

# LITTLE RED

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A full-length musical  
Book by Anthony Aguilar & Oscar T. Basulto  
Lyrics by Quetzal Flores & Anthony Aguilar  
Music by Quetzal Flores

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

RED, a punk-rock teenager, Latina, 16.

SCARLET, Red's sister, Latina, 18.

ROSA, Red's mother, Latina, 40s, some Spanish required.

MAGENTA/CARMESÍ, Red's grandmother/ancestor, Latina, 60s, some Spanish required.

FUCHSIA/CARMÍN, Red's future daughter/ancestor, Latina, 16.

CORKY, Red's classmate and a boy scout, Latino, 16, some Spanish required.

PAZ, an owl, any gender, portrayed by a puppet.

DON, an English musician, 18.

TOWNSPEOPLE, PUNK ROCKERS, OWLS and SCARLETS, all played by members of the Ensemble.

The Ensemble may be unlimited in size, or actors playing the named performers may play these roles. In a smaller-cast production, the performer playing Paz may double as Scarlet and Fuchsia/Carmín.

### The Jack B. Nimbles

JACKIE, female, vocals.

JENNY, female, guitar.

GIGI, female, bass.

TAMMY, female, drums.

## tone and setting

*Little Red* is a fairy tale. It is set in the present, but it is not the real world. Instead, it is set in a skewed version of Los Angeles and Hollywood, with nods to the punk scene of the 70s and 80s.

The show should have more of a concert feel as compared to a traditional staged musical. There is a punk rock band onstage. This is The Jack B. Nimbles, and they are visible and engaging to the audience, so characters become the lead singers of their own musical numbers. And like a punk song, scenes should move fast with fun, rambunctious energy.

## SONGS

### **Jump the Fire (Instrumental Version)**

<b>Día Del Sendero</b>	Red, Rosa
<b>R-E-D in Me</b>	Red
<b>Ready For It All</b>	Corky
<b>Where You Belong</b>	Don
<b>She's A Failure</b>	Rosa, Magenta
<b>The Comforts of Your Home</b>	Corky, Paz
<b>Where You Belong (Reprise)</b>	Don
<b>R-E-D in Me (Reprise)</b>	Red
<b>Dear Scarlet</b>	Red
<b>I Know</b>	Red, Don
<b>Jump the Fire</b>	The Jack B. Nimbles
<b>Día Del Sendero (Reprise)</b>	Red

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thank you for joining our journey.

*Little Red* premiered at CASA 0101 Theater (Los Angeles, CA) in 2006, with the following cast and production team:

RED.....Natalya Oliver  
CORKY.....Marcelo Olivas  
DON COYOTE.....Jean Pierre Garcia  
ROSA/MAGENTA.....Magi Avila  
BOB.....Michelle Zamora

Commissioned by CASA 0101, Director: Anthony Nelson; Producer: Julie Evans; Book by Anthony Aguilar and Oscar T. Basulto; Composer: Aaron Fischer; Lyricist: Rebekah Melocik; Assistant Director: Hector Rodriguez; Costume Design: Magdalena Guillen; Scenery Design: Diego Cardoso and Anthony Nelson; Light Design: Edward Padilla; Choreographer: Karla Ojeda; Stage Manager: Iliana Guevara; Assistant Stage Manager: Laura Perez; Dramaturgy (2020): Dylan Southard, Alejandra Cisneros and YouthPLAYS; Sheet Music Transcription: Arielle Phan and Annabelle Lee-Revak.

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## PROLOGUE

*(Lights dim. An all-female punk band takes the stage. These are THE JACK B. NIMBLES, and they are the band. One member, JACKIE, speaks into a microphone.)*

**JACKIE:** Once upon a time, there were two sisters.

*(In an explosion of sound, the band begins to play.)*

### **MUSIC: #1 JUMP THE FIRE (INSTRUMENTAL VERSION)**

*(The action of the following sequence moves slightly faster than real time. Lights fully up on the living room of a comfy suburban home. Two punk-rock teenagers enter, thrashing and moshing to the music. They are RED CAPERUCITA [16, Latina] and SCARLET CAPERUCITA [18, Latina]. Both of their styles are heavily influenced by 1970s punk. Red has an assortment of rubber wristbands, while Scarlet wears a red faded zip-up sweat jacket with "The Jack B. Nimble" imprinted on the back. After they've made a mess of the living room, the girls' mother, ROSA, enters [40s, Latina]. With a disapproving look, she hands brooms to both her daughters and exits. Red and Scarlet sweep tediously but quickly play the brooms like guitars. Rosa reenters, now holding a graduation gown and mortarboard, and dresses Scarlet in them. Rosa tosses Scarlet's raggedy jacket aside. Red holds onto it. Rosa huddles with Red and Scarlet for an uncomfortable family selfie. Rosa exits. The fun between Red and Scarlet has stopped. Rosa reenters carrying a moving box labeled "College." Rosa takes the mortarboard and adds it to the box. Rosa exits. The uneasiness has grown. Red says a few words to Scarlet, but the conversation is drowned out by the loud music. The exchange quickly escalates to an argument. Scarlet storms off. The music ends as Red is left alone onstage. Silence. Lights out on Red.)*

A few long months later...

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## SCENE 1

*(Lights back up on the Caperucita living room, clean once again. Rosa enters. She walks with a sense of elegance and grace. She is covered up by a very aged red cloak while carrying a woven basket. She handles it delicately and ceremoniously, placing food inside of it.)*

### MUSIC: #2 DÍA DEL SENDERO

**ROSA:** A JOURNEY AWAITS MY DAUGHTER  
 A CLOAK OF RED YOU WILL WEAR  
 TAKE THIS BASKET TO ABUELA  
 FOR HER HEALTH AND WELFARE  
 ES DÍA DEL SENDERO  
 QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN  
 ES DÍA DEL SENDERO  
 QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN

*(Red, who now wears Scarlet's jacket, deliberately rushes past Rosa, exits the house and crosses to the other side of the stage to the Pied Piper Record Shop. Red barges into an ensemble of hip TOWNSPEOPLE who browse through records. Their streetwear clothes are bright and colorful and hint to other classic fairy-tale characters. Red pushes her way through, flipping through the vinyl collection and rock band memorabilia.)*

**RED:** BAD BRAINS, FUGAZI, THE FEMMES, THE PIXIES,  
 X, THE JAM, THE BRAT, DEAD KENNEDYS,  
 SIOUXSIE, MISFITS, PEACE PILLS, THE ZEROS,  
 SUICIDAL, THE DOLLS, LOS ILLEGALS, THE WEIRDOS  
 THE CLASH, THE BAGS, RAMONES, THE STONES,  
 BOWIE, THE DAMNED, BUZZCOCKS, FISHBONE,  
 THE CLASH, THE BAGS, RAMONES, THE STONES,  
 BOWIE, THE DAMNED, BUZZCOCKS, FISHBONE  
 THESE ARE THE BANDS THAT SPEAK TO ME

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THIS IS THE MUSIC THAT SETS ME FREE

THESE ARE THE BANDS THAT SPEAK TO ME

THIS IS THE MUSIC THAT SETS ME FREE

**ROSA:** STAY ON THE PATH, LITTLE RED

TRADITION IS IN YOUR HANDS

PLEASE STAY CLEAR OF THE WOODS

AND DO GOOD BY OUR CLAN

*ES DÍA DEL SENDERO*

*QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN*

*ES DÍA DEL SENDERO*

*QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN*

**RED:** DEVO, THE STOOGES, SEX PISTOLS, THE JAM,  
JOY DIVISION, EXPLOITED, THE RUNAWAYS, THE  
DAMNED,

STRANGLERS, THE ODD SQUAD, CURE, DEATH,

BAD RELIGION, BLACK FLAG, MC5, MINOR THREAT,

*(Red spots a band t-shirt labeled "The Jack B. Nimbles." She crosses excitedly towards it. A Townsperson puts a "\$50" sign beside it. Red scoffs at the price and walks away, knowing she can't afford it.)*

THE CLASH, THE BAGS, RAMONES, THE STONES,  
BOWIE, THE DAMNED, BUZZCOCKS, FISHBONE,

THE CLASH, THE BAGS, RAMONES, THE STONES,  
BOWIE, THE DAMNED, BUZZCOCKS, FISHBONE

THESE ARE THE BANDS THAT SPEAK TO ME

THIS IS THE MUSIC THAT SETS ME FREE

THESE ARE THE BANDS THAT SPEAK TO ME

THIS IS THE MUSIC THAT SETS ME FREE

*(Red finds the album she is looking for, Feeling Really Nimble, and holds it up in triumph. Lights out on the Pied Piper Record Shop.)*

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**ROSA:** ES DÍA DEL SENDERO  
 QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN  
 ES DÍA DEL SENDERO  
 QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN  
 ES DÍA DEL SENDERO  
 QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN  
 ES DÍA DEL SENDERO  
 QUE VIVA LA TRADICIÓN

*(Lights out on the Caperucita home and back up on the record shop. Red has now taken control of the store's PA system and speaks into it.)*

**RED:** Ladies and gentlemen of the Pied Piper Record Shop, I hold in my hands one of the greatest albums of all time! Jenny, Gigi, Jackie and Tammy, the band that is The Jack B. Nimbles! With their debut album, *Feeling Really Nimble*, they are among the very few to have come close to creating a masterpiece. With Jenny's power chords, Gigi's arpeggios, Tammy's sloshy hi-hats and Jackie's piercing vocals comes raw unapologetic aggression in the form of eleven incredibly fast tracks. They taught me that it's okay to be mad. That you don't have to fit in. You don't always have to like what's popular. You don't have to fall in line with the system. I have power, and I don't care what you think. I'm doing what I want, and this album is how I always feel. And tonight, *tonight*, I will finally see them live and nothing will stand in my way!

*(The Townspeople hoot and holler at Red's declaration. Rosa breaks the fourth wall by shushing the crowd from the other side of the stage.)*

**ROSA:** Shhh!

*(The Townspeople start exiting the stage now that Rosa has killed the fun. Red lowers her head in disappointment.)*

**RED:** (Sighs:) Okay, let's get this over with.

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*(Lights out on the Pied Piper Record Shop. A ceremonious bell is heard, very church-like. Lights dim on the Capercucita home. Rosa stands with her hood up. The ceremony is about to begin. Red enters. Rosa waves her hand, beckoning for Red to cross toward her. Red crosses. Rosa waves her hand again, gesturing for Red to kneel. Red kneels apathetically. Rosa reads from a scroll:)*

**ROSA:** Today is *Día del Sendero*, Day of the Journey. Long ago, our ancestors set forth to our new homeland. Their voyage was treacherous, and such a trip was too difficult for the elders. Thus, the elders sadly chose to stay behind. But on this day, it was decided by the family's most courageous girl—

*(Red giggles slightly.)*

It was decided by the most courageous girl to venture—

*(Red giggles again but does her best to hold in her laughter.)*

**RED:** Sorry. Sorry.

**ROSA:** To venture back to seek the wisdom of her grandparents and also to provide the care and time they missed—

*(Red laughs. Rosa rolls up the scroll and bops Red on the head.)*

**RED:** Ow!

*(Lights fully up. Rosa flips her hood down.)*

What the hell?!

**ROSA:** Watch your language.

**RED:** Trust me, I was.

**ROSA:** *(Handing her a basket:)* Here.

**RED:** Aw, Mom...do I have to?

**ROSA:** Here.

*(Red takes the basket.)*

**RED:** All right, I guess.

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**ROSA:** What does that mean?

**RED:** I told you – I'm going to a concert.

**ROSA:** Tonight?

**RED:** Yes!

**ROSA:** Who is it?

**RED:** You wouldn't know them.

**ROSA:** Who is it?

**RED:** The Jack B. Nimbles.

**ROSA:** The who?

**RED:** No, the Jack B. Nimbles. Can I go now?

**ROSA:** You are taking this to your *abuela*.

**RED:** So, I have to do this just because one of your dead relatives did it a hundred years ago?

**ROSA:** They're your dead relatives too, and you wouldn't be here without them!

**RED:** (*Turning away:*) Later.

**ROSA:** Get back here!

(*Red sighs heavily.*)

Don't (*Imitating Red's sigh:*) me, *niña*. You can see the Jack B. Dimples any other night.

**RED:** Nimbles. And no I can't, because this is the only night they're in town. You know, you have a car. You can just drive it to her.

**ROSA:** It's not up to me. It's your turn, kiddo.

**RED:** Then I'll ship it to her. I have this app that will –

**ROSA:** *Ya basta.*

**RED:** It's not like *Abuela* can see me anyway.

**ROSA:** Stop that. She can see more than you think. Besides, you know she doesn't like to wear her glasses. It makes her feel old.

*(Red scrolls through her phone.)*

**RED:** Too late.

*(Rosa snatches Red's phone.)*

No!

**ROSA:** You know modern technology is forbidden on the journey, Little Red.

**RED:** You can't do this! I need my phone! My concert ticket is on there!

**ROSA:** Watch your temper.

**RED:** Or what?

**ROSA:** Or would you like me to remind you—

*(Rosa reaches for the Caperucita family photo album and sits upstage.)*

**RED:** Awww, not the photos!

**ROSA:** — that you come from a long line of strong Caperucita women.

**RED:** So I've heard...

*(Beat. Red looks down at the floor, not wanting to engage.)*

**ROSA:** *Ay*, and stop looking down. You'll see things are better once you start looking up.

*(Rosa motions for Red to sit beside her. Red joins her. Rosa admiringly flips through the photos.)*

Now, here's me on my *Día del Sendero*.

**RED:** *(Chuckles:)* Jeez. How much hairspray is in that thing?

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**ROSA:** Okay.

**RED:** (*Laughing grows:*) It's like you'd combust with a single spark.

**ROSA:** All right.

**RED:** Is this what caused the hole in the ozone?

**ROSA:** That's enough.

*(Rosa chuckles and turns the page.)*

It was the style of the time, okay? And this is your *abuela*, Magenta, on her *Día del Sendero*. You look so much like her—well, for the most part. If anything, you've inherited Scarlet's sense of style.

**RED:** She copied me.

**ROSA:** Mm-hmm. And here is your great-*abuela*, Rubí, and here's your great-great-*abuela*, Cerise, and here's your great-great-great-*abuela*, Maroon. Now, I delivered the basket to Rubí. Your *abuela* delivered the basket to Cerise and Rubí delivered it to Maroon.

**RED:** Who names their kid Maroon?

**ROSA:** Shh. And this—*this* is Carmín. She is your great-great-great-great-*abuela*.

**RED:** Great. And let me guess—she was forced to do her *Día del Sendero* just like everyone else in this crazy family.

**ROSA:** No.

**RED:** No? You mean, she found a way out?

**ROSA:** Actually, she's the one that started all this.

**RED:** So she's to blame.

**ROSA:** *Ay*, just listen. You should be grateful.

**RED:** Why?

**ROSA:** Because Carmín and her parents are the ones who brought our family to the States. Unfortunately, Carmín's *abuela* knew she couldn't join them. At her age, it would have been far too difficult to take on such an arduous journey.

*(CARMÍN enters [16, Latina] along with her grandmother, CARMESÍ [60s, Latina]. Both are dressed in clothing from Northern Mexico from 150 years ago. They stand downstage of Red and Rosa. Carmesí hands Carmín a red cloak, identical to the one Rosa is wearing, although it is much more vibrant in color, appearing almost new.)*

She could barely afford the fabric, but Carmín's *abuela* wanted to send her off with something so that she would never forget her.

*(Carmín embraces Carmesí and exits. Carmesí is left standing on her own. Beat. Red crosses towards her but stops.)*

And even though her *abuela* couldn't travel with them, Carmín made a promise that she would return to her *abuela* as soon as she could. So, her *abuela* waited. And waited. And waited.

*(Carmín reenters, now wearing her red cloak and carrying a woven basket. She embraces Carmesí.)*

And it was on this day where she kept that promise. She had gotten help from a woodsman after getting a little lost, but she found her way. No matter where she went, she never forgot about her family – all of her family.

*(Carmín and Carmesí exit. Red takes the moment to watch them leave. Rosa turns the page.)*

Awww! It's your sister when she went on her journey. *Que bonita. ¿Te acuerdas?*

**RED:** Yeah, I remember. It was only like two years ago.

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**ROSA:** Have you called her yet?

**RED:** Who calls still? And no.

**ROSA:** Why are you mad at her? You'll have to talk to her someday.

**RED:** That sounds like a bet.

**ROSA:** *Mija*, I know it hasn't been easy. I'm so used to seeing the two of you side by side. I keep thinking she'll pop up at any second. Like it or not, she's busy with college now, but your family will always be there for you.

**RED:** What does it matter? All of this is dumb anyway.

**ROSA:** Dumb? Why does everything have to be dumb all of the time?

**RED:** You're sending me across town without a phone. It doesn't get any dumber than that. What am I taking to *Abuela* anyway?

**ROSA:** Rice and beans.

**RED:** Rice and beans?! You're making me do all of this for rice and beans?!

**ROSA:** No—I also left a little slice of apple pie along with her medicine.

**RED:** You're kidding, right?

**ROSA:** No, I'm not. Your *abuela* has to take her medicine by sundown, so be sure—

**RED:** Why do you still even pick up her medicine? I've told you, there's an app that—

**ROSA:** And I've told you that the lazy work twice as much.

**RED:** Fine. If I hurry, I might have enough time to drop it off at her doorstep and still make it to the opening act.

**ROSA:** That's not the point.

**RED:** There is no point! To any of this!

*(Red tosses the basket aside. Beat.)*

**ROSA:** *(With intense calm:)* Pick it up.

**RED:** Why?

**ROSA:** Pick it up.

*(Red and Rosa stare each other down. Red gives in and picks up the basket. As Red reaches over, Rosa removes her jacket.)*

*Ay, Scarlet's raggedy old jacket.*

**RED:** Hey!

**ROSA:** What's wrong?

*(Red takes a moment to let go of Scarlet's jacket.)*

**RED:** Nothing.

*(Rosa dresses Red in the heirloom cloak while fixing her messy hair.)*

Oh, like this thing is any newer.

**ROSA:** This thing has been in our family for generations. It's a relic.

**RED:** Besides *Abuela*.

**ROSA:** I'm going to ignore that one.

*(Rosa hands Red a map.)*

Here's the map. It will guide you where you need to go. Promise me you'll follow it.

**RED:** Fine.

**ROSA:** I have one more thing.

*(Rosa reaches for an envelope.)*

**RED:** Isn't all of this enough? Whatever it is, I don't want it.

**ROSA:** *(Small beat:)* Then you should get going.

**RED:** Whatever.

*(Red crosses.)*

You know, Joey Ramone never had to take a basket to his grandma.

**ROSA:** I'm sorry to tell you this, *mija*, but punk is dead.

*(Red exits. Rosa releases a sigh while holding the envelope. Lights out.)*

## SCENE 2

*(Lights up. Red walks through her neighborhood, passing the Townspeople. Their vibrant happy demeanor is polar opposite to that of Red. She disrupts their activity as she passes each of them.)*

### MUSIC: #3 R-E-D IN ME

**RED:** LIFE'S UNFAIR

NOBODY CARES

"DON'T TALK BACK TO ME"

"DON'T YOU SLOUCH"

"FEET OFF THE COUCH"

"I JUST MOPPED THERE, CAN'T YOU SEE"

R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME

R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME

"TAKE THIS BASKET JUST LIKE YOUR SISTER"

"SHE'S THE PERFECT DAUGHTER"

"WE'RE SURE YOU MISS HER"

"GO ON THIS JOURNEY TO GRANDMOTHER'S CASA"

"SHE NEEDS HER MEDICINE"

"¿QUE TE PASA?"

I DON'T FEEL YOUR TRADITION

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CAN YOU FEEL MY OPPOSITION?  
I'M ANTI-AUTHORITY  
I AM WHO I WANNA BE  
I'M TRAPPED YOU SEE  
THE THINGS THAT I'M FAILING YOU  
YOU KNOW I'M NOT LAZY  
YOU'RE JUST DRIVING ME CRAZY!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?  
JUST MISS THE SHOW?  
R-E-D IN ME

NO TIME FOR PUNK  
I'M IN A FUNK  
R-E-D IN ME

R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME

I'M TIRED OF BEING ALONE  
AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME  
I'M GONNA FIND A PLACE  
GET EVERYONE OFF MY CASE  
I'M THE FIRST TO BREAK SOME RULES  
I'M NOBODY'S FOOL  
THE ROAD LOOKS HAZY  
BUT I'M IN A GODDAMN [GOSH DARN] CRAZY

R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME

R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D, R-E-D, R-E-D IN ME

R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D IN ME

*(The Townspeople leave. Red approaches a bus stop.)*

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Stupid *Abuela* needs her stupid medicine, so I have to go on this stupid journey all because of stupid Mom.

**VOICE:** (*Off:*) Whooo...

**RED:** My stupid mom... Hello?

**VOICE:** Whooo...

**RED:** Who's there?

**VOICE:** Whooo...

**RED:** That's what I'm asking. I am so lost on what's going on right now.

*(An owl, PAZ, appears and swoops down on Red with a loud screech. She ducks.)*

Hey!

*(Paz swoops again.)*

Get out of here! I'm serious! Back off!

*(Paz snarls back at Red. It is a standoff. CORKY [16, Latino] enters, a bookworm type dressed in a Boy Scouts uniform. He tends to Paz, paying no attention to Red.)*

**CORKY:** (*To Paz:*) Hey, hey, hey! What do you think you're doing?

**RED:** (*Thinking Corky meant her:*) Me?! It started it!

**CORKY:** Owls are predatory creatures. She merely thought you were prey.

**RED:** Yeah, that eases my mind.

**CORKY:** She probably thought you were a chipmunk or some type of pheasant. It's okay, she's not going to hurt you.

**RED:** Oh, no? What's an owl doing out in the day anyway? Aren't they nocturnal?

**CORKY:** Between you and me, she's kind of afraid of the dark.

*(Paz is offended.)*

**RED:** *(Awkwardly:)* Okay.

**CORKY:** *(Pronounced as it is said in Spanish: P-ah-ss:)* To me, Paz.

*(Like a falconer, Corky holds his arm out. The owl swoops down and lands on his arm. There is an immediate connection. Paz's movement and physicality are a constant reflection of Corky.)*

**RED:** Paz?

**CORKY:** Yup, Paz. *Megascops kennicottii*, more commonly known as the western screech owl. I've raised her since she was an owlet; owlet being the proper term for a baby owl. Yes, the owl, noble.

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**CORKY:** Brave.

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**CORKY:** And wise.

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**CORKY:** You, that's who.

*(Corky and Paz chuckle.)*

**RED:** Looks like a simple hooting owl to me.

**CORKY:** On the contrary – I've trained Paz to help me stay focused on my mission.

*(Corky snaps his finger.)*

**PAZ:** Who?

**CORKY:** The Caperucita girl.

**PAZ:** What?

**CORKY:** To protect her on her journey.

**PAZ:** When?

**CORKY:** Whenever necessary.

**PAZ:** Where?

**CORKY:** Wherever necessary.

**PAZ:** Why?

**CORKY:** For the honor of tradition.

**PAZ:** How?

**CORKY:** I...I'm still working on the how.

**RED:** This day just keeps getting worse.

**CORKY:** Why's that?

*(Corky finally looks over at Red and gasps.)*

Oh my gosh! *(To Paz:)* Do you know who you attacked?

**PAZ:** Who?

*(Corky bows anxiously before Red, unworthy to look her straight in the eye.)*

**CORKY:** Please forgive us, Ms. Caperucita; we didn't realize it was you.

**RED:** Well, it's me, and you can just call me Red.

*(Corky breaks his formality and casually shakes Red's hand.)*

**CORKY:** I didn't recognize you without your jacket, but then again, I'm sure you didn't recognize me in this either.

**RED:** No... I didn't recognize you at all. Should I know you?

**CORKY:** We have chemistry – *(Catching himself:)* Together. I mean, we take chemistry together – the class.

**RED:** Oh, I'm usually asleep during that time.

**CORKY:** I know. You're the only person I've ever seen bring a pillow to school.

**RED:** Helps me nap. Oh wait—you're that kid who's always eating lunch by himself, aren't you?

**CORKY:** I just prefer to use that time to meditate.

**RED:** Uh-huh. So, uh...

**CORKY:** Cesar. Cesar Reies Pancho Guevara Woodsmán.

*(Red reads Corky's name tag.)*

**RED:** It says here you're Corky.

**CORKY:** Yeah, that's kind of a nickname the other Scouts gave me—not really my choice.

**RED:** Corky it is then. So, it was...nice running into you. See ya in class.

*(Red crosses. Corky and Paz follow.)*

**CORKY:** Wait a minute! You can't leave without us.

**RED:** Watch me.

**CORKY:** But I'm here to protect you on your journey.

**RED:** Ha! You're kidding, right?

**CORKY:** On the contrary, when the first Caperucita girl took the journey—

**RED:** Carmín.

**CORKY:** Yes, Carmín. My great-great-great-great-grandfather, although just a boy himself, assisted Carmín when she got lost along the way.

**RED:** This just keeps getting better and better.

**CORKY:** I know, right?! Since then, it has become a Woodsmán family tradition to assist the Caperucitas on their *Día del*

*Sendero*. So my family has been planning this for a while. Their whole honor is at stake here and my *mama* is making *sopes* for the celebration dinner afterward.

**RED:** What does that have to do with anything?

**CORKY:** I like *sopes*.

**RED:** Then you can forget about me; just go home and enjoy.

**CORKY:** On the contrary, I have to—

**RED:** Okay, first off: No one uses "on the contrary." So don't.

**CORKY:** On the contrary, I always say—

**RED:** Shh! Second, I don't need someone to protect me. And third— and no offense— but even I can beat you up.

**CORKY:** Hey, for your information, I've been doing a lot of lifting.

**RED:** Textbooks don't count.

**CORKY:** Dang it.

**RED:** So I appreciate the offer, but I'm just going to hop on a bus and leave this at my *abuela*'s door.

*(Corky and Paz gasp.)*

**CORKY:** But modern transportation is forbidden.

**RED:** Says who?

**PAZ:** Who?

**CORKY:** Says your tradition.

**RED:** Because you can talk to it now?

**CORKY:** Well, no.

**RED:** *(Calling out:)* Hey, tradition! If it's all right with you, I'm just going to take the bus!

**CORKY:** *(Tries to throw voice without moving lips:)* Um, I prefer that you don't. Why don't you go on your journey?

**RED:** No.

*(Red crosses away from Corky.)*

**CORKY:** Wait, I'm serious. You're going to need help out there, and I've been preparing myself for all types of danger: fire, floods, earthquakes...

**RED:** You know I'm not planning on running into the apocalypse, right?

**CORKY:** You never know. And when something does happen, you'll be glad to know I'm here to —

**PAZ:** Who?

**CORKY:** That *we're* here to help. *(To Paz:)* Sorry.

**RED:** *(To herself:)* I bet Joe Strummer never had to put up with any of this.

**CORKY:** Who?

**PAZ:** Who?

**RED:** Joe Strummer. *(Small beat.)* Lead singer of The Clash.

*(Corky and Paz shrug.)*

You've never heard of The Clash?!

*(Corky and Paz shake their heads.)*

What about Joey Ramone?

**CORKY:** What band does he play in?

**RED:** *(Small beat.)* The Ramones.

**CORKY:** Oh, then no.

**RED:** Sex Pistols? Buzzcocks? Circle Jer —

*(Corky covers Paz's ears.)*

**CORKY:** Whoa, no need for dirty language here.

**RED:** They're bands. Forget it.

**CORKY:** Sorry, music's not really my scene, *man*.

**RED:** Don't do that.

**CORKY:** All right.

**RED:** Do you listen to anything?

**CORKY:** My dad puts on *rancheras* whenever I'm in the car. Either that or Juan Gabriel.

*(Red turns her back to Corky. Corky slyly pulls out a note and begins to write.)*

**RED:** *(Scoffs:)* I can't stand that stuff, especially when my mom tries to sing along to it. She has the worst taste in everything. I really can't believe we're related... *(Looking at Corky:)* What are you doing?

**CORKY:** Hmm?

**RED:** What's with the note?

**CORKY:** I...uh...

*(Red snatches the note.)*

Wait a minute!

**RED:** *(Reading:)* "I have found Red, and we are on our way." What is this?

**CORKY:** That?

**RED:** Yeah.

*(Red shoves the note in Corky's face. He cautiously takes the note back.)*

**CORKY:** Um, Paz, a little help?

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**PAZ:** *(Nervously:)* What?

**RED:** Tell me!

**CORKY:** Ah! Okay, I'm having Paz deliver it to your mom.

**RED:** Why?!

**CORKY:** She just wanted to make sure I found you.

**RED:** You mean she's keeping an eye on me.

**CORKY:** No, no... Well, maybe a little.

**RED:** This is just like her!

*(Red begins to pull at her wristband and continuously flicks it against her skin.)*

First, she tells me I can't go to my concert, then she orders me to go on this stupid journey and then she gets some boy to spy on me because I obviously can't be trusted!

**CORKY:** Hey, just calm down.

**RED:** No. I'm sick and tired of everyone telling me to calm down! You are not delivering that note to her!

**CORKY:** But...she told me to.

*(Red charges toward Corky. They scuffle, both fighting for the note.)*

Hey! Hey!

*(A bus is heard pulling forward. A group of Townspeople enter mimicking passengers on a bus.)*

**RED:** No! No! My bus! Wait!

*(Red stops her scuffling with Corky and attempts to chase after the bus. The bus drives away.)*

**CORKY:** Paz, go!

*(Corky hands Paz the note. Paz flies off and exits.)*

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Look, Red, I know you're upset, but you'll be able to forgive me once—

*(Red immediately wrestles Corky to the ground. Beat.)*

I just want sopes.

*(Red takes out her map and crosses away from Corky.)*

Hey, wait up.

**RED:** You really think I'm going to take you after all that?!

**CORKY:** Look—I'm sorry. I should've told you about your mom. I guess the trust has been... *(He makes an explosion noise.)* But you need to complete your tradition, and I need to complete mine. So if there's anything you need, just tell me and I'll promise to help you out.

**MUSIC: #4 READY FOR IT ALL**

ALWAYS READY FOR IT ALL  
 YES, I'M READY FOR IT ALL  
 ALWAYS READY FOR IT ALL  
 YES, I'M READY

*(The Townspeople reenter, now carrying large cardboard cutouts of mythical creatures: giants, dragons, witches, Cyclopes, etc. Corky takes on each one as he sings.)*

DON'T FRET  
 DON'T FEAR  
 IT'S OKAY  
 I'M HERE  
 SAVE THE DAY  
 I KNOW  
 TRUST IN ME  
 LET'S GO  
 JOURNEY'S START

JOURNEY'S END  
I WILL BE YOUR MAN  
FEAR INSIDE  
BY YOUR SIDE  
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE

CASTLES IN THE SKY  
GIANTS TEN FEET HIGH  
TAKE THEM ALL, I CAN  
FIGHT THEM MAN TO MAN

WITCHES' SPELLS, I CAN BREAK  
TRUTH AND HONOR, I WILL TAKE  
MAKE OUR PARENTS OH SO PROUD  
SING IT OUT, SING IT LOUD

CASTLES IN THE SKY  
GIANTS TEN FEET HIGH  
TAKE THEM ALL, I CAN  
FIGHT THEM MAN TO MAN

ALWAYS READY FOR IT ALL  
YES, I'M READY FOR IT ALL  
ALWAYS READY FOR IT ALL  
YES, I'M READY

CASTLES IN THE SKY  
GIANTS TEN FEET HIGH  
TAKE THEM ALL, I CAN  
FIGHT THEM MAN TO MAN

*(The Townspeople exit. Corky extends his hand. Red shakes it.)*

**RED:** Why do I feel like I'm making a big mistake?

**CORKY:** Trust me – this is going to be some journey!

**RED:** No, no, it's bad enough you're coming along – the least you can do is not call this a journey.

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**CORKY:** Okay... An adventure!

**RED:** Nope.

**CORKY:** A quest!

**RED:** No. This is not a journey. It's not an adventure. And it's not a quest. This is a drop-off and that's it.

*(Paz returns and lands on Corky's arm. Paz now clutches the envelope Rosa had attempted to give Red previously.)*

**CORKY:** Then this is going to be the best drop-off ever!

*(Red groans in frustration and heads toward the exit. Corky takes the envelope from Paz.)*

What's this?

**RED:** *(Exiting:)* Don't know, don't care.

**CORKY:** You know, you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

**RED:** Who wants flies?!

*(Paz lifts her wing up. Paz and Corky look at one another and shrug. Both follow Red and exit. Lights out.)*

### SCENE 3

*(Lights are dim. Red, Corky and Paz enter the spooky Hollywood; a creepy urban setting mixed with trendy pretentiousness.)*

**CORKY:** And that's how I found out that I was allergic to peanuts. Now as for shellfish, I was at the beach when suddenly I saw this crab —

**RED:** Wow, isn't that interesting?

*(Red and Corky sense the sudden difference in their surroundings.)*

**CORKY:** Did it get dark all of a sudden?

**RED:** Yeah.

**CORKY:** Boy, sundown's happening a lot sooner these days.

**RED:** No, that's not it. I think it's just all of these billboards.

*(Rumbling is heard, like the sound of thunder mixed with an overpass of a busy freeway. Red discovers a sign.)*

*(Reading:)* "Welcome to the Holly-Woods. I'd turn back if I were you."

**CORKY:** *(Nervously:)* Great—so where do we go from here?

*(Red looks over her map.)*

**RED:** Just give me a minute.

**CORKY:** Um, do you want to go a little faster than that?

**RED:** Why?

**PAZ:** Why?

**RED:** Wait—are you sure Paz is the one that's afraid of the dark?

**CORKY:** Oh, yeah. She's terrified.

**PAZ:** Who?!

*(The rumbling grows stronger, startling Corky.)*

**RED:** You're scared!

**CORKY:** What? Me? Pfft, no.

**RED:** You are scared!

**CORKY:** I am not!

**RED:** Yes, you are. Ooh, Corky's afraid of a little thunder.

**CORKY:** Stop that. A Woodsmán is not afraid of anything.

*(A loud crash is heard, like an explosion after a power-surge. Lights flicker. A guitar riff is heard. Lights up. DON COYOTE [18] appears with an electric guitar and amp. There is a rock star vibe to him, a young Billy Idol type. He plays with bravado. Corky shields himself with Red's cloak.)*

**RED:** *(Enthralled:)* Wow.

**PAZ:** *(Also intrigued:)* Whooo.

*(Red pulls her cloak away from Corky. Corky brushes himself off.)*

**RED:** That was amazing.

**DON:** *(Cockney English accent:)* Thanks.

**RED:** My, what a great guitar you have.

**DON:** The better to play with, my dear.

**RED:** And my, what a cool jacket you have.

**DON:** The better to wear, my dear.

**RED:** And my, what beautiful hair you have.

**DON:** The better to be me, my dear. So, what's all this then?

**RED:** We were just—

**CORKY:** Just about to leave.

*(Corky pulls Red away.)*

**RED:** What are you doing?

**CORKY:** What are *you* doing? You're talking to a complete stranger, you know.

**RED:** *(To Don:)* Actually, you look familiar. Weren't you in my sister's class? Yeah, you played in Battle of the Bands last year.

**DON:** Yeah, that's right, with my old band, Mother Hubbard. We would've placed first, but pompous Principal Piper had problems with profanity.

**RED:** Is the rest of your band here?

**DON:** Oh, no. They all went off to college or work, that sorta thing. Just never cared about the music, I suppose.

**RED:** I'm Red.

*(Red extends her hand. Don shakes it.)*

**DON:** Don. Don Coyote.

**RED:** Is that your stage name?

**DON:** It could be anything you want, love.

**CORKY:** Hey, that's a fascinating story, okay, goodbye.

**DON:** What's wrong with this bloke?

**RED:** Where do I start?

**DON:** Why don't you cool it, Nancy?

**CORKY:** My name is Cesar.

**DON:** Well, it says here you're Corky. Should really learn your own name, mate. Now, for my next number, here's a little ditty I wrote back when I—

**CORKY:** Sorry, but we don't have time for ditties.

*(Don grabs the basket and peeks inside.)*

**RED:** We might have time for just an itty-bitty ditty.

**DON:** Got it, no ballads then. So what's with the basket? You got snacks in there?

*(Corky takes the basket and hands it back to Red.)*

**CORKY:** I'll take that, and for your information, we are taking this to her *abuela*. It's her *Día del Sendero*, and we can't get distracted, so if you'll excuse us.

**DON:** Her what now?

**RED:** It's this...family tradition.

**DON:** (*Scoffs:*) Heh, what a bunch of rubbish. You're wasting your time if you ask me.

**RED:** Oh, really? Why?

**PAZ:** Why?

**CORKY:** Don't encourage him.

**DON:** Family is for those feel-good Christmas movies you see on the telly. I had a family once, but they didn't understand my style. Even my own granny told me: (*Mocking his granny as if she were the Queen:*) "We don't really like what you do, we don't think anyone ever will. No future for you." (*Normally:*) Well, we beg to differ. So I abandoned them, or they abandoned me, whichever way you like to put it. I'm glad to say though that I don't miss them at all. I only listen to myself now. How about you? What are you rebelling against?

**RED:** (*Re: basket:*) Just this.

**DON:** (*Scoffs:*) Yeah, justice is blind. Just another false sense of security that keeps the establishment in control.

**RED:** I have rice.

**DON:** That's right—you do have rights, but are we given any of them? Just one: the right to remain silent. Too bad for them because I wanna be...anarchy.

*(Don plays a few guitar notes.)*

So now you're gonna travel all that way to your granny's just to give her, what, a biscuit or something?

**RED:** Beans, rice, a slice of pie and her medicine.

*(Corky looks over at Red, surprised to hear about the medicine.)*

**DON:** Aw, well, ain't that sweet?

**CORKY:** *Un momento, por favor.*

*(Corky pulls Red aside, crossing away from Don.)*

You didn't tell me you were carrying your *abuela's* medicine.

**RED:** Why should I?

**CORKY:** Something like that is kind of important, don't you think?

**RED:** Sure.

**CORKY:** *(Small beat:)* You really don't care about your *abuela*, do you?

**DON:** Excuse me, but are you getting paid to do this?

**CORKY:** This isn't about being paid – it's about honoring our elders by –

**DON:** Yeah, yeah, all right, but are you gettin' anything out of this?

**RED:** No. If anything, I'm missing out on a concert tonight.

**DON:** Oh, really? Which one?

**RED:** The Jack B. Nimbles.

**DON:** The Nimbles! They're playing right down at The Beanstalk.

**RED:** I know!

**DON:** I'm going there myself.

**RED:** Are you now?

**DON:** Of course! They're the only band that matters. Not only that...

*(Don unveils a badge with a concert ticket on one side and a pass on the other.)*

**RED:** *(In awe:)* A backstage pass.

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**DON:** Backstage and all access. Little tip for the future: Make friends with every single roadie you come across, no matter what the hygiene level may be. Do you happen to have your ticket on you?

**RED:** It was on my phone until my mom took it away.

**DON:** Here.

*(Don hands her his phone. Red looks up her ticket.)*

How you doing there, mate?

*(Don tousles Corky's hair. Corky hisses.)*

**RED:** There you go.

*(Red shows her ticket to Don.)*

**DON:** Oh, my, my – this seat is pretty high up The Beanstalk, isn't it?

**RED:** Yeah, well, it's the only thing I could afford. I know: They're beyond nosebleed seats.

**DON:** More like brain hemorrhage if you ask me.

*(Red and Don laugh. Corky does not.)*

Oh come on – we're only having a little bit of fun here.

**CORKY:** I don't consider this fun.

**DON:** Then you don't know what you're missing out on. I don't like to live by other people's rules. That's why I live here. I can do anything I want, wake up anytime I want, rock out anytime I want. No geezers telling me what to do, no do-gooders with their guilt trips. It's paradise. Doesn't that sound like paradise to you, love?

**RED:** In my dreams.

**DON:** Well, I think it's time you start to dream out loud.

**MUSIC: #5 WHERE YOU BELONG**

*(The PUNK ROCKERS enter and dance along.)*

MOTHER SAYS TO BE LIKE THE REST  
GRANNY SAYS YOUR MOTHER KNOWS BEST  
TEACHERS TELL YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL  
OTHER KIDS TELL YOU, "YOU'RE NOT IN WITH THE COOL"

THIS BOY SAYS DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES  
THIS BOY SAYS DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES  
THIS BOY SAYS DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES  
THIS BOY SAYS DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES

HOLLY-WOODS  
WHERE YOU BELONG  
WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS  
WHERE YOU BELONG  
WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS  
WHERE YOU BELONG  
WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS

RUN AROUND  
YOU'RE COMPLETELY STRANGE  
ISN'T IT TIME FOR A REAL CHANGE  
THERE'S A PLACE WHERE WE CAN ALL THRIVE  
LEAVING THIS NEGATIVE STUFF BEHIND

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES

*(Don opens his jacket unveiling a large stash of junk food: candy bars, snack cakes, etc. He tosses them into the air. Red and Corky catch one. Red eats it, Corky does not.)*

HOLLY-WOODS

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WHERE YOU BELONG  
 WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS  
 WHERE YOU BELONG  
 WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS  
 WHERE YOU BELONG  
 WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS

JUST A PUP  
 SO BROKE AND BEATEN  
 STARVING, MANGLED, BARELY EATIN'  
 DISREGARD AND NO RESPECT  
 LEFT TO DIE  
 POOR I

CLAIMED MY OWN ARTISTIC MERIT  
 NOT WAITING FOR GOLDEN CHARIOT  
 LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL MY OWN  
 YOU FOUND YOUR HOME

HOLLY-WOODS  
 WHERE YOU BELONG  
 WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS  
 WHERE YOU BELONG  
 WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS  
 WHERE YOU BELONG  
 WHERE YOU BE – HOLLY-WOODS

*(The Punk Rockers exit.)*

*(Don spots the map and takes it from Red.)*

So where does this old granny of yours live anyway?

**RED:** In Royal Heights.

**DON:** Huh, would you look at that?

**RED:** What?

**DON:** This map has it all wrong.

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**RED:** Of course it does; my mom planned it out.

**DON:** You can easily get to your granny's by going right past The Beanstalk.

**RED:** Really?

**DON:** Yeah, looky here. You started here in Lost Angels...

*(Red gasps and then grabs a pen from Corky's pocket protector and draws a new route on the map.)*

**RED:** Ah! And instead of following Sunset to Chavez, we can just cut through Fountain Avenue.

**CORKY:** Or we could just stick to your mom's route.

**DON:** Says the boy who finds pocket lint exciting.

**CORKY:** It comes in different varieties. And Red, we can't! It sounds like your *abuela* really needs her medicine and –

**RED:** Hold up – this is my *Día del Sendero* and I will decide on what we are doing. We're walking past The Beanstalk. It will just be an alternate route. We'll still have enough time.

**DON:** That's the spirit!

*(Corky pulls out a note and begins to write.)*

Now what's he doin'?

**RED:** He's writing to my mom.

**CORKY:** I'm sorry, Red, but she has to know about this – this hooligan!

**DON:** Oi, now that's not very nice, is it?

**CORKY:** Yeah, well, just because I'm her protector doesn't mean I'm always nice.

**RED:** You're not my protector.

**DON:** Listen, chum: You and your bird seem like an intelligent bunch.

**CORKY:** We are.

**DON:** And intelligent people have been known to make decisions for themselves, have they not?

**CORKY:** Of course.

**DON:** And I would assume an intelligent bloke, such as yourself, wouldn't always do what they're told.

**CORKY:** No – I mean, yes – I mean, I think for myself.

**DON:** Smashing. So, let's not be mindless zombies and follow our own route.

*(Don crumples the note and throws it away.)*

**RED:** Come on, Corky.

**DON:** Yeah, walk among us.

**CORKY:** *(To Red:)* Are you sure this is what you want to do?

**RED:** Yeah. Come on, don't be a dork.

**DON:** *(Under his breath:)* Dorky Corky.

**CORKY:** Dork?! I'll show you who's a dork!

*(Corky leads the way and then stops, realizing he does not know the route.)*

After you.

**DON:** Please, ladies first. After you, my dear.

**RED:** Oh, thank you.

**DON:** My pleasure. *(Singing:)* Oh, over the river and through the woods to granny's house we go...

*(All exit. Don trails behind with a sinister smile. Lights out.)*

SCENE 4

*(Lights up, slightly askew. Red's daydream. Red enters alone and takes center. Beat. Rosa enters.)*

**ROSA:** Little Red! Little Red! You better not be going your own way.

*(Red does not turn back to see Rosa.)*

You should stick to the map. Why don't you ever listen to me? It always has to be some kind of trouble with you. Why?! Scarlet always did what she was told. She never talked back. She never stayed out late, and she never went against the map. She was the perfect daughter. I'm glad I sent Corky to follow you. He's the bravest boy I have ever met.

*(Corky enters.)*

**CORKY:** Stand aside, Red. I'll protect you.

*(Thunder rumbles.)*

Or I think I'll just hide. Yeah, hiding sounds good.

*(Lightning strikes.)*

Ahh!

*(Corky runs off and exits.)*

**ROSA:** I am so disappointed in you. What do you think your *abuela* will have to say about all of this?

*(Abuela MAGENTA [60s, Latina] enters.)*

**MAGENTA:** *Mija*, you have to make it to *mi casa*.

**ROSA:** She might not make it at all, *Madre*. She's going against the map.

**MAGENTA:** ¿*Que, que?*

**ROSA:** Did you expect any less?

**MAGENTA:** *Pero necesito mi medicina.*

**ROSA:** She doesn't care. The only thing she cares about are the Jack and Thimbles.

**RED:** That's not true.

**MUSIC: #6 SHE'S A FAILURE**

**ROSA:** WHY DO WE BOTHER?

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CARES

**MAGENTA:** *ES UNA MALCRIADA*

AND I DON'T LIKE HER HAIR

**ROSA:** SHE SIGHS AND SHE WHINES

**MAGENTA:** SHE COMPLAINS AND SHE GROANS

**ROSA:** WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT FROM A FAN OF THE RAMONES?

**ROSA & MAGENTA:** SHE'S A FAILURE

AND NOT WHAT WE EXPECTED

SHE'S A FAILURE

AND MOST LIKELY DEFECTED

**MAGENTA:** SHE'S SARCASTIC

**ROSA:** AND SHE IS SO STRANGE

**MAGENTA:** SHE'S SO VERY ANGRY

**ROSA:** AND WILL NEVER NEVER CHANGE

**MAGENTA:** WE TRY AND WE TRY

BUT THIS BROKEN BIRD WON'T FLY

**ROSA:** SHE'S GOING TO DITCH YOU, MAMA

AND EAT ALL YOUR PIE

**ROSA & MAGENTA:** SHE'S A FAILURE

AND NOT WHAT WE EXPECTED

SHE'S A FAILURE

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AND MOST LIKELY DEFECTED

**MAGENTA:** Besides, all she has to do is bring me the basket.

**ROSA:** I know – a job so easy that even a boy like Corky can do it.

*(Red's face ignites with a spark of genius.)*

You are going to be in so much trouble when you get back. You'll never hear the end of it from me. I promise you that. Are you even listening to me, Little Red? Little Red?

**MAGENTA:** Little Red?

**ROSA:** Little Red?

**MAGENTA:** Little Red?

**ROSA:** Little Red?

*(As Rosa and Magenta continue, Don enters.)*

**DON:** Red?

*(Rosa and Magenta exit. Lights change to normal.)*

**RED:** Huh?

**DON:** Are you all right?

**RED:** I was just daydreaming.

**DON:** Must've been something fierce for you to daze out like that.

**RED:** Just the usual. Where's Corky and Paz?

*(Corky and Paz enter sluggishly, both panting.)*

**CORKY:** Hey, can we take a little break? We could use a little rest.

**RED:** Wait—why is Paz tired? She's been sitting on your shoulder this whole time.

**PAZ:** (*Offended:*) What?

**CORKY:** Oh, I've been asking her if she can carry me.

*(Paz flaps her wings rapidly, attempting to lift Corky off the ground.)*

Come on, *si se puede!*

*(Paz passes out. Corky revives her.)*

She's okay.

**DON:** You know, a little break would be nice for all of us. The Beanstalk's right up ahead anyway. Why don't you three relax and I'll scope things out?

**RED:** Where are you going?

**DON:** Relax, love – I'll be right back. I promise.

*(Don exits.)*

**CORKY:** Okay, now's our chance. Let's beat it before he gets back.

**RED:** No.

**CORKY:** Oh, you gotta be kidding me. Look – the venue's right down there, you saw it, now we can go.

**RED:** What is your problem?

**CORKY:** Well first, you beat me up for no reason, and then we go off the map, and then –

**RED:** No, I mean, what is your problem with Don?

**CORKY:** Really? You're really asking this?

**RED:** Yeah, and don't include that he led us off course. That was a group effort.

**CORKY:** All right, first off, he's a stranger who thinks he's better than everyone just because he knows a lot of bands.

**RED:** And?

**CORKY:** And he thinks he's so cool with that jacket and everything.

**RED:** So he has an ear for music and a sense of style. Wow, what a monster! He's a regular Neapolitan.

**CORKY:** (*Beat after a puzzled look:*) Oh, you mean Napoleon.

**RED:** I don't care about history.

**CORKY:** I can tell.

**RED:** You just don't get it.

**CORKY:** And I don't want to. This guy's doing everything he can to be cool. Yeah, living all alone here, that's really cool.

**RED:** Look, the basket will get to my *abuela's*, one way or another.

**CORKY:** What?

**PAZ:** What?

(*Don enters holding a Jack B. Nimbles shirt. He hands it to Red.*)

**DON:** Here we are! This is for you, love. Could you believe it? He actually wanted fifty dollars for that, but after working a little Coyote magic, I was able to talk him down to five. Of course, I had to sweeten the deal, if you catch my drift.

**RED:** I don't think I want to. Here.

(*Red offers a five-dollar bill to Don.*)

**DON:** Don't sweat it— a little gift from me.

**RED:** Really? Thank you.

**DON:** You know, I just heard something that might tickle your fancy. Apparently, the Jack B. Nimbles will be playing their first album from beginning to end.

**RED:** *(Gasps:)* *Feeling Really Nimble?!* They swore they would never play that live!

**DON:** Guess they went back on their promise.

**RED:** I can't believe this! Now I'm going to miss out on the greatest concert ever!

**DON:** Relax, love, maybe we can figure something out. Here – have another chocolate.

*(Don hands Red another bar of chocolate.)*

*(To Corky:)* How 'bout you?

**CORKY:** I never ate the first one.

**DON:** Then you must be starving by now.

**CORKY:** I'm a little hungry, yes.

**DON:** Well, eat up.

*(Corky takes out the candy from his pocket. He unwraps it and takes a bite, savoring it.)*

Tasty, isn't it?

**CORKY:** Mm-hmm.

**DON:** *(To Red:)* Now, I was thinking, it wouldn't hurt to catch the opening act. I mean, your granny surely can wait. And with my backstage pass, I'm sure I could sneak you in...

**PAZ:** Whooo, whooo, whooo.

**DON:** I think your bird's broken, mate.

**PAZ:** Who?

*(Corky looks at the candy and then to Paz.)*

**CORKY:** The Caperucita girl.

**PAZ:** What?

**CORKY:** To protect her on her journey.

**PAZ:** When?

**CORKY:** Whenever necessary.

**PAZ:** Where?

**CORKY:** Wherever necessary.

**PAZ:** Why?

**CORKY:** For the honor of tradition.

**PAZ:** How?

**CORKY:** By keeping her away from jerks like him!

*(Corky attempts to lead Red.)*

It's time to go.

**DON:** Oi, the nerve of some people.

**CORKY:** You're nothing but a sneak and a slime ball and I'm starting to think you're not even English.

**DON:** Of course I am.

**CORKY:** Oh yeah, then where are you originally from?

**DON:** London.

**CORKY:** What part?

**DON:** *(Small beat:)* South side. You wouldn't know it.

**CORKY:** See?! He's making it all up!

**DON:** Maybe you should take it down a notch, mate.

**CORKY:** Or what?

*(Paz screeches, ready to attack.)*

No, Paz—a Woodsmán's gotta do what a Woodsmán's gotta do.

*(To Don:)* All right! I'm sorry it had to come to this.

*(Corky puffs himself up.)*

**RED:** What are you doing?

**CORKY:** Creating a psychological advantage; making myself larger in appearance.

**RED:** He's not a bear. You look like an idiot. Just stop now before you hurt yourself.

**CORKY:** No, he should stop now before he hurts himself!

**DON:** That doesn't make any sense.

**CORKY:** ¡Callate!

*(Shout singing, a cappella:)*

ALWAYS READY FOR IT ALL

YES, I'M READY...

*(Corky rushes toward Don. Don quickly steps out of the way and trips Corky.)*

**DON:** *(To Red:)* So, where were we?

**CORKY:** Right at the part where I kick your butt.

**DON:** He's got spirit, I'll give him that much.

*(Corky rushes toward Don again. Don holds Corky back by putting his hand on his forehead. Corky swings at Don but is unable to reach him.)*

**RED:** Corky, just stop! You are taking this basket to my *abuela!*

*(Corky stops his retaliation.)*

**CORKY:** I don't get it.

**RED:** What's there to get? I'm not delivering this. You are. You clearly love this *Día del Sendero* more than I do. Congratulations, it's all on you now.

*(Red hands the basket over to Corky. Small beat.)*

**DON:** Do we have a problem here, dorky?

**CORKY:** Yes. We have a big problem. And it's not dorky, it's Corky—I mean, Cesar. Red, your mom only wants you to do this because she wants the best for you.

**RED:** My mom only wants me to follow her orders.

**CORKY:** Because she's looking out for you. That's what families do. If it wasn't for them, then we'd all be alone in this world. No one to protect us. No one to support our dreams or help us when we fall. Just because they don't understand you doesn't mean they don't love you. And you won't have any of that here. You can never abandon family.

*(Corky and Paz dance around Red. A parliament of OWLS enters and dances along with Corky.)*

**MUSIC: #7 THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HOME**

**PAZ:** WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?  
WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?

**CORKY:** IN A HOME YOU CALL YOUR OWN  
A LOVE THAT YOU COULD SHARE  
IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE THAT MAKE IT BETTER  
LIKE YOUR MOM GIVING YOU A HUG

IT'S A WARM CUP OF COCOA  
OR MAYBE *CHAMPURRADO*  
IT'S VAPOR RUB ON YOUR CHEST  
WHEN YOU'RE FEELING *AGRIPADO*

**PAZ:** WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?  
WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?

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**CORKY:** IT'S THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HOME  
 YOU REALLY CAN'T REPLACE  
 THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HOME  
 PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE  
 SO DON'T BE LIKE A HYENA  
 SCAVENGING A BONE  
 THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR ANYONE  
 NO ONE SHOULD BE ALONE  
 IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE  
 THAT MAKE IT WORTH THE WHILE  
 YOUR FAMILY'S NOT AGAINST YOU  
 THEY JUST WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE

**PAZ:** WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
 WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?  
 WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
 WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?  
 WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
 WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?  
 WHO? WHO? WHOOO?  
 WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?

*(The Owls exit. Corky and Paz finish in a big flashy pose. Beat.)*

**RED:** I'm sorry, Corky.

**CORKY:** No, I'm sorry for you, Red. Let's go, Paz.

*(Corky and Paz exit, taking with them the basket and map. Don pauses. Corky's song has hit him.)*

**RED:** Are you all right?

**DON:** Yeah, just got something in my eye is all.

**RED:** So what are we waiting for?! Jack B. Nimbles! *(Re: shirt:)*  
 My mom is going to freak when she sees me wearing this. I  
 mean, she'll already be mad anyway, but who cares?

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**DON:** Your mum? You mean you'll be going back home after this?

**RED:** I guess we could hang out a little longer after the concert... Why?

**DON:** I just thought you'd prefer to stay here forever. You know, be our own happy little family.

*(Down spot on Red as an overwhelming darkness surrounds her. Don's voice echoes, booming in the shadows. Red has a vision.)*

Happy little family, happy little family, happy little family...

*(Lights dim. The ensemble now surrounds Red. They are all wearing Scarlet's raggedy jacket. Their hoods are up and their backs are turned towards her. Red cautiously approaches one of the figures.)*

**RED:** Scarlet?

*(The figure turns to reveal herself as Scarlet.)*

**SCARLET:** *(Ominously:)* Don't stay.

*(Scarlet and the ensemble dash in all directions, disorienting Red. They stop. Red approaches another figure.)*

**RED:** Wait, Scarlet.

*(The figure turns to reveal himself as Don.)*

**DON:** Hello, love.

*(Red gasps. Lights out. Lights up. Scarlet and the ensemble are gone. Don stands beside Red, dressed in his normal clothes.)*

Something the matter?

**RED:** I'm sorry, Don, but I'm still going back to my family after this. My own family.

*(Don stares at Red. Beat.)*

*(Uncomfortably, re: shirt:)* You know, I think I'm going to try this on. I'd hate to know you did all of that haggling for the wrong size. I saw a bathroom over there, or a loo as you might call it, ha ha.

**DON:** Wait.

*(Don removes Red's cloak.)*

So it's not in your way.

**RED:** Thanks. It's not like I need it.

*(Red exits.)*

**MUSIC: #8 WHERE YOU BELONG – REPRISE**

**DON:** *(In a somber, more stripped-down tone:)* RUN AROUND  
YOU'RE COMPLETELY STRANGE  
ISN'T IT TIME FOR A REAL CHANGE  
THERE'S A PLACE WHERE I CAN REALLY THRIVE  
LEAVING THIS NEGATIVE STUFF BEHIND  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES  
GRANNY'S HOME  
WHERE I BELONG

*(Don dons the cloak. Red returns dressed wearing the Jack B. Nimble shirt.)*

**RED:** So how do I look?

**DON:** Fantastic. Listen, sweetheart, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but something has suddenly come up. I was just informed that this other band is playing tonight—you know, new, up and coming, artistically inspiring, the whole shebang. And I just have to check them out.

**RED:** Oh. Who are they?

**DON:** You wouldn't know them, but you be sure to have extra fun with the Nimbles tonight.

*(Don hands his badge to Red.)*

**RED:** Where are they playing?

**DON:** Oh, some small underground club. It's so underground, I may need a shovel to get in.

**RED:** Then maybe I can meet you there later.

**DON:** Sorry, but it's by invite only.

**RED:** And who invited you?

**DON:** One of the roadies just happened to be passing by and we got to talking.

**RED:** And all of this happened while I was changing?

**DON:** Time makes a fool of us all, I suppose.

**RED:** Stop! If you want to ditch me, then fine! Just don't lie to me like that!

**DON:** Come on, love, there's no need —

**RED:** And don't call me that! I swear, if you call me that one more time —

**DON:** *(With a calm menace:)* You have no idea who you are messing with.

**RED:** *(Beat:)* I'm not scared of you.

**DON:** No, but you're going to be really scared once you've realized what you've lost.

**RED:** What are you talking about?

**DON:** Since you don't appreciate your family, then I guess I'll have to take them for myself.

**RED:** You're crazy.

**DON:** I'm not crazy. You're the one who's crazy. Good luck finding your way out of here. Angry little twerp.

*(Don exits, still wearing the cloak. Paz sneaks in, unseen by Red.)*

**RED:** Oh yeah?! I don't need you anyway! I don't need anyone! I can enjoy this concert all on my own!

**MUSIC: #9 R-E-D IN ME – REPRISE**

FINE, JUST GO  
MISS THE SHOW  
R-E-D IN ME  
DON'T LIKE MY TONE  
I'M FINE ALL ALONE  
R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D IN ME  
R-E-D IN —

*(Red holds up the backstage pass. Paz swoops in and snatches it.)*

Hey!

*(Paz hovers above Red, dangling the badge in front of her.)*

Don't. Even. Think about it.

*(Paz exits. Red chases after her.)*

Oh, you are so dead, bird!

*(Lights out.)*

**SCENE 5**

*(Lights up. Corky looks over the map, trying to find his way out of the Holly-Woods.)*

**CORKY:** Let's see—I made a left here, so I should make a right next... I think.

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*(Flips the map around.)*

Oh, okay, that helps...a little.

*(Don enters, panting.)*

**DON:** Mate! Mate!

**CORKY:** Don? What do you want?

**DON:** You were right, mate, that bird had it all wrong.

**CORKY:** Paz? She was here just a second ago.

**DON:** No. Red, mate. She's come to her senses. Could you believe it?!

**CORKY:** Really?

**DON:** Yes! Now, I know – I mean, *she* knows the importance of all this.

**CORKY:** Then where is she? And why are you wearing her hood?

**DON:** Just a little chilly, and she's trailing right behind. Those little legs of hers has trouble keeping up. Hand me the basket and I'll bring it back to her.

**CORKY:** No. I'd rather hand it back to Red.

*(Corky crosses away from Don. Don pulls him back.)*

**DON:** Listen, she's a little embarrassed with what went down between you two. Pride before the fall, that sorta thing. So I'll just take the bask –

**CORKY:** I'm only giving this to Red.

**DON:** Determined, aren't we?

**CORKY:** I'll do whatever I can to protect this basket. Now, where's Red?

**DON:** Ah, screw it then.

*(Don punches Corky in the stomach. Corky falls. Don takes the basket and map. Corky struggles to get up.)*

Oh, no need for your help, mate. I'll make sure this gets to Granny's.

*(Don takes a moment to bask in his glory as the new Red. He exits. Corky groans in pain then hears someone approaching.)*

**CORKY:** *(Believing it is Don:)* Oh no, he's coming back to finish the job.

*(Corky hides. Paz enters with Red chasing after her.)*

**RED:** I said, get back here!

**PAZ:** Why?

**RED:** Why?! Because you – oh, no, I'm not arguing with you anymore, Paz!

**PAZ:** Why?

**RED:** Because you're just a – Just give me the badge and fly away.

**PAZ:** Where?

**RED:** I don't know – far away from me.

**PAZ:** Who?

**RED:** Me. Look – I'm not playing games here.

**PAZ:** Why?

**RED:** Because I'm sick of people playing games with me.

**PAZ:** Who?

**RED:** Everyone. Don just ditched me, then Corky's working with my mom behind my back and then my sister –

*(Red stops.)*

**PAZ:** Who?

**RED:** I don't want to talk about it.

**PAZ:** Why?

**RED:** Because she hurt me.

**PAZ:** How?

**RED:** She promised that she would always be there for me even after she left for college. I've been waiting like some idiot. I just want her to call me so I can tell her how I feel. Is that so much to ask?!

*(The Punk Rockers return, first swaying to Red's song then moshing as the tempo picks up. Corky attempts to cross toward Red but is continuously blocked by the Punk Rockers.)*

**MUSIC: #10 DEAR SCARLET**

DEAR SCARLET, YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET, LIFE SUCKS

IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED THIRTY DAYS

AND ONE MORE NIGHT

I'VE BEEN SO MISERABLE HERE

SINCE YOU LEFT MY SIGHT

DEAR SCARLET, WON'T YOU HEAR MY PLIGHT

MOM AND ME, WE JUST FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT

DEAR SCARLET, YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET, LIFE SUCKS

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AWAY AND MESS WITH MY LIFE?

I MISS YOU MORE AND MORE EACH DAY

MOM AND ME, WE JUST FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT

SHE'S NAGGING AND SCREAMING ALL UP IN MY FACE

SHE DOESN'T KNOW ME AT ALL

JUST DOESN'T GIVE ME SPACE

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DEAR SCARLET  
DEAR SCARLET  
DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK  
DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK  
DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET  
DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET  
DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AWAY AND MESS WITH MY  
LIFE?

I MISS YOU MORE AND MORE EACH DAY  
MOM AND ME, THAT'S JUST A FIGHT  
SHE'S NAGGING IN MY FACE  
DOESN'T KNOW ME AT ALL  
GIVE ME SPACE

DEAR SCARLET, YOU SUCK  
DEAR SCARLET, YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET, YOU SUCK  
DEAR SCARLET, YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET  
DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK

DEAR SCARLET

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DEAR SCARLET  
YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK  
YOU SUCK, YOU SUCK  
YOU REALLY DO SUCK

*(The Punk Rockers exit.)*

*(Red turns to see Corky.)*

How much did you hear?

**CORKY:** Enough.

*(Red crosses away from Corky.)*

Wait.

**RED:** Whatever you're going to tell me, just know that I've heard it all before. I get it: I'm angry and it's not right.

**CORKY:** Being angry about something isn't wrong. It's how you express it that makes the difference. Was that the first time you've opened up about your sister?

**RED:** Yeah... And to an owl of all people.

**CORKY:** At least you got it out. How do you feel?

**RED:** Crappy, but not as crappy, I guess. She's my sister and we did everything together. And now that she's gone, I'm afraid no one will ever understand me again. I got my whole taste in music from her. The Nimbles were our favorite band. I always hoped we'd see them together one day. Maybe even today.

*(Corky reaches into his pocket and hands Red the envelope from Rosa. She opens it.)*

What is this?

**CORKY:** It's for you.

**RED:** (*Reading:*) Dear Red, today is going to be hard. (*Off the cuff:*) Uh, yeah. (*Reading:*) Knowing you, you are annoyed right now. More than annoyed...

*(Lights change. Rosa appears on the opposite side of the stage, as if Red hears her voice. Rosa picks up where Red leaves off.)*

**ROSA:** You're frustrated. And that's okay. I understand if this entire day feels like a waste of time. I've never told you this, but I was just as annoyed to do my *Día del Sendero* when I was your age. And as much as I fought her, your *abuela* made me do it anyway. But as the story goes, when Carmín first made the journey, she wasn't doing it out of an obligated tradition. She did it because she never forgot about her family. Carmín's parents actually didn't want her to go back for her *abuela* because of the danger she would have faced. But she fought against them and did it anyway. She was stubborn, unruly and a lot like you. I know it's been hard since it's just been the two of us, but whatever happens today, I want you to know this: I believe in you and I always will.

**RED & ROSA:** *Te quiero mucho.*

**RED:** Mom.

*(Rosa exits as lights go back to normal.)*

**CORKY:** What are you going to do?

*(Paz hands Red her backstage pass.)*

**RED:** I'm not sure. Maybe all of this isn't as stupid as I thought it was.

**CORKY:** You want stupid? I couldn't protect you on this whole thing. I couldn't even protect myself. And my whole family is celebrating after this. And I mean my *whole* family; *Tía* Lupe, *Tío* Dago, *Tía* Flor, *Tío* Aurelio, *Tía* Anna, *Tío* Marco, *Tía* Blanca —

**RED:** Okay, I get it. You have a big family.

**CORKY:** What am I going to tell them?

**RED:** The truth: that you don't need to protect anyone and sometimes traditions change.

**CORKY:** No, I can't do that.

**RED:** Then skip it. Your tradition is dumb anyway.

**CORKY:** I beg your pardon?

**RED:** That whole damsel in distress thing is so lame. I don't need you to fight for me. I don't need saving. I just need someone to...

**CORKY:** Be there.

**RED:** Yeah.

**CORKY:** Then I guess I've earned my *sopes* for tonight.

**RED:** My *abuela's* probably going to make *enchiladas* to go with the rice and beans. Where's my basket?

**CORKY:** Your basket!

**RED:** What's wrong?

**CORKY:** Don stole your basket —

**RED:** Along with my hood.

**CORKY:** I think he wants to replace you.

**RED:** Then I guess we'll just have to get it back then, won't we?

**CORKY:** But what about your concert?

*(Red looks at Rosa's letter and the backstage pass. She hands the badge to Corky.)*

**RED:** There are more important things.

**CORKY:** *(Beat:)* This is fake.

**RED:** What?!

**CORKY:** I'm pretty sure you're not seeing the Jack and Pimples.

*(Red snatches the badge back and looks it over.)*

**RED:** Why that little, lying...

*(Paz lands on Red's shoulder and hugs her, calming Red.)*

Oh, okay...

*(Corky joins the hug.)*

All right. That's enough!

*(The hug breaks.)*

Corky, Paz, this is going to be some journey.

*(The trio takes a step forward. Looks of concern come across their faces.)*

If only we knew how to get out of here.

**CORKY:** I think it was this — *(Stepping forward:)* No, it was this way. *(Turning the opposite way:)* No, no, it was this way for sure... Red, just stop panicking.

**RED:** I'm not.

**CORKY:** Good. That's good.

*(Corky looks down trying to figure out his path.)*

**RED:** How well can owls see?

**CORKY:** Actually, owls are farsighted, meaning they can see from great distances, and Paz is no exception.

**PAZ:** Why?

**RED:** Because you'll see things are better once you start looking up.

*(Red grabs hold of Paz and throws her up in the air. She hovers above Red and Corky.)*

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Can you see pretty far out?

**PAZ:** What?

**RED:** Paz, just for now, one hoot for yes and two hoots for no. Do you understand?

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**RED:** Can you see Royal Heights?

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**RED:** Awesome. Can you see Fourth Street?

**PAZ:** Whooo, whooo.

**RED:** That's a no. Great. That's just great. Now we're officially lost.

**CORKY:** Don't give up so quickly; just give her some details to look out for.

*(Corky takes in a deep breath, as does Red.)*

**RED:** Fine. Do you see a pink house with a red roof?

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**RED:** And does it have a bunch of cactuses everywhere?

**CORKY:** "Cacti" – it's the plural for cactus.

*(Red glares at Corky.)*

But "cactuses" works too.

**RED:** And are there *cacti* growing all around?

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**RED:** Okay, cool. And are the Christmas lights still up?

**PAZ:** Whooo.

**RED:** That's my *abuela*'s house!

*(Red and Corky scream with delight.)*

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**CORKY:** Yeah, teamwork!

*(Corky raises his hand for a high five. Red takes off, following Paz's lead. Corky is left alone onstage, hand still in air.)*

**RED:** Hurry up!

*(Corky slaps his own high five and then exits with Red and Paz. Lights out.)*

## SCENE 6

*(Lights up on Magenta's living room/kitchen. Magenta dances in place along to her workout music. The doorbell rings. She continues to dance. The doorbell rings again.)*

**MAGENTA:** Ay! Okay, I'm coming.

*(Magenta turns off her music and crosses to the door. Although she is a bit lively, her workout has obviously tired her out.)*

*Ya voy. I'm halfway there. Ay, esta Zumba me esta amolando. Ooh boy...*

*(Magenta quickly preps herself and opens the door to find Don dressed in Red's cloak and holding the basket. Magenta squints.)*

Little Red?

Want to read the entire script? Order a perusal copy today!