

INCOGNITO AU PAIR Screenplay

By

Grace Aggrey-Fynn

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

(still 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
(hands 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

Palletti Stones, headed by Andre
Palletti 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)

(CONTINUED)

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

ASSISTANT
A big company like Palletti 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 Palletti 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 Palletti 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 home work 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.

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.

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?

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 Palletti, 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 Palletti doesn't hire me as you want?

BOSS

A man like Palletti wouldn't let you walk away without a job, believe me.

INT. PALLETI'S OFFICE-DAY

A day later: Palletti meets with a client. Palletti's P.A and the man's double body guards stand in the room. Palletti 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. Palletti?

PALLETI

My diamonds are authentic sir, acquired from earth it self.

(CONTINUED)

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. Good
bye.

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.

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 dinning 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.COUPLE'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.

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 nowhere 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 Palletti Stones. She worked for the boss Mr. Andre Palletti 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

Palletti 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-

DETECTIVE

Did you know she was getting married Mr. Palletti?

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. Palletti. However, may I ask this: would you do that for any of your other employees? Or is this a special case?

Palletti 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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

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 Palletti?

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. Palletti, 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 Palletti)
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.PALLETI'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.PALLETI'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.

PALLETI

Quite stunning- and serene. Just how I like it.

GUARD

May I walk you to your room sir?

PALLETI

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.PALLETI'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. Palletti 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. Palletti 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. Palletti.
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. PALLETI'S OFFICE-DAY

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

PALLETI
So how long have you worked as an interpreter?

SUZIE
For 5 years with a private telecommunications company, Buenatel.

PALLETI
Oh Buenatel- that's impressive.
Does Mr. Riding still work there?

SUZIE
Mr. Riding?

PALLETI
Don't you know him?

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

PALLETI
(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.

PALLETI
Yes.

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

PALLETI
(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, forgot
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.

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

None replies and the line suddenly runs dead.

EXT.PHONE 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

Palletti 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?

Palletti 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

(solemnly)

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. Palletti 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)

DETECTIVE

Of course, I do. May I know what caused it? You're not feeling well?

RACHEL

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

DETECTIVE

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-

RACHEL

What else do you want to know?

DETECTIVE

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

RACHEL

(says and walks away)

Ok. Same time tomorrow. I'd be waiting. Have a nice day.

INT. PALLETI'S OFFICE-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 Palletti.

ROBINSON

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

PALLETI

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

ROBINSON

(says and rises)

That's right. Anyway sir, I have to be leaving now. Thanks for the wonderful reception and service.

PALLETI

You're welcome. Have a safe trip back home.

(CONTINUED)

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.

(CONTINUED)

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 damp 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.

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 Palletti have dinner alone.

PALLETTI
Can I propose something to you?

SUZIE
Yes, I'm listening.

PALLETTI
Would you like to be my personal
assistant?

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

PALLETTI
Feel free.

SUZIE
Are you divorced or separated
because-

PALLETTI
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
(staring at him)
I'm sorry.

INT.SUZIE'S HOTEL-BEDROOM-NIGHT

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.

INT.BATH ROOM-CONTINUES

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.

EXT.BATH-CONTINUES

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 handkie 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.

(CONTINUED)

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: Palletti 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.PALLETTI'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 Palletti)

I'm sorry you had to endure all that pain because of me. Alejandro was in deed like your very own son...

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 Palletti 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.

SUZIE

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

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'S 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's 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'S 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?

(CONTINUED)

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 exist?

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-

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)

(CONTINUED)

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)

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...

(CONTINUED)

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