

Salsa Verde

BY

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INT. RICH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Venezuela, 1970's. Rich, a 23-year-old American college student sits at his dining table. He is looking over a stack of papers. He throws the papers down gets up. He slams open the screen door to the back patio.

EXT. RICH'S BACK PATIO - DAY

Rich, sees a group of avocados hanging from a branch into his yard. He paces up to one and punches it. The avocado is squashed on the ground. Rich looks at his fist then at the squashed avocado on the ground. He collects the other avocados on the branch and heads back inside.

INT. RICH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Running through the screen door and breaking it Rich throws the avocados on the counter and pulls out a blender. He cuts up the avocados and throws them in the blender with a couple of jalapenos. Tastes the salsa and begins to smile.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS DAY - DAY

Rich is standing behind a vending stand. He has a small cardboard sign reading "Salsa Verde" and a couple of bags of chips adjacent to the jars of salsa. As the day moves on few and fewer jars are shown until they are all gone.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS DAY - NIGHT

Rich is holding a stack of cash and packs up his stand.

INT. RICH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rich is at the kitchen table. Rich's roommate, Luis, A lazy, American, and undetermined college student with a knack for cigarettes walks in.

LUIS

Hey. What are you doing?

RICH

I'm trying to pay off some bills.

Luis makes his way by the broken screen door.

LUIS

Paying off bills? Where did you get money for that? Also, what happened to our door?

RICH

I... I stole some avocados from old man Torres's tree. I also did that to the door, sorry

LUIS

You what? You stole from that crazy old bastard!

RICH

His tree was hanging in our yard. I'm sure it's fine.

LUIS

You forget this isn't American Richard? Next thing you know he could have you at gunpoint on his lawn. You better hope he didn't see you.

RICH

Haha, you're being a hysterical man. What's the worst thing he could do. Call the police?

LUIS

Yes!

INT. NEIGHBORS HOUSE DAY

Old man Torres is watching the boys from his window. He is tapping his cane hard on the ground. He looks at the phone and taps his cane on more time.

INT. RICH'S APARTMENT NIGHT

Rich and Luis are sitting on their couch watching TV. There is a loud knock at the door.

POLICE OFFICER

Policia! Open Up!

Rich quickly opens the door. The police officer looks into the apartment and sees Luis sitting on the couch.

POLICE OFFICER

Who took the avocados from the house next door?

LUIS

Oh, that was Richard sir.

RICH  
Yes, that would have been me, Sir.

POLICE OFFICER  
Please come outside.

EXT. RICH'S FRONT PATIO - NIGHT

The Police Officer Is hovering over Rich.

RICH  
Could you step a little back, please?

POLICE OFFICER  
No.

RICH  
Okay...

POLICE OFFICER  
Why did you take the avocados?

RICH  
Look I didn't take that man-

POLICE OFFICER  
Why did you take the avocados?

RICH  
They were hanging in my yard. it's not  
that big of a deal.

POLICE OFFICER  
Well, It is to me when I get a call  
about a stupid kid taking some old  
man's avocados. You're wasting my  
time. I better not come back here and  
have to deal with this again.

Officer leaves.

INT. RICH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rich walks back over to the couch and sits down.

LUIS  
Well, that could have gone worse.

RICH  
Am I crazy?

LUIS  
Haha, Rich what are you talking about  
you only took a few. He's got plenty.

RICH  
I know, but I just stole avocados from  
an old man to make some money. That's  
a new low for me.

LUIS  
Look man, as long as you don't do it  
again I'm sure it'll be fine. Want a  
cig?

RICH  
Naw I'm going to bed.

EXT. RICH'S BACK PATIO - MIDNIGHT

Rich walks out of the apartment into the dark. He stumbles on  
the broken screen door.

RICH  
Shit!

Luis opens his bedroom window and peaks out.

LUIS  
Hey man, what are you doing out here?  
Go to sleep?

RICH  
No! I'm pissed

LUIS  
About what? Torres?

RICH  
Yes.

LUIS  
What are you gonna do? Take all of his  
avocados? Go to bed man.

RICH  
Yes. Come help me.

Rich begins you hop onto the fence in between the yards and  
climbs up the tree.

LUIS  
 What are you talking about man I'm not  
 gonna help yo-

Luis gets smacked in the head by and Avacado.

RICH  
 Yes, you are.

LUIS  
 What in the hell are you going to do  
 with all those avocados.

RICH  
 I'm going to make salsa dammit! Shut  
 up and catch these will you!

LUIS  
 No way, I'm going back to bed.

Luis closes his Window

RICH  
 Luis! Luis! Goddammit!

A set of floodlights is now shinning on Rich halfway folded  
 over the fence. Behind the lights is Old Man Torres. Rich  
 struggles to get out of his position and falls into Torres's  
 yard.

EXT. OLD MAN TORRES BACKYARD

Torres slowly makes his way over to Rich. Torres stands over  
 Rich and reaches behind him. He pulls out a pistol and aims  
 straight for Rich's forehead.

RICH  
 Please! Please no! I'm sorry I'm so  
 sorry. I will do anything. Please  
 don't shoot me.

Old man Torres pulls back the hammer of the gun.

RICH  
 Okay! Okay! I'll stop!

Torres puts the gun closer to Rich's face.

RICH  
 I'm sorry okay. I don't know what you  
 want.

Torres puts his finger on the trigger.

RICH

We'll cut you in! We'll give you whatever percent you want of what we make. Please just don't kill me.

Torres immediately puts the gun away and backs away from Rich.

TORRES

BWAHAHAHAH!

RICH

What? Is that what you wanted? You're messed up man.

TORRES

I'm sorry my boy, but how was I supposed to teach you a lesson.

RICH

Maybe not put a gun to my head.

TORRES

Better me than that cop no?

RICH

I guess. Can I just go?

TORRES

How about this. If you need the avocados so bad how about you do what you said.

RICH

What did I say?

TORRES

Just give me a portion of what you make. I never know what to do with all these damn avocados. I sure as hell don't want you stealing them either.

RICH

Okay. How much do you want?

TORRES

Fifty.

RICH

Fifty!

Torres reaches for his gun.

RICH (CONT'D)

Okay, Okay! fifty percent, put that away!

Torres works up a wheezing laugh

TORRES

Now, get the hell outta my yard.

RICH

Can I at least go through the house?

TORRES

No.

Rich picks himself up and struggles back over the fence.  
Torres goes inside.

INT. RICH AND LUIS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rich walks in and gets into bed.

LUIS

So, did you take all his avocados?

RICH

You could say that.

Rich turns over in his bed and smiles.

THE END