

JOSÉ MARÍA

Written by

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BLACK SCREEN:

We hear chants. People shouting. Singing anthems. Crowd chants: "José, José, José..."

ANCHOR

José María Gutiérrez won the Ballon D'Or this past January being the favorite among the finalists once again.

EXT. SANTIAGO BERNABEU STADIUM - NIGHT

The crowd: "José, José, José..."

SLOW MOTION: The BALL is rolling. JOSE MARIA (mid-20s) is running with the ball. An opponent slides.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

Jose with the ball...

José is running with the ball towards the edge of the PENALTY BOX.

INT. TV STATION 1 - NIGHT [ANOTHER TIME]

This is a very E-ish TV show. Graphics are red and white. Very sensationalistic. A group of THREE PRESENTERS talk around a table with GLASSES OF WINE. They are sitting in two couches.

TV PRESENTER

He is the first player to come out of the closet. His coach, his team, the whole football world supported him. And he has become the spokesperson for the LGBT community in Madrid, and even in Spain.

While they talk, we see CLIPS of José with different men, caught by paparazzi's.

TV PRESENTER 2 (O.S.)

But that does not make him less of a whore.

CUT TO:

RESUME - EXT. SANTIAGO BERNABEU STADIUM - NIGHT

José makes a pass.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)
What a brilliant pass! Real is now
in the penalty box. If he centers
it, its a goal!

RODRIGO (mid-20s) has the ball, and spots José in the center
of the GOAL BOX. He centers it.

RESUME - INT. TV STATION 1 - NIGHT

TV PRESENTER 3
He was seen with two men in the
same night, please Jason, he is not
the role model for our kids.

Clips of José *drinking wildly*, dancing, *licking* a man's
chest, taking a few SHOTS.

TV PRESENTER
Still, he is an icon for the gay
community, and he is an amazing
football player. Everybody loves
José María.

CUT TO:

RESUME - EXT. SANTIAGO BERNABEU STADIUM - NIGHT

The ball is in the air. It reaches the head of José.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)
Rodrigo with the cross!
GOAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAL! Jose scores
again for the winner, and Real is
one step away from the
championship. What a great win for
the team!

The players are celebrating the goal. José and Rodrigo
celebrate. Wild crowd. Chants.

BLACK SCREEN: JOSÉ MARÍA

INT. HOTEL ROOM, IBIZA - DAY

White curtains. Golden furniture. CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE in the
night table. Big balcony. In a table, there's a BOARD GAME
with SHOT GLASSES all over, clearly somebody had fun.

The RADIO is on.

DJ (O.S.)
 Real Club is playing the Champions
 League final next weekend against
 Arsenal FC.

José wakes up in his underwear. He sits on the bed. He seems like your typical douche, but the way he smiles at himself on the mirror in front of the bed makes you like him.

Suddenly, we see PILAR (mid-20s) wearing just a shirt. She is subtly beautiful. She looks at him *angelically*, and smiles. He smiles back.

JOSE
 Hey.

PILAR
 Hey... Oh god! I crashed again.

JOSE
 I don't mind. Yesterday was fun.

She lies back on bed. He throws a PILLOW to her. They smile.

INT. RESTAURANT, IBIZA - DAY

Balcony. Wooden tables and chairs. White silk umbrella. Two GLASSES OF MIMOSAS. José and Pilar are having breakfast. A GARDENER *stares* at them.

A couple of gay men is sitting across them. They *secretly* talk to each other, and keep looking at José.

José looks back at them, and they smile at him. He smiles back, but quickly changes his attention to Pilar.

PILAR
 These french toasts are amazing.

JOSE
 I love this place.

PILAR
 It's so nice out here. I don't want to go back to Madrid.

JOSE
 We can stay one more day if you want.

Some KIDS go to the table, and ask him for an autograph in a piece of NAPKIN.

FAT KID

You're the best soccer player ever.
I want to be like you!

JOSE

Yeah? This life is not as easy as
it looks, but I'd support you.

The kids show each other their AUTOGRAPHS, José smiles at them, and they leave. Pilar smiles at José.

PILAR

You're so cute.

Pilar's PHONE rings. A TEXT from "SERGIO."

PILAR (CONT'D)

It's Sergio. Oh!... You have to go
to the wedding!

JOSE

Don't marry him.

PILAR

(laughing)
What? Why?

JOSE

I don't know. I like you. I don't
want you to marry a douche bag...
Are you sure you want to marry him?

PILAR

Of course - You.. You don't know
Sergio.

JOSE

But I know you... since we were
kids I... I just think you deserve
someone better. I really like you,
Pilar.

PILAR

I know, I like you too.

JOSE

No, I actually mean it. This
weekend has been great with you. I
think we could be good together.

Pilar laughs *hysterically*.

PILAR

You're joking. I know you, José. Or you forgot you came crying to me quite often... Don't joke like that.

José is confused. He did not expect that reaction.

JOSE

I know, I was just kidding... But I...

She is enjoying her FRENCH TOASTS while also checking her PHONE. It was clearly a joke for her.

JOSE (CONT'D)

Mmm... Love these french toasts.

He takes a BITE of the french toasts, and *stares* at Pilar.

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - DAY

Real Club is training in a WIDE FIELD. The grass very green. Amazing view of the CITY. Players in blue uniforms with gold stripes.

The COACH is *giving directions*.

COACH

I want you in pairs, guys. Let's pass a little bit to cool down.

Pairs of players passing BALLS.

José and Rodrigo do their traditional *hand-shake*.

Rodrigo passes the ball to José.

RODRIGO

So now you're bi?

José laughs.

JOSE

You saw the pictures? That fuckin' gardener.

RODRIGO

Yeah, you always surprise me, dude. I saw them in Hola this morning. He had no chill. You better close the curtains next time.

They keep passing the BALL as they talk.

JOSE

I know, we must have been drunk as fuck to leave them open. People always minding my business.

RODRIGO

Nothing new. Did you like it at least?

JOSE

We were just chillin' out. No sex, just a night out.

José *smiles* a little bit.

RODRIGO

(ironically)

Yeah, sure. There's something you're not telling me.

JOSE

What? - I mean... I had a great time, I could see myself being with her, just like when we were little. But everybody knows I'm gay, it's out there. What would people say? It is not as easy as that. I have a whole community on my back.

RODRIGO

You are the one that complicates it. It does not matter what other people think, it is about how you feel.

JOSE

I know, I really enjoyed being with her. She's gorgeous. I remember how happy we were when we were kids. I always liked her, but I never told her, you know. And then, I started liking men, so I forgot about it...

Coach *blows* the whistle. José kicks the ball to the goal. All the players are walking to the locker rooms. José and Rodrigo are still walking together.

RODRIGO

Well if there is something you feel, you got to make her believe it.

(MORE)

RODRIGO (CONT'D)

This is about you, not about other people. You seem happy about it. Go for it

JOSE

I know, and I want to, but she is compromised, and she cares a lot about what's out there.

RODRIGO

I think you can. I root for you, dude, as always.

JOSE

Thanks, man.

They shake hands, and enter the locker room.

INT. MAREA CLUB - NIGHT

Big club. Fluorescent lights. Lots of people *dancing*. Fancy short dresses. Men in suites. Dark. People are enjoying their time.

José and Pilar are sitting on the bar. Pilar is drinking a green-ish rum like Midori, but in a MARTINI GLASS. José has a GLASS OF WHISKEY on the rocks. They are taking. Smiling.

Pilar has her PHONE on the table. The phone *vibrates*. We see the name "SERGIO" in the screen. She sees it, but does not answer.

PILAR

This is such a nice bar.

JOSE

I know... I love it here.

PILAR

Wait, are you meeting someone?

JOSE

No.. I-I came with you. I want to have fun with you, and no one else.

Pilar smiles. She holds her GLASS to propose a toast.

PILAR

Ok nice. For old times sake.

José *raises* his glass too.

JOSE
For old times sake.

PILAR
I hope you mean it, and don't
vanish like you did when you became
what you are.

JOSE
I won't vanish ever again.

She smiles. She receives another TEXT from Sergio. She *rolls*
her eyes. José notices it.

JOSE (CONT'D)
Sergio?

PILAR
Yeah, he's a *control-freak*, but I
told him I was going out with you.

José isn't smiling this time. Neither is Pilar. They both
drink. José goes to her, and touches her face gently.

JOSE
I told you that you deserve someone
who can treat you better.

Pilar smiles. No words.

Suddenly, MANUEL (early 30's, good looking) comes from behind
José. He holds his hand.

MANUEL
Hey.

José smiles *falsely*.

JOSE
Hey.

MANUEL
Wanna dance?

Pilar laughs approving it. José looks at her trying to make
her help him.

PILAR
(to Manuel)
He wants to.
(to José)
Go!

José puts the GLASS on the table, and goes to the dance floor.

FLASH. A paparazzi takes pictures.

José is dancing with Manuel. Sensual. Manuel *tries* to kiss José, but José won't let him.

Pilar watches from the bar. She receives another TEXT from Sergio. She *does not look happy*.

José notices from distance that she is looking at her phone. He dumps Manuel, and goes to the bar.

He *holds* her hand, and drags her to the dance floor. She puts her PHONE away, and laughs.

They dance *like friends*. They laugh about the couple dancing besides them

They keep dancing *closer*.

José gets real about it. Pilar is kind of *nervous*.

He is sensual, and she is letting him be.

They are really close, their LIPS almost touch, but they do not kiss.

FLASH. FLASH. FLASH.

CUT TO:

INT. TV STATION 2 - DAY

A MAGAZINE is dropped on a table. It has Manuel, José and Pilar in the front page.

This is another show. Blue and gold graphics. TWO PRESENTERS at each side of a table. BIG SCREEN in the background shows TWO PICTURES. José and Pilar. José and Manuel.

TV PRESENTER 4

Gay footballer, José María, was seen last night with his ex Manuel Torres, but little bit after that with Pilar Guerrero, fiancé of business magnate, Sergio Espinoza.

More PICTURES in the background.

TV PRESENTER 5

José apparently dumped Manuel, who was seen insistent. We don't wanna rush, but this other two were too close. Is there not going to be a wedding?

TV PRESENTER 4

And what will the LGBT community say about this? Was it just a strategy to get more coverage? Is he really gay after all?

INT. TV STATION 3 - DAY

Pink-ish. Just a MALE PRESENTER.

TV PRESENTER 6

The gay community is furious with José, but other scholars have reacted saying that he might just be bisexual, pansexual or just be in love with a woman as simple as it sounds.

INT. TV STATION 1 - DAY

The three presenters from the beginning are sitting in two couches now.

TV PRESENTER

Sergio Espinoza is not going to be happy with the pictures of his fiancé and José.

TV PRESENTER 2

Well, maybe, they are just friends enjoying the night.

TV PRESENTER

To me that did not seem like a friend's night out.

TV PRESENTER 3

Now, the question is: Is there going to be a wedding? Or is the relationship broken?

EXT. JOSE'S BALCONY - NIGHT

José and Pilar are talking in his balcony. Small balcony with a tall table and two tall chairs. A great view of the city.

PILAR

I can't deal with this, José.

JOSE

With what?

PILAR

People talking shit about me, about you. It can ruin my marriage. I don't want to be the whore on the spotlight. You're gay, and I have a fiancé. This can't happen.

JOSE

What? You are not a whore. We were just hanging out. What people think does not matter, at least to me, and it shouldn't matter to you.

Pilar's PHONE vibrates, but she listens to José.

JOSE (CONT'D)

If I had cared about other people's opinions, right now, I would be unhappy, and nobody should be unhappy. Why should it matter to people that I like men? Or that after all I fell in love with a woman?

She looks at him *directly* to the eyes.

JOSE (CONT'D)

Live is not about appearances, but about happiness. And yes, some men have made me happy, but just in the moment. You make me happy just by thinking about you, being with you, laughing with you, and just staring at you.

A PHONE rings. It's Pilar's.

On the screen: "Incoming call: Sergio"

PILAR

(nervously)

I-I have to go. I'm sorry, José.

She *drops* her keys, picks them up. She is about to leave.

JOSE

Would you at least go to the final
this Saturday?

PILAR

I can't. I have the dinner with
Sergio's parents. I'm sorry José,
this can't just happen. I'm sorry
that it cannot be like before.

She walks out of the balcony to the entrance of the
apartment. She looks back, but then leaves.

Door closes. José is sitting outside. Hands on his head. Just
staring at the city.

BLACK SCREEN: The Champions League ANTHEM is on. Crowd
cheering. Chants: "José, José, José"

NARRATOR (O.S.)

The day is today. The final of the
Champions League. Real Club versus
Arsenal FC. Will José María get
Real Club to their twelfth
Champions League?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

José is sitting on the BENCH. All the players around. In the
distance we see Rodrigo tying his boots.

We hear the anthem of the Champions and all the noise.

José is *focused*. He *prays* while holding his CRUCIFIX. He
looks at his PHONE as if he was waiting for a call.

He puts his SHIRT on. All the players are leaving the room.
He stands up.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Nice restaurant. White tablecloths. Steel utensils. CHAMPAGNE
on the table.

Pilar is sitting besides SERGIO and around the table there
are MEMBERS of Sergio's family.

The GAME is on the TV right across the table, but Pilar has
not seen it. She smiles, clearly *fake*. SERGIO'S MOM is the
typical bitchy mother-in-law.

SERGIO'S MOM

(to Pilar)

Pilar, what were those pictures in the news about?

PILAR

Oh, José is my best friend since we were kids, we were just dancing.

SERGIO

He is gay. I'm fine with whatever people want to think. They give me publicity.

Pilar did not like that comment.

SERGIO'S MOM

I don't like that José. They keep taking garbage about him and Pilar. Girl, you need to pick your friends right.

Pilar nods. She looks at the TV. The game is on. There's a shot of José in the screen. He has the BALL, shoots and hits the post. There's a close up shot of José in the screen.

The game is 0-0, and there are just 20 minutes left.

She looks at him, and smiles. She looks at Sergio. He is taking to everybody around. She looks at everybody showing that she does not fit there.

EXT. SANTIAGO BERNABEU STADIUM - NIGHT

The SCREEN in the stadium shows the score. 0-0. Minute 86. Arsenal has the ball.

The crowd is really wild. "José, José, José."

REAL PLAYERS are running all over the place behind the ball.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

Arsenal approaches the goal area. They want the goal. They are better this half.

The crowd is yelling. Indescribable chants. A huge "Uhhhhhhhh" is heard after Arsenal's approach.

OLIVER GIROUD shoots, but REAL'S GOALKEEPER stops the shot.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What a great shot from Oliver
Giroud! He is on fire today.
Arsenal wants the championship.

The crowd is crazy.

Arsenal keeps the ball. SANTI CAZORLA takes it.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Cazorla has it. Giroud is in the
clear. If he passes the ball, it
can be dangerous.

He makes a pass to Giroud. He shoots, but the goalkeeper
stops the shot, and kicks the ball to the other side as we
hear more shouts from the crowd.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The Bernabeu is loud, they need
Real Club to wake up. If they want
to win the championship, they need
to put pressure in the midfield.

Real Club has the ball.

RESUME - INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The game is on. Pilar is stressed out. The TVs are on. We
hear the game.

Sergio is taking to everybody. He does not even pay attention
to Pilar. She is focused on the game.

RESUME - EXT. SANTIAGO BERNABEU STADIUM - NIGHT

The GOALKEEPER serves the ball.

The BALL is high in the air.

José receives it right in his FOOT.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)
José with the ball again.

He passes it to Rodrigo.

Rodrigo runs with it to the goal area in the right wing.

He triangles the ball with TWO REAL PLAYERS.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Great play among these brilliant
 players. If Rodrigo sees José, its
 a goal.

José is in the area. Rodrigo receives the ball back, and
 passes it with the first touch through the ground.

The ARSENAL DEFENDER is approaching the ball, but suddenly
 José appears, and shoots to goal with the first touch.

RESUME - INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Pilar jumps out of the chair.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)
 GOOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAAAAAALLLLLLLLLLL!
 Minute 88, and Real Club takes the
 lead.

EVERYBODY *stares* at Pilar. Sergio and his mom look at her
 with embarrassment.

PILAR
 (to Sergio's mom)
 You know... I sure know how to pick
 my closest ones, and you guys are
 not part of those. I'm sorry
 Sergio.

Pilar throws her RING at the table, and leaves.

EXT. SANTIAGO BERNABEU STADIUM - NIGHT

The REFEREE blows the whistle. Its over. Real Club won the
 Champions.

Real Club PLAYERS celebrate with José and Rodrigo. The crowd
 sings the anthem of Real Club.

COMMENTATOR (O.S.)
 Real Club is the champion again.
 This is the first time ever that a
 club has won the Champions League
 two years in a row.

Chants of "José, José, José..."

FAMILY MEMBERS of every playerS. KIDS. WIVES. PARENTS.

Rodrigo goes to his GIRLFRIEND.

José is alone. His smile vanished from his face. Loneliness.

Suddenly, Pilar appears from the crowd. She is bright, and smiles humbly.

José smiles again, and goes to her. They hug and kiss.

We hear the Champions anthem, the crowd and the noise.

FLASHES from around. REPORTERS and PAPARAZZI gather around them.

All the reporters are asking questions at the same time.

REPORTER 1

José, how does it feel to win the Champions two years in a row?

REPORTER 2

(aggressively)

How do you think the LGBT Community will feel about the two of you together?

REPORTER 3

What do you expect as you look forward to your next season in Real Club?

REPORTER 4

Is there going to be a wedding, Miss Pilar?

Pilar laughs sarcastically. She looks at that reporter.

PILAR

José and Real Club just made history, and you are here asking me about a wedding that you know obviously is not happening. Love is more than just an attraction.

(smiling and looking at José)

I am not embarrassed about being with the man I love just because of what everybody else thinks.

José smiles.

JOSE

As for the LGBT Community, love is not about gender. Nobody can tell anybody who to love.

(MORE)

JOSE (CONT'D)

I may love a woman, but I feel part of this community because this is a community of love and acceptance.

As reporters keep asking indistinctive questions, José and Pilar focus on themselves.

They kiss and then leave.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

The ANCHOR is sitting alone on the table with a screen on the background that has an image of José and Pilar kissing.

ANCHOR

Real Club won the Champions League with José María as the protagonist, but the spotlight of the night was not the victory, but the image of a gay icon kissing a woman.

Screen is turned off.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM, IBIZA - DAY

Same room as the beginning. José puts the REMOTE down. He is shirtless. Pilar has one of his shirts. José and Pilar are on the balcony finishing their breakfast.

Pilar stands up, goes to the bed, and takes off the shirt.

She is naked. We just see her back. José smiles, closes the door and the CURTAINS.

FADE OUT.