

NOT ALL TAMALES LOOK THE SAME

An excerpt from:
Not All Tamales Look the Same

Character: Catalina Herrera

Description: Catalina, a young college student, is being indicted by the Latinidad Certification Review Board to revoke her official Latinidad Certification License.

Note: Pronounce 'Tamales' in Spanish pronunciation, not English pronunciation.

CATALINA

Dios mio, I'm being indicted by the Latinidad Certification Review Board? Is this because of the Latino Student Union thing last week? Like, when we all went around in a circle to say everyone's favorite band, and everyone was like, Selena, Chicano Batman, Pedro Infante, Bad Bunny... And then, I said, Harry Styles? Because if it's about that, I swear, the only reason I listen to white people's music is because I went to a white high school. And, osea, isn't the look that everybody gave me, like enough of a punishment? I have never felt less Latina in my life.

Or did I not pass my last Latinidad certification test? Osea, I studied my whole life for my Latinidad Certification license, countless telenovelas, newscasts with Jorge Ramos, all those pan dulces... Oh my God, I answered the last essay question wrong, didn't I? In the event of an apocalypse, bolillo is more essential than una conchita, isn't it? Pero, conchitas taste so good!

Senorita Lawyer, is there anyway to appeal this decision? Because, honestamente, if Nacatamales, tamales dulces, humitas, and tamales rojos all still get called tamales, why can't I also be 100% certified Latina?

(MORE)

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CATALINA (CONT'D)

Osea, not all tamales look the same, so should all "Latinos" be the same? My mom's Mexican and lightly tan. My dad's Salvadoran and kinda white. My great great grandmother is indigena. I'm from the United States and brown. And there's afrolatinos and asian latinos. And let's not even get into religion or all the different languages. Just because you're a Tamale dulce and I'm a Tamale de rajas, doesn't mean I'm not a Tamale.