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The gears

de
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traducción de
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(fragmento en inglés)

CHARACTERS

Nina, 24 years old

Miguel, 52 years old

Serge, 26 years old

The Judge

The Nun

The Revolutionary (Civil Servant)

Mother/Beggarwoman

Teresa

Lover

Prostitute

Doctor

Butcher

Journalist

Nuns

Laborers/Workers

Police

Guards

ONE.

(Empty, vast space. It's almost empty – except for the young woman that lays motionless at its center. The Nun, in expected black regalia, makes her way across the stage, paying the woman no mind. The Nun takes her usual spot, kneels, and begins to recite her Rosaries. The Revolutionary, dressed more like a politician, swiftly enters the scene, surveys the landscape, and watches the story unfold. Seconds, or minutes later, The Judge majestically floats through the scene, although there's no one there to pay him the respect he seeks. Each is in their own moment. Seconds later.)

JUDGE

I haven't seen you around here lately. Thought you couldn't take it anymore.

REVOLUTIONARY

Nothing's changed. This is where they sent me, said you needed help.

NUN

We are not responsible.

JUDGE

You think you have a good eye for these things?

REVOLUTIONARY

I'm not so new. I've got plenty of experience.

JUDGE

I think we've seen enough for now...there's sufficient evidence to determine our verdict. The pieces all seem to fit and make sense.

NUN

Their salvation depends on us.

REVOLUTIONARY

Do you know what you're doing?

NUN

We cannot tolerate more scandal. This is an abomination.

JUDGE

You have to stay one step ahead...don't pay her any mind.

REVOLUTIONARY

They say you're all about the workers. You know, despite any differences, we're on the same side.

JUDGE

Listen to her.

NUN

Unspeakable sin deserves no pity. He who does not punish the flesh, dies in eternity.

REVOLUTIONARY

Those conditions are brutal for anyone. I think the guy needs a break from the place.

JUDGE

You're so certain of your verdict?

NUN

She will forever be the daughter of sin. A sin we are not going to carry on our backs.

JUDGE

Are you threatening me?

NUN

We are not responsible.

REVOLUTIONARY

If we're going to do this again, come on. Let's just get things going before I change my mind.

JUDGE

Keep your eyes on her at all times.

(The Nun activates the mechanism that brings in the actors. The Revolutionary's mechanical command causes the actors to dress the young woman that was laying throughout the scene. The Judge's final activation lights up the stage and sets the scene in motion.)

A civil union. The entire cast congregates in the waiting area of the courts. Among them, the actors portraying Nina – the young woman from the previous scene – and Miguel. Nina a little more dressed, perhaps a gown – but not a wedding gown. In fact, it isn't even white. Miguel, affected by the stifling heat, devours ice cream from a large waffle cone. A loud, monotonous voice echoes throughout – a voice that regurgitates endless pairs of last names and room numbers by rote.)

VOICE

Saavedra and Perez, room 106. Gonzalez and Alvarez, room 104. Garcia and Gonzalez, room 108...

NINA

You have the rings?

(Miguel digs frantically through his pockets. Ice cream drips on his shirt, the small dots eventually coagulate into a larger stain that takes over the crispness of his

wedding uniform. Almost mechanically, newlywed couples begin to exit systematically from the assigned court rooms. Rice showers the faceless couples as they are processed.)

You were supposed to bring them.

MIGUEL

I know I put them here...

NINA

You should have given them to me.

MIGUEL

I know they're here somewhere.

NINA

Watch it!

(Ice cream gets on Nina's dress, which looks even less like a wedding gown now. Miguel stares at Nina's matching stain. Nina's shriek halts the newlywed assembly line.)

MIGUEL

I'm sorry.

NINA

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I heard you, you're sorry! You're ALWAYS sorry! Look at what you've done!

MIGUEL

I'm so sorry...sorry, sorry, sorry. Forgive me. *(He fumbles around as he attempts to correct his mistake. The stain is not going anywhere.)* Here, let me get that.

NINA

Don't touch me! Stop it or you'll make it worse. Just throw that fucking ice cream away.

REVOLUTIONARY

Vazquez and Guindero, room 102. Gutierrez and Velilla, room 109...

MIGUEL

That's us...

NINA

I'm not going in there looking like this. Not at my own wedding. *(Pointing at the stain)*. Look at it!

MIGUEL

We have to go. Please. Come on, we can't miss our turn – we'd have to wait another seven months.

REVOLUTIONARY

Barcena and Lopez, room 102. Last call, Miguel Gutierrez and Nina Velilla, room 109. Last call.

MIGUEL

You heard them, please, come on. *(Pause.)* Nina, please.

NINA

Settle down. It won't kill them to wait.

(Nina tries frantically to get the stain out of her dress.)

MIGUEL

NINA – are sure about what you're doing?

NINA

You? You sure?

MIGUEL

I've waited a long time for this.

NINA

I can't get this damn stain out.

MIGUEL

I'm sorry. You don't know how sorry I am. I'll make it up to you, I...

NINA

Let's go.

(Nina and Miguel enter room 109. Its centerpiece is a Spanish flag that partially conceals a large desk behind it. A picture of the Head of State, or some other important government official, sits atop the desk presiding over the proceedings in the room. The Judge sits there, waiting impatiently for the latecomers. Two guards push the pair toward the flag.)

REVOLUTIONARY

Hurry up please. We have no more time to waste.

(Miguel and Nina scurry toward the official desk.)

JUDGE

Miguel Gutierrez, you are hereby accused of the murder of Serge Espinosa. Nina Velilla, you are hereby accused of being an accomplice to the murder of Serge Espinosa and for the incitement of

cannibalism. Miguel, do you take Nina Velilla to be your lawfully wedded wife?

NINA

Yes, I do.

(The Mother speaks to The Nun.)

NUN

We will provide her shelter and she'll receive an appropriate education. She'll be well fed, but first and foremost, we must nourish her spirit.

MOTHER

She's small, you won't have much to feed.

NUN

We have much younger wards. There are entire wings devoted to just newborn girls. Too young yet to miss their mothers. Our newest sisters are responsible for breastfeeding. I need to assure you that in its 300 years of history, our institution has never received complaints from the families of its residents.

MOTHER

I know she'll be well taken care of here.

NUN

It is my duty to warn you about the strict policies all must abide by. Visitors are forbidden on weekdays. Families are welcome to visit only on Sunday afternoons. And once a month, but only on the first weekend, she can go home with you.

MOTHER

I want what's best for her. I'm at the end of my rope. I'm poor and it's the best I can do.

NUN

We cover the costs for mothers incapable of providing for their own.

MOTHER

Life is hard, especially for a single mother.

NUN

This life of ours is for the passing. He who does not punish the flesh dies in eternity.

MOTHER

I'd say having to give up a child is suffering enough...

NUN

A daughter born of sin. We will reconquer her for the glory.

MOTHER

Will I be able to see her again?

NUN

You can visit on permitted days, one additional week during Christmas and one entire month in the summer.

MOTHER

The permitted days?

NUN

Sunday afternoons. Once a month you can have her for the weekend.

MOTHER

If I can't make it...if I couldn't come...you would understand, right?

(A pack of nuns restrains Nina, forcing her on a stool. They change her into a muslim gown, as they recite their pleas for forgiveness.)

CHORUS OF WOMEN / NUNS

Santa María./Ruega por nosotros.

Santa Madre de Dios./Ruega por nosotros.

Santa Virgen de las vírgenes./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre de Cristo./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre de la Iglesia./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre de la divina gracia./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre purísima./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre castísima./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre virginal./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre sin mancha./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre inmaculada./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre amable./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre admirable./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre del Buen Consejo./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre del Creador./Ruega por nosotros.

Madre del Salvador./Ruega por nosotros.

Virgen prudentísima./Ruega por nosotros.

Virgen digna de veneración./Ruega por nosotros.
Virgen digna de alabanza./Ruega por nosotros.
Virgen poderosa./Ruega por nosotros.
Virgen clemente./Ruega por nosotros.
Virgen fiel./Ruega por nosotros.

Espejo de justicia./Ruega por nosotros.
Trono de sabiduría./Ruega por nosotros.
Causa de nuestra alegría./Ruega por nosotros.
Vaso espiritual./Ruega por nosotros.
Vaso insigne de devoción./Ruega por nosotros.
Rosa mística./Ruega por nosotros.
Torre de David./Ruega por nosotros.
Torre de marfil./Ruega por nosotros.
Casa de Oro./Ruega por nosotros.
Arca de la Alianza./Ruega por nosotros.
Puerta del cielo./Ruega por nosotros.
Estrella de la mañana./Ruega por nosotros.
Salud de los enfermos./Ruega por nosotros.
Refugio de los pecadores./Ruega por nosotros.
Consuelo de los afligidos./Ruega por nosotros.
Auxilio de los cristianos./Ruega por nosotros.

Reina de los Ángeles./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de los Patriarcas./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de los Profetas./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de los Apóstoles./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de los Mártires./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de los Confesores./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de las Vírgenes./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de los Santos./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina concebida sin pecado original./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina elevada al cielo./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina del Santísimo Rosario./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de la familia./Ruega por nosotros.
Reina de la paz./Ruega por nosotros.

JUDGE

You're positively sure he was not alive?

NINA

He was dead. But he was smiling. Smiling at me.

(The Judge gets caught up in the cacophony of the intensifying rosaries).

JUDGE

Nina Velilla, twenty-four year-old female, one point six five meters, 43.9 kilos, Hair: blond, practically white, smooth, straight. Eyes: Grayish-blue, large. Perpetually red eyelids. No eyebrows. Pale skin with a light, thin, layer of body fuzz.