

Where Did You Sleep Last Night

By

Marco WestWood Gonzalez

Sounds of people laughing and screaming

Dark and ominous, yet whimsical, fairytale-like music slowly builds over a loud speaker

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

The mad scientist knew there was only one word to call his creation: monster.

CUT FROM BLACK:

Open on:

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK - NIGHT

A sign above the entrance reads

line 1: For your

line 2: AMUSEMENT

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

A thing not meant to be seen by the world. He buried it along with his dream.

Families have fun playing one of several games (darts, throw softball, etc.)

The sound of lightning crackles over the loud speaker.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

From the grave the creature rose, questioning why his father would create him only to abandon him. Was he not now too one of God's children?

A Ferris wheel of decent size. A carousel. A hall of mirrors. In the very back of the park is a haunted house ride (that looks a lot like what you'd imagine Dr. Frankenstein's castle to be) and to the right of that a dock and small boathouse (those are blocked off by signs and security). Two bungalows (sleeping quarters) a good distance away (in front of the boathouse).

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

So the first thing he did was look into a mirror to see if this was true. If we were all made in God's image, it stands to reason that if

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO (V.O.) (cont'd)
we look unto ourselves, we could
perceive God staring back at us.
Such vain creatures are men...

A stage is revealed along with a captive audience in front and the man who has been throwing his voice to the crowd. They sit on bleachers.

SANTIAGO VALLE (Vah-yay) (early 30s) has devilishly good looks and wears a shiny velvet suit complete with top hat. Longish hair peeks out from under. He waves a cane in his right hand.

SANTIAGO
So he gazed upon his reflection and
he knew.. no, he wasn't in God's
image. How could such a horrible,
vile thing be also holy. He
realized what he was and came to
accept it..

A TALL FIGURE looms behind Santiago, looking away from the audience, hidden in shadow.

Off to Santiago's side is his young starlet and assistant VALENTINA (17). She's dressed in similar fashion to him.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)
.. because he knew the world would
never. He cursed his creator.
Worse, he cursed God!

Another lightning strike crackles over loud speaker. A light collective gasp from the audience. Some light clapping scattered.

JACKIE (15) watches from behind one of the concession stands. She serves a couple of kids their cotton candy before turning her attention back to Valle.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)
From that day he swore revenge
against those who meant him harm.
Those who called him names.

The tall figure remains in the shadows just over Santiago's shoulder.

SANTIAGO
"Freak". "Devil". "The Horror".

(CONTINUED)

The cover over them begins to slowly pull back. The tall figure begins to remove the burlap sack mask from off his face.

The audience gasps as FRANKIE, the tall figure, reveals his deformed face to them (though not to us entirely). His face is twisted up as if from some sort of explosion. His right eye is practically shut, leaving his left to be his "good eye". He's unable to speak.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

Let them see me.

Jackie's eyes quickly dart away as if she too is afraid of Frankie. Her eyes meet with the young man pulling back the top cover via rope.

RENE (Ren-nay) (18), stares back at Jackie.

Rene winks at her. She smirks and raises a middle finger. Rene blows her a kiss. She smiles.

SANTIAGO

Let them see their death.

CUT TO:

Santiago wraps up his show. The audience members disperse and a new group go to sit down.

Santiago approaches Jackie.

SANTIAGO

Little Jackie.

JACKIE

Hey, Santi, great show.

Jackie gives a false smile.

SANTIAGO

I felt a little cold on some of my line readings. I was thinking you could run some with me before the next show.

JACKIE

Me?

SANTIAGO

Sure, it helps to have a different perspective. Another set of eyes and ears.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Oh.. I was actually planning to take my break. If that's okay.

SANTIAGO

(thinks)

Of course. Do you know where Rene's run off to?

JACKIE

(shrugs)

Bathroom?

SANTIAGO

Every time I need him, he's run off. It's a bad habit I hope you don't pick up from him.

JACKIE

No, sir.

The "sir" clearly throws Santiago for a moment, making him seem older than he is. He quickly gathers himself.

SANTIAGO

Go ahead on your break. And if you see Rene, you tell him I'm looking for him.

JACKIE

Oh yeah, definitely. I'll do that.

Santiago walks away.

Jackie looks over to the stage as Frankie is fixing the burlap sack back on his head. He slowly turns as if to meet Jackie's gaze when she's startled by Valentina.

VALENTINA

Don't think I don't know what you're trying to pull.

JACKIE

What do you mean?

VALENTINA

(mockingly)

"What do you mean?" Keep those longing star-glazed eyes to yourself.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

What do you want me to do, ignore him?

VALENTINA

(quick)

Yes. Go start a crack baby family with the other burnout.

JACKIE

Did somebody shit in your cheerios this morning?

VALENTINA

You're not even trying now, burnout.

JACKIE

Who says your worth me trying at all?

VALENTINA

Burnout.

JACKIE

Fuck you.

VALENTINA

Burnout!

Jackie throws cotton candy at Valentina. It gets stuck to her outfit. She looks up in shock.

VALENTINA

No you did not.

JACKIE

There's more where that came from, bitch.

Jackie grabs a handful of cotton candy straight from the machine.

Valentina scoffs and walks away, fuming.

Jackie grins.

CUT TO:

Jackie lies down on the top of a hill nearby the park. Rene squats beside her. He casts shadow puppets under one of the lights above. Jackie chuckles at each new shadow animal thrown up on the back wall of the hall of mirrors.

(CONTINUED)

Rene stops then takes a seat beside her, fiddling with the contents of a fanny pack.

JACKIE
Wanna get matching tattoos?

RENE
Yeah sure, what should we get?
Hearts with each other's names in
em?

JACKIE
"Burnout."

Rene chuckles then turns to look at Jackie.

RENE
You're stupid, you know that?

Jackie kicks Rene back and knocks him down onto his back.
She climbs over him.

RENE
What are you, crazy?

JACKIE
Crazy for you.

RENE
You're outta your mind, I can see
that. Are you done playing around?
I got something serious to talk to
you about.

JACKIE
(pause)
Yeah?

Rene moves to get up, Jackie moves aside.

RENE
You think at all about what I said?

JACKIE
(beat)
A little.

RENE
So what do you think?

JACKIE
I don't know. You really think it's
a good idea?

(CONTINUED)

RENE

Way I look at it, it's not even his money. All he does is rip people off anyway.

JACKIE

I don't know. Santi..

Jackie sighs.

RENE

You scared of Valle?

JACKIE

I never said that. Is it ready or what?

RENE

Changing the subject.. Yeah, let's do it on the wheel. C'mon.

FERRIS WHEEL

Rene, clearly high already, administers Jackie a shot of heroin.

She looks down from the top of the wheel as it takes effect then people-watches. Rene watches her, silently smoking a cigarette. He can tell that Jackie's deep in thought. He looks up at the stars in the night sky.

RENE

I don't like the way he looks at you.

JACKIE

(slow to respond)

Who?

RENE

Valle. He's a creep. I see him perving on you. I guess Valentina's too old for him now.

JACKIE

(grins)

Aren't you eighteen now?

RENE

(smirks)

Whatever.

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE RIDE

Rene and Jackie sit side by side in the cart, practically melting into it. The cart enters the haunted house.

Ghouls and zombies jump out at them, mostly to no response. One look at Jackie's eyes show her anxiousness, something clearly on her mind.

JACKIE

Where would we go?

Rene stares deeply at the Frankenstein looking monster they pass.

RENE

I hadn't gotten that far. I was too busy trying to convince you.

JACKIE

Can I choose?

RENE

(beat)

Yeah, sure.

JACKIE

When would we do it?

RENE

Tonight.

Rene creates another shadow puppet as they pass in front of a bright light. Jackie watches. His shadow rabbit ends up in the mouth of an animatronic werewolf that springs out, growling and howling at them.

JACKIE

What if Frankie wakes up?

RENE

Don't wake him.

JACKIE

Yeah, but what do I do?

RENE

(beat)

Just don't wake him.

EXT. BUNGALOW

Late into the night..

.. after the park has closed, Rene and Jackie creep over to the portable classroom looking buildings aka the sleeping quarters. The one in front is for Jackie and Rene. Behind it, Santiago's.

They post up against the wall, one on each side of the door. Rene looks into the window. The bungalow is dark. Music plays softly from inside.

RENE (V.O.)
I'll go in first.

JACKIE (V.O.)
I'm lighter than you.

Rene opens the window and carefully climbs in.

RENE (V.O.)
I need you to start the car.

INTERCUT

Rene and Jackie in the HALL OF MIRRORS. Jackie stares back at Rene, at one of his many reflections.

JACKIE
What do you mean by that?

RENE
Don't be stupid, Jackie. If anything happens, you run. You start the car and you get the fuck outta here.

JACKIE
Rene-

RENE
I mean it.

INT/EXT. BUNGALOW

Rene grabs the car keys hanging on the hook near the front door. He tosses them through the open window to Jackie.

She catches them.

(CONTINUED)

RENE
(whispers loud)
You see Frankie?

JACKIE
(hushed)
What?

RENE
Shh.

Rene puts up a finger to his mouth as Valentina shifts in her sleep beside Santiago. A record continues playing on an old record player.

Jackie continues around the corner of the bungalow when she stops suddenly and almost gasps aloud as she is startled by Frankie. Frankie sits in his chair, asleep. Jackie puts a hand over her heart then sneaks past him and to the car.

Rene carefully reaches down and grabs the key on a string sitting on the nightstand beside Santiago.

Jackie quietly climbs inside the driver seat as Rene climbs back out of the window.

He walks over to Jackie, almost not noticing Frankie either. Frankie shifts in the shadows, still out for now.

He continues to the car, coming up to the driver side. Jackie creeps the door open.

RENE
Now I have to go and grab the
stuff.

JACKIE
Where?

RENE
The haunted house.

JACKIE
Hurry.

RENE
Just stay quiet and be ready to
start this thing soon as I'm back.

Jackie nods then Rene sneaks away towards the haunted house ride

INTERCUT INT./EXT. HAUNTED HOUSE RIDE

Rene enters the ride, walking along the rails the carts normally use. He passes scary monsters and fake dead people.

Jackie sits in the car, waiting for Rene, her heart beating out of her chest. She watches Frankie.

Rene finds the office at the center of the ride hidden behind the "wall of the dead" (a stack of skeletons). He enters.

Frankie shifts slightly. Jackie's eyes widen as she realizes he's starting to wake. His head slowly turns towards her direction. She almost gasps again.

Rene grabs a duffel bag and empties its contents then uses the key on the string to unlock a storage locker revealing a few bricks of plastic wrapped heroin. Rene grabs them one by one and stuffs them into the bag. There's a small cash stash in the rack underneath. He stuffs that into the bag too.

Frankie gets up from his chair. Jackie sinks in hers. Frankie lumbers over. Jackie puts a hand over her mouth and tries to hide as best she can.

Rene leaves the office, walks along the rails for a moment then leaves the ride. He looks over and sees Frankie walking over to the car.

RENE

Oh shit.

Rene crouches and fast walks over.

Frankie stops at the car door, looking in, watching for movement. Jackie looks right into his eye. He tries to open the door and she finally lets out that gasp.

Rene continues towards the car, ducking to keep out of sight of Frankie.

Frankie grunts some as he tries the door again. He knocks on the window with his good hand. Jackie shakes her head.

Rene makes it to the car, stopping outside the passenger side. He knocks on the window. Jackie almost yells. She turns to look and leans over to unlock the door for Rene. He quickly gets inside with the duffel and locks it up.

Now becoming angry, Frankie puts his fist through the driver window. Jackie screams.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

Start the car, start the car.

Jackie fumbles with the keys as Frankie reaches in, trying to grab her face.

RENE

Start the fucking car!

JACKIE

I'm trying!

Rene leans over and punches Frankie's arm several times until he moves away from Jackie. Jackie starts the car.

Inside the bungalow, Santiago wakes to the sound just as the record comes to a stop. He starts to get up, brushing Valentina off him. He looks down at the nightstand to see the key on the string missing.

SANTIAGO

Mother fucker.

Rene puts the car in drive and Jackie begins to drive. Frankie pulls his arm away.

Santiago runs out of the bungalow to watch them leave. He looks over at Frankie's bloody hand and arm (cut up from the glass) then turns his attention back to the car.

START MONTAGE

Opening credits roll over a montage of photographs. The pictures are of Rene and Jackie over the next few years.

Pictures of:

them clearly high on junk. At parties. At their apartment. A second apartment.

Jackie going back to school, finishing her GED, studying for college (medical textbooks), receiving her Associate's degree. (she holds up her degrees for the camera, proud)

Rene gambling, blowing money, at horse races, with another woman. He always looks high, while Jackie is looking healthier and healthier over time.

Jackie and Rene, Jackie clearly unhappy in most.

Jackie receives another degree, this time Rene is nowhere in sight. Instead, Jackie appears to be with family, finally having gone back home.

(CONTINUED)

No more of Rene

END MONTAGE

INT. RENE'S APARTMENT

The apartment is actually a smaller garage-sized back house behind a main house.

Rene, visibly older but still thin, wakes to the sound of someone unlocking his front door. He starts to sit up in his bed, revealing a tattoo on his chest of a heart with *Burnout* written at the center of it. He listens close.

Rene, lethargic, walks over to his bedroom door and opens it to see as the LANDLORD, a man in his 50s, opens the front door and lets himself in.

RENE

Come on, man.

LANDLORD

So you're home.

RENE

I'm just in and out.

LANDLORD

You don't look in and out.

RENE

Whatever, man. What's the big deal? I told you I don't like that shit, you just barging in here like that.

LANDLORD

You said you'd have the rent to me two days ago.

RENE

(pause)

Yeah, it's coming, don't you worry.

LANDLORD

Well I'm worried. I worry every month because every month I'm here asking for the rent.

RENE

And every month I give it to you. What's the problem? What is this?

(CONTINUED)

LANDLORD

You give me what I came here for, I will leave you alone. But I don't want to have to come back here anymore.

RENE

So don't. This is my place.

LANDLORD

No, this is my place. You just live here. I did you a favor as a friend of my son, but no more.

RENE

What does that mean, no more?

LANDLORD

You have rent on time or I'll have to bring in a new renter.

RENE

Fine.

The landlord waits.

RENE

(pause)

What?

LANDLORD

Where is the rent?

RENE

(beat)

I'll have it tonight, mother fucker, damn.

LANDLORD

And don't call me a "mother fucker".

RENE

(shrugs)

It was a figure of speech.

Landlord shakes his head and leaves. Rene shuts the door behind him.

RENE

And I'd appreciate it if you stopped letting yourself in..

(under his breath)

(MORE)

SANTIAGO (V.O.) (cont'd)
.. even if it is your place. Fuck.

Rene sighs and wipes the crust from his eyes, still trying to wake up.

INT. PRISON

Santiago sits in his cell, staring at the wall. He's bigger, having had time to put on muscle. He's got some wear and tear, a little crow's feet around the eyes, but otherwise is still the same handsome devil from before. Silver in his long hair. Scars on his back.

GUARD (O.S.)
Valle. Today's the day, huh.

SANTIAGO
(low)
Today's the day.

EXT. PRISON

Santiago is released, his time having been served. He looks around, nobody there to pick him up.

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK

A cab pulls up outside the abandoned amusement park.

Santiago steps out of the cab and looks over his home, not pleased to see it in its current shape. It looks like its been neglected for years.

The cab pulls away as Santiago enters under the sign that reads *For your AMUSEMENT*.

Santiago walks past the games, the Ferris wheel. Both are covered in cobwebs.

He stops beside the bungalows. He peeks through the windows to see them trashed. Wrappers, half eaten things, dead animals here and there.

CRASH

Santiago turns his attention towards the haunted house ride. He stops in front of it, taking it in. He notes the broken lock and chain around the entrance doors.

He enters.

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE RIDE

More dead animals, more trash. Food wrappers, plastic drink cups.

He crushes one under his foot as he continues towards the back office.

He stops at the "wall of the dead", looking up and down the stack of skeletons as he listens to sounds coming from the office behind it. He slowly makes his way around the wall and stops at the office door.

He opens it.

INT. BACKROOM OFFICE

Something attacks Santiago, moving too quick for him to process what. At first glance it appears to be a large animal. A bear maybe.

Knocked to the ground, Santiago stares up at his impending doom as the creature emerges from the darkness and reveals itself to be:

Frankie, long hair (grown uneven) hiding his face, stands over Santi with an axe in his hand.

It takes another moment for Santi to recognize him.

SANTIAGO

Frankie?

Santi's eyes finally find Frankie's good eye behind all that hair and they lock. There's some recognition in his eye too. That or he's trying to focus it better.

SANTIAGO

Frankie, it's me. Santi. Don't you recognize me? Santiago.

Frankie keeps the axe up over his head.

Santiago continues to speak to him almost like he's his child.

SANTIAGO

I understand how you must feel. It wasn't my intention to abandon you, my friend. They took me from you, from our home here and locked me away. Nine years. Give me the axe.

(CONTINUED)

Frankie takes in his words and grumbles. He brings the axe down to his side all while still watching Santi.

SANTIAGO

From the looks of it, you've been
in a prison of your own making.
Give me the axe, Frankie.

Frankie releases the axe then after a moment offers it to Santi. He takes it and uses it to help himself onto his feet. He turns his attention to Frankie.

Frankie almost flinches as Santi moves towards him.

SANTIAGO

It's okay.

Santiago tosses the axe and puts up both his hands for Frankie to see.

SANTIAGO

See, nothing in my hands.

Frankie, though towering Santi, somehow cowers from him.

SANTIAGO

Everything's gonna be okay.

Frankie stops moving backward and allows Santi to get closer. Santi wraps his arms around him. He hugs him tight, shushing as if to a baby. He slowly rocks with him, gently moving his hand up and down the small of his back.

SANTIAGO

I'm sorry. It's okay now. I'm here.

Frankie starts to let himself relax, dropping his chin on Santi's head. He shuts his good eye, letting his guard down.

SANTIAGO

I would never hurt you, Frank.

INT. BUNGALOW

Frankie sits in a chair with Santiago standing behind him.

Santi uses scissors to cut away at Frankie's long knotted hair. His touch is light.

SANTIAGO

(singing)

*In the pines, in the pines,
where the sun don't ever shine, I*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO (cont'd)
*would shiver the whole night
through.*

He continues to cut away at the hair, careful not to pull too hard at it.

SANTIAGO
Once upon a time there was a King and his Prince. They ruled over a small kingdom, though the size didn't matter, it meant the world to them. In fact, it was their world. It was everything they knew. The King was kind and giving, allowing his subjects to live in the palace, for what good was it empty? Of course, they took advantage of his good will and sucked the kingdom dry of all it had to offer. It wasn't long before the subjects spoke of him with ill repute. They mocked him and his Prince. The Prince could not speak and therefore could not defend himself. So the King guarded them both. But his word and his might were not enough. The subjects stole from their king, all of his riches, imprisoned him and left the Prince to rule over a dying kingdom. What was left to rule over? Nothing. Because they had taken it **all** from them. The King wept. Because he loved them. But.. love was not enough.. Love became hate. And so the King swore vengeance against his subjects who wronged him and his Prince. He swore vengeance.. Because that was all he had left to give them.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE

Rene, wearing a bright orange vest, walks up as construction of a new apartment complex is going on.

He places on his hard hat and continues into the site.

BOSS (O.S.)
Hey.

Rene keeps walking, not hearing the man at first.

(CONTINUED)

BOSS (O.S.)

Hey!

Rene keeps walking, this time ignoring the man.

Rene feels a tap on his shoulder. He turns to see his BOSS. They have to almost-shout over all the noise.

BOSS

What are you doing on my site?

RENE

What do you mean?

BOSS

I fired you yesterday.

RENE

I thought you were joking.

BOSS

Why would I be joking?

Rene shrugs.

BOSS

You're still late. It's the same thing I fired you for yesterday. You've been replaced already.

RENE

Come on, man. I need the money. I don't work, I don't have a place to live.

BOSS

What, you don't have a friend with a couch?

Rene doesn't know what to say, but is clearly agitated by his words.

BOSS

Get the fuck off my site.

INT. CAR

Rene gets into his car, slamming the car door shut. He reaches into his pocket and removes a small pink balloon filled with a powdery substance.

He looks around to check for anyone before untying the balloon and dumping its contents on the dashboard.

(CONTINUED)

Rene uses a beat up credit card to create a line of the now-pinkish (from the dye of the balloon) white powder.

He snorts it up then falls back into his seat. He focuses on his breathing.

He sits a moment longer before sitting back up to snort what's left of the pinkish white powder.

His eyes begin to slowly shut and his breathing becomes more shallow. He falls back into his seat again. After a few seconds of fighting it, he goes completely out. The shallow breathing becomes more of a rattle.

INT. STRIP CLUB

Music blares. Both half-naked and naked women dance. On poles. On the laps of men. Spotlights hit the main stage. A couple patrons drink at the bar. Being that it's during the week and the middle of the day, the place isn't too busy.

THREE BOUNCERS. One at the front door, one hovering around the main floor and one at the entrance to the private rooms in the back of the place.

Santiago and Frankie enter. Santiago wears a nice jacket and Frankie is no longer in rags. He's been cleaned up sharp. He wears an old beat up bomber jacket with a name tag that reads *Castellone*.

Santiago flashes his ID to the Bouncer.

BOUNCER

He can't come in.

SANTIAGO

Why not?

BOUNCER

First off no ID, second, and I don't mean to make offense here, but he's gonna scare the girls.

SANTIAGO

Offense taken.

Santiago reaches into his jacket and removes a small wad of hundred dollar bills. He removes the rubber band and slides out two bills.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Does this offend you?

The Bouncer thinks for a moment then shrugs.

BOUNCER

A little. I'm pretty thick skinned.

Santiago slides out two more bills.

BOUNCER

Alright.

The Bouncer extends his arm out.

SANTIAGO

(nods)

My thanks.

Santiago and Frankie walk over to the bar.

SANTIAGO

Couple drinks for my friend and I.

(to Frankie)

What sounds good?

Frankie is silent. He does a partial shrug.

SANTIAGO

Couple rum and cokes.

Santiago turns around and looks around the strip club. His eyes wander until they find what they're looking for up on stage.

As a STRIPPER passes, Santiago gently places a hand on her arm to get her attention.

The young lady looks Santiago up and down, seemingly impressed by his look and looks.

STRIPPER

Hey, honey, you looking to get a private dance?

SANTIAGO

Not me. My friend.

He motions towards Frankie.

Her eyes shift to Frankie. Her face changes almost instantaneously, going from aroused to disgusted. A look of fear in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Don't worry. He's a teddy bear. He couldn't hurt a fly.

Santiago removes the wad again and slides out a couple hundreds for her. He presents them. She tries to avoid making eye contact with Frankie, instead keeping her eyes on Santiago. She's very obvious though and this hurts Frankie a little. His good eye looks away, self conscious.

SANTIAGO

Treat him like you would any other man.

Santiago slides out another hundred.

SANTIAGO

Take it. It's yours either way.

She does then switches on.

STRIPPER

(sultry)

Come on, baby. I'm gonna give you the show of a lifetime.

She places her hand on Frankie and he looks down at her. He can see the pity in her eyes behind the facade. He starts to go anyway. Santi stops him.

SANTIAGO

Not so fast. Your drink.

Santi extends one of the drinks out for Frankie. He takes it and follows the young stripper to the back.

Santi takes his drink and finds an empty seat near the stage. He sits and watches as

Valentina (now around 27) dances on the pole.

Santi watches her a little longer until Valentina finally looks back at him and recognizes him. Her face drops. A look of fear in her eye and unlike the young stripper, she knows what Santi is actually capable of.

She finishes up her dance before coming down to him.

Another stripper takes her place on the stage as she's announced.

Valentina stands in front of Santiago, speechless.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

(pause)

I missed you.

VALENTINA

.. I missed.. you.. what are you..

SANTIAGO

You stopped going to visit me.

VALENTINA

.. It was hard to see you like that.

SANTIAGO

You stopped writing, too. You know what's even harder? Being abandoned by the people you "love".

VALENTINA

I did love you.

SANTIAGO

Oh, but not anymore?

VALENTINA

.. It's been a long time.

SANTIAGO

That I know.

(chuckles)

That I know.

VALENTINA

Please don't make a scene.

SANTIAGO

Who's making a scene? We're just talking here. Just catching up with my ol' girl.

Valentina doesn't know what else to say.

SANTIAGO

You're not gonna dance for me?

Valentina hesitates then starts to dance out of fear.

SANTIAGO

Just like the old days, huh?

(jealous)

You really found a place to show off your best assets.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
I was wronged, you know.

VALENTINA
.. I know.

She continues to dance, becoming more afraid of what could happen.

SANTIAGO
You left me to rot.

VALENTINA
(almost tearfully)
I'm sorry.

Santi watches her close. He can smell her fear.

SANTIAGO
(beat)
I forgive you.

Valentina almost looks relieved.

SANTIAGO
I'm here because I need your help.

VALENTINA
With what?

SANTIAGO
To find some of our old friends.
The ones who stole from me. Hell,
they stole the life we were
supposed to have together.
Remember?

Santi pulls her closer as she dances on him.

SANTIAGO
Just you and me. Til the end of
time.

VALENTINA
.. I'm sorry, Santi.

SANTIAGO
I've already forgiven you. What
else is there to be sorry about?

VALENTINA
I can't go with you. That's not my
life anymore.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Oh yes, this is miles better.
You're really doing great things
here.

VALENTINA

(stops dancing)

I don't need this. I don't need you
anymore. You can't blame us for
getting caught up and locked up.

Santi pulls Valentina suddenly, violently, towards him.

SANTIAGO

(low and mean)

There's nowhere you can go, I won't
find you.

BOUNCER (O.S.)

Hey! Hands off the girl.

Santi looks up as the Bouncer on the floor (Bouncer #2)
walks towards him.

Just as that is happening there is a commotion towards the
back. A scream.

The young stripper comes running out past the private
backrooms Bouncer (Bouncer #3). He tries to stop her, asking
what's wrong.

The Bouncer turns as Frankie steps out. He tries to stop
him. Frankie smashes his glass into the man's face and
pushes him against the wall. The man drops to the ground,
his hands over his face screaming. His face somewhat
destroyed by the glass cutting into it and the force of
Frankie's attack.

Bouncer 2 changes his target from Santi to Frankie as he
runs over to help.

Santiago pulls Valentina even tighter. She's unable to see
everything going on as it happens behind her.

Frankie easily dispatches of Bouncer 2, wrestling him
against the stage then using a nearby chair on him. The
other girls scream and cry. Some run, some hide (same goes
for the patrons who are there).

The front door Bouncer comes over to help his coworkers.

Santi rubs Valentina's back and starts to sing:

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

(singing)

*My girl, my girl, where will you
go. I'm going where the cold wind
blows.*

Frankie is stomping on Bouncer #2 as Bouncer #1 nears. Before he can get close enough to help, Santiago removes a REVOLVER from inside his jacket and

BANG!

shoots Bouncer #1 in the back. He goes down.

The deafening sound of the gun pops Valentina's right ear drum. A little blood seeps from her ear.

Frankie continues stomping. The girls continue to scream.

Santi caresses Valentina's back softly.

SANTIAGO

I thought you loved me.

He squeezes her tight.

NIGHTMARE

Rene is in a dark tunnel. There is a light at the end of it. It calls to him. He walks toward it.

Voices emerge from the darkness behind him. He turns to look, but sees no people, only shapes of faces he once knew.

He starts to run.

Santiago's voice, Jackie's, strangers talking over him in doctor-speak.

He runs harder, faster, towards the light at the end. The voices grow louder. The darkness closer.

Rene trips over a large object that's seemingly come out of nowhere. He looks down at the object, realizing its himself, dying.

He looks up as the voices are so close.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

There's nowhere you can go, I won't
find you.

(CONTINUED)

Frankie, or at least his shadow, emerges from the wall of darkness still inching its way towards Rene on the ground. The only discernible feature of Frankie within the shadow is the gleam in one of his eyes. The eye opens wide, staring down at Rene.

Rene stares back at it, afraid, feeling it's gaze pulling him in like the Eye of Sauron.

END NIGHTMARE

INT. HOSPITAL

Rene starts to wake. His eyes look down his body and at his feet at the end of the hospital bed then around the room.

Sitting at his side is an older Jackie (25 or so). She looks healthy.

RENE
(weak)
Jackie. Jackie?

Jackie looks up at him.

Rene continues to speak in a softer, weaker voice. Jackie sounds as if she's trying not to be angry with him.

RENE
I made it. I'm in heaven.

JACKIE
No, you're in a hospital.

RENE
Hos-?... How'd I get here?... What
are you doing here?

JACKIE
You had me listed as your next of
kin.

RENE
So what? I thought you hated my
guts and never wanted to see me
again.

JACKIE
You didn't just OD, Rene, you
fucking died.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

What?

JACKIE

They brought you back. Just in time.

RENE

You say that like I'm late for something.

Jackie shakes her head at Rene's wisecrack, this close to blowing a fuse. She's trying so hard not to raise her voice too loud.

JACKIE

You're still doing it.

RENE

Doing what?

JACKIE

Fent. Don't act stupid. So many people, friends of yours even, dead from doing the same dumb shit and you almost joined them. You were this close to being dinner for the worms.

RENE

Okay, don't start exaggerating. Wasn't even the real thing, it was a knock off.

(low)

Can't even find pure shit anymore.

JACKIE

Shut the fuck up, Rene.

Jackie stands up as if to leave.

RENE

Wait..

(beat)

I tried. I really tried this time. I swear.

JACKIE

If only you had a penny for every time you said that. Oh wait, how many sober chips do you have in your collection now? It's too bad they're not worth anything or else

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE (cont'd)
you could melt them down and pawn
it for more shit.

RENE
Why do you gotta act like a bitch.
I just died, leave me alone. You're
supposed to help me. Isn't that
what you do? You help every junkie
'cept me.

JACKIE
I can't help somebody who doesn't
want to be helped.

RENE
(pause)
.. Can't you tell a cry for help
when you hear one?

Jackie stares back at him, daggers.

JACKIE
(pause)
Fuck you. Fuck you for putting me
through this again. Fuck you for
bringing me back into your life.
Fuck you, Rene.

Rene stares up at Jackie. He isn't sure what else to say to
her. Instead, his eyes fill with tears.

RENE
Should have let me die then.

JACKIE
It wasn't my choice.

Rene, hurt, has no more cheeky wisecracks to make. He stays
silent.

Jackie knows her words cut deep, but she stands her ground.

She exits the room, her emotions starting to get the better
of her now that she's out of Rene's sight. Her eyes fill
with tears. She wipes away at one.

INT. RENE'S APARTMENT

Rene lies on his couch staring up at the ceiling. He sighs deep.

RENE

Fuck.

(beat)

I need to get high.

Rene turns his head towards the door, listening to some commotion that doesn't sound too far off. Like a mini earthquake shook up the front house. All becomes quiet again.

He turns his head back to look up at the ceiling, thinking.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

He looks towards the door once again, this time very sudden.

RENE

Yeah?

Rene waits and listens. No response.

RENE

(raises his voice)

I don't have it. I don't have your
fucking rent.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Rene shifts from his back to his butt.

RENE

What?

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Rene gets up from the couch and walks over to the door.

RENE

(muttering)

Fucking mother fucker, making me
get up. He's got a fucking key,
Christ sakes.

He answers it, shocked to find Frankie towering him. He looks up at Frankie, locking eyes with his good eye.

He's instantly filled with dread. He turns around as if to run, but Frankie is too close.

(CONTINUED)

Frankie grabs him by his shirt, holding him from running. He uses his free hand to punch Rene in the back of the head. Rene stumbles. He attempts a second time to run, but Frankie is already on him again. Kicking him, stomping him.

RENE
Stop! Frank-No!

Frankie stops as Santiago enters the doorway. Santiago already has his revolver in hand.

SANTIAGO
Look at you. Haven't changed one bit.

Rene attempts to crawl away.

Frankie side steps to allow Santi to pass him. Santi crouches at Rene's side and sticks the gun in his face. Once he feels the cold steel touch his cheek he ceases to crawl.

SANTIAGO
You've had this coming a long time, boy.

RENE
.. I probably have.

SANTIAGO
Then it shouldn't come as a surprise that we're here.

RENE
You should have called first, let me know you were coming.

Santiago smiles ear to ear, not believing what he's hearing. He laughs.

SANTIAGO
I'm guessing you shot up all my money.

Rene starts to laugh with him.

RENE
I couldn't believe it.

SANTIAGO
What's that?

(CONTINUED)

RENE

How easy it was to steal your shit.
Like taking candy from a baby.

Santiago's smile slowly fades. He pulls away his gun.

SANTIAGO

Let's go.

Frankie grabs one of Rene's legs and starts to pull him away and out the door.

EXT. RENE'S APARTMENT

Rene tries to fight back and use his weight to pull himself out of Frankie's grasp. His attempt fails.

As Frankie continues to drag him across hot concrete, his skin scraping hard, Santi trails behind. Rene looks up at him then looks over to see his Landlord, through the sliding glass door, bent over a table dead. His face unrecognizable.

Rene turns his attention back to Santi, looking at him upside down. Santi continues to follow, gun in hand, menace on his face. He's only getting started.

INT. CLINIC

Jackie sits at her computer logging information. She looks at the time.

JACKIE

(sighs)
Fuck it.

She starts to pack up her stuff.

EXT. CLINIC

Jackie steps outside. She happens to look to her right, her attention caught by a man with his back to her. He looks familiar.

She tries to pay it no mind and turns back towards the street just as a car with tinted windows is pulling up. The passenger window rolls down.

VALENTINA

Jackie?

Jackie bends over to see that its Valentina driving the car.
(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Yeah?

(beat)

Oh. It's you.

VALENTINA

I almost didn't recognize you. You look good.

JACKIE

What are you doing here?

Valentina struggles with her hearing some after Santi blew out her ear drum.

VALENTINA

Wha--I was just in the area. Just passing through. Then I saw you right now. Wow, you look really good.

JACKIE

You said that.

Valentina looks scared, uneasy. She looks behind her towards the back seat prompting Jackie to look over at the back tinted window. She can almost make out a figure inside.

VALENTINA

Where are you parked? I'll give you a ride.

JACKIE

That's okay. Hey, it was nice to see you, but I actually need to run back in and grab something.

VALENTINA

(beat)

What's that?

JACKIE

(weirded out)

I said.. No thanks.

Jackie turns to walk back inside when she walks into the familiar man. Santiago.

The back passenger door swings open as he forces her inside.

Frankie brings a bag over her head and holds her down. She struggles, but he's too big, too strong. Santi zip ties her hands together.

(CONTINUED)

Jackie is panicking.

SANTIAGO

Shhhh.

Santi presses his revolver against her head.

SANTIAGO

You know what that is?

Jackie stops, tries to catch her breath then nods calmly.

SANTIAGO

Get comfortable. It's a bit of a drive.

INT. CAR - MOVING

All is quiet in the car except for Santiago strumming his guitar. He stops playing, sets it down then removes the bag from over Jackie's head.

She looks up as they arrive at

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK

Her eyes grow wide. She doesn't say a word. She doesn't have to. Her breathing becomes shallow. Her chest noticeably rising up and down faster. Her eyes almost fill with tears.

SANTIAGO

Welcome home.

Jackie doesn't dare turn to look at Santiago. She doesn't have to. She knows his voice well. She keeps her eyes on the park, flooded with memories she's long tried to forget. It's overwhelming her. Anymore excitement and she'll have a panic attack.

They pull up to the left of the bungalows in the back of the park, beside a second car.

The pop ups where there was once games have been taken down. The stage at the center of the park has seemingly been moved elsewhere (leaving an open space at the center of the park).

Santiago exits the car first, leading Jackie, whose hands are zip tied in front of her, out. Frankie exits from the other side. Then Valentina with great reluctance.

Jackie finally gets a good look at both Santiago and Frankie.

(CONTINUED)

There's a makeshift campfire between the cars and the cages. There are a few chairs around the campfire. They lead Jackie, with Valentina following behind, past this campfire and behind the bungalow where Rene is being kept in a cage.

The sight isn't entirely shocking to Jackie.

JACKIE

Why are you doing this?

Santi turns to her. There's a look of awe on his face.

RENE

Don't act stupid, Jackie.

JACKIE

Shut up.

SANTIAGO

He's right. There's no sense in wasting time talking about the past. I'm only interested in the future.

Santi mocks having a crystal ball in front of him. He shuts his eyes then opens them.

SANTIAGO

I see **your** future. His. Mine. They're all tied together.

JACKIE

We've been out of your life for ten years. The money's gone. All of it's gone. You want to kill us over something you can't get back?

SANTIAGO

I don't wanna kill you. I want your help.

Jackie waits. She looks over at Frankie then back to Santi.

SANTIAGO

You're gonna help me recover what was lost. What you took from me.

JACKIE

What if I say no?

Santi smiles then removes a SWITCHBLADE KNIFE from his pocket. He gets close to her.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

(beat)

Do you really want me to entertain
that idea?

JACKIE

.. No.

Santi raises the knife then cuts Jackie's zip ties. He pockets the knife then removes a folded up piece of paper from the same pocket. He presents it to her. She takes it and reads.

JACKIE

What are these addresses?

SANTIAGO

All I need you to do is drive
Frankie to each of those locations.
Nothing more.

JACKIE

Can't he do it on his own?

SANTIAGO

Frankie doesn't drive. He's got one
good eye and even that eye, well,
he's a little blind in it. Right,
Frank?

Frankie nods.

JACKIE

.. After I do this, you're gonna
let us go?

SANTIAGO

If you do a good job. Sure.

Santi removes a FLIP PHONE from his pocket and presents it for all of them to see.

SANTIAGO

Anything beyond your taxi services,
Frankie sends this message. And if
I get this message..

Santi looks over at Rene in the cage.

SANTIAGO

You know we used to have a tiger
here? It was short lived. Couldn't
get the proper permits. Couldn't
sell it.. So we had to put it down.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)

I might have to do the same to Rene here.. unless you buy him from me. How much is his life worth to you? What you stole from me? More?

JACKIE

Not much these days.

Santi chuckles then realizes she means it. He looks back and forth between Jackie and Rene. He laughs.

SANTIAGO

So you're finally past the honeymoon stage.

(sighs)

"Love conquers all."

He chuckles again.

SANTIAGO

I see something else in your eyes. Something that wasn't there before.

Santi gets too close. He looks deep into her eyes.

SANTIAGO

Hate? Oh, you hate him now, don't you?

(pause)

But behind all that, there's still love. That shit's forever.

JACKIE

Says you. Why don't you make **him** your gofer?

SANTIAGO

You'd rather put **your** life in **his** hands?

JACKIE

.. No, I guess not.

SANTIAGO

Yeah, I wouldn't either. You were always the one I trusted to get things done. Anyway, I don't think I have to keep telling you the do's and don'ts.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE
Just drive. I get it.

SANTIAGO
(nods)
Good.

Santi looks to Valentina. She hands over the car keys to Jackie. Jackie looks at her with contempt. Valentina has an apologetic look on her face.

SANTIAGO
Frankie.

Santi removes a second GUN and another zip tie from his jacket.

SANTIAGO
Give me your hand, buddy.

Frankie presents his good hand.

SANTIAGO
You might need that for something.
The other one.

Frankie brings his good hand back down to his side then brings up his other hand. His fingers aren't straight, and he's missing his pinky. Santi plants the gun in his hand. Frankie inserts his trigger finger where the trigger is.

SANTIAGO
No itchy fingers now, okay.

He zip ties the gun to Frankie's hand. A second zip tie. Just tight enough to not cut off his circulation.

JACKIE
What's that for?

SANTIAGO
Not for you. Unless you give
Frankie reason to make it be.

Jackie goes quiet.

Santiago drops a second, loaded magazine into Frankie's jacket pocket.

SANTIAGO
Just in case. Well, safe travels,
my friends.

Santi motions bye to Jackie. She gets the idea.

(CONTINUED)

Jackie enters the driver side of the car and Frankie the passenger's. They drive away.

Santi turns his attention to Rene. Rene is now on the ground, looking up at him.

SANTIAGO
Pitiful thing.
(beat)
Hungry?

Rene continues to stare down Santiago without responding.

Santi stares back a moment longer before walking off. Rene turns his attention to Valentina. She tries to avoid eye contact.

Santi returns with a bag of peanuts in his hands. He throws them, one by one, at Rene. Each one bounces off Rene's face.

SANTIAGO
Not much to look at, is he? Now that tiger.. I never saw anything so beautiful. So majestic. So fierce, yet in that moment.. so vulnerable. That's what happens when you put something behind bars and imprison it. They have no choice but to be vulnerable.

Santiago dumps the crumbs and remains from the bag and tosses the bag.

SANTIAGO
You put them on display for the world to see exactly who they are.

INT. CAR - MOVING

Jackie drives with Frankie in the passenger seat. He stares out his window.

Jackie looks over at him, studying him.

JACKIE
I don't understand why you listen to him.

Frankie turns to look at Jackie.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

He's using you. He always did.

Frankie sits quiet then shakes his head.

JACKIE

No?

(beat)

He wasn't lying. You really are blind. What are we doing?

Frank raises his gun hand.

JACKIE

You're not a killer. You're not his slave. You don't owe him anything.

They stop at a red light.

Frankie turns his head towards her again. Jackie catches this knowing look in his eye that says "yes". Frankie owes him everything.

JACKIE

(angered)

I can't accept that, Frank.

(beat)

I can't accept that.

Jackie turns her attention back to the road as the light turns green. She crosses another street before looking around as if unsure of where to turn.

She looks as a POLICE OFFICER is getting out of his cruiser at the gas station on the corner. She drives towards it.

Frankie sees the cop and looks over at Jackie. He fumbles around in his jacket pocket and removes the flip phone given by Santiago. Jackie notices.

JACKIE

I'm lost. It's been a while since I drove around here. I need to ask for directions. Unless you're going to suddenly start speaking.

Frankie remains tight-lipped. He doesn't budge.

Jackie pulls into

EXT. GAS STATION

and parks at one of the pumps as the cop comes back out and back to his car.

JACKIE
I'll be right back.

Her eyes lock with Frankie's good eye.

JACKIE
I will.

Frankie takes a moment before nodding.

Jackie gets out of the car and walks towards the the cop just as he's starting to fill up his tank.

Frankie tightens his grip on the gun.

Jackie almost stops in front of the cop. His back is to her so he doesn't notice. She passes him and enters

INT. GAS STATION

She approaches the CLERK.

CLERK
Yes, just gas?

JACKIE
No, actually.

Jackie looks at the TV to the side of the clerk, displaying a feed from a camera. It show the pumps, the cop filling up, a dark figure sitting in a car.

JACKIE
(pause)
Just need some directions.

CLERK
Where to?

Jackie removes a folded up piece of paper in her pocket. She shows the clerk.

CLERK
Oh yeah, that's just right here.
You're close.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

That's what I thought, I just wasn't sure.

CLERK

Yeah, all you gotta do is get back on Main, make a left on Elm, drive down some then you'll hit your street. Not sure if you're making a left or right, but that's your street.

JACKIE

Thank you.

EXT. GAS STATION

Jackie steps out. She watches the cop finishing up, putting the pump back. She looks past him and over at Frankie in the car. Frankie is watching, ready to make a move if she does.

She starts walking back to the car. This time the officer sees her.

POLICE OFFICER

Afternoon, miss.

JACKIE

(fake smiles)

Afternoon.

Jackie walks past him and gets back into the car. Her heart is racing.

She pulls away after the cop does.

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK - INT. BUNGALOW

Sweet, soft oldies music plays as Santiago slow dances with Valentina. He rocks her, swaying left and right.

Santiago eventually breaks the silence, speaking into Valentina's right ear (which she is practically deaf in now):

SANTIAGO

(softly)

I missed this. There's a lot you miss when you're away. Birthdays, Christmas. Ten years of birthdays and Christmases.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)

Ten years ain't nothing, you know.

Valentina, not really sure what he's saying, mostly tries to ignore him anyway. She keeps her head under his to not have to look him in the eye. Santiago notices.

What he can't see is Valentina eying his revolver on the nightstand beside the bed.

He lifts her chin gently. She still tries to avoid eye contact. She's on the verge of tears.

SANTIAGO

You're upset with me.

VALENTINA

No.

SANTIAGO

That's okay. You know you you can tell me anything. Hey, look at me.

Valentina hesitates before locking eyes with him.

SANTIAGO

I would never hurt you. You know that, don't you?

Valentina pauses then nods.

SANTIAGO

(smiles)

You're my perfect little angel. God must have said there was no more room for his most perfect of creations in heaven. So he sent you here, carried in the beak of a stork. To me. You are.. **my** angel.. aren't you?

Valentina nods, trying to force a smile. He studies her face. Afraid, she slowly brings her head back down.

Santiago licks his finger tip and rubs dry blood from Valentina's right ear.

SANTIAGO

I didn't mean to do that. I was angry at you. Can't you see how sorry I am? How much it hurts me to see you hurt?

Valentina's eyes make their way back to the revolver.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

I love you so much it used to kill me thinking of you. I would die a little more each day. Now that I have you this close again.. I'll never let you go. You're my perfect angel, baby. You know that, don't you?

Valentina stays silent, crying as quiet as she can.

SANTIAGO

You don't have to cry anymore, baby. **I'm** here now.

They dance in silence again for a little longer before Santiago moves her back towards the bed.

He sits her down then extends a BURNER CELL PHONE to her. She accepts it.

SANTIAGO

Now you know what to do if Frankie sends that text, right?

VALENTINA

Are you going somewhere?

SANTIAGO

Yes. I have some business to take care of. I shouldn't be long.

Santiago grabs his revolver from the nightstand and presents it to her.

SANTIAGO

If Frankie sends that text, you put two in Rene. Three if you're not sure.

Valentina accepts it.

SANTIAGO

Every King needs his Queen.

Santiago kisses her forehead then turns to leave.

As he walks out the bungalow, Valentina raises the revolver up as if to shoot him. The gun is much heavier than she expected. Her hand shakes, but mostly from the anxiety. Santi is out of sight. She lowers the gun in defeat.

EXT. TARGET'S HOME - INT. CAR

Jackie pulls up outside the house. Frankie is ready to hop out when she stops him.

JACKIE

Frank.

Frankie turns towards her.

JACKIE

Don't.

Frankie stares back at Jackie. She places her hand on his gun hand.

JACKIE

I don't know what kind of crazy scheme he's got you wrapped up in, but this isn't the answer. Why should we have to pay for his mistakes? Everything that happened to him after he left, it's got nothing to do with us. He's fucking crazy, Frank. He's nothing but a manipulative pervert.

Frankie stares at her another moment then pulls his hand away. He reaches over and takes the car keys then exits the car.

He pockets the keys as he walks over to the front door and bangs on it with his gun hand.

Jackie is frozen in anticipation.

Frankie bangs on the door again.

MAN (O.S.)

Hold on! I'm coming!

Jackie turns away, unable to look.

INT. TARGET'S HOME

The front door opens a crack as the MAN on the other side peeks at who it is.

Frankie throws his weight, kicking the door open and the man onto the ground on his back.

For a moment the man is stuck, but he quickly recognizes Frankie.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

No.

(shakes head)

No!

The man goes from his back to a crawl to trying to run away.

INT. CAR

BANG!

Jackie can hear the commotion from inside the car, certain sounds more muffled/harder to hear the further into the house Frankie and the action gets. She hears a woman scream. A lot of crashing of household objects.

BANG! BANG!

More crashing of objects, more screaming.

The man's WIFE, covered in blood, runs out of the house screaming.

Jackie turns to look. The wife sees her and decides to run towards the car. Jackie doesn't know what to do.

BANG!

A bullet comes through the window and almost hits Jackie. She jumps.

BANG!

The woman is shot in the back. It propels her forward hard into the car. She hits the sidewalk right after.

JACKIE

No!

Frankie, never running, eventually makes his way over to her.

Jackie puts her hands over her ears and shuts her eyes.

BANG!

Frankie double taps the wife. He pushes her body aside with his foot then gets into the passenger seat.

Jackie doesn't turn to look at him. She shakes with fear, guilt and shame.

(CONTINUED)

Frankie removes the car keys from his jacket pocket and tosses them to Jackie. She flinches then grabs the keys once she realizes she's not in danger. Frankie gently places his free hand on her shoulder. She pushes him away. Frankie looks offended by this.

JACKIE

No-don..

Jackie takes another moment to gather herself before turning on the car.

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK - EXT. BUNGALOW

Rene sits on his butt inside the tiger cage. He looks over at the smaller cage beside his then sighs.

Valentina steps out of the bungalow and comes around the corner to him with a bottle of water.

She offers it to him through the bar, tapping him on the shoulder with it. He accepts it. He takes a second before opening it up and chugging down half of it.

Valentina stands in front of him, watching. When he's done with it he offers up the trash back. She takes it.

VALENTINA

Are you okay?

RENE

I'm locked in a cage.. like an animal. How was it? Just like you remembered?

VALENTINA

What are you talking about?

RENE

Valle's cock.

VALENTINA

I wouldn't know.

RENE

But you remember the taste.

VALENTINA

Fuck you. I didn't sleep with him.

Rene gives Valentina a look like "yeah right".

(CONTINUED)

VALENTINA

(adamant)

I didn't.

(beat, low)

We just danced.

RENE

Danced? Sounds like a euphemism to me.

VALENTINA

What are you trying to say?

RENE

You were fucking him then and you're fucking him now. If you weren't, you'd be in the cage next to me.

VALENTINA

That's not where he wants me. You know I might not ever hear out of my right ear again?

RENE

How'd that happen? He whispered sweet nuthins into your ear too loud?

Valentina whips out Santiago's revolver.

VALENTINA

With this.

Rene looks up at the gun.

RENE

How did you get that?

VALENTINA

He gave it to me. Said to shoot you if Frankie sends that text.

RENE

You're gonna shoot me?

VALENTINA

I wasn't planning on it, but I'm starting to remember what a fucking asshole you are.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

Wait, he gave it to you? Just like that? You're in his pocket already.

VALENTINA

Well I'm trying to get out.

RENE

So get out. Leave. How's he going to stop you?

VALENTINA

He found us each once already. He'll find me again. He won't ever stop looking.

RENE

So when he gets back, shoot him.

VALENTINA

(hesitates)

I don't know.

RENE

What's to know? He kidnapped us. He's killed people. There's no way he's getting away with any of this shit.

VALENTINA

You underestimate him.

RENE

No, you overestimate and that gives him his power. YOU give him power. Don't.

VALENTINA

.. I've never shot anyone before.

Rene extends out his hand.

RENE

I'll do it.

Valentina looks down at the gun in her hand then at Rene's empty hand.

VALENTINA

I think we have to play his game a little longer. It's the only way.

(CONTINUED)

RENE
Bullshit! Give me the fucking gun!

Valentina pulls the gun back.

RENE
You have no idea what you're doing.

VALENTINA
No, but neither do you.

RENE
(pause)
You fucking bitch, you're gonna get
us all killed.

Valentina gives Rene an offended look then starts to walk away.

RENE
Don't you fucking walk away from
me! Let me out!

Valentina turns the corner and hugs the wall with her back. Her chest is moving up and down quicker, she's clearly anxious, unsure what to do. She looks down at the gun.

RENE
Hey! Come back!
(beat)
You're nothing but Valle's whore!

Valentina stays back against the wall, taking his insults. She fights tears then gently places a hand to massage her right ear.

Rene calms down, dropping down to lean against the cage bars.

A light above him (and the bungalow) switches on as the sky is getting darker and the sun is setting.

He notices the shadow the overhead light creates on the ground. He starts to create hand shadow puppets as he thinks over his words and predicament.

EXT. PARK - EVENING

A birthday party is nearing its end. A group of 5 YEAR OLD BOYS AND GIRLS gather around a CREEPY CLOWN.

(CONTINUED)

The clown sits near the sidewalk, in front of his big colorful van. He plays circus music from his van. The clown makes weird balloon animals. The children look on in awe, giggling and yelling. Some talk a lot more than others.

The kids parents' are scattered, standing around and conversating not too far away, some are seated staring at their phones.

A BODYGUARD stands close to the commotion. In front of him stands who he's meant to guard. Little ILLYANA. She wears a birthday party hat on her head. She doesn't appear to be too interested in the clown. The bodyguard gives her a light push on the back, nudging her towards the group of kids.

Little Illyana starts to move towards the clown, hesitant to get too close. Just as she's nearing the group of kids in front of the clown, each shouting for what animal they want to see next, a balloon pops loudly. Illyana stops in her tracks. She startles, but not a peep comes out.

She starts to move towards the group again when she hears the strumming of a guitar. She looks over to the right to see just a short distance away a man seated on a bench, playing an acoustic guitar.

Her bodyguard's attention is taken away by one of the other parents. He turns away momentarily.

Illyana goes past the kids and clown and walks down the sidewalk until stopping in front of the man. Santiago Valle.

He continues to play, gently working the strings. He plays to the tune of Nirvana's cover of *Where Did You Sleep Last Night*.

Valentina's car sits in front of him, parked on the street.

SANTIAGO
(looks up)
Well hello there.

ILLYANA
Hi.

SANTIAGO
And what's your name, little one?

ILLYANA
(struggles some)
Ill-Illyana.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO
Illyana? What a beautiful name.

ILLYANA
Thank you.

SANTIAGO
Is it your birthday today?

Illyana nods her head.

SANTIAGO
Happy birthday, princess.

Illyana then shakes her head.

SANTIAGO
It's not?

ILLYANA
(shakes head again)
No.

SANTIAGO
(half sings)
My girl, my girl, don't lie to me..

ILLYANA
I was kidding.

SANTIAGO
Oh. That's okay then. You're
funnier than that clown.

Illyana looks back at the clown then back at Santiago.

SANTIAGO
You don't like clowns?

ILLYANA
They're scary.

SANTIAGO
If you think clowns in make up and
colorful jumpsuits are scary, just
wait until you grow up. Most clowns
look like normal people.

Illyana clearly doesn't really understand what he's talking
about.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO
You like music?

Illyana nods.

SANTIAGO
Good.

Santiago plays some more.

SANTIAGO
I could teach you. Would you like that?

Illyana thinks it over then nods frantically.

SANTIAGO
I have another guitar in my car right there. You want to grab it? We'll jam out together.

ILLYANA
Okay.

Santi removes his car key, turns to look over at the bodyguard behind some trees then at the kids and clown. He clicks the trunk button and the trunk pops open.

SANTIAGO
Go grab it. I'll show you some things.

Illyana excitedly runs over to the trunk.

Santi quickly gets up from the bench, looks over to his left one more time then lifts Illyana into the trunk of the car. He slams it shut just as she starts to scream. He throws his guitar into the backseat before entering the driver's seat and peeling away.

In the background, Illyana's bodyguard is walking over to the group of children, calling for her.

INT. CAR - MOVING

Jackie drives, silent. Frankie looks out his window, watching street lights turn on as the nighttime darkness is setting in and the moon is taking the sun's place.

Jackie peeks down at the now half-crumbled piece of paper with the two addresses written down. She looks up at the street signs, gets over on her left and turns, entering a little neighborhood.

(CONTINUED)

One she spots the correct street she turns right on it. Jackie stops across the street from target #2's home.

She and Frankie look over as the garage door starts to open, revealing a MAN (TARGET #2) and his WIFE getting into a car. Frankie moves to get out.

JACKIE

Wait. We're too late.

Frankie grunts angrily, annoyed.

JACKIE

(thinks)

We'll follow them.

The car pulls down the driveway and drives down the street back the direction Jackie came from. She quickly makes a u-turn and follows after the car.

Frankie shifts his gun hand around uncomfortably.

Jackie continues after the target's car, following them to

EXT. DINER

The target parks and lets his wife out. He presents his arm for her and they go arm and arm into the diner.

Jackie waits at the light to turn into the parking lot. She looks over at Frankie. He's getting antsy.

The light turns green and Jackie turns into the parking lot. She parks beside the target's car. She turns to Frankie once more.

JACKIE

Frank.

Frankie turns to her.

JACKIE

It's not too late to stop this craziness. Valle can't just kill everyone until there's no one left. This isn't going to work out the way he thinks.

Frankie appears to be thinking over her words. He removes the cell phone from his pocket and flips it open.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Don't go.

Frankie stares at her for another moment before reaching over and removing the car keys. He jumps out of the car and makes his way inside the diner.

INT. DINER

Frankie storms in. A YOUNG WAITER at the front moves to grab menus.

WAITER

Hi. How many?

The waiter looks up at Frankie's face. She's startled then almost immediately feels bad for reacting the way she has. Almost just as quickly the bad feeling is gone when her eyes travel down from his face to his gun hand. She wants to scream, but goes silent.

Frankie turns away from her and starts to walk past tables as the waiter runs to tell someone in the back. People start to take notice.

INTERCUT Jackie sitting in the car. At first she avoids looking up, but eventually gives in. She watches Frankie passing tables through the windows. He takes long strides and steps with heavy feet. He's tall enough that clear sight of his head is cut off by the top of the windows.

People are starting to make noise. Some behind Frankie start to gather their things and leave for the diner entrance/exit.

Target #2 finally notices all of the commotion as the freight train that is Frankie is closing in on him.

TARGET #2

Holy shit. Get down.

He pushes his wife towards the table, trying to get her to hide underneath.

BANG! BANG!

Two shots hit the booth seats, just missing the target. His wife manages to get underneath the table.

BANG! BANG!

Frankie puts two shots into the target before he can fully get his gun out from his pants.

(CONTINUED)

BANG!

Frankie puts another bullet in him.

People are running out of the diner, a few past Jackie (mostly in the opposite direction), partially obscuring her vision momentarily.

BANG!

Frankie finishes off the target.

BANG!

Frankie takes a bullet in his left shoulder. It grazes him. He turns, still slow as ever, towards his attacker. An OFF DUTY COP

OFF DUTY COP

Put the gun down, you son of a
bitch!

Frankie brings up his gun hand.

BANG!

The cop fires another shot at Frankie, missing. Frankie squeezes his trigger

BANG!

and hits the cop in the chest, he falls over another table. Frankie squeezes again, but this time comes up empty. He walks over, sets the phone down and grabs a knife on an unfinished plate. He brings it down on the cop before he can gather himself and fight back. The knife goes into his chest.

INTERCUT Jackie, ducking her head down, watches the knife go in and out. She notes that Frankie has set the phone down. She looks out on the street for an escape route, debating on going through with it.

Frankie picks the phone back up. He closes it then reaches into one of his jacket pockets. He walks towards the exit as he unloads the empty magazine and loads in the new clip. The empty one hits his steeltoe boot. He cocks it as he is walking out the door.

EXT. DINER

Jackie goes for it. She jumps out of the car and almost goes left, but decides to go the opposite direction.

Frankie sees her as she passes, on the side of the parked cars. He goes for the phone and starts to move after her. She almost runs off across the street when

BANG!

Frankie fires a shot towards her. It crashes through the windshield of the car she's passing behind. She drops down and ducks for cover. They continue this way, each walking along a side of the cars. Jackie continues running along the back of the cars, using them as cover, as Frankie shoots at her from the front of them. More windows are shot out, glass exploding over Jackie's head.

Jackie finally reaches the end of the line of cars. She stumbles, tripping and falling over onto the ground, no longer protected by the cars.

Frankie turns the corner of the last car and she's now in his sights. He lumbers towards her. She starts to crawl away on her back, but stops knowing its pointless. She looks up, tears in her eyes. Frankie stops in front of her.

JACKIE

Don't you dare send that fucking
text.

Frankie stares down at her. There's something behind his good eye. Guilt maybe. He turns the phone to show Jackie he's already sent it.

JACKIE

You ugly bastard.
(beat)
Just remember, Frank, you chose
this.

Frankie brings his gun up and aims it at her. A tear rolls down her face.

JACKIE

You chose this.

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK - INT. BUNGALOW

Valentina sits on the bed, staring down at the cell phone. More specifically the message that Frankie has sent her.

She looks over at the revolver sitting on the nightstand. She grabs it and exits the bungalow.

EXT. BUNGALOW

Rene sits in his cage, having given up on his shadow puppets.

Valentina turns the corner.

RENE

Great.

Valentina stops in front of the cage. Rene stares back at her, waiting for her to say something.

RENE

What?

Valentina opens the cell phone and shows it to Rene. The text from Frankie.

RENE

Jackie?

VALENTINA

I don't know. Maybe she's on the run.

RENE

If she's smart she won't bother coming back here.

(beat)

She's smart.

VALENTINA

I don't think she'd just leave you.

RENE

Wouldn't be the first time.

VALENTINA

I'm sure she had a reason to then.

RENE

(shrugs)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RENE (cont'd)
Don't condescend me, I know I'm a
piece of shit. Nothing but a
fucking burnout.

That words triggers memories for Valentina. She looks up at
him.

RENE
I held her back for so long and
then.. she did what she had to, I
guess. Got away from my stupid ass.

Rene's eyes go from Valentina down to the revolver in her
hand.

RENE
You're supposed to shoot me, right?

VALENTINA
.. Yeah.

RENE
So what are you waiting for?

VALENTINA
(raises voice)
How many times do I have to--I'm
not gonna fucking shoot you.

RENE
Might as well. Don't give Jackie a
reason to come back. Seriously.

VALENTINA
Shut up.

Valentina shuts the phone and pockets it. She removes the
key for the cage.

RENE
You had that this whole time?

VALENTINA
I didn't know who I could trust.

Valentina sticks the key into the cage lock and unlocks it.

VALENTINA
He's got a boat ready by the dock.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

He fill you in on his escape plan?

VALENTINA

No, but he had me stop so he could fill two gas cans. I saw Frankie carry them over to the boathouse.

RENE

(nods)

Okay.. Come with me.

Valentina thinks for a moment.

RENE

You can't stay here. He's gonna hurt you.

VALENTINA

.. He already has..

RENE

So don't be stupid. Let's get the fuck outta here.

Rene pushes on the cage door, but Valentina stops him.

RENE

What is this, some triple agent shit?

VALENTINA

Someone's coming.

Rene stops to listen. A car is pulling into the amusement park. The headlights flash near them as it gets closer to the back of the park.

Valentina quickly locks the cage.

RENE

I'm a sitting duck here.

Valentina thinks for a second then offers up the key. Rene takes it and pockets it just as Santiago is parking near them.

RENE

(low)

It's something, I guess.

Valentina doesn't hear him.

(CONTINUED)

Santi steps out of the car and goes straight for the trunk. Rene and Valentina watch. Santi pulls out the 5 year old Illyana from the trunk. She's all out of fight and has passed out from the exhaustion. Santi carries her over to the cages.

RENE

What the fuck.

Valentina is speechless. Santi stops beside her and plants a kiss on her forehead while grabbing the revolver out of her hand. Valentina, not realizing this is happening at first, loses her grip on it.

SANTIAGO

Open the other cage for me, will ya love?

VALENTINA

(hesitates)

She's so little, Santi.

SANTIAGO

Oh, but she's worth big things.
Open the cage.

Valentina opens the door to the smaller cage beside Rene's. Santi places Illyana inside and shuts the door.

SANTIAGO

Key.

Valentina hesitates again and almost panics. She pretends to check her pockets for the key.

VALENTINA

It must be in the room.

SANTIAGO

(pause)

Well go get it.

VALENTINA

.. Yeah.

Valentina nods and walks around the corner and into the bungalow.

RENE

I know you like em young, but
fuck.. this is low even for you.
This is really fucked up, man.

Rene gets as close to Santi as the bars will let him.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

As long as I get what I'm owed,
she'll be fine.

RENE

Nobody owes you anything, you
entitled fucking piece of shit.

SANTIAGO

No? **My** product, **my** money, **MY** TIME.

Santiago sticks the revolver in Rene's face. It startles
him, but he stands his ground.

SANTIAGO

You don't understand, do you? This
is **my** story.

Valentina comes back from searching the bungalow.

VALENTINA

I don't see it. Are you sure you
gave it to me?

Santi stares back at her, studying her eyes.

SANTIAGO

(beat)

I'm sure it'll turn up. Give me the
phone.

Valentina hesitates yet again.

SANTIAGO

What, can you not hear m--Oh no.

Santi comes closer to her, placing his hands near her ears
so that the revolver scrapes against the lobe of her
uninjured ear.

SANTIAGO

I forgot, baby, I'm sorry.

Santi chuckles then slides his hand into her pocket with his
free hand. He takes the phone from her.

SANTIAGO

That's my fault. Why don't you get
some rest. It's gonna be a long
night. I'll keep watch until
Frankie gets back. Make a quick
call.

(CONTINUED)

Santi leans in to kiss Valentina. She shudders as she lets him kiss her.

SANTIAGO

I almost forgot. Check the backseat, I got you something.

Santi grabs a chair and sits near the cages. He opens the phone. Rene's eyes alternate between Santi and Valentina. Valentina slowly backs away until they're all out of sight.

INT. CAR

Jackie (driver seat) and Frankie (passengers) sit across the street from their new destination. Jackie reads the newest text over again just to double check.

She looks up to see what's basically a compound.

JACKIE

I'm not going in there.

Frankie hits dial on his cell phone.

JACKIE

No, don't cal--

Jackie sighs. Frankie puts it on speaker.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

(phone)

Is there a problem?

Jackie doesn't respond. Frankie shoves the phone in her direction, prodding her to say something.

JACKIE

Who lives here?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

Vincenzo Andolini. An old friend.

JACKIE

Why are we outside his.. compound?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

You're outside? You should be inside. No more questions. Frankie will act as your bodyguard.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE
(eyes wide)
Guard?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)
That's what I said. Get out of the
fucking car. Keep me on speaker,
I'll do the talking.

Jackie exits the car, followed by Frankie. They walk across the street and stop in front of the camera/doorbell/intercom system. Jackie presses the doorbell.

BODYGUARD (V.O.)
Yeah?

JACKIE
.. I'm here to see Vincenzo
Andolini.

BODYGUARD (V.O.)
Who are you?

JACKIE
Jack--I'm here on someone else's
account.
(swallows)
Santiago Valle's.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)
Tell Vinnie, I'm out and I've come
for what's mine. If he ever wants
to see his daughter alive again,
he'll let Jackie and Frank here in
for a quick conversation.

BODYGUARD (V.O.)
(beat)
Hold on.

There's a brief silence before the gate starts to open up. Jackie and Frankie, side by side, enter and walk down the path towards the main house. They pass other BUTTON MEN (gangsters) all armed standing amongst there cars in the lot to the side. They all turn their bodies and attention towards the pair, ready for a fight.

Before they arrive at the main house, the front door swings open and out comes DON VINCENZO (VINNIE) ANDOLINI and FOUR more GUARDS. They spread out and now Jackie and Frankie are surrounded.

Frankie brings his gun, feeling threatened and claustrophobic from the armed men starting to circle them.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENZO

Where's my fucking daughter?

Jackie is too frightened to speak. She has a lump in her throat. She brings up the phone and lets Valle do the talking, just like he demanded.

Vincenzo looks shaken up, clearly a mess from his daughter's kidnapping.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

Vinnie, old friend, how are ya?

VINCENZO

Where is she?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

You know where to find me. That's where she'll be too. I have a proposal for you.

VINCENZO

I have a clown's balls in a vice right now at this very moment.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

I knew you were a ball buster, but god damn..

VINCENZO

What's your proposal?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

I'll keep her head above water just long enough for you to bring me the money you owe me. You know, the money you held onto for insurance. I've come to collect.

VINCENZO

We have your people outnumbered.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

The woman means nothing. Frankie, well you know Frankie, he won't go down without a fight. But then what would that do? Little Illyana will breathe her last gasp of air before I drown her behind the park. I know what I have. The golden ticket. So let's exchange gold for green.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENZO

How much?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

You stole half a million from me,
it's been about ten years, plus all
the emotional scarring and the
failure to upkeep the park.. hmm.
Something like a million a year
sounds fair. Yeah, how about ten?

VINCENZO

Ten million? You're fucking crazy.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

No, I'm perfectly sane. Sometimes I
say crazy things, but Vinnie, old
pal.. I mean what I say.

VINCENZO

(pause)

When?

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

When the clock strikes twelve,
Cinderella sleeps with the fishes.
Come alone. One car.

Santiago hangs up.

VINCENZO

What's to stop me from storming
that park?

JACKIE

He's not above hurting a child to
get what he wants.

VINCENZO

What's your business with him?

JACKIE

None. Not anymore. I'm a prisoner,
like your daughter.

VINCENZO

Maybe. But **maybe** your decisions led
you here. The only crime my Illyana
has committed.. is being my
daughter.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

.. If I can help her in any way,
you have my word that I'll try.

Vincenzo studies her eyes then nods. He looks over at Frankie.

VINCENZO

One hair on her head.. I'm gonna
round up the town, pitch forks and
torches and all.. we're gonna run
you down like the mostrò you are.
And when you're flesh is burning
off your bones, you'll finally open
that big dumb mouth of yours. I
hope you do. I hope you scream.

Vincenzo turns away from them.

VINCENZO

If you'll excuse me, I have to
scramble to appease a madman.

Vincenzo goes back inside. One of the four guards goes in with him.

The others still circle Jackie and Frankie. The pair turns around and starts to make their way back down the path towards the gate. Jackie can feel all their eyes on them. She doesn't dare turn to look at any of them. Eyes forward, they exit the compound.

EXT. WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK - EXT. BUNGALOW

Back behind the bungalow, Rene tries to distract little Illyana by creating more shadow puppets (a task made easier now that it's fully dark out).

He goes from a horse head to a bunny rabbit. For the first time, Illyana half giggles.

RENE

What's your name?

Illyana stays tight-lipped, remembering how the last time she told her name went.

RENE

My name is Rene. I'm in jail too.
Know what that means? We can trust
each other. We're cellies.

(CONTINUED)

ILLYANA
Cellies?

RENE
Yeah, we're jail friends.

Rene almost laughs.

ILLYANA
(beat)
Why are we in jail?

RENE
Well..

Rene looks up at Valle who is only a few yards away, on the phone with someone else now, tending to more business. His back is to them.

RENE
You see that man right there?

Illyana nods.

RENE
.. He thinks everything in this world belongs to him.. but it's not his world. His world is, uh.. he's living in a fairytale. You know what that is?

ILLYANA
Like a story? With witches and fairies and trolls.

RENE
Exactly. Hey, I'm gonna help you bust out of here, okay? We're gonna break out of this jail together.

ILLYANA
Is it bad, breaking out of jail?

RENE
Not if you've been wrongfully imprisoned. Put in jail, I mean. Besides, nothing bad happens to the good guys.

ILLYANA
(pause)
My name is Illyana.

Rene manages to break out a smile.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

That's a nice name.

Rene looks up as Jackie and Frankie are arriving in the second car. She parks it beside Valentina's car.

The two exit the car. Jackie looks over at Rene, relieved to see he's still alive and okay. Her eyes switch from Rene to Illyana. Her jaw almost drops.

JACKIE

Fucking psychopath, he really did it.

Santi strolls back over, having finished his phone call.

SANTIAGO

The gang's all back together now.

JACKIE

You know what you are?

SANTIAGO

No, tell me.

JACKIE

A sore loser.

Santi chuckles. He brings up some rope and tosses it to Frankie.

SANTIAGO

Find a nice horse for her to ride.

(to Jackie, grins)

You can choose the color.

Frankie grabs Jackie by the arm and yanks her away to the carousel nearby.

Frankie passes a few horses as if not happy with the choices then stops in front of an all-white horse. The horse is draped in a bright red and gold.

Satisfied with his choice, Frankie helps Jackie up on the horse.

JACKIE

Are you fucking kiddin--

Frankie pushes her up until she willingly puts her leg over.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

(low)

You're not kidding..

Frankie grabs her hands and places them on the pole emerging from the horse's head. He ties her hands to it with the rope then steps back to admire his work.

JACKIE

Kids now, Frank? Just when I thought the two of you couldn't get any lower. You're a match made in heaven. And maybe you think that makes you some kind of fallen angel. As far as I can tell, you've always been devils.

Frankie looks away as if ashamed and a bit annoyed with her. He walks back to take Santi's spot in watching over the cages. Santi goes around the corner of the bungalow toward its entrance.

Rene looks past Frankie at Jackie, noting she looks okay. She stares back at him. They look as if they're speaking telepathically. They know they're really in this together now.

INT. BUNGALOW

Santiago enters the bungalow. Valentina still sits on the bed trying to figure out her next move, though now she is dressed in an extravagant red dress.

Santi puts on a new record. He raises the volume.

SANTIAGO

Wow. Stunning isn't even the right word. I don't know that the right word exists, but you certainly look like royalty to me.

Santi moves in closer. Valentina doesn't look up at him like he's expecting. He brings a hand under her chin and gently raises it.

SANTIAGO

Did you hear what I said?

VALENTINA

I got the gist.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

I want you to hear this so look at me, read my lips if it helps.. I have something for you.

VALENTINA

(attitude)

Another gift.

SANTIAGO

I've never heard so much disdain at the prospect of receiving gifts.

VALENTINA

I don't want anything from you.

SANTIAGO

That's what all women say, but its not what they mean.

VALENTINA

I mean it.

Santi removes something from his pocket. A necklace covered in diamonds. He pulls the chain out of his pocket like a clown with a never ending handkerchief.

SANTIAGO

I thought putting a literal crown on your head might be too theatrical.

Santi chuckles then slips onto the bed behind her. He brings her legs around her. His breath hits the back of her neck. His words being spoken directly into the back of her skull.

He raises the diamond-laced necklace that glistens from every point of light that hits it, and places it around her neck.

VALENTINA

I'm not your pet, Santi.

SANTIAGO

Who said you are?

Santi finishes putting it on her. She raises a hand to touch it.

VALENTINA

It feels like a collar.

Valentina is getting worked up. She shudders from every breath that hits her neck.

(CONTINUED)

VALENTINA

I can feel your grasp around my throat. It's choking me.

SANTIAGO

Ten years wasn't enough space for you, baby?

VALENTINA

Ten lifetimes wouldn't be enough. It's not your love. It's the blackness in your soul. It destroys everything it envelops. I was just a kid. Lost. Looking for somewhere. Anywhere. Looking for love. Anyone's.

SANTIAGO

I gave you both those things.

VALENTINA

You took advantage of me. Of all of us.

Santi shakes his head as if he can't believe what he's hearing.

SANTIAGO

Come on now. Who took advantage of who? I opened myself up to you. "All of you."

Valentina's eyes fill with water.

VALENTINA

We were kids. Older than the one you've got locked in a cage right now, but we were kids. You have to let her go, Santi.

SANTIAGO

Not until I get what I'm owed. After that, we'll be free to do anything we want. Go anywhere we want. Wouldn't you like that? To hit the reset button.

VALENTINA

(beat)

I want to go home.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

(pause)

Where's the key to the cages, Val?

VALENTINA

I don't know.

SANTIAGO

I think you're lying to me.

Santi plays with her hair, brushing it off her neck. He kisses her neck, startling her.

SANTIAGO

I don't appreciate you treating me this way. After everything I've done for you.

Santi brings a hand up and grabs one of her breasts.

VALENTINA

No! Stop!

Valentina pushes his hand away, but he keeps trying. She continues to fight him off. He gives up.

SANTIAGO

All I've ever wanted.. was to love you.

Tears roll down Valentina's face.

As Valentina puts the verbal knife into Santi, something is changing in his eyes, his face. Love is turning to hate. Calm to anger. Once she finishes, he reaches a boiling point.

VALENTINA

I don't want your love, I don't need it. I can't pretend anymore. I can't pretend you're something you're not. You're not my king. There is no kingdom. This is Hell and you're my captor. My torturer. My dream killer. My rapist. Your ghost has hung over me for so long. You've cut me so deep that the scars won't heal. Your "love" has suffocated me for long enough!

Valentina tries to turn around to face Santi and maybe even fight him, but Santi grabs the necklace around her neck and pulls tight.

(CONTINUED)

Valentina struggles to pull away from the necklace, trying to slip her fingers underneath, but no luck.

Santi wraps the necklace around her neck again so that he has two layers of chain choking her. The necklace is starting to cut into her throat.

She continues to try and scream and cry and fight back, but Santi has too good a grip and has moved his his knees to her back. Blood spills as her throat is being cut into. She can't breath. Her eyes are bulging. The color from her face is leaving. The only color being the red blood dripping down from the cutting.

The life fades from Valentina's eyes, but Santi is still at it. It takes him a second before realizing she's no longer fighting back. He lets himself fall backward onto the bed. Her lifeless body falls back onto him. He holds her tight, caressing her as the record he puts on continues to play.

EXT. BUNGALOW

Frankie sits watching Rene and Illyana.

Santiago steps out from around the corner. All eyes go to him. They all heard what went down. Santi confirms it with a softness in his voice that wasn't there before.

SANTIAGO

Frank, take the body, dump it out
back. Don't worry about sinking it,
they won't find it til morning
anyway. By then, we'll be long
gone.

Frank stands up, but doesn't move from his place. There's a sad look in his good eye as if he's trying to understand. He looks down at the ground.

SANTIAGO

NOW.

Frank startles. He looks back up. He takes a step towards Santi and raises his gun hand.

Santi reaches into his pocket and brings out his switchblade. He opens it and cuts the zip ties keeping the gun strapped to Frankie's bad hand. He grabs the gun from Frankie's palm and sets it on top of the car nearest him.

Frankie saunters off to the bungalow.

(CONTINUED)

Santi takes Frankie's seat. He opens his open shirt more then looks down at his chest. Rene watches him, confused.

INTERCUT Frankie stands in the doorway of the bungalow. He stares down at Valentina's dead, colorless body. He doesn't move.

SANTIAGO

I used to say I'd get her name
across my chest.

Santi chuckles.

SANTIAGO

I never meant it. You don't have
Jackie's name, do you?

RENE

No.

(pause)

We have matching tattoos though.

SANTIAGO

(sighs)

She was my girl, alright. I'd say
she's earned the spot. Don't you
think so?

Rene shakes his head.

RENE

She deserved a lot more than what
you've given her.

SANTIAGO

Maybe.

Santi uses his switchblade to cut into his chest, his left breast to be specific.

Rene puts a hand up over Illyana's line of sight to Santi.

RENE

Don't look, okay?

Illyana seems to listen to him, looking away from the action.

Santi carves a bloody heart over his actual one.

INTERCUT Frankie has picked Valentina up and places her on the bed. He stares down at her then starts to wrap her in the bedsheets.

(CONTINUED)

Rene watches Santi in disgust.

Jackie watches everything from further away, stuck on top one of the carousel horses. It's not as clear to her what's going on.

Santi finishes carving the heart. He looks down at it to make sure it looks okay. He moves on to the next step and carves the letters V-A-L at the center of the heart. He finishes, admiring it as his blood drips down his stomach.

RENE

What's wrong with you?

SANTIAGO

I don't like to be disrespected.
It's not an ego thing really. It's more.. when you do a lot for somebody and they.. take advantage or just don't seem to care.. that hurts.

RENE

I think, you just described having an ego.

Frankie comes around the corner of the bungalow carrying a wrapped up dead Valentina.

Jackie gasps, now understanding what happened. There's a sad, disgusted look on her face now.

Rene keeps his hand up over Illyana's line of sight.

RENE

Keep looking away, okay.

Frankie passes them, walking in between and over the campfire. He walks towards the back, where the small boathouse is.

Santi folds and pockets his switchblade knife. He leans down, rips a piece of cardboard and places it at the bottom of the logs in the campfire. He grabs a lighter and lights it up, he blows on it gently, keeping his hands around it to keep the wind from blowing it. Slowly, a small little fire starts to burn at the bottom of the logs.

SANTIAGO

She was like this little..

Santi stares into the growing fire.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

She had a spark. You all did once.
I saw that potential in each of
you.

INTERCUT Frankie carries Valentina to the back. He stops near the boathouse, but behind the haunted house ride so that he's out of sight. His eyes haven't left Valentina.

SANTIAGO

I tried to harness that as best I could. As best I knew how. I gave you a place to sleep. To eat. To grow. I hoped to see those little sparks ignite something greater. Like wildfires, consuming the Earth. There'd be no denying the marks you'd leave.

RENE

Wildfires destroy everything in their path. You would have set us up to fail. And not just us, the people in our lives.

SANTIAGO

After death is rebirth. All things on this planet follow that cycle. Death, rebirth. Death, rebirth. A never ending story. And once your fires died down, you could still be embers..

INTERCUT Frankie drops Valentina's body into the water below. He watches it go underwater briefly then pop back up. It floats, waves crashing against it.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

.. As long as there's embers, there could still be another fire.

Frankie sits at the edge, his feet hanging over the water. He stares down at Valentina.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

The wind could carry them and they'd go ablazin' again.

The campfire has grown. Santi uses a stick to shift things around and keep the fire going.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Valentina's fire was bright.
Jackie, her's shown the brightest.
Yours.. I didn't have a lot of
personal stakes in yours.

RENE

Yeah, you couldn't have your way
with me like you did them.

SANTIAGO

No, I knew your fire would be long
extinguished before it ever got
going. You were starving it of
oxygen for too long at that point.

RENE

I know what I am.

SANTIAGO

A junkie burnout, a thieving liar..
a penniless loser?

Santi stands up.

SANTIAGO

You two stay put.

Santi walks off toward the haunted house ride. Rene watches
until he's out of sight and inside.

RENE

We don't have a lot of time. I'm
gonna help you get out of here,
okay Illyana?

ILLYANA

Okay, but I'm scared.

RENE

It's okay if you're scared. That
just means you're still alive.

Rene quickly removes the key from his pocket and unlocks his
cage.

RENE

I'll be right back.

Rene bolts from his cage over to the carousel. Jackie
watches him run to her.

(CONTINUED)

RENE
You alright?

JACKIE
What are you doing?

Rene attempts to untie the rope.

RENE
What do you mean, stupid? I'm helping you.

JACKIE
I don't need your help.

RENE
(hushed)
Don't fucking start with this now.

JACKIE
She needs your help.

Rene stops.

JACKIE
Help her. The girl.

RENE
(pause)
Shit.

Rene attempts to untie the rope again. He gets it just loose enough for Jackie to start to undo the rest herself.

Rene bolts back over to Illyana. He stops at the cars, checking for keys. Nothing.

He rushes over to Illyana.

A door slams from afar. His time is running out.

Rene unlocks Illyana's cage. He looks behind him to see the door of the haunted house swinging open.

RENE
Shit. Shit. Shit. OK.

Rene goes back into his cage and shuts the door just as Santi is coming back out of the haunted house ride.

SANTIAGO
Frankie? Frank!

(CONTINUED)

RENE

(hushed to Illyana)

Keep it closed, okay? We're gonna pretend like it's still locked. Can you do that?

Illyana nods her head yes.

Santi comes down from the haunted house and starts towards the cages. Frankie comes from around the back. Santi stops when he sees him. He motions him over.

Rene looks up and notices Frankie's gun still sitting on top of the car. He puts a hand to his forehead.

RENE

No. Stupid. Stupid.

Santi sits back down at the fire. He has a glasses case in his hands. He opens it to reveal a heroin kit.

SANTIAGO

Still had a little something left.
See, embers.

Santi smiles.

RENE

You're gonna get high right now?

SANTIAGO

Not me.

(pause)

Don't worry, it's not for her either.

Rene looks at Illyana then back at Rene.

ILLYANA

What's that?

SANTIAGO

Just a little medicine, my dear.

Jackie watches from afar, not able to make out what Santi's doing.

Santi proceeds to cook up heroin in a spoon. He adds water from the syringe, mixes it, keeps heating, puts the cotton ball in and uses the syringe to slurp it back up.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Once upon a time, this was one of our favorite things to do together. Some families like to go to the movies, some like bowling. Nothing gave us a rush like this. Right, Rene?

RENE

.. Right.

Santi stands back up. He drops the case and spoon on the ground near the fire.

RENE

If you're gonna stick anyone with that needle, it better be me.

SANTIAGO

Still so greedy. Even after everything you've taken from me.

Santi shakes his head then turns and notices Frankie's gun sitting on top of the car. He grabs it and sticks it in the back of his pants.

RENE

(drops head, whispers)
Goddammit.

Santi goes toward the carousel. He motions Frankie to follow.

RENE

(realizes)
Wait. No! Valle, stop! Come on, man!

Jackie watches as Santi is approaching her. It takes a second or two before she can make out the syringe in his hand. Her eyes go wide.

Santi stops in front of her.

SANTIAGO

I know you've been having a rough day so I cooked something up for you that might help to take the edge off.

JACKIE

Don't you fucking dare.

Santi looks down at the mostly untied rope.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

You've been busy. Must not have tied that tight enough. Frankie, you got those zip ties?

Jackie starts to pull away as if to throw herself off the horse, but Frankie stops her. He holds her down. Santi helps. Frankie removes zip ties from his jacket pocket. Santi takes them and ties Jackie's hands to the pole once more. He pulls away the rope and tosses it away from the carousel.

SANTIAGO

Much better. Hold her.

Frankie continues to hold Jackie down as Santi preps her for her shot. He rips up her sleeve and ties her off.

JACKIE

Don't do it, Valle. Please!

SANTIAGO

Now I get a "please". All of a sudden she's got manners.

JACKIE

(begs)

Frank, don't let him do this. Please don't. Stop! No!

Rene watches from his cage, helpless without that gun. He knows Santi's got both now.

JACKIE

Frank.

Jackie looks for Frankie's good eye, continuing to plead for him to stop.

Santi successfully administers the shot. Jackie starts to go limp, her pleading and screaming dying down.

SANTIAGO

Better?

Jackie is dozing off already. Frankie watches her, a guilty look on his face. He releases her. Her head drops. He tries to position her head better.

SANTIAGO

Leave it.

Frankie still tries.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

I said LEAVE IT.

Frankie turns his attention to Santi. Santi stares back angrily.

SANTIAGO

What's your fucking problem? Huh?
Something you want to say to me?

Frankie keeps his eye locked with Santi's. At first he doesn't back down.

SANTIAGO

You got something to fucking say,
open your mouth and make some
sounds. String some syllables
together if you can. I've had it
with all of you. Don't fucking work
against me here. Huh?

Frankie finally concedes and looks away. He nods then lumbers off. He walks back over to the cages while Santi seems to be trying to turn on the carousel.

RENE

You happy now, you big dumb
asshole? Five years she's been
clean. Five years.. and she did it
all on her own..

Rene fights to hold back tears.

RENE

She fought so hard to get away from
all this. From you and Valle. From
me even. Anyone that could drag her
back down. She earned to be where
she is. You can't just take that
away!

Frankie listens to Rene, but his attention is with Illyana. She looks up at him, frightened. She backs away in her cage as he gets closer. She shuts her eyes and covers her head from view of him.

RENE

You're scaring her, man! Don't you
get it?

Frankie turns back to Rene again.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

Valle is sick in the head and
you're just his big, scary
rottweiler. You're his fucking dog,
man! That's all you ever were to
him. So eager to please your crazy
ass master.

Frankie doesn't want to hear anymore of this. He looks away from Rene.

RENE

Don't believe me? Go find a mirror.
I promise you won't recognize
yourself. What's left?

Frankie turns to look at Jackie. Santi manages to turn on the carousel. It starts to spin, now lit up and playing music.

RENE

Jesus Christ. He thinks this is all
a fucking show. He thinks when it's
over, he's gonna get this great big
applause.

Frankie notices the HALL OF MIRRORS beyond the carousel. He starts to walk off towards it.

RENE

Hey! Where you going? Get back
here! I'm not do--you dog!

Rene starts to bark at Frankie as he continues toward the hall of mirrors.

RENE

(yelling)

Come here, boy! Come on!

Rene whistles and calls to Frankie like a dog. He barks some more. The barks become howls.

Frankie passes Santi admiring Jackie going round and round on the carousel. Santi almost doesn't notice him, but given Frankie's size it's almost impossible not to.

SANTIAGO

Hey, where do you think you're
going?

Frankie ignores him and continues to the hall of mirrors.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Frank?!

INT. HALL OF MIRRORS

Frankie enters the maze of mirrors. He trudges past his reflection, at first only glancing at it.

He stops once he makes it to the center of the maze. He stares at himself in the mirror in front of him then looks around at his many reflections.

He refuses himself at looking away and keeps locked on his reflection.

High pitched noises and low grumbles come from him as he starts to whimper. Like a dog.

He sounds as if he's trying to speak, but his face is twisted in a way that doesn't allow him to. He'll never speak again. He still tries anyway.

He runs towards the mirror in front of him and crashes into it. He gets up and starts punching and kicking and smashing the other reflections.

EXT. HALL OF MIRRORS

Santiago continues to watch Jackie go round and round on the carousel. She's out from the dope.

SANTIAGO

We could have been something more.
Too bad.

CRASH

Santi turns his head toward the smashing. He looks back over at Rene and Illyana in the cage then starts to walk over to the hall of mirrors.

INT. HALL OF MIRRORS

Frankie is still smashing the place up. Whimpering. Growling. Guttural sounds.

Santi enters the maze, Frankie growing louder as he gets closer to the center.

(CONTINUED)

He arrives at the center where he sees Frankie sitting on his butt on the floor. Glass shards everywhere. Frankie is cut up and bleeding in multiple places. His bomber jacket is cut up and torn in places, same with his pants.

SANTIAGO

What are you doing? Destroying our home? Everything that we've built. You're just gonna..?

Santi stops once he gets close enough to see the cuts and blood on Frankie.

SANTIAGO

Oh Frank.

Santi squats down to be level with Frankie (though Frankie is still taller than him even on his butt).

SANTIAGO

You're bleeding all over.

Santi moves to touch Frankie's face. Frankie swats his hand away.

SANTIAGO

What? What's wrong with you?

Frankie whimpers more, hoping to break through to Santi somehow.

SANTIAGO

I don't understand you.

(beat)

I've given you so much. More than anyone. My friendship. A home. A family.

(pause)

You're acting ungrateful.

Frankie stops his whimpering and finally lifts his head to look Santi in his eyes. He squints, there's anger in his look.

SANTIAGO

Don't look at me like that.

Frankie doesn't look away.

SANTIAGO

Stop. Stop it, Frank. Stop looking at me like that!

(CONTINUED)

Santi starts to raise his voice. This only pushes Frankie further.

SANTIAGO

You're being a brat! An ungrateful brat. Hold it together just a little longer. We're gonna be rich. Just you and I, wherever we wanna go.

Frankie looks down.

SANTIAGO

Where do you wanna go?

Frankie looks up at the sign above the broken mirrors that reads *Reflect upon your past to see what your future holds*. He points to it.

Santi looks.

SANTIAGO

Not with all the money in the world. There's no going back, Frank. This is it. All we can do is make the most of it.

Santi stands up and extends his hand to Frankie. Frankie pushes him away, rejecting him. Santi slips on the glass beneath him and falls into it.

He quickly gets back up, now over Frankie who is still sitting. He kicks Frankie over so he too ends up in the shattered glass all over the ground.

SANTIAGO

How dare you.

Frankie looks up at the now slightly cut-up Santi, cowering below him.

SANTIAGO

Don't you fucking forget who found you. Who made sure they put your fucking face back together. Who gave you a chance when nobody else would. Your own mother couldn't love that face! But I was your mother. And your father, your brother, your everything! I'm all you've ever had!

Frankie nods frantically in agreement.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

I know you know. Sometimes you just need reminding.

EXT. BUNGALOW

Rene watches Jackie going around on the carousel. He looks past her at the hall of mirrors. No more smashing and crashing. This is it.

RENE

Okay, we're doing this. Hey, you ready to get out of here?

Illyana nods.

RENE

I have to check on my friend first, okay?

Illyana nods again.

Rene opens his cage.

RENE

You see that building back there? Looks like a mini house. It's called a boathouse. That's where we're gonna meet up. Ready?

Illyana nods a third time.

Rene runs towards the carousel. Illyana is about to leave her cage, but is too scared to move. Her eyes are everywhere, she doesn't know where to focus. Her little chest moves up and down.

INTERCUT INT. HALL OF MIRRORS

Frankie moves towards Santi. Santi doesn't flinch. Frankie gets up on his knees once he's dragged himself through glass to get close enough. He reaches up for Santi and Santi accepts him. They hug. Santi puts his hand through Frankie's hair.

SANTIAGO

That's okay.

(beat)

That's a good boy.

Santi's last words reignite Frankie's anger and self hate. He pushes Santi away for a second time as if to say "no, I'm not your dog."

(CONTINUED)

Santi fumes, but doesn't quite know what to say.

SANTIAGO

Fine.

The carousel goes silent. Santi notices.

EXT. HALL OF MIRRORS

The carousel comes to a stop. Rene rushes to Jackie and tries to wake her.

RENE

Hey. Jackie. Wake up.

No luck. Rene looks back at the hall of mirrors then Jackie again. He notices the zip tie keeping her wrists to the pole.

RENE

Fuck.

Rene pulls at the zip tie around her wrists. He pulls at it, but is unable to break her free.

RENE

Come on you fucking son of a--

Rene stops. It's no use. He kisses Jackie on the face then runs back towards the cages.

Illyana has left her cage.

Santiago steps out of the hall to see what's going on. He sees that the carousel has been shut down. He walks over to the controls.

In the background, Rene tries to run along the shadows to keep out of Santi's sight. He makes it to the boathouse.

Frankie steps outside of the hall of mirrors. He waits in the doorway.

INT. BOATHOUSE

Rene runs in, looking everywhere for the boat, for Illyana.

She hides in the back behind some crates. She watches Rene.

Rene spots the two gasoline cans.

(CONTINUED)

RENE
Where is it?

Rene looks down from the boathouse windows (two of them) at the water, at the dock where the boat should be.

RENE
Where the fuck is it?!

Rene throws things around, kicking boxes and yanking things hanging from the ceiling. He's starting to panic.

RENE
(yelling)
Where the fuck is it?!

Illyana is becoming startled by Rene's yelling and angry actions. She slips out of the boathouse without him noticing.

Rene finally stops destroying things to think. Tears come to his eyes. He puts his hands on his head, trying not to freak out.

RENE
Fuck.

EXT. HAUNTED HOUSE

Illyana stops near the haunted house ride, having run from the boathouse.

Santi watches in the distance, it taking a moment for his eyes to catch the small figure in the darkness. He looks over at the cages and from his line of sight they look empty.

He grits his teeth and starts to run towards Illyana. Frankie sees this. He starts to follow, but still never runs.

Illyana spots Santi running towards her. She looks around, unsure where to go. She panics and runs towards the haunted house ride.

Santi continues after her.

Frankie stops at the carousel to check on Jackie. He looks her over. He places a hand to her face and shakes her. Nothing. He whimpers a little.

BANG!

(CONTINUED)

Santi fires a shot at Illyana with his revolver.

INTERCUT Rene in the boathouse. He looks up, reacting to the gunshot.

SANTIAGO

I'm over this. Come here, little
Illyana!

Illyana is at the entrance.

BANG!

Santi misses a second shot as she runs inside.

Frankie moves on from Jackie and continues after Santi and Illyana, moving fast with long strides, stepping like he's a giant.

SANTIAGO

I'm through playing games with all
of you!

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE

Illyana stops, unsure where to go. She can hear Santi's voice getting closer. She bolts left, but at every turn is startled by some fake monster hidden in the dark ride.

Suddenly, part of that darkness is lifted when the ride is turned on (by Santi outside). It makes it more difficult for Illyana to hide.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

Come out come out wherever you are!

Illyana cries as ghouls and monsters jump out to scare her. She's almost run over by the ride cart.

SANTIAGO (V.O.)

I see you, Illyana!

BANG!

A bullet goes into the animatronic werewolf that pops out to eat her. She drops to the ground.

EXT. HAUNTED HOUSE

Rene is outside now. He watches Frankie enter inside the haunted house.

RENE

No.

He runs over to stop him.

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE

Illyana looks up at the "wall of the dead", the stack of skeletons. She notices light coming from behind it.

Santi spots her going for the back office. He brings his revolver up.

CLICK

Empty. Santi tosses his revolver and switches it out for the other gun (Frankie's) he has tucked into his pants.

Illyana slips behind the wall of skeletons. Santi grows near.

Frankie lumbers behind, dragging something long.

Rene makes it inside, but only sees Frankie. He rushes past the jump scares after him, but trips on the cart railing.

INT. BACKROOM OFFICE

Illyana rushes inside the office. She looks around for a way out. Nothing. A Dead end.

Santi enters the office, gun in hand. Illyana turns to face him.

SANTIAGO

(mean and fed up)

There's nowhere you can go, I won't find you.

Santi moves towards her. She backs away until her back hits the wall. He stops a short distance in front of her.

INTERCUT Rene has recovered from his fall and is running faster than before. He loses Frankie as Frank enters the backroom.

(CONTINUED)

Illyana somehow becomes even more afraid as she notices Frankie stepping into the doorway. Forget Dr. Frankenstein, his monster is the stuff of her nightmares.

SANTIAGO

You know something, little Illyana?

(beat)

It's not always about the money.

Santi brings his gun up to shoot the little girl when Frankie stops him by putting an AXE into his back.

Rene enters the backroom as this happens. He freezes.

Santi slowly turns around to face his attacker. Once he sees Frankie, something in his face changes. He goes from anger to shock. To a sad look in his eyes.

SANTIAGO

Wha--Wh--Fuh.. Frank?

Santi drops his gun arm at his side. He's losing his fight.

Santi falls over, almost into Illyana. She manages to step out of the way in time.

Frankie walks over to Santi on the ground, a look of guilt in his good eye. It starts to water.

SANTIAGO

(in disbelief)

Frankie?

Rene motions at Illyana to come to him. Seeing him as the least scary thing in the place, she decides to trust him again and runs over.

Teardrops fall from Frankie's eye onto Santi. Santi's breathing has become harsh. More of a rattle.

Frankie turns away from Santi. Rene pulls Illyana tight.

Frankie starts to storm towards them. They move aside, thinking at first he's going to attack them. He doesn't. He leaves the backroom.

Rene looks back over at Santi. Santi is still trying to process what happened. Rene looks like he's about to speak, then doesn't. Why bother.

Rene escorts Illyana out of the backroom.

EXT. BACKROOM

They walk back towards the entrance. Frankie has disappeared.

EXT. HAUNTED HOUSE

Rene emerges with Illyana. Car headlights can be seen flashing around the park.

They walk down, past the carousel (though Rene does eye it momentarily), as THREE BLACK CARS are pulling into the park.

Vincenzo and SIX MEN all armed with machine guns exit the cars.

Illyana sees Vincenzo and leaves Rene's side, running towards him. He gets down on one knee to embrace her. He hugs her tight.

VINCENZO

Oh, my Illyana. You're okay now.
All is okay now.

He kisses her cheek, a huge smile spread across his face. Rene admires as he stops a short distance away (at the behest of the six armed men).

VINCENZO

Go in the car and wait for me.
Papa's got some quick business.

Illyana nods.

VINCENZO

I love you.

ILLYANA

I love you, papa.

Rene almost cries.

Vincenzo pats Illyana on the back and sends her into the backseat he got out. He shuts the door behind her then faces Rene.

VINCENZO

You are?

RENE

No one. A friend, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENZO
Where's Valle?

RENE
In the haunted house.

VINCENZO
And the woman?

RENE
What?

VINCENZO
There was a woman with Frankie.
Where is she?

Rene looks back at Jackie at the carousel.

RENE
Oh shit, Jackie.

Rene runs off to check on her.

Vincenzo motions at the 6 gunmen to follow him.

Rene makes it to Jackie. He shakes her violently when being gentle isn't enough. Nothing.

RENE
Jackie? Jackie?!

Rene's voice cracks.

RENE
No, no, no, no. No!

Santi comes stumbling out of the haunted house as Vincenzo and his men approach.

They stop a good distance from him.

Santi looks like a zombie, all cut up from the broken mirror glass, tired sweaty and bloody, the axe still in his back. He's stiff. His breathing sounds like the axe took a lung from behind. He has a hard time getting words out, but does anyway.

SANTIAGO
Look who.. came to see the show.

VINCENZO
It's not quite how I pictured it,
but I had hoped we'd meet again.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

Yeah?

(long pause)

My money?

VINCENZO

Ten million? You really are insane, Valle. No, I don't have your money. I never did. You live in a fairytale if you thought you were getting away with any of this.

SANTIAGO

What can I say?

(beat)

I'm a dreamer.

Santi coughs up blood and almost falls over. He keeps his balance.

VINCENZO

It's good to dream big. But no, no money. I brought you something else though.

SANTIAGO

Oh yeah?

VINCENZO

Would ten million bullets be an acceptable form of payment?

Santi laughs blood. A laugh so twisted, a laugh only a dead man could make, a laugh that someone who thinks their invincible would make.

SANTIAGO

That's funn--

Vincenzo's men open fire on Santiago. They "Sonny Corleone" him, riddling him with bullets. Across the body, in the face. Blood shoots out from ten million different places.

Santiago drops. He is finally DEAD.

Vincenzo and his gunmen observe the scene another moment before turning their attention to the carousel.

The gunmen walk back to their cars, but Vincenzo stops at the carousel to check with Rene. He finds Rene a blubbering, crying mess.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

Take me. Take me. Take me.

Vincenzo puts his hand on Jackie's neck and searches for a pulse. He puts his fingers under her nose. He looks at her eyes.

VINCENZO

She's gone.

Those words while confirming to Rene what's happened, only hurt him more. He won't let her go.

RENE

It should have been me.

VINCENZO

Maybe. But it wasn't. She's all out of time now.

(beat)

But kid, you aren't.

Rene finally turns to him, revealing his wet face and shirt.

VINCENZO

So what are you gonna do with it?

Rene stares back at Vincenzo. He turns to Jackie once more. He leans in and kisses her forehead.

INT. AA

Rene gets up behind a podium to speak in front of half-filled rows of addicts and alcoholics.

RENE

(clears throat)

Some of you have seen me before..
Lots of times.. I think I've
started and stopped going to AA
more times than anything I've ever
done in my life. I was scared. I
still am. The world is scary.
Straight up. I dropped, snorted,
shot up to cope. I knew I was
always gonna be on the bottom so I
said, "Fuck it. Why not stay
there?"

Rene clear his throat again. His audience waits.

(CONTINUED)

RENE

I had a friend, some of you maybe met her. I don't know. Her name was Jackie. She was my best friend. She became my world for a time. That's when it was the least scary. Umm.. but she wasn't comfortable staying on the bottom. She didn't even wanna be on top. She just wanted something better than what we had.

INTERCUT HUGE SWEEPING SHOTS OF VALLE'S ONCE AGAIN ABANDONED WATERFRONT AMUSEMENT PARK. WE MOVE THROUGHOUT WHOLE PARK, SEEING ALL OF ITS SIGHTS AS RENE CONTINUES: THE CAROUSEL, BROKEN HALL OF MIRRORS, THE BUNGALOW, THE BOATHOUSE, THE FERRIS WHEEL

RENE (V.O.)

Stupid idiot that I am, I wasn't ready to step up. I just kept dragging her down until finally..

AND FINALLY THE HAUNTED HOUSE RIDE

A HOMELESS MAN runs out of the haunted house, dropping his bag of cans and belongings. He hurries away as if being chased by some monster.

A whimpering can be heard echoing through the haunted house.

RENE (V.O.)

.. she said "enough is enough." She got cleaned up, went back to school, made a career for herself. The only thing holding her back..

Back to Rene in AA

RENE

.. was me. I used to hold that against her. Like it was her fault she got stuck with me.

(pause)

But she's the reason I'm alive...

Rene holds up his 1 week AA token.

RENE

This is for her.

Some clap from their seats.

A framed picture of Jackie hangs on the wall with other faces.

FLASHBACK - Around 15 years ago

AFGHANISTAN - OBSERVATION POST

The sun shines bright and hard over the observation point where TWO UNIFORMED U.S. ARMY INFANTRY SOLDIERS lie on a hill in the mountains, behind the cover of rocks.

One's name tag reads *VALLE*. Santiago Valle, crew cut and less mileage, looks slick and in charge as an army NCO. He has the three Sergeant stripes on his chest. The other tag belongs to a Soldier named *CASTELLONE*.

SANTIAGO

How many, Frank?

The man is Frankie Castellone, pre-incident. He has a Corporal (E-4, two stripes) patch on his chest. He has a pair of binoculars in front of his face.

FRANKIE

Three tanks heading north.

Frankie brings the binoculars down, revealing he's more pretty than handsome (and obviously very young) with a jaw line that belongs under a superhero mask.

Santiago brings up a radio.

SANTIAGO

We've got three enemy tanks heading north.

Nothing comes back over the radio.

SANTIAGO

Anyone copy?

Static.

Frankie opens his mouth for the first time. His voice is smooth, relaxing almost.

FRANKIE

How'd we end up on this shit detail?

SANTIAGO

I volunteered us.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

For three days camping in the
fucking mountains. This sucks.

SANTIAGO

It's not that bad.

FRANKIE

No, it fucking sucks.

SANTIAGO

Quit your bitching.

Frankie brings the binoculars back up.

FRANKIE

Wait, I see something.

SANTIAGO

What?

FRANKIE

Nevermind, just another tumbleweed.

Santiago smacks Frankie upside the head. Frankie brings the
binoculars back down.

FRANKIE

(chuckles)

What? You know this sucks, you just
don't want to admit it since it was
your genius idea.

SANTIAGO

(beat)

I just thought it'd be nice to get
away from base. Get away from all
the noise. Makes it hard to think.

FRANKIE

What are you thinking about?

SANTIAGO

Things I'm gonna do when I get back
to the states. Find some place by
the water. Somewhere quiet, where I
can do more thinking.

Frankie looks around their surroundings.

FRANKIE

.. I'll give you that. It's pretty
quiet out here.

(CONTINUED)

SANTIAGO

(nods)

But yeah, it sucks. I forgot to pack extra socks. My shit's killing me.

The two both laugh.

SANTIAGO

You thought about what you're gonna do after this?

FRANKIE

After I get out?

SANTIAGO

Yeah.

FRANKIE

I don't know. Not really.

SANTIAGO

Well what do you want to do?

FRANKIE

Get a job?

SANTIAGO

No, that's what you have to do. What do you **want** to do?

Frankie thinks it over.

FRANKIE

(thinks)

I don't know.

SANTIAGO

There's gotta be something. What would make you happy?

FRANKIE

(thinks some more)

I think I'd like to have a family.

SANTIAGO

A family?

FRANKIE

(pause)

Being here's the closest thing I've had to having brothers.. I don't know.. I always wanted a family of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE (cont'd)
my own. It could be nice. Take the
kids to the circus and shit. Dinner
at the table. Go to the movies.
Stuff like that.

SANTIAGO
(beat)
That does sound nice.

KABOOM!

Frankie brings up his binoculars.

FRANKIE
I don't see anything.

SANTIAGO
One of those tanks probably ran
through a minefield. Come on, let's
get a better vantage point, see if
we can't catch some of the
fireworks.

Santiago smirks at Frankie then moves away from the top of
the hill. Frankie continues to look out for another moment
before sinking down and away too.

END