

THE BAD BEAUTY QUEEN

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Miss Beautiful Planet Coronation Night 2020.

Candidates on the stage in gowns. Two girls in long gowns in the spotlight, holding each other. The winner is about to be announced: MARINA VAUGH DIAZ, 20s, is crowned. She waves and cries as she is crowned QUEEN. The crowd goes wild.

EXT. FLOAT PARADE - DAY

On a floral truck, MARINA wearing her crown, waves to the crowd. Little girls wave at her with plastic crown on their heads.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD ROOM - DAY

MARINA wearing her crown, going from bed to bed, giving toys to the sick children. Press takes pictures.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

MARINA, giving food to lined up homeless people. Press takes pictures.

EXT. PARK - DAY

MARINA wearing her crown, does tree-planting in the park. The press takes pictures.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

MARINA and SENATOR JACOB LIM the Third, handsome, 30s, are spotted by the press on a romantic date, they both wave and smile graciously.

BILLBOARDS of cosmetic, swimwear, jewelry, designer apparel and luxury brands have MARINA's face on them.

She is on every MAGAZINE cover. MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ is QUEEN.

INT. STUDIO - PHOTOSHOOT - DAY

A studio set up with lights and background where goddess-like beauty queen MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ, is being photographed by the photographer RAY, 30s, in high fashion clothes with her PAGEANT CROWN. She strikes poses, lightbulbs flash.

RAY

Great Marina! These shots are amazing. You're simply a goddess!

MARINA

(poses)

You're the one who's making me look like a goddess, Ray.

RAY

Let's just say my camera is bewitched by your enchanting beauty. All I have to do is click and you make the magic happen, dear. No, scratch that, YOU are the magic. MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ, the reigning Miss Beautiful Planet.

CAMERA CLICK!

Marina's Personal Assistant, PAM, nerdy, early 20s, holding one iPad like a clipboard and a phone in the other hand, interrupts them.

PAM

(awkwardly)

Umm, excuse me, Marina, Senator Jacob just called. I said you were busy. He just wanted to know what time you'll be done?

MARINA

(rolls eyes)

Whenever this gets done, okay?  
(Poses)

CAMERA FLASH!

PAM hovers hesitantly.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Anything else, Pam?

PAM  
Principal Becky just called too.  
She was asking for an update on the  
funds you promised for their new  
school building in Santa Clara.

MARINA  
Did I promise her that? Ugh. I must  
have been hungover. Just tell her  
I'm super busy. (Pose)

CAMERA CLICK!

RAY  
(studies Marina's face)  
Who's this Principal Becky?  
Retouch!

MAKE-UP ARTIST comes in to check on MARINA'S make-up.

MARINA  
Long story short; She was my nanny  
when I was young..

MAKE-UP ARTIST retouches her lipstick

MARINA (CONT'D)  
...and then she became a teacher and  
now she's a school principal in her  
hometown of Santa Clara.

MAKE-UP ARTIST combs a strand of hair back and sprays with  
hairspray

RAY  
Impressive. From nanny to  
principal. Anyone can do anything  
if they put their hearts and minds  
into something they are passionate  
about.

RAY Checks his camera monitor.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Chin down a bit, darling.

MARINA  
Hmm. Well now she keeps bugging me  
to fund her little school project.

MARINA tilts down her chin and poses.

CAMERA FLASH!

RAY

That's what happens when you're at the top. At the VERY, VERY top. People flock to you.

MARINA

I kinda wished she just stayed on as my nanny.

RAY

Why? If she had been my nanny I would've been very proud of her. Aren't you?

MARINA

Of course I'm proud of her. But you know, when the Senator and I get married, I would need a good pair of hands to take care of little Jacobs and Marinas running around.  
(Poses)

CAMERA FLASH!

MARINA (CONT'D)

Good help is hard to come by these days. You wouldn't believe how many people are incompetent. It's hard to find someone trustworthy.

PAM's phone beeped.

PAM

(To Marina while reading)  
Marina, it's Senator Jacob. What should I tell him?

RAY

(To Pam)  
Tell our darling, dear Senator Hotness that beauty cannot be rushed. We have many attire lined up for this shoot. The next one is a winning gown designed and created by a group of up and coming young designers who specifically requested Marina to be their muse for this special creation. After all, SHE was their inspiration for their winning piece.

MARINA

NEW designers?  
(Scrutinizing her outfit)

RAY

It's Leron & Luca. They're a team of fashion design students who won first place in the international-

MARINA

--Fashion design STUDENTS?

(scoffs)

Ray, you know I can't go promoting unknown, AMATEUR artists. Pam, where's my gum?

PAM hands her a piece of gum.

RAY goes to a rack and takes out a gown covered in a garment bag. Takes it to MARINA who starts chewing.

RAY

Please, just take a look and judge for yourself. You won't regret this decision. When I saw it, it literally screams MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ.

MARINA looks at PAM, waiting for PAM to "rescue" her

PAM

(Shows iPad with a schedule to Marina)

The senator's event has long been booked in her schedule already. It's the signing of the Waste Water Treatment contract between the foreign partners and the government. Top politicians and private investors will be attending the event tonight.

MARINA

Oooh, lots of VIPs, I like the sound of it already.

PAM

And the press is going to be there, especially when they found out you're going to be there too.

MARINA

(To Ray)

See, Ray, they're expecting me. I'm so sorry, but I'm just simply on a tight schedule, darling. Let's do this some other time.

RAY

But I promised our Leron & Luca we'll be done this afternoon. You have to at least try on this gown and we'll be done shortly. Just a few shots, Marina, I promise.

MARINA

They're JUST students, Ray.

She walks away removing the clothes one by one and leaving them on the floor as she goes towards the door. PAM picks up after her.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I'm sure they'll understand. Just have your office reschedule it with Pam.

(To Pam)

Pam, call the driver. We're leaving.

RAY follows MARINA.

RAY

Leron & Luca are just students. They can't AFFORD a reshoot.

MARINA

You heard my assistant, Ray. I have a very important event tonight. A VERY important event with my boyfriend, the SENATOR.

RAY

Marina, you CAN'T just walk away. You can't do this to me. You made a commitment!

Stands by the door in her CROWN and underwear. Everyone is looking at her. Marina chews her gum, blows a bubble.

IT POPS!

MARINA

Make me.

RAY

You are such a BITCH!

MARINA stands there and sniggers, not caring what he just said.

The IMAGE FREEZES - as the title THE BAD BEAUTY QUEEN comes up around her.

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

A cocktail party in a ballroom space with tall tables and drinks. Slow jazz playing in the background. Guests dressed up fancily. Reporters in a corner.

A stage with a banner: WATER WASTE SOLUTION FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT. SENATOR JACOB LIM III, 30s, stands by one of the tall tables talking shop with his colleagues, he keeps checking his watch. He downs a champagne flute.

JACOB  
(To his colleague)  
Excuse me.

Takes his phone out and dials

MARINA (V.O.)  
(Voicemail message)  
Hey, this is Marina, can't come to the phone right now but I'm sure you know what to do after the beep.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
Hey... Babe... Been waiting for you for (checks his watch) two whole hours. Let me know when-

Reporters suddenly run at the entrance. MARINA enters, a small crowd surrounds her. Some taking selfies. Reporters thrust mics unto her and throwing questions.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
--never mind, you're here.

MARINA makes her way to JACOB where they share a kiss, caught by many cameras. They smile and wave. Picture perfect of a happy couple.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
(Whispers into her ear smiling/seething)  
Couldn't you come on time just for once? For me?

MARINA  
(Whispers back)  
Traffic, babe. I can't make the cars move out of my way even if I wanted to.



JACOB

Oh yes you can, babe. Yes you can.

REPORTER 1

(thrusts mic to Marina)

Miss Diaz, can you tell us who's going to design you FAREWELL WALK gown for Miss Beautiful Planet Coronation Night?

MARINA

My lips are sealed. Let's just say it's going to be phenomenal... and EXPENSIVE.

JACOB

(To reporters)

Aren't you gonna ask me who's gonna design my suit?

Reporters laugh.

REPORTER 2

(To Jacob)

Senator Jacob Lim, what can you tell us about the rumors that you're going to run in the next presidential election? According to the polls, it looks like you're the favorite forerunner of your party.

JACOB

(To Reporter 2)

Let's not talk about the elections yet guys, that's still a long way to go. Let's focus first on what's important and that's to improve the waterways in our cities--

REPORTER 1

(To Marina)

Are you ready to be the next FIRST LADY if Senator Lim runs for president, Miss Diaz?

REPORTER 2

Are you planning to tie the knot already? Who's going to design your wedding gown?

MARINA

(To reporters)

You guys, come on.

JACOB tries to hide his annoyance. MARINA puts her hands on JACOB's arm.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I'm just here to support my wonderful boyfriend, Senator Jacob Lim III and his great cause for our cities' waterways issues. This will greatly reduce the number of health problems many of our citizens are facing today. And not only that, but our environment will also be a much better place to live in. Clean water is the way to go.

REPORTER 2

Sounds like Miss Diaz is going to run in the next presidential election.

MARINA

A civil engineer graduate turned beauty queen turned president? Where do I file my candidacy?

The REPORTERS laugh, they just adore her. JACOB forces a smile.

JACOB

(To reporters)

Well, she has my vote. Excuse us.

JACOB and MARINA walks to a more secluded corner.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(pissed)

Really? Really?

MARINA

Look, babe. I was just having fun-

JACOB

--FUN? FUN? You know how hard I worked my ass off to get this deal done and... and you just waltz in here and they forget all about me and all that I've worked for-

MARINA

--Wait, are you... are you jealous? Babe... Jacob. Jacob, come on. I didn't ask those reporters to interview me--

JACOB

--Your relentless self-congratulatory is quite exhausting, Marina. You're smart, you're beautiful and the whole damn world knows it, but can't you just put a lid on it just this once?

MARINA

Look, we both know who we are and what value we bring to each other's long-term careers.

Brushes off an imaginary lint off of Jacob's barong.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Jacob, honey, you've been leading the polls since we started dating is NOT a coincidence. And you know I'm right. Let's put this behind us and I promise, I promise I'll take a backseat for tonight.

JACOB

Marina...

A SPEAKER on the stage announcing JACOB to come up.

SPEAKER

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Join me in welcoming to the stage, Senator Jacob Lim III...

Applause. The spotlight shines on them.

MARINA

(whispers)

You only got this much mileage ever since you had me by your side but don't worry, babe, I'll be the perfect girlfriend. Go, they're waiting for you, future MR. PRESIDENT...

JACOB seethes but kisses her cheek for show and leaves for the stage.

MARINA claps and blows him a stone-cold kiss.

A handsome FOREIGNER passes by and she assesses him head to foot, they smile at each other seductively.

INT. SUV/CAR - MOVING - DAY

MARINA and PAM in the backseat, car is driven by driver. MARINA, visibly tired, checks her make-up with a compact disc while PAM reads through the iPad.

MARINA

Pam, remind me again. Where are we going? Is it a soup kitchen or a Saint Something Hospital?

PAM

No, that's next Tuesday. This one is the STUDENTS SCIENCE & SOLUTION FAIR COMPETITION. Then tomorrow it's the Little Children of the Holy Mother Orphanage.

MARINA

Feeding programs, orphanages, charity hospitals. Ugh. Don't I have a commercial or magazine shoot this week?

PAM

You do have a meeting with Miss Beautiful Planet Organizers this Friday. They want to finalize your Farewell Walk gown with Quentin Quince in case there are last-minute changes.

PAM's phone rings. She doesn't answer but shows MARINA.

PAM (CONT'D)

Marina, it's Principal Becky again. She's been calling since this morning.

MARINA

(seething)

I specifically told you yesterday to tell her that I'm busy.

(Snaps her compact shut)

I didn't hire you so I can have more headaches. I hired you to deal with my headaches. Am I right?

Pam nods and ignores the call.

PAM

I'm sorry Marina. It won't happen again.

(MORE)

PAM (CONT'D)

After your event here I'll call her and let her know that you won't be able to help with her project.

MARINA

(pops a gum in her mouth)  
Good. What's this event again?

INT. BASKETBALL COURT GYMNASIUM - DAY

Balloons, streamers, & school banners decorate the whole place. A large banner by the entrance that says: STUDENTS SCIENCE & SOLUTION FAIR COMPETITION.

A gym full of students with science projects per booth. People walking around inspecting the booths. Judges with clipboards grading the students' projects.

Vloggers record themselves with their cameras doing vlogs about the students and their projects.

MARINA

Vloggers?

PAM

Some vloggers were invited by the committee to promote science fairs and encourage kids to join.

Fans and students run towards MARINA asking for selfies. She obliges them. MARINA and PAM walk to observe the booths. Reporters appear to take pictures of her standing by the booths. She smiles for the camera. FLASH. They walk on ahead.

MARINA

Why am I here again?

PAM

Well, you've got that beauty and brains going on for you. Aside from being a pageant queen, you're also a civil engineering graduate, that's why they chose you to be one of the presenters. And you're going to present the awards with ROB LAMBERT—

MARINA (O.S.)

Who?

ROB LAMBERT enters, 20s, tall and handsome, in an athletic sweater and jogging pants attire. A commotion erupts in the other side of the gym. He high fives and smiles for selfies.

PAM

Rob Lambert, football player. I think he was just drafted this year. He's getting pretty popular.

MARINA

(Whispers to Pam)

A football player? Presenting at a Science Fair? What does he know aside from kicking balls and breaking girls' hearts?

PAM

(Checks her iPad)

He was invited because he does these crazy science experiment videos, I guess.

PAM shows MARINA a video where ROB was holding a beaker and it exploded.

MARINA

An athlete and a geek. I guess he's not so boring after all.

ROB meets MARINA's eye across the room.

MARINA (CONT'D)

(To herself)

Not boring at all.

MARINA smiles at ROB seductively. She sizes his physique with her eyes.

PAM notices and pulls MARINA to another booth to snap her out of her flirtatious moment.

MARINA gives PAM an "I'M-NOT-DOING-ANYTHING"-LOOK. PAM's eyes widened as if saying "DON'T."

MARINA rolls her eyes in resignation and proceeds to check the booth with a diorama of miniature dome shelters by the beach. Two students stand with anticipation.

MARINA (CONT'D)

(To the students)

This is an interesting concept. Dome structures?

STUDENT 1

Yes, ma'am. Every year hurricanes destroy homes so we came up with cost-effective structural solution to help protect homes and help save lives too.

STUDENT 2

And since we can't stop the ever changing weather and climate, we thought that us humans should be the ones to adjust to nature.

MARINA studies it closely.

MARINA

Aerodynamics.

(impressed)

So the airflow circumvents around it without ever damaging walls or roofs. It won't blow away roofs or knock down walls.

STUDENT 1

It's also safe against earthquakes since unlike conventional buildings, the domes don't have any connecting parts--

MARINA

--So it won't easily collapse. I'm partial to your project. As a civil engineering graduate, I love the concept. These dome structures are what's needed especially in disaster prone areas.

The two students high five each other.

ROB winks at MARINA. MARINA raises an eyebrow as if saying "come hither."

ROB walks over to MARINA and about to introduce himself when a group of vloggers spotted MARINA and started pointing at her.

One of the vloggers, a popular gay YouTuber, KIZZO, flamboyant & gregarious, 20s, is doing a live video.

KIZZO

(Waves at her from a )

Marina Vaughn Diaz! OH MY GODDESS!  
It's really her!

KIZZO ran to her, screaming with delight. Other vloggers and students surround them.

MARINA  
(Whispers to Pam)  
Who is this?

PAM  
That's Kizzo. He's the one who spoofed your Q&A which garnered 7.2 million views sa YouTube.

KIZZO  
(Taking a video on his cellphone with a selfie stick)  
OH MY GODDESS MY KIZZES! I'm here right in front of the one and only goddess of my heart!  
(To Marina)  
Marina, can you please say hi to my followers?

MARINA nods and smiles at KIZZO.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
May I introduce the woman who needs no introducing: Miss Marina Vaughn Diiiiiaazzz!

KIZZO pans the camera to show MARINA beside her.

MARINA  
Hi to all Kizzo's viewers. Or should I say, Kizzo's Kizzes? I hope you enjoy watching his videos. I'm such a fan too.  
(TO Kizzo)  
I loved the spoof you made, you're so funny.

KIZZO  
(To his camera)  
Marina saw my video! I can't believe she saw it!  
(composing himself)  
Okay, now I'll be serious since we're at the science fair. Marina, was Science your favorite subject when you were in school?



MARINA

Science AND Math or else I wouldn't take civil engineering if I didn't like them.

KIZZO

What was your first project as an engineer?

MARINA

Well, I don't have one yet since I'm not technically licensed.

ROB cocks his eyebrow, clearly impressed. MARINA made a move towards him, MARINA and ROB lock eyes.

MARINA (CONT'D)

(Gestures to Rob)

But I heard Mr. ROB LAMBERT here is a fan of science experiments. Maybe you'd like to ask him what was his favorite subject.

KIZZO's pans his camera to ROB.

ROB

I do like experimenting. A lot.

MARINA subtly gestures "LET'S-GET-OUT-OF-HERE" with her head to ROB.

ROB (CONT'D)

(To Kizzo)

And speaking of science experiments, I'd better go check these entries. There's a lot of promising young talents out here that I'm just dying to see.

MARINA

(to Kizzo)

Yeah, me too. We'd better get going.

KIZZO

Of course, my pleasure having you both on my live feed. Thank you for your time Rob Lambert and of course to Marina Vaughn Diaz.

KIZZO waves goodbye at them and starts filming the booths. MARINA and ROB stare knowingly at each other.

MARINA

(To Pam)

Pam, what time is the awards ceremony?

PAM

(Looks down on iPad)

Well, there's half an hour before they announce the winners. I also revised the draft I made for your speech later. I gave emphasis on the importance of online resources and how it can help students in their research. I think it should be fine. Is there anything else you'd like me to add, Marina?

(Looks to up, confused.

Looks around.)

Marina?

MARINA is gone.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - SHOWER STALL - DAY

MARINA and ROB torridly kissing in the shower stall. Hurriedly tries removes each other's clothing. ROB hikes up MARINA'S skirt. They try to have sex standing up against the shower wall.

MARINA

You've... got... five minutes... Yes...  
Uhh... Yes...

ROB

You're... gonna... want... five more...

They grunt and moan.

Locker room door opens but they're oblivious. It's KIZZO with his LIVE FEED. He's covered in harmless chemical. He faces the bathroom sink.

KIZZO

(To viewers on camera)

--Look what I've gotten myself into, my Kizzes. I didn't know it was going to explode when I pushed that button. Now, look, my hair and Outfit of the Day is ruined! Oh well, let's always stay positive and wash this off.

Opens the faucet but no water comes out.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
 No water? My day is just getting  
 better. Let's try the shower then.

Walks to the stall.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
 Come with me and wash, wash this  
 all awaaaay—

KIZZO opens the stall. MARINA and ROB caught in a compromising position. Live feed is still on. KIZZO is in shock. ROB is speechless trying to pull up his jogging pants. MARINA covers her upper body. A few seconds pass.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
 (Barely whispers)  
 Oh. My. Goddess...

MARINA  
 (To camera)  
 It's a PRAAANK!

The phone drops on the floor tiles as the camera rolls, shooting their feet.

INT. BOARDROOM OFFICE OF QOTE - DAY

A twelve-seater long table in the middle of the office. EMMA FAUSTINO, 50s, Anna Wintour-vibe, the president of QOTE, sits at the head. QUENTIN QUINCE, 50s, Michael Kors-vibe, gown designer, sits at the right of EMMA, and KIMBERLY OLIVARES, 40s, pageant director, sits at the left.

The three of them are in utter disbelief and disappointment looking over at newspapers and a laptop. A STAFF knocks on the door. The three of them look up.

STAFF  
 (Opens the door)  
 Miss Emma, Miss Marina Vaughn Diaz  
 is here.

EMMA  
 Let her in.

STAFF nods at MARINA and lets her in. Door closes behind MARINA. MARINA stands there and about to take a seat at the end when EMMA speaks—

EMMA (CONT'D)

No need for you to sit down,  
Marina. This will be a short  
meeting. A VERY short meeting.

MARINA

Miss Emma, I can explain—

EMMA

(Puts her hand up)

I'm going to stop you right there.  
Listen to me very carefully. I  
don't want to hear anything else  
from you. Marina Vaughn Diaz, you  
are dethroned as the reigning Miss  
Beautiful Planet—

MARINA

Miss Emma, no. It was just a joke.  
I swear! It was just a prank! I-I-I  
can clear this up with the press.  
Don't dethrone me. Please.

EMMA

I don't care if it was real or not.  
I know you're a VERY smart girl,  
but I don't know how you could be  
so plain stupid, Marina. My  
reputation, Miss Beautiful Planet's  
reputation is ruined because of  
you.

QUENTIN

You broke our hearts, my darling  
Marina. I'm sorry but I cannot let  
you wear my gown either. QUENTIN  
QUINCE Designs cannot be associated  
with a cheap, sex-crazed dethroned  
beauty queen. And at some cheap  
locker room? How low can you go? I  
have ordered my team to pull out  
your upcoming catalogue from our  
website. We are officially dropping  
you as one of our ambassadors. And  
we are distancing ourselves from  
Miss Beautiful Planet--

EMMA

Quentin, are you sure? Maybe we  
should discuss this in the next  
contract signing--

QUENTIN

--It is what it is, Emma darling. That's how our business goes. I'm sure you understand my stance on this very well. Reputation is everything.

Stands and looks at Marina eye to eye.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)

You had everything, everything a girl could have asked for and more. Tsk, tsk, tsk. Marina Vaughn Diaz in a Quentin Quince gown would have gone down as one of the most beautiful farewell walks in beauty pageant history. Now, it's never going to happen. Ever.

QUENTIN leaves.

MARINA

I'm... I'm sorry. Miss Emma...

EMMA

I want your crown in my office by the end of the day. You are hereby stripped of your duties as the reigning queen of Miss Beautiful Planet and you shall no longer have your Farewell Walk at the pageant night. Now, if you excuse me, I have some damage control to attend to.

EMMA stands and leaves.

MARINA

Kimberly? Please?

KIMBERLY

My hands are tied, Marina. In my two decades of directing beauty pageants, this is by far the worst scandal we have ever encountered. And because of you, sponsors are going to pull out, investors... we'll be out of our jobs pretty soon. What the hell were you thinking?

MARINA

I made a mistake. But what can I do, Kimberly? Is her decision to dethrone me final?

KIMBERLY

I'm afraid so.  
(shakes head)  
This is such a disaster, Marina.  
Disaster!

MARINA

I know it's a disaster--  
(whispers)  
Disaster... Wait. I think I may have a way to earn back my crown!

KIMBERLY

Earn back your crown? What are you talking about?

MARINA

Just give me one month to do it.

KIMBERLY

But that's the pageant night. How are you going to earn back your crown? MARINA!

MARINA leaves the room and gets her phone to call.

MARINA

Pam, did you call Principal Becky? Good, don't call her yet. And set me up a meeting with that vlogger Kizzo... Also, call Jacob's office, I need to speak with him tonight. I may have a plan... And it just might work...

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

MARINA sitting alone on a table, waiting for JACOB. People around her whispers and takes pic. Some snickers and points at her. She ignores them. She sees JACOB and waves. JACOB sits across her.

JACOB

(Takes out his phone and reads from it)

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)  
 "BEAUTY QUEEN'S SEX PRANK GONE  
 VIRAL!" "SENATOR LIM'S GF, CAUGHT  
 IN THE ACT OR WAS IT REALLY A  
 PRANK?" "QUEEN MARINA SCREWS WITH  
 ROOKIE PLAYER IN A LOCKER"

MARINA  
 Babe... Jacob, it was just a silly  
 publicity stunt... I shouldn't have  
 done it. It already cost me my  
 crown-

JACOB  
 (acidly)  
 --Your crown? Your crown? How about  
 MY reputation as an elected public  
 official? How about OUR  
 relationship? You made me a  
 laughing stock! Marina, you are the  
 most selfish, egotistical and  
 narcissistic woman that I have ever  
 met in my entire life.

MARINA  
 Maybe, but you can't say that you  
 haven't profited from it. You've  
 been riding my coattails. Jacob,  
 without me-

JACOB  
 --Without you, what? YOU think  
 you're the only reason my polls are  
 up? My God, woman. You and your  
 incredulous belief that the world  
 revolves around you is beyond me.

MARINA  
 Jacob... Babe... We can work this  
 out. I'll straighten this mess and  
 you'll see, we'll just laugh about  
 this stupid thing someday-

JACOB  
 --And to think I was going to  
 propose to you?!

Takes out a ring box and shows her the ring.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
 Man, I thank my lucky stars I  
 dodged a bullet right there.

MARINA

You were gonna propose? Babe,  
that's so sweet--

JACOB shut the box and puts it back in his pocket.

JACOB

Not anymore--

MARINA

Babe. Listen, we both need each  
other right now more than anything.  
(she reaches for his hand)  
Work with me on this. I have this  
plan that will make everything  
better, even for you--

JACOB

You know I've heard rumors of you  
and your secret trysts. I just  
chose to ignore them for you. For  
us. Now, I'm not so sure--

Marina is about to say something but he held up his hand to  
stop her.

JACOB (CONT'D)

It's no secret that I have  
aspirations to run for higher  
office, but I can't have a slut  
like you as my First Lady. Goodbye,  
Marina.

Stands and leaves the restaurant.

MARINA

Jacob... Please.

Her phone rings.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Hello? Pam? Good, tell her we'll be  
there soon.

EXT: FERRY PIER - DAY

Standing by the EXIT of the port are MARINA, PAM and KIZZO  
waiting with luggage by their feet.

People stare at them because they "stand-out" of the crowd,  
especially KIZZO in his colorful attire.



KIZZO

Marina, do I really need to be here in this... land of nowhere? Does internet even exist here?

MARINA

If you didn't do a Live Feed, we all wouldn't be here today.

KIZZO

(Mumbles to self)

If you didn't screw Rob Lambert we wouldn't be here.

MARINA

What's that?

KIZZO

I said if you didn't screw Rob Lambert, then I wouldn't have caught you doing it in the locker room.

MARINA

And if I wasn't quick on my feet and shouted "*IT'S A PRANK*" you would have been demonetized and canceled for recording a live sex act.

KIZZO

Okay fine. So it's true what they say, don't meet your idols. So what do you want me to do?

MARINA

Well, the price I have to pay for keeping your mouth shut is that I'm going to let you follow me around, giving you prime content in your stupid vlogs.

KIZZO

My vlogs are not stupid--

MARINA

I got dethroned, and my senator boyfriend, no-- my would-be fiancé broke up with me because of you. So, until I get my crown and my engagement ring back, we'll call it even. Pam, explain to Kizzo what he's supposed to do.

MARINA pops a gum in her mouth and starts chewing.

PAM  
 (to Kizzo)  
 Simple. Just do daily vlogs of  
 Marina's school construction  
 activity. You do the videos and I  
 do the post updates. Like this,  
 Marina?

MARINA poses, PAM takes a pic of Marina against the backdrop  
 of the port and types away.

PAM (CONT'D)  
 "Welcome to Sta. Clara. Time to  
 build build build!" Post. That's  
 it. We just need to make her look  
 as if she cares about this project.

An 8-seater golf cart approaches, honking loudly. BECKY, 50s,  
 dignified looking modest woman, gets out of the passenger  
 side. DENNIS, late 30s, energetic gets out of the driver  
 seat; ADORA, 16, and GLORIA 30s, pregnant wife of DENNIS, get  
 out of the back of the golf cart.

BECKY  
 Marina! You're finally here!

BECKY hugs MARINA excitedly.

MARINA  
 I promised you that I'd help fund  
 your project, didn't I?

PAM coughs, MARINA widened her eyes at her.

MARINA (CONT'D)  
 This is my assistant Pam, and  
 Kizzo, my... vlogger friend.

BECKY  
 (Gestures to her kids)  
 Remember Dennis? My eldest? That's  
 his wife Gloria. I'm gonna be a  
 grandma! And here's my beautiful  
 Adora.

ADORA  
 (shyly)  
 Mom...

BECKY  
 I can't believe you're actually  
 here.

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

None of my coworkers believed me when I said you're funding the project. And you're just in time for our very own MUSE OF THE LAKES.

KIZZO

What's MUSE OF THE LAKES? I never heard of it.

BECKY

(To Kizzo)

Oh, that's just our town's teen beauty pageant.

(To Marina)

Maybe you can give Adora some tips. She's one of the candidates.

MARINA sizes up Adora's meek physique judgmentally.

MARINA

Becky, I'll be very busy with the construction. But I bet your daughter will do just fine. She doesn't need me.

BECKY

Oh, we were really looking forward to it but I understand if you can't. Anyways, maybe when she joins Miss Beautiful Planet then?

ADORA

Mom!

BECKY

Alright, alright, I'm just teasing sweetheart. Shall we head to the site now?

BECKY returns to the passenger side. DENNIS starts the engine. Everyone aboard the golf cart.

MARINA

(To Kizzo, threateningly)

Start. Recording. Now.

KIZZO begrudgingly takes his selfie stick and camera and starts to record. Face changes to jolly in seconds.

KIZZO

Hello Kizzes! It's your favorite, KIZZO! Missed me yet? Guess where I am?

(MORE)

KIZZO (CONT'D)

I'm in this little town called Santa Clara with my new BFF, Marina Vaughn Diaz. And we promise, no more stupid pranks, isn't that right, *bestie*?

MARINA with uber fake enthusiasm puts her hands on Kizzo's shoulders as if they're buddies.

MARINA

That's right. Hello Kizzes! Welcome to Sta. Clara! Join me and Kizzo because we're off to a great adventure!

EXT. GOLF CART ON THE ROAD - DAY - MOVING

Golf cart is moving along the scenic road. Very rural. KIZZO peeks out to capture the drive with his camera.

The golf cart slows to a stop in front of an empty lot.

A truck with sacks of cement and steel is parked near the lot. Hot workers unload the sacks and steel.

BECKY (V.O.)

We're at the site. The materials arrived just in time.

EXT: OPEN SHED - DAY - CONTINUOUS

An open shed stand nearby with a bench and table where elderly ENGR. RICK, 70s, shabby, is instructing a couple of men about the BLUEPRINT.

BECKY approaches ENGR. RICK with MARINA behind. KIZZO follows MARINA and takes a video of her meeting with ENGR. RICK.

PAM, DENNIS, GLORIA and ADORA are far off surveying the site.

BECKY

Engr. Rick, Marina Vaughn Diaz. She's the sponsor and consultant for the build.

ENGR. RICK

Thank you for all your help, Engr. Diaz.

MARINA

Oh, I'm not technically an engineer yet. Just call me Marina.

ENGR. RICK

But looking at this blueprint you sent, I don't doubt you'll be one anytime soon. I like it. Anti-risk and disaster agencies should adopt these designs to minimize environmental damages. Come, I'll show you where we're putting the foundation.

He walks on and they follow him across the lot to the truck where a half a dozen workers were unloading sacks of cement on their shoulders and piling them in a corner.

MARINA

I see there are more workers than I have accounted for. I don't think I factored in the budget for the added labor--

ENGR. RICK

Oh, you don't have worry about that. Those men unloading the materials are missionary volunteers.

MARINA

Missionary volunteers?

ENGR. RICK

That's right. The Missionaries of the Pious Ministry. They come to small rural areas to provide manpower and help build schools, health centers, or whatever's needed by the community. We got lucky.

KIZZO

(Whispers)

OH. MY. GODDESS...

MARINA follows with her eyes where KIZZO points his camera towards.

In slow motion, KIZZO pans his camera towards the missionary workers capturing IVAN, a hot and ruggedly handsome man, early 30s, dirty and sweaty, dusty khaki jeans and white tank top, sinewy muscles ripples as his biceps and chest move as he carries the sack on his shoulder and puts it down.

Dust settles around him. He takes off his hard hat and brushes his sweaty hair off his face with his fingers. He licks his lips and bites his lower lip.

His eyes meet MARINA'S, her heart skips (AUDIBLE HEARTBEAT SOUND) His face is expressionless.

She keeps walking when a missionary, JULIUS, 20s, standing on top of the truck bed throws a sack to another LABORER below, hitting MARINA on the head. She falls to the ground.

MARINA'S POV:

She only sees shadows and blurred faces. Hears KIZZO and PAM in slow-mo shouting her name. Last image before she closes her eyes is IVAN'S, trying to keep her awake.

INT. BECKY'S BUNGALOW HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARINA lies in sofa, her face red and bruised where the sack had hit her earlier. She winces and slowly wakes up. PAM, KIZZO and BECKY surround her. PAM helps MARINA sit up. BECKY offers water, MARINA takes a sip.

MARINA

Please tell me nothing happened to my face.

KIZZO takes a picture of her face and shows to MARINA.

MARINA (CONT'D)

(Looks at the phone)

Oh no, oh no, oh no... My face! It's ruined!

BECKY

It is swollen and bruised. I'm sorry Marina--

MARINA

Who's the jerk that did this?  
(Points to her face)

PAM

It was an accident.

MARINA gets up abruptly. She walks to the door.

PAM (CONT'D)

Marina you need to lie down--

MARINA rubs her head, wincing in pain. She swings the door open and two men are standing there, about to knock IVAN, and another missionary, JULIUS, carrying a small basket of fruits.

IVAN'S good looks takes her aback. (He is wearing a WOODEN CROSS PENDANT tied to a black string around his neck\*)

PAM, KIZZO and BECKY come out of the room and stand behind her. KIZZO is obviously giddy, trying to pinch PAM to hide his excitement. IVAN and JULIUS step over the threshold and stand by the door.

IVAN

(Serious and polite)

Hi, we're the missionaries working at the site this morning. We just wanted to see how you're doing. I'm Brother Ivan and this is Brother Julius.

JULIUS

I'm the one who hit you with the sack. I'm truly sorry about that. I feel terrible. We brought you fruits--

JULIUS hands MARINA the basket but she doesn't take it. MARINA folds her arms and BECKY steps in and takes the basket.

BECKY

Thank you for the fruits Brothers. Why don't you come in and I'll put on some tea.

MARINA

(To Julius)

Fruits? What am I going to do with them? Can they make these bruises go away?

BECKY

Marina, they came here to apologize--

MARINA

(To Julius)

You know how much damage you've cost me?

IVAN suddenly cups MARINA'S face, assessing it like a doctor. MARINA is about to protest when he moves her face gently to see the scratches and swelling. She holds her breath.

IVAN

You have a minor bump, some mild abrasion. The swelling will go down in a day or two.

(MORE)

IVAN (CONT'D)  
 Just rest and put some ice on it.  
 Everything should be fine.

MARINA swats his hand from her face.

MARINA  
 Don't you know who I am? I am  
 Marina Vaughn Diaz, the reigning  
 Miss Beautiful Planet. Do you know  
 how much I get paid for this face  
 alone? I have endorsements and  
 appearances lined up because of  
 this face.

Intense pause.

IVAN  
 (Sighs)  
 Charm is deceitful and beauty is  
 vain, but a woman who fears the  
 LORD, she shall be praised.

MARINA  
 What did you just say?

IVAN  
 Proverbs 31:30.  
 (To Becky)  
 Thank you Becky. We'll go ahead.

He looks at Marina icily.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
 I guess we'll just see you at the  
 site when you feel better. Once  
 again, we apologize. God bless you.

IVAN leaves first, JULIUS nods awkwardly at everyone,  
 catching PAM's eye for a fleeting moment, smiles, then  
 follows IVAN.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA, indignant, steps out of the threshold, watching them  
 walk away with arms crossed. PAM and KIZZO follows her to  
 watch the men too.

KIZZO  
 (To Pam)  
 They shouldn't make missionaries  
 this hot.



PAM  
I agree. Are they even allowed to date?

MARINA  
(Turns to Pam and Kizzo)  
Date? Ew. Please.

KIZZO  
(Rolls eyes and mumbles)  
As if she didn't find that one hot.

PAM and KIZZO enter the house. MARINA sees IVAN look back at her with a belittling expression from afar. She huffs and storms inside, slamming the door shut.

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

A small open tent is erected near the sheds with a sixteen monobloc chairs laid out in a circle. Some of the missionaries are seated there, waiting for the others to come.

MARINA, wearing sunglasses, fully made up wearing bright red lipstick, PAM, KIZZO.

ENGR. RICK stands from a chair and approaches them.

MARINA  
Engr. Rick, what's all of this?  
(Gestures to the tent)  
Why are you all sitting down?  
Aren't they suppose to start mixing the cement?

ENGR. RICK  
Ah, this is one of the missionaries' daily morning activities. Bible reading & reflection before working. Come, let's find you a seat.

MARINA  
Bible reading & reflection?

Pulls him to the side out of earshot.

MARINA (CONT'D)  
Well, I'm not particularly the religious type and I don't really believe in all of this... you know, God stuff. So I don't think I should be participating.

ENGR. RICK

(Whispers)

That's too bad because that's umm.. that's the missionaries' condition for volunteering with the build. They work for free in exchange for the community's participation. Don't worry, it's just for a few minutes. All you have to do is sit and listen to Brother Ivan--

MARINA

Him?! No no no no no... I'm not gonna do it. No.

ENGR. RICK

Listen, if you don't, they will pull out of the project. We need their manpower to finish the school in time. You just need to sit there and that's it.

MARINA sees KIZZO recording a video of the missionaries, they are smiling and waving at the camera. KIZZO looks like he's having fun interacting with them. MARINA glares at KIZZO who suddenly stops, feigning embarrassment.

MARINA

(Scoffs sarcastically)

Do I have any other choice?

ENGR. RICK gestures to the empty chairs, MARINA, PAM & KIZZO sit together with MARINA in between them.

MARINA huffs as she sees IVAN take a seat directly across her with a Bible in his hand. He looks at her and shakes his head imperceptibly.

IVAN

(Opens the Bible)

Good morning to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Missionaries greet "Good Morning.."

PAM and JULIUS' eyes meet and bashfully nod and smile at each other.

KIZZO

(Waves giddily)

Good morning Brother Ivan!

MARINA slightly kicks KIZZO. KIZZO pouts.

IVAN

Our Bible reflection this morning  
will come from Philippians 2:3-4  
***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition  
or vain conceit.***

MARINA opens a gum wrapper.

IVAN (CONT'D)

***Rather, in humility value others  
above yourselves, not looking to  
your own interests but each of you  
to the interests of the others."***

He closes the Bible and eyes MARINA who starts chewing as if  
bored.

IVAN (CONT'D)

In this day and age, many succumb  
to worldliness and to selfishness,  
because of their desires and  
ambitions. But I have a question to  
you all, is it a bad thing to be  
ambitious? To dream of living in a  
big house, have a good career, a  
growing business? Can we call that  
selfishness when the person's only  
goal is to live a comfortable life?

JULIUS

Having an ambition isn't selfish.  
As long as we don't step on  
anyone's toes along the way and we  
work with earnest honesty.

PAM watches him admiringly.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

But it is the Lord's teaching to  
live a humble and simple life. To  
help those in need and to offer up  
our hearts to Him in everything  
that we do.

PAM smiles shyly at JULIUS and he smiles back. MARINA nudges  
PAM with her knee.

KIZZO

(Raises her hand)

Ah, Bro. Ivan, my name is Kizzo.  
I'm a vlogger and I have like 1.2  
million followers.

(MORE)

KIZZO (CONT'D)

Do you consider me as a worldly person since I don't live that simple life like you guys do?

IVAN

If you're using your influence to do good, and you help many people with their struggles, who am I to judge how you live your life? Sometimes, we are used as instruments by the Lord to help those who may benefit from our talents.

KIZZO

Just like Marina too--

Bumps shoulders with MARINA with knowing looks.

KIZZO (CONT'D)

Even though she's busy with her schedule, she dedicating her time to help build this school for the community of Santa Clara. Not only is she generous, but she's also hands on. A true woman of substance.

MARINA fakes a smile at KIZZO. People clap and she removes her sunglasses and smiles forcibly at them. IVAN forcibly smiles along.

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Missionaries work to mix cement; some take steel and lay it down. MARINA is busy plotting the circular foundation with ENGR. RICK.

KIZZO vlogs away, PAM is on the phone.

JULIUS eyes PAM as he walks with rods of steel, he bumps into someone else.

PAM sees him and giggles at JULIUS's gaffe.

MARINA sees the encounter and glares at PAM who looks away from JULIUS.

PAM

(Hangs up phone)

So that was the supplier. We're good on the materials.

MARINA

Pam. Don't do that again.

PAM

Ha? Do what--

MARINA

--Flirting with that missionary with your oh-so-innocent smile.

PAM

I'm not flirt--

MARINA

Did you try calling the Senator again?

PAM

(Flustered)

I called his cell but he doesn't answer my calls so I called his office and spoke to his secretary...

MARINA

And? Spit it out, Pam.

PAM

She said to not call him again. As per his instructions--

MARINA

(Sighs)

Jacob is smart. He wouldn't be where he is today if he wasn't. And he knows very well that *I* am his secret weapon, his trump card, his... pathway to a Presidential victory. Once I regain my crown, he'll come crawling back. You'll see.

PAM

I really hope you two get back together.

MARINA

Of course, we will. And I will be the next First Lady. We just need to get over this tiny hiccup. He needs to see that I'm suited to be the perfect bride.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

Class, elegance, beauty and brains,  
plus this humanitarian  
philanthropical cause under my  
belt? And what do you get Pam? You  
get the Perfect One.

MARINA smiles slyly. PAM nods.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Where's Kizzo? We need to post more  
activities on my feed. Take a pic  
of me mixing cement over there.  
KIZZO!

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA mixes cement using a shovel, PAM takes a candid photo  
and posts on MARINA'S IG. KIZZO starts vlogging around  
MARINA.

KIZZO

(To camera)

--And you see my kizzes? It's  
Marina herself who's doing it. A  
woman empowered.

(To Marina)

Marina, can you let the viewers  
know what exactly you're doing now?

MARINA

(Sweetly)

Oh, this is for pouring in the  
foundation. We're beginning to  
fortify the base so we can begin  
the structure soon. It's tough to  
do this but you know, anything for  
the kids.

KIZZO

Everyone is excited to see what the  
finished building will look like.  
(Stops recording)

MARINA

(Drops shovel)

Did you capture what I was doing  
from the beginning?

KIZZO

I did. How about some pics with the  
volunteers?

MARINA shrugs and follows KIZZO. IVAN sees this and huffs internally.

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

IVAN and the missionaries are seated in the circle under the tent, staring at the empty chairs, waiting for MARINA et al.

JULIUS

Brother Ivan, I can go see if they are still at Becky's.

IVAN

(Looks at his watch)  
It's been an hour. If they're not here in five minutes, we'll leave-

KIZZO

(Walks toward the circle and sits in a hurry)  
We're here!!! So sorry we're late! There was an electrical emergency.

IVAN

Is everyone alright?

KIZZO

Yes. Marina's hair was wet and we couldn't get her hair dryer to work so we went to the salon down the street but they open late so-

MARINA

(Sits down. Hair is nicely blow dried)  
Kizzo. Enough.  
(To Ivan)  
Let's start that reading. We're wasting daylight. There's a lot to be done.

Marina flips her hair, checking the ends if its dry enough. PAM sits beside her. JULIUS waves but PAM ignores him. IVAN frowns and looks at MARINA intensely.

IVAN

Miss Diaz, you're the ones who need us for this project. And we do not seek for anything in return except for your time. Your time to hear the teachings of Christ before we start any of work.

(MORE)

IVAN (CONT'D)

This was the condition our missionary brothers made with the community of Santa Clara.

MARINA

Fine. My bad. It won't happen again. We can't wait to listen to your readings, okay?

IVAN

(Shows irk and opens the Bible and reads)  
According to Romans 12:2 ***"Do not be conformed to this world..."***

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA stacks steel in a corner. PAM takes MARINA'S pic and posts on IG, KIZZO vlogs away.

IVAN is helping his men; MARINA keeps posing for pics. MARINA and IVAN lock eyes with cold indifference.

IVAN (V.O. CONT'D)

***--But be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect...***

INT. BECKY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARINA, PAM and KIZZO are sitting on the sofa on their gadgets.

MARINA

Pam, any updates on the senator?

PAM

(shrugs)  
Sorry. His secretary is still cockblocking me.

KIZZO

Here's an idea, why don't you just move on from him? You are Marina Vaughn Diaz after all. Rich, powerful men will line up to shower you with everything you desire.



MARINA

Do I look like I want to waste my time on meaningless affairs? I can get anything I want and I don't need someone to do that for me.

KIZZO

I don't understand you. Why do you want to get back with Jacob? You're not even in love with him.

MARINA

(To Pam)

Am I not in love with Jacob?

PAM

I... I think you're more in love with the idea of being a First Lady.

MARINA is about to say something and she realizes that it may be so.

PAM (CONT'D)

But you two look good together, a picture of a perfect power couple. Like JFK and Jackie Kennedy.

KIZZO

Jackie Kennedy? No, no, no, no, no. She's a Marilyn, not a Jackie.

PAM

Marina's a Jackie. Graceful, elegant, and smart.

KIZZO

She's a Marilyn. Sultry, seductive, oozing with sex appeal. She even has a sex scandal... I mean a sex scandal *PRANK*.

PAM

Jaqueline. Lee. Kennedy. Onassis.

KIZZO

Norma. Jeane. Mortenson., a.k.a. Hollywood's Blonde Bombshell; a.k.a. The one, the only... Marilyn Monroe.

MARINA

Well, to settle this useless debate, I'm neither.

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

I am Marina Vaughn Diaz. I am my own woman and I make my own mark in this world.

KIZZO

There you go!!! A true queen indeed!

MARINA

Yeah, a queen who has to convince her king that she is the perfect First Lady.

KIZZO

But shouldn't the reason you get back together is because you love him?

MARINA

Please. I wouldn't work this hard to get back my engagement ring if I don't love that idiot, right?

PAM and KIZZO just look at each other knowingly.

EXT. - CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

IVAN sits in the circle with a Bible and opens it.

IVAN

***"Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor..."***

IVAN looks at MARINA disapprovingly.

MARINA holds her compact mirror, checking her lipstick. Not listening to IVAN. MARINA smiles and pouts her lips at her reflection and shuts the compact.

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

***I CAST you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.***

IVAN'S face is stark.

EXT. - CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

IVAN sits in the circle with a Bible and opens it. MARINA wearing a sexy tank top adjusts her bra straps.

IVAN (O.S.)  
*For all that is in the world—the  
 desires of the FLESH and the  
 desires of the eyes...*

IVAN pauses a bit and suddenly catches himself staring at Marina's revealing cleavage and quickly looks down in embarrassment. He clears his throat. MARINA smirks impishly.

IVAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*...and pride of life—is not from the  
 Father but is from the world."*

EXT. - CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

IVAN sits in the circle with a Bible and opens it.

IVAN  
*"Do not desire her beauty in your  
 heart..."*

MARINA applies mascara to her lashes and bats them while KIZZO holds up a compact mirror.

IVAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*...and do not let her capture you  
 with her eyelashes."*

MARINA caps her mascara, looks at IVAN dead in the eyes.

MARINA  
 (scoffs)  
 Seriously?

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

MARINA is seen squatting down cementing some hollow block, PAM sprays MARINA'S face with water spray to make her look sweaty and takes a pic from her phone.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*"For we hear that some among you  
 walk in idleness, not busy at work,  
 but busybodies."*

MARINA stands to check the pic and resumes the same squatting position over the hollow blocks, PAM sprays more on her face and takes a pic again.

MARINA stands to check the pic and gives PAM a thumbs up.

IVAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
*Now such persons we command and  
 encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ  
 to do their work quietly and to  
 earn their own living."*

PAM posts the pic on social media with caption: "Queen hard @ work."

MARINA walks away from the hollow blocks, dusting herself off and wiping the fake sweat off her face, leaving the tools on the ground.

EXT: CONSTRUCTION SITE - OPEN SHED - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA is sitting on one of the monobloc chairs with KIZZO, a table of refreshments is laid before them. MARINA takes a water bottle and drinks from it.

KIZZO  
 --So tomorrow what we can do is a  
 bond-session with the workers, like  
 a mini-interview.

MARINA  
 Not a bad idea. Just give me a  
 short list of questions to ask. And  
 choose the ones who doesn't seem  
 much of a talker. I don't want them  
 to drone on and on on the vlog.  
 Maybe just pick two people. Max.

KIZZO nods.

IVAN is standing behind the shed and overhears her, approaches.

IVAN  
 (To Marina)  
 Can I talk to you? In private?

KIZZO  
 I'll go check who's up for that  
 interview tomorrow.

KIZZO makes funny face and leaves.

It's just MARINA and IVAN alone in the open shed.

IVAN remains standing, he looks out to his men at work for a few moments.

MARINA

Well? I don't have all day.

IVAN

(Faces her, serious)

Miss Diaz-

MARINA

Just call me Marina.

IVAN

Marina... The Missionaries of the Pious Ministries are glad to help you with your project, for free. I think it's for a great cause.

MARINA

Thanks. I thought so too-

IVAN

But you see, everyday when I open the Bible, I feel like the readings fall on deaf ears.

MARINA

I sit here day by day. What more do you want?

IVAN

But do you understand it?

MARINA

(Stands from chair and face him squarely)

Just to be clear? I'm not a believer. I don't think God even exists. But hey, you do you, and I do me. Let's just coexist, okay?

IVAN

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

MARINA

I don't care for your Biblical lectures, Ivan. And don't think that I don't know that it's me you target with your "readings".

IVAN

Last chance. I'm going to give you on last chance to do something genuinely good--

MARINA

Uhm, hello? I'm building a school,  
out of my own pockets-

IVAN

--Which you are *using* to gain back  
your crown. I know what you're up  
to, Marina. This project is your  
way back to your entitled  
lifestyle. Tell me I'm wrong.

MARINA is defeated. She looks away.

IVAN (CONT'D)

We are here to share the Lord's  
teachings. That was our condition  
with the community, not this show &  
tell act that you're trying to pull  
off.

MARINA

Why do you want me to do then?

IVAN smiles. Just in time.

ADORA approaches them awkwardly. Her hair is disarranged, her  
clothes plain. She stumbles a bit and drops one of the  
outdated, low-heels shoes in her hands. She picks it up and  
brushes the dirt off.

MARINA eyes the shoes with disgust.

IVAN

I want you to help Adora prepare  
for her competition with Muse of  
the Lakes.

MARINA

And if I say no to your little  
annoying request?

IVAN

We walk away from your project.

MARINA

You can't do that!

IVAN

My conscience cannot rest knowing  
that I led my brothers to work for  
a vain and conceited woman like  
you, but maybe there's a little bit  
of kindness left in your icy heart,  
who knows. So what is it, Marina?

MARINA  
 (Obviously annoyed)  
 For a missionary you sound like a  
 blackmailer? Were you a criminal  
 before you found Christ?

IVAN  
 (laughs)  
 Will you help Adora then?

MARINA sizes ADORA's looks from head to foot.

MARINA  
 I cannot promise that she'll win  
 the crown but you better finish  
 that school in time.

MARINA huffs and leaves. After a few steps she looks back at  
 ADORA.

MARINA (CONT'D)  
 Well? Aren't you coming with me?

ADORA smiles and rushes to MARINA. Ivan smiles. MARINA rolls  
 her eyes at him

INT. EMPTY BASKETBALL COURT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

PAM, KIZZO, and ADORA sit by the benches. ADORA removes her  
 slippers/shoes and tries on the old heels she is carrying.

KIZZO  
 What are those.

ADORA  
 Heels. These were my mom's.

ADORA stands and struts heavily, turns and struts back to the  
 benches.

ADORA (CONT'D)  
 It's a bit tight but I think this  
 should do.

PAM  
 Did you really want to join this  
 pageant?

ADORA  
 (Struts back and forth)  
 Not really.

(MORE)

ADORA (CONT'D)

Even though I'm a fan of Marina's,  
I never really thought of joining  
pageants. They're not really my  
thing.

KIZZO

What's your thing?

ADORA

Writing music. I wanna be a singer.

KIZZO

So why are you competing?

ADORA

The winner gets to have a full  
scholarship at Santa Clara College.  
I know it's not an Ivy League  
school or anything but at least  
it'll help my family out a lot.

PAM

That's amazing, I really hope you'd  
win this. And don't worry, Marina  
is a great at what she does, you'll  
learn a lot from her.

ADORA

I hope so. I'm more nervous with  
Marina training me than the actual  
pageant. She's pretty scary in  
person--

MARINA approaches them while carrying a paper bag.

MARINA

(To Adora)

I'm not even going to ask what  
you're wearing.

(Hands the bag)

If I'm going to train you, I will  
train you with the proper  
equipment. You're lucky, we're the  
same size.

ADORA opens the bag and takes out two pairs of heels. Her  
face beams with excitement. She wears one of them immediately  
and MARINA wears the other.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Pam, play my workout songs.

(To Adora)

(MORE)



MARINA (CONT'D)

You need to feel the energy while strutting. Every step you make has to have a purpose. Ready?

PAM takes out her phone and selects a music and blasts the volume up.

KIZZO

(whispers)

I can't believe we're witnessing *The Electric Walk*. Every step electrifies the stage!

Upbeat music plays while MARINA struts half of the court and goes back. Turns and poses. She does this a few times. She lets ADORA show her what she's got.

ADORA stumbles a few times and wobbles as she walks.

MARINA teaches ADORA the correct way to turn, pose and smile. KIZZO excitedly records this on her phone.

MARINA shows ADORA the playbacks from KIZZO'S videos as reference to correct her stance. They keep doing this over and over again.

Eventually, KIZZO and PAM also joins the practice, pretending to be candidates. They have fun.

INT. BECKY'S DINNER TABLE - NIGHT

In an eight-seater long table sits BECKY, MARINA, PAM, KIZZO, ADORA, DENNIS & pregnant GLORIA. They eat dinner and chatting casually about, passing food. Becky sits at the head.

On the right side are MARINA, PAM, KIZZO and ADORA, GLORIA and DENNIS on the left.

BECKY

(To Adora)

How was training today?

ADORA

My feet and face hurt. I can't believe smiling can numb your face so much. But Marina is such a natural, it's like nothing ever tires her.

BECKY

Marina's a perfectionist.

(To Marina)

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

Remember your coloring books? You used to rip off the pages whenever you color outside the border.

MARINA

You remember that?

BECKY

Of course. I was your nanny for five years. I used to pick up after your mess.

KIZZO

From a nanny to a school principal. You just rock, Becky.

BECKY

And now, a soon-to-be grandma. I'm excited to meet my grandson. I bet he'll be as handsome as my Dennis here.

DENNIS

Mom, you keep embarrassing me.

GLORIA

I agree with your mother. Our baby boy will be just as handsome as you, my love.

GLORIA looks at DENNIS sweetly. DENNIS kisses her on the cheek.

DENNIS

And the next baby will be a girl who'll be as bossy as you.

GLORIA hits him playfully in the arm.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

(laughing)

I'm kidding, I'm kidding. She'll be beautiful of course. And maybe we'll have a whole football team and Adora can watch them all for free.

ADORA

Hey! I only agreed to babysit this one.

BECKY

(teary)

I wish your father was still here to see this. May his soul rest in peace. He loved you all very much.

ADORA

It's alright, Mom. We know he's watching over us.

DENNIS

We're actually thinking of naming the baby after him...

BECKY

Oh, that's wonderful, son. He would like that very much.

MARINA falls silent as the group cheerily chatters away about the topic of family, baby, first time parents etc.

BECKY notices MARINA frowning slightly.

MARINA

Excuse me.

MARINA stands and leaves the table.

EXT: HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

MARINA is sitting by a bench as she breathes in the cool air of the night, contemplating, feeling a bit sad.

She takes out a piece of gum, looks at it wistfully then puts it down. She stands there for a moment when BECKY comes out of the house and sits beside her. They are quiet for a moment.

BECKY sees the unopened gum and picks it up.

BECKY

This was your favorite gum. I can't believe you still like them.

MARINA didn't respond.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Your mother went livid when she found a gum stuck on the bottom of her new Louis Vuitton purse.

MARINA snorted.

MARINA

I've been such a terrible daughter,  
my poor mother.

BECKY

You weren't so bad.

MARINA

I wasn't so good, either.

BECKY

I disagree. Remember when we were  
out in the park? I was watching  
sitting by the bench and you were  
playing by the swings? Some creep  
came up to me and wouldn't stop  
pestering me for my number? You  
jumped off the swing and kicked him  
in the 'nads.

MARINA

You were too nice. That's why that  
perv wouldn't let up. Also, I  
didn't want you to end up in the  
nightly news.

BECKY

It's more than that. You cared  
deeply, Marina. Too deep that  
you're afraid of getting hurt and  
you had to put up these walls  
around you. You didn't want to let  
anybody in to see the real you.

MARINA

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

BECKY

You know exactly what I'm talking  
about.

BECKY put up the gum up to MARINA's face.

MARINA

That's just... a piece of fucking  
gum.

MARINA burst into tears like a little girl. BECKY just holds  
her like a mother comforting a crying child.

BECKY

It's alright, child... It's  
alright.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

BRO. IVAN sits in the circle and opens the Bible.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA reads the headline of a fashion blog about her scandal from her phone. She reads the nasty comments and puts the phone away in her pocket.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*He does not deal with us according  
to our sins...*

PAM is seen calling the office of the senator on her phone, MARINA looks at PAM hopefully. PAM shakes her head. MARINA is crest-fallen and sighs.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*...nor repay us according to our  
iniquities.*

KIZZO is interviewing a couple of the MISSIONARIES. MARINA approaches them and shakes hands, smiling and nodding.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*For as high as the heavens are  
above the earth, so great is his  
steadfast love toward those who  
fear him...*

MARINA, PAM, KIZZO, ENGR. RICK, IVAN, & MISSIONARIES are seen relaxing and having snacks & beverage under the tent. They talk and laugh with each other. MARINA and her friends are starting to bond with the missionaries.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*...as far as the east is from the  
west, so far does he remove our  
transgressions from us.*

MARINA is with ENGR. RICK standing in front of the school with the blueprint wide open in her hands. MARINA becomes animated talking to ENGR. RICK. he nods and laughs at what she's saying.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*As a father shows compassion to his  
children, so the LORD shows  
compassion to those who fear him.*

MARINA tries to carry a heavy sack to pile on top of the truck when IVAN grabs the other end and helps her carry it over.

MARINA rolls her eyes jokingly and mouths "THANK YOU" IVAN smiles at her genuinely. MARINA smiles, something sparks within her eyes.

IVAN (V.O.)  
*For he knows our frame; he  
 remembers that we are dust.*

INT. BASKETBALL COVERED COURT - DAY

Music plays as MARINA and ADORA are strutting in unison up and down the court like runway models and pose.

KIZZO and PAM watches them by the bench. KIZZO is filming.

MARINA  
 Smile at the audience and then down  
 at the judges... And then exit  
 stage.

ADORA follows MARINA'S lead and nails it. KIZZO and PAM claps excitedly.

KIZZO  
 Wow!!! That was electric!

ADORA  
 Thanks to Marina.

MARINA  
 You're a fast learner, kid. Now,  
 water break. Pam?

PAM hands her two bottles. MARINA gives one to ADORA as they sit on the bench.

MARINA (CONT'D)  
 (To Adora)  
 Rehydrate. Always, always,  
 rehydrate.

They both drink water.

MARINA (CONT'D)  
 Have you thought of what you're  
 going to do for your talent  
 portion?

ADORA

Yes. And they're here just in time.

TWO GUYS in they're 20s approach them. One with a guitar and one with a percussion box.

ADORA approaches and she high fives them. ADORA took out stools/chairs from nearby. And the musicians sit.

ADORA sits in the middle.

ADORA (CONT'D)

My bandmates from school.

The guys wave at them.

MARINA

(Smiling and curious)

Okay. So what are you singing?

ADORA

Well, this is something I wrote.

The title of the song is: \_\_\_\_\_

MARINA

Very well. Let's hear it.

ADORA and her friends play an ORIGINAL COMPOSITION.

ADORA starts to sing the first two lines when scene cuts to a 3-4 minute montage of MARINA engaging with people while song is playing in the background, going back to this scene intermittently.

INT. BASKETBALL COVERED COURT - INT - DAY

ADORA is strutting, MARINA claps and encourages her. MARINA teaches how to turn and pose. ADORA follows suit. PAM and KIZZO cheers.

BECKY arrives with refreshments. They relax and chat. MARINA teaches BECKY how to strut, they are enjoying themselves.

KIZZO and BECKY walk together like models and pose.

MARINA is clapping and laughing.

INT. BASKETBALL COVERED COURT - INT - DAY

Continuation of ADORA singing her song with her friends.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY

IVAN sits in a circle for the morning Bible reading. MARINA sits across as IVAN reads the Bible.

MARINA is genuinely listening. Their eyes meet and tiny smiles are exchanged.

MARINA straightens up in her seat, feeling something new.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

MARINA brings in boxes of pizza for the missionary workers working on the site. They cheer. She shares the food to everyone. KIZZO vlogs how he eats and they laugh.

IVAN smiles. He watches MARINA interact with everyone and can see she's genuinely happy.

MARINA sees IVAN watching her and she smiles.

IVAN sees MARINA in a different light and takes a deep breath realizing he's starting to feel something for her.

PAM and KIZZO teasingly makes a heart with their hands. MARINA rolls her eyes at them.

INT. BASKETBALL COVERED COURT - INT - DAY

Continuation of ADORA singing her song with her friends.

EXT. OUTSIDE A RURAL HUT - DAY

IVAN and JULIUS show MARINA, PAM and KIZZO some LOCAL WOMEN WEAVERS who weave bags, hats, & other items.

She talks to the WEAVERS and appears to have a nice conversation about their products. One woman gives her a woven purse and a hat. She is grateful. She wears the hat and poses funnily and makes the WEAVERS laugh.

IVAN smiles, falling for her charm even more.

INT. BECKY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

PAM, KIZZO, ADORA, BECKY, GLORIA, & DENNIS gather around for dinner, setting up the table with bowls.

They chat animatedly.



ENGR. RICK, IVAN & JULIUS enters the dining area as they are invited for dinner.

They all find a place to sit once everything is laid out.

MARINA comes out with a huge bowl of soup which she cooked. Everyone is excited to taste it.

They put soup in their small bowls and taste it together. Their faces show disgust, adding salt vigorously, drinking water, coughing.

Some give her a thumbs up and tells MARINA it's good.

She gets excited and leaves the dining room and they even make more funny faces of disgust. She comes back with another ulam which she sets down on the table.

She presents it with a "TA-DA!": an OVERCOOKED UGLY FISH wherein the fish looks really disgusting.

Their faces apprehensive with hidden disgust but nod to her as if it's a great dish.

IVAN chuckles at her adorable effort.

INT. BASKETBALL COVERED COURT - DAY

Continuation of ADORA singing her song with her friends.

INT. BASKETBALL COVERED COURT - DAY

KIZZO and ADORA are practicing how to put on make-up on ADORA by the benches while MARINA teaches local little girls how to walk and pose up and down the court.

MARINA enjoys teaching the little girls.

PAM and arrives with a big box.

MARINA smiles and calls ADORA to come check out the box. Everyone gathers around ADORA as she opens the box and it's a beautiful long gown for her Muse of the Lakes pageant.

MARINA and PAM smile at each other.

ADORA jumps up and down with joy and keeps thanking and hugging MARINA and PAM. ADORA sashays the gown around her body.

The little girls admire the gown. PAM also hands ADORA a shoe box. Sparkly strappy high heels.

KIZZO takes the heels and pretends to want them. They laugh and joke around.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

MARINA and ENGR. RICK are standing and examining the almost finished school. They chat and look happy that it's almost done.

ENGR. RICK, with gentleness in his eyes, takes something out of the folder he is carrying, a paper and he hands it to her.

A CIVIL ENGINEERING LICENSE EXAM APPLICATION. She smiles and takes it, her eyes soften. ENGR. RICK pats her in the back as if saying she can do it.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF BECKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

MARINA sits alone looking up at the beautiful moon in the sky. She is at peace.

IVAN steps out and sits beside her. They smile at each other, talking. MARINA offers him a gum. He takes it. They sit quietly together watching the moon and stars.

MARINA points excitedly to the sky, a falling star! She closes her eyes and makes a wish like a little girl. She opens her eyes and smiles at him. She is beautiful in this light.

IVAN watches her intently, his heart beats fast, falling even more deeper for her.

ADORA'S SONG ENDS.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - RIBBON CUTTING - DAY

Everyone is standing by the finished school. It is ribbon cutting day. The red ribbon is between two short metal posts in front of the door/entrance. A few balloons and streamers decorate the event.

BECKY walks behind the ribbon.

KIZZO starts to record.

BECKY

Thank you everyone for being here today. Today is such an important event for all of us.

(MORE)

BECKY (CONT'D)

This day marks the completion of  
our school project for the children  
of Santa Clara.

AUDIENCE clap.

BECKY (CONT'D)

First off, I would like to thank  
the Missionaries of the Pious  
Ministry for their hard work and  
dedication,

The missionaries clap and nod.

BECKY (CONT'D)

to Engr. Rick who headed this  
project.

ENGR. RICK waves at the cheering audience.

BECKY (CONT'D)

And finally, to Ms. Marina Vaughn  
Diaz, who made a commitment and  
made our dreams come true. Thank  
you to all of you.

AUDIENCE clap and cheer.

BECKY gestures to MARINA to come up and cut the ribbon with  
her. She is given a pair of big scissors and she cuts the  
ribbon with BECKY. Everyone cheers them on.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A table with food and refreshments are laid out. People  
gather round.

KIZZO

Now that the school's done, what  
are we gonna do next?

BECKY, ENGR. RICK, IVAN and JULIUS appear beside them.

BECKY

Well, it's time for you kids to  
have a day of relaxation.

ENGR. RICK

I have a tiny cottage by the beach.  
Why don't you all go down there and  
have fun?

ENGR. RICK dangles his key smiling.

EXT. BEACHFRONT - DAY

DENNIS, GLORIA, PAM, ADORA and KIZZO, in beachwear or summer wear, are in the beach.

GLORIA and DENNIS are sitting on the lawn chairs under a big umbrella. DENNIS is applying lotion on GLORIA's belly, drawing a happy face with the lotion.

ADORA and PAM are by the beach. KIZZO is vlogging with them.

IVAN, JULIUS join the group by the beach.

They are wearing button down shirts with tank top inside and khaki shorts.

JULIUS splashes PAM and PAM attacks back. They laugh at each other. Then both splash KIZZO who starts shrieking with laughter.

IVAN stands next to ADORA.

IVAN  
(To Adora)  
Have you seen Marina anywhere?

ADORA  
I think she went for a swim. Oh,  
she's right over... there.

They both look to where ADORA pointed.

KIZZO  
(whispers to Pam)  
If I wasn't gay, I would totally  
hit that.

EVERYONE is at a standstill. SLOW MO effect.

JULIUS gulps, making the sign of the cross.

DENNIS puts too much lotion of GLORIA's arm.

GLORIA covers DENNIS's eyes.

KIZZO fixes his crotch, weirded out that he's feeling something down there.

IVAN's jaw just drops.

EXT. BEACHFRONT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA coming out of the water in a skimpy bikini in SLOW MOTION.

The people in the water and the beach ogle at her sexiness.

She flips her hair, droplets of water flicker around her. MARINA walks slowly the length of the beach towards the group.

IVAN jogs quickly to meet her and removes his button-down shirt, MARINA pauses as she sees him in his white tank top tightly outlining his glorious physique.

A long black string necklace is on his neck, the wooden cross pendant. He swings his shirt around her and covers her body with it tightly.

IVAN

Don't you have a cover or something?

MARINA

(Flusters and frowns)

Umm... we're on a beach. Hello?

She removes the shirt from her shoulders. But IVAN puts it back on tightly.

IVAN

Uhm... Uhhh... You might get sunburned. The sun's too high around this time.

MARINA

I always use sunscreen. Don't worry.

She removes the shirt again and returns to him.

IVAN

(He takes the shirt and offers it to her)

Marina. Please.

(His eyes quickly glanced at her boobs)

Trust me. Just until we're in the cottage.

MARINA

Not until you tell me why, Ivan.  
(Leering smile)

IVAN

You really want me to spell it out for you? You're making men sin in their minds.

MARINA

(Teases him seductively)  
How about you? Am I making you sin in your mind?

MARINA steps back, letting IVAN take in her whole body with his eyes. His eyes darken with a tinge of lust.

IVAN

(Turns serious, voice low and huskier. Moves closer. He leans closer to her ear to whisper)  
If I take you seriously, you wouldn't even know what hit you.

He takes her left hand and inserts the left sleeve of the shirt into it, his thumb slowly grazing her glistening skin as he pulls the shirt up her left shoulder. His brooding eyes tease.

IVAN (CONT'D)

It's been two years since I've been with another woman...

He puts her right arm into the right sleeve and his finger slowly graze her skin, up to the shoulder and he traces her collar bone. He bites his lips.

IVAN (CONT'D)

You might not be able to handle that kind of heat...

He traces his finger down the base of her pulsing throat, almost down the chest but stops to pull the shirt together and buttons the midpart only. He smiles devilishly.

MARINA is almost out of breath.

IVAN (CONT'D)

So be a good girl, and wear my shirt. You got it?

He stares at her parted lips, leaning in slightly. Then lets her go and steps back. He smirks a lopsided "GOTCHA!" smile at her and walks away.

She is clearly reeling from his tease talk. He walks back to the hut. MARINA is left speechless;

she puts both her hands on her hot cheeks to calm herself down. She puts her hands on her beating heart and takes a deep breath.

EXT. BEACHFRONT - DAY - SUNSET

MARINA is still wearing the shirt but it's tied around her waist now, carrying a folded beach towel in her hand.

She wants to avoid her feelings for him so she walks far from the group and found like a shaded spot hidden somewhere by the rocks.

She lays the towel there and lies down.

IMAGINATION SCENE EXT. BEACHFRONT - SUNSET

MARINA is dreaming.

An image plays in MARINA'S mind that IVAN follows her and lies beside her.

He focuses on her legs, chest, neck and lips. IVAN kisses her throat, her shoulders, her wrist, he almost kisses her lips when a great rumbling thunder breaks her dream.

The image of IVAN washes away.

EXT. BEACHFRONT - NIGHT

Rain pours on her and wakes her up. Flashes in lightning emit in the sky. IVAN is standing, looking worried.

MARINA startles upon seeing him.

IVAN  
Marina, we have to go!

EXT. BEACHFRONT - STORM - NIGHT

Thunder and lightning ensue. Strong winds blow.

Their phones beep altogether. "EMERGENCY: STORM WARNING. EVACUATE COASTS"

An emergency storm warning asking people to evacuate coastal areas. The group scrambles to get all their stuff like towels and water and bags.

MARINA runs under the umbrella and IVAN hands her her stuff.

DENNIS  
Hurry let's go back to the cottage!

GLORIA  
No! No! Not the cottage! I need to  
go to the hospital! Now!

GLORIA's water broke.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
AHHHH!!!

INT. GOLF CART - MOVING INTO THE STORM - NIGHT

Everyone in in the 8-seater golf cart.

GLORIA, in tremendous pain, is in the back with MARINA and ADORA holding onto her.

IVAN, KIZZO, PAM are in the back too, praying. DENNIS is driving and JULIUS is in the passenger side.

GLORIA  
AHHH!!!

IVAN  
(Holds Gloria's hands)  
Hee hee hoo hoo. Hee hee hoo hoo.  
Do as I do. Hee hee hoo hoo, hee  
hee hoo hoo.

GLORIA  
Hee hee hoo hoo. Hee hee hoo hoo.  
Hee hee hoo hoo. Hee hee hoo hoo.

IVAN  
That's good. Just breathe, focus on  
your breathing. Just breathe..

GLORIA  
Ahhhh!!!

IVAN  
YYou can do this, Gloria... Focus...

GLORIA  
Hee hee hoo hoo. Hee hee hoo hoo.  
Hee hee hoo hoo. Hee hee hoo-

The GOLF CART suddenly halts.

DENNIS  
There's a branch that fell!



JULIUS  
I'll try to move it!

JULIUS, DENNIS and IVAN go down.

EXT. ROAD - STORM - NIGHT

They tried to move it but they can't.

IVAN  
It's too heavy!!! We have to find  
another way!  
(to Dennis)  
Let's go back down the road!

DENNIS  
But this is the only way to the  
hospital!

DEBRIS fly over their heads. GLORIA is screaming.

IVAN  
The school! Let's go to the school!

DENNIS, JULIUS and IVAN go back to the gold cart. DENNIS  
makes a U-Turn. The storm rages on.

The PASSENGERS are all soaking wet. MARINA keeps GLORIA calm.

INT. DOME SCHOOL - NIGHT

The lights turn on and they lay towels on the ground and put  
a towel on GLORIA as a blanket.

DENNIS assist GLORIA into sitting position. GLORIA leans  
against DENNIS. They surround the birthing mother.

IVAN kneels in front of GLORIA and is delivering the baby.

IVAN  
Someone get me some dry towels.

ADORA rummages through their bags and plastics.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
Kizzo, I need some light here!

KIZZO turns on the light from his phone and stands behind  
IVAN.

KIZZO  
 (whispers in shock)  
 Oh my goddess, that's a lot of  
 hair!

MARINA is about to stand when GLORIA holds onto her.

IVAN  
 When I say push, you push. Are you  
 ready?

GLORIA nods.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
 Push!

GLORIA  
 Ahhhh!

IVAN  
 Almost there! Push!

GLORIA  
 Ahhh!

MARINA in pain as GLORIA squeezes her hand.

IVAN  
 Okay, I need you to push long and  
 hard. This is it. Now PUSH!

GLORIA  
 AAAAAHHHHH!!!

BABY comes out.

BABY  
 WAAAAAHHH!!!

IVAN holds it preciously. BABY cries. IVAN lifts the baby and hands it to GLORIA who sobs. DENNIS cries and kisses GLORIA.

ADORA hands the towel to IVAN who in turn uses it to wipe down the baby and wrap it in the dry towel.

DENNIS and GLORIA are being congratulated by everyone.

KIZZO takes a video.

MARINA sheds happy tears. She looks at IVAN who is smiling wistfully at the new family.

INT. DOME SCHOOL - NIGHT

The light is dimmed low inside. It's an energy-saving feature of the structure. The storm is still raging outside.

Everyone is asleep. DENNIS and GLORIA are sleeping, cozy together with the sleeping BABY, against a wall.

JULIUS, PAM, ADORA and KIZZO also lay down together asleep.

Only MARINA and IVAN are awake.

IVAN sits on the floor against a wall across the others, MARINA sits beside him with a bottle of champagne.

IVAN

Where'd you get that?

MARINA

I found it here. Probably a left over bottle from the grand-opening party yesterday. You can't sleep too, huh, *Dr. Ivan?*

IVAN

How did you know?

MARINA

Julius told Pam when you were washing up. Pam told me.  
(takes a swig)

IVAN

(smirks)  
Guess the cat's out of the bag.

MARINA

You didn't want people to know?

IVAN

It's not that. It was just part of my life that I put on hold.

MARINA

To do what?

IVAN

To serve the Lord.

MARINA snorts. Swigs the bottle.

MARINA

But isn't saving lives what you do as a doctor too?

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

You take care of the sick, isn't that serving the Lord enough that you had to quit your job to be a missionary?

IVAN

I didn't say I quit. I said I put it on hold. For the first time, I'm actually happy and content with what I'm doing.

MARINA

So you weren't happy before?

IVAN

(Chuckles)

Is this the Spanish inquisition?

MARINA

The night is long, my phone is dead, and we're the only ones awake.

(offers him the bottle)

Tell me they let you drink.

IVAN

It's not sacred wine but it should do.

(chuckles a bit and takes it to drink)

I've always wanted to be doctor. Both my parents work in the medical field, so naturally, that's the only world I know growing up.

He takes another drink and passes it back to her.

FLASHBACK - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

In hazy slow-motion memory effect: IVAN in white lab coat and stethoscope looking at a chart talking to another DOCTOR in scrub suit.

They are discussing in the hallway. Other nurses and patients pass him by and he quickly waves or nods at them. He scribbles on the chart.

A frantic NURSE taps him on the shoulder with a concerned look on her face, calling him to come with her.

IVAN and the NURSE jog in the hallway.

IVAN (V.O.)

The routine, the long shifts, the late nights, they didn't bother me. I got used to it. I wake up, go to work, do my rounds... Patients get better, or they get worse... I've seen everything. Those were my days. Then I go home and then do it all over again.

FLASHBACK - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

In hazy slow motion memory effect: A 12-year-old male PATIENT lying in bed with oxygen mask and electrodes, the monitor has flat-lined.

His MOTHER and FATHER crying and praying beside him.

IVAN checks the pulse and shakes his head at the parents, mouthing: "I'M SORRY..."

IVAN looks at the time. 11:17am. He wrote on to the chart, TIME OF DEATH: 11:17am.

IVAN (V.O.)

But there was a moment where all of what I had known, all the logic and reason in the world, just... disappeared.

MARINA (V.O.)

What was it then?

FLASHBACK - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

In hazy slow motion memory effect: The NURSE removes the oxygen masks and the electrodes from the PATIENT.

The MOTHER cries quietly as she holds the PATIENT'S hand. IVAN puts his hand on the MOTHER'S shoulder.

The MOTHER is praying with a SMALL WOODEN CROSS PENDANT tied to a plain black string wrapped around her hand when the PATIENT'S finger moves.

IVAN saw the small movement. The fingers move even more.

The PATIENT'S eyes slowly open and mouths: "MAMA... PAPA..." The parents are overjoyed their son comes back to life.

IVAN and the NURSE are shocked. The NURSE runs out of the room. The time is 11:27am.

The MOTHER hugs IVAN, she gave him the wooden cross and smiles. The MOTHER returns to hug her revived SON.

IVAN is baffled by the doorway. The NURSE comes back with other nurses and doctors wanting to see the boy who comes back to life, pushing IVAN out of the door.

IVAN (V.O.)

A miracle.

FLASHBACK - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

In hazy slow-motion memory effect: IVAN stands stupefied in the hallway. He opens his palm, and the old wooden cross pendant is there. He falls onto his knees and cries.

IVAN (V.O.)

That day, I felt HIM.

PRESENT - INT. DOME SCHOOL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

IVAN is holding the old wooden cross pendant, the black string wrapped around his fingers, letting the cross dangle.

IVAN

SO I resigned from my position and joined the Missionaries of the Pious Ministry. I've been with them for two years.

MARINA

Do you still want to go back to the hospital after this?

IVAN

When the time is right. There's still a lot to be done. We still have projects from other places for the next year or two.

He wears the cross pendant on his neck.

MARINA

If you want, you can use my design. No charge, it's free.

IVAN

(Chuckles)

For free? Marina Vaughn Diaz giving away her designs for free. Wow.

MARINA

You want me to charge you then?

IVAN

No, no. It's just...

MARINA

Just what?

IVAN

Just amazing to see how much you've changed. I mean, you're still a bit vain, but you wear less make up now. Which is good.

MARINA pretends to hit him in the arm.

IVAN (CONT'D)

I'm kidding. But seriously. You've changed. You're a good person, deep down you really are.

MARINA

Even if I don't believe in God? Am I still considered good?

IVAN

It's what's in your heart that makes you good. Mind if I ask who do you believe in then?

MARINA

(shakes her head)

I believe in Marina Vaughn Diaz

(drinks)

Everything I am right now is thanks to me. My status, my achievements, all that is me. I am the only one who I have faith in in this world. Is that too conceited?

IVAN

It seems to me there's more than that... Someone must've hurt you so much for you to have lost your faith in God, and maybe in other people.

MARINA

(Drinks longer)

When my father abandoned me... I prayed... everyday that he comes back. I prayed for months, years...

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

But I got nothing. No answer from the so-called Man from Above. I was just a kid you know.

MARINA drinks.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I got tired, and eventually figured out that there's no such thing as a god, or buddha, or Santa Claus. No one can really help me but me.

IVAN

There are things that God doesn't give us right away until we are ready for it. He prepares us for the things we asked of Him.

Takes the bottle from MARINA and drinks.

MARINA

The pain my father left me... It has created this big hole in my life. We were so happy one minute, then the next thing you know, he's gone. As if I didn't matter to him.

Takes out a gum from her WOVEN PURSE.

MARINA (CONT'D)

This. This stupid gum? This was my dad's favorite. *Our* favorite. I bring a pack everywhere I go because this was the only thing that reminded me of him.

Takes the bottle from IVAN and drinks.

IVAN

Marina...

MARINA

I learned to be tougher early on. What Marina wants, Marina gets. I didn't care whose toes I stepped on. I wanted to be better, bigger-- I wanted him to see who I've become without him. I even took civil engineering because that's what he does. I wanted to show him that I can be better than him.

She drinks.



IVAN

But how did you become a beauty queen?

MARINA

Well, that was the only way to get on famous fast so he can see my face everywhere. On billboards, magazines, on bus stations... And I did some things I wasn't proud of. I used people to get ahead. I made enemies, I backstabbed a lot of the candidates to mess with their heads. I ruined many happy relationships.

IVAN

Wow. You were ruthless.

MARINA

I used to send my sexy pictures to their boyfriends. I didn't care. All I wanted was to win that crown and be world-renowned because I thought it would make me feel better. It didn't. I still miss my father after all these years.

IVAN

Well, there are people who, like your father, may take longer to realize what they've truly lost before they come back. And you, you hid your pain by having these walls around you.

MARINA

I don't know. I guess I just wanted to soar so high so nothing can hurt me anymore. I even had plans to become the next First Lady.

IVAN

Because of your ex, the senator? Did you even love him...?

Takes the bottle from her and drinks.

MARINA

I... We were a good team, Jacob and I, you know. But even Jacob, I've hurt him too. And now karma got to me after all, didn't it?

(MORE)

MARINA (CONT'D)

That's why I'm here in the middle  
of nowhere, drinking leftover  
champagne in a school I built to  
buy back my crown.

(chuckles)

You were right. I am selfish. I did  
all of these to show the one man  
who never saw my worth. I was never  
worthy in his eyes, no matter what  
I do.

Takes bottle from Ivan and drinks longer.

IVAN

You're more than that. You are  
worthy, Marina.

Takes the bottle from her and sets it on the floor.

IVAN (CONT'D)

You're worthy in my eyes...

MARINA

Ivan...

Tears fall in her eyes. She sobs...

IVAN

(whsipers)

You are... You're worth it...

He guides her head to lean on his shoulder, he puts his arm  
around her as she cries to sleep. He kisses her forehead and  
closes his eyes.

INT. DOME SHOOL - DAY

It's morning and IVAN and MARINA are sleeping together,  
sitting against the wall.

IVAN'S lips on MARINA'S forehead as her head in on his  
shoulder.

KIZZO, PAM, ADORA and JULIUS surrounds them, smiling.

KIZZO takes a pic.

CLICK!

MARINA and IVAN wake from the sound and realize their  
position and their friends staring at them giddily.



KIZZO  
(Records live on his  
camera)

Hello Kizzes and good morning! I cannot believe what just happened last night. But first, I would just like to welcome our newest addition to Sta. Clara community, say hello to the world, Jericho!

KIZZO shows DENNIS, GLORIA and the BABY as they wave into the camera.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
So last night, we were in this raging freakish storm and all the roads to the hospital were blocked so we ended up here in the school. And this is where Gloria gave birth to Jericho. What's amazing is that even though the wind was like blowing so hard like you wouldn't believe, all of us were safe and dry from within. Not a single damage to the building. Can you believe that?

Points camera to MARINA who is inspecting the walls if there are any damages.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
All thanks to the brilliant idea of Marina Vaughn Diaz, to build something like this before disaster strikes. And because of this, I think she deserves to have her crown back.

On KIZZO'S phone, people are commenting to let MARINA have her crown back. KIZZO'S views are reaching to the millions.

KIZZO (CONT'D)  
Thank you for the love, keep them coming. I'll see you soon on my next live! Bye!

BECKY and ENGR. RICK arrive at the site.

BECKY cries as she sees DENNIS, GLORIA and the BABY.

ENGR. RICK pats MARINA on the shoulder.

ENGR. RICK

You did it.

MARINA

No, we did. Thanks for all your help, Engr. Rick. This wouldn't be possible if you weren't here to guide me.

ENGR. RICK

You have a great future ahead of you, Marina. If I you were my daughter, I would have been very proud of you.

MARINA smiles.

ENGR. RICK (CONT'D)

The next time we see each other, I shall be calling you Engr. Vaughn Diaz.

MARINA

Thanks, I hope so too.

ENGR. RICK

I'll go see if the guys needed anything.

ENGR. RICK leaves to talk to one of the workers.

PAM'S phone rings. She answers it.

PAM

Hello. This is Pam...

(shock)

Yes, Miss Emma... Yes Miss Emma...

Today? Okay. Thank you!

(Hangs up and jogs to Marina)

Marina!

MARINA and PAM converse out of earshot of the others. MARINA is happy but then realizes she must leave. Dilemma kicks in.

MARINA goes to talk to the group. IVAN, KIZZO, BECKY with the baby, DENNIS, GLORIA, and ADORA come over to her.

MARINA

That was Miss Emma. She wants me back tonight for the rehearsal of Miss Beautiful Planet. They're reinstating me. They're giving me back my crown.

IVAN  
So you're leaving tonight?

PAM  
The sponsors saw the clamor on  
Kizzo's video, they want Marina  
back.

BECKY  
Oh, that's great news.

ADORA  
But my pageant is next week.

MARINA  
I promise to come back to watch you  
your show. Just practice everyday  
and don't forget everything I  
taught you, okay?

BECKY  
There's a ferry that leaves in the  
afternoon. Let's go back to the  
house and get your stuff. Dennis  
can drive you all to the port.

PAM, KIZZO, DENNIS, GLORIA, BECKY, and ADORA go to the 8-  
seater golf cart.

IVAN  
(to Marina)  
Wait. You forgot your purse inside.  
I'll go fetch it.

IVAN jogs away. MARINA is torn. She looks at her friends who  
are also sad for her.

JULIUS approaches the GOLD CART and talks to PAM.

JULIUS  
We'll be seeing you next week,  
right?

PAM smiles.

PAM  
You could pick us up at the port.

IVAN comes back. He's holding MARINA'S woven purse. Their  
eyes woeful.

MARINA  
Ivan...

IVAN  
 You finally got your crown back.  
 What Marina wants, Marina gets.  
 Good luck at the pageant.

MARINA  
 I'll come back.

IVAN hands her the woven purse. He forces a smile.

MARINA smiles unsurely. She suddenly hugs IVAN unexpectedly. He stands stiffly, in shock, but pats her back with one hand. He clutches a fistful of her hair. He wants to say something.

IVAN  
 Marina-- I...

She hurries to the back of the golf cart and watch him sadly as they drive away.

IVAN holds up one hand for her, he looks crushed. JULIUS waves goodbye. JULIUS sees IVAN's pained expression and pats him on the shoulder.

INT. AUDITORIUM - STAGE - DAY

Beauty pageant candidate GIRLS in their work-out clothes standing in their positions on the stage. KIMBERLY shouts instructions to the GIRLS.

KIMBERLY  
 ...And, hold those poses. Your stance is regal, elegant. And don't forget to smile. Then the emcee will announce the Farewell Walk. -And enter, Marina!

KIMBERLY moves away.

MARINA in exercise outfit sashays down the stage, posing in each corner for effect and waves. She goes to both sides of the stage and back to the center and does a flying kiss. The GIRLS clap behind her.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)  
 Perfect! Okay girls, five minute water break.

She walks over to center stage to talk to Marina. The GIRLS exit the stage, some stay and chat with each other.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

I don't know how you did it, but I'm glad you're back. The first ever beauty queen in history to win her crown back.

MARINA

And thank you for having my back. I know you're behind convincing Miss Emma about the whole thing.

KIMBERLY

Give yourself some credit, you did most of the leg work. I barely lifted anything. Have you spoken to Jacob yet?

MARINA shakes her head.

MARINA

I wanted to concentrate first on this before anything else. Speaking of which, I've been meaning to tell you that I may have some ideas for the candidates' outreach activities next year-

QUENTIN (O.S.)

MARINA DARLING!

QUENTIN QUINCE approaches the stage with an ASSISTANT carrying a black garment bag with a gown inside it. QUENTIN kisses MARINA and KIMBERLY on both cheeks.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)

Marina, I am so delighted you're back and guess what? You're more popular than ever. And of course, what is a Marina Vaughn Diaz Farewell Walk without an original Quentin Quince gown?

He ushers his ASSISTANT forward with the garment bag.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)

This will make waves... no- this will make tsunamis across the globe-

MARINA

Let me stop you right there Mr. Quince.

(MORE)



MARINA (CONT'D)

If I'm not mistaken, you once said to me: "QUENTIN QUINCE Designs cannot be associated with a cheap, sex-crazed dethroned beauty queen."

QUENTIN

Oh darling, that was weeks ago, we all say things stupid things. Once you try on my latest creation, you'll know we're a match made in heaven. The floodgates of Heaven will open and—

MARINA

I'm sorry but I've already chosen my designers for my Farewell Walk. They're fresh, they're unique, and they are truly a breath of fresh air—Oh, speaking of which, there they are. Hi Ray! (Waves)

RAY the photographer approaches the stage. Two ultra stylish young FASHION DESIGN STUDENTS flank him with one of them carrying a black garment bag.

They are giddy upon seeing MARINA.

RAY

(To Marina)

Marina, are you ready? Leron and Luca brought the gown to finalize the adjustments.

LERON & LUCA

Hi Miss Marina!

MARINA

Hey Leron, hey Luca. Thank you guys for bringing it here.

(To Ray)

Ray, let Pam know you're here so she can bring you to my suite. I'll be there in a few minutes.

RAY nods and leaves, the two FASHION STUDENTS wave giddily and follow RAY.

QUENTIN

(aghast)

That thing in that bag will be your gown? And those children are your designers?

MARINA

Yes, Mr. Quince. Those children happen to be none other than the internationally award-winning Leron & Luca. Did you know that they won first place out of all the fashion design students in the world, even beating the Paris and New York entries—

QUENTIN

Have. You. Gone. Insane. Marina? This is a QUENTIN QUINCE Prinsesita Glamorosa Ball Gown! A Prinsesita Glamorosa Ball Gown! Royal princesses of the world clamor for my designs—

MARINA

--Well, as you can see, Mr. Quince, I am not a princess.  
(icy stare)  
I am a QUEEN.

MARINA walks off the stage with a smirk. Leaving QUENTIN QUINCE fake fainting, his ASSISTANT catches him and KIMBERLY chuckling.

KIMBERLY

Girls! Back on the stage!

INT. AUDITORIUM - MISS BEAUTIFUL PLANET PAGEANT - NIGHT

The MBP CANDIDATES in their long gowns standing on the stage, waiting for MARINA'S farewell walk. Soft music plays in the background. Lights dance in the stage.

EMCEE (V.O.)

And now, for her FAREWELL WALK, our last year's Miss Beautiful Planet Winner, in a Leron & Luca original gown, let us all give her a gracious send-off; our one and only, our beautiful reigning queen, MISS MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ!

The room darkens and the spotlight centers on her. MARINA comes out in a light and airy gown. MPB CANDIDATES clap in the background.

MARINA does her walk across the stage. She stands in the middle of the stage, sending flying kisses when the crowd reacts giddily.

MARINA is confused at what's happening, she looks to the side and sees SENATOR JACOB LIM III, in a suit carrying a bouquet of flowers. He goes to her and gives her the bouquet. She accepts with a questioning look on her face. He kneels on one knee. The crowd hushes, holding their breaths.

JACOB

Marina, you are the most beautiful woman that I have ever met, inside and out. And there's no other perfect moment to do this, so...

JACOB Takes out a ring box, opens it, shows the ring.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Marina Vaughn Diaz... Would you please do the honor of becoming my wife? Will you marry me?

The crowd goes nuts.

MARINA looks at him unsure, people are egging her on. She doesn't say anything but nods unsurely.

JACOB puts the ring on her finger, he hugs and kiss her. They wave to the crowd.

INT. BECKY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

IVAN, BECKY, ADORA, JULIUS, DENNIS, & GLORIA watch MISS BEAUTIFUL PLANET PAGEANT on the TV set.

They see MARINA on and they cheer. And then the proposal comes on--

IVAN takes a deep breath, BECKY looks at him concerned, and he smiles back at her uncomfortably.

He stands up and goes to a corner of the room, out of earshot from everyone. He gets his phone out and dials.

IVAN

Hello Bro. Castro? Yes, this is Bro. Ivan Clemente. Is it possible to get a transfer out of Santa Clara as soon as possible? Anywhere. It doesn't matter where. Just out of here...

He watches in pain as MARINA and JACOB kiss on the TV.

INT. STUDIO - PHOTOSHOOT - DAY

MARINA and JACOB at the studio getting their magazine shoot done. RAY is the photographer. MARINA tries to smile happily with JACOB as they pose like a happy couple.

RAY

Okay, guys. Give me "Happily Ever After" The Queen finally gets her King!

CLICKS. FLASH.

INT. STUDIO - TALK SHOW INTERVIEW - DAY

MARINA and JACOB are being interviewed by a HOST. The HOST is animated talking to them, JACOB answers most of the questions.

HOST

Tell us naman Senator Jacob, when did you know that Marina is the one?

JACOB

I've always known from the start that she's going to be my wife. And I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with this wonderful woman by my side. And I can't believe I'm this lucky.

He kisses MARINA's cheek.

HOST

And you Marina? How lucky do you feel?

MARINA

Pretty lucky too, I guess.  
(forces a smile)  
It's what I've always... wanted.

INT. RESTAURANT - DINNER - NIGHT

MARINA and JACOB dine with their friends, EMMA FAUSTINO makes a toast holding a champagne flute. They all do the same.

EMMA

To Senator Jacob Lim III and to our very own Marina Vaughn Diaz.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

May you be this country's next  
power couple! To the future  
President and First Lady of our  
lovely nation. Congratulations to  
both of you!

Their guests clap and cheer. Clinking their glasses for  
MARINA and JACOB, they kiss.

MARINA subtly chews. JACOB leans in to whisper.

JACOB

(Whispers but smiling)  
Spit out that thing in your mouth,  
Babe. I won't have my future wife  
chewing like a goat.

MARINA'S face changes to annoyance but discreetly spits out  
the gum in a tissue. She looks worriedly at her beautiful  
engagement ring.

INT. STUDIO HALLWAY - DAY

MARINA and PAM walk in the hallway when a swarm of fans crowd  
her in screaming her name, taking selfies and pictures.  
Flashes from their phones ensue. She forces a smile and tries  
to break free from them, she waves goodbye.

INT. GYM - DAY

MARINA is on a treadmill when ROB LAMBERT, in gym clothes,  
approaches her, he leans on her machine.

ROB

Fancy seeing you here, Marina.  
Congratulations on your engagement.

MARINA

(Rolls her eyes, continues  
to jog, ignoring him)  
Get lost, Rob.

ROB

(Leans in closer and  
whispers)  
I'm almost done here. Care to join  
me in the locker room? Just like  
the old times?

MARINA

Ugh. Screw you, dickhead.

She gets off the treadmill and leaves.

INT. MARINA'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM

A full mirror is in the living room.

KIZZO is on the couch with her phone, PAM enters with RAY, LERON & LUCA in tow with a garment bag. MARINA comes out in a bathrobe.

RAY

Marina, Leron and Luca had designed a wedding gown that they wanted you to try on. If you like it, we can have this piece for your BRIDES & BOUQUET magazine shoot next week.

LERON

This was one of our earliest creations but it's still unfinished.

LUCA

It's the same measurement as your Farewell Walk gown so it should fit you just fine.

INT. MARINA'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM

MARINA comes out in a beautiful creamy white gown, she faces her full length mirror in the living room. She takes a deep breath. LERON & LUCA fix the gown at the bottom.

KIZZO and PAM stands behind her.

KIZZO

I don't know why I feel like I'm gonna cry. You're beyond beautiful.

PAM

Marina, you look stunning.

RAY

Breathtaking. Absolutely breathtaking. Leron & Luca, you guys outdid yourselves.

LERON and LUCA beam as they adjust MARINA'S gown. MARINA smiles and then suddenly looks nervous.

KIZZO

You okay, sweetie?

MARINA

Gum. Where's my gum? Pam?

PAM

Uhh... Senator Jacob took all your packs. He said you were fine with it.

MARINA

He did what? No, I'm not fine with it.

She takes a deep breath and studies herself in the mirror.

MARINA (CONT'D)

My purse!

PAM goes to the other room and comes back out with the woven purse.

MARINA takes it and pauses. She opens the purse and rummages her hand in when she takes out something else. The wooden cross pendant necklace.

IVAN'S cross necklace.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Oh my God! What's today?

PAM

Sunday-

KIZZO

ADORA's beauty pageant! It's today!

MARINA

I totally forgot! Ray, Leron, Luca. I'm so sorry but I have to do this thing.

She frantically strips down to her underwear and hands the gown to Leron. She pauses and takes off her engagement ring and gives it to Ray.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Please tell the Senator that I can't. I can't marry him. I have no time to explain. I really need to go.

RAY

What?!

She goes to the room and PAM and KIZZO follows her leaving RAY, Leron and Luca stunned.

INT. COVERED BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

The stage of the court is decorated with MUSE OF THE LAKES banner and balloons. The court is filled with seats with people watching.

A panel of judges are close to the stage. On the stage, more than a dozen 16-year-old GIRLS in gowns stand in a row.

There are three GIRLS up in front and center and one of them is ADORA. The EMCEE is about to call on her.

EMCEE

--And our last finalist vying for the title of MUSE OF THE LAKES, candidate number nine, ADORA JESSICA ALONZO.

Crowd claps and cheers.

EMCEE (CONT'D)

Okay, Miss Candidate Number 9: Your question is:  
(Reads from an index card)  
"Is having a beautiful face already enough?"

ADORA takes the mic nervously.

ADORA

Umm...  
(looking at the crowd)  
Umm...

BECKY'S face is hopeful. DENNIS and GLORIA nods at her. JULIUS and ENGR. RICK give her a thumbs up.

ADORA (CONT'D)

Uhhh... Ah...

RUDE AUDIENCE (O.S.)

Get down from there already!

Crowd laughs.

MARINA rushes in the middle of the audience, panting. She nods at ADORA. ADORA sees her and smiles. KIZZO records a video live.



ADORA

The short answer is no. Having a beautiful face is not enough. It has perks, sure, but it's not enough. I have learned that beauty means nothing if I didn't use the intelligence of my mind. That beauty means nothing if I didn't have compassion for my fellow beings. And that beauty means nothing if I didn't hone and make use of my talents to help others. But most of all, I have learned that beauty means nothing if I didn't have the heart to love and honor God and the people I care about. Thank you.

ADORA returns the mic to emcee and goes back to stand with the other two FINALISTS.

Crowd erupts in applause. The judges nod encouragingly, impressed with her answer.

MARINA, PAM and KIZZO are with BECKY et al. Praying and holding each other. The EMCEE receives the envelope from a STAFF.

EMCEE

Looks like the judges have decided on the winner! Winning a full college scholarship, with a score of 97.8, our winner is... CANDIDATE NUMBER 9! ADORA JESSICA ALONZO!

ADORA hugs her fellow finalists. An official comes up the stage and hands her a sash and a crown. She waves in the crowd.

MARINA, BECKY, KIZZO, PAM, DENNIS, GLORIA, ENGR. RICK, JULIUS go to the stage and congratulates her.

MARINA

Congratulations Adora, I'm so proud of you.

ADORA

All thanks to you.

MARINA

You did it. I just gave you better heels.

MARINA looks around their gathered crowd. Everyone is congratulating ADORA.

MARINA (CONT'D)

(To Julius)

Where's Ivan? I need to speak with him.

JULIUS

Didn't he tell you? He was transferred this morning.

MARINA

Transferred where? Where is he now?

JULIUS

(looks at watch)

If we leave now we might be able to catch him at the port. His ferry is leaving in 10 minutes.

MARINA

(To Dennis)

Dennis! I need the golf cart!

DENNIS gives her the key frantically.

MARINA runs off the stage. PAM, KIZZO and JULIUS run after her.

KIZZO

Wait for us! We're coming with you!

EXT. GOLF CART - PARKED ON THE ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA goes to the driver side and KIZZO goes inside the passenger holding her selfie-stick with his camera rolling. PAM and JULIUS sit at the back.

INT. GOLF CART - FRONT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA starts the golf cart and jolts. She swerves, making PAM and JULIUS toss at the back. JULIUS catches PAM, they smile at each other. Another swerve and they toss again.

KIZZO

Hello Kizzes. I'm recording us live right now. We're in a speeding golf cart with Marina Vaughn Diaz. I hope I come out of this alive--

Pedestrians start to cross the road and MARINA honks furiously. She swerves. PAM and JULIUS grunt at the back.

MARINA  
(To Pedestrians)  
Get out of the way!

KIZZO  
Marina, slow down. I don't wanna die yet!

MARINA  
I need to speak to Ivan before he leaves!

KIZZO  
What are you gonna tell him?

MARINA  
What?

Swerves.

KIZZO  
This. Why are you driving like a maniac just to speak to him?

MARINA  
Does it matter?

Swerves.

KIZZO  
Of course it matters! You're willing to kill people on the road for him. But why?

MARINA steps on the breaks hard. PAM and JULIUS roll forward at the back of the golf cart, KIZZO bumps his head on the dash. They are now at the pier.

MARINA gets off and everyone follows her.

EXT. FERRY PORT ENTRANCE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA runs fast through the port. By passing the guards and passengers.

MARINA steals a MEGAPHONE from a guard and runs off to the edge of the dock.

MARINA  
IVAN! IVAN! Wait! Stop the ferry!

EXT. FERRY PORT - EDGE OF DOCK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA sees the ferry sail away within eyesight. She stands by the edge of the dock.

KIZZO, PAM and JULIUS are holding off the guards trying to chase MARINA. KIZZO'S camera still rolls.

MARINA, breathless, hopeless. She leans forward, putting her hands on her knees catching her breath, and the wooden cross falls from her neck. She straightens up and faces the sailing ferry.

MARINA

IVAN! Ivan... I'm sorry!

She turns on the MEGAPHONE and speaks into it.

MARINA (CONT'D)

Ivan... If you can hear me! I'm so sorry!

FLASHBACK: EXT. FERRY PORT WAITING AREA - DAY

IVAN sits on a bench, a couple of teens watch from their phones. It was KIZZO recording ADORA'S pageant.

IVAN does not recognize it yet. His ticket is called to BOARD. He gets up and follows the other passengers.

PRESENT: EXT. FERRY PORT - EDGE OF DOCK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA

Ivan! I'm not strong, okay? You were right. I have walls around me... Because I'm scared. I'm scared that if I let people in, that I'll get hurt...

FLASHBACK: EXT. FERRY DECK - DAY

IVAN looks out of the water. The ferry blows its horn and leaves the port. Passengers around him on their phones watching MARINA go to the jeep. He is still oblivious.

PRESENT: EXT. PIER - EDGE OF DOCK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

MARINA

I've never felt like this before...  
And I'm so afraid of facing it  
because I know it's real. It's real  
and I... I don't know what I'd do  
when you realize that I'm not good  
enough for you.

FLASHBACK: EXT. FERRY DECK - DAY

In SLOW MOTION:

IVAN looks around, people watching MARINA driving in the golf cart on their phones. He finally sees it and turns to leave. He runs down the stairs but the ferry is far from the docks now. He CANNOT go down anymore. He resigns and walks to one of the passengers to watch the video.

EXT. PIER - EDGE OF DOCK - SUNDOWN - CONTINUOUS

MARINA

That's why I accepted Jacob because  
with him, everything's easy, that I  
won't get hurt. But I realized now  
that life isn't about taking the  
easy way out. And pain is just a  
part of it. I'm a work in  
progress... But you're the one who  
made me see the world as something  
good again. So please... Ivan, if  
you can hear me...

MARINA stops. She is devastated. She clutches onto the wooden cross pendant and does something she hasn't done in a long time.

She prays for a moment while the sailing ferry fades into the horizon.

INT. MARINA'S ROOM - DAY

MARINA is cleaning her things from her table. Newspapers with headlines "BEAUTY QUEEN AND SENATOR CALLED IT QUILTS!"

A paper fell, it is the ENGINEERING LICENSE APPLICATION for exam. She picks it up and opens her laptop and registers for the exam.

INT. CLASSROOM - REVIEW CENTER - DAY

MARINA is reviewing for her exam, books about engineering sits on her desk. She helps out her review mates.

INT. CLASSROOM - EXAM DAY - DAY

MARINA writes the exam along with other students.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MARINA, PAM and KIZZO are in the living room waiting for the exam results on MARINA'S laptop. They hit refresh and the results are in. MARINA passes.

TOP NINE in the whole country. They celebrate! KIZZO pops open a champagne.

MARINA'S MOM, RINA, 50s, calls on the phone. MARINA answers happily. KIZZO and PAM celebrates in the background.

MARINA

Yes, Mom. I passed! I can't believe it, ninth place!

RINA (V.O.)

Congratulations. I knew you could do it. Once you put your mind to it, there's nothing you cannot do. I'm so proud of you.

MARINA

I hope to see you soon, when my schedule opens up, I'll fly to L.A. or maybe we could meet in Vancouver since I have this new ad to shoot over there-

RINA (V.O.)

Marina-there's something I need to tell you-

MARINA

Tell me what?

RINA (V.O.)

Marvin, your father-He called me. He wants to see you. Marina... he's dying. I think, I think it's about time- I'm sorry to spring this on you-

MARINA

No, no—I... I want to see him too.

INT. MARVIN'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is spacious but empty, old chairs and desk are lying around. It looks half-abandoned with old office equipment. MARINA enters. Standing there is her father, MARVIN, 60s white hair, dignified but sallow and weak.

MARVIN

Marina— I don't know how to start this... but I am very sorry for everything... I made a lot of mistakes in the past and I am hoping I could--

MARINA runs to him and hugs him.

MARINA

Daddy... It's okay. You're here now. You're here now—

MARVIN hugs her tight.

MARVIN

Forgive me, Gummy—

MARINA

I forgive you Daddy... It's okay... We're gonna be okay... I'll take care of you, Dad...

INT. MARVIN'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is now clean with modern equipment. MARINA peels away the new OFFICE LOGO from the wall. MVD ECOBUILDERS, INC. Beside the logo is a portrait of her father in black and white. She smiles.

She goes to her desk, her name plate reads ENGR. MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ. PAM comes in with a couple of clients in suit, MARINA gestures for them to sit and they go about business.

INT. BALLROOM CONVENTION - AWARDING CEREMONY - DAY

TWO YEARS LATER

A ballroom is set for cocktails with tall tables where everyone is in semi-formal.

A stage has a banner that says WORLD GAME-CHANGERS AWARD. On the stage, a slide of MARINA'S construction projects with MISS BEAUTIFUL PLANET CANDIDATES is shown as they clean surroundings, plant trees, & do construction jobs.

EMCEE (O.S.)

...And now may I present not only one of the world's most beautiful faces, but to also one of the world's biggest hearts. For her compassionate deeds and innovative application of her skills, her dome building designs have saved, and will save many lives in against our country's many natural disasters. Without further ado, please join me in welcoming to the stage to receive her WORLD GAME-CHANGER AWARD, Former Miss Beautiful Planet winner, and MVD EcoBuilders president, ENGR. MARINA VAUGHN DIAZ.

MARINA goes up to the stage and receives her award. People clap and cheer. She stands for photos. She goes down the stage and stands by a tall table where she puts her award.

MARINA'S phone rings. It is PAM.

MARINA

Yes Pam...? They found a sponsor for Sta. Clara's health center... Great. Let Becky know we're on our way. And ring up Kizzo, maybe he wants to go for the ride, for old times sake. Okay, see you then.

MARINA notices a piece of her favorite bubble gum on the table. She picks it up and looks around, trying to find the one who left it. She smiles nostalgically. She puts it in her purse where there are other unopened bubble gum pieces.

EXT. A NEW CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

MARINA, PAM, KIZZO, BECKY, ADORA, are standing in an empty lot with construction materials. Construction workers who happen to be missionaries again are out and about the site. They are chatting excitedly.

KIZZO

Wow, this is even bigger than the school.



BECKY

That's right. We're building a health center that also doubles as a shelter during hurricanes so we need more room to stock up the supplies in case of emergency. And we got the missionaries again from the Pious Ministry to help us out. Oh look, there they are! Brother Julius!

PAM beams. JULIUS jogs towards them.

JULIUS

(to Pam)

Hey! I'm so glad to see you again. How long has it been? Two years since we saw each other last?

KIZZO

Yeah. Pretty much.

MARINA holds her breath, looking for IVAN.

MARINA

Is Ivan working here today too?

JULIUS

Oh, he hasn't been with the Ministry since our last build but-

ENGR. RICK calls MARINA abruptly and enters the scene.

ENGR. RICK

Engr. Vaughn Diaz! I knew I'd call you that someday. (Hugs Marina) Come, I'll show you this new materials we've got from a new supplier. They have hemp panels. You're gonna love it.

MARINA follows him. They pass by a truck with cement sack and a sack hit her again in the head. She passes out on the ground. People call her name.

INT. CLINIC ROOM - DAY

The clinic is small and old with chipped paint and old equipment. MARINA is lying on a clinic cot alone. She has a small band-aid on her forehead. She winces in pain. She gets up and goes out the door.

EXT. BAYSIDE - DAY

The clinic is near the bayside.

IVAN in a white lab jacket stands watching the sea. MARINA slowly walks towards him in disbelief.

IVAN  
How are you feeling?

MARINA  
Ivan? But Julius said you're no longer with the missionary...

IVAN  
He's right. I'm now Santa Clara's chief community physician.

MARINA  
Wait, so you're the one who's having the healthcare center built?

IVAN shrugs.

IVAN  
I think they could use the upgrade. I got the inspiration from that night you were here last.

MARINA  
Ivan--

IVAN  
I'm proud of you Marina. I'm so proud of you—  
(moving closer)  
I heard you, you know. You went after me that day at the pier. I heard every word you said...

IVAN takes out a gum from his pocket and shows it to her. Her eyes widen.

MARINA  
You were the one leaving these? How come you didn't show yourself to me?

IVAN  
I didn't want to interfere with everything you've got going for you. I wanted you to find yourself, the true Marina that's kind, and generous and smart and selfless.

(MORE)

IVAN (CONT'D)

I want you to see that you are  
worth more than you ever know.

MARINA

Ivan... I--

He kisses her without warning. She gives in after. He pulls  
away slowly. Their eyes stare at each other.

They kiss again.

EXT. A NEW CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

MARINA and IVAN go to see their friends, they have their arms  
around each other. Everyone cheers.

KIZZO

Okay, here goes our ground-  
breaking. For the new clinic slash  
shelter of Sta. Clara. Please do  
the honors, Engr. MARINA VAUGHN  
DIAZ!

ENGR RICK hand MARINA a shovel and she dig the shovel into  
the ground. EVERYONE claps.

IVAN kisses her.

FADE OUT:

**THE END**