INCognito AU PAIR Screenplay

By

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INT.BEDROOM-HOTEL-DAY

DUBAI: Suzie sits in a sofa watching cartoons while taking some ice cream. Moments later, her mobile phone rings and she receives the call after 5 minutes.

SUZIE
(casual tone)
Peace be unto you. How are you doing sir?

BOSS
(chuckles)
Seems you’re enjoying yourself there.

SUZIE
I sure am. Currently watching cartoons while having some strawberry ice cream. Later would go for a dip in the pool then shopping. Then-

BOSS
(interrupting)
Suzie, we have a problem. We received news about it yesterday.

SUZIE
I’m not going to talk about business sir, I’m on holiday please respect that.

BOSS
I know but believe me there’s none more competent than you for this.

SUZIE
Nonetheless, I’m on vacation sir, I would appreciate it if you don’t-

BOSS
(says and hangs up)
Miss Blunt, I’m sorry I have to interrupt your vacation. I would send you relevant details on the case today. Be expecting an email soon.

SUZIE
(rises and exits room afterward)
Mr. Johnson... hello? Hello sir? Damn! I can’t do this. I’m on holiday and that’s how it would be!
INT.BATH-CONTINUES
Moments later, she’s under the shower.

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY
Someone knocks on the door for 3 minutes and disappears when none answers it.

EXT.BEDROOM-DAY
Suzie locks the room door and takes out the key. She’s draped in a pretty, short-sleeves, knee-length blue dress and carries a stylish black handbag with her. She exits the place.

INT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUES
She glances round the room and walks to the door to exit the room when the knocks sound again.

SUZIE
Who is it?

ROOM SERVICE
(male voice)
It’s room service madam.

SUZIE
(peeps via a small round hole on door)
Come in.

ROOM SERVICE
(enters with a vase of flowers)
Good day madam, I was asked to bring you this.

SUZIE
Who sent you?

ROOM SERVICE
 stil carrying vase)
The receptionist. But she didn’t send it.

SUZIE
(smiles)
Of course. Place it on the center table please.

(CONTINUED)
ROOM SERVICE
Alright, enjoy your day madam.

SUZIE
(hands him some tip)
Wait, have this. Thank you.

ROOM SERVICE
(excited at amount)
Thank you madam, thanks a lot

SUZIE
You’re welcome. Bye.

ROOM SERVICE
(exits room)
Bye.

She looks through the collection of roses and tulips for a note identifying the sender but doesn’t find one. Five minutes later, her phone rings, not a call but a message alert tone. She picks it out of her bag and reads it: Meet me at the pool side, I’m waiting. She slowly shakes her head and dials the number that came with the message. It doesn’t go through though she tries again. Subsequently, she exits the room.

INT.RECEPTION-DAY
Suzie speaks to the lady receptionist at the desk.

SUZIE
Excuse me miss. I received these flowers from a room service guy. He said he received it from here to be given to me-

LADY RECEPTIONIST
Sorry madam, but I just arrived here. It must have been another receptionist.

SUZIE
Oh ok. However, I don’t need them. I already have a ton in my room could you please dispose it off for me?

LADY RECEPTIONIST
Dispose off these?

SUZIE
Yes or do whatever you like with them. I don’t wish to create a green house in my hotel room.
CONTINUED:

LADY RECEPTIONIST
(smiles)
Alright. I’d take care of them.

SUZIE
(says and places a kiss on her cheek)
Thanks, you’re a darling.

Receptionist abruptly looks around to see if any one is staring. No one is and she quickly wipes her cheek with the veil on her head. She watches Suzie walk away with a bit of a frown on her face.

INT.RESTAURANT-DAY

Moments later, Suzie arrives at a restaurant beside the hotel and takes a seat in the middle of the sparsely-packed room. 3 minutes later, a waiter walks to her and hands her a menu leaflet.

WAITER
(hand her leaflet)
Good day madam, please take a look at the menu and make your order.

SUZIE
(says after 2 minutes)
Thanks. I’d like some goat pizza and a glass of juice.

WAITER
Ok. There is a family-size pizza-

SUZIE
(interrupts)
Family size. I have my family with me.

WAITER
Oh that’s nice. Packaged or you’d take it here?

SUZIE
Packaged please.

WAITER
(says and walks away)
Alright, would be right back.

A minute after waiter’s left, another message comes on her phone. She immediately takes out the phone, turns it off and places it back in her bag. 5 minutes later, waiter arrives with her order and goes away. She picks a piece of the pizza and places it in the saucer under the glass of

(CONTINUED)
juice and starts eating. Seconds later, a familiar voice sounds behind her.

CO-AGENT
May I sit by you miss?

SUZIE  
(smiles)
Fareed. What in heaven’s name are you doing here?

CO-AGENT  
(says and sits)
Also on holiday.

SUZIE  
How did you know I was here?

CO-AGENT  
I didn’t know. I just came upon you.

SUZIE  
Liar. You shouldn’t try lying ’cos you’re the worst I know of. I suppose you sent me the flowers too.

CO-AGENT  
What flowers?

SUZIE  
A few minutes ago I received a vase with lots of tulips and roses. You asked the receptionist to give it to me right?

CO-AGENT  
No, I haven’t sent anyone flowers least of all you.

SUZIE  
You’re sure about this?

CO-AGENT  
Absolutely. It must have been someone else-

Suzie abruptly rises and picks her handbag and pizza and tends walking away.

CO-AGENT  
(rises and follows her)
Hey, where are you going?
SUZIE
I’ve got to find out who sent me those. Might be an enemy.

CO-AGENT
(seizes her arm)
No, it isn’t. It was me.

SUZIE
(quickly turns to face him)
You?

CO-AGENT
Yes. Me. I was a bit confused that’s why I denied.

Suzie stares at him for a moment and smiles.

INT.BOSS’S OFFICE-CIC-DAY

USA: At the Criminal Investigative Company (CIC), Suzie’s boss discusses the latest case with his assistant. Boss sits at his desk with his assistant.

BOSS
Palleti Stones, headed by Andre Palleti the man we’re to investigate. By the informant he’s as dubious as the stones he sells.

ASSISTANT
Any evidence to augment our belief in his claim?

BOSS
Unfortunately no. That’s to say he isn’t part of those responsible for packaging the false stones. Yet, even if he was it would be almost impossible to hide anything from the hundreds of hidden cameras watching from above.

ASSISTANT
So how did he come by the allegation then?

BOSS
A friend of his told him. One of his co-workers. He got to know about it somehow and fed him the news. Informant claims he demanded a pay increment for the entire working staff in order to

(MORE)
BOSS (cont’d)
keep the secret. Something he was granted.

ASSISTANT
A big company like Palleti Stones and low wages? Was it blackmail or a genuine request?

BOSS
Hard to tell. Informant said pay wasn’t bad though. Well, aside from the increment there was an end-of-year party. The first ever and the last for the informant’s friend. He suffered a heart attack and visited the hospital but never returned.

ASSISTANT
I suppose he believes Palleti was responsible.

BOSS
What do you think?

ASSISTANT
Not guilty until proven so. I stand by the law. Anyway, I checked his profile via the company’s website. He’s obviously Italian but speaks bits of English. He’s been married for 16 years with no child. Company has a work force of 20 people made up of 17 men and 3 women. There seem to be nil vacancies at the moment except the one you created for Suzie.

BOSS
Yep, it’s time Palleti got one, for our own good.

INT. BEDROOM–HOTEL–NIGHT
DUBAI: Suzie sits in bed talking to her white foster parents via Skype.

SUZIE
I miss you so much mum, dad. I can’t wait to see you...

MARTHA
We miss you too darling. When would you be coming home?

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE
Soon, in a month’s time when my school goes on vacation.

RON
That’s fine. Just 2 weeks left for the month to end.

SUZIE
Do tell Sam and Laura I called and I miss them a lot. I’d try to come online again when they get back.

MARTHA
Don’t bother. We’d give them your message and tell them to call you when they’re free.

SUZIE
Alright. Ok, good night, I have to sleep now. Tomorrow is another day at school.

RON
Sure baby, have a sound sleep, we love you.

SUZIE
I love you too bye.

RON/MARTHA
Bye.

INT. PALLETI’S OFFICE-COMPANY-DAY

ITALY: Andre Palleti sits at his desk talking on the phone with a client. They speak Italian.

PALLETI
I received your request from my secretary. It would be ready in 2 days time. I’m sorry my friend but that’s the earliest possible time of delivery. Ok, thank you see you soon. Bye.

Immediately after call’s ended, he dials a number and orders someone to the office.

PALLETI
I need you here at once.

Five minutes later, a young lady knocks and enters the room, his coffee and meals deliverer. He speaks Italian with her.
CONTINUED:

PALLETI
Come in.

MAID
(places it on desk)
Your coffee sir. Any thing else?

PALLETI
(rises and walks to her)
Yes.

He starts kissing her but she refuses him a minute afterward.

PALLETI
Why? What’s wrong? Don’t you want your money anymore?

MAID
I’m getting married in 7 days. I won’t be working here any longer.

PALLETI
Why didn’t you tell me earlier on?

MAID
What difference would it have made? Would you have married me instead?

PALLETI
(holds her arms)
Don’t get married. Stay with me and I’d pay you double for your work.

MAID
(says and turns to walk away)
Sorry I have to go now. I won’t be coming back sir, I quit today.

PALLETI
3,000 Euros a month. Can he afford that in a year?

MAID
(says and walks out)
We love each other and that’s enough for me.

He watches her leave and reveals a soft smile.
INT. SUZIE’S PARENTS’ HOME—LAURA’S ROOM—NIGHT

15-year-old Laura Blunt has returned home at 8:00. She wears a sports jersey and drops her bag onto her bed and walks to the door to exit the room when her mum immediately enters the room.

LAURA
(startled)
Ah!

MARTHA
How’re you?

LAURA
Fine mum. I’m coming from volleyball practice.

MARTHA
So it seems. Sam told us it ended 3 hours ago. That’s at 5:00. So tell me where you’ve been since then.

LAURA
I was at Melinda’s place going over some homework with her.

MARTHA
Dear, I don’t doubt your lies. I spare you today but not again. Go and take your meal and visit the shower immediately.

LAURA
I’m sorry it won’t happen again.

MARTHA
When would you mean it?

LAURA
I mean it.

MARTHA
Alright.

INT. COUPLE’S ROOM—NIGHT

Martha arrives at bedroom and finds Ron, her husband sitting in bed working on his lap top.

MARTHA
I thought you were already asleep.

(CONTINUED)
RON
Just proofreading something little. How is Laura?

MARTHA
Fine. She promised not to lie to me again.

RON
She doesn’t need to. Did you find out where she went?

MARTHA
She said she was at Melinda’s place but it’s obviously a lie.

RON
I’d speak to her tomorrow after school.

MARTHA
Thanks.

Ron closes laptop.

MARTHA
Do I turn off the light now?

RON
Yes you may.

Martha turns off switch on the wall beside the bed and gets into bed.

INT. PALLETI’S OFFICE-DAY

Palleti speaks to his P.A (personal assistant) on an order request. P.A stands while Palleti sits at his desk. They speak Italian.

PALLETI
How many boxes have we?

P.A
About 50 sir.

PALLETI
Can you be more specific?

P.A
50 boxes sir.

PALLETI
Good. I need you to package a box for a client.

(CONTINUED)
P.A
Yes sir. Anything else sir?

PALLETI
Nothing else. Go.

P.A nods his head and exits room.

INT.BEDROOM- HOTEL-DAY

DUBAI: Suzie lies in bed asleep while her phone rings. It continues until it stops after 5 minutes.

INT.SUZIE’S PARENTS’ HOME-KITCHEN-DAY

Laura dials Suzie’s number again yet none picks it up. She places the phone onto the dinning table and eats the sandwich before her. She wears pyjamas. A minute later, Sam enters the room.

SAM
(says and opens fridge)
Good morning!

Laura doesn’t respond. Sam picks a small box of juice and shuts the door.

SAM
Have you seen the bread?

LAURA
In the oven.

SAM
Thanks.

Sam picks bread from oven, places it on the table in a tray and cuts 6 thin slices into a plate. He then sits down to eat. After 3 minutes, Laura suddenly speaks.

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LAURA
(softly)
Can I ask you a question?

SAM
Quickly ’cos I don’t want to be late.

LAURA
Do you have a girl friend?

(CONTINUED)
SAM
(chuckles)
Why do you want to know?

LAURA
Yes or No?

SAM
No. Is that all?

LAURA
(nods head)
Yes.

SAM
I’m off to bathe. I’d be leaving in 20 minutes so be ready if you want to join me.

LAURA
I know where the bus stop is.

SAM
(says and walks away)
Who’s talking about picking the bus? Dad’s sending me, he’s leaving early today.

Laura appears surprised at his statement.

INT.KITCHEN-HOTEL-DAY

DUBAI: Suzie eats while chatting with Fareed on the phone.

SUZIE
(chuckles and says)
I think I’d love to meet your mum...

FAREED (O.S)
My mum doesn’t live here besides parents are divorced.

SUZIE
Sorry to hear about that.

FAREED
But you can still come. There’s a large swimming pool, a beautiful lawn for picknick and enough room for us...

Suzie chuckles.

(CONTINUED)
FAREED
I mean enough rough for us to practice dancing.

SUZIE
I thought of that.

FAREED
Anyway, I sent you a mail yesterday, have you read it?

SUZIE
No, I didn’t know. What’s it about?

FAREED
It’s a secret. Read it and get back to me. Sorry I have to go now-

SUZIE
Of course, we’d talk later bye.

FAREED
Bye.

INT. BOSS OFFICE-CIC-DAY

USA: Suzie walks into the room while her boss stands at his desk, waiting to welcome her.

BOSS
(cheerfully)
Miss Blunt, I’m glad you responded to my call.

SUZIE
This is the last time I’d quit my vacation-

BOSS
I know that. That’s why I’m raising the bar: you’d get double for this should you pull it off as usual.

SUZIE
(says and sits down)
I don’t care about the money. I only need some rest.

BOSS
I wonder how Fareed convinced you to come.

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE
He didn’t. What’s my job this time?

BOSS
Didn’t you read the mail I sent you?

SUZIE
No. Could you kindly tell me what it is about?

BOSS
(hands her a leaflet)
He’s Andre Palleti, a well-known seller of diamonds. Yet in his case, they aren’t so genuine.

SUZIE
How did you know that?

BOSS
An informant told me. He claims a co-worker of his discovered so and told him but after he passed away-

SUZIE
I read the mail. What if Palleti doesn’t hire me as you want?

BOSS
A man like Palleti wouldn’t let you walk away without a job, believe me.

INT. PALLETI’S OFFICE—DAY

A day later: Palleti meets with a client. Palleti’s P.A and the man’s double body guards stand in the room. Palleti and the client sit at his desk. Client admires some of the diamonds in his palm. Before him is a small, black, rectangular box with a cushioned inner part. In the box are his diamonds.

PALLETI
Fine diamonds aren’t they?

CLIENT
They couldn’t have been better. May I ask where you get your diamonds from Mr. Palleti?

PALLETI
My diamonds are authentic sir, acquired from earth it self.
CLIENT
Have you ever heard of synthetic or cultured diamonds? They could look exactly as these.

PALLETI
True but after 10 years of being in business, I have not received a single complaint—

CLIENT
(chuckles)
Pardon me that was a joke.
Besides, this isn’t my first time of buying from you.

PALLETI
Really? When was the last time we met?

CLIENT
About 3 months ago. I sent Jorge, my assistant. He is Spanish. Do you remember him? No, you don’t. You receive hundreds of requests—

PALLETI
Exactly.

CLIENT
(rises)
Well, thanks for your service. I’d be leaving now.

PALLETI
(rises)
My assistant would escort you outside.

CLIENT
(exits room afterward)
Thanks but I can manage. Goodbye.

Palleti watches him as he leaves. A minute later, he speaks to his P.A.

PALLETI
Carlos, find out who that man is.
I need some info. by tonight.

P.A
(says and exits room)
Yes sir.

Moments after he’s left, Palleti dials a number.

(CONTINUED)
PALLETI
I need you here immediately.

5 minutes later, the man arrives.

WORKER
Sorry sir, I was away-

PALLETI
I need you to verify the authenticity of some notes for me. Can you do that?

WORKER
Yes sir, but it would take time.

PALLETI
Get me someone who can as soon as possible.

WORKER
(says and exits)
Yes sir.

A moment later, Palleti opens the drawer on his desk and brings out a Euro note from a pack of bundles. He feels it with his finger and stares contemplatively at it.

INT.LAURA’S SCHOOL–CAFETERIA–DAY

Laura sits with a female friend at a table. They eat while chatting.

LAURA
I wish I were in your shoes. No mum or dad to keep a stern eye on me all day.

CLARA
It isn’t fun at all believe me. Anyway, I’m lucky to have Vera, my maid. She’s a 26-year-old French and very nice. We do virtually everything together; shopping, cooking, dining-

LAURA
Bathing?

CLARA
(chuckles)
Silly. Of course not. She’s like a mother to me.
LAURA
I’m happy for you. By the way, I have something to tell you. I have a friend now, a male friend.

CLARA
(a bit loud)
Oh a boyfriend! Wow congratulations!

LAURA
Quiet. He’s a white Turk, Caner is his name. He works with a computer firm and lives alone here.

CLARA
Wow, sounds exotic. When do I meet him?

LAURA
One of these days on a weekend.

CLARA
(says with a smile)
Right. We’d take some photos too right?

LAURA
(smiles)
Left.

EXT. BUS STOP—DAY
Laura stands at the station waiting for the bus when her phone rings and she answers immediately in a cheerful tone.

LAURA
Hi! Genius, how’re you?

CANER (O.S)
Great. How about you? Are you happy?

LAURA
(says and chuckles)
I’m fine and yes I am happy. What a question...

CANER
(chuckles too)
I needed to know how you were feeling. I just got home. Are you home already?
CONTINUED:

LAURA
No, at the bus stop waiting for it.

CANER
(says and goes off the line)
Oh sorry.

LAURA
So, what are you up to? How was your day?

There’s no response.

LAURA
Hello? Hello Caner? Hello?

5 minutes later, a black, pick-up pulls up beside her. The driver rolls down his window and talks to her.

CANER
Hi, you care to join me?

LAURA
(shocked)
Caner? How-

CANER
(says and smiles)
I was just around.

EXT. ROAD—DAY

They drive towards Laura’s home while chatting.

LAURA
I have a feeling you were waiting for me all along.

CANER
Why would I do that? Leave my job in the office and drive close to the bus stop and wait for you?

LAURA
Ok, may be you closed early today. That explains it perfectly ‘cos there’s no way you could have left your home-

CANER
Ok, I admit it. I’m on a week-long vacation.

(CONTINUED)
LAURA
Aha. I didn’t even think of that.
Caner I think I’d get down here.
I don’t want to raise eyebrows.

CANER
Whose? Your dad’s or mum’s?

LAURA
Both.

CANER
Ok, drop down here.

LAURA
(says and exits car)
Thanks for the ride, hope to see you tomorrow same time.

CANER
Sure. Good night.

LAURA
(walks away)
Good night. Bye.

Caner waits till she’s out of sight then pulls away.

EXT.SUZIE’S PARENTS’ HOME-DAY

3 days later: Suzie rings the bell standing behind the gate.

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY

Sam sits before the set watching a movie. The volume of the set being a bit high.

INT.KITCHEN-DAY

Laura cooks a meal.

EXT.FRONT DOOR-DAY

Suzie walks to the front door and suddenly turns the handle of the door. Sam is startled.

SAM
(rises quickly from sofa)
Who is there?

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE
It’s me. How are you?

SAM
(excited runs to hug her)
Suzie!

Momentarily, Laura arrives at the place and hugs her.

LAURA
Suzie!

SUZIE
Oh dear I miss you so much...

INT.KITCHEN-CONTINUES
Suzie eats of the meal Laura cooked sitting at the dining table.

LAURA
It’s delicious isn’t it?

SUZIE
Yes but pepper is a bit high and salt is almost nil.

LAURA
I know, I did that on purpose. I like a lot of pepper and low salt.

SUZIE
(adds salt)
Oh I didn’t know that. Anyway, adding a little bit of salt would make it tastier. Mmm, I told you. It’s delicious!

Laura adds some salt to hers. Suddenly, Martha and Ron’s voice fill the room.

MARTHA (O.S)
TV this early? Have you done your homework already?

RON (O.S)
Let him please. He’d do so afterwards.

SAM (O.S)
Yes mum I will.
INT. KITCHEN—DAY

Martha and Ron arrive at the place to find Laura seated and eating. Ron walks to the fridge and takes out a bottle of water while Martha washes her face in the sink.

LAURA
Welcome back dad, mum. I made you some food.

MARTHA
(sitting down)
Mmm, smells and looks good. Thank you.

RON
Mmm, great taste. I never knew we had a chef in this house.

LAURA
Mum, you have a visitor.

MARTHA
Who?

Immediately, Suzie emerges from under the table.

SUZIE
Me.

MARTHA
Oh, Suzie darling.

SUZIE
(hugs mum and dad)
How are you mum, dad?

MARTHA/RON
Fine. Very well.

SUZIE
(chuckles)
I’m happy you are. I had to come today because I hear my school isn’t going to vacate next month. The kids are preparing to take their exams so no holiday.

MARTHA
Alright.
INT. PALLETI’S HOME-COMPOUND-DAY

ITALY: Palleti sits in a chair on the lawn reading a paper. By him is a small table with a quarter-filled glass of Cognac and a bottle of it in a tray. A woman approaches him from a distance, Rachel, his 30-year-old wife. She’s draped in a glittering, short blue dress. She walks quietly behind him and whispers into his ears. She speaks Italian.

RACHEL
(whispers)
How’re you darling?

PALLETI
Good. Enjoying the weather.

RACHEL
Yes, it’s indeed lovely. Andre, when would you be free?

PALLETI
Why?

RACHEL
(sits down)
It’s been ages since we vacationed together. I have a great destination in mind. Somewhere in India, you’d love it.

PALLETI
Ok. We can go just before Christmas. I’d be less busy by then.

RACHEL
That’s 6 months away.

PALLETI
I know.

RACHEL
Alright. I’d wait then. Do excuse me I need to make a call.

Palleti nods and she rises and leaves.

INT.COUPLER’S ROOM-CONTINUES

Rachel enters room and locks the door after her. She opens a drawer in her closet and picks her phone and dials a number. It goes through and she speaks to a man.

(CONTINUED)
RACHEL
Hello where are you?

P.A.(O.S)
Home.

RACHEL
Meet me in half an hour at the usual spot.

P.A
Alright, see you there.

Rachel hangs up.

EXT.COMPOUND-CONTINUES

Rachel now dressed in a short-sleeves blouse and a black trouser sit in a posh, black, salon car with 2 male bodyguards and a driver. Moments later, they pull away.

INT.RESTAURANT-DAY

Rachel enters room without guards and walks straight to the only person sitting at a table in a corner. They speak Italian.

RACHEL
(says and sits)
Well done for clearing the path.

P.A
I didn’t. Restaurant isn’t opening today for a reason. I only paid to be let in.

RACHEL
All the better for us. Carlos, I need a favourable answer for my question. Andre had a girlfriend, yes or no?

P.A
Yes but she’s no more thanks to you.

RACHEL
Don’t joke with me I’m serious. I want the truth.

P.A
Fine. He did but they broke up. The girl got married recently.

(CONTINUED)
RACHEL  
(sternly)  
Who is she? I need her details.

P.A  
Not necessary. They’re no longer together-

Rachel abruptly brings out a small bottle containing a colourless fluid from her handbag.

RACHEL  
You see this, it’s what Alex died from. Pray your wife doesn’t end up like him.

P.A  
There’s no need to do this Rachel. Please consider it.

Rachel stares sternly at him.

P.A  
(reluctantly)  
I’d send you details in an email tonight. Excuse me.

P.A walks away.

INT. PALLETI’S HOME-COMPOUND-NIGHT

7:00: Rachel sits outside talking to one of her guards who doubles as a murderer. They sit face to face on the lawn.

RACHEL  
Go now and no mistakes.

GUARD/MURDERER  
Be rest assured.

RACHEL  
Good I want it done before dawn.

GUARD/MURDERER  
(says and walks away)  
Of course.

Shortly afterwards, a black, pick-up vehicle pulls out of the compound.
EXT.BEACH-NIGHT

A man and a woman lie on a mattress on a beach. The woman is Palletti’s maid, Tonia and the man her husband, Lucio. They chat in Italian.

TONIA
Are we really going to sleep here tonight?

LUCIO
Yeah. Are you afraid the waves would wash us away?

TONIA
More or less.

LUCIO
Impossible. Unless I let it happen.

TONIA
(chuckles)
I love you.

LUCIO
(kisses her passionately for a minute)
I love you more. Honey, I need to get something from inside. I’d be right back ok.

TONIA
Doesn’t it have a name?

LUCIO
Surprise, that’s its name.

TONIA
(chuckles)
Ok, don’t keep long.

LUCIO
(says and runs away)
I won’t. 5 minutes.

A moment later, a faceless man approaches her from behind and covers her mouth with a handkerchief. She faints and he carries her away.

INT.CAR-RIVER SIDE-NIGHT

Tonia awakens and finds herself in the backseat of a car with a masked man sitting beside her. She screams but the man doesn’t say a word. He only stares at her. They speak Italian.

(CONTINUED)
TONIA
(says and pounds windows with her fists)
Who are you? Where am I?

GUARD/MURDERER
It’s plastic not glass.

TONIA
(abruptly slaps him)
Get me out of here! Get me out!

Immediately, his phone rings and he answers it.

GUARD/MURDERER
(answers and tells Tonia)
Yes she’s awake. You have a call.

Immediately, Rachel’s voice sounds aloud.

RACHEL (O.S)
(sternly)
You whore! You slept with my husband... now it’s pay back time. Say hello to your fathers on my behalf. Good bye.

TONIA
(startled)
Who is this? I can explain...please don’t let him kill me...please...

GUARD/MURDERER
(says and injects her with a syringe)
Too late for that miss. Time to go.

She immediately falls onto the cushion. Guard stares at her for a minute and dials Rachel’s number.

GUARD/MURDERER
Done.

INT.COTTAGE-BEACH-NIGHT

Lucio reports his missing wife to the police on the phone.

LUCIO
(crying)
Please come quickly...she’s gone...she just disappeared...

(CONTINUED)
POLICE
(female voice says and hangs up)
Calm down sir, we’ll be right there.

Subsequently, he runs out of the room and goes up and down the shore crying his wife’s name.

LUCIO
Tonia! Tonia where are you?
Tonia!

EXT.COTTAGE-BEACH-DAY

Lucio speaks with a police officer on Tonia’s disappearance.

LUCIO
This is where we were. Lying on this mattress. Then I went in to get some drinks and a lantern. When I returned...she was no where to be found.

DETECTIVE
How long were you inside?

LUCIO
About 10 minutes. I realized the lamp had fewer wicks so I fixed a new one.

DETECTIVE
And that’s what delayed you right?

LUCIO
Yes unfortunately.

DETECTIVE
Mr. Ferrari how well did you know your wife? Did she have any close friends? What did she do for a living before you married? Did she bear a grudge against anyone?

LUCIO
Tonia worked as a maid at Palleti Stones. She worked for the boss Mr. Andre Palleti as his coffee and meals server.

DETECTIVE
Coffee and mills server?

(CONTINUED)
LUCIO
Yes please. That’s what she told me.

DETECTIVE
Alright, thanks for the info. I’d find out what I can from her employer.

LUCIO
Ok. Please do all you can to find her...I hope she’s alive...

DETECTIVE
(taps Lucio on shoulder and leave)
Take care and have faith.

INT.COTTAGE-CONTINUES
Lucio enters the room while a phone rings, Tonia’s phone which lies in the sofa. It says: Sylvia calling (in Italian). He slowly walks to it and picks it up after 3 minutes and feigns a cheerful and confident tone.

LUCIO
Hello, this is Lucio, Tonia’s husband-

SYLVIA (O.S)
Of course, I know who you are. How’re you and my daughter?

LUCIO
We’re doing great, enjoying our honeymoon.

SYLVIA
I’m happy to hear that. Anyway, can I speak to Tonia? I miss her already.

LUCIO
Well, Tonia isn’t available at the moment. She went shopping.

SYLVIA
Shopping on her honeymoon? What else does she need aside from you?

LUCIO
(smiles)
A few necessities for us. I’d tell her you called.

(CONTINUED)
SYLVIA
Alright. I’d call later then when she returns.

LUCIO
Ok mother, have a nice day.

SYLVIA
You too son, bye.

LUCIO
(ends call)
Bye.

INT.PALLETI’S OFFICE-DAY

Palleti speaks to the officer who spoke with Lucio on Tonia’s disappearance.

DETECTIVE
What kind of relationship existed between you two?

PALLETI
The usual boss, employee kind. What did you expect?

DETECTIVE
What did Tonia’s job entail?

PALLETI
She served me coffee and bought me lunch and dinner sometimes when I had to work late.

DETECTIVE
How relevant was her job sir? Couldn’t your secretary have easily taken up that responsibility?

PALLETI
I beg to differ sir. A secretary’s job doesn’t involve serving dishes. I have a personal assistant who supports me in my job. He can’t serve me coffee-

DETECTIVE
I know of P.A.s who do that and even more.

PALLETI
Could you please continue sir-

(CONTINUED)
DETECTIVE
Did you know she was getting married Mr. Palleti?

PALLETI
She told me so yes I knew.

DETECTIVE
What was your response to that?

PALLETI
What could it be? I was happy for her. Tonia was a good employee, efficient and I’m deeply shocked by her sudden disappearance. I’m prepared to help in anyway I can to find her.

DETECTIVE
That’s so kind of you Mr. Palleti. However, may I ask this: would you do that for any of your other employees? Or is this a special case?

Palleti stares at him but doesn’t respond.

INT. TONIA’S MUM’S PLACE—LIVING ROOM

A day later: Detective and Lucio are ushered by Matilde, Tonia’s sister into the room.

MATILDE
Please have a seat. I’d tell mother you are in.

LUCIO
Thanks.

MATILDE
(says and exits the room)
Excuse me.

DETECTIVE
Are you nervous?

LUCIO
I can’t help it. I wish I didn’t have to do this...I wish I came with good news like we were having our first child—

SYLVIA
Hello son, hello sir.

(CONTINUED)
DETECTIVE
(rises)
Hello madam, I’m Martin, a friend of his.

SYLVIA
Nice to meet you. Lucio, you didn’t come with Tonia why?

LUCIO
Ah...she...mother I came with some news. I need to tell you this.

SYLVIA
(sits down)
Is it about Tonia? What is wrong? Tell me.

LUCIO
Mother, Tonia is missing. She disappeared a night ago. We were at-

SYLVIA
(immediately holds chest)
Ah...ah...

Lucio and detective rush to hold her.

DETECTIVE
(carries her)
We need to get her a doctor immediately. Open the door.

They exit the room. Seconds later, detective’s car pulls away from the compound. Matilde hears it and rushes to the room. She exits the room and sees the car leaving.

INT.HOSPITAL-WAITING ROOM-DAY
An hour later, Matilde arrives at the place and finds Lucio and the detective sitting in a couch. She walks to them and talks without sitting.

MATILDE
(to Lucio)
What happened to her?

LUCIO
(not staring at her)
She suffered a mild attack. Doctor says she’s fine.
MATILDE
What did you tell her? It must have been serious.

LUCIO
Matilde, please let’s think about your mother’s health for now. We can talk later-

MATILDE
(to detective)
Sir, could you please tell me what he told my mother? I believe I have a right to know.

DETECTIVE
Of course. But first promise you would not freak out like she did.

MATILDE
(sits)
Speak.

DETECTIVE
Your sister, Tonia is missing. She disappeared a night ago. Lucio was with her but left to get some drinks from their house nearby. When he returned she was no where to be found.

MATILDE
(to Lucio)
And you told her this? Why?

DETECTIVE
He had to. Wouldn’t have been right for her to find out later. Matilde, did your sister have any close friends you knew of?

MATILDE
Tonia had no friends except her mother and me. The only one I can think of is Andre, her former lover as she put it-

DETECTIVE
Andre Palleti?

MATILDE
(shocked stares at him)
Yes. How did you know?
INT. PALLETI’S OFFICE—DAY

Palleti and the detective talk about his relationship with Tonia.

PALLETI
Yes. But it was highly discreet unless she told someone.

DETECTIVE
Her sister found some money in her bag and confronted her. That’s how she found out.

PALLETI
And I suppose she told someone else right?

DETECTIVE
No one else. Do you think your wife might have found out somehow?

PALLETI
Are you blaming her for Tonia’s disappearance?

DETECTIVE
Mr. Palleti, I’ve worked on lots of similar cases where the men didn’t know their wives already knew. What of your P.A? Could he have found out somehow?

PALLETI
Probably. He caught us once here. We were kissing and he just barged in, unintentionally. Tonia had come to serve me coffee and he was just sending me a report I requested. I warned him not to tell a soul.

DETECTIVE
And you believed he didn’t?

PALLETI
Absolutely.

DETECTIVE
I don’t. I trust Tonia’s sister when she said she didn’t tell a soul but I don’t think your P.A. is as loyal as he seems.
INT. PALLETI’S HOME—DINNING HALL—NIGHT

Palleti and Rachel sit at the table before plates of food while a servant pours some drink into each’s glass. Afterwards, he leaves. On the table are some lit dinner candles. Rachel smiles at him and he returns the smile.

RACHEL
What’s the occasion?

PALLETI
Just dinning with my lovely wife. Should there be an occasion for that?

RACHEL
Hmm, you really surprise me. I don’t recall the last time—

PALLETI
Please, let’s concentrate on now.

RACHEL
Sorry. I didn’t know you were that romantic.

PALLETI
(picks glass)
When would you be ready for our trip to India?

RACHEL
What? I thought—

PALLETI
(says and smiles)
I thought it’s nice we get closer as a couple. Not just in bed.

RACHEL
(smiles)
Any time. It could even be tonight.

PALLETI
(says and sips)
Right. Cheers.

RACHEL
(sips)
Cheers. What’s with the wine? It tastes salty or?

PALLETI
(sternly)
It’s not salt. It’s poison. You have 20 minutes to tell me where

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
PALLETI (cont’d)
Tonia is else I’d watch you die, right here in this house.

Rachel stares shocked at him.

INT. COUPLE’S ROOM—CONTINUES

Rachel cries sitting on the floor and holding her husband’s legs. Beside her is a small towel partly-filled with blood from her cough. A doctor in a shirt and trouser stands in the room overseeing events.

RACHEL
I didn’t do it...you’ve got to believe me...

PALLETI
(staring at her)
This is your last chance devil...else I’d let you go without a cure.

RACHEL
(coughs out blood)
Please...I don’t want to die...

DOCTOR
(to Palleti)
Sir, it’s time I give her the antidote else conditions may worsen-

PALLETI
I’m not done yet. I give you ten more minutes-

RACHEL
No! Ok, ok. I know her. I heard her name from Carlos, your P.A...

PALLETI
And what did you do?

RACHEL
Nothing. I didn’t do anything. Please believe me...

PALLETI
(to doctor)
Administer the drug.

DOCTOR
Yes sir.

Doctor injects her with a syringe and she consequently falls into a coma.
INT. PALLETTI’S HOUSE—DAY

6:00 am: Palleti walks into a black salon car accompanied by 3 of his guards. Shortly afterwards, they pull out of the compound.

INT. PALLETTI’S NEW HOUSE—LIVING ROOM—DAY

An hour later: Palleti accompanied by a guard enters a beautiful and fully-furnished room. He looks around, admiring it.

PALLETTI
Quite stunning— and serene. Just how I like it.

GUARD
May I walk you to your room sir?

PALLETTI
Not necessary thanks. You may go and help them get my things here. I’d be fine.

GUARD
(says and walks away)
Yes sir.

INT. PALLETTI’S HOUSE—DAY

Detective arrives at the place and sees some men carrying boxes into a huge truck on the compound. He asks the gate man what it is.

GATE MAN
The master is moving out sir. He left earlier this morning.

DETECTIVE
Oh...ok. Can I see the mistress is she around?

GATE MAN
Of course, she is.

DETECTIVE
(says and walks away)
Thanks. I’d go see her now.
INT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUE

Detective speaks with a female attendant of Rachel.

ATTENDANT
I’m sorry you can’t see her now. Mrs. Palleti is currently not feeling so well.

DETECTIVE
Sorry to hear about that. Ok, I can come back whenever she’s better.

ATTENDANT
Of course. However, may I know your name so I tell her-

DETECTIVE
Just say an old friend. She’d know who.

ATTENDANT
Alright. See you later then.

DETECTIVE
(says and walks away)
Yes, bye.

INT.COMPOUND-CONTINUES

Detective returns to the gate man to inquire of something.

DETECTIVE
Hi, I’m back again.

GATE MAN
Good. Did you meet her?

DETECTIVE
No, she’s not feeling well so I couldn’t. Can I ask for a favour? It comes with a reward.

GATE MAN
What kind of favour sir?

DETECTIVE
Can you tell me how many times Mrs. Palleti left the house on July 15. As well as the time she left the house?

GATE MAN
She only went out once with two of her bodyguards. That was in the afternoon around 2:30.

(CONTINUED)
DETECTIVE
I see. And can you identify her guards for me?

GATE MAN
I’m sorry but that would be a little...

DETECTIVE
I understand. Anyway, thanks for the information, here is your pay.

GATE MAN
(excited, receives money)
Thanks.

DETECTIVE
(says and walks away)
You’re welcome. Bye.

INT. PALLETI STONES-RECEPTION-DAY

An hour later: Suzie arrives at the reception dressed in a skirt suit and speaks to the female receptionist in Italian.

SUZIE
Good morning, Miss. I’m Jennifer Suize, here to see Mr. Palleti. He’s expecting me actually.

RECEPTIONIST
Alright, can I have your identification card please?

SUZIE
/removes a tag round her neck/
Of course. Here.

RECEPTIONIST
(staring at it)
You’re an interpreter?

SUZIE
Yes please.

RECEPTIONIST
(hands her visitor’s card)
Ok. Take this card, write your name and sign here.

Suzie writes her name in a visitors’ book and signs against it.

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE

Done.

RECEPTIONIST

(looks at it)

Good.

INT. PALLETTI’S OFFICE—DAY

2 hours later: Suzie arrives at the place to seek a job as an interpreter.

PALLETTI

So how long have you worked as an interpreter?

SUZIE

For 5 years with a private telecommunications company, Buenatel.

PALLETTI

Oh Buenatel— that’s impressive. Does Mr. Riding still work there?

SUZIE

Mr. Riding?

PALLETTI

Don’t you know him?

SUZIE

I... may be not. I quit a couple of years ago. He may have come after I left.

PALLETTI

(says with a smile)

I see. Ok, I’d take a look at your CV and get back to you.

SUZIE

(says and exits)

Thank you sir. Please excuse me.

PALLETTI

Yes.

A moment after she’s left, Palletti calls his secretary on the phone. He appears a minute later.

PALLETTI

(says and hangs up)

I need you.

(CONTINUED)
SECRETARY
You called for me sir?

PALLETI
(hands him Suzie’s CV)
Verify the authenticity of this file and report to me as soon as possible.

SECRETARY
(says and exits room)
Yes sir.

INT.HOTEL ROOM-DAY
Suzie speaks with her boss on the phone.

BOSS
How did it go?

SUZIE
Not so good. He asked if I knew one Mr. Riding.

BOSS
Didn’t Fareed brief you on details?

SUZIE
He spoke a lot. Perhaps, forget this one. I replied I may not know him since I left a couple of years ago.

BOSS
Oh...Alright. Don’t worry, it’s possible he doesn’t exist else Fareed would have told you.

SUZIE
Alright, I’d keep you updated.

BOSS
Sure, take care.

SUZIE
Bye.

INT.CANER’S HOME-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT
Caner lies in the sofa texting a message to Laura when a strange number suddenly calls. He answers it after a minute.
CONTINUED:

CANER
Hello! Hello! Clara is that you?
Hello!

None replies and the line suddenly runs dead.

EXTPHONE BOOTH-TOWN-NIGHT

A white man with moustache dressed in a black coat replaces the receiver and exits the booth.

INT.PALLETI’S OFFICE-DAY

Palleti speaks with the detective on Rachel’s knowledge of Tonia.

PALLETI
You were right. My wife knew about her.

DETECTIVE
How did you find out?

PALLETI
I confronted her but she said she only heard Carlos, my P.A. mention her name once.

DETECTIVE
That means she could be linked to Carlos. If so Carlos may be in danger...

PALLETI
How?

DETECTIVE
(rises)
Your wife won’t let us question him. Do you know where I could find him?

Palleti immediately opens his drawer and takes out a complimentary card and hands it to him.

PALLETI
You may find him at home. This is his address.

DETECTIVE
(says and exits room quickly)
Thanks.
EXT.CARLOS’S HOUSE-DAY

Detective arrives behind the front door waiting for a reply after ringing the bell. Soon, the door opens and a young girl, about 16 years old, Carlos’s daughter steps out.

DETECTIVE
Hi, I’m Martin Gonzales, your father’s friend-

DAUGHTER
(solemly)
He is not there. He’s dead.

DETECTIVE
(shocked)
When? How?

DAUGHTER
(replies a minute later)
Yester night, we found him hanging in his room.

DETECTIVE
Oh, I’m sorry. Can I speak to your mother please?

DAUGHTER
She’s gone out. I don’t know where.

DETECTIVE
(hands her his complimentary card)
I see. Thanks. Could you please give her this when she returns? Tell her it’s important I speak to her.

Girl nods her head and receives the card.

DETECTIVE
(says and drives away)
Alright, bye.

INT.PALLETI’S HOME-COUPLE’S ROOM-NIGHT

Rachel sits in bed and talks to her guard/murderer about Carlos.

RACHEL
I want you to disappear for a while until investigations are over.

(CONTINUED)
GUARD/MURDERER
Yes please. Where do I go?

RACHEL
(hands him a sheet of paper)
I already took care of that. You have to leave at dawn to this address. You’d be safe there.

GUARD/MURDERER
(looks at it)
Ok.

RACHEL
Take nothing with you, nothing that would link you to anything. By that I mean your phone, any identity card you may have. Even your clothes. Don’t wear the suits, just plain ordinary clothes. Finally, you wouldn’t go by any of the cars here. I already arranged for a taxi to pick you up tomorrow morning at the nearest bus stop.

GUARD/MURDERER
Ok. Any thing else?

RACHEL
No, that’d do. Keep in mind these are measures to avoid suspicion because the police are on the move.

GUARD/MURDERER
I understand.

RACHEL
Good, you may leave now.

GUARD/MURDERER
(says and exits room)
Ok.

Rachel smiles softly watching him go.

EXT.BUS STOP-DAY

3:30 am: Guard/murderer stands waiting for the taxi. Moments later, it arrives and he joins it.

CAB DRIVER
(cheerfully)
Good morning!

(Continued)
GUARD/MURDERER
(softly)
Morning.

CAB DRIVER
(sparks car)
Have you had anything to eat yet?

GUARD/MURDERER
It’s too early. Don’t you have a paper I can read?

CAB DRIVER
(throws one to him)
Catch!

GUARD/MURDERER
Thanks.

Subsequently, he pulls away. 45 minutes later, they drive on a highway along with a few cars. The driver turns on the radio filling the atmosphere with slightly loud rap music. Meanwhile, guard/murderer is engrossed in reading. Suddenly, a car approaches them with blinding lights. The driver hoots his horn at it yet nothing changes. Guard/murderer lifts head to see what’s wrong. Abruptly, the lights go down but he’s already veered onto a different lane where a fast-moving truck runs into him.

INT.PALLETI’S HOME-LAWN-DAY

8:00 am: Detective meets with Rachel on the lawn to talk about Tonia’s disappearance.

DETECTIVE
Mrs. Palleti how long have you and Carlos Bonito been friends?

RACHEL
I beg your pardon? Carlos was my husband’s personal assistant not a friend of mine.

DETECTIVE
He was? Why was? Isn’t he still your husband’s P.A or is he dead?

RACHEL
(rises)
Detective Gonzales, I’m sorry we have to adjourn this conversation to another time. I have an appointment with my doctor. You recall I wasn’t feeling well a few days ago.

(CONTINUED)
Of course, I do. May I know what caused it? Your not feeling well?

It’s private I’m sorry I can’t discuss such things with complete strangers.

Oh pardon me. I didn’t know it was such a private affair. Anyway, thanks for your time and patience. I hope to be back same time tomorrow-

What else do you want to know?

Interview your guards. Find out where you were on the night of the 15th etc. etc.

(says and walks away)
Ok. Same time tomorrow. I’d be waiting. Have a nice day.

A day later: An American(Suzie’s co-agent) has arrived (a man and two others posing as his bodyguards) and purchased the stones. Suzie stands interpreting his conversation with Palleti.

I’m most honoured to have found you. It’s hard to get the authentic nowadays.

That’s what I stand for, authenticity. For 10 years, Palleti Stones has been in existence because of this.

(says and rises)
That’s right. Anyway sir, I have to be leaving now. Thanks for the wonderful reception and service.

You’re welcome. Have a safe trip back home.
ROBINSON  
(says and exits)  
Gracias.

INT.BOSS’S OFFICE-CIC-DAY

Boss speaks with a gemologist about the diamonds purchased. They sit at his desk.

GEMOLOGIST  
(staring at diamonds in a cloth)  
They look genuine from sight but they could be otherwise as you claim.

BOSS  
How long would it take you to verify their authenticity?

GEMOLOGIST  
Give me a month.

BOSS  
A month?

GEMOLOGIST  
Various tests come into play. A month would allow for that. It could be less.

BOSS  
(hands him an envelope)  
Alright. You’d get the rest after job is done.

GEMOLOGIST  
(rises)  
Thank you. I’d leave you now.

BOSS  
Of course, bye.

Gemologist exits room.

INT.SUZIE’S PARENT’S HOUSE-BATH-DAY

3 days later, Saturday: Laura stands behind the bathroom door speaking to her mother. She’s dressed in a sports jersey, a short and a blouse and in her hand is a bag containing a tennis bat and some balls. Shower runs.

LAURA  
Mum, I’m leaving now.
Martha doesn’t respond as she doesn’t hear her. She repeats.

MARTHA
(turns off shower)
Alright, nice day.

LAURA
(says and begins walking away)
Thanks!

MARTHA
When would you be back?

LAURA
(says and hurries out of room)
Later!

EXT. CANER’S HOUSE—FRONT DOOR—DAY

Laura and Clara stand behind the door waiting after ringing the bell. Both are dressed in a jeans trouser and blouse. After 5 minutes no one shows up.

CLARA
You should have informed him of your arrival instead of surprising him. May be he’s out.

LAURA
He’s home ok.

Clara rings the bell again. 5 minutes later, Caner appears before them opening the door. His dark hair is dump and his shirt has barely been buttoned.

CANER
Hi! Sorry I was in the bath.

LAURA
It’s ok we see that.

CANER
Come in.

They enter.

INT. LIVING ROOM—CONTINUES

Girls sit in sofa while Caner sits before them. They sip some drinks while chatting with him.
CLARA
So did you formerly have a girlfriend?

Laura pinches her arm.

CLARA
Ouch!

CANER
(startled)
What’s wrong?

LAURA
Nothing. Ah, you said you’d play-

CANER
(says and rises)
Yeah, yes the piano. Come with me, it’s in my room.

CLARA
Your bedroom?

CANER
(walks away)
Yes, that’s where it’s been since I bought it. Come.

Laura hurries to join him while Clara walks behind them.

INT.BEDROOM-CONTINUES

Caner plays the piano and ends 5 minutes later. Girls applaud afterwards.

LAURA
Beautiful.

CLARA
Stunningly awesome.

CANER
Thanks. Would you like something to eat? There’s a restaurant close by.

LAURA
Thanks but I’m ok-

CLARA
Pizza, hot pizza would be fine.

Momentarily the bell at the front door rings.

(CONTINUED)
LAURA
You’re expecting someone?

CANER
(exits room)
No. Let me see.

Girls exit room also.

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY

Caner looks through small hole on door and sees a face that surprises him. He opens door and a white male Turk dressed in a pull-over and blue jeans trouser with black hair and moustache smiles at him and greets in Turkish.

BASSIT
Good morning brother.

CANER
(in turkish)
Morning Bassit.

BASSIT
May I come in?

CANER
Yes, sure.

Bassit enters room.

CANER
(to Bassit)
Meet my friends Laura and Clara.

Bassit smiles at them. They smile back at him.

LAURA
(to Caner)
Caner, Clara needs to leave now.

CANER
Ok, see you later.

CLARA
Bye.

Girls exit room. A minute later, Bassit speaks.

BASSIT
Are you expecting anyone again?

CANER
No.
INT. KITCHEN—CONTINUES

10 minutes later: They sit at the dinning table eating some noodles while chatting.

    CANER
       (softly)
        How is Zara?

    BASSIT
       (softly in composed tone)
        She’s fine. Happy and living with husband.

    CANER
       (says and rises)
        I’m glad she’s ok. Do you want some juice?

    BASSIT
       (hands plate to Caner)
        No thanks. Please take my plate, I’m done.

Caner walks to the sink with them and fills it with water then begins to wash them. Meanwhile, Bassit quietly pulls a gun (silencer) out of his trouser pocket.

    BASSIT
        So tell me, which of the two girls is your girlfriend?

    CANER
       (chuckles)
        Laura. She’s really nice and interesting.

    BASSIT
        You love her?

    CANER
        Yes, a lot.

    BASSIT
       (stands pointing gun at him)
        I see.

Just then Laura arrives at the door and cries Caner’s name.

    LAURA
        Caner?

Caner turns and receives a bullet to his chest. He falls and Bassit turns and fires but Laura’s already left. He runs after her shooting sporadically.
INT. LIVING ROOM—CONTINUES

Bassit arrives at room firing. He opens front door and peeps outside then locks it and pulls out key. He reckons she couldn’t have escaped since her friend Caner is hurt. He exits the room and stops firing.

INT. CANER’S BEDROOM—DAY

Laura hides under Caner’s bed speaking to an agent on 911.

POLICE
(female voice)
Ok, got it. Keep door locked and stay calm, we’d be right there.

LAURA
(says and ends call)
Ok. Please come quickly.

Suddenly, she hears footsteps behind door and moves a bit further away. Abruptly, there’s some noise like someone breaking down the door. Door falls down and Bassit enters the room firing. A minute later, he stops and walks slowly towards the bed smiling softly. He attempts bending when Caner abruptly stabs him in both arms. He screams and drops his gun. Laura picks it up from beneath the bed and comes out and shoots him on the leg. Meanwhile, Caner collapses beside him. His chest bandaged with a cloth. Moments later, the police arrive, barging into the room.

INT. HOSPITAL—CANER’S ROOM—DAY

Caner lies asleep in bed. Laura sits beside him on the bed and stares at him. Suddenly the door opens and a nurse enters along with Martha and Ron. Laura walks to them.

NURSE
Please be quiet.

MARTHA
OF COURSE. THANK YOU.

Nurse nods head with a smile and exits room.

MARTHA
(hugs Laura)
Are you ok honey? What happened?

LAURA
I’m fine. That’s Caner my friend. He was attacked at home and I brought him here.
CONTINUED:

RON
Were you with him?

LAURA
(slowly nods head)
Yes.

RON
(unhappy tone)
I see.

MARTHA
(hugs her again)
Thank God, you are ok. Thank God.

INT. PALLETI’S NEW HOME-DINNING ROOM
Suzie and Palleti have dinner alone.

PALLETI
Can I propose something to you?

SUZIE
Yes, I’m listening.

PALLETI
Would you like to be my personal assistant?

SUZIE
Well yes, I’d be honoured to. May I ask you something?

PALLETI
Feel free.

SUZIE
Are you divorced or separated because-

PALLETI
We just don’t share a roof. Now let’s talk about you. Are you married by any chance?

SUZIE
(smiles and says softly)
No.

EXT. SUZIE’S HOTEL-NIGHT
A car stops before the building and Suzie descends and walks into it.
INT. RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

Female receptionist hands SUZIE her room key.

    RECEPTIONIST
    Here you go.

    SUZIE
    (says and walks away)
    Thanks.

INT. SUZIE’S SUITE - BATH - CONTINUES

She enters room and turns on the shower.

EXT. ROOM DOOR - NIGHT

A young man about 27 years old, dressed in a room service uniform stands behind the door staring at the room number. Suddenly a guest from a near by room exits his room and the supposed service man slowly pushes his trolley away.

INT. PALLETI’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Rachel enters room along with her attendant who carries lots of shopping bags, 5 in each hand. Rachel sits on the bed and hurriedly takes off her high-heeled shoes. She looks disturbed.

    ATTENDANT
    Where should I place the bags madam?

    RACHEL
    You can throw them away. Prepare the bath for me, I need to cool down.

    ATTENDANT
    Yes please.

Attendant places bags on bed and exits room. A minute later, Rachel dials a number on her phone. It goes through to one of her henchmen.

    RACHEL
    Have you found her?

    HENCHMAN (O.S)
    Yes please.

    RACHEL
    (says and ends call)
    Good. I’d send you further instructions later.
INT. PALLETI’S OFFICE—DAY

Suzie speaks with Palleti as his P.A.

SUZIE
You have 2 meetings for the week, one with the staff and the other with a client, one Mr. Cristi.

PALLETI
Alright. That means I have the rest of the week to myself.

SUZIE
Yes unless there’s a private meeting you haven’t mentioned.

Palleti stares at her and smiles. She smiles also.

EXT. BEACH—DAY

Palleti and Suzie sit at a table sipping some drink and chatting.

SUZIE
So tell me, are you a good employer? Do you sometimes throw parties for your staff?

PALLETI
(chuckles)
Parties? No. I pay them well. I think that’s better.

SUZIE
That’s right. Does Alexandro Pato still work here? I found his name in the employees list.

PALLETI
(softly)
He’s dead. He died a year ago after suffering a heart attack at an end-of-year party. The first ever and unfortunately his last.

SUZIE
Oh I’m sorry to hear that. Did you organize that party?

PALLETI
Of course not. They organized it themselves. The workers. He was one of my best employees, like my own son.

(CONTINUED)
Suzie speaks to her boss on Alex’s death.

SUZIE
I doubt he did it. I read his look, his tone and it wasn’t an act. It was real. Therefore, I conclude that it’s either Alex died naturally or someone else is to blame for his death.

BOSS
Alright. What did you find on his wife?

SUZIE
Nothing yet. But it seems they had some kind of disagreement because they live separately.

BOSS
Good. Try to find out what happened. It may be the key to solving this mystery.

SUZIE
I’d see what I can do.

BOSS
Take care.

SUZIE
Bye.

She enters room and wears her shower cap before a mirror then she pulls aside the white curtain before the bath and enters it. 10 minutes later, she is out.

Suzie closes the room door when suddenly a gloved hand covers her mouth with a handkie. Immediately, she faints in pretence and the man, the fake room service person carries her back into the bath. He places her in the bath and bends over her to disrobe her but she abruptly butts his head with hers. The man backs away in pain and she leaves the bath. As she makes for the door he pulls a silencer at her making her stop.

(CONTINUED)
HENCHMAN  
Don’t let me use this.

SUZIE  
You won’t because whoever sent you wants a clean job not blood-stained walls or bath. Else you wouldn’t have thought of drowning me.

HENCHMAN  
You’re clever. But I was also told that in case of any inconvenience I could use this.

Suzie stares at him and abruptly knocks the gun out of his hand with her foot. It goes off in the air and falls into the bath. She immediately kicks his private part and stomach sending him to the floor in pain. Then she dips her hand into his pocket and finds the chloroformed handkerchief which she places over his mouth until he faints. She finds a syringe in his other pocket which she takes and quickly exits the room.

INT. NEW HOTEL-BEDROOM—DAY  
A female hotel staff shows Suzie her room.

STAFF  
I hope you enjoy your stay.

SUZIE  
Sure, I will. Thanks.

STAFF  
(smiles)  
You’re welcome, please excuse me.

INT. POLICE STATION—DETECTIVE’S OFFICE—DAY  
Suzie informs the detective on her attack and hands him the syringe.

DETECTIVE  
(staring at syringe)  
We’d run a test to see which chemical it is. It’s good you got this. It can lead us somewhere.

SUZIE  
What about the man?

DETECTIVE  
We need details on his psychical appearance to produce an

(MORE)  

(CONTINUED)
DETECTIVE (cont’d)
identikit of him. We’d then paste
it everywhere and wait till we
get a lead. Meanwhile, I’d ask
the hotel about him. It could be
that he’s an infiltrate but he
may have been there long before
you came.

SUZIE
Ok. When do I give the details?
Can it be done today?

DETECTIVE
That’d be most ideal.

INT.PALLETI’S OFFICE-DAY
Palletti receives a message from Suzie on his answer
machine.

SUZIE
I was attacked yester night at
the hotel. Now at the police
station. Thus, I won’t be in
early today. See you later.

Subsequently, Palletti dials her number to speak to her on
phone but it doesn’t go through. Consequently, he calls
his driver.

PALLETI
(says and hangs up)
Get the car ready in 5 minutes.

INT.PALLETI’S HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-DAY
Rachel meets him at the hall while he enters with 2
bodyguards.

RACHEL
I reckoned you wanted to talk to
me.

PALLETI
In private.

RACHEL
Of course. Let your men leave and
it would be private enough. Mine
would however have to stay for
security sake.
PALLETI
(says and walks quickly out)
Well, let me spilt it then. You failed this time. She’s alive and would be until God himself takes her away because henceforth I’d protect her. I warn you to back off for your own safety...

Rachel stares at him as he leaves, visibly affected by the words. A minute afterwards, she receives a phone call.

RACHEL
Have you done it?

HENCHMAN 2
Of course, he’s gone for good.

RACHEL
(says with a smile)
Thank you.

INT. POLICE STATION—DETECTIVE’S OFFICE—DAY

7 days later: Palleti and Suzie sit before the detective’s desk discussing the content of the syringe.

DETECTIVE
It’s some kind of chemical. Not easily identifiable but after administering it to a test rat, it became immediately paralyzed and death occurred in a day’s time.

PALLETI
What about the man? Have you had any lead on him?

DETECTIVE
Unfortunately no. I’m afraid he’s disappeared. The hotel surprisingly knows nothing about him. But we’re still on the look out. Miss Suize I’d recommend you get some protection-

PALLETI
I already took care of that. I have my men following her.

SUZIE
(stares surprised at him)
Your men? I thought they were the police because that’s what they told me.

(CONTINUED)
PALLETI
(stares at her and says)
You’d be safe, nothing would harm you anymore.

INT. NEW HOTEL-DINNING ROOM-DAY

A week later: Suzie sits at a table at lunch time. A minute later, a waitress comes to her smiling.

WAITRESS
Good afternoon, please take a look at the latest recipe on the menu and see if you like it.

SUZIE
(stares at the menu)
Well yes, it sounds interesting. I’d love to try it.

WAITRESS
(smiling at her)
Right, would be right back. Please excuse me.

Suzie smiles at her and she leaves. Subsequently, she writes a message on her phone and sends it to the detective.

Message: I’m at the dinning room of my hotel. Have just encountered a suspicious waitress. We’ll keep in touch.

5 minutes later, waitress arrives with a cocktail drink and a plate of food. She places them on Suzie’s table. Suzie immediately picks drink and sips then abruptly, starts coughing and rises and holds waitress’s hand. Waitress is stunned. The guests rise to see what’s wrong. People approach them but Suzie keeps coughing. Abruptly, she hugs the waitress calling her for help. Suzie quickly feels waitress’s skirt and finds a bulging section. She locates a pocket and dips her hand into it and picks a small phone. She places it into her pocket and immediately leaves the woman. Shortly afterwards, the hotel director (a male) approaches the scene and speaks to Suzie.

SUZIE
(to waitress)
Help me...help me...please help me...

DIRECTOR
Madam, are you alright?

SUZIE
(breathing heavily)
No...no...I think...I had an allergy attack.

(CONTINUED)
DIRECTOR
Sorry, I’m deeply sorry about this. Please come with me you need to see a doctor.

SUZIE
Ok. Let me take my bag.

Suzie picks empty hand bag on table and walks away with the man.

INT.POLICE STATION-_DETECTIVE’S OFFICE-DAY

An hour later: Detective comments on a number on the waitress’s phone. With him are Palleti and Suzie.

DETECTIVE
(softly)
We traced the owner of the number. I’m afraid it’s someone you know.

Suzie glances at Palleti, uncertain about the detective’s words.

PALLETI
(shocked)
Rachel? My ex-wife?

Detective nods head in affirmation. Suzie stares at Palleti.

INT.PALLETI’S HOUSE-BEDROOM-DAY

Rachel sits in bed reading a book. Suddenly, the door opens and the detective, Suzie, Palleti and 5 armed police men enter the room. After them runs in her attendant.

ATTENDANT
(panting)
Madam I tried to stop them...they wouldn’t stop...

RACHEL
(to attendant)
Get out!

Attendant immediately leaves. Rachel descends from bed and walks to them.

RACHEL
(to Palleti)
I’m sorry you had to endure all that pain because of me. Alexandro was in deed like your very own son...

(CONTINUED)
PALLETI
(shocked/angry slaps her)
You bitch!

DETECTIVE
(to guards)
Take her away.

INT. PALLETI’S OFFICE—DAY

A week later: 2 men from CIC, Suzie’s boss and the diamond buyer meet with Palleti on the findings of the gemologist. Suzie interprets.

BOSS
You have an option: to quit operations or face the full force of the law.

PALLETI
(staring at men)
Fine. You know what I want. I quit.

BOSS
Good. You may do it formally in a press conference today.

PALLETI
(nods head)
Right.

INT. HERNANDEZ’S HOUSE—LIVING ROOM—DAY

3 MONTHS LATER: Suzie enters room with suitcase accompanied by a man, Hernandez, and his wife (Valentina) plus 2 kids. The kids rush into the room. Wife speaks English to Suzie. Husband speaks Spanish.

VALENTINA
So here we are— finally home!

SUZIE
(glances about)
Beautiful place.

HERNANDEZ
(to Valentina)
Dear please show her her room. I need to check on...

VALENTINA
(interrupting)
Sure! Please follow me to see your room.

(CONTINUED)
Right.

They exit room.

INT. SUZIE’S ROOM—CONTINUES

Valentina, Suzie and the kids enter room. Kids rush into room and jump onto Suzie’s bed. Valentina scolds them in English.

VALENTINA
(to kids)
Hey! Carmen! Luisa! Stop that!
Come off the bed!

Suzie chuckles. Kids obey.

VALENTINA
(to Suzie)
Sorry about that.

SUZIE
No, that’s ok. I like them. They seem like great kids.

VALENTINA
They are. Luisa is 6 and Carmen is 8.

SUZIE
(stares at them)
I see. May be I should introduce myself properly.

VALENTINA
As you wish.

Suzie walks to them.

SUZIE
(to Carmen)
Carmen, I’m Suzie, how are you?

CARMEN
(cheerfully)
I know. You told us at the airport.

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Yes but I thought you had forgotten. How are you Luisa? How old are you?
LUISA
I’m ok. Just a bit hungry.

VALENTINA
Oh yes! Please excuse us, I forgot about their meal.

SUZIE
Of course.

Kids exit with woman. Suzie locks door immediately afterwards and picks her phone from her hand bag and dials a number.

SUZIE
(to boss)
Hi, I’m there now. Arrived about 5 minutes ago. Great family nothing suspicious yet.

BOSS
Good. You know what to do next-keep the coast clear for the others.

SUZIE
Of course I do remember. I’d inform them on an appropriate time.

BOSS
Good. Good luck.

SUZIE
Thanks, bye.

INT.KITCHEN-NIGHT

Suzie, Valentina and Hernandez take supper while discussing her work at the place.

VALENTINA
(says and chuckles)
You don’t need to pick the bus in the mornings because my husband would send you. That’s his job.

HERNANDEZ
(to Suzie)
She used to pick them up in the afternoons. Thus, you’d be taking her place now. And please make sure you tie them to their seats because they can be really out-of-control sometimes.
SUZIE
(smiles)
Don’t worry sir, I’d handle them with care.

VALENTINA
So tell us, how is South Africa? And Pretoria where you come from.

SUZIE
Beautiful. Really multicultural society, South Africa. Many races but one vision to become a better country.

HERNANDEZ
Yeah. I’d really like the fact that apartheid is no more. The killings and everything else. May be we would see it some day what do you think dear?

VALENTINA
Of course, anytime!

EXT. KIDS’S SCHOOL-DAY
Suzie and kids descends from Hernandez’s car in front of the school. The car pulls away afterwards. Suzie walks into the compound with them.

INT. COMPOUND-SCHOOL-CONTINUES
Suzie walks along with kids, Carmen holding left hand while Luisa holds right hand.

SUZIE
So where is your class Carmen?

CARMEN
Inside the building.

SUZIE
(chuckles)
I know it’s within the building. But you have to show me there because I know nothing-

LUISA
(interrupting)
You don’t have to send us. We know the way.
CARMEN
Exactly. So go home we can go.

SUZIE
Oh, I see. Fine but I want to see it. So when school is over I can find you quickly.

CARMEN
Alright if you wish.

Suzie enters building with them.

INT. HERNANDEZ’S HOUSE—LIVING ROOM—DAY

Suzie arrives at home and hears Valentina speaking with someone on the phone in Spanish.

VALENTINA
Yes, he’s out. No, not the kids. We have a help now, an au pair actually from South Africa. She’s really nice. Fine, I’d keep in touch bye.

she turns and sees Suzie.

SUZIE
I just came in. The kids are at school now.

VALENTINA
Thanks. I’d be in my room. Don’t bother about lunch for me because I’d soon be out. For dinner, I’d be back to make it.

SUZIE
Alright. I’d do some cleaning now.

VALENTINA
(looks around)
Really? Where?

SUZIE
I think the furniture needs a bit of-

VALENTINA
Dusting? Really? I doubt so. Just go and have some rest or you could go into the neighbourhood and acquaint yourself with things.

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE
Alright. I think I’d rather stay in my room, sleep.

VALENTINA
Suit yourself. I’d be away in 10 minutes. Going to town to purchase some shirts for my husband.

SUZIE
Ok.

VALENTINA
(smiles and walks away)
Do excuse me.

INT.SUZIE’S ROOM-CONTINUES
Suzie enters room and locks door. She picks her phone from her pocket and makes a call to her boss.

SUZIE
Seems the time’s near. Coast would soon be clear. I’d inform the others when all is good.

BOSS
Great. Take care.

SUZIE
Bye.

A moment later, someone knocks on her door.

SUZIE
(in spanish)
Who is it please?

VALENTINA
It’s me, I’m going now so do lock the door.

SUZIE
(says and exits room)
Alright ma’am.I’d be right there.

INT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUES
Suzie ushers in Fareed and four other men with sacks behind their backs. She locks the door after them and talks with Fareed.
SUZIE
You should act really quickly because she can return any time though she said she’d be in by evening.

FAREED
Don’t worry, we are professionals. What about the main room?

SUZIE
Not had the chance yet. Would try this evening if I get the chance. May I show you the other rooms while they work on here?

FAREED
(turns round to men)
Guys, begin now. I’m checking the other rooms.

GUYS
Yeah.

INT.KITCHEN-DAY

Hours later: Suzie cooks supper. The men have already left. Suddenly, the front door’s bell rings. She exits the room.

INT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUES

Suzie opens door and sees Carmen and Luisa behind it, smiling at her.

CARMEN
Are you surprised?

SUZIE
I’m shocked. I didn’t know you could come home yourself. Come in.

Girls enter.

CARMEN
Where is mum?

SUZIE
She’s gone out to town. She asked me to take care of you until she comes. Go and put down your bags and come and eat some food.

(CONTINUED)
LUISA
(says and begins to walk away)
I’m not hungry. Just tired.

SUZIE walks to her and carries her.

SUZIE
Oh sorry...did Carmen make you walk?

CARMEN
No, we run. And I came first.

SUZIE
(looks at Carmen)
Oh dear...

INT.BATH-NIGHT
Valentina washes down under the shower.

EXT.COUple’S BEDROOM-NIGHT
Suzie pulls out the door key and inserts a similar-looking one and walks away.

EXT.KIDS’S SCHOOL-DAY
Suzie hands a small brown envelope to Fareed.

SUZIE
Do it quickly. I need it by tomorrow latest.

FAREED
Don’t worry, my man is a champ.

SUZIE
I’d see you later. Bye.

FAREED
Take care.

SUZIE
(turns round)
I will.
EXT. PARK—DAY

A week later: The family go out for a picnic. A handful of people are on park. Valentina lays a cloth on the grass while the kids play around. Suzie places down a basket on the cloth. Hernandez watch the girls.

   VALENTINA
   (seated sipping a drink)
   Such a wonderful time. We should come here more often. When was the last time we went out as a family honey?

   HERNANDEZ
   Can’t remember. We’ve both been busy that’s why.

   VALENTINA
   Linda, how often do you go out with your family?

   SUZIE
   Whenever I’m free.

Suddenly, valentina’s phone rings. She picks it from her hand bag and turns it off.

   HERNANDEZ
   Why didn’t you answer it?

   SUZIE
   Not necessary. It was my co-worker, Teresa.

   HERNANDEZ
   May be she needed some information. Didn’t you say the company worked on Saturdays too?

   SUZIE
   Well, yes but I need a break sometimes. Don’t I?

   HERNANDEZ
   (stares at her)
   Right.

INT. COUPLES’ BEDROOM—DAY

Hernandez and Valentina enter room. They appear as though they have had bath as they wipe their hair with towels. They speak spanish.

(CONTINUED)
VALENTINA
Ah! I feel so refreshed!

HERNANDEZ
(sits on bed)
Me too.

Valentina joins him and hugs him just kisses him softly on the lips. He returns the kiss and strokes her hair. Suddenly, after 5 minutes, a phone rings.

HERNANDEZ
Is that yours?

VALENTINA
Ah...may be. Let me check.

She rises and opens her closet and picks out her hand bag then the phone in it. Hernandez walks to her but she immediately turns it off before he gets closer.

VALENTINA
Sorry about that.

HERNANDEZ
Who was it?

VALENTINA
(walks away to the bed)
No one. Just a message.
Promotional message from the network.

Hernandez stares at her.

INT.LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

A week later: Hernandez sits in the living room sipping a bottle of alcoholic drink while watching TV. Suzie enters to inform him that dinner is ready.

SUZIE
Good evening sir.

HERNANDEZ
(drunken tone)
Hi! Where is Valentina? Is she back yet from work?

SUZIE
No sir. But dinner is ready.

HERNANDEZ
I’m not hungry. I just miss her...Valentina...

He rises after 3 minutes and staggers out of the room.
INT. SUZIE’S ROOM—DAY

Suzie speaks with Fareed over the phone.

Suzie
Hi, I’m ok. But something seems wrong here. Yes...I just left him drunk. She’s not at home. I think it’s something between them. Alright, thanks bye.

She places phone on the bed and sits before her laptop then stares at the video of the couple’s bedroom: Hernandez lies on his back on the bed. She looks at the kids’ room and find both girls asleep on a bed. At the living room, Valentina enters and takes off her high-heeled shoes then exits the room.

INT. HERNANDEZ’S HOUSE—KITCHEN—NIGHT

4 months later: 8:00: Suzie washes the dishes as an Au pair in the home of Victor Hernandez, a man acquitted of murder a decade ago. Suddenly, his wife Valentina enters the room returning from a friend’s place. She wears a stylish-knee-length dress and holds a purse in hand. She speaks in English with Suzie.

Valentina
Hello.

Suzie
Welcome back ma’am. The kids are in their room playing. They had dinner an hour ago.

Valentina
Thanks. Has my husband arrived yet?

Suzie
No, not yet. Would you like to be served some food?

Valentina
Thanks, but I’m alright. I’d go and see the kids.

Suzie
Ok.

Valentina exits the room.
INT. KIDS’ ROOM—CONTINUES

Valentina opens door and sees 6 and 8-year-old Luisa and Carmen playing, throwing pillows at each other. She smiles and closes door quietly and walks away.

INT. BATH—CONTINUES

Valentina washes down at the bath.

INT. KITCHEN—NIGHT

30 minutes later: Suzie sits at the dinning table eating when Victor immediately enters. He speaks spanish with Suzie.

HERNANDEZ
Hi, has my wife arrived?

SUZIE
Yes please.

HERNANDEZ
(says and exits room)
Thanks.

Moments later, Suzie exits room quickly.

INT. SUZIE’S ROOM—CONTINUES

She enters room quickly and locks door. Then turns on a laptop which reveals the couple’s room. She sits before the machine staring. Suddenly, Victor enters room and picks up Valentina’s dress which lies on the bed. He smells it for a moment and places it down on the bed then exits the room. Subsequently, he enters the kitchen, opens the fridge and picks up a bottle of canned drink and gulps it down sitting at the table. Meanwhile, Valentina arrives at the room dressed in a bathrobe. She sits before the mirror and combs her hair. 5 minutes later, Victor enters room and she turns to glance at him. He walks to her and starts kissing her. Soon, she rises and begins to disrobe. Suzie turns off the machine at that point and picks her phone from her bed. Suddenly the lights go off. She picks a touch light from the wardrobe using her phone’s light and exits the room.

INT. CORRIDOR—CONTINUES

She enters the place and hears a punching sound which she soon discovers comes from the couple’s room. Her touch light turned off now she moves quietly and quickly and enters the kids’ room, 2 doors away and locks the door.

(CONTINUED)
She immediately tries to awaken them, shaking them softly then vigorously when they don’t respond. Subsequently, she leaves them and rises to leave the room but hears footsteps approaching the door. She bends and listens. After a minute, the person walks away. Five minutes later, she quietly exits the room locking the door after her.

INT.COUPLE’S ROOM-CONTINUES

Suzie enters room and stares around with the touch light in hand but sees none in there. Suddenly, the room door is locked. She kicks the door in an attempt to open but it doesn’t open. She turns to the window but finds it barricaded with metal. She continues to kick but suddenly feels a breaking sound in her leg and screams in pain ceasing at once.

INT.KIDS’S ROOM-NIGHT

Valentina’s lifeless body as well as her kids’s lie on the floor beside a heavily leaking gas cylinder.

EXT.CORRIDOR-NIGHT

A faceless person places a leaking gas cylinder on the floor and quickly exits room locking the door. Subsequently, he places a lit and lantern behind the door.

INT.KITCHEN-CONTINUES

Same person turns on the stove so the gas leaks then exits the place quickly.

EXT.COMPOUND-CONTINUES

A car quickly pulls away from the compound. 15 minutes later, there’s a loud explosion from the house, fire guts it.

INT.COUPLES’S ROOM

Suzie rises from beneath a burning bed and finds a wooden door and picks it up. She shields herself with it as she hurries out through the fire, limping.
INT. BATH—CONTINUES

She arrives at bath near by and turns on the shower under her. She disconnects it so the water pours out freely without control. The bath window is bare and she climbs through it to the outside.

EXT. COMPOUND—CONTINUES

A crowd stands watching the burning house. People talk on their phones. No sign of fire fighters or police yet. Suzie exhausted and barely walking collapses onto the ground a few meters from the crowd. None sees her yet.

EXT. ROAD—NIGHT

A car travels at top speed. On the road are a handful of others.

INT. COTTAGE—BEDROOM—DAY

Hours later, Victor Hernandez lies in bed in a cottage on the mountains. Around him are a few houses. Suddenly, he hears some knocks on the front door but ignores it. 5 minutes later, they become louder, like one trying to break down the door. He rises immediately and picks a gun from his closet and exits the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM—CONTINUES

5 policemen, Fareed and an inspector stand pointing their guns at Victor who enters the room with his gun ready in hand.

INSPECTOR
(in spanish)
Drop your weapon Hernandez, you cannot run forever.

FAREED
(in spanish)
You’re under arrest for the murder of your wife and kids—

HERNANDEZ
(says angrily and puts gun to head)
I would rather die than go to jail because of that whore!

FAREED
No, no don’t do that. There’s a way out of this—
Gun immediately goes off.

INT.HOSPITAL-SUZIE’S ROOM-DAY

Suzie lies on bed bandaged on face and arms. Fareed sits beside her staring at her and gently stroking her hair. Suddenly, she opens her eyes and he smiles. She smiles back softly and touches his hand and speaks.

SUZIE
Did you get him?

FAREED
Yes. He killed himself.

SUZIE
(nods head gently)
Fair enough.

INT.SUZIE’S ROOM-NIGHT

A nurse visits Suzie in her room. They speak spanish.

NURSE
Hi, how’re you feeling today?

SUZIE
Strong, better than before. When do I get to leave here?

NURSE
when the doctor says so.

Nurse carries a tray from a table beside the bed.

NURSE
Do you need anything else?

SUZIE
No. Just freedom. Oh, could you please call me the doctor. I would like to speak to him.

NURSE
(exits room)
Alright. Do excuse me.

Moments after nurse has left, Suzie attempts to rise from the bed. She puts down her left leg but she is unable to walk on it and falls to the floor. She tries to rise up but is unable to stand on her feet for long. She falls to the floor again and screams.

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE
Help! Doctor! Help!

Suddenly, a male doctor rushes into the room.

DOCTOR
(helping her rise)
What’s wrong? What happened?

SUZIE
I can’t walk...I can’t walk
doctor, I can’t!

DOCTOR
Calm down-

SUZIE
I can’t! I just fell when I tried
to move my left leg, it felt so
heavy like it had a plane on
it...

DOCTOR
Calm down please. Lie down and
try again later. It may be due to
numbness.

SUZIE
(softly)
I hope so.

INT.SUZIE’S HOME-BEDROOM-DAY
A month later in USA: Suzie sits in a wheel chair speaking
with Fareed.

FAREED
I’m sorry. I know it means
nothing-

SUZIE
Thank you. At least you
understand—what it means to be
this way. You are not as
hypocritical as the others.

FAREED
Suzie, everyone cares about you.
They meant what they said. The
flowers, the cakes-

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Exactly! Why send me cakes when I
need to walk? It’s not as though
those sweets could help me-

(CONTINUED)
FAREED
Suzie! Stop it! Stop irritating yourself! You know you are a strong woman...you survived the fire and you would survive this. It would happen soon, I believe and so should you.

SUZIE
(softly)
How would I explain it to my family? Tell me because I haven’t been able to think of any suitable lie.

FAREED
Tell them the truth. No need to lie.

SUZIE
What truth? That I returned home from school one day and I sat down in bed and realised after some hours that I couldn’t walk?

FAREED
May be.

INT. SUZIE’S PARENTS’ HOUSE—LIVING ROOM—DAY

Martha dials Suzie’s number sitting in the sofa with Ron. Ron watches the TV.

MARTHA
Again. No answer.

RON
Perhaps, she’s sleeping.

MARTHA
For how long? Two days?

RON
Why don’t we pay her a visit then?

MARTHA
I thought of that but—unfortunately only I can go since you have work to do tomorrow.

RON
Oh. Should it be tomorrow? Wait until Saturday so we all go including the kids.

(CONTINUED)
MARTHA
Alright. I hear. But I miss her so much...

RON
Me too. That’s why I want to be there. Saturday is but 3 days away.

MARTHA
(smiles)
You’re right.

INT.SUZIE’S HOME-KITCHEN-NIGHT
Suzie sits in a chair at the dinning table while Fareed stands before the stove dishing some food into a plate for her.

SUZIE
When are you leaving for home?

FAREED
Not until you get a help.

SUZIE
You shouldn’t be here. We’re not a couple yet.

FAREED
(chuckles)
Well, if it bothers you that much, we could be- right now. I know a pastor near by-

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Stop it...I don’t want to laugh.

FAREED
I’m glad you did. But I’m serious. Until you get a help I’m not leaving.

Suzie stares at him.

EXT.FLAT-TOWN-DAY
3 days later: Martha, and Ron speak to a man(the landlord) before a flat where Suzie used to stay. With them are Laura and Sam.

MARTHA
You mean you’ve never heard of Suzie Blunt?
LANDLORD
Exactly. Perhaps, she came here with a different name.

RON
Why would she use a different name? It doesn’t make sense.

MARTHA
Yes it doesn’t...sir...

RON
Is there no way, we can find her? Trace her? I mean don’t you have her phone number because we tried reaching her but there’s been no response so far.

LANDLORD
I’m sorry but I don’t keep such records.

RON
Ok, thank you. Honey let’s go. We’d search elsewhere.

They walk back to their car.

INT.SUZIE’S PARENTS’ HOUSE-COUPLE’S BEDROOM-NIGHT
Ron lies in bed with Martha as they talk about Suzie.

MARTHA
Don’t you find it weird? I think we should inform the police about it.

RON
Isn’t it too early for that? We only lost her contact doesn’t mean she’s missing.

MARTHA
Ron, what’re you talking about? It’s been 48 hours since I dialled her number and received no reply-

RON
Did it say, wrong number or number does not exit?

MARTHA
No.
RON
Then relax and think positively. Tomorrow I’d contact some friend of mine and see what comes afterwards.

MARTHA
(staring at him)
You should have said so.

INT. SUZIE’S HOUSE—LIVING ROOM—DAY

2 days later: Suzie sits in the sofa watching a movie when the door bell rings. She shouts a name to check the door.

SUZIE
Monice! See who’s at the door please.

Moments later, a young, black woman hurries into the room and walks to the door. She peeps through the window and sees a man, Ron and a woman behind him and reports to Suzie.

MONICE
(softly)
Miss, there’s a man and woman outside. Should I let them in?

SUZIE
Yes...of course so they kill me if they are thieves. Go ask them who they are and what they want.

MONICE
(says and goes)
Sorry.

EXT. LIVING ROOM—CONTINUES

Monice speaks with Ron and Martha.

MONICE
Good evening sir, madam—

RON
We would like to see our daughter, Suzie.

MONICE
Suzie? I—

MARTHA
Tell her her parents want to see her.

(CONTINUED)
MONICE
  (nods head)
  Alright, please wait here.

She walks away.

INT.LIVING ROOM—CONTINUES

Monice speaks to Suzie about the visitors’s request.

MONICE
  Miss, they said they’re your parents–

SUZIE
  What? Monice, tell them I’m not in. Come help me into the chair–

Abruptly, the door opens and Martha and Ron walk in.

MARTHA
  Suzie?

RON
  Dear what happened to you? What is the chair for?

SUZIE
  (fakes cheerfulness)
  Mum, dad, welcome. Please make yourselves comfortable. Monice please serve them–

MARTHA
  (sits in sofa)
  No, we are fine. We came to see you. Suzie tell us what happened?

SUZIE
  Monice could you please leave us alone?

MONICE
  (walks away)
  Of course miss, do excuse me.

SUZIE
  I suffered a little accident while on a trip outside.

RON
  Why didn’t you inform us dear? You know how worried we’ve been trying–

(CONTINUED)
MARTHA
We’re glad we found you.

SUZIE
Sorry I wasn’t available to pick your calls.

MARTHA
Don’t bother. We understand.

INT.SUZIE’S PARENTS’ HOUSE-LAWN-DAY

3 days later: Suzie sits in her wheel chair throwing balls with Laura.

SUZIE
(throws last ball)
Ok I’m tired! Let’s go have some ice cream shall we?

LAURA
Good. But we have to buy some. There’s none in the fridge at the moment.

SUZIE
Yeah, I know. Let’s go out and get some. I can pull myself. Go into my room and take some money from my bag-

LAURA
Don’t worry, I have some money.

SUZIE
Fine. Let’s leave then.

LAURA
Ok.

They exit the compound.

EXT.STREET-CONTINUES

Suzie chats with Laura.

SUZIE
So how’s school?

LAURA
Fine. Great. My grades are high are always and I was recently made the captain of my volley ball team.

(CONTINUED)
SUZIE
Wow, that’s some achievement. Keep it up!

LAURA
Thanks.

SUZIE
And about him? Caner? Mum told me about the incident. I’m sorry-

LAURA
Oh mother! She didn’t have to.

SUZIE
May I see him one of these days?

LAURA
Of course, I can take you there.

SUZIE
Ha, ha, ha, I’m kidding. I don’t want to roam the town in my condition because everyone sees you and feels sorry.

LAURA
I don’t feel sorry. Not a bit.

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Thanks!

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP—CONTINUES

They arrive at shop where a handful of customers wait in a queue. Suzie waits aside while Laura joins the queue of 6 persons. Five minutes later, a black sports car runs towards the pavement where Suzie sits stopping just inches by her. She screams drawing the attention of the customers and people around. Laura runs to her. The occupant of the car steps down, a young, black boy about 27 years of age, dressed in baggy jeans pants, a cap and an oversize shirt. His name Julius.

JULIUS
(to Suzie)
Oh I’m so sorry! Are you alright miss?

LAURA
Don’t touch her!

JULIUS
(to Suzie)
Hey, I’m so sorry miss…I lost

(MORE)
JULIUS (cont’d)
control of the stirring some how...

SUZIE
(softly)
Keep it to yourself please. I don’t want to hear it.

LAURA
(to Suzie)
Let’s go somewhere else.

She pulls Suzie away. Julius stands looking at them, wanting to follow them. The customers stare at him, whispering and he apologizes to them and returns to his car and pulls away.

JULIUS
I’m sorry ok, I am not drunk, I just lost control of the stirring...

INT.SUZIE’S HOUSE—HER BEDROOM—DAY

Suzie sits on the bed reading a book. Suddenly, someone knocks on the door and she asks the one in. Martha enters holding a tray containing two glasses and a bottle of wine.

SUZIE
Enter.

MARTHA
Honey darling, I brought you something special...

SUZIE
(smiles)
Two glasses and a drink? What’s the occasion if I may ask?

MARTHA
(places tray on the lamp table)
We’re drinking to your coming home. We miss you so much dear...

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Ah...you don’t have to lie to me mum. I know you’re trying to cheer me up but I’m fine. I went out for ice cream with Laura today...

(CONTINUED)
MARTHA
Yeah, she told me what happened-

SUZIE
Oh... it wasn’t anything I haven’t witnessed before.

MARTHA
Honey, alright. I came to tell you something. A decision your dad and I thought about. Let’s see a specialist tomorrow-

SUZIE
Great! I’m in. I mean I’d love to see one. You didn’t need to sound so serious.

MARTHA
Oh, I’m glad you agreed. However, you would have to remain there until you recover.

Suzie stares at her.

EXT. SUZIE’S HOUSE-COMPOUND-DAY

Next day: Suzie is set to leave for the specialist’s. She bids good bye to Laura and Sam hugging them one after the other.

LAURA
(hugging Suzie)
I’d visit you often. I promise.

SUZIE
Thanks but mind you I’m not sick. Just going for check-up.

LAURA
(smiles)
Of course, I don’t feel a bit sorry for you.

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Thanks dear! You understand me really well.

SAM
(hugs her)
Safe trip. I’d pray for you.

SUZIE
Thanks.

Momentarily, Ron steps in.
RON
Ok, ready to go? Where is your mum?

MARTHA
(rushing to car)
I’m here! Ready to go!

Moments later, they pull away.

INT.PHYSIOThERAPIST’S-OFFICE-DAY

Suzie speaks to the physiotherapist, Dr.Lang on her condition after her parents have left the place.

SUZIE
I have something to confess but you shouldn’t tell anyone.

LANG
Of course. Professionals don’t do that.

SUZIE
I...did not just wake up with this. I had an accident-

LANG
Yeah, I know. Your-

SUZIE
It’s not what they told you. I got into a fire and suffered some burns...when I awoke hours later in the hospital I couldn’t walk on my left leg. It felt so heavy as though it carried a plane.

LANG
(nods head)
It’s a rare kind of condition but it would soon pass away. The muscles in your leg need to be strengthened- by exercises and certain essential vitamins. That means you have to change your diet and try to do some more exercises.

SUZIE
What kind of exercises? Running, jumping?

LANG
It’s obvious you can’t do those but walking- you can try it. My (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
LANG (cont’d)
assistant would instruct you on what to do. In the meantime, I’d inform the dietrician to make you something nutritious—

SUZIE
Thanks! So that means I won’t stay here for long right?

LANG
(smiles)
May be.

INT.SUZIE’S WARD—NIGHT
Suzie blurts the news to her family.

SUZIE
(excited)
Mum! I’m coming home soon! The doctor said it was nothing serious—

MARTHA (O.S)
Suzie? You sound so excited. What is it?

SUZIE
I just told you! The doctor, Lang, said my condition is rare but would soon pass away. He gave me some vitamins in addition to a special diet soon after you left. Tomorrow I’d be training my leg to normalcy.

MARTHA
Oh thank God! I’m so happy for you.

SUZIE
Where is dad? Laura, Sam?

MARTHA
Well, Laura’s out with Sam. Going for a party at a friend’s house while your father is under the shower. I’d inform him of the news.

SUZIE
Oh...ok. I wish I could tell him directly. I’m so happy mum...so happy...
MARTHA
Me also.

INT.EXERCISE ROOM-PHYSIOTHERAPIST’S DAY

Suzie pulls herself to the room, a large hall where other patients are being assisted to exercise. She looks around and smiles. Suddenly, someone taps her shoulder and she turns.

JULIUS
Hi, I’m-

SUZIE
You’re the guy who nearly run me over last time, aren’t you?

JULIUS
Ah... oh... sorry but yes. I’m the one. I’m sorry.

SUZIE
You said that already. What are you doing here and why did you tap me?

JULIUS
I’m Doctor Lang’s assistant-

SUZIE
Oh, my instructor... I see. Hmm, interesting. Shall we begin?

JULIUS
Sure. Follow me.

SUZIE
You wouldn’t push me?

JULIUS
You want me to?

SUZIE
No.

They arrive at an empty space and Julius helps her out of the wheel chair. She stands onto a platform with two polls on each side which she holds with both hands and attempts walking. Julius stands beside her monitoring her.

SUZIE
I can’t... I can’t stand on it... it’s too painful.
JULIUS
Try...just a bit more. You need to walk so make it happen.

SUZIE
I know but I can’t...may be later.

JULIUS
Right, we’d be back at night before or after supper your choice.

SUZIE
Before.

INT.EXERCISE ROOM-NIGHT
A day later: Suzie chats with Julius before her exercise.

SUZIE
So you are a rap artist?

JULIUS
Yeah but I only compose for the big boys.

SUZIE
I see. That’s impressive.

JULIUS
What about you? I know nothing about you except that I...almost run you over. Sorry.

SUZIE
(chuckles)
Well, I’m a school teacher. Lives with my family, single and brave.

JULIUS
Interesting. Alright, time for our walk. But I’d make it more exciting today. I brought some music.

SUZIE
Rap?

JULIUS
Yeah but my own composition.

SUZIE
Great.
He inserts a cassette into a small radio and it plays. Suzie stands onto the platform and tries to walk supported by the parallel poles. She lowers herself on the platform after 5 minutes of walking. Julius helps her back on her feet and she tries again, continuing the walk but she does not reach the end of the platform when she pauses and lowers herself again.

INT. SUZIE’S WARD–PHYSIOTHERAPIST’S–DAY

3 months later: Suzie celebrates her birthday with her family. Among the guests are Julius, Dr. Lang and Caner. Suzie sits in wheel chair but can walk, something no one knows but her, her doctor and Julius.

SUZIE
(holding glass)
I’d like to thank everyone especially my dear, wonderful family for supporting me during hard times. Cheers.

GUESTS
Cheers.

JULIUS
Attention everyone...I’d like to take this opportunity to liven up the atmosphere...just a little bit...DJ, do your job.

Suddenly, some melodious rap music begins to play. Guests start dancing to it. Laura walks to Suzie with Caner to introduce him.

LAURA
Sis, this is Caner, my friend.

CANER
(shakes her hand)
A pleasure to see you.

SUZIE
Yeah me too. You seem a nice guy.

CANER
(chuckles)
Thanks.

SUZIE
Alright, are you guys going to dance together or can I join you?

LAURA
Suzie? What’s going on? Can you–
Suzie rises and pushes away her wheel chair. She holds her sister’s hands and walks into the middle of the room and starts dancing. Guests look at her shocked and clapping. Martha runs to her and talks. Ron follows up and hugs Suzie.

THE END