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A NIGHT BY THE HAMMOCK

Characters

SAMUEL ARAGONES, a Hispanic teenager who works at a local music studio.

JASMINE RIVERA, a Hispanic teenager who is the ex girlfriend of Samuel.

Setting

Samuel and Jasmine are outside of Jasmine's backyard on a clear night where there's a full moon. The year is 2008. They have been attempting to work things out and get back together, but their situation has gotten worse.

JASMINE: I don't know why you're acting like this. You're acting ridiculous, Sam.

SAMUEL: Why is it that you care? I feel like you never really cared in the first place.

*(JASMINE sighs in frustration as she sits down on the hammock hanging beneath two trees near the lake.)*

JASMINE: I do care. If I didn't, then I probably wouldn't be here with you. It's just that you're so busy with your music business and making beats and this and that. You barely have time for me anymore. You have no idea how much I wish I could just get things to how they used to be.

SAMUEL: You know that my music means everything to me. And whenever I am available, I feel like you just have no interest in being with me, and it hurts. I don't know what to do anymore.

*(SAMUEL and JASMINE both take a brief pause in their conversation.)*

JASMINE: Do you even love me? Honestly, just be real with me. I spent years knowing you and growing attached to you. I miss the same Samuel that I met back in 2005. You've changed so much, and I don't think you even realize it.

SAMUEL *(in a low tone)*: We all change, Jasmine. Of course I love you. Honestly, I just want the best for both of us. If you feel like you'd be better off without me, then so be it. Just tell me what it is that you want.

JASMINE: I can already see where this is going. I don't understand you, Samuel.

SAMUEL: Can you just tell me what you want? What is it that you want? Do you want to be with me or not? Tell me.

*(JASMINE looks down at her feet.)*

JASMINE: I want to be with you, but honestly, I don't know if we're meant to be together.

SAMUEL: So it comes down to that, huh? You kill me. I feel like I've done so much for you, but it just doesn't matter anymore. I'm losing you, Jasmine. I've begun to lose you a long time ago... I even made a song for you. Until this day, you're the only girl I've ever done that for.

*(Tears slowly start falling down JASMINE'S eyes.)*

JASMINE: I feel like we should take a break for a while. I am always going to love you, baby, but the fighting is just tearing me apart.

SAMUEL: Fine. So you've made up your mind then, huh?

*(JASMINE stays silent.)*

SAMUEL: So I'm telling you now, there is no break. This will be the last time. If you want a break, then I'm done for good... So what's your final decision?

JASMINE: You're making this so hard for me, Samuel.

SAMUEL: I'm making this hard? You're making this hard. You've already broken my heart, and now you're breaking it even more.

*(Tears start rushing down JASMINE'S face.)*

SAMUEL: If you end this now, then I'm done for good, Jasmine. Make up your mind.

*(JASMINE stays silent.)*

SAMUEL *(shouting)*: Make up your damn mind!

*(JASMINE gets up from the hammock and begins walking towards the house.)*

JASMINE: I need to go. I can't deal with this.

SAMUEL *(upset)*: You need to go? So we're back at square one then, huh? This is what kills me the most.

*(JASMINE stops walking, stands still, then slowly turns around and looks at Samuel.)*

SAMUEL: I don't want to lose you. I really don't. We can work this out if you just fight this out with me a little longer. I'm begging you. If I lose you, then that's it for me. There is no more dating. But I need you, Jasmine.

*(JASMINE walks quickly back up to Samuel and throws her arms around him.)*

JASMINE: I need you to promise me something.

*(SAMUEL stares directly into JASMINE's eyes.)*

SAMUEL *(in a low tone)*: What?

JASMINE: Promise me that no matter what happens between you and me, you will never ever give up on your music career.

*(SAMUEL stays quiet.)*

JASMINE: Promise me, Samuel.

SAMUEL: I promise.

*(SAMUEL and JASMINE hold each other for a few moments.)*

JASMINE: I love you. And I always will. Don't give up, baby.

*(JASMINE kisses Samuel then walks away towards the house.)*

*(SAMUEL looks up at the moon.)*

*CURTAIN.*