

From Migdalia Cruz's MIRIAM'S FLOWERS

SCENE 10

*DELFINA in the living room ironing PULI's clothes for his funeral. SHE speaks to NANDO, who is asleep on the armchair. HE holds PULI's baseball glove.*

**DELFINA**

He only wore his suit once before... To Pepe's wedding. I said it was stupid to buy a suit. Kids in suits look like midgets, especially boys. Or like monkeys. They always put monkeys in suits for T.V. shows. I didn't want my boy to dress like a monkey, but the bride wanted it like that— real formal. — The shirt I had to borrow because the shirt he had didn't have no buttons and you know, I couldn't find no buttons in the house to fix it, so a lady from the church gave me her son's old shirt, but it didn't even look old. It looked new. I think her son, Cholo, was always too fat for it. So Puli got it. The bowtie I got for him to wear on the first day of school. He wanted to wear a t-shirt though, so he put his bowtie on the belt loop of his pants. He wore that almost all the time. When he fell asleep with all his clothes on, I could wake him up by unclipping that tie — he'd shoot up like an arrow, pull it out of my hands and go back to sleep with that tie safe under his pillow... The socks are Miree's. All his socks had holes, and even though we had to fold them over twice, I think it's better, socks without holes. Especially since the shoes are new. He wanted those shoes for a long time — white, Converse All-Star Hi-Tops. Everybody said sneakers are disrespectful, but who was wearing them? Puli, and he knew what he wanted. I made Miree go to the church and ask for money. She hates me now. But Puli got his sneakers. They looked good on him, I bet. I — I couldn't look. Or maybe when I looked I just couldn't see... They did a good job on his face. They had to build his head up again because mostly it — a good job is what everybody told me. Miree put a rose on top of him before they closed him up. That's supposed to only be for women, but you can't tell Miree what to do about nothing. — I wish— I wish they had just showed his face. I didn't like seeing his arm like that, it gave Miree nightmares. She's not strong, like me.

*(Lights fade)*