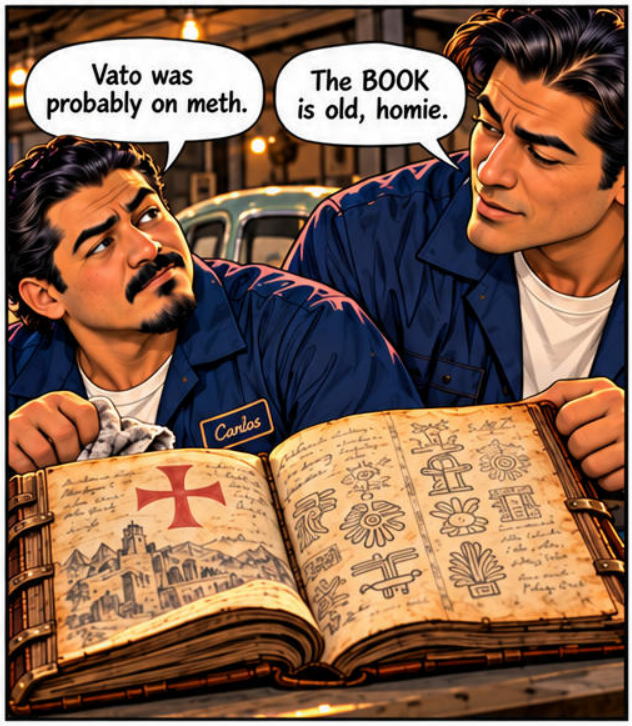

ARTHURIAN CHOLOS
On Quest for the Grail
(or Maybe Just Tacos)
Story by
Gina Ruiz
Forsooth, ese!
Forsooth!
'Sup, homes.
Como que forsooth?
Carlos
The Grail, ese.
The pinche Holy Grail.
Better not let
Tia Bella hear pinche
and holy in the same
sentence.


Found it in my abuela's basement.
Carlos


Cavallero del Temple...
Frey Antonio Carbajal


Our ancestor was a Templar.


Vato was probably on meth.
The BOOK is old, homie.
Carlos


The book says they fled France for Scotland.


Three ships. Sacred relics. One Grail.


No way back.


The secret passed through families. One keeper each generation.


Our people carried the secret south.


Every keeper added to the book.
Aqua
Terra
Sanguis
Memoria
Le bol
voyage
toujours.


During the Revolution, they came north.


Mario hid the cup.
Then the entries stopped.


And that's that homie,
The last entry is from my great-grandfather.
En serio?
DOPEY'S MACHINE SHOP LINCOLN HEIGHTS
Serio.
So, what did he do with it, ese?
That's the thing. No one knows what happened to it, unless you count this vato Mario, my great-grandpop. He says he hid it.
Dang.
I feel like we should look for it. I mean, I'm the oldest son, so technically, it's my duty to find it and take care of it and teach my son that Templar shit.
Except you have no idea where it is or what the hell Templar shit is,
Well, this book has a ton of shit in it and every generation the oldest wrote more in it. It stops round 1930.
No shit?
No shit. That vato Mario, my great-grandfather was living in Hollywood and working in construction. He didn't have time for Templar stuff, and he mentioned something about the old cup his father said was the Grail.
Egyptian.
Yeah, I know. He says he was working construction in 1928 on the Egyptian and buried the cup there so it would be safe just in case it was the real Grail.
That cray-cray looking place on McCadden?
Eso.
EGYPTAN
Says he stuck it in one of the heads of Ramses over the main entry.


It can't be that easy.
Who says breaking into the Egyptian and ripping off the heads on the main entry would be easy?
True dat.
We need to talk to the homies,
Yeah, maybe.
But, I'm really hungry too, so maybe we should just go get some tacos over on Pasadena Avenue,
You and your pinche barriga. Always hungry and always complaining you're hungry,
Yeah, well, we could go get some tacos then I can take you in my carrucha over to Hollywood so's we can check it out,
You got gas, homie?
Yup.
Well, then vamanos,
We can be Arthurian Cholos on a quest for the grail, homie!
Did you say hello to Elena?


Why aren't we getting tacos near the park or at Manny's El Loco?
Cuz the vatos on Pasadena Avenue are from Guanajuato like my familia and they make some damned good tacos, burritos, and quesadillas. The lengua is the bomb, ese,
Figueroa St
Elena loves the tacos al pastor from them.
Damn, now I'm getting hungry, pinche Dopester,
Carlos


Pasadena Ave
French St
TACOS
AL PASTOR • ASADA
LENGUA • BUCHE
CARNITAS

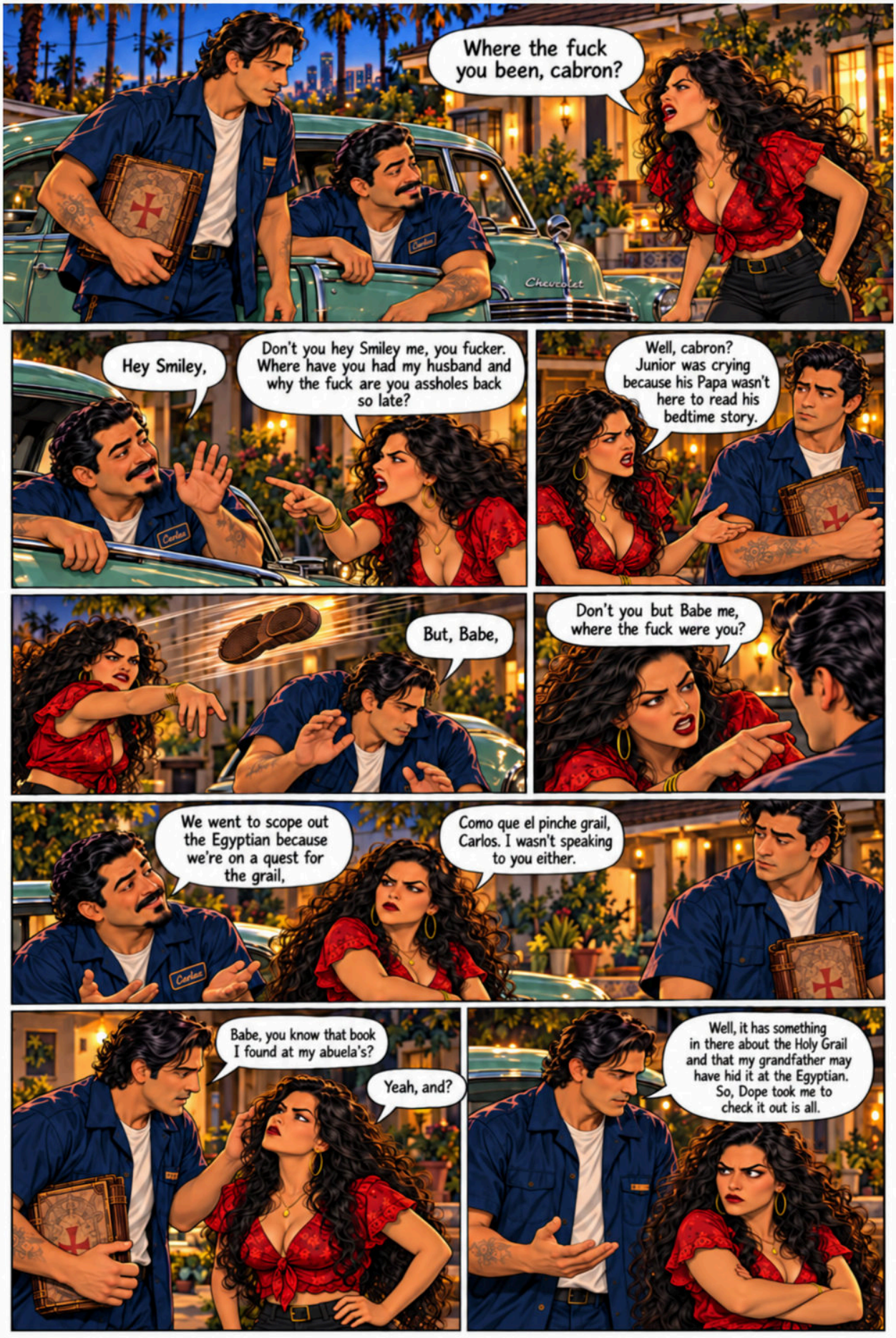


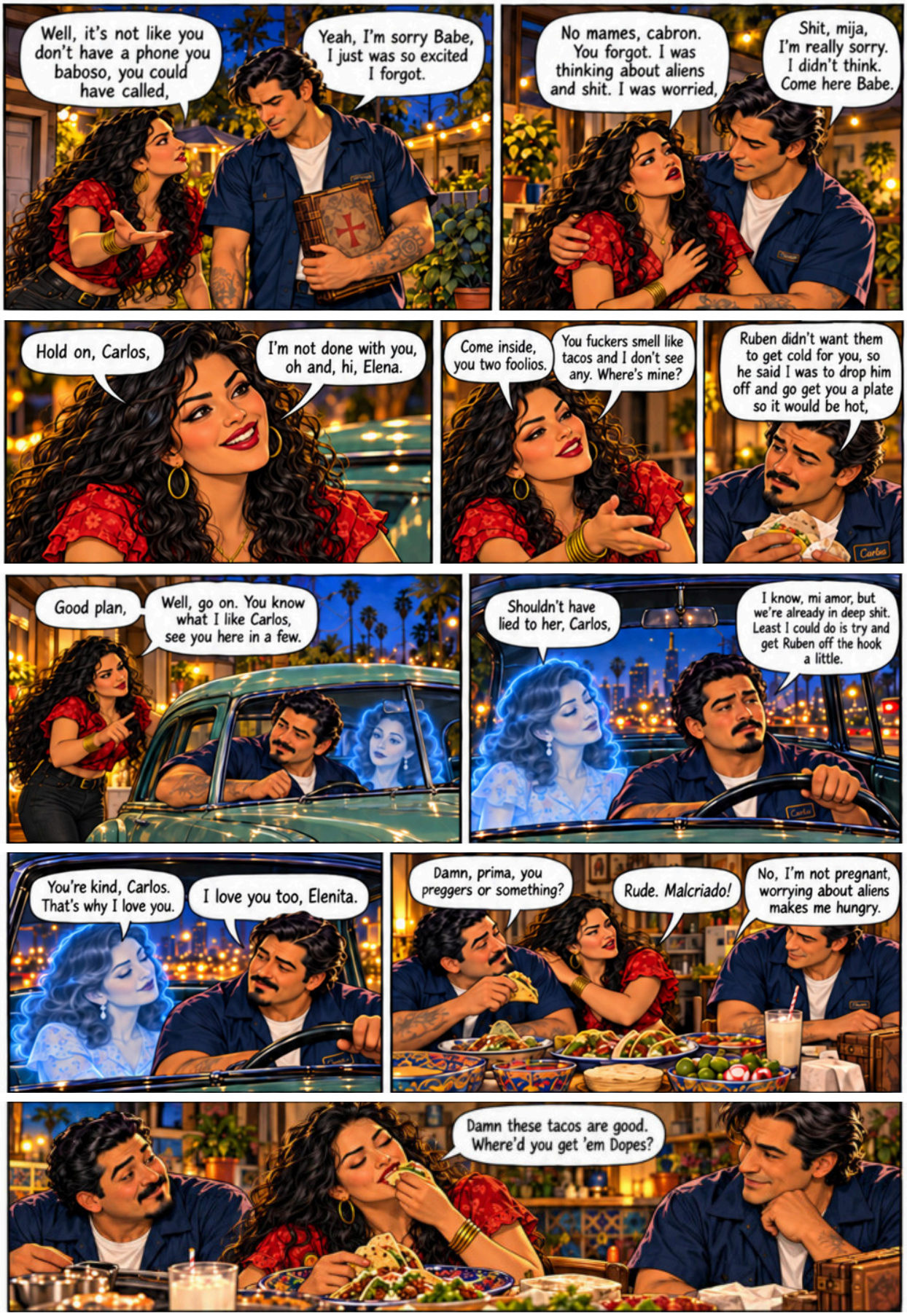



TACOS
Ay compadre, ya era tiempo,
Carlos
Yeah. It's been a while. I want four tacos de lengua, one burro de al pastor, two mulitas, and a two quesadillas con chorizo. Ruben, what you want?
Shit that sounds good, homie. I'll take three tacos de buche on top of all that.
Damn, okay. I can't let you beat me in the eating department so make that three more de buche.
Damn, homie, no joke, these tacos are the shit,
Mpmph,
TACOS
BASURA
Don't tell my abuela, but those tacos were better than hers,
Your secret is safe with me and Elena, homie.

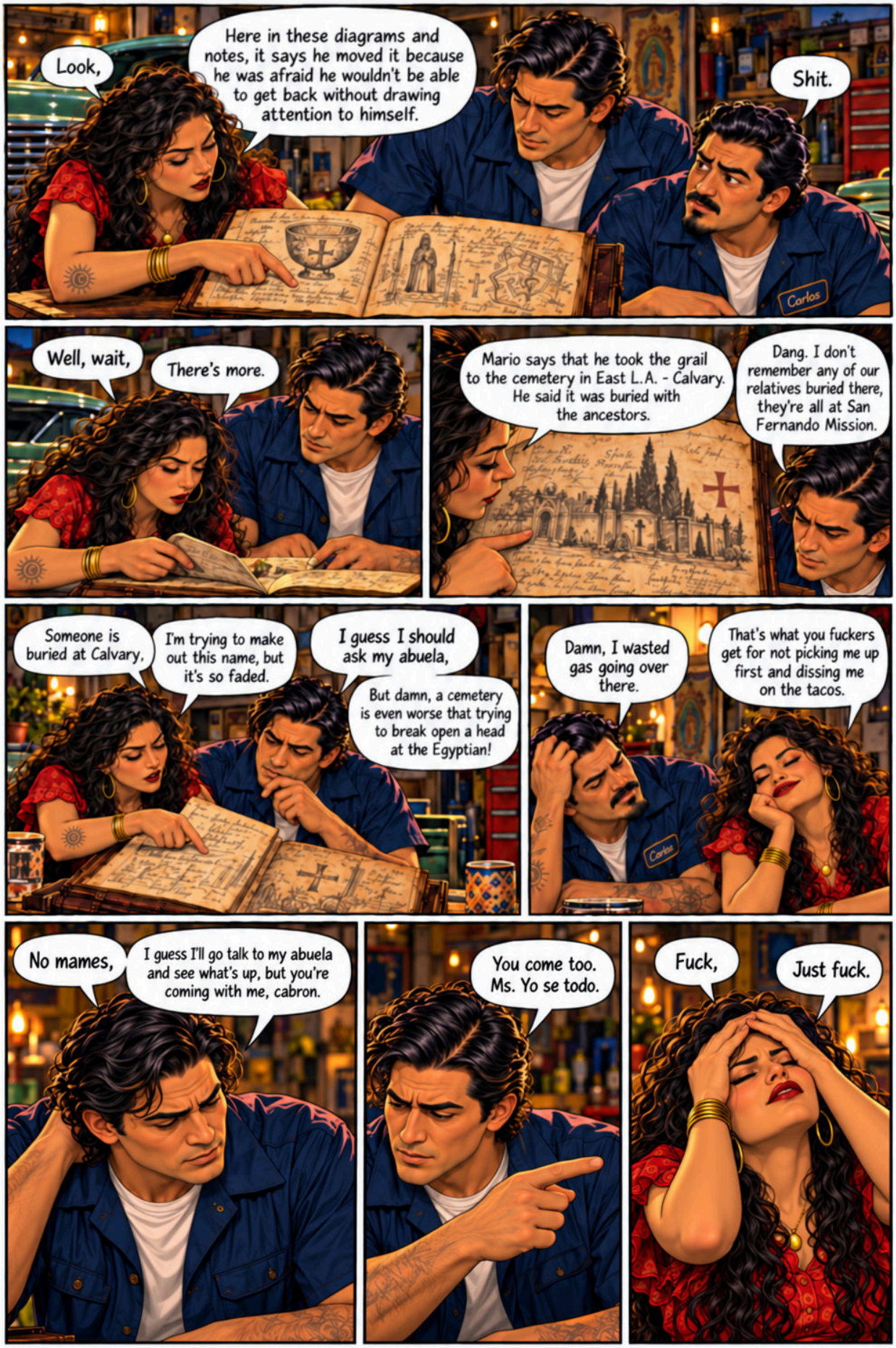

110 SOUTH
Los Angeles
Carlos
Fuckers around here will steal a hubcap or damage my paint job. Lot of tweakers in this hood. Here in this lot with the Rolls Royces, Bentleys, and Porcshes, ain't no one gonna touch my carrucha. Worth it, homes,
Lorca will be safe here.
PANTAGES PARKING
Chevrolet
Must be some celeb in there or some shit, mira all the paparazzi,
EGYPTIAN
NOBU
Wanna go look, homes?


Nah, chale. Let's just go scope things out, then if they are still hanging out after, we'll see.
GRAUMAN'S EGYPTIAN
CINEMATHEQUE
Damn, we're gonna need a ladder,
Two, cuz we don't know which one it's hidden in,
And some homies ad a shitload of good luck,
No shit, ese.
CINEMATHEQUE
EGYPTIAN
THEATRE
PANTAGES


Where the fuck you been, cabron?
Chevrolet
Hey Smiley,
Don't you hey Smiley me, you fucker. Where have you had my husband and why the fuck are you assholes back so late?
Carlos
Well, cabron? Junior was crying because his Papa wasn't here to read his bedtime story.
But, Babe,
Don't you but Babe me, where the fuck were you?
We went to scope out the Egyptian because we're on a quest for the grail,
Como que el pinche grail, Carlos. I wasn't speaking to you either.
Carlos
Babe, you know that book I found at my abuela's?
Yeah, and?
Well, it has something in there about the Holy Grail and that my grandfather may have hid it at the Egyptian. So, Dope took me to check it out is all.


Well, it's not like you don't have a phone you baboso, you could have called,
Yeah, I'm sorry Babe, I just was so excited I forgot.
No mames, cabron. You forgot. I was thinking about aliens and shit. I was worried,
Shit, mija, I'm really sorry. I didn't think. Come here Babe.
Hold on, Carlos,
I'm not done with you, oh and, hi, Elena.
Come inside, you two foolios.
You fuckers smell like tacos and I don't see any. Where's mine?
Ruben didn't want them to get cold for you, so he said I was to drop him off and go get you a plate so it would be hot,
Good plan,
Well, go on. You know what I like Carlos, see you here in a few.
Shouldn't have lied to her, Carlos,
I know, mi amor, but we're already in deep shit. Least I could do is try and get Ruben off the hook a little.
You're kind, Carlos. That's why I love you.
I love you too, Elenita.
Damn, prima, you preggers or something?
Rude. Malcriado!
No, I'm not pregnant, worrying about aliens makes me hungry.
Damn these tacos are good. Where'd you get 'em Dopes?

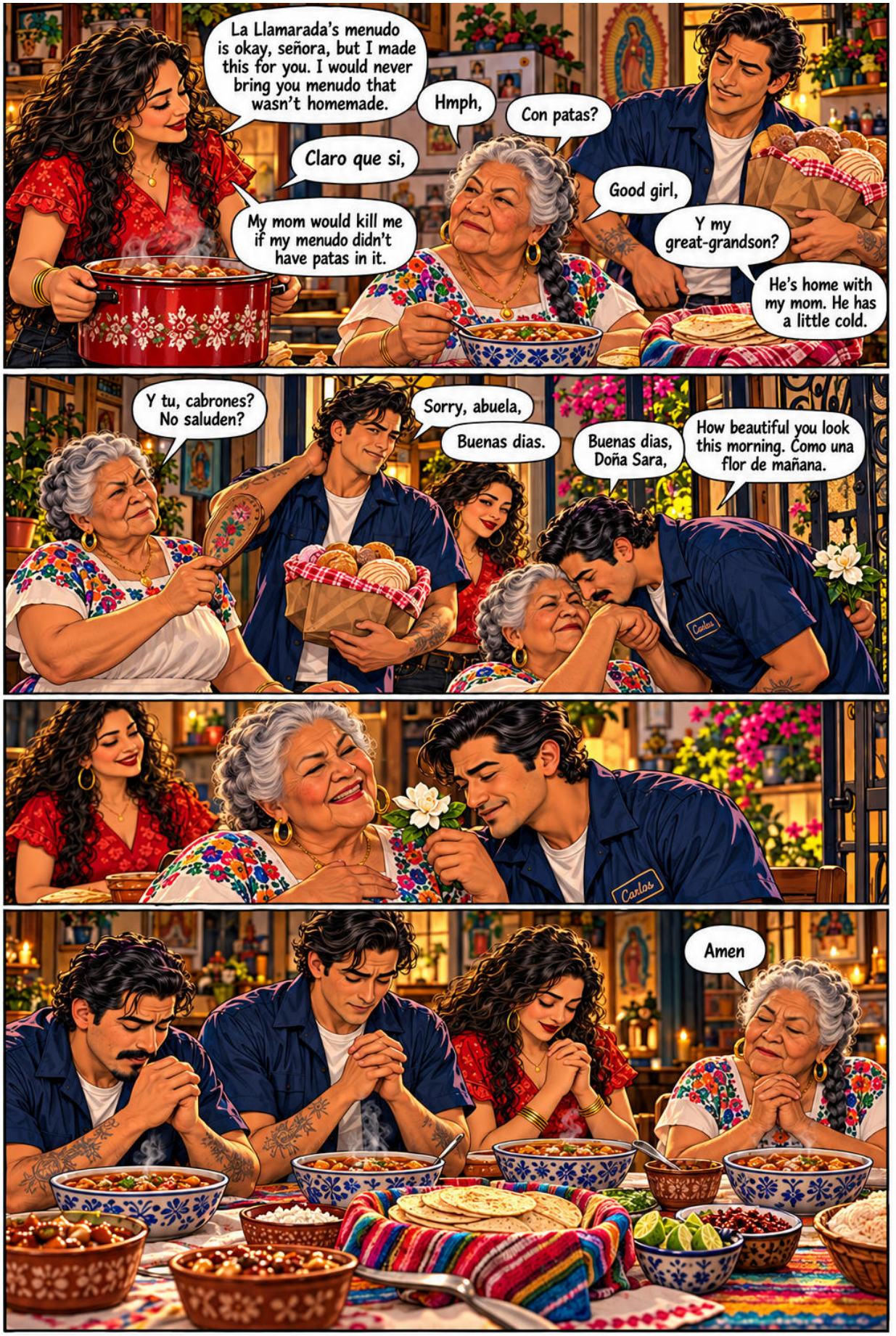

Pasadena Avenue,
I'll take you there tomorrow.
Orale.
Mija, here's the thing,
Oh shit, it's a thing,
Whenever it's a thing, shit happens like aliens landing in the park and us going to war with them. Or Dopey stealing a space rarifla and crash-landing it in the hood with frozen homies inside. Don't even get me started on the vampires and your cousin's abuela and her ray gun business. What in the hell is happening, now?
Nah, nah, Babe, nothing like that,
My abuela had that book up in the basement forever. I was there the other day, and she gave it to me and told me some of the story. I read what I. could of it and went to talk to Dopey about it. On a whim, he decided to take a drive to Hollywood to check it,
It's not there,
What do you mean, it's not there?


Look,
Here in these diagrams and notes, it says he moved it because he was afraid he wouldn't be able to get back without drawing attention to himself.
Shit.
Carlos
Well, wait,
There's more.
Mario says that he took the grail to the cemetery in East L.A. - Calvary. He said it was buried with the ancestors.
Dang. I don't remember any of our relatives buried there, they're all at San Fernando Mission.
Someone is buried at Calvary.
I'm trying to make out this name, but it's so faded.
I guess I should ask my abuela,
But damn, a cemetery is even worse that trying to break open a head at the Egyptian!
Damn, I wasted gas going over there.
That's what you fuckers get for not picking me up first and dissing me on the tacos.
Carlos
No mames,
I guess I'll go talk to my abuela and see what's up, but you're coming with me, cabron.
You come too. Ms. Yo se todo.
Fuck,
Just fuck.


Wonder which one of us gets the first chanclaso,
Chevrolet
Carlos
I'll put five bucks on the Dopester,


1426
Abuela,
It could be anybody, hasta espaceman cabrones or monstros.

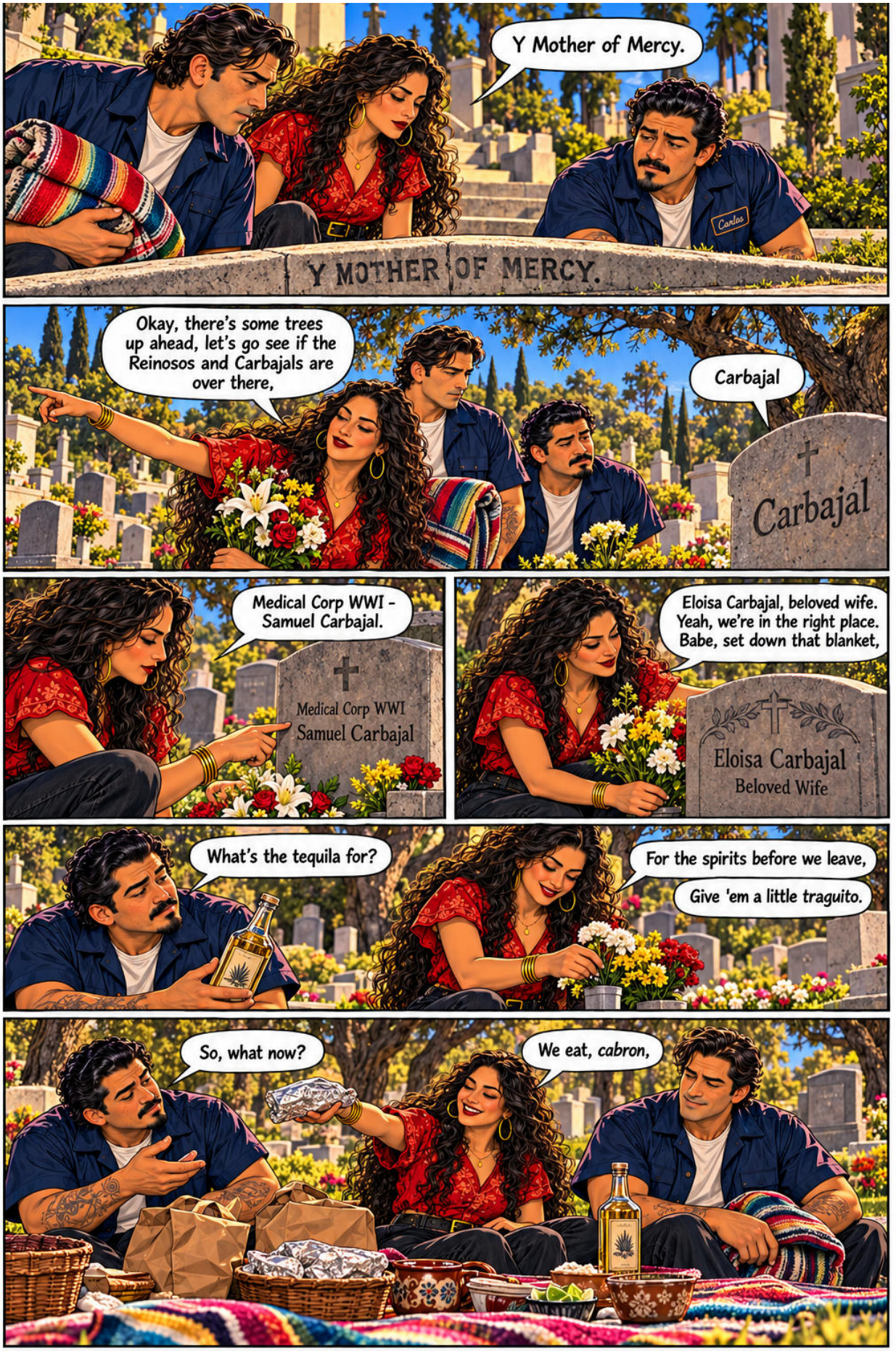

Some salesmen caught her watering her grass and tried to step into the yard.
She doused them with the hose, beat them with chanclas, and cursed up a blue streak.
They were trespassing. It's her right to defend her property.
The cop stood firm, earning Sara Carbajal's devotion.
Every morning she took Officer Garcia freshly made burritos.
LAPD
Officer Chulo!
LOS ANGELES POLICE
GARCIA
Officer Chulo was both the envy and the laughingstock of the station. He didn't care. Her burritos and salsa negro were the bomb.
LAPD
Carlos
Buenas dias, Doña Sara.
I brought some menudo.
Hay voy, Calmate, cabron.
Did you make it or buy it from La Llamarada?

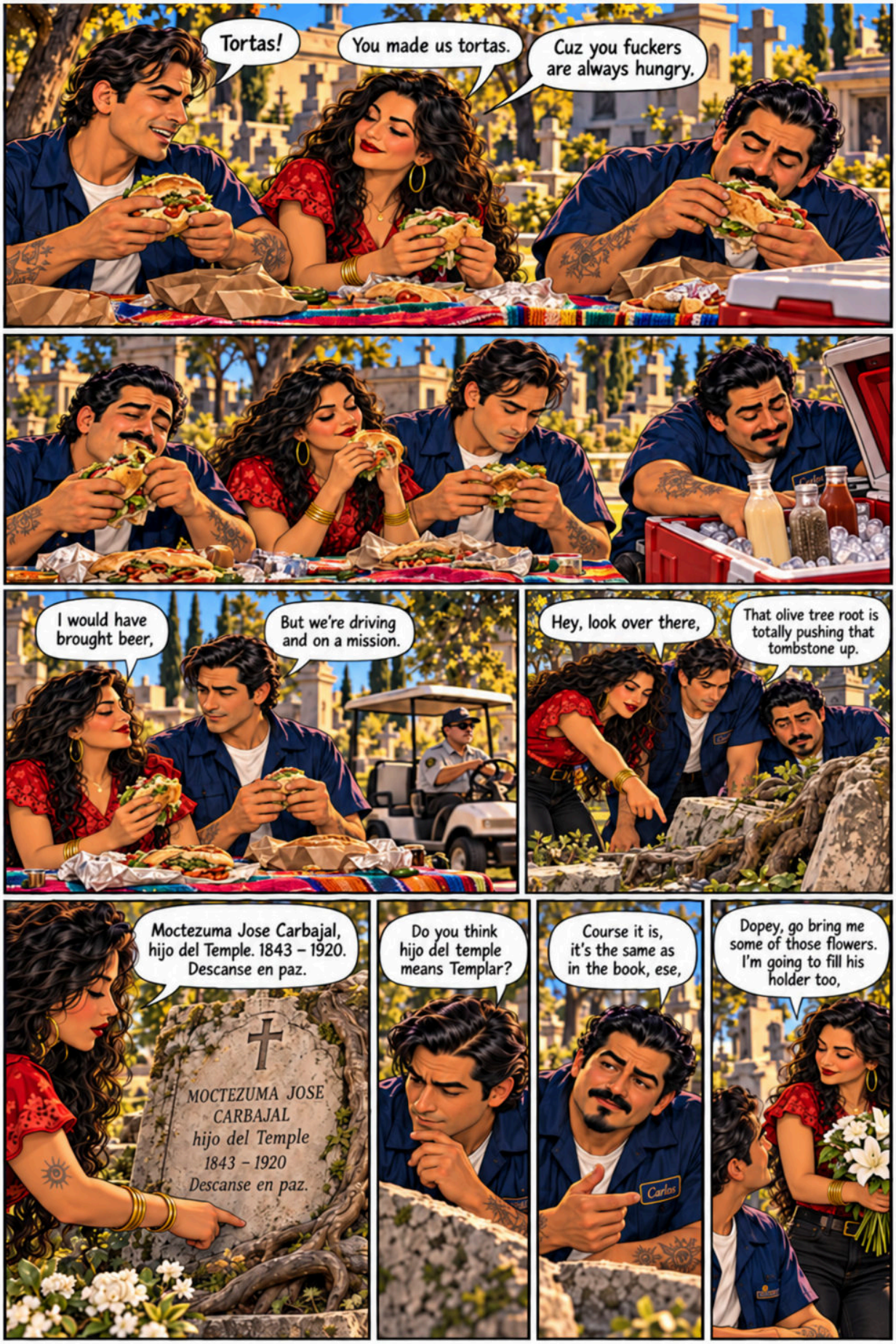

La Llamarada's menudo is okay, señora, but I made this for you. I would never bring you menudo that wasn't homemade.
Hmph,
Con patas?
Claro que si,
Good girl,
My mom would kill me if my menudo didn't have patas in it.
Y my great-grandson?
He's home with my mom. He has a little cold.
Y tu, cabrones? No saluden?
Sorry, abuela,
Buenas dias.
Buenas dias, Doña Sara,
How beautiful you look this morning. Como una flor de mañana.
Carlos
Carlos
Amen


So, what brings you cabrones to my door so early?
I wanted to go looking for our family over at Calvary and didn't know where to start,
Ah,
Well, it was a long time ago. I was just on my second husband when we stopped burying our people there. I don't know why, but later everyone wanted to be buried at the Mission.
Do you think this ancestor was buried there, abuela?
How many husbands did you have, Doña Sara?
Pues,
Let's see.
There was Pablo, that was that son of a bitch that hit me, but he got hit by a truck and died. He's at Calvary, el buey. Then there was the mariachi, Santos. Dios mio, he was good in bed.
Abuela!
Then there was Fidencio, the jeweler,
I married him after Santos died in a bar fight. Fidencio had a heart attack.
So, three then?
No,
I'm just warming up. There was Hipolito, who was the house painter. He disappeared. Then there was Ruben's grandfather, Ponciano, who died of a stroke. Then there was that tax guy in Boyle Heights, what was his name, oh yes, Tommy. He died at his desk.
Good Lord,
That's six!


Don't blaspheme,
Not six, I had eight husbands. The other two were Frank, who got shot in a robbery, and Tino, who just died two years ago from old age.
I don't know why. They were all strong men. I don't like wimps.
You outlived them all,
Carlos
Anyway, the family is buried near the mausoleum where Lou Costello is interred. Lots of Carbajals there and my own family, the Reinosos. You can find your great-grandfather Mario's grave there.
Lou Costello?
The comedian dude?
Yes,
Lots of important people are there. But past the big mausoleum, go around it to the Downey Road side and in section Mary Mother of Mercy, near some trees, you will find the familia. Take some flowers, no seran malcriados.
Carlos
Chingado! What the hell you have in here, mija?
Several cans of Aqua Net, chanclas, makeup, a few knives, and some other shit, of course.
AQUA NET
Carlos


Is that banda I hear?
Sounds like it.
The mausoleum is up that way towards the music.
Follow it.
Never been up here.
Look, you can see the whole city.
MANCINI
BELLINI
Lot of Itallian names in these alcove rooms,
The stained glass is gorgeous,
Guys, I don't think we should be poking around in here. Let's go back down and look for Mother of Mercy.


Y Mother of Mercy.
Carlos
Y MOTHER OF MERCY.
Okay, there's some trees up ahead, let's go see if the Reinosos and Carbajals are over there,
Carbajal
Carbajal
Medical Corp WWI - Samuel Carbajal.
Medical Corp WWI
Samuel Carbajal
Eloisa Carbajal, beloved wife. Yeah, we're in the right place. Babe, set down that blanket,
Eloisa Carbajal
Beloved Wife
What's the tequila for?
For the spirits before we leave,
Give 'em a little traguito.
So, what now?
We eat, cabron,

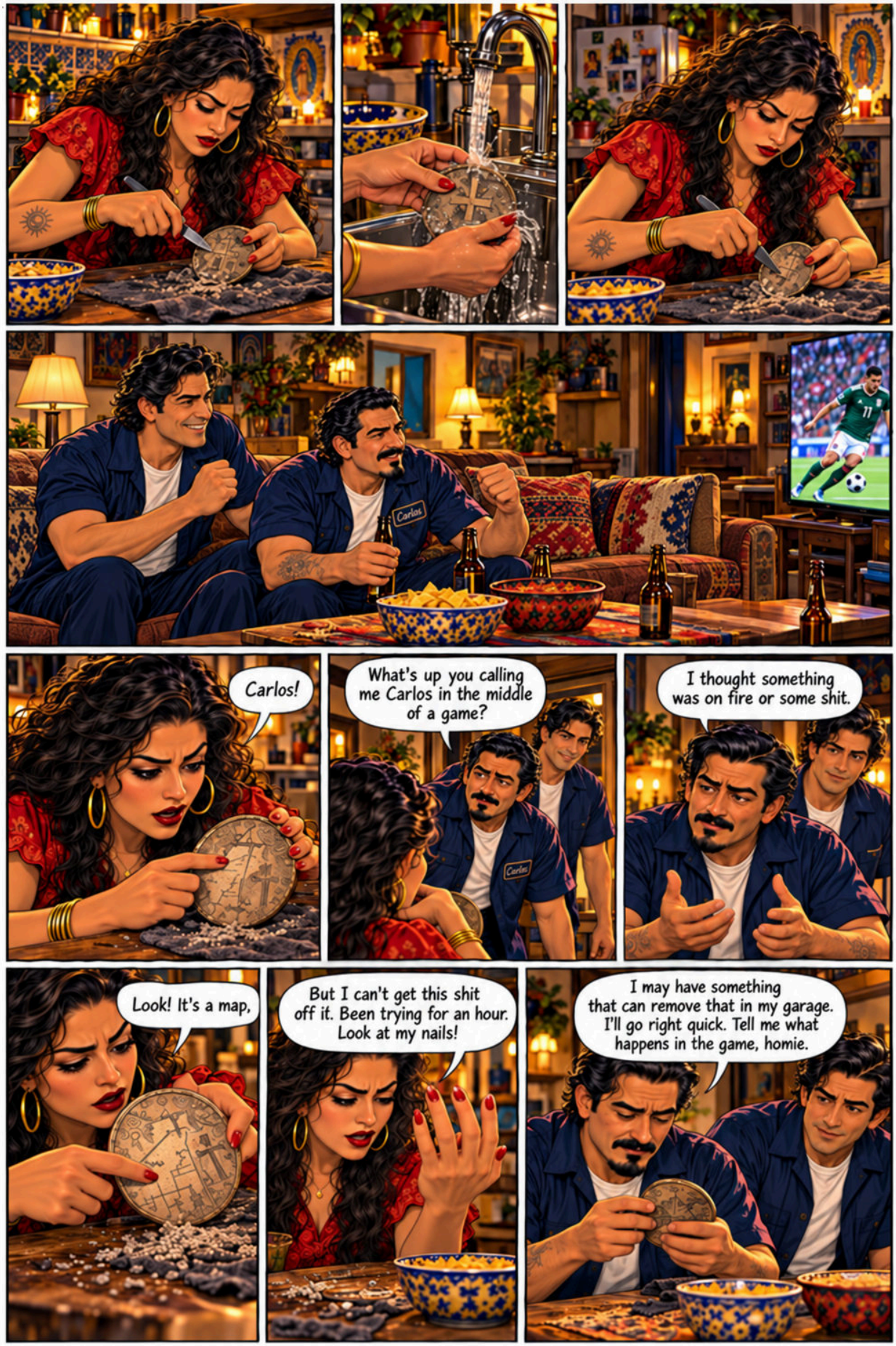

Tortas!
You made us tortas.
Cuz you fuckers are always hungry.
I would have brought beer,
But we're driving and on a mission.
Hey, look over there,
That olive tree root is totally pushing that tombstone up.
Moctezuma Jose Carbajal, hijo del Temple. 1843 – 1920. Descanse en paz.
MOCTEZUMA JOSE CARBAJAL
hijo del Temple
1843 – 1920
Descanse en paz.
Do you think hijo del temple means Templar?
Course it is, it's the same as in the book, ese,
Carlos
Dopey, go bring me some of those flowers. I'm going to fill his holder too,


Descanse en paz,
Chevrolet

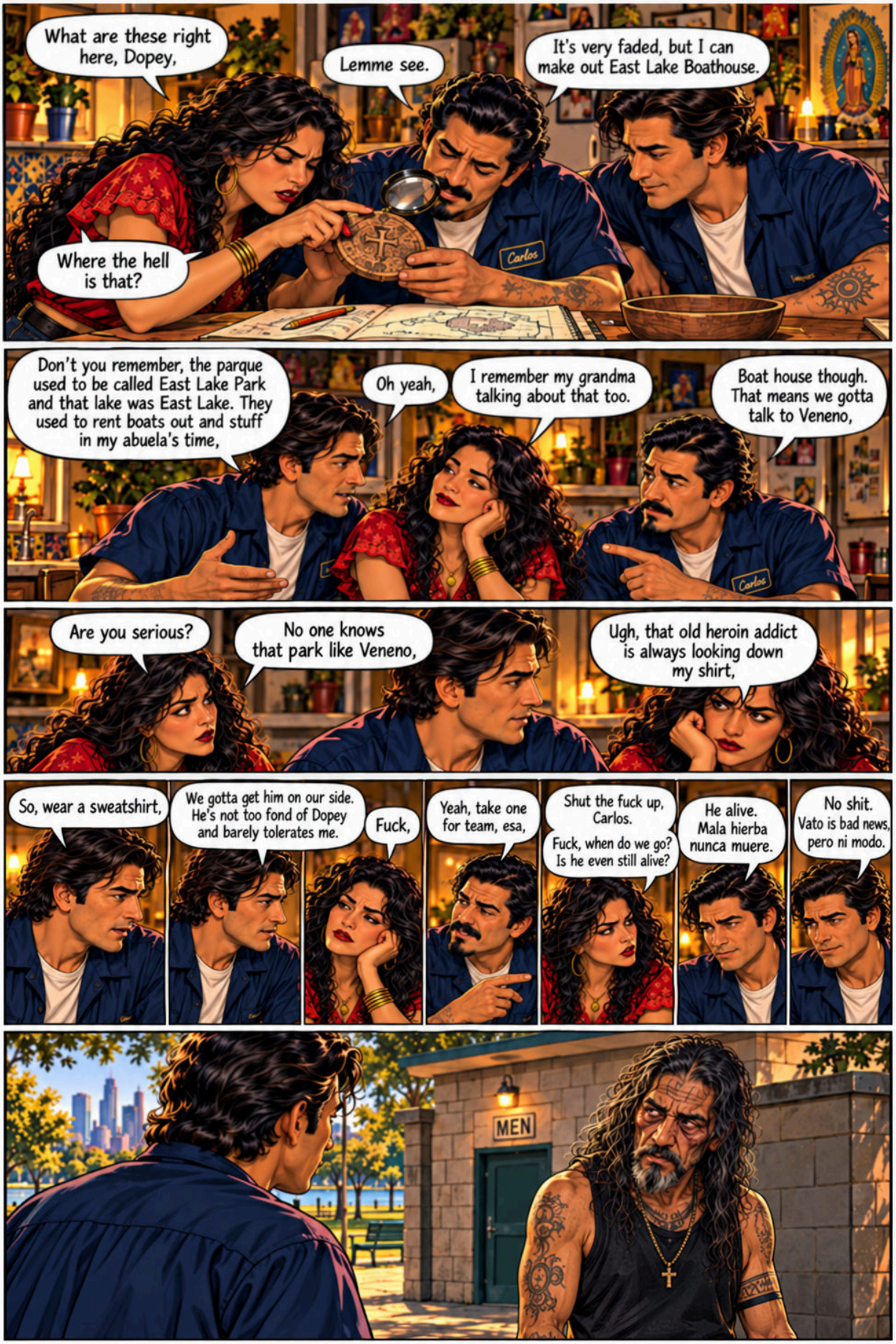

There are words on here, but I can't really see what they are,
Carlos


Let's go inside and check it out.


Not the Modelo you were eyeing, homie, but it's good and cold.
Carlos
Damn, that's good,
Carlos
GOOOOOOOOOOOAL,
Cavallero del Temple
Cavallero del Temple
My cup runneth over.
My cup runneth over.


Carlos!
What's up you calling me Carlos in the middle of a game?
I thought something was on fire or some shit.
Look! It's a map,
But I can't get this shit off it. Been trying for an hour. Look at my nails!
I may have something that can remove that in my garage. I'll go right quick. Tell me what happens in the game, homie.


Is it working,
Yep,
Shut up fool.
Shit stinks to high heaven. It smells like where Smiley gets her nails done,
Carlos
Okay, that should do it,
Is it a map, homie?
Yeah, it is. It looks like it leads to the parque,
The park? Lincoln Park?
Yup, look, There's the lake,
Damn,
Remember that time that homie Hercules tried to catch a duck and fell in and came out dripping like that swamp thing with algae all over him?
Why'd he want that duck anyway,
He was gonna eat it,
He was just over from some small village in Mexico and he thought you could just catch shit and eat it. He went full on hunter.
Cops caught him at it too. Deported his ass, algae and all.


What are these right here, Dopey,
Lemme see.
It's very faded, but I can make out East Lake Boathouse.
Where the hell is that?
Carlos
Don't you remember, the parque used to be called East Lake Park and that lake was East Lake. They used to rent boats out and stuff in my abuela's time,
Oh yeah,
I remember my grandma talking about that too.
Boat house though. That means we gotta talk to Veneno,
Carlos
Are you serious?
No one knows that park like Veneno,
Ugh, that old heroin addict is always looking down my shirt,
So, wear a sweatshirt,
We gotta get him on our side. He's not too fond of Dopey and barely tolerates me.
Fuck,
Yeah, take one for team, esa,
Shut the fuck up, Carlos.
Fuck, when do we go? Is he even still alive?
He alive. Mala hierba nunca muere.
No shit. Vato is bad news, pero ni modo.
MEN


Hey, fucker. What are you doing outta Highland Park.
Looking for pleito?
Nah, carnal. Just wanted to say hey.
what's up?
LINCOLN PARK
My vieja wants to talk to you, ese,
It ain't mine, I swear.
Nah, carnal,
Then why she not here then?
She thought you might like to come to the house for some food, ese. You hungry?
I could eat,
Let's go then, I got my car.
Firme.
Not only do I have to talk to that perverted old cholo, but now I gotta cook for the cabron too?
We'll get more info out of him if he's happy and eating.
Carlos


Well, I'm sure he'll be looking around trying to see what he could steal. I sent Little Junior to my mom's cuz I don't want him around that dude,
You beat those eggs anymore, they going to be meringues,
Shut up.
Carlos
Whatcha making, Cuz?
Shit I don't know,
Make migas,
No one's migas are better than yours.
Thanks,
Nah, I'm gonna make chilaquiles.
Ooh! The red ones or the green ones?
Red,
Damn,
I'm aredady drooling,
Then make yourself useful and go grate some cheese and chop onion or something instead of just sitting there all baboso.
Damn, carnal, your ruca can burn,
Carlos
It's like I wasn't even here,
Damn, girl,
That's not how you serve a beer.
Oh,
I didn't know that.
Ruben never taught me.

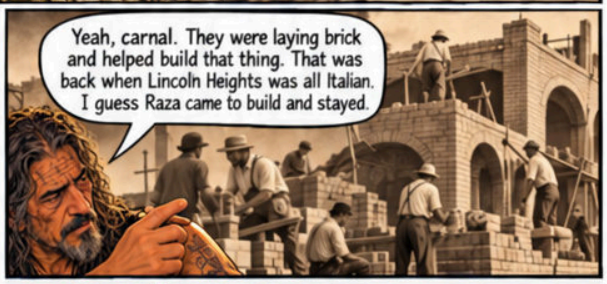

Should teach your ruca how to serve a beer, ese. Train her up.


So, carnal,
Smiley wanted to know about the boat house at East Lake.
Whatcha wanna know, mija?


Like any stories about it,
I was walking by there the other day and wondered then Ruben said you knew everything about it.

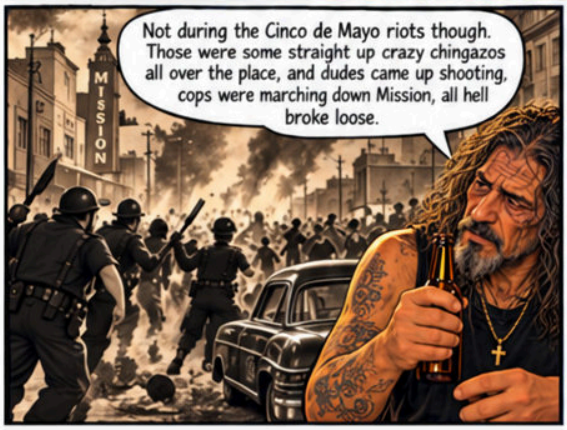

Oh, there were some great times in that thing.


You know, my dad and Ruben's grandpa worked on it, laying the brick back in the day.
They did?

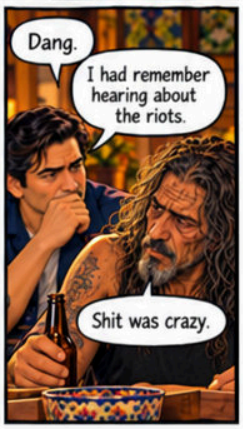

Yeah, carnal. They were laying brick and helped build that thing. That was back when Lincoln Heights was all Italian. I guess Raza came to build and stayed.

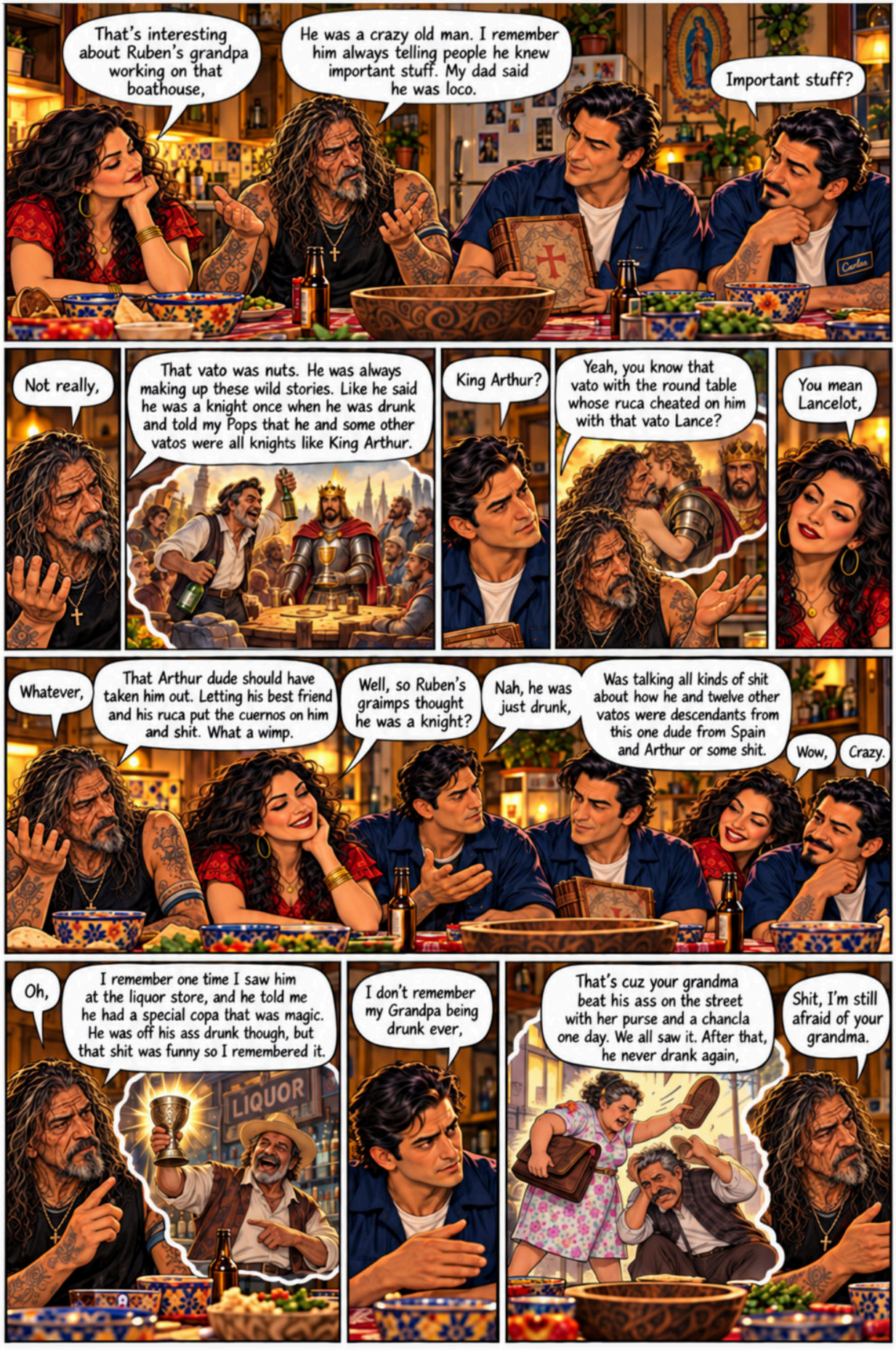

Used to be a make out place too. Vato would sneak up in there with his ruca and do the nasty.
What else?


Chingazos, of course,


MISSION
Not during the Cinco de Mayo riots though. Those were some straight up crazy chingazos all over the place, and dudes came up shooting, cops were marching down Mission, all hell broke loose.


Saw lot of people bleeding on the ground. It's a different place now, but the boathouse ain't been touched. Still the same as ever.


Dang.
I had remember hearing about the riots.
Shit was crazy.

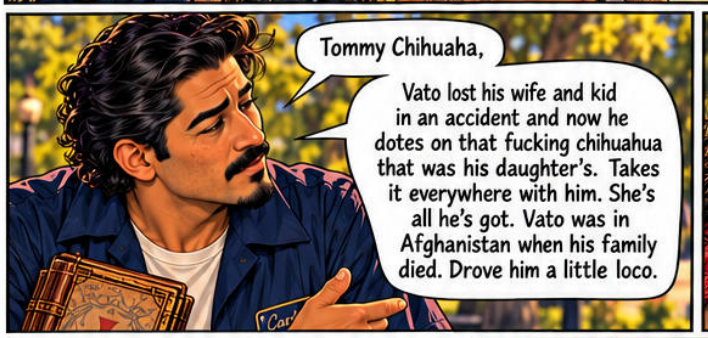

That's interesting about Ruben's grandpa working on that boathouse,
He was a crazy old man. I remember him always telling people he knew important stuff. My dad said he was loco.
Important stuff?
Not really,
That vato was nuts. He was always making up these wild stories. Like he said he was a knight once when he was drunk and told my Pops that he and some other vatos were all knights like King Arthur.
King Arthur?
Yeah, you know that vato with the round table whose ruca cheated on him with that vato Lance?
You mean Lancelot,
Whatever,
That Arthur dude should have taken him out. Letting his best friend and his ruca put the cuernos on him and shit. What a wimp.
Well, so Ruben's graimps thought he was a knight?
Nah, he was just drunk,
Was talking all kinds of shit about how he and twelve other vatos were descendants from this one dude from Spain and Arthur or some shit.
Wow,
Crazy.
Oh,
I remember one time I saw him at the liquor store, and he told me he had a special copa that was magic. He was off his ass drunk though, but that shit was funny so I remembered it.
LIQUOR
I don't remember my Grandpa being drunk ever,
That's cuz your grandma beat his ass on the street with her purse and a chancla one day. We all saw it. After that, he never drank again,
Shit, I'm still afraid of your grandma.


Anyway, that's the story about the boat house. Lincoln Heights, y que? It was fun remembering some of that, not the riots though,
Damn those were good eats, too.
I'll pack you some up. I gotta go get my kid in a few but thank you for coming and telling me about that place.
Thanks for having me, chula,
Thanks for your help V.
Carlos
Damn girl you fine.




Lorca is safer here. Valley parking lot is too packed on a Saturday, and those fuckers might chip the paint.
Carlos

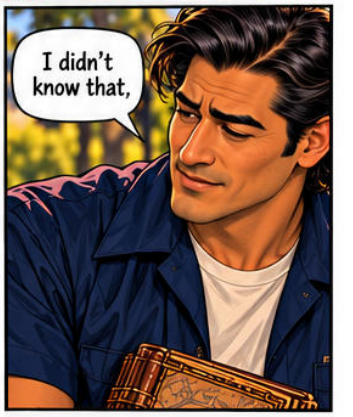

Who is that vato, Carlos?
Carlos
VETERAN


Tommy Chihuaha,
Vato lost his wife and kid in an accident and now he dotes on that fucking chihuahua that was his daughter's. Takes it everywhere with him. She's all he's got. Vato was in Afghanistan when his family died. Drove him a little loco.


Dang. That's sad.


Anything we can do for him?

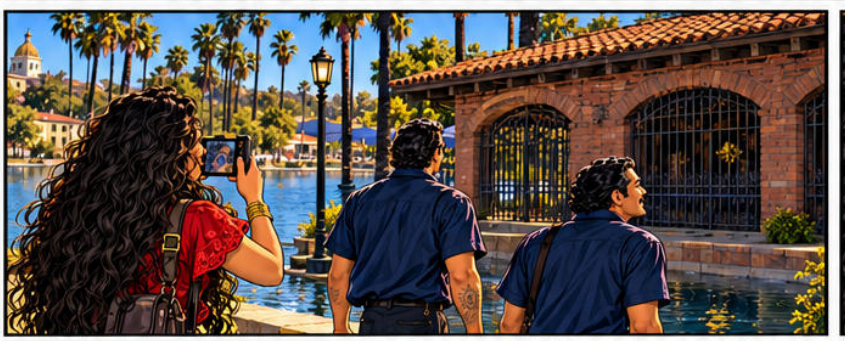

Your abuela Sara feeds him and brings him dog food for the chihuahua.

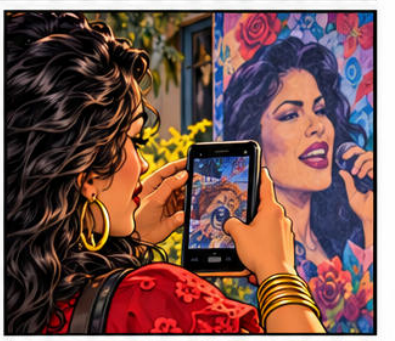

I didn't know that,


Your abuela does a lot of good in the barrio that most people don't know about. She likes to keep it like that.
PLAZA DE LA RAZA
We should help her with that, Ruben.
Yeah.
Carlos

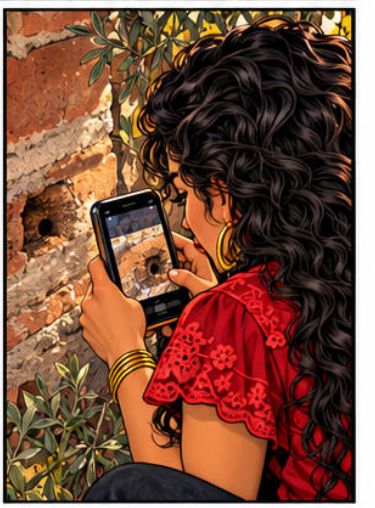

So, what's the plan?
Well, we'll go scope out the boathouse and see if we see anything interesting. We'll figure it out from there.


Wow they really changed this place,
Yeah,
They got some artists in and did the murals. Did you see the one of Selena and Jenny Rivera?
Where?
Right in front of the old boat house,
Guess that gives us an excuse to be poking around there,






What's this, carnal?
Dunno. Looks like something burrowed in. Smiley, watcha.
Carlos




Carlos
Check this out,
Carlos
See that thing, it looks like there's something shiny in that hole,
I see it!
Like something brillando.
MANNY'S EL LOCO
TACOS
BURRITOS
QUESADILLAS
TOSTADAS
what's up, Dopes?
I gotta get to the boathouse and pull out a brick or two.
We gotta little boat stashed in the pile of junk by the new gym they are making,
If we're quiet, we can row you to the outside ramp and you can get in that way
Firme.


Where the fuck did you get that?
Made it in art class at the Plaza,
We stashed it and use it to fish the lake at night when no one is around, ese.
Meet us at Manny's,
MANNY'S TACOS

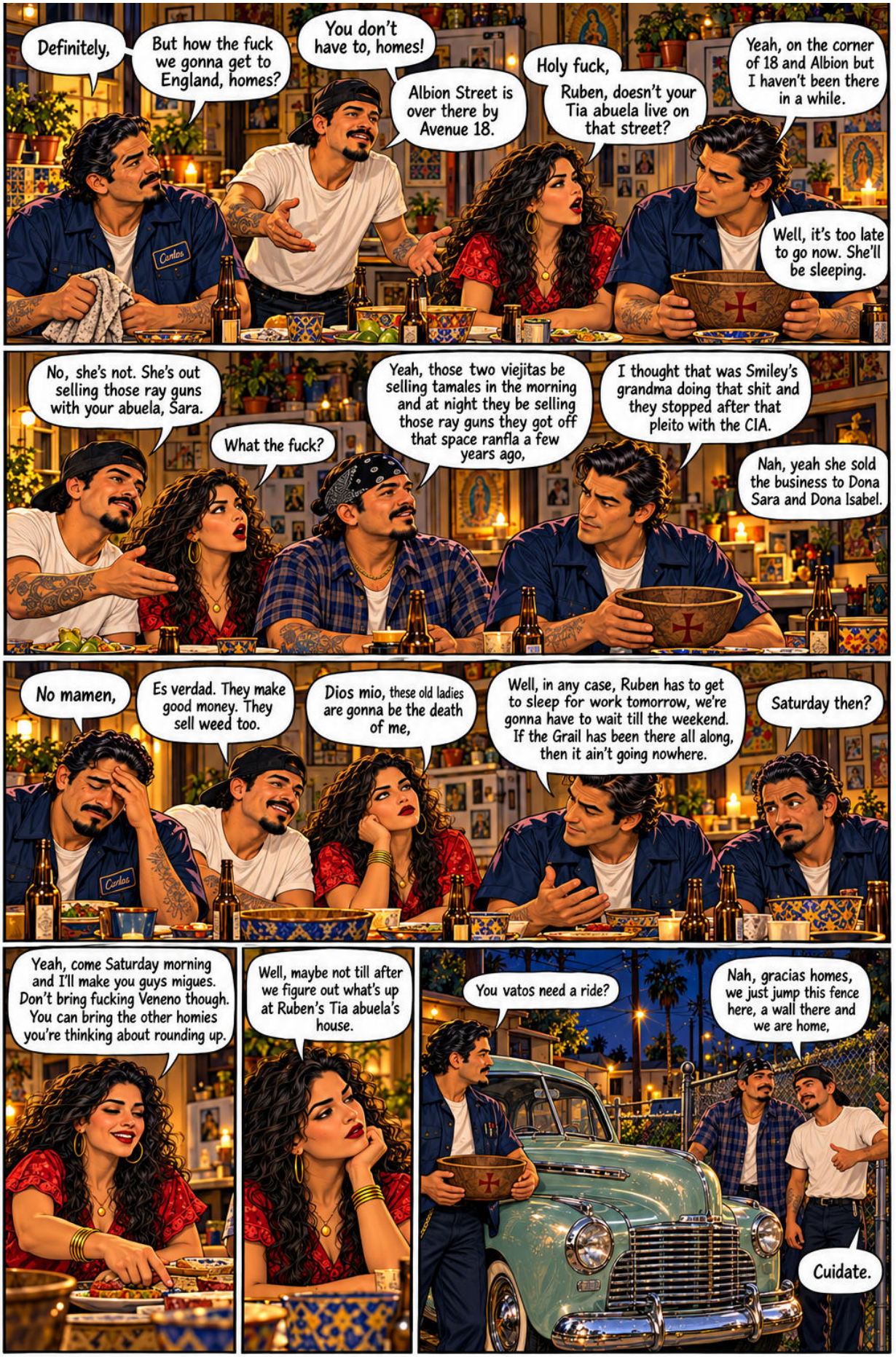

MANNY'S TACOS
Nah, homies. Chale. I'm paying.
Provecho,
Like King Arthur shit, homie?
Eso.
So, like in the stories about the Grail, ese, there were twelve knights, no?
Well, there were twelve knights of the round table, but different ones went on quests for it,
Then we need twelve homies we can trust, and we can all help look for it,
If you can't trust the homies, then...
Okay then, let's head back to Ruben's and we'll check out the brick and figure it out. You vatos good to go?
Simon, vamos a la canton.
trucha eses, la placa.


MANNY'S TACOS
Hey, esay,
Howdy officers.
Don't get smart with me,
I was just saying hello. Do you mind if I throw my garbage? The wife is waiting at home.
You wouldn't happen to know anything about a robbery on Daly, would you?
What are you esays doing out so late?
Just eating a burrito and shooting the shit,
We were just headed home.
No, sir, I wouldn't. We finished up work, came here to eat something, and are headed home. My friend Carlos over there gives us a ride home.
Well, some esays matching your descriiption robbed a jewelry store on Daly about 20 minutes ago,
Couldn't have been us, officer. Twenty minutes ago, we were here. Ask 'em.
I'm going to need to frisk you.
Go ahead.
Hey Mike, he's cooperating. Don't be so rough. I'll ask the workers inside.


They're clean,
And they were here for about 45 minutes. These aren't our guys.
I'll be watching you, esay.
Fucking pigs,
You're bleeding, all over your shirt, homes. Gonna scare the shit outta my cousin.
Carlos
Fuck.
Yeah. Let's get the fuck outta here homes before they come back.
What happened?
The ruca always knows. I swear she's a bruja.
Carlos


Well, Ruben. What happened?
Jura,
We were at Manny's talking to the Jokers and the jura rolled up and there's this new cornfed white boy of a cop, he shoved Ruben up against the wall.
Fuck.
You okay, Babe?
Goddamnit, fucking placas. I'm never going to get these blood stains out. Those bastards.
Okay, Carlos...talk since Ruben's gotta chill for a minute with that ice,
Oh hi, Jokers. You guys want anything to drink?
Here,
Dos Equis XX
Carlos...
Yeah, yeah okay. Don't get your chonies in a twist,
Carlos
So, we went to the park but couldn't figure out how to get the brick, but then the Jokers showed up and had a canoe.
It comes in handy, esa.
I bet,
So, we got the brick and then headed to Mannys to explain to the vatos.
In other words, you fuckers were hungry, got chile relleno burritos and brought me caca.
Well, we were gonna get you one but the jura showed up.


Fucking jura, cheating deserves rucas out of burritos.
What's in it?
Lemme open it and find out.
You try, Carlos.
Carlos
Nope, ain't opening.
Hang on,
Try that.
There's a paper in here but I can't get it out.
Give it here.
It's tiny Spanish writing, and kinda smeared,
Hmmm...it says, "If you seek the cup and are a knight of honor, then seek its home in the Albion."
What the hell? What's the Albion?
Well, Albion was England's name, well Britain really, but it's an old name, esa. Kinda archaic.
How do you know that, Dopes?
Elena,
So maybe a name a Templar would know?


Definitely,
But how the fuck we gonna get to England, homes?
You don't have to, homes!
Albion Street is over there by Avenue 18.
Holy fuck,
Ruben, doesn't your Tia abuela live on that street?
Yeah, on the corner of 18 and Albion but I haven't been there in a while.
Well, it's too late to go now. She'll be sleeping.
No, she's not. She's out selling those ray guns with your abuela, Sara.
What the fuck?
Yeah, those two viejitas be selling tamales in the morning and at night they be selling those ray guns they got off that space ranfla a few years ago,
I thought that was Smiley's grandma doing that shit and they stopped after that pleito with the CIA.
Nah, yeah she sold the business to Dona Sara and Dona Isabel.
No mamen,
Es verdad. They make good money. They sell weed too.
Dios mio, these old ladies are gonna be the death of me,
Well, in any case, Ruben has to get to sleep for work tomorrow, we're gonna have to wait till the weekend. If the Grail has been there all along, then it ain't going nowhere.
Saturday then?
Yeah, come Saturday morning and I'll make you guys migues. Don't bring fucking Veneno though. You can bring the other homies you're thinking about rounding up.
Well, maybe not till after we figure out what's up at Ruben's Tia abuela's house.
You vatos need a ride?
Nah, gracias homes, we just jump this fence here, a wall there and we are home,
Cuidate.


No, not really. Just, do you really think Ruben is gonna find this grail chingadera?
Trouble, mi amor?
Oh yes,
I do.
Why?
Because it's meant to be, just like we were meant to be together, just like we were meant to beat the aliens.
You know,
The Grail legends have a lot in them about resurrection. I wonder...
You mean, it could bring you back, Lenita?
I don't know but maybe.
Si Dios quiere,
Si Dios quiere.


La Bruja
Avenue 18
Albion
EL MILAGRO
FRUTAS · VERDURAS · CARNES
Pendejos,
Pendejos, tapados, y malcriados,
At least they don't come bothering me anymore now they think I'm a witch.
Must be Sara,
RING RING
Tia,
Tia, are you there?
Rubencito!
I think she has Alzheimer's.
Yeah, she forgets a lot. Did she forget your name?
No,
But it took her a couple of minutes to remember it. Anyhow, she says we can come over on Saturday and she'll make chile verde for a crowd.
Yum,
At least she's not forgetting how to cook. Still, we should have one of the cousins go stay with her, she might leave the stove on or something.
Good luck trying that,


We can check on her and she'll never know. That back door of hers slides right open.
And you know that, why?
Well, you know how all the barrio calls her a bruja?

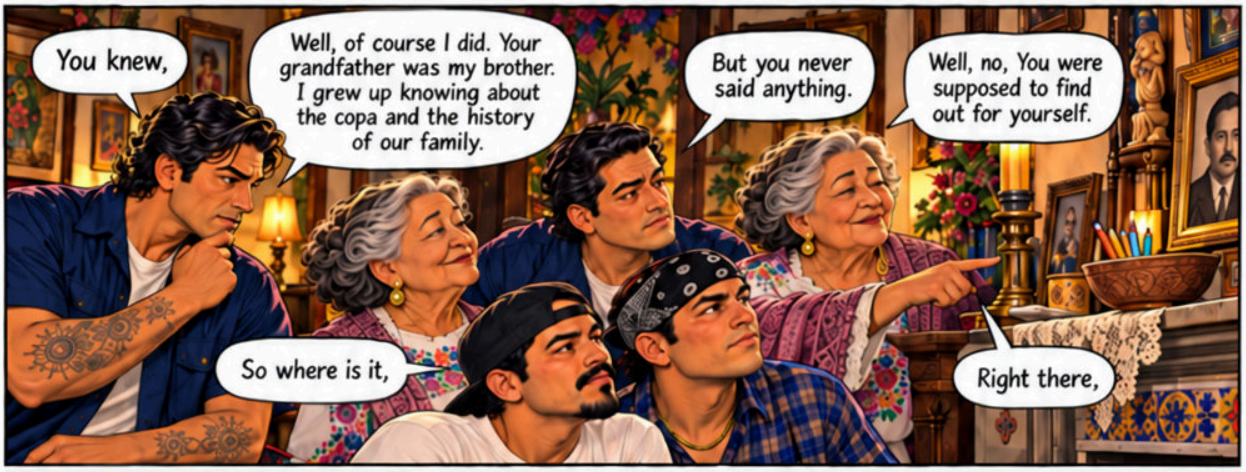

Well, I wanted to see if it were true. So, I went in there one night and there was nada. No altar, no brujeria stuff, nada. So, I left and she caught me on the way out, then fed me eggs with salsa.
She caught you and you're alive?
Almost pissed myself, homes. But she laughed and made me help her with those fucking ray guns. That's how we know what she does.


Me and Big, we help her every night and she feeds us. But we're not supposed to tell anyone. She does the bruja stuff to scare people so they don't know she's selling that shit. She's a smart lady.
Okay then.






I made you mancha manteles and the chile verde I promised,
Sientenses.
Damn, Tia, you didn't have to go through all this trouble,
Calllate, I never see you, of course I had to. Also, I get bored, so this was fun, like the old days when your Tio was alive and the kids were home.
How are the grandkids, Tia?
Pues, tu sabes. The grandkids are in college over there in Connecticaca. I don't know why my girls married gringos and moved so far away.
Tia Isabel, do you remember anything about templar knights.?
Well, si, hijo, your grandfather was one, no? Did you come for the copa?
Silencio,
I knew it would be you, Rubencito. I've known for a while.


You knew,
Well, of course I did. Your grandfather was my brother. I grew up knowing about the copa and the history of our family.
But you never said anything.
Well, no, You were supposed to find out for yourself.
So where is it,
Right there,


It's been there since my brother brought it to me and told me to hide it because people were looking for him.
What am I supposed to do with it?


Pues, no se. I don't know.
It can't be this easy,




It is the Grail. I know what I'm supposed to do with it,


Gracias, Tia Isabel,
De nada, hijo. Come more often, si?
Claro que si.


They spent the rest of the day at Tia Isabel's working on the house and gardens.


Smiley washed the dishes, then sat in the kitchen with Isabel, writing down her recipe while the guys worked on the yard.
Tia,
Are you up to stuff you shouldn't be doing?
Yes, but that's none of your business, don't be nosy.


Um, okay then but Ruben worries so, por favor, be careful.
I'm always trucha. But hija, I forget things.


Do you want to go to the doctor?
Pfft. No. For what? I already know. I'm losing my mind, no? The Alzheimers. Back in my day we called it senile.
But there are tests, Tia and maybe it's something else. Could be just you need to sleep better.
Hmmph.
Just think about it, okay?
Okay, but you take me.
Okay then.


No, carnal, I need you. Come inside a bit.
I hope this grail chingadera doesn't bring pleito.
Still got the movidas, homie,
Shoulda done beisbol for the Dodgers, ese.
Nah, I just know better than to let anything spill on my prima's clean floors,
Carlos


Junior sleeping?
Yeah, he wanted a story, but knocked out before I could open the book,
Babe, I figured out the Grail,
You did? Well, what the fuck does it do?
It lets you go through time. It talks to me and tells me we can travel to different times, different worlds, different universes, and shit.
En serio?
Yeah, Babe. Serio.
Well, holy shit, Ruben, get off your ass!
What do you mean?
I always wanted to go to Aztec times.
Ooh that would be cool as long as we don't get into pleito with jaguar warriors,
Or be a sacrifice
Still, haven't you ever wondered if Cortes and those conquistador vatos made up all that stuff?
Yeah but Miguel Leon de Portillo's research said they did
I don't wanna end up in some Aztec's pozole, ese but we can be trucha,
Well, if they come after us, I have the grail and we can bounce out.
Tomorrow, we'll take Junior over to my Tia's and try it,
It can't be much worse than ICE trying to kidnap us and send us to lockdown in some crazy country with no laws
No shit Okay let's do it,
NEXT MORNING
LED ZEPPELIN


Sup,
Going to head out with you and your ruca to Aztec times, homes,
Someone has to document that shit.
Carlos
I figured you would, despite the threat of being someone's pozole.
ahcodo
I ran into Dopes at my Tia's when I took Junior. We figured we could use some backup. Remember what that note said about 12 descendants and the Jokers saying we should go in a group of 12? The jokers called the homies so I'm putting together some comida to take along. I'm not eating some weird shit like pond scum,
I see only eleven here,
You didn't think I was leaving Elena to go on your crazy Grail Quest desmadre, did you homie?
Carlos
Well, no. My mistake.
Aqua-Net, babe?
AQUA NET
Payaso studies warfare and strategy. We could use him.
Thirteen, then.
Well, what if there aren't just crazy Aztec warriors out to kill us. What if there are aliens? Also, what if conquistadores come? I can spray 'em in the eyes,
AQUA NET
Carlos


Okay, everyone hold onto each other. I have no idea what will happen when I use this thing but I know we all have to be connected,
Then circle round Lorca and link up,
Pinches cholos,

Los Arthurian Cholos will be back...

if they don’t end up in the pozole.



Ruben Carbajal



Lourdes Amalia “Smiley” Carbajal



Carlos “Dopey” Marin



Maria Elena Santiago (Elena)

Gina Ruiz

Los homies



Big Joker



Little Joker



Boxer



Payaso



Tiny



Sleepy



Creeper



Ghost



Flaco