

NO DANCING SHOES FOR JESUS

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In this story, Carlos introduces us to the story of Alejandro Vega and Melissa Williams and the love that was never meant to be.

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A portion of this story is based on actual events that took place sometime in the mid to late 70s.

While the actual event took place in California, our story takes place in the small dusty town of "W" Texas. Yes, you heard me correctly. The name of the town is "W" Texas. The gentleman who founded "W" Texas believed in keeping life simple.

His name was Jarred P. W. His dog's name was "dog"; he called his wife "woman" and his son "boy." It doesn't get any more basic than that. And now ... **NO DANCING SHOES FOR JESUS.**

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Alejandro Vega and his family moved to "W" Texas when he was a boy. Melissa Williams lived in "W" Texas all her life. The two met in the third grade and became instant friends. However, it wasn't until the sixth grade when Alejandro realized that he was in love with Melissa. Melissa was aware of Alejandro's feelings for her. She too felt the same way. They decided to give a relationship a try.

Although it was obvious the two were in love, they did their best to keep their relationship a secret, especially from Melissa's mother. She was a stern, religious woman who was quite vocal about who and who may not have affections toward her daughter. Alejandro was concerned that he may not fit the "approval" profile.

It was not until their junior year in high school that Alejandro mustered the courage to officially ask Melissa on a date. He wanted to take her to a fellowship dance social at his church. Melissa was thrilled when Alejandro asked if she would accompany him to the event, but then her smile quickly turned into a frown.

“What is the matter?” Alejandro asked.

“You are going to have to ask my mother if I can go,” Melissa said in return.

“No problem,” Alejandro said. “I will stop by your house this weekend and ask her.” Melissa smiled again, although cautiously.

The weekend finally arrived. Alejandro was as giddy as a schoolboy. Before heading to Melissa’s house, Alejandro assisted with the family chores. After finishing the chores and getting ready, he walked to the local supermarket. He wanted to pick up some flowers to give to Melissa’s mother. From there, he walked to Melissa’s house.

“Ding Dong!” went the doorbell.

It didn’t take long for the door to fly open. It was Melissa’s mother.
“Yes, what do you want” Melissa’s mother said.

“Ah, good afternoon, Mrs. Williams. I realize you do not know me so please allow me the courtesy of introducing myself. My name is Alejandro Vega. Your daughter and I have attended the same schools since third grade.”

Just then Alejandro remembered the flowers. “Oh, please forgive me. These flowers are for you.”

Mrs. Williams looked at Alejandro sternly before saying, "For me? Why would I want to accept flowers from you?", refusing to accept the flowers. "Listen," she said, "I am busy. What do you want?"

Alejandro felt awkward. He could sense that this was not going to turn out well. "My church is sponsoring a fellowship dance social next Saturday," he said. "I would like to ask your permission to take Melissa to the social?"

Before Alejandro could get another word out, Mrs. Williams stepped out from behind the door and with a stern voice said to Alejandro, "A dance!? At church? What kind of church do you attend? Never mind. The answer is no. She may not go with you to the social. This has nothing to do with the fact that you are Mexican, just in case you are thinking that way. Our faith prohibits us from dancing or going to dances. I will thank you to leave my home and never return. I also must ask you not to see or speak to Melissa again. She is already betrothed to someone else", and with that she slammed the door shut.

Alejandro was crushed. As he walked back home, flowers still in hand, he thought about what Mrs. Williams had said, "Our religion prohibits us from dancing." That is when he stopped, looked up toward the east and said, "I guess that means no dancing shoes for Jesus."

Alejandro did as Melissa's mother asked and never spoke with her again. In fact, Melissa's mother was so upset that she pulled Melissa out of school and sent her to a school operated by her church.

Although she and Alejandro never saw each other again, when Melissa became of age legally, she made the decision to leave her mother's church. She also refused to marry the young man that her mother had picked out for her. In fact, she left "W" Texas altogether with her best friend Susie. The two moved to California. Eventually

Melissa met a young man named Raymond Gonzalez, married, and lived happily ever after.

Susie moved back to Texas.

Alejandro never dated again after that incident with Melissa and her mother. With the exception of his time spent at the University of Texas, Austin, where he majored in business, Alejandro remained in "W" Texas as a bachelor. In addition to devoting himself to his parents and family, Alejandro went on to found a chain of successful Mexican restaurants that stretched across five states: Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado.

As for Melissa's mother. She too remained in "W" Texas until her death. She never saw Melissa again.