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A Chosen Family in *La estrategia de Chochueca*

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In 1996, the Dominican Republic elected a new president, Leonel Fernández. As a “modern” president, and a symbol of hope for the country, Fernández, “vociferously embraced neoliberal economic policies and modern technology as ways to fast-track the country’s *progreso*” (Horn 102). Or as Rita Indiana Hernández describes it in *La estrategia de Chochueca* (2003), “This mac universe” (66). Within this mac universe, Indiana’s protagonist, Silvia, is often viewed as a solipsistic, nihilistic individual within a neoliberal world. However, despite her non-traditional life, work, and identity, Silvia is not alone. I would like to build upon the existing literary criticism, specifically that of Maya Horn, to propose that Silvia and her group of friends instead represent a chosen family, where they are able to express their queer identities in the peripheries of the city, while also creating a family home, subverting the expectations of the idea of a heteronormative family. Additionally, I will engage with Antonio Benítez Rojo’s idea of refraction, to demonstrate how Silvia and her chosen family are able to draw from other cultures—specifically that of the United States—without losing their queer identities or diminishing their *dominicanidad*. I argue that in *La estrategia de Chochueca*, Rita Indiana reclaims or re-elaborates the family structure, where instead of embracing the solipsistic tendencies of a neoliberal world, Silvia and her chosen family re-imagine heteronormative structures of community and family.