

125 JOSELITO  
The General? Me?

126 MIGUEL  
Ay, no! What did you do, José?

127 JOSELITO  
I... I don't know.

THE THREE BROTHERS WALK, BUT THE LIEUTENANT  
STOPS MACARIO AND MIGUEL.

128 LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ  
Just the boy.

129 MACARIO  
But -

130 LIEUTENANT RAMIREZ  
*Rápido, José.*

131 JOSELITO  
(walking faster)  
*Sí, sí.*

TRANSITION TO:

10 INT. GENERAL'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

10

THE CAMP NOISE IS MUFFLED BY HEAVY CANVAS.  
JOSELITO ENTERS THE TENT.

132 JOSELITO  
(nervously)  
You summoned me, General?

**START >>>**

133 **GENERAL MENDOZA**  
Come in, José. Don't just stand  
there in the flap.

JOSELITO APPROACHES THE GENERAL.

134 **GENERAL MENDOZA**  
I've been watching you. You work  
until your hands bleed without  
complaint. You pray with the  
wounded soldiers, and I've heard  
you play the bugle.  
(beat)  
I need someone I can trust to carry  
something sacred.

RICH FABRIC BEING UNFURLED: THE BANNER OF OUR  
LADY OF GUADALUPE.

135 JOSELITO  
(awed)  
It's... It's...

136 GENERAL MENDOZA  
A banner with the image of Our Lady  
of Guadalupe.

137 JOSELITO  
It's beautiful.

138 GENERAL MENDOZA  
It is. The man who carries this  
cannot carry a rifle. He must keep  
both hands on the standard, holding  
it high so our men never forget *who*  
they are fighting for. It is a  
dangerous post, José. The *Federales*  
know what this banner means. They  
will aim for the man holding it.

139 JOSELITO  
It makes him a target.

140 GENERAL MENDOZA  
Exactly. I also need a bugler to  
sound the calls. To rally the men  
when the smoke gets too thick to  
see. I am offering you both. The  
bugle and the Standard.

141 JOSELITO  
Me? You are offering both to me?

142 GENERAL MENDOZA  
Yes. But before you accept you must  
understand the Federales hate this  
image. They will aim for the man  
holding it first. José... if you  
are captured with this in your  
hands, they will show you no mercy.

143 JOSELITO  
They would... they would kill me.  
Right?

144 GENERAL MENDOZA  
Yes... I would understand if you  
reject my offer, because -

145 JOSELITO  
I accept, *mi General*. I will guard  
her with my life.

A BRIEF SILENCE.146 **GENERAL MENDOZA**

Good. But spirit isn't enough. You must learn the calls perfectly. Charge, Retreat, Assembly. If you blow the wrong note, men will march to their deaths by mistake.

147 JOSELITO

I'll practice until I can play them in my sleep.

148 **GENERAL MENDOZA**

Report to Lieutenant Ramírez. He will teach you the signals and how to keep that banner upright in a windstorm. From this moment on, you are the heart of this brigade.

**<<< END**

149 JOSELITO

I won't let you down. I won't let *Her* down.

TRIUMPHANT MUSIC SWELLS, PATRIOTIC AND HOLY.

11

**EXT. CRISTEROS' CAMP - NIGHT**

11

THE STEADY CHIRP OF CRICKETS. THE CAMP IS MOSTLY QUIET. SOME SOLDIERS SNORE. JOSELITO KNEELS AND PRAYS IN A LOW VOICE.

150 JOSELITO

*Madrecita*, Lady of Guadalupe, thank you for keeping my brothers and me safe. And thank for your letting me carry your banner.

JOSELITO SIGHS.

151 JOSELITO

Could you please help me memorize the bugle calls? Please...

(to himself)

Okay. I'll practice quietly. I don't want to wake up others.

JOSELITO BLOWS A BUGLE COMMAND IN A LOW TONE, BUT SUDDENLY, MACARIO SNATCHES THE BUGLE. MIGUEL APPROACHES TOO.