

My Friend Luis

Episode 4 — “Captain Herrera”

A podcast by Wayne Jacobsen · myfriendluis.com · March 2021

LUIS: When the bell rings, I run through the middle to encounter the kid, and the kid was like very intimidated because of the way I was acting. I went over there and I was like trying to jab him up and right cross and everything. I was like — after the kid noticed that I didn't know what I was doing, he was like, oh — I saw it on his eyes. So he started jabbing me. Man, the first round, he beat the heck out of me.

WAYNE: Hi, I'm Wayne Jacobsen, and this is My Friend Luis, a story of one of the most engaging men I've ever met, and of the friendship that developed between us. It has transformed both of our lives and left us in grateful awe at the adventure of life on this little planet. We'll get back to that euphoric 21-year-old man by the fire beneath the wall, and the voice that beckoned him beyond it. But first we need to meet an army captain who took a special interest in Luis.

In 1981, Luis was eight years old. I was 28, the father of two infant children, and helping to begin a new congregation in central California. I was already a bit disillusioned by the church growth movement of the day, that sought to build large congregations off of celebrity leaders and finely-tuned programs. My heart hungered for a simpler approach to Christianity. I never understood Jesus to be concerned with such things. He wanted people to know his Father and to teach them how to love each other. The fruit of that was a mixed bag, however. Some days things went incredibly well, but I was often frustrated that our best efforts never produced the fruit I had hoped for.

I also began to write in those early years, first for popular Christian magazines, and then put a book together called *The Naked Church*, challenging the illusion of programmed Christianity and inviting people to a more relational engagement with God. It did not sell well. But as my children grew up and started school, I found myself also helping public schools work with religious parents, who were feeling increasingly fearful that public schools were seeking to undermine the faith of their children. I was learning how to build the peace between differing points of view in the shared space of public life.

In Mexico, Luis is still trying to survive a difficult childhood. One day he meets an army captain who also coached boxing for youth. Maybe this was his escape.

LUIS: I believe it was back in 1980 or 1981, when this Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, he was running for governor of the state of Michoacán — the state where I lived on. There was this captain. He was the guard of him, protecting him. He was known for Captain Herrera. That was his last name — Capitán Herrera. When I saw him, man — this guy with shiny boots and this green pants, green jacket — man, he looked amazing. He came in, and I didn't know that he used to be a boxer and he had a boxing team. He had a small gym, but he had it on his little house in one of the towns. It was like seven or eight miles away from my house. At the moment, I didn't know he was a boxer, he was a coach. He just drew me because of the way he was dressed. I was like, man, I want to be a soldier, you know. I want to be tough and rough. I want

to carry a gun. I want to fight bad guys, you know. I want to uphold the law. In my mind, I was like, I'll be uncorruptible. Man, it's going to be amazing. And I started telling everybody, and everybody, of course, as always, thought I was nuts.

As I started seeing him more and more, I started to try to talk to him. He would never talk to me, or pretty much talk to anybody. He was always, always just watching, vigilant. That was at the time I was collecting manure, that I remember. So I was like seven-ish.

One time, he came in and he put up a little show — a boxing — and he brought his fighters, and among their fighters, they were kind of sparring. Everybody was like, whoa, it's amazing. He was looking for people, if they wanted to join. And he said — one of the guys joined, and this guy already had experience, but he was like five years older than me. He was like 12 years old. He said, "Oh, yeah, I'm already fighting, but would you join me?" I said yes. They were from Guadalajara. So we was training there, and over here, there was no gym. So his dad — he was kind of wealthy — he started taking them. That's how I knew I was poor, because these people showed up, came in, and they had a car — and it was an old hooptie. But man, that doesn't matter. It was a car. So he started taking them there to train, and he was good. He was really good, and I was really drawn to it.

So I started watching fights on TV. I used to pay 25 cents so they could let me watch TV, because there was only one people in town that had TV, and it was them, of course — the same people that, you know, this boxer guy. But during the commercials, I have to run out, because I didn't pay for those. In between rounds, they used to have commercials on TV. I only paid to see the fight. So other people paid to see the commercials, because it was a TV, and they were like, whoa — even a commercial was like a huge deal.

[Commercial: "This weekend, for the sale of the year, come to Auto Universo in Corona."]

LUIS: You pay 10 cents to watch the commercials, and 25 if you want to — so anyways, so I started watching there and paying 25 cents. So I used to work very hard, because every Saturday there were fights from Mexico City, I believe. I worked very hard during the week to collect it. Sometimes I couldn't make it — I had like 20 cents, and they go like, "Okay, okay, kid. Okay, it's fine. But okay, don't do it again." "Okay, okay, thank you, thank you." Also thankful that they let me watch the fight for 20 cents. They used to sit me way in a corner over there, because they were afraid of me stealing something. And not because I was a crook, but that's how they were. He said, "Sit over there, okay? Sit over there, don't touch anything, okay?" So I said, "Okay, okay." And then right after the fight was over, they go — literally push me out of the door. "Get out of here." I said, "No, but is there replays?" They go like, "No." "But I pay for it." "No, no, no — you pay for the fight. Get out of here." "Okay," I said. "I'll see you next Saturday." "Yeah, bring the 25 cents." "Okay."

Every Saturday — well, and that's how I started training. I used to see the fight and go like, okay, this is a left jab. And they were going, oh, "recto de derecha" — and you know, the spokesperson, now like, so this is a "recto de derecha," and going like this.

And the captain, one time he came in for an exhibition. And when he was coming, these kids were bullying me. And I fought one of them — I was fighting one of them, and then the other one was kicking me on the back, I know, because I took the other kid down and I was punching him. And then I started fighting the other one. And I was fighting them, you know, how I knew. I was trying to box, but I — you know, I noticed that it wasn't working. They were grabbing me and taking me to the ground. So I was like, ah, no, I'm gonna go back to what I know. So I started just wrestling them and taking them to the ground and fighting them. And then he comes with the military truck — comes in, and then we're on the middle of the road fighting, so they couldn't pass us. So he gets out of the car — I'm sorry, the truck. And he always had a driver, so he always comes in on the passenger side, and he grabs us, both of us, by the ears. It was really painful. One of my ears even popped when he did that. He says, "What are you fighting for?" And I said, "Well, they started" — "No, he started" — "No, he started it." He says, "Get out of here, get out of here." He pushed me. He pushed me, he pushed the other kid. He just ignored me, right? He ignored everybody. But then right there, and I told him, I said, "I wanna fight for you." I said, "I wanna be part of your team. Can you take me? Look, look, look — this is the jab and this is the right cross. And, you know, see, I've been watching, I've been watching, and I've been practicing." And again, everybody thought I was nuts. Again, they go like, oh, here we go again. He kind of ignore me. He says, "Get out of here. No, no, no, get out of here. No, no, no, no. You can't fight. Get out of here."

One time, after like three months, he came by and he announced that there was a fight. I knew that because on Saturday — the kid, you know, I went to watch the fights at the house, and the kid announces it, that he was gonna fight. And I said — when he said on Sunday, which is, you know, it was gonna be tomorrow. So I said, "Oh, I wanna go see. I wanna watch. Can I come with you guys?" And then they said, "No, no, no, no, no, we're not gonna take you. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, forget it." So then when I went outside, the captain was there, and I said, "Captain, Captain." I said, "Sir, can I come with you and watch the fight, sir? Can I watch?" I said, "Look, I can carry the buckets. I can — I'll do this for you." I said, "I can be on the corner. You know, I'll do anything for you. I can run, get water for the fighters. I'll do whatever you want me to." And then he says, "No, no, no, no, get out of here, get out of here." And then I said, "Oh, sir, but please, please, allow me at least to see. Allow me to watch, please. I've never seen a real fight, please." I was begging.

On Sunday, I planned it out. So I woke up really early. I did all my chores. I feed all the animals, you know, the chickens, all that stuff. I let them out of the chicken coop, and then I fed them, and I fed the dogs and everything. What I did, then I told my mom, I said, "Mom, I'm gonna go watch the fights, okay?" So she kind of ignore and go like, "Yeah, yeah, whatever, okay, no, okay." So to me, I was — oh, she gave me permission. So I went and I started running. It was seven miles. And I was like, I hope I'm on time, because the fights will start at noon, by 12-ish. So I run the seven miles. I run, run, run seven miles, and I got there. I mean, I was — I will walk, you know, for a while, and then I will run again. But I was a kid. I was in great shape. I was running all the time. So I run and run and run. When I got there, I was all sweaty. My shirt was like holes everywhere. My pants, I remember that they had patches on the back, and they had patches on the knees — patches everywhere. And my little shoes were like little — those huaraches, like really old and really, really, really beat up.

So I said — I said, "Oh, coach, coach. Sorry," I said, "what can I help you with?" And he says, "Where did you come from? Who brought you here?" I said, "Well, no, no, I run." He looked at me — seven miles? I said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah." I said, "How can I help you, coach? How can I help?" He goes like, "What? No, no, no, you can't help." He said, "Did you know that you have to pay to watch?" I said, "No, nobody said anything. I just walked in." And he goes like, "What?" He says, "Yeah." I said, "Well, if somebody says something, can I tell him I'm with you?" He says, "No, no, you can't tell him that." I said, "Oh." I said, "So what do I do now?" He says, "Just sit over there, sit over there, okay?" Okay, so I went and sit over there.

I noticed that one of the fighters started crying. "I don't want to fight, I don't want to fight." He cowered, right? And when I saw that, in my mind, I was like, that's my chance, that's my chance. I want to take it. So I run to the captain, or the coach, and says, "Captain Herrera, Captain Herrera, I noticed that you're one man down. Sir, sir, please allow me to take his place. I'll fight for you." I said, "Man — I mean, I will fight for you so hard." And he says, "Have you trained?" I said, "No — well, I've been watching, I've been watching fights. Yes, yes, I've been training." In my mind, I was like, okay, this is how you do it. Nobody really coached me. And he says, "Oh, no, I can't do that. I cannot put my reputation" — he kept saying that — "I cannot put my reputation on the line like that. No, no, no, no, no, no, I can't do that." The other people were very upset — the other team — because you already had a fighter lined up to fight, and then the other guy just cowered. So they said, "Okay, if you don't fight, they're gonna give the win to the other guy." I heard that. So I was like, "Coach, it's a win-win, it's a win-win." I said, "What do you have to lose? You already losing anyways, right? If I don't fight — even if I lose—" Still he says, "Oh, you're gonna lose." I said, "Okay, you lose anyways, right? Because the other guy, it's here, but he didn't want to fight. So they give the win to the other one." It's like a forfeit or something like that — I don't know what it's called. He didn't want it to. And then another guy there — he was his assistant, and he was a soldier also — he says, "Well, Captain, with all the respect, sir" — I remember that very well — he says, "we already lost. So there's nothing to lose."

So he talked to the other kid, and he says, "Can you let him wear your shoes?" The shoes were humongous, and I said, ah, no. The shoes I have — they didn't allow me to wear those on top of the ring. I had these nails sticking out, because I was trying to fix them with little nails. And they said, "No, no, no, he can't, he can't." And I said, "Barefooted, barefooted." So I took off my shoes, and they allowed it. And he wrapped my hands, and when he put the wraps on my hands, I felt so powerful. I make it like, man, they felt like stones. I was like, man, I will destroy this kid. I keep looking at him, and I said, "Do you feel the same way? Do you feel the power?" And the kid looked at me, and he was kind of like intimidated the way I was acting. But I wasn't acting — it was real. I was excited to be in the ring. I was like, I wanna fight, I wanna fight.

And then Captain Herrera kept shaking his head, and he says, "You're nuts, man." And he says, "You don't know what you're getting into. You don't know — you're gonna get beat up." And I said, "Oh, get beat up? Oh." I says, "Today when I go home — you can take him here — I'm gonna get beat up anyways. So yeah, this ain't nothing." So I said, "That's okay. I get beatings — this, it's nothing." I said, "Plus there's gloves, come on." I said, "Plus there's a guy in the middle — what do you call that guy?" He says, "Referee." I said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, that guy." I said, "He stops the fight, right? Because I've seen it. Sometimes they

stop him." He says, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's why he's there." I said, "Okay." I said, "Yeah, no, no, that's fine. That's why I don't worry about it."

So he puts on the gloves. They felt so good. I kissed them — I was like, kissing the gloves. I was like, oh, they're so good. He was like, "Don't kiss them. Don't do that." The people around there watching the fight, they were laughing the way I was acting. But they thought I was putting up a show. I wasn't. It was real. That's how it felt. And when I went up there, I kept jumping up and down — yeah, with my hands up, running around the ring. I was — I kept running. Now I look back, and I was like, oh man. I was like, man, how could I embarrass myself like that? But no, I was very excited to be there. And I kept running back and forth. The referee was running behind me, stopping — trying to stop me. And he got mad. So he pulled me by the hand really hard. He pulled me really hard. He was like, "Get it, get it, get over here." And I was like, "Oh, I'm sorry, sir. I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Did I break any rules? Sorry, sorry." He says, "No, no. Just stay still." I was like, "Yes, sir, yes, sir." So I was like that. And I was jumping up and down and looking at people, going like, hey, hey, hey, I wanna fight. And then after an hour, I was like, "Sir, this is for you, sir. This is for you. Watch me." Ah, ah — you know, making faces, going like that. I said, "Let me fight, let me fight."

I remember that it was when the — you know, the bell rings. So he — they call us to the center, and I couldn't stay still. And then the guy said, "Okay, don't hit him below the belt, you know? And no rabbit punches." And I was like, "Sir — coach — what's a rabbit punch?" Now he's like, "Oh my God, you don't know what a rabbit punch is?" He says — no, he looked at the coach, and he's, "Who is this kid? Where you get this kid from? What did you give him?" And then he looked at me, and the coach, he says, "He just runs seven miles." And he's like, "He's fighting?" "Yeah." "Okay." He thought I was on drugs. So he kept saying, "Are you okay?" I said, "Oh, man, I feel great. I'm gonna fight. Are you kidding me? I'm gonna fight." So after he gave us the instructions, he says, "Go back to the corner." So I went back to the corner — wait for the bell; when the bell rings, you come out and fight. Okay.

When the bell rings, I run through the middle to come to the kid. And the kid was like very intimidated, because of the way I was acting. And the kid wasn't even jabbing or anything. I went over, and I was like, try to jab him, and then right cross and everything. I was like, ah, ah, ah. After the kid noticed that I didn't know what I was doing, he was like, oh — I saw it on his eyes. He's like — oh, his eyes lit up. So he started jabbing me. Man, the first round, he beat the heck out of me. Oh man, he beat me up big time. Then I was trying — I was like, man, this boxing thing — why did I do wrong? Why did I went wrong? It works for the other people. I saw it.

And then when I went back to the ring — the bell rang, and then I was supposed to go to the corner, and I was like — I stood there in the middle. And then the coach was like, "Come, come, come." I was like, "Yeah, what can I do for you?" I said, "Am I winning? No, I think — I don't think I'm winning." He says, "Remember the other day when you were fighting?" I said, "Yes." He says, "Okay. You were taking the kid down and beating him on the ground, right?" "Right," I said. "Okay." He says, "Minus the taking him down." He says, "Don't take him down, okay? Just remember how you punch like that." I says, "Yeah, yeah." I says, "But that's not really boxing. That's street fighting." He says, "Yeah, yeah. Forget about

boxing for now. You don't know anything anyways." He says, "Just go up there and start beating him. Punches, punches like crazy, punches like crazy." I can do that.

In the second round, I smothered the kid. I didn't look good at all, but I was just throwing so many punches. The other kid didn't, and I was in such a good shape. I didn't stop for the three minutes. I was kind of tired. And I went back to the corner of the second round, and then I said, "How is that?" And he says, "Yeah." He says, "Yeah, that'll go." And then all of a sudden, they announced on the corner that the other kid wouldn't come out. He didn't come out for the third. He said no — he gave up. I won, I won. When he raised my hand, it was such a beautiful feeling. And they gave me this — it was a little ribbon. It was a little ribbon. It says winner on there. It just says "ganador." And then on the back says "primer lugar" — which is winner, and the back says first place. That's how it started, right there.

After he saw me, he kind of took me under his wing. He started coaching me. And he used to go to my little town just to coach me for like three hours. And then I used to do that — like, after I used to do all my chores, my homework, everything, and that's when he used to go and train me.

Two years later after that — remember the kid that they used to go to his house to watch fights? By the time, I was like probably like nine or 10 or something like that. He was like 15 or so — 14 or 15. But they made a show, right? A show. And the guy he was gonna fight didn't show up. So they said they were gonna — it was a show, it was unsanctioned, so he doesn't get a win. So then the coach said, okay — well, he was training him — and he says, "Well, you wanna fight him?" I said, "Are you kidding me? Of course." And the kid was — he was kind of wealthy. I didn't see him like that, but the girls, I guess, saw him like good-looking. He was like 14, and all the girls were like always around and go, ooh — he was a boxer and everything. And I was like — oh, they were bullying me.

But everything started like three days before, when they called that the other guy wasn't fighting. Everything started at school. They used to say — because he was older, he used to go to a different school. You have to pay for middle school — you have to pay. He got — they had the money to pay, so they sent him to a different school. In my school, everybody was giving me a hard time, especially like the girls, right? I was like 10, and they used to go like, "Oh, you know what? He's gonna knock you out. You know, he's gonna beat you up. You know, he's a pretty — he's perfect. You know, you're ugly, and—" But there was one girl that didn't treat me like that. She was different, and she wasn't treating me like that. She wasn't going — you know, she used to do — she was always working and everything. And there was this girl that never really said anything. That was Maria. That's how we started. We grew up together. That was her. So anyways, that's when I started seeing her, that she was different. That's my wife.

The day of the fight came, we went in there, and then they — actually, the coach was the referee, because it was — he kept saying, "Okay, don't hit, you know, the belt and everything." But he was coaching me in a different place than he was coaching the other kids, so we never really sparred or anything. We didn't know each other on the ring. But then I knew what I was doing. On the first round, we started boxing, and the kid was really good. He was really good — very skilled, very technical. We started, and I'd say he won on the first round. But I got kind of like upset, right? I said, you know what? No. Every time I fight, I was

feeding off of the energy of the other boxer. In my mind was like, if you hit me once, I hit you twice as hard. And the second round, I was relentless. I actually knocked him out on the second.

After I knocked him out, he stood up, and he says, "I'm okay, I'm okay." But he was like really wobbly. "I'm okay, I'm okay." And the referee, because it was a show, he gave him two minutes to get back to his feet. They were pouring the ice on his trousers and everything, so he can come back to life. He said, "I'm okay now, I'm okay, okay." So he comes back. I didn't knock him out again, but I hit him — he got staggered again. And every time I hit him really hard, he staggered, and they stopped it and go like, "Okay, you need more time. Another minute." And I was like, "Coach, this is not fair." He says, "It's an exhibition. It's not a plus." I was making him look really bad, and he was one of his best boxers. So he didn't want it that people — you know, the word to go out that this kid beat him around. On the third round, I came out, and I just took him out. And then I remember saying, "Yeah, you can count up to a million. He's not coming back." Man, he didn't. He says, "I don't want to fight anymore. I don't, I don't." And man, I was so hated back then. Everybody hated me. And I was like, why? I won. Everybody was bullying me and everything, because, you know, I wasn't their favorite. And everybody — especially like the girls — "Why did you do that for? Why would you hurt him like this? Why? Why?" I said, "Well, you said he was gonna knock me out. So I said, okay."

WAYNE: And that's how Luis became a boxer. And it did become his escape, first from the difficulties at home, and eventually from his small village in Mexico. But we're getting ahead of the story just a bit. As his boxing coach, Captain Herrera became the major influence on Luis through his formative years. Still active in military service at the time, he coached boxing on the side as a way to influence young boys away from the reach of the cartels. Luis often refers to him and the character that he demonstrated himself and required of his kids who boxed for him.

Luis speaks of Herrera and Raphael even today with great admiration and affection. One seemingly came to him through providence, the other by Luis's tenacity and desire to become a boxer. Without their influence, it's impossible to say what would have become of Luis. Both the captain and Rafa gave Luis skills to live by, but more importantly, instilled in him important values that have served him well into adulthood. Looking back, he's grateful for the affection they showed him, and how they encouraged his better angels.

LUIS: I really like the way you put it in. What did I get from his character? He taught me this — he kept telling me this. He says, "Luis, you know the thing about numbers and about letters?" I said, "Yes." "They're characters — they won't change. One is one today, it's gonna be one tomorrow, and the next is gonna be one. It won't change." He says, "If you're the same person here with me that you're over there," he says, "that's a character. You're maintaining your character." He says, "On the line of work that I am," he says, "it's very difficult to keep your character, because there's so much corruption."

So yes, that man play a very important role in my formation as a citizen, as a person of good, right? Or being part of the solution and not part of the problem. Because if I didn't encounter him, who knows? Who knew? So many things happened in my life since I was a kid that I could have gone either way. But this

guy was not just making sure — like, this is what I tell my kids, and I learned this from him. He kept saying this. He says, "My job, Luis, is that when you walk out of that door, you're not just a better fighter, but also a better person." So he kept instilling that on me over and over and over.

He was very hated by many, but the ones that hated him were people from drug cartels and people who were crooked police, because this guy — in my side, he was unbreakable. He wasn't — he couldn't — he wouldn't change. He was the type of a person that — he — in my mind, I told him once, I said, "Man, you know what? You're never afraid. I love that." I says, "You're always really brave." He looked at me, and he says, "Oh no, sometimes I'm afraid." I said, "Really?" He says, "Yeah." He says, "For example, when you're with us," he says, "on patrols," he says, "I'm afraid that somebody might hurt you." He says, "So I have to protect you, and I'm afraid that my guys get hurt." He says, "That's my fear." He says, "But as far as my personal," he says, "I'm not afraid." We're talking about a guy that lost everything — and I meant everything. Lost his family to drug cartels — lost everything to them. So — and he says, "In my mind," he says, "I already lost everything, so therefore I have nothing else to lose." He says, "So all I have to do is just enforce the law."

Yeah, this man — he would teach me to do my chores first before I even started. You know, he says, "You have to do your chores." Well, that I knew from home — you know, I would pay the price if I didn't. But he would tell me — he kept telling me over and over — "You have to respect your parents. You have to obey them, and you have to finish your homework. You have to go to school. You have to do all of that." He says, "If I find out that you didn't do any of these things," he says, "I will not train you on that day. If you continue three days in a row," he says, "I will not train you for a month. If you continue more," he says, "I will stop training you at all."

He played a really big role in my life, because now I can see that God used him, and as well as Raphael, to form into the man I am today. Captain Herrera wasn't — I wouldn't say that he was a religious person at all, but he was really — he had great morals. He really loved his country, and because he loved his country, he upheld the law. That's why it cost him dearly. He lost his wife and his children through — because of drug cartels. They couldn't buy him or bribe him, and that's what got him killed also, being the man he was — because he was a threat to cartels, and also to other police officers that were crooked on the area, and also military men. But God used them in a big way. So I can — for once, the knowledge I have of boxing — he laid the foundation to train me. And because of boxing — I'm telling you that God used boxing — so I didn't end up in drug cartels or using drugs or anything else. That took most of my time, so that really kept me away from — so in a sense, that saved me from taking a different path, and God used them for that.

Oh, Rafa, yeah. I mean, Rafa, he's a very, very unconditional — unconditional friend that he was always there. And I said — and I'm talking about the physical — because anytime I see him, I don't see him like you and me now. He visits in dreams. And all I can tell you that — what I feel in my heart right now — that he played the role of a protector, provider, and also a tutor, teaching me a lot. Not just reading and writing, but no — a lot of life lessons, and to teach me how to be a man. You know, a real man. Not somebody who has to beat up their wife if the wife looks at you wrong, or not somebody that cannot smile

because that's wrong, or somebody who doesn't cry because that's wrong. No, no — he was telling me that all of those emotions were normal over a human being, of a man. And men cries when it's in pain, and it's okay. And a man loves when it's happy, because it's okay to laugh, because it's normal to be happy. And a man protects, because it's part of his nature. And a man provides, because it's in his nature. And a man loves, because also it's in his nature.

All of — and what my father's — my father here on the flesh, that my birth father — was teaching me was that his own version of what a man was, based on how he was taught. He was taught to be a man that doesn't smile, because if you smile, it's a sign of weakness. You don't smile. So you don't cry, because that's a huge no-no. Men don't cry. Men don't show affection, because that's a show of weakness. So you're like rough and tough always. And that's how he lived his life.

WAYNE: Luis continued to train with Captain Herrera into his mid-teens as he became an accomplished young boxer, working his way up to state and national competitions. Eventually, however, the captain began to distance himself from Luis without explanation. That was confusing and painful for him, but he was powerless to stop it. His association with Captain Herrera, however, would soon put him in grave danger with the cartels. And once again, Raphael would appear to comfort and to rescue him. Next time, on My Friend Luis...

LUIS: The other guy grabbed me by the arm, and he pushed me out of the truck. And I started fighting that guy. I started kicking him, and I started punching him, and I was trying to go for his gun. I could see his gun. The other guy wasn't dressed as military, and I didn't recognize him. They both grabbed me by the hand, but they opened up this trailer for the 18-wheeler. They opened it, they threw me up there, and then they closed the door, and I could hear them — sounds of locks outside. And I was screaming at them to let me out. I was very afraid. I knew that I was gonna die. I knew that they were gonna kill me.

*[My Friend Luis is a production of Blue Sheep Media in association with lifestream.org.
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This transcript was generated from the episode audio and lightly edited for readability: paragraph breaks and speaker labels were added, and obvious transcription errors were corrected. The speakers' own words and phrasing have been preserved.