

3RD NETWORK DRAFT

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THE BAKER & THE BEAUTY

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3RD NETWORK DRAFT
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ACT ONE

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S CUBAN BAKERY' - KITCHEN - DAY

CLOSE on DANIEL'S HANDS, expertly folding puff pastry, creating GUAVA PASTELITOS before our eyes.

MATEO (O.S.)
(singing)
Two - worlds.

CLOSE on DANIEL'S EYES as they scan the baking sheet, looking for any imperfections.

MATEO (O.S.)
(singing)
We are living in two - worlds.

Reveal our man in full: DANIEL GARCIA. 31 and handsome, even now, with his shirt covered in flour and hours of hard hot work behind him. As Daniel loads the pastries into the oven, his eyes turn to the source of the singing...

...his brother MATEO, 27, who stands in a back corner of the kitchen, wearing Beats headphones, and singing into his iPhone. A NOTEBOOK of hand-scrawled lyrics in front of him. If Daniel is the grounded Garcia, Mateo is the dreamer whose best-laid plans somehow always end up in mischief and ruin.

MATEO
*My hair is straight and yours is -
curls. My hair is...*

Mateo's VOICE TRAILS OFF when he realizes both Daniel and their father, SANTIAGO, 60, are LAUGHING at him. Santiago is old-school Cuban. He respects hard work and honesty, and likes to deploy sarcasm whenever possible.

MATEO
What?

SANTIAGO
We have Pastelitos in the oven.
Another verse they might be flat.

Annoyed, Mateo waves off the criticism and crosses to help Daniel pull out a hot tray of finished Refugiados.

MATEO
Laugh now. But when I win that songwriting contest and become a rich and famous DJ, I want you to remember this moment and your lack of faith.

SANTIAGO
Who lacks faith...?

As Mateo walks back to this side of the kitchen, Santiago holds out a stack of PAST DUE BILLS he's been sorting at a small desk.

SANTIAGO (CONT'D)
....Pay these when you hit it big.

Mateo ignores his father, and takes some car keys hanging from a hook on the wall. Santiago frowns.

SANTIAGO
Daniel needs the car for the Connor Wedding.

MATEO
I'm doing that delivery.

This is news to Santiago.

DANIEL
Pop, I told you, I'm taking Vanessa out for our anniversary.

MATEO
Your *fourth* anniversary. Ask him where she's making him go. Voce Cale - the most expensive place in Miami. A dinner there costs like a weekend in the Bahamas.

SANTIAGO
Vanessa Princessa. She makes you take her to dinners like this, yet wonders why you live at home.

Daniel and Mateo pick up a tray of wrapped pastries (for the Wedding delivery). The two of them begin to head up front.

DANIEL
First of all, she's not making me take her.
(ignores Mateo's snort)
Second, I live here because Mom would have a heart attack if I moved out before I was married.

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - SELLING FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Daniel and Mateo are less than one inch through the doorway that leads into the main store when they hear--

MARI
You're getting married!?

MARIA GARCIA, 58, vivacious and attractive, stands behind the cash register - one hand holding A SMALL PORTABLE FAN with which she's cooling herself.

DANIEL
No one is getting married.

MATEO
But you know she's expecting a proposal soon right?

Daniel looks at Mateo. *Get out of here...*

SANTIAGO
(nods in agreement)
Vanessa Princessa.

Daniel and Mateo add the tray they're carrying to the stack already by the door. Then turn back towards their parents.

MATEO
Mom. That fan looks ridiculous.
Besides the AC is on full. Who needs a fridge - we could just leave the milk out.
(shakes his head)
It's only menopause.

Daniel and Santiago share a look as Mateo walks OFF-SCREEN... then comes back carrying more stuff. Only then does he feel his mother's DEATH STARE.

MARI
I birth you. I raise you. I cook for you. I clean for you. I support every one of your crazy dreams. Even this DJing now. And in return, when my body is betraying me, this is the thanks I get?!

All eyes on Mateo. He knows he messed up.

MATEO
(points at Daniel)
He's the one marrying a lunatic!

DANIEL
I'm not getting married!

Mateo and Santiago walk off INTO THE BACK to bring more of the order out. Before Daniel can join them he hears--

NATALIE (O.S.)
They're right, Daniel...

The last of the Garcias, 15 year-old NATALIE. Cute, super bright, and very 'teenager.' Natalie straightens up from where she had been using the pricing gun on canned goods.

NATALIE
 You can stick your head in the sand, but a woman like Vanessa, pretty soon she's going to give you an ultimatum.

Daniel CROSSES to her, a half-smile on his face. He and Natalie have always been KINDRED SPIRITS. And, for a few moments, the AISLE affords them the chance to TALK QUIETLY.

DANIEL
 Now I have to hear it from you too?

NATALIE
 I worry about you.

DANIEL
 You're my little sister, it's my job to worry about you.
 (speaking of that)
 Things any better at school?

NATALIE
 (beat, frowns)
 It's like I'm invisible. You should see the place. Everyone is so beautiful and perfect. And I'm--

DANIEL
 Amazing. And they'll figure that out.

NATALIE
 This century?

Off Daniel's supportive smile, we hear Santiago's booming voice as he and Mateo RETURN and Santiago notices for the first time that Natalie is out here in the main store.

SANTIAGO
 Natalie Garcia, what do you think you're doing with that pricing gun? Is your homework done?
 (she nods)
 Calculus too?

Natalie looks at Daniel - help me out here.

DANIEL
Dad, give her a break. She just
wanted to help Mom.

SANTIAGO
She wants to help her mother,
she'll get into Princeton.
(to Natalie)
We have already two idiotas to take
over the bakery. You -- you are
smart enough to be President.

Natalie raises her hands in surrender. Would rather do
anything than have this conversation again. She starts
towards the door into the kitchen and the back...

SANTIAGO
President!

Mateo frowns.

MATEO
How come she's always the genius
and we're the idiotas?

SANTIAGO
This I ask myself everyday.

Natalie STOPS when she sees A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN on the STORE'S
TELEVISION, which is mounted high in a far corner.

DANIEL
(address all of them)
Look. I know you all think Vanessa
is a bit much. But she's driven.
That's one of the things I love
about her. She's smart.
Ambitious. And yes, one day, she
might be my wife. But tonight,
honestly, it's just dinner.

Santiago, Mari, and Mateo exchange looks. *They hear him -
and will speak no more.* Their EYES then TO THE TV -- because
Natalie has turned the VOLUME UP.

MARIO LOPEZ (ON TV)
Now for the news breaking the
internet: Reports are Noa
Hollander, the supermodel turned
fashion mogul, and Colin Davis have
broken up.

MATEO
Colin who?

NATALIE

Davis.

(off Mateo's shrug)

The guy who's going to be the next James Bond!?

Natalie can't believe how clueless her family is.

MARIO LOPEZ (ON TV)

This coming only days after photos surfaced of Colin getting cozy with Taylor Swift backstage at one of her shows.

NATALIE

Asshole.

FOOTAGE plays of NOA walking with her manager, LEWIS.

VARIOUS PAPARAZZI (ON TV)

Noa?! Did he cheat on you? What's your side of it? Noa?!

LEWIS (ON TV)

Gentlemen, some class, please.

Mari, waving her fan over her face, is not very moved.

MARI

Cry me a river.

(off Natalie's look)

Her father's a billionaire. She's never worked hard a day in her life. Her heart is broken? They'll sew it up with diamonds.

MARIO LOPEZ (ON TV)

No comment from Noa on the break-up, but the latest commercial for her swimwear line dropped today - apparently set to different music than was originally planned. Something tells me the song change is no coincidence.

ON TV: They run Noa's new commercial. There she is in a bikini. Frolicking in the waves. One of the most divine women on Earth. The music is "FREEDOM" by George Michael.

For fifteen seconds, the Garcia family watches, mesmerized by her. At the end, Noa smiles directly into the camera. And even Daniel, the grounded one, can't help but smile back.

Then the screen goes to black. For a moment, no one moves.

SANTIAGO
 (totally sincere)
 That's exactly how your mom looked
 the day we met.

CUT TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD: "THE BAKER AND THE BEAUTY"

CUT TO:

INT. 'VOCE CALE' - NIGHT

One of those exclusive restaurants with perfect lighting,
 attentive but discreet servers, and a who's-who crowd.

The MAITRE'D leads Daniel and VANESSA, 28, towards their
 table. Dressed in a knock-off Dior dress, her hair and make-
 up done so as to compete with women who get theirs done for
 them, VANESSA is a force to be reckoned with.

Which is why she STOPS when she sees they are being led to a
 rather unfortunate table near the kitchen door.

VANESSA
 Can we have that table?

She points to a prime two-top.

MAITRE' D
 I'm afraid that is reserved for the
 Chef's special guests.

Vanessa smiles. That's the opening she needed.

VANESSA
 So then. We're not special?

INT. 'VOCE CALE' - THAT PRIME TABLE - NIGHT

A SERVER hands Daniel and Vanessa their freshly printed daily
 menus...

SERVER
 In addition to those selections, we
 have our 'inspirational tasting'
 where Chef Cale channels his
 energies into a unique dining
 experience for two.

Daniel sees it listed on the menu for *\$500 per person*.

VANESSA
 We'll do that...

DANIEL
 Give us a minute...

It hangs there a beat. Vanessa retreats.

VANESSA

Yes, perhaps a minute, thank you.

The Server leaves and Vanessa looks around. Beaming.

VANESSA

It's like a dream come true.

DANIEL

Happy Anniversary.

She smiles and takes his hand. Squeezing it.

VANESSA

You look so handsome. Even if you are wearing that horrible cologne your brother gave you.

DANIEL

He caught me getting dressed. It made him happy to see me use it.

VANESSA

You're always making people happy, Daniel. That's what's so special about you. You make your family happy. Your friends. Me.

A DIFFERENT SERVER offers them *still or sparkling water*.

DANIEL

Still.

VANESSA

Sparkling.

Each gets a glass of what they want.

VANESSA

So... did you look at the house I sent you?

(he nods)

And?

DANIEL

You're the expert.

VANESSA

I know it doesn't look like much. But I've sold four homes in that neighborhood this month. It's the next Little Haiti.

Daniel smiles. Hopes a sip of water might change the subject.

VANESSA

I know it's small and I know it's a wreck. But we could fix it up together. Think about it. A place of our own. For our future.

Daniel smiles some more. Maybe sip #2 will do the trick.

VANESSA

It's even got room for a nursery.

Daniel coughs, tries not to drown. She laughs at that.

VANESSA

Don't worry, I'm not pregnant.
(winks)
Yet.

Daniel is saved by--

SERVER

Have you decided?

DANIEL

Actually, could you direct me to the restroom?

The Server nods and leads Daniel away from the table. We LINGER on Vanessa as she looks around. Takes in the crowd...

...and makes discreet but clear EYE CONTACT with a MAN sitting in the waiting area. He has a GUITAR case.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Daniel enters a restroom with enough marble to rival Caesars Palace. He steps aside for an EXITING GUY, then realizes he is all alone in here. Daniel walks to the urinal. He is surprised to see the CHEF'S PICTURE mounted at eye-level.

DANIEL

You want your picture here, huh?

Daniel looks away... then back at the picture again.

DANIEL

Turn around, I can't go with you staring.

Since Chef isn't going anywhere, Daniel decides to confide in his new friend.

DANIEL

Mateo's right. You heard her out there. Thing is. I feel like -- if I don't propose soon, I'm screwed. At the same time, I feel like -- if I do propose soon, I'm screwed. I must sound crazy--

The sound of a TOILET FLUSHING cuts him off. *There's someone in here!?* Daniel zips up and hurries to the sink. Maybe he can wash up and escape before he has to face the guy...

...Only it's not a guy. For as Daniel looks down at his hands, scrubbing dutifully, we see NOA HOLLANDER approach in the mirror.

When Daniel finally does look up -- he freezes and thinks he's hallucinating. Then he realizes he's staring and looks straight down into the sink. Washing his hands, totally flummoxed by her presence. It doesn't help when she glides up and stands at the sink right next to him.

NOA

Not crazy.

It takes him a moment to realize she is talking to him. Noa Hollander. Talking to him.

DANIEL

Excuse me...?

NOA

You don't sound crazy. Just confused.

DANIEL

What? Oh... You mean when I was talking to my brother on the phone.

NOA

No. I mean when you were talking to the picture while you peed.

Busted. This is the moment where most people would fumble it in some form or another. But Daniel, who only a minute ago was tongue tied at his own table, is *oddly comfortable*.

DANIEL

You should see what I do in the shower. I hold a conference call with the UN. And compose a sonnet. At the same time.

NOA

Wow.

DANIEL

When I really want a challenge, I do it in Japanese.

NOA

Sore wa odorokubeki kotodesu!

Daniel looks at her. *She speaks Japanese?!*

DANIEL

Oh, come on...

Noa LAUGHS and it goes through Daniel like electricity. She looks at him. She likes his smile. It's not often any man stays this relaxed and natural while talking to her.

NOA

First time here?

(off his captive nod)

Try the soup. Everything else sucks.

Noa heads for the door. Reaching it, she decides to turn back and say:

NOA

Oh, and if you have to talk yourself into something - maybe stop talking.

She flashes him a wry smile and then she's gone. Leaving Daniel in the afterglow of the most improbable encounter of his life.

VANESSA (PRE-LAP)

How's the soup?

INT. VOCE CALE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ON DANIEL - still a little thrown by before. We follow his POV around the restaurant - as he wonders where Noa is.

VANESSA

Daniel? How's the soup?

Oh. His soup. The one Noa said to get.

DANIEL

It's good. How's your...?

He's not sure what the miniature thing in front of her is.

VANESSA

It's wonderful. Everything is wonderful.

(pause)

Do you remember our first date? You took me to that little Tapas place on 8th? We went dancing...

DANIEL

Yeah. How come we don't dance anymore...

VANESSA

Then we went to that Karaoke Bar. We both sang a song...

DANIEL

I was terrible. You were great.

VANESSA

I was waiting all night for you to kiss me. Finally, I couldn't wait anymore so I just grabbed you.

DANIEL

Even back then when you wanted something you went right after it.

VANESSA

You like that about me, right?

DANIEL

Sure. Why?

VANESSA

This is why.

Vanessa STANDS UP and starts TAPPING ON HER GLASS.

VANESSA

Everyone if I may have your attention...

DANIEL

Vanessa, what are you doing?!

One by one, all the people in the restaurant turn towards Vanessa including:

NOA - who sits at A TABLE IN THE CORNER with her girlfriends ZARA and JENNA (both former models). And her manager Lewis.

JENNA

What is that?

VANESSA

Stops tapping now as all eyes are on her.

VANESSA

Tonight marks four years, four days, and one hour since Daniel and I fell in love at first sight.

If she expects Daniel to wave to the room, he disappoints her.

VANESSA

He's shy. It's just one of the things I love about him. Anyway, he always teases me about being larger than life. So, when he told me we were coming here. To this amazing restaurant. I thought - what better place than this...

Daniel jumps - as suddenly from over his shoulder comes SPANISH CLASSICAL GUITAR. We recognize the GUITARIST as the man Vanessa made eye contact with earlier. The song he plays is Taylor Swift's *LOVE STORY*. Vanessa sings.

VANESSA

We were both young - when I first saw you. I close my eyes - and the flashback starts. I'm standing there...

AT NOA'S TABLE

Zara's hand is over her mouth in shock. Jenna's phone is now RECORDING the scene. Lewis is shaking his head. Noa just watches, curious, as Vanessa builds to a big, big finish.

VANESSA

And I said - Daniel take me somewhere we can be alone. I'll be waiting - all that's left to do is run. You'll be the Prince and I'll be the Princess. It's our love story, baby just say yes.

She holds the last note until she and the guitarist stop (almost in sync). The entire restaurant is SILENT. Then a lone person claps off-screen. Vanessa nods to them.

VANESSA

Daniel, light of my life, will you marry me?

Vanessa slides a ring box in front of Daniel. Then extends her left hand. She has literally done everything for him.

AT NOA'S TABLE

Jenna is still filming the scene.

DANIEL

Very uncomfortable. Aware that all eyes are now on him.

DANIEL

Vanessa...

VANESSA

Daniel...

Both speak through their smiles.

DANIEL

Sit down, okay?

VANESSA

Once you say yes and put the ring on my finger.

DANIEL

I don't want to answer you here like this...

VANESSA

Then just give me a temporary yes and we'll talk about it later.

She nods. This is right. This makes sense. He should say yes, of course. But out of his mouth comes--

DANIEL

No.

Whispers ripple across the room.

AT NOA'S TABLE

Jenna celebrates. *Yes!*

LEWIS

That's a million views on YouTube.

VANESSA

Looks at Daniel in disbelief. That can't be a real *no*.

But after the milliseconds of denial wear off, and Vanessa realizes he means it, her body is hit by a LURCH. It's as if someone literally pulled the ground out from under her.

Daniel sees the heartbreak in Vanessa's eyes--

DANIEL

--Vanessa.

But she waves him off. Doesn't want to hear anything. She nods to herself, *stay strong*, and collects the ring to leave.

DANIEL

Hang on, I'll get the check.

Excuse me? Tears rebel against Vanessa's orders and begin to fall.

VANESSA

Get the check? Because you think we're leaving together? Four years. We've been dating four years. What have we been doing all this time if you were going to say no--

DANIEL

I didn't know I would--

VANESSA

I'm a woman, Daniel. A 28 year-old woman. This is what we do. We diet and get married then have kids and diet again!

(gestures around)

Look at what I did for you tonight. Look how much I love you. Is a yes too much?!

When he doesn't answer her, Vanessa just shakes her head and walks off...

Then turns around...

comes back...

and DUMPS DANIEL'S SOUP on his shirt.

VANESSA

How dare you say no to me!

(to the room, yet again)

Everyone, my name is Vanessa Carmen Taylor. I can cook. I have my own business. And as of this moment

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)
I'm officially single. Google me
if you're interested.

Vanessa storms out to a smattering of applause.

AT NOA'S TABLE

Lewis nods approvingly.

LEWIS
That girl should work for me.

Noa watches Daniel.

EXT. MIAMI BEACH - LATER - NIGHT

Daniel walks along a particularly glamorous stretch of road.
A Porsche speeds by, followed by a Bentley, and a Rolls.

DANIEL (PHONE)
I keep calling but she's not
answering...

INTERCUT - INT. UNKNOWN SPACE - NIGHT

Mateo is setting up his DJ'ING GEAR for a gig.

MATEO (PHONE)
Of course she's not. You dropped a
nuclear bomb on her head.

DANIEL (PHONE)
What should I have done - lied?

MATEO (PHONE)
Yes. Maybe in public at least.
Don't get me wrong, I'm proud of
you. I don't think I'd have had
the balls to say no like that.

DANIEL (PHONE)
Not helping. You're not helping.
Just how soon can you get here?

MATEO (PHONE)
Um. Daniel. This is a big gig and
it's about to start.

DANIEL stops. More fancy cars speed by. He has to laugh.

DANIEL (PHONE)
Perfect. I'm broke. I'm soaked.
I'm probably single. And now I'm
going to have to walk home.

MATEO (PHONE)
At least it's a nice night?

MATEO hears the *click* as Daniel hangs up. He feels bad for his brother for about .5 of a second and then...

MATEO (INTO A MIC)
WHAT'S UP?! I'M DJ CUBANO. LET'S
GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

Mateo/'DJ Cubano' starts his first cut and begins grooving along to the music. His chin strutting back and forth like an unfortunate flamingo...

...WIDEN TO REVEAL - HIS GIG IS ACTUALLY A HIGH SCHOOL DANCE.

And on the far side of the bleachers we find Natalie, sitting alone. Mortified.

NATALIE
(beat)
Kill me now.

EXT. MIAMI BEACH - NIGHT

It might be a nice night but Daniel doesn't want to spend three hours walking home, so he pulls up UBER...

A ride will cost -- \$54.40. *Ouch.*

He tries LYFT -- \$49.20. *That's no help.*

With all the traffic around him, Daniel DOESN'T NOTICE when a blacked-out CADILLAC ESCALADE pulls up alongside him...

Or when its windows roll down, leeching hypnotic and seductive dance music into the night air...

But he feels it -- someone's eyes on him. He turns and looks at the car. Noa Hollander smiles at him from the back seat.

NOA
Need a ride?

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. MIAMI BEACH - NIGHT**

Daniel stares at Noa. From the music playing in her car, and the way her girlfriends are horsing around, it's clear they're planning for a night on the town. Lewis, in the passenger seat, is actually on the phone despite the music.

NOA

Come on. It's the least I can do.
After all, it's kind of my fault.
(pregnant pause)
I did tell you to order the soup.

DANIEL

No, the soup was good.
(holds his shirt)
I'm even taking some home.

NOA

So let me take you home.

Jenna and Zara let out HOOTS of approval. Noa shushes them.

NOA

I mean to his home.
(can't resist adding)
I think.

More hoots as Daniel tries to process what's happening.

LEWIS

(covers the phone)
Hollander, are you serious, I can
smell that soup from here.

NOA

(ignoring Lewis, to Daniel)
In about ten seconds TMZ is going
to be all over me, so what do you
say? In or out?

Daniel blinks. And even though part of him wants to say yes, there is a deeper part that resists entering her world.

DANIEL

I'll walk. Thanks.

Noa blinks. Not used to anything but the word yes.

NOA

Suit yourself.

Jenna hits the gas and the Escalade drives off. But after a beat, it pulls over and stops. Noa steps out.

NOA

Would you please get in the car?

EXT. MIAMI /INT. NOA'S ESCALADE - NIGHT

Surreal. That's how this all seems. Daniel is in the back seat in between Noa and Zara. Jenna drives, rocking out to the music. Lewis somehow still manages to talk on the phone.

LEWIS (PHONE)

Gideon, with all Noa has going on
I'd thought you might act like a
human being--

--Lewis is cut off. Then hung up on. He turns back to Noa.

LEWIS

Your father still expects you to go
to New York in the morning--

Noa WAVES Lewis off and looks at him.

NOA

I don't want to talk about him.
(beat)
After all, we have a guest.
Daniel, meet the gang. Jenna, my
best friend, is driving. This is
Zara, my other best friend. And
the rude man with the sensitive
nose is my manager Lewis.

Lewis flips her off. She blows him a kiss.

ZARA

Thirsty?

Zara, who is bubbly and optimistic, offers Daniel chilled champagne from the custom-built ice bucket on her side of the car. He shakes his head, no. Jenna, who is closer to an Alpha female in her own right, calls back to him.

JENNA

Did you have any idea she was going
to propose?

ZARA

Obviously not, didn't you see the
look on his face.

JENNA
 (continues, to Daniel)
 Why'd you say no?

NOA
 Jenna!

JENNA
 He's in the car. All's fair game
 once you're in the car.

DANIEL
 Honestly. I don't know why I said
 no. I...

He looks at Noa.

NOA
 So. Where are we going?
 (beat)
 Where do you live?

DANIEL
 Little Havana.

JENNA
 Told you he was Cuban.

ZARA
 Si, and muy caliente!

NOA
 Do you have to go home?

DANIEL
 I have work.

NOA
 Now?

DANIEL
 In the morning.

NOA
 Morning is far, far away.
 (calls out)
 Ladies. Daniel has had a hard
 night. One I can relate to. So,
 I say we cheer him up.
 (to Daniel)
 What do you feel like doing? Name
 it. Anything. Sky's the limit.
 You want to go somewhere?

JENNA

How about the Bahamas? We could hop on the plane. Watch the sunrise from Lyford Cay.

Zara nods enthusiastically. Daniel blinks. What world is this?

NOA

Don't worry, Cinderella, we'll have you home before you turn into a pumpkin. But until then, what would you like to do - more than anything in the world?

DANIEL

(after a long beat)
Change my shirt.

That gets some good laughs.

JENNA

Noa, you want me to call Donatella, see if she'll open?

NOA

We already have a walking fashionista. Lewis, give him your shirt.

Lewis tells whoever he is talking to on the phone that he'll call them back and hangs up.

LEWIS

I beg your pardon.

NOA

You're wearing layers.

LEWIS

Because you ladies have been known to spill things.

NOA

This time it wasn't us.

LEWIS

This is Gucci.

(beat)

If you ever - ever - doubt that I love you, Hollander - I'm going to remind you of this moment.

Lewis removes his light sweater outer layer and hands it back to Daniel. Daniel goes to remove his shirt...

...but pauses expecting them to turn around. Instead, they are all just STARING. Unabashed.

Daniel removes his shirt... revealing the kind of sculpted torso we'd all like to have at a moment like this... And getting some more cheers from the ladies.

ZARA

I approve of this message.

He pulls on the light sweater with a sheepish smile. Sees Lewis staring at him in the mirror. Gives Lewis a nod.

JENNA

(faux British Accent)

Noa? Shall we enlist Daniel in our most diabolical plot?

ZARA

(faux British Accent)

Why, that's an excellent idea!

Noa thinks about what they're saying. Then nods.

NOA

Daniel, you've received a shirt. That was your first wish. I'm sure you'll want time to consider wishes two and three...

ZARA

I feel like we're mixing fairy tales here...

JENNA

Not mixing, living.

NOA

...so before I ask you for your second wish, I want your help.

DANIEL

I'm almost afraid to ask with what.

LEWIS

Hah. He catches on fast.

NOA

(there's that smile)

With my mustache.

EXT. ROOFTOP - SIX STORIES ABOVE MIAMI BEACH - NIGHT

In QUICK CUTS we see... Noa and the girls trading cheek kisses with TWO STREET ARTISTS... CLIMBING HARNESSSES going on... CARABINERS being checked...

We're on NOA as her phone VIBRATES. It's a TEXT MESSAGE from COLIN, the infamous boyfriend.

"Please call me back. This is crazy. I love you."

Noa looks at the message. She doesn't want it to get to her. But it does. She exhales, then hits delete and then jumps off the ledge.

WIDE SHOT - EXT. HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

We see three tiny figures dropping down on the side of a building on which there is a 50-FOOT TALL IMAGE OF NOA.

EXT. ROOFTOP - SIX STORIES ABOVE MIAMI BEACH - NIGHT

NOW ON DANIEL, in harness, as he looks over the side. *Whoa.*

STREET ARTIST #1
Point of no return, brother.

Daniel can see NOA looking up at him. GESTURING for him to come and join her. And so he STEPS off the edge.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - VANESSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Angry, anti-love ANTHEMS play on Vanessa's Spotify, filling her small living room with the strains of Ariana Grande - *thank u, next*. Vanessa, wine glass in hand, sings along passionately. Her best-friend, CHLOË WEAVER, the Robin to Vanessa's Batman, gives it even more gusto and less pitch.

When the song ends, Vanessa hits pause. Exhales.

CHLOË
V, can I get you anything?

VANESSA
You mean like a gun? Or maybe one of those little kitchen knives that chefs use to dice carrots up into tiny slices?

Vanessa lets out a scream, throws her wine glass against a wall, where it doesn't break because it's plastic...

...but then, when she sees herself in the mirror, a wave of calm washes over her. What happens next is -- inspiring.

VANESSA

Okay. Maybe I'm over-reacting. I mean, in fairness, my proposal was more my kind of thing than his. I spooked him. Plus, he's Cuban. So they have that whole macho thing, right?

Chloë nods, always going wherever Vanessa leads.

CHLOË

Yes. Yes, they do.

VANESSA

Maybe I over-stepped in depriving him of the chance to ask me. I mean, I know he loves me. And he liked the idea of the house. He even said he wanted to go dancing more.

CHLOË

And everybody knows 'dancing' is just a metaphor for sex.

VANESSA

After four years, to still have that passion, that's special, right? God, I'm so dramatic, aren't I?

CHLOË

The greats always are.

Smiling now, Vanessa checks her phone.

VANESSA

Ten missed calls already. The next one I'll answer. Poor Daniel, he's probably curled up somewhere scared he's lost me forever.

EXT. SIDE OF THE HOTEL/50-FOOT NOA - NIGHT

Daniel lets out an involuntary laugh as he slides down next to Jenna. Just below them, Zara and Noa are spray painting.

JENNA

Hey, sailor. New in town?

DANIEL

Can I ask you something? Is this a typical night?

JENNA

No such thing. But this is pretty far out - even for us. It's just, Noa's had a bad week...

(Daniel nods, enough said)

Those guys up there are Clancy and Wayne, the street artists. Anyway, this hotel belongs to Noa's dad. But Noa has image approval over any likeness and she didn't approve this one....

NOA

...So we're turning it into one I do approve of.

Noa waves Daniel down. He slides to join her.

NOA

So. Glad you got in the car?

DANIEL

Ask me when I'm back on the Earth.

She goads him into starting to spray paint. She's doing a handlebar mustache with a lot of zeal.

DANIEL

Should I worry that you feel the need to deface yourself so publicly?

NOA

Should I worry that when I told you we could do anything you wanted the best you could come up with was to change your shirt?

DANIEL

(beat, smiles)

Yeah. But it's a nice shirt.

He looks at her. Her SMILE, especially with the background of the city lights. It's magical.

DANIEL

Where am I?

NOA
 (a wry smile)
 About 50 feet above South Beach at
 the hotel Victor.

DANIEL
 Hotel Victor.
 (laughs)
 There's a wedding down there. My
 family made the pastries for it.

He starts to paint in earnest. She now focuses on him.

NOA
 You're a baker?

DANIEL
 My father. But we all do it. We
 have a place in Little Havana.
 "Santiago's".

NOA
 Who's we?

DANIEL
 Me. My brother, my sister, and my
 mom.

NOA
 You're all close?

DANIEL
 Sometimes maybe too close. How
 about you?

Noa looks at him. Rather than answer she suddenly notices
 what Daniel has been doing with his spray paint.

NOA
 Hang on. Girls, check this out.

JENNA
 Whoa. Daniel, that's really good.

Where Noa's crude Handlebar mustache ended, Daniel has (very
 artistically) transformed the swirling hair into a BUTTERFLY
 that's about to fly away.

DANIEL
 I used to paint. For fun.

Noa studies him. He is...

NOA
Full of surprises.

Daniel shrugs - not used to anyone saying that about him.

ZARA
Do more bugs. But make them nasty.
Like spiders!

Daniel looks at Noa. It's almost like he doesn't want to mar her image any more. She smiles, and leans into his ear. Her mouth this close sends a shiver down his back.

NOA (WHISPERS)
Don't worry. It's not the real me.

CUT TO:

EXT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - NIGHT

The neon *OPEN* sign in the window flickers out.

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - CONTINUOUS

Santiago is at the front door. He calls off-screen.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)
I'll be back in a few minutes.

Mari's head immediately pops out from the back.

MARI (IN SPANISH)
Everything okay?

He puts on a smile. Holds up a toolbox.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)
Carlo wants his tools back.

EXT. BAR/RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Santiago walks up carrying the toolbox.

INT. BAR/RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Santiago is sitting in a booth across from DONNA FEINBERG, an attorney in her 30s. She is showing him documents.

DONNA
Santiago, what you have to understand is deportation is a real possibility.

Santiago blinks. Tries to process the unthinkable.

SANTIAGO

You're talking about a fight in a bar ten years ago. Besides, we're all Legal Permanent Residents.

DONNA

The Statutes are clear, even Legal Permanent Residents are subject to deportation if convicted of a felony--

SANTIAGO

My son was defending himself. He was 16. Why is this coming up now!?

DONNA

There's a huge backlog of these 11-01-43 cases. I've seen ones more than 20 years old. The point is - the notice you brought to me tells us his case is now under review.

SANTIAGO

Which means what exactly?

DONNA

It means I need to do some digging. In the meantime, tell your son not to panic.

Santiago looks at her - admits.

SANTIAGO

He doesn't know. I don't want to worry anyone. Besides myself.

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S CUBAN BAKERY' - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Santiago comes into the kitchen and places the TOOLBOX under his desk. He sits in his chair, exhales. He's worried. He tries to turn his attention to the BILLS HE HAS TO PAY.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)

Honey, I'm home.

(hears nothing)

Honey? Mari?--

Suddenly, Santiago hears MUSIC coming from off-screen. Romantic music for love. Maybe Cuban, maybe Ravel's Bolero, you get the point. And Santiago has to smile as...

...Mari wraps one leg around the doorway and enters, in a tasteful yet dramatic negligé.

MARI (IN SPANISH)
*Darling. Time for a little break.
 The bills can wait. Besides, how
 often do we have the place all to
 ourselves?*

She takes him by the hand and leads him out of the kitchen...

INT. STEDICAM WALK - BAKERY TO APARTMENT - NIGHT

As Mari leads him through the doorway, into the back half of the small building, which we now see is where they all live.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)
What happened to your fan?

MARI (IN SPANISH)
*I don't need it. I want to be on
 fire.*

She leads him past the kitchen. And down the hall.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)
I don't deserve you.

MARI (IN SPANISH)
But I'm yours.

INT. SANTIAGO AND MARI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Santiago and Mari fall onto the bed. A brief laugh gives way to passion. And just as things are getting good the phone rings. A *landline* phone. The mother hen in Mari perks up.

MARI.
 House phone. It must be one of the
 kids.
 (answers)
 Hello. Is everything alright?

INTERCUT - INT. VANESSA'S PLACE

Vanessa looks at herself in the mirror. She's done a remarkable job of restoring her face to normal. In the background, Chloë cleans up the mess Vanessa made.

VANESSA (PHONE)
 Mari. It's Vanessa. Sorry to
 disturb you, but I was hoping to
 talk to Daniel.

MARI (PHONE)
 Isn't he with you?

VANESSA (PHONE)

No... So... You haven't heard from him about anything then?

MARI

Why? Is something wrong?

VANESSA (PHONE)

No. I wasn't feeling well, so he took me home. I wanted to let him know my fever broke but his phone is off. Anyway, gotta go. Bye.

Vanessa hangs up. Mari looks at Santiago. He can tell in an instant that the romance is on hold.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)

I'll turn off the music.

MARI (IN SPANISH)

Sorry, my love. But something is up. Besides I feel a hot flash coming on.

As Santiago gets up, he hands Mari her fan. Mari dials Daniel. Gets voicemail. She tries again. Same result.

INTERCUT - INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

Mateo is working his turntables when his iPhone rings.

MATEO (PHONE)

Mom?

MARI (PHONE)

Have you talked to your brother? Vanessa called - acting strange.

MATEO (PHONE)

Oh. No. He's fine. She proposed and he told her no.

MARI (PHONE)

SHE proposed?! And he said NO?! And you didn't think to CALL ME?! Mateo, we're a FAMILY!!--

MATEO (PHONE)

Relax, Mom. He's probably out celebrating. Look. I'll find him and tell him to call you, okay?

MEANWHILE - ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GYM

Natalie is still alone in the bleachers. Occasionally, she looks up at the dance floor - where everyone is dressed in designer clothing - and comfortable in their own skin.

Then she looks at her phone, where she is going over YELP reviews of LESBIAN BARS. Nervously, she selects one when--

A GIRL'S VOICE.
You're Natalie, right?

Moving faster than the speed of light, Natalie hides her phone and looks up at a STUNNING GIRL. Wow.

NATALIE
Um. Ye-yeah. Why?

The girl motions to Mateo, standing at the DJ table.

STUNNING GIRL
Is that dork really your brother?

NATALIE
(scoffs)
No.

The Stunning Girl nods. Then turns and stands by Natalie, completely unaware of the impact she is having.

INTERCUT -- EXT. SIDE OF THE HOTEL/50-FOOT NOA - NIGHT

We can hear Lewis yelling down from above.

LEWIS
Hollander, enough latent hostility
for one night. A crowd is gathering.

The ladies look down. We see the glow of cell phones. Flashes going off. Zara, Jenna, and Noa decide it's time to ascend. Daniel checks his phone. Realizes he'd turned it off. As soon as he turns it on - it rings.

MATEO (PHONE)
Where are you? Mom's worried
you're going to kill yourself.

DANIEL (PHONE)
You're not going to believe this.
I'm with Noa Hollander. She was at
the restaurant. It's a long story,
but now we're at the Hotel Victor
painting over a giant picture of her--

MATEO (PHONE)
 I get it, you're mad I didn't pick
 you up. Fine, I'm sorry, I'll tell
 Mom that you're okay.

Mateo hangs up. Lewis yells for Daniel to hurry.

DANIEL
 I'm coming, Gucci. I'm coming.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

We watch Mateo. It takes him a few moments - but the pieces
 begin to click into place. Noa Hollander... Hotel Victor.

He calls Daniel back - it goes straight to voicemail. Hmmm.
 Mateo takes his iPhone, puts it on shuffle, and plugs it into
 the sound system, letting it temporarily become 'DJ'...

MEANWHILE - ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GYM

Natalie and the Striking Girl are mid-conversation, chuckling
 at something. The Striking Girl is so confident.

STRIKING GIRL
 I'm Stephanie.

NATALIE
 I'm Natalie... well, you know that.

Stephanie smiles at Natalie. Is she flirting? Is she just
 being friendly? Natalie is completely out of her depth.

STEPHANIE
 You're new here, right?
 (off her nod)
 Do you like it so far?

NATALIE
 Honestly? No.
 (off Stephanie's laugh)
 I don't really know anyone--

MATEO (ARRIVING)
 --I need your help.

There's a long terrible moment where Natalie tries to just
 pretend this isn't happening. She looks at Mateo - then at
 Stephanie - then at the ground.

MATEO
 If you ignore me, I'll just stand
 here all night.

Natalie finally looks up. Stephanie is gone.

MATEO

You know all about Noa Hollander,
right? Hello, Earth to Natalie?

Natalie is cruelly aware that with every second that passes
more eyes are on her from around the room.

MATEO

Do you know if she's in town?

Natalie is so upset that she's actually unable to speak so
Mateo grabs her phone from her hands.

NATALIE

Hey!

He SEES the Yelp Reviews for Lesbian Bars -- but switches to
Instagram without paying attention. Poor Natalie, nearly
having a heart-attack.

Mateo finds Noa's Instagram. She's *more* than in town --
she's just posted a photo of herself VANDALIZING THE MURAL.

MATEO

Holy mother of mothers...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. STREET - AT THE BASE OF THE 50FT NOA - NIGHT**

Mateo hustles amongst the CROWD along the base of the wall where the 50-foot Noa now has a handlebar mustache and a butterfly. There's a quality to the butterfly that reminds Mateo of his brother's work. His eyes *narrow suspiciously*.

A MAN'S VOICE

I'm telling you it was her. I have photos!

Photos?! Mateo spins and locks onto the GUY. He barges over and watches the Guy scroll through the images. The PHOTOS are dark. But ONE OF THEM LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE DANIEL.

MATEO

Let me see that! It's an emergency!

The Guy, taken aback, lets Mateo have the phone. Mateo tries to zoom the photo in. But he can't be sure...

So he uses the Guy's phone to call DANIEL. *Hey, that's my phone...* Mateo gets Voice Mail.

MATEO (PHONE)

(starts off super friendly)
Daniel. Hi. I'm not sure where you are now, but I wanted to remind you of the universal code that binds all brothers. The number one item of that code is -- if you are with supermodels you let me know. Number two is if I need a kidney, you give me one, but number one clearly states that if you're with the hottest woman on the planet--!

--Mateo is practically yelling when the Guy finally grabs his phone back, now convinced Mateo is insane.

MATEO

(beat, calm smile)
Did you happen to see where they went?

EXT. JOE'S STONE CRAB - MIAMI BEACH - NIGHT

The place is dark. Parking lot empty except for Noa's Escalade. We're ON DANIEL as he looks at Noa, **AWESTRUCK**.

NOA
 What? You said you were hungry.

Pull back to reveal JOE himself opening his place up.

NOA
 Joe, you're a life-saver. We had
 the most awful dinner earlier...
 (favoring Daniel)
 Some of us didn't even eat at all.

As her friends file in, Noa kisses Joe on the cheek and her PHONE vibrates again. ANOTHER TEXT MESSAGE from COLIN:

"N. Talk to me. Hear my side. It's not what you think!"

INT. JOE'S STONE CRAB - CONTINUOUS

Jenna and Zara lead Daniel towards a booth. Lewis takes the opportunity for a quiet word with Noa.

LEWIS
 Colin, again?

NOA
 I don't want to talk about it.

LEWIS
 (re: Daniel)
 What are we doing?

NOA
 Having fun.

LEWIS
 And when he sells his story to the Enquirer?

NOA
 You're so paranoid.

LEWIS
 People love you right now. They think Colin is horrible, and you are grieving. If they see you out on a drunken escapade with some nobody, they'll turn on you--

NOA
 You'd rather I cry myself to sleep?

There's a lot of emotion under the surface here.

LEWIS

Fine. When the time comes, let me know and I'll take care of it.

Before Noa can say anything Lewis's PHONE RINGS.

LEWIS (PHONE)

Roger. How would you like an exclusive? She'll tell her side of the break-up. And you get to say how great she is in her film debut.

INT. BOOTH - JOE'S STONE CRAB - LATER

Noa, Daniel, Zara, and Jenna have finished a mouth-watering meal. Jenna SNAPS a quick photo of Daniel and Noa using Noa's phone. Lewis continues to talk off-screen.

ZARA

Good call on the food, Daniel.

JENNA

Agreed. Does that count as his second wish?

Noa looks at him. *Does it?* He shrugs...

ZARA

I still think his second wish should be we fly to the Bahamas.

Noa looks at him again. *Want to?* He doesn't know what to say...

JENNA

That's a maybe!

There's something about Daniel's modesty and decency. The fact he doesn't just grab at the offers. It fascinates Noa.

JOE (ARRIVING)

Leave any room for dessert?

NOA

Actually, Joe. Daniel here is a baker. Could he make something in your kitchen?

DANIEL

Noa, please. You don't ask a chef--

JOE

By all means. Any friend of Noa's is a friend of mine.

Noa practically drags Daniel out of the booth. Zara starts to follow but Jenna STOPS her. Let Noa have her fun.

INT. JOE'S STONE CRAB - KITCHEN - (COOKING SEQUENCE)

Daniel heats the oven to 400 degrees. Then carefully lays parchment paper on a baking sheet. Noa watches him. And will join in. The first part of this sequence plays with time - becoming a little messy. And a little sexy.

NOA

Have you always lived in Miami?

DANIEL

We came over when I was seven.

She watches him whisk some egg whites in a small bowl. He shows her how to spread cream cheese over the pastry layer.

NOA

From Cuba?

DANIEL

Believe it or not, my dad was a chef at one of the fanciest places in Havana. He didn't have his picture on the wall but...

Off Noa's smile...

DANIEL

Anyway, in '93 his name was drawn in the immigration lottery, so he moved us all here.

He guides her hand as she cuts fresh guava into slices. Juice dripping through her fingers. He smiles as he loads the pastries in the oven and shuts the door...

NOA

Did he know anyone? Did you have family?

DANIEL

Started from scratch. But, you know, better schools, more opportunities for us.

The pastries are done. Noa studies Daniel as he pulls them out and lets them cool. *(The cooking part of the sequence now over, we play the rest of the scene in real time)*

DANIEL

My little sister Natalie, she's a genius. If we had stayed in Cuba, no way she'd have the chances she has now.

NOA

Amazing when you really think about it. Sacrificing for your kids like that.

DANIEL

I try to remember it whenever he and mom are driving me crazy.

Daniel smiles. *He can see his story is resonating with her.* He waits for her to say something as he begins CUTTING the pastries from the sheet. She cuts some too.

NOA

My father is... not like yours. He's charming. Can fool anyone. Except Lewis. He even fools me every few years. You think I'd learn eventually.

She focuses her attention on making her slices...

NOA

He only married my mother because she got pregnant with me. And he divorced her the minute she got sick.

(beat)

I play nice in the press because if I don't he'll go to war with me. Like a few years ago. He was mad I wouldn't do an appearance, so he went on TV and said he was worried I was strung out on drugs. The concerned father.

Job done, she looks at him. Defenses back up.

DANIEL

I'm sorry.

NOA

Not your fault.

She looks at him.

NOA

Now what?

DANIEL
The moment of truth.

He motions. She takes a bite. Her face blooms.

NOA
Oh my God, these are incredible. I
can't believe you made these...

DANIEL
Technically, we did.

Noa, still savoring hers, HOLDS ONE OUT for Daniel to eat
from her hand. And it's at this moment that LEWIS comes in.

LEWIS
(beat, stares, then)
Seems word of our little feast has
gotten out. Either we leave now,
or Joe gets a hundred customers he
doesn't want.

EXT. MIAMI /INT. NOA'S ESCALADE - NIGHT

Safely away, Noa turns her gaze on Daniel.

NOA
Okay, Daniel. Where to?

JENNA
(whispering)
Ba-ha-mas. Ba-ha-mas.

Daniel instinctively checks his watch. Noa acts faux hurt.

NOA
I just poured my heart out to you,
you can't leave now.

Daniel has no idea what to say.

NOA
Fine. You're fired. Jenna, let's
go to the Marina.

ZARA
Woo-hoo! Party time!

Noa looks at Daniel.

NOA
You really are useless at this
whole wishing thing.

DANIEL
 (indicates around him)
 You sure about that?

Off his wry smile...

INT. SANTIAGO AND MARI'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Santiago pours two *café cubanos* for himself and his wife, making sure to get the layer of sweet *crema* just right.

MARI
 24 hours a day they're glued to their phones, and now in a real emergency, nothing.

SANTIAGO
 He's fine. They're all fine.

They sip.

MARI
 I can't believe she proposed.
 (off his look)
 I mean, I can believe she proposed,
 I just can't believe he said no.

She gets up, needs to pace.

SANTIAGO
 How do we feel about that?

MARI
 Relieved! She had her qualities,
 but for sure he could do better.

Santiago knows the thing to do right now is not talk.

MARI
 Not that she didn't love him. Or wouldn't have made a good wife to him. Because she would have, I'll give the little maniac that much.

Mari's mood continues its epic journey - as she goes from thinking *her son could do better* - to realizing that actually *there was a lot to like about Vanessa*.

MARI
 She knew what she had. She would have taken good care of him. And their children would have had good genes.

Her voice trails off. Now she is quiet. Santiago nods.

SANTIAGO

Vanessa was easy to tease. But,
I'm not so sure she'll be easy to
replace.

The sound of the DOOR brings excitement and relief. Mari looks up and...

...Natalie walks in, looking very not-happy.

MARI

Oh, it's you.

NATALIE

Don't let your excitement overwhelm
you.

MARI

Honey, it's nothing to do with you,
it's just this night is crazy.

NATALIE

Yeah. I guessed that after Mateo
went running out of the dance,
leaving me to clean up his mess.
'Cause it wasn't bad enough
everyone at that school thinks I'm
a freak, or a charity case. Now
I'm also the sister of 'DJ Cubano'.

Slam. That's the sound Natalie's door makes as she closes it behind herself. Mari looks at her husband.

MARI

You know how they name hurricanes?
They should all be for teenagers.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Natalie is thumbing through her phone when she hears a *knock*.

NATALIE

Go away.

Mari enters.

MARI

Sorry, you didn't get the mom who
goes away. You got the mom who
smothers.

Mari sits on the end of the bed. Natalie ignores her.

MARI

Sweetheart, I'm not going to pretend I understand everything you're going through. New school, honors classes...

On Natalie - hoping that this conversation doesn't go...

MARI

But there is one thing I do know. And that's what it's like to be fifteen and dealing with teenage boys.

...where it does. It's bad enough when your Catholic mom wants to 'talk' - ten times worse when you haven't told her your sexual orientation. *Somebody kill me now.*

MARI

I know the Church is against birth control, but that doesn't mean a young woman shouldn't be prepared--

MATEO (O.S.)

--NATALIE? ARE YOU HERE?! WHERE'S MY PHONE?!

NATALIE

(sotto)

Thank God.

Mateo bursts into the room and Natalie hands him his phone.

NATALIE

You're welcome.

But she doesn't take too kindly to it when Mateo joins her mother on the end of her bed to check his voicemail.

NATALIE

Can I have some privacy please?

SANTIAGO

(entering)

What's going on?

Natalie raises her hands in submission.

MATEO

Quiet, I'm checking my messages.

MARI

Did you hear from Daniel?

MATEO
Once briefly...

He listens to his phone, but has no new messages.

MARI
Where is he now?

NATALIE
Because everyone else is in my
space. Why not him?

MATEO
Okay... Hang on...

Mateo stands up and makes some room for himself.

MATEO
I need to think about how to
present this information to you.

SANTIAGO
Words. Use words.

WE INTERCUT -- EXT. MARINA - NIGHT

DANIEL steps out of the Escalade. They've parked near a 165 foot MEGA YACHT. There's some kind of EVENT/PARTY GOING ON. A crowd. A velvet rope. Flash bulbs firing...

BACK TO - INT. NATALIE'S ROOM

Mateo paces the small room as if it were a stage.

MATEO
As you know, Vanessa proposed
tonight... And... As you know, he
said no...

MARI
Mateo, I swear to God you better
get to something new or I am going
to starch your underwear until
you're 105 years-old.

INTERCUT -- EXT. MARINA - NIGHT

Lewis leads Noa and her friends through a FRENZIED CROWD of fans and paparazzi. They pass through SECURITY. But DANIEL FALLS BEHIND... HE LOSES NOA IN THE CROWD...

BACK TO - INT. NATALIE'S ROOM

MATEO

I have reason to believe... Based
on compelling circumstantial
evidence...

INTERCUT - EXT. MARINA - CONTINUED

DANIEL suddenly finds himself ALONE in the crowd. NOA is
GONE. And for a moment he isn't sure what to do.

SNAG. Noa has come back for him. Claspng her hand on his,
she leads him onward with a smile.

BACK TO - INT. NATALIE'S ROOM

MATEO

...That Daniel is out with Noa
Hollander.

It hangs there a moment. Santiago closes his eyes, annoyed.
Mari launches into a rant in Spanish, furious at Mateo's
games. Natalie, curious, decides to work her phone.

MATEO

I know it sounds crazy, but I'm
telling you his story checks out!

A *GASP* quiets him. Natalie stares at her phone and then
turns to show it to her family.

NATALIE

He's right... Mateo is right.

There, on Noa Hollander's Instagram feed, is that PHOTO of
NOA AND DANIEL taken at Joe's Stone Crab.

Stunned silence grips the Garcias. Looks are exchanged.
Then, just as they're about to let out a roar of disbelief
and excitement, they hear--

VANESSA (O.S)

Daniel?

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND 'SANTIAGO'S' - NIGHT

Vanessa knocks quietly on the back door.

VANESSA

Daniel, are you home?

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. ALLEY BEHIND 'SANTIAGO'S' - NIGHT**

Vanessa stares at the BACK DOOR to the building.

VANESSA
Daniel? Daniel?

The door opens a CRACK, but it's not Daniel she sees...

MATEO
Vanessa, keep your voice down.

Vanessa's instinct is to barge in - but the chain on the door won't let her.

VANESSA
I need to talk to your brother.

INTERCUT - HALLWAY - INSIDE THE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Where Mari, Santiago, and Natalie watch to see if Mateo will be able to get rid of her.

MATEO
Shhhh. He's asleep.

Vanessa's eyes narrow in anger when she hears that.

VANESSA
How can he sleep?!--

MATEO
(thinking fast)
--He was upset! Very, very, very upset. So... I...
(eureka)
Gave him some of the sleeping pills the doctor prescribed for Mom's hot flashes. They knocked him out.

VANESSA
Mateo, let me in.

BACK TO - EXT. ALLEY BEHIND 'SANTIAGO'S' - CONTINUOUS

Mateo takes a calculated risk. He unchains the door and steps OUTSIDE, closing the door behind him.

MATEO
Vanessa. I know you think you need to charge in there, talk to Daniel
(MORE)

MATEO (CONT'D)

about his incredibly stupid answer,
and reaffirm your love. But you're
wrong and I'll tell you why.
Because tonight, you did something
great for my brother.

Off Vanessa's skeptical look.

MATEO

You gave him a chance to see what
life would be like without you.
And, as a result, this entire
family spent half the night worried
sick about him.

Vanessa looks at Mateo - finds that oddly comforting.

VANESSA

So... he was upset?

MATEO

Not upset. Lost. Even I, his own
brother, could barely speak to him.

Mateo begins gently turning her around.

MATEO

Go home, get some rest, and then,
once both of you have had a chance
to sleep this crazy night off, come
back in the morning. Tomorrow is a
new day, right?

Vanessa nods okay as - *Click* - Mateo has gone inside before
she has the chance to change her mind.

INT. GARCIA APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mateo locks the door, looks at his family, and exhales.

SANTIAGO

Forget music. You should sell cars.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - MARINA - NIGHT

ON DANIEL -- as he is entering a truly alien world. Walking
across the expansive back deck of a BILLIONAIRE'S MEGA YACHT.
A PARTY raging on all six decks of the craft.

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - MAIN DECK - CONTINUED

As Daniel slows to take in his surroundings, he quickly finds Lewis has gone off to talk on the phone, Zara is chatting with 'old friends', and Noa is on the far side of the deck speaking to their host. A 30-SOMETHING RUSSIAN.

JENNA

That's Alexi Yevich. It's his yacht. Or his dad's.

Jenna spies a CUTE GUY who waves to her. She turns to Daniel.

JENNA

Have fun!

And with that Jenna too is gone, slipping through the crowd with a practiced grace, and arriving at the Cute Guy.

ON DANIEL

As, for the first time all night, he finds himself uncertain. And out of place. All around him - people laughing. On the dance floor - bodies moving. On the far side of the deck - Noa continuing her conversation.

Unsure what to do, Daniel decides to check his phone, and seeing a lot of missed calls, switches it from *silent* to *on*. For a moment he considers using it, but then he turns to one of the passing SERVERS to grab a morsel of food instead.

The Server does a double take.

RAFAEL

Daniel?

DANIEL

Rafael!

Daniel lights up at seeing a friendly face. They can't really hug, but Rafael manages a deft handshake.

RAFAEL

Hey. I didn't know you were working this. Did you guys do the pastries?

Daniel's face goes through a season of expressions.

DANIEL

Believe it or not, I'm a guest.

RAFAEL

What? Of who?

Daniel indicates to where Noa is talking.

RAFAEL

Yeah, right.

(beat)

Wait, you're serious? How do you know her?

DANIEL

It's a long story... I'm not sure I would believe it myself.

RAFAEL

You're a guest of Noa Hollander? Why the hell are you talking to me?

Good question. Without a good answer. Daniel gathers up his courage and crosses the floor towards Noa.

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - LONG BAR - CONTINUOUS

Daniel arrives just as Noa turns around. An unmistakable flash of a smile crossing her face when she sees it's him.

For a moment he doesn't say anything. He just looks at her, taking in her smile, blocking out that's she's famous. She's not used to someone holding her eye contact like this. Normally people look away. Don't really see her.

For 30 seconds - an eternity of TV screen time - the two stay like this. As if there are no other people around them - no music - no distractions. An entire conversation seems to pass between them in expressions. It's sweet and touching and romantic and sexy. And we've never seen it before.

FROM ACROSS THE FLOOR

Lewis watches them. Not pleased.

BUT NOA AND DANIEL

Are in a world all their own. With an unmistakable spark of something between them. Is it fate, kismet, destiny, chemistry? All of the above? It's a perfect moment.

And that's when his phone beeps. Text message.

With a disbelieving laugh at the timing, Daniel goes to silence it, but then he sees the message is from NATALIE:

'OMG. NOA HOLLANDER?! I'M DEAD! WHERE?
HOW? I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING!'

Daniel looks up at Noa.

DANIEL
I'm ready for my second wish.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - GARCIA APARTMENT - NIGHT

Natalie's phone rings. *Daniel.*

NATALIE (PHONE)
I want details. Start from the beginning and don't skip a microsecond.

NOA'S VOICE (PHONE)
Well, we met at the restaurant...

Somehow, Natalie manages to smile, scream silently, freeze up, and completely lose her shit. All at once.

INTERCUT - EXT. MEGA YACHT - TOP DECK - NIGHT

Noa has brought Daniel to the top of the yacht, where it is quiet. She smiles at Daniel as she talks to his kid sister.

NOA (PHONE)
...I caught him at a vulnerable moment, but there was something about him, you know?

Off Daniel's laugh...

NATALIE (PHONE)
Wow. Ms. Hollander, I just think you are incredible. And so talented. And a great role model. And Colin Davis is such an asshole.

Noa smiles.

NOA (PHONE)
Daniel said you're at a new school. I was always going to some new school. I kept getting kicked out.

NATALIE (PHONE)
Really?

NOA (PHONE)
Yeah. I couldn't make any friends. It sucked. But good news - it doesn't last forever. And if you're even half as charming as your brother, I don't think you have anything to worry about...

...Daniel takes the phone from her. *That's enough of that.*

DANIEL (PHONE)
How was the dance?

NATALIE (PHONE)
Don't talk to me. Talk to her.
She likes you.

Natalie hangs up and sits on her bed. Her entire crappy night made better - if even for a few minutes.

EXT. MEGA YACHT - TOP DECK - NIGHT

Daniel turns to Noa. It's actually quite beautiful up here. Under the moon. The two of them, leaning against the top rail, looking out at the city.

DANIEL
Thanks. I'll be the cool brother
for months now.

Noa smiles.

DANIEL
What?

NOA
Nothing. It's just... I can't
figure you out.

DANIEL
I'm pretty sure no one has ever
said that about me.

NOA
All night my friends and I are
flirting with you, and what's your
wish? That I talk to your sister.

DANIEL
When you put it that way. It
sounds pretty bad.

NOA
I think it sounds pretty great.
(then)
When I asked my Ex what he wanted
for his birthday, his wish was a
threesome with my best friend.

DANIEL
That's -- not right.

NOA

You know that. And *some* part of me knows that but...

He sees vulnerability in those eyes. Hiding behind a smile.

DANIEL

He really hurt you.

A cool ocean breeze brings a slight shiver to them both. And she leans against him, head grazing his shoulder.

NOA

It's stupid because I should have known better. But I wanted to believe, you know?

He does.

NOA

It made so much sense on paper. I didn't have to think, he said all the right things.

DANIEL

Your brain told you it was right, even if your heart wasn't sure.

She lifts her head off so she can see him, because she hears the self-recrimination in his voice.

NOA

You're thinking about Vanessa?

DANIEL

About how to be fair to her. If I even know what fair is.

NOA

What about *you*, Daniel? What about what you want? I think the reason you couldn't answer me whenever I asked is because somewhere along the way you stopped asking yourself that question. You say you are a baker, but when I mentioned art I saw how your eyes lit up. And when you talk about your girlfriend, it's always about what's right for her.

(off his look)

It's okay to let her go. It's okay to want something else...

DANIEL

I... don't think our situations are the same. You have an entire world to choose from. Me. I don't even have a passport.

A few strands of her hair fall across her face. She leaves them be, then gives Daniel a private version of her smile.

NOA

So. We'll get you one.

His eyes meet hers.

NOA

I mean. You do have a third wish.

Delicately, carefully, he reaches out and guides that strand of her hair gently behind her ear. She lets him do that...

And then, confronted by her beauty and her smile and everything she's said...

He finally gets the courage to kiss her...

As he leans in... He becomes aware that Noa is suddenly SELF-CONSCIOUS of the fact that a few people are TRYING TO SURREPTITIOUSLY FILM THEM. Daniel sees that too and stops.

DANIEL

I'm sorry I...

NOA

No. Don't apologize. Really. I mean, look at us. I get it.

She's so understanding and friendly. Even if any sense of romance has just vanished.

NOA

Let's go downstairs. Grab some drinks. Dance.

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

As Noa glides onto the dance floor, heading towards Zara, Jenna and a CIRCLE OF FRIENDS...

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - LONG BAR - CONTINUOUS

Daniel steps up to the bar and orders himself a drink. Still feeling a little THROWN by what almost just happened.

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - DANCE FLOOR - SAME

Noa, still a little THROWN too, tries to lose herself in the music. When she sees recognition flash in Jenna's eyes...

Noa turns, smiling, expecting to see Daniel...

And instead she finds herself looking at one of the most HANDSOME ENGLISHMEN on the planet.

COLIN DAVIS
You don't make it easy.

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - LONG BAR - CONTINUOUS

Daniel turns around. Doesn't see Noa anywhere. That's odd.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK DECK - YACHT - CONTINUOUS

Colin and Noa find a dark and quiet place. His accent - this guy doesn't need an accent this sexy - jerk.

NOA
(furious)
What are you stalking me?

COLIN DAVIS
You didn't answer my calls or my texts--

NOA
--So you flew to Miami? How did you find me?

COLIN DAVIS
I called Jenna. Don't be mad at her. I had to see you. So I could tell you what I've been trying to tell you for two days now. And that's that none of it is true.

He looks so... frustrated, hurt, honest...

COLIN DAVIS
My agent. Now *Ex-Agent* thought it would be good publicity for the lead up to the film. Apparently the tracking is low--

NOA
Bullshit. The press hates you now, that's why you're here--

COLIN DAVIS

You know me, since when have I ever cared about the press?

(off her look)

I'm telling you the truth. Swear on my honor. I haven't always been perfect. But I've always admitted my mistakes.

She wants to dismiss him but...

COLIN DAVIS

Noa Hollander, will you please, just for one second, stop looking at me like someone who is guilty of something I'm not, and start looking at me like the man who just flew halfway across the planet to tell you I love you.

Off Noa ... *He's actually telling the truth. Right?*

EXT./INT. MEGA YACHT - LONG BAR - CONTINUOUS

Daniel has nearly finished his drink. His eyes scan the dance floor.

LEWIS (O.S.)

Leave now and it's a win.

Daniel turns and sees Lewis standing there, ordering a water.

DANIEL

Excuse me?

LEWIS

When you do what I do as long as I've done it, you get a nose for people. I think you are a good guy, Daniel. And that's why my hope is you'll leave now, before you get humiliated.

DANIEL

I get it, Gucci, you don't like me--

LEWIS

Sometimes she finds them at dinner, sometimes at a party, one time she even found someone at a hot dog stand near Rockefeller Center. Normal people she takes a shine to. Next thing you know they're along for the ride.

Daniel wants to dismiss what Lewis is saying. But he can tell the man isn't lying.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

She does it after every heartbreak. It seems to help her. I think she likes to see her world through your eyes. Feel your excitement. Watch as you think to yourself you can't believe this is actually happening.

The words not only hit close to home, but they make a terrible sense to Daniel. Explain the inexplicable.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

And then, just when you start to think you're going to be friends or fall in love, she... Well, she doesn't do anything... She has me quietly return this person to their reality. I don't know if she realizes how hard a landing that can be. To be honest, I shield her from it, because protecting her is my job. My point, Daniel, is you can watch it happen over the next few hours or you can leave right now. While it's still a fairy tale.

But of course both men know the fairy tale is over. And not happily ever after. Daniel begins to remove Lewis's sweater.

LEWIS

I'll give you my card, you can send it to me--

DANIEL

--The last thing I want is anything from any of you.

Lewis watches Daniel disappear like a nobody into the crowd.

EXT. MARINA - MIAMI - NIGHT

As a good-looking man walking shirtless on a balmy night, Daniel gets honks of approval from CARS as they pass him by.

In a way, he's back where he started after he left the restaurant. Only with a sense of disappointment now added to the feelings of being totally unsure about his life.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**EXT. ROAD FROM THE MARINA - MIAMI - NIGHT**

Daniel's been walking for a while. Long enough that the lights of the marina dot the background. Long enough for the initial sting of what happened to wear off.

He feels it's time to call for a ride, or bite the bullet with UBER...

...only his battery is dead. Of course it is.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIAMI - 'DOWNTOWN' - PRE-DAWN

Daniel has left the swanky parts of the shoreline and now walks through towering skyscrapers of downtown.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIAMI - 'RIVERSIDE' - DAWN

His walk continues as the neighborhoods become more middle class. PEOPLE starting to be out and about now.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIAMI - 'EAST RIVERSIDE' - MORNING

Daniel steps out from a 24-hour Bodega, now wearing a cheap Florida Marlins shirt. His walk continues.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LITTLE HAVANA - MORNING

Daniel, still walking, finally, almost home. With the rising sun, and familiar sights, Daniel actually manages a smile.

That's when he stops.

Because he sees something that doesn't make sense...

Up ahead two blocks and across the street is their bakery...

And there is a LINE OF PEOPLE coming out of it. A LINE that he can see bends around the corner. As if these people were queueing up for some trendy bistro that just opened.

EXT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - DAY

Daniel moves past the crowd, a crowd populated by a large percentage of HIPSTERS and NON-LOCALS. He picks up smatterings of people talking... *'I've been coming to this place for years...'* and *'I'm so bummed the secret is out'*.

NATALIE (O.S.)

Daniel!

Natalie calls to him from across the street where she's waiting for her bus. Her smile visible from here.

She comes RUNNING OVER, even though her bus is close.

DANIEL

Nat, what happened?

NATALIE

Your girlfriend happened.

Natalie shows him her phone. It's the INSTAGRAM PHOTO Noa posted of Daniel and her from Joe's. He focuses on how happy they look together.

NATALIE

The hashtags?

Below the photo is -- *#DanielGarcia #Santiago's #BestBakeryMiami*.

NATALIE

What's with the shirt? No, don't tell me. I want to hear it all when I get home.

She kisses him on the cheek and hurries back to catch her bus. Then she is gone.

Thinking about what he's just learned, Daniel turns and, realizes that more than a few people in line for the bakery are looking at him.... Like he's *somebody*.

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - SELLING FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel enters and finds it bustling in a way he has never seen it before. Mari is at the register ringing up sales. Santiago is behind the counter helping MULTIPLE CUSTOMERS.

Two FAMILY FRIENDS act as employees to help deal with the over-flow. And Mateo is bringing food out from the back.

MATEO
 (sees Daniel)
 The hero returns!

Mateo hurries over before his parents can get there.

MATEO
 (softly)
Did you sleep with her?

Before Daniel can say anything, Mari hugs him. And then glares at him.

MARI
 You don't call your mother?

Santiago defends him from behind the counter.

SANTIAGO (IN SPANISH)
Take it easy on him, he's been through the wringer. Let him catch a nap - then he can help us.

Daniel blinks. Then nods and heads towards the back.

MATEO
 Hey?
 (sotto)
Did you?

As Daniel walks off, Mateo sings to himself.

MATEO
 (singing)
 He's a baker. And she is a beauty.

He stops. *That's actually good.* He starts again but--

MARI
 Mateo, did you get the Refugiados?
 (off his look)
 Never mind, I'll get them

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S CUBAN BAKERY' - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mari comes in, moving briskly, to grab the last small tray of Refugiados. As she picks them up, she STOPS...

Her eyes land on...

THE TOOLBOX. The one her husband said he was returning.

Odd.

She puts it out of her mind and hurries off.

INT. DANIEL AND MATEO'S ROOM - DAY

Daniel collapses onto his twin bed and looks up at the ceiling. What. A. Crazy. Night. There's a beat and then he realizes his dad has come in.

DANIEL

You need me now--?

Santiago motions for him to stay.

SANTIAGO

These new customers. It's almost like they like waiting. I just wanted to see if you were alright.

Off Daniel's look.

SANTIAGO

Back in Havana, sometimes celebrities would come into the restaurant. This was before I met your mother. Anyway, I remember...
(he chooses his words)
Sometimes they had a way of --
distorting reality.

Daniel nods. His father's words hitting home.

DANIEL

I don't know, Dad. It's like, for the first time since I can remember, I feel lost.

Santiago considers that.

SANTIAGO

It's better to be looking and lost, then find yourself some place you don't want to be.

Off Daniel's appreciative nod, Santiago leaves his son to rest.

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - SELLING FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Santiago emerges back onto the floor, looks at the line and smiles until he sees Donna Feinberg, the attorney, moving through the line with a sense of purpose. They lock eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESTIGIOUS HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The BELL rings. Students hurry to class. Natalie is rushing to get what she needs out of her locker when she hears...

STEPHANIE

You lied about your brother.

Natalie turns to see STEPHANIE is there.

NATALIE

Yeah. I'm -- I'm sorry.

Stephanie nods. Then smiles and admits.

STEPHANIE

I'd have done the same. Heads-up though, he's not the brother everyone's talking about.

Stephanie indicates around them -- where the beautiful boys and girls are locked on to that Instagram photo.

NATALIE

She called me last night.

STEPHANIE

No way.

NATALIE

She was telling me about all the schools she got kicked out of.

Stephanie and Natalie begin walking together....

VANESSA (PRE-LAP)

Power hoops or power studs?

INT. VANESSA APARTMENT - MORNING

Vanessa is picking the earrings she is planning on wearing over to the bakery. Her phone *dings* but she ignores it.

CHLOË

Power studs for the power stud.

Chloë laughs at her own joke. Vanessa's phone *dings two more times in quick succession*.

VANESSA

Why is my phone blowing up when I'm preparing to be gracious and give Daniel a second chance?!

Chloë grabs Vanessa's phone. She can't help but see the screen. Her face goes white as a ghost.

VANESSA

What?

Vanessa takes the phone and stares at the picture of her beloved Daniel with the most-desired woman on Earth.

EXT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - A LITTLE LATER - DAY

Vanessa moves along the line, anxious to find out exactly what the f\$&k is going on.

INT. DANIEL AND MATEO'S ROOM - DAY

Daniel shoots up in bed. Disoriented. It's a beat before he realizes his mom is there.

MARI

There's someone here to see you.

INT. GARCIA APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Daniel comes out of his room and turns to walk up front. But Mari gets in his way and REDIRECTS him to the BACK DOOR. Off his confused look...

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND 'SANTIAGO'S' - DAY

Daniel steps out and sees NOA HOLLANDER standing there.

INT. 'SANTIAGO'S BAKERY' - SELLING FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

VANESSA storms into the bakery. Mateo smiles.

MATEO

Vanessa, hi--

She DROPS Mateo with one punch.

VANESSA

Where's Daniel?

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND 'SANTIAGO'S' - DAY

Daniel stares for a beat in disbelief. Noa, having used the back to avoid the crowd, studies him.

NOA

I still owe you a wish.

END PILOT