

BLACKMAIL

EPISODE ONE

Written by

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INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Dirty dishes are piled high in the sink.

The whole room is messy and cluttered.

DAVID, 60, grey hair and glasses sits on one side of the table with ROSA, 30, slim and pretty on the other.

Both facing each other.

David snarls.

DAVID
Where is it?

But without giving her a chance to answer he then reaches over and grabs at the back of Rosa's head, a fistful of her hair.

He then slams her head down into the table, cutting her open.

Rosa falls down, spilling out of her chair as though unconscious.

David then stands up out of his chair and walks around the table to her.

Rosa is now on her knees, blood pouring down her face.

She has a large butchers knife in her hand.

ROSA
Pay me.

David backs away, repeating.

DAVID
Where is it?

Rosa shakes her head, determined.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Rosa is at the sink washing the blood from her face, a horrible gash over her left eye.

SANDRA, 15, large brown eyes and short hair, dressed in a large fluffy dressing gown, watches her from the open doorway.

Rosa looks back at her through the mirror and forces a smile.

ROSA
I'll get us away from here and
we'll start a new life together,
just me and you.

Sandra's face doesn't change, she's still concerned and afraid.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Rosa walks through, large beautiful trees on either side of her.

She holds her arms tightly around herself hugging her chest, cold.

She sees NEIL, 70, walking his dog.

Coming up to her they both stop.

ROSA

I've got the room ready and I'm not looking for much for rent. But I need to moves someone in there today.

NEIL

What's your hurry?

ROSA

I'm tired of being afraid. I hate the way this world works. I'm getting out but first I need to get someone in that house.

NEIL

Then you should try the old anchor.

She smiles.

ROSA

Thanks.

NEIL

But are you really sure you know what you're doing?

She shakes her head.

ROSA

If I'm going to fight against a thug I'm going to need one of my own.

INT. PUB - DAY

Rosa comes over to a darkened corner with a large glass of whiskey in hand.

She sits down at the table with HANK, 25, shaved head, huge upper body.

She places the drink down in front of him.

He takes it in his hands and tries a little.

HANK

I've been staying in a bed and
breakfast, but the roof has got a
leak in it.

Rosa smiles, nervously.

ROSA

Well my roof doesn't. It's perfect
and it'll be just right for you.

Hank eyes her suspiciously then has some more of his whiskey.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - HANK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Hank enters the room, a sports bag slung over his shoulder.

The room is clean but almost empty, just a double bed plain
white sheets and a small side table.

Hank walks over and sits down at the foot of the bed, letting
his bag fall to the floor at his feet.

Sandra then appears in the doorway, dressed in her school
uniform.

She stares at him, cold.

SANDRA

You're the one who's moving in?

He lifts his head up, now seeing her.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

How do you like your room?

He nods.

HANK

What's your name?

She turns her back to him.

SANDRA

I'm going to be late for school.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Rosa answers the front door to David.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Sitting around the table, David leans back in his chair.

Rosa brushes her hair back behind her ear, revealing the cut above her left eye.

David nods.

DAVID
I'll pay you.

Rosa then fights to suppress a smile.

David then holds up a single finger, warning.

DAVID (CONT'D)
But you've got to leave everything
behind.

Rosa shakes her head.

ROSA
You don't get to tell me what to
do. You don't get to say anything.
Just pay me.

David stands up then slaps Rosa hard across the face. Rosa takes the blow, staying on her seat.

The whole right side of her face now marked red.

She then screams as loud as she can.

A few seconds pass then the door to the kitchen opens.

David and Rosa both watch Hank enter.

David is puzzled, Rosa has a smile that stretches from ear to ear.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Hank drags David through the hallway.

David wriggles and kicks out his legs, trying to get himself free but Hank is just too strong for him.

Rosa opens the front door and Hank slings David out into the street.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Rosa follows Hanks back into the kitchen.

Hank spins around to face her.

HANK
What's going on? What was that?

Rosa holds her hands out, pleading.

ROSA
If you just stay, you can have the
room rent free.

Hank is lost.

HANK
Why, what is it that you want from
me?

Rosa steps closer to him, taking a hold of both his arms.

ROSA
Protection.

HANK
But you're not going to tell me
anything are you?

She shakes her head.

He then frees his arms from her and points a finger at her
face.

HANK (CONT'D)
Now you see, that's something I
don't like.

Rosa moves even closer, pressing her chest against his.

ROSA
It's OK.

Rosa then kisses him softly on the lips.

ROSA (CONT'D)
You can make your stay here
whatever you want it to be.

She then grabs a hold of his dick and kisses him again.

His eyes narrow, curious.

HANK
Anything?

She nods.

HANK (CONT'D)
Would you be my girlfriend?

She's taken aback.

ROSA

What?

HANK

I'm serious.

She's dumbstruck, considers.

ROSA

Alright.

She smiles, even laughs a little.

ROSA (CONT'D)

I don't see why not.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Rosa, Hank and Sandra sit together around the table, a big plate of homemade pizza and fries each.

Hank eats hungrily, watching Sandra and Rosa.

Rosa reaches over and takes hold of one of Sandra's hands.

ROSA

So you've decided?

Sandra nods.

SANDRA

After school I'm going to go to collage and I'm going to study to become a care worker. After I graduate hopefully I'll be able to find work here in the city.

Rosa isn't so sure.

ROSA

What happened to wanting to become a teacher?

Sandra shakes her head.

SANDRA

There's enough of them already, I want to make a real difference. One that I'll be able to see.

ROSA

I don't know honey.

SANDRA

Well I've made my mind up.

ROSA
I think you need some more time to
think this over.

Hank shovels more food into his mouth.

He then gestures with his fork at Sandra.

HANK
Seems to me like she already had
all the time she's ever going to
need.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS LANDING - NIGHT

Hank leads the way with Rosa following on closely behind him.

ROSA
Let me be the one who worries about
my sisters future alright?

He's surprised.

HANK
Your sister?

ROSA
Please.

He nods.

HANK
That's fine. But isn't it up to
her?

ROSA
She already comes from a broken
home, I don't want her to think she
can have a career in trying to fix
families that are already ruined.

Hank opens his bedroom door, turns around to face Rosa.
Taking her by the hand he pulls her in with him.

He brings her over to the bed.

They kiss.

Rosa closes the door shut behind them with her foot, kicking
it.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Hank walks alone the street is empty.

A car then pulls up along side him.

David is inside, the drivers side window comes down and he beckons Hank to come closer.

DAVID
I wanna talk to you.

Hank smirks.

HANK
About what?

David snarls.

DAVID
Listen here boy I'm not the sort of man that you want to make into an enemy.

HANK
And what kind of man are you?

DAVID
I'm helping you. That woman, she's a whore. I know, I paid for her myself enough times. She's using you just like how she used me.

Hank steps closer to the car, he reaches in through the open window and grabs David by the throat.

Hank squeezes hard, David's face turns red.

HANK
Don't come anywhere near that house again.

Hank then releases him and steps back.

David gasps for air, screaming out at Hank.

DAVID
I know what you went to prison for and I can send you back there.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Rosa in the middle of the sofa watching television.

Sandra is down on the floor by her feet, textbooks all around her.

Hank watches them then clear his throat.

HANK
Rosa, I need to talk to you.

Rosa looks over at him and Hank grits his teeth.

Rosa then reaches down and presses her hand to the back of Sandra's neck.

Sandra instantly understands. Gathering up a couple of her books she swiftly exits.

David then sits down on the sofa next to Rosa.

HANK (CONT'D)
You're a prostitute?

Rosa doesn't hesitate.

She nods.

ROSA
I have been yeah.

Hank puts his head in his hands.

HANK
Damn.

Rosa forces a smile.

ROSA
You're really going to judge me?

He lifts his head back up and turns to face her.

HANK
I'm not judging anyone, but what the hell have I got myself into?

She holds onto his hands.

ROSA
I need you.

HANK
And this other guy, who is he?

ROSA
He the chief of police for the city.

HANK
So he's important.

Rosa laughs.

ROSA
Very. I have something that he needs and I'm going to bleed him dry for it.

HANK
Do you know what you're doing?

ROSA
Can you help me?

He shrugs.

She smiles weakly.

ROSA (CONT'D)
Be my business partner.

HANK
Yeah? And what's that going to be?

ROSA
Fifty, fifty. We share everything.
Just help me.

He considers.

INT. ROSA'S HOUSE - HANK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

David strips off to his underwear turning off the light.

He then goes to bed, alone.

Fade to black

The end of episode one.