

Los Tres Intentos

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Based on story by

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"Los Tres Intentos"

FADE IN:

INT. DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP

At the entrance of a large room, a sign reads:

"Cheer Up! Women's Depression Support Group. Tonight 7:00 P.M."

CLOSE ON

Post-it note that reads: "Esperanza"

WIDE SHOT

of the room shows ESPERANZA (35) an introverted woman and several other WOMEN sitting silent in a circle.

Each of the participants wears a similar post-it note with her name on it. Each's face with a different, depressed look.

Esperanza looks uncomfortable, out of place, though she listens quietly.

A WOMAN (50's) across from Esperanza has the floor.

WOMAN

Are you bleeding? No. Cancer? No.
Bowel problems? No. No. No. Always
the same thing. I almost feel as
though I should lie and answer yes
to at least one of the questions.
Maybe they'd draw blood on me, take
an x-ray of my belly... take me
serious...

The woman's voice trails off.

Esperanza is distracted by the depressed faces of the women sitting near her.

INT. DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP - LATER

Esperanza gets a refill of lemonade from a pitcher on a table filled with other snacks. She watches the other women grip one another into supportive hugs.

FAT WOMAN

It feels good to hold someone...

SKINNY WOMAN

I will not let my illness control
me...

The woman from earlier approaches Esperanza. Looks at her like a mother would a child.

Without saying a word she takes Esperanza in her arms and gives her a big hug.

Esperanza stiffens.

WOMAN

There, there. Just let it go.

Esperanza is unsure of what to do with her hands. In one a cookie, in the other a glass of lemonade. She let them dangle helplessly while the woman squeezes her.

WOMAN

The first part of healing is
accepting. Giving in. Allowing
yourself to be loved.

Esperanza's face one of apprehension.

Esperanza finally gives in. Her arms relax. She lays her head on the woman's shoulder. Smiles to herself.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Early morning. Still signs of last night's rain.

Rows of shuttered shops all waiting for their owners.

Esperanza walks past the windows of an open COFFEE SHOP.

DOWN THE STREET

Esperanza unlocks and raises the metal shutter to "Art a go-go".

INT. ART A GO-GO

Small, local place with miscellaneous art supplies.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Esperanza lazily refills a cup with paint brushes.

She straightens a pile of sketch pads.

She pushes a manual dust vacuum across the floor.

LATER

A tall, NERDY ARTIST (35) looks over art books in one corner.

A YOUNG COUPLE GIGGLES in the other corner of the store. They kiss.

Esperanza sits at the counter behind the register. Watches the young couple in love.

After a moment, the young couple moves on outside.

As they exit, the BELL on the door rings.

Just outside, the young couple makes out. Esperanza watches.

The young couple moves on.

Esperanza writes something on a stack of post-it notes.

Beneath the stack of post-it notes, the DAILY PAPER opened to the obituary section.

CLOSE ON POST-IT

She outlines a cracked heart. Writes the words: "I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH" beneath.

Esperanza takes this note, crumbles it up and starts again with the same cracked heart.

WASTEBASKET

Several discarded, crumbled, post-it notes.

BACK TO SCENE

The BELL to the door rings.

A HANDSOME ARTIST (35) enters. Looks around.

Esperanza notices the guy. Tries fixing her plain appearance.

The Handsome Artist brings a new sketchbook to the counter.

He politely smiles at Esperanza.

She rings up the sketchbook. She returns the smile. Shy.

The Artist hands Esperanza a few bills to pay for the sketchbook. While waiting, he checks out the new paintbrushes in the cup. He picks one and adds it to his purchase.

Esperanza handwrites a RECEIPT for the Artist. Just before handing over the receipt and change, she takes the post-it note and sticks it to the back of the receipt.

CLOSE ON POST-IT

Same as before, a broken heart with the words "I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH".

BACK TO SCENE

She hands both to the Artist.

The Artist takes both the receipt and his change. Again, smiles politely at Esperanza.

Esperanza smiles back. Looks as though waiting for more from the Artist.

Nothing.

The Artist takes his book and leaves.

Esperanza follows him out with her eyes.

Through the window, she watches as the artist crumbles the receipt and throws it in a nearby waste bin. Moves down the sidewalk out of sight.

Obviously let down, Esperanza SIGHS.

The Nerdy Artist steps to the counter. Lays a couple of books, and a stack of BLUE POST IT NOTES down. He smiles at Esperanza.

Esperanza unenthusiastically rings him up. Doesn't notice him.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Late afternoon. More rain.

Esperanza pulls down the metal shutter to the shop. Locks it.

DOWN THE STREET

Esperanza walks past the widows to the coffee shop.

A few CUSTOMERS sit near the window either drinking coffee or typing on a laptop.

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

A dreary place. A single, dull light hangs from the ceiling by exposed wires.

A wooden table with a single chair.

Esperanza eats a TV DINNER at the table.

A CAT sits on the table in front of her. He, too, eats a TV DINNER.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Esperanza raises the metal shutter to the store.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Esperanza lazily straightens the cup with paint brushes.

She straightens the pile of sketch pads.

She pushes the manual dust vacuum across the floor.

LATER

Esperanza sits behind the register. Head on hand. Bored.

The BELL to the door rings.

The Handsome Artist enters.

Esperanza perks up.

The Artist looks around for something.

Esperanza takes a pink, post-it and writes in bold letters:
"I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH - ESPERANZA"

She takes a brown paper bag and sticks the post-it to the inside. She waits for the Artist.

The Artist approaches the register with a roll of tape. Smiles at Esperanza.

She returns the smile. Rings him up. Her eyes never move from his face.

Esperanza places the roll of tape into the brown bag.

The Artist takes the receipt and change.

Esperanza hands him the brown bag. Smiles generously.

The artist takes the bag and gets going.

The BELL to the door rings as he leaves.

Through the store window, Esperanza watches as the Artist removes the roll of new tape from the brown paper bag, wads the bag up and throws it away in the trash can just outside the door.

He continues down the sidewalk out of sight.

Esperanza's look has turned from giddiness to disappointment.

OUTSIDE

Esperanza removes the wadded up brown bag. Opens it and removes the post-it note still attached. Looks towards where the Artist walked.

LATER

Late afternoon. A drizzling rain.

Esperanza pulls the metal shutter down. Locks it. She picks up a bag of art supplies and carries them off, down the sidewalk.

DOWN THE STREET

Esperanza passes the windows to the coffee shop headed home.

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

On the table, the cat licks a half-finished TV DINNER.

Esperanza does final touches to a home-made sign on YELLOW ART PAPER.

On the sign written in big, black letters: "I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH. WHAT ABOUT YOU? -ESPERANZA"

Esperanza sits back to get a good look at her work. Smiles, satisfied.

EXT. CITY STREET

Esperanza walks on the sidewalk. The YELLOW SIGN rolled up beneath her arm.

As she passes the window to the coffee shop, she notices the Handsome Artist sitting alone.

Esperanza stops outside. Waits. Gets an idea. Begins unrolling the Yellow Sign to show the Handsome Artist.

After a moment, the Artist's GIRLFRIEND approaches and sits across from the Handsome Artist.

They get close, kiss.

Embarrassed, Esperanza gets moving.

DOWN THE STREET

Esperanza throws the rolled-up sign into the garbage container outside the shop.

SERIES OF SHOTS

The paintbrush cup empty.

The pile of sketch pads in disarray.

The manual dust vacuum sits against the wall.

INT. ART A GO-GO

Esperanza sits behind the register. Her head laying over her arms on the counter.

She writes something on a post-it.

CLOSE ON POST-IT

She writes the word: "STUPID" several times.

EXT. ART A GO-GO

Esperanza lowers the metal shutter to the shop.

INT. SUPERMARKET - CHECKOUT

Esperanza pays for a small CAKE, "35" CANDLE, PARTY HAT and BOTTLE OF WINE .

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT

Esperanza lights the "35" candle on the small cake.

The party hat sits crooked on her head.

The cat sits on the table nearby, watching.

Esperanza watches the candle burn. Her sad, depressed face unchanging.

She blows out the candle without making a wish.

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT - LATER

POP MUSIC plays from a nearby radio.

Esperanza dances happily with a large, stuffed animal. Takes a swig of wine from a plastic cup. Drunk.

The cat watches from the nearby kitchen table where the cake sits untouched.

EVEN LATER

MUSIC continues to play from the stereo.

Esperanza lays passed-out on the couch.

The stuffed animal laying on top of her.

An empty bottle of wine sits tipped over on the floor.

DINING ROOM TABLE

The cat eats from the untouched cake.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Wet, dreary morning.

Esperanza passes the coffee shop windows. Avoids looking inside.

EXT. ART A GO-GO

Esperanza raises the metal shutter.

INT. ART A GO-GO

The store in disarray. Supplies missing. Art books laying here and there.

The carpet hasn't been vacuumed in days.

SEVERAL TEENAGERS steal notepads, pencils and whatever else they can carry.

BEHIND THE REGISTER

Esperanza lays on the floor. Looks towards the ceiling at nothing in particular.

Crumpled post-it notes lay scattered on the floor surrounding her.

EXT. ART A GO-GO - LATER

Early afternoon.

Esperanza closes the metal shutter. Locks it. Walks out of sight down the sidewalk.

The Nerd Artist approaches the storefront and peers through the metal shutters inside. Checks his watch.

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

The cake mostly eaten. Icing and cake crumbs surround what's left. The rest left to rot.

INT. BATHROOM

Esperanza sits on the toilet with the toilet seat down.

The cat sits nearby watching.

Esperanza takes out a SHAVING RAZOR. Removes the plastic covering.

She swipes the edge of the razor against her wrist trying to cut into it. Takes the razor back. Nothing.

She does it again. Again, not a drop of blood.

CLOSE ON RAZOR PACKAGE

"Safety Razor. Guaranteed to not injure skin."

BACK TO SCENE

Frustrated, Esperanza bites on the end of the razor trying to remove the protective covering surrounding the metal razor.

It slips, cutting into her tongue before falling beneath the sink.

Esperanza flinches from the injury to her tongue. Covers her mouth with her hand and pulls back showing blood.

She goes after the razor beneath the sink. As she bends over, she hits her head hard against the sink.

EXT. ART A GO-GO - DAY

Esperanza raises the metal shutter.

INT. ART A GO-GO

Esperanza sits behind the register looking at her injured tongue in a small mirror.

A band-aid is on her forehead where she bumped her head.

EXT. ART A GO-GO - DAY

Esperanza closes the metal shutter. Gets going down the street.

Moments later, the Nerdy Artist approaches. Peers in through the metal shutter. Looks at his watch.

INT. HARDWARE STORE - REGISTER

Esperanza pays for a YELLOW ROPE.

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT

The few days' old cake still sitting on the table.

The cat sits on the table cleaning its paws.

Nearby, Esperanza stands on the dining room chair hanging the yellow rope from the ceiling light fixture. She ties a good knot. Pulls on it to check its security.

With the other end, in the form of a noose, she puts around her neck.

After a moment of hesitation, Esperanza closes her eyes and steps off the chair.

Immediately, the ceiling fixture pulls out of the ceiling.

Esperanza falls to the ground.

Crumbling concrete falls around her.

CLOSE ON ROPE PACKAGE

"Super strong rope. Guaranteed not to break or your money back."

EXT. ART A GO-GO - DAY

Esperanza lifts the metal shutter.

EXT. ART A GO-GO - DAY

Esperanza closes the metal shutter. She leaves down the sidewalk.

DOWN THE STREET

With her head down, Esperanza bumps into the Nerdy Artist. She doesn't notice or doesn't care. Keeps moving.

The Nerdy Artist stops and waits for a verbal response from Esperanza. Nothing.

AT THE CORNER

Esperanza turns down a

DARK ALLEYWAY

She meets up with a HEAVILY TATTOOED GUY. Takes a BLACK PACKAGE from him.

They exchange money.

Esperanza leaves with the package.

INT. ESPERANZA APARTMENT

The birthday cake turning colors from the mold.

Esperanza sitting at the table, removes a PISTOL from the package.

She looks it over.

The cat sits on the table watching her.

Esperanza puts the gun to her temple. Waits a second before pulling the trigger.

CLICK.

Nothing.

She looks the gun over again. Does it again. Puts it to her temple and squeezes the trigger.

CLICK.

CLICK.

Angrily, she checks the chamber. All full with bullets.

She closes the chamber, points it at a nearby lamp and squeezes the trigger.

BAM!

She shoots the lamp, exploding it.

The cat gets the hell out of there.

Satisfied, Esperanza puts the pistol to her temple once more. Squeezes the trigger.

CLICK.

Nothing.

She throws the gun to the floor.

BAM!

It goes off.

Esperanza ducks for cover.

EXT. CITY STREET

Esperanza walks past the coffee shop.

Within the window, the Handsome Artist drinks coffee with his girlfriend.

Esperanza stops and stares right at them.

They don't notice her. They get up to leave.

Esperanza turns to leave when she runs right into the Nerdy Artist.

Her purse falls to the ground spilling its contents all over the sidewalk.

Esperanza angrily gathers her things.

The Nerdy Artist helps.

With all her things in her purse, Esperanza hurries off without even looking at the Nerdy Artist.

The Nerdy Artist watches Esperanza walk.

DOWN THE STREET

Esperanza checks her purse. She stops, pulls out a blue, post-it note.

CLOSE ON POST-IT

"I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH"

BACK TO SCENE

Esperanza takes a moment to read the note. Looks around.

ESPERANZA POV

The Nerdy Artist stands in the same spot. He smiles at Esperanza.

BACK TO SCENE

Esperanza looks again at the note then back to the Nerdy Artist.

She gives a big smile.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP

Within the frame of the coffee shop window, Esperanza and the Nerdy Artist sit in the same spot as the Handsome Artist and his Girlfriend.

Esperanza writes on a pink, post-it. Gives it to the Nerdy Artist.

CLOSE ON POST-IT

"I LIKE YOU TOO"

We hold on the post-it.

FADE OUT.

Fin

