

DIRTY BATHWATER

By

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TONYA  
(smiling)  
Okay. I'm on my way.

Tonya and Luis hung up. Then Tonya returned to the utility room and entered the hole in the wall. The couple was hugging, whispering to each other in Spanish.

TONYA (CONT'D)  
I suppose I cannot put you out on the street. You can stay here. For a few nights. Until you could figure something else out. Then you must go.

MANUEL  
Okay.

RUTH  
Okay.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - LATE EVENING (TWO WEEKS LATER)

Tonya is seated at her vanity, brushing her hair. Luis storms into the bedroom and snatches Tonya up by her neck. And throws her against the wall. Tonya grabs Luis's hands that are firmly clinching her throat. She struggles to speak.

TONYA  
Awk... Awk... Awk...

LUIS  
More food! More food is gone! Lots of it! Tissue! Soap! Diapers!

Luis bangs Tonya's head against the wall.

LUIS (CONT'D)  
What the fuck are you doing?! Are you letting your little friends still from our bodega?! Your little boyfriend?!

Luis tosses Tonya from the wall across the chair next to the vanity. She slides belly first across the floor. Luis followed her to where landed and began kicking her in the groin. Tonya curled up, screaming and crying. Luis growled and threw the chair across the room.

LUIS (CONT'D)  
I can't fucking stand you!

Tonya lay on the floor crying.

LUIS (CONT'D)

(panting)

Shut up! what kind of wife are you?  
Huh? You watch me struggle. No help.  
You allow people to steal from our  
mouths... while I try to feed us,  
clothe us, give us a good life. I  
don't care if you hurt. If you cry.  
You don't cry about us. Why should I  
care about you?

Luis steps over Tonya and exits the bedroom.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S BODEGA - LATER

Tonya opened the back door to the bodega, locking it behind her. She limped into the utility room and followed the light into the hole in the wall. Ruth is sitting on the bed holding a newborn baby. Manuel is sitting beside her, looking on in admiration.

TONYA

Well, isn't this nice. One big happy  
fucking family!

Manuel and Ruth were startled. Manuel quickly stands to his feet.

MANUEL

What happened? What happened to you?!

The baby starts to cry. Ruth holds her baby to her chest and gently whispers to the baby, kissing its head.

TONYA

You guys are happy...

Tonya waves her hands towards them.

RUTH

(smiling)

It's a boy.

TONYA

When did you have the baby?

RUTH

Yesterday.

MANUEL

You should sit...you're not well.  
You're bleeding. Your pants... Miss...

TONYA

You guys are stealing!

MANUEL

We can pay you back. I must feed my  
family...and then the baby...

TONYA

(yelling)

My husband beat me because of you!

Tonya shifts. Seconds later, she loses her balance and falls to the floor. Manuel runs to her. He bends over her and fans her with his hand.

TONYA (CONT'D)

(screaming)

I'm hurt!

MANUEL

Let me help you!

Tonya screams and grabs her belly.

TONYA

Oh no! Oh no! I'm in labor! Call the  
ambulance!

Ruth lays the now screaming baby upon the bed and eases up. Manuel holds his hands out, motioning for Ruth to wait.

MANUEL

Wait! Wait!

Manuel leaves the room through the hole. He makes sure the stockroom is locked and the lights were out. He runs to the store and makes sure it's still locked and closed. Then he runs back into the utility room, closes the door, and turns off the light. He climbs back into the hole, pulls the cart back in place, and pushes the makeshift entry door closed behind him.

Tonya is on the floor writhing in pain. Manuel stoops down.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

Miss, please...let us help you. We can  
get the baby here...Ruth and I,  
(MORE)

MANUEL (CONT'D)  
together. You call the ambulance, we  
would get in trouble.

TONYA  
(crying)  
SHHITTTT!!!! I Can't do this!!!! It  
hurts!

Manuel looks at Ruth, pleadingly. Ruth approaches Tonya and stoops beside her. She sits down and lays Tonya's head in her lap. Ruth rubs her hair as Manuel pulls down Tonya's pajama pants. Manuel rubs his hands across the many bruises upon Tonya's legs. Tonya screams in agony and grabs her belly. Manuel rubs his hands across the bruises upon her belly.

RUTH  
Manuel!

MANUEL  
Okay...okay...

TONYA  
(crying and screaming)  
It hurts! It hurts so bad!

MANUEL  
Shhh

Tonya screams some more.

MANUEL (CONT'D)  
Shhh... she must be quiet!

RUTH  
How can she?!

MANUEL  
I don't know! But...

Manuel eyes a sock on the floor and balls it up and places it in Tonya's mouth. Muffling her screams. Tears stream from Tonya's face. Ruth rocks her back and forth while rubbing her hair. Manuel spreads Tonya's legs apart. He looks at Ruth and nods.

RUTH  
Okay now... PUUUSH!

Tonya pushes.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
Breathe now!

Seconds later...

MANUEL  
Again!

RUTH  
PUSH!

Tonya screams and cries. And pushes again. Tonya screams and cries. And pushes, and pushes, and pushes again. Out of her came the baby. No sound. Only the heavy breathing of Tonya, Manuel, and Ruth. Manuel sits back and places his hands on both sides of his head.

TONYA  
(panting)  
What's wrong? What?

Ruth leans forward trying to see over Tonya's legs. Luis grabs Tonya's pajama pants and wraps the baby. Then handing the baby to Tonya. Tonya holds the baby to her chest and screams.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S BODEGA - LATER

Tonya is now dressed, pacing the floor, rocking the baby. Who is now wrapped in a towel.

TONYA  
(with tears in her eyes)  
She is gone. Forever! I try...I try to  
do what is right. My God...I didn't  
get a chance with my baby.

Tonya takes a deep breath.

TONYA (CONT'D)  
May I get a bag?

Manuel searches for a bag. He sees Ruth's cloth bag and dumps out the contents. Ruth reaches in protest, but Tonya has the bag before Ruth could grab ahold of it. Tonya kisses her baby girl once more. Pulls the towel over the baby's head. Manuel helps her place the bay inside the bag.

TONYA (CONT'D)  
May I see, once more?

Tonya holds her hands out. Manuel and Ruth look at each other and Ruth picks up her son and walks over to Tonya. Placing the baby in her arms.

TONYA (CONT'D)  
What a beautiful baby boy. My sweet  
baby boy...Duke. My little Duke.

She plants a sweet kiss on his forehead.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Luis is sitting in the living room in the recliner.

Tonya limps inside holding baby Duke.

LUIS  
Where? Baby... ohhh baby...

He approaches Tonya and baby Duke. Tonya leans forward and rests her head on Luis's chest and cries. He wraps his arms around them. Luis cry.

LUIS (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry. Oh, God...I'm so so  
sorry.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONYA'S CAR - DAY (YEARS LATER)

Tonya takes a long hard look at the Rosales' apartment building. She picks up her phone and dials her mother, Ms. Harvey.

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)  
Hello?

TONYA  
Ma...

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)  
Hey, sweetie. What's wrong?

TONYA  
Nothin'.

She digs through his nightstand drawer until she locates what she is searching for: his boxcutter. She pockets it.

She opens her purse and dumps aspirin, valium, and various other pain meds inside her purse. Lastly, she grabs her dress and goes into the bathroom to get dressed and prepare. About 15 minutes later, Luis stood at the end of the stairs.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Sweetheart! Sweetie! Guests are arriving!

Tonya appears at the top of the stairs.

TONYA

Luis, sweetheart, please pour me a glass of red wine. It's the only wine that's safest with my pain meds.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S DINING ROOM - DAY

The Martinez's, Harvey's, Rosales', and Miller's all tried to mingle. Phony laughs and conversation, lots of liquor were being poured. Tonya was careful not to drink her cocktail but a sip here and there. Tonya's parents tried to corner her a few times but were unsuccessful. Tonya tapped her glass three times loudly with a fork.

TONYA

Attention! We are so honored to have you all here. Please take a seat. I, personally, have something to present to each of you. Let's all take a seat and say grace. While we are doing so, Luis and I's lovely twins will pass around a card with a special note.

MR. HARVEY

Oh, Goddammit! Get on with it.

TONYA

Daddy, please.

LUIS

Daddy?



Everyone, but Rain, Nigel, and Tonya gathered around the table.

Rain turned off the lights. Tonya started the Lord's prayer. A voice from within the group carried on with the lead. Nigel quickly passed around the envelopes.

Tonya quickly swallowed her cocktail ran up the stairs into the bathroom and shut the door. Locking it behind her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Tonya pushes the cabinet in front of the locked bathroom door for good measure. The smell of burning sage permeates the room.

She inhales deeply and exhales. Inhales and exhales. She hurriedly pulls down her dress, but almost falls due to the effects of the liquor and cocktail of meds.

The boxcutter falls out of her bra onto the floor.

She picks it up and slits her wrists upwards to her forearm. Blood gushes out as red as the wine she drank. Tonya starts to wobble. She makes it to the tub of prefilled water and slips in; banging her head on the side. Water splashes over the edge.

TONYA  
 (inhaling deeply and exhaling)  
 I am clean.  
 (inhaling deeply and exhaling)  
 I am clean.  
 (inhaling and exhaling)  
 I...am...clean.  
 (inhaling and exhaling)  
 I...am...clean.  
 (Inhaling and exhaled)

Tonya slides under the murky, bloody water.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Everyone is at the table eating. Tonya scans everyone. She shakes her head. She drops her fork and finally speaks out.

TONYA

Dear Luis, My darling Luis. Duke is not our child. Our child was a daughter. We had a baby girl. But you beat her out of me. I buried her in the field between Langdon and State Hwy 30. I was fearful you'd beat me again. I hated you. I hated you so much that I lashed out on everyone else. Duke is Ruth and Manuel's son.

LUIS

TONYA!!!!!!

TONYA (V.O.)

Dearest Ruth and Manuel, Please go to your son, Duke. And comfort him. He will need you badly. He is confused and alone. He and Monica, his sister, is in love, engaged, and she is pregnant.

(to Duke)

Duke, my sweet baby. My sweet baby. You will always be mine. Although not mine biologically. I took you...unjustly. I have always been unjust. Not worthy enough for you. Please go to the Rosales. They are your real parents. Your birth mother and father. You see, now? You cannot marry and have a baby with Monica.

Monica screams and runs out the front door, Duke runs after her. Ruth falls to her knees bawling. Manuel goes down with her, wraps his arms around her. And cries.

TONYA

Dear John and Marisol, That night, long ago, I drugged the boys. And as they slept, I abducted Jacob. I kept him for myself. In my sickened mind, I fell in love with your boy. I can't explain it. But I did. My twins, our twins, the resemblance you saw, is because they're your grandchildren. I am the worst if the worst. I stole your son, raped him, brainwashed him. But he's alive. The key with the envelope will open the door to my personal library, his location. Go to Nick. My son didn't know until now.

(MORE)

TONYA (CONT'D)

Take my son as your own. Please. He's been in a very dark place without his friend. He's just finding out his mom is a monster.

Shaking and with tears in their eyes, the Miller's grab Nick who has sat on the floor with his head in his hands, crying. John pulls him from the floor.

JOHN

Come on, son. You're alright. You will make it through. We will help you. Show us where the personal library is.

Nick leads the way to his mother's personal library. John unlocks the door. Jacob stands up.

TONYA (V.O.)

Mom, Dad, acceptance has not been easy. Maybe I should've followed the road you've planned for me. Or maybe you should've allowed me the freedom to choose. And love me unconditionally. What you hear is pure insanity. Luis, my husband, used to beat me. I was always at fault. Always wrong. My son, Nick, is an upstanding guy. A natural serviceman. A protector. He has your nose, dad. And your caring nature, mom. Duke, is not biologically mine. But he's the most genuine. He always takes the higher road and does what's right. Then there are the twins: Nigel and Rain. Nigel is the best photographer/videographer you'd ever meet. Book him for any event. He's reliable. Rain is highly competitive and can be very hard on herself. But she's also the best listener. I'm gone forever. Never to return. They're all that's left of me. And they're the perfect legacy for you. Not me.

P.S. Everything you hear tonight is true.

**Mr. and Mrs. Harvey looked at each other with sadness in**

their eyes. Then they noticed the stares of younger versions of themselves; Nigel and Rain.

MR. HARVEY

Hey, youngins. We're your grandparents.

Rain drew closer to Nigel and whispered in his ear. They both turned and gave Mr. and Mrs. Harvey the nastiest look. Nigel's right eyebrow raised. Rain crossed her arms; dangling from her fingertips was the letter Tonya wrote them.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BATHROOM DOOR - NIGHT

Luis bangs in the bathroom door. He twists the knob but is unable to enter. He finally breaks open the door and sees Tonya's lifeless body lying in the tub.

LUIS

Tonya!!!! Tonya!!!!  
(now seething)  
You dirty bitch! You dirty dirty  
bitch!

FADE OUT:

THE END...