

EXCERPT FROM

RAGE: A RAVE PLAY

by R. Réal Vargas Alanis, Composition by Avi A. Amon

CONTEXT:

Gael, professionally known as Night Lion an EDM DJ, takes a break from a tour and visits home to care for a parents' injury and run the family business: Sexii Tacos. As he runs through a busy shift, Gael is overwhelmed with surprises.

SCENE - SEXII TACOS: THE MUSICAL!

SONG - Sexii Tacos: The Musical!

*An EDM musical moment. Beauty and the Beast's "Belle" or "The Family Madrigal" a la Deorro. Just **not** Lin Manuel Miranda style.*

Lights up. We are in Gael's driveway which has been converted into a pop up food vendor. Their taco cart "Sexii Tacos" is seen upstage getting fixed. There is a big rolling plancha where the Sexii Employees slang tacos. There is a food prep station, and a pay station.

It's a busy shift. A Sexii rush. This scene is fast.

Gael is food prepping. The Sexii Phone rings. Gael answers.

Gael takes the order via phone. "j" indicates pauses in the phone call getting the response from the caller. Throughout the phone call, Gael writes furiously and the COCINERA starts to whip up the orders as soon as they hear them being called. Throughout the following phone call, lights of cars pulling up are seen. Car doors are heard. A rush. Gael motions to people he'll be right with them as he takes orders.

GAEL

Sexii Taco: Where the Tacos are Sexii and so are you. ¿Cómo la puedo ayudar? |

Si |

Ah si |

Dos tacos de asada, con todo? |

¿Qué tipo de chile? |

Tengo mild, medium, hot or extra hot. |

The mild and medium son salsas verdes, hot is chile rojo de tomatillo, y extra hot es chile bruto, chile de árbol. |

Okay; extra hot. |

¿Algo más? |

Okay, dos tacos de al pastor, con to—? |
Okay, todo extra hot. Algo ma—|
Okay. cuatro tacos de al pastor, dos quesabirrias con un lado de consomé con todo, 6 platos de
cuatro enchiladas sin tomate; una orden con carne asada. ¿Es todo? |
seis tortas con todo extra chile bravo |
Okay, ¿es todo? |
Tu total será \$138.

Gael hangs up the phone and gives the list of items to the cook and immediately begins to take the order of the people waiting in line. Gael is FAST. He takes orders while prepping orders. Song continues.

¿Cómo la puedo ayudar?

SEÑORA 1

Una torta de asada sin jitomate. Extra chile. Es todo.

GAEL

Tengo una orden bien grande delante de usted.

SEÑORA 1

Me espero

GAEL

Okay. \$10. Nombre?

SEÑORA 1

Sandra.

GAEL

Proxima persona

SEÑORA 2

¿Uhhhm.. Que venden?

GAEL

Tenemos tacos, tortas, enchiladas, burritos, quesabirrias, quesadillas, tacos dorados, ensaladas y nachos.

SEÑORA 2

Un Burrito supreme sin chile.

GAEL

¿Asada, al pastor, pollo o birria?

SEÑORA 2

¿No tienen tripa?

GAEL

No.

SEÑORA 2

Okay, al pastor.

GAEL

¿Algo de tomar?

SEÑORA 2

¿Que tienen?

The order line begins to grow. Orders start to come out. The lady is holding everything back.

GAEL

Tenemos, coca, pepsi, squirt—

COCINERA

Salen dos de asada y dos de al pastor.

Gael starts to prep the tacos, wraps them in foil and bags the food as he continues to sing the list.

GAEL

Agua, agua mineral, agua de jamaica, agua de limón, jarritos—/de guava

SEÑORA 2

Que tipo de jarritos

COCINERA

Salen dos quesabirrias.

GAEL

Guayaba, tutti frutti, piña, limón, sanida, mandarina.

More customers get in line.

SEÑORA 2

¿No tienen tamarindo?

GAEL

No.

SEÑORA 2

Dame la de guayaba

GAEL gives SEÑORA 2 her jarrito.

COCINERA

¡Salen cuatro enchiladas!

Gael starts to prep the enchiladas. Se le antojan a la SEÑORA 2. She is hella holding up the line now. Gael tries their damn hardest to keep their shit together.

SEÑORA 2
¿Que son esas?

GAEL
Enchiladas, o SexiiLadas.

SEÑORA 2
¿Con que viene?

Despite SEÑORA 2, Gael has a good rhythm going. The phone rings. COCINERA sends another plate Gael's way.

COCINERA
¡Salen cuatro!

GAEL
Queso fresco o frijoles adentro, arriba lleva: repollo, jitomate, cebolla, crema, salsa de jitomate, queso y chile.

Gael answers the phone

Sexii Tacos, can you please hold?

Vegetarianas, o veganas, sin gluten.

SEÑORA 1
¿A cuanto la orden?

GAEL
Dos dólares cada enchilada
Dos dólares más con carne.

COCINERA
¡Salen cuatro!

SEÑORA 1
¿De qué región son?

GAEL
Jacona Michoacán.

GAEL goes back to the phone.

Hi there, I have six people in line ahead of you, you might be on hold for a while | You'll wait? Cool.

GAEL puts them back on hold.

SEÑORA 1

Oh!! Jacona! Esas son las meras meras enchiladas! Me da cuatro con todo por favor.

GAEL

Okay va ser...

COCINERA

¡Salen cuatro!

Gael types up the total. Gael's phone—not the Sexii phone— rings. Gael answers

GAEL

¿Sexii Tacos, can you please hold?
Oh!! Doctor... Sorry, I'm, it's not a go— |
Yes, this is him. |
Do— |
July 27 1997 |
Dr— |
Gael Serena Linares |
But doctor this isn— |
1555 Linda Ave Winto— Doctor — this isn't a good— /

Gael's phone connects to the bluetooth speaker.

DOCTOR

[—reg/ret] to inform you that you are in the early stages of rectal cancer. We're going to need to schedule additional testing and look at our options: surgery, and, or, chemo —/

Gael switches the bluetooth off and puts his phone to his ear.

Cop cars rush in, tires screeching, lights flashing and sirens blaring. Doors slamming. Policemen rush the taco stand hands on their guns. It's a raid. Everyone at the taco stand puts their hands up. Two people from the county, code enforcers, and a couple of cops. They approach the taco stand.

GAEL

Oh what the fuck.

SCENE - SEXII RAID

The Sexii customers are gone. The county inspectors are reviewing the business's documents.

COUNTY INSPECTOR

You can't be selling in a residential area. You need to move back into your truck and move to an appropriate location for business.

GAEL

Will do. This was just temporary as we fixed our truck.

CODE ENFORCER

You're the fourth food vendor we've hit today. We're doing a sweep through all of Merced County.

COUNTY INSPECTOR

There's been an increase of unlicensed street food vendors. But they usually come out at night or on the weekends when we're not working.

CONDE ENFORCER

Now they have us working overtime.

GAEL

Damn, I'm glad y'all were approved overtime to shut down the economy of Winton.

CODE ENFORCER

This might help you in the long run. *[Looking at the Sexii Licenses]*. You have all your licenses together. All you have to do is move your truck out of a residential area.

GAEL

No, no, I get that. *We're* going to be fine. I'm just-- the other vendors you're shutting down/ are y'all providing resources on how to obtain their licenses?

COUNTY INSPECTOR

/We gave them our business cards.

GAEL

Right...

COUNTY INSPECTOR

Can I check the kitchen area?

The County Inspector begins to walk into the driveway. Gael moves in front of him blocking the way.

GAEL

No...

CODE ENFORCER

Are you denying him entrance?

GAEL

Do you have a warrant? This is a residential area remember?

The code enforcer reaches for her gun.

Look. We'll shut down. Our truck is almost fixed and we'll be right back out on the road.

The small tension dissipates. The COUNTY INSPECTOR hands GAEL a document to sign.

COUNTY INSPECTOR

Here. Sign.

GAEL starts to read the document.

CODE ENFORCER

It just states that we communicated with you the violations.

Gael continues to read it.

GAEL

So the issue here is it states you spoke to the owner. I'm not the owner. Nor do I live here.

CODE ENFORCER

Oh, it doesn't matter. It's more of an acknowledgment.

GAEL

I can't sign this, but I'll pass the message along to the owner.

SCENE - INCENDIO

A couple of hours after the incident. 3am. GAEL finished clearing the driveway of the makeshift restaurant. He's wrapped up in a blanket, smoking a joint while on the phone. It's a cold night. He's sending a voice message.

GAEL

Dude, like, the theatrics were so unnecessary! Why did they roll up on us like that? No, I mean, I know the answer, but c'mon! Like... Odracir! I legit thought we were about to get shot up for selling tacos! Acting like they did a drug bust or some shit.

*An explosion in the night. Smoke. Flames fill the night sky. Car alarms blare in the distance. **Everything happens fast, it's a blur.***

What the fu— Fi—? FIRE!! FIRE!!

Gael sends the voice message and calls 911. He runs towards the burning house. They're not aware of their surroundings, trips and hurts their hand.

OH MOTHERFCKER!!!

Adrenaline is kicking in. He rolls up and starts darting to the house again. 911 picks up.

AH! — Yes—There was an explosion! A house is on fire on Winton Way and Center!

Gael reaches the house and hangs up. A woman caught in fire runs out of the house towards Gael. Gael stops.

Oh my god.

A burning house and the woman on fire, skin turning to crisp. She falls to the ground. Gael throws his blanket on her and smothers the flames, but it's too late, she's lifeless.

A man is heard screaming inside. He runs outside carrying a child and another child in hand.

The fire blows a transformer from a light post near the house. Smoke fills the air. The transformer is awfully close to another house.

Gael runs to the house in potential danger (House 2) and bangs on the door.

GAEL

GET OUT!! FIRE! GET OUT! GET OUT!! IS ANYONE IN THERE?! SALGAN!! SAL—

Hears crying from within. The transformer explodes again and catches fire. It collapses on a portion of House 2 immediately catching it on fire.

GAEL

¡HAY ALGUIEN ADENTRO!

The voice inside calls out. Gael recognizes the voice. It's his neighbor, Señora Raquel. She's wailing.

¡¡¡¡¡SEÑORA RAQUEL!!!!

SEÑORA RAQUEL

¡¡¡¡¡DÉJENME!!!! ¡¡¡¡¡QUE ME QUEME EN MI CASA!!!!

GAEL

SEÑORA RAQUEL!! Sal!!

The heat doesn't let Gael get any closer. Gael grabs a hose left in the yard and sprays the entryway with water.

SEÑORA RAQUEL

Hysterical

¡¡¡¡¡DÉJENME QUEMAR!!!!

GAEL

SAL DE LA CASA AHORA!!!! SAL!!!! SEÑORA RAQUEL SAL!!!!

Gael's mom, Concepción, enters with urgency in a robe and blanket.

CONCEPCIÓN

GAEL!! QUITATE DE AHI!!

GAEL

¡LA SEÑORA RAQUEL ESTÁ ADENTRO!

Gael is still spraying the doorway with the house. Neighbor Girl 1 starts to run towards the house. Part of the house collapses. Gael drops the hose and sprints out of the way knocking Neighbor Girl 1 down. They tumble away from the danger. Meanwhile firefighters arrive and spray the nearby houses.

The overwhelming scene begins to fade, light enclosing on Gael, staring at the chaos. Time slows and sound distorts. The projections of fire subdue as the firemen contain the fire. Slow agony movement around in the dissipating light. SWAT team is removing equipment for a meth lab from the house that exploded. The scene fades away, a tight down spot on Gael, staring into the distance. NEIGHBOR GIRL wails.

END OF EXCERPT