

GRAND HOTEL

Written by

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NETWORK SEVENTH DRAFT

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INT. HOTEL - STANDARD GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON a TV. A breathless WEATHERMAN reports:

WEATHERMAN

...with an Accu-Weather update on Hurricane Ilana. As the Category Four storm unexpectedly veered west today, many locals did not have ample time to evacuate.

WIDEN TO: a dorky, sunburnt family in their HOTEL SUITE. MOM and KIDS huddle on the bed, glued to the TV. DAD stares out the window as palm trees whip around in the HOWLING WIND.

WEATHERMAN (CONT'D)

If you're in Miami Beach tonight... our prayers are with you.

Dad steps back from the window, scared. There's a KNOCK at the door. Dad opens it to find JASON, 20s, a tuxedo-ed hotel waiter with a kind face. His demeanor is calm.

JASON

Good evening. For your safety, we're asking guests to relocate to the banquet hall.
(off their anxious looks)
It's just a precaution.

A palm frond SLAMS against the window with a loud THWACK.

JASON (CONT'D)

But let's go now.

As Mom and Dad gather their kids, we REVERSE TO REVEAL --

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Jason is one in a line of WAITERS; all knocking on doors, explaining the situation. As nervous guests spill into the hall, we MOVE DOWN through the hotel in a stylized sequence:

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY/SUITE ON THE FLOOR BELOW

Uniformed MAIDS race in and out of rooms, while a HEAD MAID barks orders. Everyone moves at lightning speed except for INGRID, 20's, German, who is texting on her phone.

HEAD MAID

(in Spanish)
Make sure the windows are closed tight. And locked! Ingrid, hurry!

INGRID

I don't speak Spanish.

HEAD MAID

The windows, Ingrid! Go!

Ingrid sighs, then walks into a room. She locks the window, looks around, then steals a couple vodkas from the mini-bar.

INT. HOTEL - MEZZANINE LEVEL

Guests hurry down an ornate spiral staircase, while MATEO - 30s, debonair, keeps them calm. He's the Director of Guest Experiences, and impressively knows each guest by name:

MATEO

Mr. and Mrs. Bell. Ms. Vilasuso,
looking lovely this evening.
Please proceed to the banquet hall.
Mr. Indich, right this way...

AT THE WINDOWS, WORKMEN quickly roll down metal shutters, over giant bay windows.

INT. HOTEL - KITCHEN

CHEFS prepare a feast. FLAMES erupt under skillets. RUNNERS scurry back and forth to the pantry. AZALEA PARNELL (Mrs. P), 50s, lovably no-nonsense Staff Manager, enters:

MRS. P

Service in five, just like any
other night. I don't see plates!
Why is nobody plating?

A senior CHEF approaches while stirring a bowl.

CHEF

We're down a line cook, Ma'am.

MRS. P

(looking around)
Ms. Garibaldi? Well where is she?

The chef shrugs. Just then, the power goes, plunging the room into darkness, save for the gas stove flames.

MRS. P (CONT'D)

Keep working! It's a hurricane,
not the apocalypse!

As the staff return to work...

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

CLOSE ON a metal name tag: SKY GARIBALDI. WIDEN TO REVEAL Sky, 20's, line chef, beautiful but troubled. She's standing before GIGI CARDENAS, 40s, ultra-glam, (think Catherine Zeta Jones but Cuban). The mood is tense, the room silent except for the haunting cry of the wind. After a beat:

SKY

I should get back to the kitchen.
They're probably looking for me.

GIGI

I'm sure they'll manage.
(then)
Have we ever met? I mean, before
tonight - have we crossed paths..?

SKY

You introduced yourself at the
kitchen staff holiday party.

GIGI

And when we met, was I... nice?
Sometimes I put on a big smile at
these things. And the servants
mistake me for someone they can
talk to. A friend.

SKY

(beat, then)
Nobody thinks of you like that.

GIGI

(bemused laugh)
Well, that's honest...
(then, getting heated)
I guess I'm just trying to figure
out why you're not taking this more
seriously. I haven't summoned you
in the middle of a hurricane for my
health. You have something that
doesn't belong to you. And you
need to return it.

SKY

I... can't.

GIGI

Are you trying to get fired? Is
that what you want?

A beat. Sky steels herself, finds courage:

SKY

You can't fire me. Unless you want
the whole world to know what your
husband did...

The women stare at each other, facing off. Sky is defiant.
Gigi is shaken, but tries not to show it. And off this...

INT. BANQUET HALL - SAME

A beautiful Art Deco room, lit by thousands of candles. The
curved walls are covered in a giant mural of a Miami night
scene: people dancing under a pink moon, tropical parrots
flying overhead, the ocean filled with colorful fish...

Scores of nervous GUESTS sit at tables, while more filter in.
GONZALO CARDENAS, 50's, steps onto a stage. He's handsome,
but his real superpower is his charm.

GONZALO

Take a seat, yes, anywhere.
Bienvenidos. I can see you're
nervous. But as someone who's spent
my life here, I know hurricanes.
And I've found you can do one of
two things. Panic. Or drink.

The crowd chuckles. Gonzalo smiles, having broken the ice.

GONZALO (CONT'D)

You're wondering who is this
impossibly handsome man, trying to
distract you from the weather. My
name is Gonzalo Cardenas, and I'm
the owner of this magnificent
hotel. The Riviera Grand has been
here since 1951, and I promise, we
will be here tomorrow.

Gonzalo crosses himself, makes a little prayer. Guests laugh
again. He's winning them over.

GONZALO (CONT'D)

So without further ado... *Damas y
caballeros*, treasured guests --
welcome to your very first
hurricane party!

Gonzalo steps away, and a curtain opens revealing a BAND.
They start to play LATIN JAZZ. The crowd applauds.

GONZALO'S POV: Exotic cocktails being poured, giant towering
platters of seafood, happy guests. This is a sexy party.

Finally Gonzalo sees Gigi entering, distraught. Concerned, he hurries over to her. She whispers in his ear. His face drops. As the party continues, they exit together.

INT. HALLWAY/ELEVATOR BAY/STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Sky moves through the dark, deserted hallway with a lit candle. (Ideally, the following is filmed in one continuous shot following her through the hotel, a la The Shining). Sky hears footsteps behind her, freezes.

SKY

Hello? Is someone there?

No reply. Someone's following her. She arrives at double doors, swipes her badge, but the power is out; nothing happens! Scared, she hurries around the corner.

She arrives at an ELEVATOR BAY. Pushes the buttons, but quickly realizes that's useless too.

She hurries into a MAINTENANCE STAIRWELL, down the steps. She nears the bottom, she hears her pursuer following. Shit!

She races down a MAINTENANCE HALLWAY, toward a heavy metal door. A sign reads: EXIT TO POOL. She looks behind her, and then, with no other choice, emerges into:

EXT. HOTEL - POOL DECK/BEACH - NEXT MOMENT

Sky is IN THE HURRICANE! The candle flies from her hands as horizontal rain pummels her. LOUNGE CHAIRS fly into the pool! It's terrifying. She continues away from the hotel.

A breathless Sky stumbles onto the beach, soaked and exhausted. She turns back, but can only see rain. In tears, she shouts in the direction of her pursuer:

SKY

Leave me alone! Ok?! Leave me alone! I mean it!

She looks back at the hotel. Nothing. It seems like her pursuer is gone. Sky catches her breath, relieved. And then WHAM! A plank from a nearby lifeguard stand flies into her head. She falls to the ground, unconscious.

We hover over her body for a beat, and then... two feet approach. As the UNSEEN PURSUER drags her body away, we TILT BACK to the dark hotel, looming above the crashing waves.

TITLE CARD! END TEASER.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

CHYRON: Three months later. Gonzalo wakes up in the most gorgeous hotel suite you've ever seen. It's a free-standing villa, overlooking the ocean. He looks to the deck where Gigi is sunbathing topless, beside a private pool.

GONZALO

Morning, *mi amor*. Why don't you come inside? People can see you.

GIGI

I know. That's the whole point.

She smiles wickedly, pretends to pose for anyone who can see.

GONZALO

Sinverguenza. Stop that!

He throws her a robe to cover herself. She glances down at the robe, decides to ignore it, and comes inside.

GIGI

What's wrong with you?

GONZALO

Oh just stress. We have to get through this week. That's all.

She comes up behind him, rubs his shoulders.

GIGI

Cheer up, *Papi*. My little Carolina's getting married. And your Paloma's coming home for the wedding. It's a happy time.

GONZALO

You think your kids and my kids will get along for once?
(off her skeptical look)
They used to be friends.

GIGI

(provocatively)
You and I used to be friends.
Things change.

She kisses his neck. Gonzalo smiles.

GONZALO

I don't deserve you.

GIGI

That's the truest thing you've ever said. Now go get ready. Paloma's flight gets in any minute.

(carefully)

Gonzalo. Have you... told her yet?

A beat. The question clearly troubles him.

GONZALO

No. I need to tell her in person.

GIGI

Okay, but don't wait forever.

Gigi strolls off toward the kitchen, still topless...

INT. MRS. P'S OFFICE - DAY

Mrs. P, the staff manager, stares at a resume, unimpressed.
REVEAL DANNY, 30ish, gorgeous, confident, across from her.

MRS. P

You waited tables at Norman's?

DANNY

At the Ritz Carlton in Orlando.

MRS. P

(non-plussed)

The Breakers Palm Beach. St. Regis
Bal Harbour. You move around a lot.

DANNY

I have in the past. But I'm
committed to Miami. Gotta settle
down eventually, right?

He smiles, aiming for charm, but she just frowns. Just then,
Jason the waiter knocks and enters with lunch.

MRS. P

Ah, just leave it on the desk,
Jason. I'm in an interview.

JASON

(excited)

For the new waiter?

She nods "yes" then turns her attention back to Danny. Jason
sets up the lunch and notices Danny's resume, picks it up.

MRS. P

You've worked exclusively at hotels? Never just a restaurant?

DANNY

I guess I've just stuck with what I know. Is that bad?

JASON

(to Mrs. P.)

Sorry... can I steal you for a sec?

She indicates for Danny to wait a beat, then joins Jason at the desk, across the room. He talks quietly:

JASON (CONT'D)

Why are you grilling him? Look at his resume; he's perfect!

MRS. P

Can I do my job please?

JASON

I'm drowning -- double shifts, no days off... We got a wedding on Sunday; if you start someone today, it'd make my life a lot easier.

MRS. P

Oh! It's gonna make your life easier? Why didn't you say so?

JASON

This is why we're understaffed. You're too picky. It's waiting tables, not brain surgery.

MRS. P

(sighs, exasperated)

You want a little wingman? Fine. But you train him. He's your responsibility.

JASON

Good!

She turns back to Danny.

MRS. P

You're starting now. Jason will show you around.

DANNY
(surprised)
That's it? Ma'am, thank you so
much. And I promise --

MRS. P
(cutting him off)
Danny, you won. Stop talking.

He smiles and exits with Jason. As they hit the hallway,
Danny turns to Jason, conspiratorially:

DANNY
She's a real ball buster, huh?

JASON
She's my mother.
(off Danny's reaction)
And yes. She is.

EXT. GRAND RIVIERA HOTEL - PORTE COCHERE - LATER

Our first good look at the hotel exterior - gorgeous "Miami
Baroque" - curved white walls, fleur-de-lis shaped doors -
not a straight line in sight. Palm trees and flowering
bougainvillea everywhere.

PALOMA CARDENAS, 20s, lovely and eternally optimistic, steps
out of an SUV, smiling. As she admires the hotel, a team of
PORTERS swarm her, and start unloading her bags:

PORTER #1
Welcome home, *Señorita*.

PALOMA
(recognizing him)
Fernando! Tanto tiempo sin verte!
It's so good to see you.

PORTER #2
Y Felicidades! On Business School.

Porter #2 takes her carry-on bag, while another helps her out
of her coat. It's definitely the royal treatment.

PALOMA
That's so nice. Thanks guys.

Another Porter arrives with a Cuban pastry on a silver tray.

PORTER #1
Guava pastelito, from the kitchen,
Señorita. Your favorite.

PALOMA
(takes a bite)
I've been dreaming of this pastry.
Ay diosito. Heaven.

Just then, Gonzalo makes his way to the front of the group.

GONZALO
Hey, *basta* with the welcome wagon!
She's my daughter. Go!

The Porters smile and disperse. Paloma hugs her father.

GONZALO (CONT'D)
Look at you, *Cariña!* Like a million
bucks! Beautiful! Too skinny, but
other than that, perfect.

PALOMA
That's because I wasn't eating one
of these every day.

She sets the pastry plate down, points to all the porters.

PALOMA (CONT'D)
Did you put them up to all this?

GONZALO
No, everybody missed you, that's
all. This place wasn't the same
without you.

PALOMA
Well, it looks fantastic! I was so
worried during the hurricane --

GONZALO
We were lucky. Some trees fell
over, a couple of broken windows...
Nothing too terrible.

PALOMA
(taken aback)
What about the girl who
disappeared? That was pretty
terrible.

A beat. Gonzalo is sobered by this topic.

GONZALO
Claro. Thank god that's behind us
now.
(changing subject)
Listen *mija.*
(MORE)

GONZALO (CONT'D)

I want to talk about the future.
Maybe after you settle in, we can
go for one of our walks?

PALOMA

(thinks this is good news)
Of course! I have so many ideas
about marketing. And I've been
thinking about my title - maybe
Associate Manager? I don't want
any senior staff thinking I'm
replacing them, you know?

Before he can respond, they're interrupted by a flashy SPORTS
CAR pulling up. ELREY - 30s, cool, movie-star looks,
emerges. He's a world-famous rapper and musician. GUESTS
swarm him, taking pictures, trying to get autographs.

PALOMA (CONT'D)

Is that... Elrey? The rapper?

GONZALO

The "King of Miami." *El bobo* set
off fireworks in his living room,
burned down his whole damn house.
He's staying here for a couple
weeks. Lucky us.

Gonzalo leads Paloma away from the throng.

PALOMA

Don't you have to go greet the big
celebrity?

GONZALO

(re: Paloma)
I just did.

He kisses his daughter's cheek, sincerely happy to see her.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NEXT MOMENT

As they enter, we PAN over the lobby - vintage chandeliers,
onyx columns, gold-flecked marble floors. GUESTS sit at teal
velvet banquettes, while RECEPTION STAFF help new arrivals.

A couple of TOURIST KIDS gather at a giant birdcage, where a
pair of BLUE MACAWS flap their wings. Paloma takes it all
in, her eyes filling with happy tears. Gonzalo sees.

GONZALO

Cariña. Are you okay?

PALOMA
(taking it all in)
It's just... great to be home.
That's all.

GONZALO
Oh, Gigi wants me to remind you
that the welcome brunch for your
sister's wedding is at ten.

PALOMA
Step sister.

GONZALO
Be nice. We're putting you in the
Sinatra Suite -- only don't tell
your brother, because it's bigger
than his room.

PALOMA
Speaking of, where is Javi?

A pained look crosses Gonzalo's face; he sighs.

GONZALO
God only knows.

CUT TO:

INT. JAVI'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

JAVI CARDENAS, 20's, sleeps next to a cute girl, JENNY.
Javi's tall, dark, and handsome, but can't seem to shake the
giant chip on his shoulder. Jenny rolls on top of him,
starts kissing him. He stirs as she moves her way down.

JAVI
Good morning to you too.

She smiles at him, continues.

JAVI (CONT'D)
Hey, um... Sorry, forgot your name.

JENNY
Jenny. Javi and Jenny. J and J!

JAVI
Right. Jenny. As much as I'd like
to do this all day, I got this
family brunch I have to go to...

He slips on some briefs, rises from bed.

JENNY

Do you need some help?

JAVI

(gruff)

Why would I need help?

JENNY

Sorry. Of course not.

Javi stands. WIDEN TO REVEAL his body --muscular, tanned, and missing his left leg from the knee down. As he slides on his prosthetic, he feels her stare.

JAVI

What are you looking at?

JENNY

You. I just... I think you're inspirational. So brave. My cousin had cancer too; different kind. They caught it early so --

JAVI

(cutting her off)

Jenny, sorry. I really have to get ready. And check-out's in an hour, so you should probably... y'know.

JENNY

Oh, I'm not checking out today. I'm here all week!

Javi takes a deep breath. Jenny cannot take a hint.

JAVI

Great.

And off Javi, annoyed...

INT. BANQUET HALL - LATER

Paloma enters to find Mrs. P working at one of the tables.

PALOMA

There you are!

MRS. P

Can't get any work done in my office due to the constant stream of idiots asking me questions.

Paloma laughs, then embraces Mrs. P.

MRS. P (CONT'D)

Honey, we are all just so proud of you! Getting your MBA? I just wish your Mom was here to see you now.

Paloma sighs, offers a bitter-sweet smile. There's clearly some sadness about her late mother.

PALOMA

Me too.

(then, nostalgic)

This was her favorite room in the hotel, you know. Every Sunday, we'd have breakfast right under this mural. Waffles and candied bacon, *cafe con leche*...

MRS. P

It's a damn good buffet.

PALOMA

She'd make us go from table to table, and shake hands with all the guests. "My children! They're going to run this place someday!"

(chuckles)

I wanted to die of embarrassment at the time. But now...

She approaches the mural, stares at the figure of a smiling MERMAID. Paloma kisses her fingers, touches them to the wall, reverently.

MRS. P

Well I'm sure she'd be thrilled the way things have turned out.

PALOMA

(wryly)

Maybe not so thrilled about Dad's new wife. But everything else.

Mrs. P laughs. Then a PORTER pops his head into the room.

PORTER

Mrs. P? Reception has a scheduling question for you.

MRS. P

Ugh! The idiots have found me. Welcome home, sweetheart.

She smiles at Paloma, then exits.

INT. HOTEL - BATHROOM STALL - DAY

CLOSE on Ingrid the Housekeeper, staring straight ahead, clearly upset. REVEAL she's holding a PREGNANCY TEST with a little PLUS sign. She shakes the little stick vigorously, then looks at it again. Still pregnant. She kicks the door hard. This is definitely not good news.

INT. LOBBY LOUNGE AREA - NEXT MOMENT

Jason pushes a cart of food, while Danny follows him, learning the lay of the land.

JASON

(to Danny)

New waiters do everything here. Restaurants, poolside, beachside, and room service. You have any questions about staff, just ask. I've been working here since high school so I'm down with everyone.

A stone-faced Ingrid rushes toward them.

JASON (CONT'D)

Morning Ingrid! How's it going?

Preoccupied, she hurries past them.

JASON (CONT'D)

Oof. That kind of day, huh?

But Ingrid doesn't register this either as she marches out. Jason watches her go. Danny smirks.

JASON (CONT'D)

Shut up.

DANNY

I didn't say anything.

EXT VERANDA - DAY

A beautiful outdoor cafe, covered in cascading orange flowers. Jason and Danny push carts loaded with food. The CARDENAS FAMILY starts to gather for the family brunch.

JASON

We're the last family-owned hotel on the strip, and that's the family, so look alive.

Just then, Paloma arrives at the brunch. Danny notices.

DANNY

Who's that?

JASON

Boss man's daughter. Otherwise known as off limits. Hey, can you open up those umbrellas by the bar?
(re: Danny's staring)
Danny.

Danny nods, heads off. Jason can see Danny's attraction to Paloma, shakes his head.

ANGLE ON Paloma with her step-sisters CAROLINA and YOLI, 20s. Although they are twins, Carolina is thin, pretty, confident. Yoli is... not. Carolina is polished and faux-nice. Yoli is blunt to a fault. Carolina's fiance - BYRON, handsome Asian-American 30ish, is with them.

CAROLINA

Can I just say, it was so sweet of you to fly in for my wedding.

PALOMA

Actually the timing worked out great. I finished up at Cornell a couple weeks ago, so --

YOLI

God. Ten seconds in and she's already talking about Cornell. We get it. You're smart!

Carolina and Yoli laugh like this is just gentle teasing. Paloma smiles politely, pushes past it.

PALOMA

So you and Byron have only known each other, what? Six months?

BYRON

It's been a whirlwind. But when you know, you know.

CAROLINA

(to Paloma)

And I hope you're okay not being a bridesmaid. I didn't want anyone to feel left out, so Yoli's my Maid of Honor, and that's it.

YOLI

The fat twin sister was less likely to steal her thunder!

CAROLINA

Why would you say that? You steal my thunder all the time. You're beautiful.

These sisters clearly struggle with jealousy issues. And it's awkward. Paloma sees Javi entering.

PALOMA

Will you excuse me for a minute?

CAROLINA

You just flew in, *pobrecita!* You probably want to run up and change.

Paloma looks down at her sundress.

PALOMA

Nope.

Paloma makes a beeline for Javi across the room. She hugs him. They have a fun, easy dynamic.

JAVI

I saw you playing nice with the evil stepsisters.

PALOMA

Oh, they're harmless. If you just... ignore all the hideous things they say.

(then)

Are you okay? You look terrible.

JAVI

Thanks!

(sly smile)

Didn't get much sleep.

PALOMA

Oh god. You know, you really shouldn't hook up with the guests. Dad hates that sort of thing.

JAVI

Added bonus.

He grabs a Bloody Mary from a passing Waiter and drinks. Paloma sighs at his devil-may-care attitude.

AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE - Gigi taps her glass to make a toast. Paloma and Javi take their seats. Byron's Chinese-American family sit at the other end of the table.

GIGI

Everyone - we're so glad you could join us, some of you coming all the way from Beijing! *Huan ying!* Did I say it right? *Huan ying?* I hope you've had a chance to meet the lovely bride, Carolina. And of course, her sister Yolanda. Twins! Fraternal, obviously.

The crowd laughs politely, but Yoli's face drops. Yoli is used to living in her sister's shadow, but it still stings.

GONZALO

We're also blessed to have my children here- Javier and Paloma.
(pointing at them)
We're a "blended" family. And we're thrilled to welcome Byron into the blend. To you and your wonderful family, the Huangfus.

GIGI

(clinking glasses)
Salud everyone. *Chin chin.*

As individual conversations resume, Mateo approaches Gonzalo.

MATEO

Apologies for the interruption. We've had a noise complaint about our... celebrity friend, Elrey..?

CAROLINA

(excited to Yoli)
We should get Elrey to play at the wedding, don't you think?

Yoli smiles her agreement. Mateo continues with Gonzalo.

MATEO

I'd like to upgrade him to the villas, away from the other guests. As a "welcome gift." With your permission, of course.

GONZALO

You hardly need my permission, Mateo. *Vaya con dios.*

Gonzalo forces a smile. There's a flicker of unspoken tension here, but Mateo just nods and exits.

Byron rises. Though his family is traditional, he's a fully American, semi-shallow millennial- a good match for Carolina.

BYRON

So first I want to say thank you to Carolina, for marrying me. You're hilarious, unbelievably beautiful - no seriously, my friends can't believe how hot you are!

(smiles at crowd laughter)

And you're the kindest girl I've ever met.

Javi mouths the word "Kindest?!" to Paloma. She swats him playfully.

BYRON (CONT'D)

I also want to thank Gigi and Gonzalo for hosting. They say it's not always easy mixing business with family, but you guys have made this deal a total breeze.

PALOMA

(alarmed, to Javi)

Deal? What deal?

GONZALO

(rising)

Thank you Byron.

BYRON

Huangfu Development has been exploring the market for a long time, and we're just delighted to be purchasing this beautiful property. So... cheers!

The table quiets. Jason turns to Danny, stunned. But nobody is more shocked than Paloma and Javi.

PALOMA

(hurt)

Dad? Is it true? You sold the hotel?!

Gonzalo stares at her, chastened, as we... **END ACT ONE.**

ACT TWO

EXT. VERANDA - A LITTLE LATER

Gonzalo, Javi and Paloma are huddling away from the table. In the background, Gigi tries to keep the lunch going.

PALOMA
I can't believe you! You sold it?
It's done?

GONZALO
The deal closes next Friday. *Lo siento*, guys. I never meant for you to find out like this.

Javi chuckles a bit inappropriately.

GONZALO (CONT'D)
Something funny?

JAVI
I mean I get why you didn't tell me -- I'm the big disappointment -- But you could have told her before she wasted two years of her life in business school!

GONZALO
I don't think that! Javi, stop this. It isn't a waste!
(to Paloma)
You can do anything you want with that degree.

*
*
*
*
*
*

PALOMA
(furious and betrayed)
The degree was for you! I did everything you ever wanted! My whole life!

GONZALO
This wasn't about you.

PALOMA
Well, it should have been! This was *Mami's* hotel before it was yours! She wanted us to have it! And you and Gigi just sold it off to the highest bidder.

Gigi approaches, cautiously.

GIGI
Listen, I know everyone's upset, but you're making an awful scene.

JAVI
(to Gigi)
Why are you even talking right now?

GIGI
Because I'm part of this family,
and it concerns me too!

JAVI
You're part of this family?

PALOMA
Javi, don't.

JAVI
(to Gigi)
Our mother is rolling over in her
grave right now. You were her best
friend! And you barely waited a
couple months before you swooped in
like some horrible vulture!

Gonzalo slaps Javi. A beat. Gigi looks away, embarrassed.

JAVI (CONT'D)
It's true. Paloma's too nice to
say it, but it's true.

Javi storms away. Paloma stares at her father.

PALOMA
Will you at least tell me why?

GONZALO
I'm getting older. I'm always
working. It's time to retire.
Gigi wants to travel --

PALOMA
(re: Gigi)
So this is her doing?

GONZALO
No, it's a business decision. And
sometimes you have to be
unemotional with business.

PALOMA
But it's not just a business!
It's...
(searches to explain)
... home.

A beat as this sinks in.

GIGI

Mira, we should have told you sooner. But please come back to the table. This is Carolina's big weekend; I don't want to spoil it.

PALOMA

(beat, then)

It's a little late for that.

Paloma exits distraught. A shaken Gonzalo watches her go.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

An endless stretch of beach, dotted with yellow umbrellas and gorgeous TOURISTS in skimpy bathing suits. We find Jason and Danny, holding trays of food and cocktails served in decorative pineapples.

JASON

Can't believe they're selling this place. My mom's worked here half her life. Practically raised the Cardenas kids...

DANNY

(lagging behind a bit)

Never did beach service before. Sand makes it a little harder, huh?

JASON

(teasing)

Aww. We can walk slower if you're getting tired.

DANNY

Getting tired of you talking.

Jason laughs, then adjusts Danny's tray.

JASON

Come on. VIP order.

FURTHER DOWN THE BEACH, we find a PARTY TENT blasting loud music. Elrey dances confidently with a group of PARTY GIRLS - his moves are undeniably sexy. Carolina and Yoli approach.

YOLI

Perdon, Elrey - we're with the hotel..? Yoli and Carolina?

ELREY

There a problem?

CAROLINA

Oh no. Actually, I'm getting married here this weekend, and I realize this is a little bold, but we'd be so honored to have you attend. Maybe perform a song..?

ELREY

Do I know you?

CAROLINA

No, but I'm a big fan of your work.
(rapping along to music)
Callate la boca! Shut shut shut yo' mouth.

He takes off his sunglasses, notices Yoli. He smiles.

ELREY

And what about you, *Gordita*? You like my music?

YOLI

Did you just call me *gordita*?

ELREY

It's a compliment. I like a thick and juicy girl.

YOLI

(whispering to Carolina)
Is he bullying me?

CAROLINA

(jealous/can't believe it)
No. He's... flirting.

He leads Yoli through the crowd. Carolina follows, unnerved. Jason and Danny arrive. Jason sets his tray down at the table, notices Danny bringing the drinks directly to Elrey. Jason tries to wave him back but Danny doesn't see.

ELREY

Come on, join the party. Have a drink with me, *Gordita*.

YOLI

Hey! Stop calling me that!

ELREY

(smiles)
Damn girl. You spicy too.

Elrey dances, showing off. But he backs RIGHT INTO DANNY and the tray of drinks. The cocktails spill all over Elrey.

ELREY (CONT'D)
(irrationally angry)
Are you kidding me?!

DANNY
Hey, I'm sorry man.

ELREY
You're "sorry, man"? You don't sound sorry, man! This is Gucci!

CAROLINA
Elrey, our deepest apologies. The hotel will cover everything. The food, the drinks...

ELREY
And the shirt?! This is a nine hundred dollar shirt.

YOLI
It's okay, *Papi*. We got you.

Somehow, this calms Elrey. He kisses Yoli's hand. Carolina huffs, jealous. She takes the waiters aside, turns to Danny:

CAROLINA
So you know, everything we just comped comes from your paycheck.

JASON
Look, that wasn't really his fault. Plus, he's new. I just started training him today.

CAROLINA
You're training him? Okay, then you pay for it.

Carolina hurries back to Elrey. Off Jason, frustrated with the situation...

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - DAY

Paloma paces in front of Mateo, mid-conversation.

PALOMA
Come on! My dad listens to you. You're his right hand man!

MATEO

I think you're overestimating my influence. I handle the guests; that's about it.

PALOMA

I'm not just going to sit back and watch him sell the hotel!

MATEO

You've spent a lot of time trying to please your father. Maybe this will be a good thing. You'll be free to pursue whatever you want.

PALOMA

En serio? This is what I want. It's all I've ever wanted.

MATEO

All you've ever wanted?

He looks at her pointedly, takes her hand.

PALOMA

Mateo..?

MATEO

The last time you came to visit...

PALOMA

(sly smile)

I was there. I remember.

MATEO

I thought now that you're home...

PALOMA

Look, things are crazy right now. I'm not saying no. I'm saying... my whole future just went up in smoke, and... what I really need from you is your friendship.

MATEO

(tinge of disappointment)

Of course.

PALOMA

(nods relieved, then)

Hey, does my Dad seem a little... off to you?

MATEO

Not really.

PALOMA

Just... selling the hotel out of the blue? Keeping it a secret? It's not like him.

(then)

And I asked him about the woman who went missing in the hurricane- Sky Garibaldi? He got all quiet, changed the subject...

Mateo is suddenly unnerved by the mention of Sky. He tries to cover his unease.

MATEO

Half a dozen people went missing in that storm. You're not suggesting there's more to it..?

Paloma looks at him, unsure.

MATEO (CONT'D)

You know what I think?

(beat, then carefully)

I think you're in shock. Your Dad selling this place has really thrown you for a loop. And now your brain is working overtime to figure out what else he's hiding.

A beat. Then Paloma sighs, relieved.

PALOMA

Thank you Mateo. For always keeping me sane.

He smiles. But as we PUSH IN on Mateo, we see the cracks in his armor. This conversation has clearly bothered him...

EXT. POOL DECK - DAY

Gonzalo and Gigi escort Byron and his family to the pool.

GONZALO

This is one of the iconic pools of Miami Beach. President Kennedy and the first family vacationed here in 1961, and he said it was the most beautiful pool he'd ever seen...

BYRON

You know what's big now is infinity
pools.

(to the Huangfus)

Baba! What about an infinity pool
right here! Wouldn't that be great?

Gonzalo sighs regretfully. Gigi changes the subject:

GIGI

Let's find some shade, get you
gentlemen out of the sun.

As Gigi leads them, they pass Javi lounging shirtless,
surrounded by empty drinks. He's flirting with a cute guest,
ALISON. Gonzalo leans down, takes Javi by the arm.

GONZALO

Ease up on the drinking, huh?

JAVI

Just trying to enjoy myself.
Before this all goes away!

He points at the hotel and downs his drink.

GONZALO

(re: prosthetic)

And put on some pants. You're in
public.

Gonzalo smiles at the girl, then crosses to his guests. We
STAY WITH Javi who seethes for a beat, then resumes flirting.

JAVI

Sorry about that.

(re: prosthetic)

My father thinks I'm going to scare
off the guests with this thing.
You don't seem scared.

ALISON

Not at all. But I am curious...
how'd it happen?

And this is the question Javi always gets. He considers his
answer, then decides:

JAVI

Afghanistan.

A beat. Javi told the previous girl he had cancer; why is he
changing his story? From his smile, we sense that he's
playing some sort of game.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Yup, protecting a bunch of kids, a school actually.

ALISON

Wow, that's... Thank you so much for your service.

JAVI

(faux-modest)

Just did what I thought was right. Hey listen. I'm about to head up to my room. You want to come with?

ALISON

Oh, um. I don't think my boyfriend would like that.

The girl points to her BOYFRIEND, swimming in the pool. Javi considers for a beat, then, boldly:

JAVI

He doesn't have to know.

(off her shock)

You're on vacation. Live a little.

She blushes, embarrassed to be considering it. CUT TO:

INT. JAVI'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Javi escorts Alison into his room, kissing her as she enters.

ALISON

I told my boyfriend I'm in the gift shop, so we need to be fast.

JAVI

I can do fast.

He rips off her dress, guides her onto the bed. He kneels, his face dipping below frame. She moans with delight.

ALISON

Oh my God! Oh!

He kisses his way up her body as he takes off his clothes.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Do you take the... leg off or..?

JAVI

Usually. If that's okay.

ALISON

Yes. I wanna see you. All of you.
That's the whole point.

Not sure what to make of that, he proceeds. QUICK POPS: His lips on her neck, condom wrapper being torn open, her hands on his chest. They're having sex; she's on top. It's hot.

JAVI

Is that good?

ALISON

Amazing... But...

But while they have sex, Alison keeps looking behind her. She's staring at Javi's stump, covered by a fabric sleeve.

JAVI

What's wrong?

ALISON

Well, I'm naked and you're not.
Can I..?

She reaches for his sleeve. He gently pulls her hand away.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I never slept with... someone like
you before. I want to see it.

JAVI

No.

He distracts her with a kiss, but her hand creeps back to his sleeve. As she makes contact, Javi flips her over, pinning her arms down.

JAVI (CONT'D)

I said no!

ALISON

... Javi... I'm sorry...

Javi stares, realizes she's scared of him, and that he's holding her arms a little too tight. He lets go.

JAVI

Get out.

As she quickly gets dressed, we PUSH IN on Javi, shaken and furious. We now see that beneath his bravado, there's a deep well of pain here. She exits as we... **END ACT TWO.**

ACT THREE

INT. HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

Jason and Mrs. P are walking and talking.

JASON

Nobody's told us anything. Whether we're under new management or what? Half the staff's looking for new jobs just in case.

MRS. P

I know, honey. It's a big old mess.

JASON

I don't understand why you're so calm. You may not have a job either.

MRS. P

Hey. You don't get far in life expecting people to be fair. Now, how's the new waiter you made me hire? Danny. Any problems?

JASON

(beat, then covering)
No. Very helpful.

MRS. P

(ribbing him)
So he didn't spill food all over a VIP guest?

JASON

I forgot you know everything. He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

MRS. P

So make sure he's in the right place at the right time. I don't want to hear any more complaints.

They turn the corner to find Ingrid, "vaccuming". She has the vaccum on, but she's frozen, staring into space.

MRS. P (CONT'D)

Ingrid! I think that one spot is clean enough! Let's find somewhere else to be completely useless!

Mrs. P heads off leaving Jason alone with Ingrid.

JASON
(re: Mrs. P)
Don't mind her. That's just how
she talks.

Surprisingly, Ingrid starts to cry.

JASON (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm sure she didn't mean it.

INGRID
(weeping)
It's not her. I'm sorry. I don't
know what's wrong with me today.

JASON
(beat, then)
Okay, come with me.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON Ingrid in a Queen sized bed, her head peeking out
from under blankets. REVEAL JASON, tucking her in.

JASON
Whenever I feel down, I like to
sneak into the nicest empty room,
get under the covers and just
pretend my life is... different.
(fantasizing)
I'm on vacation. I can afford this
room. I wonder why room service is
taking so long.

INGRID
You know I'm just going to have to
make the beds after this.

JASON
You worried about losing your job
when they sell the hotel?

INGRID
I hate my job.

JASON
Oh. Well is there something you'd
rather be doing?

INGRID

I'd rather do nothing. And just have lots of money. That's the American dream. Marry rich.

JASON

You don't mean that.

INGRID

Yes I do! If it means I never have to scrub a toilet again.

He laughs at her candor. A beat, then:

INGRID (CONT'D)

I'm pregnant...

JASON

Oh! I didn't realize you were seeing someone...

INGRID

It's... complicated. And when I tell him about this...

(re: her pregnancy)

I don't know.

JASON

Maybe he'll step up. Maybe he'll realize what a good thing he has.

She looks up as if noticing his sweetness for the first time.

INGRID

That's a very nice thing to say. But a pregnant housekeeper? Who'd want to be with a woman like that?

JASON

A lot of people would. I would.
(then embarrassed)
You know, if it was me.

He's into her, and she knows it. But she pretends not to understand his meaning. She rises and makes the bed.

INGRID

Now you're just trying to make me feel better. But thanks. You're a... good friend.

She exits. Jason watches her go, smitten...

INT. JOE'S STONE CRABS - NIGHT

The rehearsal dinner at Joe's - a Miami Beach institution. The waiters wear tuxes, the DINERS wear PLASTIC BIBS!

GONZALO and GIGI make the rounds, talking to Carolina, Byron and his family at their table. Yoli is noticeably absent. QUICK POPS of them laughing, drinking, smashing crab claws.

Pull back to reveal that Paloma and Javi are watching this all from a nearby table. They're sitting with some of Byron's friends, looking miserable. Javi is drunk.

PALOMA

It's the Rehearsal Dinner and we're not even at the family table. We're stuck with Byron's frat buddies.

(then, to Byron's friends)

No offense.

(to Javi)

Dad's acting like we don't even matter.

JAVI

He's not acting. He's a prick.

Javi finishes his drink as Paloma sighs.

ANGLE ON Yoli, entering. Carolina approaches her, hurt.

CAROLINA

Where have you been? We had to start the dinner without you.

YOLI

I'm not super late, am I? We were talking and I lost track of time.

CAROLINA

What? Who were you talking to?

Suddenly, a number of the restaurant PATRONS gather at the window, pointing and looking outside. OUTSIDE, Elrey poses for pictures with fans, next to his sports car.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

Elrey?! And you invited him here?

YOLI

No, he just dropped me off. What?

CAROLINA

It's just a little inconsiderate. That's all.

As the twins' jealousy issues flare up again, we ANGLE ON a WAITER pouring more wine for Javi. But Gonzalo stops him.

GONZALO

He's had enough, *gracias*.

Gonzalo hands the waiter a tip. Javi is irate.

JAVI

What are you doing? I'm not a child!

GONZALO

Bueno, then stop acting like one.

Javi grabs Paloma's wine glass and takes off.

PALOMA

You shouldn't be so hard on him.

GONZALO

I'm trying to get him to pull himself together. He's been going down a bad road ever since your Mother...

Paloma sighs. Gonzalo looks over to Carolina and Yoli who are still arguing in front of the party.

GONZALO (CONT'D)

This could be a while. You wanna go for that walk now?

EXT. STREETS OF SOUTH BEACH - LATER

Gonzalo and Paloma are walking. The neon lights of Ocean Drive cast a beautiful glow over TOURISTS, elderly LUBOVITCH JEWS, GAY COUPLES... Miami in all it's multicultural glory.

GONZALO

Are you cold? You want my jacket?

PALOMA

It's eighty degrees out. Stop trying to be nice.

GONZALO

(deep breath)

You have no idea how sorry I am. About the hotel. About everything.

PALOMA

You should have told us! Gigi and her kids knew.

(MORE)

PALOMA (CONT'D)

(getting tearful)

It just feels like that's your family now. And me and Javi and Mom... you're erasing us.

GONZALO

Cariña, you're breaking my heart.

PALOMA

All my memories of her... it's all wrapped up in that hotel. No wonder Gigi wants to sell it.

GONZALO

This isn't Gigi's fault. We just can't compete with these chains and corporations anymore. I don't want to sell it, but I have to be smart.

PALOMA

(a beat)

What happens to the staff?

GONZALO

They move on.

PALOMA

We've known these people for years!

(then)

Do you remember my Junior year of high school when I got dumped by Justin Pedroso?

GONZALO

That little punk!

PALOMA

I was a wreck, and you had no idea how to help. You were useless. So Mrs. P took me down to the spa for a girl's day. Abundio, the gardener picked me a bouquet of pink hibiscus. And Maritza in Housekeeping left twenty chocolates on my pillow.

(then)

They're not just employees. They're family.

GONZALO

I know. But what can I do?

PALOMA

You can go to Byron's family! Ask them to keep everyone's jobs...

GONZALO

Mija. Byron's family - they don't need a staff.

(off her look)

They're converting it. To luxury condos, shopping... It's not going to be a hotel anymore.

Paloma stares in TOTAL DISBELIEF. Then, she starts to walk faster, furious. As she speeds ahead, she leaves him behind.

INT. STAFF LOCKERS - NIGHT

Danny is changing into street clothes when he notices a PHOTO of SKY, the missing chef, on one of the lockers, adorned with notes, flowers - like a memorial. Jason enters.

DANNY

Hey, what's all this about?

JASON

Oh. One of our line chefs - Sky Garibaldi. She went missing in the hurricane. Nice girl too.

DANNY

(beat, then)

I don't remember seeing anything about that in the news.

JASON

Oh no. Mrs. Cardenas made sure it didn't get any press.

A beat. Danny takes this bit of mystery in.

DANNY

That's a little... weird, no?

JASON

Nothing bad ever happens at the Riviera Grand. Didn't you know?

DANNY

(chuckles, then)

So do I clock out with you or what?

JASON

Yeah... you're not done just yet.

CUT TO:

EXT. VERANDA - MOMENTS LATER

Danny holds a serving tray while Jason loads it with plates.

JASON

My mom's got a target on you, so I need you to be perfect. No more spills, no mistakes, no nothing.

DANNY

(sincerely)

It's cool, man. I really want to make it work here.

JASON

Practice bringing these to the beach without dropping. Then you can go home.

Jason puts the last plate on the tray and Danny heads off.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY/BANQUET HALL

Paloma enters, tearfully. She looks around, finally understanding that it's all coming to an end. She opens the Banquet Hall's double doors, then freezes, horrified.

A WORKMAN is painting the mural wall PINK! He's half-covered the SMILING MERMAID that Paloma earlier associated with her mother. A PARTY-PLANNER supervises.

PALOMA

Wha-- What are you doing?!

PARTY PLANNER

It's an Insta-Wall for tomorrow's wedding! We'll be done in a jiff.

PALOMA

Stop it! You can't do that!

Her sadness now transformed into anger, Paloma rips the paint roller from the Workman's hand and storms out.

EXT. HOTEL - NEXT MOMENT

Paloma trashes the paint roller and heads to the beach. As she runs, she cries out through her tears:

PALOMA

Aaaah!!!

EXT. VERANDA - SIMULTANEOUS

Danny is practicing with the tray, when he hears a distant cry. He sees a FIGURE in the distance, disappearing over the horizon. Alarmed, Danny hurries off.

EXT. BEACH - NEXT MOMENT

Danny rushes to the ocean, sees a woman floating face down in her underwear. Her dress is crumpled up on the beach.

DANNY

Hello? Hey!

The woman doesn't move. Danny rushes into the water to grab her. Suddenly she bolts up! Danny recognizes her as Paloma.

PALOMA

Get off me!

DANNY

Sorry. I heard screaming, I didn't know if you were in trouble or--

PALOMA

Nope, not drowning. So... thanks for your chivalry, but I'm fine.

DANNY

Just trying to help.
(goes to exit, then)
You sure you're okay out here? You seem a little upset.

PALOMA

Yeah, well, I am. But I'm not about to talk about it with a total stranger while I'm half-naked.

A beat. Danny considers, then:

DANNY

Tell you what. I'm already wet, so I'm just gonna swim over there. You can ignore me or talk to me - whatever you want. Cool?

Danny takes off his shirt. His body is beautiful. Whoah.

PALOMA

Yeah, that's fine.

And off Paloma, trying not to stare...

INT. ELREY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Elrey is fresh out of the shower when there's a knock on the door. He answers it in his robe to find Carolina, agitated.

ELREY
Can I help you?

CAROLINA
I hope I'm not interrupting. It's
Carolina, we met before?

ELREY
Oh yeah! Yoli's sister.

CAROLINA
(beat, annoyed)
Yes, that's actually why I'm here.
I just wanted to know what's... up
with you guys?
(then)
Because Yoli's a good person. And
she doesn't have a lot of
experience. And if you're just
toying with her because you can --

ELREY
I'm not playin'. I like her.

This annoys her even more. She pushes her way into the room.

CAROLINA
You. Mr. King of Miami.
Surrounded by all your little fans,
and models... and you pick Yoli.

ELREY
Yeah. She don't care about
celebrity crap. She's real. And I
just want to get to know her.

CAROLINA
Well good! Good.

Carolina stares at him, her face inscrutable.

ELREY
What?

And then, filled with jealousy, she kisses him. He hesitates for a beat, then goes with it. She throws him on the bed...

EXT. BEACH - SAME

Resume with Danny and Paloma, swimming in the ocean, lit by twinkling city lights. It's romantic as hell.

PALOMA

Thanks for staying out here with me even though I told you to go away.

DANNY

I'm a pretty persistent person. It's either charming or annoying, depending on your perspective.

PALOMA

Well, I vote charming. But I'll let you know if I change my mind.

DANNY

Um, something just grazed my leg. You don't get sharks here, right?

PALOMA

It's way too shallow for sharks. Maybe a jellyfish..?

He splashes her. She laughs. They float towards each other, looking at the beach.

DANNY

This view is no joke. With the palm trees lit up like fireworks. And the water - so peaceful and still. I don't think I've ever seen anything so beautiful.

He looks at her. Is he talking about the hotel or her? She smiles, coyly. There's a spark here.

PALOMA

I'm... glad you like it.

DANNY

It's amazing. I understand why you don't want to let it go.

PALOMA

God, what am I going to do now?
(sighs)
Sorry I talked your ear off about this place. First-world problems, huh?

DANNY

Don't do that.

PALOMA

What?

DANNY

Act like your problems don't matter. You have every right to be pissed off. This is your home.

(then)

Take it from someone who moved around a lot, growing up. Having a place that's yours - where you feel like you belong - it's important.

Paloma considers him, impressed. This stranger seems to understand her better than her own family.

PALOMA

That's really true.

DANNY

Oh god. It touched my leg again.

PALOMA

(smiles)

That was me.

A charged beat. She swims away, coyly.

PALOMA (CONT'D)

None of these other hotels used to be here. In the sixties, this was the place to be! Frank Sinatra once stayed an entire month; played a concert every night. Fans lined up all down the beach! It was...

(an idea forming)

...amazing.

DANNY

Where did you just go?

PALOMA

I was thinking... my Dad says we can't compete with these big chains, but what if the hotel could go back to its glory days..?

Inspired, Paloma races out of the ocean.

DANNY

Hey, where ya going? To bring back
old Blue Eyes?

PALOMA

Not exactly.
(getting dressed)
I've got to run, but I want to see
you again. Which room are you in?

A beat. She's thinks he's a guest! Danny hesitates.

PALOMA (CONT'D)

You know what? I'll just find you!

As Paloma races off, WE CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - LATER

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. Paloma stands at a guest door, with
renewed hope. Elrey answers the door, dressed in a robe.

ELREY

Yeah?

PALOMA

Sorry to disturb you. I'm with the
hotel, and I have a time-sensitive
matter I'd like to discuss...

At that moment, CAROLINA comes out of the bathroom in her
underwear! Paloma gasps.

CAROLINA

(stunned)

It's not what it looks like.

Paloma stares at her in shock as we... **END ACT THREE.**

ACT FOUR

INT. BANQUET HALL - NEXT MORNING (DAY OF THE WEDDING)

Paloma and Javi are having breakfast.

JAVI

Oh my God! The night before her wedding! That slut!

PALOMA

You should talk. You probably slept with half the girls in this room.

JAVI

(looks around)

Not this particular room.

(then)

But this is great, right? When it gets out that Carolina cheated, it'll blow up everything. The engagement, the hotel deal... What's wrong?

PALOMA

I'd be ruining her life. On her wedding day. You don't think that's a little... cruel?

JAVI

(playfully)

Of course it's cruel! That's why it's good! We can't stand her!

ANGLE ON Jason serving at another table. Danny enters.

JASON

Oh good, you're here. The Cardenas kids need more coffee.

Jason hands him the coffee carafe. Danny notices Paloma, doesn't want her to see him in his waiter uniform.

DANNY

The boss' kids? Maybe you should handle?

JASON

C'mon, buddy. You got this.

Danny approaches and starts to refill Javi's cup. Javi and Paloma are deep in conversation; she doesn't notice him.

JAVI

You've been moping all weekend!
Now the perfect little bomb falls
in your lap and you won't use it?

PALOMA

I'd rather fight fair. Convince Dad
that it's worth saving. I have this
idea about Elrey doing a residency
here. Like Celine does in Vegas..?

Paloma puts her coffee cup at the edge of the table for Danny
to refill. She still doesn't look at him. He pours.

JAVI

I'm just saying - Gigi, Dad, all
the rest of them. They're not
"playing fair." So why are you?

Danny finishes pouring, then places a fresh creamer on the
table. He's almost free and clear. Paloma thinks, tastes
her coffee. Just as Danny turns to go:

PALOMA

Excuse me, sir?

Danny hesitates. With no other choice, he turns around.

DANNY

Oh hey. Morning.

PALOMA

(confused)
Danny? You're... you're a waiter.

JAVI

What else would he be?

PALOMA

Why didn't you say so last night?

DANNY

I was going to. But you got out of
the water so fast.

JAVI

You went nightswimming with a
waiter?

PALOMA

He said he was a guest.

DANNY

Actually you assumed I was a guest.

JAVI
(laughing)
Oh my god, now who's the slut?

PALOMA
(to Danny)
You should've said something.

Danny tries to explain. Across the room, Mrs. P approaches and notices Paloma and Danny arguing. She frowns. CUT TO:

INT. MRS. P'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Mrs. P is on the phone, at her desk.

MRS. P
...Yes, I was hoping to get a
reference on Danny Baron..? He was
a server there for two years...
(a long beat; she frowns)
I see. Thank you.

Gonzalo, dressed for the wedding, enters as she hangs up.

GONZALO
Bad time?

MRS. P
A personnel matter. I'm handling.

GONZALO
(an awkward beat, then)
Look, I know that selling the
hotel... it's painful. For me too.

He expects a response, but she just stares at him.

GONZALO (CONT'D)
I wish I could've included you. In
the decision process...

Gonzalo can feel her anger. But he just keeps digging.

GONZALO (CONT'D)
They're not going to close it right
away. Staff can remain in their
positions for a few months...

MRS. P
(another beat, measured)
Well thank you for filling me in.

Her stoic professionalism is almost harder to take than yelling. She stares daggers. Gonzalo takes a breath.

GONZALO

Azalea. You should know a portion of the sale has been designated to you specifically. For your many years of... service. I hope that makes you feel better about things.

A charged beat. Her eyes fill with rage.

MRS. P

Does it make you feel better?

Off Gonzalo, feeling terrible...

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - DAY

Mateo is sorting documents when Ingrid enters, nervously.

INGRID

Mateo... Do you have a minute?

MATEO

(friendly)

For you? Always.

INGRID

I.. Um... I'm pregnant..?

A beat. Mateo is the father!!!! He hesitates, then:

MATEO

I don't know quite what to say.

INGRID

I haven't told anyone. About us. I know there's rules against that. With management and employees...

Awkward beat. Then he handles her like a problem guest.

MATEO

I'd like to support you and be as helpful as I can through all this.

INGRID

(optimistic)

Really?

MATEO

Oh sweetheart of course!

She breathes a big sigh of relief.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Just let me know when you make the appointment, and I'll take the day off. We can go together.

INGRID

(concerned)

The appointment?

MATEO

To take care of it. And of course, I'll pay for everything.

Not the response Ingrid was looking for. She's stunned.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Was there anything else?

She shakes her head no, fighting tears.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Thank you for being such an adult about all this. And of course, if there's anything else I can do...

She nods and hurries out, very shaken. Mateo takes a very deep breath, then returns to work.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - DAY

Quick pops of Carolina, Yoli, and Gigi getting ready. Flowers being arranged, garters applied, fake eyelashes being glued, etc. Paloma enters, finds them:

PALOMA

Hi. You all look so beautiful. Is my dad around?

GIGI

I can call down to Byron's suite, ask if they've seen him.

PALOMA

Just some... business thing I wanted to run by him. It can wait.

CAROLINA

Actually, can I borrow you?

INT PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

An upset Carolina talks to Paloma.

CAROLINA

I don't know what I was thinking,
sleeping with Elrey?! I must have
been acting out. Because I'm
nervous about getting married.

PALOMA

But you... love Byron?

CAROLINA

More than anything in the world.
Paloma, *por favor*. Last night was
just a huge mistake.

(then)

You can't tell anybody. I'm
begging you. As my sister.

Paloma stares at her, a little taken aback. Just then, Gigi
enters with a small box.

GIGI

Lina, the hair lady is waiting for
you. Everything okay in here?

CAROLINA

Mmhm. It's nothing.

She mouths the word "Please" to Paloma, then exits.

GIGI

(to Paloma)

I'm glad you came by. I have a
little present for you!

Gigi hands Paloma the box. INSIDE - a simple gold necklace
with a charm of a dolphin. Paloma is overjoyed.

PALOMA

Mami's necklace! She used to wear
this every day. How did you..?

GIGI

It's not hers. It's mine. Beatriz
and I bought these together when we
were sixteen. One for each of us.

(then)

I wanted you to know how grateful I
am that you came home for this.

PALOMA

...Gigi. This is no nice.

GIGI

You sound so shocked!

(then)

I want things to be better between us. So let me set the record straight. I know you think I married your father for his money.

PALOMA

Gigi -

GIGI

Por favor. Your brother called me a horrible vulture.

(then)

But honestly, you know what drew me to Gonzalo? He missed your mom. And so did I. More than you could ever know.

Paloma's touched, surprised to see a softer side of Gigi.

GIGI (CONT'D)

You're a lot like her, you know. Beautiful, smart, stubborn as hell... But above all she was good. She always did the right thing. You understand?

Gigi clasps the necklace around Paloma's neck, then looks at her pointedly. Paloma hesitates.

GIGI (CONT'D)

I'm so glad we had this little talk.

Gigi kisses Paloma's cheek and crosses away. But Paloma is frozen. Something about Gigi's words isn't sitting quite right with her. She watches as Gigi exits to:

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - MASTER BEDROOM

Gigi enters to find Carolina waiting for her.

CAROLINA

I don't know why you had to interrupt, *Mami*. I was handling it!

GIGI

Don't make yourself upset; You'll just ruin your makeup. It's done.

CAROLINA

You're sure?

GIGI

Por supuesto. She has a blind spot about her mother. All it took was that ratty old necklace.

CAROLINA

Mami, if she tells Byron --

GIGI

I'm telling you, she won't. She doesn't have the balls.

At this, Carolina sighs, finally relaxing.

OFFICIANT (V.O.)

Dearly Beloved.

EXT. GREAT LAWN - WEDDING - DAY

The wedding has just begun. ON THE DAIS, An OFFICIANT addresses the crowd, while Carolina smiles at her friends.

OFFICIANT

We have gathered today to celebrate the love of Byron and Carolina.

IN THE CROWD, Gonzalo sits with Gigi. Gigi dabs at her eyes. Gonzalo smiles at her. Behind them, Javi turns to Paloma.

JAVI

Can't believe we have to sit through this dumpster fire. You could have stopped this, you know.

ANGLE ON the Reception Area. Waiters are setting up tables. Jason sees Danny carrying a tray of drinks.

JASON

Hey, Danny - my Mom is looking for you. And she's on the warpath.

Danny sees Mrs. P looking around as she moves through the staff. She looks pissed off. Danny exits in the opposite direction.

ANGLE ON THE PODIUM where Carolina recites vows into a mic.

CAROLINA

I've had a lot to be grateful for in my life. But I'm most grateful for meeting Byron. He's generous, he's patient, he's all the things the world needs more of. I can't wait to start my life with him.

(MORE)

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

(then adding)

And for those who were asking, the dress is Monique Lhuillier, custom.

The crowd chuckles, enjoying her. Gigi turns to enjoy the crowd's reaction. But she notices something about Paloma.

GIGI

Oh sweetheart. You're not wearing your necklace.

PALOMA

I wasn't sure it went. After all, it is just a ratty old thing.

Gigi's eyes widen in alarm, realizing Paloma heard her conversation with Carolina!

Paloma smiles, as Carolina hands the mic to Byron. He looks deadly serious. His voice is shaky.

BYRON

Carolina... is a liar. She's been lying to me for months. She lied to you right now, when she said she loved me.

GIGI

Dios santo. Do something, Gonzalo!

GONZALO

What do you want me to do?!

GIGI

Cut his mic, push him off the stage, anything!

BYRON

Last night, while I was up in my room, writing my vows, she was having sex!

(then noticing...)

With him! The King of Miami!

Byron points. The entire crowd turns their heads in unison. Elrey is doing a sound-check at a nearby stage.

Byron flies down the aisle. The wedding party erupts in confusion. Byron's GROOMSMEN follow him.

Carolina starts to cry. Gigi and Yoli rush toward her.

YOLI

You slept with Elrey?!

GIGI
Not now, Yoli!

As Gigi, Yoli, and Carolina argue, Javi turns to Paloma.

JAVI
I love you so much right now.

ON Byron as he tackles an unsuspecting Elrey. They wrestle around on the ground. But Elrey has a CREW with him, and they quickly pull Byron away, pin him to the ground. Byron screams at his groomsmen:

BYRON
(in Chinese)
This is the guy! He dishonored our family. This is the guy!

Byron's people begin to fight Elrey and his crew. It's suddenly turning into a brawl.

Some wedding guests flee from the conflict, while others gather to watch. Javi and Paloma hurry over to watch, as Gonzalo rushes into the melee.

GONZALO
Byron! Stop this! Stop this now!

But Byron turns, socks Gonzalo right in the eye. Gonzalo stumbles to the floor, as the fight continues around him.

PALOMA
Dad!

As Gonzalo crawls through the fight, Paloma spots Mateo pulling up in a golf cart, talking into a walkie-talkie.

MATEO
(into "walkie")
I need security - Donovan, Mike,
Santos -- on the great lawn now!

Paloma rushes up to him, but he holds up a hand.

MATEO (CONT'D)
I've got it under control.

But the fight continues. And then BAM! Byron's tackled from behind by DANNY!

A Groomsman rushes him, but Danny flips him over his shoulder. He looks around, but both sides just stare at him, stunned.

The fight is over. As Danny catches his breath, Gonzalo looks on, impressed. Who is this guy?!

EXT. BAR - LATER

Much of the wedding party has dispersed. Gonzalo is at the bar, icing his eye and having a drink. Paloma approaches cautiously, sits next to him.

GONZALO

You must be pretty proud of yourself. The sale is dead. *Estás feliz?*

PALOMA

I know you're upset, but you didn't give me a choice. I couldn't just sit back and let it happen.

GONZALO

This is a disaster. You don't even know what you've done.

PALOMA

You don't think we can compete but I think we can! I'm home now, and we can do it together. This place is one of a kind, and--

GONZALO

You're not listening!

Gonzalo smashes his fists on the bar. Paloma flinches.

GONZALO (CONT'D)

The hotel is failing. We've been losing money for years! We didn't have electricity for six weeks after that hurricane. You know how many people want to stay in a hotel without electricity? It's a money pit! It wan't Gigi who wanted to unload this place; it was me!

PALOMA

(beat as this sinks in)
You never said anything...

GONZALO

(anguished)
I'm supposed to admit to my children I couldn't keep us afloat?
(MORE)

GONZALO (CONT'D)

Byron's family was doing us a favor, taking this place off our hands!

(then)

The debt. *Dios santo*, the debt! I don't know how to fix this.

PALOMA

It'll be okay. I'll help however I can. And we'll pay back the bank. In time, we will.

GONZALO

(beat, then ominously)
It's not the bank we owe.

PALOMA

What does that mean?

He stiffens, having said too much. Paloma is alarmed.

PALOMA (CONT'D)

Dad? Who do we owe?

But Gonzalo won't answer. And off that... **END ACT FOUR.**

ACT FIVE

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - NIGHT

Gigi and Gonzalo are talking quietly in the living room, while Ingrid turns down the bed in the background.

GIGI

I can't believe your daughter did this to us. It's a betrayal is what it is!

GONZALO

Yes well. It's not like your kids are blameless in any of this!

Gigi sighs, knows he's right.

GONZALO (CONT'D)

I don't know what happens next.

GIGI

Can you get an extension on your loans?

He wants to tell her more, but he bites his tongue.

GONZALO

Um, I can try. In the meantime - cutbacks. Staff, salaries, vendors--

GIGI

Your son...
(off his look)
He lives here for free, he doesn't work. He's a leech!

GONZALO

You think I don't know?

GIGI

He sits by the pool all day picking up girls - every day a different one. He can't even remember all the girls he's slept with!

Ingrid looks up, AN IDEA FORMING. She crosses the room.

INGRID

All done.

GIGI

Thank you, dear.

Ingrid exits. They resume, unaware that she's overheard.

GONZALO

I'll make trims to the budget, but
I'm not cutting off my son.

GIGI

It might actually do him some good.

GONZALO

(getting heated)
Things are hard enough for him.

GIGI

Would you listen to yourself?
You're enabling him!

GONZALO

You don't know the whole story.
I'm not doing it!

GIGI

But why not?!

GONZALO

It's my fault, okay?! His leg...
what happened to him. It's my
fault!

Gigi stares at him in shock. Her face is a jumble of emotions as she realizes he's been keeping this from her for years. And off this bombshell...

INT. JAVI'S HOTEL ROOM -

Javi is midconversation with Paloma.

JAVI

...I had no idea about the debt.
Dad doesn't tell me anything and...
(re: hotel suite)
...It's not like we're living in
poverty here.

PALOMA

He made it seem pretty dire. And
whoever he owes money to..? He's
afraid of them.

JAVI

(beat, then smirks)
You still happy to be home?

She swats him playfully. There's a knock at the door.

PALOMA

I should get going anyway. *Buenas.*

She opens the door to find Ingrid.

INGRID

Good evening, Miss.

Paloma smiles and crosses past her into the hallway. Ingrid steps into the room with Javi.

JAVI

Thanks, I don't need turndown.

INGRID

Oh, I'm not here for that. I thought we could talk.

Javi stares at her, confused.

INGRID (CONT'D)

I have a little news. Sorry. I'm nervous... The thing is... I'm pregnant.

JAVI

Ookay. No offense, um...
(glances at nametag)
Ingrid. But why you telling me?

She stares at him. His face goes white.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Did we..? Oh god. Oh god!

Javi reels. And off Ingrid, trying to hide a sly smile...

EXT. POOL DECK - NIGHT

The pool is empty, save for Yoli dipping her feet in the water, depressed. Carolina sits down next to her.

CAROLINA

I know you hate me right now, but can you not? I feel just terrible.

YOLI

You should.

CAROLINA

Yoli, please. I'm sorry about Elrey. He was kinda clumsy in bed, if it makes you feel any better.

YOLI

The one time, Lina! The one time a
guy liked me and not you!

CAROLINA

I know! What else do you want me
to say?

YOLI

That you're a terrible nasty bitch
who ruins everything.

CAROLINA

I was jealous.
(off Yoli's surprise)
You were getting all this attention
from this hot celebrity guy, and I
was... about to be just some boring
old wife.

YOLI

You didn't want to get married?

CAROLINA

All my friends were settling down,
and Byron was so excited and...
everyone expected me to, you know?

YOLI

Why do you care so much what other
people think?

CAROLINA

I don't know, but I do.
(then)
You're not like that. You know
exactly who you are. That's why
Elrey was into you.

YOLI

He said that?

Carolina nods yes. A beat.

CAROLINA

You know, the person we should
really be mad at is Paloma. Bitch
sticking her nose in everything.

YOLI

She'll get hers.

CAROLINA

I love you Yoli. More than anyone
in the world. And I need us to be
good. Tell me we're good.

Yoli smiles and then... She gives Carolina a HARD SHOVE,
RIGHT INTO THE POOL! Off Yoli, not yet ready to play nice...

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Elrey is drinking with Paloma. They are mid-conversation.

PALOMA

...And the best part is, you never
have to get on a tour bus. If you
set up shop here, we bring the
audience to you. In your hometown!

ELREY

You talk good, *morena*. But I don't
need your cheap-ass hotel.

PALOMA

I'm not gonna lie, the hotel needs
help. We need a win. *Pero* so do
you.

ELREY

(scoffs, taken aback)
I know you didn't just say that.

PALOMA

Oh come on. You had one good album,
and you haven't released anything
in two years! You just burned down
your twenty-million dollar house,
and you tried to pay for your room
with points. Don't tell me things
aren't a little tight.

ELREY

(beat, then amused)
Yeah, okay, maybe. But if I wanted
a home base, I could pick any hotel
on the strip. Why here?

Paloma smiles as we CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - THEATER

CLOSE ON Paloma's hand, throwing a switch. Spotlights flood
the room with golden light - an incredible, Baroque art-deco
theater. Paloma and Elrey walk on stage, admire the space.

PALOMA

So what do you think?

And off Elrey, trying to contain his smile...

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mateo is working at his desk when Gonzalo enters, nervously.

MATEO

Ah. I was wondering when I might expect a visit from you.

GONZALO

Yes. As you know, the... financial situation has changed. Mateo, you do an excellent job with the guests. You anticipate problems. You're a consummate professional. Sometimes I almost forget that you don't really work for me.

MATEO

I don't?

GONZALO

It's just us. Let's be real. Your people have loaned me a great deal of money. You've been installed here to supervise their investment. To supervise me.

Holy shit. Mateo works for the people Gonzalo owes!

MATEO

Very well.

GONZALO

I need more time. And I know I've said that before, but I don't have any other options here...

MATEO

You sound nervous, Gonzalo. We're all friends. You need time? I'm sure we can figure something out.

GONZALO

(relieved)

Good. Thank you.

MATEO

Of course, it'll cost you something. But we'll get to that.

(MORE)

MATEO (CONT'D)

(then)

Paloma's home for good? So grown up now. And such a beauty.

GONZALO

(bristles)

Don't talk about my daughter.

MATEO

All I said is that she's beautiful.

Gonzalo heads for the door.

MATEO (CONT'D)

And smart too. Asked me lots of questions about the missing girl.

Gonzalo freezes for a beat, then turns back to him.

GONZALO

She doesn't know anything. So leave her out of this. Okay?

And Gonzalo exits, truly afraid of this man...

INT. MRS. P'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Danny sits before an angry Mrs. P.

MRS. P

I've done some digging, Danny. Did you invent your resume from whole cloth?

DANNY

No, Ma'am. But I... embellished. I needed the work, and I knew I didn't have the right experience.

MRS. P

The people who work at this hotel - we're a family. And I don't just let anybody into my family. If I had my way, you'd be out on your ass right now. But after the wedding today... Mr. Cardenas was impressed. He thinks we could use someone like you. A fighter. So...you get to stay, for now. And report directly to the man himself.

DANNY

(sighs, relieved)

Thank you, Ma'am.

MRS. P

But I'll be watching you close.
You best remember that.

Danny exits, relieved. Off a wary Mrs. P...

INT. STAFF LOCKERS - LATER

Danny is changing out of his waiter tux, when Paloma enters.

PALOMA

Thought I might find you here. I
wanted to say thanks. For what you
did at the wedding. It was out of
control, and if you hadn't --

DANNY

It was no sweat, really.
(then)
So what ended up happening? Y'know
with the hotel?

PALOMA

Oh, it's staying in the family.
For now anyway.
(sighs)
But there's a lot of stuff I hadn't
realized. And my dad's not talking
to me and...
(realizing)
I shouldn't be telling you all
this.

DANNY

(playfully)
Because I'm a waiter?

PALOMA

About that. If I was a little
weird when I found out you were a
waiter --

DANNY

You were.

PALOMA

This is my family business. And I
can't be... inappropriate with
employees, you know?

DANNY

Totally get it.

He smiles at her. She smiles back. There's an undeniable attraction here. She opens her mouth to say something, then thinks better of it, says something else:

PALOMA

Anyway. Goodnight Danny.

They share another charged look, and then she heads out. He looks at his phone. 7 missed calls. He face darkens. He places a call, his voice suddenly very serious.

DANNY

It's me... Yeah... I told you I can't talk when I'm here.

Danny looks at the photo memorial of Sky Garibaldi.

DANNY (CONT'D)

They set up a memorial. Pictures, flowers. Almost like they gave a rat's ass about her.

INT. LOBBY/LOUNGE/ETC - NIGHT

A long, cinematic TRACKING SHOT of Danny walking through the hotel. As he walks, he passes by our various characters.

DANNY (V.O)

But I know the truth.

Carolina, soaking wet and angry, chases after Yoli. They pass Ingrid with her housekeeping cart.

Paloma talks to Mrs. P at reception.

Javi drinks at the bar, where Jason is working. Mateo chats with various GUESTS nearby.

DANNY (V.O.)

One of these people did something to my sister.

Danny looks up to the mezzanine where Gonzalo talks to Gigi.

DANNY (V.O)

And whoever it was...

After a beat, Gigi exits and Gonzalo remains, surveying his domain. He locks eyes with Danny below. Danny smiles.

DANNY (CONT'D)

... Is going to pay.

As he exits the hotel, his smile fades. And we... END PILOT.