

METROPOLITAN
OR
(METROPOLITANA Y LA MEDICINA DE AMOR)

Written by

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***All dialogue in [brackets] indicates Spanish language.**

BLACK

We hear Bachata music playing. "Medicina De Amor" by Raulin Rodriguez.

FADE IN:

1 INT. LIVING ROOM - VICTORIA'S HOUSE - DAY - (DAYDREAM) 1

Blinds are open and the sunshine brightens the inside of the living room. Cleaning supplies are scattered throughout the room.

VICTORIA RIERA (19) and her Father DANILO RIERA (46), both Ecuadorian but Victoria is half Ecuadorian and Dominican, are dancing to the bachata music while cleaning. Both have on cleaning gloves. Victoria is wiping down the table and Danilo is sweeping the floor. There is an Ecuadorian flag on the wall and next to it is a CROSS.

Danilo, with a broom in hand, starts to sing the song at the top of his lungs.

DANILO
(Singing)
[Love medicine I want from you
because you are--]

Danilo extends his right hand to Victoria.

DANILO (CONT'D)
(To Victoria)
[Dance with me, my love.]

Danilo grabs Victoria to dance and sing to her and drops the broom. Danilo leads the dancing.

DANILO (CONT'D)
(Singing to Victoria)
[-- My cancer love.]

Both start to sing. Both Victoria and Danilo are smiling and enjoying each others company.

DANILO (CONT'D)
(Singing)
[Another year passed, dying I
go. Do not forget--]

VICTORIA
(Singing)
[Another year passed, dying I
go. Do not forget--]

A faint female voice whispers Victoria's name - it steadily increases.

UNKNOWN FEMALE VOICE

Victoria...

DANILO

(Singing to Victoria)

[My heart that you can heal
me by giving me your love.]

UNKNOWN FEMALE VOICE (CONT'D)

Victoria...

Victoria stops singing and looks around hastily. She briefly stops smiling until she looks back at her father.

Danilo looks deeply into her eyes.

DANILO (CONT'D)

(Singing to Victoria)

[If you let me die my heart do not
forget my heart that I will take
care of you that I will guide you.]

Victoria smiles but there is a slight sadness to it.

The unknown female voice can be heard again. Knocking sounds follow.

UNKNOWN FEMALE VOICE

Victoria... Victoria!

2 INT. BATHROOM - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

2

The day is rainy and gloomy.

Victoria is sitting on the toilet staring into space. She is wearing a long sleeve pajama shirt and her long hair is in a ponytail.

The unknown female voice is Victoria's Mother, MARY (40).
Mary is Dominican.

Mary knocks on the door.

MARY

[Victoria, How long are you going
to take in there?]

Victoria comes to.

VICTORIA

Ah.

Victoria takes toilet paper and quickly wipes her private area.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
[Okay, Mother. I'm coming out now]

Victoria gets up and her leg has fallen asleep.

Victoria grabs the back of the leg and limps over to the sink.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Dammit.

Mary knocks again.

MARY
[Come on!]

ISABELLA (8), Victoria's sister, comes running down the hallway with a teddy bear in her arms.

ISABELLA
We have to make breakfast!

VICTORIA
Alright, Isabella. Please!

Victoria is washing her hands.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
I am coming out now.

Victoria finishes washing her hands and briefly looks at herself in the mirror and walks out the bathroom, forgetting to wash her hands.

3 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

3

Isabella jumps onto Victoria.

VICTORIA
Isabella, please. You're too damn big for this.

Mary walks away towards the kitchen.

MARY
[You know I have things to do today. Please make breakfast for your sister.]

Victoria, with Isabella in her arms, walk towards the kitchen.

VICTORIA
[Why do I have to do it, Mother?]

MARY
[Because I said so.]

Isabella is playing with the teddy bear while in Victoria's arms and puts the teddy bear in her face.

Victoria blocks it with her hand.

VICTORIA
Stop.

4 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

4

Mary and Victoria walk into the kitchen.

Victoria puts Isabella down and Isabella goes to sit in the chair and drops the teddy bear on the floor.

Victoria sits down with still slightly wet hands and opens her school books and starts to do her work.

She puts her hand on the paper full of work and gets them wet with the imprint of the side of her right hand.

VICTORIA
Shit!

ISABELLA
[Cereal, Mommy!]

Victoria has a baffled look on her face and looks over at Mary.

VICTORIA
(To Isabella)
Stop! You are too big to be acting like that.
(To Mary)
[Mother, you couldn't make her cereal?]

Victoria stands up and wipes her hands on her pajamas pants and then picks up the book and waves it back and forth, and blows it trying to dry it.

Mary is hastily walking around getting her supplies ready.

Victoria takes a bowl and puts it onto the table.

MARY
[Victoria, please I have a busy day
today.]

Victoria makes a bowl of cereal for Isabella. She sits in the seat adjacent to her. She has her school books lying on the table.

VICTORIA
[I'm busy too.]

Mary receives a phone call.

MARY
[Victoria, please.]

Mary answers the phone.

Isabella is eating her cereal and Victoria is doing her homework on the table.

MARY (CONT'D)
(On the phone)
[Yes, I am heading there today.
It's passover week and it will be
very busy (Laughing).]

Isabella starts to sing a Bad Bunny song loudly.

ISABELLA
[You are not a saint, nor am I a
saint. We met sinning--]

Victoria quickly looks over at her Mother who notices Isabella singing the song - Mary looks upset.

Victoria grabs the arm of Isabella.

VICTORIA
Isabella stop!

Mary stares at them with a look of disgust.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)	ISABELLA
You can't be singing that song.	[Sorry, big sister.]

Mary is walking back and forth still talking on the phone.

MARY
(On the phone)
[They are not coming in today?]

She stops in her tracks.

MARY (CONT'D)

[It's going to be busy today. I don't know if I can do it by myself but I will get some help. Alright bye.]

Mary hangs up the phone.

MARY (CONT'D)

[Victoria!]

VICTORIA

[Yes!]

MARY

[You and Isabella are coming to help me with the housekeeping. The other lady called out and this needs to be done.]

Victoria becomes visibly upset and raises her voice.

VICTORIA

[Are you serious?--]

MARY

[Very serious--]

VICTORIA

[You know I'm meeting with someone today.]

MARY

(To Isabella)

[Finish up and get dress, dear]

Mary starts walking around again.

A train can be heard running. The sound overcomes the kitchen and slightly shakes the room.

VICTORIA

[Mother, I told you I was busy today.]

MARY

[What?]

VICTORIA

[I said that I'm busy today -- you know this.]

MARY

[Well, Reschedule Victoria! I don't know what to tell you.]

The train passes.

VICTORIA

[I'm seeing him today and finishing work now to see him, Mother. You're kidding me right now.]

ISABELLA

I'm done! [I'm gonna wash my plate now].

Isabella gets down from her chair and starts to walk away.

MARY

(To Isabella)

[Pick up your toy, dear - please.]

ISABELLA

[No, Victoria will pick it up.]

Mary is avoiding eye contact with Victoria.

VICTORIA

[I rescheduled yesterday and the day before that to help you, again--]

MARY

[Well, what you want me to do, Victoria?]

VICTORIA

[To let me live my life?]

MARY

[Well, I don't know what to tell you. Because I let you do that already! Now, pick up the toy and make sure Isabella gets dressed.]

Victoria gets up and screams.

VICTORIA

Uh! I can't fucking stand you!

Mary looks at her not understanding what she said.

MARY

[Want to say that in Spanish? You want to be out on the street without a roof over your head? If the answer is no--]

Mary points towards the hallway.

MARY (CONT'D)

[--Then go make sure Isabella is dressed. Some boy isn't more important than a living, girl.]

Victoria picks up the teddy bear and storms off towards her room.

5 INT. VICTORIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

5

Victoria storms into her room and closes the door.

The room is off white and some of the paint is peeling off the walls. Several pictures are on the walls. A red Rugby jersey is hanging next to the door. A beaten up King James Version of the Holy Bible is on a small table

She goes to stand next to her dresser, which has a mirror, and places the teddy bear next to the mirror. She takes off her long sleeve shirt and her arms, with several cut marks and a bandage on the left arm, becomes fully visible.

She looks down at the cut and suddenly a text message appears on her phone from ROBIN saying: "We still on for today?".

Victoria looks at the message and a smile appears on her face.

Mary yells from down the hall.

MARY

[Victoria! Hurry up! I want us to pray before we go!]

Victoria's smile quickly goes away. She wipes her left hand across her face.

Victoria walks over to the where cute clothes are laid out. She stares at them and gently brushes her right hand over them. She grabs them and throws them into the clothes bin.

She goes back over to the dresser and grabs clothes to dress with. Long sleeved shirt and ran down pants.

She grabs a white and black jacket from the closet and leaves the room.

MARY (CONT'D)
[Come on, hurry!]

6 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

6

Victoria walks into the kitchen. Her mother, Mary, is sitting looking at papers.

Isabella also walks into the kitchen with two different shoes on her feet.

MARY
[Oh my goodness, Isabella! Victoria did you not help her dress?]

VICTORIA
[She is 8 years old, she can dress herself.]

MARY
[Go get her shoes, please.]

Victoria gets up and heads to get her shoes.

ISABELLA
[Mommy, I like my shoes! They make me look cute.]

MARY
[No, stop - Dear. We have work to do today, please.]

Victoria walks back into the kitchen with the shoes.

Mary walks off.

VICTORIA
(To Isabella)
Sit down Bella.

Isabella sits down in the chair. She crosses her arms in disappointment as Victoria replaces her shoes.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Don't give me that face, missy. You are very spoiled.

ISABELLA
I want to look cute.

VICTORIA
You already are, silly goose.

ISABELLA
No, cute and go out with boys like
you.

Mary walks back in the Kitchen with bags full of cleaning
supplies.

Victoria gives her a confused look.

VICTORIA
Okay, you are acting a little too
grown there, missy. No more music
for you.

Victoria finishes putting shoes on Isabella.

MARY
[Alright let's go, let's start our
prayer.]

Victoria rolls her eyes.

Mary, Isabella, and Victoria go over the couch and gets down
on their knees. Mary and Isabella closes their eyes and puts
their hands together to pray but Victoria doesn't close her
eyes.

<p>MARY (CONT'D) [Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; they kingdom come--]</p>	<p>ISABELLA [Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; they kingdom come--]</p>
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Victoria, eyes open and hands, looks over to her mother and
sister, staring at them and not saying the prayer. She looks
forward and stares.

7 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

7

CHARLIE, a 24 year old black man with a profound Brooklyn
accent, is sitting on the grass in front a tombstone. The
tombstone reads "Lindsey McCall, Loving Mother and Daughter:
1981-2005".

He is wearing a black cap and has the a hospital band on his
left wrist and he has a blue flag in his back left pocket.

The front of the tombstone has flowers and a picture of
Charlie as a baby and chocolate cake.

Charlie rolls over to his knees and hugs the tombstone.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry mommy. Sorry, I don't visit you much. I just got a lot going on.

Charlie cries but tries to hold it back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I pray you can forgive me. I'm not a good person

Charlie weeps.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, mommy. For everything I've done.

Charlie kisses the tombstone.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Happy birthday.

Charlie wipes his hand right across the engraving of her name.

8 INT. FLOWERSHOP - DAY

8

Charlie is at a flowershop talking to the FLOWERSHOP CLERK.

His pants are dirty from the dirt and grass.

CHARLIE

How much are a dozen roses?

FLOWERSHOP CLERK

Thirty dollars, sir.

CHARLIE

Wow, okay. I'll take 'em.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK

Coming right up. Let me prepare them.

CHARLIE

Good looks.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK

Who is the special person, if I may ask?

CHARLIE
Shawty I know.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK
Well, I know she will love them.

Charlie gives a slight smile.

CHARLIE
Sure.

9 EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - DAY

9

Charlie is standing on the train platform with flowers in hand watching people walk past him talking about everyday things.

A man comes onto the platform preaching about God. He has pamphlets in his hands.

MAN PREACHING
Wait, I say on the Lord. God gave
his one and only son Jesus Christ
to die on the cross for--

The man walks past Charlie and hands him the pamphlet, it reads: "Wait on the Lord", whilst looking him in the eyes.

MAN PREACHING (CONT'D)
--Our sins. Wait, I say on the
Lord.

The train on the opposite platform comes. Charlie goes to sit down in one of seats. He looks at the pamphlet and turns it on its back and places it on the seat next to him. There is a bible verse on the back: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life - John 3:16"

He stares directly ahead of him while the train takes off.

10 INT. TRAIN CART - DAY

10

Charlie is standing in front of the train doors and looks around at the people on the train.

There are people of all kinds, shapes, and races.

His eyes come into contact with some many people but he quickly looks down and away at the floor of the train cart.

VICTORIA (V.O.)

So?

11 EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY - (DAYDREAM)

11

Charlie and Victoria are sitting on a towel on the grass at Central Park by a tree

Victoria has her hair in a bun and is wearing a black shirt and jeans.

They are both having a small picnic with mostly fruits and yogurts.

Charlie stares deeply into her eyes.

Victoria is eating yogurt with a fork.

CHARLIE

So...What?

VICTORIA

So...It's a nice day isn't it?

CHARLIE

Nah, yeah it is.

There is awkward silence between the two.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What do you look for in a guy? And I am that guy?

Victoria chuckles and is blushing. Victoria has some left over yogurt on her face - off to the right side of her lip.

Charlie guides his finger to where the yogurt is on Victoria's face, on his.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You got some' there.

VICTORIA

Oh.

Victoria wipes it with a finger and licks it.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Is it gone?--

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

12 EXT. CITY BLOCK - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

12

Charlie exits from down the train station steps.

He gets off at the 96th Street station. A hospital is a few blocks away.

He walks towards the Hospital.

Charlie stops at a light and sees two people arguing.

RANDOM WOMAN

Give me my phone!--

RANDOM MAN

Shut up, bitch!--

RANDOM WOMAN

I need my fucking phone, my nigga.
I'ma fuck you up, please!

Charlie keeps walking with his head down.

Charlie walks to the front of the Hospital entrance and stares at the sign. The sign reads "Metropolitan Hospital".

VICTORIA (V.O.)

Anyways, I want a guy that is open minded--

Charlie walks in.

13 EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY - (DAYDREAM)

13

Charlie and Victoria are sitting on a towel in Central park by a tree.

VICTORIA

--That's has something going for him. Someone supporting and can make me laugh. To buy me some flowers, like...

CHARLIE

Am I that guy?

VICTORIA

(Hesitating)
I don't know....Maybe.

Victoria looks down and smiles.

CHARLIE

And flowers? You one of those females?

VICTORIA

What you mean, "one of those females"? I would like for a guy to get me some flowers, at least once in a blue moon, you know?

CHARLIE

To show that he cares?

VICTORIA

To show that he appreciates me and it's just something nice to do.

14 INT. VICTORIA'S HOSPITAL BATHROOM - DAY - (FLASHBACK) 14

Victoria splashes the water unto her face and wipes her face in a downward motion.

Victoria is wearing a pink nightgown - not of the hospital's wardrobe. She has a bandage on her left arm and a hospital band on her right wrist. She puts her hair in a ponytail. She is wearing a yellow necklace around her neck that she never takes off.

She looks up at herself in the mirror-- focusing on each part of her face.

She walks out the bathroom into her hospital room. There are roses in line on the table. SUANY, a hispanic nurse in her late 20s (curvy), is standing by the bed - making it up.

There is a tray of food near the foot of the bed.

SUANY

Hey, Victoria. Good morning!

VICTORIA

Morning.

SUANY

I'm surprised you didn't eat yet, girl.

Suany hands medication and a cup of water to Victoria.

SUANY (CONT'D)

Take that please.

VICTORIA

Yeah, I wasn't having the best start to my day.

Victoria puts the pill in her mouth and swallows.

SUANY

Good. Open your mouth let me see.

Victoria opens her mouth.

SUANY (CONT'D)

Girl, it'll be noon in about a minute. [You need to pick it up]

VICTORIA

(With mouth open)

Ahhh.

Suany takes a quick look.

SUANY

Alright good.

Victoria quickly walks over to the tray of food and picks up a spork and apple sauce and starts eating.

VICTORIA

Ugh, I know.

Victoria finishes her apple sauce and goes over to the trash can to throw it out.

SUANY

Wait, you have to put it back on the tray.

VICTORIA

Oh, right. Sorry.

SUANY

Need to keep track of your eating habits, girl. Make sure you're healthy and living

Suany finishes making up the bed and goes over to the blinds and opens them. The sun comes rushing in.

SUANY (CONT'D)

[Sun is always good.]

VICTORIA

[Thank you.]

Victoria takes toast from the tray and spreads butter over the top and starts to eat.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

I think I'm done, Suany. Thank you.

Suany looks at the tray and sees that Victoria still has a lot left to eat.

SUANY

You sure? This is less than yesterday.

VICTORIA

Yes.

Suany takes the tray and walks towards the door --

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Wait!

Victoria stops Suany and takes the small bottled water from the tray. Victoria gives Suany a quick smirk.

Suany places it near the door on the cart.

Victoria walks over to the bed and sits down near the edge.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Did you get the Bad Bunny tickets?

Suany shakes her head in the "yes" motion.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Shut up! I was waiting for these couples to split up to grab some, girl.

SUANY

These men love them some Latinas. Have to use it to your advantage.

VICTORIA

I mean I guess.

Suany looks over at the table which has some roses on it.

SUANY

So, what's the deal with the flowers? Who got you all wet inside.

Victoria lets out a big laugh.

VICTORIA

Woo. No! It's nothing like that.
Charlie bought me those.

Suany eyes open wide.

SUANY

Charlie?! Well, he clearly likes
you.

VICTORIA

Yeah maybe. I don't know though -
Just keeping my options you know?
He's a great friend and I don't
want to ruin that.

SUANY

Does he know that y'all just
friends?

Victoria finishes eating the toast and drinking the bottled
water.

SUANY (CONT'D)

Throw me the bottle--

Victoria throws the bottle.

VICTORIA

Of course. I mean he never told me
he was interested. I'm not a
psychic.

SUANY

But if he did, would you give him a
chance.

VICTORIA

No, he's my friend.

SUANY

Exactly my point.

VALERIA knocks on the door. Valeria (20) is a young soft
spoken Puerto Rican woman. She has multiple beads necklaces
around her neck and bracelets.

VALERIA

(Victoria)

Bitch! I think I'm in love.

SUANY

Well, good morning to you, too.

Victoria laughs.

Valeria gives Suany a stink look.

VALERIA
Suany... nobody is talking to you.
Anyways--

VICTORIA
Who is it this time?

SUANY
(To Valeria)
[Need to close those legs.]

Victoria laughs.

VALERIA
(To Suany)
Excuse me, What you say?

Suany and Victoria let out a laugh.

VALERIA (CONT'D)
You lucky I don't speak Spanish.
(To Victoria)
What she say?

SUANY
I am going to leave you two ladies
for the time being. Valeria, watch
Victoria and make sure you both
attend the meeting with Sheyla.

VICTORIA
Alright.

Suany takes the cart and wheels it out the room.

VALERIA
Ugh, I can't stand her.

VICTORIA
Stop, she is mad cool.

VALERIA
Yeah whatever. What she say though?
Y'all know I don't understand
nothing.

VICTORIA
You need to calm down and what
about you being in love?

Valeria goes over to sit next to Victoria on the bed.

VALERIA

His name is Michael and he's tall and works at a restaurant. I mean tall and handsome. Ugh, girl I am telling you. I think he is the one.

VICTORIA

Like you said Julian was?

VALERIA

First of all, Julian was a bum and second I didn't like him that much.

VICTORIA

You started seeing him and was engaged by the end of the second week of you both being together. I pretty sure you liked him.

VALERIA

I can't lie (beat) I was feeling him, but life is life, you know.

VICTORIA

Word, I be saying the same thing.

VALERIA

Yeah...

VICTORIA

Well, you better watch yourself this time. You let these guys walk all over you. You keep letting them affect you like this.

VALERIA

Look at you trying to be a Sheyla!

Valeria gets up from the bed.

VALERIA (CONT'D)

I know I have things to work on and I'm working on them. Just working on them while I fall in love with Michael.

Victoria sighs and rolls her eyes.

VICTORIA

Alright, well don't go crying to me or Sheyla again.

VALERIA
 (Smiling)
 I won't! Why don't you ever mention
 the guys you be stressing over.

Victoria gets up from the bed and walks towards the door.

VICTORIA
 Because I don't be stressing nobody
 like you do. Hurting yourself over
 it.

Valeria looks like that comment affected her. The expression she had on her face goes away. You can tell this isn't the first time Victoria has made a comment like that to her.

VALERIA
 Mhmm...Wait, you going to walk out
 like that?

VICTORIA
 (Laughing)
 I don't care.

15 INT. METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL - ENTRANCE LOBBY - DAY 15

Charlie walks up to the front to sign his name still having the flowers in hand. SARAH, the front desk clerk greets him.

SARAH
 Hey, good morning, Charlie.

CHARLIE
 Hey, what's good?

SARAH
 (Referring to the flowers
 in his hand)
 Are those for who I think it is?

Charlie starts to walk away backwards.

CHARLIE
 (Grinning)
 Maybe.

16 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 16

It is now in the afternoon.

Victoria and Valeria walk out into the Hospital's hallway and walk down to an elevator.

There are doctors and nurses walking past - A little nosy, they see FRANCO (early 70s Italian man), in a wheel chair, rolling over to them.

Valeria playfully rolls her eyes and presses the "up" button for the elevator.

VALERIA

Oh my goodness.

He has grey/white hair and wears a white beater. He has a thick Italian accent but not of the typical Italian-American. He has knitting material and what looks like a hat in his lap.

FRANCO

Ladies!

VALERIA

Hi Franky!

VICTORIA

Hi Franco!

Valeria leans over to give him a kiss on the cheek.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

What you doing down here?

FRANCO

Had to come see some of my people!
It's lonely and depressing with those people upstairs, man. Can't take it. Taking about death all the time.

(Laughing)

About to blow my brains out.

Franco has a giant bandaid on his left shoulder.

VICTORIA

But we talk about death all time--

Valeria laughs.

VALERIA

I was just about to say that!

The elevator arrives.

FRANCO

Yeah, but you all have the choice to die. All those damn hags upstairs are already dying. Accept it and keep pushing; I have.

All three enter the elevator.

VALERIA
Who is the hat for?

FRANCO
For my Daughter.

Franco looks down at his lap.

FRANCO (CONT'D)
I'm a horrible person.

Victoria touches Franco's shoulder.

VICTORIA
We all are, don't worry.

Franco's eyes start to get red.

The elevator opens on two floors above them.

17 INT. ELEVATOR - DAY 17

Charlie is waiting inside the elevator. He leans against the back wall.

18 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM HALLWAY - DAY 18

Victoria, Valeria, and Franco enter on the floor and walk towards the conference room.

Franco heads into the room first.

At the same time, SHEYLA NICHOLAS (Mid-forties) is walking down the hall and sees them. She is wearing a dark navy three-piece pants suit. She has her dreads in a ponytail with a pen and notebook in her right hand.

SHEYLA
Hello? What's going on here?
Victoria and Valeria, Why aren't we inside?

Sheyla walks up to them and stares Valeria in the eyes.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)
(To Valeria)
Is there a problem?

VALERIA
What? We were just about to enter the room.

Sheyla squints her eyes.

SHEYLA
(Playfully)
Mhm. Right.

VICTORIA
We are serious, Sheyla.

VALERIA
Right!

SHEYLA
As much as you girl like to talk, I
doubt that. But alright I'll
believe you. Now inside.

19 INT. HALLWAY TOWARDS VICTORIA'S ROOM - DAY

19

Charlie gets off the elevator and walks down the hallway.
Suany is walking out of Victoria's room and notices Charlie.

SUANY
Hey, Charlie!

CHARLIE
Yo, what's up.

SUANY
Nothing much.
(Referring to the flowers
in his hand.)
For Victoria aren't they?

Charlie looks down at the flowers.

CHARLIE
Yeah, they are.

SUANY
Aw, that's so sweet.

CHARLIE
I don't think she think it's true,
but good looks anyway.

SUANY
What?! Did you talk to her about
it?

CHARLIE
Nah, I can't.

SUANY

Why not?

CHARLIE

I don't got the confidence like that. And I'm afraid to hear her answer.

SUANY

A gang banging man is afraid of rejection (beat) I have never heard of that before.

CHARLIE

Chill, those days are past me, alright?

SUANY

(sarcastically)
Sure thing.

Suany extends out her hand.

CHARLIE

What?

SUANY

Flowers. I'll place them in her room. You have a meeting to get to.

CHARLIE

Right.

Charlie hands Suany the flowers and heads back towards the elevator.

SUANY

You have a blue flag in your back pocket!

CHARLIE

(laughing)
Don't watch that.

20

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

20

The room is dimly lit with dark wood walls and flooring. Chair are situated around in a circle in the middle of the room.

Sheyla walks into the room and notices Franco.

Victoria and Valeria go to sit in chairs across from each other. Franco is sitting by the door.

SHEYLA

Frank, is there a reason you are here for this session today? Your group is due tomorrow morning.

Franco stares straight forward.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

Why are you here, Franco?

FRANCO

Aw, I don't like hanging with those bums, these are my people. Sheyla, I tell you.

Sheyla laughs.

SHEYLA

Well, aren't you one of them?

Franco chuckles.

FRANCO

That's why I like you, Sheyla. You don't sugar coat.

SHEYLA

Alright, pull up a chair.

Franco wheels himself over to the others sitting in a circle.

Sheyla walks to sit in one of the chairs.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

Good morning Beautiful People! How are we doing today?

Everyone in the room says "Good" all at the same time.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

Really? Everyone doing good? What's the point of my job then?

FRANCO

Nah, what you do is important--

VICTORIA

I agree.

FRANCO

You know we love you, Sheyla.

SHEYLA
Valeria?

Valeria is sitting with her arms and legs crossed.

VALERIA
Yes?

SHEYLA
What do you think?

VALERIA
(Playfully)
You alright.

SHEYLA
Okay, I'll take it. It's okay. I wanted to start with some vibes today since we are being joined by someone new tonight. Alright my people, let's get started... Hold on.

Sheyla gets up from her seat and goes over towards the door and opens it.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)
Has anyone seen, Charlie?

VICTORIA
No, haven't seen him since yesterday.

SHEYLA
What I am going to do with that boy. I worry about him.

VALERIA
You want me to find him?

SHEYLA
No. He'll show, thank you.

Sheyla struts back into her seat and She sits back down.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)
Let's talk about our futures today.
Where do you all see yourselves--

CHARLIE walks into the room and sits down.

FRANCO
(To Charlie)
Charlie, my friend!

Charlie fit bumps Franco.

Sheyla gives him the side eye.

Charlie sits slumped in his chair, staring at the floor, looking uninterested.

He has his right hand in the palm of his left with his left thumb in the palm of his right.

He is sitting to the left of Valeria

SHEYLA

--In ten years?

VALERIA

I feel like this question is the set up.

Victoria points towards Stephanie.

VICTORIA

Nah, deadass. I was about to say the same thing.

(Clapping her hands together)

Like we're going to be in her office by the end of the day, yo.

Others starts laughing.

VALERIA

Family called and everything.

Charlie looks up slightly.

SHEYLA

Who wants to start? Valeria?--

Valeria shakes her head in the "no" motion.

VALERIA

Nope!

VICTORIA

I'll start, Sheyla....Let's See--

Charlie looks up at Victoria, who is sitting directly across from him. He focuses on her and the rest of the room continues to go but everything get silent.

21 INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY - (DAYDREAM)

21

It is the middle of the day.

Charlie and Victoria are sitting at a table across from each other in a Chinese restaurant - Outside is New York City.

Charlie is staring into her eyes with his eyes screaming "I am in love with you"

Victoria has a dozen roses on the table right by her left side. She has a yellow corsage on her left wrist.

VICTORIA

--Where do I see myself in ten years?--

CHARLIE

Yeah.

VICTORIA

Ouh, I better be traveling all over the world. I better be meeting new people, meeting all types of people. Opening to different types of cultures and traditions and religions, you know?--

Charlie follows her eyes with every movement she makes.

CHARLIE

Religions?

VICTORIA

Yes, religions.

CHARLIE

Yo what's wrong with yours? Or ours as I should say, my fault.

VICTORIA

I mean there's nothing particularly wrong, but it's just that I feel like it's important to see a different perspective. Like my mother didn't believe in God until she met my dad in DR (beat) I want to be open--

CHARLIE

Oh, alright, Heard it.

VICTORIA

But anyways, seeing new wild animals, like I always wanted to go to Africa. Umm mainly because of like how like you know the location and it's--

Charlie starts to laugh.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

-- it's different from what we're used to--

CHARLIE

Because of the poor black niggas, got you.

Victoria laughs and is clearly embarrassed.

VICTORIA

No, honestly I just want to see different parts of the world - like...

CHARLIE

But specifically the one with the niggas. Heard it loud and clear.

VICTORIA

Why you always bringing race into things?

Victoria places her left hand on her face and leans onto the table.

CHARLIE

I'm weak. I'm black and I can make jokes like that. What you mean.

VICTORIA

Rightttt.

Victoria stops leaning on her hand.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

You're out of pocket, sir.

CHARLIE

See, I didn't hear anything about love in that statement of yours.

Victoria chuckles.

VICTORIA
Love? Hmph--

CHARLIE
Yeah--

VICTORIA
I don't know about all that.

CHARLIE
Why not?

VICTORIA
'Cause--

CHARLIE
You saying you won't see yourself
meeting the love of your life
within the next ten years?

A young black woman, LINDSEY (19), arrives sitting at the table next to them. She is wearing a blue sundress with white flops and her hair is slicked back in a ponytail.

Lindsey is Charlie's mother.

VICTORIA
The love of my life can wait! I got things I want to accomplish first. But... what about you though? Where do you see yourself?

Charlie just stares at Victoria and doesn't answer.

Lindsey looks over at Charlie.

LINDSEY
Come on, Charles. Are you going to answer her?

Charlie looks over at her with a calm look.

CHARLIE
I don't know if she wants the answer. Or anybody for that matter.

LINDSEY
Why don't you try, Charles?

Charlie stares at his mother, teary eyed. He now realizes that is his mother.

22

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

22

Everyone in the room is staring at Charlie.

Charlie is looking and staring at Valeria.

VALERIA

Sheyla, asked you a question.

Charlie comes to.

CHARLIE

My fault. What was it, Sheyla?

VICTORIA

(Playfully))

You have to be paying attention,
man.

Charlie blushes,

CHARLIE

Nah, I know. My fault, I just got a
lot of things going on.

VALERIA

No, disrespect but it's a psych
ward at a hospital. We all have
something going on.

SHEYLA

(To Valeria)

Please leave things like that to
me.

Valeria rolls her eyes.

Charlie looks at Victoria and their eyes briefly meet, she
smiles. He looks away and onto the floor.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

(To Charlie)

Where do you see yourself in ten
years, Charlie?

Charlie plays with his hands.

CHARLIE

Dead.

Charlie looks up at Victoria.

SHEYLA

And why is that?

Charlie shakes his head.

CHARLIE
Forget I said anything.

SHEYLA
Forget? You think it's my job to forget?

CHARLIE
Nah I'm saying--

SHEYLA
Saying what?

Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE
Nothing.

VALERIA
Someone is in trouble.

Franco laughs.

FRANCO
(To Sheyla)
Sheyla, don't be too tough on the guy. He's young and alive now.

VICTORIA
But with that attitude, he won't be for long.
(To Charlie)
Dude, don't be afraid to speak, we are all here to help you and each other. Your feelings are valid just as anyone elses.

23 INT. TRAIN - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

23

Victoria, Isabella, and Mary are sitting on the train in that order.

Bags of cleaning supplies and a bag of food are the floor on the train cart.

Isabella is swinging her legs and humming a playfully song.

Mary is talking to herself out loud.

MARY
[I can't believe she called out.]

Victoria looks over at her mother and gives her the side eye.

MARY (CONT'D)

[All these years and he doesn't have the decency to find someone else, that dammed Rogers. Always calling for me to help--]

Isabella looks over at Victoria

ISABELLA

(To Victoria)

Are we there yet?

MARY

[-- And I accept like something stupid--]

Victoria looks at Isabella with an annoyed look.

VICTORIA

No.

MARY

[--Letting other people call out and I'm the one who does all the work.]

Isabella gets restless. Isabella starts to slide out of her seat.

ISABELLA

How much longer?

VICTORIA

One more stop, Isabella. Sit up right.

ISABELLA

[Hurry, hurry.]

MARY

(To Victoria)

[Did you hear me, Victoria?]

VICTORIA

[Yes, mother.]

Victoria, Isabella, and Mary exit the station and walk up the stairs to the street holding the bags full of cleaning supplies and food.

MARY
 (To Victoria)
 [I'm sorry that you can't see the
 guy today--]

VICTORIA
 [Are you?]

MARY
 [Yes, Victoria. I am. Let's try to
 finish quick so you can see him.]

Victoria smiles. They are about to cross the street and
 Victoria holds Isabella's hand.

VICTORIA
 (To Isabella)
 Come on.

They cross the street.

25 INT. VICTORIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK) 25

It has turned evening.

Charlie is walking down the hallway and walks into Victoria's
 room, who has the door open.

Victoria is sitting at the edge of her bed. Suany is sitting
 next to the bed.

SUANY
 Yeah, I don't know how that is
 going to work.

Charlie sits in a chair opposite the bed.

Charlie is sitting there quietly while Victoria and Suany
 talk.

VICTORIA
 No, cause you can dead sneak in the
 back and see him.

SUANY
 And you don't think Bad Bunny has
 security?

VICTORIA
 Well, of course he does!

Suany notices Charlie.

SUANY
(to Charlie)
Hi, Charlie!

VICTORIA
(to Charlie)
Hey, man! How are you?

CHARLIE
I'm alright.

VICTORIA
Just got done talking to Sheyla?

CHARLIE
Nah but I'm about to see her soon
after the meeting tonight. She had
other people to see.

SUANY
I can picture how that conversation
would go. Not pleasant I bet.

Victoria laughs.

VICTORIA
Yeah, I bet.

CHARLIE
(Laughing with a slight
sadness to it)
Yeah.

VICTORIA
(to Charlie)
Oh, thank you for the flowers. I
really appreciate it.

CHARLIE
Nah, it's the least I can do with
all you've helped me with.

VICTORIA
But dude, is there anything you
want to talk about?

Charlie looks at Victoria and smiles slightly.

CHARLIE
Nah... maybe some other time,
thanks though. I'ma go though.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You ladies have a good rest of
y'all evening. Well, Victoria I'll
see you at the meeting.

VICTORIA

No problem, man.

Charlie exits the room.

SUANY

Ugh, He is such a sweetheart.

VICTORIA

So, why don't you date him.

SUANY

No, I'm dating the man that got me
Bad Bunny tickets, [Yes, my love.]

They burst out laughing--

26

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

26

Charlie is walking down the hallway with his head down
towards his room when he notices Franco.

Franco is reading a book as nurses and staff walk past him.
He still has the knitted hat in his lap.

CHARLIE

What you reading?

Franco looks up at Charlie and shakes his hand.

FRANCO

My friend, Charlie! "Candide" by
Voltaire.

CHARLIE

Never heard of it.

FRANCO

It's a retelling of the story of
Genesis. I used to teach it to my
classes all the time.

Charlie looks down at the floor.

CHARLIE

Right... Goodnight Franco.

Charlie continues to walk away.

FRANCO

Did you tell her you love her, yet?

Charlie turns back half way.

CHARLIE

Nah.

FRANCO

Better tell her soon.

CHARLIE

Right.

Charlie walks to his room.

27 INT. VICTORIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

27

Victoria and Suany are still talking.

VICTORIA

Shut up. But Charlie is nice,
though.

SUANY

But not what you're looking for?

VICTORIA

Like I do want a guy but I'm just
waiting for the right one to come
along and sweep me off my feet. A
little boo and all. You know what I
mean?

28 INT. CHARLIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

28

Charlie walks into his room and heads over to the table where
a picture frame is faced down. Next to it is a beaten up King
James Version of the Holy Bible.

Charlie pauses and hovers his hand over the picture frame.

He lifts it up and it's a picture of his mother, Lindsey
holding him as a child.

The picture of them is at a park and picnic happening in the
background.

She is wearing a blue sundress with white flip flops and her
hair slicked back in a ponytail.

Charlie stares at the photo.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, mommy.

He gets teary eyed.

Charlie puts the photo back faced down and heads to the bed and lays down.

He is still in his clothes.

29 INT. VICTORIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

29

Victoria and Suany are still talking.

SUANY
Because he's a gang member.

VICTORIA
No! It's not that. I just want
someone to grow with and who has
their head on straight, you know?
That's taking care their business
(beat) What God has planned for me.

Victoria gets up and heads to the bathroom.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Anyway, Suany. I am going to use
the bathroom and take a seat out in
the waitingroom to clear my head.
So, you are free to leave.

SUANY
...And I'm coming with you.

VICTORIA
Right. I'll be right out.

Victoria enters the bathroom.

30 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

30

Victoria stares at her self in the mirror. She starts touching parts of her face: cheeks, chin, nose, ears, mouth, etc.

Her eyes start to get red.

Danilo, her father, appears to walk up from the side and behind her. She turns around--

31 INT. HOSPITAL WAITINGROOM - DAY - (DAYDREAM) 31

--And looks directly into Danilo's eyes. His eyes are red from crying.

Mary, Victoria's mother gets up from her seat and goes to Danilo.

MARY
[What happened?]

Danilo can't look her in the face and continues to look at Victoria (19).

Tears start to flow from his eyes.

MARY (CONT'D)
[Danilo, please.]

DANILO
[I have stage 4 pancreatic cancer.
I'm sorry.]

Victoria stands there confused.

Mary breaks down crying and hugs Danilo.

MARY
[No, this isn't right. No, No, No.]

Danilo continues to look at Victoria.

DANILO
I'm sorry, my love.

Victoria just stares--

32 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK) 32

--At herself in the mirror and turns on the water in the sink and quickly washes her face with her hands.

Victoria walks out the bathroom and Suany is waiting for her at the door.

33 INT. HOSPITAL SEATING AREA - NIGHT 33

Victoria and Suany walk into the hallway and into the seating area, which is just around the corner.

She sees a young Black **HANDSOME** man, Robin (20), sitting down in one of the corner seats.

He is wearing a blue Columbia University sweat shirt and has a New International Version of the Bible in his hands.

Victoria hesitates but then sits down. Suany sits down at table just behind her.

He has a taper cut, smooth skin, gold chain, and an earring in his left ear. He (screams) CHARISMA.

Victoria stares at him and he doesn't notice. She sits up a little bit and straightens up her posture.

Suany notices Victoria staring at him.

SUANY
(Whispering)
Girl, you better say something.

Suany whispers but it is loud enough for Robin to notice

VICTORIA
(To Suany)
Stop.

Robin is reading his Bible.

ROBIN
(Still looking down at his Bible)
Are you going to introduce yourself or are you waiting on me?

Victoria looks around to make sure he is talking to her.

Robin looks up and closes his bible with a bookmark.

VICTORIA
Me?

ROBIN
I don't see any other Latina patients around here.

Suany pulls out her phone and looks at it but always keeping an eye on the conversation - often looking up.

SUANY
(To herself)
Ouhh.

Victoria points to herself.

VICTORIA
(to Suany)
[He is bold.]

SUANY
Sure is.

VICTORIA
How you know I'm a Latina, though?

ROBIN
My Latina senses were tingling.

Victoria laughs.

VICTORIA
Oh, so that's what we're doing? It
could've been my nurse.

Suany is smiling and making noises in the back.

SUANY
(To herself)
Okay.

ROBIN
I mean, I guess so but I can tell
by the accent. Can't hide it and
plus you just spoke Spanish, so I
guessed right?

Victoria shakes her head in the "Yes" motion.

VICTORIA
Mhmmm.

ROBIN
What's your name?

VICTORIA
Now you ask me my name...

ROBIN
My fault but you was the one who
was staring at me, so you know I
had to speak up.

Victoria rolls her eyes and is clearly blushing.

VICTORIA
(Clapping her hands)
I was not staring first of all. You
should be the one to introduce
yourself, though - so...

Victoria is clearly getting more comfortable around him.

ROBIN

Like I said, What's your name,
miss?

Victoria stares at him and tries to hide her smile.

VICTORIA

Victoria.

Robin gets up from his seat and walks to sit in the chair
closer to her but just off a seat in the corner.

Robin gets up slightly and extends out his hand.

ROBIN

Nice to meet you, Victoria. I'm
Robin.

Victoria accepts the handshake.

VICTORIA

Robin...Nice to meet you.

Robin stares at her and licks and sucks in his bottom lip
ever so slightly. He looks her up and down slowly.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

So?

ROBIN

My apologies I just admiring the
view.

Victoria and Suany both burst out a little laugh.

VICTORIA

Okay, that was corny, sir.

SUANY

Super corny.

ROBIN

Yeah, but it made you laugh. So, I
have to win some points there.

VICTORIA

Right, that you did. I can't lie,
you did make me laugh.

Robin notices the bandage on her left arm.

ROBIN

So, tell me. What you are doing here? In the hospital, I mean; this floor?

VICTORIA

I guess the same reason why you're here, right? We're both struggling with something.

ROBIN

Life?

VICTORIA

Exactly.

ROBIN

But if you don't mind me asking, how did you end up here?

VICTORIA

Same as everyone else.

ROBIN

Alright avoiding questions, huh?

Victoria blushes.

VICTORIA

I mean I just met you. Why don't you tell me how you ended up here?

ROBIN

Same as everyone else.

VICTORIA

Woww, okay. So, that's how we're going to play it?--

ROBIN

Yeah.

VICTORIA

Okay bet.

ROBIN

Alright, maybe I started off too fast. I apologize. Where are you from?

VICTORIA

Brooklyn.

ROBIN

Oh okay. White side or black side?

VICTORIA

Why does that matter?--

ROBIN

Because I'm from Brooklyn too and I want to know you're a real New Yorker.

VICTORIA

Borough Park. The very jewish side.

ROBIN

Sounds like a place I wouldn't want to be. Me and the whites don't exactly mix.

Victoria laughs.

They all laugh.

VICTORIA

So, where you from? If you don't mind me asking.

ROBIN

Cypress Hills, Brooklyn.

VICTORIA

Cypress Hills? I never heard of it.

ROBIN

Well, it's on the black side - so I would've guessed it. But it's right on the east side of Brooklyn, right on the edge.

VICTORIA

Mhmm, interesting.

They both stare at each other in a slight awkward silence. Victoria stares at him with infatuation.

ROBIN

Were you born here?

VICTORIA

Yes, born and raised, sir.

ROBIN

Where is your family from?

VICTORIA

Um, my dad was from Ecuador and my mom is from the Dominican Republic. How about you?

ROBIN

America.

VICTORIA

Wow. What a answer.

ROBIN

Getting spicy already I see.

Victoria laughs and crossing her legs and turns her body towards Robin.

VICTORIA

Nah, never that.

ROBIN

Yeah, but my family comes from the south.

SUANY

(To Robin)

I'm sorry to cut in, but is Robin your real name?--

VICTORIA

Suany!

SUANY

My bad but I need to know because I never heard that name before.

ROBIN

Nah, it's a great question. Um, it's a nickname actually.

VICTORIA

Really?

ROBIN

My real name is Jeffrey.

SUANY

Jeffrey? I see why you have a nickname.

VICTORIA

(To Suany)

Stop!

(To Robin)

(MORE)

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Why Robin though? Like did you want a change of identity or something? If you don't mind me asking.

Robin gets a little flustered.

ROBIN

Well, it has something to do with me being here--

Robin looks down for a brief moment.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I can you at least tell you that, miss.

VICTORIA

You're religious, right?

ROBIN

Man, I wonder what gave it away. But yes I am. I'm a Christian. Are you religious?

VICTORIA

My family is but me not so much.

ROBIN

Why not?

VICTORIA

Because I feel like it's too controlling.

ROBIN

A valid concern. Parents didn't let you out enough, huh?

VICTORIA

Wow, very out there.

ROBIN

I am right, aren't I?

VICTORIA

Yes, you are. My mom is very controlling in my life.

ROBIN

Mom? What about your father?

VICTORIA

Right, my dad passed from cancer.

ROBIN

Right.

Robin pauses.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to hear that.

Victoria sighs.

VICTORIA

Yeah.

ROBIN

Is that why you're here?

VICTORIA

It's a part of it.

Victoria quickly turns the question on Robin.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

But why are you here?

ROBIN

Right, you like to avoid answering questions - almost forgot.

VICTORIA

(playfully)

Shut up!

ROBIN

I admitted myself due to the pressures of being a black man in today's world. Always having to be better than everyone.

SUANY

(to Robin)

Columbia University?

ROBIN

(to Suany)

Yeah, I'm a junior.

Suany playfully taps Victoria's shoulder.

VICTORIA

So, you got your head on straight.

ROBIN

I guess you can say that.

Robin phone rings.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Oh.

Robin takes the phone out his pocket and he sees that it is his mother calling him. He tenses up and looks almost like he about to have a panic attack.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(to Victoria)

You go to school, miss?

VICTORIA

A few online classes at Baruch.

ROBIN

So, you got your head on straight, got you. I'm going to take this and I'll see you late tonight at that meeting, right?

Victoria smiles.

VICTORIA

Yes.

ROBIN

Aright, I'll talk to you after that.

VICTORIA

You go do that.

ROBIN

And then maybe you'll answer my questions. Have a good night you two.

Robin walks off.

SUANY

Bad Bunny tickets secured.

VICTORIA

Shut up!

34

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

34

Charlie is sitting on the grass in front of his mother's tombstone. There is a bible next to him.

His legs are crossed and tears are flowing from his eyes.

CHARLIE

Today is my 25th Birthday, mommy. And I've been reading my bible a lot more lately. I gave Victoria my bible to read, so I didn't read it this week, but I've been reading. I, um, I figured you would want to know who she is...She's this nice girl, you love'd her. I talk to her about you all the time, every chance I get. She's funny, cute, and Lord told me that she is the one. And I know that you said to listen to God so, I'ma tell her how I feel. The only problem is, is that she likes this other guy. I don't have what he has but I'll try to tell her one day.

Charlie rolls over to his knees and hugs his mother's tombstone.

He has a blue flag hanging out the left side of his back pocket.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

God will make me strong and after all these years, I finally got something to live for...her.

He kisses the top of it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I don't know if Sheyla will ever forgive me or anyone for that matter. I'm back to gang banging for the time being. I hope God can forgive me.

35

INT. - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)

35

Victoria, Franco, Charlie, and Sheyla are sitting around in a circle.

Sheyla looks absolutely exhausted, Charlie looks uninterested, Franco looks content, and Victoria is peeking around, presumably, looking for Robin.

Robin walks into the room wearing his Columbia University sweatshirt. His presence immediately brings energy to the room.

ROBIN

Good evening everyone.

Victoria eyes lighten up and Charlie immediately notices and stares with jealousy in his eyes as Robin sits down next to her.

SHEYLA

Evening, Jeffrey! It's nice for you to join us.

ROBIN

Absolutely.

Charlie continues to stare at him.

SHEYLA

How has your time been so far with us?

ROBIN

Good, I actually met Victoria earlier and it has made the transition a lot easier.

Victoria blushes and looks the other way.

SHEYLA

Alright, well let's introduce everyone.

Victoria notices that Sheyla is starting without Valeria present.

VICTORIA

Wait, where is Valeria?

SHEYLA

I gave her the night off. Don't worry she's fine just a situation with her mother. Alright, let's go around.

FRANCO

I'm Franco and I'm dying of cancer.

Franco smiles.

ROBIN

I'm sorry to hear that.

FRANCO

Oh, I'm not. I am ready.

SHEYLA

Franco!

Franco bows his head.

It is Charlie's turn and he doesn't say a word but stares at Robin.

ROBIN

(to Charlie)

You know with the way you're staring, I would think you didn't like me.

Robin has a cockiness about him.

SHEYLA

Charles...

CHARLIE

My name is Charlie and I'm bipolar.

SHEYLA

Thank you.

Charlie continues to stare but his eyes go glossy.

VICTORIA

I'm Victoria and I am also bipolar.

ROBIN

Alright, I'm next. Hello my name is Jeffrey or I would prefer you call me by my nickname, Robin. I am black and depressed, that's it.

SHEYLA

Alright, so tonight we will talk about the word of God. I know everyone isn't comfortable speaking about this but it is a part of this program and a large a part of what I do.

ROBIN

If I can talk about that for one minute.

SHEYLA

Of course.

ROBIN

Um, my parents don't believe in God and they told me not too, so I did.

VICTORIA

(to Robin)

Wait Robin, you don't believe in God one hundred percent? Is that what I am getting at?

ROBIN

(to Victoria)

That's correct. I think I am just in a phase in my life where I am trying new things but it won't always be this way.

FRANCO

I say fuck 'em.

SHEYLA

(to Franco)

Excuse me?

FRANCO

(laughing)

God isn't real. The bible is a fairytale, come on.

SHEYLA

(to Franco)

And I am not doubting your beliefs but you are not going to use that language here, Franco. You are not even apart of this group.

FRANCO

My apologies, Sheyla.

VICTORIA

I can go!

SHEYLA

Go ahead.

Charlie stares at her.

VICTORIA

Like my dad is a Christian and my mom didn't believe until they met--

Charlie and Victoria are sitting at a table with empty plates, they just finished eating.

VICTORIA

My mom tells me this story of how they met at a party and got her flowers and sweep her off her feet. Like she dead moved to a country alone with him, where she doesn't know the language still, to start a family with him. Starts believing in God.

CHARLIE

Did he set the standard for you?

VICTORIA

In what way?

CHARLIE

For a guy?

VICTORIA

Oh yes! To not settle for less. My dad had this swagger to him that's just unmatched, charming. He always made us laugh.

37 INT. - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS - (FLASHBACK) 37

The group is still talking about God.

Charlie gets up and walks out the room.

SHEYLA

Charlie? Where are you going?

Charlie ignores and walks out.

38 INT. SHEYLA'S OFFICE - NIGHT 38

It is now after the meeting.

Sheyla walks into the room and Charlie is sitting slumped in the chair looking down at the floor.

SHEYLA

I am shocked, Charlie.

Sheyla sits down in her chair behind the desk.

CHARLIE

Why?

SHEYLA

You are usually full of so much energy.

Charlie looks up slightly and shakes his head in the "No" motion.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

And you usually tell me everything, Charlie. You have been making great progress.

Charlie puts his head down and is smirking.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

I can see you smiling. Boy, you are not fooling anybody. What happened with tonight?

Charlie looks up and is full of energy.

CHARLIE

My fault. You know I can't keep a straight face. Nothing, it's good - seriously.

Charlie looks down and has his right hand in the palm of his left with his left thumb in the palm of his right.

SHEYLA

Do you always hide what you're feeling?

Charlie looks off to side with a disgusted look.

CHARLIE

Not this again.

SHEYLA

It's my job, Charlie. I am here to help you. I can't help if you hide from me.

Charlie stares at Sheyla.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)

Let's talk about both meetings. You see yourself dead within ten years and you walk out tonight...why?

Charlie shrugs his shoulders.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)
You haven't acted like this in a long time, Charlie. Why?

Sheyla gives Charlie an aggressive look.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)
You don't talk to me anymore. We sit here in silence, but guess what? You're going to speak today. Do you hear me?

CHARLIE
Nah, I hear you.

SHEYLA
So, speak! That little gang you ran with isn't here to help you. Have you been reading your bible?

CHARLIE
Off and on. Not as much as I should.

Sheyla looks disappointed.

SHEYLA
Want to tell me why?

CHARLIE
What is God going to do with someone like me, Sheyla? Hmm?...What? I'll be 25 soon and I've done nothing in my life - nothing but hurt people.

SHEYLA
You have to forgive yourself.

CHARLIE
Did you see him?

SHEYLA
Who, Jeffrey?

CHARLIE
The way she looked at him?

SHEYLA
Why does that matter? Don't tell you are acting up over a girl.

CHARLIE

My mom used to tell me she wanted me to achieve all these things by 25. She wanted me to enjoy life and I have done none of it. No school, no love of my life.

SHEYLA

She is proud of you.

CHARLIE

How you know? You speak to the dead, my nigga? Look at what I have done in my life!

SHEYLA

Don't use that language with me!

CHARLIE

What you prefer "Bitch" then?

Sheyla gets up from her seat and smacks Charlie across the face from over the desk.

Sheyla gets teary eyed.

SHEYLA

After all I've done for you! Don't you dare call me that again!

CHARLIE

I want to make her and God proud of me, but I don't know how.

Sheyla sits back down slowly and wipes after her tears.

SHEYLA

Get out.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, Shey. I really am.

SHEYLA

I thought you were improving, but it is clear to me that you are not (beat) get out.

CHARLIE

Can I talk to you about Victoria, though? I gotta get it out.

Sheyla points at the door.

SHEYLA

Get out.

CHARLIE

I hurt the people around me Sheyla.
I spent a long time not doing
anything when I should.

SHEYLA

Get out!

CHARLIE

I'm not a good person.

SHEYLA

Get out.

Charlie gets up from his chair and leaves the room.

39

INT. HALLWAY - JUST OUTSIDE SHEYLA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

39

Charlie walks out the office and Franco is in his wheel chair just outside the room. He has the book "Candide" in his hand along with the knitted hat in his lap.

Franco looks directly ahead of him.

FRANCO

I'm a horrible person as well, my
friend. I've hurt people
constantly, but I've learned to
live with it.

(laughing)

Hell, my own daughter said that she
wanted me dead, but she ended up
seeing the old man before I do.
What a pity.

Charlie stops in his tracks and stands next to him.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

Don't treat Sheyla like that. She
is only trying to help. She's
helped me comes to terms with who I
am--

Charlie looks at Franco with an angry look.

CHARLIE

I don't care, nigga. Mind your
fucking business

Franco looks at him with disappointment.

FRANCO

Good.

40 EXT. STREET - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

40

Victoria, Isabella, and Mary are walking down the block. Mary is walking ahead of them.

Victoria is holding Isabella's hand.

Isabella is jumping and moving around a lot.

ISABELLA

I don't want to go!

VICTORIA

(To Isabella)

Shut up! Stop it!

ISABELLA

(To Mary)

[Mommy, Victoria told me to shut up.]

Mary looks back and gives Victoria an angry look.

MARY

(To Victoria)

[Please, can we just get where we are going? We are already late, Victoria--]

VICTORIA

[You are acting like that is my fault--]

ISABELLA

Are we there yet?

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

(To Isabella)

[Isabella, stop!]

MARY

[Hurry.]

VICTORIA

(To Mary)

[Why won't you tell her to stop acting this way, mother? You know she is way too big.]

Mary ignores her.

MARY

[Alright, it's this next house.]

VICTORIA
[Why won't you answer the question?]

MARY
[What question?]

All three arrive at the house.

VICTORIA
[She is not a little baby and she needs to stop acting like this.]

MARY
[Oh, please. She is a child. Let her be one. I let you be one.]

VICTORIA
[Oh. Don't give me that bullshit, mother--]

Isabella starts to squirm.

ISABELLA
I have to use the bathroom.

Isabella tugs on Victoria's jacket.

VICTORIA
(To Isabella)
Alright, Isabella!

MARY
(To Victoria)
[Excuse me? What did you just say?]

VICTORIA
[You never let me do anything and you know that's the truth.]

A large set jewish man, James (57), opens the door.

JAMES
Hi, why are you all making this noise out here? Are you with the cleaning company?

Mary doesn't understand English.

MARY
(To James)
[Yes, sir.]
(To Victoria)
[Translate for me.]

Victoria gives her mother the side eye.

VICTORIA
(To James)
Good morning sir. That is correct.

JAMES
Right. Well, you are late by 10 minutes. I hope you do a good job because I have been dealing with this company for a number of years and I never seen the workers talk loudly in front of my house without knocking.

VICTORIA
Sorry sir. Won't happen again.

JAMES
Right. Well come in.

VICTORIA
(to Mary and Isabella)
[Come on.]

41 INT. JAMES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

41

James let's Victoria, Isabella and Mary into the living room of the house.

Isabella tugs on Victoria's jacket.

VICTORIA
(To James)
Excuse me, where is the bathroom?
For my sister.

JAMES
That would be upstairs on your right. Let me get my wife to escort her.

James yells out his wife's name LEAH (42).

JAMES (CONT'D)
Leah! Come here, please.

Leah comes out from the other room.

LEAH
(to James)
Yes?

(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)
 (To Victoria, Isabella,
 and Mary)

Hi!

JAMES
 Leah, dear. Please show this young
 lady to the bathroom.

LEAH
 Of course.
 (To Isabella)
 Come on Sweetie.

ISABELLA
 Thank you!

Leah takes Isabella up the stairs.

Mary puts the supplies down on the floor.

JAMES
 (To Mary)
 Actually, I want you all to start
 upstairs in the master bedroom.

Mary looks at James confused.

Victoria turns to Mary.

VICTORIA
 (To Mary)
 [He said to start upstairs, mother.
 Please pick up the bags and head
 up.]

MARY
 [Yes, yes.]

Mary grabs the bags and they all head upstairs.

42 INT. HALLWAY TOWARDS VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK) 42

Charlie walks towards Victoria's room and sees that the door
 is wide open. He takes a peak inside and she is not there.

Charlie walks to around the corner--

43 INT. HOSPITAL WAITINGROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 43

Victoria and Robin are sitting down talking.

Charlie walks around the corner and sees them talking.

ROBIN

Let me take you out. Are you free tomorrow?

Victoria blushes.

VICTORIA

I have class in the morning, but I should be available after, I would have to check my schedule.

ROBIN

You mean...You are available after.

VICTORIA

Okay, Robin. You are being too bold for my liking. I haven't even confirmed yet.

ROBIN

It's called being assertive and I would like to get to know you more.

44 INT. VICTORIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

44

It is now the morning after.

The blinds are open. The sun is rising and its light seeps through the binds and shines onto the floor.

Victoria is laying in a small bed in a pink gown not of the hospital's wardrobe.

She sits slightly up in the bed and pulls her knees to her chest and covers them with her arms. She takes a look out the window and stares at the buildings that cover the horizon.

Victoria gets up and walks over to the dresser and grabs a pink shirt and jeans.

She walks over to the bathroom. She changes her clothes and stares at herself in the mirror and smiles.

Suany strolls into the room with a cart and a tray full of food.

SUANY

Good morning!

VICTORIA

Good morning.

Victoria walks out the bathroom.

SUANY

Wow, you don't look well rested.

VICTORIA

Oh my gosh, don't start.

SUANY

Stressing over your boo thang.

VICTORIA

Oh please, I don't stress over anybody unless it's my family.

Suany hands Victoria medication.

SUANY

Well, you are actually dressed today instead of that damn gown.

Victoria takes the medication.

VICTORIA

Oh, please. I just wanted to dress today is all.

SUANY

Mhm, sure. Open your mouth. Let me see.

Victoria opens her mouth. Suany checks to see if Victoria took the medication.

SUANY (CONT'D)

Good.

Victoria goes to sits at the table and starts to eat all the food.

SUANY (CONT'D)

Wow, someone has an appetite.

VICTORIA

Stop.

SUANY

He was a charmer wasn't he?

VICTORIA

He's alright. I didn't get to know him the way I wanted to.

Suany sits in a chair.

SUANY

That will come with time.

Victoria laughs and almost chokes on her food.

SUANY (CONT'D)

You okay?

VICTORIA

Yes! I am okay. He actually asked me to go out with him.

SUANY

Well, hope you been shaving down there, cause it looks like someone is going to get some action soon.

Victoria blushes and throws a water bottle at Suany.

VICTORIA

Oh gosh! Stop!

SUANY

Girl, don't be throwing things. I know we all do crazy things while we're in love but come on now.

VICTORIA

I'm sorry, but, like I don't know anything about him.

SUANY

You will soon.

VICTORIA

Soon would be today... if that's alright with you.

SUANY

Hmph. I will sign it off.

VICTORIA

Ugh, I have to tell another man my favorite color all over again.

Valeria walks into the room and stops by the door. She doesn't have on any beads necklaces or bracelets.

Victoria notices her.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Hey, girl! I met a guy last night!

Valeria looks distraught.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Did you talk to Michael today?

VALERIA

No, he hasn't texted me back since Tuesday morning. I told you he works at a restaurant, right?

(To herself)

Okay, alright.

VICTORIA

You did.

VALERIA

Well, he's the manager and they do have a lot of people working so, he's busy a lot. Girl, I'll be fine seriously. Don't worry about it.

VICTORIA

But you're okay. Right?

VALERIA

Yeah, yeah.

(to Suany)

Hi Suany, is Sheyla in the office.

SUANY

I don't know. I'm sure she is, you can check.

VALERIA

Okay, thank you.

Valeria walks out.

SUANY

I hope she is okay.

VICTORIA

Oh, she's fine! She only gets like that over a guy. That's why I don't stress over them.

SUANY

But you're doing that now.

VICTORIA

This is different.

45 INT. SHEYLA'S OFFICE - DAY

45

Sheyla is sitting at her desk working on her computer.

Sheyla has baggy eyes and looks like hasn't had sleep. She is drinking from a coffee cup.

There is a knock on the door, it is Valeria.

VALERIA

Hello?

Sheyla finches and spills some of her coffee on the desk. It misses the keyboard and computer but does spill on some papers.

Sheyla takes a piece of paper towel from her drawer and wipes down the area.

SHEYLA

Come in.

Valeria walks into the room. She doesn't have any beads necklaces or bracelets on this time around. She looks a little distraught.

Sheyla stands up to greet her.

VALERIA

Hey, Shey.

Valeria looks like she has been crying.

SHEYLA

You okay? You're never in my office.

Sheyla takes the papers and puts them down on a little desk and continues.

VALERIA

Yeah, I'm fine. Just stuff with my mom.

SHEYLA

Well, have a seat.

Valeria sits down. Sheyla goes back to sit down.

VALERIA

(To herself)

Stop!

SHEYLA

Excuse me?

Valeria looks confused.

VALERIA

Nothing.

SHEYLA

How can I help you today, Valeria?
It's while before the meeting. How
are you feeling?

Valeria sighs.

VALERIA

I just had an argument with my mom.
I'm just tired of her and always
doing what she asks me to do.

SHEYLA

Is that why you are not wearing the
beads?

VALERIA

Yeah.
(to herself)
Stop!

SHEYLA

Excuse me?

VALERIA

Nothing, please go on.

SHEYLA

You know your mother loves you,
right?

VALERIA

No, she doesn't because if she did,
I wouldn't be here right now. I
would have a life.

SHEYLA

And who says you don't?

Valeria starts to tear up.

VALERIA

Sheyla, you don't understand. She--

SHEYLA
What don't I understand.

VALERIA
She forced me to do things...What I
have is because of her.

Sheyla is flustered.

VALERIA (CONT'D)
Readings and everything. Bath after
bath. Cleaning after cleaning. I
was perfectly fine before this.
(to herself)
Stop talking!

SHEYLA
Is that what all that stuff you had
on you was for?

VALERIA
Yes. Every relationship I have with
a guy, she ruined.

SHEYLA
Was it helping?

VALERIA
Yeah.

Sheyla gets up from her seat and goes to comfortable Valeria
by putting her arm around her.

SHEYLA
Go put them back on and we'll
figure it out, alright?

Valeria shakes her head in the "Yes" motion.

VALERIA
I don't want to be like this
anymore.

Sheyla hugs her.

46

EXT. FLOWERSHOP - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

46

Charlie is buying flowers at the flowershop.

CHARLIE
A dozen roses, please.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK #2

Right away.

47 INT. LINDSEY'S APARTMENT - DAY - (DAYDREAM) 47

Lindsey and Charlie (24) are sitting down watching tv.

Lindsey is wearing a blue sundress and white flip flops. She has slight bruising above her right eye.

There is a knock on the door.

Lindsey gets up and opens the door.

She opens it and Steven, Charlie's father, is at the door with flowers in hand.

Lindsey looks upset.

LINDSEY

(to Steven)

What are you doing here?

STEVEN

(to Lindsey)

I came say that I'm sorry.

LINDSEY

(to Steven)

For hitting me?

STEVEN

(to Lindsey)

For loving you. Now take them. You know you want them.

Lindsey take the flowers and Steven starts kissing on her neck.

LINDSEY

You think flowers are going to change the fact that you keep hitting me?

STEVEN

Yeah.

Steven continues to kiss her and leads her to the back room.

Charlie looks on as they go into the back. He turns back towards the TV.

EXT. FLOWERSHOP - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

Charlie is still at the flower shop.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK #2
Sir, your flowers.

The flowershop clerk hands Charlie the roses.

He pays for them, stares and then walks out.

48 INT. BATHROOM OF A JAMES' HOME - DAY - (PRESENT DAY) 48

The bathroom is brightly lit.

Victoria is on her knees over the bathtub with cleaning gloves on. She is nearly frozen in her place staring off into space.

Mary walks into the bathroom with a large white brush, rags, and a bucket.

MARY
[Victoria! If you don't hurry up,
we won't get out of here any
faster.]

VICTORIA
[Yes, mother. (beat) Sorry...]

Victoria quickly scrubs the inside of the tub.

Mary bends over and cleans the toilet. She looks over at her daughter.

MARY
[Please, you have to scrub, dear.
You haven't even started the kids'
room.]

Victoria sudden stop scrubbing and looks visibly frustrated.

VICTORIA
[Yes, Mother. Sorry...]

Victoria continues to scrub. She takes a bottle full of a blue substance and sprays the tub.

MARY
[Those Jews pay a lot money for
this week.]

Victoria turns on the water in the tub.

MARY (CONT'D)
[Always so busy.]

Victoria ignores her.

MARY (CONT'D)
[So, so busy]

Mary starts to hum the song "Medicina De Amor" by Raulin Rodriguez".

Victoria looks over at her and stares --

VICTORIA
[Where is Isabella?]

MARY
[Downstairs with that jewish woman.]

James walks slightly into the bathroom.

JAMES
(To Mary)
Excuse me?

Mary acknowledges him and stops cleaning.

MARY
[Yes?]

JAMES
I don't think the two of you should both be in here. The room down the hall hasn't been touched yet.

Mary has a confused look on her face and looks at Victoria. Mary doesn't understand English.

James notices that she has trouble understanding him, but continues to address her.

He now speaks slower in an almost condescending tone.

JAMES (CONT'D)
The room needs cleaning.

Mary shakes her head. She replies to him in broken english.

MARY
I don't understand.

James becomes frustrated and looks at Victoria.

JAMES

Can you translate for me?

VICTORIA

No, I got it. I will clean it right now, sir. I forgot to clean it before.

JAMES

Thank you, please.

Victoria gets up and drops the cleaning supplies.

VICTORIA

[I am going to go clean the kids' room, mother.]

MARY

[Was that what the jewish man was talking about?]

VICTORIA

[Yes, mother]

Mary shakes her head in the "No" motion and is clearly upset with Victoria.

MARY

[I told to hurry up didn't I--]

Victoria looks down at the floor and walks away.

VICTORIA

I didn't ask to come here...

MARY

[My goodness. Lord, help me with this one.]

Victoria exits the room and walks down the hall.

49

INT. DAUGHTERS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

49

Victoria reaches the room. There are clothes everywhere, scattered about the floor. Victoria goes around picking up the clothes and puts them in a clothes hamper in the corner of the room.

She notices that the room has a separate bathroom. She walks in and immediately looks at her self in the mirror. She stares intensely. She takes a deep breath and pushes her hair behind her ears. She take a step back from the mirror and turns her head slowly left and right.

VICTORIA
 (To herself)
 You have large ears and a big
 forehead.

Victoria smiles but it quickly goes away. Victoria looks down at her left arm and pull up her sleeve. She has several scars on her arm and feels them with her right hand.

50 EXT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - DAY - (FLASHBACK) 50

Victoria and Robin are sitting outside eating at a Japanese restaurant. Both still have their hospitals bands on.

ROBIN
 You have large ears and a big
 forehead you know that?

Victoria tries to cover her forehead.

VICTORIA
 Shut up!

Victoria slaps his hand.

ROBIN
 My apologies, but you are cute
 though.

Victoria blushes.

Victoria tries eating sushi with chopsticks but is struggling.

Robin notices.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
 Hold on, you're doing it wrong. The
 point side goes on the top.

Victoria moves around her chopsticks.

VICTORIA
 Bet, like this?

ROBIN
 Yeah, now to pick the food up, you
 take your middle finger--

Robin is demonstrating how to use the chopsticks.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

--And place it in the middle on the sticks.

VICTORIA

Oh gosh.

ROBIN

No, you got it.

Victoria is still struggling.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Now, you take the index finger and put it at the top and the thumb at the bottom and you move it like this.

Robin shows Victoria the correct way to use the sticks.

Victoria still struggles.

VICTORIA

(looks embarrassed)

Oh no. I can't get it. Like this?

ROBIN

Nah, not quite, but it's close, real close.

VICTORIA

You know what, as long as I can pick it up.

Robin smiles at her.

ROBIN

I love the "I tried my best attitude".

VICTORIA

Yes! It's the best attitude to have.

ROBIN

What't your favorite music?

VICTORIA

Oh my gosh. Reggae-ton, Bachata, Merengue, [national music of Ecuador.]

ROBIN

Don't tell me you're a Bad Bunny fan, miss.

Victoria bursts out laughing.

VICTORIA

What gave it away?

ROBIN

Nah, I heard Suany, I think her name is, say it while I was walking away.

VICTORIA

Wow and I thought you had a phone call.

ROBIN

I did but I was also heard that. Alright, so tell me about how you ended up there and don't be avoiding it this time.

VICTORIA

Right, well. I was the high school valedictorian and through out my time, I was never allowed to do anything and it affected my mental health quite a lot and top on of my father's death, I couldn't handle it anymore. My mom was super controlling.

ROBIN

So, you listen to Bad Bunny to get back at her?

VICTORIA

(laughing)

No, it's nothing like that!

51 EXT. CITY STREET - IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - (DAYDREAM) 51

Loud bachata music is playing.

Danilo (25), Victoria's father, is standing by a tree with flowers in his hand. He is staring at a young woman talking amongst some people - That young woman is Mary (18), Victoria's mother. She is wearing short shorts and a tube top and her hair is out.

Victoria (19) is standing right next to him and notices the young woman.

VICTORIA
Who is that?

Danilo looks at Victoria.

DANILO
That's the woman I am going to
marry someday.

They both look back over at her.

Danilo crosses the street and Victoria follows along.

Danilo walks through the people that are around Mary.

DANILO (CONT'D)
(to the people)
[Excuse me, I'm sorry.]

Danilo stands face to face with Mary.

DANILO (CONT'D)
[Hello, miss.]

Mary answer with a confused look.

MARY
[Yes, how can I help you?]

RANDOM MAN #2
[Who is this guy?]

Mary stares at him and then realizes who he is.

MARY
[Oh, you're the guy from the
church? The DJ and the Christian?]

DANILO
[Ah, yes. That is me, miss.]

Danilo stares deeply into her eyes and extends his hand out.

DANILO (CONT'D)
[My name is Danilo. Mary, right?]

MARY
[That is correct.]

Mary starts to walk away and gestures for Danilo to follow her.

Danilo follows her as she walks into a back alleyway behind the house.

Victoria follows along.

MARY (CONT'D)
[Are those flowers for me?]

DANILO
[Of course they are.]

Danilo hands Mary the flowers.

Mary blushes.

MARY
[Thank you they're beautiful. I never had someone buy me flowers before.]

DANILO
[You never met a real man before.]

MARY
[Right. Let me put these in some water, I'll be right back.]

Mary enters into the house.

DANILO
(to Victoria)
I have never seen a woman like that, mi amor.

VICTORIA
Wow, she is so pretty.

A large set woman comes screaming out the house. It is MARY'S MOTHER.

MARY'S MOTHER
[No daughter of mine is going to date some Christian.]

Danilo and Victoria look shocked.

MARY
[Mother, stop!]

Mary's Mother comes out of the house with the flowers and throws them at Danilo and then takes off her slipper and throws it at him as well.

MARY'S MOTHER
[Get out of here, you bastard.]

MARY
(to Danilo)
[I'm so sorry.]

Mary picks up the now ruined flowers.

Danilo and Victoria both walk away.

Mary's mother walks back into the house.

Danilo turns around and sees Mary staring at him.

MARY (CONT'D)
[I'll be at the party, tonight.
Bring me more flowers.]

Danilo shakes his head in the "Yes" motion.

DANILO
[I'll see you later, miss.]

Danilo looks at Victoria.

DANILO (CONT'D)
[If he wanted to, he would. Always
remember that.]

52 INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - (DAYDREAM)

52

Danilo and Victoria walks into the warehouse which is packed full of people.

Danilo has flowers in his hand.

Reggae-ton music is playing throughout the venue. People are dancing and enjoying themselves.

Danilo and Victoria walk through the crowd looking for Mary.

DANILO
Do you see her, mi amor?

VICTORIA
No, not yet.

They walk some more and than Victoria catches the eye of Mary standing in a bright spot light by the wall.

Victoria taps Danilo's shoulder and points in the direction of Mary.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

There she is, father.

Danilo hastily walks through the crowd and over to Mary.

Victoria walks behind him.

Mary notices him and smiles.

DANILO

[Miss Mary, I got you those
flowers.]

Mary kisses his cheek and takes the flowers.

MARY

[So, you're here to spread the
Gospel?]

DANILO

[That's correct and to DJ, but I am
traveling all over to tell the
world about Jesus.]

MARY

[Can you tell me more about it?]

DANILO

[It would be my pleasure, but you
would have to travel with me.
Leaving here.]

Mary blushes.

MARY

[Sure, I'll go anywhere.]

53

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

53

Charlie is standing by his mother's tombstone. He takes his right hand across the top of the tombstone.

He has a blue flag hanging out the back left pocket.

CHARLIE

Hey, mommy. Sometimes I wish I
wasn't born. Victoria is probably
on her date today. He looks better
than me. I don't know, mommy -
maybe today is the day I tell her.

Charlie leans over to kiss and hugs the tombstone.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 I know I talk your head off, mommy,
 but I hurt Sheyla and I don't know
 if she will forgive me.

Charlie places his hand on the tombstone.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 I'll see you tomorrow, mommy. Love
 you.

54 EXT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - DAY

54

Victoria and Robin are sitting outside eating at a
 restaurant.

There is a silence and Victoria comes to.

ROBIN
 The food is good, right?

Victoria takes a sip of her drink.

VICTORIA
 It's amazing and this drink is mad
 good.

ROBIN
 Oh, the Calpico. The milky drink.
 Yeah it's good. I had it a few
 times.

VICTORIA
 Oh so, you've been here before.

Robin hesitates to answer.

ROBIN
 Uh, A few times.
 (avoiding Victoria asking
 follow up questions)
 What type of food does your family
 eat?

VICTORIA
 Um, this is going to sound weird,
 remember to have an open mind, we
 eat Cuy.

ROBIN
 Cuy? What's that?

VICTORIA
It's a guinea pig

Robin looks shocked.

55 INT. FLOWERSHOP - DAY

55

Charlie is buying flowers.

CHARLIE
Roses please.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK
By the dozen again, sir?

CHARLIE
Yeah, thank you.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK
Wow, I know the girl is very happy
to receive these.

Charlie stares at the clerk with a straight face.

CHARLIE
Sure.

56 EXT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - DAY

56

Victoria and Robin are sitting outside eating at a
restaurant.

ROBIN
So, you eat a common house pet.

VICTORIA
When you say it like that it seems
bad, but it's not a house pet in
Ecuador. It's a traditional meal.
Like my family on my father's side
would have them eat nothing but
grass and then when they were
ready, we would roast them and eat
them.

ROBIN
How would they taste?

VICTORIA
They taste good.

ROBIN
I'm disgusted right now. I hope you
know that.

Victoria lets out a big loud laugh.

VICTORIA
Nah don't do that--

57 INT. SHEYLA'S OFFICE - DAY

57

Sheyla is sitting in her office and there is a knock on the door.

SHEYLA
Come in.

Suany comes into the office and sits down in the chair.

SUANY
Hey, Sheyla.

SHEYLA
Hello, Suany. How are you? How is
Valeria?

SUANY
We got her to calm down. She was
screaming at the top of her lungs.
Curse words, mostly about Victoria.
Her mother came to get her and is
signing her our now.

SHEYLA
Oh, God.

Sheyla looks down at the desk and places her face into the palms of her hands.

SHEYLA (CONT'D)
What am I doing wrong?

SUANY
Nothing.

SHEYLA
First Maxwell, Stephanie, and now
Valeria and Charlie. Suany, What I
am doing wrong?

Sheyla starts to tear up.

SUANY

Nothing, Sheyla. You are trying the best you can.

SHEYLA

Well, it's obviously not enough. I don't know if I can handle this job anymore.

Sheyla can be heard sobbing.

Suany gets up slightly from her seat and pulls Sheyla's hands away from her face. Sheyla is crying.

SUANY

Sheyla, look at all the lives you have changed.

SHEYLA

So? It won't matter if can't save one. All I do is show them love, Suany. And Charlie is not taking his medication, I can tell. And he's probably going right go back to that gang and I don't know what I would do because I love him like a child! All of them like they are my own!... I can't lose another.

SUANY

You won't.

SHEYLA

God, led me here to this place showed me that love was the answer to everything--
(slight chuckle)
--And I am failing.

58

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - DAY

58

Charlie is sitting on a bench waiting for the train to arrive.

A man comes onto the platform preaching about God. He has pamphlets in his hands.

MAN PREACHING

The Lord says to live for him and not this world. Because the devil wants you to indulge in the dealings of the flesh--

The man walks past Charlie and hands him a pamphlet and looks him in the eyes. The front of the pamphlet reads: "God thinks you are Beautiful".

MAN PREACHING (CONT'D)

Yeah though I may walk through the
valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil!.

The train comes.

Charlie puts down the pamphlet on it's back on the seat, it reads:

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. - Psalms 139: 13-16"

He walks onto the train.

59 INT/EXT. ROBIN'S CAR - DAY 59

Robin is driving while Victoria is in the passenger sit.

The car is silent.

Victoria looks at him while he drives. It seems like she is expecting something and has a look of disappointment on her face.

60 INT. WAITINGROOM OF THE HOSPITAL - DAY - (DAYDREAM) 60

Victoria (19) is sitting in the waiting room.

Mary, Victoria's mother, walks out and stops by the wall to cry.

Mary looks over to the left slightly and sees Victoria sitting.

MARY
[Victoria?! Why aren't you in
school?!]

Victoria notices her mother gets up from her seat.

VICTORIA
[I want to see him, please!]

Mary has an angry look on her face and walks over to
Victoria.

MARY
[You shouldn't be here!]

Mary grabs her arm and tries to move her towards the door and
the hallway where there are elevators.

VICTORIA
(cries out)
[Mother, I want to know if he's
okay.]

MARY
[Go to school!]

VICTORIA
[Is he okay!]

Mary freezes and break downs onto her knees.

Victoria runs around to the room where her father is at.

61 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - (DAYDREAM) 61

Doctors and nurses are gathered all around the bed.

Victoria runs and pushes the people away. She sees her
father, Danilo, in the bed nearing death.

Danilo looks at her and extends out his left hand. Victoria
grabs it.

DANILO
Mi amor.

At that very moment, he passes away.

62 EXT. PORCH OF JAMES'S HOUSE - DAY - (PRESENT DAY) 62

It is the afternoon.

Mary is sitting down on the porch eating a sandwich, her lunch. They have a bunch of unopened water bottle and a few sandwiches sitting next to them.

Victoria takes out her medication from a bag and opens it and takes one pill.

MARY

[Do you really need to take those, Victoria? I told about that. This country always thinks something is wrong with you.]

VICTORIA

(in an annoyed tone)

[Yes, Mother. I have a mental illness and have to take them to feel better. I know you don't believe in this stuff but it works.]

MARY

[Alright.]

Victoria takes a sandwich and starts eating.

Isabella is standing eating her sandwich.

MARY (CONT'D)

[You know with the way you're working and slacking off, you really don't want to see this boy.]

Isabella takes a water bottle in hand.

VICTORIA

[Can you not? I would be with him right now if it wasn't for this.]

Isabella starts walking around back and forth in the front of the house trying to sell it all while still eating her sandwich.

ISABELLA

One dollar water! Come get your water!

MARY

[What did I tell you before?--]

VICTORIA

[Yeah, okay. I get it.]

MARY

[Let's finish fast so you can see some boy. Some boy that is more important to you over your own family.]

ISABELLA

Come get your one dollar water!

People pass by Isabella.

VICTORIA

[I am not stressing over any boy! You force me to be here, so I am here, Mother, end of story.]

Isabella goes up to a random woman.

ISABELLA

Water one dollar.

RANDOM WOMAN #2

(to Isabella)

No, I'm okay, Thank you though, sweetie.

MARY

[Picking him over your friends, when was the last time you spoke to Valeria?]

VICTORIA

[She's got her own things to deal with and I have mine.]

ISABELLA

Come and get your water!

VICTORIA

(to Isabella)

[Isabella, stop it!]

Mary stops eating and stares at Victoria.

MARY

[All these men do is disappoint you, Victoria. That's it. They are good for nothing but a good dick.]

Victoria stops eating as well. She gets upset.

VICTORIA

[How can you say that when dad loved you?]

MARY
[Loved me? Loved me?--]

VICTORIA
[--Yes loved you?]

ISABELLA
Water! Water! One dollar!

VICTORIA
(to Isabella)
Stop it!

MARY
[He promised me all things and all
he did was disappoint me.]

Victoria gets up from the porch and looks down at her mother.

ISABELLA
Water!

Mary goes to eat the sandwich and Victoria smacks the sandwich out her hand.

Mary gets up.

VICTORIA
[How?!]

MARY
[I had a great life in DR, until he
came and promised that we would
travel the world and all this other
shit! And what did he do,
Victoria?! He left me to raise a
child on my own!]

ISABELLA
Water! Come get your water!

Victoria starts to tear up.

James hears the loud commotion and opens the door.

JAMES
Excuse me! It is loud out here.
What is going on?!

Victoria has a disappointed look on her face.

VICTORIA

(to Mary)

He died of cancer, something he
couldn't control, but our God can.

(to James)

I apologize, sir. We will get back
to work now.

ISABELLA

Water!

Mary sits slowly onto the porch as if she understood the
words her daughter spoke.

MARY

[Stop with the water, Isabella! Go
back inside and help.]

ISABELLA

Aw man. [Okay, mommy!]

Isabella and Victoria head back into the house with James.

63 INT/EXT. ROBIN'S CAR - DAY - (FLASHBACK) 63

Robin drives to the front of Metropolitan Hospital with
Victoria in the passenger seat.

They sit in silence for a moment.

VICTORIA

So?

ROBIN

Let me take you out on a third
date?--

64 EXT. CITY BLOCK - DAY 64

Charlie is walking towards the hospital.

He still has the flowers in his hand.

He sees the car Robin and Victoria are sitting in.

65 INT/EXT. ROBIN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS 65

Robin and Victoria are sitting in the car directly in front
of the hospital.

VICTORIA
--Third date? What happened with
the first?

ROBIN
The first was the night we met.

VICTORIA
So, that's how we are playing
things.

ROBIN
Of course, miss.

Victoria blushes and looks away.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
Can I see you again?

VICTORIA
(shrugging her shoulders)
Sure, why not.

Robin takes his hand and grabs Victoria's chin and moves
towards his face, they kiss.

Charlie is standing some few feet away and he notices and his
eyes start to turn red.

Robin and Victoria stop kissing.

ROBIN
You free next week?

VICTORIA
What day?

ROBIN
Monday.

VICTORIA
That works. I'ma go inside. You
coming in?

ROBIN
No, I have to see my mom real quick
and then I'll be back tonight. And
we can do something.

Victoria playfully laughs.

VICTORIA
Do what? Robin, go and see your
mom.

ROBIN
You want me to get that door?

VICTORIA
No, I got it.

Victoria opens the car door and heads into the hospital.
Charlie stares at Robin's car with rage.
Robin drives off.

66 INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - DAY 66

Victoria heads into the elevator.
Charlie follows suit behind but misses the elevator.

67 INT. HOSPITAL PSYCH WARD - DAY 67

Victoria gets off the elevator and enters into the psych ward where she stays.
Suany quickly notices her and goes up to her.

SUANY
Victoria!

VICTORIA
Oh, Suany! I have to put you on, girl.

SUANY
Your mother is here to pick you up.

VICTORIA
What?

SUANY
She's in the waiting area. She already removed your stuff from the room.

Victoria heads into the waiting room.

68 INT. HOSPITAL WAITNGROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS 68

Mary is sitting on one of the chairs. There are bags full of Victoria's belongings.

Sheyla is standing off to the side. Franco is sitting near the wall.

Victoria walks in and sees her mother.

MARY
(to Victoria)
[Victoria, come on and let's go!]

VICTORIA
[What are you doing here, mother?]

Charlie walks into the room, eyes are still red and still having the flowers in his hand.

MARY
[It's hard to believe you're sick when you're hanging out a boy!]

VICTORIA
[I am sick! That's why I am here.]

MARY
[I had to find out with your nurse that you left the hospital without my permission.]
(to Sheyla)
[What type of business are you running here?]

SHEYLA
(to Mary)
[One with a safe space for my patients.]

MARY
(to Sheyla)
[She just tried to kill herself! And you let her walkout.]

FRANCO
Let the poor girl stay!

SHEYLA
(to Mary)
[You're right I wasn't aware.]

Victoria starts crying.

VICTORIA
(to Sheyla)
Stop Sheyla. It's on me.

MARY
[Get your things and come one!]

Victoria goes to pick up the bags.

Charlie goes over to her.

CHARLIE
(to Victoria)
Victoria!

VICTORIA
Hey, dude. I don't have the time
right now.

CHARLIE
(to Victoria)
I got you flowers.

VICTORIA
Thanks.

Victoria takes the flowers and puts it in between her arm and torso.

CHARLIE
Hold on! I'll be right back.

Charlie runs off.

Mary and Victoria pick up all the bags and walk off towards the elevator.

Charlie runs back and hands Victoria a beaten up King James version of the Holy Bible.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(to Victoria)
I want you to have it.

Victoria takes it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(to Victoria)
It was my mother's.

VICTORIA
Thank you, man.

Mary and Victoria head onto the elevator.

69 INT. ROBIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 69

It is almost evening.

Robin walk sinto his house and his mom, JENNIFER (50s) is in the kitchen. She looks like a sophisticated black person.

Robin walks into the living room.

ROBIN

Hey! I'm home for a bit!

JENNIFER

Excuse me? Where have you been? You haven't been answering my calls, Jeff.

ROBIN

Hold on, I'll be right back.

70 INT. ROBIN'S HOUSE - ROBIN'S ROOM - DAY 70

Robin walks into his room and over to the cage holding his guinea pig.

ROBIN

I know I said you could meet her bud, but she wildin'.

He quickly feeds and pets it and heads back into the living room.

71 INT. ROBIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 71

Robin heads back into the living room and his mom is waiting for him.

ROBIN

Hey ma!

JENNIFER

I went up to your dorm multiple times over the past few weeks and you weren't there.

ROBIN

I've been at the hospital you know that.

JENNIFER

You just went there two days ago!
What about all the other days,
robin?

Robin pauses realizing that his mother has figured him out.

ROBIN

I skipped.

JENNIFER

You what?

ROBIN

I skipped.

JENNIFER

You better not be fucking with
these Spanish whores when you have
an education to get! Do you
understand me?!

ROBIN

Yeah.

JENNIFER

How dare you! After I worked to get
us this nice house, to get you into
a great school - Ivy league at
that!

ROBIN

I know.

JENNIFER

What you do? Take her to that same
ol' Japanese spot like you do the
rest of those whores? The ol'
chopstick trick?

ROBIN

You don't know me.

JENNIFER

Oh, please! I am your mother! Of
course, I know you (beat). You are
black, boy! You are supposed to get
an education and find you a nice
black woman, not one of these light-
skinned whores you be fucking. Stop
rebellling with all this Jesus and
reading some fairytale
book...You're just doing this to
spite me? Aren't you? Answer me!

Robin becomes angry.

ROBIN
Yes. Yes, I am.

Robin walks away and towards the door.

JENNIFER
Where you think you going?

ROBIN
I'll be back tonight, don't worry.
I'll go sign out.

JENNIFER
Good!

Robin walks out the door.

72 INT. HOSPITAL WAITINGROOM - NIGHT

72

It is now the evening.

Charlie, Sheyla, and Franco are sitting in the waitingroom.

Franco still has the "Candide" book and knitted hat in his lap

Charlie is teary eyed.

SHEYLA
(to Charlie)
You expect too much from people,
Charlie. Not everyone is going to
like you the way you like them--

CHARLIE
--I know. Maybe it's 'cause I hurt
people. It's karma.

SHEYLA
No.

CHARLIE
I really wanted her to like me,
man. For once I wanted things to go
right. But I don't look the way he
does--

FRANCO
(to Charlie)
You're a good looking young guy, my
friend.

CHARLIE
(to Franco)
Suck a dick, nigga.

SHEYLA
(to Charlie)
Charles!

FRANCO
(to Sheyla)
No, it's alright. I'm a dying man
and those words don't hurt me.

CHARLIE
(to Franco)
Yeah, my fault. I'm just upset.

FRANCO
(to Charlie)
They are plenty of other girls out
there.

CHARLIE
I can't compete with guys like
that. My trauma won't let me. I
don't got the confidence. And why
would someone like her go for
someone like me? Huh? Any of you?
That's why I told you, Sheyla, I
don't want to live. I've fallen in
love with her, and for the first
time in my life, I feel like I can
live the way my mother wanted me
to. A life that's full with
happiness. She is my happiness, my
nigga. I can't stand seeing her
with someone else.

Sheyla looks defeated.

SHEYLA
(to Charlie)
I don't know what to tell you other
than life goes on. Look at all God
has given you.

CHARLIE
What has God done for me?

SHEYLA
He has give you a life.

CHARLIE

Life? What life? Both my parents
are dead.... What life?

Sheyla, looking defeated, freezes to the point that she is
speechless.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm a gangbanger who has ruined the
life of others. What life? What has
God done for me?!

Sheyla gets up from her seat.

SHEYLA

I am going to go.

Sheyla walks away.

CHARLIE

What life! What Life!

73

INT. FLOWERSHOP - DAY - (DAYDREAM)

73

Charlie and Victoria are standing in the flowershop.

Victoria is blushing.

VICTORIA

Thank you for the flowers.

CHARLIE

No worries, it's my pleasure.
(to the Flowershop Clerk)
Yo, my man. You got that flower
thing they put on their wrist? For
like prom and shit?

FLOWERSHOP CLERK

Yes, we do.

CHARLIE

Can you get one in yellow, please?

Victoria looks at him shocked.

FLOWERSHOP CLERK

Coming up.

CHARLIE

Good looking, my man.

VICTORIA
How did you know that was my
favorite color?

CHARLIE
'Cause I be paying attention, as
any real man who likes a female
would.

Lindsey, Charlie's mother, walks into the store wearing the
same blue sundress and white flip flops and stands off to the
side.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(to Lindsey)
Do you think she likes me, mommy?

LINDSEY
Probably not, Charles.

Charlie stares at her.

74 INT. - HOSPITAL WAITINGROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK) 74

CHARLIE and Franco are sitting in the waitingroom. Robin
walks in and sits down a few chairs from Charlie.

Charlie is looking down at the floor.

Robin looks at Charlie who is crying.

ROBIN
(to Charlie)
Charlie, right? What's good with
you? Why you crying?

Charlie continues to look down at the floor and doesn't
acknowledge Robin.

Charlie has an angry look on his face.

CHARLIE
We're just alike, you know.

ROBIN
You and I?

CHARLIE
Nah, Victoria and I.

ROBIN
Oh, yeah? How so?

CHARLIE

We've both lost a parent at the same age to cancer. (beat) We like scary films. (beat) A desire to travel the world and a desire to love--

Robin looks directly at Charlie. (Beat) Charlie is still looking down at the floor.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

--And she's nice and funny, you know. She takes the time out of her day to make sure I'm good and I appreciate her--

ROBIN

So, you like her?

CHARLIE

--But guess what?

Robin tenses up and looks straight ahead.

ROBIN

What?

CHARLIE

I've known her for all this time (beat), and she hasn't once called me by my name; over a year and not even my nickname. But you show up--

Charlie looks up at Robin.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And she calls you by yours (beat) Jeffrey. And a nickname at that. That shows you what she thinks of me, my nigga.

Charlie pushes one of the chairs aside and Robin finches. Charlie stares intensely at Robin.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And it makes sense. You have everything; I don't. You're in school - Ivy league: gold chain and that damn earring in your ear. I don't like you. I have none of what you have, but I've suffered way more, and yet she chooses you.

ROBIN

What you want me to say? because
I've got nothing.

Charlie gets up from his seat.

CHARLIE

(Yelling)

I've been with her through
everything. Every heartbreak and
she chooses you.

Charlie walks up to Robin.

FRANCO

(to Charlie)

Don't do something you might
regret.

CHARLIE

(to Franco)

Shut the fuck up!

(to Robin)

What's her favorite color?

Robin tries to move away but Charlie gets closer.

ROBIN

Pink? She wears pink all the time.

Charlie chuckles.

CHARLIE

It's yellow... It is yellow and she
likes flowers too, nigga.

Charlie takes robin but the collar of his Columbia University
sweatshirt and beats him.

Franco rolls his wheelchair over and tries to stop it.

FRANCO

Stop!

Charlie pushes him to the ground and out the wheelchair.

Nurses and all personnel run to stop the fight.

Sheyla is down the hall with a bible in her hands and hears
the commotion and runs over.

SHEYLA

Stop it! Charles!

Charlie is pulled off of Robin.

Sheyla has full on tears coming out her eyes, sobbing.

CHARLIE
Why can't she love me!

SHEYLA
You haven't been taking your meds,
have you?

CHARLIE
Nah, I don't need 'em. I can
actually feel for the first time in
a long time and I'ma feel it,
bitch.

Charlie pulls out his blue bandana from his back left pocket.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
This is who I am! Why not embrace
it.

Sheyla falls to her knees and hands Charlie a bible.

Charlie stops and takes it. The room grows silent.

Charlie takes several steps back realizing what he had done.

SHEYLA
I want you gone!

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, Sheyla.

Sheyla points towards the door.

SHEYLA
Get out!

Charlie just stares.

75

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

75

A few days have past.

Charlie is sitting on a bench waiting for the train to arrive. He has flowers and a bible next to him.

A man comes onto the platform preaching about God. He has pamphlets in his hands.

The man recites a bible verse this time.

MAN PREACHING

The Lord is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear? the
Lord is the strength of my life; of
whom shall I be afraid?--

The man walks past him and hands him a pamphlet and looks him
in the eyes and then continues to walk on.

MAN PREACHING (CONT'D)

--When the wicked, even mine
enemies and my foes, came upon me
to eat up my flesh, they stumbled
and fell--

Charlie looks at the pamphlet and it reads: "Trust in the
lord". He turns it around and sees Psalms 27 on the back.

The train comes and he gets on.

76 INT. TRAIN CART - DAY

76

Charlie is sitting on the train and the preaching man's voice
can still be heard.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)

--Though an host should encamp
against me, my heart shall not
fear: though war should rise
against me, in this will I be
confident--

77 EXT. CITY BLOCK - DAY

77

Charlie exits the train station and walks down the street.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)

--One thing have I desired of the
Lord, that will I seek after; that
I may dwell in the house of the
Lord all the days of my life, to
behold the beauty of the Lord, and
to enquire in his temple. For in
the time of trouble he shall hide
me in his pavilion: in the secret
of his tabernacle shall he hide me;
he shall set me up upon a rock.
And now shall mine head be lifted
up above mine enemies round about
me: therefore will I offer in his
tabernacle sacrifices of joy;

(MORE)

MAN PREACHING (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I will sing, yea, I will sing
 praises unto the Lord--

78 EXT. IN FRONT OF METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL - DAY

78

Charlie walks up to the front of the hospital with the flowers and bible in his hand. There is a trash bin off to the right.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)
 --Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my
 voice: have mercy also upon me, and
 answer me--

Charlie looks at the bin and throws the flowers into the bin.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)
 --When thou saidst, Seek ye my
 face; my heart said unto thee, Thy
 face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not
 thy face far from me; put not thy
 servant away in anger: thou hast
 been my help; leave me not, neither
 forsake me, O God of my salvation--

Charlie stares at the flowers, now that they are in the trash and gets teary eyed.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)
 --When my father and my mother
 forsake me, then the Lord will take
 me up--

Charlie walks away.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)
 --Teach me thy way, O Lord, and
 lead me in a plain path, because of
 mine enemies--

79 INT. BODEGA - DAY

79

Charlie walks into the bodega with his bible in hand. The bible is open to Psalms 27.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)
 Deliver me not over unto the
 will of mine enemies: for
 false witnesses are risen up
 against me, and such as
 breathe out cruelty--

CHARLIE
 Deliver me not over unto the
 will of mine enemies: for
 false witnesses are risen up
 against me, and such as
 breathe out cruelty.

Charlie picks up a bag of chips and soda. He stands in line behind a MAN who is raising his voice.

MAN

Shut up!

BODEGA OWNER

Okay, I'm sorry. Take it.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)

--I had fainted, unless I had
believed to see the goodness of the
Lord in the land of the living--

The Man tries to run and bumps into Charlie, and a shot rings off.

The Man turns to him and is frozen. Charlie looks at him with a confused look.

The Man looks down at Charlie. Charlie looks down at the spot where the Man is looking.

Blood is flowing.

The Man runs out of the bodega.

Charlie drops to the ground.

The Bodega Owner grabs the phone to call 911.

BODEGA OWNER

Wait right there, sir! I am calling
911.

Charlie is on his belly and turns over to his back, clutching his stomach. He then drags himself to the sidewalk.

He looks up at the blue sky, and it has no clouds.

Charlie slips into a day dream.

80

INT. CHURCH - DAY - (DAYDREAM)

80

Charlie, 6 years old, is at church with his mother. Lindsey is wearing a yellow dress with floral patterns and a big white hat.

They are standing in one of the aisles in the middle of the church—Charlie tugs at her dress.

CHARLIE

I can't see mommy!

Lindsey lifts him up into her arms. Charlie is wearing a black suit.

LINDSEY

My sweet boy. You know, Jesus loves you?

CHARLIE

Yes, mommy.

LINDSEY

Yes! And no matter what is going on in your life, run to Jesus, and he will catch you. God will take you up and love you.

CHARLIE

Jesus?

LINDSEY

Yes! God sent his one and only son Jesus Christ to die on the cross, so we will one day spend eternity with the Lord.

Lindsey begins to cry.

MAN PREACHING (V.O.)

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

LINDSEY (CONT'D)

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

81 INT. BODEGA - SIDEWALK - DAY

81

Charlie is going in and out of consciousness.

There are people standing around him but he can't hear them.

Charlie is clinging to his breaths. He continues to stare at the clear blue sky.

82 INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY - (DAYDREAM)

82

Charlie and Victoria look into each other eyes from across the table.

VICTORIA

I think love is the medicine for the heart.

CHARLIE

Well, How would you feel if I said
I'm in love with you.

VICTORIA

Really?

CHARLIE

You don't feel the same?

VICTORIA

No, I don't, sorry. But I had a
really nice time.

Charlie looks at her and she turns into darkness as the
surroundings all turn pitch black.

83 INT. BODEGA - SIDEWALK - DAY - (PRESENT DAY)

83

Charlie sheds tears.

CHARLIE

God, I'm sorry- forgive me.

He dies.

84 EXT. CITY BLOCK - NIGHT

84

It is evening.

Victoria, Mary and Isabella are walking to the train station
with the bags of supplies

ISABELLA

[I can't believe they didn't buy my
water.]

Victoria looks at her phone and sees missed texts and calls.

She receives another call on the spot from Suany.

Victoria answers.

VICTORIA

Hello?

Victoria freezes and drops her bags. She is shocked and
starts crying.

ISABELLA

What happened?

MARY
[What's wrong?]

VICTORIA
I'm sorry, but I have to go to the
hospital, My friend was killed.

85 INT. HOSPITAL WAITINGROOM - NIGHT 85

Sheyla, Suany, Franco and Valeria are all sitting in the
chairs

Sheyla is weeping and rocking back and forth while Suany and
Valeria comforts her.

SHEYLA
My Charlie, my Charlie.

Victoria goes to sit and doesn't talk to anyone. She stares
straight ahead.

Robin shows up and sits next to her. He has a single rose in
his hand and gives it to her.

Robin has bruising on his face.

Victoria just looks at him and then looks back forward.

86 INT. LIVING ROOM - VICTORIA'S HOUSE - DAY - (FLASHBACK) 86

Blinds are open and the sunshine brightens the inside of the
living room. Cleaning supplies are scattered throughout the
room.

It is almost identical from the day dream except. Victoria is
eight years old.

Her and her father, Danilo are dancing to GOSPEL music.

DANILO
Ah, mi amor. Jesus loves you, you
know that?

VICTORIA
Yes, daddy. But will I ever find
the love of my life?

DANILO
Jesus is your greatest love. [But
sure] When you are older, there
will be a man that will love you.

VICTORIA

Will he bring me pretty flowers
like do, mother?

Danilo picks her up into his arms.

DANILO

All the flowers and love, you can
imagine. It will be the one you
least expect.

VICTORIA

Really? I don't want him to be
ugly.

Danilo laughs.

DANILO

You'll know when it's him.

Mary walks into the room and they all embrace. They all dance
to the Gospel music.

FADE TO BLACK.

In black reads: "To Jennifer Pizarro-Carrion and her family
and Mary McCall"