

Blessed Intervention

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INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

GRACIELA, an attractive, brown-skinned Colombian-American woman in her 30s, enters the supermarket sprinting through a self-operating door.

She pushes an empty shopping cart.

She moves briskly along an isle and stops in front of the vegetables display bin.

Suddenly, a man approaches her from behind. He is her boyfriend CARLOS, a stocky, balding white Mexican-American man in his 40s.

He stares at Graciela with belligerent eyes.

She speaks with a light Colombian accent.

He speaks with a thick Mexican accent.

CARLOS  
Why you still here?

Graciela looks terrorized.

GRACIELA  
I was working. I got out at seven.

CARLOS  
Don't fucking lie to me, puta (slut in Spanish). You met somebody.

GRACIELA  
I swear. You can call John. He knows I was working.

CARLOS  
(screaming)  
Fuck John. Es un marico'n (he is a homosexual in Spanish).

Graciela stares at him with wet eyes.

GRACIELA  
Please Carlos, no hagas una escena (don't make a scene in Spanish). Did you drink?

CARLOS  
Nada de tu puta incumbencia (none of your fucking business in Spanish).

Carlo grabs Graciela by her arm and pushes her against the cart.

CARLOS (cont'd)  
Fucking infiel (cheater in Spanish)

Out of the blue, a handsome, athletic African-American MAN in his 30s walks towards Graciela and Carlos.

MAN  
Good evening, I'm SAMUEL, do you need help?

CARLOS  
We don't need no fucking help.

SAMUEL  
(to Graciela)  
What about you?

CARLOS  
Fuck you marico'n, she don't need no help.

Carlos pushes Graciela away from Samuel.

CARLOS (cont'd)  
Vamos puta, quiero follarte (I want to have sex with you in Spanish).

Samuel stares at him with a stern glance.

SAMUEL  
Why are you talking like this to her?

CARLOS  
I talk how I fucking want, she's my woman, fucking marico'n.

SAMUEL  
She's a nice woman. You have to respect her.

CARLOS  
Shut up, pedazo de mierda negra (piece of black shit in Spanish).

At the same time, Carlos lashes out at Samuel with his fist.

CARLOS (cont'd)  
Get this, marico'n.

Samuel with a speed-of-light movement blocks the hit with one hand and violently strikes Carlos' nose with the other hand.

Carlos falls on the ground. Blood spills out from his nose.

Carlos moans in pain.

CARLOS (cont'd)  
You broke my nose, you broke my nose,  
carajo (fuck in Spanish)

SAMUEL  
Leave this lady alone, forget about  
her...compriende? (do you understand  
in Spanish)?

CARLOS  
Okay, carajo...fuck her and you.

Carlos stands up and slowly moves away from Graciela.

He tries to stop the oozing blood with a large handkerchief.

Graciela stands close to Samuel.

GRACIELA  
Thank you!

SAMUEL  
No problem.

GRACIELA  
Who're you?

SAMUEL  
Somebody who cares. I think he will  
never bother you again.

GRACIELA  
I hope so. I was his sex slave...he  
had other women, you know.

SAMUEL  
He's gone, now you're free to live  
your life the way you like. Well, I  
have other places to go, goodbye.

Samuel quickly walks away and disappears inside an isle.

INT. APARTMENT - ROOM - DAY

Graciela paces the kitchen while she holds her cell phone.  
She appears concerned.

GRACIELA  
Are you sure doctor?

Dr. WEISS pauses for a few seconds before answering.

DR. WEISS (V.O.)  
Yes, we need other blood tests but  
right now I'm quite confident with  
the diagnosis.

Tears slowly slide down Graciela's cheeks. Her hands begin  
to tremble.

GRACIELA  
How did it happen?

DR. WEISS (V.O.)  
Are you taking drugs?

GRACIELA  
No, I never did.

DR. WEISS (V.O.)  
Are you sexually active, I mean how  
many sexual partners have you had in  
your life?"

GRACIELA  
I had only a boyfriend in the last  
two years.

DR. WEISS  
Do you know if he is sexually active  
outside your relationship?"

GRACIELA  
Yes, I think he has many partners.  
One time he told me that he went with  
a man.

DR. WEISS  
Was he ever tested for HIV?

GRACIELA  
I don't know, he never said anything.

DR. WEISS

Did you go with other men while you were with him?

GRACIELA

No.

DR. WEISS

He should be tested too. I'm sure you got it from him.

GRACIELA

We're no longer together. We broke up two days ago.

DR. WEISS

What happened?

GRACIELA

He was mistreating me...jealous and abusive.

DR. WEISS

You did the right thing. Come tomorrow to my office. I have to run other tests and we need to talk with a counselor about your future.

GRACIELA

Is there a cure?

DR. WEISS

Not a cure yet but we have new drugs to manage the condition.

A long silence. Graciela wipes her tears with the sleeve of her shirt.

GRACIELA

(with a trembling voice)

Will I die?

DR. WEISS

Oh no, nobody dies with AIDS anymore.

GRACIELA

A friend of mine just died with it.

Dr. Weiss is caught off guard and cannot answer immediately.

DR. WEISS

It may happen...but it doesn't help  
to talk about that now.

GRACIELA

Okay, when can I see you.

DR. WEISS

Come on Thursday at 10.

GRACIELA

Thank you doctor.

Graciela closes her cell phone and busts into tears.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Graciela kneels in front of the image of JESUS placed on top  
of a small altar.

She holds a ROSARY.

GRACIELA

Jesus, My life has been a mess. I'm  
ready to pay for my sins. Forgive me.

A soft noise interrupts the silence of the church.

Graciella turns around and sees...

Dressed in a white suit, Samuel stands near her. His face  
projects a peaceful mien.

SAMUEL

Good morning Graciela. I see you're  
praying.

Graciela looks at him and smiles.

GRACIELA

What a surprise, did you come to  
pray?

SAMUEL

I came because I know you need me.

GRACIELA

I don't understand, how did you know  
I was here?

Samuel does not answer. She stares at Graciela.

GRACIELA (cont'd)  
I'm very sick.

SAMUEL  
Is this why you're praying Jesus?

GRACIELA  
No, I don't care about my life. I'm here to ask for forgiveness.

SAMUEL  
Tell Him what is in your heart.

Graciela looks at the image of Jesus and begins to pray.

GRACIELA  
Do you think He'll listen to me?

A deep silence responds to her question.

She turns around. No trace of Samuel.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Graciela sits on a sofa. She converses on her cell phone with Dr. Weiss.

GRACIELA  
Can you repeat what you just told me?  
Is it real?

DR. WEISS (V.O.)  
Of course it is. All the tests have shown no HIV virus. It has disappeared completely. All the numbers are within the norm. You're in excellent health.

GRACIELA  
How is it possible?

DR. WEISS (V.O.)  
I can't explain it, maybe a miracle.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Graciela sits around the kitchen table.

She has a mesmerized look in her eyes. She smiles.

GRACIELA  
(whispering to  
herself)  
...The BLACK MESSIAH has come.

**The End**