Destiniers

By

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FADE IN

1. EXT. - ROAD - DAY

Voice of Lester talking over video of big houses, expensive cars, expensive stores and luxurious life style

LESTER
I always dreamed to be here ... Miami; big houses, expensive stores, and luxurious life style, the paradise that everybody told me about. Where money comes down as the summer rain, where love comes fast as people flying around the streets, where desire shapes our dreams, and dreams build our destinies. I always dream to be here, but today, I just want to wake up...

Video change to bad neighborhoods, crowded buildings, bad traffic areas, homeless people, and people asking for money on the cross roads and expressways.

LESTER
(Cont’d)
I found a Miami with normal people and their real life. People that wake up every day to go to work, if they still have a job that is. I always thought that we were destined to live one life style or the other. I thought that our destiny was already written. That the day we are born, someone already decided how we would live, how much money we’ll make, how many kids we’ll have, and of course, how we’ll die; Or do we make our own destiny every time we make a decision, with every choice we make. If you could know how different your life could be today should you made a different choice at a certain point of your life, would you like to know?

Screen goes to black

LESTER
(Cont’d)
Sometime those choices make a difference between living and ... well ... not living.
Lester is sleeping on his queen size bed. Someone bangs on the door. He wakes up after several banging. Depressed, (grown beard), takes his time to wake up and when he gets up, there are empty bottles of beer on the floor (he was drinking the previous night) and cigarettes on ashtray. Bedroom only has clothes on the floor. There is a TV with a few framed family pictures with the kids. He goes to living room and banging stops. He goes to coffee maker to make coffee and realizes that there are no more filters, so he uses a paper towel. He sits down, waiting for the coffee and then banging on door resumes. He doesn’t seem to react for the first couple of bangs, till he gets up and goes to answer door to find the owner of the house:

MR FUENTES
Lester, I need to talk to you. I know that you are going through tough times right now, but I need for you to understand me too! You are two months behind with your rent and I know that you are not working and your wife doesn’t make enough, but I need the money too

LESTER
I know, Mr. Fuentes, and I really appreciate what you do for me.

He stops for a moment and then continues,

LESTER
(Cont’d)
Viviana left me. She took the kids, She left me a fucking note on the fridge stating that she can’t live like this anymore and left. She went to her mom’s.

Mr. Fuentes sighs and puts his face down

LESTER
(Cont’d)
I know that is not your problem...

Mr. Fuentes interrupts.
MR FUENTES
No, is not that. Look, I need the money from the rent to take care of my bills too, I’ll wait another 15 days, but If you don’t have the money then, I will have to ask you to leave. Why don’t you call your dad? He will help you!

LESTER
No, Mr Fuentes. I told you the story. He was very clear, He told me that if I didn’t go to college I can forget about him.

MR FUENTES
Yes, but you also told me that he called you and wanted to come visit you and get to know his grand children. This might be a good time to make pace, don’t you think?

Lester looks like is reflecting.

MR FUENTES
(Cont’d)
Sometimes is better to put your head down and ask for forgiveness, or forgive and be able to move forward.

Silence.

MR FUENTES
(Cont’d)
Think about it. May be for your kids. You are a young good guy, You have a big future in front of you.

LESTER
Future?.....my future has been already written and it looks like the almighty run out of ink.

Mr. Fuentes turns around

MR FUENTES
No my friend...you decide your future, your destiny every day every time you make a decision.

Lester closes the door and repeats
LESTER
Every time I make a decision...

Reflects on that and then opens a drawer and pulls out a life insurance policy. He looks at it and calls the agent that sold him the policy

LESTER
(On the phone)
Hello, John?
Hi John, I don’t know if you remember me, this is Lester Castro, you sold me a life insurance policy a few months ago, remember me? (Waits for answer)
Yes, yes, good, thanks for asking. I could be better though, but that is another story
Yes, (Waits for answer)
I know it can always be worse, anyway, just wanted to ask you a question about my policy. I remember you said something about the suicidal clause. (Waits for answer)
No, he-he, I was just talking about that with a friend about it and just wanted to know. (Waits for answer)
So it is two years from the policy approved date, right? (Waits for answer)
Ok, I guess I just need to be a little bit more patience…he-he, thanks, man. (Waits for answer)
Yes, I will. Thanks again.

3. INT. - RAY’S HOUSE (MASTER BEDROOM) - DAY

Ray wakes up, as he opens his eyes, he sees his wife looking right back at him, as the alarm goes off:

JOHANNA
You always wake up before the alarm goes off!

RAY
I told you, it’s not an alarm; it’s the sound of a wake-up call. The sound of new day, new opportunities!

They kiss

JOHANNA
I will never get tired of watching you sleep. But I know that even though you are sleeping, you are still worried and you don’t relax.

RAY
I will, when we get the call from the hospital.

JOHANNA
(Frustrated)
You know... We already talked about this.

He interrupts by closing her mouth with his finger

RAY
No. You talked about it and I listened. You can’t give up! You have a lot to fight for!

JOHANNA
I am not giving up...I accepted what’s going to happen to me...to us, and want to ensure that we are ready for it. There are things that we cannot control and this may be one of them.

RAY
We can control everything! And this one, we’ll do it by not giving up. We are not giving up!

Getting up

RAY
(Cont’d)
They’ll find a donor and they’ll call us. I need to get ready and wake Sofia up to go to school!

Johanna getting up...

JOHANNA
I feel fine now ... take your time in the shower, I’ll take care of Sofi.

RAY
Are you sure?

JOHANNA
Yes! I want to enjoy every moment I have with you guys!

Ray approaches her and kisses her:

RAY
I love you.

JOHANNA
I do too.

4. INT. - RAY’ HOUSE (HALLWAY) – DAY

Johanna goes to Sofia’s room and as she approaches the door entrance feels dizzy and needs lean on the wall not to fall down. She stays there a few moments and then she starts singing and smiles to enter Sofia’s bedroom.

5. INT. - RAY’S HOUSE. SOFIA’S BEDROOM - DAY

Johanna opens the door and then goes to the window to open the blinders and the window to let the sunshine in:

JOHANNA
Good morning my sweet little sunshine! It is time to go to school!

She sits on the bed next to her, removes the hair from the face and whispering to Sofia’s ear

JOHANNA
(Cont’d)
Good morning!

Sofia opens her eyes and glad to see her mother, she hugs her:

SOFIA
Good morning mommy. Are you feeling better today?

JOHANNA
A little bit sweetie, especially now that I see your beautiful eyes wide open!

SOFIA
Mommy, are you going to help me get dressed?

JOHANNA
Yes my love, that’s why I’m here! But I’ll need you to help me, help you.

SOFIA
Help you to help me? Isn’t that cheating!

JOHANNA
It depends! Let’s see … If I ask you to bring me your clothes, so I can dress you … wouldn’t that be helping me, helping you?

Sofia reflects a bit and,

SOFIA
Yeah … I guess you are right!

they kiss

JOHANNA
Ok, then. Go get your shirt

Johanna goes to the closet and Sofia to the drawer. They meet at the bed again. As Johanna dresses Sofia,

JOHANNA
I love you

SOFIA
I love you too mommy!

She hugs her mother not letting her go

JOHANNA
You ok Sofi?

SOFIA
Mommy…. Will you always be here to help me dress to school?

As she touches Sofia’s heart:

JOHANNA
I will always be … here and … (Feeling the breath coming through the window) here! Do you feel that?
SOFIA
The wind?

JOHANNA
Yes! When I am no longer with you, I will always be in the wind, so when you need me, or want to talk to me and I am not around ... just feel the wind in your face. It will be me touching your face, ready to listen!

SOFIA
Ok!

Sofia stands up and goes to the closet. Johanna laughs and dries her tears off her face. When Sofia comes back

SOFIA
Are you sad mommy?

JOHANNA
No Sofia, I am crying because I am happy to have a helper like you!

She touches Sofia’s nose and they both laugh.

6. INT. - LESTER’S EFFICIENCY BEDROOM – DAY

Lester coming out of the shower sees himself on the mirror and decides to shave. He looks for the shaving foam, but is almost empty, so he uses soap. Then he looks for the razor, but there is none available, so he gets one from the trash can. As he gets dressed there is a banging on the door, the door opens and then noise of keys on table

VIVIANA
Lester ... it’s me... are you here?

LESTER
Si Viviana, I’m in the bedroom.

Viviana walks in, dressed as nurse and when Lester tries to kiss her, she moves her face for him to kiss her on the cheek

LESTER
The kids?
VIVIANA
With my mom. I’m on my way to work and just wanted to stop by for a minute to chat.

LESTER
Great! I just made coffee, want some?

Getting out of the room

VIVIANA
I’ll take care, Finish getting ready

INT. - LESTER’S EFFICIENCY LIVING ROOM - DAY

Viviana shows up from the bedroom and gets a cup, pours coffee in it,

VIVIANA
DO you want some?

LESTER (voice)
No, thanks, I just had a cup

Viviana sits down looking around the room when Lester enters the room

VIVIANA
Sit down.

Viviana thinks for a second, like thinking what to say

LESTER
I’m happy that you are here

VIVIANA
(ignoring Lester’s comment and interrupting) Lester, I love you, we have two kids and we’ve been though many things together...

LESTER
I do too...

VIVIANA
(Interrupting)
Let me finish
Lester accepts by shaking his head

VIVIANA
(Cont’d)
If we come back, nothing will change besides we are too uncomfortable living here. You need to get a good job and be the father that you’ve always been.

LESTER
(Confused and getting upset)
I’ve always been? Been?

VIVIANA
Yes, Lester, ultimately you’ve been down, waisting time watching tv and now drinking!? The kids not even play with you anymore! You are getting away from us.

Reflecting and looking down

LESTER
I know...you are right

VIVIANA
No, Is not that easy! Is not: “I know you are right” and end of the discussion. Carina and Tomas been asking you for a bike to play in the park. Have you gotten it?

LESTER
NO! I don’t have the money!

VIVIANA
You know is important to them and you even promised it to them. How do you think that makes them feel? Do you care?

LESTER
Of course I care, but I can’t!

Stops to reflect
VIVIANA  
(Cont’d)  
I want you to remember that you have responsibilities and a family to take care of, not only financially but emotionally too! Sometimes you ignore us or forget about us when you get distracted. How do you think that makes us feel?

Lester looking down reflecting and then shows that he is tired of listening

LESTER  
How do you think I feel? Does anyone care? The truth is that I don’t know what you are talking about. If you want me to say “YES” just so you guys are back, I will, but is not like you are saying. We’ve been together for 5 year and I am sure that you are tired of some things, as I am, but I also know that after 2 kids there must be something that you love about me. Should we start naming our errors? Should I remind you of the times we fought because of your fault, because of your stupid reactions? Don’t pretend to be perfect!

VIVIANA  
No, is not what I want!

Viviana starts to cry

VIVANA  
I want for things to be different. I do love you, but I cannot keep like this. I want for us to be able to move forward, together or not. But I don’t have any strength to keep on.

LESTER  
Alright... Maybe you should stay with your mother for a while

Silence and reflecting. Viviana grabs a few bags on the floor
VIVIANA
I am going to work. If there is anything left, I’ll pick it up on Saturday.

LESTER
I’ll bring it to you on Saturday and, maybe we can go out with the kids some place

VIVIANA
(stops and looks down)
No. We have plans for Saturday and I don’t think we’ll be home.

LESTER
Plans? What do you mean by plans? What plans?

VIVIANA
We were invited to go to the beach

LESTER
Invited to go to the beach? Who did?

VIVIANA
Don’t worry about that, We haven’t been out with the kids for a while and I thought that it would be a good distraction

LESTER
I see! You are already moving forward living your life

VIVIANA
Lester, I have to live my life every day. I have two kids and everything I do or don’t is for them. Whether you are or not

Looks down, reflects and leaves closing the door behind. Lester opens the door and shouts

LESTER
Have fun!

Lester shut the door with anger, turns around, leans against the door and goes down with hands on his face
INT. - RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) - DAY

Johanna is serving coffee into a cup; Sofia is eating her cereals sitting by the kitchen table. Ray shows dressed with a polo shirt and a dress pant. Ray kisses Sofia on her head.

RAY
Morning honey!

SOFIA
Good morning daddy! I helped mommy help me today!

RAY
Really? You’ll tell me all about it in our way to school, ok?

SOFIA
ok.

JOHANNA
Here is your coffee honey.

RAY
Thanks. I will do my best to make it home early today. I’ll see if I can cancel a few things for later in the week.

JOHANNA
Are you sure? Remember that Sofia has practice tomorrow and you promised her to pick her up at school and take her.

RAY
Yes, I know. I will.

Ray finishing his coffee

RAY
(Cont’d)
Let’s go darling, is getting late.

SOFIA
I’m ready!

Johanna holding up Sofia’s backpack
JOHANNA
Here honey, take your backpack.

SOFIA
Yes mommy.

Ray going through the door,

RAY
I’ll take out the car

Johanna gets down on her knees and hugging Sofia:

JOHANNA
Have fun at school! Mommy will be here waiting for you.

SOFIA
Ok, mommy, I love you

Sofia Runs out the door.

9.
EXT. – LESTER’S EFFICIENCY – DAY

Lester opens the efficiency’s door and goes to his car. Get’s inside the car and finds out that the gas tank is almost empty. Frustrated, he gets out and takes the bike that is on the side and goes out.

10.  EXT. – SCHOOL ENTRANCE – DAY

Ray drives up to Sofia’s school and drops her off to school.

RAY
Bye honey, have a great day!

SOFIA
Thanks dad, you too. Don’t forget that I have practice tomorrow!

RAY
I won’t Sofi, but its tomorrow!

SOFIA
Ok, but mommy says that I need to remind you every day because you’ll forget.

RAY
I won’t Sofi, I promise. Remember that Grand-ma will pick you up today!

SOFIA
Yippee!

RAY
Bye Sofi, be a good girl

SOFIA
Bye daddy, be a good man!

They kiss, Sofia exits the car and Ray waits for her to be closer to the school door then drives off.

11. EXT. - ROAD - DAY

Camera follows Ray through city for several blocks, through traffic lights.
Camera follows Lester on bike through city.

12. EXT. - CUBAN COFFE PLACE - DAY

Ray stops to get a cup of coffee at a Cuban place and speaks Spanish

RAY
Good morning Marta, How are you this morning?

Marta already preparing coffee, even without Ray asking for it (he stops every day)

MARTA
Terrific, thanks! How about you? How’s your wife doing?

Camera zooms out and you can see Lester riding his bike across the street/camera.

RAY
Not too good … She feels better today but, you know … not good.

MARTA
Send her my best

Marta gives him the coffee and Ray takes out $5 and puts it on the table
RAY
Thanks Marta….I will

MARTA
Thanks Ray, May God bless you and your family

Ray takes the coffee and leaves, gets on his car and drives off with the camera following him. His phone rings, and he answers it. Having an irrelevant conversation with friend, he runs a yellow traffic light and stops at next one.

13. EXT. - ROAD CROSSING - DAY

Ray is driving on street. He hangs up phone and when is about to get to cross roads, traffic light changes to yellow and he accelerates as he looks down to grab his cellular phone. You can see Lester biking to the corner, about to cross the street. Ray looks up but is too late and hits Lester who rolls over hood and falls to street.

14. EXT. - ROAD CROSSING - DAY - ENDING 1

Ray gets out of the car and runs to assist Lester get up:

RAY
Are you ok?

Lester looking confused and somehow surprised and disoriented

RAY
(Cont’d)
Are you ok? Talk to me!

LESTER
Yes, yes

Ray is frustrated and mad for the situation

RAY
What the fuck man? You just threw yourself in front me, I could’ve killed you!

Lester still confused looks for his bike

RAY
(grabbing his wrist and forcing him to take the bills)
Forget about the bike! Here ... take $200 to buy yourself a new one

Ray sights, looks around, looks at Lester

RAY
(Cont’d)
Ok, nothing happened here. You are ok ... you’ll be getting a new bike, so we are good, right?

LESTER
What do you mean we are good?

As Ray turns around and as he walks back to his car:

RAY
That’s it! Have a good day!

Ray gets on his car, and drives off.

Lester has a headache and takes his time to recover. He looks at his bike and thinks about the situation. When he comes to full realization of what just happened, he looks to the direction that Ray drove off and closes his eyes

LESTER
Que pelotudo que soy. Ya te voy a encontrar. Hijo de puta!

As Lester jumps on his bike, he realizes that is broken and decides to walk with it to the unemployment office.

15. EXT. - RAY’S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Lester walks several streets and shows that he is tired. All of the sudden, as he stops to take a “break” he sees Ray’s car parked in a parking lot (his office).

LESTER
Oooopa! Ese es tu auto?

Lester leaves his bike on the side and walks towards the car to ensure that is Ray’s. After looking at the car and the scratches on the front, he confirms that is Ray’s car and looking around for the office buildings

LESTER
Así que aca trabajas!? Que chico es el mundo! No tengo nada que perder. Y así te voy a dejar!

Lester crosses the street again, takes his bike and walks on opposite direction, going back to his house.

16. EXT. – RAY’S OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Late afternoon, Ray walks out of building talking to one of his employees. Ray walks to his car, reaching into his pocket for his cell phone and places a call while he gets into the car (Camera on distance, cannot hear what he speaks). Turns car on and drives off. Camera stays in angle as he drives off and then Lester follows him in his car.

17. EXT. – ROAD – DAY

Camera follows from Lester’s back seat’s car as Ray drives back home. Lester passes Ray when he makes into his house.

18. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – LATE AFTERNOON

Ray walks in and Johanna is helping Sofi with her homework in the kitchen table.

RAY
Hello!

Sofia jumps off the chair and runs towards Ray and jumps to hug him.

SOFIA
Daddy, Daddy!

Ray hugs her and kisses her, then brings her back to the chair and kisses Johanna

JOHANNA
Hi honey.

Ray walks to the fridge, opens it and takes a beer. Then just keeps staring out the window.

JOHANNA
Sofi, go ahead and finish this page. I’ll be right back.
Johanna walks towards Ray

JOHANNA
What’s wrong?

RAY
I had an accident today

JOHANNA
An accident? What happened? Are you ok?

RAY
Yes, yes. I’m ok. But I acted like a jerk with the other guy. I feel like an idiot. I felt bad all day.

Hugging him from behind, and after a moment of silence:

JOHANNA
Was he hurt? Is he ok?

RAY
Yes … well … I think so. I gave him some money to buy a new bike.

JOHANNA
And he was on a bike?

RAY
Yes. But he walked away. Other than the bike, he was ok. It’s just that … I don’t know … I should’ve treated him better.

JOHANNA
You are a good man. I’m sure you’ll make it up to him

RAY
I don’t know. I wasn’t thinking. I should’ve taken him to the hospital or something.

JOHANNA
Then it was something serious!

RAY
No, but he could’ve have something internal. I don’t know!
JOHANNA
Ray, you are making me nervous!

RAY
No, I am just feeling guilty. I am sure that he is ok. He is probably riding on his new bike. If I see him again on the way to the office I’ll stop and ask him how he is doing.

Camera exits the house and shows Lester waiting outside Ray’s house.

19.EXT. – RAY’S HOUSE (DRIVEWAY) – DAY

Next morning, Lester wakes up in his car (across street from Ray’s) when a neighbor honks a car’s horn. A few minutes later, Ray and Sofi come out of the house. They get on the car and drives off. Lester Walks to Ray’s house and looks inside from a window but sees no one, and then searches for the phone line and cuts the wires. Lester then walks around the house and opens a window to get into the house.

20.INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – DAY

Lester starts searching the kitchen, looks at some bills and makes some noises by his search.

21.INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (MASTER BEDROOM) – DAY

Johanna is lying in bed and hears noise coming from the kitchen. She is gets up and leaves room.

22.INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – DAY

Lester is looking around the kitchen and Johanna enters the kitchen. She freezes

LESTER
Oh ... I’m sorry, I am so sorry ... I didn’t know you were here. This is a mistake. I’m sorry; I don’t know was I was doing, I am not a thief, and I am leaving now...

Johanna scared runs to grab the phone, while Lester turns around and exits through the window. She realizes that there is no dial tone and starts breathing with difficulty
and grabs a chair to sit down, and she falls to the floor with her eyes opened and breathing slowing down.

23. **EXT. – RAY’S HOUSE (DRIVEWAY) – DAY**

Lester is running out of the property, he stops and thinks for a moment, then he turns around, like wanting to go back, then he decides that is not a good idea, as he continues leaving the property, he stops again (knows he did something bad) and decides to head to the front door and rings the bell to apologize. He rings the bell a few times with no one coming to answer, so he looks inside from a window, then goes around the house to the window he used to enter the house and peaks inside.

24. **INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – DAY**

From inside the house, Johanna is laying on the floor and Lester sees her from outside the window.

LESTER
(As he enters the house again)
Oh my GOD! No, no, no. This cannot be happening. Let me call 911

Lester grabs the phone and realizes there is no dial tone

LESTER
(Cont’d)
No tone, shit, I’m an idiot!

Lester gets on his knees to grab Johanna’s head and checks her breathing

LESTER
(Cont’d)
No, please don’t do this to me! I’ll be right back; I’ll find a phone to call 911

Lester exits though the window

25. **INT. – RAY’S OFFICE – DAY**

Ray is working on his desk and phone rings on the distance. After a few seconds, Ray’s phone rings

RAY
Yes Rosie, the hospital! They must have a donor, please transfer the call.

Ray waits for the transfer

RAY
(Cont’d)
Hello, this is Ray (WFA)

RAY
(Cont’d)
(In disbelief and nervous)
Say what? (WFA)
I’ll be right there.

Ray hangs up the phone, and runs out

26. EXT. - HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - DAY
Ray drives with car and parks it right up front and runs into the hospital building

27. INT. - HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY
Ray exits elevator and as he approaches the nurse station, is greeted by Doctor Fernandez. With music on background, they have a conversation. Doctor Fernandez shakes his head in negative way (telling him that Johanna died) and Ray bursts to cry. Camera shows Lester sitting on a bench in hallway, watching from the distance with remorse and crying.

Fade out to back and sign reads “9 months later”

28. EXT. - CEMETERY - DAY
Sofia and Ray by the hand in front of Johanna’s burial location. Sofia leaves flowers on cross

SOFIA
I miss you mommy

Ray grabs Sofia and talks to the cross

RAY
Sofia received the student of the month award in school. I’m sure that mommy is proud of you almost as much as I am.
Ray kisses Sofia and begins to cry, not letting Sofia notice it. Ray puts Sofia back on the floor.

RAY
Go with Doris

Sofia runs and Ray stays behind.

RAY
(Cont’d)
The sentenced the guy to 10 years today. We wanted to stop by and let you know. I miss you. I am being a good father. You should be proud of me!

Stays for a moment, turns around and starts walking.

29. MOVIE REWINDS AND PLAYS SCENE 13 AGAIN

30. EXT. ROAD CROSSING – DAY – ENDING 2

Ray gets out of the car and runs to assist Lester get up.

RAY
Are you ok?

Lester looking confused and somehow surprised and disoriented.

RAY
Are you ok? Talk to me!

LESTER
Yes, yes

Ray is frustrated and mad for the situation.

RAY
What the fuck man? You just threw yourself in front me, I could’ve killed you!

Lester still confused looks for his bike.

RAY
(Grabbing his wrist and forcing him to take the bills).
Forget about the bike! Here ... take $200 to buy yourself a new one.
Ray sighs, looks around, looks at Lester

**RAY**
Ok, nothing happened here. You are ok ... you’ll be getting a new bike, so we are good, right?

**LESTER**
Who the fuck do you think you are? You almost kill me and now you want to drive off? What an asshole!

Ray was leaving and comes back to look at him,

**RAY**
Come on man, nothing really happened!

Getting up, towards Ray:

**LESTER**
Nothing happened? You piece of shit!

Lester looks at the people staring

**LESTER**
Can someone call the police, please?

Someone in the multitude takes out a phone and starts dialing.

**RAY**
Come on! We don’t need to do that! You jumped in front of me! Let’s think for a moment and make intelligent decisions!

**LESTER**
Intelligent decision!? Are you fucking kidding me? You think that the road is yours and you can just drive like fucking nuts running people over and then just walk away?

**RAY**
Ok, then, call the police.

Ray walks away and murmurs

**RAY**
I bet you are an illegal alien.

LESTER
What did you say?

Ray ignores him. Lester walks defying towards Ray

LESTER
What the fuck did you just said?

RAY
Nothing, nothing ... listen ... what do you want? You are ok, nothing happened to you. What do you want, money?

LESTER
You think that you own the street? Are you too busy to watch for pedestrians? Who do you think you are? This is not about money!

RAY
Come on! It’s always about money! Look, I am sorry! I didn’t see you, I apologize, you are right; but let’s not get the cops involved, it will be too complicated for me. Let me make this right.

Ray goes to the car and pulls a check book.

RAY
Let me make this right. How much?

LESTER
How much? I cannot believe this, who the fuck you think you are?

RAY
Come on man; stop the non-sense “let me give you a lesson” crap. How much do you want to walk away?

LESTER
Ten thousand.
RAY
Ten thousand? I know who I am but I think you have me confused with Donald Trump! I’ll give you a thousand

As Ray writes the check. Lester acts impatient. Police car arrives and Lester accepts check:

POLICE OFFICER
What happened here?

Ray looks at Lester waiting for Lester to say something. As Lester says nothing,

RAY
Nothing, just a misunderstanding.

POLICE OFFICER
I was told that there was an accident. Whose car is that?

RAY
Mine sir. It was just a minor incident; he actually crashed into my car.

Police pointing at Ray’s car

POLICE OFFICER
Sir, please go over there.

Ray complies. When Ray walks away the officer approaches Lester and talks. Camera is with Ray and cannot listen to conversation. Lester talks to officer, moving hands, explaining the accident. Then Lester pulls out check and cash and shows them to the officer.

RAY
Son of a bitch!

The officer looks at the check and looks at Ray. Then talks a little bit more to Lester and looks at Ray again. Then he takes some notes and walks towards Ray.

POLICE OFFICER
What happened, what’s your side of the story?
RAY
Well... I was driving and when I cross the street he jumped in front of me and hit me.

POLICE OFFICER
So... He crashed into you?

RAY
Yes.

POLICE OFFICER
Show me in your car.

Walking towards the car

RAY
(Looking on at the side of car)
Hummm.

RAY
May be he hit the tire.

POLICE OFFICER
Are you sure? Is that what happened?

Ray looks at officer and thinks for a moment.

RAY
Yes, sir.

Officer pointing at front of car’s scratches

POLICE OFFICER
What are these?

RAY
I had those already.

POLICE OFFICER
I see. Anything else?

RAY
No sir.

POLICE OFFICER
Why did you write him a check for?
Ray looks at Lester, who is sitting on the side of the road and looks down and sighs.

RAY
You can’t trust anybody these days!

POLICE OFFICER
Should I trust you?

Ray just looks at the officer and has nothing to say.

POLICE OFFICER
I need you to come with me to the station.

RAY
(Frustrated)
Ooooooh, come on!

POLICE OFFICER
You wanted to walk away from an accident, then you wanted to bribe the victim, and then, like if that wasn’t enough, you lied to an officer! I’ll call for back up and we’ll take care of your car.

Officer calls for back up as he shows Ray into the patrol car. Ray looks at Lester, who looks back at him smiling and waving good-bye.

31. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – NIGHT

Ray opens door and walks into the house. Ray is upset.

JOHANNA
Hello honey!

RAY
Hi.

JOHANNA
So, what happened?

RAY
Not much. Like I told you on the phone, I wanted to buy my way out and it didn’t work out.
JOHANNA
(Upset)
I thought that you already learn the lesson!
Sometimes we cannot “buy” our way out!

Ray opens the fridge and looks for something inside

RAY
(Ray closes the fridge)
Please don’t start now. I spend all day
trying to get out of this mess.

JOHANNA
I know, I know. I’m sorry. I am just
concern. You need to change this attitude.
You need to think about Sofi. When I am not
here, what would you teach her?

Ray sighs

RAY
You are right. How is she?

JOHANNA
She is fine. She is in bed already.

RAY
Good.

Ray hugs and kisses Johanna.

RAY
(Cont’d)
I’ll go buy some milk and a pack of beers,
there is only one left. I’ll be right back.

JOHANNA
No. Stay home here with us!

RAY
I’ll be right back. Let me go to the
restroom first. Ok?

Johanna looks at him for a moment.
JOHANNA
Ok.

RAY
Ok.

They kiss again.

32. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (HALLWAY) – NIGHT
Ray goes to the restroom, but when he is about to enter, looks back to ensure that Johanna is not looking at him, opens and closes the bathroom door and walks to his bedroom.

33. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (MASTER BEDROOM) – NIGHT
Ray walks into the bedroom and walks to his closet and takes out a box. Goes to his bed and from the night table opens a drawer and takes out a gun. He ensures that is loaded and then hides the gun on his waist. He then puts the box back on its place in the closet and walks away.

34. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – NIGHT
Ray opens the door and as he walks out,

RAY
I’ll be right back.

JOHANNA
Ok. I’ll be in bed.

35. EXT. – RAY’S HOUSE (DRIVEWAY) – NIGHT
Ray walks to his car, gets inside, pulls some documents from the glove compartment

RAY
Lester Castro, you want to teach me a lesson. Let’s see who is smarter now.

Car drives off.

36. EXT. – LESTER’S EFFICIENCY – NIGHT
Ray parks outside and turns off car. He sees Lester walking across the window. Thinks for a moment and then verifies that he has the gun and walks out of the car:
RAY
I’ll give you a lesson you won’t forget.
I’ll scare the shit out of you.

Ray goes sneaks to efficiency’s door and opens it (is unlock).

37. INT. – LESTER’S EFFICIENCY LIVING ROOM– NIGHT

Ray opens the door and walks inside. TV is on. He sees shadow of Lester on bathroom and starts looking around the house. Ray looks sees the picture of the family, with 3 kids and thinks about what he is about to do. He then feels remorse and when he hears the flushing, he decides to leave. He opens the door and closes it behind him.

38. EXT. – LESTER’S EFFICIENCY – NIGHT

Ray walks away from door, and Lester sees him through the window. Lester opens the door

LESTER
Hello?

Ray ignores him and keeps walking

LESTER
Hello? Hey, I am talking to you!

Ray stops walking for a moment and then continues walking

LESTER
What the fuck!?

Lester approaches Ray and turns him around by the shoulder. Ray pulls the gun and points it at his face:

LESTER
Wow!

RAY
You don’t let go, do you? Can’t you just let go!

LESTER
(Lester recognizes him)
You? What are you doing here?
Walking him back towards the efficiency at gun point

RAY
Ray Turn around and go back to your fucking nest!

LESTER
Ok, ok. Calm down gringo!

RAY
You better drop the charges tomorrow, or I’ll come back.

Ray sighs and then puts the gun down

RAY
Listen man. This got all out of hand. Just drop the charges, ok? I am not like this.

Lester says nothing. Ray turns around and starts walking towards his car. Lester hits him in the back with a piece of wood and Ray drops to the floor. Then he stands up and they start a fight. Ray reaches out for the gun and as they fight for it, there is a shot. They look at each other and Ray comes down to his knees. He touches his stomach and sees his hands with blood on them. He coughs blood and then drops dead to the floor with his eyes open while Lester looks at him in disbelief.

Fade out to back and sign reads “9 months later”

39. EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE – DAY

Viviana is waiting for her daughter to come out of school and is approached by an older lady.

DORIS
Excuse me. Excuse me

VIVIANA
Yes

DORIS
Are you Carina’s mother?

VIVIANA
Yes
DORIS
My grand-daughter is new at this school and she made friends with your daughter. She loves your daughter and always talks about her. I was wondering if you have time, of course, and one of these days, you would like to come with us to the park so they can play

VIVIANA
I would love too

DORIS
Great! She’ll be really happy. She is going through some rough times now, you know. My daughter and she moved to my house a few months ago after her husband died less than a year ago. My daughter is very … she is about to die.

VIVIANA
Wow, poor little thing, it must be horrible for her.

DORIS
Yes, I am spending as much time with her as I can.

VIVIANA
Well, my kids are going thru some things too, not as bad, but I just got divorced and her father … well, let’s just say that is not doing too well, he is very depressed, and become an alcoholic.

DORIS
These are rough times for a lot of people. This crisis is pretty tough and it doesn’t discriminate.

VIVIANA
Listen, my son and my mother are in the car, we were going to the supermarket, but we can do that later. Do you want to go now?
DORIS
Of course! It looks like we both can use a new friend to talk to.

Viviana extends her hand to introduce herself

VIVIANA
Viviana Castro

DORIS
I’m Doris

Sofia and Carina show up together running from school. Sofia hugs her grand-mother

SOFIA
Grandma!!!

Viviana and Doris hold hands with the kids and begin to walk together

40. MOVIE REWINDS AND PLAYS SCENE 12

41. EXT. ROAD CROSSING – DAY – ENDING 3 (From scene 13)

Ray is driving on street. He hangs up phone and when is about to get to cross roads, traffic light changes to yellow and he stops and looks down to grab his cellular phone. You can see Lester crossing the street on his bike.

42. EXT. – RAY’S OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

As Ray parks the car (same spot) a police car speeds by with sirens on. There are also sounds of sirens from the distance. As Ray looks at them,

RAY
Jesus Christ.

43. INT. – RAY’S OFFICE – DAY

Ray is talking to Rosie at his office and his cell phone rings

RAY
Johanna!

He listens and gets excited
RAY
What! Really?

Ray turns around and starts getting ready to leave

RAY
Ok, don’t get too excited we’ve been thru this before. Really!? O my God! Ok honey I’m on my way!

Ray hangs up and to Rosie:

RAY
They have a donor and it looks like the tests show that is fully compatible!

ROSIE
O my God! Go, go, I’ll take care of the hiring ads!

RAY
You know what to do, right?

ROSIE
Yes, just go!

RAY
I know it, this time is it!

ROSIE
Yes, it is!

Ray leaves office. And Rosie smiles with hope.

44. EXT. – HOSPITAL ENTRANCE – DAY
Ray runs to hospital and talks to front desk clerk who shows him the direction (camera outside)

45. INT. – HOSPITAL HALLWAY – DAY
Ray reaches nurses station and sees the doctor before speaking to anyone

RAY
Doctor Fernandez!
DOCTOR
Ray! Johanna is in room 305, getting ready to go to the OR. She wanted to wait for you.

RAY
Thank God. So where is it coming from?

DOCTOR
Well, you know that we rarely know much about the donor. It looks like this man died here, in this hospital, he is about the same age; he was, unfortunately for him and his family, killed in an accident early this morning. He was registered as an organ donor and the lab results shows that he is compatible with Johanna’s. I am very confident.

RAY
Thank you, thank you!

DOCTOR
Hurry up. She wants to talk to you. I need to get ready for the surgery.

Ray walks on hallway towards Johanna’s room.

Dramatic MUSIC

46. EXT. – HOSPITAL ENTRANCE – DAY
Viviana (Lester’s wife) walks out of the hospital, crying and disoriented. Camera follows her into Lester’s car.

47. EXT. – LESTER’S EFFICIENCY – DAY
Mr. Fuentes locks door and puts up a “for rent” sign in front yard.

48. EXT. – ROAD CROSSING – DAY
Viviana (Lester’s wife) leaves flowers on a cross where Lester was killed. Camera finishes on cross with picture of Lester.

Fade out to back and sign reads “9 months later”
49. EXT. - CEMETERY - DAY

Viviana is down on her knees next to a burial.

VIVIANA
(Crying softly)
Te traje estas flores. Yo se que a vos no te gustan, pero a mi si. En el hospital me dijeron que gracias a vos, se salvaron 2 vidas con tus organos, pero no me pueden decir de quien. A mi me gustaria contarles de vos, asi tambien saben a quien agradecerle. Estoy muy orgullosa de vos.

Viviana wants to continue talking but starts crying louder, so she changes subject

VIVIANA
Tambien queria contarte que con la plata de la poliza nos compramos una casita, como vos querias. No es gran cosas, pero estaba a buen precio y es justo lo que necesitamos. Los chicos te extranan y yo tambien. La verdad que nos haces mucha falta.

50. MOVIE REWINDS AND PLAYS SCENE 11

51. EXT. - ROAD CROSSING – DAY – ENDING 4

Ray gets out of the car and runs to assist Lester get up:

RAY
Are you ok?

Lester looking confused and somehow surprised and disoriented

RAY
Are you ok? Talk to me!

LESTER
Yes, yes

RAY
(Worried)
Come on man; let’s sit here

As he helps Lester get on the side of the road. Then he goes to get the bike and sits with him.
RAY
Let me take you to a hospital, or would you rather have me call an ambulance?

LESTER
(Still confused)
LESTER hold on; hold on. Let me think for a second.

RAY
It was my fault, I didn’t see you, I am so sorry

Ray sighs, looks around, looks at Lester

RAY
You ok?

LESTER
Yes, I am fine. It’s ok, I am ok

Ray looking at the bike

RAY
Ok. It looks like you’ll need a new bike. Let me buy you a new one.

Ray takes out his wallet and looks for $200 to hand out to Lester.

RAY
Let me give you a ride! Where were you going?

LESTER
Well, thanks! I was going to the unemployment office. I am looking for a job!

RAY
Really? This may be our lucky day after all.

Ray, extending his hand

RAY
Ray Frances

Lester Shaking his hand
LESTER
Lester Castro.

RAY
Well Mr. Lester Castro, I need help in my office, as a matter of fact, today I was going to work on hiring a new person. We do import/export and I need some help. You speak Spanish right?

LESTER
Yes, sure.

RAY
Do you have sales and administration experience?

LESTER
I worked in a consulting firm. We did business development and improvements.

RAY
Then...I’m interested...are you?

LESTER
Of course!

RAY
Well. Unless you need to go to the hospital, let’s go to my office and talk business.

They smile. Lester looks at his bike, gets up and puts it on the side of the road, behind some bushes

LESTER
Let’s go.

RAY
Great! My office is not that far.

They get on the car and drive away.

52. EXT. - ROAD - DAY

Ray and Lester in the car, heading to Ray’s office
RAY
The office is nearby. Tell me about you. You married?

LESTER
Huf! If your office is nearby, we won’t have time!

RAY
I’ll take that as a yes.

They look at each other and laugh.

LESTER
Yes, with this economic crisis we lost our house and now we are living in this stinky efficiency. Now my wife is tired of it and took my three kids to her mother’s.

RAY
Wow! That’s life.

LESTER
Yeap. I really love her and want to be a good provider. So I really appreciate this chance that you are giving me. You have no idea how this could change my life for better.

RAY
Well….I’ll love to help you.

53. EXT. – RAY’S BUILDING – DAY
Ray parks car at the same parking space that Lester saw it parked in previous story. They get out of the car and walk towards the building entrance.

54. INT. – RAY’S OFFICE BUILDING – DAY
They walk in and Rosie is sitting on her desk.

RAY
Good morning Rosie

ROSIE
Good morning!
RAY
Rosie this is Lester, we’ll be in my office.
Extending her hand to Lester and shaking hands

ROSIE
Hi Lester

Lester
Hello!

They walk into Ray’s office. There is a picture of Ray and Sofia riding her bikes and Lester picks it up and looks at it.

RAY
(Showing him a chair)
Sit down.

LESTER
Thanks. This is a nice place!

RAY
Thank you. We are doing really well, most our customers are in Europe.

LESTER
Interesting.

Ray
Since we already got started with our personal life, let me ask you some questions about your professional experience

Lester looks for something on his backpack

LESTER
Here is my resume

RAY
Much easier!

Ray takes the resume and starts looking at it.

RAY
So, Lester, tell me about your experience at Brokers Plus
LESTER
Yes, I loved that company, I started...

Camera goes out to lobby were Rosie is working on her desk. Image fades out and in showing different time on watch on wall (1:45 minutes later). Laughs comes out of the office and door opens and Ray shows up thought the door

RAY
Rosie

Getting up and walking towards Ray’s office,

ROSIE
Yes, Ray

Ray talking to Lester

RAY
I’ll like to offer you to get started right away, if you agree, of course.

LESTER
Of course!

Ray talking to Rosie

RAY
Rosie, let me officially introduce you to Lester, our new associate.

ROSIE
Hello, Lester, nice to meet you.

LESTER
Same here!

RAY
Please let him know where his desk is and, show him the office and introduce him around with the other folks. Also please give him the paperwork to get started.

Ray looks at Lester and extends his hand for hand shake

RAY
Lester... thanks!

Lester, with his voice like about to cry:

LESTER
Thank you! You have no idea how bad I needed this opportunity.

RAY
I really hope it works out.

ROSIE
(Showing Lester off out of the office)
This way Lester.

Lester follows Rosie out of the office.

INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (KITCHEN) – NIGHT

Ray walks in and Johanna is helping Sofi with her homework in the kitchen table.

RAY
Hello!

Sofi jumps out of the chair and runs to Ray, jumping to hug him.

SOFIA
Daddy, Daddy!

Ray hugs her and kisses her, then brings her back to the chair and kisses Johanna

JOHANNA
Hi honey.

Ray walks to the fridge, opens it and takes a beer. Then just keeps staring out the window.

JOHANNA
Sofi, go ahead and finish this page. I’ll be right back.

Johanna walks towards Ray

JOHANNA
What’s wrong?
RAY
I had an accident today

JOHANNA
An accident? What happened? Are you ok?

RAY
Yes, yes. I’m ok. I ended up hiring the guy.

Hugging him from behind, and after a moment of silence:

JOHANNA
You are amazing!

RAY
Well, I am also thinking. He is in a pretty tough situation and Rosie told me that he was very good in the office today.

JOHANNA
And?

RAY
He is living with his family in a tiny efficiency and his wife moved out. Do you think that we can let him stay in the other house? It’s been in the market for a while now and it’s not selling. He could stay in the mean time.

JOHANNA
You are a good man. Are you sure that they are clean, and won’t abuse the house; or your trust?

RAY
You know me. I rarely trust anybody and when I do, I am never wrong. He gives me very good vibes. Besides, I could’ve killed him! I feel like I owe him.

JOHANNA
Then...If you feel like that, I am ok with it.

They hug

RAY
I’ll tell him tomorrow.
Fade out to back and sign reads “9 months later”

56. EXT. – RAY’S HOUSE (DRIVEWAY) – NIGHT

Lester parks car next to Ray’s. There is a bike holder on trunk with kid’s bikes. Lester and Viviana come out of the car and head to the front door and ring the bell. After a few seconds the door is opened.

57. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (FRONT DOOR) – NIGHT

Ray opens the door and welcomes Lester and Viviana.

RAY
Welcome guys! Viviana, you look great. You both look good!

VIVIANA
Thank you!

RAY
(Looking outside)
Where are the kids?

LESTER
With their grand-mother. Today is just us. We wanted to talk to you guys about something very important.

Ray points at the living room and they lead the way.

58. INT. – RAY’S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) – NIGHT

Ray, Lester and Viviana walk in.

RAY
What is it?

VIVIANA
How is Johanna feeling?

RAY
Not good. She is in bed.

Johanna shows up with Sofia and Viviana runs to assist her.

RAY
Honey, what are you doing here?
JOHANNA
Well, they said that it was something important and I wanted to know what’s about. I am ok.

VIVIANA
I am glad you are here!

RAY
Please sit

VIVIANA
Well... you guys have been wonderful to us. We met only a few months ago, and you gave us more that no one has ever given us in our life time

Ray and Johanna look at each other and hold their hands

RAY
It’s been our pleasure

VIVIANA
Lester are now together, pretty much thanks to you, when you gave Lester the opportunity that he needed to work

RAY
(Interrupting)
And he is doing hell of a job

VIVIANA
And also you gave us a place to live and raise our family. We are forever grateful.

Viviana gets emotional and cries. Lester holds her hand.

LESTER
Well... let’s cut thru the chase. Ray, remember that I went to the doctor as soon as you provided us with the medical benefits several months ago?

RAY
Yes, I do? What happened? You told me that everything was fine!
LESTER
No...I lied to you.

VIVIANA
Don’t do this, just tell them

LESTER
It was even better. After I got my results, I asked Rosie for Doctor Fernandez contact information and I called him to meet with him.

Johanna and Ray show surprise

LESTER
(Cont’d)
The three of us met... We discussed a few things and we made a decision that involves you guys

RAY
What are you talking about?

VIVIAN
(Showing happiness)
Lester is fully compatible with Johanna and wants to be the donor

Johanna and RAY are now confused

LESTER
That is if Johanna agrees! We need to go over some tests and stuff.

Ray looks at Johanna, who after a few seconds

JOHANNA
(Crying)
Lester... I really appreciate this, but I cannot accept it.

VIVIANA
What are you talking about?
LESTER
Let me save your life, as your husband saved mine. I really want to do this. I want you to live and enjoy your family as much as I enjoy mine, thanks to you guys and the trust that you gave us, barely knowing us.

RAY
I don’t know what to say

VIVIANA
Don’t have to say anything. As a matter of fact, we already schedule an appointment for the first test for next Monday at 10 AM.

Everybody looks at Johanna, who is crying in disbelief. Johanna looks at Sofia

SOFIA
Mommy, mommy!

JOHANNA
(Crying)
Yes, yes... thank you!

Johanna and Ray hug and then Lester and Viviana join them

EXT. - RAY’S HOUSE (FRONT DOOR) - NIGHT

Camera zooms out of the house, and as it leaves the neighborhood

LESTER’S VOICE
Sometimes we don’t choose what happens in our life, but we choose how we react to those events. You not only need to be at the right place, at the right time, but you have to be the right person. We choose our attitude and with it... our life. So how does the story ends? Well... this time is your decision

FADE OUT