

CAUTIONARY TALE: A RAP OPERA

Written by

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July 1, 2018

## **Tracklist**

Music Written and Performed by Luis Cuevas

Music Produced by Joe Chenka of Playus

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1WmHG3SGj4cpLIwCvpCBsYNot8kssavPL>

1. Brownface
2. Cautionary Tale
3. Miracle
4. Child
5. Confirmation
6. Ritual
7. Utopia

EXT. WESTLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY - PRESENT DAY

*I. Brownface*

A sedan rolls down the block. **ENRIQUE "QUIQUE GOMEZ** (mid 20's) walks out of a liquor store. He is mobbed by a couple **KIDS**. He gives them handshakes and quickly hops into a car.

He looks down the street and a couple **GANGSTERS** hang out in the middle of the street. They throw a football back and forth. The car stops at a red light. He leans out the backseat window and stares in the direction of an apartment building.

He watches as **KIDS** linger on the front steps of the apartment building. Quique stares intently. **RICHARD QUINTANILLA** (early 30s) a long haired light skinned latino man.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
You grew up out here?

Quique nods. He keeps looking out the window. He rolls the window back up.

QUIQUE  
I've spent more years on this street than anywhere else.

EXT. MUSIC VENUE - DAY

A line of **KIDS** wait outside of the venue. Quique makes his way down the street. He gets into line behind a group of unknowing fans.

QUIQUE  
You guys excited?

The Kids turn around and begin to yell in excitement. The **CROWD** gathers around him. Richard hands him a megaphone. Quique gets on top of a bus bench.

QUIQUE (CONT'D)  
(into megaphone)  
I'm excited to see you all today!

The crowd cheers.

QUIQUE (CONT'D)  
(into megaphone)  
Let's have fun! Stay safe, I'll see you inside.

The crowd grows wild. As Quique walks off toward the venue. He looks back in the crowd and for a second he thinks he sees **GEE** (UNKNOWN), A decrepit looking version of himself in beaten khakis, a flannel and scuffed Cortez's in the crowd. He stares in his direction and the crowd moves around Gee. The crowd clears and he is gone.

INT. MUSIC VENUE/LOBBY - DAY

Quique continue in through the doors. He shakes his head and smiles to himself. He lingers in the lobby as STAFF work to get the show prepared. As they bring boxes over and Richard pulls out a Brownface mask.

QUIQUE  
What the fuck is that?

Richard holds it up.

RICHARD  
It's Brownface.

Quique shakes his head.

QUIQUE  
Nah, man that's bullshit.

Richard looks at the boxes.

QUIQUE (CONT'D)  
Please man.

Richard nods. He holds his hands up. He points at the boxes.

RICHARD  
Take these away.

Richard smiles Quique.

QUIQUE  
That's not cool.

Beat.

RICHARD  
Big crowd.

Quique looks a bit sullen.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
That's a good thing right?

Quique nods. Quique walks off down the hallway.

INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY

Quique walks into the Green room and for a moment he sees Gee in the window. He turns and there is no one there. He closes his eyes and exhales. He plops down onto the couch and closes his eyes.

INT. GREEN ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Richard knocks on the door.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
Five minutes!

Quique sits up. He walks over to the sink and splashes water onto his face to wake himself up. He walks out of the room and does not notice a large book on the drawer by where he was sleeping.

INT. MUSIC VENUE/STAGE - NIGHT

Quique walks onto the stage. The lights are darkened and there is only a mic. He begins to rap to the crowd. They sing along to the lyrics.

The lights begin to flash as the beat drops and switches up to an upbeat track.

Quique performs Brownface.

The crowd is hyped up as the song drones on everyone jumps and sings along to the song. The crowd beams and everyone is in Brownface. He shakes his head and they go back to being white kids. He exhales.

Quique does a dance for everyone, he is not having fun like the crowd is.

He looks in the crowd and standing right in the middle of the crowd is Gee. He looks intently in Quique's direction.

Quique continues to rap. He jumps up and down looks in Gee's direction. He keeps his eye on him. He finishes up and hurries off the stage.

INT. MUSIC VENUE/ BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Quique walks down the hall. He turns around the lights flicker. Gee stands at the end of the hall. Quique closes his eyes. Gee continues down the hallway toward him. Gee stands right in front of him. Sulfur burns into the air.

Gee breathes ash and smoke fall from his crusty mouth.

GEE  
Open your eyes.

Quique opens his eyes. Gee stands silhouetted by the last light. He stares at the ground.

QUIQUE  
Your real?

Gee stands there unmoving.

GEE  
Do you remember the story I told  
you?

Quique nods.

QUIQUE  
I've been good.

Quique stares as gee makes awkward sounds.

GEE  
(sotto)  
You've been good? Brownface.

He grins toward Quique only the red eyes peak through the darkness.

GEE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
You've been good.

Gee takes off down the hall. The lights come on as he disappears.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
Hey some kids want to see you.

Quique nods. He heads down the hallway.

INT. GREEN ROOM - NIGHT

Quique opens the door as a couple KIDS exit the room. He walks up to the drawer and notices a book. A note on top of it that says, "Remember". Quique takes the note off the book and lifts it up. It is called, "Cautionary Tale".

EXT. WESTLAKE BLOCK - NIGHT - 10 YEARS AGO

**ENRIQUE GOMEZ (14)**, a wiry kid sits on a porch along with a couple other **KIDS**. They pass around a cigarette. Enrique takes it in his hand. He puts it to his mouth, but he does not smoke. He just sets the cigarette to his lips.

JEREMY (O.S.)

You gonna join the basketball team?

Enrique shakes his head.

ENRIQUE

Man, I'm too short.

JEREMY (O.S.)

What you gone do then?

Enrique shrugs.

ENRIQUE

I ain't really fucking with school.

LARRY (O.S.)

I'm about to get a job at the market.

Enrique finally decides to take a drag from the cigarette. He coughs.

ENRIQUE

That's lame. Why don't you slang?

We stay on Enrique's face the whole time. He pulls out a little band of money and passes it around the group.

JEREMY (O.S.)

Dawg, I'd take this shit.

Enrique perks up.

ENRIQUE

Your a bitch. You wouldn't.

Jeremy tosses the money back at Enrique. Enrique steps down and hops onto his scooter.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)

Man, yall got boring.

Enrique takes the cigarette with him.

LARRY (O.S.)

Man, that's my cigarette.

The camera begins to track back with him down the end of the block. Enrique walks into his house.

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOME - NIGHT

He walks down the hall. There is some food on the table. A note, "see you tomorrow" He sighs as he stares at the note. He grabs the plate of food and takes a seat on the couch. He looks up in our direction. He pulls out a little notebook from the drawer in front of him.

He begins to write down some funny rhymes. He smiles to himself. He sets the journal on the table and leans back to fall asleep on the couch.

EXT. WESTLAKE BLOCK - NIGHT

**II. Cautionary Tale**

GEE walks in under the streetlight. He is dressed exactly the same as earlier. He walks in a limp like fashion down the street. The streetlight flicker as he moves down the street. He has a book tucked under his arm.

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOME - NIGHT

The front door swings open and Gee stands there. He walks toward us. He leaves residue on the floor as he walks. Little pieces of ash fall to the floor as he breathes.

Enrique lies on the couch he tosses and turns. He grows sweaty. He sits up tosses his shirt it lands at Gee's feet. Gee grumbles. Enrique yells and quickly stands up.

Gee keeps grumbling under his breath.

GEE

Si dow...

Enrique sits down.

ENRIQUE

My cousin-

Gee grumbles.

GEE

I jus wan tel you a story.

Gee sits up and ash gets all over Enrique. Enrique leans back.

GEE (CONT'D)  
You like story?

Enrique nods. Gee sets the book on the table, *Cautionary Tale*.

ENRIQUE  
That's a big book.

Gee fidgets.

GEE  
It has pictures...you like pictures?

Enrique nods. Gee stands up, he gives Enrique his hand.

GEE (CONT'D)  
Let me show you.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The room spins nearly and begins to turn into a different lights. He walks him down the hallway. He puts the book up to his face it says lover. He opens up a door and it lit differently as inside a man and women go at it. A MAN walks in with a gun and blows them to pieces. Gee quickly shuts the door.

They continue down the hall. He opens up the closet door and a MAN falls out who has his neck roped.

Gee continues into a room and there is a bunch of Gangsters inside of this room. (It has a Fisher Kind like quality to it.) They all try to grab at Enrique. Gee is able to pull him before they get to him.

ENRIQUE  
No more, please.

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOME/RESTROOM - NIGHT

On the restroom floor there is a bunch of drugs and Quique has fallen over on to the floor. Gee closes the door. He pushes Enrique down into the last room.

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOME/ROOM - NIGHT

Inside this room tons of pictures of Cautionary Tales hang in different sections of the room.

He walks into the last room and at the end is table with the large book called, Cautionary Tale. There is a picture of him inside of it.

GEE

Look.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY**\*Miracle**

ESTELLA (17), she and her boyfriend are in a heated passion as they go into her room.

INT. ROOM - DAY

They lie in the room together. She leans up against him.

INT. ROOM - DAY

She lies by herself in the room. She sits up and her stomach is now showing. She walks down the hallway of her home. She is by herself now.

Her boyfriend is out in the living room. She stands there as he brings in a different women. She says something he pushes her away. She follows him down the hall into the room. He is gone he has left nothing.

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

She cuts her vein and tries to kill herself. She lifts her head up and a baby cries nearby. She looks at her stomach flat again. She walks down the hallway and the baby is in her crib. Her eyes grow wide. She opens the door and every room she looks in there he is. She opens the door and only finds herself back in his room.

She stares on at the crib her eyes wide. She walks up to the window. She jumps through to find herself back in his room. He plays with his toys. She walks up to him. Her eyes filled with tears. She looks up as walks in yelling. She stares at herself. She let's her head down. She walks out of the house.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY**\*Child**

It starts off with microwave blowing up some Popcorn. As Enrique grabs it and goes over to the window. He stares out the window as some GANGSTERS post up. He stares at them with admiration.

He has never seen something like this. One of them sees him. His mom unlocks the door. She is tired and walks in to sleep. He looks down the hallway. A gangster is at the window.

GANGSTER  
Come kick it!

Enrique looks at his mother washing dishes. He goes out through the window. He follows after the dude and they hurry off together. He is introduced to all of them. They are in a large line. One after the other gets shot. Another gets picked up by a cop. He finds himself at the end. They all get into a car.

They come back all look like they are under mind control. They all point at him. He goes back into his home. He pulls up the socks his mom walks in and tries to tell him something.

ENRIQUE  
It's too late.

He goes out the window. He runs down the block and finds himself in a huddle of men as they beat him down.

FADE TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT**\*Confirmation**

They roll down the block. A pack of dudes are posted he walks and runs up on them. They take off.

INT. CAR - DAY

A dude is at a bus stop. He runs up on him. He shoots him dead.

INT. CAR - DAY

He catcalls some girls from the car.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

His mom watches television. He walks in with a girl.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

He does a line of coke from his finger.

EXT. BLOCK - NIGHT

He posts up with his homies.

ENRIQUE  
Do it with passion!

INT. CAR - NIGHT

They run up on some other foos. (The PEOPLE in the car continue to change. He is an outlier himself lasting so long)

He is in the backseat and we are just on his eyes. They put the car up against the curb.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

\*Ritual

He is covered in sweat. He throws off the shirt. He has the cortez and the hairnet in his head. He opens the door and he looks up at some KIDS who put on the socks and do the same. He gulps.

He watches those kids run out of the apartment building. He follows after and they are grabbed by others. They both put there mouths up to the curb. They both have there heads curb stomped.

He turns his head to find some cops arresting some other dudes.

There is a line of kids walking up to some gangsters in a van being given guns, shoes, drugs, some of them having there heads shaved.

An apocaylpse happens around him and there is nothing he can do. He watches as the world continues to go to shit.

Enrique kicks off his shoes. He rolls down his socks. He walks down the block. He pulls off his hairnet. He looks down the block and everything is the same.

He turns around finds a gun in his face. He closes his eyes and opens them.

FADE TO:

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOME - NIGHT

The cautionary tale book is shot as the door is opened.

GEE

Be good.

Gee walks out the back.

**END DREAM SEQUENCE**

INT. ENRIQUE'S HOME - NIGHT

His mother walks into his house. She has groceries. She looks in his direction. He begins to cry. She walks up to him.

ENRIQUE

I don't want to be like them.

BACK TO:

INT. GREEN ROOM - NIGHT

The MAN is at the door.

MAN

Hey your back on.

Quique nods.

MAN (CONT'D)

They fucking love Brownface. Can you perform that again?

He looks sullen. He nods. He looks in the corner of the room and looks like he sees Gee for a second. He walks down the hallway. He walks up to the DJ.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

**\*Utopia**

He hands the DJ a disc.

QUIQUE  
Can you play this instead.

The DJ nods. The crowd begins to cheer as he walks up to the stage. The crowd does not know how to react to the song at first.

He closes his eyes. He thinks back to his mother. Them playing together. The crowd eventually gets into it and everyone begins to have fun to the song.

However for Quique this is a hard hitting song. It reminds him of what his life once was.

They cut the song off.

The Man pulls him off stage. The crowd grows angry.

MAN  
They want brownface.

He shakes his head.

QUIQUE  
I'm not playing that.

MAN  
You aren't being paid.

QUIQUE  
I already played it once.

The crowd boos.

MAN  
Fuck get back out there.

Quique smiles.

He comes back on as Utopia comes on. Tears in Quique's eyes. He watches Gee in the crowd and he slowly walks off in out of the warehouse.