

LOVE IN THE TIME OF

# Porque Because

¿Qué más quieres? I'm single, bilingual, y estoy listo to mingle.  
— Spanglish pickup line

When it comes to cosas románticas, we the people of la vida loca get deep into Spanglish. In the throes of flechazo fever, enredados como pretzels, whispering sweet nothings to our media naranjas, only Spanglish lets us properly verbalize the bilingual latidos of our corazones.

Lust a primera vista, harmless coqueteo, unrequited piropeo, and every other kind of love in the time of porque because all find inspired expression in the habla.

Me urge subrayar que Spanglish not only lends itself al romance but sparks it. Porque, como bien sabido es, lo prohibido provoca. The very act of speaking it is taboo, as if English and Spanish were cousins forbidden to be cavorting together. And yet, as the saying goes, el primo a la prima se le arrima.

This subconscious sense of illicitness kicks any flirteo up a notch, compelling legions de los nuestros to kiss, and eventually tell, in Spanglish.

Es más, the best Spanglish involving temas de amor se escucha cuando we get debriefed by friends and family about our latest aventuras and fracasos. Stories de como te dejaron brokehearted, de how you met, de como te fue last night, de que si it's the real thing o solo un fling, spew forth in idioma-switching gabfests.

Enjoy the following soundbites from la esfera de los enamorados.

## ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES

“Hazme un favor and don't be such a pulpo. Keep you hands to yourself.”

## ÚLTIMO ULTIMATUM

“Tenemos que casarnos this year. Porque si no, then it's 'OK, good-bye.'”

## ¡QUE VIVA MAE WEST!

“Is that a plátano in your pocket, or are you just muy happy to see me?”

## CHOOSE YOUR PALABRAS CAREFULLY

“Entonces, I said to her, le dije, 'Look, I want kids pero no contigo.' That's when she broke everything in my apartment. Y después me puse a pensar, “Did I say something wrong?””

## PUES NADA, THAT'S THE STORY

“Bueno, estábamos como los Three Stooges, jugando all the time, y esto y lo otro, and we became real good friends y empezamos a salir. Y el se enamoró, pero bien enamorado, and me too. Lo único que he's got problems with alcohol. Y yo me dije, pués, nobody's perfect. Entonces el tipo me salió con que we couldn't have sex for six months! Me tenía sufriendo and I started to worry que maybe no podía cumplir en la cama y se había vuelto impotent from all the drinking. Pero ¡qué va! Last Saturday nos entregamos en la playa, a lo 'Blue Lagoon,' bajo una luna llena and he's fine. He is fine!

Muchacho, estamos disfrutando un montón. The wait was worth it. Te digo que I felt like a virgin, te lo juro, really.”

#### UNA SENIOR SEXY

“See her out there on the balcony, with the grey hair? Está madura, pero todavía aguanta sus pingasos.”

#### AND, HE CROSSES HIS LEGS

“Perdona, chico, no te quise ofender. It’s just that since you never made a pass at me, pensé que eras del otro way. Not that there’s anything wrong with that.”

#### NEVER LET THEM SEE YOU SWEAT

“She’s a little high maintenance. ‘De esas que cuando se agitan sudan Channel Number Three.’”

#### UNDERSTATEMENT

“She took off her shirt, y me dice, ‘Well, what do you think?’ Tenía unos senos tan preciosos que me quedé en shock! Y al fin le contesté, ‘Not bad.’”

#### TELL IT TO THE JUDGE

“You taped her sin su consentimiento en actos sexuales, deplorables y repugnantes. Por lo tanto, I find you guilty. No solo de ser un criminal, sino también un real jerk. ¡Caso cerrado!”

#### FAIR WARNING

“Pobre de ti, si estás cheating on me, porque mi papi will come after you with his escopeta.”

#### PLEASE DON’T TEASE LOS LOBOS

“No puedes mirarme así con esos ojos tan deseosos y negarme un beso. That’s false advertising.”

#### HIJO DE GATO

“He’s a corazón breaker. Otro picaflor como su papá.”

#### EASY COME, EASY GO

“Entonces we hit it off, tú sabes. Pero he’s back in rehab. Te lo digo que I’ve had some winners.”  
¡QUÉ EXAGERADO!

“No more Internet dating. En su post de Craglist, el muy sinvergüenza dijo que tenía un ‘swimmer’s body.’ ¡Mentira! Well, digo, unless he meant as in ‘manati.’”

#### SWEET MEMORIES

“Oh it’s a love story. She knew I was in this crew of gang- sters, right, and she found out that I was the main chingón and couldn’t resist my chingonerías. So I remember one year, le di una llamadita to come over and watch “It’s a Wonderful Life,” ‘cause, you wouldn’t think so, pero it’s my favorite movie, right, especially in black and white and shit, and I didn’t want to see it alone. Actually, fue un Christmas booty call. And we’ve been chingando ever since.”

#### BUT WE ONLY HOOKED UP ONCE

“Congratulations. Te echaste un gol en la primera jugada. I’ve always been like that, though. Caigo en cinta solo de ver unos calzoncillos.”

#### TEMPTING, BUT NO, GRACIAS

“Quería llevarme skinny dipping ¡Imagínate! On the first date. Y yo estaba como que, ‘Should I do it?’ Pero, no mija no, lo siento, pero yo no soy tan open minded.”

#### KEEPING SCORE

“I wouldn’t call it true love. More like, amor deportivo. One thing led to another y nos fuimos pa’ extra innings.”

#### ¿WHY TAN TRISTE?

“Hey Gladys. ¿Qué te pasa? You sound sad. ¿Y qué paso con Mr. Midlife Crisis? ‘Dito. But why were you crying? Get out of here. ¡Pues, divórciate ya! Y dale gracias a Dios que you never signed that friggin’ prenup.”

#### REDEEMING QUALITIES

“Feo de vicio, pero tenemos chemistry.”

#### “I WILL SURVIVE”

Lyrics by Frederick J. Perron and Dino Fekaris; recorded by Gloria Gaynor  
Spanglish translation por Bill Santiago

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