

A MOST UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS

Written by

Tom Stohlgren

Writer:
Tom Stohlgren
Email: tjstohlgren@gmail.com
Representation:
Eleni Larchanidou, LLM
Literary & Talent Manager
PH: 1 (310) 696-3656
email: managerelenilllm@gmail.com
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DARK SCREEN

We hear the compassionate voice of SEAN REGAN (24), who we'll meet later.

SEAN (V.O.)

We all remember the busload of immigrants who were dropped off in front of Vice President Kamala Harris's residence on a freezing cold Christmas Eve in 2022.

(beat)

That was a true story and it's how the world is. This story is not true, but as Don Quixote would say, "It's how the world should be."

We HEAR Christmas music.

FADE IN:

We see Stock Footage of Central Americans chased from the jungles of Central America by armed cartel gangs.

SEAN (V.O.)

Sometimes you're given no choice but to flee your homeland to avoid cruel and dangerous people. My great grandparents fled Ireland in 1929 for exactly that reason. It's happening all around the world today.

We see immigrants fleeing with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

SEAN (V.O.)

The shortest route from the jungles of Central America to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Office is over 1500 miles long, but those are often the most dangerous.

We see rapid MONTAGE of Stock Footage of immigrants at night hiking through a jungle, walking at night along endless roads, riding dangerous trains, and crossing rivers.

SEAN (V.O.)

Immigrants seeking asylum who make it to the U.S. and who aren't immediately deported, are processed and given papers showing a court date months in the future.

(beat)

(MORE)

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

Assuming, of course, they don't
have a criminal record.

We SEE long lines of immigrants at the Texas-Mexico border
seeking entry into the U.S.

SEAN (V.O.)

As for the claim that immigrants,
legal or otherwise, commit more
crimes than the general public in
the U.S...

(strongly)

That claim is false!

(weakly)

Well, except maybe in this one,
memorable case... But, remember, it
is Christmastime!

EXT. U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS OFFICE, TEXAS - NIGHT

We hear Christmas music playing in the bus.

Outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Office in a southern
state, immigrants are quickly loaded onto a bus. They each
carry folded papers.

SUPER: "December 21st"

As the bus loads, ITZEL LUNA UCAN (24), a Mayan immigrant
covered in a colorful Mayan shawl, looks on from across a
dark street.

She wanders to a nearby trash can and sifts through the
garbage until she finds "papers" that look similar to those
carried by the immigrants.

Just before the full bus departs, Itzel sneaks aboard the
bus, barely reveals her papers to the driver, and moves to
the back of the bus.

The bus departs. A sign on the bus reads, "Washington DC."

EXT. VICE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, WASHINGTON DC - NIGHT

SUPER: "December 22nd"

We see Stock Footage of a news report showing a busload of
unprepared illegal immigrants dropped off at Vice President
Kamala Harris' house in Washington DC during record-cold
temperatures.

Five heavily armed Secret Service Officers (30s; various types) secure the entrance to the VP's quarters.

We see Stock Footage of the immigrants (Latinx adults and children) exiting the bus wearing T-shirts and shorts into the freezing cold temperature. They shiver in silence, too stunned and disoriented to speak.

Sirens BLARE as two police cars block the ends of the street.

Five white vans RACE passed the police cars to the bus.

Five Social Services employees wearing blue COVID masks and blue gloves exit the vans and quickly load and RACE away with the immigrants.

The Police cars leave.

The Secret Service Officers disappear around the back of the VP's quarters as the bus starts up.

Before the bus departs, Itzel exits the bathroom in the back of the bus and sneaks out. She wears a colorful Mayan shawl which conceals her eight-month pregnancy but not a slight hump on her back.

She passes a Catholic church with a sign that reads, "Midnight Mass every night this week. You need it!"

She glares at the sign and takes to steps toward the church and freezes.

A smiling young man, SEAN REGAN (24), exits the church and freezes as he sees Itzel with bare legs below the knees leading to well-worn open-toed leather sandals with colorful beads on them. Sean wears a wool long coat with dark pants and Brand hiking boots.

Itzel shivers and turns away from Sean in defiant stoicism.

Before she realizes it, Sean's heavy coat is gently placed over her shoulders. The coat exaggerates a "hump" on her back.

Sean looks with pity at Itzel.

SEAN

You have nothing to fear from me.

(laughs)

The cold night is another story.

Itzel turns to see Sean is smiling. She studies his boyish face and looks into his eyes. They share a moment.

Itzel surprises Sean by pulling the coat around her and walking quickly down the sidewalk.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Hey, wait! That's my best winter coat.

Sean catches up to Itzel, but she keeps walking away faster and faster.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Itzel glances at him but doesn't stop.

At the next street corner, Itzel continues straight, but Sean turns right and waves as they separate.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You obviously need the coat more than I do.

(sadly)

Good luck to you.

Itzel stops, turns, and studies the man.

She stomps over to him, removes the coat angrily, and holds it out for him.

He uses arm gestures to refuse the coat.

Sean points to a small house three houses down on the street of heavily decorated houses. Sean's house has one strand of Christmas lights around the front door.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I live right there.

(embarrassed)

It's my mom and dad's house. The decorations are modest this year.

Itzel studies the house with one small light on in the window.

She quickly puts on the coat and gently pushes Sean toward the house.

A police car turns the corner with a search light on.

Sean puts his arm around Itzel and shields her from the police car as it zooms by them.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I figured you weren't from around here.

She pushes his arm away when to police car is well down the street.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry.

(laughs, looks down the street)

You're not wanted by the police, are you? You obviously didn't steal a nice warm car.

Itzel looks down the street at the police car.

She shrugs her shoulders, and then pushes Sean toward his house.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sean unlocks the door as Itzel peeks into the house like it's a trap.

Sean walks in and turns on the overhead lights.

Itzel looks around suspiciously as she steps into the house. She turns to the small living room to see a "leg lamp" from *"The Christmas Story."*

She removes Sean's coat and hands it to him with a smile.

She turns her back to Sean and removes her colorful Mayan shawl.

Sean breathes a sigh of relief to see Itzel is wearing a black leather backpack.

SEAN

I thought you had a hump.

Itzel ignores the comment, drops the backpack by the door, and wraps her shawl around her before turning toward Sean.

She looks around, studying the home, and steps into a small dining room, where a *"Charlie Brown Christmas Tree,"* adorns an antique wooden table with four chairs.

SEAN (CONT'D)

My folks had strange decorating traditions, and I kept them going after they... they...

Sean looks down and makes the sign of the cross.

Itzel breathes a sigh of relief, which Sean sees.

He steps to a photo of his mom and dad in military uniforms, with Sean around four years old being held high in the air by his parents.

Sean's eyes tear up telling Itzel everything she needed to know.

He turns to a small kitchen and perks up.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'll bet you're starving. Let me get you something to eat.

Sean attempts to remove Itzel's shawl, but she tightly clutches it.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Okay, then.

He steps into the kitchen, opens the fridge, and speaks horrible Spanish.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Cómo te name-oh? I mean, llama?

Itzel sees that the fridge contains a six-pack of beer, a partially eaten bucket of fried chicken, and a half gallon of almond milk.

Itzel looks at Sean with pity.

SEAN (CONT'D)

¿Hobble Español?

Itzel looks back at Sean perplexed.

SEAN (CONT'D)

(loudly)

¿Hobble Español?

Itzel ignores Sean and looks around the kitchen to see two empty boxes of pizza, a coffeemaker with an unwashed coffee mug, and a sink full of cereal bowls.

She looks in cupboards to find a box of Minute Rice.

She stares at the name, "Minute Rice"

She looks in another cupboard and finds a can of red beans and *Cholula* hot sauce.

She holds them up asking to use them. He nods yes.

He gets her a glass of water from the fridge door. She stares at the process.

SEAN (CONT'D)

It's clean water. It comes straight from the fridge.

(laughs)

How it gets to the fridge, I'm not really sure.

She pulls out a hollowed wooden straw from her backpack and drinks the entire glass and hands it back for a refill. [The straw looks like a small blow-dart weapon.]

He delivers another glass of water and then walks down the hallway to open a door.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Looks like you'll need el de baño soon!

When he's down the hall, Itzel speaks in a low, barely audible tone.

ITZEL

No Español. Maya.

She follows him down the hall to see that it's a bathroom with a full shower.

She races in and Sean hears the door LOCK.

SEAN

Maya, huh? That's great.

(yells)

I'll be in the kitchen, Maya.

He HEARS the shower running and returns to the kitchen.

Sean's BRAND latest-model smartphone rings.

The caller ID reads, "DHS Secret Service."

SEAN (CONT'D)

(nervously)

Hello?

Sean hears the strict voice of a female AGENT "ADDIE" HARRIS (30s).

ADDIE (V.O.)

This is Agent Addie Harris of the Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security. I'm at your front door. Let me in without speaking. Now!

Sean leaps to the door and opens it.

Addie quickly enters while showing Sean her badge.

She looks back to see if she was followed, and shuts the door.

ADDIE

You can never be too careful. Call me Addie.

(laughs)

Except when one of my superiors is around, then it's Agent Harris.

Sean is smitten with the beautiful agent.

SEAN

What?... What?...

ADDIE

You are Sean Regan, a recent graduate of Georgetown and a social worker wannabe.

She HEARS the shower running and sees Sean was cooking rice and beans in the kitchen.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

The VP's surveillance cameras saw an illegal alien exit a charter bus that was secretly driven to the front of the VP's Washington DC residence.

(points up)

The eye in the sky saw you give her your coat...

(smiles at Sean)

Nice gesture. And that led us here.

SEAN

She was cold and hungry and had nowhere to go.

ADDIE

One problem is that all the other immigrants on the bus were accounted for.

(MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

She must have been a stowaway! That makes her a criminal from the start.

SEAN

Can you prove she was a stowaway?

ADDIE

No. Maybe she'll get away with it and it won't hurt her chances for asylum.

The Agent glances in the fridge, then turns to help Sean steam the rice.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

It was kind of you to meet her immediate needs, but I'm here to take her to the shelter where the other political pawns on the bus are to be processed for deportation.

Addie investigates the house.

SEAN

(angry)

Deportation? But the Statue of Liberty says, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." What about that?

Addie smirks but with a sexy smile.

ADDIE

That's been edited by several governors. Now it reads, "Give me liberty or give me heartburn."

SEAN

I read online that Mexicans practically invented rice and beans.

Itzel returns to the kitchen wearing her shawl wrapped around her to see Addie and Sean making her a large bowl of beans and rice.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Maya, this is Agent Addie Harris of the Secret Service.

Itzel lowers her eyes and shivers as the Agent steps toward her.

ADDIE

Hola, Maya, bienvenida a los
Estados Unidos. Llámame, Addie.

Subtitle: Hello, Maya, welcome to the United States. Call me, Addie."

Itzel remains silent. She pulls her shawl around her tightly.

Sean sets the plate of rice and beans on the kitchen table and Itzel jumps at the chance to eat.

Sean delivers Itzel a beer in a frosted glass, but she raises her water glass with her wooden straw in it to Sean with a slight smile.

SEAN

(to Addie)

Do you want the beer?

ADDIE

I'm on duty. Mind if I look around
your house?

The Agent doesn't wait for the answer, she looks through the house.

She stops at the bathroom to see Itzel's beautifully embroidered peasant blouse, Capri pants, and panties hung over the shower rod to dry.

She looks back toward the kitchen and mumbles.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

That explains the shawl.

The Agent peeks into one of the two immaculate bedrooms.

Sean's parents' room has not been touched since his parents died. The walls contain military photos and honors, photos with government officials, and one with the Vice President when she was a US Senator.

The Agent enters the other bedroom which has movie posters on the walls.

The Agent faces each of the posters [Napoleon Dynamite, (500) Days of Summer, and Juno] before turning to a thick book on the nightstand [Don Quixote].

A small desk has a brand computer, printer, and several textbooks on social science and counseling.

Addie returns from the kitchen to see Itzel's food is gone. The frosted glass of beer remains full.

Addie talks into her sleeve.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

That's everything, Madam Vice President. She's perfectly safe here. Should I still take her in?

SEAN

What? The Vice President has been listening in the whole time?

Addie points to her "body-camera" on her jacket and covers her sleeve microphone.

ADDIE

(whispers to Sean)
And seeing everything!

The Agent turns to Itzel.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Lo siento, Maya, tendrás que vestirte y venir conmigo.

SEAN

What did you say?

ADDIE

(sternly)
I said she will have to come with me.

Addie puts her hand to her earphone.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

What's that, Madam Vice President?

Addie pauses with a concerned look.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

A positive spin on what, Ma'am?
(listens to her earphone)
A PR gold mine?

Addie covers her sleeve microphone with her other hand.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

You're freakin' kidding me!

She uncovers her microphone.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Madam Vice President, whatever you say. I'll report back in the morning... Yes, Ma'am.

Addie removes her earpiece and turns to Sean as Itzel stares at the Agent.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

(to Maya/Itzel)

Maya, Whatever-your-last-name-is, You have a direct request from the Vice President of the United States to seek political asylum in this safe house, owned by Mr. Sean Regan, a Social Services Counselor for the U.S. Border Patrol.

SEAN

I don't work for the U.S. Border Patrol!

ADDIE

You do now!

SEAN

I don't want to...

ADDIE

(to Itzel)

Officer Perez of the Border Patrol will process you into our immigration database. You'll be assigned a court date for your immigration hearing, and you both will await further instructions from the Vice President of the United States.

(to Sean)

You'll be paid for your service as a temporary Social Services Counselor for the U.S. Border Patrol.

Addie holds her sleeve microphone again and whispers to Sean.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

The VP sees this as a way to turn the negative publicity from the busload of kidnapped migrants from southern states into a positive news story about a kind-hearted American citizen helping a poor uneducated immigrant who was treated like a political football.

Sean paces to ponder the offer. Itzel turns to him.

SEAN

And, I'd be paid?

Itzel turns to glare at the Agent.

ADDIE

Handsomely. And the temporary job would look great on your resume.

Sean stops and gazes warmly at Itzel.

SEAN

I'll do it.
(they share a moment)
For Maya.

ADDIE

There are three conditions.

Itzel and Sean turn to the Agent.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

One: the Vice President asked me to pick up some new clothes for your guest for tomorrow afternoon's television interview on your front porch.

SEAN

Television interview?

Addie covers her sleeve microphone.

ADDIE

Publicity stunt. Just go with it.

Sean smiles more, which draws a suspicious look from Itzel.

Addie uncovers her sleeve microphone.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Two: I was asked to shop for decent food.

(covers her microphone)

The Veep didn't care for the fixings in your fridge.

SEAN

I was going to go shopping for Christmas dinner anyway.

ADDIE

And three: the Vice President asked me to stay here with you to make sure you speak to no one about this!

(shakes her finger)

And, to make sure there's no funny business between you two.

Sean smiles shyly at Addie, which Itzel sees and shakes her head in disgust.

SEAN

Okay by me!

Addie talks into her sleeve.

ADDIE

Everything's been arranged, Madam Vice President. And everything is under control. Have a nice night!

Addie takes off her coat, slips off her shoes, and unbuttons the top button on her blouse. She smiles and sits down on a kitchen chair.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Grab me a cold beer, will ya, Sean?!

Sean races to fetch a beer from the fridge for Addie.

Itzel turns sad and there is a hint of sarcasm in Addie's voice when she tries to console her.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Estarás bien y volverás con tu gente en unos días, Maya. O cualquiera que sea tu nombre.

Subtitle: "You'll be okay and back with your people in a few days, Maya. Or whatever your name is."

Sean is oblivious to the comment.

Itzel studies them both.

Addie walks into the living room and turns on the TV.

We see Stock Footage from various television news stations in Texas and Washington D.C. from Christmas Eve, 2022 regarding the migrants dropped off at the VP's house.

The News reports continue, but the volume is too low to hear.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Sean walks slowly down the hallway from his room carrying two blankets and a pillow.

He pauses at the closed bathroom door to hear the shower running again.

Behind Sean we see Itzel's bedroom door open a crack.

Sean smiles before strolling the rest of the way to the small couch in the living room.

The TV is on, and covering the VP's house story, but the volume is too low to follow the story.

Sean carefully lays the blankets on the couch like he's making a bed and places the pillow at the end facing away from the TV.

Addie steps out of the bathroom wearing a nightgown that has been cut with scissors mid-thigh. She has the scissors in her hand.

Behind her, Itzel sees the short nightgown and shuts her door quietly.

Addie strolls into the living room to see Sean staring at her legs.

She hands him the scissors.

ADDIE

Thanks for letting me trim your
mom's nightgown. I can't sleep with
my legs all wrapped up.

Sean is smitten and struggles to speak.

SEAN

Oh... That's okay, Agent...

ADDIE
Call me, Addie! Remember?

Addie lays seductively on the couch barely noticing Sean.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
This is a huge opportunity for me.
It could get me a detail with the
Eagle.

SEAN
The Eagle?

ADDIE
POTUS.

SEAN
POTUS?

Sean is staring at her legs and barely listening.

ADDIE
President of the United States.
(smug)
I'm nearing the end of my Hero's
Journey. You're at the beginning of
yours. Maya's probably in the
middle of hers.

Sean looks puzzled.

SEAN
Hero's Journey?

Addie leans towards Sean seductively.

ADDIE
Everyone on earth is the hero of
their story. Every Hero's Journey
has three stages. First, the hero's
life is disrupted by a call for
adventure. Like Maya getting chased
out of her village by armed
assailants, or me sprouting breasts
at age twelve!

SEAN
That's a call to adventure?

ADDIE
It was for me.
(beat)
(MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Second, the hero has to overcome challenges and defeat enemies during their quest. Like Maya avoiding coyotes and thugs all the way to the U.S., and me taking martial arts to fend off high school boys.

SEAN

That must have been tough.

ADDIE

You have no idea!

(beat)

And, third, they return home transformed. A better person in a better place because we answered the call to duty. That's what got me into the Secret Service.

Sean smiles and moves in closer.

SEAN

(excited)

So this is my call to duty? By accidentally bringing Maya home? My life is disrupted, and I have to defeat bad guys and become a better person. But who are the bad guys in the story? The ones I have to defeat?

Sean paces and worries.

ADDIE

Mine is the Vice President and the chain of command. Maya's will be the Immigration Officers who come to take her back to the border. Yours? I don't know yet.

(laughs)

Maybe you'll be charged with kidnapping that young lady in there.

SEAN

(angry)

Kidnapping? That's not funny! I brought her in from the cold, fed her, and I'm giving her a good night's sleep!

Itzel surprises them from behind. She has her colorful shawl tightly wrapped around. It covers the top of her head and hides her body.

Sean is smitten.

SEAN (CONT'D)

She looks like the Blessed Virgin Mary!

ADDIE

I think virgin is a stretch...

Sean's eyes open wide when Itzel drops her shawl.

Itzel is naked and eight months pregnant.

Sean gasps and stares at Itzel's breasts.

Addie grabs her phone to get a photo of Itzel's belly.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

We're in big trouble.

Itzel is the picture of innocence.

Itzel picks up the shawl, wraps it around her body, and saunters slowly and proudly to her bedroom.

She leaves her door ajar.

SEAN

What was that all about? What a strange woman, but wasn't she lovely?

Addie crosses her legs in a sexy way.

ADDIE

She's raising the stakes in the game.

SEAN

(angry)
What game?

She leans in and gazes into Sean's eyes. She stands teasing him with her femininity.

ADDIE

The Hero's Journey you started on by taking in a stray. The game of life for her and her baby!

(MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

The battle to survive in her new
concrete jungle. Washington DC!

Sean is more nervous as Addie approaches, but all he can do
is freeze. His voice squeaks.

SEAN

Are you always this melodramatic?

Addie steps back with a smile.

ADDIE

I think it's admirable what you
did, especially at the holidays.

She sees Sean getting aroused.

SEAN

Uh. Uh. Thanks.

ADDIE

And thanks for letting me spend the
night. The couch should be fine.

SEAN

Oh, the couch is for me. You can
have my bedroom.

ADDIE

How sweet of you.

Addie moves in for a thank-you kiss on Sean's cheek.

Sean turns his face away slightly to expose his cheek.

Addie gently reaches up and turns his chin toward her so she
can kiss him on the lips.

Sean's eyes open wide.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

(seductively)

I'll see you at breakfast if not
before.

Sean drools as he watches her saunter down the hall.

We see Itzel's door remains slightly ajar.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

SUPER: "December 23rd"

Addie storms in the front door carrying four grocery bags in her arms.

She sees Sean making coffee in the kitchen and dumps the bags on the table.

SEAN

Thanks for fetching groceries. What do I owe you?

ADDIE

It's on the VP.

SEAN

Have you told her about our little situation yet?

ADDIE

After we process Mama Maya back there. Is she still asleep?

SEAN

She got up before either of us and washed the dishes and took out the garbage.

ADDIE

At least she didn't escape.

SEAN

Not that I know of...

ADDIE

(interrupts, yells)
You didn't check?

Addie storms to her room.

SEAN

I thought she might still be naked, and she might scream or call the cops on me for kidnapping her! I was afraid to look in her room.

Addie SCREAMS!

ADDIE

She's gone! You idiot! You let her escape! I'm lucky if I'll get to guard a former Vice President's dog after this! Get your coat, butthead!

(MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

We have to find her and be back here in a half-hour before Immigration shows up or she'll be deported later today!

SEAN

Where do we look for her?

ADDIE

She's on foot wearing a colorful shawl and is very pregnant! She'll be easy to spot.

SEAN

Her shawl's in her room. She must have borrowed some of my mom's clothes.

ADDIE

We'll never find her now!

They grab jackets and RACE out.

INT. ADDIE'S SUV - MORNING

Addie races down streets in concentric circles looking for Itzel. Sean hangs on for dear life in her black SUV with heavily tinted windows.

ADDIE

We'll check out hospitals, clinics, drug stores, or anywhere else a pregnant immigrant may go.

SEAN

Somewhere that reminds her of home?

ADDIE

Nothing here reminds her of home.

SEAN

You have the only photo of her and she's naked! We can't show that around!

ADDIE

She gets processed in thirty minutes. Mugshots, height, weight, distinguishing characteristics, fingerprints, and criminal background check, with everything entered into the database.

Addie slams on the breaks outside an Urgent Care clinic.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
Stay in the car.

She runs into the clinic and out a few seconds later.

She hops in the car, angry and defensive.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
All the patients looked exactly
like her, but not pregnant.

SEAN
While you were in there, I watched
two pregnant women walk by who
didn't look anything like her.

Addie RACES off.

ADDIE
You better find her or you're
fired!

EXT. PARK - DAY

Itzel slowly walks through a park examining all the different shrubs and trees. None of them make her smile.

She smells a few trees. None of them make her smile.

She examines seeds from some of the shrubs and trees, but none of them bring a smile.

INT. ADDIE'S SUV - SAME

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- They stop at a hospital. Addie exits shaking her head,
'No.'

-- They stop at a Grocery Store. Same result.

-- They stop at a Drug Store. Same result.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Addie RACES away, and then slams on the brakes and turns to Sean.

ADDIE
Where is she?!

SEAN

Somewhere that reminds her of home!
Maybe she's looking for medicinal
plants she's familiar with, like
from a botanical garden that houses
plants from Mexico.

ADDIE

The Botanical Gardens!

Addie RACES off.

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - CONTINUOUS

Addie drives past a small Christmas Tree lot and slams on the
brakes outside the Botanical Gardens.

ADDIE

Your turn. Your idea. Go see if
she's in there!

Sean barely gets out of the car, when he sees Itzel exiting
the Botanical Garden with a bag filled with tropical leaves
and flowers. She is wearing Sean's mom's old military
camouflage uniform with a maternity blouse with a name
reading, "REGAN." A family of four, a Security Guard, and a
woman in a business suit escort Itzel out of the park. The
two parents hug her, and they all wave goodbye to her.

Itzel stops to slowly smell the tropical leaves in the bag.

She smiles.

Sean yells to Itzel.

SEAN

Maya! We're over here!

Itzel looks around, then slowly walks to Sean with the bag of
leaves clutched to her chest.

Sean runs toward her.

We SEE a SECURITY CAMERA on the wall of the building.

Sean reaches her and Itzel resists slightly but comes along.

From the Security Camera POV, it looks like Itzel is being
abducted.

Addie sees Itzel smiling as she is guided to the awaiting
car.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You stole one of my mother's uniforms.

Itzel makes hand gestures to show that Sean's mother's maternity uniform fit her perfectly. She smiles.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm not even going to ask what you did in the Botanical Gardens!

Sean puts her in Addie's SUV like an angry policeman would load in a suspected murderer.

Again, from the Security Camera POV, it looks like Itzel is being abducted.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

A short, angry immigration worker, OFFICER PEREZ (50s), sits impatiently at the kitchen table when Sean and Addie pull Itzel into the kitchen. She's still wearing the Army uniform.

Perez stands, stares at his iPad, and lays into Sean and Addie.

OFFICER PEREZ

My name is Officer Perez. I was sent here by the office of the Vice President to process an illegal immigrant.

ADDIE

Thank you for...

OFFICER PEREZ

Save it, Agent Harris. The first note on my report will tell of her escape, and recapture by use of force.

SEAN

That's ridiculous, we were showing our new guest around the neighborhood.

Addie steps up.

ADDIE

A kind of welcome to America.

OFFICER PEREZ

The second note on my report will detail the alien's egregious theft of an official military uniform and her attempt to impersonate a U.S. Army officer.

Officer Perez points to a kitchen chair and glares at Itzel as he shows her a picture of a Mexican driver's license.

OFFICER PEREZ (CONT'D)

Do you have an ID card or papers?

Itzel stares at the driver's license and shakes her head, 'No.'

Officer Perez looks smug as he speaks into his iPad.

OFFICER PEREZ (CONT'D)

What is your name, date of birth, and country of origin?

Itzel shakes her head like she doesn't understand.

He presses the "Spanish" button on his iPad.

The iPad returns the phrase in perfect Spanish but in a woman's voice.

Itzel looks curiously at Officer Perez.

ADDIE

She doesn't appear to understand Spanish.

SEAN

I tried too.

OFFICER PEREZ

This is the most sophisticated AI translation software available from the CIA today. I'll find out where she's from.

SERIES of SHOTS

Officer Perez goes through several other "buttons" on his iPad including the most common languages of Central and South America,

Each time, Itzel looks equally perplexed and Officer Perez gets angrier.

He takes her photo and digital fingerprints as Sean and Addie look on with puzzled looks.

He has Itzel stand so he can estimate her height.

He struggles to enter her estimated weight.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

SEAN
She's pregnant.

Officer Perez snaps at Sean.

OFFICER PEREZ
I can see that! Are you the father?

ADDIE
(sarcastic)
Maybe. They met last night.

Officer Perez snaps again.

OFFICER PEREZ
That's it! I'm taking her to the
immigrant redistribution center in
Arlington.

Sean snaps and puts his arm around Itzel.

SEAN
You can't do that.

Addie gets in Officer Perez's face.

ADDIE
By order of the Vice President.

Addie's phone RINGS with the caller ID that reads "VPOTUS."

ADDIE (CONT'D)
(to Officer Perez)
You're in big trouble now, buddy!

Addie turns her head and the Vice President can't be heard.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
Yes, Madam Vice President.
(listens)
Have her point to her country of
origin on a map.

Addie and Sean are looking around for cameras, when they spot the body-camera on Officer Perez's belt.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Great idea, Ma'am. We're on it.

(pauses)

Tell Officer Perez that his report will go to your staff for careful editing before it is submitted to his database. Is that clear?

Officer Perez shrinks into a chair like a scolded schoolboy.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Just process her and go, Officer Perez, or you'll be reassigned to our Alaskan border with Russia.

The call ends.

Sean grabs his BRAND laptop computer and pulls up a map of Central America.

SEAN

Last night, I think she was trying to tell me she was Mayan.

Itzel perks up at the word, 'Mayan,' while Officer Perez paces in anger.

Sean enlarges the map to include Belize, Guatemala, and Yucatan, Mexico.

Itzel points to a large area with her finger.

OFFICER PEREZ

Indigenous languages are the last ones added to our AI Language Translation software! The Mayans have several dialects that are poorly understood by others. Many speak Spanish and English but not all. My interview process will be froth with error.

Sean breaks out laughing.

SEAN

Froth with error? This I gotta see.

Officer Perez begins humbly with his Mayan translator software.

Officer Perez speaks into his iPad.

OFFICER PEREZ
 What is your first name and
 surname?

We HEAR the feeble Mayan translation from the AI TRANSLATOR
 (in Officer Perez's mechanical-sounding voice from the iPad).

AI TRANSLATOR
 (in Mayan)
 Ba'ax ten k'aaba' a wíiniko'obo'.

Subtitle: By what name do your people call you?

Itzel speaks to the iPad with a puzzled look.

ITZEL
 Itzel.

Officer Perez is delighted and begins typing. "Itzel."

SEAN
 This is great.
 (points to his chest)
 I am Sean. You are Itzel.

Itzel smiles at Sean.

Addie pulls Officer Perez's arm and speaks into his iPad as
 she points to her chest.

ADDIE
 I'm Addie.

AI TRANSLATOR
 (in Mayan)
 Tene' addy.

Subtitle: My name is Blistering Wort.

Itzel looks curiously at the iPad and makes a mean face.

Officer Perez yanks the iPad from Addie's grasp and yells
 into the iPad.

OFFICER PEREZ
 Where were you born?

AI TRANSLATOR
 (in Mayan)
 Tu'ux yaan u beel parto.

Subtitle: Where is your birth canal?

Itzel shakes her head in disgust at the iPad and Officer Perez.

Sean and Addie look on and shrug helplessly, as Officer Perez glares at them.

OFFICER PEREZ

If she refuses to answer these simple questions, I will have no recourse but to put her with the others and deport her.

Officer Perez takes plastic wrist restraints from his back pocket.

Itzel stands, grabs her stomach, and bends over howling in pain.

Sean attends to her immediately.

SEAN

Oh, my God. She's having her baby!

Addie turns to make a phone call to the Vice President.

Officer Perez panics and paces in anger.

OFFICER PEREZ

How can this happen?

AI TRANSLATOR

(in Mayan)

Tu'ux úuchuk le ba'ala'?

Subtitle: Where will this happen?

Itzel glares at the iPad and Officer Perez.

ITZEL

(in Mayan)

Ti' in beel parto, wáaj idiota.

Subtitle: In my birth canal, you idiot!

SEAN

I'm getting her to a hospital!

Sean gently but quickly guides Itzel to the front door.

Itzel bends down to pick up her black backpack at the door and grunts in pain as they exit.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

A NURSE (30) holding an iPad glares at Sean with Itzel in the background on a gurney. Itzel sniffs the bag of tropical leaves from the botanical garden.

There is a TV in the upper corner of the room. The local news is on.

NURSE

We have no form of ID, no proof of insurance, and no way to communicate with her.

SEAN

If you could just check her out to see if she's okay...

NURSE

She refuses to sign the admittance forms. She just smells the leaves in her bag and smiles.

SEAN

It's her aroma therapy.

Itzel sniffs the bag of tropical leaves and smiles until she turns to the nurse and speaks quickly in Mayan anger.

ITZEL

Ma' k'a'abéet a áantaj.

Subtitle: "Bleep...! Bleep...! Bleep!"

Sean and the Nurse step back.

The Nurse throws her arms up and exits the room.

On the TV, we see Itzel saving a child's life with the Heimlich Maneuver at the Botanical Gardens (on the security camera). The TV story makes "Regan" look like a Medal of Honor hero.

Itzel motions for Sean to hand her the black leather backpack.

Itzel removes two phones from the bottom of the backpack.

Sean sees one is a BRAND Satellite phone, and one is an iPhone 15.

Itzel hands them to Sean, embarrassed.

SEAN

Where did you get these?

Itzel looks away.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Did you steal them?

Itzel takes back the iPhone 15, turns it on, selects an AI app, and speaks slowly into the phone.

Sean stares at the satellite phone and sees the SOS button.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I bet this came in handy during
your 1,300-mile Hero's Journey.

He switches the SOS button on and Itzel panics.

We see a blinking light and hear the BEEP of a signal being sent from the satellite phone.

CUT TO:

INT. DELUXE RESORT - SAME

We see a deluxe Resort in a jungle, the kind of resort used by officials of a drug cartel.

A BODYGUARD (30s) sits at a small desk with two computer displays connected to a satellite phone. His heavysset BOSS (40s) sits at a bigger desk with a laptop computer connected to a satellite phone. The Boss has a white bandage around his head. They speak Spanish.

BODYGUARD

Jefe, he localizado su teléfono.

Subtitle: "Boss, I've located your phone."

BOSS

(angry)
¿Dónde está?

Subtitle: "Where is it?"

BODYGUARD

Está en un hospital en Washington,
DC.

Subtitle: "It's in a hospital in Washington, DC."

The Boss leaps to see the map of Washington DC on the Bodyguard's screen.

BODYGUARD (CONT'D)

Iré.

Subtitle: "I'll go."

The Boss pounds his fist on the desk.

BOSS

Iré. ¡Esto es personal!

Subtitle: "I'll go. This is personal!"

BODYGUARD

¡Puedes enviar el cartel!

Subtitle: "You can send the cartel!"

BOSS

(very angry)

¡Iré yo mismo!

Subtitle: "I'll go myself."

The Boss storms out.

BACK TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME

Itzel uses all he strength to sit up and snatch the satellite phone from Sean.

She dresses quickly and pulls Sean from the hospital room.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Addie eagerly awaits Sean and Itzel outside the hospital.

ADDIE

My car's over here.

She leads them in the parking lot.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

What did the doctor say?

SEAN

He confirmed the pregnancy, but we left before an OBGYN doc could take a look, and she didn't have ID or insurance...

ADDIE

I'll get her into Walter Reed.

Itzel freezes in terror as Addie and Sean keep walking.

Sean turns to Itzel who is panicking. Itzel speaks English slowly but clearly with a Latina accent.

ITZEL

I want to go home.

Addie and Sean are stunned.

He races to hug her and speaks softly.

SEAN

Let's take her back to my place.

ITZEL

No. I want to go home.

(beat)

Belize.

Sean and Addie look worried.

SEAN

Uh oh! I think we're in some kind of trouble.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Addie runs into the house as Sean helps Itzel inside.

Addie strips off her uniform and disconnects the body-camera on her uniform jacket.

ADDIE

I'll make coffee. I didn't record at the hospital, and that's not good for my career.

SEAN

(to Itzel)

We have to talk. You know that!

Itzel sits at the kitchen table and reaches into her backpack.

Addie begins to make coffee, turning frequently to watch Itzel empty her backpack.

Itzel pulls out the satellite phone, the smartphone, and a burner phone.

Addie stops and gets in Itzel's face.

ADDIE

Who are you?

ITZEL

My name is Itzel Luna Ucan. I'm of Mayan descent.

SEAN

That explains why Spanish wasn't working for us.

ITZEL

Tambien hablo español. I speak Spanish, English, and three dialects of Mayan.

SEAN

Why didn't you say so?

ITZEL

(looks away)
For your safety... and mine.
(looks down)
And my baby's.

ADDIE

Our safety?

ITZEL

All I wanted to do with my life was study and preserve tropical forests in my home, Belize. Now, I've put you all in danger. You and your Vice President.

Addie paces in anger.

ADDIE

Out with it! The whole story!

Sean picks up the satellite phone.

SEAN

You stole this, didn't you? That makes you a criminal and you can't get asylum!

ITZEL

You're going to need coffee, or
maybe something a little stronger.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

We see Itzel and her Husband (30) stringing out a meter-tape to delineate a vegetation plot in a thick tropical forest. They have clipboards and data sheets.

Itzel examines a tree leaf by its look and smell. She smiles.

ITZEL (V.O.)

My husband and I were mapping the
tree species in a part of the
forest famous for rare birds.

A helicopter flies slowly overhead.

ITZEL (V.O.)

Sadly, the area is also home to the
biggest drug cartel in the jungles
of Guatemala, Belize, and Southern
Mexico.

ADDIE (V.O.)

Cocaine.

ITZEL (V.O.)

Eighty percent of the cocaine used
in the U.S. travels through that
concentrated area of our world.

SEAN (V.O.)

I had no idea.

ITZEL (V.O.)

Rainforests are cut and temporary
airstrips pop up overnight.

SEAN (V.O.)

And the plants and animals?

We hear GUNSHOTS from assault rifles.

ITZEL (V.O.)

The trees and birds go first, and
then any villagers who get in their
way.

(sadly)

Including my husband.

END FLASHBACK

Itzel is in tears. Sean and Addie console Itzel with pats and hugs.

Addie points to the phones.

ADDIE

Those are the killer's phones? You stole them?

Itzel nods 'Yes.'

SEAN

And I tipped them off by turning on the SOS button on the satellite phone.

Addie turns on Sean.

ADDIE

You didn't!

SEAN

It was an accident.

ADDIE

We have to report this to the DEA.

Itzel stands in defiance. Fire in her eyes.

ITZEL

No! Revenge will be mine!

Sean and Addie step back with worried looks.

Itzel gathers up the phones on the table, stuffs them into the backpack, and walks towards her bedroom.

ITZEL (CONT'D)

My baby needs rest.

Itzel wobbles down the hall. Addie yells to her.

ADDIE

Officer Perez will be back in the morning to get you processed at o-eight-hundred and you're meeting the Vice President for a press conference at thirteen-hundred hours.

Itzel doesn't turn around.

ITZEL

Putting me into an immigrant
database or on TV will get us all
killed.

(yells)

Tomorrow.

Addie and Sean stare down the hallway until her door shuts.

Sean whispers to Addie.

SEAN

What are you going to tell the Vice
President?

Addie paces.

ADDIE

Lying to her will get us both...

Addie's phone rings.

She grabs it to see the Vice President's code name.

She hurries to put on her uniform shirt and coat and turn on
her camera.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Good evening, Ma'am. I was just
about to...

She turns to listen.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Madam Vice President. My car
did take a little trip to the E.R.

She listens with a worried look.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Mr. Sean Regan thought he had food
poisoning but when we got to the
hospital, he was fine.

She smiles.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Ma'am. Probably gas.

Addie turns to Sean who smiles weakly.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

He's fine. See you at thirteen-hundred hours, Ma'am. It's always a pleasure to...

The Vice President ends the call.

SEAN

How did she know?

ADDIE

My car has a tracking device.
(points to Itzel's room)
She pulled that stunt on purpose to dodge Officer Perez and the entry of her personal information into the database.

SEAN

Maybe that database is easily hacked? What are we going to do?

ADDIE

You'll think of something.

Sean glances at Itzel's door as Addie paces.

SEAN

What if I alerted the cartel of her whereabouts?

ADDIE

(worried)
Maybe she's at the end of her Hero's Journey.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAWN

SUPER: "December 24th"

Sean makes coffee in the kitchen as bacon sizzles on the stove. A dozen eggs, orange juice, and a loaf of bread are on the counter. We also see Itzel's bag of leaves on the counter.

Sean stops cooking to smell the tropical leaves in the bag. He smiles approvingly.

Addie steps in pointing to her body-cam on her jacket as Sean turns his head to see her.

SEAN
Good morning, Addie.

ADDIE
Good morning, Mr. Regan.

Addie points more emphatically to her body-cam.

SEAN
I mean, Agent Harris.

ADDIE
Any sign of your houseguest?
(checks her smartphone)
Itzel Luna Ucan from the jungles of
Belize?

Sean rolls his eyes in disgust.

SEAN
Well, the cat's out of the bag now.

Addie turns away and covers the microphone on her sleeve. She whispers angrily.

ADDIE
I'm doing my job!

She turns back, uncovers her microphone, and smiles.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
We should be all ready to go when
Officer Perez joins us for
processing.

CUT TO:

INT. WASHINGTON REGAN AIRPORT, CUSTOMS - SAME

A CUSTOMS OFFICER (20s; female) stares at the Boss's Guatemalan passport and then at the Boss who wears a dark suit and dark sunglasses and is looking to the side.

CUSTOMS OFFICER
Mr. Gonzales?

The Boss doesn't respond.

CUSTOMS OFFICER (CONT'D)
(louder)
Mr. Gonzales!

The Boss finally turns his head.

CUSTOMS OFFICER (CONT'D)
Can you remove your dark glasses,
Mr. Gonzales?

The Boss removes his dark glasses with a smile.

BOSS
Sorry.

CUSTOMS OFFICER
This passport has you listed about
forty pounds lighter than you
appear to be.

BOSS
I tend to put on a few extra
kilos... I mean, pounds, over the
holidays.

CUSTOMS OFFICER
What is the purpose of your visit
to Washington DC?

BOSS
Sightseeing and restaurants.

The Customs Officer hands back the Boss's passport.

CUSTOMS OFFICER
You might go easy on the
restaurants.

The Boss takes his passport, glares at the Customs Officer,
lowers his dark sunglasses, and storms away.

EXT. WASHINGTON REGAN AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

A black SUV drives up to pick up the Boss who wears a dark
suit and sunglasses. He still has a bandage on his head.

The Chauffeur (50s) opens the back door for the Boss and
hands him a heavy but little bag.

BACK TO:

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - SAME

Itzel enters the kitchen wearing the clothes she arrived in
and the colorful Mayan shawl around her.

She smells the bacon, pours herself a cup of orange juice,
and glares at Addie and Sean.

ITZEL

Thanks for all you've done, but...

They HEAR pounding on the front of the house.

Sean and Addie run to the front door, while Itzel grabs a few slices of bread, makes a quick bacon sandwich, grabs her backpack, and heads to the backdoor.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sean swings open the front door to see a crew of three men and a woman (various ages and types) installing Christmas decorations on his house and in the yard. A white van from a "Home Decor" company is parked out front.

SEAN

I didn't order...

Addie listens to her earpiece.

ADDIE

Yes, Ma'am. I'll tell him.

Addie pulls Sean inside the house and shuts the door.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ADDIE

The Vice President thought your home should look nice for the press conference.

SEAN

Looks like a bigger target...

They HEAR a loud knock on the door.

Sean opens it up to see an angry Officer Perez who storms into the house with his iPad and briefcase.

OFFICER PEREZ

Where is she? Let's get this over with.

Perez storms toward the kitchen and takes a seat at the table.

Addie looks around nervously.

SEAN

Coffee, Office Perez?

They all HEAR a vehicle screech away from the front of the house.

ADDIE

Uh oh!

They all race to the front door.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sean, Addie, and Officer Perez see the Home Decor van racing away with the four Home Decorators racing (on foot dodging large plastic reindeer) a few feet before giving up.

Officer Perez instinctively pulls his pistol, which angers Sean.

SEAN

You're going to shoot her?

OFFICER PEREZ

She stole a van. Now she's a common criminal. She'll have a record...

(beat)

And can't get asylum!

Addie glares at Officer Perez.

ADDIE

Get the license number of the van and I'll get out an A-P-B.

Sean shakes his head in disgust as he heads back into the house.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Sean races out of Itzel's room to the kitchen where Addie is pacing and Officer Perez picks at the bacon.

SEAN

She took one of my mom's winter coats and wool beanie.

ADDIE

We'll add theft to her list of...

Addie's phone RINGS.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

It's my supervisor.

(answers)

(MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Sir.
(listens, eyes open wide)
FBI. Yes, Sir. We're on our way.

Addie races to the coat rack.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Grab your coat, Mr. Regan. Perez,
you stay here in case she returns.

Officer Perez throws his arms in the air as Addie and Sean exit. As they head out the door, Harris yells.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

We've got eyes in the sky. She's
headed back toward the Botanical
Gardens.

INT. ADDIE'S SUV - DAY

Addie drives like a maniac while yelling questions.

ADDIE

What color is the winter coat?

Sean looks out the window, sad.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Color, style, anything?

He turns with a tear in his eye.

SEAN

I... I... don't remember.

Addie softens.

ADDIE

I'm sorry.

SEAN

I barely remember her face.
(very sad)
It's the holidays, and I barely
remember my parents' faces. It's
been so long...

She reaches across to touch his hand.

ADDIE

I'm so sorry.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The Boss exits the hospital with an angry look. He stands and looks around with an impatient, angry demeanor.

He pulls out a satellite phone and makes a call.

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

Addie sees the Botanical Garden and speeds up.

Sean turns his head to the small Christmas tree lot by the botanical gardens and sees the Home Decor van with a Christmas tree tied to the top of it, and heading in the opposite direction.

SEAN

That's Itzel!

ADDIE

She stole a van to buy a Christmas tree? I'll have to report this, and it will prevent her from getting asylum!

SEAN

She borrowed a van.

Addie does a quick U-turn and races to catch up.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Itzel skids to a stop in front of the house. She has four \$100 bills in her hands as she greets the home decorators. She wears Sean's mom's long brown winter coat and beanie.

They pocket the bills and begin taking the tree off of the top of the van as Addie and Sean drive up.

Addie is fuming mad, while Sean is laughing as they exit the car.

SEAN

The coat is brown.

Sean slaps Addie on the back.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Dear, I guess we'll have to find the tree lights and ornaments in the attic.

Addie glares at Sean as Itzel smiles and enters the house.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

There is a stack of breakfast dishes on the counter that keeps Sean busy, though he smiles at Itzel frequently.

Itzel wears one of Sean's mom's beautiful green pregnancy dresses.

SEAN
(to Itzel)
My mom's old dress looks good on
you. She never threw out anything.

Officer Perez completes his processing of Itzel as Addie sits next to Itzel like a watchdog.

OFFICER PEREZ
You dodged a bullet with the Home
Decor company. They're not pressing
charges.

ITZEL
I gave them money for gas.

Officer Perez leans in like an interrogator.

OFFICER PEREZ
Where did you get the money?

Addie puts her hand on Itzel's.

ADDIE
You don't have to answer that!

Officer Perez angrily pushes several buttons on his iPad.

OFFICER PEREZ
You'll be given your first court
date where you'll make an opening
statement, present witnesses, and
make your case for asylum. Those
don't go well without actual
evidence of being physically forced
to leave your country.

Itzel glares at Officer Perez. She's bitter.

ITZEL

They killed my husband and chased me across the Guatemalan border under gunfire from automatic weapons... the same type as used in your schools and shopping malls.

OFFICER PEREZ

I hope you have proof.

Itzel stands, fuming mad. Addie calms her down.

ADDIE

When is her court date?

Officer Perez begins to head to the front door.

OFFICER PEREZ

Three months, assuming she can stay clean.

Itzel, Sean, and Addie glare at Officer Perez.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - DAY

The SUV pulls into a ground-level parking garage of a tall office building to pick up a GEEK (30s) in a gray suit and white earbuds. He holds a briefcase and enters the SUV with a slight bow to the boss.

The SUV speeds away.

The Boss shows a photo of Itzel exiting the bus at the Vice President's residence and sneaking away down the street.

BOSS

Espero que seas más peligroso de lo que pareces.

Subtitle: I hope you are more dangerous than you look.

The Geek looks puzzled and speaks meekly.

GEEK

No speak-a de Spanish, but I can track any satellite phone ever made.

The Boss rolls his eyes in disgust.

BOSS

(sarcastic)
Oh great!

The Geek opens his briefcase, and pulls out a laptop computer connected to a satellite phone.

We see a map of Washington DC shows up with a red blinking light for the SUV and red pins for the Vice President's residence and the hospital.

He presses a few buttons and residential streets within a mile show up in green.

GEEK

I've set up a tip line and alerted our many friends in the area: your customers.

The Boss nods.

GEEK (CONT'D)

I've asked the driver to stop at churches, hostiles, and parks.

The Boss nods again.

GEEK (CONT'D)

Maybe you can meet some of your many resellers.

The Boss shakes his head in disgust.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Addie and Itzel smile at the Christmas tree standing in the front window. Itzel is wrapped in her colorful shawl.

Sean enters with a large plastic tub of ornaments, tree lights, and decorations.

SEAN

Haven't used these since...

Addie hugs Sean.

ADDIE

Thanks for doing this, Sean.

Sean hugs Itzel.

SEAN

Thanks for buying us a tree, Itzel.

Itzel smiles weakly.

Sean looks out the window as the Boss's black SUV slowly drives by.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - SAME

The tree obscures the view of Itzel from the Boss and the SUV drives on.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sean, Addie, and Itzel decorate the tree with lights and ornaments. Sean is about to put a white angel on the top of the tree.

Itzel waits for hot tea in a tall glass to cool. Addie peeks in her cup.

ADDIE

What kind of tea is that? It looks like seeds.

Itzel's hand dips into her backpack and takes out a box of tea that reads, "Jnantik -- Mayan Seed Tea for Mothers."

ADDIE (CONT'D)

(chuckles)

None for me, thanks.

When the tea is cool, Itzel drinks it with her wooden straw.

SEAN

(to Itzel)

Why did you give Officer Perez your real name?

ADDIE

Even though bad people may be after you?

ITZEL

We can't run forever.

There is a pause in decorating as Sean and Addie look compassionately at Itzel.

ADDIE

Can I touch your belly?

Itzel nods 'yes.'

Addie moves in close to Itzel and gently holds a hand on the baby. Sean looks on with a smile.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
He or she kicked.

ITZEL
(smiles)
He's a dancer.

SEAN
May I?

Itzel nods 'yes.'

Addie steps back and Sean moves in.

SEAN (CONT'D)
You know, a very special child was
born on Christmas Day.

Sean and Itzel lock eyes and share a moment. Then Itzel focuses on a small gold crucifix around Sean's neck (and commonly hidden by his shirts).

Sean looks down at the crucifix.

SEAN (CONT'D)
It was my dad's.

Itzel takes one step back.

SEAN (CONT'D)
What?

ITZEL
(squirming slightly)
It is nothing.

Addie moves in to defend Sean.

ADDIE
Oh, it was something.

ITZEL
The Mayans have close to two
hundred gods. They shifted names
and in importance over time.

SEAN
Can you name some?

ITZEL
(playful)
Itzamná is the creator and ruler of
day and night. He is kind and
protective towards humans.
(MORE)

ITZEL (CONT'D)

(serious)

He must have been off duty the night my husband was killed.

Itzel turns to sob.

ADDIE

Powerless against the assault rifles like our kids in the classroom. You have to tell the judge that at your immigration hearing.

Itzel holds her tummy.

ITZEL

Three months from now, we'll be long gone.

Sean fiddles with a tree-top angel in his hand.

SEAN

(to Itzel)

Were there any other gods that worked for you?

ITZEL

Chaac is the rain god, but we still had droughts.

SEAN

And?

ITZEL

(playful)

Kukulkan is a feathered serpent, has the power of flight, and gave humans laws and the ability to write.

(serious)

Only to have our books burned by your first missionaries. And our list goes on. The god of maze crops. The god of wildlife. The god of earthquakes...

SEAN

(disappointed)

That's rather cynical.

Itzel points to the Christmas Tree and smiles at Sean and Addie.

ITZEL

Like your Santa Claus, we believe
all the strange things our parents
tell us until one day, we don't.

TENSE SILENCE.

Sean stares down at the tree-top angel in his hand.

Itzel moves in closer and makes eye contact.

ITZEL (CONT'D)

Our elders have a saying which
loosely translates to "There are
times when the gods are powerless."

SILENCE

SEAN

When things sort of fall apart.

ITZEL

When the European diseases arrived
and nearly exterminated our people.

Sean turns to an old family portrait on the wall.

ADDIE

(to Itzel)

When your books were burned.

ITZEL

When my people fade into your
society... and disappear.

Sean, Addie, and Itzel come together for a hug.

SEAN

It makes the rare good times more
special; Christmas, the birth of
your baby, and finding a safe place
to live and enjoy life.

Itzel and Addie gaze into Sean's eyes.

ADDIE

I think we need some spiced eggnog
and Christmas music.

SEAN

(to Addie)

We're on duty, and...

(to Itzel)

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

You have your special tea for the baby.

(beat)

No baby today though, right?!

They laugh.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'll find some tunes.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - NOON

The Boss is fuming mad and growing impatient as the Geek stares at his laptop computer screen.

The Geek taps an earbud.

GEEK

We have a tip coming in.

(beat)

The Botanical Gardens.

BOSS

(yells)

Take me there, now!

The SUV speeds down the road.

BOSS (CONT'D)

(yells)

Within the speed limits. I can't be found here, you idiot!

The SUV slows down.

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - AFTERNOON

The Geek exits the Botanical Gardens with a few postcards in one hand and the photo of Itzel in the other.

He heads to the Boss's SUV parked in the parking lot but stops to wave at a Security Guard at the front door.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - SAME

The Boss glares at the Geek who finally returns and enters the SUV.

GEEK

Maybe she was here! Yesterday morning.

(MORE)

GEEK (CONT'D)

The Security Guard said a woman kind of matching her description saved a kid's life with the Heimlich Maneuver so they gave her some of her favorite plants leaves to smell whenever she wanted to feel at home.

BOSS

Why did you say, 'Maybe?!'

GEEK

'Cause the woman was in a U.S. Army uniform and was about to pop!

BOSS

What?

GEEK

Have a baby!

BOSS

That can't be her, idiot!

The SUV drives on, right past the small Christmas tree lot.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Unless... Take me to back the hospital!

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Sean, Addie, and Itzel add ornaments to the tree. Some are photos of Sean in his youth and several have Ireland themes. Sean now wears a tacky red Christmas sweater.

Addie's phone RINGS.

ADDIE

My supervisor.

She turns away from the Christmas tree and answers the phone.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Sir.

(looks at her body-cam)

I don't know how that happened, Sir. I'll turn it on right away, Sir. Sorry, Sir.

(rolls her eyes)

Yes, Sir, we'll practice for the press conference at thirteen-hundred hours.

Addie turns and points to her camera and makes a "talking-hand" gesture.

SEAN
Is everything okay?

ADDIE
(surprised)
How about that? I must have turned
my camera off earlier by accident.
Oops. Sorry.

She pans the room with her body-camera. We only see Itzel from the back and her colorful Mayan shawl conceals her pregnancy.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
Just decorating the Christmas tree
for the Vice President's visit.
It's nice of Sean Regan, a
Washington DC resident and Social
Services Counselor for the U.S.
Border Patrol, to sponsor Itzel
Luna Ucan, an English-speaking,
recently processed immigrant
seeking asylum from gun violence in
the jungles of Central America. We
learned her court date isn't for
three months.

Hearing "three months," Itzel turns her head to Addie's camera to frown.

Seconds later, a text message appears from the Vice President, which Addie reads out loud.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
Our Social Services Counselor looks
camera-ready. The immigrant needs
makeup and a constant smile for the
press conference. The Christmas
tree adds a nice touch. Good
thinking, Agent Harris! I should be
able to milk this puff story for
three months before...

Addie looks up in horror, before putting her phone in her pocket.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
Sorry, I need a bathroom break.

She heads toward the bathroom while taking her uniform jacket off.

She stops, turns to Sean, puts a finger to her lips, and motions him to follow her.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Addie puts down the lid and collapses on the toilet.

Sean storms in and shuts the door.

ADDIE
My camera's off.

Sean gets in Addie's face.

SEAN
How did that text message end?

Addie looks away.

ADDIE
Before...

SEAN
Before what?!

ADDIE
Before we send her back across the
border to Mexico.

SEAN
Mexico? One, she's not from Mexico,
and two, the cartel will eat her
alive!

Sean turns ready to stomp away. He swings open the bathroom door to see Itzel standing in the doorway with her head hung low and her arms holding her belly.

Sean is speechless.

ADDIE
I'm... I'm so sorry, Itzel.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - SAME

The Geek perks up with excitement.

GEEK

Another lead, Boss. A Christmas tree lot owner says she bought a tree for two hundred dollars cash, and he loaded it on a Home Decor truck?

BOSS

Impossible.

GEEK

The tree lot is adjacent to the Botanical Garden.

BOSS

Call Home Decor and ask them where their deliveries were today.

GEEK

What if they say 'no?'

BOSS

Tell them they and their families will be killed. All you want is the addresses.

The Boss pulls out his pistol like he means business.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Sean, Addie, and Itzel mope around the kitchen table.

ADDIE

We don't have much time to talk.

SEAN

Before you have to turn on your camera again.

Addie looks down at her uniform jacket that is folded on her lap.

ADDIE

The V-P has a big heart. She sponsored an add-on to the Farm Bill to allow a temporary worker program for migrant field workers...

ITZEL

Would either of you take such a job? Not all immigrants are field workers.

SEAN

We have to tell the Administration to aim higher with more immigrant jobs in education, technology, and the sciences with health care and a safety net for family members.

ADDIE

One step at a time.

Itzel glares at Addie.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

We have stepped in your mud. We wish to walk freely on your finest streets just as your tourists step on ours.

Addie stands and prepares to put on her jacket.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

If either of you tell the Vice President any of this, you'll both be sent packing!

(beat)

And get ready for company. It's two hours before the press conference so can expect a Secret Service pre-check for weapons, drugs, and bombs.

Itzel's eyes open wide as she stands and walks to her bedroom. She motions for Sean to follow her.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE, ITZEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sean follows Itzel into her bedroom.

As Itzel puts a finger to her lips and shuts the door behind him, Sean begins to twitch nervously.

ITZEL

Don't be nervous.

She sits on the bed and pats her hand next to her.

Sean sits and looks around.

SEAN

This was my...

ITZEL
(interrupts)
I know.
(beat)
I need to tell you three things.

Their eyes meet and they share a moment.

SEAN
Oh.

ITZEL
First, I never planned my life.

SEAN
Me neither.

Sean is smitten and smiles warmly.

ITZEL
I mean, all I ever wanted to do was
protect my forest. I didn't plan to
get married.

She holds her belly.

ITZEL (CONT'D)
And I didn't plan to make a baby,
especially with a husband I barely
knew.

SEAN
(confused)
You must have known him a little.

She reaches out to hold his hand and he looks down mesmerized
by her soft touch.

Itzel looks away.

ITZEL
We were never legally married.

She looks back at Sean who gazes into her eyes.

His voice cracks.

SEAN
Hits no different.

She stares at him.

SEAN (CONT'D)
It's no big deal.

ITZEL

The second thing is the Hefe, the Boss who is after me, is a very dangerous man.

SEAN

Like the Godfather?

Itzel is perplexed for a moment.

ITZEL

(excited)

Yes. Like the big movie mobster, only he has hundreds or thousands of soldiers in a cartel who kidnap and kill politicians...

Sean squirms in fear.

ITZEL (CONT'D)

Rapes and massacres entire villages...

Sean stops her.

SEAN

I get it. A bad guy!

ITZEL

Not one guy. A General with an army of soldiers.

He uses his hands to make the "hurry signal" to Itzel to move the story along.

SEAN

What will Addie think about us in here for so long? What's the third thing?

Itzel stands and pulls Sean up with two hands. She holds him close.

ITZEL

If something happens to me, I want you to promise to take care of my baby.

Sean's eyes look from side to side. Itzel sees this and she fights back tears.

TENSE SILENCE

SEAN

I... I...

Itzel releases his hands but Sean grabs them and holds them to his heart.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I didn't expect to ever hear that from anyone, much less one of my biggest heroes of all time since my parents...

Now Sean holds back tears and locks eyes with Itzel.

ITZEL

From the first time you put your coat around us and welcomed us into your home... I knew.

SEAN

Nothing's going to happen to you. I...

(looks at the door)

We... won't let that happen.

Itzel moves her lips closer to Sean.

He moves his lips closer to hers.

TENSE MOMENTS

They kiss briefly and just gaze into each other's eyes.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sean exits Itzel's bedroom and immediately takes the vacuum cleaner from the closet.

Addie saunters over to Sean.

ADDIE

You two were in there a long time. What did you talk about?

Sean avoids eye contact.

SEAN

Nothin'.

Addie tries to get in Sean's face but he turns on the vacuum and starts to walk away.

ADDIE

Why do men always say 'nothin' when
it's never nothing?!

SEAN

Why do women always say they're
'fine' when they're not fine?!

Addie throws her arms up in the air.

ADDIE

Fine! I'm turning on my body-cam!

Sean smiles at Addie compassionately.

SEAN

Fine!

They laugh and shake their heads.

Addie turns on her body-cam walks to the front door and turns
around.

ADDIE

I'm beginning a video sweep of the
house.

She walks slowly taking a video of the house, spending a
second more at windows and doors.

Sean continues vacuuming as Itzel slips out the backdoor with
her backpack under her colorful shawl.

Moments later, there is a loud KNOCK on the front door.

Addie is in the back bedroom and Sean is vacuuming the
kitchen when there is a second loud KNOCK on the door
followed by two RINGS of the doorbell.

Sean shuts off the vacuum, and leaps to the door and opens it
to see the Geek taking a footstep into the doorway.

GEEK

Sean Regan?

SEAN

Yes.

Sean sees the Boss's black SUV parked in front of his house.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You must want to make a sweep of
the house.

The Geek is perplexed but smiles.

GEEK
That would be great.

He walks quickly through the front of the house.

Addie exits Sean's room with a full laundry basket that hides her body-cam on her jacket. She immediately glares at the Geek.

ADDIE
Sean, who is this?

The Geek moved to check out the bedrooms.

Sean whispers to Addie.

SEAN
He just arrived in that black SUV
outside to run a sweep of the
house.

Addie drops the laundry basket and opens the front door to get a look at the black SUV. She whispers to Sean.

ADDIE
Did he show you a badge? And
where's the dog?

Sean's eyes open widely as the Geek checks the bathroom and heads quickly to the front door.

GEEK
You two don't have any company, do
you?

Sean and Addie shake their heads, 'no.'

GEEK (CONT'D)
Sorry to bother you. Merry
Christmas.

The Geek shuts the front door, but Addie opens it right away to wave goodbye.

We see her body-cam capturing the license plate of the Boss's SUV as it drives away.

Addie shuts the door.

ADDIE
See if Itzel is gone.

SEAN

Her backpack and bag of leaves are gone.

Sean races to her room and comes out with a handwritten note and a sad face.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Her shawl's gone and my mom's green dress, five \$100 bills, and this note were on the bed.

Sean's hand shakes and his voice quivers as he reads the note.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I've put you all in danger. I must say goodbye. Thank you for making me feel welcome in America. Love, Itzel. Don't worry about me. I'm fine.

SAD SILENCE

Addie runs to hug Sean.

ADDIE

We need help finding her, for her safety! Somebody wants her dead!

Addie yells to her body-cam.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

The immigrant is in the wind. I repeat, the immigrant is in the wind, and someone is out to get her. Black Limo license plate number on the video twenty seconds ago. I know there are ten thousand black SUVs in this town. This won't be easy. I'm going after her too. We need eyes in the sky and plenty of backup.

SEAN

This is all my fault.

Addie covers her body-cam and microphone.

ADDIE

Seriously, Sean! You want to play the blame game. Her life is at stake! Look out back.

(MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Call me if she comes back or that
black SUV comes back!

SEAN

You drive a black SUV. Hell,
everybody seems to have one but me!

Addie races out the front door to her car.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - AFTERNOON

The Boss is looking at a video on the Geek's iPhone.

GEEK

I tell ya, she's not there!

BOSS

Seven good leads! She has to be
there!

GEEK

Married couple, all alone, no kids
or pets. Cute Christmas tree and
their front yard was tastefully
decorated.

The Boss freezes the video at the kitchen table.

BOSS

Why are there three water glasses
on the kitchen table, you
incompetent idiot?

GEEK

How should I know?

BOSS

She conked me on the head from
behind and stole my phones with my
cryptocurrency accounts and
passwords worth millions!

GEEK

It's just an extra water glass. You
being overly dramatic. She wasn't
there!

The Boss takes out his pistol and aims it at the Geek's head.

BOSS

Next mistake and you're a dead man!

GEEK

Okay, okay! Maybe she stepped out
of the backdoor!

BOSS

(yells)

Driver, turn back to that house,
but pull into the driveway across
the street and down a house!

The Driver makes a U-turn.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

SUPER: "2 PM - One hour until the press conference"

A black SUV pulls up to the house. Four well-armed Secret Service Agents (various types) exit the vehicle. One has an electronic bug detector, one has a mirror on a pole, one has a bomb-sniffing dog, and one has an iPad for videos.

INT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The dog sniffs the entire house. In the entrance hallway, the dog sniffs the spot where Itzel's backpack was.

The dog moves through the kitchen and bathroom leading the SECRET SERVICE AGENT (40s; wearing latex gloves) to the Itzel's bedroom.

SEAN

That was my parent's room. Itzel
slept there.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

Are those \$100 bills in there
yours?

SEAN

No. Itzel's.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

The dog detected traces of Cocaine.

The Secret Service Agent places the bills in an evidence bag.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT (CONT'D)

(into his radio)

I'll need a DEA sweep of the house.

Sean looks worried.

He HEARS people outside his house.

Sean races to the door and opens it.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The same four workers from the Home Decor van are removing all of the Christmas decorations.

Sean calls Addie.

ADDIE (O.S.)
Did Itzel come back?

SEAN
No, but the van showed up and they're taking away all our Christmas decorations.

ADDIE (O.S.)
The VP must have heard about the drugs. The Press Conference is off.

SEAN
I hope you find Itzel.

Sean looks worried as he steps back into the house and shuts the door.

INT. SEAN'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - SAME

At a charming house across the street from Sean's, the Boss (concealing his pistol) and the Geek (holding an iPad) stare out the front window at all the activity. The Boss and Geek whisper to each other.

BOSS
Why would anyone take down their Christmas decorations before Christmas Day?

GEEK
To beat the rush?

The Boss glares at the Geek.

BOSS
Too much traffic over there.

GEEK
What do we do now?

An elderly couple, BEN and CLARA (70s) bring them hot cocoa and cookies. Their home is decorated for Christmas.

BEN

You say you're with the government?

GEEK

That's right. The Secret Secret Service.

CLARA

I thought something was strange about that boy, Sean. No girlfriends at all since his parents died, and all of a sudden he has two!

BEN

It ain't right if you ask me.

BOSS

And both showed up two nights ago?

CLARA

Looks like they're arresting him!

BEN

He never decorates for Christmas. One strand of lights until this year.

BOSS

Are the three of them still inside?

CLARA

Two girlfriends!

BEN

Imagine that!

BOSS

And one's pregnant?

CLARA

The one with the colorful shawl.

They all watch the Secret Service "sweep team" exit Sean's house, load up the dog, and drive off.

BOSS

Now's our chance.

GEEK
 (to Ben and Clara)
 Thanks so much for your
 hospitality. We hope you both...

The Boss grabs the Geek and forces him out the front door.

EXT. SEAN'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Boss pulls out his pistol. The old couple looks at them through the window but can't see the pistol.

A DEA Patrol Car races up to the front of Sean's house.

The Boss quickly hides his pistol and pushes the Geek back into Ben and Clara's house.

INT. SEAN'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Boss and the Geek enter the house and return to the front window.

BOSS
 Drug Enforcement.

GEEK
 (whispers to the Boss)
 She must have stolen some of your
 product, too!

BOSS
 (whispers to the Geek)
 We've got to get to her before they
 do.

The Boss and the Geek stare across the street, and then look at each other worried.

Suddenly, the Geeks iPad BEEPS, and a map appears with a red blinking light at a (green) park nearby.

The Boss studies the map.

GEEK
 The satellite phone! She's on the
 move!

BOSS
 She's heading to the bus terminal.
 We gotta stop her!

GEEK

If she skips town, we'll never
catch her!

The Boss pushes the Geek toward the backdoor, but the Geek stops in front of the plate of Christmas cookies.

GEEK (CONT'D)

Mind if I take a few cookies for
the road?

The Geek grabs several cookies on his way out before the Boss pulls him away.

Clara shakes her head in wonder.

CLARA

It's getting harder to tell the
good guys from the bad guys.

BEN

Especially when they all drive
black SUVs.

They watch the black SUV drive out of their driveway and down the street.

INT. BOSS'S SUV - AFTERNOON

The Geek follows a slow-moving red dot on his laptop.

BOSS

Where is she?

GEEK

You're right! She's heading for the
bus station.

BOSS

(yells)

Driver, apurarse! Apurarse!

The chauffeur steps on the gas.

INT. ADDIE'S SUV - SAME

Addie frantically races back to Sean's house and calls him on the phone.

SEAN (O.S.)

Addie?

ADDIE

I need another set of eyes. I'm coming to pick you up.

SEAN

Use the driveway. I'll sneak out the backdoor.

Addie looks perplexed as Sean ends the call.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Addie races into the driveway to see Sean running out the backdoor to her SUV. Sean bends down so as not to be seen from the house. He's wearing plastic wrist restraints.

INT. ADDIE'S SUV - CONTINUOUS

Addie's eyes open wide as she sees Sean's wrist restraints.

She swings open the passenger door.

Sean hops in and ducks down.

SEAN

Go, go, go!

Addie races away.

ADDIE

They're arresting you?

SEAN

Itzel's money had traces of cocaine. They're holding me on suspicion until they get fingerprints back from the database, but I never touched it.

ADDIE

We gotta find Itzel before the weirdos in the other black SUV do.

They see several black SUVs on the roads.

SEAN

Does anyone drive anything else?

Addie looks left. Sean looks right.

SEAN (CONT'D)

(excited)

I see her sitting on a bench in the park up ahead!

Addie sees the Boss's black SUV parked a few cars ahead of her. She pulls over and parks.

Addie makes a radio call.

ADDIE

Requesting backup at the park on the corner of Mason and Warner.

SEAN

Get these cuffs off of me.

Addie pulls a pocket knife from her glove compartment, while the Boss slips out of his black SUV.

ADDIE

Who's that?

Addie cuts the restraints from Sean's wrists.

SEAN

I don't know but the weirdo is still in the car.

Sean opens the door.

ADDIE

Wait in the car and wait for backup!

SEAN

You get the weirdo, I'll see if Itzel's okay.

ADDIE

(angry)

I said, wait in the car and wait for backup!

Sean slips away, but he stands out like a sore thumb in his bright red Christmas sweater.

He walks cautiously to the park.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Itzel calmly sits on a park bench as the Boss sneaks up behind her. Itzel holds a tall empty glass with her wooden straw.

BOSS

Don't turn around. You didn't make it to the bus stop.

The Boss looks around suspiciously.

ITZEL

Are you planning to shoot me like you did my husband?

The Boss looks around. He spots two security cameras on tall poles in the park.

BOSS

You picked a park with security cameras.

ITZEL

The police use the cameras to combat crime and homelessness.

BOSS

(laughs)
Ironic, isn't it? Here we are!

ITZEL

They're probably watching you now. I suppose you want your money back?

BOSS

I don't know what you're talking about.

ITZEL

(sad)
I want my husband back, but neither of us will get our way.

The Boss pulls out his pistol and points it at Itzel's head.

BOSS

You wanted revenge?

ITZEL

At first. It was all I thought about on my hard, month-long journey here.

BOSS

(scoffs)

I can't imagine such a trip. I flew.

ITZEL

My hatred of you gave me strength.

She turns to face him and his eyes open wide.

ITZEL (CONT'D)

But a long journey gives you time to think. I no longer wanted revenge. I wanted a better life for my unborn child. A life without looking over a shoulder for armed drug cartel soldiers.

BOSS

(laughs)

Like here? Now?

ITZEL

If you shoot me, the information on your smartphone will be immediately shared on the web by my friend Sean, including your hidden bank accounts.

(beat)

And your passcode for your cryptocurrency accounts.

(beat)

Other members of your cartel won't be happy to see that, and won't be happy with you!

Itzel smiles and turns her head back to look at the park.

The Boss aims the pistol at Itzel's head but his hand shakes as he looks around suspiciously.

TENSE MOMENTS

CUT TO:

EXT. BOSS'S SUV - SAME

Addie sneaks up on the Boss's SUV like a real pro.

The Chauffeur begins to pull away, but Addie stops him by standing in front of the SUV with her pistol pointing at the Chauffeur's head.

The Chauffeur slowly exits the SUV, and puts his hands up, and takes off running down the street.

Addie speaks into her sleeve.

ADDIE

I've got a runner east on Mason Street from my current location.

The Geek rolls down the window and speaks to Addie.

GEEK

He's just a hired driver showing me the sights, Officer!

ADDIE

Like the inside of Sean Regan's house?

The Geek's eyes open wide as Addie approaches his door.

The Geek swings open the door, which knocks Addie down.

The Geek takes off running in the opposite directions.

Addie talks into her sleeve again as she pops up and runs after him.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

I've got another runner, Mr. Big, running west on Mason Street. I'll capture this one myself.

The Geek tires out after running half a block.

Totally exhausted, he can barely speak as Addie zip-ties his wrists.

GEEK

I'd... like... to... speak... to... my... attorney.

ADDIE

I still need backup. This is not Mr. Big. I repeat, this is not Mr. Big.

BACK TO:

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Sean is about forty feet away from Itzel and the Boss.

Itzel sees Sean from the corner of her eye and speaks loudly.

ITZEL

I wish everyone would leave me
alone!

Sean freezes and makes eye contact with the boss.

SEAN

(yells)
Has anyone seen my dog?

Sean looks around hopelessly.

Itzel points behind Sean.

ITZEL

I saw a Chihuahua-poodle mix run
that way dragging his leash.

Sean cheers and looks behind him.

SEAN

Here, Chi-doodle! Here, Chi-doodle!

Sean glances back to see the Boss aiming his pistol at him.

BOSS

Sean Regan, according to the
homeownership records. Sit down
right here.
(points at Itzel)
Or she dies.

Sean steps slowly to the park bench.

SEAN

Don't harm her.

ITZEL

(to Sean)
I didn't want you involved.

Sean stops a few feet from the bench.

SEAN

This is the murderer who killed
your husband.

BOSS

This is the thief who stole my
money, and my phones with my
private records on them.

Sean is angry with Itzel.

SEAN

You lured him to America for your revenge, didn't you?

ITZEL

He would have had me killed at home.

SEAN

You knew that by stealing his phones, he would follow you here?

ITZEL

And that his money would have his fingerprints and cocaine all over them.

The Boss gets angry and interrupts.

BOSS

I don't care about the money! I want my phones!

Itzel starts to hand the Boss his iPhone, but drops it behind the park bench.

The Boss bends down to pick up his phone.

ITZEL

You can have your phone back.

The Boss stares at his phone.

He sees the phone is unlocked and his eyes open wide.

The Boss stands and aims his pistol at Itzel.

BOSS

It's unlocked?! Where is my satellite phone?

Itzel removes it from her backpack and drops it behind the bench again.

We HEAR SIRENS in the distance.

The Boss sees the phone is blinking red. He screams as he bends down again to pick up the satellite phone yelling.

BOSS (CONT'D)

You turned on the SOS feature, this is a trap! Every satellite in North America will know where we are.

The Boss stands with his pistol drawn and looks around in fear.

He sees Addie approaching with her pistol drawn and two big Police Officers marching the Geek in handcuffs behind her.

The Geek yells to the Boss.

GEEK

Boss, give yourself up. I hear they have donuts at the station.

The Boss turns to see Officer Perez and a DEA OFFICER (30s) approaching from opposite directions.

The Boss begs to Addie.

BOSS

If you'll just listen to my side of the story.

ADDIE

Put your weapon down and kick it to the side. Now!

BOSS

(yells)

This illegal immigrant stole my satellite phone, iPhone, and several thousands of dollars cash! She's a common criminal and must be denied asylum!

The Boss panics and turns to shoot Itzel but she turns in a flash, puts her hollow stick to her mouth, and blows a dart into the Boss's neck. He's stunned and frozen.

Sean is standing on the park bench and dives over it and on top of the Boss.

The Boss's pistol flies toward Addie who steps on it.

The Boss's eyes follow everyone, but he can't fight off the drug or move his arms and legs.

ADDIE

You're under arrest!

SEAN
 (to Itzel)
 Is that from the poison tree frog?
 Instant death?

ITZEL
 No! It's the same muscle-relaxing
 drug they use on jaguars.

Officer Perez and the DEA Officer stand the groggy Boss up
 and cuff him.

Addie helps Sean up and they share a moment before Sean steps
 around the bench to hug Itzel. They share a longer moment.

The DEA Officer bags the Boss's two phones and chastises him.

DEA OFFICER
 Secret Service Agent Harris has
 already shared the contents of your
 phone provided by Ms. Itzel Luna
 Ucan.

Everyone cheers.

ITZEL
 (to the Boss)
 Not too smart to have a passcode as
 1-2-3-4-5-6.

OFFICER PEREZ
 (to Itzel)
 He's a very dangerous man. You were
 right to be cautious about him
 following you here, and it makes
 his arrest much easier.

Itzel smiles at Officer Perez.

ITZEL
 Sometimes when our gods are
 powerless, we have to take matters
 into our own hands.

Sean and Addie smile at Itzel.

ADDIE
 I have to check in with my boss.

She checks her phone.

ADDIE (CONT'D)
 Good news. Sean's fingerprints were
 not on the five \$100 bills.
 (MORE)

ADDIE (CONT'D)

The Press Conference is back on and Home Decor is redecorating Sean's home.

There are cheers from the crowd, including the Geek.

The Boss glares at the Geek.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

We have a Press Conference in fifteen minutes.

(to the officers)

Take 'em away.

Addie smiles at Sean and Itzel.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

I've always wanted to say that!

CUT TO:

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - SAME

The Home Decor van races up to the house, skids to a stop, and the redecorating begins.

BACK TO:

EXT. PARK - SAME

The officers lead the Boss and the Geek away.

Sean laughs and smiles back at Addie.

SEAN

You might be nearing the end of your "Hero's Journey."

Itzel pulls Sean kissing close.

ITZEL

And we might be beginning a new one.

Sean kisses Itzel as Addie smiles.

ADDIE

Let's go, you two. We have a press conference waiting.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Addie pulls up to the house with a perplexed look.

We see only one Reporter (late-20s; female) and Camerawoman (30s) in front of Sean's house. The Christmas decorations are re-installed and lit.

Sean and Itzel smile at the decorations.

Addie jumps out and checks her phone in shock. Sean and Itzel rush to look at Addie's phone.

ADDIE

The Vice President and her Chief of Staff were called away to the Texas border. She asked me to handle the press conference.

The two elderly neighbors, Ben and Clara, cross the street with a plate of Christmas cookies.

REPORTER

There were ten other news teams here fifteen minutes ago.

CAMERAWOMAN

(laughs)

They had the sense to leave to cover a drug bust at a local park.

Addie confidently steps in front of the camera with Sean and Itzel behind her and to the side.

ADDIE

I'm Secret Service Agent Addie Harris. The Vice President and her staff were pulled away to our southern border to announce a Christmas Amnesty Program for young families who are seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

Addie turns to Itzel and Sean.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Behind me are the bravest and kindest people I've ever met.

Sean and Itzel wave politely.

ADDIE (CONT'D)

Itzel Luna Ucan's husband was killed by a drug cartel who forced her at gunpoint to leave her country...

Addie's voice fades as we see clips from the opening scenes.

BEGIN MONTAGE (Stock Footage as we hear Itzel)

ADDIE (V.O.)

Many immigrants are treated like political footballs, not taking into consideration what's best for the immigrants, but what is convenient for border towns. Make no mistake, when immigrants enter the United States legally, we will be there to help them.

-- Immigrants being forced away by drug cartel members with assault rifles.

-- Immigrants making the long and dangerous paths to the U.S.

-- Immigrants stuck in detention areas.

-- Immigrants stuck on streets.

-- Immigrants stuck or in churches.

-- Immigrants being loaded on buses.

-- the Immigrants exiting the bus in front of the Vice President's residence.

END MONTAGE

ADDIE

That's when a kindhearted citizen, Sean Regan, found Itzel needing a helping hand.

Sean steps in front of the camera.

SEAN

My parents and all my ancestors believed in what the Statue of Liberty stands for...

BEGIN MONTAGE (Previous scenes as we hear Sean)

-- Sean putting his coat around Itzel.

SEAN (V.O.)

"Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free, the wretched refuse
of your teeming shore. Send these,
the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden
door!"

-- Sean invites Itzel into his home.

SEAN (V.O.)

I did what any truly patriotic
American would do.

-- Itzel sipping tea by the Christmas tree.

SEAN

It's what my grandparents, who were
immigrants would have done, and my
parents would be doing today.

Sean looks up to Heaven, and then back to Itzel.

SEAN (CONT'D)

But the real heroes of any story,
are people who risk their lives to
make the world a better place for
future generations. Itzel, would
you like to say a few words?

Itzel slowly steps up and in front of the camera.

ITZEL

Thank you, Agent Addie Harris, Sean
Regan, and the citizens of this
great country allowing me the
opportunity to work hard and
contribute here.

Itzel breathes a sigh of relief.

Sean rescues her from the camera and begins to help her
inside, but not before Itzel gazes into Sean's eyes and
kisses him softly on the lips.

ITZEL (CONT'D)

In yaakunech.

SEAN

I love you, too.
(to the crowd)

SEAN (CONT'D)

She's had a long day. Won't you all
join us for Christmas Eve dinner?
We're ordering out for Chinese!

Addie follows Sean and Itzel into the house.

ADDIE

My boss gave me the holiday off.
I'll help with the take-out order.

The Reporter and Camerawoman shrug and follow them inside.

Ben and Clara follow with the plate of cookies.

INT. JAIL - EVENING

Two heavysset Jailers (50s, various types) process the Geek
and the Boss.

The Geek gets weighed, fingerprinted, and the Jailers take
mugshots. The Geek smiles for the mugshot.

The Boss gets fingerprinted without a problem.

The Boss refuses to get weighed.

BOSS

I weigh 215 pounds!

The Jailers laugh.

The Boss looks very angry in his mugshot.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We see the beautiful Christmas decorations lit up, and hear
laughter and Christmas music from inside the house.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

SUPER: "Near Itzel's home village"

We see Stock Footage of a nighttime raid by Army troops on a
drug cartel laboratory and airstrip in the jungle.

Many arrests are made.

EXT. SEAN'S HOUSE - DAWN

SUPER: "December 25th, Christmas Day"

Sean helps Itzel out of the front door. She's holding her belly with one hand and her bag of tropical leaves in the other hand.

SEAN

She's on the way. Breathe, breathe.

Addie races up in her black SUV and hops out.

ADDIE

This is highly irregular. It's a government vehicle...

(warmly to Itzel)

I'll get you to the hospital.

Breathe, breathe...

Itzel breathes from her bag of tropical leaves.

She smiles.

They load up Itzel and RACE away.

SUPER "Three months later."

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Addie is protecting the President. Against protocol, she smiles and winks into the camera.

INT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

Itzel is in uniform and working in the tropical forest exhibit.

She smells the leaves and inspects them making notes on her iPad.

Itzel wears a wedding ring.

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

Sean wears a casual suit with a lanyard that reads "Social Services Counselor, U.S. Border Patrol."

He pushes a baby stroller with a lunch box that reads "Mommy" on it.

Sean wears a wedding ring.

FADE OUT.

THE END