

DIRTY BATHWATER

By

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FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM-LATE EVENING

She turns on the faucet inside the tub and allows the water to fill the tub. Untying her belt, her robe, falls to the floor. Opening the drawer beneath the sink, she removes a hairpin, a heavily stained tin tray, and a box of matches, placing them neatly upon the counter. She twists her hair upward and grabs the hairpin; pinning up her hair. She then removes a bag from her robe.

Opening it, she takes out a sage stick. She flicks a match and sets fire to the sage stick. She takes long deep breaths in, and then out. In...and...out. Placing the sage above the top of her head, careful not to touch her hair, she circles as much as she can, around her body, down to her toes, and up again to the top of her head, going back down again. After a few more cycles and deep breathing, she lets out the fire and lays the sage stick in the tin tray.

She then turns off the faucet. Stepping inside and lowering herself down. The water goes up to her chin. She closes her eyes and washes her face, her chin, her arms...she washes and smiles. Breathing deeply as she washes clean. She leans her head back and smiles, and she repeats the cycle of cleansing her body. She takes the washcloth and proceeds to wash her face. She opens her eyes and sees the muddy cloth. She looks at the water, in horror. The bath is filled with mud. She screams.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - NEW YORK STATE - LATE EVENING (A FEW YEARS AGO)

Heavy wind and rain rocked the little blue tent back and forth. Next to the little blue tent is a larger red tent that is also shaking, but not as much. A lightning bolt shot through the nighttime sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LITTLE BLUE TENT - EVENING

Nick, (8), a half black and half Hispanic male, with a stocky build, and his best friend, Jacob, (8), half white and half Hispanic male, slender build are huddled close together on Jacob's sleeping mat.

Tonya, a black woman in her late twenties, medium build, about 5'4" tall, Nick's mother, is turning on a lantern and wrapping a blanket around the boys.

NICK

Mama, please... I can't do this. I'm so scared. I hate that we came camping.

TONYA

I know, honey. But, you know camping is a tradition. I'm surprised you're still afraid. We've only been doing this all of your life. Besides, your friend Jacob is here to keep you company.

JACOB

I wish I weren't.

(raising his voice)

This is creepy! I'm trying to beam my way outta here!

Tonya quickly turns to Jacob.

TONYA

Shhhh! Settle down. It's late.

NICK

Ma, I can't deal...

JACOB

For real, Mrs. M. I think this tent is going to blow away.

NICK

Oh, God.

TONYA

Cut it out. Mr. M fixed it nice and sturdy. It's not going anywhere. Trust me. It's just a pretty harsh wind. It'll subside soon.

Turning around and reaching into her backpack, Tonya grabs a bottle with cartoon characters on the front and labeled "Vitamins". She unscrews the top and dumps one into the palm of her hand.

TONYA (CON'T)

Here ya go.

Handing one to Nick. Nick frowns.

TONYA

What?

NICK

What happened to Fred Flintstone?

TONYA

He had to leave town.

NICK

Ugh! Why do you have to always buy the cheap shit!

TONYA

Stop swearing! And stop being a brat. If your father heard you...

NICK

Okay, okay... But, why so late?

TONYA

Because we missed your morning one.

NICK

I don't want to overdose.

TONYA

What do you know about overdosing?
(shaking her head)
Nevermind. Damn television. You'll be okay. I'll just stretch the one for tomorrow out until maybe late morning, or early afternoon.

NICK

Okay... But, I can't wait until you become a lawyer. Then we can get the real vitamins. Instead of these...

TONYA

I'm still getting them once in while; gotta budget. Jacob, would you like a vitamin?

JACOB

(stating a matter of factly)
I give up on life itself. We're going to die anyway. So, why would I need a vitamin?

TONYA
 (laughing)
 So you can be big and strong when you
 die.

Both of the boys looked at her in shock. Nick leans over and
 whispers in Jacob's ear. Look back at Tonya, and whispers
 something else.

JACOB
 (nodding in agreement)
 Uh-huh.

TONYA
 What? What? Whispering isn't nice.

JACOB
 I'll take the vitamin, Mrs. M.

Tonya hands Jacob a pill from the jar. She places the bottle
 back into her bag and pulls out a bottle of wine. And places
 it in front of as if she's about to do a presentation.

NICK
 What's that?

JACOB
 What's that?

TONYA
 Ohhh...this?
 (looking at the bottle)
 Just a little something to wash your
 vitamin down with.

NICK
 (smacking his forehead)
 So, it's not chewable, either?!

TONYA
 SHHH! Lower your voice. Before your
 father gets up.

The boys look at Tonya attentively. The wind becomes more
 violent. They hear the sound of thunder.

TONYA (CONT'D)
 You hear that?

The boys nod their heads in unison.

TONYA (CONT'D)

It's a tough night. A little scary
out. And...a little cold, isn't it?

The boys nod their heads in unison.

TONYA (CONT'D)

This is a little adult beverage. Just
to take the edge off the cold and get
you guys to sleep. That way, tomorrow
would be here in no time. Then, we can
pack up and leave. So, just take a
nice gulp with your vitamin and close
your eyes. Easy peasy!

As she makes a smacking, swishing sound as she dusts her
hands together.

NICK

(nodding)

That's right, easy peasy.

JACOB

Easy peasy.

TONYA

Just don't tell Mr. M. In fact, don't
tell anybody. I feel that you two are
mature enough to have some. This is
our secret. Okay?

NICK

Okay.

JACOB

Okay.

The boys take a nice gulp of the adult beverage and lay down
in their own sleeping bags, close together. Tonya spreads two
extra blankets over them. She steps outside the tent.

TONYA

Goodnight, men. Get some rest, it'll
be morning in no time.

Tonya zips the boys inside and enters the red tent.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPGROUND- NEW YORK STATE - LATER

The wind blew extra violently. The rain came like daggers.
The little blue tent swayed more and more each time the wind
attacked it. Finally, it blew away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S -BEDROOM - EVENING (15 YEARS LATER)

LUIS MARTINEZ, 43, Hispanic male, medium size build about 5'8 with a strong New York City accent is standing in front of Tonya. Clad in only pajama bottoms. He's yelling as Tonya is getting ready for bed.

LUIS

What the hell is wrong with you?! I thought you were smarter than that?! Who the fuck leaves the doors unlocked! Someone could've walked in and taken all our fucking money! All of the money would've been gone!

Tonya stands in front of Luis. Eyes downcast. Mouth partly open.

LUIS (CONT'D)

All the work that I've done! What happened?! Dammit, say something!

Lifting her eyes from the floor. Tonya looks at Luis and nervously smirks. Enraged, Luis smacks Tonya with the back of his hand lifted her off her feet, and sent her flying a few inches from where she once stood.

Tonya wipes her eyes and raises from the floor slowly. She faces Luis.

TONYA

(crying and trembling)

I messed up. I'm sorry. I will fix it.

Her lip is stinging. With the tip of her tongue, she tastes the salt from the tears and the bitterness from the blood on her lip.

TONYA (CONT'D)

I must've been rushing. I swear it would never happen again. I promise.

LUIS

(in Spanish)

Fucking dumb! You are of no fucking use! You're this big hotshot attorney and it's all about you! You do not give a shit about me and our family!

(MORE)

LUIS (CONT'D)
You laugh at my little store! It
embarrasses you, doesn't it!

Luis bangs his fist on his chest.

LUIS (CONT'D)
Well, that little store, misses all
high and mighty, is the reason why you
are an attorney!

TONYA
Baby, what are you talking about? Huh?
That store is huge! That store
provides for us! It is my pride and
joy! And you... you have my entire
heart. I love you, Luis. I love our
children. I will fix it,

Luis glance at her. He then grabs a couple of Kleenex from
the dresser and walks to Tonya. Tonya flinches as he walks to
her. Luis dabs the Kleenex on Tonya's lip.

LUIS
(sighing)
I love you.

As she cups Tonya's face and gently kissing her lips.

LUIS (CONT'D)
We'll figure it out in the morning.
Let's get some sleep.

He then kisses Tonya on the forehead. They both walk to their
own side of the bed and get on their knees to pray.

LUIS & TONYA
(praying together)
Our father, who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done on earth, as it
is heaven, Give us this day, our daily
bread. And forgive us for our
trespasses as we forgive those that
trespass against us. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
for thine is the kingdom, the power
the glory, amen, thank God, sweet
Jesus, watch over our lives, as we
pray. Amen.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM-LATER

Tonya is asleep, but she tosses and turns. She's sweating profusely. Luis is sound asleep, snoring lightly.

TONYA

No. No. No! NOOOOOOO!!!!!!

Tonya raises out of her sleep. She's panting.

LUIS

Baby...honey...

(sitting up and wrapping his arms
around her)

It's okay...I'm here. It's okay.

Luis pulls Tonya closer and gently kisses a now crying Tonya several times upon her face. He rocks her back and forth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN- EARLY MORNING

Tonya is at the counter, making a smoothie. When Nick walks in with his gym bag. He drops it where he stands. He gives Tonya a disgusted look.

NICK

Where's dad?

TONYA

Good morning. How're you?

NICK

(rolling his eyes)

I'm fine and you?

TONYA

I'm good. What brings you here so early?

NICK

Can I not come home?

TONYA

Yes, son, you can. You know you can.
But, you don't usually be up this
early.

NICK

Well...I come to see my dad. And he said I could move in. I'll be bringing my bags after work. Just going to the gym after I leave here.

TONYA

So, you're not coming to see me?

There was an awkward silence. Nick looked down at the floor.

NICK

Why are you up so early?

TONYA

I have to take care of some business before I go into the office.

NICK

Well...don't drop the ball and ruin someone else's life while you're out.

Tonya stares at Nick as he turns and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN A QUEENS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Tonya parks her car on the street in front of a row of brownstones. She places her briefcase on the floor in front of the passenger seat and places her coat over it. She exits her car. She locks her door with her key fob as she walks across the street to a slew of apartment flats.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROSALES' APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

She enters the building and walks up a flight of stairs. She walks to the door at the very top of the flight, presses her ear against the door, and then knocks.

Tonya hears someone at the peephole and looks directly into it. She then flashes her most dazzling smile.

TONYA

Mr. and Mrs. Rosales, open up. It's me, Tonya.

The door snatches partly open, but enough to reveal Mrs. Ruth Rosales; a short heavy-set Hispanic woman, in her late 30's.

RUTH

Oh if it isn't Miss Nightmare herself.
To whom we owe the pleasure?

Tonya tries to enter, but Ruth closes the door a little, to block her from entering.

TONYA (CON'T)

(smiling, whispering, and between
clenched teeth)
Nightmare? I'll show you nightmare you
little wench. Now, open the fucking
door.

Tonya tries to push her way in, but Ruth is holding her back. A few harsh words are exchanged before Manuel Rosales walks to the ladies; Manuel is a Hispanic male, but slightly darker than his wife, Ruth. He is about 5'7" tall and with a medium build. He pulls Ruth back and allows Tonya to enter. Tonya closes the door behind her.

MANUEL

What's going on?

TONYA

What the hell happened?! Luis told me
he went by the store last night and
the door was unlocked! He went
completely off on me! What the fuck is
ya'll doing?! You should know by now
how to close a fucking store...

MANUEL

Hey! We know how to close a store!

TONYA

Then what happened?!

RUTH

I had to rush out. Monica got into a
car accident. I forgot.

TONYA

Oh no... is she okay?

RUTH

Don't ask about my fucking daughter!

TONYA

Bitc-

While walking towards Mrs. Rosales.

MANUEL

(holding his arms out between both women)

Let's stop now!

TONYA

(looking at Manuel)

You better teach your wife some manners. Your entire family would be long gone...shipped back across the Atlantic if it weren't for me!

RUTH

(Beating her fist on her chest)

But, instead, you took my family!

MANUEL

Hey! Everything was for the best! On both accounts!

Turning to face Tonya.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

It will never happen again. I will check after Ruth. And she will check after me. The store will never be left unlocked again. No worries.

Manuel rubs the back of his hand against Tonya's cheek. And looks her in the eyes.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

Okay?

TONYA

Okay.

RUTH

(scowls in Spanish)

Ain't this about a bitch. Hey... Miss Nightmare. I need money for Monica's hospital bill.

Ruth opens her right hand and stretches her arm out in Tonya's direction. She waves her fingers inward a few times.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Come on. I know you got it.

Tonya reaches inside her pocketbook and counts out \$1000. And hands it to Ruth.

TONYA

Here. Send Tonya my love.

RUTH

I'd send you to hell first.

Tonya storms out of the apartment and made it halfway down the stairs.

MANUEL

Hey... wait.

Tonya turns around and faces Manuel.

TONYA

What do you want?

MANUEL

Come on sweetheart.

Manuel stands on the same stair as Tonya and pulls her close. He kisses her gently on her lips.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

Everything is okay. You hear me?

Tonya shakes her head yes. Manuel kisses her sweetly again.

RUTH

Manuel! Come here, NOW!

Manuel kisses her once more on her forehead before running up the stairs and into his apartment. Tonya walks down the stairs as the sound of yelling and broken glass is heard from the Rosales' apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONYA'S CAR- DAY

Tonya sits in her car, staring up at the Rosales' window. Her phone rings. She reads "Duke" on the ID.

TONYA

Hey sweetheart!

DUKE (V.O.)
Hey ma! Working late?

TONYA
Nah... what's up?

DUKE (V.O.)
Just wanted to see what you're up to.
Who you shoot today?

TONYA
(incredulously)
Who I shoot today? Boy...that was a
long time ago. I don't go around
shooting people. I practice law.

DUKE (V.O.)
Mmmhmm.... a lawyer with a gun.
Shooting at people.

TONYA
He was trying to kill me! And, he
lived... So, good deal!

DUKE (V.O.)
Unh-unh... I don't think I'd go around
saying 'good deal' neither. I don't
think he would think it was a good
deal.

TONYA
Maybe not. But, he has his life. He
could very well be dead.

DUKE (V.O.)
That may not be a good thing.

TONYA
You must be bored...

DUKE (V.O.)
Nah...just checking on my mom.
Somebody has to. Love ya!

TONYA
Love you too, sweetheart.

They disconnected the call. Tonya rested her head against the
headrest and closed her eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S BODEGA - AFTERNOON (21 YEARS EARLIER)

Tonya stands behind the counter at the register. A very young Nick is running around the store with his toy bat in one hand and a ball in the other. He suddenly sees potato chips on a rack and starts to hit the bags with his toy bat.

TONYA

Hey, cut it out! Come here, baby.

Tonya comes from behind the counter. She reaches down and picks up Nick. He places his hand on her bulging belly.

TONYA (CONT'D)

(speaking very softly)

Do you feel the baby? Do you feel your baby in there?

Luis suddenly walks in with the soda delivery driver and directs him where to unload the goods.

LUIS

Hey! What are you doing? You, you can't be carrying that big boy like that!

TONYA

Oh, Luis! He's still a baby.

LUIS

That's not good to be picking up that big boy. He's got to grow to become a man. Besides...you got a baby inside of you! It'll hurt the baby.

Tonya places Nick down and he suddenly starts to cry.

TONYA

See what you did? You hurt his feelings.

LUIS

Come to poppa, son. I didn't mean to hurt you.

Luis stoops down and opens his arms wide. Crying, Nick walks into the arms of Luis. Luis stands up, patting and rubbing Nick on his back.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Come here, son. Don't cry.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Poppa got you.

TONYA

Oh really?

The overhead doorbell jingles as the door open. Two men walk into the store and approach the counter. Tonya quickly waddles behind the counter and steps to the register. Luis places Nick down, grabs his hand, and walks to the back to talk to the delivery driver.

MAN #1

Let me get a pack of Newport Kings and a lighter.

MAN #2

Man, grab the Tops.

MAN #1

Oh yeah.

(raising his right index finger
indicating one)

One pack of Tops.

Tonya checks them out and the men walk out of the store. Stands out front to talk amongst themselves. They both light a fresh cigarette, take a pull, then walk away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S BODEGA-EARLY EVENING

LUIS

Shit! It's not adding up!

Tonya is sitting behind the counter completing homework assignments. She stretched her neck to see Luis shaking his head.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Tonya! Tonya!

TONYA

What? What's wrong?

Tonya walks fast to where Luis is standing in the middle of the aisle next to the can and boxed goods.

LUIS

You know we're short again? We should
(MORE)

LUIS (CONT'D)
have about 14 cream corn and there are
7.

He points at the corn on the shelf.

LUIS (CONT'D)
We're short on tissue, soap...

He's dabbing one finger, then two fingers, and so on, into the palm of his other hand, as he's counting off the missing items.

LUIS (CONT'D)
I mean...damn near everything is
short!

Waving his hands around.

LUIS (CONT'D)
Dammit, Tonya! Are you even watching
the store when I leave out?!

TONYA
Of course, I am! Why would I not? I'm
standing right there every day.

She points to the counter.

TONYA (CONT'D)
And I'm watching little Nick. All
while my back is hurting... I have
classes... my feet are swollen...I'm
pregnant out to here...

Tonya stretches her arms out in front of her. Luis walks towards Tonya and smacks her. Tonya screams and places her hand on her cheek.

TONYA (CONT'D)
(sobbing)
AHHH!

Nick starts to cry. Luis steps away from Tonya and picks up Nick.

LUIS
You may not care about our bodega, but
it means something! It places food on
our table, a roof over our head, and
it's getting you through that hotshot
(MORE)

LUIS (CONT'D)
school! Act as you care!

Tonya turns and walks slowly, crying, back behind the counter and takes a seat.

LUIS (CONT'D)
Not to mention the fact that I will have to increase the hours to pay for it. And...you're pregnant. I'm trying too! Don't like you're doing it by yourself.

TONYA
I wasn't trying to, Luis. I was just saying that I'm here, I'm dedicated. It means a lot to me.

Luis stares at Tonya for a moment. He then finishes with the inventory. Once done, he grabs a sleeping Nick from the counter and puts his coat on. Tonya is still behind the counter working on an assignment.

LUIS
Are you coming?

TONYA
(not looking up)
Not yet. I need to finish this.

LUIS
Are you angry with me?

TONYA
(writing and trying to talk)
No, I'm just...trying...

Luis and Tonya laugh.

LUIS
Okay, I'll leave you alone. Don't be here too long, okay?

Tonya waves her hand at Luis and nods in agreement. He walks around the counter and kisses her on the forehead. Then Luis, carrying a sleeping Nick exit out the back door. Locking it behind him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S BODEGA - LATER

Tonya stands up and stretches. She puts on her jacket and grabs her purse. Tonya gives the store a once-over and turns off the light. Then heads to the stockroom to exit. She rummages inside of her purse for her keys. Accidentally dropping them.

TONYA

Shit.

Stooping to pick them up, she hears the faint sound of whispering. Tonya reaches inside of her purse and slowly pulls out her pistol, then lowers her purse to the floor. She slowly walks the floor throughout the huge stockroom; following the sound. Once she approaches the utility closet, she hears the whispers more clearly. She opens the door. The sound disappears. Tonya turns on the light and looks around the small room.

TONYA (CONT'D)

(sighs)

What am I doing?

Tonya flips the switch to the light. She turns to walk away but suddenly sees a half-moon glow coming from behind the storage rack that housed the cleaning supplies. Bracing herself and getting ready to fire her gun, she walks to the rack and pushes it to the side. There's a crack in the paneling, that outlines the glow. Tonya snatches it open.

WOMAN

(screams)

AHHHHHH!!!!

MAN

(speaking in Spanish)

DON'T SHOOT!

TONYA

Oh my God! What the fuck?!

A Hispanic man scoots in front of the Hispanic woman sitting on a makeshift bed, covered in blankets. His hands are up.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Get the fuck up! Get up!

MAN

(Now in English)

Okay, okay...

Rising slowly, he grabs the very pregnant woman by the hand and lifts her off the bed. Tonya glances around the room. She sees a lamp hooked up, some of the food and hygiene products that were short in the store, and a few other miscellaneous items, neatly placed away throughout the quaint room.

TONYA

(incredulously)

You guys are living here?! Stealing from our bodega?!

MAN

Please...

TONYA

You guys have to leave. You can't stay here. I'm calling the police.

WOMAN

No!

The woman starts to cry uncontrollably.

MAN

Please...my wife...she's pregnant. We have nowhere to go.

TONYA

I'm calling the police! This is breaking and entering!

Tonya looks around the room.

TONYA (CONT'D)

(shaking her head)

You broke our wall! Then you've been stealing from our store!

MAN

(holding his head)

Please...I...I didn't know what else to do. Don't call the police. I beg you. Please. I can do something. Let me do something. I can do something to repay you.

TONYA

Repay me?

(scoffs)

How?! You can't take care of your family!

MAN

I can! I just can't here.

TONYA

What do you mean, 'here'?

MAN

We're from Uruapan. We came in search of a better life.

TONYA

No luck, huh?

MAN

It's better than where we come from.

TONYA

In what way? I mean you're inside the wall of a bodega with your pregnant wife.

MAN

We're alive. We get to see the sun rise and set.

TONYA

Well...you can't stay here

MAN

Please...

TONYA

No...there are shelters. Go somewhere else.

MAN

We can't.

TONYA

Ohhh...I get it. You're illegal?

The man hangs his head low and the woman starts to cry harder.

TONYA (CONT'D)

So, not only did you break into my wall, you broke into an entire country.

(shaking her head)

You definitely can't stay here.

The man walks to the corner of the room and grabs a trash bag out of the corner. The wife scoots off the bed and grabs a knitted bag. They start the task of placing their belongings into the bags. While Tonya stared.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Wait...

The man and woman stopped packing.

TONYA (CONT'D)

What are your names?

MAN

Manuel. And this here is Ruth.

TONYA

My name is Tonya. So, what type of trouble are you in? Besides, being here illegally?

MANUEL

Los Zetas-

TONYA

Los Zetas?

RUTH

The cartel.

MANUEL

They came and killed our family. Our parents owned repair shops and grocery stores. I helped run both...

(pointing to his wife)

Ruth taught English at the school. She taught me, as well. Our family paid Los Zetas every month to run our businesses. For no reason other than for them to not terrorize us.

RUTH

Then it became too much. They wanted us to pay every week now, instead of every month.

MANUEL

We had a hard time feeding our family. We lived good. My parents, her parents. Our siblings and their kids, all lived on the same street. But,

(MORE)

MANUEL (CONT'D)

that all changed. We stood firm and would not pay every week...how could we? We can't feed our family with the price they gave us.

RUTH

In broad daylight, they came in five big trucks and slaughtered our families! Blood in the streets! The police stood there! Cowards!

Ruth buries her face in her hands and cries.

TONYA

How did you get away?

MANUEL

We were on our way home from town. A neighbor ran out to our car on a street and told us not to go home. There is no home. No more home and no family. And Los Zetas would kill us for sure. We hid for a few nights and different people's houses. Even in the bushes. We decided our best bet was to come here.

Tonya's phone rang.

TONYA

Wait here!

Moving quickly to the storage room, with her gun still drawn, she reaches inside of her purse for her phone and answers it.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Hello?

LUIS (V.O.)

Hello? What's taking you so long? Are you okay?

TONYA

I got carried away on the assignment.

LUIS (V.O.)

Well, come home. You have to get your rest. And I can't sleep until you're here.

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'.

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)
Are you sure? You don't sound right.

TONYA
Can I come by mama?

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)
Of course, you can. I'm not going
anywhere. Just sitting here watching
movies. Did a little laundry...cooked
a little something.

TONYA
Okay. I'm on my way.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MS. HARVEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Tonya rings the bell. She stands in front of her mom's house, holding a bouquet, waiting. No answer. She shifts the bouquet of flowers from her right arm to her left arm. Then digs into her purse for her phone. Ms. Harvey, Tonya's daughter finally opens the door.

MS. HARVEY
Hey, girly. I'm sorry I was in the
back.

Ms. Harvey, Tonya's mother, is roughly 5'7" tall, in her early sixties, medium build, African American woman with a medium brown complexion. Tonya hands her the flowers.

MS. HARVEY (CONT'D)
Oh my! They're beautiful! Thank you!

INT. MS. HARVEY'S HOME - DAY

Tonya enters and walks through a large foyer, down a few steps, to her mom's sitting room. Her mother walks to the kitchen with the flowers. Tonya takes a seat on the sofa. Her mother returns and takes a seat in the chair counter corner from Tonya.

MS. HARVEY
So how have you been?

TONYA
Alright. Just working.

MS. HARVEY

What's going on?

TONYA

Nothing...

MS. HARVEY

(takes a deep breath)

Look, you're not gonna drive me crazy.
I'm not gonna pull it out of you.

TONYA

What do you mean?

MS. HARVEY

I mean, either you tell me or you
don't.

TONYA

Mama...I want us to be close...there's
so much I want to tell you.

MS. HARVEY

Girl...

(shaking her head)

What have you done now?

TONYA

What? What, are you talking about?

MS. HARVEY

What I mean is I haven't heard
anything good lately. I know you are a
lawyer. But, you are now in your
forties. When are you going to give me
some grandbabies? Huh? When are you
going to marry a nice, wealthy
husband? Someone that's going to take
care of you? Instead of that trashy
girlfriend that you've been parading
around with? Embarrassing the family
name with all that riffraff. Damn
shame...

TONYA

Mama! How do you know my girlfriend is
trashy? And what do you know about me
parading her around?!

MS. HARVEY

Well, you've always been a showoff!
(MORE)

MS. HARVEY (CONT'D)

So, I'm sure you're running around, squeezing ass cheeks, and kissing her all up in the mouth! Lipstick smeared all over each other...smelling like a vagina, everywhere but the vagina! You two done licked each other clean! Destroying the name your father and I worked so hard to build!

(leaning forward)

You know we're the only black people in this community?

TONYA

Why? Why do have to do this? Mama... I need you.

MS. HARVEY

I need you to leave the girls alone! I need you to marry a respectable gentleman...

TONYA

White...

MS. HARVEY

You make me out to be some bad person... Yes, white. That's the only way my grandbabies would not struggle...at least not as much. And after a while, no one would struggle.

TONYA

Mama, what if I told you I never had a girlfriend? That maybe I lied because you'd never accept-

MS. HARVEY

Stop! I don't want to talk about this anymore! You're giving me a headache. There's nothing wrong with me not wanting my family to be treated like shit.

TONYA

But daddy's black.

MS. HARVEY

Yeah, but we struggled. Hard. He fought to get through medical school. He fought to be allowed into this

(MORE)

MS. HARVEY (CONT'D)
gated community where he raised you
all. I don't want you to struggle,
sweetie! Can't you see that? Why can't
you see that?

TONYA
Mama, I do see, but I should have the
right to choose. If I decide to be
with a woman or a man that's not
white-

MS. HARVEY
And have minority children? Screwing
up our bloodline instead of repairing
it?

TONYA
Mama... just hypothetically
speaking... please, give me a minute.
What if I have a family...

MS. HARVEY
(nods)
Uh-huh

TONYA
But, because they do not fit within
your ideal-

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)
Not white?

TONYA
Yes...

MS. HARVEY
Then I'd never want to see them. Keep
them, little bastards, to yourself.
I'd much rather you lick a girl's
vagina than bring home a darkie. I'd
never want to see them or you. Ever.

TONYA
But, mama...

MS. HARVEY
Ever! Do you hear me?! Is this what
you came over for? I'm already
allowing you around being a lesbian
and all. Your father would have a fit

(MORE)

MS. HARVEY (CONT'D)

if he came in here and saw your nasty tail sitting on his sofa. Why you can't be like your sister? Huh? She married a nice man. Lots of money. Beautiful babies! Pretty gold hair! Trips several times a year. Eat out twice a week...

TONYA (CON'T)

I have the right to choose. And you guys shouldn't turn me away. I've done well for our family. I'm a lawyer. A damn good one at that!

MS. HARVEY

(raising up from her chair and speaking firmly)

I'm going to say this once more. Now, you hear me and you hear me good. You better choose right. You marry a darkie or anything that's not what we have in mind for our legacy, then you can stay the hell away. Now get your nasty ass up off your father's sofa before he gets home.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S HOME - DAY

Tonya enters the front door of her home carrying a bag. She walks up the stairs and enters the bathroom. She runs the water to the tub. Rain, her 14-year-old daughter, enters. Her hair is in two ponytails and she's wearing a heavily stained soccer uniform.

RAIN

Hey mom.

TONYA

Hey sweetheart. How was practice?

RAIN

Meh

TONYA

That bad?

RAIN

Yes. Very bad. Almost the entire team
(MORE)

RAIN (CONT'D)
is not paying attention to what the coach is saying. And, because of it, the coach is yelling the entire time. And, we have a game in less than two weeks.

TONYA
Oh my God.

RAIN
(shaking her head)
Yep...oh my God.

TONYA
(sighs)
Maybe you should have a meeting with your teammates?

RAIN
And be a dictator? No, thank you very much. I probably should call the coach, or better yet, you call.

TONYA
To say what?

RAIN
I don't know...suggest that you parents meet and discuss ways to get the team ready for the game. To make sure their bad kids cooperate so that we have a better chance at winning the game.

Tonya stares at Rain for a bit and then laughs.

TONYA
Okay. I can do that.

RAIN
When?

TONYA
I don't know. Maybe after dinner?

RAIN
Speaking of dinner, what are we having?

TONYA

No clue.

Tonya looks at the bathroom clock and sees the time approaching 5 pm.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, I better start preparing now. You can have the bath water. You need it more than me.

RAIN

No, thanks. I'm more of a shower girl.

Tonya grabs her bag and exits the bathroom. Rain drains the water in the tub.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Tonya is at the island in the kitchen, cutting vegetables, placing them into a pot. She opens the fridge and removes two rotisserie chickens. She places them into a pan, side by side. She hears a sound coming from the living room. She walks into the living room and sees Nick sitting upon the sofa with his head resting in his hands.

TONYA

Are you okay?

NICK

Why do you care?

TONYA

Why would I not?

Silence.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Nevermind.

Tonya turns to walk away.

NICK

You allowed my friend to die. My only friend.

Tonya stops in her tracks. Puts her head down.

NICK (CONT'D)

And then you acted as if nothing happened.

TONYA

What do you want me to do? I have to still raise and care for you and Duke. I was going to school. Your father and I also had the Bodega to run.

NICK

So, business as usual?

TONYA

No, no business as usual. But, I had to move forward.

NICK

It's your fault the tent wasn't secure!

TONYA

How? I was not the one that pitched it!

NICK

Yeah, but you saw it last. If you would've told dad, and not brushed it off, Jacob would still be here! Now he's gone.

(starts to cry)

Then, you didn't take the time to search for him! I did, hell, even dad did! And he didn't even know Jacob like you did. Where were you!

TONYA

Feeling like shit. Holding onto my babies. Afraid that I would lose them. A mother's worse nightmare. Nick...

Tonya walks towards Nick and tries to touch his shoulder. He quickly moves away.

TONYA (CONT'D)

...the guilt has not left me. I wanted to help. But, I couldn't. I was riddled with guilt. And I had my plate full...of children, school, and business...why'd you think your dad went? Huh? It was me that sent him.

(MORE)

TONYA (CONT'D)

Can't you see that?

NICK

(standing and wiping his eyes)

No. I see that you are a liar. And you know what else? I hate you and I hate that I came from you. Now, leave me the fuck alone.

Nick rushes past her, exiting the living room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S DINING ROOM - LATER

The entire family sat around the dining room table, eating dinner. Luis at the head and Tonya directly at the end. Nigel, a 14-year-old male, who is also Rain's fraternal twin was busy discussing his latest discovery while out taking pictures of nature.

NIGEL

He was just laying there. Dead as a doorknob, when this other duck walks up and mounts him!

Everyone except Rain laughs.

RAIN

Oh my God. That's not funny!

NIGEL

Real frigging disgusting!

RAIN

And sad!

LUIS

Are you saying there are gay ducks out here?

NIGEL

Yeah, but...

RAIN

Does that really matter? Like, seriously?

NIGEL

He's a necrophiliac! That's the

(MORE)

NIGEL (CONT'D)
disturbing part!

Luis, Nick, and Duke are laughing, Tonya is rubbing her forehead. The twins look on in disgust.

RAIN
This is so not funny. I don't know how I got into this family!

NIGEL
And to make matters worse, no matter how many sticks I threw at him, he wouldn't budge. Just kept right on humping!

DUKE
You better be careful. He could've come and mounted you!
(laughs)

LUIS
That's right! Leave those animals alone. If they want to have sex with each other's dead bodies, it's their prerogative! You mind yours'.

TONYA
Please let's change the subject.
Please. My God... there are two birds on our table!

NICK
They probably got screwed before they made it here!

LUIS
I'm sure they did!

Everyone, but Tonya and the twins, laughs hysterically. Then the doorbell rings. Luis stands up, wipes his mouth with a napkin, and leaves the dinner table.

After about a minute, Tonya hears a familiar voice and decides to join Luis at the door, with the children in tow. Mr. and Mrs. Miller, the parents of Jacob stood side by side, in the doorway. They were the same age as Luis and Tonya but appeared much older. Mr. John Miller is white, about 5'10" tall, medium build. And Mrs. Marisol Miller is about 5'3", a little on the chubby side. Both wore baggy, sleep-deprived eyes and greying hair.

MARISOL

It's been over 15 years without our
boy-

Marisol sees Tonya and the children and stops talking. She immediately starts to cry and lean her head against her husband, John's chest.

JOHN

As my wife was saying, it's been
years. But, with the persistence of my
wife and me, we've gotten them to
reopen the case.

MARISOL

We've gotten over 4,000 people to sign
the petition. Everyone but you.

Marisol eyes Tonya.

TONYA

What petition? I didn't know of a
petition. I can certainly sign it now.

MARISOL

I stuck it on your mailbox at least a
dozen times.

JOHN

Besides, it's too late-

MARISOL

It's never too late.
(cutting her husband off)
There are ways she can, I mean, they
can help.

TONYA

Absolutely. Please come in.

Tonya steps to the side, with her arm stretched out, leading the way towards the living room. John and Marisol stepped inside and followed.

LUIS

Hey,
(snapping his fingers)
Nigel, Rain, go on back and finish
dinner.

NIGEL

Wait, why can't we stay? We want to help.

RAIN

Yeah. Besides, Nick and Duke are in here.

Upon hearing Nigel, Marisol was seemingly stuck. She stopped in her tracks and stared. Tonya and John followed her gaze.

JOHN

(gently touching Marisol's shoulder)

Honey, are you okay?

Marisol pulls John close and spoke in a low voice to her husband. John turned his head and along with Marisol, stared at Nigel. Luis noticed them and grabbed the children, shooing them away to the dinner table. Allowing Nick and Duke to join in on the conversation.

LUIS

Is everything okay?

JOHN

Yes. We just couldn't but notice the striking resemblance between your children and our son, Jacob. Especially your son... what's his name?

LUIS

Nigel?

JOHN

Yes, Nigel.

LUIS

Well...thank you? I guess.
(chuckle)
Jacob was... mean is...

MARISOL

Is. He'd be a man now.

LUIS

Right...but a boy back then. He was a fine boy back then.

TONYA

Please...have a seat. Let's see what we can do to find Jacob and bring him home where he belongs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - LATE EVENING

Luis was sleeping, snoring lightly. Tonya tossed and turned. Giving up the battle between sleep and being awake, she sat up straight in bed and stared at Luis. She quietly slipped out of bed and went to her purse that was on the vanity. She grabbed the entire bag and tiptoed out of the bedroom. Closed the door behind her and walked lightly to the bathroom down the hall.

Once inside, she turned on the faucet and ran bathwater. She poured a little liquid for bubbles and sprinkled potpourri into the tub. She pulled her nightgown above her head and pulled down her panties. She grabbed the bag inside of her purse and removed the sage stick. Placing it upon the bathroom counter, she pulled open the drawer underneath and grabbed the tin leaf from inside. Placing it alongside the sage stick. She then grabbed the box of matches that were also inside the drawer and lit one. She stared at the orange and golden hue and the flame danced. She walked to the candles in the window and on the counter, lighting them all. Then she lit the sage stick.

While smudging herself, she took deep breaths. She let her head roll from left to right, from to back. Putting out the flame from the sage stick, she laid it down in the leaf. Tonya then sat on the edge of the tub and turned off the faucet. She placed her fingers in the water to feel the temperature. She then pulls them out and flicks them a few times. Getting up, she steps inside the tub. Water overflows onto the floor.

Tonya lays back. Her head rests on the opposite end of the faucet. She places her foot upon the neck of the faucet. She lays there for a minute. She then grabs her towel resting on the side of the tub and proceeds to wash her body. Eyes closed, she washes her face. her neck, her she massages her breasts and her thighs. She goes under the water and comes back up. She goes down and then up. All while her eyes are closed. She takes her hands and rubs her eyes, opening them. Then she sees the mud. Thick and dark. Her body is immersed in murkiness. Her hands, the tub, her muddy fingerprints on the side of the tub. Mud is everywhere.

She quickly stands up and steps out. She slips and slides into the wall. The wall and her body makes a bang sound. She flips the switch, turning the lights on. She looks around, the mud is gone. Tonya pulls the drain and blows out the candles.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONYA'S CAR - EARLY MORNING

Tonya is in her car driving on the highway. She's over 50 miles outside of the city, headed upstate. After a couple of hours, she runs into a rural area. She sees cows, horses, barnyards, wheat, and corn. After another 15 minutes, she turns right onto a dirt road.

She crosses a small bridge and pulls in front of a yellow house. There is a wrap-a-around porch surrounding the house. And a bench on the porch. Tonya puts her car in park and turns off the ignition. She turns off her cell phone and unlocks the glove box. Reaching into an inner compartment within the glove box, she removes another cellphone and replaces the box with her main cellphone. She closes it and locks it.

MALE VOICE

Hey beautiful!
(smiling)

A man in his early twenties, with an olive complexion, long wavy dark black hair, and medium build yell from the porch.

TONYA

(blushing)
Hey!

She yells from the driver's seat.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE BEDROOM-LATER

After a steamy sex session, Tonya and the man lay next to each other in bed, trying to catch their breath. Tonya rolls over to kiss him, but he quickly gets out of bed and walks out of the bedroom.

TONYA

Jacob! Jacob!

Jacob turns around.

JACOB

What?

TONYA

What do you mean, what? You don't want to kiss me?

Jacob walks up to Tonya and cups her face, kissing her on the lips. Tonya pulls away.

TONYA (CONT'D)

That's not the same! You didn't want to!

JACOB

Don't start that shit!

TONYA

You don't want me anymore! Who is she?!

JACOB

What?

TONYA

You heard me.
(crying)
Who is she?

JACOB

Are you fucking delusional? I am hardly outside of this jail!

Tonya walks away crying. She goes into the kitchen and sits down at the table. Her face resting in the palms of her hands. Jacob walks over to her and stands behind her. He places his hands on her shoulders and gives her a massage.

JACOB (CONT'D)

How are Nigel and Rain?

Tonya shakes her head.

JACOB (CONT'D)

How are my babies?

TONYA

(speaking low)
They're fine. Nigel is taking photography more seriously. He's taking some really good photos. Rin
(MORE)

TONYA (CONT'D)
has an impending soccer game that she
is sure her team is going to lose.

JACOB
Haha! Wow.

Jacob stares into space.

TONYA
What?

JACOB
Nothing. Just uh...wondering.

Tonya put her head down.

TONYA
You know you could leave.

JACOB
And risk you getting locked up? Most
likely for the rest of your life?

Silence for about a minute.

TONYA
(voice cracking)
Well, it's not like I don't deserve
it.

Jacob takes a deep breath and sits in the chair to the right
of her.

JACOB
I can't lie, I miss my family. I miss
my best friend, Nick.

Tonya throws her head back in disgust.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Well, I do. But, I've missed out on so
much. So many years...gone. What am I
to do now? I'm probably a freak.

Tonya sits quietly. Tears run down her cheeks.

JACOB (CONT'D)
I have kids. Even if they don't know
me. I have them. Getting you locked up
is not good for them. It would hurt
(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

them.

Tonya turns to face Jacob.

TONYA

It would hurt them. So, please...

JACOB

Please? Continue to stay here and waste my life away?

(taking a deep breath)

I'm gonna die here! I don't want to die here!

TONYA

But, you would hurt the children, Jacob. You would hurt them bad.

JACOB

(angrily)

You are lucky I grew to love you. Very lucky.

Jacob turns to look at Tonya. Tears are forming in his eyes.

JACOB (CONT'D)

You took everything away. Everything! I want my family! But...

(taking a deep breath)

I love you so much. You are my heart, the mother of my kids.

(shaking his head)

You are very fucking lucky. So fucking lucky! Because I would leave here! I lost everything!

Jacob bangs his fist on the table, kicks his chair back, and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S BODEGA - NIGHT

Tonya enters the Bodega to hear loud music playing, Duke is sweeping the floor while Monica hangs on his back, giggling. Ruth is standing behind the counter, leaning over it, watching Duke and Monica in admiration.

Manuel is laughing and talking to a customer, as he stocks the shelf.

The customer smiles and grabs the product. Goes to the counter and checks out. Tonya walks over to the radio and snatches the cord out of the wall. Everyone stopped what they were doing.

TONYA
SURPRISE! Party's over!

DUKE
Ma, what's wrong with you?

TONYA
What are you doing here?

DUKE
I'm helping out. Dad said I could.

Ruth chuckles and plugs the cord to the radio in Music resumes playing. Tonya glares at Ruth.

DUKE (CONT'D)
Ma, what's wrong? We always listen to music.

TONYA
It's just that you don't do any chores at home. But, you're here, working.

DUKE
(laughing)
I get paid here.

TONYA
Why don't you and Monica go down to Irving's and buy some dinner? My treat.

DUKE
Cool! Hey sis,

Tonya jumps and stares at Duke.

DUKE (CONT'D)
Wanna go?

MONICA
Yes! Let's go!

Duke drops the broom where he stood. Monica runs over to Tonya and plants a kiss on her cheek. Ruth rolls her eyes.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Thanks, Mrs. M.!

Duke and Monica hurriedly leave the store.

TONYA
What is going on?

MANUEL
What do you mean?

Ruth smiles and sprays some cleanser on the counter and register and starts to wipe it down with a rag.

TONYA
I know what you're doing. And it's not going to work.

Manuel turns and continues to stock the shelves. After cleaning the register, Ruth opens the drawer and counts the money. Taking some cash and coins out, she places them in a pouch, then zips it. She then stoops behind the counter, unlocks the safe, and places the pouch inside. She then closes the door and locks it. When she stands, she is met by Tonya's mean stare.

TONYA (CONT'D)
I know what you're doing. Stay the fuck away from my son.

RUTH
Come again?

Ruth leans on the counter, facing Tonya.

TONYA
You heard me.

RUTH
(speaking in Spanish)
Manuel, this crazy bitch thinks our boy is hers'.
(laughs)

TONYA
I'll show you a crazy bitch. Leave my son alone.

Ruth leans her head to the side and grins.

RUTH
He likes it here. He feels...at home.

TONYA

Watch yourself! If it weren't for me,
you'd be long gone! Not owners of an
apartment building. Not employed-here!
Monica would not be in college!

RUTH

(through clenched teeth)
That's my son. Mine.

TONYA

That's my son! I'm the one that raised
him! I'm the one he knows!

RUTH

That's because you took him!

TONYA

You forfeited him when you killed my
daughter.

RUTH

Your husband killed your daughter. We
only tried to help.

TONYA

You could've helped by calling for
help. You only helped yourselves!

RUTH

(taking a deep breath)
I wish I could call for help now
because lord knows you need it.

Ruth throws the cleaning rag upon the counter and storms off.
Manuel steps down from the ladder, drops cans in an awaiting
box, and follows her. Customers then enter the store. Tonya
yells after them, Ruth and Manuel.

TONYA

Hey! Hey! Ruth! Manuel! We have
customers!

No response. Tonya goes to the counter to assist the
customers.

DISSOLVES TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S HOME - NIGHT

Tonya steps inside the front door of her house, locking the door behind her. She steps out of her heels and leans against the front door.

LUIS
I stopped by your office today.

Startled, Tonya jumped upon hearing Luis's voice.

LUIS (CONT'D)
Brought you flowers.

Luis motioned to the bright red bouquet of roses inside a new crystal vase, with a red and pink bow. Tonya stared at them for a few seconds before walking over to smell them.

TONYA
(smiling weakly)
Thank you. They're very beautiful. And they smell so sweet.

LUIS
What's her face,
(snapping his fingers)
the receptionist? Barbara, I think.
she told me you hadn't been in today.

Tonya stood and stared at Luis.

LUIS (CONT'D)
If you weren't at work, where were you?

TONYA
What?

LUIS
Where have you been?

TONYA
I'm sorry. Just a little tired.
(yawns)
I was out the entire day, but still working. A had a couple of meetings. Went to the library to sit and read over some documents before going to the next meeting. Filed some documents. I didn't want to take that crazy drive back to the office-
(MORE)

TONYA (CONT'D)
downtown-when everything I needed to
do was in Copiague.

LUIS
Oh, makes sense.

Luis stares at Tonya.

TONYA
What?

LUIS
Nothing.

Tonya bends to pick up her heels and walks past Luis, heading
for the stair.

LUIS (CONT'D)
I love you.

TONYA
(turning around)
Huh?

LUIS
I love you.

TONYA
(smiling)
I love you, too.

Tonya turns and walks up the stairs.

TONYA (CONT'D)
(yelling over her shoulder)
There are leftovers in the fridge.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER...

Duke unlocks the front door and steps inside the house,
locking the door behind him. It is pitch-black. He walks
towards the lamp in the dining room, the lights suddenly come
on.

DUKE
(jumping)
Jesus, mom! You scared me! What are
you doing up so late?

TONYA
(chuckling)
I scared you?

DUKE
Mom, please don't start acting funny again. I like working at the Bodega. It's our family's business, our shop. I don't see what's the problem.

TONYA
The problem is those people.

DUKE
As in the people you hired to work there?

TONYA
I didn't hire them, your father hired them.

DUKE
Whatever the case may be, you guys hired them. And they've been there for many, wait, all my life. Like, I'm not understanding why you're acting this way.

TONYA
I'm not about to argue with you about this. I don't want you to be there anymore.

DUKE
What?! Why?!

TONYA
Lower your voice. Don't you dare get loud with me.

DUKE
Mom...this is ridiculous. How else am I supposed to make money?

TONYA
Get a job elsewhere. Anywhere else but there.

DUKE
What?

TONYA

Stop saying what. I mean it. Find a job elsewhere.

DUKE

This don't make no sense. I can't believe you...like find a job somewhere else when we own a business? Like, it doesn't make sense. Besides, dad already said I could work there.

Tonya folds her arms and rolls her eyes.

DUKE (CONT'D)

Mom, please. I don't want you to be mad at me. But, I like working there. Me and the Rosales' get along real good. I stock the shelves, check out customers, like you and dad told me y'all use to before they came. What if there's ever a time when I'm needed to be there, to fill in, whenever they go on vacation? Instead of you going in after a long day at work, shooting bad guys...

TONYA

I'm a lawyer.

DUKE

Whatever. I could fill in. I can take over. Besides, I'm still in college.
(now smiling)
I'm not letting go of my dream to be the best lawyer, who shoots bad guys, like my mom.

Tonya and Duke laugh.

DUKE (CONT'D)

May I go to bed, now?

Tonya nods her head, yes. Duke kisses her cheek and walks up the stairs to his bedroom.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTINEZ'S DINING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

The Martinez family sits around the dinner table, holding each other's hands, heads bowed saying grace.

After they all say, "Amen", they began to have dinner.

NIGEL

So, dad when you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

NICK

Was dad ever a kid?

Everyone laughs.

LUIS

First, we must thank your mother for a delicious meal.

Everyone says thanks. Tonya looks over at Luis and blushes. Luis smiles at her.

LUIS (CONT'D)

(holding his fork in hand and talking between bites)

I wanted to be a fireman.

DUKE

Really? What happened?

RAIN

I thought you always wanted to have a bodega?

LUIS

Nah. That was what I wanted after being a fireman. In fact, it wasn't exactly a bodega that I wanted. I wanted a candy store, slash ice cream shop. So I could make all the kiddos in my neighborhood happy. Being a fireman is what I wanted to do first.

DUKE

So..., tell us. What happened? Why didn't you become a fireman?

LUIS

In order to get to that portion, I must tell you why I wanted to become a fireman.

NICK

(throwing his fork down and
leaning his back)
Oh, shoot! We're gonna be here all
night!

LUIS

Nah, it's levels to this. I can't just
tell you one without the other.

Moans and groans from everyone around the table.

RAIN

(whispering to Nigel)
Look what you did.

LUIS

Come on! I'll make it short and sweet.
So, I wanted to become a fireman when
I was ten, after seeing a building up
the block from where we live, go up in
flames. The firemen were up on their
ladders, rescuing people. Bringing
them down to safety. They even saved
the old cat lady and all fifty of her
cats that lived on the twelfth floor.
(does the cross sign with his
index finger on his chest)

DUKE

All fifty of them? That's impossible.

LUIS

It's true. Not everything will make
sense son.

DUKE

So they rescued fifty cats, from a
burning building on the twelfth floor?

LUIS

Yep.

RAIN

Maybe he's just saying she had a lot
of cats.

Everyone shook their head in agreement.

LUIS

Nope. She had fifty cats.

Everyone stared at Luis.

NIGEL

Fine. So why did you change your mind?

LUIS

I burned my finger on the stove. Done with that idea for life! No coming back from that!

Everyone laughed hysterically.

RAIN

Tell us about grandma and grandpa.

LUIS

Well... let's see... your grandpa was a very strict man. But honest and hard working. Taught me that the working man goes farther. Nothing beats a hard day's work. And family. If a man can support his family, he is blessed. Also, to keep your word.

Everyone is listening attentively.

LUIS (CONT'D)

And your grandmother, she was a looker. The most beautiful woman in the world. Besides your mother.

(he winks at Tonya)

She was a devout Catholic. She made chocolates and bread for the kids in the neighborhood. I guess that's why I wanted to have a candy store. I watched my mom make chocolate candies right there in our kitchen. Our very own stove. She would then freeze the chocolate and either hammer or cut them into pieces. Wrapping them all into pretty foil.

NIGEL

Wow. Grandma and grandpa were great. I wish we could've met them.

LUIS

Me too, son. Me too.

NIGEL

So, mom, tell us about your family.
(MORE)

NIGEL (CONT'D)

What did you want to be when you grew up?

All eyes were on Tonya.

TONYA

I'll pass.

DUKE

Come on mom. Tell us.

NICK

Yeah, mom, who hatched you?

Everyone laughs. Tonya gives Nick a death stare.

LUIS

(yells at Nick)

Aye! Leave your mother alone!

RAIN

Come on, ma...please...

TONYA

Let's start with what I wanted to be. That's easiest. I wanted to be a model. But then I was informed that since I was not 5'9" that was an impossibility. So, I decided to be the next best thing, a movie star. I went to tons of auditions as a teen, but they wouldn't accept me because I didn't have an agent. No matter how good I was. And...I couldn't get an agent without my parents' approval. I couldn't get an approval without parents. So...that's that.

NICK

So, you didn't have any parents?

DUKE

You must've. I mean, how else did you get here?

TONYA

From Christ our Lord and Savior.

NICK

Come on mom. Seriously.

TONYA

Okay...

(taking a drink of water)

I was found in the trash. And then placed in an orphanage. Nobody wanted a little black baby. So, I was never adopted. I raised myself. After all else failed, I wanted to become a lawyer to find my parents and try them for abandonment and pain and suffering.

Everyone stared at Tonya.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Dessert anyone?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - DAY

Luis and Tonya are on their own side of the bed, preparing to get on their knees to pray.

LUIS

Jesus, Tonya. Why'd you tell the kids you were found in the trash?

TONYA

I didn't know what else to say.

LUIS

So you couldn't think of anything else to say?

TONYA

Like what?

LUIS

Geez! I don't know! Maybe, the truth? That always works! Their poor grandparents died in a horrific car crash. They deserve to know that. Instead of making them out to be assholes. You were evasive all these years about them, and when finally having to really discuss it, you lie the biggest of lies. Shame on you!

Luis climbs into bed, with his back facing Tonya.

Tonya stares at Luis from behind before she climbs in and joins him. She stares at the ceiling.

TONYA

I'm sorry. I'm just hurt. Really hurt.

LUIS

(turning to face Tonya)

I'm sorry too. Come here, baby.

Luis pulls her close and plants a kiss on her forehead. They fall asleep, wrapped in each other's arms.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER...

Tonya removes Luis arms from around her and slowly climbs out of bed. She tiptoes across the floor and heads for the stairs. One by one, she moves carefully as not to make the floor creak.

She opens the front door and walks to her car. Once inside, she unlocks the glove box, and goes to the rear of it, retrieving her spare cell phone. She notices several missed calls from Jacob. She dials her mother's number.

MOTHER

(groggily)

Hello?

TONYA

Momma?

MOTHER

Girl, what's wrong with you, calling here so late?

TONYA

I need you momma. I really need you.

Tonya's mother sighs.

TONYA (CONT'D)

I'm ready. I've made you proud. So very proud. I need my parents to see it.

MOTHER

To see what?

TONYA

It's a surprise, momma. You and Dad would be so proud. It's all that you guys had hoped for.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Tonya is in bed, tossing and turning. She dreams she is in the bathroom. The bathwater is running. The sage is lit. Her head falls back, her hair falls from her face. She breathes deep. So deep, it becomes labored. Her thoughts are now spoken out loud, as she smudges.

TONYA (V.O.)

Get rid of all negativity. Take away all negative thoughts and feelings. Remove all that is bad and means me no good. Make me clean...because I am so unclean.

Tonya places one foot in the water. Upon placing her foot in the water, she sees the water is boiling. Steam is rising. She sits down slowly and lays back, head resting on the edge. Arms resting at the sides. Toes against the dripping faucet. Sweat beads form upon her forehead. Her hair began to shrink into tight curls.

TONYA (CON'T)

So unclean...unclean...unclean...

Tonya's breathing rapidly. She starts to sink inside the boiling water, which has turned into boiling mud. She raises her arm, she can't get out. Her fingers can't grip the side of the tub. She starts to drown. She sees darkness. Her lungs fill with mud. She gurgles.

TONYA

(raising up, screaming)

UNCLEAN!

Luis places his arms around her, holding her tightly. He gently pats her face.

LUIS

Whoa! Wake up! I'm here! I'm here!

Tonya buries her head in his chest and cries. Luis rocks her back and forth.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A PARK IN BROOKLYN - EVENING (SEVERAL WEEKS LATER)

A large crowd is gathered in a park. The Miller family is standing in a brightly lit shelter, upon a makeshift stage. They were accompanied by NYPD and the media. Off to the right of The Millers was an easel that held the school photo of an 8-year-old Jacob; bright-eyed and smiling from ear to ear. Next to it was another easel, but the photo was facing backward.

Nick stood beside them, occasionally wiping a tear away. Luis, Tonya, and the rest of their brood stood front and center, within the crowd of supporters. Tonya looked straight ahead, trying not to notice Jacob's picture. John walks up to the podium, pulls the microphone up to speak.

JOHN

It's been 15 long years. Long hard years without my boy. My son. My only son. Our only child. Not a day goes by that we don't think of him. All the things we used to do together. He wanted so bad to be just like me.

(cries softly)

But, I'd say, no son. You are already better than me.

Some people in the crowd started to cry, some lit candles, others took photos, as well as the media's cameramen, of the grieving family and Nick, all standing there in tears.

Tonya's eyes darted from Jacob's parents to Nick, the police, and the reporters. Her eyes jolted back and forth to everyone, then she turned her head to both sides of her and saw all the sad, concerned faces.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I have never felt pain this deep. I fought in Nam. Traveled the world. Seen a great deal...but my God. This has got to be the worst by far.

(cries out)

I just want my son! To not know if he's dead or alive! This hurts. This hurts like a son of a gun!

Marisol walks to her husband and they embrace. She then walks to the podium and bends the microphone down to speak.

MARISOL

Hey everyone. I'm Marisol, Jacob's mom. Although I'm sure you all know that.

(smiling slightly)

When I was pregnant with Jacob, we were faced with the decision to move to Florida and raise him in the suburbs or stay here, in the city. That wasn't much of a tough choice because I didn't see too many people that I didn't know or know of when I looked around. From Jack and Jill who owns Jack and Jill's bakery. From Mike the flower guy. He always has fresh flowers every Tuesday. Timmy the butcher. John and I grew up here. Our parents grew up here. Our parents, parents. I've gone to school with most of you. I babysat many of you. I was even pregnant alongside some of you. And when John and I got married, more than half of you were at our wedding and reception.

(looking down and then back up,
wipes away a tear)

I remember taking Jacob to daycare and then preschool. His first day of kindergarten. He thought he was a big boy. He was-he was a big boy. A lot of kids screamed their heads off that day, but not my Jacob. He let go of my hand and ran into the school, and I, I was the one screaming my head off.

(a slight chuckle)

Marisol chuckle, while there's a faint laughter amongst the crowd.

MARISOL (CONT'D)

But, you know what? Those screams are nothing compared now. I scream and I scream. I can't understand it.

(cries)

Why? Why? I see all the little boys and girls that were there alongside him, have now grown up. Become men and women, like Nick.

Marisol reaches her arm for Nick who joins her at the podium. Tonya starts to shift from side to side.

MARISOL (CONT'D)

This is Jacob's best friend. I refuse to say was because I'm sure that if he was here with us, at this very moment, these two would be off doing something fantastic. But, also, I'm not sure if my boy is dead or alive. I don't know! Every year, we celebrate his birthday. We buy him gifts, even on Christmas, we place a gift under the tree for our special boy. We could only imagine what he'd be into today. So we buy gifts based upon what our hearts tell us.

(pausing briefly)

And, I know this may seem crazy, but our hearts tell us he is alive. So we don't want to miss a moment. So when he gets home, he knows we have not forgotten about him. We light his candle in his bedroom window, hoping he would see it and know it's for him. Home is still home. No matter how old he is. Jacob would be, is 23.

(taking a deep breath and fighting back tears)

On the off chance, my baby is dead...gone, we want to know, we need to know...we have the right to know. Do that we could give him a proper burial.

John walks to his wife hugs her and kisses her forehead. Tonya shifts faster from side to side.

LUIS

(whispering to Tonya)

What the hell is wrong with you? Stop it.

John walks up to the podium and adjusts the microphone.

JOHN

We ask you all, the community...our community, to please help us find our son. Along with the police, we have 24-hour phone lines set up, heck, you could even call our phone, whatever is convenient for you. You can be anonymous. We don't care about that, we just want our son. We understand

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

that times have changed, his looks are different. So, with the help of the NYPD forensics team, we were able to come up with an up-to-date photo of our precious Jacob.

Two men on the stage turned the photo around that was sitting next to Jacob's childhood photo, revealing the 23-year-old, dark wavy-haired, olive complexion, Jacob. Upon seeing him, Tonya loses her footing and falls to the ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Tonya is laying upright in bed with her right leg elevated on a pillow. Luis brings in a cold pack and places it on her ankle. He looks at her in disgust.

LUIS

What was that?

Tonya remains silent.

LUIS (CONT'D)

So you're not going to say anything?

TONYA

I don't know what to say.

LUIS

What's been going on with you? You get all crazy like you did something wrong. Your head jerking around like a damn rooster. You couldn't stand still. I...I...

(he throws his hand up)

I don't know.

(shaking his head)

Maybe me smacking you in your head has gotten you all crazy, made you a little off. I...I...I'm a man. I was raised to keep my family together and in line.

Tonya places her face in her hands.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Get your shit together before I call the nuthouse and have your ass

(MORE)

LUIS (CONT'D)
 committed. I'm sure another woman
 would love to take your place!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Luis is laying beside Tonya, asleep, with his arm wrapped around her waist. Tonya kicks the pillow from under her foot. She reaches for the remote at the end of the bed. She clicks on the tv, that is hanging over the couple's dresser.

TELEVISION MONITOR

It's on the news channel that so happens to be covering Jacob's vigil from earlier. Marisol and John are seen talking, crying. People from the crowd are being interviewed.

One of the police officers speaks to the camera.

POLICE OFFICER

We have special K9s that will assist
 in this search. This search will take
 place throughout the entire state of
 New York and the surrounding states.

BACK TO LUIS & TONY MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM:

Tonya raises her hands to her face, covering her eyes. Grabbing the remote, she turns the television off and carefully climbs out of bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONYA'S CAR-LATER

Tonya dials Jacob.

JACOB

Hello.

TONYA

Hello.

JACOB

(sighs)

I'm going home.

TONYA

Jac-

Jacob cuts her off.

JACOB

No. You took me away from my family. I miss my mom and dad. I was scared they wouldn't want me or believe I am who I say I am, but

TONYA

Jacob, wait...what about the kids?

JACOB

What kids?

TONYA

Huh?

JACOB

They don't know me. I don't know them. I know of them. I tried to be a good father by staying away. As you told me I should. But, screw it. I wouldn't bother Nigel nor Rain. They're fine where they are. No disturbance from me. I thought my parents probably moved on. I wanted to call them so badly when you finally gave me a phone and more freedom. But, I was scared they'd forgotten all about me or would be mad that I was gone and send me away for good. Or even you'd find out and take away the freedom that I had.

TONYA

I would go to jail...please...Jacob. Oh, God! Please...

JACOB

I wouldn't send you to jail. I'd suddenly appear. I wouldn't bother the kids. I'd act as nothing has ever happened. But, I'm going home. Nothing would keep me away. Unless you kill me.

TONYA

I wouldn't dare.

JACOB

How do I know that?

(he snapped)

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

Like seriously? How do I know that?

TONYA

I will get things set up. I promise.
Give me a week.

JACOB

No!

TONYA

Please. I'm begging you. I'll send you
some money in the morning. You can go
to town and buy some clothes. To
prepare for your homecoming. I will
make a huge dinner and invite your
parents over.

JACOB

What are you talking about?

TONYA

I'm going to come clean.

JACOB

Okay. But, you don't get a week.

TONYA

How long?

JACOB

When the mood hits me. And oh, I will
not be here when you get here. I will
be gone. I'll be closer than you
think.

TONYA

Wait! What?

JACOB

I'm not staying here where you have
this control over me anymore. I will
not believe any more of your lies.
Wire me money to prepare before 2 am.
And if I believe for one second you're
on bullshit or feeding anymore of your
lies, I'm running to the nearest
police station.

Jacob hung up the phone. Tonya dials him several times, but
it continued to go to the automated voicemail.

She climbs from the passenger seat to the driver seat and prepares to drive to the nearest store to wire money when she realizes she doesn't have her purse.

She climbs out of the car and limps back inside the house when she noticed the light on in the living room. Nick is sitting in the chair looking at an old photo album that is filled with pictures of him and Jacob. Tonya tries to limp by as fast as she could.

NICK

Mom?

Tonya turns around, appearing startled.

TONYA

Hey! What are you doing up so late?

NICK

I'm always up. What are you doing out?

TONYA

I left my cell phone in the car. Came down to retrieve it.

NICK

Why didn't you ask Dad? I'm sure he'd gotten it for you.

Tonya raises her eyebrow at Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

Nevermind. You should've called one of us.

TONYA

I didn't want to bother anybody. Besides, I wanted to see how bad my ankle really is.

NICK

What's the verdict?

TONYA

Ehhh, not too bad. It's doable. May need to wear an ankle brace for a little while.

NICK

And stay off of it?

TONYA

That too.

NICK

I'm sorry about your ankle.

Tonya looks at Nick for a short while. And lowers her head.

TONYA

I'm sorry if I embarrassed you.

NICK

You didn't embarrass me. I was worried. You must've taken it all very hard to have fallen.

Tonya bites her bottom lip. She doesn't look at Nick. Her eyes are watching the floor.

NICK (CONT'D)

I hated you. Mom, I hated you.

(cries)

I felt like you didn't care. That you didn't care that the tent may blow away. And how you carried on afterward. As if nothing ever happened.

Tonya raises her head and looks at Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

(crying)

Dad is so mean to you. I hear how he talks to you. I've seen the bruises. Mom...that night...I'm sure you were afraid to even wake him up about the tent. I mean, I'm sure he'd done it. But, what would've happened to you once he got up?

Tonya placed her hand over her chest. And tears started run down her cheeks.

NICK (CONT'D)

I was wrong for how I treated you. I was wrong for believing you'd do anything to hurt Jacob. To hurt me. You were, are a battered woman. You were scared. You probably were hoping that everything would be alright and that morning would come soon. You gave

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

us alcohol to get us through the night. I'm so sorry, mom.

Nick begins to cry hysterically. Tonya rushes over to her son. He stands up and she hugs him. Tonya guides Nick to the sofa, where she sits and he lays his head in her lap. She rubs his hair while he cries.

NICK (CONT'D)

I just want to die. I don't want to live anymore. This shit is too hard. I slept through the wind snatching my friend away. I treated you like shit for years. I've watched dad hurt you. What kind of person am I? I want to die!

TONYA

SHHH...No, no, no. Honey, you were very young. You were grieving. Then, and now. You must forgive yourself. And what child doesn't rely on their parent for safety? I let you down, horribly. Please, forgive yourself. And understand that some things, if not all, were not in your control.

NICK

Oh, God. Oh, God, Mom. I'm hurting so bad.

TONYA

I got you. Momma got you.

Tonya rocks Nick back and forth until he becomes silent and she hears heavy breathing. She lays her head back against the sofa. She stares at the ceiling and silently cries.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONYA'S CAR - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Tonya speeds to the nearest convenience store to wire Jacob some money. Once putting the car in park, she calls Jacob a few more times, but there was still no answer. She exits the car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Tonya sits at the booth pressing buttons to send Jacob money. Since he has no identification, she makes up a name and creates a code that he could use in place.

Tonya entered \$500.00 to send Jacob. She deletes the amount and enters \$1000.00. Then \$500.00 and finally \$1000.00. She presses submit and receives a confirmation receipt. Tonya gets up to leave the store.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONYA'S CAR - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Tonya dials Jacob several more times before she sends him a text:

There is a CHYRON above Tony's head.

Tonya: I've called you SEVERAL times! Please pick up. I just sent you the money.

Her cellphone rang within seconds of her sending the message.

TONYA

Jacob!

JACOB (V.O.)

What?!

TONYA

I've been calling you nonstop! Why aren't you answering?

JACOB (V.O.)

Because I, no. Hell no. This stops now! Just because you're old enough to be my mother, doesn't give you the right to talk to me like that! And, you don't own me.

Tonya became quiet. Mouth partly open.

JACOB (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What? I hurt your feelings? Well, you hurt mine plenty of times. You hurt me when you stole me from my parents and fucked me with your old lady pussy.

TONYA
(speaking barely above a whisper)
I sent you the money. The name you
must use is Benjamin Brown.

Tonya spelled the name as she entered it on the wire
transfer.

TONYA (CONT'D)
The code is "promise".

Tonya spelled out the code word.

TONYA (CONT'D)
I sent \$1000.00. I want you to
prepare. I will give you four thousand
more and sign over my car when you
come over.

JACOB (V.O.)
I don't need anything. I just want to
go home.

TONYA
I know you don't trust me. You don't
have to go back to that house. Stay
wherever you're at. I just ask that
you please give me until this Sunday
at 5 pm.

JACOB (V.O.)
Three days?! Why? I don't want to wait
a minute longer.

TONYA
That's the day I will come clean.
Please show up. All I ask is that you
wait until that day. I will meet you
at my house. In front of my entire
family, your family...it's not fair
that you carry this weight. It's mine
to carry.

(taking a deep breath)
And I will turn over my car keys,
title, and four thousand dollars. I
know it's nothing compared to the
damage that I've done. But, at least
you have a little something to come
home with.

There was an awkward silence for quite some time that Tonya looked at the phone to see if Jacob was still there.

JACOB (V.O.)

Fine.

Jacob hung up. Tonya held the phone in her hand, staring at the receiver.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Luis sits on the side of the bed shaking Tonya to wake up.

LUIS

Tonya...Tonya...wake up.

TONYA

Hmmm?

LUIS

Wake up. It's 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Are you okay?

He touches her forehead with the back of his hand.

LUIS (CONT'D)

You feel a little feverish, but not too bad.

Tonya finally wakes up, quickly sits up looking confused.

LUIS (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

TONYA (CONT'D)

I have the worst headache.

(placing her hand on her forehead)

I feel so sick.

LUIS

It's okay to rest. I will bring you some soup and orange juice. Okay?

Tonya smiles and shakes her head weakly. Luis brings her the soup and juice. After eating a small amount, she falls asleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER...

Tonya wakes up hours later. She walks to the window and sees the day is coming to an end. The sun is starting to set and most of her neighbors' cars are parked either in their driveway or on the street.

INT. LUIS & TONYA'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Tonya is greeted by Duke at the foot of the stairs.

DUKE

Hey, mom.

TONYA

Hey baby. How're you doing?

DUKE

I'm good...actually really good. I have some news for you. Come this way, mama. I'd like to pour you a drink of orange juice or a glass of water.

Duke leads Tonya into...

INT. LUIS & TONYA'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Tonya follows Duke and pulls out a chair for her.

TONYA

Water? Orange juice? Come on now! I need a glass of wine to celebrate whatever good news you have for me.

Duke grabs two cups and opens the fridge.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Don't play with me! Pour me a little wine!

DUKE

Mom, Dad said you are feeling under the weather.

TONYA

A little wine is not going to hurt. I'll wash it down with some water. How about that?

DUKE

Fine! You win.

DUKE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

But, if you get sick, you haven't seen me. I want no parts of you getting sick.

TONYA

Hurry up before your father walks in here and see.

Duke rushed to her with a glass of wine and two bottles of water. He sat down and twisted the cap off.

TONYA (CONT'D)

(taking a sip)

So what's up? I'm excited!

DUKE

Well, I'm engaged!

Tonya places her hand on her chest

TONYA

What?

DUKE

I'm engaged. Aren't you happy for me?

TONYA

Yeah, but why so soon? You're still in college. You're not done getting to where you need to go...where you want to go. Getting married would only deter you.

DUKE

Mom, no. It's just the opposite. It'll push me to strive harder. I'm in love.

TONYA

I'm happy for you, but-

DUKE

And she's pregnant.

TONYA

Oh hell! Duke, you can't believe this is good news!

DUKE

Mom, it is. I've never been as happy.

(MORE)

DUKE (CONT'D)
I'm deeply in love.

TONYA
You can't be if we've never met her.

DUKE
But, you have. You've known her all her life.

TONYA
Who-

Tonya stops and stares at Duke. Her mouth opens. She shakes her head "no" over and over.

TONYA (CONT'D)
(speaking low and firm)
Monica?

DUKE
Yes.

Tonya stands up quickly, causing her chair to fall back.

DUKE (CONT'D)
Mom?

Tonya hurls off and smacks him. Shocked at what she did, she grabs her hand with her other, holding it to her chest. Tears well in both of their eyes. Duke puts his head down.

DUKE (CONT'D)
I've always done as I was told. I've never done anything wrong. Why can't you be happy for me?

Duke stands up and places his arms around Tonya. Tonya is shaking.

DUKE (CONT'D)
(crying softly)
Mom, I'm not mad. I know you're disappointed. But, my feelings are hurt. I'm a good person, mom. Like you raised me to be.
(hugging a tad tighter)
But, I have more to tell you. Monica is pregnant.

Tonya struggles to break free of Duke's hug.

TONYA
 (crying)
 Are you fucking kidding me?! What the
 fuck?! What are you doing?!

Tonya breaks free of Duke's hug.

TONYA (CONT'D)
 What the fuck are you doing?! Why
 would you do that?!

DUKE
 Mom, I love her! She loves me!

TONYA
 I swear! I think you're trying to give
 me a fucking heart attack! I told you
 to stay away from those people!

DUKE
 Why do you keep saying that? Why?
 That's really sad that you're acting
 like this! Mom, I want you to stop.
 She's carrying your grandchild! That's
 my fiance!

TONYA
 (breathing deeply)
 Shut your mouth! Shut it up! I don't
 want to hear this shit anymore!

Tonya heads back up the stairs. Leaving Duke alone in the
 kitchen.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARKET - DAY (A FEW DAYS LATER)

Tonya pushes a shopping cart throughout the market. As she
 reads her grocery list, she replays in her mind what each
 guest wants.

TONYA (V.O.)
 Dinner's this Sunday. Luis and I would
 love for you all to attend. The whole
 family.

RUTH (V.O.)
 Hell no.

TONYA (V.O.)

Please. I owe you. It's time for me to pay up.

RUTH (V.O.)

You don't have enough money.

TONYA (V.O.)

It's not money. Please. Don't leave him to deal with it by himself.

RUTH (V.O.)

(breathing deeply)

What?

TONYA (V.O.)

I come clean. Now, what do you want to eat?

RUTH (V.O.)

Tiramisu and seafood salad.

TONYA (V.O.)

Please, bring the entire family to my home, Sunday at 5 pm. It has to be right.

RUTH (V.O.)

Okay.

Tonya picks up her phone, makes a call while trying to get that reply of her and Ruth off her mind. Marisol answers.

TONYA

Hello, Marisol. I have something of Jacob's. Can you please come by this Sunday? You and your husband? We can have dinner and I can present it to you. Please.

MARISOL (V.O.)

Why can't we just come by and grab it?

TONYA

Because we'd love to sit and chat with you two.

There was a brief silence.

TONYA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for causing a scene. I just
(MORE)

TONYA (CONT'D)
became very sad. I felt your pain.

MARISOL (V.O.)
Unless you lost a child, you cannot
possibly feel my pain, Tonya.

There was another brief silence.

MARISOL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Sure. We'd come over. We'd love to
receive anything of Jacob's.

TONYA
What would you like for dinner?

MARISOL (V.O.)
We'll have whatever you're having.

TONYA
We're having a pot roast. Potatoes and
baby carrots. Is there anything
special that you would like?
Please...I know I haven't been the
best. I owe you so much. I plan on
making good on some things at this
dinner. I need to assist in helping
you obtain what you lost. And give you
what I found tucked away from long
ago. Please.

Marisol sighs over the phone.

TONYA (CONT'D)
Please.

MARISOL (V.O.)
Maybe a pie? Cherry? And white wine.

TONYA
Okay. Cherry pie and white wine it is.
Marisol?

MARISOL (V.O.)
Yes?

TONYA
Please, please come. It's Sunday at 5
pm. It's important that I give his
belongings to you.

MARISOL (V.O.)

Okay.

They disconnected the call. Tonya then calls her mother. Ms. Harvey answers.

TONYA

Mama?

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

Tonya.

TONYA

Dinner is this Sunday, at 5 pm. Make sure daddy comes.

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

Oh, we will be there.

TONYA

Anything special you guys want for dinner? Dessert?

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

No, just to see this surprise you have for us. It's not going to give your daddy a heart attack, is it?

TONYA

No.

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

Should I bring some pain medicine?

TONYA

No, mom. You won't need any pain meds. Do you have the address?

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

Yes, Tonya. You texted it 3 times.

TONYA

Oh. Okay. Well, see you then.

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

Tonya?

TONYA

Yes?

MS. HARVEY (V.O.)

On second thought, grab some Vodka.
The cheap kind. I have a feeling we're
going to need it.

TONYA

Okay.

They disconnected the call.

Tonya resumes making groceries.

DISSOLVE:

INT. MARTINEZ'S KITCHEN - LATE MORNING

Music plays in the background as Tonya prepares dinner for the evening's festivities. She moves from one side of the kitchen to slice vegetables. To the other side to stir the pot. She opens the oven to check on the cakes. Tonya checks to see if they are done and then pulls them out. Putting two pans of cake batter in its place.

She grabs her spray bottle and walks throughout the living room and dining room spraying all the flowers and plants. Tonya cleaned the mirrors and glass tables. As well as dusted. She even fluffed the pillows.

NICK

Whose all coming over?

TONYA

Everybody. So please wear a nice shirt
and tie.

NICK

Everybody?

Nick's eyes got big. He rushed upstairs to prepare. Nigel and Rain came down wearing their Sunday best.

TONYA

Unh unh. It ain't that type of party.
Wear something nice and appropriate.
We're not going to church.

Nigel and Rain turned to walk away.

TONYA (CONT'D)

On second thought, it's perfect.

RAIN

Can we help with anything?

Searching for a brief second, Tonya went to a pile of black opened envelopes on the dining room table.

TONYA

Can you two close each envelope with a gold sticker?

(Tonya held a transparent pack of gold stickers in one hand and a black envelope in the other)

And once done, place them in the basket?

NIGEL

Why are they black?

TONYA

I don't know. I like black. Will you do it?

NIGEL

Yeah, why not.

RAIN

Sure.

TONYA

Cool. And once they're placed inside the basket, please help me set the table. And can somebody please-

NIGEL

What in the world? Are we getting paid for this?

TONYA

Nigel, please greet the guests at the door and direct them to the dining area. Rain, please make sure the guests are comfortable.

RAIN

Comfortable? What? You want us to act as doorman and waitress? Are you on crack?

TONYA

Maybe.

Tonya hears the front door open. She goes to the front door, leaving Nigel and Rain to finish the envelopes.

DUKE

Hi mom.

TONYA

You got my message. I'm glad you came.

They hug.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Will Monica come later?

DUKE

Yes. She is coming with her parents.

TONYA

Good. Do they know about you two?

DUKE

No. After you flipped, we kind of just kept it to ourselves. Mom?

TONYA

Yes?

DUKE

What you're doing is really nice. Impressive.

TONYA

(placing her hand on her heart)

Awww...

They hug.

DUKE

It's a huge jump from how you were the other night. You were like Godzilla. Rrrr!

Tonya pushes Duke, They laugh.

TONYA

I'd Godzilla you alright. Now get cleaned up.

Tonya watches as Duke runs up the stairs. She wipes a tear from her eye. She feels buzzing in her apron. It's her spare cell phone.

INT. MARTINEZ'S - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - LATE MORNING

Tonya goes to answers the call.

TONYA

Hello?

JACOB (V.O.)

Hello.

TONYA

Are you ready?

Jacob sighs.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Come on. You got this.

JACOB (V.O.)

What about you? The kids? What if my parents hate me? What if they don't believe me? What if Nick hates me?

TONYA

This is not your fault. None of it. I will not let you go down. I am the bad guy. I kidnapped you. I raped you. I did all of this. They will know.

JACOB (V.O.)

(sniffling)

I'm scared. I'm scared.

TONYA

I know. But, you will feel better when it's all said and done. I'm texting you the cab number. Please be here by 5:30 pm. the side door will be unlocked and the music would be loud. No one will notice. Enter the side door and go directly into the first room on your right. It's my personal library. Lock the door behind you. The only person that can enter would have a key. I will give that key to your parents with instructions on where to find you.

JACOB (V.O.)

And what if they don't come to get me?

TONYA

They will.

JACOB (V.O.)

Why are you doing this? I'm backing out. I can suddenly reappear and act as if I was kidnapped and you can stay in the safe zone.

TONYA

I'm tired. I'm tired of dirty living. It's time to come clean. Can't get clean when you're the one that's dirty. See you soon?

JACOB (V.O.)

Yes.

They disconnected the call.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUIS & TONYA MARTINEZ'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Tonya sits at her vanity looking at herself in the mirror. She took a few deep breaths.

LUIS

Why aren't you ready? Our guests should be here any minute.

TONYA

I am. My makeup is done. My hair is done. I already took a shower. All I have to do is get dressed. And my dress is right there on the bed.

Tonya point to her dress. Luis chuckles and gives her a kiss on the forehead.

LUIS

Alright, Wonder Woman. You've outdone yourself. I like this. I like this a lot. I needed this. No, WE needed this. Take your time. But, not too much time. See you downstairs.

Luis exits the bedroom, closing the door behind him.

Tonya gets up and goes to Luis' side of the room.

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...