

THE CLEANING LADY

Pilot

by

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ACT ONEEXT. THE NEON BONEYARD, LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

PAN ACROSS the brightly-lit NEON GRAVEYARD where hundreds of iconic Vegas signs are put to rest in a sprawling exhibition.

Under a giant, red "LADY LUCK" marquee, FIND REYNA DE LA CRUZ (34, Filipina, beautiful, brilliant and ballsy) cleaning the remains of a wedding reception in a cute maid outfit. As she bends over to pick up some kitschy Vegas decor -- a SLAP on her ass shoots her upright and a FLASH snaps her PHOTO.

Reyna shakes her head at FIONA RIVERA (36, Filipina, sassy, funny and self-deprecating). Wearing a maid outfit that's too short, Fiona leans in to take a few selfies of both of them.

REYNA

Fiona -- quit messing around.

FIONA

C'mon, Reyna, just a few.

REYNA

You know Stevie's just looking for an excuse to be late with our pay again.

FIONA

If we're not getting paid, we may as well have fun.

REYNA

There are ways to make a bad situation worse.

FIONA

Tago n tago. It's always like this.

REYNA

Well, that crap has got to change.

FIONA

That's right... Don't mess with Lady Luck!

Fiona takes a few shots of Reyna in front of the "Lady Luck" marquee, and she can't help but to smile.

REYNA

Unless you're Lady Cuss.

Reyna nods to the vintage "Lucky Cuss" sign behind her, and Fiona lights up as she sees it. She snaps a few selfies.

Not noticing Reyna's face fall as she sees the tacky, barrel-chested manager STEVIE (40s, Caucasian) approaching--

REYNA (CONT'D)

Fiona... Fi.

Fiona snaps another shot -- catching Stevie in the photo behind her with a scowl on his face.

FIONA

Ugh... You ruined the shot.

Fiona gives him a look, but Stevie's not amused.

STEVIE

What the hell am I paying you for?

Stevie's about to move off, but Reyna can't let it go...

REYNA

Actually, you haven't paid us. For three weeks. And it's not just us.

She nods to two other late night CLEANERS nearby.

REYNA

We've all been working overtime. And we need the money, Stevie.

STEVIE

Doesn't everyone?

REYNA

Yes, because you don't pay on time.
(with a stoic sarcasm)
If you need help calculating the hours --

STEVIE

Are you calling me an idiot?

REYNA

(yes)
Just offering to help.

STEVIE

How 'bout you do your job. I'll do mine.

As he moves off, Fiona rolls her eyes, but Reyna just sighs.

EXT. THE NEON BONEYARD - TREASURE ISLAND SKULL - LATER

Reyna and Fiona clean up some dinner tables near a huge PIRATE SKULL lying face up on the ground. Half the meals are barely eaten. Wedding favors are left behind...

REYNA

There's so much waste... We need more bags. I'll be back...

As Reyna moves off, Fiona plucks a few Vegas DICE BOX WEDDING FAVORS off the table, slips them in her pocket...

STEVIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You still not done?

She glances back as Stevie approaches, checking out her ass.

FIONA

You still creeping up on people?

STEVIE

C'mon on. You keep buggin' me to be a waitress when you can't bus a table without something slipping in your pocket. Even if it's trash.

He reaches in her pocket. Smirks at the cheap wedding favor. Tosses it on the ground. Fiona's annoyed, but holds it back.

FIONA

Well, if I could work for tips --

STEVIE

You're illegal. And that exposes me. Give me one good reason why I should stick my neck out for you?

Fiona sighs and turns away, knowing what he's asking. He creeps in, touches her thigh. Fiona spins around, glaring --

FIONA

I don't think so.

STEVIE

You want me to help you? Or report you for stealing?

He YANKS her into the cave-like opening of the skull. Fiona looks at him, exasperated.

FIONA

I wasn't stealing. And this isn't the help I need.

STEVIE

C'mon... Everyone knows what you're like.

Fiona tries to get free from his grip, and her blouse RIPS open, revealing a hot pink leopard print bra. He smirks --

STEVIE (CONT'D)

See.

Fiona pushes him off, pissed --

FIONA

Get off me!

Stevie comes at her again, RAMMING her against the wall.

Around the corner, Reyna hears Fiona's SHOUTS, rushes over --

REYNA

Hey! Let her go!

Reyna grabs his shoulder -- but he SHOVES her back. Fiona wails her arms at him, and - WHAM! PUNCHES him in the throat.

Stevie stumbles back, GASPING, unable to talk or breathe. Reyna watches his eyes bug out as he reaches for his throat and collapses, CRASHING into a table on the way down. Fuck!

Reyna sees a STEAK KNIFE lying among the toppled silverware. She grabs it, then leaps on top of him, straddling him.

Hearing the commotion, the other Cleaners rush over - gasping in horror. Reyna pushes back Stevie's head, and it looks like she's gonna finish him off. Then -- Reyna SLITS his throat, grabs a METAL STRAW -- complete with a VEGAS-THEMED STRAW TAG -- and RAMS it into his trachea in an EMERGENCY TRACHEOTOMY.

Fiona and the Cleaners gasp in shock. But as Reyna blows into the straw, Stevie sucks in air, able to breathe again. As he does -- CUE our kick-ass THEME SONG: "US" by Ruby Ibarra... The Cleaners look at Reyna, astounded.

REYNA (CONT'D)

Call 911.

CLEANER

How did you know how to do that?

Despite the circumstances, Reyna stands with an air of pride.

REYNA

I'm a doctor.

Reyna and Fiona exchange a look and hightail it out of there.

Off the Cleaners, staring at Stevie on the ground with a metal straw through his fucking throat. And the straw tag is the mini iconic sign: "WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS."

INT. FIONA'S MINIVAN - NIGHT (MOVING)

Fiona drives a beat-up minivan with leopard-print seats as Reyna sits next to her, adrenaline coursing through their veins. As our THEME SONG FADES OUT, Reyna shakes her head...

REYNA

People like that think they can get away with anything... You okay?

Fiona nods, still in awe of Reyna.

FIONA

He's just like any other jackass... But you -- you were amazing.

Reyna finally exhales, then smiles from the undeniable exhilaration of saving a life.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Seriously, Reyna. The fact that you can do that? You should be saving lives, not cleaning toilets.

Reyna sighs, then stares out the window at the Vegas lights.

REYNA

I would if I could. But not here.

FIONA

What if you met a doctor who could hook you up or something?

REYNA

It's not that easy. I'd have to start over. Three years of pre-med before licensing and certification. Then a whole residency program before a third licensing test.

FIONA

Wow. That hurt my head just hearing it. There's gotta be something you can do with that brain of yours.

REYNA

I just need to make ends meet till I find a donor for Luca.

(MORE)

REYNA (CONT'D)

Or get him into those clinical trials. Then I'm going home... And hopefully have a job to go back to. But Manila General isn't happy about my extended leave.

Fiona eyes Reyna, concerned... Then, carefully --

FIONA

What about Marco? You worried about him? I mean, you have no idea when you'll be back...

REYNA

I'm not worried about him cheating, if that's what you mean.

FIONA

In my experience, no man can be trusted.

Reyna looks away and Fiona senses something's wrong, but Reyna doesn't say more. So Fiona lights up a joint, moves on.

FIONA

Well, you're Lady Luck.

REYNA

Then our luck better change soon.

They share a look, then Fiona pulls off the strip towards the suburb of Spring Valley...

EXT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE, SPRING VALLEY - NIGHT

Reyna and Fiona pull up in the driveway to find Fiona's daughter JASMINE "JAZ" RIVERA (10, Half-Filipino/Half-Black, smart, adaptable and intuitive beyond her years) playing basketball alone in the dark. Fiona jumps out of the minivan.

FIONA

What the hell are you doing out here? It's past one a.m!

JAZ

I couldn't sleep.

FIONA

Where's Chris?

JAZ

In his room.

FIONA

He's supposed to be watching you.

JAZ

Luca's watching.

Reyna and Fiona turn to see Reyna's 5-year-old son LUCA watching from his bedroom window. Smart and inquisitive with a boundless curiosity, Luca waves at them with a bright grin.

FIONA

That's not the same thing.

They move inside, obviously needing a proper babysitter...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna, Fiona and Jaz enter a cramped rental loaded with junk: recycled takeout containers, used wrapping paper, baby food jars, expired coupons... HIP HOP MUSIC blasts from behind a closed door. Fiona shakes her head, exasperated.

FIONA

No wonder you can't sleep...

As Jaz heads off to bed, Fiona pounds on the door. A beat, then her son CHRISTOPHER RIVERA (15, Filipino-American, disgruntled and disinterested) emerges --

CHRIS

What?

FIONA

The hell are you thinking leaving your sister alone outside --

CHRIS

She's fine --

FIONA

Till she's snatched off the street! Maybe if you spent your time doing homework instead of dicking around, you'd get some sense in your head.

CHRIS

... Whatever.

FIONA

Don't whatever me. You need to make something of yourself. Be a doctor, like Auntie Rey.

He looks at Reyna and Fiona, both in ridiculous maid outfits.

CHRIS

Yeah, that worked out real well.

Then he slams the door closed again. Fiona yells back --

FIONA

Ungrateful little sh --

REYNA

He's just being a teenager.

Fiona smirks at Reyna, who's used to being a mediator now.

FIONA

Karma from when I was a kid.

REYNA

He's an angel compared to you.

Fiona smiles slyly, then takes a DICE BOX party favor out of her bag. Inside are TWO MINI CHOCOLATE LIQUORS. She eats one, tosses the trash on a table. Reyna eyes the garbage, sighs...

FIONA

What?

REYNA

You know what. You're messing with my OCD.

Fiona grins mischievously as Reyna tosses the trash in a garbage can.

FIONA (CONT'D)

What if I was gonna keep that box?

Reyna ignores that, knowing she's just trying to mess with her. It's an old, familiar banter between them.

REYNA

If you just put it in the trash instead of on the table, you'd have less crap to clean up later.

FIONA

This is why my mama loved you more. Though I can't believe you want to clean after cleaning all night.

REYNA

I don't want to clean. I just want things to be clean.

FIONA
(smiles, teasing)
I know. You're slumming it, doc...
Will chocolate help?

REYNA
Chocolate always helps.

Fiona hands her a chocolate liquor, then both of them smile affectionately as they retreat to their rooms...

FIONA
Night, cuz...

REYNA
Night, A-teh.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna gets in the shower and exhales deeply, letting all the drama roll off... Water streams down her body, cleansing her mind and soul, because right now, only one thing matters...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - REYNA & LUCA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Reyna enters a bedroom lined with PLASTIC where Luca awaits, and we now see he's not like other kids. He has severe combined immunodeficiency disorder (SCID). But when Reyna wraps him in her arms, it's just a mother holding her son...

LUCA
I missed you, Mommy.

REYNA
I missed you, too, Peanut.

LUCA
When I get better, can I play
basketball, too?

He looks at her with his big brown eyes, and her heart sinks.

REYNA
When you get better, you can do
anything you want. I promise.

LUCA
Did the special doctor call yet?

REYNA
Not yet... But he will.

LUCA

I'm tired of waiting... I wanna go home to daddy. And *Lola* and *Lolo*...

REYNA

I know. Waiting sucks. And I miss them, too. But you know what I do when I get homesick? I remind myself how lucky I am to have you. You know how much Mommy loves you?

Luca hesitates. Then he plays along, holding his arms out.

LUCA

This much?

REYNA

Nope... THIS much!

Reyna outstretches her arms as wide as they can go, then bear hugs him until he giggles against her grasp.

LUCA (IN TAGALOG)

I love you, Mommy.

REYNA (IN TAGALOG)

I love you, too, Peanut.

But as Luca drifts off to sleep, Reyna remains wide awake...

REYNA (PRE-LAP) (CONT'D)

Yes, I came here with my son for a bone marrow transplant, but the donor backed out, so his doctor at UCLA referred me to your clinic...

INT. FIONA'S MINIVAN - DAY (MOVING)

Fiona drives through the suburbs while Reyna's on the phone, reiterating her story -- again.

REYNA

Yes, I've checked every bone marrow registry but only half a percent of registered donors here are Filipino and there are no registries in the Philippines. That's why we need these clinical trials... Yes, that's the number. Thank you.

Reyna hangs up, aggravated. Fiona looks over, sympathetic.

FIONA

What are you gonna do if they don't call back?

REYNA

Kick down their door if I have to.

EXT./INT. JACKPOT JANITORIAL SOLUTIONS - DAY

Reyna and Fiona enter a store stocked with discount cleaning supplies. Behind the counter is JAVIER ACOSTA (34, Mexican-American, quirky and lovable with a heart of gold), setting up a product demo. As he sees Reyna, he lights up.

JAVI

Hola, señoras. Reyna, Fiona.

REYNA

Hola, Javi. Kumustá?

JAVI

Bueno, bueno. Hey, let me give you a demo of my new cleaning solution. Alonzo said I could sell it, so long as, you know, he gets a cut...

REYNA

What's in it? Hydrogen peroxide, sodium stearate...?

If Javi wasn't in love before, he certainly is now...

JAVI

Yes and protease enzymes, zeolites, some d-limonene to make it smell nice, and my own secret ingredient.

Javi never expected to geek out with anyone about it, but...

JAVI (CONT'D)

You know your stuff?

FIONA

She didn't tell you she's a genius?

REYNA

Stop... What do you call it?

JAVI

... I haven't figured that out yet.

FIONA

Well, we're not buying anything today. Right now, we don't even know if we still have jobs.

REYNA

Is he here?

JAVI

I heard him yelling in the back.

Before they move off, he hands a bottle of solution to Reyna.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Why don't you try it? On the house.

REYNA

That's kind of you, but --

Fiona grabs the bottle from him and puts it in Reyna's hands.

FIONA

Thanks, Javi. She'll give it a try.

As they move on, Reyna shakes her head at Fiona, teasing.

REYNA

You can't say no to free, can you?

INT. JACKPOT JANITORIAL SOLUTIONS - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

ALONZO ORTEGA (43, Puerto Rican American, stocky but alluring) glares at Reyna and Fiona while he engulfs the cluttered office with a thick haze of cigarette smoke.

ALONZO

The Boneyard cancelled their contract. You know what that'll cost me?

FIONA

The guy was a jackass, and Reyna saved his life!

ALONZO

After you nearly killed him.

REYNA

After he assaulted her.

ALONZO

I told you the jobs can be tricky.

FIONA

You mean rapey --

Alonzo SLAMS his fist on his desk and Reyna's had enough.

REYNA

Look, we didn't do anything wrong.
But Stevie owed us for three weeks.
Since you sent us out for that job,
you're responsible for it.

ALONZO

You think you're getting paid now?

REYNA

Yes. Unless you want us to spread
the word that you don't pay, you'll
give us what we're owed AND put us
up for better jobs.

ALONZO

(incredulous)
You're actually serious.

REYNA (CONT'D)

I spoke to Candy, Lando and Marie.
And they'll talk to their friends.
If we all walk, you'll lose more
than just the Boneyard contract.

ALONZO

(to Fiona)
Looks like your cousin wants to
start a union for illegals.

FIONA

And I'd be the first to join.

ALONZO

(shakes his head)
Fine. But I don't got better jobs.

REYNA

We'll take what we can get.

As Alonzo meets Reyna's gaze, CUT TO --

INT. BOXING CLUB - NIGHT

A seedy boxing joint on the outskirts of Vegas. FIND Reyna,
overworked and exhausted, cleaning up a spill in the VIP
section as rough and rowdy PATRONS fill the stands. Then --

SIX INTIMIDATING MEN in dark suits enter the club, including ARMAN BARSAMIAN (42, Armenian American, handsome and polished with chiseled good looks) and HAYK KEVORKIAN (62, Armenian, sophisticated, calibrated and intimidating as fuck).

Those that recognize these men steal a quick glance, then look away, for fear of noticing them at all.

The boxing club manager KOBIE (38, flashy, always giving the impression he's bigger than he is) moves to Reyna.

KOBIE

Hey, you wipe that down anymore,
the varnish is gonna come off.

REYNA

I don't think that's varnish.

KOBIE

Whatever. You work too hard. Now
vamoose.

As Kobie hurries to greet the men, Reyna finishes up, then hustles out of the VIP section... But the crowd gets unruly, and as she nearly gets knocked over -- Arman catches her fall. He shoves the ASSHOLE who pushed her.

ARMAN

Hey. Give the lady some respect.
She's trying to earn a living.
Something you've never done in your
life.

The Asshole clocks Arman's leather gloves, and looks fucking terrified, so Reyna tries to dismiss it.

REYNA

I'm fine. Really...

ARMAN

No. He owes you an apology.

ASSHOLE

I'm sorry, Mr. Barsamian... I
didn't mean any disrespect.

As he moves off, Reyna looks in Arman's eyes -- and there's an instant spark between them...

ARMAN

My apologies. Some men don't know
how to treat a lady. You okay?

REYNA

Yes, thank you...

Kobie gives her an anxious look. And despite the spark, Reyna remembers she's nothing but a cleaning lady.

REYNA (CONT'D)

I should get back to work.

Arman's eyes linger on her as she walks away. As the men sit, Kobie brings a bottle of Artsakh Armenian mulberry brandy.

ARMAN

Kobie. It's good to see you.
Forgive us for the short notice.

KOBIE

No problem at all. I always keep a
bottle of Artsakh chilled for you.

Arman's enforcer SARKIS (38, Armenian American, earnest and ambitious) takes the Artsakh as Arman keeps talking to Kobie.

ARMAN

My in-laws are only here a few
days. And the Palomino isn't what
it used to be.

KOBIE

I guarantee you a good fight. Sexy.
Dirty. Rough.

ARMAN

Good. We took a look at the line
up. Already chose a winner.

Arman smiles firmly, and Kobie nods, understanding...

INT. BOXING CLUB - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Sounds of the crowd sift through the walls as Reyna scrubs a toilet while a ripped, bikini-clad fighter known as the DARK DIVA (late 20s, African American, sexy as hell) wraps her hands for the next fight. Kobie comes in, sits next to Diva.

KOBIE

Hey, ready to put on a good show?

DARK DIVA

Born ready.

KOBIE

Good... 'Cause something's come up.
We got some VIPs in the crowd, and
thing is... They got a lotta money
riding on you losin' tonight...

DARK DIVA

You asking me to throw the fight?

KOBIE

I'm not asking, baby.

DARK DIVA

Oh, hell no. This is the big show,
Kobie. Screw that noise --

KOBIE

Look. This ain't just about you. I
got a family. Kids to feed. A new
baby girl. So make it look good,
then go down in round three.

As he walks out, Diva punches a stall door in frustration. As
it opens, Reyna's eyes meet hers. She shakes her head, pissed-

DARK DIVA

They always think they own us.

Reyna looks back at her, sympathetically.

REYNA

Only if we let them.

INT. BOXING CLUB - NIGHT

MID-FIGHT as the Dark Diva fights LUCY GOOSEY (20s, smoking
hot) for an amped up crowd. It's spectacle and sport fused
into a bare-knuckle event. Savagely sexy. And fucking brutal.

At the back of the club, Reyna catches glimpses of the fight
through the crowd, silently cheering on Diva.

In the VIP section, Arman and his men are looking tense. And
as the Dark Diva pummels Lucy Goosey at the end of Round Two,
Hayk is not happy. Arman looks over to Kobie, who gives him a
quick nod, assuring him everything will turn out fine...

THE BELL DINGS, a HOT CHICK holds up the "ROUND 3" card, and
in a quick turn around, Lucy starts to dominate... BAM! Diva
takes a hit. WHAM! She takes another. Arman watches Hayk get
caught up in the excitement, and it looks like Diva's gonna
play ball... But as the crowd turns and she's hit once more --
BAM! Diva sees red, and can't fucking do it. In a fiery rage,
she loses her shit all over Lucy -- then KNOCKS her out cold.

The REFEREE holds up Diva's hand and the crowd goes NUTS. But as the win registers on Arman's face, his whole demeanor changes. That win just fucked him and all his men. As we land on Kobie's stricken face -- all we hear a resounding SILENCE.

INT. BOXING CLUB - LATER

Late that night, when everyone's gone, FIND Reyna cleaning up the aftermath. Her phone rings, and Reyna answers it.

FIONA (V.O.)

Kumustá? How was the match?

REYNA

If I had bet, I would've won. But next time, we should get in the ring, 'cause it'll pay much better than this.

FIONA (V.O.)

That's right. Manny Pacquiao, step aside for Lady Luck and Lady Cuss.

Reyna laughs. But as she hears VOICES in the back office --

REYNA

I gotta get back to work. Give Luca a kiss good night for me.

FIONA (V.O.)

Night, cuz.

Reyna hangs up, then all falls quiet again as she's left alone, scouring the floor, on her hands and knees... Suddenly, she hears SHOUTS as an argument gets heated. Two GUN SHOTS fire off, and Kobie come rushing out of the office--

BANG!! A bullet rips through his head, splattering his brains across the club. And as his body thumps to the ground, a gun clatters on the floor, limp in his hand. Then Arman exits the office with Sarkis, who holds the smoking gun.

Reyna freezes. Stock-still. Afraid to breathe. Diva's win had huge repercussions. And as they approach Kobe's dead body -- they see her. And Sarkis puts the gun to her head. Reyna stares down the barrel of the gun. But there's no fucking way she's gonna die like this. Recognizing Arman from earlier, she looks him dead in the eyes --

REYNA

I'm just the cleaning lady. Let me clean it for you.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. BOXING CLUB - NIGHT

Reyna stares at the gun as Arman and Sarkis peer down at her. Desperate to stay alive, she steadies her nerves.

REYNA

If you wait too long, the blood will seep into the cement. It needs to be broken down, then scrubbed up. Sodium peroxide would be best. But it's hazardous if not handled correctly. Not to mention there could be blood-borne bacteria...

Arman steps back, wary of the blood, yet impressed by her knowledge.

ARMAN

Seems you're quite the specialist.

REYNA

I know my work. And I can help you make this go away.

ARMAN

Then it's a good thing we keep running into each other.

(then, in TAGALOG)

You're from the Philippines?

She reacts to the language, caught off guard.

REYNA (IN TAGALOG)

Yes. From Manila... And you?

ARMAN

I am Armenian, born in Moscow. But I was raised by a Filipina nanny. My *Lola*. She taught me *Tagalog*. And English. Loved me like my own mother, God bless her soul.

Reyna nods, not sure how to respond. Then Arman pushes Sarkis's gun aside, and nods to Kobie's corpse.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

Get rid of him. Then let her do her job.

REYNA (IN TAGALOG)

Thank you.

Arman nods, offering a hand to help her off her knees. Then she embarks on the most nerve-wracking CLEANING MONTAGE.

-- With the body removed, Reyna covers the blood with a thin layer of sodium peroxide powder. Sarkis brings her a fresh tub of steaming water, but she shakes her head.

REYNA (CONT'D)

It has to be cold.

Sarkis reacts. Is she really giving him orders? Arman nods, and Sarkis moves off, acquiescing..

-- Reyna mops away the sodium peroxide-saturated blood and brains off the concrete floor...

-- Reyna gets on her hands and knees, vigorously scrubbing cracks and crevices with a stiff bristle brush...

-- Using Javi's homemade solution, Reyna wipes down the ring, the corner cushions and ropes, and the ring skirting...

The whole time, Arman keeps checking her, and as the MONTAGE ENDS, he examines her work -- fascinated by her precision.

ARMAN

It's very good... Impeccable, actually. You have a great attention to detail.

Reyna stares at his gloves, noting another detail. He's not someone who's sloppy with loose ends.

REYNA

I know you have no reason to trust me. But I take pride in what I do. Even if it is just staying silent.

Arman smiles gently, trying to calm her.

ARMAN

Seems like you may be the one with the trust issues... Let me give you a ride home. For your hard work.

Reyna looks at him a beat.

REYNA

I don't suppose I have an option?

ARMAN

You're a smart woman.

EXT. BOXING CLUB - PRE-DAWN

Arman escorts Reyna out of the industrial warehouse that houses the club, and Sarkis opens the door to a TOWN CAR.

Reyna hesitates. If she gets in, they could easily dispose of her. She looks around and there's nothing for miles. The only sign of life is the streak of orange light from the rising sun, reminding her -- she has to get home to her son.

REYNA

You should know I have a family.

Arman smiles kindly again, assuring her that she's safe.

ARMAN

Then let's get you home before they miss you too much.

INT. TOWN CAR - PRE-DAWN (MOVING)

Reyna rides next to Arman as Sarkis drives. There's a long, awkward silence... To ease the tension, Arman pours a glass of Artsakh Silver Brandy from a sealed bottle in the car.

ARMAN

Would you like a drink? It's an Armenian brandy produced from natural white mulberries.

REYNA

Thank you, but no.

ARMAN

You don't drink? Or not with me?

Arman gives her an alluring look. But Reyna holds her ground.

REYNA

... It's late. Or rather, early.

Arman nods. Drinks the glass he just poured himself.

ARMAN

My name is Arman. If that helps with the trust. But I get where you're coming from. As a minority growing up in Russia, I never trusted anyone in power... But I always had a great respect for your people. You work hard. You're loyal. Honest. Many are well educated... Like you. Obviously you've had some good schooling?

He looks at Reyna for an answer, suspecting there's more to her story. But she doesn't divulge anything.

REYNA

What matters is that I'm smart enough to keep my mouth shut.

Arman's eyes crinkle as he laughs.

ARMAN

Glad we're on the same page.

REYNA

... Reyna.

ARMAN

The queen. How fitting...

She offers her name as a reciprocation of trust, but still tries to outsmart him. She glances out the window.

REYNA

You can pull over here. This is where I live.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - MOMENTS LATER

Sarkis pulls over in front of an apartment, and Reyna gets out. As they drive off, she walks to the building and waits.

As the Town Car disappears, Reyna leaves the apartment and walks down to the townhouse complex where she actually lives.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - HALLWAY / BATHROOM - DAWN

Reyna enters a darkened house, and it all feels so surreal. Everything's the same, and yet she's different...

When she gets in the shower, she finally lets go -- and her entire body starts shaking in deep, convulsive sobs... All the tension, angst and terror finally releases and streams down the drain, washing away to utter exhaustion...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - HALLWAY / REYNA & LUCA'S ROOM - DAWN

Scrubbed down and completely depleted, all Reyna wants is to hold Luca. But before she enters the bubble, she pauses. Can she really hold him after scouring brains off the floor?

LUCA (O.S.)

Mommy? I missed you.

As she hears his sweet voice, Reyna pushes back all doubt...

REYNA
C'mere, Peanut...

...and hugs her son tight. A long, smothering beat, then --

LUCA
Mommy? You're squeezing too hard...

Reyna laughs, loosening her grip.

REYNA
Sorry... I just missed you so much.

LUCA
(smiles, sympathetically)
When I get better, I can help you
clean so you don't have to work so
hard.

And that breaks her heart in two.

REYNA
No, Peanut. It's not your job to
take care of me. It's my job to
take care of you. And one day, I'm
gonna crack you outta this shell.

LUCA
(beams)
Crack it, Mommy. Crack it.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Fiona puts out Asado Rolls for breakfast, while throwing the trash on the table -- but Reyna doesn't even notice. Her mind is still reeling as Chris bounds in, grabbing a roll...

JAZ
Wanna shoot hoops after school?

CHRIS
Can't, Jaz. Got homework.

JAZ
You never do your homework.

CHRIS
That's why I still got some.

Chris moves into the living room and attempts to steal a joint out of his mom's purse when Fiona catches him --

FIONA
Hey! The hell you thinking?

CHRIS

What? You smoke.

FIONA

So what? You're the one who still
has to make something of his life.

Chris dumps the joint back in her purse. Moves off, annoyed. Fiona turns to Reyna -- and now sees that she's distant and unengaged. The trash still sitting in front of her, ignored.

FIONA

Hey... Everything okay?
(no response)
Reyna? Rey?

Reyna finally glances up from the table, still disconnected.

FIONA

What's wrong? Something happen last
night?

REYNA

I need to borrow your minivan. I'm
taking Luca to the clinic. Today.

FIONA

Okay. But... you sure? If you march
in there and talk to the wrong
person, they could expose you.
That's why most of us TNT's never
step foot in a hospital.

REYNA

Well, I'm done sitting around
waiting for my phone to ring. Every
day that goes by puts Luca at risk.
And if anything happens to me --

Reyna stops herself short. Fiona looks concerned. Puts her
car keys on the table.

FIONA

Hey... Nothing's gonna happen to
you. But if it did, I'll take care
of Luca. But if there's anything
you want to talk about -- ?

REYNA

Thanks, A-teh. That means a lot.

Reyna quickly swipes the keys off the table, then walks out,
leaving Fiona to wonder -- what the hell's going on with her.

EXT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Reyna helps Luca climb into Fiona's minivan wearing a small HAZMAT SUIT. As a family walks by, a CHILD points at Luca.

CHILD

Look, Mom! He's already got a Halloween costume.

Luca looks stricken, but Reyna ignores the Child and finishes getting into van, turning the outing into an adventure.

REYNA (CONT'D)

So... Time to play. Who goes first?

A quick ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS, and Luca declares --

LUCA

Me!

As Reyna drives off, Luca scans the area, then grins coyly...

LUCA (CONT'D)

I spy with my little eye...
Something with wheels.

REYNA

Is it... That stroller?

LUCA

No...

REYNA

Is it that shopping cart?

LUCA

Nope.

REYNA

Is it --

Then, Reyna sees it. The TOWN CAR creeping behind them. Holy fuck. Are they following her? Or is it just another Vegas limo? Refusing to let fear get to her, she pushes past it...

REYNA (CONT'D)

Okay, I give up.

LUCA

It's Auntie Fi Fi's car!

She laughs at the cleverness. Then steals another look in her rearview. The Town Car is further back now, so she moves on.

EXT. INSTITUTE OF REGENERATIVE MEDICINE - DAY

Reyna and Luca get out of the beat-up, old minivan and gaze up at a sleek architectural leviathan. Clearly, a well-funded medical research institute. Luca gawks at it.

LUCA

... it looks like a spaceship.

She looks at his hazmat suit. Won't let him be intimidated.

REYNA

Then we must be in the right place.

INT. INSTITUTE OF REGENERATIVE MEDICINE - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna sits Luca down in the reception area where more people stare at him in his hazmat suit...

REYNA

Just sit tight right here while I talk to the nice lady, okay?

Luca looks uncomfortable, but he nods, obediently. Then, Reyna approaches HELEN at the admissions desk.

REYNA (CONT'D)

Hi, my name is Reyna De La Cruz and I'm here with my son Luca about the Stem Cell Therapy for SCID.

HELEN

Do you have an appointment?

REYNA

No. We don't. Because no one returned my calls. But Doctor Ramtej at the UCLA Transplant Center referred us here for your clinical trials.

HELEN

I'm sorry, but without an --

REYNA

Are you really going to turn away a five-year-old boy? What if he were your son?

Not wanting to argue, Helen gives Reyna a stack of forms.

HELEN

Fill these out and bring them back with his ID and insurance card.

REYNA

(pauses, then)

... We don't have any insurance.

HELEN

(sighs)

Fill out what you can.

INT. INSTITUTE OF REGENERATIVE MEDICINE - LATER

Luca leans on Reyna's shoulder as they wait. But his eyes are fixed longingly on a BOY running a car over tables, chairs, floors... Finally, Helen nods for Reyna to approach her desk.

HELEN

I spoke to Doctor Ramtej at UCLA and he explained that you had a temporary medical visa for a bone marrow transplant...

REYNA

But it never happened because the donor backed out.

HELEN

Did you get the visa extended?

Reyna suddenly pales. Caught without papers, she lies...

REYNA

... It's in process.

HELEN

Then I'm sorry, but with the exorbitant cost of the clinical trials, anyone who can't comply with all protocols is ineligible.

REYNA

I'm a doctor. I set protocols. Of course, we'll comply!

As Reyna edges on condescension, Helen gets irritated. She spells it out for her, so loud everyone hears.

HELEN

You're an illegal. We can't risk a patient being deported before the fifty-two week trial period is over. Now, if you'll excuse me...

Reyna is mortified. Now everyone is staring at her and Luca. Pushing past the shame and humiliation, she reaches for Luca's hand, trying to hold her head high --

REYNA

C'mon, Luca. It's time to go...

But Luca pulls his hand back, refusing --

LUCA

No! You promised we'd see the special doctor.

REYNA

I know, but --

LUCA

I don't wanna go home! I wanna see the doctor! You said he's gonna fix me! I wanna play on the floor! It's not fair, Mommy! It's not fair...

Luca throws himself on the floor and starts WAILING --

REYNA

Listen, sweetheart --

LUCA

NO! I don't wanna be in a bubble anymore!

Then Luca yanks off his helmet and HURLS it across the floor. As the face shield CRACKS -- it snaps them both back to reality. Reyna grabs him, and looks him firmly in the eyes.

REYNA

Okay. I know you're upset. But remember last time you got sick?
(he nods, tears streaming)
You wanna get sick like that again?
(he shakes his head)
So what do we do to fight germs?

LUCA

Put on our armor, like a knight.

Behind her, a MAN picks up the helmet, hands it back to them.

REYNA

Look at that. A nice man brought it back for you.

Reyna quickly disinfects it with an ANTIBACTERIAL SPRAY, then gives it to Luca. As he puts it on, she turns to the man --

REYNA (CONT'D)

Thank you --

Then freezes as Sarkis looks down at her. Holy shit. He was following her. And it's the last fucking thing she needs. Reyna flushes, humiliated and infuriated, then hoists Luca up in her arms and carries him out without another word...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - REYNA & LUCA'S ROOM - DAY

Now showered and clean, Reyna puts Luca in bed. Three bottles of pills (an antibiotic, antifungal and antiviral) are now on the bedside table. Luca looks worried and exhausted.

LUCA

I'm sorry, Mommy... Am I gonna be sick again?

REYNA

Not if we can fight off the germs. Now get some sleep, okay...?

Through the window, Reyna eyes the Town Car waiting outside. She holds back her aggravation, kisses Luca on the forehead.

EXT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE / STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Now enraged, Reyna marches out to confront Sarkis who's still parked outside her fucking house. As he rolls down the window-

REYNA

Whatever it is you want with me, stay the hell away from my son.

SARKIS

You want your family safe, get in the car.

She glares at him, knowing she needs to handle this head on.

INT. ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Arman and Hayk sit in the pews facing a lavish altar with an Orthodox iconostasis, statues of saints, Eucharistic table...

ARMAN

Everything has been scrubbed. Do we need to initiate contingencies?

HAYK

Not yet. But be ready.

Hayk rises. Then looks Arman dead in the eyes.

HAYK (CONT'D)

If there are any other issues, I trust you will take care of them.

Arman nods, but there's still one very loose end. Hayk walks out the front door and Arman remains seated. A moment later -- Sarkis lets Reyna in the back door, then leaves them alone to talk. Before Arman can say a word, she marches over to him --

REYNA

You need to leave my family the hell alone. I haven't said a word to anyone. And I will not have you following me around like this.

But he hears the quiver in her voice as she tries to overcome herself. He holds back a smile, then hands her an envelope. Reyna hesitates, then looks inside to find a wad of cash and a burner phone. She tries not to balk at the amount.

ARMAN

You did a good job. I want you on call.

REYNA

And this is how you tell me?! By scaring me and my son? No. I'm not for sale. I did what I did to stay alive. But this is not who I am.

Reyna drops the envelope on the pew, then turns to leave --

ARMAN (IN TAGALOG)

*I'm sorry for offending you.
Please, sit.*

Reyna reacts to the Tagalog, but doesn't respond. As she remains standing. Arman nods, appreciating her strength.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

You and I are not so different. You have a strong mind and strong will.

He looks at the altar, trying to connect a different way.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

You're Catholic, too, yes?

REYNA

Most Filipinos are.

Reyna turns away as she says this, and he notes her reaction.

ARMAN

But your faith has fallen.

Reyna looks at him, surprised he could see through her.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

When I was just a boy, my mother died from an infection she contracted in a hospital. I was only seven at the time. So I blamed everyone. Mostly God.

REYNA

(eyes his gloves)
That's why you wear those.

ARMAN

And I avoid hospitals at all costs.

He gives her a self-deprecating half-smile. And his honesty lures her in...

ARMAN (CONT'D)

It's not something most people know about me. But healthcare in Russia is much like in the Philippines. Outdated and corrupt...

REYNA

It's better than you assume.

ARMAN

And yet, you're here. Because when it comes to family, it's not about doing things the right way or wrong way. But anyway you can... If my father had your courage, things could've turned out differently...

Arman looks away, his vulnerability drawing her closer.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

How old is your son? Five or six?

Reyna nods, still uncertain, but his interest seems genuine.

REYNA

Five.

ARMAN

(nods, pensive)
There's a doctor here I trust.
Doctor Saroyan. Maybe I can help?

Reyna is tempted for a moment. Then realizes she let him get too close. And there's no way in hell she can trust him.

REYNA

Again, you mistake me for someone who can be bought. I will not be beholden to you. And you're to stay away from my son --

ARMAN

Wait.

She looks down as Arman grabs her arm. He releases it.

ARMAN

Sometimes these things are not a question of morality but of necessity.

He puts the envelope back in her hands, an intensity in his eyes and an edge in his voice.

ARMAN

Take this, please. You earned it.
And you need to think on this.

REYNA

Why? Why do you want me to work for you?

Arman pauses, then decides to be frank.

ARMAN

Because I like you. And I don't want to have to kill you.

There it is. The cold, hard truth. Off Reyna, left with a choice she doesn't want to make...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - REYNA & LUCA'S ROOM - DAY

Reyna has breakfast with Luca on a small table. Everything weighing heavily on her as she gives him three pills to swallow, hoping against hope that he won't get sick now.

LUCA

Don't be sad, Mommy...

REYNA

(covering)

I'm not, Peanut. I'm just thinking.
We'll figure something out...

But Reyna looks distant, not knowing how she's gonna crack this one... Suddenly, her phone RINGS -- and Reyna jumps. Is it the burner phone? Her heart starts to pound, till it RINGS again and she realizes it's her own phone. She picks it up --

REYNA (CONT'D)

Hello? This is Reyna...

HELEN (V.O.)

Hello, Reyna. This is Doctor Kirschner's office. I'm calling to schedule an appointment for Luca.

A beat, then Reyna's face lights up as she turns to Luca --

REYNA

It's the stem cell clinic. The special doctor wants to see you!

Luca looks like he's gonna burst with excitement. But Reyna is afraid to get her hopes up too quickly.

REYNA (CONT'D)

But what about the paperwork? You said that might be an issue?

HELEN (V.O.)

Since you received a referral from Doctor Saroyan, the doctor said it won't be a problem.

As she recalls the name, Reyna's smile fades...

REYNA

... Doctor Saroyan. Yes, of course.
I'll be sure to thank him.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna exits her room and calls the only number in the burner. The number is blocked, but the line connects. Then silence. She waits a beat to be sure, then --

REYNA

I told you my son is off limits.

ARMAN (V.O.)

Only because you weren't sure I could deliver.

Reyna silences. They both know it's true.

ARMAN (V.O.)

There's no doubt you're a woman of virtue, Reyna. But you should know I am a man of my word. And you need this for your son. You won't be beholden to me. Consider it a simple exchange of services.

Though she hates giving him the upper hand, they need this. Even if it means crossing moral lines...

REYNA

Fine. If you ensure my son gets the care he needs, I'll clean for you.

ARMAN (V.O.)

That's a wise decision, Reyna. Keep this phone on at all times. And do not miss my calls.

Arman hangs up. And Reyna exhales deeply, knowing she just made a deal with the fucking devil...

INT. JACKPOT JANITORIAL SOLUTIONS - DAY

Reyna enters to find Javi doing a product demo for a CUSTOMER. As he sees Reyna, he gives her a quick smile, then tells the Customer --

JAVI

I call it the Magic Miracle Mix --

CUSTOMER

Look. Unless you got Magic Mike cleaning my carpets, I don't want some cheap knock off. Just give me the Clorox so I can be on my way.

Hearing this gets Reyna's back up. She strides over, protective of her new friend...

JAVI

Please, just let me show you --

REYNA

Forget it, Javi. Give her the Clorox. I'm buying all the Miracle Mix. Beats anything on the shelves.

Reyna slaps down two hundred dollars. The Customer is stunned. And Javi gives Reyna a sheepish smile, clearly crushing on her... He rings in a jug of Clorox Urine Remover.

JAVI

\$15.68, please.

The Customer looks back, now wondering what she's missing.

CUSTOMER

When will you have more Miracle Mix?

JAVI

I'll have a batch in two days.

She nods, and Reyna and Javi share a laugh as she leaves.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Thank you, Reyna. But you don't have to buy it all.

REYNA

Trust me, it saved my ass. But... you do need a new name.

JAVI

Yeah... I thought so... What about Javi's Wonder Wash?

(Reyna shakes her head)

Super Scrubber? Crud Crusher?

Maybe I should think about it...?

Finally, Reyna nods. Albeit, encouragingly...

EXT./INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Now stocked up with three crates of Javi's homegrown solution, Reyna opens the garage door, only to find --

Jaz, knee-deep in her mom's collectible junk, attempting to de-clutter. Jaz freezes, a deer caught in the headlights.

REYNA

Jaz? What are you doing?

JAZ

Trying to help my mom...

(off Reyna's confusion)

She always worries that she's gonna need stuff... But she feels better when it disappears. So... I make stuff disappear... Is that wrong?

Reyna looks at all the extraneous crap: shoeboxes, magazines, ripped shoes, dusty clothes. Fiona is a low level hoarder.

REYNA

No, sweetheart. It needs to be done... Tell you what. I'll help. And we don't have to tell your mom.

Just then, Fiona drives up in her minivan, and Jaz panics.

JAZ

She's home early!

REYNA

Don't worry. Just go in and clean yourself up. It'll be our secret.

Jaz abandons the garbage bag she was holding, then slips into the door to the house. As Fiona jumps out of the minivan, Reyna pushes her crates of cleaning solution into the garage.

REYNA (CONT'D)

Hope you don't mind, but I stocked up on Javi's cleaning solution and--

FIONA

Screw cleaning. This guy I met last week turns out to be a manager at the Golden Phoenix. If he lets us work there, we could make five times as much, slinging cocktails instead of scrubbing toilets.

Fiona is totally fired up. But Reyna looks skeptical.

REYNA

Whoa... Slow down, Fi... Even if this goes somewhere with you and him -- we're still illegals.

FIONA

He says that doesn't matter --

REYNA

-- You told him?!

FIONA

Look, I really like this guy, Rey.
I mean, he's like crazy hot.

REYNA

Fi, you always rush in --

FIONA

So I can't be excited about
something without you judging?

REYNA

I'm not judging --

FIONA (CONT'D)

Well, I'm seeing him tonight and
you should come. He could hire us
both. Course it's not a hoity toity
doctor job, but --

REYNA

Okay, I'll come. 'Cause someone's
gotta watch your ass.

Truth is, Reyna hates when she pulls the inferiority card,
and Fiona knows it. She grins, coyly.

FIONA

Like Christmas in Boracay.

REYNA

Only good that came from that was
Chris.

FIONA

He's a good thing. I'm just hard on
him to keep him that way...
(then, grinning)
What've you got to wear? Never
mind. I got it.

INT. GOLDEN PHOENIX HOTEL - NIGHT

Reyna and Fiona emerge on a sleek casino floor, all dolled up
in Fiona's age-inappropriate club wear: six-inch stilettos,
strappy bodycon mini dresses with tons of bling and cleavage
galore -- and they look fucking fantastic.

FIONA

If your hubby could see you now.

REYNA

He'd say I'd look like a Singapore whore.

They laugh... Then, Fiona steers them around a long, daunting queue towards a BOUNCER at an unmarked door.

FIONA

We're here to see Brandon.

The Bouncer opens the door, and we CUT TO --

EXT. GOLDEN PHOENIX HOTEL - ROOFTOP POOL BAR - NIGHT

The swankiest rooftop in Vegas. It's a spectacular multilevel deck with palm trees and glowing swimming pools. Reyna takes in the breathtaking view, shakes her head at Fiona.

REYNA

He's never gonna let us work here.

FIONA

This is Vegas. Never say never...

Then BRANDON LOVEALL approaches (40s, Caucasian, ridiculously handsome and still living for the hustle).

BRANDON

Well, hello ladies... Think I might be in trouble tonight.

FIONA

(laughs)

He's a trip, isn't he?

One look at him and Reyna knows he's bad news. But in Fiona's eyes -- he's perfect. As she kisses him on the lips --

FIONA (CONT'D)

This is my cousin, Reyna.

BRANDON

Like a ray of sunshine... How 'bout a tour, Rey Rey?

Reyna forces a smile, then turns aside to Fiona --

REYNA

Guys like this are only interested in one thing -- showing you how big they are compared to the next guy.

Fiona stifles a laugh, then tells Brandon --

FIONA
We'd love one.

INT. GOLDEN PHOENIX HOTEL - VIP LOUNGE - LATER

Now carrying drinks, Reyna follows Brandon and Fiona to a chic VIP lounge, gushing with celebrity clientele...

BRANDON
And this is our bread-and-butter.
Bottles range from six hundred for
your basic Belvedere to twenty-four
grand for a six liter of Dom.
Gratuities added, of course...

FIONA
(aside, to Reyna)
Oh. My. God. Can you imagine what
we could rake in here?!

REYNA
He's dangling the carrot.

FIONA
C'mon, Reyna. The chase is half the
fun.

Reyna holds her tongue, knowing how much Fiona wants this. But as Brandon waves Fiona to the bar, Reyna realizes her phone is RINGING. She rifles in her purse and answers it --

REYNA
Hello?

-- but the RINGING continues. What the hell? This time it is her burner. And there are TEN MISSED CALLS. Fuck. Reyna quickly answers, but before she can say hello --

ARMAN (V.O.)
What took you so long?

REYNA
I --

ARMAN (V.O.)
Never mind. Sarkis is on the way.

REYNA
But... I'm not at home. I'm out...

ARMAN (V.O.)
Where?

REYNA

At the Golden Phoenix.

ARMAN (V.O.)

Sarkis will meet you at the valet.

REYNA

But my son, he needs antibiotics --

ARMAN (V.O.)

Not my problem.

Then hangs up abruptly. Reyna is taken aback. Clearly she got too comfortable with him. As her mind races to figure it out, Fiona comes over and presses a pink ECSTASY PILL in her hand.

FIONA

Time to dance.

Reyna just stares at the pill.

REYNA

Fi. I'm a doctor.

FIONA

Well... Not in Vegas.
(rolling her eyes)
It's just ecstasy.

REYNA

You don't even know this guy. Or what's actually in this.

Refusing to be judged, Fiona shakes her head, then takes the pill back and pops it in her own mouth. Reyna reacts -- Fuck.

REYNA (CONT'D)

How many have you taken?

FIONA

Just yours and mine. If you can't have a good time, someone's gotta have one for you.

Now Reyna really doesn't want to leave. But as she gets a "5 min" text from Arman, she has no choice.

REYNA

Alonzo called and needs me to fill in tonight. I have to take it.

Fiona nods, almost glad she's going.

FIONA

Don't worry. I'm a big girl.

Reyna watches Fiona rejoin Brandon, then reluctantly exits...

EXT. GOLDEN PHOENIX HOTEL - VALET STAND - NIGHT

Waiting near the valet, Reyna makes a frantic call...

REYNA

Chris. It's Auntie Rey. I've got an emergency and I need a favor... Six a.m... One pill from each bottle...

As Sarkis pulls up, Reyna gets in the Town Car...

REYNA (CONT'D)

But wear a mask and gloves. And set your alarm! Thank you.

As she hangs up, Reyna turns to Sarkis...

REYNA (CONT'D)

I need to change and get supplies.

SARKIS

There's no time. He needs you now.

Reyna's face falls. She has to clean in what she's wearing...

INT. VIRIDIAN HOTEL - PRIVATE LOUNGE / ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Reyna enters the private entrance of an elegant skyscraper hotel, then finds an irate HOTELIER with Arman, who's tense, irritated, and uncharacteristically chagrined.

HOTELIER

... it's a violation of every code.
If my GM finds out --

ARMAN

He won't. I agree that it's unacceptable. And not how I conduct my business. I will handle it.

As they hear the click of her stilettos, the Hotelier moves off, and Arman looks up to see Reyna in a stunning red dress. His eyes brighten as his breath is unexpectedly taken away.

REYNA

Sarkis didn't let me change.

Swept up in the moment, Arman stares at her a beat longer.

ARMAN

You'll be fine.

But Reyna doesn't appear to mind his gaze... Both of them seeming to need this small moment of connection.

REYNA

I suppose I should thank you for calling the clinic for my son.

ARMAN

(smiles, despite his mood)
Most people would have thanked me for sparing their lives. Your priorities are commendable.

Arman moves to the elevator, presses the button with gloved hands. The door opens, and inside is a stocked cleaning cart.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

Everything must be spotless by dawn. And not a word to anyone.

Reyna pauses before she gets in. Seeing his agitation evokes an unexpected sympathy for him. She looks in his eyes.

REYNA

I learned to clean because my son's life depends on it. I'll clean the same for you because he now depends on you.

Arman looks at her and a glint of relief passes in his eyes.

ARMAN

Your words are as precise as your work.

He leans in to swipe a key card, then Reyna enters alone.

ARMAN

Don't be shocked by what you find.

The doors close, and Reyna holds her breath the entire elevator ride up, terror building as she imagines the blood and carnage that lies ahead. But when the doors open --

INT. VIRIDIAN HOTEL - PROVOCATEUR SUITE - NIGHT

MUSIC and LIGHT blasts into the elevator with a waft of PINK FOAM. WTF? Reyna enters to find half-naked WOMEN strewn across the penthouse in a sea of sequins, boas and bubbles. The remains of a "Leather and Lace" lesbian sex party.

Illuminated by disco lights, some women are passed out, while others are making out -- but the entire place is fucking trashed. Red wine and colorful martinis stain plush carpets and velvet furniture. Body paint is smushed on shag rugs and elegantly papered walls. Sex toys and drug paraphernalia are scattered all over the penthouse turned sex dungeon.

And in the midst of it all -- a GLORIOUS PEACOCK pounces on a glass table. Pecking at the remains of a magnificent spread.

Reyna is stunned for a moment, till she looks out the massive floor-to-ceiling windows to see a streak of CRIMSON LIGHT across the Vegas horizon. It's mere hours before dawn. Fuck. How the hell is she gonna clean this in time?

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOURINT. VIRIDIAN HOTEL - PROVOCATEUR SUITE - NIGHT

Reyna is barefoot and in high gear, vacuuming foam as women slowly filter out, along with the Peacock aka Emotional Support Animal. Just when it looks like they've all gone --

Reyna runs a vacuum into NADIA (30, sultry and beautiful with an eccentric bohemian edge). Reyna moves to her, mortified --

REYNA

I'm so sorry. Are you okay...?

Nadia rises from a shag rug, dripping in foam, dressed in a skimpy leather bondage outfit, and high as a kite...

NADIA

A few more bruises won't kill me.

As Reyna helps her to her feet, Nadia drinks her in, coyly...

NADIA (CONT'D)

But if you really want to hurt me,
I could show you a few tricks...

A smoldering look, then Nadia keels over. Reyna catches her fall, and they land on a sofa, Nadia poised in her arms.

NADIA (CONT'D)

God, you're beautiful... I'm Nadia.

Nadia touches Reyna's face, caresses her shoulder... Assuming she's working, Reyna looks at her sympathetically.

REYNA

The party's over, so you can go
home now. Is there someone I can
call for you?

NADIA

(shrugs, disparagingly)
Mmmm... My husband. He'll come...

Reyna makes a wry face, relating to this woman.

REYNA

I've learned that husbands can be
unreliable.

Nadia's face lights up as she laughs --

NADIA

Arman made a good choice with you.

The comment stops Reyna. Though she has no idea what it means, it reminds her she has to keep working. She rises --

REYNA

Let me get you some water...

NADIA

That's sweet. But I'm just gonna lie here another minute...

Nadia curls up in a bed of boas. So Reyna gives her a glass of water, then gets back to her mad dash towards the finish line... In a spectacular CLEANING MONTAGE:

-- Reyna throws out trash, sex toys and drug paraphernalia...

-- She lifts Peacock poop and impossible stains from velvet furnishings, plush carpets and shag rugs...

-- She sterilizes dancing cages, bondage contraptions, vanities, showers and jacuzzis...

END MONTAGE as Reyna miraculously transforms the suite to its former glory. And as the morning sun BLAZES across the sky like a stream of fire -- there's only one thing left to do.

Reyna gently stirs Nadia awake...

REYNA

... Come on... It's time to go...

Nadia groans as Reyna helps her to her feet, then walks her towards the elevator, when suddenly -- the doors open.

Reyna freezes as Arman stands there, staring at them. But he's not looking at Reyna. He glares at Nadia, repulsed.

ARMAN

You're filthy.

NADIA

I prefer the term, nasty.

ARMAN

I assume you've met my wife?

Reyna is shocked. But Nadia simply smiles.

NADIA

She's gorgeous. I'd love to have her in my studio --

ARMAN

She works for me. Not for you --

NADIA

Party pooper.

(then)

I like her. Make sure she gets a good tip.

Nadia kisses her on the cheek, then gets in the elevator. Arman gets out to hand Reyna an envelope. As she takes it --

ARMAN

I told you not to speak to anyone.
That's strike one.

The threat turns her stomach. But Reyna won't be berated or intimidated. As he turns back, she blurts out --

REYNA

If you expect me to ignore someone who needs my help, find someone else to clean for you.

He stops. And a chill run up her spine. But she keeps going.

REYNA

I jumped through hoops for you tonight. And for what? To save you from some kind of embarrassment? My family needed me tonight. And I don't expect you to give a damn about that, but you should at least give a crap about yours.

They stand off with each other, and for a moment, Reyna thinks she went too far. Then, Arman smirks.

ARMAN

I see why you two get along.

He gets in the elevator with Nadia, then the doors close, leaving Reyna alone -- with another thick envelope of cash.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - FIONA'S ROOM - DAY

Reyna peaks her head into the room. Sees Fiona, still in her skimpy outfit, passed out from the night before...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Reyna rifles through the clutter. Finds an empty shoebox. Puts two wads of cash inside. Then looks for a hiding spot...

She opens a buffet cabinet, but it's crammed with stuff... She sees an old dresser, opens a few drawers, but they're all stuffed with knick-knacks and stray gadgets...

She looks around again, and in her stillness -- she hears a FLUTTER, drawing her attention to an AIR VENT above the dresser, also piled with junk.

Reyna finds a screwdriver in the gadget drawer. Climbs up on the dresser. Unscrews the vent cover. Then slides her shoebox of cash inside -- but the box hits something. WTF? Reyna takes out her shoebox, reaches in and finds a large Tupperware container. Inside is a 2 gallon Ziploc bag stuffed with multicolored ECSTASY PILLS. Holy shit.

Reyna hears the TV turn on inside the house as Fiona wakes and starts shuffling around... Reyna quickly gets down -- when she knocks over the junk cluttered on the dresser. Fuck.

Panicking, Reyna shoves her shoebox of cash under the dresser when the door to the house opens and Fiona walks in --

FIONA

What the hell's going on in here?

As Fiona sees the half-filled garbage bag that Jaz left behind yesterday, a rush of anxiety floods her senses.

FIONA

You can't just throw out my stuff!

Reyna tries to wrap her head around all this --

REYNA

Fi... I know things have been hard, but you don't need all this crap. You're not on food stamps anymore --

FIONA

Like you know anything about that!

REYNA

You're right, I don't. I also have no idea how you can live like this! All this clutter messes with your head --

FIONA

And that's why I'm so screwed up?!

REYNA

That's not what I said --

FIONA

It's what you meant! Go on... What else?! Just because you're SO perfect doesn't give you the right to judge everything I do!

REYNA

This isn't about me! No one wants to live in this, not even your kids-

FIONA

Don't tell me how to raise my kids! I've managed for years without you or anyone else bossing me around, thinking you're better than me--

REYNA

Then what the hell is this?

Done with the bullshit, Reyna shows her the bag of the ecstasy she just found. Busted, Fiona tries to justify it.

FIONA

Look, Brandon said I could be a cocktail server if I sell a little on the side. All the girls do it.

REYNA

And that makes it okay?!

Reyna's head is about to explode. With all the crap going on in her life, this is the last thing she needs.

REYNA

Look, if you need money, I can help you, but this -- ?!

FIONA

Oh, get off your high horse! This isn't the Philippines where the President lets Joe Schmoie shoot you in the street for smoking a joint!

REYNA

You have no idea who this Brandon guy is, what he's capable of, or who he's connected with!

FIONA

I know how to be smart about this --

REYNA

This is the stupidest thing you've ever done! Forget being deported -- this could get us all killed!

FIONA

Well, if that's what you think -- get the hell outta my house!

The words fly out before Fiona can stop them, and Reyna hits her right back --

REYNA

Fine. 'Cause this is the last place
I wanna raise my child.

Reyna walks out, and both look like they've been slapped in the face...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Stifling back her emotions, Reyna heads to her room, when something stops her cold --

REPORTER (V.O.)

...earlier today, a body was found
by a kayaker in the Colorado River.

Still catching her breath from the fight, Reyna slowly turns to see a REPORTER on TV and an obscured image of a BLOATED CORPSE washed up on a riverbank. Kobie's body. Fuck.

REPORTER

Law enforcement officials are
seeking any information that could
lead to the identification of the
deceased. If anyone has any
knowledge concerning this case,
contact the Nevada police...

Reyna reels as everything comes crashing down at once. Then her burner RINGS, and she turns sheet white. But we already know who it is...

INT./EXT. BOXING CLUB / HIDDEN VAULT / OFFICE - NIGHT

As Arman moves past the boxing arena, PAN AROUND TO REVEAL a wall in the back of the club is now opened up, exposing a HIDDEN VAULT with several printing presses inside. The boxing ring was a front for a COUNTERFEIT MONEY FACTORY. And now the printing presses, ink barrels and crates of supplies are being hauled out of a loading door and into a SEMI-TRAILER TRUCK, along with several 100 LB PUNCHING BAGS.

Arman steps in an office where Sarkis enters with Reyna. She notes the torn wall, overturned desk, ripped out land line, and a PHOTO on the floor with KOBIE'S FAMILY, including a BABY GIRL. She looks at it sadly. A casualty she was part of.

REYNA

(guilt-ridden)
What will happen to his family?

ARMAN

If he was smart, he would've taken care of that. But we have more pressing concerns...

(re: the vault)

Clean this like you did out there. Once you're done, walk out to the ring to call. There's no signal in this back room. It's a dead zone.

Reyna scans the room. Sees chemical spills, ink stains, and the remains of old takeout food. But it's otherwise stripped.

REYNA

What if someone comes in?

ARMAN

All the doors will be locked. You'll be safe. Be quick.

Reyna watches as Arman and Sarkis exit the loading door, then lock up the semi-truck. As the truck drives off, Sarkis closes up the loading door -- locking Reyna alone inside.

INT. CHOP SHOP - NIGHT

The back door of the semi-truck rolls up, now backed into the loading door of an auto body shop. Arman and Sarkis stand with Hayk as TWO MEN roll out a PUNCHING BAG, then open it to reveal: a hundred pounds of COUNTERFEIT CASH stuffed inside.

HAYK

Leave me the bags. Take the rest to the tank farm.

As they unload the Heavy Bags, an ENFORCER approaches Hayk.

ENFORCER

It's done.

Hayk nods, and Arman peers at him.

ARMAN

What's happened?

HAYK

They've ID'd the body. Cops are on their way to the club. Contingencies have been initiated.

Arman suddenly looks alarmed.

ARMAN

I still have a cleaner inside.

HAYK

How is that my problem?

Hayk walks off with Tigran, and Arman pales, stricken...

INT. HIDDEN VAULT - NIGHT

Reyna scrubs a stain with Javi's solution. She's tired, defeated. Is this what her life has come to? Then she notices a suspicious smell in the air... What the hell? She searches the room, following the smell, then hears a faint HISSING... She tracks the sound and discovers -- a pipe releasing GAS directly in the room. Holy fuck. The place is rigged to blow.

INT. BOXING CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna rushes out of the vault, trying to get the hell out -- she will not go down like this. But the doors are locked with a computerized keypad. There's no way out, even from here. But she's gotta do something or she's fucked.

Reyna clocks a FIRE AXE on the wall. HURLS it against a filthy window, SMASHING it to pieces -- but there's a metal grid on the other side. Fuck. She's still fucking trapped. But Reyna won't give up. Faint from gas, she HACKS at the grid, over and over... Just as she RIPS through the metal --

The front door opens, and Arman rushes in. They lock eyes, and Arman grabs her hand, pulling her out --

ARMAN

Come on!

EXT. BOXING CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna and Arman race away from the building -- BOOM! They hit the pavement as the club EXPLODES, and everything is blasted into SILENCE as it goes up in fucking FLAMES. A beat. Then sound restores. Dust clears. And they look up as FIRE engulfs the club. She turns to him, angry, exhausted, relieved...

ARMAN

We need to get out of here...

Reyna gets up, but as he tries to move -- he SCREAMS in pain.

REYNA

Wait -- Don't move!

Reyna checks him and sees -- SHRAPNEL lodged in his leg and blood pooling around it. Arman is fucking bleeding out.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEEXT. BOXING CLUB - NIGHT

Arman lies on the ground, bleeding profusely, and Reyna has a choice. She could let him bleed out and die. Or she could keep him alive. In a split second, she makes her decision.

REYNA
Do you trust me?

ARMAN
... What?

REYNA
Do you trust me?!

Arman looks at her, and the answer is simple.

ARMAN
Yes.

Reyna takes off Arman's belt and pulls it taut around his thigh to slow the bleed. The Town Car screeches up beside them -- and Sarkis jumps out as POLICE SIRENS approach...

SARKIS
We have to go. Now!

Sarkis grabs Arman's torso, then they hoist him into the car.

INT. TOWN CAR - MOMENTS LATER (MOVING)

Sarkis drives as Arman screams in agony. Reyna explains --

REYNA
There's shrapnel lodged in your leg
and tissues bleeding around it. I
have to cauterize it.

Weak from pain and blood loss, Arman nods, vulnerable...

ARMAN
Please...don't let it get infected.

REYNA
Sarkis -- I need a knife and a
lighter. And pull over!

As Sarkis pulls over, Reyna grabs the bottle of Artsakh Brandy from the car and gives it to Arman. He takes a swig...

ARMAN
We still need a proper drink.

REYNA

Let me do this, and we can.

Sarkis comes through the back seat door with a pocketknife and lighter. Reyna CUTS off a strip of Arman's shirt, pours Brandy on the cloth to clean around the wound. Disinfects the knife and wipes it dry, then holds the handle with the cloth.

REYNA (CONT'D)

Light it.

Sarkis holds the lighter as Reyna heats the knife over the flame. Before it turns red, she pulls it away from the fire.

REYNA (CONT'D)

Ready?

Arman takes another swig and nods. Then he grits his teeth, screaming as Reyna DIGS out the shrapnel with the tip of the knife -- then CAUTERIZES the fucking wound. It's over in seconds. And once it's sealed, Reyna DOUSES the wound with Brandy to stave off infection. As the searing pain finally leaves his body, Arman almost laughs...

ARMAN

Where the hell did you learn that?
Are you some kind of doctor or
something?

When Reyna doesn't answer, he shakes his head.

ARMAN (CONT'D)

Good thing I trust you...

Sarkis steps away from the car to take a breath and light up a smoke.

But as Reyna looks down at Arman, drenched in blood and sweat, she's not laughing. She's fucking furious.

REYNA

Then why was I left behind?!

ARMAN

I came back for you --

REYNA

After I was left to die!

ARMAN

(unable to lie to her)
I'm sorry.

Reyna glares at him with fire in her eyes.

REYNA

No... That's not good enough! I did everything you asked. I came when you called. I saved your ass many times -- and this is what I get for it?! I agreed to clean for you, not to be treated like garbage!

Reyna's in so deep now there's no way out -- but now she's laying down her terms.

REYNA (CONT'D)

You want me to keep working for you? Then give me the respect and protection I deserve. Never abandon me again! And if anything ever happens to me -- swear to me my family will be safe.

Arman looks at her, this woman who keeps surprising him, and:

ARMAN

I swear it on my mother's grave.

Their eyes lock. And the deal is made.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Reyna stands in the shower. But as water runs over her bloody body, this time she doesn't cry. Through near death escapes, she's stronger and harder. And while her body gets cleansed on the outside, her soul is forever tainted on the inside...

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

As MOURNERS sift inside, FIND Reyna entering with flowers. She sees a PORTRAIT of Kobie next to a CREMATION URN, along with a photo of KOBIE'S FAMILY. Reyna sees a table for flowers and heads to it, when she recognizes a voice --

ALONZO (O.S.)

... I swear to you, all he talked about was his baby girl...

Then sees Alonzo giving respects to KOBIE'S WIFE, a BABY GIRL in her arms. Fuck. Desperate not to be seen, Reyna sets down her bouquet with a SYMPATHY CARD inside - but it bulges open, revealing a WAD OF CASH. A meager pittance for his family.

Reyna does a 180 and -- WHAM! She slams into a GUEST, sending the contents of her purse all over the floor. Praying Alonzo didn't see, she scurries to pick things up. But as she reaches for the burner -- someone hands it to her first.

GAVIN

Are you okay?

Reyna looks up to meet the compassionate eyes of GAVIN ROSS (34, Caucasian, intelligent, discerning, and very easy on the eyes), and she does her best to pull herself together.

REYNA

Thank you. It's...a difficult time.

Gavin clocks a SECOND CELL PHONE. Hands that one to her too.

GAVIN

Did you know Kobie well?

She looks at him, the guilt still weighing heavily on her.

REYNA

I worked for him a short time. He may not have been perfect, but everything he did, he did for his family.

Finding a connection she didn't expect, Reyna leaves without a look back. But Gavin's eyes remain fixed on her...

EXT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Reyna walks up the driveway to find Jaz shooting hoops alone.

JAZ

Hi, Auntie Rey Rey. Take a shot!

Jaz tosses her the ball, and Reyna surprisingly gets it in.

JAZ (CONT'D)

Nice one!

And that's when Reyna sees Luca staring longingly out of his window, watching them again. But this time, she gets an idea.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Reyna enters to find Fiona with a garbage bag, begrudgingly trying to clean up, while squinting her eyes at a text.

FIONA

Why do men think sending you a picture of their junk is a turn on?

Fiona flashes her phone to Reyna, and she winces.

REYNA

Oghh... Wow...

They both laugh.

FIONA

Well, if things work out with
Brandon, maybe I can get off this
stupid dating app...

Reyna sighs, and Fiona takes it as another judgement...

FIONA (CONT'D)

Look, I'm not perfect, alright --

REYNA

I'm not perfect either, Fi. Far
from it... I mean, the best thing
about leaving Manila is not having
to deal with Marco.

Fiona narrows her eyes, her suspicions now being confirmed.

FIONA

Thought you said things were fine?

REYNA

Yeah, that's what I said...

Reyna sighs, finally owning up to the truth...

REYNA (CONT'D)

He started drinking again. And
gambling... I can't even tell you
how much debt he's put us into...

FIONA

Why didn't you tell me?!

REYNA

'Cause I felt like an idiot. And
right now, you're the only person
who still sees me for who I was...

Reyna looks at her, more vulnerable than we've ever seen her.

FIONA

I'll always look up to you, Rey
Rey... But you should divorce
Marco's stupid ass.

REYNA

Yeah, if it weren't still illegal.
At least in the Philippines.

FIONA

Then that's all the more reason why you should stay here. With me. Last thing I want is to lose my *beshie*, just when I got her back again.

REYNA

Oh, Fi, I'm sorry I never saw how hard things were for you. I've been here two minutes and I have no idea how you managed to survive fifteen years, *tago n tago*.

FIONA

Piece of cake, really. Nothing I love more than breaking the rules. Well, maybe a few things...

REYNA

I'm not here to judge you, Fi. I just worry about you. And I want you to be with someone good. But, I'm here for you, A-teh.

FIONA

I'm here for you, too, Rey Rey.

Reyna and Fiona hug, and it's a deep palliative embrace that they both needed. Then Reyna takes the garbage bag from her.

REYNA

Look, let me do this. And if it's okay with you, there's something special I want to do...

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - REYNA & LUCA'S ROOM - DAY

Reyna gently wakes Luca up... He opens his eyes to find his mom grinning widely at him.

REYNA

Morning, Peanut...

LUCA

... Why do you have a funny face?

REYNA

I've got a surprise for you.

LUCA

Do we get to do Karaoke today?

REYNA

Better than that.

LUCA

Are we seeing the special doctor?

REYNA

That's next week...

LUCA

Then what?, Mommy?

REYNA

Close your eyes, and don't open them until I say so...

Luca closes his eyes tight, and Reyna leads him out and into--

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

REYNA

Okay... Open them.

Luca's eyes light up in amazement as he sees the room is now lined with plastic. A BASKETBALL NET is in the giant bubble, along with Jaz, Chris, Fiona and Javi, all in new shoes.

LUCA

Mommy... Am I dreaming...?

Tears spring to Reyna's eyes as everyone laughs...

REYNA

No, Peanut. Mommy made a bigger shell, just for you.

INT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Reyna, Fiona and Javi now play against Luca, Jaz and Chris. As Fiona hogs the ball, Jaz calls her out --

JAZ

That's five seconds!

CHRIS

You gotta pass, dribble or shoot, Ma. Those are the rules.

FIONA

PSH... Don't you know your mama's a rule breaker!

But as Fiona's busy talking smack - Jaz pops the ball out of her hands, then passes it to Luca --

JAZ

Here, Luca -- shoot!

Luca shoots...But as it fall short, Chris tips it in for him.

JAZ & LUCA

YES!!

FIONA

Wait, what?! That can't be legal.

CHRIS

PSH... Screw legal. Right, Ma?

As Javi grabs hold of the ball -- the doorbell RINGS.

REYNA

I'll get it. You guys get us back
on the scoreboard!

INT./EXT. FIONA'S TOWNHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Reyna opens the door to find TWO MEN in suits. One is Gavin from the funeral. The other is DERRICK LAWSON (40, African American, handsome, charismatic and astute).

DERRICK

Reyna De La Cruz?

REYNA

Yes. May I help you?

They flash their BADGES, and her heart catches in her throat.

DERRICK

I'm Special Agent Derrick Lawson,
and this is Special Agent --

GAVIN

Gavin Ross. We met at Kobie's
funeral.

REYNA

Yes, I remember.

But now she can see the shifting gears behind his eyes...

GAVIN

If you have a moment, we have a few
questions for you.

As Reyna's heart races a mile a fucking minute... BOOM OUT.

END OF PILOT