

Blood Ties / Lazos de Sangre

By Nelly E. Cuellar-Garcia

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
hiStage.com

© 2026 by Nelly E. Cuellar-Garcia

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<https://histage.com/blood-ties-lazos-de-sangre>

Blood Ties / Lazos de Sangre

- 2 -

SYNOPSIS

This dramatic play follows three powerful brothers as they try to navigate honor, responsibilities, and love in their daily lives. The oldest, Santiago, is forced into an arranged marriage to a woman who yearns for a child, but he is keeping a secret from her that will ultimately destroy their marriage. Meanwhile, the middle brother creates an unforeseen situation with his philandering ways, while the youngest brother pursues a love long denied. This play is filled with sorrow, joy, laughter, and a final choice that leaves the audience gasping. Loosely based on "Yerma," written by Spanish dramatist Federico Lorca.

AWARDS / PRODUCTIONS

Texas UIL One-Act Play Contest
March 7, 2026- District 31-4A Advancing Play
March 25, 2026- District 31/32-4A Advancing Play
April 11, 2026- Area 2B-4A Advancing Play
April 25, 2026- Region 4-4A Regional Champion

State UIL One-Act Play
May 18, 2026- 4A 3rd place, Second Runner-Up

Community Performances: May 25-29, 2026 Zapata, Texas

Blood Ties / Lazos de Sangre

- 3 -

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 4 w, 10+ ensemble)

SANTIAGO VILLALOBOS: Eldest brother, 30, head of household.

JAVIER VILLALOBOS: 28; ranch foreman; middle brother.

ALEJANDRO VILLALOBOS: 26, lawyer for the family.

SOFIA LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS: 20, newly married to Santiago.

LUCILA LOPEZ: 30, spinster cousin and companion to Sofia.

ESTRELLA RAMIREZ: 28, rich heiress from a neighboring ranch.

ISABELA FLORES: 37, owner of mercantile store.

MARIO: 30, servant in the Villalobos household.

ENSEMBLE: On-stage musicians/ field hands.

Blood Ties / Lazos de Sangre

- 4 -

PRODUCTION NOTES

- Song lyrics at the end of the script are optional.
- Melodies should be created by each individual company.
- Simple instrumental music played by the field hands or servants may replace the suggested song lyrics or added to the lyrics.

SETTING

1890, a hacienda in South Texas

Prologue

(AT RISE: SFX: A church bell is heard in the dark. FX: The stage is bathed in blue highlighting the BROTHERS leading an ENSEMBLE funeral procession through the hacienda garden as they return from burying their father. The ensemble sings as they enter with the brothers. FX: Projections reflect hues of purples, blues, and reds.)

ALEJANDRO: Rest in peace, Father. *(HE makes the sign of the cross on his chest.)*

JAVIER: Rest in peace, Father. *(HE touches his heart.)*

SANTIAGO: Descanza en paz. *(Rest in peace.) (HE makes the sign of the cross on his upper torso.)*

ENSEMBLE: Amen...

(The ENSEMBLE disperses. SANTIAGO is left alone on stage and stares up at the sky. He signs deeply.)

SANTIAGO: *(Reflecting.)* Father, I hope you are looking down on us from Heaven enjoying your eternal days in the sun. *(Pause.)* When I die, Hell and its raging fire will be my final resting place for choosing to keep my secret and ruining my future bride's life. There is no other path. I must find peace with my choice. There is no turning back. *(Exits.)*

Scene 1

(FX: Gobo projection changes to denote passage of time. ALEJANDRO and JAVIER are playing craps squatting on the ground. Money and dice fly fast between them. Some of the FIELD HANDS play guitar behind them. Alejandro yells at Javier for cheating at dice as SANTIAGO enters and breaks up the game.)

SANTIAGO: Sofia is about to walk through those doors any moment, and you aren't ready? *(HE tosses their vests at THEM.)* We leave for the chapel momentarily. Now, stop acting like fools and help me get through this day.

ALEJANDRO: *(Putting on his vest.)* Are you certain there is no other option than this wedding? We just buried our father a month ago.

SANTIAGO: I am. As the eldest, it falls to me to make certain this hacienda stays in our family. Sofia's fortune will erase our father's debts. Mi sacrificio no importa. *(My sacrifice doesn't matter.)*

ALEJANDRO: Of course your sacrifice matters, Santiago. You don't love her. Her family is selling her to us so that they can gain entrance into the social parlors that were denied them.

SANTIAGO: *(Softly.)* Don't be cruel, Hermano. *(Brother.)* I also am selling myself. Our Villalobos last name for her fortune. My decision is made... now, go inform the bridesmaids to line up to receive the bride, while I change my attire. *(Exits.)*

JAVIER: *(Ensures Santiago is out of hearing range. HE sits on a bench and stretches.)* Stop torturing our brother, Alejandro; it needs to be done. Unless you are willing to marry our neighbor, Estrella Ramirez. Now that would be a good match for our family; *(Including the FIELD HANDS in his conversation.)* don't you all agree? *(To ALEJANDRO.)* She grew up with us and possesses everything men in our position admire: *(Playfully poking at his BROTHER.)* beauty, wealth, and pedigree.

Blood Ties / Lazos de Sangre

- 7 -

ALEJANDRO: Why don't you chase after her, Javier? I hear you hop from bed to bed with alacrity. *(Makes frog sounds. Slyly.)* Does Senora Isabel know you've moved on from her bed?

JAVIER: *(Losing some of his playful charm.)* That is none of your business, brother. Perhaps I will change my ways and instead of bedding married women, *(Pointedly.)* I move on to the virgins. What do you think, Alejandro, should I pursue Estrella. *(Waits for a response from ALEJANDRO.)* Nothing to say to that, brother? I've seen how protective you are of her ... see the way you look at her when she passes us at the plaza. Would you truly be happy to know she was in your brother's bed?

(ALEJANDRO growls at his BROTHER and grabs him by the collar.)

ALEJANDRO: Don't taint her name with your filth...

JAVIER: *(Breaking free.)* Ouch, you're so sensitive about her, Ale. Why would that be?

ALEJANDRO: How did you end up being so jaded? I don't understand it; we had the same parents. *(Lightly punches HIS shoulder.)*

JAVIER: If you don't stop picking on me, I am going to knock some sense into you with my bare hands. *(Places HIM in a headlock.)*

(THEY tussle briefly. SANTIAGO enters and breaks them apart.)

SANTIAGO: Basta! *(Enough!)* Today is my wedding day. Let's try to make it as pleasant as possible for your new sister.

ALEJANDRO: Brother, you have always placed our family before your own needs. Perhaps in time you will grow to love her, and the next 40 years of your life won't be so miserable.

JAVIER: You have such an eloquent way with words, brother. Santiago's spirit is surely lifted by your encouragement. Come, big brother, don't listen to him. All will be well. You will see.

SANTIAGO: Si. (Yes.) ... Vayan, Hermanos (*Go, brothers*) make your way to the chapel. I will be there shortly.

(Shadows of FIELD HANDS play their guitars softly. SERVANTS move about the stage working in the garden.)

Scene 2

(SANTIAGO moves across the garden and stops at a tree where SOFIA, the bride, waits to be escorted to the church.)

SANTIAGO: You are a beautiful bride...

(The WOMEN adjusting HER veil and dress quietly exit.)

SOFIA: It is not customary for the groom to see the bride before the wedding...

SANTIAGO: We are not a typical couple, and this is an arranged marriage. I figured we could forgo tradition.

SOFIA: Why are you here?

SANTIAGO: To offer you emotional support and escort you to the church.

SOFIA: Your neighbors will be scandalized.

SANTIAGO: On this day, I do not care. We are both sacrificing much for the sake of our families. Let the neighbors think I am smitten by you.

SOFIA: I must confess I never imagined you to be a man who would take my feelings into consideration.

SANTIAGO: *(To SOFIA.)* I know you don't know me well enough but know that I am a man of my word. Arranged marriages are hard on everyone, but I mean to honor our marriage vows and make you as happy as this situation allows. I am a man devoted to his family, our honor, and our land.

Blood Ties / Lazos de Sangre

- 9 -

SOFIA: When I was younger, I dreamt of my wedding. My friends and I would spend hours discussing my dress, and the cake that would be served... In my dreams, I would dance with my perfect love...

SANTIAGO: And instead, you get me... a man whose skin is kissed by the sun, whose touch is calloused and rough, and who has no poetry in his soul to share with his companion.

SOFIA: And you get a woman who loves to run in the fields, chase butterflies in the garden, and sing to the moon whenever it appears. I am afraid we are not as compatible as I would have liked.

SANTIAGO: Your money and my surname make this match quite congenial. In time, we will become friends, and maybe as we grow older, we can find love and solace in this union.

SOFIA: Hopefully we are blessed with many children. Once I have a baby in my arms, this sacrifice will give my life a new purpose and meaning.

SANTIAGO: Yes. You will see... this marriage will work in both our favor...

SOFIA: I pray it is so... I don't want to live a miserable existence in a prison for the rest of my life.

SANTIAGO: Neither do I. *(HE turns to exit then looks back at HER one last time.)* Don't fear me. This will work.

(SFX: Church bells begin to ring. SOFIA and SANTIAGO join their hands and walk out toward the chapel.)

Scene 3

(Three years have passed. FX: Projections change to reflect a bright sunny morning. SERVANTS clean the courtyard; OTHERS walk by with laundry, work tools etc. MARIO is trimming some rose bushes in the garden.)

LUCILA: *(Calling from off stage.)* Mario! Mario! *(Entering.)*
There you are! What are you doing out here pruning the rose bushes, when I specifically asked you to help polish the silver for tomorrow's party.

MARIO: Forgive me, Lucila, but my actual employer, Dona Sofia, asked me to do this task, so here you find me doing as she bid.

LUCILA: How impertinent! How dare you answer me in such a manner...

MARIO: Now... now... don't start putting on those grand airs. Remember you and I grew up in the same village. So, stop acting like you are better than me.

LUCILA: I am.

MARIO: The only difference between you and me is that I am charming and endearing... and... you are not.

LUCILA: You filthy little beast. I am going to pull out every single strand of hair on that head of yours...

MARIO: Such violence, "Senorita Lucila." That is no way for a "lady" to respond to criticism. How will you ever attract a rich man to marry you if you can't keep your temper...

LUCILA: Have your laugh at my expense. At the end of the day, I sleep on clean, crisp sheets, and you sleep outside in the barn with the horses.

MARIO: Why don't you do your job instead of criticizing mine and keep Senora Sofia from ruining her reputation. There are rumors being whispered that she's been straying; my sister says she saw her coming from the woods last night. Can you imagine being bored with your husband after only three years of marriage? Handa de loba! *(She's acting like a wolf!)*

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<https://histage.com/blood-ties-lazos-de-sangre>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!