

CALL ME MAMA

Written by

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INT. MEXICAN CANTINA - DAY

The BARTENDER, 40s, bearded, scarred, carries a basket of tortilla chips and a bowl of salsa. He sets down the food on a small table next to a baby carrier and walks away.

At the table sit JAKE, 20s, long hair, dirty shirt, rakish grin, a nervous man out of his element. He grabs a chip and dips in front of MARIA, 20s, pretty and dark, a Latin beauty. She gently rocks the baby carrier, and she's not happy.

MARIA

We should leave. Vayamos.

JAKE

There are two kinds of people in the world, Mary.

MARIA

Maria.

JAKE

Those who live well and those who work for those who live well. I'm not going to slave away for some rich asshole.

MARIA

These are not men of honor.

JAKE

No, they're thieves like us.

MARIA

Like you.

Jake eats and grins.

Through the door comes LUIS, 30s, trendy with very dark sunglasses, gold, distinctive skull earrings, and a smile. With him are HUGE THUG and SKINNY THUG, 30s and as ominous as night.

Luis comes to the table and sits, smiling at the baby and Maria. He pats the carrier and Maria.

LUIS

Cute nino...but then, he comes from a mother muy bonita.

MARIA

Keep your hands to yourself.

Luis laughs and sits. The Bartender arrives with two beers he sets down in front of Jake and Luis.

LUIS

No one wants your baby. I bet he's hungry.

JAKE

(to Maria)

Why don't you see if Billy needs changing.

Maria stands, and she's one hot woman. She grabs the baby carrier and leaves. Luis watches her move to another table.

JAKE

I brought the goods.

Luis grabs his beer and toasts with Jake.

LUIS

We will get there, amigo, we will get there.

Luis helps himself to the chips and salsa.

JAKE

It's just that the quicker I get back across the border, the quicker I turn over the merchandise.

LUIS

This salsa is debil, muy debil.
(to Bartender)
Caliente, Caliente.

The Bartender nods, and Luis turns to Jake.

LUIS

Let me ask you a question. Why you do this?

JAKE

What?

LUIS

You got a pretty wife, kid, why you want to sell dope?

JAKE

I went to school to become an engineer. When I graduated, they offered me a job at fifty K a year. In ten years, I'd clear 500 K.

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

I can make that much in the next
thirty days.

The Bartender arrives with another bowl of salsa. Luis grabs a chip and eats. Sucks in his breath.

LUIS

Si, si, this is real.

Luis waves for Jake to try the salsa. Jake hesitates but tries it, and the heat shows on Jake's face.

LUIS

Real, verdad?

Jake nods.

LUIS

(waving to Skinny Thug)
Business is based on trust, and
trust comes with cerveza and salsa.

Skinny Thug drops a bag on the table. Jake reaches under his chair and puts his own bag on the table.

JAKE

Forty big ones.

LUIS

We agreed to fifty.

JAKE

I ran into some extra expenses.

LUIS

That is muy unfortunate. You see
the product demands fifty.

JAKE

Just cut out some.

LUIS

It is impossible.

JAKE

No, it's simple. I'll do it.

Jake reaches for Luis's bag, and Luis grabs Jake's hand.

LUIS

No, you will not.

Jake removes his hand, and the men stare at each other.

JAKE
Let's be reasonable.

LUIS
Reason demands another ten.

JAKE
I don't have it! So, let's figure
this out!

Luis smiles, a wicked smile.

LUIS
I like you. I like you a lot. So,
here is what I'm going to do.
(waves to Skinny Thug)
I'm going to take your money.

Skinny Thug grabs Jake's bag.

LUIS
And to make up the difference, I
will take la chica.

Luis waves to Huge Thug who walks toward Maria.

JAKE
What do you mean?

The Huge Thug grabs Maria's arm even as she struggles,
kicking and hitting.

LUIS
She not worth ten, but what the
hell, I feel generous.

Jake jumps up as Maria is hauled out of the cantina. He takes
a step even as Luis blocks his way.

JAKE
Get out of my way, Paco.

Luis smiles and buries his fist in Jake's gut. Jake doubles
over, and Luis knocks Jake to the floor.

LUIS
You are lucky I leave you el nino.

Luis starts for the door.

JAKE
Wait, wait, I'll bring your money
tomorrow, manana.

Luis strides out as Jake struggles to his feet. Skinny Thug follows Luis out the door. Jake limps toward the door, and the Bartender blocks him.

JAKE
Get out of my way.

The Bartender points to the baby carrier, and Willy CRIES as if on cue.

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER 12 YEARS LATER

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jake, older, short hair, shirt and tie, phone to ear, stares out the glass wall of this high-rise office. Everything shouts success.

JAKE
(on phone)
Yes, Mary, yes, you hired a new maid. Great, yeah, got it. Look, I've got a hard hour to finish, so I'm going to let you go. See you at home.

He kills the call and sits down behind his computer.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jake enters from the garage. He sets down his briefcase and goes to the fridge.

JAKE
I'm home! Don't everybody hug me at once.

He grabs a beer, pops it, and takes a swig before he looks around. Nothing is cooking.

JAKE
I guess we're eating out.

He starts out.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Beer in hand, Jake enters and stops.

On the floor, a Woman lies in a pool of blood. The maid uniform gives her away.

JAKE

Jesus.

(drops beer)

MARY!

He runs out.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jake appears in the doorway and flips on the light.

In the bed, a 10-year-old GIRL lies in her own blood, her throat slit from ear to ear.

JAKE

No, no, no, no, no.

He comes to bed, reaches out but can't bring himself to touch the sightless eyes.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jake bursts into the room and stops. On the bed, his WIFE, blonde, pretty, gagged, wrists tied to the headboard stares. At the side of the bed stands Luis. His skull earrings give him away.

Jake charges across the room and slams into Luis. They roll around for a moment before Jake climbs on top. He raises his fist to smash Luis and stops.

Luis stares, his mouth sewn shut.

Jake notices that Luis's wrists are bound with duct tape. Jake straightens up, his face twisted with disbelief.

He arches his back and twitches as a Taser immobilizes him, and he tumbles to the side.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - 10 MINUTES LATER

Jake's eyes open. He sits in a chair, his wrists bound with duct tape, his legs bound to the chair. He looks across the room to where his wife is still tied to the bed. Where Luis sits on the floor. Jake's face shows his confusion.

Into his vision steps the Maid, her uniform soaked in blood. Jake stares, but the scars on her face make her unrecognizable. She wields a wickedly sharp knife.

MARIA
Buenos noches.

It's Maria, and she's still sexy as she moves toward Luis.

MARIA
Long time, eh, Jacob.

JAKE
Maria?

She reaches Luis and jerks back his head, exposing his throat.

MARIA
You remember, how flattering.

With savage intensity, she slashes Luis's throat, and blood spurts out.

JAKE
What the hell...

MARIA
Have any idea how long I waited for you to come? How many times this pig used me while I prayed for you to rescue me? He cut me because I would never all him mi querido. He beat me when I said your name.

She goes to the wife tied to the bed whose eyes widen in fear. Maria jerks back the wife's head.

JAKE
Don't!

Too late. Maria slashes the Wife's throat. Blood spurts.

MARIA
You never CAME!

JAKE
I had no idea where you were.

She comes over to Jake and grabs his head.

MARIA
You never even tried. Admit it, you never tried.

JAKE

I did try, I did. I hired a private investigator. I looked for months.

MARIA

Liar.

JAKE

You have to believe me.

She lightly runs the knife across his neck.

MARIA

Why must I believe you?

Jake begins to blubber.

JAKE

Please, please, you must believe. I never forgot you.

MARIA

Did you see the girl? I did her first. Like Luis always told me he would do me.

(she spits)

Now, he says nothing.

JAKE

What do you want, Maria? What? Money? I have money.

MARIA

I have your money. Your bitch gave it to me.

JAKE

I know, I know you hate me. But I never stopped loving you. I just couldn't find you.

MARIA

You never stopped loving me?

JAKE

Never.

MARIA

Too bad, because I stopped loving you.

She slashes his throat, and blood spurts out, red and fast. She spits on him.

MARIA
I stopped long ago.

INT. MARIA'S CAR - NIGHT

Maria, still holding the knife, climbs behind the wheel. She takes a deep breath before she turns to the back seat.

In the back seat, Billy, now 12, sits tied and gagged.

MARIA
Did you not notice that you look
nothing like that slut you call
mama?

She turns back and starts the engine.

MARIA
You will like your new home. I
promise.

She puts the car in gear and starts.

MARIA
And you will call me mama.

FADE OUT