

PABLO

by

Dean Cropper

1 EXT. DURANGO STREETS. EVENING 1

Durango, 1964. PABLO walks through the streets avoiding passersby. He turns into an alley. Prostitutes and thugs fill the doorways. PABLO follows the alley around a corner to a dead end. He KNOCKS on a reinforced door and draws a PACKAGE from his trousers. A BRUTE answers the door.

BRUTE huffs at Pablo. He pays Pablo and closes door. PABLO stashes the cash in his trousers and leaves.

2 INT. CISCO'S GANGHOUSE. NIGHTFALL 2

PABLO enters smokey room, passing tables of YOUNG MEN playing poker, some with hands on pistols and others on YOUNG WOMEN sat on their laps. PABLO continues to backroom and meets CISCO.

CISCO puts down his cigar

CISCO
Back already? The money?

PABLO hands over the money. CISCO begins counting. PABLO looks around the room. A half-stripped TEENAGE GIRL appears from a curtained booth.

TATTOOED MAN
(arm reaching out for the girl)
Get back in here!

The GIRL is dragged back in and smacked. Girl whimpers. CISCO coughs to reattain PABLO's attention.

CISCO
Good job, Niño. Here.

CISCO throws a small roll of cash on the table at Pablo. He returns to his duties and gestures Pablo to leave. PABLO stashes his money and leaves. The YOUNG MEN watch Pablo exit.

3 INT. PABLO'S HOME. NIGHT 3

PABLO enters and is met by MARIA. She embraces Pablo and kisses his head.

MARIA
Son, you're home. Your dinner's
just about ready.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA returns to the cooker to serve dinner. PABLO walks over to his sister SILVIA, asleep on the sofa. PABLO kisses her forehead and goes to sit at the table. MARIA serves his dinner and sits beside him. PABLO places his money on the table and begins to eat. MARIA hugs him again.

PABLO
Mamá, I think it's time you and
Silvia leave Durango. I've saved
enough money to get you to
Cortez, it's safer there.

MARIA
What?! What about you? You can't
stay.

PABLO
I'll be okay, Mamá. I can stay
and send you money, but I want
you two safe from the gang.

MARIA looks out the window.

PABLO
Mamá?

MARIA
Okay, son. Find a safe time. We
will go.

MARIA pauses. She heads upstairs trying to hold back her emotions. PABLO resumes eating.

4 INT. CISCO'S GANGHOUSE. MORNING

4

PABLO enters the room. GANG MEMBERS glare at Pablo.

CISCO
Niño? What're you doing here?

PABLO
Is there any extra work today?

CISCO stares at Pablo. PABLO looks innocently back. CISCO laughs to himself.

CISCO
No. But, you're welcome to stay.
Learn what men do with their
time.

Some of the GANG chuckle. CISCO passes Pablo his cigar. PABLO hesitantly takes a pull and chokes. The GANG laugh loudly. CISCO pats Pablo on the back and takes back the cigar.

(CONTINUED)

CISCO
Maybe next time, Niño. (pauses)
You ever play poker?

CISCO and the GANG play poker with Pablo. Some time passes as they play.

GANG MEMBER 1
...so tonight we head downtown,
Miguel thinks he can start a
rival gang, but we will show him
why he can't...

PABLO lights up.

GANG MEMBER 2
Poor poker face, Niño. (chuckles)
You won't win anything like that.

PABLO looks serious again. The round finishes up.

PABLO
I have to go. My mamá will be
waiting for me.

CISCO
Before you go Niño, let us show
you how to be a man. Come.

CISCO leads Pablo to the backroom. A few Gang Members follow in behind. CISCO draws one of the curtains back to show an undressed GIRL. The GIRL curls her body up.

CISCO
Here, Pablo. She's all yours, you
can mark your becoming of a man.
(smiling wryly) And don't worry,
none of us have fucked her, yet.

CISCO laughs. The GANG jaunt. PABLO makes eye contact with the GIRL. CISCO gestures Pablo into the booth. PABLO turns and leaves.

CISCO
(mockingly) Disappointing! Still
just little Niño. Go cry to your
mamá!

The GANG boo and laugh at Pablo.

5 INT. PABLO'S HOME. EVENING

5

PABLO bursts in.

(CONTINUED)

PABLO
(shouting) Mamá?! You must leave
tonight!

MARIA (O.S.)
What? So soon?

MARIA appears at the top of the stairs.

PABLO
It has to be tonight.

SILVIA joins Maria.

SILVIA
Mamá?

MARIA puts her arm around Silvia.

PABLO
I don't know when it might be
safe again.

MARIA
(sighs) We will pack.

6 EXT. TRAIN STATION. NIGHT

6

PABLO stands with MARIA and SILVIA on the platform.

PABLO
The train will arrive soon Mamá.
I don't have much time before I
must go, Cisco is expecting work.

MARIA embraces Pablo. A train whistles from a distance.

MARIA
Promise me you'll be safe. I love
you son.

PABLO
I will, mamá, I love you too.

Maria releases PABLO. He turns to SILVIA.

PABLO
And Silvia, I'll move with you
soon, it won't be long. I love
you, little sis.

PABLO hugs Silvia. She begins sobbing gently. Pablo kisses her forehead. A TRAIN can be seen approaching the station platform. PABLO helps Maria with luggage.

(CONTINUED)

CISCO (O.S.)
What have we here, Niño?

PABLO tenses and slowly turns to see CISCO and a few armed
GANG MEMBERS.