John.
Do me a favor and fuck off.

I'll...

Let me take you home.

- You okay?

- What'd you want?

You okay?

You okay?

I don't understand you.

Hey, hey!

I take you home.

What?

I take you home?

Come on.

Hey, I take you home?

Home.

What's your name?

Me? Carlos.

You?

Sylvie.

Sylvie?

And, Sylvia.

Hi.

You know who I am?

I'm not here to fight.

Well, what'd you want?

I just wanna know more,
that's all.

Who your mother was...
and what she did with my dad...
You already know
what she did.

No, I don't.

Can I talk to you this sunday?

Okay, I'll come look
for you then.

Daddy!

Daddy!

Daddy!

Hey.

Hey, darling.

I thought you didn't
get back until tomorrow.

- Yeah, but I rapped up early.

- Hm'hm.

Where're the kids?

They went to a baseball game.

You wanna wait

and have lunch with them?

Yeah.

I'll get cleaned up.

- Here, hon.

- Thanks, babe.

The tank's working

in no time.

I have to go out this evening.

To where?

To the K-Mart in Saint Helena.

I'll go with you.

Well, I have to pick up fabric
and... go to the butchers.

It's alright. I ride along
with you... buy me a radio.

- Wough...

- Hey.

Oh, hi guys.

It's working now.

- Daddy, daddy.

- Mh'hm..

- I'm so happy you're here.

- Yeeaah...

- Hi, dad.

- Hello, girl...

Hold on, sweetheart,
come here.

So.

I forgot my wallet.

- I want the window.

- I want the window.

Bobby! Molly! Bobby!

Bobby!

She's sitting back there, you...
either sit here or in the back.

- Got your seat belt on?

- Yeah.

Kids, listen to your sister.

I gotta pee.

Yeah, I miss you too.

I swear, I'll try.

I'll drive to your place.

I love you.

Who you're talking to?

Yeah... Laetitia.

Come on,

they're waiting for us.

- Where you going?

- Bathroom.

Daddy, I want that one.

No, we're trying

to save up now, remember?

I need you to find

these things on the list.

We save that money,

to find us a new house.

Give me the keys, I wanna go

pick up the fabric now.

I wanna come with you.

You go with your sister and

find a blouse. I wont be long.

- Come on, baby.

- Hey dad, I'm going over here.

Hi.

Hi.

There she is.

I'm sorry, guys.

The order wasn't ready

and they made me wait.

I gotta go back

and pick it up.

I'm gonna be able to make Martys

stuff for his school presentation.

- Okay.

- Did you get everything on my list?

- You open the back, honey?

- Mariana?

I sure will.

- Give me the keys.

- Okay.

You okay?

You wanna come in?

Come in?

Yes, come in.

Um...

Okay.

Do you want something to drink?

Drink?

No... no drink.

I'm gonna change.

I'm freezing.

You sure you don't drink?

No.

Why?

You don't like me?

What're you doing?

If my dad finds you here,
he's gonna kill you.

You said to look for you.

Yes, not here.

Go on the road to Guadalupe.
and wait by the wind mill.

Okay.

Why'd you wanna see me?

I don't know.

I don't think it's okay
for you to talk to me.

Why?

Do you look like your mom?

No.

- Do you look to your dad?

- A little.

Do you know how your
mom and my dad met?

No, have no idea.

Give me that.

I got it!

You like hunting?

A lot.

My boyfriend used to take me hunting,
but I haven't done much since we broke up.

My dad taught me how to hunt.

Did you love your dad?

Yeah.

I loved my mom too, but...

I didn't like her.

Do you have any pictures?

You don't look like him at all.

It's done.

Take it off.

Jeez, it's too hot.

Doesn't that burn?

Here we go.

No, thank you.

Just take a sip, you haven't had anything to drink all day.

- Are you Carlos Solarid?

- Yes.

The patient would like to see to you now.

He wants to talk to him alone.

Just wait here for me.

I'll be back in minute, okay?

Yes.

Come on.

Maria, I don't have time to argue, please, get out of the car.

Your dad wants you to leave today, I sill have one week of work here.

I'm not going anywhere.

I'm not going to

some lady that I don't know.

Just get clean up and pack, alright?.

And if I don't wanna go?

- She's your mom.

- A mom, that I've never even met.

- You're gonna have to go.

- Damn you... I'm not going.

Watch your language, young lady,

I'm just doing what your dad wants.

Just pack your bags, You gotta go whether you like it or not.

No!

Looks comfortable?

It's cold in here.

I turned on the heater, it'll be warm in a minute.

Do you know my mom?

When I first met your dad, your mom already was gone.

Why did she leave?

I have no idea.

Your dad, looked for her

for a long time...

and thinks it's his fault,

why she left.

- I don't really wanna meet her.

- Don't start that again, please.

Your dad ask me,

to have you meet her...

and her to meet you.

Hi.

Well...

look at this place.

You make me so happy.

Hmm...

Well, I'd be even happier...

if we could have some hot water

so I can take a shower.

You know...

You taste better this way.

No... no, please.

Not there.

Why?

Because I don't like

that part of my body.

How'd you know

I wasn't gonna like it?

I had cancer...

two years ago.

Hey.

Where were you?

I was at Libbys.

Bobby cut himself

with a piece of glass.

Dr. Finch, had it sewn up.

- Is he okay?

- He's fine.

He wouldn't even stop crying,

kept asking for you.

You all be good now.

- Bye.

- Bye.

I forgot my homework, keep going.

I'll catch up with you later.

- Oh, we'll wait for you.

- No, go on.

- Hi.

- Hey.

Now, we're finally getting
some hot water.

- Can I help you?

- No, it's okay.

Almost done.

- Is it working?

- I hope so.

What're you doing?

What do you want?

I have to talk to you, Mariana.

You have the wrong girl,
my name is Sylvia.

Okay?

Santiago send me here
to talk to you.

What'd you just say?

Santiago...

has send me to talk to you.

Mariana, this is your daughter.

Her name's Maria.

Stay away from me.

This is mama and papa
that's when we were little.

- You're their favorit aren't you?

- Mh'hm.

Here's my mother
her last picture.

It's her birthday.

That one's of me.

Can I have this one?

Only if you give me a scar.

What?

I wanna remember this day.

Will you give me one?

Let's meet tonight.

My dad's away on business.

We can go to the desert
and burn choya's.

My grandfather told me...

that the smoke of
the burned choya's purifies.

- They're like fire-works.

- Yeah.
I love it.
Roll up your sleeves.
What for?
So I can give you a scar.
Shit.
It burns.
Stop it!
You gonna hurt yourself.
This is for you.
Good night.
Let me sleep with you.
That's crazy?
I swear, I...
I wont lay a finger on you.
We're gonna wake up
my sister, Molly.
You said...
your dad's not home?
We could sleep in his room.
What kinda matieral
wore your mama to bed?
It was silk.
You gonna putt it on?
I'm wearing my fathers shirt.
You promise not to touch me?
I promise.
Does your burn hurt?
No.
Mine hurts a lot.
You promised
you wouldn't touch me.
Do you want me to go?
No.
Sylvia?
Mr. Turner just called,
he's bringing in
a party of eight.
And we're over-booked?
What'd you want me
to do, Sophie?
Are you okay?
Just take care of things
until I get back.

Could you come outside?
I need to talk to you.
What's up?
Do you like me?
Do you?
Do you think
you could love me?
Well, I guess so.
Let's just get out of her.
Just me and you. Today.
What're you talking about?
Let's just pack
your car up and go.
Go someplace new...
and start over again.
Somewhere new...
just let's go.
- I don't understand...
- Yes or no?
I don't know...
I gotta think about.
Mariana!
Mariana!
I can certainly
sympathise with you,
I gotta create problem
in my entire life,
and not because...
Hi... everybody.
Hi, Mom.
Had dinner?
No, we been waiting you.
I'll go get it started.
Why you so late?
Honey... you scared me.
What'd you do tonight?
I went to pick up
some fabric, and...
then we went to Libbys.
I also went to Libbys.
I didn't see you there.
Maybe you weren't there
when I was there.
I was there since 4 o'clock.

Stop asking questions
and help me.

Clean up this mess.

Nick?

Hey, it's Gina.

I need to talk to you.

No, not the trailer. um...

The supermarket?

Say... eleven?

Okay.

Bye.

I love you,
you love me.

I know this fact,
it's real.

You wanna let it go?

No, please,
you don't understand.

Listen to me,
You wanna let it go?

I don't wanna go no more.

Forever?

I can't keep staying with you.

I'm gonna wait for you at
the trailer, everyday at noon.

Until you come back.

- Hi, Mom.

- Hey...

- I gotta surprise.

- What's this?

Well... we haven't had a picnic
in a long time, so I just thought...

Tell you, it's kinda cold
out here, honey.

Hey mom, is this for Stripes?

- Stripes, can have a cookie.

- Okay.

Can I have a cookie?

No, not till you had
your lunch.

I'll do the burgers.

- You about ready?

- No, not yet.

Hey, guys.

Come join us.

- Hey, kids.

- Why we're having a party?

It's not a party,
for fun, a picnic.

It's just for fun.

I have some home work to do.

Oh, come on, don't you wanna
roast some marshmallows?

I'm not a kid, mom.

Mariana, how about you?

Just for a little bit?

I have to go to Kate's house,
to study for a school project.

- Bye, daddy.

- Bye, sweetie.

I can't.

I just can't.

I'm sorry.

You may wanna brush up on
the worst traffic light lamp...

Coming!

Hey.

Are you okay?

They haven't been here either.

I think we should
check the Palms.

If we dont find them here.
they're gone.

Believe me, a Mexican with a
We'll find them.

We just keep lookinkg.

When is the last time
you saw her?

I lost her two days
after she was born.

Why?

I didn't deserve her.

Teachers must really like you.

- Hey, hon.

- Hey.

There's somebody
here to see you.

Hi.

Hey, you never told us
about Mariana.

She's a friend from school.

- You wanna stay to lunch?

- No.

No, we... we're gonna grab
something somewhere else.

Hey, why don't we go
have lunch at Polus.

Yeah.

- Very nice to meet you.

- Nice to meet you.

- See you later.

- Okay.

Have fun.

See you, my boy.

What're you doing here?

I wanted to see
your parents's room.

It's this way.

Did your mom and dad get along?

So... so.

Come here.

Still hurt?

Yeah.

With a little girl?

You're sure? Thank you.

They're in room 51.

- What?

- 51.

What?

What're you doing here?

I wanna see my daughter.

- Don't understand.

- Her daughter...

- She wants to see her daughter.

- I don't wanna see you. Go away!

- She don't want to see you.

- Go away!

- She don't wanna see you.

- Maria!

Maria!

Don't worry.

We'll think of something else.

Hey.

Hey!

Maria!

Please, just let me
talk to you for a second.

- Leave her alone!

- Please...

Leave her alone!

- I beg you, just...

- What do you want? What?

- Please, Carlos.

- Go away and leave us alone.

- Carlos.

- What?

Leave.

Are you sure?

Can I sit down?

I'm very sorry, I ran away
like that yesterday.

I didn't...

It just...

Maria, do you speak English?

You're all grownup.

I think about you
all the time.

Especially on your birthdays.

Try to imagine

what you look like.

You're so beautiful.

You know, you look
just like your father.

My dad's in hospital.

Why?

His plane crashed.

Is he okay?

I don't know.

He's a pilot.

He's a crop duster.

You don't know?

Is everything okay?

Your dad would like her to come
to Mexico, we could take with us.

You think she'll come?

Dear Lord, take care of us

and everyone else. Amen.
Okay... now bed.
Have you said your prayers?
I don't pray anymore.
That's wrong, Mariana.
Lotsa things are wrong, mom,
which can't be fixed by praying.
You've been acting
so strange lately.
Tomorrow I want you to tell me
what's on your mind.
Good night, sweetie.
Good night, mom.
Good night.
That girl who brought home
the other day...
is her daughter?
Yes, sir.
Are you fucking her?
Why you doing this?
It's none of your business.
You can't be doing
this shit to your mom.
Stay outta this.
It's not enough
what already happened?
It got nothing
to do with this.
You gotta stop seeing her.
You understand?
Do you... understand?
You enjoy betraying your family?
I'm talking to you,
you son of bitch!
- I'm not betraying anyone.
- You're worse than your father.
You get to bring her home?
You're gonna be burned
in hell with him.
I'm sorry.
Get outta here!
What happened?
Tell me it isn't true.
Look at this.

Tell me this is a lie.
Did you actually
sleep with him?
Santiago, my dad
is on his way to get you.
Go down, and come get me.
What grade are you in?
The eighth grade.
Do you have a boy-friend?
No.
Do you?
I don't have a boy-friend.
Jose Sanchez Martinez.
I wanna have the plastic
surgery and a new breast.
Don't do it...
I like how you look.
The scar is so ugly.
You beat death.
You fought and won.
That makes your scar beautiful.
Don't erase it.
Get up, mom...
Get up, mom... Get up, mom.
Get up!
Mom!
How's he doing, Doctor?
Can the girl stay and listen?
It's her dad.
There are some complications.
His leg is badly infected...
if the medicine wont help
to clear it up...
we'll have to operate
and amputate his leg.
Can we go see him?
You can go and see him,
but he's sedated.
Hi, daddy.
No, girl, not so close.
He's gonna be okay, right?
Yeah, he's gonna be fine.
I... I love you, daddy.
Don't...

You can't stay here.
You have to go.
Let's go.
Maria, come on...
we have to leave, okay?
Come on.
Wait! Can I...
can I just stay
a little longer?
I don't know,
what she's saying.
It's his wife, she'd like
to stay a little longer.
Two minutes.
Santiago...
It's me...
Mariana.
You're not ready to die,
are you?
Because if you die, I wouldn't
know what to do with her, and...
I can barely look her
in the eyes.
She needs you.
And I need you.
I'm so scared.
I always was able to take care
of myself and now I can't...
I can't run away anymore.
I killed them.
I killed your father
and my mother.
I didn't mean to, but...
now I can't get...
away from that smell...
from them burning,
I can't get rid of it.
Why did you want me
to come back here?
Why?
Why?
Mariana, where're you going?
- Mariana, stop!
- Let me go!

I will tell dad.
Tell 'em whatever you want.
Hey, Maria,
you can sleep in your room,
I'll sleep out here.
No, it's okay.
What happened?
Nothing,
I just burned myself once.
You know dad has the same scar
in the same place.
He said he did it
to never forget you.
So did I.
I have a scar too.
How that happened?
I fell when I was three.
Are you gonna stay with us?
I do not know,
I have to talk to him.
It's been a long time.
You're leaving then, aren't you?
I'm tired.
Good night.
Good night.
Where are we?
That's Mexico.
What're we gonna do
over there?
Live in peace.
I'll never have peace again.
I'm pregnant.
What?
I'm pregnant
and I don't want it.
We can go to Mexico to live.
The three of us.
No, I can't.
I can't have it.
Can I talk to you a minute?
Maria...
You ever think you can
forgive me for not...
for not being here

all these years?

I left you because I was
scared that you be like me.

That you become just like me.

You think you can forgive me?

Please...

I'm going to go
see my dad now.

- Hello.

- Hello, Doctor.

How is he?

He's fine, we were able to drain
the infection, reset the bones...

- and put his leg in a cast.

- He's not losing his leg?

No, he's not losing his leg.

We'll keep him under observation,
for now everytng looks good.

Can I see him?

Yes, you can go and see him.

My dad's gonna be okay.

You like to come in?