LOVE LANGUAGES

Written by

Sydney Lewis Levin

Love languages

Characters:

Sol: 21, male, white, shoulder length brown hair

grounded, adventurous, spiritual, funny, acts of service

Mia: 21, female, black, gorgeous locs with beads and stones in them

Caring, reflective, spiritual, inquisitive love language touch

Thea: 22, female, hispanic, long semi-curly black hair

Witty, sharp, pragmatic, stubborn, always makes the plan, words of affirmation

Davi: 22, nonbinary, male presenting, white, curly brown hair

semi-depressed, dry humor, deep once you get to know them, gift giver

Ash: 21, nonbinary, female presenting, hispanic, pixie cut brown hair with a streak of blue

Observation, quiet, knowing, empathetic, words of affirmation

Mai: 24, female, white, brown hair bob

outgoing, sociable, makes jokes that go too far, thinks she’s funnier than she is, quality time

Gen: 45, female

Jaded, in touch with nature, kind, selfless, acts of service

Han: 54, male

Senior to the group, offputting, overly nice, hiding something, gift giver (negative)

Cielo , 63, female

Kind, trapped, mysterious, gift giver (positive)

EXT. COLOMBIAN JUNGLE

Vast expanse of lush trees.

EXT. JUNGLE PATH

A path of rocks, wide enough for two people to walk comfortably. Jungle on both sides.

We see the back of 20 year old tan man (Sol) in a green bathing suit, brown sandals, and a large straw hat. He walks calmly and carries an empty metal bucket.

SIDE OF THE PATH

One beautiful red flower.

EXT. RIVER

Two women (Mia and Thea) in their twenties lay submerged up to their collarbones in the river, holding on to large rocks as the current flows steadily past them.

EXT. JUNGLE FLOOR

A 3 foot long black and red viper slithers under a pile of leaves.

EXT. JUNGLE TREE

A vibrant toucan perched on a high branch cocks its head and takes off.

INT. VILLAGE KITCHEN

A white woman (Gen) in her late 40's who could pass for 35 wearing a white flowing dress with red flowers stands at a stove in an open-air bamboo structure. She stirs a large pot and steam drifts up.

A white man (Han) in his 50's calmly walks up behind her and gently puts his hands on her waist.

She smiles, and touches his left hand gently with hers while continuing to stir the pot.

HAN
Looks good.

GEN
I just started cooking!

Han chuckles.

EXT. JUNGLE PATH

Sol walks back the way he came with a bucket full of water. His hat slightly hides his face.

INT. THE CORE

A much larger circular open-air structure made of thick bamboo shoots, which supports a three-floor main residence/meeting area.

3 hammocks hang between metal poles on the first floor. This floor is made of smooth concrete. The other floors are made of bamboo.

Davi lays in one hammock, asleep.

Ash lays in the other, reading The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle.

Mai is on a purple yoga mat on the floor, stretching in the butterfly position. She has grey cargo shorts and a vibrant knitted tank top.

EXT. FARM

A small farm with carrots, beets, beans, lettuce, corn, and other vegetables. The land has been flattened into steppes and tilled in rows of each vegetable.

A Colombian woman in her 60's (Cielo) in on her knees tending to the crops with a small shovel. Her loose pants and long-sleeved shirt are dirty, and she wears a large sunhat.

EXT. TREE BRANCH

3 spider monkeys sit on a branch, seemingly conferring with each other.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CORE

Mia and Thea walk up the rock path to The Core in summer outfits. They smile and talk inaudibly.

INT. THE CORE

Mai waves to Mia and Thea.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CORE

It's sunny. Mia and Thea bounce up the steps into The Core.

INT. THE CORE

THEA
I love it here.

MIA
Right?

MAI
Come stretch with me!

Ash's face is buried in their book.

THEA
Ugh, need that.

MIA
I would haaate if someone gave me a massage right now.

MAI
Hahaha.

Davi groggily peeks out of his hammock.

DAVI
Will you guys shut up?

Mai gives him the middle finger.

THEA
You bum.

DAVI
(oozing with sarcasm)
I'm chilling, brah. It's vacation!

Mia snaps a picture of Davi in the hammock.

THEA
You can sleep anywhere. I don't get why you won't go do stuff with us.

DAVI
Too tired.

Davi disappears into the hammock.

INT. BATHROOM HUT

Sol reaches to open a single bathroom stall with a creaky door make of straw and bamboo.

CIELO
Ocupado!

Sol jerks backwards and blushes.

SOL
(shitty spanish)
Uhh, lo siento!

SOL (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Fuck.

Sol wipes his hands on his pants and shakes his head.

EXT. PATH FROM KITCHEN TO THE CORE

Han rings a fist sized bell hanging on a post outside the kitchen, signaling dinner. He smiles.

INT. THE CORE

The bell is heard from inside The Core.

Thea is already putting on sandals. Mai and Mia get up to get their shoes.

THEA
Davi! Ash! Get up.

No response.

Thea walks over to Davi's hammock. Her sandals trek mud on the clean floor.

She pushes Davi's hammock.

THEA (CONT'D)
Hey!

DAVI
What?

THEA
Get up, dumbass.

DAVI
Fuck off.

Thea turns to Mia and Mai.

THEA
Can you guys help me? He won't get up.

ASH
They.

THEA
What?

ASH
They won't get up.

THEA
(confused)
Okay, whatever. It's time for dinner.

Thea, Mia, and Mai leave. Ash swings their legs out of the hammock and into slides.

INT. DINING AREA

Directly across from the kitchen through doorways with no doors and window with no pane is a long table for 15 people covered in a red plastic tablecloth.

There are 8 places set. Each plate has a whole fried fish, a side of yams, and half of a large natural avocado.

Each seat has a cup of viscous red juice, a fork, and a knife.

Mia, Mai, and Thea file into the kitchen where Han and Gen are waiting silently.

They both smile.

A moment of awkward silence where everyone looks at each other.

MAI
(cheerfully)
Hi!

HAN
(calmly)
Hello, Mai. Mia. Thea.

GEN
Anyone hungry?

THEA
Yes. This looks so good, thank you so much.

GEN
Of course! You're our guests. Gotta fatten you up.

She smiles and winks.

Thea side-eyes Mia uncomfortably.

HAN
Let's sit down while we wait for the others.

MIA
Oh, sure.

Everyone takes a seat. Thea struggles to pull her chair out from under the table for a moment.

Han clasps his hands and grins.

HAN
I'd love to get to know you all, considering you'll be staying here for some time.

MAI
Of course!

GEN
Maybe a game to break the ice?

MIA
How about never have I ever?

Thea and Mai smile at the immature suggestion.

HAN
Perfect. I'll begin.

Han strokes his chin pensively.

HAN (CONT'D)
I have never attended church.

Mia giggles then looks ashamed of laughing at their host.

THEA
(warmly)
Have you played this before?

HAN
I can't say that I have.

THEA
Okay, so-

Thea cuts herself off and coughs.

THEA (CONT'D)
Do you mind if I explain it to you?

GEN
That's very kind dear, thank you.

Han nods slightly.

THEA
Okay, so you say never have I ever and then you say something you've never done but you assume other people in the group have done.

MIA
I'll start. Never have I ever picked my boogers and eaten them.

Everyone chuckles lightheartedly. Mai puts a finger down slowly.

Mia gasps in feigned shock and horror.

MAI
What can I say? A lot of kids do it.

THEA
That's disgusting.

Gen puts her finger down and smiles.

Han turns and looks at her, surprised.

GEN
Hey, a lot of kids do it.

HAN
Gross. I have one.

He looks around and a sly smile twinges in the corner of his eyes.

HAN (CONT'D)
Never have I ever gone skinny dipping.

The girls immediately look uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Mia and Thea blush and look away.

GEN
Han! It's supposed to be something you've never done.

HAN
Ah, right. Still. Anyone?

MIA
(quietly)
No.

THEA
No.

MAI
No.

Ash, Davi, and Sol walk into the kitchen.

Han stands up abruptly and opens his arms to welcome them.

HAN
Finally. Let's eat!

INT. THE CORE

Mia and Thea sit in a shadowed corner of The Core on concrete steps arranged in a theater seating setting.

Thea sits holding her knees. Mia sits ripping up a leaf.

THEA
That was weird, right?

MIA
Yeah.

THEA
He's so old.

MIA
He gives me a really weird vibe.

THEA
That's your, like, special ability, right? Discernment, or whatever?

MIA
More like pattern recognition. Maybe he didn't mean anything by it.

THEA
Still. It's a strange thing to say.

MIA
Let's just try to enjoy being here.

Ash walks over and sits down.

ASH
Sup?

MIA
Not much.

ASH
What are you talking about?

THEA
Oh, it's stupid.

MIA
Nothing.

ASH
Um, okay. I came to see if you wanted to make a fire in the pit later.

MIA
(brightening)
Yeah!

THEA
That would be great.

EXT. FIREPIT

Mia, Ash, Thea, Sol, and Davi sit in a circle on large rocks around a small fire. Shadows bounce off their faces.

SOL
I had no idea where we were. All I could see were flashlights swinging between trees like 100 feet away. Liam was freaking the fuck out, and I was like 'chill, chill, it's not the police.'

ASH
And?

SOL
It was the police.

Everyone laughs.

Mai walks over out of the shadows. Everyone but Sol tries and fails to look happy to see her. Sol is warm and welcoming.

MAI
Wow! I didn't hear about a fire. This is so cool!

THEA
Uh, yeah. It was kind of spontaneous.

MIA
It was Ash's idea.

Ash kicks dirt at Mia.

ASH
(under her breath)
What the fuck, Mia?

MIA
(whispering)
What? Sorry.

SOL
Come sit with us.

There are no rocks left. Mai looks around and takes a seat on the dirt.

Everyone is silent. They look at each other.

INT. THE CORE, NEXT MORNING

A centipede slithers across the concrete floor.

Mai, Mia, Thea, Davi, Sol, and Ash are asleep on thin mattresses on the floor of The Core. Sunlight beams through the open air walls on the building.

Han, appearing out of nowhere, gently grabs Mia's shoulder and wakes her.

Mia wakes up and, upon realizing who is touching her, recoils in disgust.

Han smiles too close to her face.

HAN
Good morning.

MIA
Hello.

HAN
Please wake the others. I didn't want to disturb them.

MIA
Okay.

INT. BATHROOM HUT

Thea, Sol, and Davi are brushing their teeth standing around one small sink. Davi walks to the doorway and spits his toothpaste on the ground.

THEA
(through her toothbrush)
What the fuck, Davi?

DAVI
It's au natural, baby.

EXT. WATER WELL

Cielo vigorously scrubs blood off her hands in the pristine flowing water of the well.

INT. DINING AREA

Midway through breakfast.

DAVI
Where can I get some water?

SOL
We should go to the yoga sanctuary later.

GEN
At the sink. It's filtered, don't worry.

MIA
Yeah, that sounds fun.

Han claps his lands loudly.

Everyone turns sharply to look at him.

HAN
I'd love to take you all on a tour of the property after breakfast.

MAI
Sure! I'd love to.

THEA
I'll come.

ASH
Yeah, why not.

DAVI
I'm exhausted.

HAN
Oh, come on. It'll be fun. You can see where we keep the kids who came before you!

Han lets out a hearty laugh. Thea, Mai, and Sol laugh uncomfortably.

Everyone else is silent.

Gen gives Han a strange look.

Forks scrape the sides of bowls.

Thea coughs.

EXT. COLLECTION OF JUNGLE COTTAGES

Thea, Davi, Mai, Sol, and Mia stand in a single file line led by Han. Gen stands at the back of the group.

They are in front of a beautiful blue cottage on a raised platform.

5 other raised cottages are arranged in a circle in a clearing of trees.

HAN
Believe it or not, there used to be twenty other people living here with us. They helped us build all this out of our new type of bamboo construction materials.

MAI
Oh, cool!

Mia takes a picture of the cottage with her camera.

THEA
So, uh, where'd they all go?

Davi wanders under the cottage.

HAN
I actually met Gen for the first time out here.

Han smiles, reminiscing.

HAN (CONT'D)
Yes, she was a boisterous young woman. 17 to be precise. I was hiking with a good friend when we ran into her. We all camped together that night, and she convinced us to start this village with her.

THEA
And how old were you?

HAN
Oh, twenty something. I had gotten sick of the capitalist rat maze, so it didn't take much convincing.

Thea gives Mia a disgusted look.

Davi yells from under the cottage.

DAVI
Yo, come check this out!

Han's eye twitches but he remains cheery. The group looks at him and he gestures down to where Davi is standing.

EXT. UNDER THE COTTAGE

Thea, Davi, Mai, Sol, and Mia are inspecting a large metal door which has been secured to the boulder underneath the cottage.

Gen and Han stand back, looking at them.

There is a tiny window which Davi is on his tiptoes peering into.

THEA
Lemme see!

She pushes Davi who stumbles away from the door.

Suddenly, a loud sound of something heavy slamming against rock comes from inside the door, and dust rains down on their heads from the cottage.

The young adults jump back, alarmed.

MIA
What the fuck was that?

ASH
It sounded like a huge animal or something.

THEA
Han? What was that?

Han smiles.

HAN
That, my friends, is our water powered generator.
(MORE)

HAN (CONT'D)
It turns spring water to hot steam and shoots it through a turbine. We're not engineers, though, so it's pretty shaky and loud.

DAVI
Uh, no. Nuh uh.

MAI
(rolling her eyes)
What else could it have been, Davi?

DAVI
Um... an elephant?

Davi looks sheepishly at Han and offers a half sile.

HAN
Don't be ridiculous, Davi.

THEA
Can we go inside and see it?

GEN
We have so much more of the compound to see!

EXT. YOGA STUDIO

5 purple yoga mats lay on a bamboo floor in a secluded part of the jungle compound. There is a fountain with spring water gushing quietly.

Ash, Mia, Thea, and Sol lay on their backs on the mats (bird's eye view).

THEA
Sol, can you lead?

SOL
(smiling)
Of course. Let's do Vinyasa.

ASH
What's that?

SOL
It's a yoga practice from the ancient Indus Valley civilizations. It's all about breath work and flowing with the movements.

MIA
Cool.

THEA
But... you're white.

ASH
(teasing)
Fuckin' colonizer.

MIA
Yeah, at least do a land acknowledgement or something.

SOL
I'm just passing the wisdom. Forgive me, people of the Indus Valley.

Everyone smiles.

THEA
You're forgiven.

SOL
Can we start?

EXT. FARM

Cielo is on her knees tending to the garden in the hot sun.

She looks up.

Davi waves from across the field.

Cielo waves back kindly.

Davi wanders over and crouches next to her.

DAVI
Hi.

Cielo smiles.

DAVI (CONT'D)
You live here too?

Cielo smiles again and nods politely.

DAVI (CONT'D)
I don't see you at meals.

Cielo shrugs and returns to her work.

Davi plops down on the dirt, confused. He picks up a leaf and tears it apart.

Cielo rummages in the dirt and produces a long carrot. She taps Davi on the leg with it.

He takes the dirty carrot.

DAVI (CONT'D)
Oh, uh, thanks.

EXT. RIVER

Thea, Mia, Mai, and Sol sit on large rocks with their legs in the rushing water.

THEA
What was in there?

MAI
He told us.

MIA
Yeah, it kind of seemed like he was lying.

MAI
That's so rude, Mia.

SOL
It's so beautiful here. The food is delicious. Why should we worry?

INT. THE CORE

Nighttime. It's pouring.

Han and Gen are standing on either side of a projector screen in the middle of the room, displaying an island of trash.

Thea, Davi, Sol, Mia, Mai, and Ash are sitting on the concrete steps in the back of the room.

Davi is laying down. Ash is reading their book.

HAN
I'm going to show you some images, and at the end, you all can tell me what they made you feel.

Han clicks a remote. The projector shows in order: a wildfire, a starving child, a WWII propaganda poster, a tsunami, a chart of climate change, a cartoon depicting how women's bathing suits have shrunk over the last 50 years-

MIA
(whispering)
What the fuck?

-an atom bomb explosion, a decimated city, a starving polar bear, three women in bikinis running towards the ocean, a dead beached whale, and a mountainous landfill.

He turns the projector off and looks at the group.

HAN
So. Thoughts?

MAI
I thought the picture of the starving kid was really powerful.

SOL
The dead beached whale and the plastic island say a lot about how humans are destroying the oceans.

MIA
No one's gonna mention the bikinis?

HAN
What about them?

MIA
They were so out of place. It seemed like a crude remark on how women's bathing suits have gotten skimpier, which is ironic given the hyper-sexualization of women regardless of what they're wearing. More clothing means leaving more to the imagination. Smaller bathing suits mean they're sluts. What do you want?

HAN
Wow. That's a strong opinion.

GEN
I think Han was trying to show that its getting hotter because of fossil fuels.

THEA
Sure.

A crusty small white dog runs into The Core and up to Ash.

HAN
Ah, yes, this is my dog Fredrick. He roams free on the property, so he might be a bit dirty.

ASH
(petting Fredrick)
Hi Fredrick!

Mia moves to pet Fredrick as well. Fredrick rolls on his back.

MIA
He's so cute.

Han opens his hands, smiling wide, and shakes his chest enthusiastically.

HAN
Me next!

MIA
Ummm...

MAI
I really liked the slideshow.

GEN
Get some good sleep. Big day ahead of us tomorrow.

EXT. UNDER THE COTTAGE

A shot of the metal door in the darkness.

EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL

Daytime. The group hikes up a mountain surrounded by lush jungle led by Han.

HAN
(to no one in particular)
It's just up ahead!

They pass a pasture with three cows. Mia takes a picture on her camera.

They arrive at a waterfall which flows into a pool of crystal clear water.

EXT. WATERFALL

Han and Gen sit on a large rock at the side of the pool.

Han lights a large cigar.

Sol takes off his shirt and wades into the water.

Mai gets in with her shirt and athletic shorts on.

SOL
C'mon guys!

ASH
We're gonna go change.

Thea and Ash walk behind a large rock to change into their bathing suits.

Mia takes her coverup off to reveal her bikini.

Davi stares at Han staring at Mia as she undresses.

Davi moves in between Han and Mia, blocking Han's view without looking at him.

DAVI
Is it cold?

SOL
Lowkey, but you get used to it pretty quick.

MAI
It's not that bad.

MIA
Bet.

Mia lowers herself into the water.

Ash and Thea come out in bathing suits.

THEA
Mia, can you take a picture of us?

MIA
Sure!

Mia wades over to the rock where her bag is and takes out her camera, snapping a picture.

MIA (CONT'D)
Cute!

ASH
Thanks, queen!

Sol glances at Han who is watching Thea and Ash.

INT. THE CORE

Thea, Sol, Mai, Davi, Ash, and Mia are lazing around.

Davi and Ash are in hammocks. Sol is folding an origami crane.

Thea, Mia, and Mai are playing Uno.

Han walks in with a 5'5" chubby man with glasses, a brown trenchcoat and tall yellow rainboots.

HAN
I'd like you all to meet Nicolas. He owns the property and will be staying with us for a few days.

THEA
Hi, I'm Thea.

MAI
Nice to meet you. I'm Mai.

SOL
I'm Sol.

MIA
Mia.

ASH
Ash.

DAVI
Hey.

Nicolas bows awkwardly.

HAN
Nicolas bought this property when the war between a rebel group and the government got so bad that the locals had to flee to save their lives.

NICOLAS
Pleasure to meet you all. I hope you don't mind my company.

HAN
Of course they don't mind.

ASH
(muttering)
Colonizers.

EXT. JUNGLE PATH

Fredrick walks down the path and rolls in a puddle of mud.

Han walks after him with a machete in hand, collecting various plants.

Han stops and whacks a small sapling until it is drooping and destroyed.

INT. THE CORE

Late afternoon. Han returns.

HAN
We're going to go see the farm in a few minutes. Please get your shoes on.

MAI
Great!

MIA
Okay.

Thea starts putting on boots.

DAVI
I have a migraine. Is there somewhere dark I can rest?

HAN
You can go upstairs to where Nicolas and I are sleeping. There is a small room with a mattress on the floor.

DAVI
Great.

EXT. FARM

Thea, Mia, Mai, Ash, Sol, and Han stand in the garden.

A small chicken trots by them.

HAN
We grow all our own food right here. No fake fertilizer either. We collect moss, which breaks down our compost.

Cielo wanders out of the woods on the far side of the farm.

Han frowns slightly but lightens and waves. Cielo waves back.

MIA
Who's that?

HAN
That's Cielo, the groundskeeper. She's a great help with chores that Gen and I can't get to.

ASH
She's so cute!

INT. CORE ROOM

Davi lays on a mattress in a small room with windows that let in a lot of light. There is a ladder leading up to a hole in the roof.

Nicolas opens the door slightly and peers in.

Davi raises his head.

NICOLAS
Oh, sorry, were you sleeping?

DAVI
Yeah, trying to.

NICOLAS
Don't mind me. I'll just be upstairs.

DAVI
Okay.

Nicolas looks at Davi silently.

NICOLAS
Get some good rest.

DAVI
Uh, thanks.

Nicolas turns and climbs into the roof.

EXT. FARM

Thea and Mia are raking dirt in paths. Sol and Ash chop away weeds on the outskirts of the garden.

Mai stands next to Han, hanging on to his every word.

MIA
How had we not seen her before?

THEA
No idea. Maybe she eats later than us?

MIA
You don't think it's weird that the two white people have a Hispanic groundskeeper who doesn't eat with them?

THEA
When you put it that way, yeah. I guess.

INT. CORE ROOM

Davi lays on his back looking at the ceiling. He hears a noise from the room above.

NICOLAS
Uhh!

DAVI
(whispering)
What the fuck?

NICOLAS
Ughhh.

DAVI
There's no way.

Davi looks disgusted as Nicolas' moaning gets louder.

NICOLAS
UHHNNN!

Davi kicks the wall until the moaning stops.

He gets up and walks out of the room.

EXT. JUNGLE FLOOR OUTSIDE THE CORE

Night. The viper slithers under The Core.