

INT. HALLWAY

Vernon closes the door behind him. Outside the room, a larger crowd of residents and workers have gathered. They look at Vernon for an answer.

Vernon opens his fist and sees the piece of shot. He looks up at weathered, quizzical faces.

VERNON

Aged citizens, illegal workers,
compañeros... We witness the loss
of a great man, Señor Jopo at the
hands of a great tyrant, Miss
Gingham. Miss Gingham called him
crazy. Perhaps.

Vernon is beginning to become more dynamic.

VERNON (CONT'D)

Senor Posada was a man of immense
hope. Is hope so crazy? Perhaps...

As Vernon continues with his Shakespearean eulogy, the dialogue diminishes and the music swells. We can see Vernon as he becomes more and more fiery. He begins to resemble Jopo in his actions and passion. Panning the crowd, we see that the fervor of the crowd, too, is rising.

As Vernon speaks, he closes his fist. He brings his now-clenched fist into the air, pumping it above his head, we are able to hear the very last word of his speech.

VERNON (CONT'D)

...¡Revolucion!

The crowd surges and breaks into Jopo's room. As Vernon extricates himself, we are able to briefly see a look of horror on Gingham's face before she is swallowed in the crowd.

Vernon opens up his fist. The piece of shot is in his palm.

VERNON (CONT'D)

Jopo... Why?

Vernon starts to run down the hallway. Behind him is total pandemonium.

Some residents are marching down the hall, banging their bedpans in an elderly *cacerolazo*. Mostly, residents are running around in a riot.

EXT. STREET

Vernon is escaping the madness. An explosion and a plume of smoke is rising out of a window. A Molotov cocktail is hurled through another window, exploding near Vernon. Vernon staggers out of the way and leans up against a wall. He turns away and begins to vomit.

As Vernon is retching, a figure bounds up to him. A kerchief is offered to Vernon.

SIDES: VERNON ---- START HERE

Vernon grabs the kerchief without looking at who gave it to him. Wiping his mouth, he looks at the kerchief. It is a small Cuban flag. He turns around.

It is Jopo. He is still wearing his military fatigues, but he wears a Groucho Marx moustache and spectacles. Gingham's firearm is resting on his shoulder.

JOPO

Comrade.

Vernon's face lights up.

VERNON

Jopo, you're alive!

Jopo smiles. He opens his jacket to reveal the bottle of ketchup he stole from the dining room.

JOPO

Muerta y gloria, amigo.

Vernon smiles.

VERNON

It happened, Jopo.

JOPO

Sì. Feliz año nuevo.

Jopo hands Vernon the gun.

JOPO (CONT'D)

Por favor.

Vernon grabs Jopo and they embrace. As the embrace ends, Jopo takes Vernon's hand and clasps it.

JOPO (CONT'D)

Hasta libertad...

Vernon opens his hand to see a cohiba.

JOPO (CONT'D)
...Comandante.

Jopo removes his star necklace and gives it to Vernon.

VERNON
Where you gonna go?

Jopo shrugs.

JOPO
Home.

VERNON
Habana?

Jopo shakes his head.

JOPO
Tallahassee. I got a place already
lined up. Indoor swimming pool,
shuffleboard, cable.

VERNON
But what about libertad?

JOPO
I'm not getting any younger,
muchacho.

Jopo turns around and begins to walk into the friscalating
dusklight.

A van driven by Miguel pulls up to Jopo. Jopo waves and
gets in. The van drives off. Vernon waves wanly, a little
disappointed. Suddenly, the van does a wild skid.

VERNON
;JOPO!

Vernon starts running towards the van in a mad sprint. The
van starts up again and makes a wide U-turn over the curb,
driving directly at Vernon. Vernon stops and jumps out of
the van's way. Jopo rolls down his window, laughing.

JOPO
Did you think I was serious? I'm
on the right boat now! ;Hasta El
Salvador, compa ero!

VERNON

¡Muerta o gloria!

Vernon laughs as the van drives off towards the sunset and an uncertain future. This time, Vernon waves broadly.

The wave becomes a clenched fist, the star necklace iconically dangling between Vernon's fingers.

VERNON (CONT'D)

Viva Jopo... ¡VIVA JOPO!

Vernon puts on the necklace, heaves a sigh and walks back towards the building. A red flag has been raised. The painter's wall is beginning to look like the Che Guevara icon, only with Jopo's face. Chinese firecrackers explode.

SIDES: VERNON ---- END HERE