

ACT I
Scene 4

(LIGHTS UP: ONE WEEK LATER:
ALEJANDRO'S house, 30 minutes prior to
NONA'S Memorial Service. There is a poster
board up with her photos and mementos, a
floral arrangement and a table set up with
food and a punchbowl for guests.)

(KNOCK AT DOOR: ALEJANDRO opens
door. REV. ROSE ENTERS)

ALEJANDRO

You must be Rev. Rose, thank you for coming.

REV. ROSE

Thanks for inviting me and allowing me to come early. Can we talk?

ALEJANDRO

Of course. Please sit down. May I get you something to drink?

REV. ROSE

Some iced tea would be nice.

(REV. ROSE sits on the sofa. ALEJANDRO
pours a glass of ice tea then hands it to her.)

ALEJANDRO

Please tell me. How long did you know my Carmela?

REV. ROSE

We were friends for 15 years. She volunteered as our Music Director.

ALEJANDRO

15 years? Dios Mio. I knew she was volunteering but I never asked her where.

(ALEJANDRO sits down in shock.)

REV. ROSE

Are you Ok?

(ALEJANDRO sits next to REV. ROSE on the
sofa.)

REV. ROSE (CONTINUES)

How are you doing, Mr. Vega?

ALEJANDRO

As well as can be expected, I suppose I still find myself calling her name, but then no
one answers.

REV. ROSE

That's normal. It's only been a week.

ALEJANDRO

It feels like it was only yesterday that she was in the kitchen...humming my favorite song... making my coffee.

REV. ROSE

Once upon a time, a very wise teacher of mine, taught me that even the most difficult moments in life ... "Come to pass, (**beat**) they don't come to stay."

ALEJANDRO

But if I let the hurt pass, maybe I won't remember her anymore. It would be as if she was never in my life.

REV. ROSE

But she was in your life. You can't erase almost 50 years of love.

ALEJANDRO

Rev. Rose, Carmela was my best friend ... but even though she said she loved me every morning before I left for work, I was never sure she was telling the truth.

REV. ROSE

As her best friend, I can tell you for sure ... she did and still does. Love never dies. It lives on even after we cross over.

ALEJANDRO

I hope so.

REV. ROSE

Here maybe this can help.

(REV. ROSE hands the envelope containing a music sheet to ALEJANDRO who opens it.)

ALEJANDRO

What is this?

REV. ROSE

Your wife was a wonderful pianist (**pronounced pee-AN-ist -accent on AN**) with a great voice and she directed our choir.

ALEJANDRO

Really? I wish I had known sooner.

REV. ROSE

Carmela was working on this piece for our Christmas Eve celebration. It was lying on the piano when the paramedics came.

ALEJANDRO

(Confused and having difficulty reading the lyrics)

Beja rosa de Navidad. **(beat)** She was writing in Spanish?

REV. ROSE

Yes ... but please take a look at the back.

(ALEJANDRO flips over the music sheet and begins to read aloud.)

ALEJANDRO

"To my beloved husband, Alejandro, my best friend, who won the greatest trophy I can give - first place in my heart. Just like the Christmas Rose, you taught me that love can bloom even in a cold barren garden. I am so lucky you chose me to be your wife. Love Always, Carmela."

REV. ROSE

She planned on inviting you to our Christmas Eve service ... so she could sing it for you ... but it's not finished. I thought you should have it anyway.

ALEJANDRO

(Moved and choking up)

Dios mio!

REV. ROSE

Are you alright?

ALEJANDRO

Just a bit overwhelmed, but oh so happy. Thanks so much for giving this to me.

REV. ROSE

You are most welcome, Mr. Vega.

(DOOR OPENS. FRANK ENTERS carrying a grocery bag.)

FRANK (to Alejandro)

Popi, I got everything on my list plus your favorite spiced rum for later. (to Rev. Rose)
Well Hello! And who might this be, Popi?

ALEJANDRO

A friend of your mother's.

FRANK

Nice to make your acquaintance. I'm Frank.

REV. ROSE

And I'm Rose.