

THE RESTAURANT

by

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FADE IN:

INT. STUDY ROOM - DAY

LEO, 25 checks his mail box. He finds a message about a vacation at his Grandma's hometown. He watches a video link attached.

He reads the mail.

LEO

This must be from Grandma Nana.

He clicks on the link which directs him to a video. In the video, he watches a clip of the beautiful parts of the city and a voice telling the story of each of the beautiful resorts in the town.

V/O

Welcome to our wonder world. A town where beauty is redefined. From the Paradise park to the ever glowing Crest Valley where earth's wonder resides. Do you need a Friday to relax with friends and family, then you have the Beach at the north of town. We can't leave out the famous Sabella Resort and Lounge, a place dedicated to your Friday night party; you, your folks and your date. Without doubt a visit to the Baker's restaurant; where satisfaction is guaranteed is another magnificent treat for you to have a great vacation. What are you waiting for. Click on the visit button and you will get yourself 50% off all expenses

Leo replays the video clip; after which he hits the button.

LEO

Finally, Grandma Nana will have a guest.

INT. GRANDMA NANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Leo is bored with the activities of his new home; GRANDMA NANA, 65 tries to convince him about his stay.

LEO

This is the worst vacation I have ever had in my entire life.

GRANDMA NANA

This is not a vacation, boy. Your parents wanted you to return and now that they are no more, it's the best decision.

LEO

Grandma, what I saw in my mail was an invitation for a vacation, I never knew it was going to take a different approach.

GRANDMA NANA

Life takes different approach, son. This is one.

LEO

I will stay in this town for only two months, after that, I will leave. There is nothing good about this place. Each day one gets nothing but boredom.

GRANDMA NANA

I have told you where to find fun, son. The restaurant and your parents think you can get a good job there.

LEO

My parents never told me about that and I won't let you have a say about the way I live my life.

GRANDMA NANA

You are just like your father. He was hard headed.

LEO

Living in a place like this would definitely make one hard headed. This town sucks.

Leo stands up to ready to go to the inner room.

GRANDMA NANA

With time, you will find it hard to leave this place

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Leo, is seated in a restaurant; BELLA, 23 meets him and serves him. At a corner BENNY, 53 is having a cup of tea.

Bella serves Leo wearing a smile.

LEO

Hey, are you cool with this job?

BELLA

Yeah. I'm not complaining.

LEO

I was wondering why a beautiful lady would do this kind of job.

BELLA

Don't let the food get cold.

She is about to walk away.

LEO

Wait. Do people really come here to eat or have a drink?

BELLA

(smiling)

Why do you ask?

LEO

This is my third visit and each time, that man over there is always seated at that same spot and you are the only waitress in here. I also think I'm the only customer that patronizes this place.

BELLA

Maybe you should check around later in the evening, your orientation might change and the man over there; he is Benny. You will get to know him with time.

LEO

I will come, only if it's a date.

BELLA

What do you really want?

LEO

Well, I want to wrap my hands around your beautiful waist.

BELLA

If you make it by 8pm, you have a date but a minute after, it's over.

She walks over to Benny while Leo stares at her.

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Leo makes selection of the cloth to put on. Finally, he puts on a black t - shirt on a black jean trouser. He looks at the mirror and admires himself as he dresses his hair. He sits down and puts on his shoe.

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT (MARIE'S ROOM) - NIGHT

Bella leads Leo to her room. He is fascinated and after a while, he hears sounds of gunshots.

Bella and Leo walk down the hallway leading to her room. She opens the door and let's him in.

BELLA
(smiling)
Welcome to my world.

Leo looks around the room, which is well furnished.

LEO
This is beautiful.

BELLA
Thanks. What do I get you?

LEO
Coffee, I've already had so much to drink at the club.

BELLA
Give me some minutes.

She walks to a table, and within few minutes, she gets him a cup of coffee.

BELLA
Coffee is set.

LEO
Thanks.

BELLA
So, what is your mission in this town?

LEO
I'm here on vacation and maybe to fix my life. I lost my parents six months ago. They were involved in a robbery attack. I thought that was all, my girlfriend dumped me for a better guy. She said I was a boring person and I'm a loser.

BELLA
Sorry about your parents and your girl.

LEO
Maybe she was right, so I have to learn how to fix things, starting with my life.

BELLA

I hope so.

LEO

Well, having a beautiful lady like you around me could be all I need to give me the courage to start over. At least you took me to the club and here I am in your wonderful restaurant apartment.

BELLA

You don't know me, and you can't judge me by my appearance.

LEO

You are right, but looking into your eyes, I see a lady who wouldn't hurt a man for any reason.

BELLA

Are you trying to sweet talk me.

LEO

No, I'm not. Common, I won't do that.

She smiles and within some seconds, there is sound of gunshots.

LEO

Is that noise within this building or somewhere else?

BELLA

It's in here, young man. The show is just about to start.

LEO

What show?

He hears the sound of a broken glass.

BELLA

I hope it's not what I'm thinking; or else the punk ass would pay for every penny.

LEO

Am I dreaming or this is real?

Leo is confused as he sees Bella loading three pistols.

LEO

You know how to use those shit.

BELLA

In this town, everyone knows how to use a pistol and you are going to use one, right now.

LEO

No way.

BELLA

You wanted a date and you're going to have one.

She gets him a glass of water.

BELLA

Drink this, it will make you feel good.

LEO

No, I won't.

BELLA

Trust me, you will be fine. I won't hurt a young man for any reason.

He drinks the glass of water and of a sudden, he feels a little dizzy.

LEO

What did you give me?

BELLA

(holding a pistol)

Take this, and come with me.

She hands him a pistol and leads him out of her room.

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Bella and Leo get to the restaurant and find a place to hide. The shooting continues with about six men all shooting at each other. Leo walks away from the hiding place and moves to the centre of the scene.

LEO

Who the hell are you guys; I will grant you quick visit to your ancestors.

THUG 1

Who is he?

THUG 2

He's a dumb ass.

Thug 1 shoots, quickly, Leo takes cover and he shoots at the direction of the Thugs.

BENNY

Hey, Bella, why did you let that guy in here?

BELLA

He wanted a date and he's got one.

BENNY

Sure, then. Let's make it a memorable one.

BELLA

Let's do this.

Benny and Bella leave their hiding place and shoot about three thugs. One falls close to Leo's side. He stands up and before he knows what is happening, other thugs get in and shoot towards his direction. Benny runs towards Leo and gets him out of the sight of the thugs. The shooting continues, and after a while Leo blends with the rest of the team and guns down about three thugs. As the shooting continues, Bella is attacked by one of the thugs and Leo is at hand to intervene. He knocks the thug with his gun and looks at Bella.

BELLA

Thanks.

LEO

Anything for you baby.

BELLA

You deserve a kiss.

LEO

Are you sure about that?

BELLA

Yeah. You get a kiss for every enemy you gun down.

LEO

All right then, let's take the ride.

Leo gets motivated and guns more thugs, in the process, Benny gets shot on the arm.

BENNY

Shit; that was close.

BELLA

Are you okay?

BENNY

I will be fine.

The shooting finally comes to an end and the trio sit down looking tired. Bella gets Benny a glass of water and ties

his arm, while Leo wonders what is going on.

LEO

Is this what you guys do every night?

BENNY

It happens at least twice in a week.

LEO

You guys should report to the authority.

BELLA

Everything here is legal.

LEO

People killing others; you call it legal.

BELLA

I said I owe you a kiss, right?

LEO

That's true. I shot five people, so I need my reward right away.

She gets Benny's wound cleaned up and walks up to Leo. She brings a mint out of her pocket which she puts in her mouth; afterwards, she gives Leo a kiss and immediately he goes blank.

BELLA

Good night, Leo.

BENNY

Good job.

BELLA

Thanks, Benny.

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT (MARIE'S ROOM) - DAY

Leo wakes up and finds Bella lying next to him. He opens his eyes, and for a moment he is happy it was all a dream.

LEO

Thank goodness, it was a dream.

BELLA

Good morning, Leo.

He looks and sees Bella lying next to him.

LEO

Oh shit, what happened?

Bella sits up.

BELLA

You're the coolest guy I've ever met. You are my super hero.

LEO

Look, whatever happened is over. I need to leave now.

BELLA

Not so fast, boy; you've just got yourself another date.

Leo is on his feet and puts on his cloth.

LEO

I don't want a date anymore. Last night was the worst night of my entire life.

BELLA

Really. What happened to wrapping your hands around my waist and getting a kiss from me?

LEO

All that is over now. I have to go. I like you, and I appreciate the time we spent together, but with all that happened last night, we can't be together. I can't fit into your world.

The door slides open and Benny walks in.

BENNY

Well, Leo, welcome to our Secret Service Mission. My name is Benny, PSS Officer. Congratulations, you just got yourself a job.

LEO

Is this how you guys get people to work for you?

BENNY

You did well, man and just a couple of training would do the magic. You also need to start life all over, right?

LEO

(looking at Marie)

How did he know that?

BELLA

The room is wired and he is a PSS Officer. Private Security Service.

LEO

Shit.

Bella gives him another kiss.

BELLA

You will get more of that while we are together. The job is yours.

BENNY

You have a meeting with the Boss scheduled for 11am. Bella will accompany you to the Head Quarters.

LEO

This is against my right. You have to respect my right as a citizen of this country.

BENNY

It takes a date to take your right. You asked for something silly and you got a great job. Enjoy the fun while it last.

Benny leaves the room, while Bella changes her outfit.

BELLA

Don't worry, you will get used to it. Grandma Nana is aware and she has given her approval.

LEO

You know my Grandma.

BELLA

Who in this town doesn't know her. Look, it's going to be fun and since you have me, you have more fun.

Leo sits down looking frustrated.

LEO

My life is screwed already. This might be the only way to get it fixed.

BELLA

Don't worry. You won't be alone in this. You have me by your side. It's now a lifetime date, one that would help you start life all over and help the world fight crime.

She hands him a cup of coffee and sits next to him.

EXT. GRANDMA NANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Leo and Bella stand before Grandma Nana who is quite emotional to see her Grandson leave for a two years training with the Private Security Service (PSS).

Grandma Nana embraces Leo.

LEO

Grandma, this is only for two years and I will be fine.

GRANDMA NANA

I know, but I'm going to miss you.

LEO

I will miss you too; that's for sure.

GRANDMA NANA

Is that for real?

LEO

Yeah, Grandma; for real.

BELLA

Ma'am, he has to leave now. The flight takes off in thirty minutes.

GRANDMA NANA

Take care of him and I know you will, so please, do it for me.

BELLA

You have my words ma'am. I will make sure he returns in one piece.

LEO

She's just a lady; I can handle myself. Moreover, I'm not a kid.

GRANDMA NANA

I know, but she's been in the Service for over two years, so she knows what it entails.

LEO

Take care Grandma; I love you.

GRANDMA NANA

I love you too, son.

She gives him another warm embrace.

LEO

Alright, Grandma, it's enough.

Leo and Bella turn their back as they walk towards a car parked by the driveway. Grandma Nana keeps waving at them.

<i>THREE YEARS LATER</i>

INT. BELLA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Leo meets Bella to help her out of the house before she gets caught by other Private Security Service (PSS) officers.

Leo walks into the empty sitting room, seeing no one, he walks down the hallway leading to Bella's room. He knocks, but there is no response. He opens the door and finds Bella fast asleep. He takes off her blanket. She opens her eyes in shock.

LEO

It's 6am

BELLA

Oh shit, what are you doing here?

She stands up, still feeling drowsy.

LEO

I came to get you out.

BELLA

Out! I didn't fix a date with you, and how did you get in?

LEO

I still have the keys.

BELLA

I don't remember giving you any spare.

LEO

Okay, I made a spare for myself.

She walks to the bathroom.

BELLA

(walking to the bathroom)
That is a criminal act.

LEO

I did that because of a day like this.

BELLA (O/S)

I'm going to book you for this.

Leo searches her wardrobe.

BELLA (O/S)

Are you doing something in there.

LEO

Yeah.

After some minutes, she comes out.

BELLA
What are you doing? Why are you
packing my stuff?

LEO
We are leaving town right now.

BELLA
I don't understand. What is going
on?

LEO
I will explain everything to you,
just get all you need, we have to
leave right away.

BELLA
You're crazy, right.

LEO
When I have to deal with you, I
always go crazy.

She gets her luggage and they go out of the room.

INT. LEO'S CAR - DAY

Leo maneuvers the vehicle and gives Bella update about her
safety and what awaits her.

LEO
Your life is on the line, Bella and
I have to help you get out of town.

BELLA
How did you get such information?

LEO
Mark has been spare heading a six
man forum in the Agency, which I am
part of. He made me believe it was
for a mission, but Nick gave me a
leaked mail of Mark's agenda. Being
the Chief Officer of the PSS, he
had to put me in his plan because
of our relationship. He is coming
after you.

BELLA
Why me, What have I done?

LEO
I don't know.

BELLA

I find this hard to believe.

LEO

I can't as well but I am bothered because for a man of Mark's caliber to be trailing you means there are things about you which I don't know.

BELLA

There is barely any secret between us. Three years and some months together; from the time you came to this town and now as partners, I think you have known a lot already.

EXT./INT. BELLA'S APARTMENT - DAY

ERIC, BROOKS and JOSH, all in their 30s arrive Bella's apartment, but discover she isn't there.

Josh pulls over the car at the parking slot and stays in the car while Eric and Brooks step out and walk to Bella's apartment. They knock on the door; receiving no response, they force the door open. They go different directions. Eric walks down the hallway and gets to Bella's room. He scrutinizes the entire room and gets a strange feeling about the way things are scattered in the room. Brooks meets him.

ERIC

Something is wrong. Bella's room is always tidy.

BROOKS

It means she left in a hurry. That is strange.

Eric picks up Bella's thrash bin, which isn't empty.

ERIC

She always empties her thrash first thing in the morning. Someone must have told her what is up. Wherever she is, she won't get far from us.

BROOKS

Whoever got the information across to her must be brought to book. Call the Boss at once.

Eric brings out his phone to make a call while they step out of the room.

INT. PSS AGENCY (MARK'S OFFICE) - DAY

MARK, 58, is on a call and gives instruction on what to do.

MARK
(into phone)
I don't care how she got to know,
all I need is her current location.

ERIC (V/0)
We are working on that sir. I have
contacted Scott to track her.

MARK
(into phone)
Do the needful, I am running out of
time.

He hangs up and for a brief moment, his face reveals his
anger and frustration.

INT. LEO'S HOUSE (BEDROOM) - DAY

Leo and Bella get themselves armed as they prepare for the
worse case scenerio.

Leo gathers the available weapons in his custody. Bella
meets him ; in her hand she holds a tray containing a well
prepared sandwich and a cup of coffee.

BELLA
I don't think you should starve
yourself. This is not a war.

LEO
You still see all these as a joke.
In some few minutes, you will
realize what is at stake.

BELLA
Creating fear in me won't help. I
am a strong woman and I'm good at
handling tough situations.

LEO
You are strong, right; but fighting
this unseen battle alone, it is
practically impossible. The enemies
we are against knows everything
about you; even things that I
don't.

BELLA
Are you going to reject a meal I
prepared for you?

LEO

You never give up, do you?

Leo takes a sip of the coffee, while Bella continues stocking the weapons in a bag. Some few minutes later, he is done with the meal.

LEO

Thanks.

BELLA

For what?

LEO

For the meal.

BELLA

(zipping the bag)

We don't need all these, do we?

LEO

In case... We have to leave right away.

BELLA

At your service, Monsieur.

EXT. LEO'S PARKING SLOT/ STREET - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Leo and Bella walk to the parking slot, before they get to the car, Brooks, Eric and Josh come after them. They find a way of escape.

Leo and Bella approach the parking slot.

BELLA

I never thought of a day with so much tension.

LEO

Life always has its twist. You can't predict the future except you have an idea of what it holds.

Before they get to the spot where the car is parked, Leo and Bella see Brooks, Eric and Josh coming towards them.

BELLA

How did they know I was here?

LEO

I am supposed to be with them, remember. Come with me.

Leo takes the lead as they run through a narrow path just behind Leo's house; the other men pursue and try to cover the distance between them.

BELLA

Shit, I didn't believe you all these time.

LEO

You never admit problems, until it stares at you right in the face.

Leo and Bella almost knock down an old man as they try to broaden the distance between them and their pursuers. Leo helps Bella as they cut corners and finally get to an open space, unfortunately, they get to a dead end. Leo looks at Bella and looks at the men coming after them.

BELLA

We are stuck?

LEO

No, we aren't. There is just one option left. We have to part ways.

BELLA

That is not possible.

LEO

We have no choice. You know where to find me. If I don't see you in thirty minutes, I will be at the Headquarters.

He gives her a handgun and arms her while Brooks and the others come towards them.

LEO

They won't hurt you because they need you.

BELLA

Thanks.

As the other men come closer, Bella and Leo take the opposite direction. Brooks and his men stop.

BROOKS

What are they doing?

ERIC

Leo is trying to play smart. Let's go after Bella, she's our priority.

JOSH

No, we can't go after her. They might have a plan, so we must be careful.

BROOKS

We can't hurt her. The Boss needs her alive. Call Scott, he has to keep his eyes on her.

ERIC

What about Leo?

BROOKS

We will take care of him later. He is still a novelist.

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Bella gets to the restaurant, MADAM SUSAN, 40 welcomes her. She meets Leo who is seated at another section of the restaurant. Immediately they leave, Brook and the others show up, but they are late.

Bella enters the restaurant, Madam Susan meets her.

MADAM SUSAN

Hey, Leo told me you were coming. He reserved a spot for you. Come with me.

Bella follows her without saying a word.

MADAM SUSAN

It seems you have had a tiring day. You look so tired and worn out, and this is just some hours after noon.

They finally get to the section where Leo is seated.

MADAM SUSAN

I prepared your favourite. Have a nice time.

Madam Susan leaves, while Bella sits down.

LEO

Are you okay?

BELLA

You know I'm not, until I get to know the reason Mark is after me.

LEO

You have to eat something. We don't have much time.

BELLA

Do you think I can even taste anything when my life is in danger. I need to know why I'm being chased.

LEO

I have no idea girl, I can only help until we get some information.

BELLA

This is strange. Going after me for no reason. Are you sure I'm the target or you are trying to use me as a means of escape.

LEO

You could think whatever, I won't blame you. All I need from you is to focus and if you don't mind, you need to freshen up.

BELLA

Yeah, I think so. I will be right back.

She leaves, Madam Susan comes around to see Leo.

MADAM SUSAN

Are you sure she's going to be okay?

LEO

I don't know. She's not herself and I think she's having a hard time seeing herself in this condition. But why would the other officers be after her?

MADAM SUSAN

There are things that go on in the Agency that is not open to all. You will figure it out soon, but you must be careful.

LEO

I could give my life up for Bella. She's a nice person.

MADAM SUSAN

I know, but if you are alive and fine, I know she would be okay. You know, ever since Benny died, you have been the closest to her. Trust me, she needs you, so do all you can to help her.

LEO

I will try, but we need more time to know what is up.

MADAM SUSAN

Then find more time. Get every piece of information you need on this. Bella is a good lady who doesn't deserve this ill treatment,

Bella joins them.

MADAM SUSAN

Leo told me you guys are about to leave and you've not even tasted your meal.

BELLA

I feel sick today, some other time.

MADAM SUSAN

I will always be here for you. Take care of yourselves.

Madam Susan watches the duo as they leave the restaurant through the back door. Immediately Madam Susan gets to the bar stand, Brooks and Eric meets her.

BROOKS

Where are they?

MADAM SUSAN

They left.

BROOKS

You should have kept them waiting.

MADAM SUSAN

I tried, but they wouldn't wait.

BROOKS

You need to do better next time or else you won't last in this place.

ERIC

If you think helping them is worth it, you have missed it. She is a danger to everyone; including you.

Brooks and Eric leave. Madam Susan makes a sigh of relief.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - DAY

NICK, 33 gets information about Mark which they believe would help in knowing the reason Bella is being followed.

Nick is working on his PC while Leo stares at his watch continuously. Bella walks back and forth feeling restless.

LEO

You've still not gotten any information about Mark.

NICK

It's harder than I thought. He seems to have cleared himself from the database, even that of the Agency.

BELLA

How is that possible? He used to work with my father back in Mexico. They were undercover during one of the SSR operations and I know those guys keep bunch of files in their database.

NICK

Mark is a smart man and if he was in Mexico and nothing is coming up, it means he was an undercover for the dark side and not for the Agency.

LEO

I agree with you because the six man forum he formed in the PSS is nothing but a gang.

BELLA

It means he learnt some things from the underworld which he probably thinks I know about.

LEO

Maybe he was involved in some inside runs and thinks your father revealed them to you.

BELLA

Does that mean Benny was right when he said the weekly war at the Restaurant was orchestrated by an insider.

LEO

I think so.

BELLA

(moody)

Oh, poor Benny, he gave his life for the Secret Service.

LEO

You still miss him, right?

BELLA

Yeah. He took me like his own daughter.

Tears fills Bella's eyes and Leo cuddles her.

LEO

Common girl, you have to be strong.

BELLA

I'm always strong, but at times,
you need to let out the emotion
instead of swallowing it.

LEO

Hey, not now, okay.

NICK

I think I've found something.

Leo and Bella moves to Nick's side, at that point, there is
a knock on the door. They all look at each other.

LEO

Are you expecting someone?

NICK

No.

LEO

We have to go. I think they've
found us.

BELLA

Oh God, I'm dead.

NICK

Whatever I find, I will send to
Grandma Nana's mail.

LEO

Thanks man.

Nick walks towards the door, while Bella and Leo climb
upstairs leading to a room. Leo gives his bag to Bella and
forces the door open. Getting inside, he looks out through
one of the windows which has a rail linking to another
apartment. He breaks the window and goes out. He also helps
Bella out of the apartment as well.

BACK IN THE SITTING ROOM

Brooks discusses with Nick.

BROOKS

You shouldn't have let them in
here, they are wanted and now their
price has increased.

ERIC

You could get extra tip if you tell
us where they are heading.

NICK

I don't know, but if I come up with some information, I would definitely let you guys know.

Brooks pushes Nick against the wall.

BROOKS

Don't try to act smart. Where are they?

NICK

I don't know. They left immediately they discovered people were coming. They didn't even know you guys were the one.

BROOKS

I would spare you for now, but not again.

ERIC

Be a man and stay out of trouble.

Eric and Brooks leave.

INT. NEIGHBOUR'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bella and Leo break into the next apartment. The bedroom is empty and they stay there for a while. Leo tries to get some information from Bella.

LEO

What have you been upto this few days?

BELLA

Nothing, just been enjoying my week off.

LEO

Okay; who have you been seeing recently?

BELLA

Leo, why are you being inquisitive?

LEO

I need to know what you have been upto this few days. Please.

BELLA

I was with Mark two weeks ago. He took me out for dinner to discuss about my welfare. He wanted to know if I was doing alright. After

(MORE)

BELLA (cont'd)
having a glass of wine I passed out
and the next morning I found myself
feeling sick as I forced myself up
from bed.

LEO
Why didn't you tell me?

BELLA
Because I don't know who to trust
and I felt there was no point
telling anyone.

LEO
So, you still don't trust me. Do
you think I will put you in danger
for no cause. Bella, you should
know me better than anyone in the
Agency. I can't imagine that a lady
that made me the man I am today
doesn't trust me. That hurts, you
know.

BELLA
I'm sorry. I just wanted to protect
myself.

LEO
Protect yourself! Now, I see
reasons Benny told me to keep my
eyes on you. You are my
responsibility, Bella and if
anything happens to you, I could
kill myself.

BELLA
I'm sorry.

LEO
You had dinner and you got played
by Mark and he must have gotten
something into your system and that
has made it easy for them to track
you. This is driving me crazy.

BELLA
What is the next step?

LEO
I don't know. Getting you out of
town is practically impossible.
Right now, we are being watched and
everywhere we go is known to them.
I just don't know what to do
anymore.

BELLA

I have to call Cora, she might help.

LEO

Damn it. She is the last person I want to see.

BELLA

I know, but trust me she won't get mad at you.

LEO

Cora hates me and you know it.

They walk to the door of the room and force it open. They hear some sound down stairs, and they keep calm as they plot the best way to get out of the building.

BELLA

What if we get caught?

LEO

I will think of something; trust me.

INT. PSS AGENCY (MARK'S OFFICE) - DAY

Brooks and Eric gives Mark update about their mission. He gives them a maximum of 24 hours to get Bella to him.

Both men are seated. Immediately Mark walks into the office, they are up on their feet.

MARK

Where is my package?

BROOKS

We couldn't get her. Leo keeps helping her escape before we can act.

MARK

I don't care who is helping her, all I need is the bloody package. If Leo is a threat then get rid of him. Whoever poses a threat should not be spared.

BROOKS

Yes sir.

MARK

You have twenty four hours to get my package.

ERIC
We won't fail you.

MARK
You know the consequences, so don't
even attempt to lose my package.

Mark gives the men signal to leave.

MARK
God damn it, allowing Leo in this
Agency is the greatest mistake I
made. I shouldn't have accepted
Nana's suggestion.

INT. CORA'S HOUSE - DAY

CORA, 28 breaks the code used in tracking Bella's location.

Bella is on a bed set with a monitor and some medical
equipment which are connected to her body while Cora gives
update about the GPS chip inserted in her skin.

CORA
The chip was not planted two weeks
ago. It was planted five years ago
and I'm sure it was during one of
the tests we carried out in the
training camp.

LEO
Is there anyway it can be
deactivated?

CORA
I will find a way but it would take
time. I only hope they don't get
here before I'm done.

BELLA
If it was planted during our
training, why did Mark drug me two
weeks ago?

CORA
Maybe, they had to reactivate the
chip and hope it hasn't been
detected by a more powerful device.
Thank God it wasn't or else you
would have been in a greater
danger.

BELLA
What have I done to deserve all
these?

CORA

That is a question we can't answer. Bella. You are my best friend and I wonder why you are the one to suffer in the hands of Mark. There must be something you are keeping from us.

LEO

Tell us all about yourself. You can as well tell us all you know about your father's relationship with Mark. The good, the bad and the ugly times. We need to know why Mark is after you.

CORA

Leo, I will prefer you leave and let me do the talking with my friend. Please.

LEO

(raising his hands)

Fine, you can go on. She's yours for now.

Leo leaves.

CORA

Do you have any idea if your father and Mark had any misunderstanding while they were undercover at Mexico?

BELLA

I don't. Nick told us Mark must have been working for the underworld and used the PSS as a cover up.

CORA

He is an undercover under a different cover.

BELLA

Something like that. It's a mystery I can't link with my being at the PSS.

CORA

You will find out soon, I just hope I do my job without seeing you as a friend but one of my patients.

She brings out a syringe.

CORA

I have to inject you now. It might be painful, but I know you are strong.

BELLA

What about Leo, can he come in now?

CORA

I don't want him here. Except you need him.

BELLA

You guys need to put your past aside. At least for my sake. I feel bad seeing the two people I care about nursing hate for each other.

CORA

He labelled me as a low graded medic in the force. Do you know that almost cost me my career.

BELLA

We've talked about that before. Are we going to go over it again? I know Leo, he must have said that because he sustained an injury that he never expected and probably the statement was uttered out of pain. I think letting him in would prove him wrong when he sees you carrying out your job on me.

CORA

I have nothing to prove. Are you ready?

BELLA

Yeah.

Cora injects her. At that point, Leo walks in.

CORA

I didn't ask you to come in.

LEO

I'm sorry, but I can't stay out there while she goes through this pain alone.

CORA

You love her, right.

LEO

You know I do and I will always.

CORA

Then leave her alone. She's safe with me.

LEO

It is my duty to protect her.

CORA

It is also my duty to see that she doesn't get into wrong hands and as far as I am concerned I don't trust you one bit.

LEO

Do you think I would have helped her all the while if I don't care about her. Cora, don't allow our past interfere with Bella's safety. She means so much to me.

CORA

Fine, she does, but if anything happens to her, I will hold you responsible.

LEO

Yeah. Whatever.

The deactivating device beeps. She reads the information displayed on the monitor attached to the device.

CORA

It seems Mark didn't reactivate the device; they did something else to her. They are trying to wipe out her memory.

LEO

Why? That is unfair. What has she done to deserve this?

CORA

That is the only way they can achieve their aim of manipulating her and getting the cartridge.

LEO

What cartridge?

CORA

She didn't tell you about it?

LEO

I don't understand what you mean.

CORA

Bella is currently the bearer of the cartridge belonging to the

(MORE)

CORA (cont'd)

Mexican Govt. Her father gave it to her when he returned from his mission. I think that is what Mark wants from her.

LEO

So Mark was hoping he would wipe out her memory and manipulate her into getting information about the cartridge.

CORA

No. Mark wanted to clear her memory and use an advanced software to gain access to the location of the cartridge. When this is achieved, they will take her with them. She is the only one who knows the code and her finger prints are needed to lock the safe.

LEO

It means Mark doesn't know where the cartridge is and if he is able to wipe out her memory and save it in a storage device all he would need from her is her finger print in order to gain access.

CORA

Yes. We must stop them.

LEO

How do we do that?

CORA

We will find a way, but first I have to make sure she's okay.

LEO

How long will that take?

CORA

In the next hour, she'd be fine, and she will need time to rest.

INT. LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bella tells Leo all she remembers and he comes up with an idea which doesn't go down with her.

BELLA

My father wasn't the same man he used to be after the mission at Mexico. Things went really bad and
(MORE)

BELLA (cont'd)
he had to steal the cartridge from
the hands of the notorious
underworld lords. Before he died he
gave me the cartridge and I
promised to return it to the
Mexican government, but I have been
waiting for the right time.

LEO
Why didn't you tell me all this
time. You would have gotten
yourself into a mess.

BELLA
I was protecting myself and I
wouldn't betray my father because I
promised never to let anyone know.

LEO
But Mark knows and that is why he
is after you. Cora also knows.

BELLA
Cora won't tell anyone. She's more
of a sister to me than a friend and
for Mark, he was so close to my dad
and he knew once my dad didn't give
him the cartridge, he would
definitely give it to me.

LEO
Why is the cartridge so important
to Mark?

BELLA
It symbolises authority. There are
several information that can be
used to activate some nuclear
weapons. Mark wants to rule the
world with this and we have to stop
him.

LEO
You only have one way to stop him.

BELLA
Which is...

LEO
Turning yourself in.

BELLA
No way. I can't do that.

LEO
It might be the only chance of
stopping him. You are what he needs
(MORE)

LEO (cont'd)
and you just have to go to him
willingly.

BELLA
You want me to put my life on the
edge; I won't. It is better no one
finds the cartridge. I rather die
than turn myself in.

LEO
Think about it.

BELLA
There is nothing to think about. If
things get worse, I will take my
own life. Just a shot would do it.

LEO
You think that is the best option.

BELLA
(drowsy)
Good night, Leo. I need to have
some rest.

INT. CORA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eric and Brooks question cora for helping Bella. They take
her away.

BROOKS
You know the rules of this game but
you broke it.

CORA
I didn't break any rule. I only
helped a friend in need.

BROOKS
You crossed the line by helping
your friend who is a traitor and
that also makes you a traitor.

CORA
She has done nothing wrong. She
doesn't deserve all these ill
treatment.

ERIC
You can tell that to the boss.

CORA
I'm all clear so why must I say a
word to him?

BROOKS

Cora, you are coming with us; you are under arrest for obstruction of justice.

CORA

Do you call this justice. Working for gang within the agency, and you stand here speaking about justice.

ERIC

Whatever you say right now will be used against you in the court of law.

CORA

You guys have got yourselves brainwashed. Mark is evil and he is only using you guys as his agents in building an underworld cartel.

Cora is handcuffed and taken out of the building. She keeps talking

CORA

You guys are making a great mistake. When Mark gets what he wants, he will forget all you have done for him. And I bet it, he doesn't care if you get killed. He has other men to call upon.

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Mark inspects Cora who is tied to a chair and is hit hard by Brook and Eric.

Brook hits Cora hard on her face. She bleeds and looks blank at the two men. Mark walks up to them. He takes a look at Cora.

MARK

You messed with the wrong person girl and brought this upon yourself. Where is Bella?

Cora looks up at Mark and doesn't say a word. Eric hits her.

ERIC

Speak up.

MARK

I won't hesitate to waste you if you refuse to talk. Where is Bella?

CORA

I don't know. She didn't tell me where she was going.

Eric hits her again.

MARK

If you don't tell me where she is, I'm ready to waste you.

CORA

Why don't you call her. Do I need to tell you what to do. Pick up the phone and call her if you have the guts.

Brooks hits her. Mark signals him to stop.

MARK

I will do as you have said and pray she does what I tell her. If she fails you will die. Tell me, do you even think your death will mean anything to her?

CORA

She isn't like you and these fools do not know who they are dealing with.

Mark smiles as he stretches his hand. Brooks gives him his phone.

INT. LEO'S HOUSE - DAY

Bella receives a call; she meets Leo and decides to follow Mark's instructions.

Bella's phone rings continuously and she quickly gets the phone and answers the call. She waits for the caller to speak.

MARK (V/O)

Listen and do as I say. We've got Cora and if you want to get her alive, you have to get me the cartridge. I will be at Baker's Restaurant waiting for you. You have one hour or else you will only be invited to pay your last respect to your friend.

BELLA

(into phone)

Please, don't hurt her; I will do as you have said.

MARK (V/O)

One hour, that is all I can spare.

She hangs up and goes to the courtyard to meet Leo who stares at the thin air.

BELLA

They've taken Cora and I have just an hour to deliver the cartridge or she dies.

LEO

I know.

BELLA

I have to go now. Thanks for trying to help.

LEO

There is a vehicle waiting outside to take you. All the best.

Bella leaves while Leo watches her walk back into the house.

EXT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT - DAY

A car parks by the driveway, Bella comes out accompanied by Scott. Outside, there are Guards manning the building. One of the Guards checks Bella to know if she's armed.

BELLA

Is that the best you can do?

SCOTT

Do you have a better way of conducting security check?

She doesn't say a word as she walks into the building.

INT. GRANDMA NANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Leo informs Grandma Nana about the issue and his plan to ruin Mark's agenda

Grandma Nana walks up to Leo, holding a cup of coffee.

LEO

Thanks.

GRANDMA NANA

So, what are you going to do now.

LEO

I'm going to get her out.

GRANDMA NANA

It's going to be a hard one; I'm sure you know that.

LEO

I do, but I am ready to give up my life for the sake of Bella. I love her so much and I can't watch her face Mark all alone.

GRANDMA NANA

I wish you all the best, son. But, be careful and if you need back up, you can call.

LEO

Thanks.

GRANDMA NANA

I will be right back, give me some minutes.

He takes a sip of coffee while Grandma walks to the inner room.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Leo is on a bike ready to risk his life for Bella. At intervals, he checks his wrist watch. He gets to a point, the red sign of the traffic light beeps stopping the vehicles ahead from moving. He maneuvers his way and disobeys the traffic sign. He finds a shorter route which he follows.

INT. BAKER'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Bella gets to the point where Cora, Mark and the others are. Bella rushes up to check on her friend, but Brook stops her.

BELLA

She doesn't deserve this. Let her go. Please.

MARK

Where is the cartridge?

BELLA

Release Cora and you will get the cartridge.

MARK

If you don't hand over the cartridge, I won't release Cora.

BELLA

This is not fare. You are supposed to hit me, not her.

MARK

You kept playing a game of hide and seek, so I had to do what was right.

BELLA

Why are you doing this to me? My father never treated you bad for once. Even in the grave his spirit will never forgive you for what you are doing.

MARK

Your father loves playing by the rules but I don't. He should have known better than trying to be a super hero. It never pays and here you are suffering for the sins of your father.

BELLA

You will never get away with this evil; I promise, you won't. For the cartridge, you have to send your men with me so I can get it, but on one condition.

MARK

What is your condition?

BELLA

Nothing should happen to my friend.

MARK

You have my words... Take her away.

Eric takes Cora away while Scott and Brooks are about to take Bella out of the Restaurant.

SMART CUT TO THE DRIVEWAY

Brooks and Scott are about to get Bella into the car, they hear the sound of gunshots and from a distance, Leo is seen riding a bike towards their direction. They all give way and Bella tries to get away. Immediately Leo stops, Brooks shoots Bella on the leg and she falls to the ground. At that point Leo sprays his bullet without minding the victim. The bullets makes several holes on Brooks' body. Scott who tries to make a run also receives a share of the bullets. More Guards come from different angles, while Leo gets to the point where Bella is lying. He helps her to her feet.

LEO
Go. Take the bike and leave.

BELLA
I can't leave without you and Cora.

LEO
Don't be stupid. I will take
charge, just go.

Bella leaps as she gets on the bike, while Leo walks towards the building shooting at the Guards trooping out.

SMART CUT INTO THE BUILDING

Eric and Mark find a way of hiding inside the building. Some other Guards come around hoping to defeat Leo who gets in, but at every point, he overpowers them. He shoots at those trooping towards him. After a while, there is silence and one of the Guards attack him from behind. They engage in a combat and Leo hits him and finally defeats him. He walks further within the building and calls out for Mark.

LEO
If you are man enough, Mark, come
over here let's end this once and
for all.

He doesn't receive any response.

LEO
Mark come out. Stop acting mute.
Show me the stuff you are made of.

From nowhere, Eric surfaces and places his gun on Leo's head. Mark comes out together with Cora, his gun pointed at her as well.

MARK
I have to choose who gets a bullet
into the head first. You've shown
how good you are but you allowed
your weakness supercede your
strenght... Seeing the death of
cora would make things interesting.

LEO
Your words don't sound as a threat.
You have the opportunity now, use
it. When I have mine, I won't take
chances.

MARK
It seems I made you a strong man.
It pains me that you would end up
this way; it's really a pity.

Mark pulls Cora's hair.

MARK

I'm sorry Cora, you don't deserve this, but I am left without a choice.

Mark is about to pull the trigger and from a far distance, Bella is able to get a perfect shot that hits Mark on his arm. The gun drops while Cora frees herself from his grip. Leo is also quick to react and gets the gun from Eric.

LEO

It's now three against two. I told you to act when you could.

Leo doesn't waste time; he plants a bullet in Eric's head and Mark watches as the man goes flat in the pool of blood. Bella and Leo walks towards Mark while Cora points the gun at him.

CORA

I told you to waste me but you chose to cause me unbearable pain. I won't spare you.

Cora shoots him on the same arm. Mark feels the pain and knows his end has come. Immediately Leo gets to him, he hits him hard on the face before setting him on a chair.

BELLA

What came over you? Why did you allow the urge for power and fame to take the place of a man who was meant to die honourably?

MARK

Look into my eyes. I have no regret for my actions. Someday, you will see reasons men crave for power. When you realize that the people you work for don't give credit for your services, then you will struggle to get power to earn all the credit you deserve for your hard work.

BELLA

Even at the edge of death you are still non repentant. You disgust me. I can't bear to see your death. I won't be able to live with it.

MARK

You are as weak as your father. That was the reason he died without honour. I thought you would be better off, but you are not.

BELLA

He didn't get the honour, but he died honourably. What honour do you have?

Bella turns her back; Leo stares at Mark.

LEO

You don't deserve a plea for mercy; the lives that were wasted won't rest in peace if you are given a chance to speak in the court of law. Any last words.

MARK

Pull the trigger.

Leo shoots him on the forehead. Afterwards, he stretches his hands towards Cora and helps her. Bella turns and smiles.

BELLA

You two look good together.

CORA

With you in the picture, it can't happen.

LEO

Hey Bella, I have something for you.

BELLA

I don't need any of your gifts now. The day is rough already.

LEO

You might need this. Cora has given her approval.

BELLA

Has she forgiven you for your past. That is what matters now.

LEO

All right Cora, I'm sorry for what happened back in the days. I hope I'm forgiven.

CORA

For joining forces with my friend to rescue me, I have forgiven you.

LEO

Anything else, Bella. You heard her, right?

Bella stops and waits for her two friends who meet her. Leo brings out a ring.

BELLA

You know you are crazy, right, but
even at that, I still love you.

LEO

You are the only one that gets me
crazy and I wonder why.

They all laugh as they walk out of the restaurant.

FADE OUT