

Tres
Screenplay by
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FADE IN:

EXT. COURTYARD-COMPOUND-NIGHT

In a courtyard of a compound. A man dressed in a fancy black and gray suit. RAMON SANTIAGO, 30. A crime boss, and a drug trafficker. One of Mexico's most feared drug lords.

Ramon pulls a cigar from his front pocket and takes his lighter out of his pants pocket.

NICOLA, 26. Taskforce and narcotics officer. Dark wavy hair and brown eyes. Bruised face and a broken nose.

Nicola is kneeled down on the ground and looks at Ramon as he stands in front of her with his back turned to her.

Ramon turns around and walks towards Nicola. He looks down at the **heart necklace** around Nicola's neck. He rips it off. Ramon opens the locket and sees a picture of an infant baby girl. He turns away from Nicola and looks at the picture with a smile on his face.

RAMON

A beautiful little girl.

A gunshot goes off.

EXT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON

On the front lawn, a woman in a straw hat plants little flowers into the soil. BRENDA VALENS, 45. A public defender.

Brenda is kneeled to the ground, smoking a cigarette. She hides the smoke by waving her hand in the air and hiding the cigarette close to her chest.

MILITARY OFFICERS #1 and #2, early 20s. In the military for 2 years.

Military Officer #1 steps towards Brenda.

MILITARY OFFICER #1

Ms. Valens?

Brenda puts the cigarette out in the soil. She looks at Military Officer #1 and #2

BRENDA

It's Mrs. Valens. Can I help you?

Military Officer #1 takes off his cap and leans his head down.

MILITARY OFFICER #1

I'm sorry.

Brenda's face fills with sadness. She looks away and covers her face. Brenda wipes her nose.

BRENDA

Can I see her?

MILITARY OFFICER #2

Yes.

INT. AUTOPSY ROOM-MORGUE-AFTERNOON

Brenda walks towards Nicola's DEAD BODY laying on the autopsy table. Military Officer #1 stands behind Brenda and leans up against the wall. She leans down and looks at Nicola's face. Brenda touches her face and feels around her neck.

BRENDA

Where's the necklace?

MILITARY OFFICER #1

She didn't have a necklace.

BRENDA

She always wears her locket. A picture of her daughter is in it.

MILITARY OFFICER #1

We didn't find a locket, ma'am?

BRENDA

There should be a manhunt for the person that did this.

MILITARY OFFICER #1

Ma'am, we're doing everything we can to find and bring the person to justice.

Brenda stands up and walks towards Military Officer #1.

BRENDA

Not everything.

Brenda walks out of the room. Military Officer #1 looks at Brenda.

INT. AUDITORIUM-FUNERAL HOME-MORNING

Brenda sits in the front row. She holds a *little baby girl* in her arms. Also known as *Nicola's 2-year-old daughter*. Brenda holds her in her arms.

An empty seat next to Brenda. LOLA, 23. A police detective. 2 years on the police force. Lola sits next to Brenda. Her eyes water. Lola looks at Brenda. Lola lays her hand onto Brenda's. Brenda looks down, looks at Lola's hand, and grabs on tight.

Brenda hands Nicola's daughter to Lola. Lola wraps her arm around her, holding her close. Brenda walks to the podium and stands in front of the microphone. She leans her head down, looks at her hands as they shake. Brenda fights back the tears as they stream from her eyes to her cheek.

BRENDA

I'm sorry.

Brenda walks away from the podium and leaves the auditorium. Lola gets up from her seat and follows Brenda.

INT. OFFICE-MORNING

Brenda sits at her desk. She looks at the computer monitor.

SECRETARY, early 20s. Brenda's secretary for 2 years.

The Secretary walks into Brenda's office. She sets a cup of coffee on her desk.

SECRETARY

Do you want me to confirm your doctor's appointment?

BRENDA

No, please? Cancel it?

SECRETARY

Okay.

The Secretary walks out of Brenda's office and shuts the door. Brenda looks at the door and returns her focus to the computer screen.

ON SCREEN

The mouse arrow goes to the title. The display reads: "Meet the author of How to Spot A Butterfly."

BACK TO SCENE

BRENDA

Okay. Now, where are you going to be?

A smile on Brenda's face.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Convention Center.

INT. AUDITORIUM-CONVENTION CENTER-AFTERNOON

People in the auditorium. Brenda walks through the front row of chairs and sits down.

ANGRY FAN, early 30s. An obsessed fan of books and authors.

ANGRY FAN

Hey, that's my seat!

Brenda reaches into her pocket and pulls out a 20 dollar bill. She hands it to the Angry Fan.

BRENDA

Here's a 20. Now leave me alone.

ANGRY FAN

Thank you.

The Angry Fan takes the 20 dollar bill and walks away. Brenda looks at the stage.

SHELLY OWENS, 32. A successful book author. Her blonde hair, blue-gray eyes, and toned figure she has as she walks towards her chair at the panel table.

Shelly sits at the table and leans towards the microphone.

SHELLY

Welcome, everyone!!

CROWD

(applause)

Brenda looks at the crowd of people, then she looks at Shelly.

SHELLY'S AGENT, 25. Agent for over 2 years.

Shelly's Agent sits by the table.

SHELLY

I will be taking the chance to answer some questions, sign your books and take pictures with you. First, let's start with the questions! Who's up first?

Brenda stands to her feet and raises her hand. Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY

You, the lady with the glasses on?!

BRENDA

Yeah, I got a question and it ends with a statement. How do you feel about the people that got you where you're at today?

SHELLY

I'm very thankful for everyone that helped me.

BRENDA

Another one?

SHELLY'S AGENT

Enough! Move on!

BRENDA

No!

Brenda looks at Shelly's Agent and then looks at Shelly.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

How does it feel to live off a book that is written about a woman that killed an innocent man? A woman that you gave so much credit to?

SHELLY'S AGENT

That's enough. Get that woman out of here!

GUARD #1 and #2, early 20s. Guards for 2 years.

Guard #1 grabs Brenda by her arm and pulls her away from the stage. Shelly stands to her feet.

INT. HALLWAY-AFTERNOON

Guard #1 walks Brenda towards the front doors of the convention center. Shelly steps towards Guard #1 and Brenda.

SHELLY

Stop!!

Guard #1 stops and looks at Shelly. Brenda looks at Shelly.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Let her go.

Brenda pulls her arm away. Guard #1 walks away from Brenda and walks towards Shelly. Shelly's eyes look down. She looks at Brenda.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

You didn't just come here to attack me on the panel? Why are you here?

BRENDA

She's dead, Shelly. Nicola's dead and the one that did it is still out there!

Shelly's eyes water. She wipes away the tears.

SHELLY

I'm sorry.

Shelly walks towards the wall and leans up against it. Her hands cover her face. She fights the tears.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

(sob) Poor girl.

Shelly lowers her arms and wipes her eyes.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

I could go for a foot long. How about you?

BRENDA

I'll take a coffee.

INT. RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

A foot-long sub lays in a green basket right in front of Shelly. Brenda lifts her cup of coffee from the table and takes a sip. Shelly picks up half of her sandwich and takes a bite.

BRENDA

I was thinking about her last job. She went to Mexico last week. Some kind of drug bust.

Shelly swallows her food. Brenda sets her coffee down on the table.

SHELLY

What about her files?

BRENDA

Let's try the news? Maybe there's something there?

SHELLY

We'll look together.

INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON

In the office. Brenda sits up close to the computer screen. Shelly stands close to the desk.

ON SCREEN

The news website on the screen. A column reads: "Mr. Santiago had no further comments when asked about his involvement in the drug trade. When asked about the death of a narcotics officer, he denied any participation in the officer's death."

BACK TO SCENE

Brenda covers her face, feeling frustrated. Shelly rubs Brenda's shoulder.

SHELLY

It's alright. We'll get it.

BRENDA

Let's go to her house.

Brenda switches off her computer, grabs her jacket, and stands to her feet.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Come on?

Shelly and Brenda walk out of the office.

INT. OFFICE-NICOLA'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

In the office of Nicola. Brenda sits on a chair. She goes through all the files in folders. Photographs of Ramon.

BRENDA

Nothing here but a bunch of photos of
this Santiago guy?

Shelly looks through a stack full of photos and comes across one. A photo of a woman.

SHELLY

Here's another photo?

Brenda steps towards Shelly and looks at the photo of the woman. Brenda pulls the photo from the tips of Shelly's finger. Brenda looks at the photo.

BRENDA

That bitch!

An angry look on Brenda's face.

SHELLY

Who is it?

BRENDA

Nick's cousin.

SHELLY

How do we find her?

BRENDA

She works at a nearby hotel.

INT. LOBBY-HOTEL-EVENING

Brenda sits down. Shelly stands and looks at the magazines on the stand.

HAYLEY, 30. Housekeeper. Parole and former drug dealer. Light brown hair, green eyes, and muscular build.

Hayley walks towards Brenda. A smile on her face.

HAYLEY

Lookie what we have here? My cousin's wife has come to pay me a visit?

Brenda stands up and walks towards Hayley.

BRENDA

Don't get used to it.

Hayley gets close. Brenda punches Hayley in the face. Hayley falls to the floor. She looks at Brenda.

FRONT DESK LADY, early 20s. Has worked in the hotel for 1 year. She rushes towards the phone and picks up the receiver.

HAYLEY

It's cool. No need to call the police?!

The Front Desk Lady puts the receiver down.

Hayley waves at the Front Desk Lady. Hayley gives a thumbs up.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Good to see you too.

Hayley stands to her feet. She holds her hands up.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Are you done? Do you mind if I stand up now?

BRENDA

Depends. Are you gonna try to weasel your way out of this conversation?

Hayley stands up, looks at Brenda, and then at Shelly.

HAYLEY

I know you. Aren't you the author of that book?

SHELLY

Shelly Owens. Good to meet you?

Shelly extends her hand out.

BRENDA

Don't shake her hand, Shelly? You might get affected by her way with people.

HAYLEY

Ouch! That was below the belt.

BRENDA

Turn around and you'll feel more effects on your ass!

HAYLEY

There's no need for violence.

BRENDA

Question? Why is your photo in Nicola's file cabinet and why is it with a photo of Ramon Santiago?

HAYLEY

Ramon Santiago is a drug trafficker. I like to know why you're going through Nicola's cabinet?

BRENDA

She's dead, Hayley. Someone killed her.

Hayley looks down. Tears stream down her face.

BRENDA

Are you off work yet?

HAYLEY

I will be in 30 minutes.

BRENDA

I guess we can wait for you?

HAYLEY

Very well. Have it your way.

Brenda turns and sits down in the chair. Hayley turns and walks towards the hallway. Shelly crouches down and looks at Brenda.

SHELLY

I'm gonna go call my little girl?

BRENDA

I'm sorry. I didn't even ask about the little one. How is she?

SHELLY

She's doing good. She's staying with my mom until I get back.

BRENDA

If you want to go home and don't want any part of this, I'll understand?

SHELLY

No. Nicola was like family to me. You are family.

Shelly stands up and walks out the front doors.

EXT. HOTEL-EVENING

At the front doors of the hotel. Shelly holds her cell phone to her ear. Hayley walks out and leans up against the wall. She pulls out a cigarette, puts the end to her mouth, and lights it. Shelly looks at Hayley.

SHELLY

How are things with Sara?

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

MAGGIE, 51. A casino craps dealer. Fiery red hair, thin build. Nice, generous, and kind-hearted.

MAGGIE

She's doing good. She figured out a way to beat me in chess.

SHELLY (V.O.)

Really? Is she still awake?

MAGGIE

Hey, kiddo! Your mom wants to talk to you!

SARA, 11-Years-Old. 5th-grade student. Long curly hair. Pink pajamas and blue slippers. Sara steps towards Maggie. She takes the phone from her.

SARA

Hey, mommy?

SHELLY (V.O.)
Hey! How's my girl doing?

SARA
Fine. When are you coming home?

SHELLY (V.O.)
It might not be for a few days.
Something came up and I have to help a
friend of mine.

SARA
I love you, mommy.

SHELLY (V.O.)
I love you too. Sweet dreams, sweetie.

Sara hands the phone back to Maggie. She walks into her
bedroom.

EXT. HOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Shelly turns to face the wall.

SHELLY
Look, I'm here to help Brenda with
something. I'll be home in a few days?

MAGGIE (V.O.)
Be safe out there.

SHELLY
I will. Talk to you later.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
Bye.

Shelly ends the call and puts her phone in her pants pocket.
She looks at Hayley. Hayley puts her cigarette out in the
ashtray by the wall.

HAYLEY
So, why are you getting yourself
involved in this?

SHELLY
Nicola was my friend and the closest
to the family I ever had.

HAYLEY
You seem cool and I actually respect

what you do but don't get yourself
into something you can't get out of.

Shelly walks into the hotel.

INT. LOBBY-HOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Brenda lays photographs of Ramon on the lobby table.

BRENDA

Santiago is somewhere in Cancun,
Mexico. We can go there and somehow
get him to talk to us?

HAYLEY

Are you stupid or something? Ramon is
not gonna talk to you.

BRENDA

We're women. We're our own boss and we
don't take orders from any man. I'm
doing it! Is anyone else with me?

SHELLY

I am.

HAYLEY

Are you 2 gonna blow him away with
your mom figures?

SHELLY

That's exactly what we're gonna do.

EXT. BRENDA'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Brenda's car is parked in the driveway. The trunk open.
Brenda walks towards the car. Lola walks behind her. She
follows her to the car.

LOLA

Why do you have to be the one to do
this? Nicola was an officer of the
law. You're just a woman looking for
answers?

BRENDA

I don't care about her role or mine. I
only care about getting her the
justice she deserves.

LOLA

I still think you should let the authorities take care of this.

BRENDA

Fuck the authorities! They won't lift a finger to help.

LOLA

At least promise me you won't go in there and get yourself killed.

BRENDA

Promise, no. My word, yes.

Lola hugs Brenda, her arms wrap tightly around Brenda.

INT. FIRST-CLASS-AIRPLANE-AFTERNOON

In first-class, Brenda sits with Shelly. Brenda lifts the wine glass. Shelly lifts and touches her glass to Brenda's. In the row of the seats behind, Hayley sits. She rolls her eyes.

HAYLEY

Give me a break!

INT. TAXI-AFTERNOON

In the back of the taxi. Brenda looks out the window. She sees all the different sights, tall buildings, and hotels.

BRENDA

It's beautiful.

SHELLY

Best sights I have seen so far.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-EVENING

The door to the hotel room opens and the lights turn on. Brenda looks at the nice setting of the room, the 3 beds, and the scent in the room. Brenda walks further into the room, tosses her luggage onto a bed. Shelly jumps onto the middle bed, face down.

SHELLY

This is the most comfortable bed I been on in a long time.

Hayley drops her bags to the floor and sits on the last bed

by the window. Brenda walks towards the window. She looks at the sights.

BRENDA

Get your rest, ladies. We have a week
to get the answers we need.

INT. MALL-MORNING

In the shopping mall. Brenda walks ahead of Shelly and Hayley. Her beach hat and black sunglasses on. Shelly looks to her right and sees dresses in the store window.

SHELLY

Hey! dresses?!

Shelly walks towards the store window. Brenda steps towards the doors and pulls the door open.

INT. DRESSING ROOM-MORNING

In front of a mirror, Brenda has a bright red dress on. Brenda looks down, feeling the dress is too tight.

BRENDA

Feels like me 20 years ago.

Shelly walks towards Brenda and feels the material.

SHELLY

Do you feel comfortable?

BRENDA

Not really.

SHELLY

You have choices.

MONTAGE

-- A silver exotic dress on Brenda.

-- A gold exotic dress on Brenda.

-- A diamond exotic dress on Brenda.

BACK TO SCENE

Brenda has a red exotic dress. A smile on Shelly's face.

SHELLY

Wow!

BRENDA

Isn't it a bit much?

SHELLY

No. You look gorgeous.

Brenda smiles.

BRENDA

Now it's your turn to try some dresses on?

Brenda walks Shelly towards the dressing room, grabs a gray exotic dress, and hands it to Shelly.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

You'll look good in this one.

Shelly walks behind the door. She drops her clothes to the floor. Shelly pulls the dress over her torso and lowers it to her legs.

BRENDA

Come out so we can see you?!

Shelly steps out. She walks to the mirror, looks back at Brenda.

SHELLY

How do I look?

Brenda smiles and covers her face.

BRENDA

(laugh)

SHELLY

What? Is my butt too big?

BRENDA

No. You look beautiful.

Hayley sits on a chair. A bottle of water in her hand. She takes a sip. Shelly looks at Hayley.

SHELLY

It's your turn to try on a dress?

HAYLEY

No. Please, no!

Brenda steps towards Hayley and grabs her hand.

BRENDA

Come on? You got to be a part of this too.

HAYLEY

I don't wear dresses. I look weird.

SHELLY

Please? Just try one?

HAYLEY

Alright. I'll try the orange one.

Shelly takes the orange exotic dress from the rack and hands it to Hayley. Hayley walks towards the dressing room. She shuts the door.

Haley tosses her clothes to the floor. She pulls the dress down to her legs. Hayley walks out to the mirror. She looks at herself and looks at Brenda, then at Shelly.

HAYLEY

How do I look?

BRENDA

You look pretty hot.

SHELLY

Yeah.

HAYLEY

Really?

BRENDA

You do.

SHELLY

What's next?

BRENDA

Well, one thing we might need to change is our hair.

HAYLEY

What's wrong with my hair?

BRENDA
You look like you work in a hotel.

SHELLY
What do you suggest?

INT. BEAUTY SALON-AFTERNOON

HAIR STYLIST #1, #2, and #3. All in their early 20s. Have worked at the beauty salon for 2 years.

Brenda is leaned back with her hair in the sink, being washed. Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY
This was such a great idea.

BRENDA
I know.

HAYLEY
My hair feels a bit relieved.

BRENDA
I told you.

SHELLY
What do we do after this?

BRENDA
Go to the beach.

HAYLEY
And do what, show off our granny
panties?

BRENDA
Ladies?

Shelly looks at Brenda.

HAYLEY
What?

BRENDA
We're in Cancun.

Brenda points at the *Bikini Shop* across the street. Hayley looks.

HAYLEY

Oh no!

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

Under the picnic tent, Ramon lays on a beach lounge chair. Sunglasses on.

WOMAN WAITRESS, early 20s. Roman's personal waitress for 2 years. She stands by his right side, holding a tray of fruit. Roman reaches for the fruit.

RAMON (SUBTITLES)

Give me some grapes, bitch!

The Woman Waitress grabs a vine of grapes and lowers them to his mouth. Roman grabs the Woman Waitress by her arm and pulls her down. She kneels down.

RAMON (SUBTITLES)

Kiss me!

The Woman Waitress leans down and kisses Ramon. Ramon grabs her by her head, squeezes her face.

WOMAN WAITRESS

(moan)

Ramon pushes her head down towards his groin. The Woman Waitress unties Ramon's pants. Ramon looks up and sees Brenda walking on the beach. He pushes the Woman Waitress off him and stands up.

Brenda looks at Ramon with her black sunglasses on and her beach hat. Amazed by her beauty, Ramon walks further out onto the beach. Shelly looks around and looks directly at Ramon. She touches the back of her neck and smiles at Ramon.

Ramon's pants drop to the ground and it leaves him wearing a red speedo. He reaches down and pulls his pants up.

Shelly covers her mouth.

SHELLY

(laugh) The man literally lost his pants!

BRENDA

(laugh)

Brenda and Shelly walk towards the ocean. Hayley looks at

Ramon. He looks back. Hayley walks towards the ocean with Brenda.

Brenda lays down on her stomach, on a lounge chair. Her sunglasses on. The Woman Waitress steps towards Brenda. Brenda looks up.

BRENDA

Can I help you?

WOMAN WAITRESS

Compliments of the gentleman under the tent.

The Woman Waitress hands Brenda a drink. Brenda takes it and sets it down.

BRENDA

Please tell him, thank you.

Brenda reaches her hand up and hands the Woman Waitress a 20 dollar bill. The Woman Waitress takes the money.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

You deserve better.

WOMAN WAITRESS

Thank you.

The Woman Waitress walks towards Ramon. Shelly steps towards Brenda and sits down.

SHELLY

What was that all about?

BRENDA

We got his attention.

SHELLY

You did.

BRENDA

Do you believe I still got it?

SHELLY

Are you kidding, you're gorgeous!

The Woman Waitress walks towards Shelly and Brenda. Shelly stands to her feet and turns.

SHELLY

Yes?

WOMAN WAITRESS

Mr. Santiago would like to invite you
ladies to his party tonight?

Brenda lifts her glasses off the front of her eyes. She looks
at the Woman Waitress.

BRENDA

We'll be there.

The Woman Waitress hands a paper to Shelly. She turns and
walks towards Ramon.

SHELLY

Thanks.

Shelly sits down on the lounge chair.

BRENDA

Let me see that?

Shelly hands Brenda the paper. Brenda looks at the address.
She smiles at Shelly.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

He's right on the beach?

SHELLY

Piece of cake.

HAYLEY

No, it's not. We're just women. He's
not gonna just give us what we want.
Do you see how he treats that girl?
That's how he sees us. We're sex toys
until he gets bored.

SHELLY

Why do you have to be such a downer?
If you didn't want to come, you
could've just stayed at the hotel.

HAYLEY

You want me to go? Fine!!

Hayley grabs her towel, slips her feet into her flip-flops,
and walks away. Brenda sits up and takes her sunglasses off.

BRENDA
Come on, Hayley?! It doesn't have to
be like this?

HAYLEY
I'm going home! Screw the both of
you!!

Hayley walks towards the hotel.

SHELLY
Then there were 2.

Brenda looks at Shelly. Shelly looks back at Brenda.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
What? She was bringing us down and
being negative.

BRENDA
I know but part of what she was
saying, probably is true.

SHELLY
You got his attention, didn't you?

BRENDA
I guess I did.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-AFTERNOON

Hayley tosses her clothes into her suitcase and zips the
zipper. Brenda's phone begins to ring. Hayley walks towards
Brenda's bed, picks up her cell phone, and answers it. She
puts the phone to her ear.

HAYLEY
Hello?

LOLA (V.O.)
Hello, mom?

HAYLEY
Sorry, she's at the beach. Did you
need anything?

LOLA (V.O.)
I just wanted to know how everything
is going? How is it over there?

HAYLEY

Everything's going well here. We're getting wet, trying on new clothes. You know, having a ball.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Lola sits on her sofa. The phone to her ear.

LOLA

Well, don't go overboard over there.

HAYLEY (V.O.)

You know them, you can't spoil their fun.

LOLA

Okay. Just let her know I called?

INT. HOTEL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

HAYLEY

Sure will.

LOLA (V.O.)

Bye.

Hayley ends the call and tosses the phone to Brenda's bed. She walks towards her bed, grabs her suitcase and bag. Hayley walks towards the door and opens it. She steps out of the room and lets the door shut on its own.

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Ramon stands in front of a mirror. A glass in his hand. He takes a big gulp. Ramon sets the glass down on his dresser. He ties his tie.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

In the hotel room, Brenda looks around and sees all of Hayley's belongings are gone. Shelly walks into the room, looks at the empty bed, and no sight of Hayley.

BRENDA

She wasn't bluffing.

SHELLY

I guess not. We can do this on our own.

BRENDA
I sure hope so.

MONTAGE

-- Brenda puts on her red dress.
-- Brenda stylizes her hair.
-- Brenda puts mascara on her eyelashes.

BACK TO SCENE

Brenda looks at herself in the mirror.

INT. BATHROOM-EVENING

Shelly stands in front of the bathroom mirror. A towel wrapped around her chest.

MONTAGE

-- Shelly blow-dries her hair.
-- Shelly puts on her dress.
-- Shelly puts on her lipstick.

BACK TO SCENE

BRENDA (O.S.)
Come out here so I can see you!

SHELLY
Coming right now!

INT. HOTEL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Shelly walks out into the hotel room. She looks at Brenda with a shy look on her face. Brenda's eyes in amazement, her mouth drops and she touches both her cheeks. Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY
What, do I look that terrible?

BRENDA
No, you look really beautiful.

Shelly looks at herself and then looks back at Brenda. She smiles.

SHELLY

Thanks.

BRENDA

Are you ready to do this?

SHELLY

Hell yeah!

BRENDA

Let's do this then.

EXT. RAMON'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Guests walk towards Ramon's house. The guests are in their 20s and 30s. All of them are women, beautiful and attractive.

Brenda and Shelly stop. Brenda looks at all the women walk into the house.

BRENDA

Do you see what I see?

SHELLY

They're all women.

BRENDA

Do you know what this is?

SHELLY

An orgy.

BRENDA

Come on, let's go!

Brenda and Shelly turn around. Brenda pushes Shelly to walk faster. Ramon walks out to his driveway. He sees Brenda and Shelly.

RAMON (SUBTITLES)

Where are you going, beautiful ladies?!

Brenda stops and turns.

RAMON

Come and join the party! Have a drink with me!

Brenda leans towards Shelly.

BRENDA
Coming! Whatever you do, stay at my
side, okay?

SHELLY
What happens if I have to go to the
bathroom?

BRENDA
I'll go with you.

Brenda grabs a hold of Shelly's hand and walks towards Ramon.

RAMON
You look very beautiful. The both of
you.

Ramon touches Shelly under her chin. He rubs his thumb close
to her lips. Shelly grabs a hold of Ramon's hand and gives
him a handshake.

SHELLY
Nice to meet you?

RAMON
You look familiar? Do I know you from
somewhere?

SHELLY
No, I don't think you do.

RAMON
Didn't you write a book? Yes! It is
you! About the butterfly?!

SHELLY
You got me!

RAMON
And your friend?

SHELLY
Brenda?

Ramon grabs Brenda by her hand, lifts it to his lips, and
kisses it. He lowers her arm to her side.

RAMON
Do you ladies care to join me at the
bar?

BRENDA
Sure, why not.

Ramon looks at Shelly.

SHELLY
Sure.

Ramon reaches both his hands for Shelly and Brenda's. They grab ahold. He walks them towards the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Brenda steps into the living room. She looks at all the photographs on the wall. A big painting of Ramon and Nicola hangs over the fireplace. Brenda's eyes in shock. She hides her emotions and fights back the tears. Ramon steps towards Brenda with a glass of alcohol.

RAMON
Something wrong, beautiful?

Brenda smiles. Brenda takes the glass.

BRENDA
No. Just admiring the painting. What a beautiful woman!

RAMON
She was.

Ramon takes a big gulp from the glass. He holds the glass in his hand.

BRENDA
Where is she?

RAMON
She died.

BRENDA
Oh, I'm sorry.

RAMON
She wasn't like other women. She loved to talk and believe it or not, she listened.

BRENDA
What was her name?

RAMON

Nicola.

Brenda raises her glass.

BRENDA

To Nicola!

Ramon raises his glass.

RAMON

To Nicola!

Shelly stands behind Ramon, her arm raised with a glass.
Brenda looks at Shelly and raises it higher.

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT

Brenda walks ahead of Ramon towards the kitchen counter.
Ramon walks behind her. His glass in his hand. Brenda looks
at Ramon. Ramon sets the glass down on the counter.

RAMON

Tell me about yourself? Are you
married?

BRENDA

I was.

RAMON

Don't tell me, he ran off and left you
with the children?

BRENDA

No. He wasn't like that at all.

RAMON

What was he like?

BRENDA

He was a gentleman.

RAMON

How'd you meet him?

BRENDA

He met me in the park. I was studying
for my big exam that day. It feels
like it was yesterday.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

On the grass, a blanket under her. Brenda, 23. A law student. In the prime of her life. A straw hat over her head. She picks up a piece of watermelon from her Tupperware bowl.

A young man walks across the grass. A law book he holds open in his hands and reads. NICK, 28. A high school dropout and custodian working at a local restaurant. His blue coveralls on. Nick walks in the middle of the blanket and steps onto Brenda's hand. He falls to the grass and drops his book. Nick sits up and rushes towards Brenda.

NICK

I'm sorry!

Brenda grabs onto her hand.

BRENDA

Oh!

Nick slides closer towards Brenda. He grabs a hold of her injured hand. Nick blows on it and rubs his hand on hers.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

(laugh) What are you doing?

NICK

Mom always said to blow on someone's injury.

Brenda pulls her arm back.

BRENDA

Thank you. It actually feels better.

NICK

I'm sorry. I really didn't see you here. I was reading? Oh, where's that book?!

Brenda grabs it from alongside Nick and hands it to him.

BRENDA

Here you go?

NICK

Thanks.

Nick opens it and looks for the chapter he was reading.

BRENDA

Are you having trouble with something?

NICK

Kind of. I'm trying to get visitation rights to see my daughter.

BRENDA

I'm a law student. Do you want me to help?

NICK

If you can spare some of your time?

BRENDA

I was just sitting here, having lunch and studying. Do you want to join me?

NICK

Yeah, sure.

BRENDA

My name is Brenda?

NICK

You can call me Nick?

Nick reaches for Brenda's hand. She grabs a hold of his hand and shakes it gently.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Nick sits on Brenda's sofa with her. His arms wrapped around Brenda. Nick kisses Brenda. Brenda backs up.

BRENDA

We better get back to studying?

Brenda leans down, grabs Nick's book, and puts it on his lap. Nick looks at Brenda.

NICK

You're a tough study buddy.

BRENDA

Sometimes.

NICK

I never asked how you feel about this?

BRENDA
It's not about me. I'm here to help.

NICK
Thanks.

Brenda leans towards Nick and kisses him on the cheek. Nick wraps his arm around her, looks at the book, and continues to read.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Brenda sits on her blanket. An anxious look on her face. Nick pushes a stroller towards Brenda. He takes his infant daughter out of the stroller. Nick sits down, gently sitting the infant on his lap. Brenda looks at Nick and then the infant.

NICK
Do you want to hold her?

BRENDA
Yeah.

Brenda takes the infant from Nick. She holds her close.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
She's beautiful.

NICK
You both are.

Brenda smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)
Thank you for your help.

BRENDA
She was worth it.

NICK
Now we're all together.

Nick moves close to Brenda. He wraps his arm around her and kisses her.

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT-BACK TO PRESENT

Ramon looks at Brenda. Brenda takes a gulp from the glass and sets the glass on the counter.

BRENDA

To Nick! That's the first time in 13 years that I talked about him.

RAMON

What's his daughter's name?

BRENDA

Nicola.

Ramon looks deeply at Brenda. He looks down and steps away from the counter.

RAMON

I'm gonna go get something stronger.
Do you want anything?

BRENDA

Sure. Wait! Have you seen Shelly?

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

Shelly leans against the counter. She turns the cold water on and splashes it on her face.

OLDER MAN, late 40s. A sexual predator and swinger. Shelly looks up and sees the Older Man in the mirror.

SHELLY

Hello?

The Older Man grabs Shelly by her waist. He reaches down and slides his hand against her crotch.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

(moan)

Brenda steps up behind the Older Man. She grabs him by his hair and yanks his head back.

BRENDA

Get your hands off her asshole!

Shelly pushes the Older Man off her and runs out of the bathroom. Brenda lets go of him and runs after Shelly.

EXT. RAMON'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Shelly walks out to the front porch and runs towards the driveway. She falls to her knees. Brenda steps towards her and touches Shelly on her shoulder.

BRENDA
I'm sorry I got you into this.

SHELLY
Don't be. I knew what I was doing.
Let's go back to the hotel.

BRENDA
Alright.

Brenda helps Shelly to her feet.

RAMON (O.S.)
(whistle) Ladies!

Brenda turns around. Ramon walks towards Brenda and Shelly.

RAMON (CONT'D)
Do you need a ride?

BRENDA
No, it's alright.

RAMON
No, my driver will drive you to where
you're staying.

BRENDA
Thank you.

DRIVER, early 20s. A driver for 2 years. The Driver opens the passenger door. Brenda walks towards the door. She looks at the Driver.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Brenda sits and scutes over to the other side of the **Limousine**. Shelly sits at the edge of the seat and moves closer towards Brenda. The Driver shuts the door.

INT. LIMOUSINE-NIGHT

Brenda wraps her arm around Shelly. Shelly leans her head up against Brenda's shoulder.

SHELLY
(sob)

BRENDA
Are you alright?

Shelly wipes her eyes.

SHELLY

It would have gone somewhere worse if you didn't come in time. Thank you.

BRENDA

It's over.

SHELLY

Thank God!

Brenda looks out the window.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Ramon stands in the living room and he looks at the painting on his wall. He takes a shot of whiskey and gulps it down. Ramon holds the glass in his hand. He touches his face and looks away.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-MORNING

Asleep in their beds. Brenda lies face up. She rubs her eyes and moves to her side.

BUSBOY #1 and #2. Both in their 20s. Have worked in the hotel for 3 years and 2.

Busboy #1 carries a tray of food towards the nightstand by Brenda's bed. Brenda's eyes open with a surprised look on her face.

BRENDA

What's this? I didn't order anything?

BUSBOY #1

A gentleman sent us and took care of the bill.

BRENDA

Gentleman?

BUSBOY #1

He wanted me to tell you to thank you for the time you spent with him.

Brenda sits up, looks at Busboy #1, and smiles.

BRENDA

Thank you.

BUSBOY #1
Your welcome, madam.

Shelly sits up in bed. She looks at Busboy #2.

SHELLY
What's going on?

Brenda looks at Shelly.

BRENDA
Ramon ordered us breakfast.

Shelly looks at Busboy #2

SHELLY
Do you work for Ramon?

BUSBOY #2
No, madam.

Busboy #2 lays a tray over Shelly's lap.

SHELLY
Thank you.

BUSBOY #1
Do you ladies care to take a shower
before or after your massage?

SHELLY
Massage?

BUSBOY #1
Mr. Santiago has arranged for you to
have a masseuse come and massage you
both?

BRENDA
I guess I have to go thank Mr.
Santiago.

INT. BATHROOM-MORNING

Shelly stands in front of the showerhead. She stands underneath it as she soaks her hair. Shelly shuts the water off. She grabs the towel from the shower rail on the door.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Shelly walks into the room. A towel wrapped around her chest.

MIGUEL, early 30s. A masseuse for 2 years.

Shelly looks at Miguel and smiles. Miguel smiles.

SHELLY

Hello?

Brenda sits on her bed. She is fully clothed and puts her shoes on. Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY

Where are you going?

BRENDA

To see Ramon.

SHELLY

Good thinking. I'm gonna stay here and get my massage.

BRENDA

I'll be back.

SHELLY

See you later.

Brenda walks towards the door, opens it, and walks out of the room.

INT. RAMON'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Brenda walks towards the driveway. She stops and looks. The front door opens. Ramon walks out.

RAMON

Brenda? What brings you here?

BRENDA

Just wanted to thank you for everything.

RAMON

You didn't have to come all the way over here to tell me that.

BRENDA

For treating us the way we didn't expect. I did have to.

RAMON

Do you want to come in?

BRENDA

No, I have something I have to do.

RAMON

Just come in for 5 minutes, please?

BRENDA

Alright.

Brenda walks towards the front door. Ramon steps out of the way. Brenda walks into the house. He steps in and shuts the door.

INT. DINING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Ramon leads Brenda towards the dining room. Ramon steps behind the bar table.

RAMON

Have a seat?

BRENDA

I really should be going?

RAMON

It'll only take a few minutes, please?

BRENDA

Okay.

Brenda sits down on the stool. She leans her hands against the table. Ramon pours rum into the blender and coconut milk. Along with pineapple juice. He puts the top over the blender and hits the button to start the blender. Brenda puts her hands over her ears. Ramon hits the button and stops the blender.

BRENDA

Pina Colada?

RAMON

I take it you had these before?

BRENDA

My husband used to make them for us.

Ramon grabs a glass and pours the mixture in. He sets it in front of Brenda.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Ramon pours himself a glass and puts the pitcher down. Brenda holds her glass up and looks at Ramon.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Cheers!

RAMON (SUBTITLES)

Cheers!!

Brenda taps her glass to Ramon's and takes a big gulp. She drinks it fast.

RAMON (CONT'D)

Holy shit!

Brenda wipes her mouth and sets the glass down.

RAMON (CONT'D)

Are you the one that likes to drink them?

BRENDA

Yes. He never drank.

RAMON

Never?

BRENDA

He didn't like seeing me drink. He preferred me drinking at home. I normally drink when I had a bad day.

RAMON

Are you having a bad day?

BRENDA

Believe it or not, I'm having a good day.

RAMON

I thought a lot about you last night after you left. About the stuff that you told me. Wondered how long you were gonna be here?

BRENDA

Maybe 2 more days. Why?

RAMON
I'm having another party and wondered
if you like to come? Let's just say
it's a going-away party.

BRENDA
Your leaving?

RAMON
I set sail on my yacht for Spain.

BRENDA
Okay, I'll come.

RAMON
It's a date.

BRENDA
Is it?

RAMON
I like it to be.

BRENDA
Sure.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-AFTERNOON

In her bed. Shelly lays underneath Miguel. Miguel kisses Shelly. The white sheets covering Miguel. Shelly wraps her arm around Miguel's back. Shelly closes her eyes. Miguel begins to go back and forth.

SHELLY
(moan)

INT. RESTAURANT-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

EARL, 25. A tall bald black man. Muscular build.

Shelly sits across from Earl at a table. Roses set right in front of her.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-AFTERNOON-BACK TO PRESENT

SHELLY
Stop!

Miguel continues going back and forth.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Stop it!!

Miguel stops and gets off Shelly. Shelly sits up and covers herself with her blanket. Miguel sits next to her.

MIGUEL

Did I do something wrong?

SHELLY

No, you didn't.

MIGUEL

Do you have someone waiting for you back home?

SHELLY

No.

MIGUEL

It's too soon. I understand.

SHELLY

No. You did everything right.

MIGUEL

Then can we start over and I can take you out for dinner sometime?

SHELLY

I like that.

Miguel grabs Shelly's hand and kisses it.

EXT. ALLEY-AFTERNOON

SALESMAN, early 20s. A second-hand gun salesman. Has sold guns out of his vehicle for 5 years.

The van's doors open. Brenda looks at the small pistols laid on the floor.

SALESMAN

Which will it be?

BRENDA

How much for 2?

SALESMAN

300.

BRENDA
I'll take 2 of the silver pistols?

SALESMAN
Excellent choice!

The Salesman grabs the two pistols and tosses them into a brown paper bag. Brenda hands the 300 dollars to the Salesman. The Salesman hands the bag to Brenda.

SALESMAN
It was a pleasure doing business with you, senorita?

BRENDA
You too.

Brenda turns and walks away from the van. She wipes her eyes and looks around her surroundings. She puts the paper bag into her purse.

SALESMAN
Tell all your friends!

INT. DRESS SHOP-AFTERNOON

Brenda walks into a dress shop. She looks around and spots a black lace dress with red fabric sewn into the bottom. Brenda looks at the purple and black lace dress. The purple fabric is sewn into the bottom of the dress.

DRESS SHOP OWNER, 46. The owner for 20 years.

The Dress Shop Owner walks towards Brenda.

DRESS SHOP OWNER
Can I help you with something?

BRENDA
Yes? I like to buy 2 of your dresses?

DRESS SHOP OWNER
Which ones did you have in mind?

BRENDA
Your red and purple.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-EVENING

In the room, Shelly sits at the desk. She writes a note to Brenda.

Brenda walks into the room. The dresses under her arm. She sets them on her bed.

BRENDA

I'm back.

Shelly turns her head and looks at Brenda. She gets up, tears the note from her notebook, and crumbles it. Shelly tosses it into the garbage.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Going somewhere?

SHELLY

I have a date?

BRENDA

Really? With who?

SHELLY

With Miguel.

BRENDA

The masseuse? How'd that happen?

SHELLY

Well, we kind of got physical.

BRENDA

It happens.

SHELLY

You don't mind, do you?

BRENDA

Not at all. Go have fun.

SHELLY

Thanks.

A knock on the door. Shelly walks towards the door and opens it. Miguel stands in front of the doorway. A white rose in his hand. He holds it up in front of Shelly. Shelly takes the rose and smells it.

MIGUEL

I cut the thorns off.

SHELLY

Thank you.

MIGUEL
Are you ready to go?

SHELLY
Yes.

Shelly looks at Brenda. Brenda waves her hand.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
See you later.

BRENDA
Later.

Shelly walks out of the room, pulling the door shut.

EXT. PATIO-RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Together at a table. Miguel and Shelly sit across the table from each other. Shelly smiles.

MIGUEL
I still can't believe we were both in bed together and having sex.

SHELLY
Why does it have to be unbelievable?

MIGUEL
Because it should have been this way before things got sexual.

SHELLY
True. Have you ever been in a relationship?

MIGUEL
Not in a year.

SHELLY
Would it bother you if I told you that I have a daughter?

MIGUEL
No. What's her name?

SHELLY
Sara.

MIGUEL
Good name. Is she beautiful like you?

SHELLY

She's gorgeous.

Music begins to play. Miguel looks around and smiles. He stands to his feet. Miguel reaches for Shelly's hand. Shelly grabs ahold. Miguel pulls her up. Shelly presses up against Miguel. He reaches his hand around her back. Shelly leans her head on his shoulder. Miguel slowly dances to the music with Shelly.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Brenda lays in bed, she looks at a photo of her, Nicola, and Nick together. Nicola as an infant. Tears stream down her face. Brenda covers her face. She turns her body towards the nightstand and puts the photo under her pillow.

BRENDA

I wish you were here, Nick.

INT. DINING ROOM-HOTEL-MORNING

In the dining room of the hotel. Brenda sits at a table. A menu in her hands. Shelly walks towards the table. She sits down and looks at Brenda.

BRENDA

Did you have a good night?

SHELLY

I did. Miguel is actually a gentleman.

BRENDA

Glad to hear it.

SHELLY

What's the plan?

BRENDA

We're invited to a party. It turns out, Ramon is leaving. He's getting on his yacht and leaving Cancun.

SHELLY

Has Ramon said anything?

BRENDA

He hasn't admitted to killing Nicola and he won't unless I confront him.

SHELLY
Maybe Hayley was right.

BRENDA
What?!

SHELLY
Do you really think he's gonna be
turned on by you and admit to killing
Nicola?

BRENDA
I have to try!

SHELLY
Why?!

Brenda gets up from her seat and slams her hand to the table.

BRENDA
Because she was Nick's daughter! Mine
too!!

All the guests and staff members look at Brenda. Brenda looks at everyone. She grabs her purse and walks out of the dining room.

INT. ELEVATOR-MORNING

Brenda steps into the elevator. She hits the 3rd-floor button. Shelly steps in and gets in front of Brenda, coming face to face. She looks at her.

BRENDA
What?

SHELLY
I just want to make sure you don't get
yourself killed.

BRENDA
So are you with me or not?

SHELLY
I'm with you.

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Ramon stands in front of his bedroom window. He ties his tie. He looks at the Woman Waitress. He reaches for a stack of cash and tosses it to her. She catches it and looks at Ramon.

RAMON

That's for your services. Now get out of here.

WOMAN WAITRESS (SUBTITLES)

Thank you.

The Woman Waitress turns and walks out of the bedroom.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-EVENING

In front of the mirror, Brenda puts on her earrings. She feels the dress on her body.

BRENDA

Come out and let's see how you look?

SHELLY (O.S.)

I look like a debutante!

Shelly walks out of the bathroom and towards Brenda. She stands in front of Brenda and turns around. Shelly lets Brenda see the back.

BRENDA

You look gorgeous in everything you put on.

SHELLY

Shut up.

BRENDA

No, you do.

Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY

Are we ready to go yet?

BRENDA

Yes. First?

Brenda grabs the brown bag from her purse. She reaches in and hands Shelly a pistol. Shelly looks at the gun and takes it from Brenda.

SHELLY

Where'd you get this?

BRENDA

I bought it from a gun salesman.

SHELLY
They could be hot?

BRENDA
No, they're brand new.

SHELLY
I hope so.

Shelly reaches behind her back. She puts it up against her back and bra strap. Brenda puts her purse against her side.

BRENDA
Let's go.

EXT. RAMON'S HOUSE-EVENING

Cars pull into the driveway. Guests approach the house.

INT. LIMOUSINE-EVENING

Out the window of the limousine, Brenda looks at the guests as they walk into the house. Brenda's cell phone begins to ring. Brenda reaches in and grabs her phone. She answers it.

BRENDA
Hello?!

LOLA (V.O.)
Why didn't you call me back?!

BRENDA
What are you talking about?

LOLA (V.O.)
Hayley answered your phone and told me you were at the beach. She said you were having a good time. Is she even there with you?

BRENDA
No.

LOLA (V.O.)
We have another problem.

BRENDA
What?!

LOLA (V.O.)
The baby is gone.

BRENDA

What!!

Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY

What's going on?

BRENDA

Hold on?

LOLA (V.O.)

I went to go pick her up and the daycare told me a lady took her!

INT. AIRPORT-EVENING

Lola walks through the airport.

BRENDA (V.O.)

Where are you?

LOLA

I can't tell you that now. Let's just say I'm close.

BRENDA (V.O.)

Do you know who took her?

LOLA

A woman with braided hair. She was wearing coveralls.

INT. LIMOUSINE-CONTINUOUS

BRENDA

Shit.

SHELLY

What's going on?

BRENDA

The baby's gone.

LOLA (V.O.)

Where are you?

BRENDA

We're at Ramon's house.

LOLA (V.O.)
Wait for me, okay!

BRENDA
I got to go.

EXT. AIRPORT-CONTINUOUS

LOLA
Mom!!

The call ends.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Shit!!

Lola shoves her phone into the pocket of her jacket. She lifts her arm and flags down a taxi.

EXT. RAMON'S HOUSE-EVENING

DRIVER, early 40s. A driver for 10 years.

The Driver opens the door for Brenda. Brenda stands to her feet. She looks around and then at the Driver.

BRENDA
Thanks.

Brenda walks towards the house. Shelly steps out of the limousine. She smiles at the Driver. Brenda reaches into her purse. She gets grasp onto her pistol. Shelly rushes towards Brenda. She wraps her arm around her shoulder.

SHELLY
Calm down, please? I know you're angry
but be cool!

BRENDA
I will!

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Ramon grabs himself a drink from the tray on his coffee table. Brenda walks towards Ramon. She kisses Ramon on the cheek. Shelly looks at Brenda with a worried look on her face.

RAMON
You look so beautiful!

BRENDA
You don't look so bad yourself.

SHELLY
A lot of people are here. You got a
lot of friends.

RAMON
I do, don't I?

BRENDA
Send them home?

RAMON
What?

BRENDA
Send them the fuck home!!

Brenda pulls out her pistol and aims it at Ramon's groin
area.

RAMON
People, may I have your attention,
please!!

All the guests turn and face Ramon.

RAMON (CONT'D)
Due to a propane leak. I must ask that
everyone exit my home? I apologize for
the trouble. Thank you for your time!

The guests walk past Ramon and go out the front door.

BRENDA
Go shut the door, Shelly?

Shelly walks towards the front door and shuts it. Shelly
walks back towards Ramon.

RAMON
What are you doing?

BRENDA
I ask the questions here, okay? Walk
your sorry ass to the balcony?

RAMON
As you wish.

INT. BALCONY-EVENING

Ramon steps onto the balcony. He looks at Brenda.

RAMON

Why are you doing this?

BRENDA

You killed Nicola.

RAMON

No, I didn't.

BRENDA

Why is her portrait on your wall?

RAMON

I loved her.

BRENDA

If you didn't, then who did?

Hayley reaches her arm around Shelly's throat and pulls Shelly in front of her. A gun in Hayley's hand.

HAYLEY

Hello, Ramon!

Brenda looks at Hayley and the change in her.

BRENDA

Hayley!

HAYLEY

Brenda! Ask Ramon about who he met 2 years ago 10 months and 4 weeks after I went to prison?

Brenda looks at Ramon.

BRENDA

She's your baby?

RAMON

Yes. I met Nicola before she was making the drug bust. Hayley's drug transaction was about to go bad and I wasn't about to take the blame for it. I became her informant.

EXT. COURTYARD-COMPOUND-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

Hayley leans up against a jeep. Handcuffs on her wrists.

NARCOTICS OFFICER, early 20s. On the force for over 2 years.

NICOLA

Take this one away, please?

The Narcotics Officer grabs Hayley by her arm and walks her away. Hayley looks at Ramon.

HAYLEY

Ramon, you asshole! I'm gonna kill you
with my bare hands!! You too, you
little bitch!!

Nicola looks at Ramon.

NICOLA

Good work! You are the best informant
we've had so far.

Nicola hands Ramon 2 stacks of cash.

RAMON

Can you do that?

NICOLA

I have to get rid of it one way or
another. Consider it a down payment on
your yacht.

Nicola walks towards the jeep, opens the door.

RAMON

What's the rush? Do you mind having a
drink?

NICOLA

Sure. Just one.

RAMON (V.O.)

That's how our relationship started.

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Nicola kisses Ramon. Ramon unbuckles his belt. He pulls off her shirt and kisses her neck. Nicola pulls off her shirt and bra. She pushes Ramon to the floor.

EXT. COURTYARD-COMPOUND-NIGHT

Hayley stands over Nicola. She punches her across the face.

HAYLEY

Tough little bitch can take a hit!

RAMON

Enough!

HAYLEY

Then you finish her!

Roman walks towards Nicola and rips the necklace off. Hayley walks behind Nicola and points her gun at the back of her head. Ramon's back turned to Nicola and Hayley. He opens the locket and smiles.

RAMON

A beautiful little girl.

Hayley shoots Nicola in the back of the head. Ramon looks at Nicola and starts to run towards her. He touches her as she dies.

EXT. BALCONY-EVENING-BACK TO PRESENT

RAMON

After she shot her. I helped her dump the body into the ocean.

Brenda steps towards Hayley. Hayley raises the gun and points it at Brenda. Brenda stops and glares at her.

BRENDA

You killed your own family! You sick little bitch.

Hayley smiles, holding Shelly by her neck and shoulder.

HAYLEY

Enough with all this sentimental bullshit! It's time to get down to the real business! Which one do I shoot? Brenda, my annoying cousin's wife, or my ex? Which do you prefer, Shelly?

Lola cocks her gun against Hayley's back.

LOLA

How about neither bitch!

HAYLEY

Lola?

LOLA

That's my name, don't wear it out. Let her go!

HAYLEY

I was just playing.

Hayley lets go and Shelly falls to one knee.

SHELLY

(cough)

LOLA

Where's the baby!!

HAYLEY

In the laundry room.

LOLA

Thank you.

Lola smacks the handle of the gun over Hayley's head. She falls to the ground, unconscious. Lola points the gun at Ramon.

LOLA (CONT'D)

You better not be lying?

Ramon raises his hands.

RAMON

I loved her. Honest to God I did.

BRENDA

Let him go, Lola?

Brenda walks into the house and looks back at Ramon. She rushes after Shelly.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM-EVENING

The door pushes open. Shelly looks and smiles. The baby girl sits on the ground. Pillows circled around her. Shelly rushes towards her and lifts her up. She holds her close.

SHELLY

Everything's good.

Brenda rushes into the room. She looks at the baby girl.
Brenda steps towards her and kisses her on the head.

BRENDA

We got you now.

Brenda takes the baby girl from Shelly and holds her.

SHELLY

Let's get back to them?

Brenda walks slowly towards the door, following Shelly as she leads the way out.

EXT. BALCONY-CONTINUOUS

LOLA

You better go before I change my mind.

RAMON

Can I at least see my daughter?

LOLA

I said go!

Ramon runs towards the stairs. Hayley opens her eyes, smiles, and lifts her gun. She aims and shoots Ramon. Hayley fires 6 shots into Ramon's back.

LOLA (CONT'D)

Hey!!

Hayley turns the gun towards Lola. Lola shoots off 1 shot right to Hayley's head. Lola falls to her knees.

LOLA

(sob)

Brenda walks towards Lola and looks at Hayley's DEAD BODY.

RAMON (O.S.)

Brenda!

Shelly stops and looks at Lola, then at Brenda.

BRENDA

Can you take care of her?

SHELLY

Sure.

Brenda walks towards Ramon, holding the baby girl in her arms. Shelly kneels down. She wraps her arms around Lola. Lola hugs Shelly. Brenda gets a little closer. Ramon raises his hand.

RAMON

Stay right there. I don't want her to remember me this way.

Brenda looks away.

BRENDA

(sob)

Brenda looks at Ramon.

RAMON

What's her name?

BRENDA

Angelica.

RAMON

Angelus angel. Beautiful. My mother's name.

Ramon lies to his side. His breathing slows down and stops. Brenda turns away. She walks towards Lola.

LOLA

You 2 better get out of here now?

Shelly stands to her feet and helps Lola to stand up.

BRENDA

What about you?

LOLA

I can handle this. I'll just phone it in. Go!

Brenda walks into the house. Shelly looks back at Lola.

SHELLY

Be careful?

LOLA

You too.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

A look at the portrait on the wall. Brenda hands the baby girl to Shelly.

SHELLY
What are you doing?

BRENDA
They deserve to be remembered by her.

INT. HOTEL-NIGHT

Shelly lies in her bed. The baby girl lies asleep right next to Shelly. Brenda looks at Shelly with the baby girl.

BRENDA
(laugh) Cute.

Brenda looks at the portrait as she rolls it back up and sets it on the table. She walks to her bed and lays down. Brenda's eyes open and thinking of all the stuff that transpired. Her eyes close.

INT. AUDITORIUM-CONVENTION CENTER-MORNING

At a panel table, amongst other writers. Shelly sits. Her hand underneath her chin.

MARLA, 20. An avid reader and a big fan of Shelly's.

MARLA
Excuse me?

Shelly lowers her arm.

SHELLY
Yes?

MARLA
Could you sign this for me?

Marla reaches her arm out, holding Shelly's book in front of her.

SHELLY
Sure.

Shelly takes the book from her. She opens the inside.

MARLA

Can you make it out to Marla? My
number 1 fan?

SHELLY

No problem.

Shelly writes as Marla requests. She hands the book back.

MARLA

Thanks.

Shelly looks at Marla's t-shirt. Seeing it's one she has sold
from all over the world. Her face and full body with the
title saying "How to Spot A Butterfly."

SHELLY

Cool shirt.

MARLA

Thank you.

Marla walks away and steps towards the merchandise tables.
Shelly looks back at other fans approaching her with more
requests for her autograph.

SHELLY

Hi?

Shelly smiles and picks up her ballpoint pen.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

The front door opens. Shelly steps in. She shuts the door
with her back and slides down. Her butt to the floor. Sara
runs into the room. She stops and looks.

SHELLY

(breath)

SARA

Mommy!!

Shelly smiles. She opens her arms for a hug. Sara runs
towards Shelly and hugs her. Shelly grabs on tight.

SARA (CONT'D)

Are you tired?

SHELLY

Exhausted. How are you?

SARA
I'm okay. Can we order pizza?

SHELLY
That does sound good. Why don't you go
and pick a movie for us to watch and
I'll order?

Sara gets up and runs towards the hallway. Maggie sits up
from the sofa. She looks at Shelly.

MAGGIE
That kid has energy like the ***Energizer
Bunny!***

Shelly gets a jump scare from the sudden surprise of hearing
Maggie's voice.

SHELLY
You scared me!

MAGGIE
I'm sorry. Rough day?

SHELLY
You can say my hand needs to rest from
all the signatures I've written.

Shelly stands up. She walks towards the hallway.

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Shelly walks into the bedroom. She lays down on her stomach.
Her eyes closed. Sara walks in and leans over Shelly.

SARA
Mommy?

Shelly opens her eyes.

INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON

At her desk, Brenda sits and goes through her paperwork. The
Secretary walks in and puts the mail on Brenda's desk.

SECRETARY
Mail time!

BRENDA
Can't wait.

Brenda stands to her feet and starts to walk. She gets dizzy. Brenda falls to the floor. The Secretary rushes towards Brenda.

SECRETARY

Brenda!!

The Secretary kneels down. She touches her on the shoulder.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Someone call for an ambulance!

INT. PATIENT ROOM-MORNING

Brenda lays in a hospital bed. Lola sits alongside her. She holds her hand.

DOCTOR, late 40s. A doctor for 20 years.

The Doctor walks into the room.

DOCTOR

Good morning, Brenda?

BRENDA

Morning, Doctor? How are you?

DOCTOR

I'm alright. Your test results came in this morning?

LOLA

And?

BRENDA

What is it?

DOCTOR

When the nurses examined you and took the x-rays of your lungs. It shows that you have some form of cancer. Lung cancer.

Brenda's eyes water.

LOLA

Are you shitting me?!

DOCTOR

We can start you on chemotherapy right away?

BRENDA

No.

LOLA

What?

BRENDA

I'm too tired. I lost too much. I really can't take all the medications or the chemo. I miss my husband.

LOLA

What about me!

BRENDA

You'll be alright. You're not a little girl anymore.

LOLA

I can't do this without you!

BRENDA

Sure you can.

Lola hugs Brenda. Tears drop from her eyes.

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

NURSE, early 40s. A registered nurse for 10 years.

The Nurse stands across from Lola. Lola watches The Nurse give Brenda a sponge bath. She washes her arms and lifts her back from the bed. Lola touches Brenda's hand. She kisses Brenda on the forehead.

INT. HALLWAY-AFTERNOON

Lola walks into the hallway. A saddened look on her face. Her eyes water with tears. She wipes them away with the sleeve of her short sleeves.

LOLA

(sob)

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Shelly sits in her bed. A book in her hand. Her cell phone rings. Shelly puts the phone to her ear.

SHELLY

Hello?

LOLA (V.O.)
She's gone, Shelly.

Shelly's eyes fill with tears. She drops her phone into her lap. Her head falls into her lap. Shelly hugs onto her legs.

SHELLY
(sob)

INT. AUDITORIUM-FUNERAL HOME-AFTERNOON

Lola steps up to the podium. She wipes her nose and fights back the tears. Lola unfolds a paper with her speech written on it.

LOLA
(sob) I like to thank everyone that came to celebrate the life of my mother. Many of you know her as Brenda. To me, she was always a mom. My dad's best friend, my best friend. I can't help but thank God for blessing me with her. She was the main reason why I met my husband and why he was out of trouble. Many people see her as a career woman but her biggest career was being a wife and mother. She fought and fought until things were right. Her biggest accomplishments were raising my sister and me the best way she could. She was a fighter. I hope to be as brave as she was in her last days. I love you, mom!

Lola steps away from the podium and walks towards the hallway.

BARRY SMITH, 22. A police detective and Lola's husband.

Shelly hands Barry the baby girl, gets up, and rushes towards Lola.

INT. HALLWAY-AFTERNOON

Lola leans her face against the wall, trying to fight back the tears. Shelly steps towards her and pulls her away from the wall. She hugs Lola.

SHELLY
Shh! It's alright?

Shelly taps Lola on her back.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

On the running track. Lola walks with Shelly.

SHELLY
I'm moving, Lola?

LOLA
Really? Where?

SHELLY
Here.

LOLA
What's wrong with Vegas?

SHELLY
It's busy. My mom's got to live her
life. I got a daughter to think about.

LOLA
Why don't you just move into my mom's
house?

SHELLY
That's too soon. I can't do that.

LOLA
You're family. She trusted you more
than anybody. At least take the
chance.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

In the middle of the living room. Shelly walks in, carrying a big box to the side of the room. Sara walks into the room. A smile on her face.

SARA
That's it, mommy!

Shelly turns to Sara. She smiles.

SHELLY
Come here, girlie?

Sara runs to Shelly. Shelly hugs Sara.

SARA
I love you, mommy.

SHELLY
I love you too, baby.

INT. OFFICE-NIGHT

In her office. Shelly sits in front of her laptop. She takes a sip of her tea from a coffee mug and sets it to the side. Shelly holds her hands together, getting her thoughts through.

SARA
Mommy?

Shelly turns and looks at Sara. A smile on her face.

SHELLY
What's wrong?

SARA
I had a bad dream.

Shelly picks Sara up and sits her on her lap.

SARA (CONT'D)
Is this your story, mommy?

SHELLY
It is.

SARA
What's it about?

SHELLY
It's about 2 butterflies and how far they come from being caterpillars. They do everything together.

SARA
Do they have baby caterpillars together?

SHELLY
They do. Then you know what happens?

SARA
What?

SHELLY

They find a forest, with enough nectar
and fruit to eat. They live in
paradise forever.

Sara closes her eyes. She grabs a hold of Shelly. Shelly
grabs the blanket from the top of her chair. She covers Sara
with the blanket and rocks her to sleep. Shelly starts
typing. A smile on her face.

EXT. FRONT YARD-MORNING

At the curb of the sidewalk. Shelly holds onto Sara's hand.
Sara stands, With her pigtails, pink backpack, and matching
school clothes. A school bus pulls up in front of Shelly and
Sara. Sara turns to Shelly. Shelly kisses her on the cheek.

SHELLY

I love you.

SARA

I love you too, mommy.

SHELLY

Have a good day at school?

Sara steps towards the bus and walks up the steps. Shelly
looks and watches Sara sit down.

INT. SCHOOL BUS-MORNING

Sara looks at Shelly and waves her hand at her.

EXT. FRONT YARD-CONTINUOUS

Shelly kisses her hand and waves back.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

In the middle of the floor. Sara sits on her knees. She
passes a deck of cards to the baby girl. Shelly sits and
watches from the sofa.

SHELLY

Easy with the cards, honey?

SARA

Okay, mommy.

Shelly gets up from the sofa, and steps over towards the baby girl. She lifts her up and sits with her on the sofa. A knock on the door.

SHELLY

Now, who could that be?

Shelly lifts up the baby girl and walks towards the front door. She opens the door. Miguel stands in front of her. Shelly smiles.

SHELLY

Hey?

MIGUEL

Hello?

SHELLY

I'm sorry. Come in?

Shelly moves aside. Miguel steps inside. Shelly closes the front door and walks back to the sofa. She sits down.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Please, sit down?

Miguel sits down. He looks at the baby girl.

MIGUEL

Beautiful little girls.

SHELLY

Thanks. How'd you find me?

MIGUEL

Your friend. She wrote me a note and left it at the hotel.

SHELLY

Brenda did that? Wow! I never got to tell you how great that night was.

MIGUEL

It was for me too.

SHELLY

I'm sorry, this is just short notice.
I have a daughter to think about and
everything that happened because I let
it. I don't have time to let my heart
be broken again.

Miguel grabs Shelly by the back of her head and pulls her
closer. He kisses her. Miguel let's go.

MIGUEL

I won't break your heart.

SHELLY

Good.

Shelly grabs Miguel by his face and kisses him.

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Sara lies in her bed, asleep. Shelly lays the baby girl in
her crib. She lays a blanket over her. Shelly walks out of
the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Miguel sits on the sofa. Shelly walks in and sits down.
Miguel wraps his arm around her. Shelly lays her head down on
his leg. She closes her eyes. Miguel touches her face.

EXT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON

On the front lawn, Miguel is kneeled down and fills holes
with new soil. Shelly steps outside. A glass of lemonade in
her hand. Miguel stands to his feet. He takes the glass from
her.

MIGUEL

Thank you.

SHELLY

I'm just about to do some laundry? Do
you want me to put your load with
mine?

MIGUEL

That would be wonderful. Thank you.

INT. GARAGE-AFTERNOON

Miguel's pants and shirts on the table. Shelly digs through his pants pocket. A crumpled-up piece of paper. Shelly opens it and lays it flat. The note reads: Eliminate Shelly Owens and Brenda Valens. Shelly looks around. She folds it up and puts it in her pocket.

EXT. FRONT YARD-CONTINUOUS

Shelly walks out to the front yard.

SHELLY

Hey, babe? Why don't you go inside and lay down on the bed? We have the whole house to ourselves for a couple of more hours.

MIGUEL

Sounds good.

Miguel walks towards the front door. He looks back at Shelly.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Finally. Some alone time.

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Miguel lays on the bed, the blanket over his legs. Shelly steps into the room. She lifts her shirt over her head. Shelly tosses it to the floor. A black bra on. Shelly smiles.

SHELLY

Turn over?

Miguel turns over and lays flat on his stomach. Shelly grabs the blankets from the bed and throws them to the floor. She climbs onto the bed and sits on top of Miguel's back. Her hands touch his back. Shelly deep strokes her hands into his skin. Miguel closes his eyes.

MIGUEL

That feels so good, baby!

Shelly smirks. She digs her nails into his back.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Hey! Ahh!!

SHELLY

Was it double for me after you nailed me!

MIGUEL

Okay! You got me!

Miguel begins to turn. Shelly raises her silver pistol. She points it at Miguel's head.

SHELLY

Don't even think about turning?!

MIGUEL

How about we call it a truce. I leave and I will never come back!

SHELLY

Ramon sent us room service and that's when her plan came in. She hired you to come to the room that day but only 1 of us stayed. You were just her little drone!

MIGUEL

If you let me up, maybe we can talk about this!

Miguel smacks the gun out of Shelly's hand. He slaps her off him. Shelly falls to the floor. She crawls to the pistol. Miguel reaches to grab Shelly. Shelly drives the bottom of her foot to his face. Miguel's head goes up and he rolls off the bed. Shelly crawls to the gun and she gets a full grip on it.

Miguel gets off the bed and runs. Shelly pulls herself up. She grabs a hold of the mattress and stands to her feet. Shelly chases after Miguel.

EXT. BACK YARD-AFTERNOON

Miguel runs into the backyard. Lola stands in front of him. Her gun pointed at him. Miguel falls to the ground. He rushes to his feet and starts to run back towards the door. Shelly runs towards Miguel. Miguel stops. He looks at Lola and then at Shelly.

SHELLY

Nowhere to go. You have no way out of this one.

Miguel reaches his hand for the gun in Shelly's hand. He twists Shelly's arm into her back. He yanks the gun from her hand and presses it against Shelly's head.

MIGUEL

Put the fucking gun down!

LOLA

How about you put yours down and I promise you I won't beat the shit out of you!

MIGUEL

You beat the shit out of me! I have you and this bitch where I want you!

SHELLY

Miguel?

MIGUEL

What?!!

SHELLY

Did you read my book?

MIGUEL

Of course!

SHELLY

You didn't read enough!

Shelly reaches down and grabs Miguel by his groin. She yanks it. Her hand on the gun. Shelly kicks him in the groin. Miguel falls to the ground. He looks at Shelly, then at Lola. Shelly points the gun at Miguel.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Book em' Lola!

Shelly steps away from Miguel. Lola walks towards Miguel, moves him to lay flat on his stomach. With handcuffs from her belt. Lola puts Miguel's arms behind his back. She cuffs both his hands together.

LOLA

You have the right to remain silent!
Get up!!

Lola pulls Miguel up by his arm. Miguel stands to his feet. He looks at Shelly.

MIGUEL

I'll be out in no time and when I do.

SHELLY

No, you won't. You want to know why?

MIGUEL

Why?

SHELLY

I'll be ready for you.

MIGUEL

Bitch!

Lola pulls a hold of the handcuffs and pulls Miguel away from Shelly.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Shelly sits on the sofa with Sara. An open children's book sits on Sara's lap. Shelly holds the remote control to the television in her hand. She looks at the television.

SARA

Mommy?

SHELLY

Yeah?

SARA

Where's Miguel?

SHELLY

He had to go away.

SARA

Like daddy?

Shelly looks at Sara.

SHELLY

What?

SARA

Did Miguel have to go away where daddy went?

Shelly leans down towards Sara

SHELLY

No. Miguel isn't like daddy. Daddy went to a better place, and more at peace.

SARA

Like Aunt Brenda?

SHELLY

Yeah, like Aunt Brenda.

Shelly kisses Sara on her forehead and looks at the television.

INT. HALLWAY-COURTHOUSE-AFTERNOON

Shelly sits on a bench in the hallway. Lola walks towards Shelly. Shelly stands up.

SHELLY

Well, how did it go?

LOLA

They're shipping him back to Mexico. It looks like they want to build a case on him there. He's committed enough crimes there to keep him out of California.

SHELLY

Anything else to keep him from trying to get to me?

LOLA

Their gonna keep a good eye on him and monitor his calls. He's on house arrest until further notice.

GUARD #1 and #2, early 30s. On the job for over 5 years.

Guard #1 has an arm wrapped around Miguel's. Miguel looks at Shelly and jumps at her.

MIGUEL

You're still dead!

Guard #1 and #2 walk Miguel towards the exit door. Miguel looks at Shelly.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Shelly lays in bed with Sara. Sara holds a bowl of popcorn. She shoves the cornels into her mouth.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Miguel walks through the living room. A beanie over his head. He walks towards the hallway. Miguel looks down. A light in the bathroom is on. He kicks the door open.

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

Miguel points his gun around. He pulls the shower curtain open and looks down. Lola has her gun pointed at him. A surprised look on his face.

MIGUEL

Shit!

LOLA

Boo!!

A gunshot goes off.

EXT. FRONT YARD-NIGHT

On the front porch, Lola sits on the steps. She smokes a cigarette. Coroners #1 and #2, 24 and 25. Working for the sheriffs' department for over 3 years. Lola looks at Coroner #1 and #2 as they wheel Miguel out of the house on a gurney. She puts the cigarette to her mouth again. Lola blows the smoke out from her mouth. Barry steps towards Lola.

BARRY

I thought you quit?

LOLA

Sometimes I do things I want.

BARRY

It's fine. I just want you around long enough to watch our son grow up.

LOLA

Don't start that, please.

BARRY

I guess I'm being too sentimental. I just appreciate what I have.

LOLA
How are they doing over there?

BARRY
They're doing fine. They're asleep.

LOLA
I better get this house locked up. She might have to move into another place. It's gonna traumatize her once I tell her what happened.

BARRY
I'll wait here?

LOLA
I'll be alright.

BARRY
I insist. We can ride home together.

LOLA
Okay.

Lola stands up and walks into the house. Barry looks around. Lola steps outside and shuts the door. She locks it with her key. Lola steps towards Barry. Barry wraps his arm around Lola.

INT. DINING ROOM-MORNING

Shelly sits across the table from the baby girl. She feeds her and wipes her mouth. Lola steps towards the table and sits down. She smiles at Shelly.

LOLA
She likes you.

SHELLY
All babies like me.

LOLA
Shelly, I'm pregnant.

SHELLY
That's good news, right?

LOLA
Kind of. I have to stay home again.

SHELLY

Is there something you need?

LOLA

Can you watch over Angelica for me?

SHELLY

I am watching her?

LOLA

Can you be her guardian for me?

SHELLY

Yes.

LOLA

Another thing? About the house? How would you feel about living around here?

SHELLY

I need to put Sara in a good school that's close. Is there one?

LOLA

Yes.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

An empty living room. Brand new carpet and newly painted walls. Shelly looks around. Lola stands across from Shelly. Lola's hand under her chin, waiting for a response.

LOLA

Well, what do you think?

SHELLY

I love it. It's so spacious. I'm gonna take it.

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Sara sits at her table, playing tea time with her dolls. Shelly walks towards Sara. She kneels down.

SHELLY

How are you doing, kiddo?

SARA

Okay. Are we done moving?

SHELLY

Yes.

SARA

Good.

SHELLY

What do you say we order from where ever you want?

SARA

Can we have pizza?

SHELLY

Sure.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

A half pepperoni pizza left. Shelly lays with Sara sitting up, watching television.

SARA

This is fun, mommy.

SHELLY

It is.

SARA

Can we do this every night?

SHELLY

We can do it once a week. Every night, no.

SARA

Is there anything we can do?

SHELLY

We can go to the park.

SARA

Can we go tomorrow?

SHELLY

After school.

Sara turns her head and lays up against Shelly. Shelly closes the pizza box, grabs it, and sets it on her nightstand. She lays on her side. Facing Sara. Shelly smiles and closes her eyes.

INT. NURSEY-NIGHT

Lola sits in her rocking chair, asleep. Barry walks into the room. He leans down and kisses her on the forehead. Lola moves her head and opens her eyes.

LOLA
You're finally home.

BARRY
How's the rockstar doing?

Lola feels around her baby bump.

LOLA
Kicking like a champ.

BARRY
Good. It could be a boy.

LOLA
Or a girl.

Barry smiles.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-MORNING

Sara's hand grips Shelly's. Shelly walks Sara towards the school.

PRINCIPAL, early 40s. The principal for 10 years.

Shelly walks towards the Principal. She stops. The Principal looks and smiles.

PRINCIPAL
Hello? Who is this beautiful little girl?

The Principal leans down.

SHELLY
Her name is Sara.

PRINCIPAL
Good to meet you, Sara. I'll take you to your class.

Sara looks at Shelly. Shelly looks at Sara.

SHELLY

Go ahead? I'll see you later.

Shelly leans down and kisses Sara on the lips. She leans back up. The Principal takes Sara's hand and walks her towards the school.

SARA

Bye, mommy.

Shelly turns and walks away.

INT. CAR-MORNING

Shelly sits in her car. She looks at the hospital building. Shelly grabs the flowers from the passenger seat.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM-MORNING

Lola lays in bed. She holds her newborn daughter in her arms. Shelly walks into the room and steps towards Lola. Lola turns and looks at Shelly. A smile on Lola's face.

LOLA

Hey?!

Shelly leans down and kisses Lola on the cheek. She looks at the newborn.

SHELLY

Oh, she's beautiful.

LOLA

She kind of favors my mom. That's what I'm gonna call her.

SHELLY

Brenda's a good name.

LOLA

I wish she could be here for this.

SHELLY

She is.

Lola looks at Shelly.

LOLA

Thanks for being here. For everything.

SHELLY
We're family, right?

LOLA
Right.

Lola looks at the newborn.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Family.

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING

ANGELICA, 17. A senior high school student. Dark wavy hair, brown eyes. A young woman with eagerness to learn and a driven attitude.

Angelica sits in front of her laptop computer. She types her daily thoughts.

ANGELICA (V.O.)
Dear journal, tomorrow is my birthday. Shelly has allowed me to go away for a couple of days. I guess since I'm close to being 18 and you only turn that age once in a lifetime. I'm allowed my wish. I take a look at the portrait on my wall and wonder what my parents liked about each other. They got something out of it, me. Shelly tells me I am their treasure and she tells me, Grandma Brenda wanted me to know my parents. For that, I thank her. So I'm going to Cancun. To see everything they saw. Until next time, see you soon, Angelica.

ON SCREEN

The arrow hits SAVE and a click to the X. Exiting out of the TAB. The Arrow goes to SHUT DOWN.

BACK TO SCENE

Angelica closes her laptop. She picks it up and puts it into her laptop bag.

SHELLY (O.S.)
Angelica!!

ANGELICA
I'm coming!! Just a second!!

INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

Shelly stands at the island counter in the kitchen. She cuts oranges. Angelica rushes towards her. She kisses her on the cheek.

SHELLY
Happy to see you too!

Angelica smiles. She sits at the counter.

ANGELICA
I'm always happy to see you.

SHELLY
Sara's sorry she can't make it.
Something came up.

Angelica looks through her purse.

ANGELICA
It's okay. Maybe next time.

SHELLY
Are you sure this is what you want? To
go over there by yourself?

ANGELICA
I have to learn sometimes to walk on
my own. You and Lola can't always be
there to catch me.

Shelly puts down the knife. She wipes her hands on a towel. Shely reaches into her apron and pulls out a **DVD case**. She slides it to Angelica and sets it on the counter.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)
What's this?

SHELLY
It's from your mom.

Angelica picks up the DVD case. Shelly raises her hand for her to wait.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
Wait for tomorrow and watch it, okay?

ANGELICA

Thank you.

Shelly steps towards Shelly. She hugs her.

SHELLY

Be safe out there?

ANGELICA

I will.

INT. COACH-AIRPLANE-AFTERNOON

Angelica sits by the window. She looks outside and sees the blue sky. Her headphones on.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT, early 20s. A flight attendant for over 2 years.

The Flight Attendant leans towards Angelica.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Excuse me?

Angelica lowers her headphones.

ANGELICA

Yes?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Do you want anything before we land?

ANGELICA

Just some water, please?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Coming right up?

ANGELICA

Thank you.

INT. LOBBY-HOTEL-EVENING

Angelica walks towards the front desk.

FRONT DESK MAN, early 30s. Has worked at the hotel for 5 years.

The Front Desk Man looks at Angelica.

FRONT DESK MAN
Hello? How may I help you?

ANGELICA
I have a reservation under Owens?

The Front Desk Man looks at his computer and types in the name.

FRONT DESK MAN
Angelica Owens?

ANGELICA
That's me.

FRONT DESK MAN
Room 300.

The Front Desk Man reaches down into the draws and pulls out the room key. He hands it to her. Angelica takes the key.

ANGELICA
Thank you.

Angelica turns around and walks towards the elevator.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-AFTERNOON

Angelica opens the door and walks into the hotel room. She looks around and shuts the door.

ANGELICA
Nice room, Shelly.

Angelica walks to the bed and sets her suitcase to the side.

INT. BATHROOM-EVENING

The steam from the shower fogs up the mirror. Angelica steps towards the mirror. She wipes the mirror with the palm of her hand. Angelica looks at her reflection.

ANGELICA
Happy birthday, kiddo.

INT. OFFICE-NIGHT

Shelly sits in front of her laptop. She types her fingers away on the keys. Her cell phone rings. Shelly answers and puts the phone to her ear.

SHELLY

Hello?

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Hey?

SHELLY

How's it going over there?

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Just getting ready to go to bed. I just wanted to say something to you first.

SHELLY

What's that?

INT. HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

ANGELICA

I love you.

SHELLY (V.O.)

Awe. I love you too. I'll see you in a couple of days. Happy birthday!

ANGELICA

Thank you and good night.

Angelica ends the call. She lays her phone on the bed. Angelica lays towards the edge. A **portable DVD player** in her hand. Angelica takes the case from inside her laptop bag and takes the DVD disc out. She puts the disc in and closes the opening of the player. She hits play.

ON SCREEN

Nicola sits in the middle of the screen. She smiles.

NICOLA

Hi, baby. If you're watching this, happy birthday! You are officially 18 now. As I instructed Brenda to do for me is to make sure you got this, and for you to do something for yourself. Not something too wild. I'm sorry I can't be there with you!

Tears start to stream down Nicola's cheek.

NICOLA (CONT'D)

(sob) Please tell Brenda or whoever has been watching over you that I love them and thank them for keeping you safe. I really appreciate it. I know you do too. Kiss them and hug them for me! Love you, angel!

BACK TO SCENE

Angelica wipes her eyes.

EXT. OCEAN PIER-MORNING

Angelica stands against the rails of the deck. She takes the lids off the **urns**. Angelica tips and pours ashes from 1 of the urns.

ANGELICA

I love you, mama.

Angelica grabs the 2nd urn and pours out the ashes.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

(sob) Brenda, I love you too.

Angelica grabs the urns and walks away from the pier.

INT. AIRPORT-AFTERNOON

Shelly and Lola stand at the arrival gate. Lola, with an excited look on her face. Angelica walks towards Shelly and hugs her. She looks at Lola and hugs her too. Shelly looks around and reaches around Angelica's back. Lola kisses Angelica on the cheek.

LOLA

Are you alright?

ANGELICA

Yeah.

Angelica backs up, looks at Lola, and smiles.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

I'm just happy we're together. The 3 of us.

Angelica touches her forehead, feeling happy and grateful.

LOLA
You'll always have us.

ANGELICA
I know.

SHELLY
What do you say we go home now?

LOLA
That works for me.

ANGELICA
Me too.

Lola takes Angelica's backpack and puts it around her shoulder. Shelly wraps her arm around Angelica. Lola puts her arm on Angelica's back and they start walking towards the baggage claim.

SHELLY
What do you say we go to Hawaii next?

ANGELICA
Maybe.

INT. OFFICE-NIGHT

Shelly sits in front of her laptop. She types the keys with the end of her fingertips. Glasses on.

SHELLY (V.O.)
Now that I'm closing this circle. I
can rest and move on. I won't forget
about the people that have passed.
This is not goodbye but see you later.

Shelly takes off her glasses and sets them to the side of her desk. She closes her laptop and stands up from her chair. Shelly walks away from the desk.

FADE OUT:

THE END