A MATTER OF CHARACTER

DANIEL

How am I not right?

JAVIER

Because this is my dad we are talking about. He's strong and he's brutal and he fought with everything he had to get to the states. This country did not want him. That rejection was excruciating. What could you possibly know about all that?

DANIEL

I might surprise you.

JAVIER

Really? What's the hardest thing you had to fight for? A parking spot at the Beverly Center?

DANIEL

Why are you being an asshole?

JAVIER

I'm not trying to be. I'm just saying that my dad had a very specific way of...of moving. Of talking.

DANIEL

So are you looking for someone to play a role or for someone to be your dad?

JAVIER

Play a role.

DANIEL

Well, it doesn't sound like that.

JAVIER

Because it's complicated. This character is based on my father. And I have a very specific vision for how I want him to be played. You don't get it.

DANIEL

Then explain it me.

JAVIER

Daniel, I didn't know how to tell you but I just can't have you play him.

DANIEL

Why?

JAVIER

Because he was a prideful man. Pride was very important to him.

DANIEL

But what does that have to do with—

JAVIER

And appearance mattered to him.

DANIEL

I don't understand how-

JAVIER

(frustrated) You're just not right—

DANIEL

Okay, but why?

JAVIER

(raising his voice) I'm not going to let a faggot play my dad. *(Beat.)*

DANIEL

But a faggot can write a play about him.

JAVIER

Excuse me?

DANIEL

No.

JAVIER

I don't know why you couldn't just stop. I have a very specific—

DANIEL

...idea of what you want. I heard that. Let's go back to me being a faggot.

JAVIER

I'm sorry. You just...kept pushing—

DANIEL

So that's what happens when I push you?

JAVIER

I was frustrated. You wouldn't let it go.

DANIEL

Oh, so I deserved it?

JAVIER

That's not what I said.

DANIEL

Then stop making excuses for it. You called me a...

JAVIER

I know what I called you. I didn't mean it.

DANIEL

Then what did you mean?