

## TONY & CARMEN SIDES

INT TONY'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- LATE NIGHT

Tony is doing homework on the kitchen table when he hears a CAR pull up. Tony looks at the clock on the wall and then over at Aracely sleeping on the couch. Carmen walks in.

CARMEN

Hey, *son*. Everything ok?  
(kisses Tony on the cheek)  
*Que hiciste de cenar?*

TONY

*Carne con arroz.*

Carmen looks into the kitchen and notices the pile of dirty dishes.

CARMEN

You didn't wash the dishes?

TONY

No. I was gonna do them in the morning.

Carmen, vexed, smacks her lips, places her purse down on the table and starts to wash them.

CARMEN

You should've washed the frying pan at least, you know there is no time in the morning.

TONY

At least I made dinner.

Carmen stops, closes her eyes, and sighs.

CARMEN

*Mijo*, I appreciate all that you do around here. I know you've been working really hard, I really do.

Carmen reaches back, kisses him on the forehead and returns to the dishes.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

I'm just exhausted and the last thing I wanted to do was come home to wash dishes.

Pause, as Carmen washes the dishes, Tony thinks about how he's going to explain himself.

TONY

Ma, I got accepted to Stanford.

CARMEN

Uh huh, *what's that?*

TONY

*A university...*

(beat)

...and they're offering to pay for everything, but... it's in California.

CARMEN

California? *You're crazy.*

TONY

It's one of the best schools, ma. It's what I've been working so hard for these last three years and I got in.

CARMEN

What happened to that university that's 3 towns away? I thought you were going there, to stay close to us.

TONY

They're great, ma, but they're not paying for everything. But this is Stanford, one of the best schools in the nation. And it's all free!

Carmen stops the dishes and leans against the counter.

TONY (CONT'D)

I'm only doing it for you guys. To have a great career so you won't have to be doing the dishes at 2 in the morning!

CARMEN

So you're going to leave.

Aracely peeks her head in from the living room.

ARACELY

You're leaving us too?

Tony looks at her and tries to approach but Aracely is already running to her bedroom.

TONY

Don't you think it's hard for me?  
To choose! I love you guys but this  
is going to make things better. For  
all of us!

Carmen looks at Tony with pained eyes but just exits the kitchen.