

* Deers (extracto), por Antonio Ruiz-Camacho

Breve introducción

Deers es la historia de dos mujeres que trabajan en un McDonald's en el noroeste de Austin. Una de ellas, Susy girl, huyó de México luego de que el patriarca de la familia para la que trabajaba en la ciudad de México, fuera secuestrado. La otra, Conchita, es oriunda del Valle del Río Grande, en el sur de Texas. Una mañana llegan a trabajar y descubren que, al parecer, el restaurante ha sido tomado por un oso.

“What do you mean there's a bear inside the place, Conchita?” and she replied, “I swear to God they say it's a bear, Susy girl! A real bear, like Yogi Bear, you know?” and I said, “I don't know what you're talking about, Conchita,” and she said, “You must've seen that show, Susy girl! Yogi Bear, remember? A bear that lives in a national park in California and he's a real bear, and he's real nice and goofy, and he wears a hat and a tie, and he goes nuts craving picnic meals all the time? Don't tell me you didn't see that show, Susy girl!” and I got dizzy because I didn't have an idea of what she was talking about, I felt she was going crazy over the bear like everybody else, I didn't know that bear she was talking about and I didn't know what craving meant exactly either, I'd just arrived the year before and English was a nightmare to learn, every time people would say something I didn't get, I'd feel dizzy and embarrassed to admit I had no clue, I felt like my head was gonna explode, but Conchita had helped me a lot already, she'd been real sweet to me, she had the number of my mother's back in Cuévano, one day she'd call home saying I'd been arrested or God knows what, so I let go, “Sorry, Conchita, but it's the first time in my life I hear about that bear,” I said, and she looked at me like I was kidding her, “C'mon, Susy girl, everybody, everybody, knows Yogi!” and I said, “Well, I guess that's here, but back in Cuévano we didn't have that show, you know, the TV we had at home had only one channel and we just watched soap operas and La Carabina de Ambrosio and Chabelo and Siempre en Domingo but no shows with bears, ask

me anything about actresses and singers, Gina Montes? Anything you want, Verónica Castro, Victoria Ruffo, or Carmen Montejo if you like, but don't ask me about goofy bears that wear hats," I said and Conchita cracked up like what I'd just said was a good joke, I felt that every time I said something really dumb I moved her instead of embarrassing her, I felt that was why she liked to call me Susy girl, like she knew I found shelter in the tone of her voice, especially if she called me Susy girl or had to explain something the manager had said in a meeting that I was clueless about, because the manager, oh God, he'd speak so fast, he'd barely open his mouth when he did and I wouldn't get what he said most of the time, so Conchita quickly learned to read my faces and she knew, we'd finish a meeting with the guy and Conchita would only need to look at my face, she'd crack up and whisper in my ear, "Don't worry, Susy girl, I'll explain it to you later," so this time around Conchita did the same, "Okay, let's start again from scratch, Susy girl, forget what I said about Yogi, okay? They say there's a real bear inside the place, a real grizzly bear, apparently he's big and hungry as hell, because I heard that when the cops got here they spotted him in the back, by the storage, you know, eating all the buns we left on the trays ready for the morning rush, apparently this big fella was eating them all with the wrapping and everything, they said that he also tried to break into the freezer and also tried to drink from the soda fountain machines, I mean, the guy's a real bear and is all over our place! Isn't that like, a miracle?"

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