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Wheesht!

de
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traducción de
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(fragmento en inglés)

CAST

CANDIDO

A man in his 30's.

BORJA

A man in his early 20's

SHEYLA

His girlfriend, similar age.

ANA

Usherette; same age or younger.

MARCIAL

A Policeman

Back 4 rows of multiplex salon. The screen would be where the audience is. Exits are to the right of the characters. Pre-screening muzak. Subdued lighting.

ANA is young and dressed in an usherette's uniform – bright yellow shirt with the multiplex logo. She opens the door for the public. It's the first showing of the day. 5.00PM. Summer – evidently, from the way the cinema-goers are dressed.

Enter CANDIDO. Thirty-something. Jeans, short-sleeved shirt and jacket. He has a movie mag under his arm. Counts the seat numbers until he finds his favourite – in the middle of the 2nd row. He sits; looks at the screen, checking this is really the best seat. He moves two to the left. Stands up again. Takes off his jacket; places it carefully on the seat beside him. Takes out his wallet and carefully places his ticket inside – a collector of cinema tickets. He does everything very meticulously. Sits down again; leafs through the magazine, glances round the cinema. That moment of delicious anticipation before a showing – especially alone in the cinema.

Enter BORJA and SHEYLA – laughing raucously. They're both about 22, casually dressed. BORJA is carrying a bucket-sized coca-cola in one hand, and a giant popcorn in the other. SHEYLA has a plastic bag full of crisps and sweets in one hand, and a giant drink in the other. They talk loud and casually – like they were at home. They sit down in the middle seats of the back row.. They eat and drink noisily – and talk at the same time.

From the moment they enter, CANDIDO's expression changes.

SHEYLA

Just as well you clocked it, Borja. *(Laughs:)* Imagine – you and me in a subtitled film !

BORJA

Close one.

SHEYLA

Subtitles ! Next thing they'll be showing us black and white films ! *(Sniffs the air.)* That's a great smell. I love the air-freshner they have in here.

BORJA

(Sniffs:) Sweet. We should get it for the car.

SHEYLA

That fir-tree one your sister gave us is a bit on the strong side.

BORJA

She won it at that tombola.

SHEYLA

Straight up ?

BORJA

Won three in one night.

SHEYLA

What did she do with the other two ?

BORJA

God knows. Here, why don't we ask the usherette lassie what flavour they use in here (*Beat.*) And while we're at it we should tell her to put a sign up – warn people about subtitled films.

SHEYLA

Mind that guy Angel, the one that got off with your cousin Nieves, Hogmanay, a couple of years ago ?

BORJA

The one with the red Audi ?

SHEYLA

They were still going out together at San Fermin.

BORJA

Lasted longer than that, no ? They were together at the Tudela carnival..

SHEYLA

Except your cousin was already giving that Portuguese guy the come on.

BORJA

Ricardo.

SHEYLA

Ricardo. He told me at the bull run. Your Dad's not got one, hasn't he ?

BORJA

What, a red Audi ?

SHEYLA

No – an air-freshener.

BORJA

Probably. My sister'll have put it in. One of the ones she won at the tombola.

She's forever sneaking off with the old man's car.. She's a pure chancer. The last time she tried it, though, the old man gave her a right bollocking.

CANDIDO turns round, trying to be pleasant

CANDIDO

Eh, excuse me. D'you mind lowering your voices a bit ? It's just ...

He waves the magazine to show that he's reading

BORJA

Oh sorry. Didn't notice you there. No worries.

(Lowers his voice. to Sheyla:) Pass us over your Fanta. I'm parched.

SHEYLA

(Voice lowered:) Want some sweeties ?

BORJA

Later. The film hasn't started yet.

So what were you going to say about my cousin's ex ?

SHEYLA

The one with the red Audi ? *He* likes subtitled films.

BORJA

Is that what you call a metrosexual ?

SHEYLA

Says he's got a state-of-the-art DVD player and watches films in six languages – and reads books at the same time.

BORJA

Metrosexual.

CANDIDO looks up from his magazine

SHEYLA

Your sister has to watch subtitled films at college.

Said so at New Year..

Their voices climb back to the old level

BORJA

What in the cinema ?

SHEYLA

No – in your Dad's car. Here – she must have sneaked off with it. That night we went with your cousin and the Portuguese guy to the bull run.

BORJA

The Audi guy spoke good English right enough.. Did a year's exchange in Paisley.

SHEYLA
Paisley ?

BORJA shrugs – no idea where it is

SHEYLA
Shame about your sister, but.

BORJA
Don't think the old man caught her that time.

SHEYLA
No. I mean not getting to... Paisley.

CANDIDO
(Turns round:) Please.

SHEYLA
The film hasn't even started yet.

CANDIDO
I know, but...

BORJA
Okay, okay.

Beat

SHEYLA
(Lowered voice:) Just as well you realised before we bought the tickets. Subtitled film. Bloody Nora. While you're trying to read the subtitles you miss the feckin' film.

BORJA
Nightmare.

SHEYLA
So what film's this again ?

BORJA
Canny mind. It's got Denzil Washington in it.

SHEYLA
Excellent

CANDIDO getting annoyed at the rustling of their sweetie bags etc. The lights dim. We see the light reflected from the screen dancing on their faces. Silence for a moment... then the conversation begins again, in only slightly lowered voices

SHEYLA

I love the trailers. Get them for nothing, too.

BORJA

The other day they put on that Alexander the Great. Load of bollocks. But better than Gladiator.

SHEYLA

How come I didn't see it ?

BORJA

I went with my sister and her boyfriend. It was the day you had to take my cousin to the gynecologist.

SHEYLA

Oh aye. *(Beat.)* I'll have to see it. And the new one with Bruce Willis. There was review of it on the telly. I pure flipped at that one where he's the psychiatrist of the wee boy that sees dead people.

BORJA

(Louder:) Signs.

SHEYLA

No – that's about aliens. The one where he's dead but he doesn't know it till the end.

BORJA

Oh yeah. Quality. I downloaded it from the internet. If you want I'll give you a copy. *(Beat.)* I didn't realise he was dead till right at the very end.

SHEYLA

Angel told me he knew from the beginning.

BORJA

Aye well maybe in the subtitled version it's obvious.

SHEYLA

Mibbe.

CANDIDO

(Turning round:) Pl-ease !

They're silent for 3 seconds

BORJA

Sixth Sense !!

SHEYLA

That's the one !

BORJA

I almost liked him even more than in Pulp Fiction. Played a boxer. Alongside that drop-dead gorgeous woman...

SHEYLA

Maria de Medeiros. She's Portuguese as well!

BORJA

As well as who ?

SHEYLA

As well as Ricardo. Maybe they know each other.

BORJA

Possible. Portugal's a wee country.

SHEYLA

True.

CANDIDO

Ssshhh !

3 second silence. All three stare at the screen. The couple without stopping eating

SHEYLA

(Whispers:) How come your sister didn't get to... Paisley ?

BORJA

Cause she failed one exam.

SHEYLA

No luck.

BORJA

My Mum was pleased. Said she was too young to study abroad. So, as a consolation, she bought her driving lessons. But my Dad wasn't happy about *that* because he said he'd end up with no car. At first she was pissed off cause all her friends had gone abroad, but then she got off with that guy she's going with now and she's fine.

SHEYLA

How did she meet him ?

BORJA

With my cousin – and Ricardo.

SHEYLA

In Portugal ?

BORJA

No. At the tombloa.

CANDIDO

(More aggressively:) Wheesht !!

Silence. Borja and Sheyla look at each other, bewildered. Speak in whispers:

SHEYLA

He talking to us ?

BORJA

‘Well I don’t see nobody else here’.

They laugh

SHEYLA

It’s no’ as if we’re in a library.

BORJA

Give us some of your Fanta. Want a sook of mine ?

SHEYLA

Help yourself.

Ana enters. Candido signals to her. She comes down to him. The couple talk and eat quietly between themselves – not hearing the conversation between Candido and Ana.

CANDIDO

Excuse me.

ANA

(Approaching:) Yes ?

CANDIDO

These two haven’t stopped talking since they came in.

ANA

It’s normal for people to talk during the trailers.

CANDIDO

Has no-one ever taught them it’s bad manners to speak when you’re eating.

ANA

Each to his own.

CANDIDO

This is a cinema, not a cafe.

ANA

Absolutely.

CANDIDO

So are you going to tell them to shut up or will I ?

ANA

I'm sure they'll stop talking once the film starts.

CANDIDO

(Sitting down:) They'd better.

Ana goes up to the couple

ANA

Excuse me – the film's about to start.

SHEYLA

Magic. Thankyou.

ANA

(Quietly:) Look... we've got a guy here who gets annoyed with folk talking in the cinema. Couldn't keep it down, could you ?

BORJA

No problemo. *(Beat.)* By the way – what air freshener do you use here ?

ANA

Air freshener ? Haven't the faintest.

BORJA

It's brilliant, not think ?

ANA

If you want, when I've got a minute, I'll find out – okay ? But right now..... *(puts her finger to her lips. Whispers:)* Film's just about to start.

ANA exits

SHEYLA

(Whispers:) Bet it's a trade air freshener and you can't get it in ordinary shops.

BORJA

You'll get them in one of those DIY superstores, no problem. Ricardo worked in one and he told me

they have everything in there. Gie's popcorn.

SHEYLA
It's lovely.

CANDIDO
Sshhh.

BORJA and SHEYLA look at each other amazed

BORJA
(To Candido:) You speaking to us ?

CANDIDO
Well who else ?

SHEYLA
The film hasn't even started yet so I don't know what all this is about.

BORJA
What's your problem, pal ?

CANDIDO
eh – I would like to see the film.

BORJA
So would we.. It's about to start. What's the fuss for ?

Lights go down. Opening music. Five seconds – and the couple start ripping open their sweetie bags noisily. CANDIDO turns round.

SHEYLA
Damn – I'm spilling the popcorn.

BORJA
Sshh. I'll get them.

SHEYLA
You're a pet..

BORJA
Right. Let's watch the film.

SHEYLA
Here have some honey roast peanuts.

Beat

BORJA

(Watching the screen:) They're the nicest opening titles I've ever seen !

SHEYLA

Dead trendy, in't they ?

BORJA

Awesome, man.

They keep eating noisily

SHEYLA

Mind that film we saw where Richard Gere gets off with the hotel Waitress ? Titles in that were super-cool too.

CANDIDO

(Turns around, angry:) I paid to listen to the film not your conversation !

BORJA

We paid too, and we don't want to listen to you !

SHEYLA

We've hardly opened our mouths !

CANDIDO

Oh come on !

BORJA

This is a cinema, not a friggin' morgue !

SHEYLA

We've hardly said two words !

CANDIDO

And I don't want to listen to you eating either !

BORJA

Oh very good – now it's not allowed to *eat* in a cinema ?!

SHEYLA

If they stop you eating in the cinema, I'll no' be back ! I'd die of hunger.

CANDIDO

Please – just quiet down.

SHEYLA

You trying to tell me you've never had a hotdog watching a move ?

CANDIDO

Absolutely not !

SHEYLA

(Louder:) You're joking ! I don't believe that *anyone* goes out for a night at the pictures and *not* have a hot dog! *(To Borja:)* Not necessarily a hot dog. *(Beat.)* Even your cousin, when she was on that GI diet, still brought wholemeal tofu sandwiches and a bottle of mineral water, mind ?

BORJA

Don't tell Ricardo— she doesn't want him to know she was on a diet.

CANDIDO

I'm asking you one last time... *(Rises to a shout:)* Will You Keep Quiet !

ANA, hearing the shout, rushes in. As she passes BORJA:

BORJA

(To Ana:) Did you hear that ? This... bamstick... says you're not supposed to eat in the cinema.

ANA

(To Candido:) Please, sir – no shouting. *(To Borja:)* It's fine to eat in the cinema.

BORJA

These peasants keep on talking. They're driving me mad. I paid to watch a film !

SHEYLA

He called us peasants !

ANA

(Quietly) You promised you were going to keep quiet.

SHEYLA

We were just about to.

BORJA

Guy's mental.

CANDIDO

Chuck them out. It's your job. That's what an usherette does.

ANA

That kind of usherette doesn't exist any more. I'm only here to open and shut the doors.

CANDIDO

I want to make a formal complaint.

ANA

A formal complaint ?! To who ?

CANDIDO

To *whom*.

SHEYLA

Listen to how he's talking to her. (*To Candido:*) Hey - have some Consideration – she's only trying to do her job !

ANA

(*Pleads:*) Could you *please* just watch the film ? (*To Candido:*) I'll have a word with the projectionist and see if he can start the film again. (*Looks at her watch:*) There's eighteen minutes between each showing and we're only five minutes in.

CANDIDO

But these people still have to shut up or get out.

BORJA

What a fascist ! Think we're going to shut up just because *you* say so ?!

SHEYLA

You wouldn't ask people in the swimming pool to be quiet.

CANDIDO

This is a cinema !

SHEYLA

Exactly.

ANA

I'm not throwing them out. Not for the seven hundred euros they pay me.

CANDIDO

Right – go get the manager.

ANA

He's never here for the first evening showing.

CANDIDO

Unbelievable ! Do *something* then.

ANA

Look. What about going out. Have a drink on the house. I'll talk to my boss when he gets in, and you can see the film at half past seven. And I'll throw in a free pass for another film.

CANDIDO

I want to see *this* film *now*. And I want to see it in silence !

SHEYLA

If the man can't cope with people he should stay at home.

BORJA

Aye. We live in a democracy – no ?