

THE GARCIAS

"Love & Lemonade"
(pilot)

Written by
Hector Cortez

COLD OPEN

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

MIGUEL (12) plays in front of his home with JERRY, NADIA and MARY, all of whom are also 12 years old.

Jerry pretends to be a monster, chases after Mary and Nadia.

Miguel follows, snapping photographs of the scene with an old DSLR camera. He's unable to keep up with them.

MIGUEL

Cut, cut, cut!

The kids huddle together.

JERRY

Was that too much?

MIGUEL

No, no you're great.

MARY

It's me, isn't it?

MIGUEL

It's a technical problem. You're all great. I got goose bumps!

NADIA

So what do you wanna do?

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Miguel balances atop a skateboard with Nadia's help. Mary and Jerry look on with concern.

NADIA

Now what?

MIGUEL

It's easy. Just push me so I can get a really cool shot.

MARY

Do you know how to ride that thing?

MIGUEL

How hard could it be?

JERRY

It took me weeks to learn.

MIGUEL
Stay in character, Jerry.

JERRY
Fine. Just don't break my board.

MIGUEL
Everything's gonna be great. Now
let's make Spielberg proud.

JERRY
Who?

MIGUEL
You're killing me, Jerry!

MARY
I have to be home for dinner soon.

MIGUEL
Places, everyone. Let's get this
shot and we'll call it a day.

Jerry and Mary go off to their marks and wait for their cue.

NADIA
I thought Spielberg made movies.

MIGUEL
Well I can't afford a video camera.
(shouts)
You two ready?

Jerry gives him a thumbs up.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Go!

Jerry chases after Mary.

JERRY
Grr! Rawr! Grr!

MARY
Help! Somebody help me!

MIGUEL
You too, Nadia.

Nadia grabs Miguel's hips and helps him glide down the street
alongside Jerry and Mary. He grabs a few action shots.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Oh man, these are awesome.

Jerry and Mary speed up.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Slow down a bit.

Jerry and Mary continue, oblivious to Miguel's remarks.

Nadia matches their speed as Miguel almost loses his balance.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

NADIA
Keep shooting.

MIGUEL
You're all going too fast.

NADIA
Don't worry.

MIGUEL
Let me off!

NADIA
Fine.

Nadia lets go, causing Miguel to lose his footing.

The camera flies out of his hands and lands on concrete.

Miguel rushes to the camera's aid. Black, cracked screen.

MIGUEL
No, no, no. Don't you die on me.

The kids gather around Miguel as he pushes buttons with panic and hope in his eyes, but it's no use.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
My dad's gonna kill me.

NADIA
Are you okay?

MIGUEL
Why did you let go?

NADIA
You told me to.

MIGUEL
I told you to let me off, not push
me to my doom. I could've died.

NADIA

Don't exaggerate, Miguel.

MIGUEL

What if I landed on some ants, huh?
I don't know about you, but I don't
want ants in my pants.

MARY

I'm gonna go now.

JERRY

Yeah, me too.

Jerry grabs his skateboard and checks it for damage.

MIGUEL

Oh sure, worry about your
skateboard instead of your friend
who's not going to make it to his
thirteenth birthday.

NADIA

Hide it.

MARY

Yeah, don't let your dad find out.

MIGUEL

It's impossible to keep a secret in
my house.

Miguel stands up, cradles the camera in his hands.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Mr. Spielberg.

JERRY

(oblivious)

Oh, that's your camera's name!

MIGUEL

Damn it, Jerry!

END OF COLD OPEN

Note to readers:

All members of the Garcia family were born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, except for the grandparents, who emigrated from Mexico in their twenties. They both understand English, but are more comfortable speaking Spanish. Because of them, the entire Garcia family is bilingual.

ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Miguel tries to sneak past JESUS (early 40s) who's sitting on the couch, watching a soccer match.

Next to him is ALFREDO (60s), fast asleep.

JESUS
You know you're not invisible,
right?

Miguel attempts to hide the camera behind his back.

MIGUEL
Hey dad. What are you doing?

JESUS
Trying to watch TV without anyone
bothering me.

MIGUEL
Okay, I'll leave you alone.

Miguel takes a few steps backward.

JESUS
Freeze.

Miguel stops.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Is it bad?
(off Miguel's look)
The camera.

Miguel reveals the damaged camera.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Wow, what did you do?

MIGUEL
It wasn't my fault.

JESUS
I don't care whose fault it was.
It's your responsibility.

MIGUEL
What happens now?

JESUS
Besides getting grounded?

MIGUEL

Will you get it fixed?

Jesus gives Miguel his best "are you kidding me?" face.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Is that a maybe?

JESUS

I'll show you maybe!

Jesus lunges for Miguel, who darts away.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

GABRIELA (16) studies at the dining room table.

TEODORA (late 60s) sits across from her, newspaper in hand.

CARLOS (15) talks on the home phone.

Note: *The kids refer to Teodora as Abuela (and Alfredo as Abuelo). Her dialog is subtitled.*

CARLOS

Great! I'll see you then.

Carlos hangs up the phone and pumps his fist.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

Guess who just got a date?

He points to himself with both hands.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

This guy.

ABUELA

Who's the lucky girl?

CARLOS

Her name's Jessica.

The name catches Gabriela off guard.

GABRIELA

Jessica who?

CARLOS

Neale.

GABRIELA

You got a date with Jessica Neale?

CARLOS
Don't sound so surprised.

ABUELA
Who's this Jessica? She doesn't
sound Mexican.

GABRIELA
She's white.

ABUELA
A white girl? Fancy.

GABRIELA
Don't encourage him.

CARLOS
Why does it matter if she's white?

GABRIELA
It doesn't. What matters is she's
one of the most popular girls in
school, so you need to impress her.

ABUELA
Girls love serenades.

CARLOS
That's a good idea.

GABRIELA
That's a terrible idea.

ABUELA
Why?

GABRIELA
Because he can't sing.

CARLOS
That's not true. I've got the voice
of an angel.

GABRIELA
An angel with a throat infection.

ABUELA
Don't be mean to your brother.

CARLOS
Throw your shoe at her, Abuela.

GABRIELA
Do what you want. But I'm right.

CARLOS
(to Abuela)
What should I do?

ABUELA
What about Salsa?

CARLOS
No thanks, I just ate.

ABUELA
(sigh)
I meant dancing.

GABRIELA
(gestures at Carlos' body)
Nobody wants to see that jigging.

CARLOS
Mean but accurate.

ABUELA
You'd better figure something out.

CARLOS
(to Gabriela)
Please, tell me what I should do.

GABRIELA
I have to study for this test.

CARLOS
Come on, sis. I'm begging you. I'll
do your chores for a week.

GABRIELA
A month.

CARLOS
Three weeks.

GABRIELA
Two months.

CARLOS
Fine, one month of chores.

INT. REPAIR SHOP - DAY

A REPAIRMAN examines Miguel's camera.

REPAIRMAN
How did this happen?

MIGUEL
It was an accident.

REPAIRMAN
Right.

MIGUEL
Why would I break it on purpose?

REPAIRMAN
Maybe so your father would buy you
a new one.

MIGUEL
You've obviously never met my dad.
(then)
So how much is this going to cost?

REPAIRMAN
Well, you've got your labor and
you've got your parts... I'd say
you're looking at about a hundred.

MIGUEL
Dollars?

REPAIRMAN
No, baseball cards.
(then)
Listen kid, I've got work to do, so
come back when you've got cash.

MIGUEL
Where am I supposed to get a
hundred dollars?

REPAIRMAN
Ask your old man to pay for it.

MIGUEL
Is everyone rich in your fantasies?

REPAIRMAN
You could get a job.

MIGUEL
I'm only twelve.

REPAIRMAN
You look like a smart kid. I'm sure
you'll figure something out.

INT. CAR - DAY

Miguel slams the passenger door. Jesus winces.

JESUS
Does that mean he can't fix it?

MIGUEL
For a hundred dollars he can.

JESUS
That's crazy.

MIGUEL
I know! I've never even seen a
hundred dollar bill!

JESUS
They're beautiful.

Jesus starts the car.

MIGUEL
Wait. Can you go talk to him? Maybe
you can get a discount.

JESUS
This is your fight. Don't give up.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Gabriela and Carlos seated at the dining room table, adorned
with a white tablecloth, candles and flowers.

Abuela stands between them.

CARLOS
Wait, so what's happening again?

GABRIELA
We're going to practice. Abuela is
the waitress and I'll be Jessica.

CARLOS
I don't wanna date my sister!

JESUS (O.S.)
What the hell's going on in there?

GABRIELA
Do you want my help or not?

Abuela taps her watch.

ABUELA
Come on, kid. Family Feud is on in
thirty minutes.

CARLOS
Fine, you're Jessica. Now what?

GABRIELA
You can start by complimenting me.

Carlos hesitates.

ABUELA
Do you want me to be Jessica?

CARLOS
Like this isn't weird enough.
(to Gabriela)
I don't know what to say.

GABRIELA
Try noticing a small detail, like
her earrings.

CARLOS
Your earrings are very pretty.

GABRIELA
Good.

CARLOS
And your eyes are like waves
crashing against sand castles.

ABUELA
Wow.

GABRIELA
Where did that come from?

CARLOS
I don't know but I'm scared.

ABUELA
Looks like you got some of your
grandpa's charm.

GABRIELA
Okay, so after you compliment her,
ask her about her day.

CARLOS
How was your day, Jessica?

GABRIELA
 (imitating a Valley Girl)
 OMG, the worst. I lost my favorite
 bracelet and I got a C-minus on my
 math test. And then my mom made me
 take out the trash even though
 that's my brother's job, not mine
 and now my right hand smells weird.

Gabriela extends her hand toward Carlos's face.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
 Here, smell it.

Carlos, unsure of what to do, leans in for a whiff.

ABUELA
 Don't do it!

Gabriela laughs.

CARLOS
 Not cool.

GABRIELA
 Okay, fine. No more clowning
 around. Let's move on to the
 chivalry lesson.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

Miguel drags an old folding table out from the garage,
 followed by an empty cardboard box.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Miguel drags a dining room chair past Jesus.

JESUS
 What are you doing?

MIGUEL
 Being responsible.

He heads for the door.

LUPE (early 40s) enters.

LUPE
 Why is my dining room chair not in
 the dining room?

MIGUEL
I need a place to sit.

LUPE
Sit on the floor.

Lupe peeks through the window.

LUPE (CONT'D)
And why is there a table outside?

MIGUEL
I'm going to sell lemonade so I can
fix my camera.

LUPE
It's too hot. You'll get sunburned.

MIGUEL
I'll be fine. This is perfect
lemonade weather.

LUPE
Jesus, aren't you going to say
something?

JESUS
Don't add too much sugar.

LUPE
Jesus!

JESUS
What? He could use a bit of sun.

LUPE
Fine. Do you need any help?

MIGUEL
No, I'm good.

LUPE
Are you sure?

MIGUEL
It's lemonade mom, not Algebra.

LUPE
Okay. I guess I'll go back to my
room since I'm not needed.

JESUS
Stop trying to guilt the kid.

Lupe storms out.

Miguel drags the chair outside.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Peace and quiet! That's all I want!

LUPE (O.S.)
Well then stop yelling!

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Miguel puts the finishing touches on his lemonade stand.

A cardboard sign reads: *Lemonade. Only 50 cents.*

Two lemonade pitchers, paper cups and napkins at the ready.

Miguel spots a RUNNER down the street. As she approaches:

MIGUEL
Would you like some--

The runner ignores him and continues on her way.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
--lemonade?

Next up, a MOTHER pushing a stroller.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Hi, Miss. Would you like some--

MOTHER
Not now, kid. I've got a level two
emergency.

MIGUEL
What's that?

MOTHER
Poop. Lots of it.

MIGUEL
Yuck. What's level three?

She freezes up, as if remembering a traumatic experience.

MOTHER
You don't wanna know.

Miguel then tries his luck with a HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

MIGUEL
Hey there, would you like some ice
cold lemonade? Only fifty cents.

The student grabs a cup, drinks it, then walks away.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Hey! You gotta pay for that!

The student stops and gives Miguel a death stare.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Um, never mind. Here, have another.

Miguel hands the student a second cup.

The student then grabs a third cup and pours them both out onto the sidewalk without breaking eye contact.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Jeez, why don't you punch me while you're at it?

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Miguel, crawling and clutching his stomach in pain.

MIGUEL

Why did I say that?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Gabriela rearranges the dining room chairs.

Abuela holds two notebooks that double as fake menus.

GABRIELA

Let's try again. When you walk in
and a waiter is going to greet you
and walk you to your table.

ABUELA

Welcome to Abuela's Restaurant.
Please follow me to your seats.

Carlos and Gabriela walk toward the dining room table.

GABRIELA

You can impress her by pulling her
chair out.

CARLOS

Really? That's all it takes?

GABRIELA

It's a good place to start. It
shows that you're polite and that
you're not ignoring her.

Carlos pulls out Gabriela's chair. They take their seats.

ABUELA

Here are your menus. Can I get you
two something to drink?

CARLOS

I'll have some Hawaiian Punch.

GABRIELA

What are you, five?

ABUELA

Might I suggest something a bit
more exotic?

CARLOS

What's more exotic than Hawaii?

GABRIELA

Keep it simple and get a lemonade.

ABUELA

And what would you like to eat?

Carlos looks through the fake menu. All the pages are blank.

CARLOS

Not much of a selection.

GABRIELA

Don't even bother with the menu and just order a burger. Now's not the time to experiment.

CARLOS

Fine, I'll have a cheeseburger. I hope Jessica isn't this bossy.

Carlos hands the menu back to Abuela.

GABRIELA

Can you tell me what you did wrong just now?

CARLOS

No, but I have a feeling you're gonna tell me.

GABRIELA

You ordered your food without asking me if I was ready. Now I feel pressured to hurry up.

CARLOS

(to Abuela)

All this just to impress a girl.

Abuelo enters, having overheard the conversation.

ABUELO

(in Spanish, subtitled)

Just wait till you get older. You're going to do a lot of crazy things to get some.

CARLOS

Some what?

ABUELO

(beat)

Um... kisses.

CARLOS

A kiss from Jessica Neale...

Carlos closes his eyes and smiles.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
I can picture it now.

Carlos leans forward, lips ready to kiss.

GABRIELA
Gross.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lupe spies on Miguel.

Jesus tries to focus on the TV.

LUPE
Look at him, all alone with no
customers. I should do something.

JESUS
Because every boy wants his mommy
to come and save him.

LUPE
This is all your fault.

JESUS
How is any of this my fault?

LUPE
I don't know, but I'm pretty sure I
can make the connection.

JESUS
How 'bout making a connection with
dinner?

She grabs the TV remote and slides it down the hallway.

LUPE
How 'bout making a connection with
exercise?

An annoyed Jesus looks on as she hurries out the front door.

LUPE (CONT'D)
Don't worry, *mijo*, I'm on my way.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Lupe and Miguel mid-conversation.

LUPE
How many have you sold?

MIGUEL
I haven't sold anything.

She points to the three empty cups on the ground.

LUPE
What about those?

MIGUEL
He didn't pay for them.

LUPE
Who?

MIGUEL
Some high school kid.

LUPE
What's his name? Where does he live?

MIGUEL
What are you gonna do?

LUPE
Nobody steals from Lupe Garcia's kids.

MIGUEL
Just forget about it.

LUPE
Over my gorgeous dead body.

She grabs Miguel's forearm and leads him down the street.

LUPE (CONT'D)
Time to teach this kid a lesson.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Gabriela, Abuela and Abuelo at the dining room table as Carlos models a potential outfit.

Carlos attempts a cool walk.

ABUELA
What's wrong with your leg?

CARLOS
This is how cool people walk.

ABUELO
You look ridiculous.

CARLOS
You wouldn't understand.

ABUELA
(whispers to Gabriela)
Is this really how you kids walk?

GABRIELA
If you want to get beat up.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - DAY

Lupe and Miguel on the hunt for the rude high school kid.

LUPE
What did he look like?

MIGUEL
I don't know. He was big.

LUPE
What was he wearing?

MIGUEL
A denim jacket.

LUPE
Ugh. I hate him already.

MIGUEL
You're not gonna do anything crazy
if we find him, right?

LUPE
We're going to get your money and
leave. That's all.

MIGUEL
What if he doesn't pay?

LUPE
Well then he'll know why they
called me Dynamite in high school.

Lupe and Miguel round a corner and spot TWO BOYS and TWO
GIRLS hanging out.

LUPE (CONT'D)
Jackpot. Point him out to me.

MIGUEL
He's not there.

LUPE
Are you sure? That boy's wearing a
denim jacket.

MIGUEL
That's a girl, mom.

LUPE
Poor thing.

MIGUEL
Can we go home now?

LUPE
Not until we find him.

Lupe and Miguel approach the group. Rage in Lupe's eyes.

LUPE (CONT'D)
Hello children.

They take a step back. Lupe fakes a laugh.

LUPE (CONT'D)
It's okay, kids. Come closer. I
need you.

The group takes another step back.

LUPE (CONT'D)
No, no, no. What I meant to say is,
I need your help.

BOY #1
(to Miguel)
Is your grandma okay?

LUPE
What did you say?

GIRL #1
He said, is your grandma okay?

LUPE
I heard what he said!
(to Boy #1)
How old do you think I am?

MIGUEL
Don't answer that.

GIRL #2
Fifty-sev--

LUPE
(interrupts)
I didn't ask you, denim! It's
ninety degrees out here and you
look ridiculous.

BOY #2
Man, let's get outta here.

The kids scurry away.

LUPE
You come back here!

A HOMEOWNER steps outside.

HOMEOWNER
What's going on out there?

Lupe's stare, like that of an angry bull, intimidates the
homeowner back inside.

The sound of an engaged deadbolt pleases Lupe.

LUPE
Yeah you better lock your door!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Gabriela and Abuela clear the table.

Carlos runs to answer the ringing phone.

CARLOS

Hello?

JESSICA (V.O.)

Carlos?

CARLOS

Hey Jessica. Excited for our date?

JESSICA (V.O.)

I need to tell you something.

CARLOS

You're not free tonight?

JESSICA (V.O.)

I was never planning on showing up.

CARLOS

What do you mean?

JESSICA (V.O.)

Someone dared me to call you.

CARLOS

So there's no date?

JESSICA (V.O.)

No. I'm really sorry.

(beat)

Are you there?

Carlos hangs up the phone.

ABUELA

I'm sorry, Carlitos.

GABRIELA

Don't worry about it. There's plenty of other girls out there.

CARLOS

That's easy for you to say, you're one of the popular kids. In case you haven't noticed, things don't come easy for me.

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

Lupe and Miguel cross at an intersection.

Out of nowhere, a CAR driven by the high school student almost runs them over.

Lupe smacks the hood.

LUPE
Watch the shoes!

The high school student honks.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
Get outta the way, lady!

MIGUEL
Mom, that's him. That's the kid who
owes me money.

Lupe darts over to the driver's window and snatches his keys.

LUPE
You picked the wrong kid to mess
with, you little brat.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
Help, I'm being robbed!

LUPE
Relax. You'll get your keys as soon
as we get our money.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
What money?

LUPE
Come here, Miguel.

Miguel joins his mother.

LUPE (CONT'D)
Do you recognize him?

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
I don't hang out with little kids.

LUPE
But you'll steal from them, right?

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
What are you talking about, lady?

MIGUEL

The lemonade!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Oh...

LUPE

Here's what's going to happen.
You're going to pay my son for the
lemonade you drank and then you're
going to apologize.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

And you'll give me my keys?

LUPE

Of course. I'm a mom, not a thief.

The high school student hands Miguel two dollars.

MIGUEL

I don't have change.

LUPE

He doesn't need any. Right?

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

No, ma'am. Can I have my keys?

LUPE

As soon as you apologize.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

I'm sorry, kid. It won't happen
again.

Lupe tosses the high school student his keys.

LUPE

Get out of here.

He speeds off.

Lupe and Miguel continue on their way.

MIGUEL

You didn't have to do all that for
two dollars.

LUPE

I didn't do it for the money. I did
it for you. And I would do a whole
lot worse if I had to.

Lupe stops, grabs Miguel by the shoulders, then hugs him.

LUPE (CONT'D)
As long as I'm around, nobody will hurt you.

INT. CARLOS/MIGUEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Gabriela enters, joins Carlos on the floor next to his bed.

GABRIELA
Can we talk?

CARLOS
Go away.

GABRIELA
I didn't get a chance to explain myself before you stormed off.

CARLOS
What's there to explain? You're popular and I'm not. If we weren't related, you wouldn't talk to me.

GABRIELA
Don't say that.

CARLOS
Just once I'd like to know what it feels like to be wanted.

A beat.

GABRIELA
Listen to me, Carlos. You're weird and loud and annoying, but one day you'll find a girl who's just as weird and loud and you two will be perfect for each other.

Carlos smiles.

CARLOS
Really?

GABRIELA
I promise.

Gabriela hugs Carlos.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
We share the same last name. Don't ever forget that.

INT. MIGUEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Miguel lies in bed, facing away from the door.

Jesus enters.

JESUS
Want to see something cool?

MIGUEL
Not now.

JESUS
Are you sure?

Jesus waves a \$100 bill in front of Miguel's face.

MIGUEL
It's real!

JESUS
It better be.

MIGUEL
Can I touch it?

Jesus hands him the bill.

Miguel admires it, then smells it.

JESUS
Don't be weird.

MIGUEL
Is this what rich people smell
like?

JESUS
I'll let you know when I smell one.

Miguel hands the bill back to Jesus.

JESUS (CONT'D)
It's yours.

MIGUEL
Are you okay?

JESUS
Yeah, I'm fine.

MIGUEL
Oh no, you're dying, aren't you?

Miguel gives his dad a big hug.

Jesus pushes him away.

JESUS

I swear, I'm the only one that's
not crazy in this house.

MIGUEL

You're giving me a hundred dollars?

JESUS

To get your camera fixed. I know
how much it means to you.

MIGUEL

I thought you wanted me to earn it.

JESUS

I wanted you to try. And you did.
And I'm proud of you.

Miguel hugs him again, but this time Jesus doesn't resist.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. REPAIR SHOP - DAY

The repairman hands Miguel his camera.

JESUS
How much do I owe you?

REPAIRMAN
Your grand total is \$97.50.

Jesus hands him a \$100 bill. He hesitates to let go.

JESUS
You guarantee your work, right?

REPAIRMAN
Of course. Thirty days.

Jesus lets go of the bill.

MIGUEL
Can I test it out before we leave?

REPAIRMAN
Fine with me.

Miguel readies the camera and points it at the repairman.

REPAIRMAN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

JESUS
Should've said no.

Jesus heads toward the exit.

REPAIRMAN
Wait, don't leave!

JESUS (O.S.)
I'll be back in an hour!

The repairman stares at Miguel, like a deer in headlights.

The bright camera flash fills the frame. Over white:

MIGUEL (V.O.)
Oh that's a good one!

END OF SHOW