

THE EFFECTS OF LOSING YOU

Written by

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EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/SIDEWALK - MORNING

KATIE (70) wears a transparent rain poncho, stands on the sidewalk outside of her house with an overflowing cloth shopping bag.

A rain drop falls on her nose and tickles it. She reaches in her purse, takes out a tissue and wipes it.

A BLACK MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN with tinted windows honks as it turns the corner of the street.

Katie, mortified, shakes her head.

The car pulls up and stops. We hear music coming from the inside.

Katie hurries to open the door.

Flamenco music is blaring.

Katie gets in the car, places the bag between her legs and quickly closes the door.

INT. CAR - MORNING

CARMEN (65), wears red lipstick and smoky eye makeup, moves her arms around and shakes her shoulders to the rhythm of the music. She has a big smile on her face.

CARMEN

(cheerful)

"¡Hola, amiga!" [Hello, friend!]
You doing well this morning? Shake
it, baby!

Katie stares at her.

KATIE

I'm okay, but did you have to honk
that loud? I live in a quiet
neighborhood, you know.

Carmen dances, moves her arms around and claps her hands.

CARMEN

Well, someone has to keep you on
your toes. How long have you been
waiting outside in the rain? Why
didn't you wait in the house?

Katie is bothered by the music.

KATIE

Please lower that. It's hurting my ears.

Carmen stops dancing and lowers the volume. +

CARMEN

Is that better? Girl, you need a little spice in your life.

KATIE

Stella's in one of her moods. +

CARMEN

What's up with her? +

KATIE

Take a guess.

CARMEN

She needs money. +

Carmen shakes her head. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Hey, you have your cell phone? And your wallet? Please check before we leave. We are not turning back. +

Katie checks her purse and nods affirming. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Good. I hope the supermarket is not crowded today. I hate bumping into all those old folks.

KATIE

Carmen, we're old too. *

CARMEN

Not as old as they are. Buckle up!

Katie puts her seat belt on. *

Carmen pulls out of the spot. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)

So what did the doctor have to say?

KATIE

I didn't go. I canceled the appointment. +

CARMEN
You did what? Why? +

KATIE
Because I don't have a car.

CARMEN
What do you mean you don't have a car? What happened to your car? +
+

KATIE
Didn't I tell you?

CARMEN
Tell me what?

KATIE
Stella sold it.

CARMEN
What? Why would she do that?

KATIE
She said I shouldn't be driving anymore and that we needed the money.

CARMEN
What do you need money for, Katie? +
Are you struggling or something? +

KATIE
I'm not, but she is.

CARMEN
Some nerve! First of all, you are +
still very much able to drive. And +
second of all, she had no right +
selling your car. How dare she!

Carmen turns to her with an inquiring look.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
Unless you... did you?

KATIE
Yes, I gave her permission to sell the car.

CARMEN
Oh, Katie! Why would you do such a thing? Well, did you at least make any money from the sale? +

KATIE

Not one cent.

Carmen shakes her head.

CARMEN

See, that's not right. I wish you would have said something to me.

KATIE

I didn't want you to get mad at her.

CARMEN

Katie, I only get mad at her because I care about you and I don't like the way she treats you. She takes advantage of you.

+
+

KATIE

I appreciate that, Carmen, but she's my daughter and she's all I've got. If my husband was here... oh, never mind.

+
+

They remain silent.

+

Katie looks at Carmen.

+

KATIE (CONT'D)

I hope we get a good parking space. Can you get as close to the entrance as possible?

*
+
+

CARMEN

It's early enough. I don't think it'll be a problem.

KATIE

Good. I love your new car. It's so comfortable and fancy. I feel like I'm riding in luxury. I bet it's very expensive. How much was it?

+

CARMEN

A lot of money! But, I don't care because I am riding in style until the day I die. My husband and I have worked hard for this. We deserve it. These are our golden years and I'm going to enjoy them to the fullest.

+
+

Carmen stops at the stop sign, turns her signal on. As she turns the corner a car screeches to a halt, then steps on the gas going around them. *

CARMEN (CONT'D) *

Did you see that?

KATIE

Oh my God! That car almost ran into us. Are you sure you can drive this big thing?

Carmen honks and yells at the driver.

CARMEN

You son of a bitch! "¡Váyase al carajo, gilipollas!"

KATIE

Oh my! Some temper you have! What did you say?

CARMEN

Go to hell, asshole! People are so inconsiderate. I have been driving for 50 years. Trust me, I know what I'm doing.

Carmen puts her signal on to change lanes and steps on the gas.

KATIE

Be careful! You almost hit that car!

CARMEN

What? No I didn't. They almost hit me. Please don't scare me like that. *

KATIE

I'm sorry but, that was a close call. You drive too fast. It makes me nervous. +

CARMEN

Would you prefer to take a taxi to the grocery store?

KATIE

No.

CARMEN

Then stop complaining.

KATIE

I'm not complaining. I'm scared.

Carmen looks through the rear view mirror and slows down.

Cars are honking at them.

Katie looks back. +

KATIE (CONT'D) *

What are you doing? Are you trying
to get us killed?

CARMEN

I'm slowing down.

KATIE

Just go for heaven's sakes!

Carmen steps on the gas. *

They continue on in silence. +

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY +

Carmen enters the grocery store parking lot. She drives
around a few times looking for a spot.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Any time soon!

CARMEN

(pointing)

I want that spot.

KATIE

(pointing)

Look. There's one over there.

Carmen looks at the spot.

CARMEN

Nah, it's too small.

KATIE

No it's not.

CARMEN

I don't like it. I'll wait here
until this one becomes available.
Do you mind?

KATIE

Not at all. +

Carmen turns her signal on and waits. +

The car behind them honks. +

Katie looks back to see what is going on. There is a long line of cars waiting for Carmen to move.

KATIE (CONT'D) *

I think you're blocking the road.

Carmen checks her rear view mirror.

CARMEN

No I'm not. There's room for them to go around.

A MAN (late fifties) comes to Carmen's window and knocks. +
She opens the window down just a bit. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

MAN

Lady, you're blocking the road. Do you mind moving your car?

Carmen stares at him with a sarcastic look on her face.

CARMEN

(huffing and puffing) *
Seriously! Ugh, this is +
ridiculous! +

KATIE

I told you.

Carmen closes the window, steps on the gas and goes around the parking lot. +

KATIE (CONT'D)

Please, stop the car! I'm getting out.

CARMEN

Just wait, Katie.

KATIE

I can't. This is making me dizzy.

CARMEN

Alright. *

Carmen stops the car to let Katie out. +

Katie looks around the door trying to find the handle. +

Carmen looks at her.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
What seems to be the problem?

KATIE
(frustrated)
I can't figure this out! Why is it
so hard to open this door? +

CARMEN
Okay, take it easy. There. +

Carmen unlocks the door.

KATIE
Finally, thanks.

CARMEN
Are you all right? You seem very
uptight today. Did you not sleep
well last night?

KATIE
I slept fine. *

Katie gets out of the car, closes the door, walks to the
sidewalk and waits.

Carmen gestures Katie to keep going.

Katie turns around and walks towards the grocery store. She
gets a shopping cart and enters.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY *

Carmen enters the chips aisle with the shopping cart and
sees Katie standing there. She walks up to her.

CARMEN
There you are! I've been looking
all over for you. +
+

KATIE
Why? +
+

CARMEN
What's wrong? Are you ok? You
seem irritable. +
+

KATIE
It's nothing. Did you finally get
the spot you wanted?

CARMEN
(smiling)
I sure did. Now, where are my
favorite chips?

Carmen walks up and down the aisle looking for the chips. *

Katie waits for her. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
Go ahead. I'll meet you at the
register.

KATIE
Ok. I can't forget my wine.

CARMEN
Next aisle I believe.

KATIE
Next aisle to the left or the
right?

Carmen looks up at the signs hanging on the ceiling. +

CARMEN +
Ummm, to the right.

Katie turns the shopping cart around and goes to the wine
aisle.

She stares at the wine bottles. +

Carmen comes around the aisle. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
Okay, I'm done. Are you ready to go
check out or do you need more time? +

Katie does not answer.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
Katie. Katie! Earth to Katie. +

Katie gives Carmen a blank look. +

KATIE
What?

CARMEN

Well... are you getting wine or not?

KATIE

Yeah.

CARMEN

Well, get it and let's go.

KATIE

(embarrassed)

Oh my goodness!

CARMEN

What is it?

KATIE

I forgot the name of it.

CARMEN

Chardonnay.

KATIE

Oh, right! Yes, Chardonnay. Thank you.

Carmen notices that Katie seems confused looking at the bottles on the shelf.

She walks to the Chardonnay section.

CARMEN

It's over here, Katie.

KATIE

(relieved)

There it is. Thanks.

They grab the bottles from the shelves and put them in their shopping carts.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Now I'm ready.

CARMEN

Good. Now, let's get going.

Katie nods and follows Carmen to the register.

They wait in line.

The store CLERK (19) at the register, smiles at Carmen as she puts her groceries on the belt. She hands him her bags.

CLERK
Hello, did you find everything
okay?

CARMEN
Yes, thank you. *

CLERK
My pleasure.

Carmen watches the clerk ring up her groceries. She pays. +

CARMEN
Thank you. *

CLERK
You're welcome, ma'am.

Carmen moves out of the line with the shopping cart and
waits for Katie. +

Katie takes out a bunch of bags and places them on the belt.

The store clerk looks at her and gathers them, puts them
aside and rings the items. +

KATIE
(smiling)
Just use what you need.

CLERK
Yes, ma'am. Did you find everything
you needed?

KATIE
(thinking)
I believe so. Let me check my list.

Katie takes out a piece of paper from her raincoat pocket
and reads it out loud. +

KATIE (CONT'D)
Toilet paper, milk, cheese, bread,
wine, toothpaste. +

She looks at the items on the belt. +

Oh no! I forgot the toothpaste.
I'll be right back. +

CLERK
Aisle three.

KATIE
Thank you, dear.

Katie leaves the register and walks down the store looking at the signs.

Carmen looks back and sees that Katie is not there. She looks at the store clerk who is patiently waiting and smiles.

They wait.

Carmen looks back again and notices the people in line are getting impatient.

CARMEN
Can I leave my groceries here? I'll go get her.

CLERK
Yes, ma'am.

Carmen goes to the aisle, but does not see her.

She walks back to the register.

Katie is not there.

She goes looking for her again.

Finally, after going up and down the aisles, she finds her sitting in the coffee shop.

Walks quickly towards her.

CARMEN
(surprised)
Katie, what are you doing here? The clerk is waiting for you. You are holding up the line!

KATIE
I got lost.

Carmen looks puzzled.

CARMEN
Lost? It's okay. Let's get your groceries.

Katie gets up and walks with Carmen to the register.

Carmen apologizes to the other customers as they pass them.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *

I'm so sorry.

(to the clerk)

I'm sorry. Thank you for your
patience.

CLERK

No problem. (to Katie) Did you get
the toothpaste?

Katie looks at Carmen.

CARMEN

Oh, for goodness sakes! No,
problem. I'll go get it. +

Carmen walks quickly to the aisle.

Katie smiles nervously at the clerk.

Carmen returns with the toothpaste and places it on the
belt.

Katie stares at the toothpaste. She looks at Carmen with a
frown on her face.

KATIE

That's not the one I use.

CARMEN

You will now. I'm not going back.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY *

Carmen and Katie walk out of the grocery store with the
shopping carts and to the car. +

Carmen opens the trunk and puts the bags in it. +

They return the carts to the designated area.

Carmen glances at Katie as they walk to the car. *

CARMEN

Hey, are you hungry? Would you like
to get some lunch? My treat.

KATIE

I would love that. My daughter has
me on a tight budget. She thinks I
spend too much money on stupid
stuff. +

CARMEN

Katie, your budget is none of her business. Who the hell does she think she is? Your financial advisor?

KATIE

She's just looking out for me. +

CARMEN

If you say so.

They get in the car.

INT. CAR - DAY *

Carmen starts the car.

KATIE

Since Robert died I'm scared to be alone. I don't know what I would do if Stella moves out with that boyfriend of hers. +
+
+
+

The telephone in the car rings.

CARMEN

Excuse me. It's my guy. Hi, my love. We just left the grocery store and are headed to get some lunch. Are you done golfing? +
+

GUY (O.S.)

(Irish accent)

Yes, off to the pool now, my darling. Have fun, ladies!

CARMEN

I'll see you when I get home. Love you. Bye, love. +
+

GUY (O.S.)

Okay, babe. Love you too. Say hello to Katie for me. Bye.

Katie turns to Carmen.

KATIE

You're so lucky to have a husband like him. He's such a nice guy.

CARMEN

Guy is a wonderful man. I don't know what I would do without him. I'm truly blessed.

Katie gets sad. +

KATIE

It's so difficult to be alone. *

CARMEN

I'm sure it is. +

KATIE

I miss my husband so much. I wish I could still make him his coffee, wash his clothes, hold his hand, prepare him dinner. +

(pause) +

You know, I still sleep on my side of the bed hoping I'll wake up some day and he'll be there. +

CARMEN

I'm so sorry, Katie. I wish you would've had more time with him. +

Carmen takes a moment to think.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

I have a great idea. How about we go to that Greek restaurant by the water you like so much. Does that sound good? +

KATIE

Yes! That would be very nice. *

CARMEN

"Opa!" Greek it is. *

KATIE

"Opa!" +

They laugh.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

Carmen and her husband GUY (69), a handsome Irishman with intense blue eyes, are sitting next to each other on the sofa having a drink. +

Carmen is deep in thought. +

Guy tenderly puts his arm around her shoulders. +

GUY

A penny for your thoughts, my love.

CARMEN

I'm sorry, honey. I can't get Katie out of my mind.

GUY

Why? Is something wrong?

CARMEN

I'm not sure. She was not herself today. She seemed out of it.

GUY

Is that something unusual in her?

CARMEN

I've been noticing it more lately. She said she was fine, but I wonder if it could be the beginning of dementia. +

GUY

Does she seem that forgetful to you? +

CARMEN

Yeah. It worries me. I think she is still grief stricken. It's only been a year since her husband passed.

GUY

Why don't you give her a ring tomorrow. I think she would appreciate that.

CARMEN

I will. Let's watch a movie. Something funny. *

GUY

Whatever floats your boat, my love.

CARMEN

(gazes at him) +
How did I get so lucky to have +
landed such a sexy, hot, charming +
Irish prince? +

GUY

I'm the lucky one. You landed on my lap. Remember? Call it "luck of the Irish".

CARMEN

How can I forget! The most embarrassing moment of my career turns out to be the luckiest moment of my life.

GUY

We should plan a vacation this year.

+

CARMEN

I would love that.

*

GUY

How about a romantic getaway?

CARMEN

Yes! A Mediterranean cruise!

+

GUY

Fantastic idea, babe! I'll look into that.

+

Carmen and Guy smile and kiss.

+

Carmen snuggles and stares at him tenderly while she caresses his beard.

+

+

Guy kisses her gently on her lips.

+

Carmen sighs and rests her head on his shoulder.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - MORNING

+

Carmen walks in the kitchen wearing a gold and red satin robe.

*

She serves herself a cup of coffee from the coffee maker. Out of the refrigerator, she takes a container of milk, pours some in her cup and some sugar from the sugar bowl.

+

+

+

Guy comes in, hugs her from behind.

*

She lays her head on his shoulder.

+

He kisses her neck.

+

CARMEN
 (moans with pleasure)
 Mmmmmmm, that feels so good.

+
 *

GUY
 Any plans for today?

*

CARMEN
 None for me. I'm all yours.

GUY
 Then, in that case... how about we
 go back to bed.

Carmen laughs.

CARMEN
 You're insatiable!

Guy laughs, gets a cup of coffee from the coffee maker and
 sits at the kitchen table sipping his coffee.

GUY
 What's for dinner tonight?

Carmen joins him at the table.

+

CARMEN
 Your favorite, fresh grilled
 salmon. Sounds good?

+
 +

GUY
 Sounds perfect! Kids coming?

CARMEN
 As far as I know.

GUY
 All of them?

CARMEN
 All of them. They've been warned.

GUY
 Hun, go easy on them. They all have
 very busy lives.

CARMEN
 I just like to remind them that
 their parents are still alive and
 want to be part of their lives.
 They can most certainly make time
 for us.

Carmen looks at him with endearment.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
 Guy, have you been happy with me +
 all these years?

GUY
 (surprised)
 Babe, what kind of question is +
 that? Of course. It's been +
 blissful!

CARMEN +
 Aren't you bored now that you're +
 retired? They say these are our +
 golden years, right? I just want to +
 grow old with you.

GUY
 And we will. I'm not bored at all. +
 I have plenty of things to keep me +
 busy. I want to go to the garden +
 center before Pietro comes over and +
 get him some more stuff to plant. +
 You know that's his favorite thing +
 to do now. Someday we'll be eating +
 from his garden.

Carmen smiles. +

CARMEN
 He's the mini gardener of the +
 house. Alright, I'll go get ready. +
 Oh! Let me call Katie first. +

GUY
 You do that, darling. +

Guy gets up, kisses her on her cheek and walks out of the +
 kitchen.

Carmen picks up the cell phone on the table, calls and +
 waits. +

CARMEN
 Good morning! I just wanted to make +
 sure you were okay. You seemed a +
 little bit out of it yesterday. +
 Anyway, call me when you get a +
 chance. Bye. +

She puts the cell phone down on the table, gets up and as +
 she is walking away, the cell phone rings. *

She returns to the table, picks it up and answers. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) *

Hello, sunshine! Oh, hi, Stella.
 How are you? Oh? I'm sorry to
 hear that. Please tell her I hope
 she feels better and I'll call her
 tomorrow to see how she's doing.
 No? Why not? I see. Okay, I'll
 wait for her to call me back then.
 Listen, let me know if she needs
 anything. Bye now. +

Carmen frowns, lays the cell phone back on the table and
 walks away.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY +

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Honey, do you mind if we go by
 Katie's house while we're out?

GUY (O.S.)

Your wish is my command.

Carmen smiles.

CARMEN

Ooooh! That's tempting.

EXT. GARDEN CENTER - DAY *

Carmen and Guy are at the garden center picking and choosing
 plants. Guy holds one up to Carmen and smiles. +

GUY

Do you think Pietro is in the mood
 for "habanero" peppers today?

CARMEN

Oh my God! Seriously? *

GUY

What?

CARMEN

Please don't plant hot peppers with
 our grandson. What if he puts one
 in his mouth?

GUY

Relax, I won't. Well, how about
 turnips? +

Carmen approves with a smile and walks over to the buckets of flowers.

She stares at the flowers for a few seconds. Then takes a bouquet out of the bucket and places it in the shopping cart.

CARMEN

These are for Katie. Her daughter says she's not feeling well.

GUY

That's too bad.

Carmen looks at the shopping cart.

CARMEN

I think we have enough. Don't you?

GUY

I agree. We're done here.

EXT. GARDEN CENTER PARKING LOT - DAY

They walk out of the garden center with the shopping cart.

As they reach the car, Guy stops and looks at her with a smile on his face.

Carmen looks at him.

CARMEN

What is it?

GUY

I'm so lucky this spicy mama is by my side.

Carmen smiles.

CARMEN

Yes you are. And don't forget it.

GUY

(joking)

God forbid. You rock my world, babe.

They get in the car.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Carmen and Guy arrive at Katie's house. Guy parks in the driveway.

INT. CAR - DAY

CARMEN

(puzzled)

Why is there a for sale sign on the front lawn? *That's weird. She never mentioned she was selling her house. I'll be right back.*

Guy nods.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY/FRONT PORCH - DAY

Carmen gets out of the car and walks to the front porch. She rings the doorbell, knocks and waits.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Katie? It's Carmen.

Waits a few minutes, walks back to the car, opens the door and gets her cell phone out of her purse.

GUY

Everything okay?

CARMEN

She's not answering *the door*.

GUY

Maybe she's not home.

CARMEN

Maybe...I'll be back.

GUY

Okay.

She closes the door, walks back to the front porch and knocks on the door.

She calls Katie on her cell phone.

CARMEN

Katie, I'm at your front door. I *have a surprise for you. Come and get it!*

Carmen rings the door bell *and waits*.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Well, I guess you're not home. I'll leave your surprise at the front door. Call me as soon as you can. *Talk to you later, bye.*

Carmen leaves the flowers on a chair on the front porch,
walks to the car and gets in. +

INT. CAR - DAY *

Guy backs out of the driveway. *

Carmen keeps her eyes on the house. She sees a figure behind
the front window closing the blinds. +

Guy looks over at Carmen and squeezes her hand.

GUY

I'm sure she's fine, hun. Just give
her a ring later.

CARMEN

That's weird. I just saw someone
closing the blinds.

Carmen looks out the window as they drive by the houses on
the street.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/FOYER - DAY +

The door bell rings. Carmen goes to open the door and in
comes PIETRO (5) dressed in a soccer player outfit, running
past her. +

CARMEN

And there he goes! Pietro, come and
give your "abuela" [grandma] a big
hug. +

Carmen extends her arms, Pietro runs back to her and hugs
her almost knocking her over.

LUCIA (35) and MAGNUS (38) are standing at the doorway
smiling. *

CARMEN (CONT'D) *

What are you feeding this boy?! +

Carmen greets them with a kiss on both cheeks.

LUCIA *

He's a little tornado.

Magnus smiles as he walks in the door. +

MAGNUS

Nice to see you, Carmen.

CARMEN

It's good to see you, Magnus! I
like him like that. Full of
energy.

Carmen's eyes sparkle as she looks at VALENTINA (5 months)
who is in Lucia's arms.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

She gets more beautiful every time
I see her. Just like her mama.

Magnus carries the bags as they walk in the house.

Carmen takes Valentina out of Lucia's arms.

Magnus shuts the door and walks behind Lucia. He leaves the
bags in the kitchen as they walk together to the terrace.

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE - DAY

Lucia walks over to Guy and kisses him on both cheeks.

LUCIA

Hi, Daddy! How are you?

Guy hugs her and goes over to Carmen to kiss Valentina on
the forehead.

Pietro runs to the garden and stops.

PIETRO

Come here, grandpa!

GUY

I'll be right there! How's my
beautiful little princess?

Guy stretches Magnus's hand.

GUY (CONT'D)

How are you, mate?

MAGNUS

I'm good. And you?

GUY

Can't ask for more, right?

Magnus smiles.

LUCIA

Mama, I brought you dessert. You're
favorite!

Carmen turns to Lucia with a big grin on her face. *

CARMEN
Lucia, did you make me a flan? *

LUCIA
I sure did. *

CARMEN
Guy, did you hear that? We have
flan for dessert. Thank you,
sweetie. +
+

Guy gives a thumbs up and walks out to the garden.

Valentina fusses. +

LUCIA
She's hungry. I need to feed her. *

Carmen hands Valentina over to Lucia who sits at the table
and breastfeeds her. +
+

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY +

Carmen walks in the kitchen. +

She gets a pitcher of lemonade out of the refrigerator and
places it on a tray. She arranges the glasses on the tray
and brings it to the terrace. +
+
+

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE - DAY +

Places the tray on the table. *

Looks at Pietro who is walking around the flower garden with
Guy. +
+

Magnus walks over to her.

MAGNUS
I hope he grows up to be just like
him.

Carmen turns to him and smiles. +

CARMEN
And like you. I couldn't have asked
for a better father for my
grandson. Nor a better husband for
my daughter. +
+

Carmen squeezes Magnus's chin.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
I'm keeping you.

Magnus smiles.

We hear a knock on the door.

MAGNUS
I'll get it.

CARMEN
Thank you.

Magnus walks back in the house.

After a few minutes, he returns to the terrace with HENRY (32) and his boyfriend NATHANIEL (32), black and both sporty looking.

MAGNUS
Look who's here!

Carmen greets them with a big smile, kisses and hugs them.

CARMEN
How's my handsome boy?

HENRY
I'm doing just fine, Mom.

NATHANIEL
Hello, Carmen.

CARMEN
Hello, Nathaniel. I'm so glad you could make it. (to Henry) Your Dad is trying to keep up with Pietro. Go say hello to him.

Henry and Nathaniel walk out to the garden.

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/GARDEN/YARD - DAY

Guy and Pietro are holding hands as they walk slowly through the garden.

Pietro stops and looks up at him.

PIETRO
Grandpa? What is your favorite flower?

GUY

(thinking)
I would have to say that my
favorite flower is a gardenia.

PIETRO

Why gardenia?

GUY

Because your "abuela" [grandma]
always smells like a gardenia.

PIETRO

Why, Grandpa?

GUY

Why, what, my boy?

PIETRO

Why does "abuela" [grandma] smell
like a gardenia?

GUY

Because that's her favorite perfume
fragrance. And she wears it all the
time.

PIETRO

Can I smell it?

GUY

Go give her a hug and you'll smell
it.

PIETRO

Do you think my baby sister will
like gardenias too?

GUY

If she is anything like your
"abuela" [grandma], she will. So,
Pietro, how is it having a little
sister around?

PIETRO

(frowning)
It's boring.

GUY

(laughs)
Why do you say that?

PIETRO

Because I can't play with her.

GUY
Not yet, but you will when she gets
older.

PIETRO
(inquisitive)
Older?

GUY
Yes, she will grow like a plant.
You'll see. She'll get bigger and
then you can play with her.

PIETRO
And then we can plant her?

GUY
(laughs)
No, you can't plant her.

PIETRO
I can play with you.

GUY
Anytime. Now let's go get some of
that delicious lemonade your
"abuela" [grandma] made.

PIETRO
Okay, Grandpa.

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE - DAY

Guy and Pietro walk to the terrace and grab a glass of
lemonade.

Carmen and Magnus bring out some hors d'oeuvres and place
them on the table.

Lucia covers her breast and holds Valentina on her shoulder
to burp her.

Henry and Nathaniel come over to them.

Henry takes Valentina from her and sits at the table.
Nathaniel sits next to him.

Henry and Nathaniel look at Valentina and then smile at each
other.

HENRY
(to Nathaniel)
I want one.

Nathaniel looks at him with a sweet look on his face. +

NATHANIEL +
We'll get one. +

Pietro and Guy sit next to Lucia. *

Magnus brings a glass of lemonade over to Lucia and kisses her on her lips. +
+

Carmen smiles gazing at all of them, sits next to Lucia and whispers. +
+

CARMEN
I can't believe your dad is turning 70 next month.

LUCIA +
(whispers) +
I know and we have a birthday party to plan. +

Carmen nods affirmatively.

LUCIA (CONT'D) +
(whispers) +
What do you have in mind?

CARMEN +
(whispers) +
Since his birthday falls on Halloween, what do you think of a Halloween/birthday party? +

Pietro gets up and runs back to the yard to play with a soccer ball. *

Magnus and Guy join him. +

LUCIA +
(whispers) +
Brilliant idea! +

HENRY
I haven't been to a Halloween party in ages.

Pietro runs to the terrace.

PIETRO
Uncle Henry, Uncle Nathaniel come play soccer with us.

Henry gets up and hands Valentina to Lucia. +

Nathaniel gets up and walks with Henry to the yard. +

LUCIA *

I can already picture you dressed
in a glittery flamenco dress with a
big red flower on your head.

CARMEN

I need to make it sexy.

LUCIA *

Oh, boy, this sounds interesting.
Mama, your phone is ringing. *

CARMEN *

Oh! Excuse me.

Carmen gets up and walks into the kitchen. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY +

She sees Katie's name on the screen of the cell phone and
answers. +

CARMEN

Hi, Katie, how are you? Are you
feeling better? Stella told me
you're not feeling well. Oh? I
wonder why she said that. Is
something wrong? Are you sure? +
Hey, did you like my surprise? The
flowers I left on the front porch.
(annoyed) Are you kidding me? Your
neighbors must have stolen them.
That's so annoying. Sunflowers,
your favorite. I can't believe it!
By the way... why is there a for
sale sign on your front lawn? I
didn't know you were selling your
house. You never told me. So why is
she selling it? Katie, just tell
her no. That's your house. If you
don't want to sell it, then don't.
You're moving in with them? Are
you sure that's what you want? All
right, go. We can talk later, bye. +

Carmen shakes her head, leaves her cell phone on the kitchen
counter and walks to the terrace.

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE/YARD - DAY +

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 My love, can you please start the
 fire? Henry, give Daddy a hand,
 will you?

HENRY
 Hey, Dad! Let's get this show on
 the road.

Henry and Nathaniel walk over to Guy in the yard who stands
 by the grill.

Carmen walks over to where Lucia is sitting.

CARMEN
 That was Katie. She just told me
 Stella wants her to sell the house
 and move in with her boyfriend.

LUCIA
 You don't think it's a good idea?

CARMEN
 I think it's a very bad idea.
 There's something fishy about this.
 Stella is rude and mean to her
 mother. She's constantly asking her
 for money. I don't like her
 boyfriend. I think he's on drugs or
 something. I just don't trust them.

LUCIA
 That doesn't sound good.

CARMEN
 (worried)
 I know.

LUCIA
 Did I tell you Magnus's parents are
 coming to visit?

CARMEN
 No. You don't seem happy about it.

LUCIA
 It's just that I'm afraid they'll
 ask us to move to Germany.

CARMEN
 Why would they do that?

LUCIA

His father is retiring. They need Magnus to run the business.

CARMEN

It's about time he retired.

LUCIA

I don't want to be away from you and Daddy. Pietro would be crushed without you.

CARMEN

You're not getting rid of us that easily, honey. And besides, you know very well how much Daddy and I love to travel especially now that he's retired. Just make sure you have an extra bedroom for us.

Carmen and Lucia smile at each other.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN/YARD - DAY

Carmen walks into the kitchen and grabs a bottle of wine.

She stops to look out the terrace with a big smile watching Guy, Pietro, Henry, Nathaniel and Magnus playing together in the yard. She glances over at Lucia and Valentina.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

The community center is buzzing with elderly people playing card games and bingo.

Carmen and VALERIE (67), black, sit next to each other knitting.

The TEACHER (72) approaches observing their work.

TEACHER

Very nice, ladies! I see you're almost done. Any ideas for our next project?

Carmen and Valerie look at each other.

Valerie bursts with an answer.

VALERIE

Baby booties.

CARMEN
 (surprised)
 Baby booties? Pink or blue?

*
 +

VALERIE
 (joyous)
 Pink!!!

CARMEN
 Congratulations! That's wonderful!

+

VALERIE
 Thank you. It's my first grand
 child. I'm thrilled.

TEACHER
 Congratulations! That's great! I
 have some very cute patterns for
 booties.

+
 +

VALERIE
 I would love that.

+
 +

TEACHER
 Have you ladies heard from Katie?
 Is she not coming back to class?

+
 +
 +

CARMEN
 I've have been trying for days to
 reach her, but she's not answering
 my calls.

+

TEACHER
 I called her last night and left a
 message but, no response yet.

CARMEN
 Maybe I'll go check on her, see if
 she's okay.

+
 +

TEACHER
 Please let me know. Okay, ladies.
 I'll see you next Saturday.

+
 +

Carmen and Valerie gather their belongings.

*

CARMEN
 See you then. Bye.

+
 +

VALERIE
 Thank you. Bye.

+

They walk through the community center and stop before
 heading out.

+
 +

Valerie looks at Carmen. +

VALERIE (CONT'D)
Would you like to grab some lunch? +

CARMEN
Sure! That would be lovely.

VALERIE
You like sushi?

CARMEN
I love sushi.

VALERIE
I know the perfect place. Just
follow me. +

CARMEN
Okay. +

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER/PARKING LOT - DAY +

They leave the community center, get in their cars and drive
out of the parking lot. +

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY +

They enter the restaurant and wait to be seated. +

The HOSTESS (early twenties) comes over to them and smiles. +

HOSTESS
Hello, ladies. Table for two? +

VALERIE
Yes, please.

HOSTESS
This way, please. +

Carmen and Valerie walk together to the table and sit. *

The hostess hands them a menu. +

CARMEN
Thank you. +

VALERIE
Thank you. +

HOSTESS
Your waitress will be with you in
just a moment. +

Carmen and Valerie smile at the hostess who walks away. +

Carmen looks around the restaurant. +

CARMEN

Very nice. +

VALERIE

The sushi is the best in town.

The WAITRESS (twenties), wearing a colorful kimono, walks up to the table and smiles. +

WAITRESS

Hello! My name is Mikoto and I will be your waitress today. What can I get you to drink? +

The waitress looks at Valerie first. +

VALERIE

I'll have a small carafe of sake, please. +

WAITRESS

(to Carmen)

And you ma'am? +

CARMEN

A dirty martini with two olives, please. +

The waitress smiles. +

WAITRESS

I'll be right back with your drinks.

CARMEN

Thank you.

VALERIE

Thank you. +

The waitress walks away. +

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I appreciate you taking the time to have lunch with me. *

CARMEN

My pleasure! *

They look at the menu for a moment. +

Valerie puts hers down and looks up at Carmen. +

VALERIE
So tell me. What is it like being a
grandmother?

Carmen smiles and her eyes glitter. +

CARMEN
It's wonderful! My husband and I
enjoy our grandchildren very much. +

The waitress places the drinks on the table.

WAITRESS
Let me know when you're ready to
order. +

VALERIE
Yes, thank you. +

The waitress walks away. +

Carmen raises her glass.

CARMEN
Let's make a toast. *

Valerie raises hers.

VALERIE
What should we toast to? +

CARMEN
To grandmthood.

They laugh.

VALERIE
I'll drink to that. Cheers!

CARMEN
Cheers!

They clink their glasses and sip. *

VALERIE
So, how did you meet your husband? +

CARMEN
(giggling)
Destiny and a good catch. I used to
be a flamenco dancer. +

VALERIE

Really?

Carmen laughs.

CARMEN

It's a funny story. I was performing at this restaurant in Madrid where Guy and his friends were having dinner. They were sitting at a table right in front of the stage which was a blessing in disguise because as I'm twirling around the stage, all of a sudden my heel gets stuck on the hem of my dress. I twirled right into his lap. Good thing he caught me or I would've ended up on the floor.

Valerie laughs.

VALERIE

That was a good catch!

They laugh.

CARMEN

Literally! I was mortified! According to him, he took one look into my big brown eyes, my blushed cheeks and the rest is history. Still very much in love after all these years. He just retired so we are very excited about spending our golden years together. What about you? I'm sorry, I... you don't...

Valerie interrupts.

VALERIE

No, no... it's okay. I met my husband at the FBI academy in Virginia.

CARMEN

You were an FBI agent?

VALERIE

I was. After we graduated, I was offered a position at the bureau in Paris as a Special Agent Criminal Investigator. My linguistics background took me there. I speak fluent French.

CARMEN

Impressive.

Valerie smiles.

VALERIE

Matt was assigned to the Criminal Investigative Division in New York.

CARMEN

So he was in New York and you were in Paris.

VALERIE

It was long distance relationship even after we got married. I stayed in Paris for a few more years until our children were born. It didn't make sense to live apart now that we had a family.

CARMEN

How old are your children?

VALERIE

My oldest, Elizabeth, would have turned 36 this month and Maximilian is 34.

Carmen looks at Valerie with a puzzled expression.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

She passed away when she was sixteen from a drug overdose.

CARMEN

Oh my God, Valerie. I'm so, so sorry.

VALERIE

Thank you. It's something I still can't grasp. Sometimes... as parents... we're blind to the darkness within our children.

CARMEN

What do you mean?

VALERIE

What I mean is... my husband and I had no idea the turmoil Lizzie was in until it was too late. Since she was a little girl, her biggest dream was being a ballet dancer.

(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)

At the age of ten she joined the local ballet company. We sent her every summer to the Opéra national de Paris which is the best ballet school in Paris. She won numerous awards, competitions. My husband and I were so proud of her. (pause) But, we had no idea she was struggling.

CARMEN

With what?

VALERIE

Herself. The pressure she put on herself. At the age of sixteen, she became fiercely critical and obsessive with her weight. To the point where she was just skin and bones. Her dad and I did everything we could to help her, but it wasn't enough.

(pause)

She turned to drugs and went too far.

Carmen squeezes Valerie's hand comforting her.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

It devastated us. After a few months, my husband couldn't bear it anymore and shot himself.

Carmen is shocked and saddened.

They sit quietly.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE - DAY

Carmen walks out to the terrace with a cup of tea and sits on a chair in the terrace looking at the garden.

CARMEN'S THOUGHTS (V.O.)

Valerie is such a strong woman. I don't know how she does it. Everything she's been through. I don't think I would make it. She's really a survivor.

HENRY (O.S.)

Mom, Dad?

Carmen jumps.

CARMEN

Over here.

Henry comes in and hugs her from behind. She grabs his arms.

Henry kisses her on the cheek and sits on a chair next to her.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Henry, what a surprise.

HENRY

Did I scare you? I'm sorry. What are you doing sitting here all by yourself? Where's Dad?

CARMEN

He's napping. How's work?

HENRY

Work is good. Is he not feeling well? Dad never naps.

CARMEN

He's fine. Just a little tired.

HENRY

That's unusual. Maybe he's been spending too much time on the golf course. Anyway, there's something I need to tell you and dad.

CARMEN

Oh, this sounds serious.

HENRY

Well, it is, but not life threatening. I know how you worry too much.

CARMEN

I only worry because I love you.

Carmen shrugs her shoulders.

Guy enters the terrace and hugs Henry.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Hi, my love. I thought you were napping.

He sits in a chair next to Henry.

GUY

I heard Henry's voice. How you
doing, mate? +

HENRY

I'm good. I was just telling Mom
that there's something I need to
tell you. Something very important
and I hope you both listen with an
open mind and an open heart. Okay?

CARMEN

Okay.

Carmen looks over at Guy.

GUY

Shoot, son.

Henry takes a deep breath.

HENRY

Nathaniel and want to have a baby. +

Carmen jumps from the chair and hugs Henry. *

CARMEN

Wonderful! You and Nathaniel will
be the best parents any child can
have. This is so exciting! +

GUY

Good news! Are you adopting?

HENRY

No. Remember I said to keep an open
mind?

GUY

I do.

CARMEN

I do too.

Carmen sits back down. +

HENRY

Nathaniel and I would like Lucia to
have our baby. *

Guy chokes. +

GUY

Are you out of your minds? That would be incest!

*

Carmen looks confused.

+

CARMEN

I think I'm liberal, but not that liberal.

HENRY

This is offensive! I would never have sex with my own sister. What's wrong with you guys? That's sick!

+

GUY

Well, pardon our ignorance! Then, how?

+

+

HENRY

Haven't you heard of surrogacy?

GUY

You want to borrow your sister's womb?

HENRY

Yes, we do. That way our child can have both our traits. Nathaniel and Lucia are both beautiful beings so the result is bound to be a beautiful, mixed baby. Can you imagine? A blue eyed, caramel skin baby. Gorgeous!

*

CARMEN

I have no doubt about that. The big question here is if your sister would be up to it. Not only her, but Magnus has to also be considered. Don't you think, Guy?

+

+

GUY

Absolutely! (to Henry) You're asking a lot from them.

HENRY

I know it's complicated, but not impossible.

GUY

Do you have a plan b just in case Lucia is not up to having another child?

*

HENRY
Yes, Dad, we do.

GUY
Okay, mate. We'll just have to see
how all this will work out.

CARMEN
Henry, darling, are you staying for
dinner? I think we need to discuss
this further.

HENRY
Sure, Mother, if that makes you
happy.

Carmen smiles.

CARMEN
It makes both of us happy.
(to Guy) Right, honey?

Guy nods affirmatively.

GUY
Yes, my love.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Carmen pulls up and parks in Katie's driveway.

Gets out of the car.

EXT. DRIVEWAY/FRONT PORCH - DAY

She walks to the front door, knocks and waits. Rings the
doorbell.

CARMEN
Katie! It's Carmen.

Waits a few seconds and then tries to open the door, but
it's locked.

She walks towards the back looking into the windows.

The kitchen door is open and she walks in.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Carmen enters the kitchen slowly. Light comes in through
the kitchen window above the sink.

She is shocked to see the messy and filthy kitchen. The sink is full of unwashed dishes.

She continues into the hallway.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY +

Carmen walks down the hallway.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
Katie? Katie?

She stops in front of Katie's bedroom. *

She sees that the bed is unmade and a lamp is on the floor next to the night table. +
+

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY +

She walks in the bedroom and gasps when she sees blood on the bed. +

Takes a few steps back, turns around and walks out of the bedroom. *

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY +

She walks slowly down the hallway.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY +

As she enters, the light from the window allows her to see the messy living room. +

Looks down on the sofa and sees blood stains. +

Scared, she rapidly walks out of the house. +

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY +

Quickly, she walks down the driveway to her car, gets in and shuts the door. +

INT. CAR - DAY *

Breathing heavily, trembling, she reaches for her cell phone in her purse and calls Guy. +
+

CARMEN (CONT'D)
Guy! No, I'm not okay. I think something terrible has happened to Katie. Because there's blood in the house! Yes, come now, please, hurry.

Carmen calls 911. *

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
911, what's your emergency? +

She stutters nervously. +

CARMEN
Um... I... I think... something...
bad has happened to my friend.
There's blood in the house! +

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
What's the address? +

Carmen clears her throat. +

CARMEN
It's, um, 90 Lavender Street. I'm
worried about her. Please, send
help quickly. +

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Ma'am, please stay calm and do not
go back in the house. An officer
has been dispatched and will be
there shortly. +

CARMEN
Okay, thank you. +

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
You're welcome. +

Through the windshield, Carmen sees the NEIGHBOR (80) come
out of the house on the right. +

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY +

She gets out of the car and rushes to him. +

EXT. DRIVEWAY/FRONT LAWN - DAY *

CARMEN
Excuse me, sir. Have you seen
Katie? Your next door neighbor? +

NEIGHBOR
Uh, no, not today, but I saw them
leave in a hurry last night. They
were yelling so loud I had to get
up from my comfy couch to look out
the window to see what was going
on. +

CARMEN

And what did you see? Did you see
Katie?

NEIGHBOR

All I saw was them getting in a
pick up truck.

CARMEN

When you say them, was it Katie and
her daughter? Was there somebody
else with them?

NEIGHBOR

Lady, geez! I don't know. It was
dark. My eyesight ain't that good
anymore.

CARMEN

Please try to remember. I'm afraid
my friend might be in trouble.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/FRONT LAWN/STREET - DAY

Carmen sees Guy driving up the street.

He parks on the sidewalk and gets out of the car.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

There's my husband.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/SIDEWALK - DAY

She runs to the sidewalk and hugs him tightly.

CARMEN

Thank God you're here. Something is
wrong. I know it, I can feel it.
The house is such a mess.

Guy hugs her.

GUY

Now, calm down, honey.

Carmen shakes.

CARMEN

I called the police. They should be
here any minute.

Guy sees a man walking towards them from the house next
door.

GUY

Who's he?

CARMEN

The neighbor.

GUY

Does he know anything?

CARMEN

He said he saw them getting into a pick up truck last night. Guy, Katie doesn't have a pick up truck.

+

GUY

Then who does?

CARMEN

Maybe Stella's boyfriend. I'm so scared.

*

GUY

Have you tried calling her?

+

CARMEN

Multiple times, but she's not answering or returning my calls. That's why I came over here.

+

+

+

GUY

All right, just stay calm.

+

Carmen paces up and down the sidewalk.

+

The neighbor waits with them.

*

Carmen sees the patrol car coming up the street. They park behind Guy's car.

+

+

TWO POLICE OFFICERS, a policeman and a policewoman get out of the patrol car and approach them.

+

+

OFFICER SANCHEZ

Good afternoon. I'm officer Sanchez and this is officer Walker. What's going on?

+

+

Carmen is nervous.

+

CARMEN

You see, officer, um, my friend Katie lives here with her daughter Stella (pointing at the house).

*

(MORE)

CARMEN (CONT'D)

I've been trying to reach her for days and... and she missed our knitting class on Saturday. So, I, I thought I... should come by her house and check on her. Being she didn't answer the door, I walked around the house and when I saw the kitchen door open, I went in.

OFFICER WALKER

When was the last time you saw your friend?

CARMEN

Last week when we went grocery shopping.

OFFICER SANCHEZ

So you went in the house? By yourself or with...? (looks at Guy and at the neighbor)

NEIGHBOR

I'm the next door neighbor.

CARMEN

This is my husband Guy. Yes, by myself. After what I saw, I came out of the house and called my husband right away and asked him to meet me here. Then I called 911.

OFFICER WALKER

What did you see in the house?

CARMEN

I saw blood on Katie's bed and on the sofa in the living room. The house is a mess. I just have a bad feeling about this.

Officer Walker takes notes.

OFFICER WALKER

Ma'am, what is your name?

CARMEN

Carmen Flores O'Connor

OFFICER WALKER

And yours, sir?

GUY
Guy O'Connor

Officer Sanchez points at Carmen's car.

OFFICER SANCHEZ
Whose car is this?

CARMEN
Mine.

OFFICER SANCHEZ (CONT'D)
We're going to take a look inside.
Did you see anybody in the house?

CARMEN
No, I didn't.

OFFICER SANCHEZ
Thank you, we'll take it from here.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

The officers walk up the driveway and enter the house through the open front door.

Carmen and Guy wait on the sidewalk with the neighbor.

CARMEN
I bet Stella and her creepy
boyfriend did something to her.

GUY
Hun, don't get ahead of yourself. I
know you're worried, but let the
police figure this out.

Carmen and Guy wait.

The officers come out the kitchen door on the side of the house.

Carmen anxiously approaches them.

CARMEN
Well? Is it blood?

OFFICER SANCHEZ
There seems to have been a struggle
of some sort.

Carmen puts her hands on her chest.

CARMEN

Oh my God!!!

Carmen cries.

Guy puts his arm around her shoulders.

OFFICER WALKER

In the meantime, please call us if
you hear from her.

GUY

We will. Thank you. Come on,
honey. Everything will be okay.

CARMEN

I'm so scared.

GUY

I know you are.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

STELLA (40) disheveled and frail, stands by the stove
pouring a can of soup into a pot.

The tea kettle on the stove whistles. She grabs the kettle,
pours the hot water into a cup and places it on a metal
tray.

Grabs a lit cigarette from the ashtray on the kitchen table,
sucks a long, drawn drag, then puts it out in a beer can on
the counter.

She takes a bowl out of the upper kitchen cabinet, places it
on the tray, grabs the pot and pours the soup in the bowl.

Takes a spoon from the dish strainer and places it on the
tray.

KEVIN (35) walks in the kitchen. He is agitated and has a
mean look on his face.

He looks at the tray and frowns.

KEVIN

Who's that for?

STELLA

(snarly)

Guess.

Kevin gives Stella a dirty look.

KEVIN

Somebody's in a nasty mood.

STELLA

What do you expect? I wouldn't be surprised if you left her brain dead.

KEVIN

She was being stubborn. I had to control the old hag.

STELLA

By hitting her on the head with the fucking lamp? Kevin, I can't wake up her up! You fucking asshole!!!

Kevin grabs Stella by her chin.

KEVIN

You need to get the money out of her bank account asap.

Kevin lets go of Stella's chin.

STELLA

And how am I suppose to do that if she's unconscious? I swear, if she dies... you're going to jail for murder.

Kevin gets in Stella's face and grabs her by the arm.

Stella tries to release her arm.

KEVIN

Oh, yeah? So will you, missy.

She yanks her arm away and rubs it.

STELLA

That hurt! We need to bring her to the emergency room. I think she needs stitches.

KEVIN

Are you stupid or what? We ain't going to no goddam emergency room. She can die for all I care.

STELLA

You're the stupid one! If she dies we don't get shit.

(MORE)

STELLA (CONT'D)
Her pension and social security
will stop automatically.

Kevin pokes Stella in the shoulder a few times.

KEVIN
Just take a needle and thread and
stitch her up yourself. And that's
the end of that.

Kevin walks out of the kitchen.

STELLA
You fucking jerk!

Stella grabs the tray and walks out of the kitchen and into
the living room.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie is laying on the sofa. Her forehead is bruised and
bloody. There is a cut above her left eye.

Stella places the tray on the coffee table and sits on the
edge of the sofa next to her.

STELLA (CONT'D)
Mom? Mom, wake up. I brought you
some tea and soup.

Stella shakes Katie by the shoulders, but Katie doesn't
respond.

STELLA (CONT'D)
Mom, wake up! Shit, Mom, you're
going to get me in so much trouble
if you don't wake up.

Stella tries to open Katie's eyes with her fingers.

STELLA (CONT'D)
Mom! I need you to wake up. Kevin's
angry at us and he can get very
mean.

She grabs the cigarettes and lighter from the coffee table.
She gets one out of the pack and lights it.

Her cheeks sink in as she puffs. She looks at Katie.

STELLA (CONT'D)
Okay, that's enough. You have to
wake up!

(MORE)

STELLA (CONT'D)

This is going to get really bad if
you continue like this. *

She puts the cigarette out in the ashtray on the coffee
table. *

Surprised by the ringing of a cell phone, she gets up from
the sofa, stands still for a moment trying to figure out
where it is coming from. +

Stella walks around the living room and realizes that the
ringing is coming from Katie's purse on the floor. +

She grabs it and in a hurry digs in to find the cell phone. +

Finally, she gets it out and sees Carmen's name on the
screen. It stops ringing.

Stella waits a few seconds. It dings. She presses the
voicemail option and listens. +

CARMEN (V.O)

Katie, where on earth are you? I
went to your house and it's a mess!
I called the police. Please, please
let me know you're okay. I'm so
worried about you! Call me! +

STELLA

Fuck! +

Stella puts the cell phone down on the coffee table and runs
to the front window. She sees Kevin arriving in his pick up
truck. +

He gets out carrying a grocery bag and enters through the
front door.

She turns quickly.

Kevin walks in the living room and looks at Stella's
frightened face.

KEVIN

What the fuck is wrong with you?
You look demented. +

Stella hesitates. She can't get the words out of her mouth.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(disgusted)

You're crazy. You know that?

Kevin walks to the kitchen.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kevin places the bag on the table.

Stella walks in.

Impatient, he looks at her.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Do I have to slap it out of you?
What the fuck is wrong with you?

Stella is too scared to talk.

Kevin shouts.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I swear...

Stella mumbles her words.

STELLA
Carmen called the police.

KEVIN
What? Who the fuck is Carmen?

STELLA
My mom's friend. She left her a voicemail.

Kevin gets angry.

KEVIN
Fuck! You damn bitch!

Kevin grabs her by the hair. Stella screams in pain.

STELLA
Kevin! Stop! You're hurting me! Let go of me.

He shakes her head. Stella grabs his hands trying to release them.

KEVIN
(furious)
If you would've drugged her like I told you too, we wouldn't be in this goddam mess. You stupid fucking idiot! You fucked this up!

Kevin lets go of Stella. *

She runs into the living room moaning in pain. +

He follows her. +

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

Stella is holding her head with her hands. *

Kevin grabs her by the arm and shakes her. +

KEVIN
Get rid of her, now! +

STELLA
(shocked)
What? +

KEVIN
(yells)
Are you deaf? +

STELLA
But... she's still alive! +

KEVIN
She'll be dead by morning. You have
to get rid of her.

STELLA
I can't do that!

KEVIN
Then you're stuck with her 'cause
I'm leaving. +

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY +

Kevin crosses the hallway and into the bedroom.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT +

He opens the closet door, takes out a DUFFEL BAG and throws
it on the bed. He takes his CLOTHES out of the dresser
drawer. +

Stella walks in and stands in the doorway watching him pack
the bag.

STELLA
Where're you going? You can't just
leave me like this! +

KEVIN

Watch me!

Kevin grabs the duffel bag and a GUN that is on the dresser. +

He walks out of the bedroom and goes to the kitchen.

Stella follows him.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT +

Kevin places the duffel bag and gun on the kitchen table. *

He turns to take money out of a drawer and as he turns +
around he sees Stella pointing the gun at him. +

Stella's hands shake. +

STELLA

I know how to use this.

KEVIN

Stella, give me the gun.

STELLA

No.

KEVIN

I said give me the fucking gun.

STELLA

I said no.

Kevin lunges at her over the kitchen table.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

Stella runs into the living room. *

Kevin runs after her. +

They run across the living room. +

As she reaches the front door knob, he grabs her arm. They +
struggle. +

The gun goes off. +

Kevin backs away realizing he's been shot in the thigh. *

He moans in pain and snaps at her. +

KEVIN

Don't just stand there! Go get a towel or something!

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT +

Stella drops the gun on the coffee table and runs into the kitchen.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

She grabs a kitchen towel runs back to the living room. +

As she enters, Kevin pushes her against the wall and starts chocking her with his hands. +

Stella struggles to breathe. +

KATIE (O.S.) +

Let go of her now!

He slowly turns around while still holding Stella by the throat.

KEVIN

You've got to be kidding me?

KATIE

Do I look like I'm kidding?

Katie stands pointing the gun at him. +

Kevin lets go of Stella's neck. Looks at Katie. +

Stella grabs her neck while coughing as she tries to catch her breath. +

KEVIN

Now hold your horses there. This was all her idea. I had nothing to do with it.

KATIE

Is that so?

STELLA

You fucking piece of shit! Mom, he's lying!

Stella sees the fireplace tool set next to her, grabs the poker and hits him repeatedly on the head.

Kevin falls on the floor screaming in agony.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Stella, stop! That's enough.

Stella stops with the poker in midair.

STELLA
Why? He's a monster!

KATIE
I know, but don't kill him. I don't
want you to be charged with murder.

Kevin drops to the floor almost unconscious.

Stella lets go of the poker, walks over to Katie and hugs
her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Can I have my phone?

STELLA
What for?

KATIE
Just give me my phone. You can
figure out what to do with him.

STELLA
Mom, I'm so sorry. Can you please
forgive me?

Stella gets the cell phone, hands it to her.

Katie makes a call.

STELLA (CONT'D)
Who are you calling?

Katie looks at her.

KATIE
You broke my trust, Stella. How can
I ever trust you again?

STELLA
I know, Mom, but please don't leave
me here with him.

KATIE
You need help.

Stella nods affirming and waits nervously by her side
fidgeting with her fingers.

She grabs a cigarette out of the pack on the coffee table and lights it. +
+

KATIE (CONT'D)

Carmen, it's Katie. Did I wake you? +
I'm sorry. I know. Yes. I might +
need some stitches, but I'm okay. +
I'll tell you all about it later. I +
need a huge favor now. Can you come +
and pick me up? +

INT. CLUBHOUSE/PARTY ROOM - NIGHT +

There is a DJ in the corner of the room playing music. We +
see a banner on the wall that says "HAPPY 70 BIRTHDAY, GUY" +
and another one on the opposite wall that says "HAPPY +
HALLOWEEN".. The room is decorated with red, gold and white +
balloons. There are multiple tables and chairs and a dance +
floor. +

Carmen is dressed in a flamenco black and white polka dot +
dress and a witch's hat with a big red flower on it. She +
wears fiery red lipstick. +

Guy is dressed as a knight. +

The GUESTS are all dressed in costumes and stand around a +
table with a huge birthday cake. *

Lucia, Magnus, Henry, Nathaniel, Katie, Valerie and other +
guests surround the table. +

CARMEN

Come on, everybody! It's time to +
sing happy birthday to the love of +
my life. Henry, please light the +
candles. +

Henry lights the candles. Nathaniel joins him. +

HENRY

Seventy candles! Mom, don't you +
think you went a little overboard?

They all laugh.

CARMEN

Nonsense. Nothing is too much for +
my knight in shining armor.

Carmen kisses Guy.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *

Thank you, guys. Okay, everybody
ready? A one, a two, a one, two,
three, four. +

All the guests join in singing happy birthday to Guy. +

"Happy birthday to you, happy
birthday to you. Happy birthday
dear Guy, happy birthday to you!" +

They finish singing, Guy blows out the candles and hugs
Carmen, Lucia, Henry, Magnus and Nathaniel. +

They all clap. +

A WAITER and WAITRESS walk around with champagne glasses on
a tray. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Everybody grab a glass of
champagne. +

Carmen takes one and waits until they all have a glass in
their hands. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Happy birthday, my love! Here's to
celebrating you for many more
years. I love you. Cheers! +

GUY +

And I love you. Cheers! +

They all clink their glasses and drink. +

The DJ plays Roberta Flack's The First Time Ever I Saw Your
Face. +

Guy turns to Carmen extending his hand. +

GUY (CONT'D)

My lady, may I have this dance?

CARMEN

Absolutely, my lord.

Carmen and Guy walk to the dance floor holding hands. +

Guy bows and Carmen curtsies. They slow dance to the music. +

Carmen closes her eyes. *

The song ends, they stop dancing and kiss. +

Flamenco music begins playing and they all clear the dance floor except for Carmen who walks to the center. +

She excitedly and passionately performs a flamenco routine twirling around the dance floor. +

The crowd is clapping and cheering. +

The song ends and she stops with her arms up in the air. After a pause, she takes a bow. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
 "¡Olé!" "¡Feliz cumpleaños, mi amor!" [Happy birthday, my love!] +

Guy walks over to her and hugs her. *

They are joined by Lucia and Henry. +

The four of them hug. *

Magnus and Nathaniel take photos as well as the other guests. +

Music starts playing again. +

Lucia dances with Guy and Henry with Carmen. +

Lucia turns to Carmen. +

LUCIA *
 Mama, we did it! Great party! +

Carmen winks at her smiling widely. +

The guests join them on the dance floor.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY/FRONT PORCH - EVENING +

Carmen arrives to pick up Katie and parks in the driveway. +

Katie walks out of the house. +

Stella walks out to the front porch and waves at Carmen.

Carmen looks out the window and waves back. +

Katie gets in the car and closes the door. +

INT. CAR - EVENING *

Carmen looks at Katie.

CARMEN

How is she?

KATIE

Not good. All day long she has a
cigarette in her mouth. Black
coffee and a cigarette. That's it.
She refuses to get help. She's
skin and bones.

Carmen squeezes Katie's hand.

CARMEN

It'll take time, but she'll be
okay.

KATIE

I hope so.

CARMEN

I want you to enjoy this evening.
You look beautiful, by the way!

Katie smiles and looks at Carmen.

KATIE

Thank you. So do you.

Carmen smiles.

Katie looks out the window.

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

Carmen takes off down the road.

The sun is setting as they drive by the river.

INT. CAR - EVENING

KATIE

This is such a beautiful drive.
Where are we going?

Carmen looks at Katie and smiles.

CARMEN

We are going to Valerie's house for
dinner.

KATIE

Oh, right. Valerie's house.

CARMEN

We should be there soon.

Katie smiles at her.

KATIE

I wish my husband was coming with us.

Carmen looks at her with empathy.

CARMEN

I know you do. Guy didn't want to come. He said he wasn't feeling well.

KATIE

Oh? I hope he's okay.

CARMEN

Yeah, me too. I'll call him later.

EXT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Carmen parks in the driveway and they get out of the car.

Valerie comes out the door to greet them. She kisses them on both cheeks.

VALERIE

Welcome, my lovely ladies! So glad you could make it. Come in, please.

They walk together in the house.

KATIE

What a beautiful house!

CARMEN

It's gorgeous!

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/FOYER - EVENING

VALERIE

Thank you. It's going on the market soon.

KATIE

Are you moving?

VALERIE

Yes. I bought this house to be close to my son while he was in medical school.

(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 He's done, so now it's time to go
 back to Paris.

KATIE
 Can I come with you?

They laugh and follow Valerie into the kitchen.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - EVENING

VALERIE
 Please, sit.

Carmen and Katie sit on the stools at the counter.

Valerie pops open a bottle of champagne and fills the
 glasses.

They raise the glasses clinking them together.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 Cheers!

KATIE
 Cheers!

CARMEN
 Cheers! Thanks for having us.

VALERIE
 My pleasure.

They sip the champagne.

The doorbell rings.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 Excuse me.

CARMEN
 Of course.

Valerie goes to answer the door.

Carmen and Katie marvel at the beauty of the interiors.

KATIE
 I love this house. Is she rich?

Carmen laughs.

CARMEN
 I think so.

Valerie walks in the kitchen followed by a MAN (58) and a WOMAN (62).

Valerie introduces them.

VALERIE

Ladies, these are my good friends Enrique and Penelope, also known as Quique and Penny. And these lovely women are Carmen and Katie.

They all exchange greetings and shake each other's hands.

CARMEN

Nice to meet you.

KATIE

Hi.

QUIQUE

Nice to meet you too.

PENNY

Hello.

Valerie looks at Quique and Penny.

VALERIE

Champagne?

QUIQUE

Ooh la la! You don't even have to ask.

PENNY

"Oui, madame!" [Yes, ma'am!]

Valerie fills the champagne glasses and hands them to Penny and Quique.

VALERIE

Now that everybody is here follow me to the dinning room.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

They follow Valerie into the dinning room.

The room is beautifully decorated with chandeliers and lit candles. The table is set with very fine china, glassware and silverware. Everything on the table is white and gold.

Classical music is playing softly in the background.

Quique approaches Carmen. +

QUIQUE +
I know this is going to be good. +
She's an excellent cook. Have you +
tried her risotto with truffles? +

CARMEN +
I have not. *

QUIQUE +
It's to die for. +

Quique stares at her shoes. +

QUIQUE (CONT'D) +
Nice shoes! Jimmy Choo? +

Carmen looks down at her feet and looks at him amused.

CARMEN +
Yes! You like them? +

QUIQUE +
I love them. Their exquisite. So, +
how long have you been a widow? +

CARMEN +
Oh, no. I'm not a widow. +

QUIQUE +
Oh? So, how do you know Valerie? +

CARMEN +
From knitting class. +

QUIQUE +
I bet she's knitting pink booties. +
I'm so excited for her. +

CARMEN +
Me too. +

QUIQUE +
Valerie and I met at a grief +
support group. She's been helping +
me through my grieving process. +

Quique gets teary eyed. +

QUIQUE (CONT'D) +
My husband passed away a year ago. +
He drowned while we were on +
vacation in Hawaii. +

CARMEN

Oh my God! That's awful. I'm so sorry.

Awkward silence. *

Quique continues. +

QUIQUE +

I tried to save him, but the current ripped him from me. +

Carmen is saddened. +

CARMEN

You must miss him very much.

QUIQUE +

You have no idea. I'm sorry. +

Quique walks away. +

Valerie stands by the buffet table.

VALERIE

My mighty warriors! Dinner is ready. Grab a plate and help yourself to the buffet. I'll be coming around with the wine. Let me know if you need anything. "Bon appetite, mes amis!" [Good appetite, my friends!] +

One by one, they walk to the buffet table and serve themselves. +

Carmen stares at the dish in front of her. She is pleasantly surprised.

CARMEN

You made a seafood paella!

VALERIE

"Oui, madame." [Yes, ma'am.] A seafood paella especially for you. +

CARMEN

"Muchas gracias, amiga." [Thank you very much, my friend.] +

VALERIE

You're welcome. I just love cooking for my friends. It makes me happy. "Joie de vivre." [Joy of life] +

KATIE

I had never seen such colorful food
in my life! What a feast!

They laugh.

VALERIE

I hope you like it. Enjoy!

Valerie waits for everyone to be seated at the table to sit. +

She lifts her glass for a toast and gets emotional. +

VALERIE (CONT'D) *

It's happening, right? *

(takes a deep breath) Let me just +
start by thanking all of you for
being here tonight. It means the
world to me. You have all touched
my life in a very special way and I
will never forget that. Penny,
Quique, our journey as widows and
widower, has been very tough to say
the least. But, together, we have
faced grief head on. Now it's time
for me to say farewell, my friends
and thank you from the bottom of my
heart. Without each and everyone of
you, I would not be sitting here
today. Here's to you. +

They raise their glasses, clinking them together.

PENNY +

And to you, my queen!

Valerie smiles at her. +

They engage in conversations with each other. *

Valerie smiles as she looks around the table.

Carmen smiles back at her giving a thumbs up.

There is laughter all around the dinning room. +

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/FOYER - NIGHT +

They gather at the foyer to say their goodbyes.

Quique and Penny go around hugging everyone. +

Carmen and Valerie embrace.

CARMEN

Stay in touch, please. I'm going to miss you.

VALERIE

I will, I promise. I'll miss you too. We have to share our grandma stories. Don't we?

CARMEN

We do, my dear friend.

Katie hugs Valerie.

KATIE

Thank you for such a wonderful evening. Can I hide in your suitcase?

They laugh.

VALERIE

Sorry, my suitcase is full. But, you can always come and visit.

KATIE

You know? I might just do that.

They walk together to the front door.

Carmen and Katie walk out and wave goodbye.

Valerie waves back.

EXT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

They get in the car.

Carmen starts the car, goes around the semi and continues to the road.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

They ride in silence for a while.

CARMEN

Did you have a nice time?

KATIE

I had a lovely time. Valerie seems to be handling widowhood much better than I am.

CARMEN

She's been a widow longer than you,
Katie. She's had some very rough
times. I think you should join
that support group they belong to.

KATIE

I don't know if I'm up to that.

CARMEN

I'll go with you if you want me to.
Just think about it. It can't hurt.
Let me call my husband and tell him
we're on our way home.

Carmen uses the car phone to call Guy. It rings and then stops.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

I guess he's unavailable.

Carmen shrugs her shoulders.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/FOYER/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Carmen walks in the house. The house is dark.

She continues to the kitchen and turns the light on.

She leaves her bag and keys on the kitchen counter.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carmen walks in the dark hallway.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Guy? Why is it so dark in here?

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carmen walks in the bedroom.

She hears the sound of the water running in the shower.

She takes her shoes off.

Walks to the bathroom door and knocks.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Honey? I'm coming in.

Carmen opens the door.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - NIGHT +

Guy is laying on the floor still dressed.

Carmen screams. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)
Guy! Guy! Oh my God!!!

Carmen rushes to him, kneels next to him and checks to see if he's breathing. +

She runs out of the bathroom.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT +

Runs into the bedroom, grabs the receiver of the telephone on the night table and frantically calls 911. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)
My husband, my husband is laying on
the bathroom floor. He's not
breathing. Send an ambulance
immediately. 2015 Riverview Way.
Hurry, please!!! +

Carmen throws the receiver on the bed and runs to the bathroom.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - NIGHT +

Kneels next to him and desperately begins CPR. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)
Come on, Guy! Don't you dare do
this to me! Breathe! Please!!! I
beg you, breathe! Oh, for the love
of God, breathe!!! (screams) Oh,
God, no! Noooooo!!! +

Carmen holds him and sobs. +

INT. FUNERAL HOME/OFFICE - DAY *

Carmen, dressed in black, and Henry, also dressed in black, are sitting in the office of the funeral home in front of the funeral director's desk. +

The FUNERAL DIRECTOR (52) dressed in a black suit, white shirt and black tie is sitting behind his desk. From a book, he shows them different samples of coffins and cremation options. +

Henry looks at Carmen who is numb and not paying attention.

HENRY
 (softly)
 Mom, you need to make a decision.

Carmen does not respond.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Mom, did you hear me?

CARMEN
 I can't.

The funeral director looks at them.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
 I will be outside if you need some
 privacy. (looks at Carmen) Take
 your time, Mrs. O'Connor.

The funeral director stands and walks out the door.

HENRY
 Thank you.

Henry turns and faces Carmen.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Mom?

She turns to him.

CARMEN
 What do you want, Henry?

HENRY
 Mom, please. I need you to help me
 out here.

CARMEN
 Can't you see I can't do this?

Carmen wipes her tears with a tissue she takes from the
 tissue box on the desk.

Henry gets up from the chair, walks over to her and hugs
 her.

HENRY
 It's okay, Mom. I'll help you.
 We'll do it together. Just please
 make up your mind. This is agony.

Henry walks around the room looking at the sample coffins.
 Stops in front of one.

HENRY (CONT'D) *
 What do you think of this gray one?

CARMEN +
 Yeah, that's fine.

HENRY +
 Mom, you didn't even look at it. +

CARMEN +
 Just pick one. +

He turns around and looks at Carmen. +

HENRY +
 (breathes heavily) +
 I need to get out of here.

Henry walks out the door in a hurry. +

EXT. FUNERAL HOME/PATIO - DAY *

Henry opens the door of an indoor patio, walks out and bursts out crying.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT +

Carmen lays in bed. She turns to the other side and stares at the pillow. +

We see an image of Guy smiling at her. +

CARMEN +
 Those beautiful blue eyes are now +
 shut forever. +

She closes her eyes and caresses the pillow. +

She sits on the side of the bed, turns the light on the night stand and stares at the closet. She gets up, walks to the closet, opens the door, turns on the light and enters. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/CLOSET - NIGHT +

As she walks by Guy's clothes, she strokes and smells them.

She takes a shirt and a suit by the hanger, brings them out of the closet. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT +

She lays them on the bed and stares at them. +

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 (thinking out loud)
 Honey, this color looks great on
 you and with this suit, let me see,
 humm, yeah.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/CLOSET - NIGHT

She walks back to the closet and opens a drawer full of ties.

CARMEN
 Awe, look at all these pretty ties.

Carmen separates them in different groups.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 I think I'll give these to Henry...
 and... these to Nathaniel... and
 these to Magnus. I'm saving this
 one for Pietro when he gets older.

She takes one and places it close to her heart.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 I'm keeping this one. It's my
 favorite.

Puzzled, she looks around the closet.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 I'm missing something. Honey, what
 am I missing? Shoes! Oh my God! I
 can't have you arriving in heaven
 barefoot. Darling, you have to look
 dapper as always.

She takes a pair of shoes from the bottom of the closet.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 I think these are perfect.

Opens a drawer. Looks at the socks.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
 Navy blue? Black?

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

She then walks out of the closet, puts the shoes on the floor, the tie and socks on the bed.

She stands back and observes.

CARMEN

Well, what do you think? Do you approve, my love?

Turns around, walks back into the closet.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/CLOSET - NIGHT

Takes a sweater from a shelf, smells it and walks out of the closet holding it against her chest.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

She lays on Guy's side of the bed.

Turns the light off on the night stand.

CARMEN

Guy, can you hear me? Are you there? I can't do this, my love, I just can't. I want to be with you. Please come and get me.

Carmen closes her eyes.

We see the sun rising through the shades on the windows.

There is a knock on the door.

LUCIA (O.S.)

Mama, can I come in?

Carmen opens her eyes and sits up in bed.

CARMEN

Yes, come in.

Lucia opens the door and enters holding Valentina in her arms. She walks over to Carmen who is still holding the sweater. She sees Guy's clothes laying on the bed.

LUCIA

Mama, are you okay? I've been calling you all morning.

CARMEN

What are you doing here so early?

LUCIA

It's not early, Mama. It's past noon. I'm on my way to pick up Pietro from school. I was worried about you. Why aren't you answering your phone?

CARMEN

I'm sorry, sweetie. I didn't mean to worry you.

Lucia notices the sweater Carmen is holding. Slowly, she takes the sweater from Carmen and replaces it with the baby.

LUCIA

Here, hold her while I open the blinds. You're withering away in this darkness. When was the last time you ate something?

Carmen holds the baby and smiles at her.

Lucia walks over to the window and opens the blinds.

Carmen squints blinded by the brightness of the light coming through the blinds.

CARMEN

Lucia, no, please don't.

Lucia walks back to the bed and looks at Carmen.

LUCIA

(worried)

Mama, you can't go on like this. You need to get out of bed.

CARMEN

And do what? What am I suppose to do?

LUCIA

Continue living, that's what.

CARMEN

What for? I can't live without him. Don't you see? My heart is broken. This emptiness, this pain... it's... ripping me apart. It's just too much.

LUCIA

I understand. We all heartbroken. I miss Daddy so much I can barely breathe sometimes. I can't loose you too. I need you. Henry needs you, the children need you. Please, Mama. I don't want my children growing up without their grandma. Daddy would want you to go on.

(MORE)

LUCIA (CONT'D)

I know this is an awful, awful time of sorrow, and grief and extreme pain, but we need to support each other or else our family will crumble.

Carmen speaks in a low voice.

CARMEN

I can't function, Lucia. I can't help it. I died the day your father stopped breathing.

LUCIA

No, please don't say that. You're not dead. You need to get help! You can't allow this grief to eat you up alive. You must fight to survive this, Mama. Since when are you a quitter?

CARMEN

Since my husband died, dammit!

LUCIA

Oh, Mama, I'm so, so sorry. I didn't mean to upset you. It's unbearable, I know. But, what are we suppose to do? Give up? Daddy wouldn't want that.

Lucia takes the baby from Carmen's arms and lays her on the bed.

She sits on the bed next to Carmen. They hug and weep together.

CARMEN

Go and pick up your adorable munchkin from school. Don't worry about me.

They wipe their tears.

LUCIA

Yeah, it's about that time. (sighs)
I'll call you later to set up a time to pick you up tomorrow.

CARMEN

Pick me up? What for?

LUCIA
The day we have all been dreading.

CARMEN
Oh, no. I can't... I don't have
the strength.

Lucia stands and picks up the baby.

LUCIA
We have no choice. We have to say
goodbye to Daddy.

She bends to kiss Carmen on the cheek.

Carmen kisses Valentina and Lucia.

Lucia walks out with Valentina.

She jumps out of bed, goes over to the window and closes the
blinds.

She goes back to bed and covers herself completely.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - MORNING

Carmen sits at the kitchen table in a robe staring out the
window.

The sky is dark and gloomy. We hear the sound of thunder.

There is a knock on the front door.

Carmen gets up from the kitchen table, walks to the foyer.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/FOYER - MORNING

She opens the door.

Henry and Nathaniel walk in. They are dressed in black
suits, white shirts and black ties.

Henry lovingly hugs Carmen. She hugs him back and melts in
his arms.

Henry pulls away grabbing her tightly.

Nathaniel hugs Carmen.

HENRY
Mom, we need to get Dad's clothes
for the cremation service.

Carmen pulls away from Nathaniel and looks at Henry with a bewildered look on her face. +
+

Henry speaks softly and patiently to her. +

HENRY (CONT'D) +
We have to cremate Dad today. +

CARMEN +
Oh, no, Henry! Not yet... please! +

NATHANIEL +
I'm very sorry. +

Carmen looks at them puzzled and confused. +

CARMEN +
But... I'm not ready yet. +

HENRY +
Then go get ready. Lucia and +
Magnus are picking you up in an +
hour. +

CARMEN +
No! I'm not ready to say goodbye. +
Don't make me do this, please +
don't. +

Carmen crumbles almost to the floor. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - MORNING +

Henry and Nathaniel hold her, walk her to the living room +
lay her on the sofa. +

HENRY +
(to Nathaniel) +
Please stay with her. I'll go get +
his things. +

Nathaniel nods and sits by her side. +

Henry walks away. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - MORNING +

Henry walks in the bedroom and stares at the bed looking at +
the clothes Carmen has laid on the bed. +

Henry wipes his tear and gathers the clothing. +

He walks out of the bedroom in a hurry. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - MORNING

He hurries through the hallway and out the door.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Nathaniel sees Henry rushing out the door.

Carmen sits up.

CARMEN

Where's Henry going?

NATHANIEL

He just went outside. He'll be right back.

They sit quietly and wait.

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Henry walks to the car parked in the driveway, opens the trunk and carefully lays the clothing and shoes down. He closes the trunk.

He gets his phone out of the pocket of his pants and makes a call.

Henry nervously walks down the driveway. He stops at the end of the driveway.

HENRY

You need to come soon. Well... I'm afraid she's not going to make it to the service. (pause) Lucia, I have to bring Dad's clothes to the funeral home. It's getting late. And she's... she's falling apart. I can't leave her like this. (pause) Okay, I'll ask Nathaniel. But, hurry up! Bye.

Henry rushes up the driveway and walks in the house.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Henry walks in the living room.

HENRY

Nathaniel, can you come here, please?

Nathaniel walks over to him.

Carmen is sitting on the sofa. +

CARMEN +
What is it, Henry? +

HENRY +
(to Nathaniel) +
Do you mind bringing Dad's things +
to the funeral home? I can't leave +
her like this. +

NATHANIEL +
No, not at all. I'll see you +
there. +

Nathaniel kisses Henry on the cheek, walks out of the living +
room and out the door. +

Henry walks over to Carmen, grabs her hands and looks at her +
straight in the eyes. +

Carmen looks up at him. +

HENRY +
Mom, you need to get ready. I'll +
be here waiting for you. Lucia is +
on her way. +

Carmen hesitates. +

Henry lifts her from the sofa and tenderly hugs her. +

They separate and Carmen walks out of the living room. +

Henry sits on the sofa and sobs gently. +

INT. FUNERAL HOME - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY +

Carmen, dressed in a black outfit, sits in the middle of a +
bench. She is numb, out of it and holds a handkerchief in +
her right hand. +

Henry, trying to stay composed, sits to the right of Carmen. +

Lucia, dressed in black, sits to the left of Carmen. She +
wipes her tears with a tissue and lays her head on Magnus's +
shoulder. +

Magnus, with a serious look on his face, is dressed in a +
black suit, gray shirt and black tie, sits next to Lucia +
with his arm around her shoulder. +

Nathaniel sits next to Henry holding his hand. +

They all stare straight ahead. +

Carmen, Lucia and Henry, holding hands, walk up to the wooden coffin which is covered with flowers. +

They embrace and weep. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - NEXT DAY +

Still in her pajamas, Carmen stands at the sink looking at the two toothbrushes in the cup. +

She takes one, puts toothpaste on it and brushes her teeth. +

Then takes the other one, puts toothpaste on it and lays it on the counter, smiles. +

CARMEN +

Honey, look, I prepared your toothbrush. +

She takes a few steps to a shelf with cologne bottles on it.

Her index finger slides across the bottles, grabs one, sprays it on her arm and smells it. *

She closes her eyes and sprays it all over her. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Mmmmmmmmm! (sighs) That smells good. You always smelled so good. I miss smelling you. +

Carmen opens her eyes, grabs another bottle and walks out of the bathroom with it. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NEXT DAY +

Carmen walks to the other side of the bed, takes the top off the bottle and wets her middle finger with the cologne. *

Slowly, she applies it to the pillow and slides her finger down the bed. +

She bends over to smell it, inhales deeply and exhales. +

After, she puts the bottle on the night table, grabs the pillow, hugs it and lays down. *

CARMEN (CONT'D)

This is so unfair! How could you do this to me. Didn't we agree that we would grow old together? What the hell happened? +

She sits on the side of the bed in a state of disbelief. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON - A FEW DAYS AFTER +

Carmen walks into the kitchen. Her hair is messy and has dark circles under her eyes. She grabs her cell phone from the kitchen counter, stares at it. We see all the missed calls. She puts the cell phone down. +

There are two mugs on the counter that say "His" and "Hers".

CARMEN +
No more his and hers. +

She grabs them and throws them on the floor. The shatter of the ceramic hitting the floor is loud. +

Carmen looks at the broken pieces. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +
What a mess! +

She picks up the pieces and throws them in the garbage can. +

Her eyes tear up as she looks around the kitchen. +

BEGIN FLASHBACK +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT +

Carmen is standing by the stove making dinner. +

GUY (O.S) +
Hun, what's for dinner? +

CARMEN +
Pasta with pesto, my love. +

GUY +
Yummy! Did you use the fresh basil +
from the garden? +

CARMEN +
But of course! +

Guy walks in the kitchen, stands behind her and kisses her neck. +

Carmen turns around and kisses his lips. +

GUY +
I'll get the wine. +

They smile. +

END FLASHBACK +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY/KITCHEN - EVENING +

Carmen walks around the hallway holding her stomach. She bends at the waist crying in pain. +

She is breathless and in agony. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Guy! I can't do this! It hurts too much. Please take me with you. I beg you. +

Carmen falls to her knees. +

Slowly gets up, walks to the kitchen counter, takes the bottle of wine, a glass and the cell phone, sits at the table. +

She pours the wine into the glass. +

After a few drinks, looks at the cell phone on the table, grabs it. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

(slurs) +

WOW! So many missed calls! I must be popular. Oh, wait! This is Guy's phone. +

We see a picture of Pietro on the screen. Carmen is saddened. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Ohhhhh, noooo! My poor Pietro. +

On the other side of the table, her cell phone rings. She tries to grab it climbing on the table and with her finger, she slides it to the floor. +

Looks down at the phone on the floor. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +

Oh, shit! +

Carmen gets up from the chair and picks it up. She sits back down. +

Presses the voicemail option and listens. +

KATIE (V.O.)

Carmen, it's Katie again. Please let me know **your okay** and if you need anything. I'm here for you, my friend. Call me, **anytime**. Bye.

LUCIA (V.O.)

Hey, Mama, please call me back. I need to know you're okay. Should I come over? Let me know.

VALERIE (V.O.)

How are you, **love**? I know that's a stupid question, but I am so worried about you. I've been trying for days to reach you. If you don't call me soon, I'll come over there and whisk you away. **Love you, you know that**. Call me back asap!

HENRY (V.O.)

Mom! Where the hell are you? How come you're not answering your phone? I'll try again later.

HENRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This is bullshit, Mom! I need to talk to you. I know you're hurting, but I'm hurting too. Call me!!!

Carmen lays the cell phone on the table.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Ugh!

She lays her head on the table and closes her eyes.

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The house is dark. Carmen wakes up at the kitchen table.

Still drunk, she gets up and holds on to the chair balancing herself, walks to the living room and turns on a lamp on the end table.

Then walks to the bar and grabs a bottle of whiskey. She opens it and sips.

Then looks at the bottle.

CARMEN

This was your favorite.

She puts the bottle down. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D) +
 It's so quiet in here. Alexa, play +
 "Corazón partío". [broken heart] +

The song plays. She sings along and dances with her eyes +
 closed. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +
 "¿Quién me va a curar el corazón +
 partío?" [Who's going to cure my +
 broken heart?] +

She moves across the living room to the rhythm of the music. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
 Honey, you remember our first +
 dance? You held me so tight I could +
 barely breathe. I think I melted in +
 your arms. +

Carmen laughs and jumps. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D) +
 You squeezed my butt! +

Dances across the living room. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +
 That first kiss! OMG! It was +
 absolutely delicious. I could still +
 feel your lips on mine the next +
 day. +

BEGIN FLASHBACK +

EXT. PARK - DAY +

A young Carmen and a young Guy are walking by a lake in a +
 park. Guy grabs her by the waist, pulls her close to him +
 and kisses her on her lips gently. +

He whispers in her ear. +

YOUNG GUY +
 You are so beautiful. +

Young Carmen, with a bashful and coquettish look, charms him +
 even more. +

Young Guy kisses her hands. They hug and turn to look at +
 the lake. +

END FLASHBACK

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Giggling, she sits on the sofa and keeps going down memory lane.

CARMEN

Mr. and Mrs. Guy O'Connor. I love the sound of that. Can you believe you were late to our wedding? I was so nervous... I thought you had dumped me at the altar.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Young Carmen and young Guy are dressed in wedding attire and are coming out of the church smiling happily.

They are surrounded by people who are cheering and throwing rose petals at them.

Guy picks her up and runs with her down the walkway. They get in an open horse-drawn carriage. The carriage takes them away.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Carmen stands and walks up to the book shelves. She looks at the pictures.

CARMEN

Remember when our babies were born? Lucia Victoria and Henry Ian. Our miracle baby. He was so tiny when he was born. We were so scared we would lose him. (pause) You know, I've lost my best friend. That makes me so sad. You have always been by my side. Never slept apart. All our plans are shattered now. Cut, cut. (imitates a scissor with her fingers) Just like that. (pause) What a shame! Why did you have die now? What were you thinking? You just left, just like that! (snaps fingers) One day you're here and the next one... poof, gone. It doesn't make sense. Nothing makes any sense anymore!

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE - NIGHT +

Carmen stands looking out. Walks out to the terrace and looks around. The only light is the full moon shining brightly in the night sky. +
+
+

BEGIN FLASHBACK +

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/GARDEN/TERRACE - DAY +

Guy and Pietro run around the garden laughing. Lucia, Magnus with Valentina on his lap, Henry and Nathaniel are gathered at the table eating. +
+
+

Everyone is laughing and joking around. +

END FLASHBACK +

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE - NIGHT +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +
Never again. +

Looks at the moon above her. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +
What are you looking at? +

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/GARDEN - NIGHT +

Carmen walks out to the garden. +

The solar lamps light up the walkway. +

She walks on the grass barefoot. +

CARMEN (CONT'D) +
And who is going to take care of this now? (to the sky) Hello! I can't do this by myself! You're the expert, not me. Now Pietro won't have his grandpa to garden with. And Valentina will never get to know the amazing man who swept me off my feet forty years ago... and made me feel I was the most beautiful woman in the world. (angry) We had so many plans. What happened to our plans? (yells) Severed, that's what. They have been brutally severed! +

Carmen places her hands on her chest.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *

Just rip my heart out so I can get
rid of this pain, please. I can't
take it anymore. It hurts too
much. +

She pulls at the clothing on her chest trying to rip it. +

She takes a few steps and collapses on the ground.

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/TERRACE/GARDEN - MORNING +

We hear Henry's voice calling from inside the house. +

HENRY (O.S.)

Mom? Mom! Where are you?

He walks out to the terrace, looks around and yells. +

HENRY (CONT'D) +

Mom!!! +

He sees her laying on the ground in the garden and rushes to
her. +

HENRY (CONT'D)

Oh my God! Mom!

He kneels next to her and turns her around.

Carmen's face is bruised. +

HENRY (CONT'D) *

Mom! Answer me, please!

Carmen does not respond. *

Henry, distraught, takes out his cell phone from his back
pocket and makes a call. +

HENRY (CONT'D) +

I need an ambulance NOW!!! +

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY +

Carmen sits on a hospital bed wearing a hospital robe with
an IV going into her left arm. +

DOCTOR SARITA NAJIMI (50), as we see on her white robe,
stands next to her bed. +

CARMEN +

Doctor Najimi, don't you think it's
time for me to get out of here? +

DOCTOR NAJIMI
 Tomorrow, but under very strict
 conditions. Carmen, you were
 severely dehydrated and had a
 concussion. You hit the ground
 hard when you fell. You need to
 take care of yourself. Your family
 needs you.

CARMEN
 I'm too sad to be around them.

DOCTOR NAJIMI
 I want you to get help. It may not
 seem like it now, but you will get
 through this.

CARMEN
 How? How do I go on without him?

DOCTOR NAJIMI
 Taking it one day at a time.
 Building a new life for yourself.

Carmen looks at Doctor Najimi pleading with her eyes.

CARMEN
 But how?

They remain in silence. Doctor Najimi squeezes her hand.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER/PARKING LOT/ENTRANCE - DAY

Carmen parks the car and gets out.

She walks towards the community center, opens the door and
 enters.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER/HALLWAY - DAY

She walks through the hallway, looks at a sign on the door,
 slowly opens it and walks in.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - ROOM - DAY

A GROUP OF PEOPLE sit in a circle with a GROUP LEADER (40).

The group leader turns to Carmen and smiles.

GROUP LEADER
 Hello! Have a seat. My name is
 Emily. And you are?

CARMEN
Carmen O'Connor.

Carmen finds an empty chair and sits.

GROUP LEADER
Welcome, Carmen!

CARMEN
Thank you.

GROUP LEADER
Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Carmen is nervous.

CARMEN
Um, (clears her throat) I... I lost my husband a few months ago. That sounds so stupid. He's not lost, like in the forest or something, you know. He passed away... he died unexpectedly.

GROUP LEADER
I'm sorry for your loss. Would you like to share your story?

Carmen looks around the room, takes a moment to think.

The group is waiting for her.

GROUP LEADER (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

CARMEN
No. I'm not. (pauses) I'm sorry. I can't do this.

Carmen gets up and runs out of the meeting.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER/HALLWAY - DAY

Runs through the hallway.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Runs out the door and to her car.

INT. CAR - DAY +

Gets in. She breathes heavily, overwhelmed, bursts out +
screaming, bangs the steering wheel with her hands over and +
over again. +

She grabs the steering wheel with both hands, lays her head +
on it and sobs. +

EXT. HIGHWAY/ROAD - DAY +

Carmen drives down a highway. She turns onto an empty road. +
She parks and gets out. +

EXT. BEACH - DAY +

Walks on the white sand and stands at the shore feeling the +
warmth of the wind blowing her hair. +

She takes her shoes off, walks towards the water. +

BEGIN FLASHBACK +

EXT. BEACH - DAY +

Young Carmen and young Guy are swimming in the ocean. They +
play, laugh, hug and kiss happily. +

END FLASHBACK +

EXT. BEACH - DAY +

She stands in the water. The waves crash into her. +

We hear Guy's voice. +

GUY (O.S.) +

You're not getting rid of me. I +
will always be in your heart, my +
love. +

Carmen closes her eyes and whispers. +

CARMEN +

Always in my heart. +

She places both hands on her chest and smiles. +

INT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

Lucia and Henry sit on the sofa in the living room. +

Carmen sits across from them. +

They have a somber look on their faces.

Carmen smiles softly at them.

CARMEN

Thank you for coming. I know how busy you both are. There's something very important I need to discuss with you. (pause) It's been almost a year since your Dad passed away. A year of pure hell, desolation for all of us. Which brings me to the reason why I have asked you to come over tonight. I have made a decision and I hope you'll understand why.

Henry sits up.

HENRY

Mom, before you go any further...

CARMEN

(interrupting him)

Henry, please let me finish what I have to say. This is not easy for me. (pause) I have decided to sell the house.

HENRY

What? Mom, you can't do that! I think you're making a big mistake.

CARMEN

The upkeep is way too much for me and I don't want to be a burden to anyone.

LUCIA

You're not a burden. Please don't say that.

HENRY

I think we need to explore your options further. You shouldn't be making any hasty decisions now. It's not the right time. You're not in the right frame of mind. But... no. You're not selling this house.

CARMEN

There's nothing to explore, Henry. My mind is made up.

(MORE)

CARMEN (CONT'D)

I can't go on living here anymore. I hear him, I see him all over the place, I smell him. I feel like I'm loosing my mind. I know this is hard for both of you, but if I... if I stay here... it's just too painful. We all have beautiful memories that we'll cherish for the rest of our lives. But, in order to survive this imposed widowhood, I need to build a new life for myself. Or else... (shakes her head) I'm not going to make it. I'm sorry.

LUCIA

What are your plans? Where will you go?

CARMEN

Valerie has invited me to stay with her in France for as long as I want. Hopefully, come to a decision about my life.

HENRY

So... you're leaving us and moving to France? (sarcastic) That's just great.

LUCIA

Henry, she's not leaving us. Besides, it's only for a few months.

Henry stands and paces back and forth anxiously.

CARMEN

Henry, that's not what I said. I'm not moving away. I just need some time away from here to sort this out. I don't know how to go on. I am sorry if I've disappointed you.

LUCIA

A love like you and Daddy had, so special... so beautiful...

CARMEN

(interrupting her)

And, what am I suppose to do with all that love?

(MORE)

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Somebody tell me, please because I can't figure it out. I love all of you very much. You know that. But, I just don't know how to go on without him. My heart is shattered. Now I can understand how people die of a broken heart.

HENRY

And you think that going away will help you forget Dad? Is your family not enough for you?

LUCIA

Henry, stop it!

CARMEN

I will never forget your Dad. Why would you even say such a thing?

Henry returns to the the sofa and sits.

HENRY

I don't know, Mom. Maybe because I feel you're running away and leaving us. Have you given it some thought as to how your children feel after loosing their dad? Because all I see is our mother submerged in her own grief and can't see anything beyond that.

LUCIA

That's enough, Henry! That's not fair. She lost her husband, the love of her life! Daddy's passing has left a big void in all of us. We just have to somehow learn to live without him and if Mama has to get away for a while, then, just let her go.

CARMEN

(to Henry)

I'm sorry you feel that way and I do think about it day and night. But, you see... if I don't fix myself, I can't be there for you nor your sister, nor anybody else. I'm empty, Henry. Can you understand that?

Henry explodes.

HENRY

This sucks!!! I hate this! I
 fucking hate this. I'm so angry at
 myself. Do you want to know why?

He looks at both Carmen and Lucia.

CARMEN

I'm listening.

LUCIA

Henry, please calm down.

HENRY

How can I calm down when I missed
 his call that night! I'll never
 forgive myself. Nathaniel and I
 were watching a movie. Damn it, I
 should have called him back, but it
 was late, and I thought he would be
 asleep by then. That will haunt me
 for the rest of my life.

CARMEN

Sweetheart, please don't torture
 yourself. It doesn't do any good.
 How would you have known?

HENRY

I yelled at Nathaniel the other day
 over some stupid shit. And then I
 did it again the next day. He told
 me to get help or he's going to
 leave me. I can't lose him too.

Henry breaks down and cries.

Carmen walks over, sits next to him and wraps her arms
 around him.

CARMEN

If you need help then by all means,
 get it. We all need to find a way
 to cope with his loss. Life will
 never be the same without him. It's
 just not possible.

LUCIA

I'm trying to be strong for my
 family, but sometimes I can't and I
 fall apart. You know, I hide in
 the bathroom to cry. I even bite on
 a towel so they can't hear me.

Carmen is saddened. +

CARMEN +
Oh, Lucia. +

Henry breaks away from Carmen and stands.

HENRY +
I have to go.

Henry walks out of the house and slams the door. +

Carmen and Lucia look at each other concerned. +

EXT. CARMEN'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY/ROAD - DAY +

Lucia and Katie stand by the car in the driveway waiting for +
Carmen to come out of the house. +

Carmen walks with her suitcases, closes the door and walks +
to the car. +

Before she gets in, she turns around and looks at the house +
one more time with a sad look on her face. +

Lucia helps her get the suitcases in the trunk of the car +
and walks back to her. +

LUCIA +
Mama, I don't think he's coming. +
Let's go. +

Carmen nods in agreement. +

They get in the car. +

As they turn the corner, Carmen looks at the for sale sign +
on the front lawn. +

Lucia looks at Carmen through the rear view mirror. +

Carmen looks at her and turns to look out the window. A +
tear rolls down her cheek. +

INT. VALERIE'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

We see the Eiffel tower shining in the background. +

Carmen opens the double doors to the balcony. +

EXT. VALERIE'S APARTMENT/BALCONY - NIGHT +

She walks out and looks around the city of Paris. +

CARMEN
 "C'est magnifique!" [It's
 magnificent!]

Valerie walks behind her and stands next to her. She gives
 Carmen a glass of red wine.

VALERIE
 I'm a firm believer in miracles.
 The fact that you're here is a
 miracle in itself.

CARMEN
 By the grace of God.

VALERIE
 Yes and by your determination to
 make peace with your new status.

CARMEN
 What choice do I have. My children
 would never forgive me if I gave
 up.

VALERIE
 You're not giving up. You're a
 fighter, Carmen.

Valerie raises her glass.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 I'm toasting to you. I celebrate
 you and your will to survive this
 imposed widowhood.

Carmen raises hers, they clink their glasses together and
 sip.

CARMEN
 Umm, that's good.

VALERIE
 Let's go get some dinner. The
 Parisian nightlife awaits.

Carmen smiles.

CARMEN
 Nightlife? I don't know what
 that's like anymore.

VALERIE
 You'll be pleasantly surprised.

They exit the balcony. +

INT. VALERIE'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT +

They grab their purses and walk out the door. +

INT. TRAIN - DAY +

Carmen and Valerie are on a train and sit across each other. +
Carmen looks out the window while Valerie reads a book. +

CARMEN +

It's so beautiful! I'm glad we +
took the train. +

Valerie looks up at her. +

VALERIE +

I thought you would enjoy the +
scenery this way. +

CARMEN +

Very much so. +

They both look out the window. +

EXT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/ENTRANCE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON +

Valerie pulls up to the entrance of the house and parks. +

Carmen looks through the windshield admiring the house. It +
is a French rustic, farmhouse with periwinkle colored +
shutters. +

INT. CAR - LATER THAT AFTERNOON +

Valerie turns to Carmen. +

VALERIE +

We're home! +

Carmen smiles and they get out of the car. +

EXT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/FRONT YARD - LATER THAT AFTERNOON +

Carmen walks around the front yard while Valerie opens the +
trunk of the car. +

Carmen walks up to her and helps her get the suitcases out +
of the trunk. +

They walk up to the house. +

VALERIE
Can you believe this house is 200
years old?

CARMEN
It's absolutely gorgeous!

VALERIE
Thank you. I'm glad you like it.
Restoring this farmhouse became my
saving grace after my daughter's
death and my husband's suicide.

Valerie unlocks the door and they enter dragging their
suitcases behind them.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/FOYER/LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT
AFTERNOON

Carmen follows Valerie as they walk through the foyer and
into a big living room with lots of windows.

Carmen stands in the middle of the room admiring every
detail of the house.

Valerie watches her and smiles.

CARMEN
Everywhere I look there's something
beautiful.

Valerie points out to a window.

Carmen looks and walks to the window. She looks out.

CARMEN (CONT'D)
The view is breathtaking.

VALERIE
The Mediterranean Sea.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
That's what sold me on this house.
When my husband died I wasn't sure
I would ever enjoy anything in life
again until I came here. This is
where I found the serenity I
desperately needed.

CARMEN
And now you're sharing it with me.
You're an amazing friend.

VALERIE
I know what it's like. Let me show
you upstairs.

CARMEN
I can't wait!

They walk towards the stairs and up.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/PATIO - NIGHT

Carmen and Valerie are finishing dinner outside on the patio. They are relaxed and enjoying a glass of red wine as the breeze blows the branches on the trees surrounding them.

CARMEN
I love the sound of the trees
moving in the wind. Guy and I
would sit out on the terrace at
night and just listen to them
playing their soft melody. (pause)
It's so peaceful here.

VALERIE
Tomorrow morning we'll start our
day with an outdoor meditation.
(smiling)
I got you a gift. I'll be right
back.

Valerie gets up from the table, enters the house and comes back out. She hands Carmen a wrapped box.

CARMEN
(smiling)
What is it?

VALERIE
Open it.

Carmen, excited, unwraps the box and opens the lid.

CARMEN
What's all this?

She takes out a journal, colored pens and pencils.

VALERIE
I want you to keep a journal of
your bereavement process. Writing
down your thoughts, good or bad,
feelings, will help you release
emotions you might suppress
otherwise.

(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)

It's a great tool. Believe me, I have many.

CARMEN

I can keep track of my progress. Right?

VALERIE

That's right. One day you will look back and realize how far you've come.

CARMEN

But, how can I ever stop being Mrs. O'Connor?

VALERIE

You'll know when you're ready.

EXT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/GARDEN - EARLY MORNING

Carmen and Valerie sit with their legs crossed on yoga mats on the grass meditating.

EXT. MARKET - LATER IN THE DAY

Carmen and Valerie walk through an open market carrying baskets. We see them pick vegetables and fruit, conversing with the locals.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

The stand looking at all the different breads, cheeses and desserts.

Valerie buys a few things.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/CARMEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carmen is sitting on the bed writing in her journal. Valerie knocks on the open door.

VALERIE

Knock, knock.

CARMEN

Come in.

Valerie comes in and sits on the bed.

VALERIE

How's the journaling coming along?

CARMEN

It's helping me figure a few things out.

VALERIE

Good. Hopefully, it'll help you figure many things out.

CARMEN

So, what's on the agenda for tomorrow? I'm sure you have another fun day planned for us.

VALERIE

I do.

EXT. EZE VILLAGE - DAY

Carmen and Valerie walk through the narrow streets of the medieval French village.

Carmen stops to take a picture of a huge cacti. She looks at the picture and shows it to Valerie.

CARMEN

Pietro will love this one.

Valerie turns to Carmen.

VALERIE

Let's go to "Le Jardin exotique d'Eze". [the exotic garden] It's so beautiful. You'll enjoy it.

CARMEN

Great!

They arrive at the garden and enter. Carmen is fascinated by all the botanical species she sees and takes lots of pictures.

Valerie stops to admire the view. Carmen stands next to her.

VALERIE

It's spectacular. Isn't?

CARMEN

I wish our husbands were here.

VALERIE

Me too. (sighs) Oh, well. Do you want to get a bite to eat after this?

CARMEN
You read my mind.

They leave the garden and continue walking down the streets until they reach the village square.

They find a tavern and sit outside.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

They walk in the house both exhausted and sit on the sofa.

CARMEN
WOW! I can't believe how much we walked today. What a beautiful place. I really enjoyed it.

VALERIE
I'm so glad you did. I did too.

CARMEN
Can I ask you a question?

VALERIE
Of course.

CARMEN
Is it normal to feel guilty?

Carmen gets sentimental.

VALERIE
Why do you feel guilty?

Carmen gets sentimental.

CARMEN
That I'm here enjoying what Guy and I dreamed of doing together. It's not fair.

VALERIE
It's definitely not. We have been cheated out of spending the rest of our lives with them.

CARMEN
Is it weird that I listen to his last voicemail repeatedly? I don't want to forget the sound of his voice.

VALERIE

It's not weird. I've kept notes
that my husband hand wrote because
I didn't want to forget his
beautiful handwriting.

+
+

CARMEN

Does it get easier?

VALERIE

It doesn't. I wish I could tell you
otherwise. You just learn to live
with it and accept it.

+
+
+

CARMEN

I miss my family.

*

VALERIE

I know. You'll see them soon.
Hey, I have a very special day
planned for your birthday tomorrow.

+
+
+

CARMEN

That's exciting!

+
+

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - EVENING

+

Carmen enters the kitchen and stands by the stove next to
Valerie.

+
+

CARMEN

I've been trying all day to get a
hold of my family. I think they
forgot my birthday.

+
+
+

VALERIE

I doubt that very much.

+

Carmen looks at the pots and pans on the stove.

+

CARMEN

That's a lot of food you're making.
Are we expecting guests for dinner?

+
+

VALERIE

Yes. I've invited a few friends to
celebrate your birthday. Why don't
we have a glass of champagne before
they arrive?

+
+
+
+

CARMEN

Sure.

+

Valerie gets the glasses and the champagne. She pops the bottle open and pours. +
+

They clink their glasses together. +

VALERIE +
Happy bithday! +

CARMEN +
Thank you. +

They sip. +

The doorbell rings. +

VALERIE +
If you'll excuse me, please. +

CARMEN +
Yes, of course. +

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN/FOYER - EVENING +

Valerie walks out of the kitchen and to the foyer. She opens the door. +
+

Lucia, carrying Valentia, Magnus, carrying Pietro who is asleep, Henry, Nathaniel and Katie walk in. +
+

Valerie gestures them to be quiet and follow her. +

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - EVENING +

They all shout at the same time. +

EVERYONE +
Surprise! Happy birthday!

Carmen opens her eyes widely, puts her hands over her open mouth speechless. +

One by one they hug and kiss her. *

Pietro wakes up. +

PIETRO +
Happy birthday, "Abuela!" [grandma]
I missed you.

CARMEN +
I missed you too, my darling. *

Carmen hugs him and cries happy tears.

Katie walks over to her and gives her a big hug.

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
 Oh my God!!! I'm so happy to see
 you! This is an amazing surprise. +

KATIE +
 Can you believe I'm here? +

Carmen hugs her as they laugh together.

CARMEN +
 No! I'm so proud of you. +

Lucia walks over to her while holding Valentina. *

LUCIA *
 Did you think we were going to let
 you celebrate your birthday in the
 south of France without us? +

CARMEN +
 How did you all manage this? +
 With work, school... I mean... +

MAGNUS
 There's a saying that goes "where
 there's a will, there's a way" or
 something like that. We wouldn't
 miss this for anything in the
 world.

LUCIA *
 We love you so much. *

Lucia kisses Carmen on the cheek. +

Pietro walks over to her. +

PIETRO +
 "Abuela" [grandma], do you know
 grandpa has a garden in heaven? I
 want to see it. Can we go visit
 grandpa in heaven? +

CARMEN
 He does? I bet it's beautiful!

Carmen looks at Lucia. *

CARMEN (CONT'D) *
 Oh my sweet boy! I wish we could,
 but not for now. +

Pietro is disappointed.

PIETRO
(pouting)
I miss my grandpa.

Magnus puts his arm around Pietro.

MAGNUS
Hey, buddy, I bet Valerie has a
very nice garden. We'll have to
check it out later.

Magnus takes Pietro by the hand and they walk away.

Henry and Nathaniel approach Carmen. +

Henry hugs and kisses her on both cheeks. +

Nathaniel also hugs and kisses her on both cheeks.

HENRY
(excited)
Mom, Nathaniel and I have a very
special birthday present for you.
Right, Nathaniel?

Nathaniel holds his hand. *

NATHANIEL
That's right!

Carmen stares at Henry and Nathaniel who are smiling. She is
trying to figure it out.

HENRY
Well, isn't it obvious? +

CARMEN
Wait a minute! You both are wearing
a pink shirt. It's not by
coincidence. Am I right?

HENRY
Right! Nathaniel and I are having a
baby girl! +

NATHANIEL
Arriving next spring! +

Carmen, Henry and Nathaniel hug.

CARMEN

That's wonderful news! I can't wait to meet her! (whispering) Is Lucia pregnant? *

HENRY

No, mother, we decided on plan b.

NATHANIEL

We thought we should tell you in person. Are you happy?

CARMEN

Happy? I'm over the moon!
Congratulations! +
+

Valerie hands out champagne glasses. They all grab one and raise them. She holds up a glass of champagne. +
+

VALERIE

Double celebration! Congratulations to Henry and Nathaniel, the future parents of...

Henry and Nathaniel smile at each other.

HENRY

Carmen Lucia O'Connor. +

CARMEN

What? Your naming her after me?

HENRY

And my beautiful sister.

Lucia smiles. +

NATHANIEL

Of course. You are the pillar that holds this family together. I'm honored to name my daughter after such an amazing woman. +
+

CARMEN

Thank you, it means so much to me. +

VALERIE

During these past months, your mom has cried, grieved and mourned as part of her bereavement process. +
She's a fighter, a true warrior!
(to Carmen) I'm so proud of you!
Happy birthday, Carmen! +

(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)

May you always be surrounded by all
this love.

+
+

They all raise their glasses, clink and drink.

*

EVERYONE

Cheers! Happy birthday!

CARMEN

I feel so blessed to have all of
you here with me to celebrate my
birthday. I will never forget this.

*

Katie gets closer to Carmen. She talks in a soft voice.

KATIE

I like it here. Happy birthday, my
friend! Here's to our trip to
Greece! "Opa!"

+
+

CARMEN

Greece?

+
+

Katie is embarrassed.

+

KATIE

Ooops! Oh, no! It slipped! It
was suppose to be a surprise.

+
+
+

CARMEN

It's okay. It'll be our secret.
Greece? "Opa!" Hey, how did you
manage to get away from Stella?

+
+

KATIE

Sometimes you just have to go with
the flow. You know what I mean?

CARMEN

(smiling)

Not really, but okay. I'm just glad
you're here.

KATIE

Let me put it to you this way. When
Lucia called me to ask if I wanted
to be part of this celebration, I
said yes immediately. Yes to
celebrating your birthday, but also
to my once in a lifetime chance to
fly away and discover a new world.

+
+
+
+

CARMEN
What about Stella?

KATIE
Stella can take care of herself. *

CARMEN
Good for you! Cheers!

They both raise their glasses, *clink and sip*. +

KATIE
Cheers!

Valerie *arranges* the group for a picture. +

VALERIE
Okay, everybody. It's picture time!

HENRY
Everybody squish in.

They all move around and position themselves for the picture.

VALERIE
Ready? A big smile! *

Valerie takes a few pictures. *

As they disperse, Carmen glances at the group who *is* laughing and having a good time. +

She smiles and walks around the room to an open window.

Looking out to the sky, *she* whispers. +

CARMEN
Thank you, my love!

Pietro *runs to* her and stands by her *side*. Carmen kisses him *as* they stare at the *sky full of stars*. +

THE END