

Genesis Padilla

Professor Ramirez

ENGL 2307

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Empanadas, Música, and Chicano Love

After a long 6 hours of hell, Aurelia sat down and stretched her legs out on the bus stop bench. She leaned back and sighed heavily before looking at her phone, pulling up the bus schedule to see when the next bus would arrive. She looked out at the colorful array of cars that would zoom by before noticing bus 11 pulling up. Her eyes widened before grabbing hold of her bag and running towards the bus door. Once she was on, she saw two empty seats at the end of the bus and shuffled through the corridor to the old multicolor seat. She turned to her neighbor and noticed his shirt covering his nose as he looked out the window avoiding eye contact.

"Uh- are you okay, sir?" she asked while she leaned forward to catch his attention.

"You smell like onions and grease. It's disgusting."

"E-excuse me?"

"Do you mind moving over to the other seat? I wanna enjoy my bus ride."

She looked at him up and down, furrowing her brows and scrunched her nose. She pointed her finger at him as she opened her mouth to respond.

"Sir, that is very disrespectful."

She turned around and noticed a tall figure hovering over her before looking at the male's face. Her features softened as she saw him inches away from the older man.

"Her smell is disrespectful."

"From the looks of it, she seems to be coming from work. So, she really can't control that now, can she?"

I stared at this guy's profile as his eyebrows stayed furrowed, but a smile wide and mischievous crossed his face. The older man scoffed before standing up and walking towards the bus doors to get off. The stranger jumped over me and relaxed in the seat that was now unoccupied.

"Th-Thank you. I really appreciate what you did."

His hazel eyes met mine as he scoffed, "Pfft, don' worry 'bout it. He was being an ass anyways." He leaned over slowly with his eyes closed, keeping his nose inches away from my shoulder. "Plus, you smell delicious."

Aurelia pulled away and pushed him towards the window before furrowing her brows again, "Excuse me!"

He held his hands in front of him as his eyes widened in shock, "Woah, woah! That's not what I meant, lady! I meant you smell like enchiladas. It's delicious!"

Her eyes widened as a rose color flushed through her cheeks, and she pulled on her shirt and smelled it herself. She scrunched her face in disgust before looking at the guy rubbing his arm, "I'm sorry, I really did just get out of work. It's di-"

"Hey hey, don' worry 'bout it. Again. You smell good. I shoulda been more careful with my words too. So I'm sorry."

He gave her a small smile before holding his hand out before her, "Names Thiago."

I hesitated to take his hand before placing my hand in his and nodded, "Aurelia."