

Schnauzer Duck

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Characters:

Roque (the thief)

Matus (the writer)

Their father

“I think most of what we remember, never happened.”
Saúl Enríquez. 2010

I. The entrance to Roque's home.

So... ROQUE

So... MATUS

...Fuck, man. ROQUE

Is that all you can say? MATUS

ROQUE
It's just that... Well, I didn't expect this... I mean, I thought you wanted me to pay you back.

MATUS
Pay me back what?

ROQUE
No, nothing...

MATUS
So, then...

ROQUE

It's just that... It's just, there's barely enough room for me and my baby girl.

MATUS

I'm not asking you to put me up, Roque...

ROQUE

So what are you asking me for?

MATUS

I only want... I can't bear this on my own... We could...

ROQUE

Dude, I'm really sorry about your situation... When was the last time you called...?

MATUS

Nine years.

ROQUE

Has it been that long since mom died? ... You finally grew your mustache.

MATUS

Really?

ROQUE

Yes, like mine.

MATUS

I just remembered. You do owe me money. And it's not a small amount. So...

ROQUE

I've got no money.

MATUS

You could live with me...

ROQUE

I don't need your help.

MATUS

I'm the one who needs help... Why do you live in such a bad neighborhood?

ROQUE

Because I like shit.

I meant/

MATUS

ROQUE

You live where you can. We can't all be so lucky.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

Have you seen dad?

MATUS

Yes, Roque, but you know...

ROQUE

What did he say?

MATUS

What do you think he said?

ROQUE

Well, I don't know, you retard. How the fuck am I going to know if you don't tell me?

MATUS

Don't call me a retard.

ROQUE

Well, then don't be a retard.

MATUS

It's not... pleasant to be here, asking you for this, you know...? You take for granted that your family is always going to be there for you, to support you...

ROQUE

No matter what you've done, right?

MATUS

Well... yeah...

ROQUE

I have no hard feelings, but your dad took it really fucking hard.

MATUS

Are we going to stay talking at the door? Aren't you going to invite me in?

ROQUE

It's just that my daughter is here and I don't want her to see you... She admires you, you know...? She likes to read. What did dad tell you...? Come on, let's go for a walk.

MATUS

Is it safe?

ROQUE

This hood is full of vermin, but you're talking to the worst of them.

II. Father's office

MATUS

I have two months left, I have a brain tumor. Here, right in the middle of my head. It's growing fast. No, it can't be removed, it's too advanced. I have two months left to live.

FATHER

And?

MATUS

I'd like to know if... I can stay here, dad. I don't want to go through this alone. I'll need help soon. The tumor will affect my long term memory. I might get dementia... I'm already forgetting recent events. I need help.

FATHER

Your mother also needed help.

MATUS

She was already dead.

FATHER

You're dead to me too.

MATUS

...

FATHER

It was her last wish, I heard her clearly... Even your useless brother heard it... You can ask him.

MATUS

And how's Roque?

FATHER

What do I know. Hustling a dollar here and there... That boy hasn't worked a day in his life.

MATUS

And how do you know?

FATHER

I know my people. And why did you come here, uh? You have money. Pay a hospital to take care of you. I can't take care of you...

MATUS

So...?

FATHER

I can't, Mr. Matus. I have a new family to take care of, I can't neglect my businesses for you. The lady you see in that picture? She spends. And the kids in that one? They study at a very expensive school... Unlike your useless brother, they do need me...

MATUS

Me too... Don't you understand? I'll forget such basic things like...

FATHER

I gave you all you needed. I even paid for that stupid English major. To my regret. You, "Mr. Matus," don't need me. Let your books keep you company. Let them take care of you... Or go with your useless brother, see if he wants to... I have a clean conscience. You are dead to me.

MATUS

Do you have his address?

FATHER

I don't have anything of his. Nothing! I can't believe you dared to come here after what you did. Go away!

MATUS

Fine then.

Matus turns to leave.

FATHER

Rodolfo. I think my wife has Roque's address. Ask her.

III. A street.

ROQUE

And he asked about me?

MATUS

Yeah, he sends you kisses.

ROQUE

(Laughing.)

You're such an asshole.

MATUS

He mentioned you.

ROQUE

Dad never believed in me.

MATUS

When you were a kid, yes.

ROQUE

He didn't believe in you either... He believed in us because we were kids and we did what he wanted. Until... The blessing that is adolescence comes and you just rebel against everything. Even against the shouting mother fucker who happens to be your old man.

Matus laughs.

ROQUE

What are you laughing at?

MATUS

At rebelling against everything... I remember the time he took you to get you braces and... you asked me to take them off and I had these pliers, and... we were such idiots... I pulled it so hard that I got a piece of metal off along with a whole chunk of a tooth. And then dad didn't want to take you to the orthodontist again... He told you, "now you're fucked," and you walked around with a swollen mouth for three days because the little wires cut you from the inside... until mom came back from a trip and had mercy on you... That day shit really hit the fan. Dad got an earful. It's been years since I remembered that.

ROQUE

If mom hadn't been there who knows what the fuck would've happened to us.

MATUS

We would've become a couple of bald, pretentious lawyers with cholesterol problems...

ROQUE

And you're better off as a writer with a brain tumor. You really fucked up with mom. God punishes those kinds of things.

MATUS

Don't play like that. It's not funny.

ROQUE

I'm just telling you the truth. I don't know why you're showing up here with that sob story.

MATUS

I might die without knowing who I was... Imagine that. The doctor said my brain could freeze at any given moment, and forget all the information I have...

ROQUE

But that's your fucking problem. You're fucking selfish, and you only think about yourself. Did you even know that my kid was sick? No, right? Do you know why my old lady left me? No, Ea! You don't know anything about me! You don't know about my problems or what I'm into.

MATUS

Your wife left you?

ROQUE

You see?

MATUS

If I could take care of myself I would do it. I am going to forget who I am.

ROQUE

And that's important? Dude, there are days that I'd like to forget who the fuck I am and start again. But I'm stuck with myself.

MATUS

But I forget things I don't want to forget... One time I came out of the supermarket and I couldn't remember what type of car I had. I had to walk around pushing the buttons on my keys to see if an alarm would go off. I walked like that for hours, looking... Then I decided to go home. When I got home my car was parked across the street. I felt like such an idiot.

ROQUE

You've always been an idiot. So, how is it that that tumor is going to kill you?

MATUS

The tumor presses against the area of the brain that controls my breathing. Soon, my breathing will become deficient, and I'll have encephalitis, body numbness, vomiting, depression, sudden mood swings, slowness of fine and gross motor skills... So you can understand me: I will forget how to breathe.

ROQUE

When you breathe you don't think about it.

MATUS

I'm going to put it in terms you can understand. I have a monster in my head, and it's eating my memories and everything else in there. Anything we do, anything, the order comes from the brain. And since this monster is chewing up my grey matter, I will forget things like how to control my sphincter, how to walk... My body is being disconnected.

ROQUE

That's really fucked up.

MATUS

It's going to be fast. 50 days. Are you going to leave me alone?

ROQUE

Didn't you leave us alone before/

MATUS

... So?

ROQUE

The difference between you and me is that I would help you just because you are my brother. And you have to be sentenced to death to come and ask for my help. If you weren't sick you wouldn't have come. Am I wrong, asshole?

MATUS

So?

ROQUE

You have money. Why don't you hire a nurse...

MATUS

Dad offered the same thing. Thank you.

He turns to leave.

ROQUE

Wait, dude, don't go like that! Asshole! Don't make me feel bad, you dick! This is all your fault. How easy we forget!

IV. Matus' Room.

Matus records himself.

MATUS

My name is: Rodolfo Chagoyan... But my artistic name is Rodolfo Matus... I write novels. I live on 32 Luna Street. I used to have two beautiful gray dogs, but I gave them away. My car is: a white SUV. Model... god damn it. It has a bump on the right side of the front bumper. I'm allergic to caffeine. I don't have a wife or children... I'm not gay... I'm alone because I'm selfish... I have money in a safe: my combination is: Where did I put it?

In a pay-phone.

ROQUE

No, Slim... I don't have your money yet... I'm going to pay you... I'm going to pay you... I told you I'm going to fucking pay you! It wasn't my fault those mother fuckers pussied out when they saw the cops. I had to burn the goods or they were going to lock me up. I'm not repeating myself, but it wasn't my fault! I didn't want to even get into this mess... Give me a couple of days... Do not talk about my daughter, mother fucker... Just don't talk about her... I'm going to pay you! Look, Slim, I didn't get into this for fun... You'll get your money. But don't you talk about my... I don't know how long, it's a lot of money... I don't know... Fine... A month... A month!

V. The entrance to Matus' house.

Roque buzzes Matus house. Matus comes out wearing a robe. He looks scruffy. Matus looks to both sides of the street, looking for something.

MATUS

What are you doing here, Roque?
(Calling out)

Duck! Ducky!

ROQUE

I came to help you.

MATUS

Duck! Ducky!

ROQUE
What are you looking for?

MATUS
My pets. Have you seen them?

ROQUE
No.

MATUS
They're schnauzers.

ROQUE
Schnauzers? I'll look for them later.

MATUS
They always go out, but they come back. I haven't seen them since the morning.

ROQUE
And how are you?

MATUS
My ducks... I need them.

ROQUE
You still want me to help you?

Matus embraces Roque.

VI. Matus' office.

Matus types in an old typewriter.

ROQUE
You look normal to me.

MATUS
And what did you expect? A hole in my head?

ROQUE
I mean, your room is a fucking mess, but you look normal.

MATUS
Sometimes I forget to clean.

ROQUE

Some things never change. You were always a pig.

MATUS

And you so tidy.

ROQUE

I wasn't tidy, I just liked to shower, asshole.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

And what are you writing?

MATUS

I'm trying to write my last piece. I want you to publish it post-mortem.

ROQUE

Where?

MATUS

Post-mortem. That means, after my death.

ROQUE

And why don't you say it like that, asshole? You fucking love using retarded words to mess with my head, right?

MATUS

You're not going to ask me what the novel is about?

ROQUE

Nah, I never understand a fucking word.

MATUS

Don't worry. I left you instructions with my lawyer. Here, before I forget.

Matus hands Roque an envelope.

MATUS

Everything is written down. Don't lose it. I used to put everything in a voice recorder... But I don't know where I put it.

ROQUE

Can I read the instructions?

No. After I die.

MATUS

Ok...

ROQUE

Roque gets up and observes carefully some of the objects in the office. A framed award catches his eye.

What is this Alfaguara Award bullshit?

ROQUE

MATUS

I won it for a novel I wrote.

ROQUE

Is it worth something? The frame?

MATUS

Let's say it has sentimental value, Roque.

ROQUE

It's worth nothing... Alfaguara Award... What kind of bullshit is that?

MATUS

It's a very prestigious award.

ROQUE

Fuck, yeah, the Alfaguara Award is the 40 grand and change that I don't give a fuck about.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

And it's not even something I can show off. I can't imagine going to my boys... Guess what? My bro won the Alfaguara Award. And the boys with a what the fuck face. Most of us don't give a fuck about all that writers' bullshit.

MATUS

By the way, I have to give you my lawyer's instructions.

ROQUE

You're shitting me... Matus?

Matus looks for the envelope on his desk. Roque looks at him incredulous.

MATUS

Where did I put it?

Matus takes a little paper out of his pocket. He reads it.

MATUS

It says here that's under the typewriter... But... Don't look at me like that. I write stuff down so I won't forget it.

ROQUE

(Taking the envelope out of his pocket without Matus noticing.)

Is this it?

MATUS

Yes, that's it. Where was it?

ROQUE

Under the desk.

MATUS

Ah. So, look, this man is going to tell you what to do...

ROQUE

Yes, I know, I'm sure you want me to publish you "post-partum".

MATUS

Post-mortem. How do you know?

ROQUE

That's the kind of bullshit writers pull.

(In an "intellectual" pose)

Damn, did you really win the Alfaguara?

MATUS

I just told you that, didn't I?

ROQUE

Yes, of course. I'm just testing you.

Matus continues to write. Roque continues snooping around.

ROQUE

Your furniture is cool. Where did you get it?

MATUS

In antique shops. Some of them are true jewels.

ROQUE

Jewels?

MATUS

Things you can't find anywhere else. Maybe some of these are one of a kind... For instance, that clock is from the 18th century.

ROQUE

And it still works?

Matus grabs his head, whimpers. He's in pain.

ROQUE

I was just asking.

MATUS

No, please, no please...

ROQUE

What's going on? Don't fuck around.

MATUS

Fuck... My head... My head...

ROQUE

What do I do? What do I do, Rodolfo?

MATUS

Let go off me...! Don't come near me!

ROQUE

Where is your medication!?

MATUS

Oh my god, please stop! My fucking head! Please!

ROQUE

Your medication.

MATUS

I don't take medications! Shut up already!

Matus collapses on the floor, convulsing. Roque hugs him, not knowing what to do.

ROQUE

Fuck, Fofo, what do I do? Where are your medications?!

Little by little, Matus calms down. Roque, scared, doesn't let go of him.

ROQUE

It's ok, bro. It's over now.

MATUS

(Obviously weak)

It happens often. Encephalitis. I don't take medications because they speed up my memory loss.

ROQUE

You're facing this head on, like a man.

MATUS

Bring me some water, please.

Roque goes to fetch water. Matus gets up, looks around him. He massages his head. Roque returns with a glass of water.

MATUS

What are you doing here? How did you get in?

ROQUE

(Dropping the glass.)

This is going to be fucking insane.

VII. Matus' office.

Matus finishes typing something. Reads aloud.

MATUS

Still. Without blinking. Hunched and with his hands in a knot, planted in a chair with a broken back. Roque is lost in that dirty room. How does he pull off the heist. How does he go into that house unnoticed. He carefully goes over every step. He can't go back to jail. Nothing will go wrong, Roque thinks. He can't afford it. His baby is about to be born...

(Thinking aloud.)

I'm not sure about the baby part.

VIII. Pay-phone

ROQUE

Give me a fucking break, Slim, it's only been a week... No, I got no cash... But I'm about to close a deal. Yes, I told you I'd pay you... It's none of your fucking business where I get it from, all you care is that I pay you, right?... Don't talk about my daughter, asshole... Fuck off! I will fucking pay you!... I will pay you, do not say her name... I will get your money.

IX. Matus' office.

Roque holds a duck. He shows it to Matus.

MATUS

What's that?

ROQUE

What do you mean what's this... You pet.

MATUS

What?

ROQUE

Here's your fucking Schnauzer. I found it in the back alley.

MATUS

That's a duck. Schnauzers are dogs.

ROQUE

You said it was a duck.

MATUS

His name is Duck. It's a Schnauzer dog that I christened Duck.

ROQUE

Fuck! Who names a dog Duck? And what's the name of the other one? Daffy?

MATUS

The other's Ducky.

ROQUE

Damn, your imagination is daffy! One's Ducky and the other's Duck. Fuck. Take it.

MATUS

I name my dogs whatever I want.

ROQUE

And what do I do with this duck? Do I eat it? Make a pillow out of it? Ah, no, I know what I'll do. I'll keep him as a pet and call him Dog. Stupid. Take it, damn it!

MATUS

(Hurt.)

Don't be like that.

ROQUE

What do you want me to do? Do you know how hard it was to get this fucking duck? You know how many back rooms I had to go to looking for Schnauzer ducks!

MATUS

And how would I know that?

ROQUE

Now I know why they were laughing! I'm like an idiot, telling them, they do exist, you ignorant fucks. It's just that you fucking little black market doesn't carry them. Until an asshole just went along with me and tells me, here you go! A delicious Schnauzer duck.

MATUS

(Almost crying)

Don't yell, Roque!

ROQUE

Take the Schnauzer!!

Matus takes the duck.

ROQUE

No, asshole, it doesn't even end there... I had to steal the duck, cause I got no money! 15 fucking blocks, running with the duck in my backpack, praying to god that it didn't die! ...And now that I bring it to you, you want a damn dog-duck. And stop crying you little sissy.

MATUS

I'm sorry. With this illness my emotions get the better of me.

(He suddenly stops crying.)

Did you steal it?

ROQUE

Yes.

MATUS

That's a crime.

ROQUE

Oh, I'm sorry Fofo, now what should I do? Return it?

MATUS

...

ROQUE

That's my job...

MATUS

You're a thief... What do you steal?

ROQUE

You name it.

MATUS

And have you ever been in jail?

ROQUE

Why do you all of a sudden care about my life, uh?

MATUS

I'm writing a novel and the main character is named after you.

ROQUE

You really didn't know?

MATUS

No.

ROQUE

You didn't know I'm a thief? And how do you think I've survived?

MATUS

What?

ROQUE

I was 13 when your dad kicked me out... What were my options? I didn't even finish middle school and I slept through elementary school...

MATUS

I'm writing a novel where you are a thief...

ROQUE

I don't give a fuck.

MATUS

13 years old?

ROQUE

What? You forgot already?

MATUS

So, when.... How did we take that trip to Guatemala...? We were like 16, right? You paid for everything because dad didn't give me any money. Dad said you were at a military school and that if I didn't study hard I... Roque. You were in the army. I have a picture of you posing with other soldiers... Wait...

Matus opens his desk's drawer and takes out a picture.

MATUS

Look.

ROQUE

Those were soldiers at a checkpoint. I asked them to take a picture with me. Retard.

MATUS

So why are you wearing a uniform?

Matus shows him the picture.

ROQUE

Look carefully. I'm wearing a green t-shirt. That's all.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

You were a kid and I thought you were so proud of me... I couldn't let you down.

MATUS

So you're not in the army.

ROQUE

I never said I was... You talked and talked and I just kept saying yes...

MATUS

So... The gun.

ROQUE

That was mine... And not from the army.

Matus is visibly upset. He sits at his desk.

ROQUE

I'm a thief, Matus... I've always been. I steal things and nobody ever notices it. Yesterday I took your antique clock, and you didn't even notice.

You were with me when I started. The first time was a day we went shopping at a department store. All of us were there. Dad didn't want to buy me a new skateboard... I left the one I was carrying, I took the one I liked. I rode on it. We sailed pass the cashier.

Nobody said anything. We left the department store, I smiled to the security guard at the door, I put my new skateboard in the trunk, we got in the car... and nobody said a thing.

Not even mom noticed. A few days later I did it again, and then again and again. I got 12 new skateboards. It was like having a gift, like everything belonged to me... I have broken into homes, stores... cars. I have such good luck that I've found cars with the ignition keys on and running, houses with opened doors, restaurants with distracted wait-staff.

Everything was perfect. My reputation was growing and I was thriving. Until Grace, my daughter was born... Then suddenly everything started to go wrong. Alarms go off. Cops appear out of the blue. I lose merchandise. I get in trouble... In troubles. Anyway.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

What?

MATUS

... Nothing.

Matus stares at the picture.

MATUS

(Amazed/surprised)

Look what I found, Roque... A picture of you when you were a soldier. Tell me again the story of when you caught the Sinaloa narco.

Roque realizes Matus has forgotten.

ROQUE

Why don't you just go fuck yourself? And do it twice in case you forget.

X. Pay-phone

ROQUE

Well, something's better than nothing, right? That's all I could get... The clock?... I couldn't sell it, that's why I gave it to you... No, it's not old. It's an antique, you retard, and that's different. That clock is worth like, a fuck lot! The thing is to sell it to someone who knows about stuff like that... No, I don't think my brother would want to buy it... Well, I'm working on it... Yes, I know that I have a long way to go but... I told you not to talk about my daughter, fucker! Yes, Slim, tell the boss that I will pay him. I'll pay you all and then you can fuck off.

XI. Matus' office.

Matus sits on his chair, the duck in his arms. Roque sits across, without moving.

ROQUE

You really can't get up?

MATUS

No... I can't move my legs since yesterday. I peed on myself. I'm afraid at night... I'm afraid at night. Things move or get lost.

ROQUE

Things don't get lost. They just change owners.

MATUS

Are you sure? Then where's my TV? It used to face my bed.

ROQUE

Your TV? You've never had a TV. Writers don't watch TV.

MATUS

So why do I have a remote control on my bed?

ROQUE

Oh, you found it? Oh... Well... It's mine... I carry it with me so Grace doesn't watch TV. Can I have it?

MATUS

This place is emptier everyday...

ROQUE

... You're confused. You've always been very... minimalist.

MATUS

I wanted to take some pictures, but I couldn't find my camera either.

ROQUE

Matus, you know that lately the illness has hit you harder, but I'm here to support you... Don't be scared, bro.

MATUS

Do you know what dementia is?

ROQUE

When you get really retarded?

MATUS

You live the same moment over and over again. It can be a day, a few hours or a few seconds... When you have dementia you repeat everything all the time. I'm dissolving... Everything I've accomplished is going to hell.

Matus gets up.

ROQUE

You said you couldn't walk... You're wetting your pants.

MATUS

(Crying.)

This is humiliating... I need a gun.

ROQUE

Easy, brother...

MATUS

I want to kill myself, before I get worse...

ROQUE

Easy, you're going to forget this now... I mean, it'll pass.

MATUS

Fucking shitty life.

ROQUE

Dude, you're gonna hurt the duck.

MATUS

Buy me a gun/

ROQUE

I got nothing, I've told you/

MATUS

Let's end this misery.

ROQUE

I got no money, bro, If I did I'd gladly/

MATUS

Buy me a gun/

ROQUE

Go, or lend you mine/

MATUS

I have money in a safe.

ROQUE

I would help you but/

MATUS

How much do you need?

ROQUE
You have a safe?

MATUS
How much?

ROQUE
You got cash?

MATUS
Yes, I keep money there./

ROQUE
Give me some.

MATUS
And you'll buy me a gun?

ROQUE
Yes.

MATUS
I'm going to the safe.

ROQUE
You stink.

Matus stops and walks back to his desk, opens a drawer, looks for a piece of paper.

ROQUE
I'm going to need around three grand.

MATUS
Where did I put it? Don't you think that's a lot for a gun?

ROQUE
Criminals also invest, asshole... For a down-payment. I'll put a down-payment, I'll give you the gun, you shoot yourself, and then I'll bring the gun back. It'll be used only once. I'll return the gun and keep the cash, I mean... as a commission.

MATUS
Do you need money?

ROQUE
Always.

MATUS

Then why don't you ask?

ROQUE

Because I don't need anything from you.

MATUS

You stole my clock!

ROQUE

Did you give it to me?

MATUS

No!

ROQUE

Then it doesn't count.

Matus keeps looking around his desk. He doesn't let go of the duck.

MATUS

What was I looking for? If you need money I can lend you some...

ROQUE

I told you I don't want anything from you.

MATUS

Why?... Fuck! What am I looking for? Why don't you want my money?!

ROQUE

Look, I'm gonna be straight with you. Dude, during mom's funeral, after the fucking mess, and I'm sure you have no clue about what happened... I promised myself never to take anything from any of you, especially from you. You, asshole. You. You really let me down. Especially from you... Bribing me at mom's funeral... You knew I needed the money, that's why you offered it to me, just like now...

MATUS

You asked me for it! Shit! What was I looking for?

ROQUE

You were looking for a way to get out! Every time shit hit the fan you booked! That's your thing, to run away! And I did not ask for money.

MATUS

Really? You said, “How much to cover you, fucking Chagoyan?”

ROQUE

Don’t squeeze the duck! I didn’t think you would do it! I was playing around, it was mom, you asshole!

MATUS

But you took it...

ROQUE

And you really left!

MATUS

I couldn’t stay.

ROQUE

It was mom’s funeral! Couldn’t you just face it? I know it was hard, but...

MATUS

I was getting the Alfaguara award!... What the hell am I looking for!?

ROQUE

What?

MATUS

I received the Alfaguara award that same day...

ROQUE

You exchanged mom for an award?!

MATUS

What was it?

ROQUE

I don’t know, asshole! I don’t know fucking bad son!

MATUS

I couldn’t stay!... The award only happens once...

ROQUE

And your mother died twice! Right, mother fucker?

Matus pushes Roque hard. Roque falls to the ground.

You don't understand anything! MATUS
 Roque gets up furious. Matus point the duck at him as if pointing a gun.

You're fucked! ROQUE

Calm down, Roque. MATUS

Put that fucking duck down. ROQUE

Let's talk... MATUS

Let go off the fucking duck, he has nothing to do with this. ROQUE

Let's stop, brother... Breathe with me... MATUS
 (Pretending to forget what just happened.)
 Roque... What are you doing here?

No, no, no, don't play stupid. ROQUE

Why are you so upset? What am I doing with this duck? MATUS

Don't do this to me. ROQUE

Tell me! ... Tell me. MATUS

Roque lets out a helpless scream, tightens his fists and hits his head. He looks at Matus intently.

You owe me money. ROQUE

What? MATUS

ROQUE

I gave you my life's savings and now you don't want to give them back...

MATUS

Are you sure?

ROQUE

...

MATUS

Ok.

Matus puts the duck on the desk. He stops, thinks for a moment.

MATUS

Do you remember where I put it?

ROQUE

In the safe...

MATUS

Yes, of course. In the safe...

Matus tries to remember where he put the combination.

MATUS

Now I remember what I was looking for! The card with the combination.

Matus removes one of his shoes and takes out a piece of paper wrapped in plastic.

MATUS

I found it... Don't look at me like that. This way I don't lose it.

ROQUE

Fucking liar. Didn't you say you didn't remember?

MATUS

What?

ROQUE

I'm beginning to understand the things you forget, and this combination is just one of those memories that you say you keep forgetting.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

Am I wrong?

MATUS

The mind is capricious Roque.

Roque jumps on Matus and pummels him. They fight clumsily. The duck observes it all.

XII. Matus' office.

Matus has a black eye. Roque a bruised, bloody lip. They both sit on the floor. They're calm. Roque drinks whiskey from a bottle and the alcohol makes his lip burn. Matus, without looking at him, offers him a napkin. Roque wipes his mouth. Matus grabs a small size juice box with a straw and slurps the last drops, which makes a peculiar sound.

ROQUE

Such a fucking ruckus.

After slurping the last drop, Matus blows into the container and sets it on the floor. He raises his leg to step on it, is about to blast it, but instead, kindly offers the honor to Roque.

Roque jumps on the container. The container explodes. Roque smiles.

ROQUE

We spent hours doing this... Remember?

MATUS

I do remember that.

ROQUE

Good times, right?

MATUS

Eternally good times.

Matus sits next to Roque, taps his shoulder.

MATUS

Who won shorty?

ROQUE

What a stupid question...

MATUS

I mean, because you didn't come out unscathed...

ROQUE

Karate, right?

MATUS

Ea.

ROQUE

I say it because the sissy pose you had.

They both laugh with complicity.

MATUS

...About mom...

ROQUE

You made your decision... Leave it at that...

MATUS

What happened after that? Why was everyone so mad at me?

ROQUE

I don't want to talk about that...

MATUS

But I do. The whole family didn't get angry because I left, but because of what happened after that...

ROQUE

If you don't want another black eye shut your ass.

MATUS

Tell me, Roque.

Roque gets up menacingly.

MATUS

I'll change the subject.

ROQUE

... What's your last wish?

MATUS

What?

ROQUE

For realz. You don't have that much time...

MATUS

When I used to think about that... About my last days. I imagined that I'd travel around the world. But as you see, there are days I can't even move my legs...

ROQUE

Well, yes...

MATUS

...

ROQUE

But I don't know... Something... Something to eat... Fuck two chicks at the same time...

MATUS

Do you remember that mountain we liked when we were kids?

ROQUE

The one around here, with "the devil's cave."

MATUS

Exactly.

ROQUE

Yes... What about it, dude?

MATUS

I always wanted to climb to the top.

ROQUE

And...

MATUS

We could walk there.

ROQUE

In your condition... You're shitting me.

MATUS

You asked.

ROQUE

Out of courtesy... You can't go climbing mountains now. What if you get all... *(Makes a seizure-like gestures and noises)*? Don't fuck around... You're sick, kid.

MATUS

What could happen? If something goes wrong we'll just call 411...

ROQUE

It's 911 you idiot. See? It ain't that easy... No, look, the chicks are a way better idea.

MATUS

I'll pay you.

ROQUE

...

MATUS

I don't know what you need it for, but I do know you need money .

ROQUE

...

MATUS

How much?

ROQUE

Four million dollars.

MATUS

...You're shitting me...

ROQUE

Ok, yes, I am... I need 13,725 dollars.

Why that amount? MATUS

Because it's what I need. ROQUE

Deal. MATUS

Do you have it? (Surprised) ROQUE

Yes. I'll put that amount in the safe. MATUS

13,725 dollars? ROQUE

Yes. I'll carry the combination and give it to you only if we make it to the top. MATUS

It's not a good idea. ROQUE

Deal? MATUS

Why not. ROQUE

Let's be clear then. I'll only pay you if we make it to the top. MATUS

Alright then... And only because it's your last wish. ROQUE

Remember. We have to make it to the top. MATUS

Matus spits on his hand. Roque is disgusted.

What are you doing? ROQUE

Like when we were kids. MATUS

Clean your hand, you pig. ROQUE

Matus wipes his hand on his pants. Roque is not convinced but extends his arm. They shake hands.

When? ROQUE

Tomorrow. MATUS

We need to buy some stuff. ROQUE

Whatever you want. MATUS

... ROQUE

Matus goes out to the street.

Shower first, you pig. ROQUE

Where's my car? MATUS

Your car? You've always had a bike, it's more "European." ROQUE

I have an SUV! MATUS

You have a bike, remember... remember... You have a bike and a duck you named Dog. ROQUE

Roque hands the duck to Matus.

XIII. Facing the mountain.

Roque and Matus look at the mountain. Roque carries the duck inside a basket.

ROQUE

Why did we bring the duck?

MATUS

I couldn't leave him behind, you've seen how things disappear in that house.

ROQUE

(About the mountain)

I thought it would be like grandma's fridge.

MATUS

How come?

ROQUE

Like, when I was a kid, I thought that the fridge in her kitchen was huge. And last time I visited her, I realized how tiny it was.

MATUS

Well, no. This mountain still has the same dimensions.

ROQUE

I still think the two chicks was a better idea.

MATUS

No. Come on, let's climb. Roque, Don't let me down. I want to make it to the top. No matter what.

ROQUE

I gave you my word, didn't I?

A cellphone goes off. It's in Roque's bag. Roque hands the duck to Matus.

ROQUE

Hold this.

MATUS

That cellphone sounds familiar.

ROQUE

Well, yes, it's yours you dumbass.

MATUS

So how come...?

ROQUE

But it's my SIM card.

(He answers the phone.)

Hold on... Yes, hello.

Roque walks away from Matus. Matus starts climbing the mountain alone.

ROQUE

What the fuck? Yes, I told you that today... I know I missed the deadline. But I'll be done today... Everything, every last cent. Yes, I'll keep my word, and then everyone can go fuck themselves. Yes, Slim... I'll meet you at the usual spot.

He hangs up. The phone rings again.

ROQUE

What now asshole?... What? Ah, I'm sorry, baby girl!... Yes, I'm fine... I was arguing with... What happened?... Yes, I'm getting everything ready... Yes, my princess. Pack only what you really need, let's not carry junk. Today we'll go to Veracruz, start over again. I love you too... Yes, I'll be home tonight. Remember, don't open the door for anyone.

He hangs up the phone, looks around him. Matus is gone.

ROQUE

Matus! Where are you fucking Chagoyan?

XIV. The father's office.

Roque, arms crossed, faces his father.

FATHER

Well... The dead can rise from their graves.

ROQUE

Did you know about Rodolfo?

FATHER

Yes, but I already forgot it.

ROQUE

...

FATHER

How's Grace?

ROQUE

What are we going to do?

FATHER

How's Grace?

ROQUE

She's growing. Happy.

FATHER

I hear she looks like your mother.

ROQUE

Fortunately. How are we going to help Rodolfo?

FATHER

The two of you. The two of you really let me down.

ROQUE

And that's why he'll die like a dog?

FATHER

A dog does what his owner tells him to.

ROQUE

That sounds so wrong...

FATHER

Before you go, remind me to give you some old shirts that don't fit me anymore... You dress like a bum.

ROQUE

...

FATHER

Your loss. I can't do anything for that man. He even changed his last name... His last name is Chagoyan. Not Matus.

ROQUE

Nobody was going to take him seriously with that last name. It's tacky.

FATHER

Don't talk nonsense.

ROQUE

It's only his artistic name.

FATHER

I don't care...

ROQUE

He's going to die, dad.

FATHER

"Dad."

ROQUE

Mom died angry at you... I don't want Rodolfo to do the same.

FATHER

Look at you. Since when are you the family's redeemer?

ROQUE

Look, dad, we've always had problems, you and I. Actually, I don't think you ever liked me...

FATHER

You're wrong.

ROQUE

Please, dad, I remember everything... Your family hates you, how can you live with that?

FATHER

Shut up, you fucking criminal.

ROQUE

Don't talk to me like that...

FATHER

That's what you are... You think I don't know it?

ROQUE

And you don't think I know about your scams? Fucking corrupt... cheater.

The father gets up, furious.

ROQUE

Don't get up unless you want to get hurt.

FATHER

Don't raise your voice at me you stupid kid!

ROQUE

Then show some respect!

FATHER

...

ROQUE

Reconcile with Rodolfo. Help him.

FATHER

He has to apologize!

ROQUE

For what?

FATHER

For what he did to your mother.

ROQUE

But it was all your fault!

FATHER

You heard your mother, she wanted Rodolfo to dress her when she died, only Rodolfo! I have a lot of respect for that kind of thing.

ROQUE

My brother didn't want to do it.

FATHER

She asked for it...

ROQUE

But it was your responsibility... But you disgusted mom so much that she didn't want you to touch her, even after death. Weren't you ashamed? "I don't want that miserable man to touch me," were her last words.

FATHER

It was her last wish!

ROQUE

Rodolfo was terrified! That's why he ran away. He adored mom. He couldn't stand to see her dead. He disappeared for years...

FATHER

If he had stayed we could've avoided what happened. The whole family still remembers that incident...

ROQUE

Incident? Mom's naked body fell out of the coffin!

FATHER

Because you let it drop, you idiot!

ROQUE

Look at the difference between our heights, dad!

FATHER

And that was Rodolfo's place. He was supposed to carry the coffin. It was your mistake!

ROQUE

Of course we were going to drop her. You should've carried her with someone your own height. I'm 8 inches shorter than you two. It was someone else's fault, not mine! I told you that I couldn't do it the moment we took her out of the car I told you that I couldn't bear the weight, that I was going to drop her...

FATHER

It was your duty...

ROQUE

We dropped her: mom fell out of the coffin, dead and naked, in front of everybody!

FATHER

It was Rodolfo's fault!

ROQUE

I feel sorry for you, dad. I've never understood how you always manage to disappoint.

FATHER

You haven't lived enough Roque... Life is hell... Sometimes you switch devils, but's it's still the same hell.

XV. The mountain.

Matus sits on the floor, holding a wild flower in one hand.
Roque squats, facing him.

ROQUE

Let's keep going.

MATUS

And who are you?

ROQUE

You're serious.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

I'm Roque. Your brother.

MATUS

Roque! And mom.

ROQUE

No... Let's go.

MATUS

Mom said to wait for her here.

ROQUE

If this is a game it's not funny.

MATUS

You look different.

ROQUE

What's with you, Matus?

MATUS

(Laughing.)

I'm not Matus. My name is Rodolfo.

And how old are you?
ROQUE

One less than you... 9.
MATUS

You got that crap... What did you say it was?... Dementia... Don't do this to me now. How can I help you, Matus?
ROQUE

I told you I'm not Matus! Stop talking funny.
MATUS

And the duck?
ROQUE

What duck?
MATUS

Fucking Rodolfo.
ROQUE

Where did mom go?
MATUS

She sent me to fetch you, so we can go home.
ROQUE

Ah.
MATUS

Let's go.
ROQUE

Matus gets up.
MATUS

I'm dizzy.
MATUS

Matus holds Roque's hand. Roque hesitates but takes Matus hands. They walk down the mountain.
MATUS

I want to climb this mountain. What's on top?

ROQUE

I don't know. More trees. Let's go.

MATUS

We could be the first ones. Can you imagine? There must be animals no one has ever seen before. Like the one we discovered, remember?

ROQUE

No.

MATUS

Yes, you do, the one we discovered out back on our uncle's farm... with the orange trees. It was a black duck with a green head... Don't you remember?

ROQUE

Of course. I'd forgotten.

MATUS

It had a broken wing. And we took him to the vet, and I told him that it was a the most special duck in the whole world and the doctor said I was right.

ROQUE

Right... Right.

MATUS

And I'm sure we'll find more secret animals up there. When can we go?

ROQUE

Tomorrow.

MATUS

Do you promise?

Roque lets go of Matus' hand. Thinks about it.

ROQUE

Do you know Schnauzer ducks?

MATUS

Those are dogs, no?

ROQUE

That too. But these are ducks.

MATUS

No.

ROQUE

Maybe it's just a fairy tale, but I hear you can only see them up there. They're an extinct species. Do you want to go?

MATUS

But mom said to...

ROQUE

Alright fucker, do you want to come or not?

MATUS

Ha! You said a cuss word!

ROQUE

Rodolfo. Let's go. I promised someone we would.

MATUS

I don't know.

ROQUE

Mom is waiting for us up there.

MATUS

Really?

ROQUE

Let's go.

XVI. Matus' office.

Matus finishes typing. He reads aloud what he just wrote.

MATUS

...Sometimes you switch devils, but's it's still the same hell. Roque remembers the phrase his father hammered into his head as he runs away. His legs carry him to an alley brimming with trash. A few feet behind him, at full speed, two rookie policemen follow his tracks. One of them, in his hurry, loses his hat. The other one, a tad smarter, presses his hat against his head as he runs. Roque realizes he's hit a dead end. He's trapped. He notices a pile of trash and rotten fruit and just then, at that moment, the stench hits him like a whip lash to his senses. A brazen rat nibbles on what's left of an onion.

(MORE)

MATUS (cont'd)

Roque hears the cops' shoes hitting the asphalt. He dives decisively into the rotteness. A swarm of flies takes off, fluttering their wings in a buzzing symphony. Different moist textures envelop Roque's body. He tries to protect his face from the dirt with his hands, but it's impossible: his face is now covered with unrecognizable left-over food. Once submerged, he remains still. The swarm of flies returns to its place and quiets. Roque fits like just another piece of this small, dirty universe. He rests. He's surprisingly comfortable. He falls asleep.

Roque dreams. In the dream, Roque is a child flying high up in the sky, guiding a flock of ducks.

The policemen stop for a moment, facing the alley. The rat sees them and stares at them daringly.

Deep inside the trash mound a child glides through the sky. The rat and the flies scrutinize those perturbing his sleep. The policemen continue their aimless hunt. The sound of their steps disappears in the distance.

The child lands on a lake, across from a tiny house. He wakes up. The mound of trash and dirt trembles as Roque emerges. He's soiled. He gingerly tries to clean himself. His cellphone goes off. Mechanically, he takes a white phone that contrasts with the putrid colors around him. He reads the message on the screen: It's a girl.

XVII. Almost at the top of the mountain.

Roque and Matus walk holding hands. Matus stops.

ROQUE

What's going on?

MATUS

(Breathing with difficulty.)

I'm tired.

ROQUE

We're almost there.

MATUS

My arm hurts a lot. And my leg too... I don't feel so good.

ROQUE

We're almost there. Rodo. Don't give up now.

MATUS

It's getting dark. Why don't we come back tomorrow?

ROQUE

I can't tomorrow.

MATUS

Next week, then... I really don't feel so good.

ROQUE

Come on, lean on me.

MATUS

You're really short.

ROQUE

You're really fat.

MATUS

And how did mom get up there?

ROQUE

Mom always did weird things.

Matus trips. Roque tries to catch him but he's too heavy and they both fall to the ground.

ROQUE

Watch where you're going, asshole.

MATUS

Don't curse at me.

ROQUE

Then don't be an asshole.

MATUS

Don't call me that.

ROQUE

Then don't be an asshole.

Then don't be a thief!

MATUS

What?

ROQUE

Nothing.

MATUS

No, what did you say?!

ROQUE

I saw what you did... You stole the skateboard.

MATUS

...

ROQUE

I didn't tell on you because they were gonna put you in jail.

MATUS

You saw me.

ROQUE

I was very ashamed of you...

MATUS

You should've told on me...

ROQUE

You're my big brother. I can't tell on you. Let's go home already.

MATUS

Fuck no. I won't let you down. Let's keep going.

ROQUE

I don't want to. Really. My leg hurts.

MATUS

What's wrong with your leg.

ROQUE

I don't know. It's not strong.

MATUS

ROQUE

Think about the Schnauzer ducks. We'll be the first to see them

MATUS

Then help me.

Roque is practically carrying Matus. He's making an extraordinary effort. Both are panting.

ROQUE

Almost there. Not even a quarter of a mile.

MATUS

I'm bored.

ROQUE

Do you want to play?

MATUS

No.

ROQUE

Ok. I ask, you answer...

MATUS

No.

ROQUE

What do you like about mom?

MATUS

She hugs me.

ROQUE

About dad?

MATUS

Same thing.

ROQUE

He hugs you?

MATUS

Mom doesn't yell.

ROQUE

You're right. Ay, fucking Rodo, you're heavy!

MATUS

Are we there yet?

ROQUE

Your dad never hugged me.

MATUS

You only talk to mom.

ROQUE

Never.

MATUS

Dad hugs you at night and he kisses your forehead and covers you with the blankets.

ROQUE

Shut up.

MATUS

He helps you with homework.

ROQUE

You're talking like a fucking retard.

MATUS

...

Roque puts Matus down. He can't carry him any longer.

ROQUE

He hugged me?

MATUS

Yes. Let's go back.

ROQUE

...

MATUS

Roque.

ROQUE

It wasn't mom?

MATUS

...

ROQUE

We're almost there.

MATUS

I don't want to go on.

ROQUE

I don't, either, I'm dead tired... Look... How's your other paw?

MATUS

I don't have paws.

ROQUE

Your leg. How's your left leg.

Matus looks at his legs, he's not sure which one is which. He point to his left leg.

ROQUE

Yes, that one.

MATUS

Ah. Good. Where is mom?

ROQUE

Can you jump on that leg?

Matus gets up with difficulty. He jumps in place. He gives a thumbs up to imply he can.

ROQUE

Perfect. Look, it's very easy, I'll do the same. I'll jump on one foot.

He does.

ROQUE

Now... The last one's a sissy!

The race to the top begins. Roque is winning, but Matus reaches him. Matus pushes Roque as he passes him and Roque falls, amused. They continue playing, shoulder to shoulder, laughing.

They make it to the top. Roque celebrates loudly. Matus looks at him, confused.

ROQUE

Fuck yeah! I didn't let you down, fuck yeah!... Why aren't you celebrating dumbass?

MATUS

I peed on myself.

ROQUE

I don't give a fuck, bro. Jump! Jump with me, Chagoyan! We did it!

Matus tries to jump. In one attempt he twists his foot and falls, hitting the floor.

MATUS

I told you I don't feel so good!

ROQUE

Alright then. Sorry.

The cellphone goes off. Roque looks at the screen and answers. Matus gets up.

ROQUE

I did it, baby girl, I did it!... What?... Are you ok? Calm down, Grace, calm down. Don't fight them. Daddy is going to pick you up. Don't cry baby... Fucking Slim, we made a deal! Boss? Relax, boss, don't get mad. I have your money, I swear. I wasn't running away, boss. The suitcases are there because... I swear! Don't touch her, please. Where is it?... The money is at my brother's house, I'll go get it and take it to you. I won't take long. No, I'm not lying to you. I wouldn't lie to you with my daughter there. Let her go. If you don't believe me you can go and pick it up yourself, the address is... Yeah, I know you know it. Are you on your way there? Ok. No, sir, no surprises. I'll wait for your call... Don't touch my ch...

The call is cut off.

MATUS

What's that in your hands? And where's mom?

ROQUE

Rodolfo... Listen to me. In your shoe, you have a little plastic bag. Take it out and give it to me.

And mom? MATUS

This is important... ROQUE

Mom. MATUS

Take off your fucking shoe! ROQUE

Matus starts to hyperventilate.

I need air... MATUS

The shoe, asshole. The shoe! ROQUE

Matus attempts to take out his shoe standing up, but he loses balance and crashes on the ground. His body falls on one side, his shoe on the other. Roque freezes. Looks at him.

XVIII.

Matus reads from a sheet of paper.

MATUS

An imperceptible glass separates Roque from the soft presence of his small child. Roque immediately identifies with her, despite the room full of other babies. That pink bundle is the only one with her eyes open, and they shine like a pair of tiny obsidian pearls, or at least that's the way Roque sees it, as he places a dirty hand on the invisible wall. The love he feels at that moment distracts him from the two approaching silhouettes in blue uniforms. One of them places a hand on his shoulder...

XIX. Top of the mountain.

Matus attempts to take out his shoe standing up, but he loses balance and crashes on the ground.

His body falls on one side, his shoe on the other. Roque freezes. Looks at him.

Blood trickles from Matus' head. Matus tries to get up, but can't. He breathes violently. Surprisingly calm, Roque kneels facing him. Roque takes his shirt off and rests Matus head on it.

The shirt gets immediately soaking wet.

ROQUE

Rodo. Don't fuck with me. Don't do this to me.

MATUS

I'm afraid. I can't see.

ROQUE

I don't know how to help you. Don't fuck me over Rodo.

MATUS

Mom knows. Air... I can't breathe...

ROQUE

What do I do, little bro?... What do I do?

MATUS

I took my shoe off. The shoe. I'm cold.

Roque takes the shoe, looks inside it.

ROQUE

Matus, where is the piece of paper?

MATUS

There are no ducks. There are no ducks. Cold.

ROQUE

The paper with the combination, Matus, please...

MATUS

I don't know, I don't know... Air... Bro. I see...

Roque swiftly removes the other shoe, he searches and finds the paper. He feels his soul returning to his body.

ROQUE

Here it is!... Here it is. Hang in there, little bro... Help... Help! Hang in there Matus... Don't do this to me. They're going to think I killed you... Hang in there... Just give me a couple of hours... Help!

MATUS

(Whispering.)

Schnauzer duck.

ROQUE

What?

Matus points to the duck, standing in front of them.

MATUS

Schnauzer duck.

ROQUE

Schnauzer duck.

MATUS

We discovered it. Cold.

ROQUE

(Tearing up.)

Easy, my brilliant writer, easy...

MATUS

Mom.

ROQUE

She's on her way, she'll be here soon...

Matus embraces Roque desperately. They look into each other's eyes. There is an air of complicity between them.

ROQUE

Your name is Rodolfo Chagoyan, but you changed it to Matus. You're a writer, really good writer. Dad and mom love you a fuck lot... You're funny, you're smart... You're my little brother.

Slowly, Matus' body loosens. Matus dies. Roque presses Matus body to his chest and cries silently. The duck approaches the boys.

The cellphone goes off. Roque wipes his tears, breathes, calms down. His expression changes. He answers the phone.

ROQUE

Yes, boss... The money... Yes, there are no traps. It's in the safe. Do you see it? The combination is... I want to talk to my daughter first... Please... Are you ok? As soon as they have the money you run to the street and call your grandfather. He'll know what to do. If they try to get you hit them where I taught you. But you should... Yes, sir. No sir, there are no traps. I'll give you the combination and you let my daughter go... Yes, boss, I trust you. The combination is 03-07-02... (it's Grace's birth date) It opened?! (*Roque's legs are shaking*) Yes, yes, count it... Fucking Matus it better be all there... Yes? It's all there?... Yes!... No, please let her go, let her run out... Thank you... It's all settled now. Yes, sir, I promise, but let her go... let her go.

The call gets cut off.

ROQUE

Run, Grace, run.

Roque stands up. He looks at his dead brother.

ROQUE

I'm going to come back and get you, I promise.

He runs away. The body is left alone.

Roque comes back.

ROQUE

Alright. I'll take you with me.

Roque lifts Matus with difficulty and places him on his shoulders.

ROQUE

If only everything were this easy... Last one down is a sissy, you fucking duck.

The duck follows them. The cellphone goes off.

ROQUE

Yes, hi dad.

Epilogue.

MATUS

The love he feels at that moment distracts him from the two approaching silhouettes in blue uniforms. One of them places a hand on his shoulder. Roque looks at them out of the corner of his eyes. His soul deflates like balloon. “Which one is yours?” The taller figure asks. And when Roque turns he finds a surprisingly friendly face. Roque hesitates, but answers: “The baby girl with the black eyes.” “She’s beautiful,” says the other silhouette. “And don’t you think, my friend, that the child deserves to meet you showered and cleaned. What’s all this dirt about?” Roque, for the first time ever agrees with a cop. “I work in the sanitation department,” says Roque, hoping for a miracle. “I just wanted to meet her...” The men in blue start to leave. One of them turns around and asks: “Do you have a name for her?” The name comes to him suddenly. Roque responds smiling: “Grace.”

The father’s office.

Father is sitting down. Standing up in front of him is Roque. Roque holds a doll in his hands.

ROQUE

(To Grace, off-stage)

Grace, leave that duck alone!

FATHER

Be grateful that Grace was born smart like her grandfather. I think you learned your lesson. You risked Grace’s life... Is that what you wanted?

ROQUE

Thank you for what you did, but that’s my business. And yes. Not that you care but... I’m out of all that. You should do the same...

FATHER

Watch your tone. If it weren’t for me you’d be in jail for Rodolfo’s murder. Everything looked like a crime scene. If it weren’t because of my contacts...

ROQUE

Being the son of a corrupt father has its advantages...

FATHER

Anything to save a child... I think you understand it now.

ROQUE

Can we move on?

FATHER

Yes, young man. You came to see me about Matus' will and, as a professional, I will explain it to you.

ROQUE

Out of all the fucking lawyers in the world, he had to choose you...

FATHER

Maybe Matus' last wish was that... I don't know... We reconnect with each other. You know that I have a lot of respect for that kind of thing...

ROQUE

Matus left without saying good bye to you.

FATHER

I cared more about my sons making amends... Life is hard, Roque. Let me help you with Grace.

ROQUE

It's fine. I'm her father. She's my responsibility.

FATHER

It's not fair, Roque. This is between you and me.

ROQUE

We're fine.

FATHER

Fine. As you know, Rodolfo Chagoyan decided to leave his entire fortune (that is not that much, anyway) to Grace Chagoyan. You just have to sign here as her guardian and that's it.

Roque gestures for a pen to sign, father gives it to him.
Roque signs and puts the pen in his pocket. Realizing, he gives the pen back. He puts the check in his pocket.

ROQUE

Well, then... Good bye...

FATHER

See you at your brother's funeral.

ROQUE

...

Father offers his hand to Roque. Roque takes it. Roque turns around to leave. Suddenly, he stops.

ROQUE

Dad, did you ever hug me at night... While I slept?

Father doesn't answer. His face reveals no expression. Roque turns to go again.

FATHER

Roque...

ROQUE

Yes?

FATHER

Well... How are we going to carry your brother's coffin?

ROQUE

I'm running late.

FATHER

Roque...

ROQUE

Tell me.

FATHER

Yes.

Blackout.

To my brothers and our adventures.
Mexico, D.F., July 2010