

Alright, alright, let's talk about last night. So, quite an interesting night. I basically went out at the same time looking for some medicine. And my reseller was trying to get some for me. Wasn't... nobody was responding. Then I talked to, sent a message finally to Juan, this new neighbor who let me into the apartment when I was first moving in with all my bags and stuff. Helped me out big time. And then walked real far over to the ATM in Jardim Plaza with me to get cash to pay the rent. Super nice. And so I figured, hey, he's a nice guy, speaks perfect English, works at a call center for this American hotel chain, water park chain thing. And... but super young, 19. And that'll come back into play here soon. So I texted him, see if he knew anybody that had any. And he said he was going to look up some contacts about an hour ago. And I'm like, yeah, cool, okay, if nothing happens, I'm going to go to Parque Jovita. If nothing happens.

And so he wasn't really responding, so I was planning on going to Parque Jovita. About an hour later, then I texted him on the other phone, the one that has the SIM card, the one I'm talking on now, that, okay, just let me know if there's any news, because I'm going out, I'm going to Parque Jovita. So this is the phone that you'd contact me on. And then immediately he's like, dude, I can hook you up. My brother, he can get you some. And I was like, what, why didn't you try that an hour ago? But I was already basically in the Uber. So I was like, okay, I can't waste this Uber, a caffan's baby.

And so I'm going to go to Parque Jovita. But then I was thinking, hey, maybe I'll just go right to Parque El Perro, have dinner, maybe drink something, see what's good, and then come back. Because I asked him, you know, I asked him to come out too. But he worked the next day, early, 7 a.m. I was like, cool, what time do you normally go to bed? You know, because I wanted to get some of this medicine before to help me go to bed, to sleep. And he's like, oh, you know, like 10 or 11. I'm like, okay, cool, I got you. I will be there before so that we can make the trade. And I asked him, like, can't you just try to buy it from your brother? And then I'll just come over and give you the money. And he said that, you know, that was okay. I tried calling him a bunch of times, but it was too late. I already had to get out for Parque Jovita. I was like, that's fine, I'll just get a different Uber and I'll check the scene at Parque Jovita. And as it turned out, the scene at Parque Jovita was pretty epic.

Not one, but two concerts going on at Parque Jovita. Tons of people. I've never seen more people at Parque Jovita in my life. Usually when I go, you know, it's like really chill. I mean, there's like definitely people and people over by the edge of it. Less people like deep in than by the edge. And underpass as well. But this time it was just filled with people. And it's because there was like two concerts going on.

So I was like, oh, this is epic. So I kind of go in, I go deep in to my like normal spot, which is like these benches and stuff. And I go sit by some randos. And the first rando I ask if he knows where I can get any. And he's like, no, man, I don't know. From around here, like this barrio, whatever. So I get that, I get that. It's, you know, for the concert or whatever.

And then what? So he kind of like shuffles off a little bit later, five minutes later. Some new guys sit down. I venture to ask them too. Like, no, they also don't know. So that's the one issue with these concerts, I guess, is that it attracted a lot of people that don't know. The times I've been there before, everybody knew where to go. And really, you would, they would come up to you. So this was unusual for me. So I then, what was really cool is he gave me some. He's like, hey, what about this? Take a hit of this. And I did. It was nice, very nice, this gentleman to do that for me. And so then I was chilling out. We were talking a little bit, just hanging out, listening to the concert, which was like rap. Awesome. And you could even hear the other side of the park, their concert, which was like crazy metal. Going on. And then they left and three new guys came.

And those are the coolest guys. Those are the guys I ended up partying with. Anderson, Jason, and Cesar. And I don't even think I had to ask them yet. And they already immediately gave me a hit. And then they gave me a whole dang one, a whole unit of one, just for me. I was like, what the hell? Super nice. Who the hell does that? And I was like, damn, these people are salt of the earth type people. And so I was like, okay, this definitely changes plans. Hopefully I still have a bunch of time to be able to hang out with these guys. And that's basically what I did. And it turned out to be so freaking cool because they were just such nice people. Right. And so we were all doing the medicine together. And then, you know, listening to this music, just shooting the shit. And I was getting pretty baked, obviously. And Cesar is to my left and Jason, then Anderson.

Anderson didn't partake really in anything. And Jason definitely, and Cesar, even with a little bit of coke, invited me to some of them. I'm like, I'm good. And in fact, I talked all about the addictive personalities on both sides of my family, how I've had aunts, uncles die from alcohol poisoning, from all kinds of drugs and stuff. And Cesar was like totally understood and also like recognized that he just didn't have that, that he could control it and only have it on like the weekends. And we talked about, you know, like what he couldn't. Oddly enough, it was like food stuff and money. And we reflected on, you know, the importance of just knowing what your thing is. It's probably something human. You just want more of what gives you that dopamine. And, yeah, these guys were like definitely, they told me, you know, Estrato 1.

They showed me like some amazing videos of these hikes they've taken, topically.

And I'm like, damn, like in any other place, that would be the most expensive area. And I started getting worried about like, you know, like these housing crises, because eventually even places that are now quite poor and cheap, if it's ideal rental property, you know, eventually they could all get bulldozed and just taken up. And like that view alone, it was amazing that there weren't hikes and things like that. And they're like, yeah, you know, totally safe. We never had any issues or anything like that. In fact, it's like, I said, they're like barely any, I've ever even seen anyone there. Some kind of like hidden secret probably. And that made me feel even worse, because it's like, oh, these hidden touristy secrets is like, it's probably their treasure. And the fact that they were going to tell me, I could go right on TripAdvisor or something, was so cool. Showed me all these videos.

They're like, yeah, we got to hang out. And these are like exactly the same type of people that I've always hung out with in Colombia, mostly in Antioquia, you know, because when you're in Andes or Jardin, or it's just like, it's kind of like the options you've got. And they are basically just my kind of people, the kind of people that I hung out with in Chicago. Really from 18 on, I would say. So like half my life, I would say, is, you know, the same kind of like way of talking that other people might say is not the classiest, you know, too many swear words. Things like that, or tattoos, or, you know, doing the medicine. And just like a no-judge zone. And we were talking about fucking AI. This Seisai guy was so smart.

He had like a low-key giant vocabulary, and was just able to like capture these ideas. I was like, oh, okay, yeah, this is what they mean. You know, he definitely has like a high IQ. Like a higher IQ than I have, for sure. I don't think I have a high IQ at all, but that it just happens like randomly, and just to meet these people. And he works in construction. Pretty freaking good job. Started him at 60 an hour, and he knows guys that are in like 100, 200. Puts up these houses. Same thing in Chicago, you get these construction types who can make bank. Seriously, make a lot of money. Of course, you're trading your body for money. You know, you're not going to be able to work as long. You're going to be not able to work as many years, right, in that job, as you would in other jobs. And even though you start at 60 and can push up, it's always by hour.

You know, you're not making any passive income. And it's like if you stop working, you're not making any money. So it's kind of a negative of it. But the positive of it is like boom, you need cash. And we did the calculations. I'm like, dude, you could freaking live in Henio. He was making like a few million. And he was like, yeah, but all this stuff, food and blood. I was like, damn, I should take that because, you know, I don't want to be spending as much as he was even making. So I was like, OK, yeah, maybe. Although they do say rent making up 50% of the budget, it's pretty normal. This guy was pretty smart. And, of course, then I wanted to treat them. So these brownies came by. And I was like, they're like dose meal. And I

think that he had not only given me like a hit, but then a whole unit for myself to use. It's like the hell, what is that? That's at least two meal, several meal, you know, and even just think the time of it.

But, yeah, like I would leave these guys, my judges guys as being just like low class or I mean people with just any tattoos. You even kind of experience that in in Colombia. Right. Like I've read that people know tattoos and just like the hint they they BN thing, especially like visible tattoos. I've noticed like a little bit of a difference on the arms. And even telling people going that the Uber driver was going to parque or eat is like, what are you on there for? It's like to meet some friends, bitch. And by the guy on the way back, just jump into that, the Uber. I'll get to that. We're driving our way back, which is amazing because I don't remember too much before the Uber drive like immediately. But I remember the Uber drive. And I think that's because when I got home, I wrote about it. Anyway, back to where we're doing, you know, we're talking about a I R this chatty English. I was like, you got to go to the site. And they were showing me photos of all their friends and stuff like that. Even some, you know, kind of more intimate photos of some of their quote unquote friends. And I was like, whoa. So, yeah.

So I bought them some brownies. And say, said, being smart was like, I'm only going to eat a little bit of this. And I was like, you know what? I'm going to follow his lead. Of course, he was doing coke the whole time, too. But only like a little bit. Little bumps. This guy was like definitely in control of the situation and was just somebody where, yeah, maybe he went money, like he said, was his thing that he spent. But with this medicine and stuff, he could control it a lot better than I could, which was like my thing. So I was like, you know what? I'm going to follow. So I said, yeah, I'm going to eat a little bit of this brownie, which was a good idea. And I'm only going to use a little bit of this unit. And, you know, but they were still offering more of theirs. And then they pulled out some Coca-Cola. I mean, even like food. They were going to offer me like a whole sandwich. I'm like, no, they're just like, first of all, I'm pretty sure they have meat. And I was just like, it's OK. It's just insane that really like I'm pretty sure this is the same United States and they've done like studies like who even donates the most to charity as a percent of their income. It's people that with like less money. So there's definitely like a factor of the lower the strata, I'm telling you, like the nicer and more giving is the person generally.

And it's kind of crazy, but. You know, not even being a Christian myself, because of everything that happened after Jesus. But talk about following Jesus example, who was a homeless nomad revolutionary going from town to town, just trying to spread the message of love. You know, how many quotes are there in the Bible of. Giving the coat off of your back to a complete stranger, you know, and how Jesus had nowhere to lay his head. So just these guys seemed like almost like angels

and just. Super cool. So then after that. While I was looking to find I kept wanting to stay longer. Right. But. Couldn't really do that. Had to get back for one. And dot dot dot asterisk asterisk asterisk don't really remember. What happened after that. Went to the rock concert on the other side. And that was pretty nuts. Like a rock metal death metal almost you'd say. Don't even really remember. What happened or getting back or anything like that. Which was also pretty crazy.

And the Uber drive on the way back was fascinating. Because we were talking all about. Kind of the same thing with like AI art but really just you know. Again talking about the American culture. Right like. Kylie and Columbia really just the Americas on this continent north and south and Europe. How perhaps a lot of Colombians that haven't traveled might group together all foreigners with white ass skin like mine. But there's a huge difference as far as at least socializing. And just relating my time my year in Europe. And how even Spain. You know as south as you can get in Europe. And as quote unquote friendly as you can probably get in Europe as well. But compared to even Canada the coldest of the North Americas. No way you know like you can't talk to random strangers on the bus.

You can't do that. So I was definitely the gringo that just was almost like annoyingly social. Because I'd be uncomfortable sitting on a bus and not talking to the person next to me. Or you know just be kind of like uncomfortable. Or in the metro. Right now at least I look you know nice. And of course just the small talk is what and small was small talk. Oh hey how's it going what's up. You know blah blah blah. That's kind of like almost made fun of as being an American thing. You know but what they don't realize over in Europe is that it's also a Latino thing. That's really just like this American culture thing. This new world versus old world thing. And that became a big point of discussion with the Uber driver. This new world old world. And how just interesting it's been to note how easy it is to make friends. You know well in Chicago what I never knew it was easy before leaving.

And in Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador. You know like you start noticing that like hi it's kind of like you can just talk to everybody. Randomly and they'll be nice. And do nice things for you. And accept the nice things that you want to do for them. And you can make lifelong friends in a heartbeat. Meanwhile in Europe it's not like that at all. It's so much more based on class. Based on your last name. Like what's a popular story in the United States? A movie. A rags to riches. Right and although I'm not 100% in agreement with that. You know the whole obsession with capitalism. Which is also an American thing. And this anti-socialism. A very American north and south phenomenon. But yeah they love the starting from nothing. And working your way up. Climbing that ladder. Becoming rich. Really just showing that like anybody can make it. Whereas what are popular stories in Europe? Kings and queens and stuff like that. Which to me is like basically offensive. That one family just for birth lottery. Is held above all others. Like if the

rags to riches story offends me. Just because it's glorifying you know late stage capitalism and the ultra-rich. Then you know it doubly offends me about those stories of kings and queens in Europe.

Because not only is it involving the super-rich. But they didn't even do anything to get there. They were just born into it. A timely topic now especially considering the recent coronation of a new fucking king. Like just to see him there. To see how many people are on the street. And see one guy with a crown on his head and jewels and all that stuff. It's like give me a fucking break. And they're like blah blah that brings in tourism. No it doesn't. I didn't go to England to see the queen. There was no queen that wouldn't have been affected. You know like nobody goes there to see the queen. It doesn't affect tourism. Like it's bullshit. And I guess the poll of most young people are against having a king and queen. But not everybody in general. It's just so weird. And Spain too. They have a king. And I remember living in Spain and thinking that was weird. So many, Norway's got a king. There's so many kings and shit. And they're all like weirdly related. I remember like seeing a photo of like World War II or even World War I or something. All the kings of like Europe, they're all like first, second cousins. So it's like this one family that like owns everything. And of course, talking also about how like here it's like the Spanish conquistadores in the United States. Who were the colonizers, colonialists? It was the English.

So really, you know, Colombia and the United States have such a similar history. Almost the same, very similar time of independence. Even the day forth compared to the 20th of July, the constitution is basically the same. I mean the laws are so similar. They're like independent spirit. You know, it really makes a lot of sense why these countries in the Americas that all kind of like achieved independence have a similar culture. So just talking all about that and the fascination, socializing here and there and why I've been so long in Colombia and why I could make it so long in any country in the Americas but not in Europe. So really cool Uber ride home. So you get home. Remember I'm trying to get some medicine now from Juan's brother. Because he had promised me and I didn't want to be late. Right? So he could go to bed on time. Get up. And so, get here, go to his place. It's kind of like has no furniture. So I'm like, okay, so this is definitely not a furnished place. Makes sense.

I'm like, I just thought this kid was like definitely making bank. 19, in a place of his own in Genio. But he was definitely making bank at this call center. I was like, okay, makes, could make sense. You know, like it's a chain of hotels in the United States. Maybe he's not even working for a third party. He's just directly working for his company, making dollars, you know. So maybe could afford that. Turns out that's not the case. Word on that. So I go over there. You can just kind of tell this guy, he's practicing his English, which is great. But sometimes it's like so slangy

and stuff that I can't even understand it. And what I've later, and I think that like he, the way he says things sometimes is like, just tell me in Spanish, because what you're saying in English right now is not appropriate for this situation. Because you can have perfect pronunciation, which also sometimes I think is almost like a little strange to see it coming out of somebody. Like that is like, okay, what's going on? But if you say like a super, I don't know, like a slangy type phrase or something, and you're trying to be cool, you could end up not being so cool. That's basically what happened a lot. So get, you know, just like little things you'd say. You'd be like, dang, dude, so they're like, they give you that, they think you're a junkie or something. It's like, what? No. I don't think they think I'm a junkie. They're not junkies either.

Why would he even say that? Is he trying to show off that he knows the word junkie? So right away I was like, okay, that's a little weird. And he's like, yeah, okay. Waited a bit. I'm like, you know, I got to eventually, I got to cook, eat still. I was thinking maybe going back to Parque Jal, Jovita, if this doesn't work out. So, okay, let's go to your apartment then, so you can cook and stuff. And we'll wait. So go there and cook. And just like little things he's saying. So he's asking how much the price is. So I tell him, he's like, what, dude? They're ripping you off because you're a gringo. And it's like, ugh, this again, right? Like, why would he assume that? So then I had to tell him, like, no, like, you realize these places are listed. He has no idea. I mean, then I have to remember he's 19. And I'm like, how did you find this? Surely he must know that that's like common.

That like listing these prices, Mercado Libre, you know, Metro Cuadrado, Cinco Raiz. And this is like, it's not like it's negotiated. Like he might think that she sees that I'm a gringo, then ups the price or something. And I mean, these sites are so, even if they weren't listed beforehand, which I haven't yet to see, but I'm assuming, even like the first contact that you do with them, they change your name is all numbers and stuff. So there must be some law or something protecting to prevent that. So the only times I've had potentially like where that could have happened has been in like Jardin or like Andes. And I was like, actually, if anything, it's the opposite. And that, of course, in super touristy places, like Maricela and I have even experienced with ticket prices. Yeah, they might try to take advantage of you. But a lot of times they'll even like unnecessarily favor you.

And I told him about this older gringo who has like no money. He's here on a tiny retirement pension, monthly social security. But people see this old guy, gringo, and they're like, this guy's got money. So he's gotten people like, give him borrowing money for business ideas. And he's just like skip town and shit. I know this guy because I worked with him for like a few months thinking that like, well, it's just English project. He actually convinced me to go to Jardin. So really, in a

way, it was a chain of events that started all of a cop. So I'm not too pissed. And he didn't rip me off. And then I soon saw him for what he was. And it's just like not a trustworthy guy. So I kind of broke off contact pretty quickly. But that was his own early saga in my Colombian adventure. Right. So we're talking. So. So that offends me right away. So that's another thing.

And I'm like, dude, why would you just jump into assuming that then these just like little things. And I was like, he never even ended up telling me how much he paid. Right. But like something that just like people, you don't even just jump into asking, let alone then like saying that's too much. You're like I just this little things that I started noticing him do. I was, you know, putting while I was cooking, lighting the stove. He's like, you got to light that first. I was like, dude, like how long have I been here? How long have I already cooked? How many times have I already cooked just at this place? So like, why would I? Very strange. So he's got this like weird tendency of just like, I guess, telling people what to do, how to do it. What I ask is what I say is unsolicited. Yeah. Kind of criticism. But I was trying to be open at this point. At this point,

I was very into my medicine, so I was able to express easily those feelings, those thoughts like, dude, like I know you're young, but that's not really how you like approach these things. Just going around pointing and criticizing stuff. And I think it was because he was trying to be cool and trying to like slang and be cool. And I kept telling him, though, it's like now, you know. You said because at the park, he wrote me CG, like, say, the weed, which he didn't, but his brother was going to get it. I was like, OK, but I'm like, you know, I'm going to be upset because I could have gotten it at Hoita. You will buy it from there. But I came back because of this. Don't worry. You know, my brother and his friend, they're reliable. OK. OK. But I'm like, you don't you know, like drug dealers do like they say one thing and then they don't hit you back. And I told him about Marcella and that whole thing. And he's like, no, no, no, no, no. Don't worry about it. And then I was like, and I turned it back on him a bit with the rent. I'm like, yeah, well, what about you? It's like, don't you think that people would maybe take advantage of a 19 year old first rental or whatever?

Like how easy would it be to just. And I'm like, I was trying to explain to him why this place cost what it did and why you look up on these pages. You see these prices, not a year long contract so far, no contract completely furnished, you know. And I was just saying, like I was in a hotel paying a hundred plus a night, needed somewhere to go ASAP. No contract options were pretty limited, especially because I was thinking the South. And, yeah, so I grabbed this place and it's definitely way cheaper per night than any hotel would be that's furnished. Right. So definitely a deal. I was just telling him and I had to tell him like four times the plan. And I had already told him and he's like, oh, yes, are you going to stay



here again? I'm like, no, do the whole point is to find a low guy. And then rent it and then go get my shit. You know, I'm not going to stay in a furnished place this whole time, obviously not. I have a stuff. You know, and another thing he did that pissed me off was he's like, oh, yeah, you know, like you shouldn't go to a hotel. You shouldn't go over there. And I'm like, you realize this is like the fourth time I've been in Cali.

I used to live in the center, like right next to San Antonio. And don't talk about like these people like that. He's like, oh, like, you know, Bowers that I'm like this guy. Then I later find out he's renting from his grandmother. I'm like, who are you to say somebody else is paying too much? And she realized that you probably the only way that you could be in that place is like your grandma. And I was like, yeah, if I was renting from my grandma, I'm sure I get a favorable price or whatever. Who even knows if he's paying per month and he just signed something. He wouldn't tell me how much. So it was like very strange. If I had a situation where I was paying nothing, I don't think I'd ever say or like, oh, how could you be paying so much? It's like that's how much things fucking cost. And I told him how like in 2017, it's cheaper. Obviously, we're talking about the housing crisis, all sorts of shit. But yeah, so I didn't like his just like little criticisms or how he was talking about my friends now at Hovita and just like that class of people to him. Consider like that class of people and just that whole area and how I wanted to go to Parque del Perro, how I liked Parque Jovita.

And how so that was bothersome. And when I realized this guy hasn't like lived, probably hasn't been around, probably from right around here. His grandma, I guess, owns that apartment. Right. So it's pretty easy for him to make these judgment calls. His judgments. But he shouldn't. And the funniest thing happened is each time he called another thing that really pissed me off. This one really did, because it was strange as hell. So he would talk to his friend, no, his brother on the phone in Spanish. Like kind of like moving over to the side because he realized I mean, the whole time I was speaking Spanish. Right in the lower voice, but still like it's not like a sitcom where you can go to the other room and talk and I can't hear you talking about me like in third person. Obviously trying to be cool to his brother. And lo and behold, guess what?

Every time the phone call, OK, remember, like you can ask about the weed. Last phone call was the second to last was, oh, yeah, the dealer had to go step out, did some business. I'm like, oh, this is it. This is what I told you, dude. He's like, don't worry. And I'm like, dude, you just don't have the experience. How many times have you smoked? You even know? Like another thing you said is that the quality is so much better. And I'm like, oh, my God. Like, yeah, maybe. But I think he said he smoked once, didn't like it. It's like, who the how do you know? I was trying to tell him what it's like in Chicago now that you can buy it. T

these stores, it's like, yeah, OK, if you want to talk quality, you can't really compare with that. Of course, the price is super elevated, but now it's at the point where it's like going to Best Buy, you know, so you can say, oh, this is 37 percent THC and blah, blah, blah. You know, like you can't really compare that. Fortunately, it's not like I have a sophisticated palette for these things and I can just. Use whatever, because I just use it really to go to sleep. I mean, it has a lot of uses that I like it for, but I try to control it, obviously. For that. And yeah, and the last call he did, I heard him, he went to the couch, he started talking, he said, like, come on, see. And then I was like, oh, I know this phone call. And I'm like, dude, don't you have to go to bed? I came back for you. It was like ten forty at this point. I already eaten. We're just waiting and like over an hour and a half.

And I was like, OK, at 11, let's call it before 11. And so then we called it even a little bit before that, because the guy is like, oh, it's like, yes, probably not going to be here for that. And I'm like, damn, dude, what did I tell you? What did I tell you? So hopefully that was a lesson to him that all of his judgments are probably wrong. And that he doesn't know half of what he thinks he knows about the world. So, yeah, so definitely. Sadly, like just, you know, all the little things he did and just presuming telling me he can he he got it. The medicine before he actually did getting me back there. All this shit like it's really like, wow, this character, this guy. Sure, he's nice, but not really to be not dependable or reliable. Half as much as the three random people I met at Parque Jovita. So signing off. Right now.