

Down and Brown Thanksgiving

By

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CHARACTERS

VICTORIA, 18, Latina, College Freshman.

XOCHITL, 20, Latina. VICTORIA's friend. College Junior.

TIME

The present, Thanksgiving Day afternoon.

PLACE

Outside of VICTORIA's childhood home in Huntington Beach, California.

Lights Up.

VICTORIA is outside the door of her parent's house face-timing with XOCHITL.

XOCHITL

You can do this. I empower you mujer! It's time to lay down some knowledge.

VICTORIA

I'm not sure.

XOCHITL

You have the power. The power of Aztlán running in your veins. Brown Power. ¡Viva la gente!

VICTORIA

Viva la gente?

XOCHITL

Louder! ¡Viva la gente!

VICTORIA

Viva la gente.

VICTORIA & XOCHITL

¡VIVA LA GENTE!

XOCHITL

OK! Did you study your Chicano/Chicana Studies flashcards on the way home?

VICTORIA

¡Sí!

XOCHITL

What do you say if someone says we are on "American" land.

VICTORIA

This was Mexico until the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. We didn't cross the border! The border crossed us!

XOCHITL

You might get some pushback on this. Your mom might say

that she is a "Mexican-American" or worse, "Hispanic".
You're going to say...

VICTORIA

We are Chicanas!

XOCHITL

No. No.

VICTORIA

Chicanas starting with an "x". But I dunno. That's going to be hard to explain if I need to write it down to show her the difference between starting with the "ch" and now the "x".

XOCHITL

Try again.

VICTORIA

Chicana starting with "x" but ending with the "a" slash "o".

XOCHITL

No.

VICTORIA

Ending with the "at" symbol?

XOCHITL

Weren't you listening at solidarity meeting on "Educating your Internally Colonized Brown Family"? It starts with an "l"...

VICTORIA

Latina with the "a" slash "o" at the end? Or ending with the "at" symbol?

XOCHITL

Sometimes I don't know about you Victoria. I'm not sure we can take selfies together at the next march. (Beat) Just kidding! I believe in you mujer. Last time. It starts with an "l" but ends with a ...

VICTORIA

X! Latinx!

XOCHITL

Yes!

VICTORIA

So sorry to forget Xochitl (*pronounces it "so-chill"*). I mean Xochitl (*pronounces it correctly*). It's going to be really tough with my mom. I've spent eight hours on the five driving home refining my ten point plan on how I'm going to school her on her self-hate and internalized colonization that is showing up in the misogynistic, racist, classist, cis-gender, heteronormative with oppressive pronouns posts on her Facebook feed.

XOCHITL

Stand strong comadre! You got this.

VICTORIA

I hope so. It's going to be really hard walking through that door for Thanksgiving dinner.

XOCHITL

Thanksgiving? THANKSGIVING!

VICTORIA

I mean the celebration of "First Peoples Saving Undocumented Europeans from Starvation who Repaid the Kindness with Genocide Day". Served along with some pumpkin pie.

XOCHITL

Is it vegan pumpkin pie?

VICTORIA

What?

XOCHITL

Is? It? Vegan?

VICTORIA

I'm not sure. I've never made pumpkin pie. I don't know what is in it.

XOCHITL

You better find out. Only the truly Down and Brown gente

practice non exploitive eating and honor all of Mother Earth's resources and creatures.

VICTORIA

Maybe I can eat the green bean casserole.

XOCHITL

Is it topped with those canned fried onions?

VICTORIA

Probably.

XOCHITL

Um.

VICTORIA

What? What!

XOCHITL

Have you ever looked at the sides of those cans sold by the chain grocery stores colluding and supported by the transnational corporations that work globally to keep the brown man down? Have you ever looked at the chemicals listed in them?

Chemicals we can't even pronounce! Chemicals poisoning our bodies and poisoning the earth. Chemicals probably made by Monsanto and processed by our brothers and sisters here and in other countries exploiting them economically, physically, and spiritually in the name of Profit.

Do you want that in your body? The chemicals? The oppression? Do you want to feed that to your indigenous soul?

VICTORIA

I guess not. But I'm not sure what to eat. Maybe the mash potatoes?

XOCHITL

Are they made with organic and locally sourced almond milk?

VICTORIA

Ok. I'll eat the fresh cranberries.

XOCHITL

Are they made with big corporation sugar or organic sugar?

VICTORIA

I don't know. My mom gets all our sugar from Costco because it's cheaper.

XOCHITL

So...

VICTORIA

I don't know what else I can eat. I don't think my mom has anything organic!

XOCHITL

Air my friend. You exist on the air that nurtures your soul. Air free of oppression. Free of transnational corporations' exploitive practices. Free air. The air of the righteous. Breathe with me. *(They breathe together)*.

VICTORIA

I can do this!

XOCHITL

You can do this. ¡Viva la Raza!

VICTORIA

¡Viva la Raza!

VICTORIA & XOCHITL

¡VIVA LA RAZA!

VICTORIA

Ok! Just one more thing. What about politics - the last election? It could get ugly.

XOCHITL

Pues! It something you can all agree on.

VICTORIA

Well, not so much.

XOCHITL

You mean they voted...

VICTORIA

I'm going to need more flashcards.

XOCHITL

Victoria! Why didn't you tell me sooner?

VICTORIA

I'm still in shock.

XOCHITL

Do your parents know they're brown?

VICTORIA

Not according to Facebook.

XOCHITL

This calls for serious strategy and saging! I need a couple more minutes.

VICTORIA

There is no time! Mom keeps passive aggressive texting me! I have to go in!

XOCHITL

Mujer, I'll make offerings to Tonatzin for you.

VICTORIA

I have my emergency palo santo y copal.

XOCHITL

Good! And if all else fails, drink.

VICTORIA

I'm under age! She won't let me.

XOCHITL

Then get her drunk. Bring out the second box of wine! Eso! You got this comadre! Keep me updated by text. If you have any problems I got my high school friend Lettie at UCLA. She has rounded up some MEChistas to go on a Rescue Operation into Huntington Beach if you need them. We are mobilized. We are on call. We got you. ¡Sí Se Puede!

VICTORIA

¡Sí Se Puede!

VICTORIA & XOCHITL

¡SÍ SE PUEDE!

Lights out.