

The Brunch Crowd
By Dillon Yruegas

Characters

DALLAS: Mid-late 20s. Trans man (he/him). Queer. POC.

Don't let his outward appearance fool you, with his messy hair, scruffy facial hair, hipster glasses, plain t-shirts, trousers covered in paint, and torn canvas shoes: this artist uses his medium to highlight his journey through life as a queer transman of color. He is the most soft-spoken of the group, but when he does speak, it is either poignant and full of wisdom beyond his years or with an understated, dry, sarcastic humor. In a relationship with ERIK.

ERIK/LA BRUJA-JA: Late 20s-early 30s. Non-binary (he/they). Queer. Latinx.

Activist by day and drag queen by night. He works for a local non-profit that helps those living with HIV/AIDS to find various resources, including safe housing and low-cost medical care. Through their performances as La Bruja-ja, he puts their theatre degree to use with over-the-top costumes and story-line presence in even the most mundane pop songs. In a relationship with DALLAS.

FLOR: Mid-late 20s. Trans woman (she/her). Bisexual. Afro-Mexicana.

A busily working actress, she is rarely able to hang out with the group due to her various rehearsal and shooting schedules, but always makes time for brunch. Her hard work is paying off as she is already a well-known name amongst the theatre/film scene in Texas. She is contemplating a move to either NYC or LA.

Q: Early-mid 20s. Non-binary (they/them). Queer. Black or Afro-latinx.

Resident social media extraordinaire. They have a goal for becoming the next big influencer and they actually can boast a decent following. The group often pokes fun at them as they are often recognized out and about. Probably a Leo, but their animal is a peacock.

Setting

A neighborhood in Austin, Texas that's experiencing the mid-to-late stages of gentrification. Their regular brunch spot is a small, traditionally decorated Mexican restaurant that is one of the last original businesses holding out.

Light up on the group's regular brunch spot. A faint Ranchero or Mariachi song plays in the background. FLOR, ERIK, DALLAS, and Q sit in a corner booth. All their glasses are raised, toasting the first mimosa of the morning.

FLOR

Cheers, queers!

Q

Hold it; I'm taking a pic.

FLOR

Q, like you don't have hundreds of pics exactly like this.

Q

You're one to talk, Flor. I'll be awaiting a similar pic in your Insta story.

FLOR

Ay, whatever. Take the damn pic. (*A beat, perhaps after at least a couple of pictures are taken*) Wait! Let me switch hands; I want to show off my new ring I got in México.

ERIK

Ooo gurl, let me see! (FLOR *extends her hand across the table*) That's so cute! And your nails look flawless, as always.

FLOR

Thanks! My tía has her own salon in Cuernavaca.

DALLAS

So that's why you weren't here last week.

FLOR

Yeah, it was my cousin's wedding. Her mom closed down the salon for two days so all of us could get ready. Free

manis, pedis, eyebrows, y todo. Are you still not on Facebook or anything, Dallas? I have an entire album of it.

DALLAS
Well, yeah—

ERIK
Ay, but he never checks it.

DALLAS
I do, too, Erik! Just because I'm not constantly scrolling through my newsfeed, it doesn't mean I'm never on it.

ERIK
True, but tell me, if you didn't need it as a "networking opportunity" for your art, would you have one at all?

Q
(laughing) I can answer that: no. He barely has any social media presence outside of his art.

DALLAS
That's all the presence I need. Besides, if I did, I wouldn't want to surpass you, Q: Influencer.

Q
Well, thank you for your generosity, kind sir.

FLOR
Oh my god, did I tell you that a lot of mis primitos and their friends actually follow you?

Q
In Mexico? Wow, cool!

ERIK
Oh, I didn't know we had a celebrity among us!

FLOR
Right? They were watching your video about Frozen and got

all excited when I told them I knew you personally.

DALLAS

You did a video about Frozen? Why?

ERIK

I remember watching it. You said that Elsa's powers were just a magical manifestation of anxiety—

Q

—and depression, yeah.

DALLAS

Interesting. How so?

Q

Well, she's born with these powers that neither she nor her parents are willing to understand and so they live in fear of them, even of Elsa herself, right? This fear leads to isolation and loneliness and then evolves into accidental violent outbursts. As the story continues, she further isolates herself in a refusal to actually understand how her powers manifest or even to control them. Eventually, through the help of her sister, she learns ways to cope & manage her powers.

DALLAS

So how do her powers translate into mental illness?

Q

It's mostly in the way they're portrayed, really. Anxiety shows itself in many ways, but mostly in debilitating fear and feelings of helplessness. Elsa was afraid of her powers and they would spiral out of control the more overwhelmed she became. That caused depression which was shown by her wanting to isolate herself from the world.

DALLAS

Oh wow, I never really thought of it like that. Are you going to do a follow-up with one on Frozen II?

Q

Duh! I've already written and recorded it; I'm in the process of editing and trying to get around copyright issues. I'm addressing her Indigeneity and its Disney-fied decolonial message!

FLOR

I still need to watch it, though I wasn't a huge fan of the first one.

Q

It's so much better than the first! Which is super rare for Disney/Pixar.

FLOR

Yeah, that's why I've been hesitant.

Q

We should have a little watch party sometime!

ERIK

Ooo yes, but as soon as I'm done producing my next drag brunch. That'll take up all my free time for the next few months.

FLOR

Oh my god, I'm so excited; I can't wait! Remind me when it is again? I wanna make sure I can keep it open around my next shooting schedule.

ERIK

The 23rd at 11.

FLOR

Perfecto!

Q

Have you decided what you're going to perform yet?

ERIK

Ay no. It's definitely going to be themed around La Reina's birthday, but I don't know which song of hers I want to perform.

DALLAS

Well you do already have that amazing outfit from her Houston Rodeo performance.

ERIK

Pues sí pero I don't want to be that tired old queen who parks and barks *Como la flor*. As amazing and perfect and iconic as it is, gracias a santa Selena.

They all make a gesture/noise in praise of Selena.

DALLAS

I'm sure you'll come up with something, baby.

FLOR

Sí sí sí, you haven't done the disco mash-up medley thingy at that performance yet.

ERIK

Ooo buen idea!

FLOR

Pues claro, mi querido!

Q

Y'all, I think we're finally hitting the "speaking mostly in Spanish" level of drunk.

FLOR

Pendeje, you know damn well this one little pitcher ain't doin' shit.

Q

True

ERIK

Yeah, not for this group of borrachos!

ERIK raises their glass to cheer and starts to dance in his seat. The rest of the group joins in for a mini dance break. Collectively, they are loud and expressive without a care as to whomever is around or blessed enough to witness this act of pure joy.

Once they quiet down a bit, DALLAS gets up from the booth.

DALLAS

I'm gonna load up another plate from the buffet and get us another round. Y'all need anything?

Q

Nah, I'll come with you.

FLOR

Can you bring some more fruta?

DALLAS

Yeah, def.

FLOR

Like, a bigass plate.

Q

Oh my god woman, yes!

FLOR

Gracias mis amores!

DALLAS

Erik?

ERIK

Estoy bien. (*He kisses DALLAS on the cheek.*) ¡Gracias
cariño!

Q
(*turning to walk away*) GAAAAAYYY!

DALLAS
Shut up....

They exit.

FLOR
Soooo...

ERIK
Yes...?

FLOR
So when are you gonna do it? I've been waiting for you to
bust out that gorgeous ring you bought since we first walked
in!

ERIK
Ay, I don't think I'm gonna do it today.

FLOR
(*almost yelling*) Ay por pendejo, ¿por qué no?

ERIK
Oh my god, Florinda! ¡Cállate!

FLOR
¡Pues dímelo!

ERIK
Well I brought it up last night, just the subject of marriage in
general, and he went off on one of his rants about how it's
“an archaic ritual of patriarchal ownership” and “a plot to
uphold inherent white supremacy.” And like, he's not wrong,
but it's still disheartening.

FLOR

Ay, querida I'm sorry. You know he's just being a total cynical Capricorn stellium and is completely head over heels in love with you, right?

ERIK

Sí yo se, pero today's just not the right time.

FLOR

(bringing them in for a hug) Of course, mi amor.

Q and DALLAS arrive back to the booth with a couple of plates, a carafe of mimosas, and a small tray mounded with a variety of fruits. FLOR and ERIK are still embracing, but break apart once the fruit tray is placed on the table.

Q

Aw, y'all are so cute! I want in on this little love fest.

FLOR

(noticing the tray) Ojalé, y'all! That's a ton of fruit!!

DALLAS

We'll you said you wanted a bigass plate so....

FLOR

I mean yeah, but I didn't... how did y'all manage to get a tray?

DALLAS

Oh I just asked.

ERIK

And they just gave it to you?

DALLAS

Yeah—

Q

(pouring the next round of mimosas) Nah, this fool tried to walk away with the entire tray that was already there, but one of the staff caught his ass. Thankfully they know us so well that all he had to do was explain what he was doing and they got him a fresh tray from the back.

ERIK

Oh my god cariño...

FLOR

Well damn, all right!

DALLAS

(shrugging) Hey, it worked!

Q

Anyways, cheers queers! We better start working on this bigass plate of fruit.

Fade to black as they dive in and continue chatting.

End of play