

**rafael sanchez recounts
"once upon a time in the west"**

©
**eberhard petschinka
& rafael sanchez**

1996 / 1997

characters

RAFAEL SANCHEZ - a 22 year old Spaniard

PEPITA

PEPITA'S HUSBAND

GRANDFATHER

GRANDMOTHER

AUNT FERNANDA - NEIGHBOUR

AUNT ARGENTINA

JUAN

RAMON

JESUS EL BABOSO

UNCLE ACE

PACO

TERESA

AN OLD MAN

POLICEMAN

CONSUL

HENRY FONDA, CHARLES BRONSON, JASON ROBARDS - from the film

0

duel at the railway station

HUSBAND hey, sanchez!!

SANCHEZ who me?
 hablas conmigo?

HUSBAND venga! ven pa´ fuera!!

SANCHEZ you want me to come out in the street with you?

HUSBAND ahora mismo!
 pa´ que te mate!!

SANCHEZ you want to shoot me
 cause I was in love with your wife?!

 okay
 come on
 come on, say it:
 I want you
 to come out in the street with me
 so I can shoot you
 cause you were in love with my wife!

HUSBAND o te pego un tiro aqui mismo! okay?!

SANCHEZ sabes lo que te digo?!
 while you were sitting at the picture show ...
 forced to watch
 that asshole henry fonda
 put his dirty fingers
 on claudia cardinale's tit
 I was with your pepita and I ...

a gunshot

1

SPEAKER rafael sanchez recounts „once upon a time in the west“
 a radio play by eberhard petschinka & rafael sanchez
 music: wolfgang mitterer & ennio morricone
 directed by : p e t s c h i n k a

2

SANCHEZ

summer 1980
a little town in the sierra nevada
desert heat dust
one street two alleyways
one of them leading to the cemetery
the other to the movie house

sometimes you can see the big town
en el horizonte
and if you're lucky
and the wind's blowing from the north
you can hear it too

in the town itself
you don't hear nothing
except the wind
rattling the t.v. aerials
silence dead silence

no no
not a ghost town
siesta

and when it's siesta time
even the wind stops blowing
everyone's asleep
even the flies

gunshot. chickens fly off cackling

grandma's lying on the kitchen floor
bleeding
grandpa standing over her
with a gun in his hand
"mierda si estaba cargado!"

GRANDFATHER

shit it was loaded!
who loaded it?
was it you rafael?!

3

SANCHEZ first scene: railway station
 a slow, endless scene
 three pistoleros waiting for the train
 a noise
 a nasty face
 a fly

 the fly's sitting in the middle of his face

 it's stubborn
 the guy blows at it
 nothing
 he blows again
 nothing
 he doesn't want to move
 anyway it's too hot
 but the fly's tickling him
 getting on his nerves

 have you ever tried shooving away a fly
 without shooving it away?!

 the fly's sitting on his face
 in the middle of his face
 he shoos it away
 and it just sits there
 fabulous
 "que idea mas bonita!"

JUAN "pero como lo habra hecho?"

SANCHEZ but how did he do it?!!

 that was the question
 which the film club "el cinematographo"
 racked its brains over for a whole year
 how did sergio leone
 get that fly not to fly away?!

GRANDFATHER queridos amigos!

SANCHEZ incredible theories!!

4

GRANDFATHER queridos miembros
 del cineclub „el cinematographo!“

SANCHEZ my grandfather was president
 of "el cinematographo"
 in 1980 he declared "once upon a time in the west"
 to be the film of the decade
 y esto significa:
 the film was shown
 on every first and third sunday of the month
 in the town's only movie house "el cinematographo"
 and the whole film club
 was locked in at every showing

JESUS no no me metas aqui!

SANCHEZ I don't wanna go in!

JESUS cojones si ya la vi mil veces!

SANCHEZ I've seen that goddam film
 a thousand times already!!

JESUS la odio esta pelicula

SANCHEZ the cripple jesus
 el baboso the slobberer
 in his wheelchair
 his sister
 who took care of him
 who looked after him for years for centuries
 plunked him down the movie house on sunday afternoon
 just to have a couple of hours to herself

JESUS la odio esta pelicula!
 odio estos tios!

SANCHEZ I hate these film club guys
 who watch this goddam boring western
 every sunday

JESUS maria!!

SANCHEZ but his sister's already gone

GRANDFATHER maria, didn't we tell you
today's showing is closed to the general public!?

JUAN go push your cripple to the cemetery

RAMON si! al cementerio!!

GRANDFATHER if he goes on talking throughout the film again today,
we're locking him in the john!

SANCHEZ and so it was that
from that sunday on
jesus el baboso the slobberer
was locked in the "el cinematographo" movie house toilet
on every first and third sunday of the month
for three whole hours
right in the middle of a horrible stink

JESUS de jadme salir!!

SANCHEZ he ran wild he screamed
he banged on the door with his head and fists

JESUS que guarrazo!!

5

SANCHEZ I'm five
the first time grandpa
takes me to see that film

GRANDMOTHER jose luis

SANCHEZ grandma says
si solo tiene cinco anos!

GRANDMOTHER he's only five

SANCHEZ si todavia es un crio!

GRANDMOTHER he's just a kid!

GRANDFATHER this film my dear maria
this film is the best film ever made
and I think
it's time he sees it

GRANDFATHER don't you want to see it,
the best film of the century!?
rafael?!!

SANCHEZ and so I saw it
the best film of the century
every first and third sunday in the month
from the age of five
right up to ten

26 sundays a year
plus 4 special showings:
christmas easter whitsun
and on the film club president's birthday

that makes 30 every year
times six years
that comes to 200 performances
"once upon a time in the west"
director: sergio leone
music: ennio morricone
length: 159 minutes
the best film ever made

right from the first dialogue after the opening scene
fabulous
the train pulls into the station
the three pistoleros
who've come here
to pick up greet bump off somebody
release the safety catches of their colts
nothing
nobody gets off the train
a package gets thrown out of one of the boxcars
that's all
the train pulls out of the station
the three pistoleros get ready to leave
suddenly they hear the sound of a harmonica

BRONSON and frank?

SANCHEZ they turn around

GUNMAN frank sent us!

SANCHEZ and standing there is :
charles bronson

BRONSON did you bring a horse for me?

GUNMAN looks like we ...
 looks like we shyed one horse!

BRONSON you brought two too many!

(shots)

SANCHEZ applause for this scene
 at every viewing
 standing ovations

JUAN esto es un dialogo!
 ramon tu que dices?!

RAMON bien hecho!

JUAN fantastico eh?!

GRANDFATHER silencio!

SANCHEZ each time grandpa has to ask for quiet

GRANDFATHER caballeros! silencio por favor!

JUAN ramon! silencio!!
 que ahora van a matar a la familia entera

RAMON yeah! it's time for the family to get wiped out!!

JUAN que ahora es cuando matan a la familia!

RAMON the family gets wiped out!
 another fabulous scene!!

JUAN muy bien!

6

SANCHEZ yeah
 another fabulous scene
 the scene
 that chokes me up

 okay
 the shoot-out at the station
 then cut
 mcbain hunting grouse

TIMMY hey pa, look!!

SANCHEZ his younger son timmy
 collecting the dead birds
 they go back to the house

 mcbain hears something
 some kind of noise troubles him
 noise? no
 after seeing the film ten times
 I realize
 it's not a noise
 that bothers him
 it's the silence
 suddenly the cicadas have stopped humming

 the house stands by itself
 in the middle of a dusty desert landscape
 with nothing growing
 except dry, burnt-out brushweed

GRANDFATHER mcbain's a tough irishman
 a smart tough irishman
 with only five more minutes to live

SANCHEZ says grandpa to me
 in the kitchen

GRANDFATHER he's gotten in the way of a certain businessman
 a cripple: mister morton
 mister morton has a dream
 he wants to build a railroad
 linking the atlantic and the pacific

 in those days the railroad needed water
 and mcbain's land
 is the only one far and wide
 which has a well
 you understand?!

 mcbain was the only one
 among those fools

GRANDFATHER among those drunks those smallholders
 with his head on straight
 who could see
 that over yonder they were building a railroad
 and they'd have to come past his well

GRANDFATHER and so he bought the land for cuatro duros
 and around his well
 he was going to build a station
 a village
 a whole town!

was going to
 wanted to
 but behind the brushweed lurks silence
 in the bushes lurks henry fonda
 mister morton's hired killer

SANCHEZ today's a special day for mcbain
 a day to celebrate
 his sweetheart
 his new wife
 claudia cardinale
 is coming on the train from new orleans

McBAIN dammed patric!!

PATRIC coming pa!

SANCHEZ patrick is his older son

McBAIN the train will come in
 and there won't be no one to meet your mother!

maureen!

SANCHEZ he says to his daughter
 she's preparing a meal
 the wedding feast for claudia cardinale

McBAIN you'll have beautiful new clothes
 and you won't have to work no more!

MAUREEN we're going to get rich pa?!

McBAIN who knows

SANCHEZ he goes to the well
 gets water

it's gone silent again
 deathly quiet
 close-up: mcbain's face
 close-up: maureen's face

then the grouse fly up
 maureen smiles up at them
 mcbain watches them like a hunter

a shot

SANCHEZ none of the birds falls

Mc BAIN maureen!!

SANCHEZ maureen drops slowly to the ground
mcbain rushes to her
and to his rifle
but he's caught midway by a bullet
patrick is shot down from the horse-buggy
cut to the house door

we hear steps
timmy's steps
he's heard the shots
he wants to see what's happened
steps
the music comes up

timmy stays near the door
I know
now he's also going to get shot
and I ...

7

SANCHEZ and I rush out of the movie house
I run home
I can't stand to watch him
getting killed
I don't want him to die!

if I don't watch
it won't happen

I must have believed something like that at the time

the whole first year I ran out during this scene
I could hear the old men laughing behind my back
could hear the music
the gunshots

grandma
sits with the neighbour woman in front of the house
knitting
I come running over the road

GRANDMOTHER rafael!! aren't you at the movies?
 where's grandpa
 has he left you alone again?!
 every sunday I have to tell him
 a five-year old
 shouldn't see this film!
 from now on
 you stay with me
 this film
 is not for you
 you know he wakes up at night
 screaming and shaking and scared to death!

NEIGHBOUR but my boy
 it's only a film
 it's only playacting
 nobody really gets shot!

GRANDMOTHER fernanda!
 you sound as stupid as jose luis!
 he also says
 it's only a movie!
 but
 the boy's really scared

 what are you hanging around for
 you should have been cleaning up your room
 a long time ago already!

8

SANCHEZ then came supper
 throughout the soup course: silence nada nothing
 during the salad:
 not a word about my running out of the movie house
 even during the patatas:
 nothing
 grandma was saving her attack
 for the fruta fresca

GRANDMOTHER he was completely upset again
 because they shot the little kid!

GRANDFATHER what should I do?!

GRANDMOTHER you must realize
 it's not something for him!

GRANDFATHER but it's only a movie!
and I've explained that to him umpteen times
what are we going to watch on Sunday afternoon?!
rafael!

SANCHEZ una pelicula?

GRANDFATHER and what is a film?

GRANDMOTHER so what's he crying about
if it's only a film?

GRANDFATHER what do I know?!
if he didn't always rush out of the movie house
he might have noticed
that the death of the young kid
only happens in his head
you don't see it!

GRANDMOTHER that's not true!
the kid is brutally murdered!

GRANDFATHER in your imagination in your head!!
okay
you see the men in long coats
coming out of the brushweed okay?
you see henry fonda pull out his revolver
you see the little kid's terrified eyes
you see the sneering looks
you see the revolver
and!
you hear a shot!

GRANDMOTHER and so the kid is dead!

GRANDFATHER in your imagination yes!
but then you see a train
and that's cinema
that's a film
that's great!

GRANDMOTHER but it's still not something for him!

GRANDFATHER ah!

SANCHEZ grandpa puts down his knife
and stands up
his bright blue eyes are flashing wildly
he goes over to the chest of drawers

GRANDFATHER okay! okay!
I'll show you what a film is

SANCHEZ in the drawer
is his revolver
I know it
he cleans it every Sunday morning
now he's going to shoot her
I think
he's going to shoot her
yesterday I loaded that revolver
yesterday I loaded that revolver
dear god in heaven
please don't let him pull the trigger
please don't let him pull the trigger

GRANDMOTHER jose luis what are you doing?

GRANDFATHER I'll show you what cinema is!

(a shot)

oh shit it was loaded!
who loaded it?
was it you rafael?!

9

PEPITA rafael! follame! follame!!

SANCHEZ pepita's got black eyes black hair
and
an idiot of a husband now

HUSBAND hey sanchez!! venga! ven pa fuera!! okay!!

a shot

SANCHEZ but in those days
17 years ago
she was mine
she was a year younger than me
we sat behind the house
in the chicken coop
she wanted me to kiss her
at dusk we crept
to the cemetery
she wanted me to hold her close
and swear eternal love

PEPITA unto death! rafael

SANCHEZ unto death!

I did everything she wanted
I swore eternal love
I ate chicken-shit
I even stayed seated at the movies
because she wanted it

she wasn't allowed to see
the best film of the century
I had to tell her the story
play it out
scene by scene
line by line
she sat there
in the chicken coop
wide-eyed
and I played
charles bronson
bumping off the three pistoleros
I played henry fonda
cold-bloodedly
doing in that timmy
with a grin on his face
she cried she laughed she loved me
pepita!!

SANCHEZ pepita why?
why'd you go and get married?!
why'd you marry this guy?
I wrote you
I'd be coming back
in every letter I wrote
I'd be coming back!
I love you and I'm coming back!!

10

SANCHEZ

when I'm seven grandpa gives me
a magnifying glass for my birthday
I magnify flies flowers stamps
I discover by accident
that you can set paper on fire
if you hold it in the right position

and then we're in the chicken coop
pepita and me
the sun coming in
through a small window
at an angle

pepita catches a baby chick
holds it in her hand
kisses it
I pull the magnifying glass out of my pocket
saying:
"look
look at this
come! come here
come into the sunlight
you want to see its eye?
magnified five times?!
come! come over here in the sun"

she holds the baby chick up in the rays of the sun
and me
I put the magnifying glass over the chicken's eye
"look" I say
"you see?
it's shining!"

PEPITA

hey tienes miedo? you scared?

SANCHEZ

"hold still a second" I say
and place the glass in such a way
that the burning point
sits right in the chicken's eye

"look! look now!"

the chicken's eye bursts into flame

PEPITA

que malo que eres!!
que malo!!

11

UNCLE ACE hola tia fernanda

NEIGHBOUR por fin

UNCLE ACE sorry I'm so late
 shall we get going?
 oh pepita how beautiful you are!
 you should come along with us!
 we'll take the little prince there along!

SANCHEZ uncle ace
 pepita's uncle : tio ace
 with his huge sedan
 all the way from town

GRANDMOTHER rafael
 you stay here!!

UNCLE ACE ah buenos dias senora maria

SANCHEZ uncle ace bows deeply to my grandmother

UNCLE ACE I'm driving aunt fernanda
 to see her sister argentina in hospital
 she's dying
 surely she told you!

GRANDMOTHER she's not going to die?!

UNCLE ACE the kid can come along
 aunt argentina will be pleased
 and besides just imagine
 him and pepita in the backseat!
 ah bon jour senor jose luis!

GRANDFATHER let him go along maria

SANCHEZ says grandpa
 waking up from his siesta

GRANDFATHER when does he get a chance
 to get out of our nest
 tio ace will show him the big wide world

GRANDMOTHER I know what he'll show him!!
 he'll show him the casinos and one-armed bandits
 does he need to see all that already?
 he's only eight!

SANCHEZ tia fernanda
 pepita's grandmother
 our neighbour
 swears
 not to let me out of her sight

NEIGHBOUR but maria
 I´m going with them!
 I´ll be there!!

GRANDMOTHER well then
 go get washed
 and put on your sunday suit!

SANCHEZ I rush to my room
 put on the black suit
 and the black and white patent-leather shoes
 with a plastic rose in my buttonhole

UNCLE ACE hey kid!
 you'll be the talk of the town!
 gracias senora maria!
 pepita! what do you think?
 look at this prince!
 dale un beso! give him a kiss!!

12

SANCHEZ we get to the hospital
 a huge hospital

 aunt argentina
 a very old woman
 without teeth
 bald with a crazy look about her
 lying in room 111

 she's asleep
 we sit down

ARGENTINA (screams)

SANCHEZ when she wakes up
 she takes us for gypsies
 who want to steal her money
 and cries for help

ARGENTINA (screams)

SANCHEZ uncle ace
 pushes her dentures into her mouth
 that calms her down

UNCLE ACE how are you?!
 aunt argentina?!

ARGENTINA good now I'll die soon!

UNCLE ACE no no aunt argentina
 nowadays you don't have to die anymore
 nobody dies anymore
 that was in the old days

ARGENTINA oh really?

SANCHEZ the aunt has become curious

ARGENTINA one doesn't die any more nowadays?!
 so what does one do now?

UNCLE ACE you ... just transfer quickly to the other side
 one transfers quickly to the other side

a gunshot

13

SANCHEZ a few months later
 he transferred to the other side
 to ace
 thanks to a bullet in his heart
 at the casino

 one of the other players accuses him:

PACO you pulled an ace out of your sleeve!!

SANCHEZ whereupon uncle ace stands up

GRANDFATHER he gets up very slowly

UNCLE ACE so I pulled an ace out of my sleeve
 and you saw it
 you saw me
 pull an ace out of my sleeve
 come on, come on say it :
 I saw you
 pull an ace out of your sleeve!

PACO yeah I saw it
 you pulled an ace of spades out of your sleeve!

UNCLE ACE oh an ace of spades was it!

GRANDFATHER uncle ace stands up

UNCLE ACE there's my jacket, you maricon de mierda!

GRANDFATHER and takes off his jacket

UNCLE ACE you've got my jacket go look in it
 you want to check out my shirt as well
 maybe I've got an ace of hearts
 hidden somewhere in my shirtsleeves

GRANDFATHER he throws his shirt at him
 and pulls a knife out of his boot

UNCLE ACE go on look in the sleeves go on

GRANDFATHER the guy also takes off his jacket
 the players in the casino
 make a circle around them

SANCHEZ that's how grandpa describes this scene
 in our kitchen

GRANDFATHER go on hurry up look inside the sleeve
 and then I'm gonna cut your ear off you fuckin' liar
 you son of a bitch

GRANDMOTHER but jose luis
 do you have to teach him to curse already
 he´s only eight!!

SANCHEZ yeah
 I was eight by then
 and had already seen the film
 a hundred times
 forty times in its entirety
 I know this scene I know it
 henry fonda the bad guy
 and charles bronson uncle ace
 standing opposite each other
 the duel
 they circle each other slowly
 they look deep into each other's eyes

UNCLE ACE

well what about it?!
where's your knife you lying bastard!
come on come on pull your knife
or get down on your knees and say:
I'd rather cut off that ear myself

hey can anybody lend him a knife?
hasn't anybody got a knife
for this son of a bitch?!
pedro go to the kitchen and get him a knife ...

a shot

SANCHEZ

and then a bullet
right into his heart

GRANDFATHER

you understand?
the guy's too much of a coward
for a knife fight
he pulls out a gun and shoots down uncle ace
then he escapes
escapes from the casino
escapes from town
escapes from spain
escapes from europe
begs for asylum
in switzerland
you understand?
you understand?!!

14

SANCHEZ

uncle ace
is brought back to the town
in a huge american open hearse
his casino friends riding escort
driving in a column
in an unbelievable cortege of open cars
carrying ladies
dressed in black
wearing hats
their faces painted white

SANCHEZ uncle ace is laid out on a green sheet
dressed in a white suit
a white silk shirt
with an ace of hearts on each sleeve

"I'm gonna find that paco
that killer
that cowardly underhanded bastard
I'm gonna cut off his ear
and lay it on your grave
I swear it!!"

15

RAMON pepita vente conmigo!

GRANDFATHER ramon, silencio!!

JESUS silencio!

GRANDFATHER jesus porfavor!
why isn't he locked in the toilet?!

RAMON lo saco?

GRANDFATHER queridos amigos!
queridos miembros
del filmclub „el cinematographo“!!
pablo serrano

JESUS pablo serrano!!

GRANDFATHER our friend
our ex-mayor
my predecessor as film club president
now our consul in switzerland as you know

RAMON si!

GRANDFATHER rang me up a few weeks ago

JESUS silencio!

GRANDFATHER jesus por favor!
queridos amigos!

I should come to switzerland
to be the chief of the spanish social security office
I didn't want that
I told him :

GRANDFATHER listen pablo
we're right in the middle of an exciting discussion
about the best film of the century

CONSUL ah „some like it hot!“

GRANDFATHER „some like it hot?“
maria, listen what he says
„some like it hot“
the best film of the century
no no
ask me in a couple of years again

CONSUL the spaniards here need a man like you
and besides we'll be able to play
a game of chess from time to time
like in the old days ´

GRANDFATHER queridos amigos,
how could I refuse?!

pepita stop crying!!
rafael will write you every day
give her a kiss rafael
give her a kiss!!

JESUS pero rafael dale un beso

GRANDFATHER rafael! give her a kiss!
give ... her ... a ... kiss!!

16

SANCHEZ pepita
suiza es - jo - que mierda
switzerland hey you wouldn't believe it
pero but I'll survive it
I've got to find that paco
no: that killer
no: that bastard
adios amor

17

SANCHEZ two years later
 by then I'm ten
 after moving to switzerland
 I've got a photo of the guy in my wallet

 I go into every spanish club
 zürich basel genf
 when I open the door
 the music stops playing
 the flamenco-dancer
 stops in the middle of her movement
 the bartender takes cover
 I go over to the gambling table
 they look at me with big terrified eyes
 I'm known by now
 they know me
 the whole spanish colony here in switzerland knows :
 I'm looking for paco
 tio ace's killer

 I find him standing at the bar
 talking to a woman

 he paco saca tu navaja!

PACO what's the matter kid?!

SANCHEZ get your knife out!

PACO (laugh)

SANCHEZ sales a la calle
 o quieres que te corte la oreja delante de todos?!
 you coming outside with me?
 or you want me to lop off your ear right here
 in front of your girlfriend?!

 he laughs

PACO you want to cut off my ear?

SANCHEZ not want to
 I'm going to cut off your ear!

 now everybody laughs
 applauds
 and makes a circle around us

PACO so? and who are you big ear-lopper?

SANCHEZ me?
 you ask who I am!
 you want to know who I am?
 I'm the ace
 up uncle ace's sleeve!!

shots

18

SANCHEZ pepita, suiza no esta mal
 switzerland is okay no es una mierda

GRANDMOTHER Rafael.

SANCHEZ esta prohibido jugar
 gambling's illegal here

GRANDMOTHER get up! Rafael.
 breakfast

SANCHEZ but the bastard can't help himself
 he has to go to the social security

JASON ROBARTS he not only plays! he can shoot too!

SANCHEZ and my grandfather's there

GRANDMOTHER and finish writing your letter to Pepita!

SANCHEZ pepita paco es un hombre muerto
 the bastard's as good as dead
 adios amor

19

SANCHEZ from this time on
 I spend every free minute
 in the oficina laboral de espana

TERESA next

SANCHEZ one day he'll walk in
 drooping eyelids
 filthy clothes
 unshaven

TERESA next

SANCHEZ he knows
 how to stage an entrance at the social security office
 he's double-parked his cadillac
 around the corner
 left the motor running

TERESA next

SANCHEZ creeps in here
 a total wreck
 fills out an application form
 with trembling fingers

TERESA next

SANCHEZ and now I'll just help myself to his ear

AN OLD MAN buenos dias senora teresa!

SANCHEZ one afternoon he's really there
 hey that's him
 that has to be him
 I hide behind the flag
 standing behind the secretary's desk
 take the photo out of my pocket

 he's very well disguised

TERESA what can I do for you??!

SANCHEZ he holds out his hand to her
 close-up:
 a hand
 on which the forefinger and pinkie are missing

 no it's not him
 it can't be him
 to cut off two fingers
 just for an interview with the social security
 I can't believe that
 he's too much of a coward

TERESA sorry
 we're not responsible for any fingers
 lost in spain
 and you already get a pension of 700
 for the finger you lost at the swiss building site!!

 next!

AN OLD MAN por que no es posible?

TERESA it's not possible there's nothing more to say
so just take your suitcase
and go back to spain!!

 next!!

SANCHEZ the man without forefinger and pinkie on his right hand
slowly puts his suitcase down

TERESA next

SANCHEZ pulls an old rusty revolver out of his coat pocket
grasps it with both hands
the old rusty revolver
tries to pull the trigger with his middle finger

TERESA next

SANCHEZ close-up:
the revolver the hand the crippled hand
the revolver shakes
he can't find his target

TERESA you better get out of here!!
do you understand me?!!
next!

a shot

SANCHEZ a gunshot a second gunshot
from two yards away
the first one hits the desk
the second the wall
just above the flag behind which I'm hiding

TERESA have you gone out of your mind?!!
next!

SANCHEZ the man tries to reload
but some young guy
knocks the revolver out of his hand
and wrestles him to the ground

20

SANCHEZ pepita
 la busqueda de paco es muy peligrosa
 looking for paco is quite dangerous
 I've already been shot at
 but
 you´re right
 I have to find that bastard
 adios amor

21

SANCHEZ two months later comes the trial

GRANDMOTHER jose luis
 does he have to hear such things already?!

 he's only 12!!

22

FONDA I think ...

SANCHEZ henry fonda is lying in bed with claudia cardinale

FONDA yeah
 I'm beginning to think
 I might be a little sorry killing you

SANCHEZ he kisses her

FONDA you like being alive!

SANCHEZ his bright blue eyes radiate evil

 she takes his hand
 places it on her belly

FONDA you also like
 to feel a man's hands
 all over you

PACO even if they're the hands ...

FONDA you like it!

PACO of the man who killed your husband!

SANCHEZ then ...
 then she kisses him

FONDA even if they´re the hands of the man
 who killed your husband

SANCHEZ arouses him with her tongue

PEPITA paco!

SANCHEZ pepita!!
 paco unlaces her blouse
 he touches her breast
 at first tenderly
 carefully

FONDA what a ...

PACO ah
 que linda que eres!

FONDA what a little tramp

PACO how beautiful!

SANCHEZ then she turns over on her belly

FONDA is there anything in the world
 you would´nt do to save your skin?

SANCHEZ showing him her naked back

C.CARDINALE nothing frank

SANCHEZ no pepita no

PACO you're the lover of that sanchez guy
 he's been following me
 tell him he better cut the crap!!

PEPITA I was the lover of that sanchez guy
 now I'm yours
 you are a man

SANCHEZ that's the dream the image
 that drives me crazy at the age of 14
 I'm lying in bed
 I see myself standing
 in that room
 where they ... where he fucks her
 I'm standing there
 I say : pepita please!

SANCHEZ she doesn't hear me
she's lost in lust
I take her by the shoulder
she looks at me
I say : pepita please!
she laughs
she closes her eyes
she embraces him

PEPITA paco!

SANCHEZ "paco" she says " follame follame !"

PEPITA paco!

SANCHEZ I was
sick with jealousy
deathly ill
ran a fever for days on end
I couldn't even move in that room

PEPITA paco follame

GRANDMOTHER try to sleep a little

SANCHEZ I can't
I don't dare close my eyes

GRANDMOTHER don't be afraid
not of anything
I'll sit by your bedside
the whole night
now close your eyes!
close your eyes!

FONDA you also like to feel a man's hands
all over you! you like it!

SANCHEZ then this sudden feeling of desire

FONDA even if they're the hands of the man
who killed your husband

SANCHEZ I'm standing near that bed
I don't feel lame any more
I'm all excited
feverish
but a new kind of fever
a prickling all over my body

GRANDMOTHER what's the matter

SANCHEZ what? nothing nothing

GRANDMOTHER shall I get you a glass of water?

SANCHEZ yes please

GRANDMOTHER or make you some tea?

SANCHEZ yes tea! tea please!

FONDA is there anything in the world
 you would`nt do to save your skin?

SANCHEZ she goes out of the room
 and
 my hand reaches down to where the excitement is
 and
 pepita screams with lust
 paco moans and groans
 and me

 I never wrote her another letter
 never again

23

SANCHEZ the next two years are awful
 I walk around like an naked razor
 I'm bored
 I start trouble and punch-ups at partys
 sabes lo que te digo?
 que te folle un pulpo
 calla la boca!

 if I close my eyes
 I see the film
 I can watch every scene
 as if it's come to life

24

SANCHEZ finally
 we're standing opposite each other
 I pull a knife out of my boot
 paco just stands there
 watching me

PACO
SANCHEZ

que es lo que quieres?!

suddenly I see a close-up
of charles bronson's face
the camera pans slowly across it

he sees henry fonda coming toward him
it must have been years before
fonda has a beard then
looks younger

he comes up to the camera
stands there
takes a harmonica
out of the breast pocket of his shirt
and says :
"keep your loving brother happy"

bronson is then 14
a dirt-caked young mexican

the camera pulls slowly back
so that we can see boots
on the 14-year old's shoulder
standing on him is a man with a noose around his neck
the noose is fixed to a bell-rope
hanging from a beam in an archway
in the middle of a desert landscape
the man will be dead
as soon as the 14-year old gives out
the man is also mexican
and you think
it's his brother his father

cut
very close to the boy's face the pleading eyes
intercut with the smiling face of henry fonda
the huge eye of the 14-year old
with tears falling from it
the shining face of henry fonda

then the man with the noose around his neck
he feels he has no more ground under his feet
he curses henry fonda
"you son of a bitch
he'll get even with you one day!!"
and he kicks the 14-year old away

SANCHEZ cut to the falling boy
 the camera moves with him
 till he hits the ground
 the bell rings three times
 I stab him
 three times

paco
looks at me in disbelief
he's got a gun in his hand
but he can't pull the trigger
he goes down on his knees

PACO who are you? quien eres?

SANCHEZ "I'm gonna find that paco
 that killer
 that cowardly underhanded bastard
 I'm gonna cut off his ear
 and lay it on your grave
 I swear it!!"

25

GRANDMOTHER rafael!

and your grandfather
is still very proud of you
I say to him
'look where my angel has landed
are you content now? jose luis
are you content?'

and you know
what he answers
'the boy did what he had to do
he gave his word
at the graveside he swore it
and he'd do it again!'

it's not true rafael?!
you never do that again

remember?
that time in the kitchen
when I told him

GRANDMOTHER „that film isn't for my little one
he's only five
he´s frightened!“
he laughed at me and said:
‘but it's only a movie!’
and he goes to the chest of drawers
takes out a revolver
and shoots me

nearly

26

SANCHEZ for two years ...
for two years she sits with me every day

GRANDMOTHER don´t listen to your grandpa
don´t listen to him

SANCHEZ from one to two
talking about the nineteen thirties
and feeding me vitamins

GRANDMOTHER have you eaten?
have you eaten it all up?!

SANCHEZ abuela, son las dos!!
it´s two o´clock!

SANCHEZ then one day they're both standing there
her and grandfather

GRANDFATHER just think

SANCHEZ crying

GRANDFATHER they´re closing the spanish social security office in basel

SANCHEZ they have to return to spain

GRANDMOTHER what's going to become of him?
jose luis?!

SANCHEZ grandma
pulls out a huge packet of vitamins
the consul has personally promised
to look after me

27

CONSUL

rafael
 you'll be surprised
 that I've come to visit you again today
 what's the consul doing here again
 you must be thinking
 just the other day
 he brought me vitamins
 but you know
 early this morning
 I received a telegram
 a very serious telegram
 sit down
 warden is he allowed to sit down?!
 thanks

SPANISH
VOICE

´excelentísimo señor consul
 mi marido ha sufrido un ataque de apoplejia
 y se encuentra actualmente en el hospital
 su intimo deseo es ver por ultima vez a rafael
 esta bien así?!

CONSUL

a telegram
 signed by your grandmother

GRANDMOTHER

his deepest wish is
 to see rafael once more
 yes, that's good

CONSUL

I called her an hour ago
 she says
 your grandfather's condition is serious
 but the doctors believe
 he can recover
 from the stroke

in any case the warden and I
 have discussed the matter
 with those responsible
 at the ministry of justice
 in the last two years
 since your grandparents returned to spain
 you've conducted yourself well
 we've all agreed
 to waive your remaining year of prison
 my secretary has reserved you a ticket
 on tonight's train
 I'll pick you up
 and take you to the station

CONSUL rafael escucha!!
 pepita esta casada
 pepita has been married
 for a year already
 one of my relatives an idiot
 tranquilo eh?! tranquilo!
 we didn't want to tell you this before
 don't do anything stupid in spain! rafael!
 nothing stupid!!

 and
 rafael
 in case your grandfather comes to again
 give him a kiss for me

28

SANCHEZ the whole town was at the cemetery
 I'm standing there
 tears in my eyes
 if I close them I see
 grandpa
 dancing
 with a suitcase in his hand

 pepita
 looks at me her eyes blazing

 the coffin is lowered into the earth
 grandma tosses a wreath of roses
 into the grave

29

SANCHEZ the funeral ceremony takes place that evening

RAMON queridos amigos

SANCHEZ the film club invites everyone
 to a showing
 of the best film of the century

RAMON queridos miembros
 del cineclub „el cinematographo“!

SANCHEZ the whole town is united once again

JESUS maria

SANCHEZ the cripple
 jesus el baboso the slobberer
 wants to be locked in the toilet

JESUS maria!!

SANCHEZ and doesn't let up
 until ramon stands up and pushes him out

RAMON vete a la mierda!!

JESUS merci beaucoup

SANCHEZ then the film

 I can't concentrate
 feel eyes boring into the back of my head

PEPITA rafael

SANCHEZ pepita

PEPITA follame

SANCHEZ she's sitting two rows behind me

PEPITA follame

SANCHEZ next to her husband

 suddenly she stands up
 and walks out of the movie house
 I wait a couple of minutes
 then push my way through the row of seats
 excuse me
 que le pasa?

RAMON

JUAN what's wrong with him?

RAMON esta llorando

JUAN he's crying!

FERNANDA it was his grandfather's favorite film

RAMON rafael, esperamos?

FERNANDA should we wait for you?

SANCHEZ no no

30

HUSBAND hey, sanchez!!

SANCHEZ who me?
hablas conmigo?

HUSBAND venga! ven pa´ fuera!!

SANCHEZ you want me to come out in the street with you?

HUSBAND ahora mismo!
pa´ que te mate!!

SANCHEZ you want to shoot me
cause I was in love with your wife?!

okay
come on
come on, say it:
I want you
to come out in the street with me
so I can shoot you
cause you were in love with my wife!

HUSBAND o te pego un tiro aqui mismo! okay!

SANCHEZ sabes lo que te digo?!!
while you were sitting at the picture show ...
forced to watch
that asshole henry fonda put his dirty fingers
on claudia cardinale's tit
I was fucking
your pepita
and you know what she said?

a shot

SANCHEZ que toro

a second shot drops him blackout

RAMON muy bien!