

**THE CASAGRANDES**

"Trash or Treasure"

Written by

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**CAMERA POV - DAY**

Three baby birds squirm in a nest on the balcony of Apartment 2B. Their mother lands and gathers them in a cuddle.

BOOM! CRASH! The birds are startled and the mother flies off.

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Frida, still holding her camera, whips her head around.

**CARLOTA (O.S.)**  
AVALAAAAANCHE!

Frida rushes off-screen.

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - CARLOTA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Frida appears in Carlota's doorway panicked. Carlota is nowhere to be seen.

**FRIDA**  
CARLOTA?!

She clutches her head and rushes into the room.

**FRIDA (cont'd)**  
*Mi bebé?*

Carlota, distraught, pops her head out of a mountain of clothes covering her bedroom floor. Her closet doors are wide open, strewn with clothing.

**CARLOTA**  
Mom!

Frida rushes over and tries to pull Carlota out of the pile. The clothes cling to her as if alive. Carlota finally POPS OUT. She and Frida land in a heap.

**FRIDA**  
*Mija*, what happened?

Carlota picks up a cutesy floral shirt next to her.

**CARLOTA**  
My new spring wardrobe! UGH! I think I maxed out my closet!

ANGLE ON the closet, which belches out a final purge of brightly colored clothes.

**FRIDA**

(takes Carlota's hand)  
Let's give it another shot.

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - CARLOTA'S ROOM - LATER**

The clothing pile is smaller. Frida and Carlota have their backs to the closet. They straight to keep the bulging doors closed.

**FRIDA**

Can't... hold...much longer!

**CARLOTA**

Urrrrghhh!!

BOOM! The clothes explode out of the closet. Frida and Carlota dive forward, action-movie-style. FX fill the screen.

REVEAL Carlota and Frida in a giant pile of clothes. Frida seems a bit less sympathetic now.

**FRIDA**

*Mija*, this is getting ridiculous. You have too many clothes!

**CARLOTA**

(accusatory)  
Where do you think I get it from, Mom?!

**FRIDA**

What?!

**CARLOTA**

I'll get rid of some of this, but you have to go through your closet too!

**FRIDA**

(dismissive)  
I don't know what you're talking about.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - FRIDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Carlota and Frida are standing in front of Frida's closet, which is overflowing with boxes labeled "SENTIMENTAL T-SHIRTS," "EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OF THE KIDS" and "USELESS JUNK."

**CARLOTA**

THIS stuff!

Carlota bends down and picks up a stained T-shirt.

**CARLOTA (cont'd)**

Why are you keeping this, Mom?

**FRIDA**

Aw, I was wearing that shirt when Carl used the big-boy potty for the first time!

Frida squints and pokes at the t-shirt, inspecting it closer. Carlota holds it further away, disgusted.

**FRIDA (cont'd)**

Well, most of it made it to the potty...

**CARLOTA**

Eugh.

Carlota flicks the T-shirt away. She bends down and picks up a box and carries it off-screen.

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Carlota and Frida have piled their hoards in the living room where they work on their sorting. They've recruited Carl and CJ to help.

Carl holds up one of those translucent orb-shaped CD players from the 2000s.

**CARL**

I don't see how we're supposed to help. I don't even know what some of this stuff is...

CJ takes it.

**CJ**

It looks like a spaceship!  
 (moves it through the  
 air)  
 Vroosh, vroosh!

**FRIDA**

Boys, be careful! Some of these  
 things could be very valuable.

Carl's pupils turn into dollar signs.

**CARL**

Keep your eyes peeled, Ceej.  
 (does a "pay me"  
 gesture)  
 There could be a new El Falcon figure  
 in our future.

On the other side of the pile, Carlota tosses items of  
 clothing over her shoulder.

**CARLOTA**

Donate, donate, donate!

ANGLE ON Frida, who grabs a teddy bear out of a box. The  
 bear's shirt reads "YOU'RE MY HONEY."

**FRIDA**

Ahhh!

She clutches it and falls back into a pile of clothes.

**FRIDA (cont'd)**

Oh, I remember this bear!!

Carlota's clothes start piling onto Frida as she reminisces.

**CARLOTA**

Donate, oh super donate, keeeep!

**FADE TO:**

**EXT. RAINY STREET - FLASHBACK**

Two young people walk down the street under an umbrella.  
 REVEAL it's a younger Frida and Carlos.

**FRIDA (V.O.)**

It was your father and I's first  
 date...

The dirty teddy bear lays against the flooded curb.

**FRIDA**

...that I spotted it in the gutter!

In the reflection of the puddle, younger Frida beams at the bear.

**YOUNG FRIDA**

Oh Carlos, look at him all alone in the gutter!

Frida's hand reaches in to lift the bear out of the street.

**YOUNG FRIDA (cont'd)**

I'll take you home, mister bear.

**YOUNG CARLOS (O.S.)**

Oh Frida, you are too sweet.

**CUT BACK TO:**

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Frida is snuggling the bear, which has stink lines coming off of it. Carlota tries to hide her disgust.

**CARLOTA**

(sympathetic)

Mom, maybe not so close to your face...

**FRIDA**

Carlota, I have to keep this! I'll have nothing to remember your father and I's young love!

Carlota gestures to a line of boxes labeled, "SECOND DATE," "THIRD DATE," "FOURTH DATE."

**CARLOTA**

I find that hard to believe.

Frida drops the bear defeated.

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - LIVING ROOM - LATER**

Carlota stands in the doorway of the apartment, holding big, bulging garbage bags. Frida begs on her hands and knees, crying, holding a balled up tissue in her hands.

**FRIDA**

Carlota, PLEASE just let me keep it!

**CARLOTA**

It's a used tissue, Mom!

Frida, teary-eyed, stares at the balled up tissue in her hands.

**INT. RECITAL HALL - FLASHBACK**

A younger Carlota dances clumsily onstage.

**FRIDA (V.O.)**

But it's from your first dance recital!

Frida sits in the audience, Charlie-Brown-crying, holding the wadded up tissue in her hands.

**CUT BACK TO:**

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Frida balls her eyes out. Carlota puts her arm around her.

**CARLOTA**

I know, *mamá*. How 'bout we have a yard sale?

**CARL/CJ**

YEAH!

Carlota shoots them a dirty look. They shrink away.

**CARLOTA**

That way you can see that all these  
(looks at tissue)  
-- *treasures* make it to a good home?

Frida's crying softens and she nods.

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOFTOP - LATER**

Carlota, Frida, Carl, and CJ have set up a yard sale on the rooftop.

**CARL**

Can you have a yard sale without a yard?

A tumbleweed rolls by.

**CJ**

Or customers?

**CARLOTA**

We just need to get the word out.  
I'll post on my story, and Carl and  
CJ, you go--  
(looks up)  
Boys?

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MONTAGE**

Carl and CJ have a blast getting the word out about the rooftop yard sale. The boys slide down the railings.

**CARLOS**

ROOFTOP PARTY!

**CJ**

Don't miss it!

Carl and CJ knock on door after door.

**CARLOS**

Free food!

**CJ**

And drinks!

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - STREET ENTRANCE**

Carl, in security guard sunglasses, holds the door open as he lets people through the front door of the building. CJ, also in sunglasses, holds a clipboard.

**CARL**

(waving people  
through)

You're good, you're good, straight to  
the rooftop, sir.

(stops a kid)

Didja bring your allowance, kid?

(then)

Alright, you're good.

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOFTOP - LATER**

Carl and CJ's marketing was a success: the rooftop is packed. Neighbors browse clothing racks and others items laid out on a rug. Rosa walks over and adds more tamales to a table covered in food and agua fresca.



**CARL**

Yard sale! Get your junk here!

Carl waves a doily around. It passes in front of CJ's face.

**CJ**

It smells old!

**CARLOTA**

Boys! You're supposed to be selling.  
Watch me.

(then)

Take a look at our rare antiques!  
One-of-a-kind vintage memorabilia  
here!

Mrs. Kernicky walks up.

**MRS. KERNICKY**

Excuse me, kids. How much for this  
cassette tape?

**CARLOTA**

(proudly)

See?

(then)

That'll be five--

Frida bursts in. She grabs the cassette from Mrs. Kernicky,  
startling her.

**FRIDA**

*El Amor De Mi Vida?* I listened to  
this for two weeks straight when my  
first boyfriend Luis broke up with  
me.

(bursts into tears)

The day before proooooom!!

Mrs. Kernicky backs up awkwardly.

**MRS. KERNICKY**

(looks at watch)

Would you look at the time? I'm late  
for water aerobics.

She runs off.

ZIP TO Carl who is trying to sell an armful of angel-winged  
animal figurines to Mr. Nakamura.

**CARL**

So what I can do for you is 3 for 12,  
5 for 8, or the whole lot for 6.

Mr. Nakamura looks like he's trying to work out the math. Then Frida interrupts.

**FRIDA**

Aww my dog angels! You know I got one of these for each of my beloved pets, so I could feel like they were watching over me.

(points at each one)

There's Lucy, and Buster, oh and Perry who loooved to chase squirrels...

(wells up)

Into the street!!!!

Frida takes the figurine and runs off sobbing. Carl turns back to Mr. Nakamura.

**CARL**

On account of being haunted, I could do 5...?

Mr. Nakamura looks at the figurine in his hand, shivers, and cautiously sets it down.

**CARLOTA/CARL/CJ**

<GROAN>

**CARL**

I can't work my magic with Mom around. She's scaring people away with her...issues.

**CARLOTA**

We've got to distract her. Any ideas?

**CJ**

Hmm. I got one.

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER**

Frida clutches her heart.

**FRIDA**

(excited)

You want to paint something?

CJ nods excitedly.

**FRIDA (cont'd)**

Ooo, my little *Dalí*. When inspiration calls we must answer!

She walks CJ towards the rooftop exit. He turns and winks at his siblings.

**FRIDA (cont'd)**

Let's get you a canvas and brush  
STAT!

Carlota nods, impressed. Carl shakes his head.

**CARL**

Genius.

**CARLOTA**

Now it's time to get down to  
business.

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOFTOP - MONTAGE**

We see a TIMELAPSE as Carl and Carlota zip around making sales. The pile of items get smaller and smaller and the crowd dies out.

**CARLOTA/CARL**

Whew!

Carlota and Carl collapse in a chair. Then Carlota notices a lone customer admiring something. Carlota walks up to the WOMAN to quickly close the final sale of the day.

**CARLOTA**

Hi there! We're about to close up so  
I could give you a pretty good deal  
on--

Carlota sees that the object is a piece of Michoacán folk art. A brightly-painted little wooden bird.

**CARLOTA (cont'd)**

Oh.

The woman beams at Carlota. She cups the wooden bird in her hands.

**WOMAN**

Sorry for lingering. It's just, this  
is so special. My grandmother had a  
bird just like this back in Mexico.

Carlota smiles at the woman, realizing something.

**WOMAN (cont'd)**

I look at it and I swear I can smell  
her perfume.

Tears well up in Carlota's eyes.

**WOMAN (cont'd)**

It's crazy how these little things  
can hold so much meaning to us.

(reaches for purse)

How much?

**CARLOTA**

Oh, you can have it. It means a lot  
to know it's going to someone who  
will appreciate it.

The woman holds it close.

**WOMAN**

Thank you.

The woman walks off with the bird and Carlota blinks.

**CARL**

Well that's it! The only thing that  
didn't sell was that box of T-shirts.

Carlota picks up the box. Across the rooftop, Rosa is  
cleaning up the table of food. Carlota carries the box over  
to her.

**CARLOTA**

Abuela, you know how to sew, right?

**INT. APARTMENT 2B - LATER**

Carlota enters.

**CARLOTA**

Mom! Great news! We sold everything.

Carl walks in behind Carlota.

**CARL**

Except this old El Falcon T-shirt. I  
don't know how you could try to get  
rid of this, Mom. It still fits!

Carl takes off his sweater to reveal a very tight El Falcon  
shirt he must have worn as a baby. His belly pops out.

Frida wipes paint off her forehead. Behind her, CJ wears a  
beret and puts the finishing touches on a painting.

**FRIDA**

Thanks for holding down the yard sale, kids. I have to be honest, I didn't realize how much having all that junk was weighing on me.

Carl sits down and counts money at the table.

**CARL**

No problem, *mamacita*.

Frida takes out a full garbage bag.

**FRIDA**

I even found some more clothes to donate! Turns out most of my wardrobe is painting smocks.

**CARLOTA**

(sweetly)

I'm really proud of you, Mom.

Carlota hugs her mom.

**FRIDA**

Thank you, sweetie. You know it's sometimes hard for me to let go...

Carlota tries to pull away but Frida won't release her from the hug. She tugs, tugs, and Frida lets go.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

**CARLOTA**

Well, to be honest with you, Mom, we didn't sell everything.

Carlota gets the door. It's Rosa! She's holding a colorful patchwork quilt -- it's made up of all of Frida's sentimental t-shirts!

We see the slightly stained t-shirt from earlier, as well as shirts that read "Mother And Son Camping Trip 2007," "World's Best Mom," and a shirt with young Carlota on it "Happy 7th Birthday, Carlota!" The red square at the center is the old teddy bear's shirt "I LOVE MY HONEY."

**ROSA**

Carlota had a great idea to save all these old T-shirts.

Frida clutches the quilt happy-crying.

**FRIDA**

Doña! Carlota! This is the greatest gift ever!

She wraps the quilt around herself. Carlota smirks.

**FRIDA (cont'd)**

Now I can finally wear all my memories at once!

Frida dances around with the quilt.

**CARLOTA**

As long as you promise to wash it..

Frida wraps the quilt around Carlota and Rosa in a group hug.

**FRIDA**

Thank you so much, ladies. You don't know how much this means to me.

Carlos walks by, interrupting the sweet moment.

**CARLOS**

Now do her bathroom drawer!

**FRIDA**

(fire in her eyes)  
*Silencio!* Or we're coming for your bookshelf next!

**CARLOS**

EEP!

Carlos runs off. Frida cuddles back up to the women, happy-crying. She wipes her eye with a tissue.

**CARLOTA**

MOM! Is that the tissue?

Frida squirrels it away.

**FRIDA**

Don't worry about it!

She squeezes her face up against Carlota's.

**END EPISODE**