

FIVE DEFIANT WOMEN

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FADE IN:

INT. GUGINO HOME - KITCHEN - PRESENT DAY

Sunlight streams into the enormous gourmet kitchen as opera music plays softly throughout the house.

FRANCESCA (V.O.)
(NARRATES)

Sometimes shit happens and I'm one of them. This is my story of the dangerous and vengeful family I was born into.

SOPHIA GUGINO (39) dark hair, dark eyes and eccentric, FRANCO GUGINO's wife and Stepmother to Francesca. She wears high heels, a tight skirt, and a nice blouse that accentuates her curvaceous body.

SOPHIA
(Mutters loudly)
Well, well he is coming home after all. What did I do to deserve this second chance hm ?

Sophia is in her kitchen cooking unaware of everything else around her.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
The minute I know his memory is coming back ... I will just have to kill him again and this time it will be permanent! Ah this needs olive oil and this should do it!

EXT. PAVE STONE DRIVEWAY - DAY

(P. O. V.)

Boots stride in time with the opera drifting through the open kitchen window then stop with syncopated flourish.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sophia sways to the music dropping the bowls into the sink
her burner phone vibrates inside her apron.

SOPHIA

(Angry)

Why are you calling me now ? I told
you I don't want to be disturbed
today! You deal with it. It's a
small situation. I am cooking right
now... ciao!

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Sighs And Paused)

Stupid idiot.

A bullet tears through the open window and strikes Sophia in
the side of her neck.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Cries Out)

Ahhh! What the fuck!

Glass shatters onto the marble floor as Sophia drops to her
knees.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Terrifying Agony)

No no you son of a bitch! You won't
get away. I will kill you fuckers!

The door creaks open as boots approach the fallen woman and
the hitman presses the muzzle of his weapon to Sophia's
chest.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Fights To Speak)

You! Do You think you will get away
with this? You cunt you can't ...
wait argh!

Sophia's body hits the floor. Her eyes remain fixed, lifeless
as blood spills out spreading rapidly around her.

FRANCESCA (V.O.)

(Cynical)

Well, Im not sorry I never liked
that woman, I never trusted her.
She was evil and jealous of me and
everyone that my father cared
about. She betrayed us all. Sophia
competed with my bond with my
father.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
She tried to break me but, I was
his daughter, his blood. I have the
rein.

INT. GUGINO ESTATES - LAS VEGAS - DAY

FLASHBACK

FRANCO GUGINO, (24) handsome an Adonis, and his father DON
LUIGI GUGINO (68) a salt and pepper hair, thin man, sits
inside the house while under construction, enjoying his new
big color TV watching The Price Is Right with Bob Parker and
the beautiful models. Both men sitting in their Lazy boy
chairs, waiting for CARLO (27) Luigi's capo bring in Chinese
take out.

Carlo comes in carrying the take outs.

CARLO
(Apologize)
Sorry boss I took so long I had to
get gas before I picked up the
food.

Franco interrupts Carlo.

FRANCO
(Shouts)
Shut up you two will ya, I want to
concentrate which door is the
fucking car going to be in. Door
one or two and I think its number
three! Yes! What did I tell ya , I
know this shit I can read minds!

Luigi ignores Franco momentarily while he ate.

LUIGI
(Ridicules)
Oh yea tough guy you can read Bob
Barker's mind through the fucking
TV? Then read my mind now too.

FRANCO
(Sarcastic)
What you want me to read your mind
right now ? Pops it was a figure of
speech Jesus christ.

Luigi glares atFranco while he devours his meal.

LUIGI

(Scoffed)

Yea wise guy. You cannot read anyone's mind so don't ever fucking say that! And don't ever tell me to shut up ever again! I don't care if there is chaos surrounding us, stay focus with your Poker face, that's what you need to learn it is to read the faces who is in front of you and the situation in the room your in! None of this bullshit about reading minds!

FRANCO

(Defeated Face)

Alright pop I got it lets move forward, and I'm not mad at you for giving me that lecture. Now stop busting my balls your embarrassing me.

INT. GUGINO ESTATES - DAY

GIUSEPPE (29) Franco's main Capo guy comes in and see's the mess of empty Chinese food containers.

GIUSEPPE

(Smiling)

When is the remodeling done with this house? And what did I miss out on? Never mind boss I don't want to know. Hey, you ready to bounce out of here? We got some business to do. You know before I fly back home, I wanted to help you out. That old man and his child bride in a Kimono will be in casino's office. He is very interested having a meeting with you so I set it up and confirmed it with JEFF O'CONNER to get the contracts ready. You know the Yakuza speaks english very well. Hiromi his wife's is always bowed down? She's a beautiful woman did you take notice? Scared to look at her he might have a sword and cut my head off!

Franco keeps pace with Giuseppe while he unrelentingly speaks.

FRANCO

(Listening)

No you didn't miss nothing just
Pops busting my balls. Yeah I've
noticed. Use to imagine what she
wears underneath that kimono.

Luigi gives Franco a wink tapping his nose as Carlo heads
out. Franco turns back around.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(Kissed his forehead)

Bye pops see ya later.

LUIGI

(Whisper)

Don't forget our intentions is not
to go backwards, but to keep this
family going and not go down like
some families that have and their
dead or locked up!

The future is to work the
legitimate businesses. Here in
Vegas we do everything legal, the
gaming, gambling whatever, Your the
head Casino manager of The Atlantis
and The Marquis, make it so Franco.

FRANCO

(Unsure)

What are you saying Pop? Legit
Legitimate , I like what we were
doing. I don't know pops I gotta
have a meeting with everybody, if
this is your wish then I'll do it
for now. We gotta hear what the
others think Pops. I was born by
you, to live and die in the streets
I thought.

Luigi and Franco stare at each other.

LUIGI

(Clears his Throat)

I was wrong to show you that life
Franco, your mother god bless that
woman's soul. She suffered and
struggled and fought to protect you
from greedy enemies. I don't want
that life for your children you
hear me Franco. We can live long
and healthy happy and prosperous,
like the Christmas cards.

Franco shook his fathers hand and kiss him again and exited.

FRANCO

(Sensitive)

Hey Pops say goodbye to Giuseppe he is leaving us tonight. He's got a flight back to Naples, his wife Teresa is having another boy. Carlo will be taking over his post alright.

Luigi signal thumbs up, and falls asleep.

EXT. JAR BRIDGE WILDERNESS - PRESENT DAY - DAWN

DON FRANCO (45) tall and fit, olive skinned, with brown hair, piercing dark eyes. He wipes his mustache from the morning dew, stood above his teenager daughter FRANCESCA AKA FRANKIE (15) peers downfield through the scope of her hunting rifle at her prey, a Trophy Elk.

FRANCESCA (V.O.)

(NARRATES)

Most girls my age don't wake up excited one morning thinking, I just can't wait to get out there and shoot me an Elk! But, I do I love the power behind my rifle. Plus if I had any complaints about anything, my father was not interest in my feelings or negotiation.

FRANCO

(Exasperated)

Hey Frankie you gotta slow down your breathing kid, you know what I mean? Come on Frankie ...steady do it already!

Francesca is perfectly still focused on her kill. Ignores her father.

FRANCESCA

(Frustrated)

Shhhh ... can you please be quiet and chill out Pops. I got this... and... Boom! Done! Thats how you do that!

A perfect Bull's eyes, Franco freezes then lowers into a crouch eyes locked on Frankie.

Franco rises.

FRANCO

(Infuriated)

Listen kid, stand up, don't ever disrespect me like that ever again and when I'm talking to you, you stay quiet and listen up! Do not get cocky. If you want to be respected like me, especially because your a girl don't get cocky be sharp and observe you know show your Poker face! Look its important, especially for people like us. We survived, because your grandfather Luigi was clever, we took it first, there were no questions asked. We out ran the Tigers, do you get it?

Francesca stares at Franco with defiance.

FRANCESCA

(Arrogant)

Yeah sure I get it, now can I go? I've got Krav Maga private lesson in an hour you know self defense techniques I can use in the the real world situations. Then don't forget Uncle Carlo my Ballet tomorrow. Are we going to make it back on time ? I gotta be there on time okay? See you back at the lodge.

Franco lifts a hand in a playful swat but Frankie reacts quickly retreating.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(Chuckling)

See you later Poppa! I can show you some moves if you want. I love you Pops!

Franco glares at his only daughter. Frankie runs to the waiting car flashing a peace sign.

Carlo joins Franco as they watched Francesca.

FRANCO

(Chuckles)

What did I raise, that girl is trouble someday I feel sorry for them. She's tough Carlo. Yeah lets go, we gotta a meeting with Sakamoto at the Lodge. Zoom meeting in an hour.

Carlo nods his head in agreement.

FLASHBACK (CON'T)

INT. HALLWAY CORRIDOR - DAY

Francesca walking down the hallway passing her father's Office. Noises distracts her and got into the guest closet next to the office. Frankie's ears pressed against the wall.

FRANCESCA

(Whispering to herself)

I don't care if I got caught. I just need to know what is happening in there. Oh my god.

Francesca ears pressed against the wall. A voice of a woman with her father. She sat still and falls asleep.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(Shocked)

Oh no what the hell ? Who is in there with him...

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AND LABOR - DAY

FLASHBACK (CONT'D)

Franco holds his mistress's hand. Beautiful STELLA JONES (28) dark brown hair, blue eyes. A Las Vegas dancer. Giving birth to their love child.

STELLA

(Screaming)

Ohhhh my god! Franco Franco the baby is coming.

Franco remains at her side keeping a close eye on the Obstetrician until the baby's head emerges. He watches the nurses as they worked around him.

FRANCO

(Excited)

Benvenuta! We have a girl Stella
and she is a beauty like you baby.
Un mondo di felicta .

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AND LABOR (CON'T)

STELLA

(Exhausted)

I want to name her Francesca Jones
and Frankie for her nickname after
you Franco. Francesca.

FRANCO

(Disagree)

No no Stella she is not a bastard
I'm right here, her poppa is right
here with my two favorites girls.
Ah she is so cute and beautiful
she's got a strong grip! Francesca
Gugino long live!

EXT. MONTESSORI SCHOOL - DAY

Stella parks her Maserati. Four year old Frankie hops out in
jeans a pink Supergirl T-shirt and Converse high tops.

STELLA

(Soft Spoken)

Come on my little princess, Frankie
you look so cute, I love what your
wearing. Give me your hand baby
it's your first day. Are you you
excited?

FRANKIE

(Sweet voice)

Thank you mommy, No I'm not
excited. I like pink it's pretty.
Is there other kids in there, are
they nice mommy?

Stella stops her pace and bends down to her level. She hugs
her daughter.

STELLA

(Worried Look)

Frankie are you scared baby?

(MORE)

STELLA (CONT'D)

This is going to be exciting and you will be busy, with lots of activities , painting , learning how to count and plant a fruit tree or something and you will sing ABC's songs just like what we have been doing at home. Mommy has to work too, and sometimes Poppa will pick you up if I can't. Don't worry about the other kids, you know why, because your my supergirl and your tough! Now lets go and conquer the world!

Stella walks beside Frankie their hands clasped tears falling unseen behind her Ferragamo sunglasses.

FRANCESCA

(Relieved and Smiles)

Thank you mommy, hugs and kisses mommy. I love you.

EXT. STELLA'S HOUSE - DAY

Carlo arrives in his Mercedes with Stella and six year old Frankie. He helps a frail Stella out and unbuckles Frankie. Stella grips Carlo 's arm while Frankie holds her other hand

INT. STELLA'S HOUSE - DAY

Franco sits on the couch using WhatsApp while he waits for his girls to come home.

FRANCO

(Scoffed)

Take care of the assets in that account Marco. It can't sit there. You know what I mean? If you don't have the guts. Go rub the bulls balls outside that fucking building or I'll get someone else to fucking handle this! Don't get shaky my friend. Calm down will ya. It's time to buy some shares and I'll let you know when I hear from the inside when to trade. You got it ? Yeah yeah alright. Ciao

Carlo and Stella steps inside, and Frankie races in to greet her Poppa.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(Happy)

Alright alright you got me right in my heart baby girl, now run along with uncle Carlo into the kitchen, he can make Pizza and ice cream after, while mommy and I have a chat ok?

Frankie skips away with Carlo as Stella sits. Franco bends down before her taking her hand.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(Concerned Look)

Whoa Stella honey whats the matter what happened at the doctors ? Did somebody mistreat you baby? Just tell me and I'll take care of it.

STELLA

(Distraught)

Franco, I, I have Cancer, its ovarian cancer. I have a couple of months maybe weeks, I need to know you will care for Frankie and make sure she doesn't inherit this shit.

Franco's face in shock, drowned and frozen.

FRANCO

(Utterly Devastated)

What? What are you saying Stella your not going to survive this? We gotta get another opinion a third Stella. You can't just die baby, we have Frankie to raise, she's gonna need you , I need you Stella

Franco's voice trailed off gutted as he sinks into her lap Stella's tears pouring over him.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(Trying)

What are we going to tell our princess ? We gotta tell her something my love ok ?

STELLA

(nods her head slowly)

Okay we will tell her something, promise me nothing sad, she's our supergirl our hero, our miracle baby....

FRANCESCA (V.O.)

(NARRATES)

My father loved my mother and he respected her. Stella wasn't like the other women he dated behind Sophia's back. I remember a lot, I was perceptive and they told me something.

I couldn't understand that something good was going to die, my beautiful sweet mother. My father changed after my mother died. He was angry more and snapped at everyone except at me. He had to rely on Sophia to raise me. But he kept an eye on me just in case my stepmother abuses me. I never told him. I wanted to stand on my own two feet.

INT. FRANCO'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

A topless beautiful Asian woman , HIROMI SAKAMOTO, (28) straddles Franco as they continue to have sex. Franco tight grip on her hips forces her to moan.

HIROMI

(Sensually Moaning)

I want you, please don't stop ...
harder, I like it that way ohhh yes
in Japanese.

Franco covers her mouth during their overwhelming ecstasy.

INT. FRANCO'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY (CONT'D)

Hiromi smooths down her dress combing through her hair, she watches Franco buttoning his shirt. She goes to him.

HIROMI

(Smiling)

Franco I am three months pregnant,
and I will have our baby.

Franco stares at Hiromi in silence and takes her hand.

FRANCO

(Whispers)

Are you sure?

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

You want this baby I mean I'm happy to have another kid, but we have to keep this as a secret, do you understand? No one can know about this, I'm taking responsibility, don't worry about that. Its not going to be easy, I already have Francesca and another baby outside of my marriage...Oh my god a baby do you know what the sex of the baby yet? What are we having huh?

Hiromi eyes swells up in tears.

HIROMI

(Nodding)

Yes, we are going to have a boy Franco. You must keep Sophia away from me. Or I will have no choice but to eliminate her. I can hide but for only one more month. I will not be returning here until next year Franco. You already know that you have my partnership for the Casinos, if anything changes don't hesitate to discuss it with me. Now you have a family in me. We have a bond.

Franco scoops Hiromi into his arms and embraces her.

FRANCO

(Smiles)

Alright tough momma-san, but you swear nothing is going to harm you and my unborn son? You gotta be careful. Trust no one but me. Otherwise I can have you stay in the Atlantis Penthouse. lets get you both out of here. I can go to your room later. And Have a proper send off.

HIROMI

(Assured)

We will be fine I have security around me all the time, and Takahashi is loyal to me. He will kill if I ask him to do so.

Hiromi walks out of Franco's office, TAKAHASHI SATO her body guard and her driver immediately came to her aid and opened the door.

INT. HALLWAY GUEST CLOSET - PRESENT - DAY

Francesca cautiously cracks the door open and peeks out, and Sees the back of Franco escorting a dark hair woman out.

FRANCESCA

(Mutters)

Well I guess it's been Hiromi all along. I hope Sophia finds out, that will be loads of fun. Hiromi Sakamoto, Poppa's secret lover, a baby boy? A brother? What are you doing Poppa? Holy shit!

Francesca carefully crept out of the closet to avoid being spotted and runs to her room.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(V. O.) (NARRATES)

Let me begin with Hiromi Sakamoto, she was a child bride when she was forced to marry at 16 to a Yakuza boss from Tokyo Japan. He was an old geezer. Hiromi is beautiful, smart and obedient. By 18 she came regularly with her husband AKIRA SAKAMOTO wearing a kimono who walked behind him with her head down.

Every six months they had meetings with Franco, they were investors towards the Casinos. Next thing I know, he wasn't showing up as much but, Hiromi did. Wearing beautiful dresses and high heels. She becomes the Yakuza Boss when Akira died. She wasn't meek or quiet anymore. Sophia was weary of her and suspected Hiromi was having an affair with Franco. I over heard Carlo mentioning that Akira had a heart attack.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(V. O.) (NARRATES)

Listen, these women I saw growing up, having them inside my home was jarring. My step mother Sophia the evil, Rapheala the kind one and the ugly dike Paola.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

They held executive roles that my father created for them.

When they fled from their homeland in Sicily. Their husbands worked for grandpa Luigi back then. Their husbands were serving lengthy time in prison and eventually gets killed.

They were widows and needed help. So grandpa Luigi made it into his mission to get them out and their families one by one they came. They left behind their husbands crimes in racketing, drugs, extortions and murders. My father had to please grandpa Luigi. And presently something big happened and my father had to terminate both women from his Casinos to continue his legit mob business.

INT. THE ATLANTIS EXECUTIVE OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

Franco is in the midst of his meeting with the three women RAPHEALA MORONE (49) a petite blond, wholesome beauty, quiet personality, wearing a Chanel business suit. Her son Antonio 16 years old killed in a car accident.

RAPHEALA

(Anxious)

Good morning everyone. I'd like to get moving, so what is this about.

PAOLA AGLIERIA (55) tall and fit short silver hair, aggressive, the liberal and Lesbian. She's dressed in jeans and western boots sitting like a padrone smoking.

PAOLA

(Agreeing)

Yeah Rapheala is right what are we doing here ?

Franco's wife, SOPHIA GUGINO (38) from Naples - dark hair, dark eyes, buxom, joins the meeting. She's dressed in a Valentino suit. Sophia is the youngest amongst them. She waits for the meeting to begin.

CARLO

(Observes)

Its good to see you all Ladies
Franco should be off the phone
soon. Is everyone well?

RAPHEALA

(Smiles)

Yes Carlo. I'm well thank you for
asking and hopefully you are too.

Carlo gestured a kind smile.

The other two ignored Carlo they were busy on their phones.

INT. FRANCO'S OFFICE - PRESENT - DAY (CONT'D)

Franco moves down towards his large round table to start the meeting. The women stopped with their phones and turned their attention to Franco.

FRANCO

(Intense)

Hello ladies thank you for taking
the time away from your busy
schedule and being here today. I
have been carrying this weight on
my shoulders for months. Before
Luigi, my father died he was
insecure about how to protect our
assets better. He was concerned
about the future. And of course I
always said that it is. Today I
feel the same as he did. My heart
is broken, but thats life no?

PAOLA

(Impatience)

Hey boss get to the point, what are
you getting at, your making me
nervous. What do you mean your
heart is broken?

Franco stopped and held his breath, then continued.

So, like what I was saying before
you interjected is that we have
been doing well without paying out
any Cops or the Feds or get us out
of trouble should we ever get into
one. And so far so good.

(MORE)

PAOLA (CONT'D)

That's why I have JEFF O'CONNER
(60) Attorney At Law and his boys
and I want to keep it that way.
Doing Legitimate business and my
Casinos are doing exactly that.

Franco watched the three women's reactions as their faces
turns into defiance and arrogance.

RAPHEALA

(Chuckles)

Legitimate? What about the
Sakamoto's their not exactly legit
at all or are they?

FRANCO

(Smiles)

As far as our investors are
concerned it's not my business what
they do over there. On our side it
is. They went into the Casino's
with \$800 Million in Cash and the
rest was in a cashier check. They
were very cautious with their
investment. And I respect that.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(Uneasiness)

The fact that I made you Rapheala
and you Paola, when your husbands
got terminated from the inside
makes me want to change things
around here quickly. Look we are
not from the old country anymore
and we are Americans. I have
absolutely zero investments over
there or owe anybody anything.

But, if somebody tries to fuck
around with me and my family will
thats going to be difficult. I
don't want war I'm not saying that
we are a target for some families,
I don't think so but, let me be
clear there is that jealousy. I'm a
man of my words. I'm a business man
who owns two successful casinos and
I won't let anymore outsiders
getting in.

We already have the Japanese Hiromi
Sakamoto Family, we continue to be
successful they have no issue with
us, we owe them our loyalty.

Carlo got up and whispered something to Franco. Under scrutiny.

FRANCO (CONT'D)
(Furious)

Sophia's face wore a disapproval just the mere mention of Hiromi Sakamoto's name.

Paola, I want you to take the first step. Clean up your side business you have been operating behind my back. Don't think for a moment I didn't know about the fucking heroine and whatever drugs you got on the streets. Your business with the Mexican Cartels have nothing to do with me and my Casinos do you understand? You make that distinction clear to whoever your associate are and your distributor.

Paola was speechless for a moment.

Rapheala did you think you can run a prostitution night club without people across town knowing and wouldn't tell me? Are you guys out of your fucking mind ? Where is all the money you have been keeping from me?

PAOLA
(Angry)

What? You want us to apologize for being ambitious? You brought us in to help secure the casinos and run it with you, and now you want me and Rapheala to give it all up. Franco we could get killed. We got families to feed too you know that.

Franco listened to the women and stayed silent until Paola sat back down.

Franco slams his hands down on the table.

FRANCO
(Outraged)

I don't want it and I don't need it, you wanna know why because I'm the CEO Executive of Atlantis and the Marquis!

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

I will not have any fucking fucked connections to yours and Paola's corruption! I gave you both and your families a life you dreamed of. But yet both of you got greedy and deceitful. And now I am in a tough and difficult position. I'm I understood? I don't want any involvement.

RAPHEALA

(Infuriated)

Rapheala speaks in Italian.

Mi stavo annoiando al casino e ho visto che Paola se la cavava bene con i soldi e non avevo niente di meglio da affaire. Quello che ho guadagnato al casino e cio che ho investito con Paola. E un bel club che ho aperto, tu e Carlo dovrete venire a trovarlo. Non posso chiuderlo Franco. Non si tratta solo di prostituire le loro ballerine professioniste!

Translation:

I was getting bored at the casino and I saw Paola was doing okay with her money ...and I had nothing better going on... What I earned from the casino is what I invested with Paola. It's a nice club I opened so come and visit. I can't shut it down Franco I won't do it. It's not just whoring their professional dancers too!

Franco seated in his chair, his hands clasped on the table. Carlo seated to his right. The door swung opens and Jeff and his two assistants WILLIAM and JOSEPH joined the meeting. They opened their brief cases and took out files of papers.

JEFF O'CONNER

(Confident)

Here you go Rapheala and for you Paola. Please read and sign. If you need more time to go over this I myself or Bill and Joseph can help. They speak Italian very well.

Both women looked at Sophia who's face turned in a unsettled state.

JEFF O'CONNER (CONT'D)

(Professional)

This is an Exclusion of the pre-existing contract from the one you both had when you were hired at the Casino's. This is a legal Contract of Exclusion. You Rapheala and Paola are being excluded from the The Atlantis and The Marquis you will not hold any positions, and you both will keep the earnings you have made from your side businesses.

The Casino's is giving you both \$150,000.00 as a good will and a parting gift. This is a stipulation agreement and condition made between parties. You and your cronies are never to step inside or near the perimeters of the properties.

SOPHIA

(Pleads)

Oh come on Franco they are our family! They worked hard for us. You cannot let them loose like this! Have some compassion.

FRANCO

(Calm)

I'm not banning them from being your friends. But, from me. I made this clear and I have washed my hands from this betrayal. How should I cut them loose? The old way is terror at first, then quick and easy and no one will ever feel anything. Thats compassion and I am being kind do you see the difference?

Rapheala came up to speed before Paola could get in.

RAPHEALA

(Glance At Carlo)

Why are we being punished can't you understand, you could have more then just your Casinos Franco! But I know you could do worse to me, and I will accept this offer and your gift. I'm sorry it went this way. I wish it hadn't thank you.

PAOLA

(Furious)

Franco, your making a big mistake!
My business is running smoothly
because I am a God Mother, and when
a woman runs a business it is like
having a mommy. They will do
anything to please me. I appreciate
what you and your Poppa did for us
back there and that won't be
forgotten, but this? che Dio ci
aiuti!

FRANCO

(Suppressed Anger)

I am humbled by your kind words but
you see you girls got very greedy
and never discussed anything with
me. You went behind my back which
could have compromised the
reputation of my Casino's. That's a
classic betrayal. Now sign the
damned contract before I changed my
fucking mind. And get out!

After Franco's explosion he watched the attorneys. He got up
and went to the large window while he spied from the
reflection behind him.

JEFF O'CONNER

(Professional)

Alright Franco I will execute these
immediately. Here are your copies.
Thank you and have a good rest of
your afternoon.

When the door slammed Franco turned to see Sophia exiting.

FRANCO

(Yells)

Hey, where do think your going? You
can't go just yet. I'm not done
especially with you. Go pour us a
drink and come here.

Carlo takes the signed documents and placed it inside
Franco's briefcase and heads out. He locks the doorknob.

INT. FRANCO'S OFFICE - DAY (CONT'D)

SOPHIA

(Eyes Widened)

Yeah sure whats this about?
(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

I'm I gonna get a spanking? I
haven't done anything Franco if
your accusing me with something no?

Franco lazily sits in his chair drinking scotch, eyeing Sophia very carefully. He motions for her to stand in front of him.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Playing the Obedient)

Now that you have me feeling
uncomfortable. Look... I did know
about their extra curriculum, but I
didn't help them with anything.

Sophia vulnerable stands in front of Franco. Franco glared at her incredulously .

Franco stood against Sophia's back.

FRANCO

(Whispers In Her Ears)

So you knew ...get down on your
knees and ask me for forgiveness
and... while your there unzip me
and pray!

Minutes of dominating Sophia into his sexual demands.

Yeah Sophia I can't hear you ..
stand up and turn around bend over!

Franco's hands were going up her dress, exploring her intimate spot as she confesses. He hiked up her dress further up and in frustration he enters her.

SOPHIA

(Screams in Pleasure)

Please please forgive me I will
never betray you my love ...

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Sophia meets with Paola and Rapheala behind a huge statue of The Holy Virgin Mary. Each women wearing dark veils to cover their faces, kneeling and lighting candles as they commensurate. They move towards the back and sat on a wooden bench.

SOPHIA

(Whispering)

Look we got to stick together and
don't give it away Paola.

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

I managed to tell Franco I knew but
I did not help you. We cannot
afford to have him know that I
banked your businesses. He is a
fake Saint. I smoothed him over,
that cocksucker.

The three women lowered their voices as the Priest noticed them. One of Paola's men stood to block the Priest from getting closer to the women.

RAPHEALA

(Retorted)

Easy for you to say Sophia but, he
could easily kill us. I never
thought we would be fucking banned?
What the fuck are we supposed to do
now?

Rapheala face drips with sweats from her forehead, her eyes suspiciously alert.

Paola ridicules Rapheala.

PAOLA

(Snapped)

Ah come on Rapheala! Stop being
such a little pussy. Have some
balls like us will ya! It doesn't
matter whether we never get to step
inside that god damned Casino, we
got our own success happening right
here right now. I have a new crate
of goodies Gonzales is bringing in
tonight be ready with your best
girls take the VIP clients to smoke
in the private rooms. I want to see
how fast this new shit hits.

SOPHIA

(Agreeing and Chuckles)

Paola is right grow some balls, and
stop sweating, whats the matter
with you? Lets get out of here the
heat is fucking making my clothes
stick. Hey! Father get a new A/C
for fucking sake!

Before they exit to the back door, Sophia stopped to give the Priest money.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
 (Sternly)
 Here take this \$800 put it towards
 a damned A/C.

FLASHBACK

INT. TOKYO JAPAN - DAY

An older AKIRA SAKAMOTO stands in the center of his rooftop wearing a baseball cap with a summer kimono. He clutches the gardening shears firmly in hands as he trims the dead leaves from the Bonsai trees.

Hiromi walks out into the terrace carrying a tray of refreshments and a pitcher of ice green tea.

HIROMI
 (Sweetly)
 Akira-san koko ni kite naniko
 nomimono o nonde kudasi. Nan-jikan
 mo atsui chugai ni dete itanode,
 dassui shojo ni natte iru kanosei
 ga arimusu.

Translation

Akira come here and have something
 to drink. You have been out here in
 the heat for hours you can get
 dehydrated.

Akira hears Hiromi and looks in her direction defiantly. He stops and brings his cutting shears with him.

AKIRA
 (Senile)
 A, nomimono o motte kite kurete
 hontoni arigato. Tsuma ga jibun de
 okutte kite no kashiro? Gurasu ni
 sosoide-chu ni haite, anata no
 karada o misete agemashou. Wakai
 itsuma to onaji kurai kawaii wa.

Translation:

Ah so sweet of you to bring me
 refreshments. Did my wife send you
 instead of herself? Pour me a
 glass, and lets go inside so I can
 see your body. Your as pretty as my
 wife.

Akira guzzles down the tea entertained by the young woman standing in front of him.

HIROMI

(Apprehensive)

Yoshi, kiwotsusukete. Me ga mabushi-
sa ni nareru made, sukoshi yukkuri
shite. Daijobu? Sa, arate.

Translation:

Ok, be careful take it easy for a
minute until your eyes adapt from
the glare. You alright? Okay now go
and wash up.

INT. SAKAMOTO HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Hiromi leads Akira inside their primary bedroom. Akira throws his cap down on the floor and lays his cutting shear on top of a table. He walks away and returns glaring at the stranger in his bed.

HIROMI

(Alert)

Akira- san come here and lay down,
next to me its time for you to rest
for awhile. Come on, do you need
help ?

AKIRA

(Belligerent and Violent)

Oh really you want me to lay beside
you? Are you a whore ? Did my wife
send you to fuck then pay you after
eh ? Argh I will show you what I
can do. Come here then, you whore!
Your just like my wife! Hehe

Akira violently attacks and rips at her clothes. Hiromi falls backwards on the bed. He bites down on her breasts, she kicks him and crawls to the center of the bed.

HIROMI

(Screams in horror)

Stop Akira! stop! argh you fucking
asshole! Get away from me...stop!

Hiromi fights for her life and lands on top. She yank the pillow from under Akira and suffocates him until his arms stopped flopping.

HIROMI (CONT'D)

(Heavy Breathing)

Die you fucking disgusting piece of
shit! For so many years you abused
me mentally and physically and I
took it over and over and over! I
hate you! Go to hell you hear me!
Die now!

Hiromi disheveled removes the pillow from Akira's face and
placed it back under his head.

HIROMI (CONT'D)

(Breathing Heavily)

I should have done this a long time
ago! I thought you would have
change as you got older. But you
got sicker, You only wanted me as
your muse , taking pleasure of
abusing me! You sick fuck ha now
your fucking dead and I will be
more then just a figurehead in your
seat. I will not step down, I will
be better then you!

INT. THE EXTRAORDINAIRE CLUB - PRESENT - NIGHT

Rapheala sits intensely in her large office watching the live
camera surveillance throughout the floor and the private
rooms.

RAPHEALA

(Paranoid)

Hey Paola, where the hell is your
man Gonzalez he was supposed to be
here 30 minutes ago! Its getting
late and it's very crowded, its
perfect time for it. What? What do
you mean? Ah shit! What are you
going to do? Does Sophia know?

Rapheala clicks off. Deep in thought stares towards the
monitors, while the dancers performs.

RAPHEALA (CONT'D)

(Muttering)

Oh Jesus what the hell, how do I
get out from this shit! Should I go
to Carlo? Oh god please let me find
my way out of this.

The dancers were young and beautiful. Exceptionally
handpicked by a professional choreographer.

The women had to be experienced. They signed an NDA contract that stipulates You See and Hear nothing.

EXT: ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO - NEVADA ROUTE I- 40 - NIGHT

Two men inside a Lincoln Navigator speeds through a desolate road headed to Las Vegas, Nevada. Stereo blasting in latin reggae. Unexpectedly headlights were aimed in their direction and second a car from behind follows.

LINCOLN DRIVER
(Bellows in Shock)
What the fuck watch out! You
motherfuckers!

The driver is blindsided and loose control. The Lincoln skids off the road in high speed and topples multiple times landing on its top.

The two unknown cars drives into the terrain. Car doors swung open and the sounds of hard breathing runs towards the Lincoln. Inside both men hung upside down from their seats unconscious. They were executed immediately in the head.

TORO
(Shouting)
Get the the two baggage hurry up.
Hey, I gotta an idea lets scoop up
those dry weeds, come on throw it
inside. As much as we can, fill the
back and the front. Thats it that
will do! Give me your lighter!
Hurry up!

The back seat of the Lincoln ignites.

The two men stood to watch the fire.

NACHO
(Laughs)
Hey man we better go it looks like
its about to blow!

EXT. I-40 - DESOLATE ROAD - NIGHT

TORO
(Heavy Breathing)
Hurry up Nacho. Man come on, I got
the suitcases. For being a skinny
dude your slow.

NACHO

(Huffing)

Yeah easy for you to say Toro I
have an old injury on my back from
my boxing days. Never got the
treatment I should have.

Fire got larger. Before it exploded a phone rings from inside
the car.

Both men runs fast towards their cars. Behind them the
Lincoln exploded and parts of the vehicle debris drops near
their heads almost hitting them.

NACHO (CONT'D)

(Shocked)

Holy shit it missed our heads!
Hey Toro we should have checked
their pockets . It could have been
important.

TORO

(Contemplating)

Nah dude. Are you fucking serious?
We need to drive now. Forget about
it brother. Drive safely meet you
back at the casino. Wait for the
phone call. Arrivederci

INT. THE ATLANTIS CASINO - NIGHT

Franco and Carlo watching the Security camera monitors for
both Casinos .

Carlo's phone rings. He takes the call.

CARLO

(Chuckles)

Thats real funny Nacho. Get back
here with the Suitcases and no more
dilly-dallying understand ? Boss is
waiting for your arrival.

(P.O.V.)

Franco in deep thought swirls the ice in his glass with his
index finger. His desk drawer is wide open his SIG Saucer
P226 exposed.

Carlo relaxed in a big leather chair reading a newspaper.

FRANCO

(Laughs)

You know generally people read the newspaper in the morning during breakfast and coffee. Your special Carlo you don't do anything normal. When our friends get here, don't open the suitcases until they leave and you have their envelopes ready? 50K each. That was a gigantic task.

CARLO

(Chuckles)

Aw Boss I'm touched I really am. You said I'm special. Yeah just like you said, 50K each. Why are you rethinking the payments ? Is that why you got your buddy over there? If I were you, I'd have it in front of you to be seen.

Franco took Carlo's suggestion and took his SIG out from the drawer and placed it on top of the table for a quick reach.

FRANCO

(Smirks)

Yeah your right showing it is better. That's why I can't live without you Carlo.

A knock at the door Nacho and Toro smiling for the cameras. Two Security in front of the office door pats them down. Their pistols are taken before entering.

INT. THE ATLANTIS CASINO OFFICE - NIGHT

NACHO a skinny Latino guy with a beard and his best friend TORO the bull comes in dragging the suitcases.

Franco remains at his desk, while Carlo hands them their envelopes. The two men are speechless.

FRANCO

(Direct)

Was there any problems that can follow you back here? Now this is going to seem unfamiliar to you men, because I'm warning you both and you know what I'm talking about...it's not going to be pretty around here. If the job you both got hired gets discovered....

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

So I suggest get out of town
tonight and go in different
directions. Do you understand?
Carlo give them a little more...

Carlo digs in his pocket and pulls out wads of cash. He
hands them \$500 each.

Without exchange of words the two men left the Casino.

Carlo unzips the suitcases. Franco straightened up from his
chair and walks over to the open suitcase.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(Whistles)

Holy fuck, whatta are we looking at
here? About 2-3 million Carlo ? So
this is Paola's and she supplies it
to Rapheala's Extraordinaire. I
would love to be a fly on their
walls. White China its pure white
Carlo, but then again it could have
fentanyl derivatives mix, deadly.
Don't unpack put in the vault. We
are Saints tonight Carlo.

Carlo zipped the suitcases back up and went to the secret
wall with a hidden panel. Carlo scanned his eyes and the
Vault room opens.

FLASHBACK

FRANCESCA

(V. O .) (NARRATES)

That's right.. I remember when
Poppa tricked me. He said, he
needed my help to look for a red
bunny. I was eight years old,
excited and standing on a chair.
And Poppa said to keep my eyes wide
open. Then he helped me down and
hugged me. Its for my future when I
get taller he mentioned. But, that
didn't make any sense and I said I
didn't see a red bunny.

Poppa went after me, and yelled I
found it! Carlo laughed and took
his turn. My father was no ordinary
man, he loved high tech.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

He figures enemies can cut off someone's hand and use their thumb prints, but this is a little harder no one can replicate a Retina and having the biometric security systems for The Atlantis was perfect. Then later we did the same thing for The Marquis. Poppa took a Bible and place his hand down and Carlo and I followed, we took an Oath and swore that no one can know about our secret Vaults. No one he repeated."

From that day forward, just the three of us kept our Vaults a secret.

INT. STELLA RISTORANTE - PRESENT - NIGHT

Franco and Carlo dressed in their Armani suits sits drinking a glass of red wine in his private corner table. A booth designed with burgundy leather seats exposed with red brick walls. Wood panels with horizontal mirrors that accented the rows of every table in the restaurant.

FRANCO

(Topsy)

Did I ever tell you Carlo, why I designed it with mirrors? You can see it all. I like sneaking a peak now and then at the people in each table, but most importantly Carlo, its who comes in and we sit facing every table. We have to be prepared at all times.

CARLO

(Chuckles)

Yeah boss I've heard it before. I love it here you know... its a special place boss.

The stocked marble Bar counter is combined with dark wood decor. The open kitchen is alluring and a welcoming ambience.

It was Franco's ingenuity and melancholy memoir of Stella.

Franco's general manager ALBERTO COSTA (60) an employee for nine years and a good friend. They met during Franco and Carlo's trips to Sicily.

ALBERTO

(Cheerful)

Ciao, buonasera Franco, Carlo. How are you both? Can I start you gentlemen with something...your both starving waiting for the birthday girl. We got everything ready so don't worry. Eat eat!

FRANCO

(Anxious)

Yeah yeah bring us that um.. Fritto misto, focaccia and the little gem salad... but, we gotta wait for Frankie to order the mains. I want the filet Mignon after. Oh don't forget I want every table to have a glass of champagne to cheer Francesca. I'm tearing up Carlo, where is my fucking handkerchief?

CARLO

(Laughing)

Alright take it easy boss, your gonna make me cry too. Here take mine I swear I didn't use it to blow my nose. Ah shit we need food we drank too fast. By the way, isn't Sophia supposed to be here for this?

(P.O.V.)

Francesca's 21st birthday party walks in with confidence wearing a black chiffon organza dress and gold high heels shoes, and paired with Chanel clutch handbag. Shoulder length brown hair, a strong resemblance of her parents. A fit figure with sharp round hazel eyes. Staff and patrons takes notice of Francesca as she walks by the open kitchen. They applauded while others whistles in the background.

INT. STELLA RISTORANTE - PRESENT (CONT'D)

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles Happily)

She greets Franco and Carlo in their booth, they stood to embrace.

Aww Poppa this is so nice. I love you thank you for this party. I can't believe you guys did all of this for me.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

Uncle Carlo come here thank you so much. I'm sorry I'm late ... I'm so hungry.

The birthday celebration continues with a huge Cake and champagne poured in every table. Francesca legally becomes Franco's succession, designated to inherit ownership and leadership.

FRANCO

(Melancholy)

I wish your mother could have been here today. Stella would be so proud of you. Hey, did you feel her here? Maybe I'm drunk but, I thought I felt her warmth sitting right here next to me. Ah shit I'm sorry I'm emotional again. I almost forgot Carlo and I had this made for you. Happy Birthday sweetheart. Congratulations.

FRANCESCA

(Adoring Gaze)

It's alright Poppa to be emotional today. Your only daughter turned 21, I'm sure I will be the same. You know I never forget mommy I do feel her sometimes.

Francesca takes the small gift from Franco and opens it.

Both men sat quietly and watched Frankie slipped the gold and diamond signet ring on her pinky. FG her initials engraved.

Franco and Carlo's phone rings. Franco ignores the vibration inside of his dinner jacket.

CARLO

(Serious)

Please excuse me Frankie, boss I better take this call. I'm sorry.

Carlo takes the call and moves out of the table. He goes up to the second level of the restaurant.

Franco sat waiting for the right moment to talk freely to his daughter. The restaurant was now closed.

FRANCO

(Smiles)

Hey kid did your old man do good tonight? You look beautiful Frankie and I am so proud of you.

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

Ah listen now that you have reached 21, its serious time. You are my Heir my first born and you know about your brother Hiroshi, he is 14 now.

If something were to happen to me Frankie, you take over not Sophia or anybody else. Carlo will be at your side. Hiroshi is a good boy it's time for you both to meet. He knows of you too. Hiromi will see to it that you both eventually have that meeting. You know she has been my anchor. She's a good woman and she is faithful, my voice of reason. However, she is skeptical about Hiroshi living here.

(P. O. V)

Francesca sat stoic listening to Franco.

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles)

Poppa you have outdone yourself. And you have given me the world and then some. What happened to mommy wasn't your fault. Please stop blaming yourself for her illness. I have been very vigilant with my annual exams. I'm fine so no worries there.

Now, what can I do for Hiroshi? Hiromi is his mother and he is a Japanese citizen. You should start applying for his dual citizenship. Have Hiromi come with him every six months and start establishing that. Is this what's troubling you and uncle Carlo?

Franco stares at his daughter.

FRANCO

(Concerned)

Yeah... that's a very bold and bright idea Frankie. But, that means the boy has to be protected at all times. I'll have them stay at the Penthouse at The Marquis rather than the Atlantis.

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

Our troubles are with Sophia and the other two. I found out Sophia fronts the money for Paola and she gets her cut of 40%. I filed for a divorce she gets serve in a couple of days. I don't love her I never have. It was to help my father, she is a scorned woman. I don't blame her.

She didn't come to your 21st birthday party like I've asked her to. You know what she said, this place was named after my whore mistress and shame on me for naming it after her! Ah that woman is a real stinger. I can see it clearly now.

FRANCESCA

(Anxious)

What's happening up there with that phone call? Hey uncle Carlo! What's going on come down already?

Carlo came into view from above and heads down the stairs.

CARLO

(Distress)

Yeah I am, I figured you guys needed father and daughter time. Look, ah we got troubles. Two young guys got caught working together, Black jack and on the Roulette table. Our management recently hired two new dealers for the blackjack and the Roulette. Our Security Team are holding them. We need to bounce. Mark is waiting for us. Can you believe this shit happening in this day and age. Dealer collusion my ass.

Francesca got up with a serious look of concerns. Franco's face was expressionless.

FRANCESCA

(Smirks and Jokes)

And here I thought you were up there talking to a lover. You were taking too long so I ate your cake.

The three walks away from their table.

FRANCO

(Uncertain)

Frankie I think you maybe need to go back home. I don't want them seeing you when we interrogate. You know what I mean ? You never want to do this, even when you take over. I want your hands clean at all times. We have people to do this.

FRANCESCA

(Unyielding)

What? Come on Poppa its my 21st birthday no? You said it yourself, I gotta take my place. Now it is as good as ever. You guys are looking at me like, I've come unhinged. Well I have not. I am preparing for that time , and that time is tonight. I wanna see how its being executed. It's important for me to see what steps are taken. Not violence like chopping bodies and bagging them. Alright? I'll stay in the monitor room to see and listen.

Franco and Carlo could not defy Francesca's authority and conviction.

INT. ATLANTIS CASINO SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

(P.O.V)

Francesca sits alone as she listens and watch the monitors. Two detained young men sits back to back tied up. Franco and Carlo walks in.

FRANCO

(Smirks)

So, RUDY and EDGAR it's nice to meet you boys. I don't know why they tied you guys up. Did you fight them or something ? Hey guys untie them, and leave us. Now that we are alone we can start.

Two Security personnel unties the two men, and they immediately leave.

The two guys were speechless at first massaging their wrists.

EDGAR

(Mortified)

I'm really sorry sir for doing this, but you see Rudy and I we were just testing our theory about something. We were not trying to cheat or steal your Casino's money.

Carlo in the corner shifted his weight. Franco took notice.

RUDY

(Looking Terrified)

Yes sir, Edgar is telling the truth. We are not crooks we are really good people. We were just having stupid fun. And we don't know the Dealers. I swear.

FRANCO

(Smirking)

Well it looks like we will be here all night, better get comfortable. What do you think Carlo should we break off their fingers one by one? How old are you Edgar? And you Freddy? Hmm... 25 and 23 and this is the first thing you boys wanted to do, in my Casino's expense?

Carlo made the name correction on Edgar's friend. And takes Franco's jacket.

CARLO

(Interjects)

Give me your jacket Boss I can see your sweating like I am listening to this bullshit. You know why the two of us are dressed up in our best Armani suit? Its because we were having a great time celebrating his daughter 21st birthday and I get a call and interrupted our time with her!

Where do you guys live? Where do you guys come from? Are you best friends? Where are your parents, siblings, work? I want everything that I just asked, answer now! Are there any other accomplices! Have you done this before! You guys notice my voice isn't asking you boys with questions! Start talking and don't stop!

Both Edgar and Rudy jumped at the loud thump when Carlo slams both hands on the table. Edgar and Rudy rambled off.

INT. MONITOR ROOM - NIGHT

Frankie text message Franco and Carlo.

FRANCESCA

(Unconvinced)

Alright, I've seen and heard enough. Please come in, it's time to stop. Thank you.

Franco and Carlo receives the texts. And without a word they exit.

Edgar and Rudy jumped for the bottles of water on the table. They quenched their thirst and wiped their eyes. Edgar pours the bottle of water over his head.

EDGAR

(Distressed)

Oh fuck, what the fuck did we get ourselves into Rudy? I'm sorry brother. I didn't think our hand gestures meant anything, but too late, here we are like crooks they think. Ah shit what a night.

Next door Francesca paced. Franco and Carlo enters in.

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles)

You guys had me going in there. Those guys are cute and stupid. I mean look at them amateurs at best. Silicon Valley boys, geeks. They had no strategic move. What are we doing about this?

Security thought they were card switching and doing hand signals, and that did not looked related to the game they were playing. It seemed they were saying that they are losing much and let's get the fuck out of here now. I have no more money left. The floor security need to be re-trained. This is a waste of time. They need to learn the American sign language.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

I'm looking at this objectively and with common sense. There's no way those two are capable of getting away with anything. Lets hold on to their ID's or passports and have Mark at the Station check into their identities.

In the mean time give them food, water, and bathroom time, throw them a blanket and a pillow. They can sit there for punishment and let them think about hand signals they were making. I don't want to have a Law suit thrown at us.

Franco and Carlo did not argue but complied.

FRANCO

(Chuckles out loud)

A pillow seriously okay this has been entertaining.

The three walks out amused and gives their Security team instructions.

FRANCESCA

(Smiles)

I'll be here by 8am to follow through with this. I have an idea what I want for Edgar and Rudy.

FRANCO

(Proudly Beams)

Frankie be careful, don't get soft just because Edgar is a hottie. But in all seriousness happy birthday my darling daughter. Im curious what you have up your sleeve...alright Carlo you ready to drive me home buddy?

CARLO

(Chuckles)

Yeah me too. Goodnight Frankie drive safely. We will follow you first. If thats alright with you?

FRANCESCA

(Smirks)

Yeah sure if I say no, you'll do it anyway.

INT. ATLANTIS CASINO SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Francesca arrives at the Casino Security Office. Wearing ripped jeans and a designer T shirt with platform combat boots. The two men straightened up.

FRANCESCA

(Polite Smile)

Here you go boys this is yours Mr. Edgar Crawford and here is yours Mr. Rudy Blaine. Everything checked out, thank goodness. Are you guys staying in this hotel? Ok great! After you guys get cleaned up, and had your breakfast, you both are requested to meet at the Executive suite office 12th floor with the bosses by 12pm. Any question?

EDGAR

(Snarky)

Thank you and I'm sorry for the havoc we have caused. Yes we are staying here. Ah free again Rudy old boy. What time did you say we have to be in this meeting ? Do you know what it's about? Will thanks we will be there.

When the two guys collected themselves Francesca was already gone.

INT. CASINO EXECUTIVE SUITE OFFICE - DAY

Francesca in a Chanel suit stands behind Franco's Desk. Franco and Carlo are at the large table. The door opens and Edgar and Rudy enters. Bewildered to come across with the same woman who got them released.

FRANCESCA

(Smiles politely)

Thank you for being on time. I want to do a proper introduction. You met my father Franco Gugino Executive CEO and my uncle Carlo Russo COO and Partner. I am Francesca Gugino Executive CEO. Now that we got that established, I'm sure your minds are racing. So I will be quick about it.

I am offering you guys a real job within my Company.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

I will begin with you Rudy. With your programming Skills, you will be in the Network and Systems Administration. Head of IT Programs software development systems. How does that sound to you?

Edgar, I need a personal body guard. You will ride with me at all times. You will accompany me in all my travels and meetings. I need for you to continue with your workout routines and health ethics. You will add in Krav maga and firearms practice. I understand that you are a good marksman.

We will workout our schedule. I have put together an NDA and Confidentiality Agreement. Should you both agree to the terms then we will shake hands. Rudy you will have a permanent apartment near the Casino's. Edgar you will stay at my guest house. That will be your home. I need you near at all times.

The two men where speechless and took a seat to read their contract over.

RUDY

(Suspicious)

How long is this contract for? And If I don't want this job and is this a trick ?

FRANCO

(Chuckles)

Rudy... Rudy why wouldn't you want this job? Do we look like we are in a carnival? It's not a trick Rudy. You'll have a place to live and your working for a powerful company making 10K a month, you'll forget ever wanting to do anything stupid for fun again. Thats the freedom I'm giving you men. Well, Francesca wanted to save you guys, me and Carlo in the old days the fingers get's cut off. Each contract is for five years.

Edgar flips through the pages. Francesca takes a seat next to her father and Carlo.

FRANCESCA
 (Quietly Amused)
 Alright boys do we have a deal?

EDGAR
 (Arms Crossed At His Chest)
 I'm sorry. I don't know what to say. I know that I have a choice to say no, but I am also excited to do something different in my life. The clowning Rudy and I did last night landed us an incredible chance to do something special. Can I think about it for a few more seconds?

Edgar concentrated and close his eyes.

FRANCESCA
 (Eager and Sweating)
 Yes of course Edgar, but I hope it's not all day.

RUDY
 (Smiles in Content)
 I'm good with this and I am grateful for the opportunity and thankful for the second chance I won't let you guys down. When do I start?

Rudy looks in Edgar's direction and waits for a respond.

EDGAR
 (Finally Smiling)
 I'm sorry for taking my time with this I'm still shocked from the experience last night. I'm ah embarrassed to be given this second chance. Are you sure you want me? I want nothing more but to move forward. Thank you for recognizing my skills and for hiring us. I will do my best for you Francesca. So hell yeah let's do this!

Francesca stood from her seat and the four gentlemen followed they shook hands.

FRANCO AND CARLO
 (Chuckles Together)
 Congratulations to you both.
 Welcome to the family. Edgar you have the biggest responsibility.

CARLO

(Chuckles)

Wow kid you were making us sweat
there. Your alright you'll be fine.

EDGAR

(Nodded)

Yes sir, I am fully aware of the
responsibilities that I have in my
contract. Thank you for the
opportunity. Wow this is
incredible. Thank you again.

INT. GUGINO HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Franco walks into the kitchen and the manila envelope lays on
top of the marble counter. He takes out the destroyed divorce
documents.

FRANCO

(Sighs in Disgust)

Sophia! Sophia! Never my ass!

Sophia casually strolls in halfway dressed in a short silk
robe and wearing silk stockings in stilettos.

SOPHIA

(Sultry Voice)

Yes Don Gugino dear husband. I am
here please lower your voice, I had
a hard time sleeping over this and
seeing those documents. I went
rogue and stabbed it with the pen.

Sophia continues to walk seductively near Franco. Franco
stands with crossed arms alerted by her presence and her
state of mind.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Attempting to Seduce)

You cannot blame me my love, I need
you and you need me. You will miss
all of this. I am always ready for
you Franco.

Sophia stands face to face with Franco and gently uncrossed
his arms and guides one hand to her crotch. She pressed
against him to kiss his mouth. Franco turns his head to one
side like a child who refuses to take his medicine.

FRANCO

(Repulsed)

No ... not this time.

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

You disgust me and our relationship was never love. It was a convenience you were for my father but he got sick, and I did him a favor. Everyday he was tormented seeing you like this and knowing he could never fuck you! He begged me to marry you and give you a home and a place in my family. But what do you do? You disrespected me and you kept living in your lies. I know everything. Sign the fucking paper and be free!

Franco removes his hand and pushed her body off of him. He walks to the sink to washed his hands.

SOPHIA

(Mortified and sniffles)

You are an asshole. Sei uno stronzo! You can forget about me signing the divorce papers, your stuck with me. Call it a punishment.

Sophia composed held her head high and walks out of the kitchen. Franco grabs the documents and goes to his office to shred what was left of it.

EXT. HENDERSON EXECUTIVE AIRPORT - DAY

Hiromi Sakamoto's Gulf-stream G650 luxury private Jet lands. Hiromi walks down the steps with a handsome tall 14 year old Hiroshi. Takahasi leads them towards a private corridor to customs and immigration assistance.

After the process they were ushered to awaiting limo heading to their Penthouse at the Marquis Casino.

INT. THE MARQUIS PENTHOUSE SUITE - DAY

Franco and Francesca waits for Hiromi and Hiroshi to arrive. The three bedroom suite accommodated for their stay. Across the hallway suite accommodates Takahashi. The door flung open.

FRANCO

(Excited)

Whoa hello everyone! Wow you are almost my height Hiroshi san. Come here let me look at you. Can I give you a hug? A bear hug!

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

Hi my son I missed so you much.
Thank you for my hug. Alright I
want you to meet Francesca your
sister we call her Frankie.

Franco and Hiromi acknowledge each other with a welcoming smile.

HIROSHI

(Smiling Politely)

Yes father Frankie and I, we often
talk on WhatsApp and video. I am
aware of my place in this side of
the family. Okaasan raised and
educated me to be happy and
preparing me like my sister's
position with you father. Thank you
for everything.

With a simple gesture Hiroshi bows his head.

Francesca and Hiromi exchange pleasantries. Two Bellmen came
in pushing their Louis Vuitton baggage.

FRANCESCA

(Quickly Moves to Instruct)

Ah yeah, Hiromi is in the Primary
and Hiroshi san your in that suite.
I believe Mr Takahashi already took
care of his?

BELLMAN

(Courteous)

Yes Ms Francesca he did. He is
across.

They were sitting around enjoying each other's company and
Francesca stands.

FRANCESCA

(Overjoyed)

Are you ready little brother?
Unless your too tired for a drive
into the town. We could do this
tomorrow?

HIROSHI

(Thrilled)

Hai! I mean yes! Wait let me get my
camera. I am not tired I slept 10
hours already. No way I am staying
in my room! chotomatte kudasai ne.

HIROMI

(Smiles)

Hiroshi san, yukkuri shite kudasai.
I told him to please slow down.
Frankie Happy 21st belated
birthday. We have a gift for you
when you come back tonight. And
thank you for taking him out today.

FRANCO

(Anxious)

Yes thats nice Hiromi dear. Frankie
make sure Edgar and your driver
keeps an eye out. Capise ?

Francesca was about to retort and Hiroshi runs in.

HIROSHI

(High on Adrenaline)

Ok lets go itoshi Imoto! I am so
excited to show my friends. I know
mother I am cautious I cannot
announce where I am. Got it!

Francesca bolted to open the door beating Hiroshi. She came
face to face with Edgar.

EDGAR

(Startled)

Whoa, slow down bucko! You guys
almost gave me a heart attack.

FRANCESCA

(Laughing Hysterically)

Alright old man. I didn't mean to
scare your tighty whities. Behind
me is my brother Hiroshi. Can we
pass now?

EDGAR

(Muttering)

Oh yeah of course. I'm young and
fit and fearless ha ha very funny.
Not at all an old man. Tighty
whities ... ?

HIROSHI

(Puzzled)

Nan desu ka? what did he say? He is
very handsome ne? Kare wa totemo
handsamuda. I will teach you much
Nihongo big sister okay?

INT. THE MARQUIS EXECUTIVE SUITE - DAY

HIROMI

(Yawning)

Oh Im sorry, I did not sleep well on my flight coming here. I feel trouble is coming. But, please I don't want to speak ill of anything. I have missed you my darling.

Hiromi moves closer to Franco and he stands in front of her and takes her hands.

FRANCO

(Whispering)

Come here baby are you too tired to make love? I have missed you more you know that?

They kissed passionately and Franco scoops her up and kicks the door to her suite open then back kicks it to close.

INT. CHURCH - BENCH - DAY

The three women wearing black veils kneels in front of the Virgin Mary praying. After their ritual, they walked to their bench.

PAOLA

(Smirks)

Whats on your mind Sophia? What have you decided? Or is it already done? Once you do this, there is no coming back. Do you understand?

SOPHIA

(Sinister Look)

Yes I have. It is the only way. I will not give him the divorce he desperately needs. So, he can marry that Yakuza whore. I wont't let him have the satisfaction to cast me aside. It is the right action for me to take.

Rapheala glares at the two women as they plotted their grand scheme. Cold sweats runs down her spine.

RAPHEALA

(Apprehensive)

What do you mean?

(MORE)

RAPHEALA (CONT'D)

Just sign the divorce, you will be wealthy and free. There is no love between you and Franco. Or is there? If there was, I have never seen it. It's one sided Sophia. What is your strategic move hmm? Whatever it is your just going to have a broken heart. Don't toy with Franco, you'll have Carlo and Francesca on their bad side.

Paola and Sophia went silent.

SOPHIA

(Stares incredulously)

Your right Rapheala but, you see I have grown bigger balls and I will take the risk and I will do what is necessary. And I appreciate your candor.

Rapheala stands then the other two follows.

EXT. RAPHEALA'S CAR - DAY

Rapheala stares out of the window a dark expression haunts her face.

RAPHEALA

(Muttering to herself)

This is going to get bad ... argh what the hell Sophia.

INT. RAPHEALA'S BEDROOM - DAY

She takes out her second Android and books for an Uber. She packed quickly emptied out her lockbox stacks of documents, cash, Jewelry and her Passport.

INT. GUGINO HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sophia sits alone in the dining room table drinking a glass of red wine.

SOPHIA

(Looking Ominously)

For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to god's holy law.

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
This is my solemn vow. Our vows
Franco, til death do us part

FLASHBACK

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - WEDDING DAY

Franco and Sophia stands at the alter facing each other.
Carlo and Luigi in a wheelchair looks on.

FRANCO
(Forced Smile)
With this ring I take you Sophia to
be my lawful wife to have and hold
from this day forward

Five years later he brings home a six year old Francesca.

SOPHIA
(Hostile)
And who is this Franco? Why is she
here ? I don't want a brat here in
my home. Oh I see is this your
whore's daughter?

Frankie hid behind Franco from Sophia disapproving glare.

FRANCO
(Shouts in her face)
Carlo please take Frankie to her
room or the kitchen she must be
hungry by now.

Franco gets in Sophia's face allowing her no space between
them.

FRANCO (CONT'D)
(Threatening look)
This is our home and now
Francesca's. Her mother died this
morning. You give her a little
kindness. She is a child who has no
fault in this. If you try to harm
her or touch a hair on her head
that kid ... my child. I will throw
your ass back where you came from
so fast you won't have time to
pack! Do you understand me?

Sophia turned on her heels and left without a word.

FRANCESCA

(V.O.) (Narrates)

My stepmother was no angel, Sophia was unforgiving, vicious and vengeful. She wanted her own child with Franco but couldn't. She tried liking me but, could only see Stella in me. One day I was brushing my hair when she was walking around with the housekeeper. She saw me struggling, then she grabbed the hairbrush from my hand and every brush strokes were painful and uncomfortable. She yanked harshly at the tangles and muttered under her breath. That my mother's blond hair were starting to come in. I said Stop it. I don't need your help. She continued to punish me.

I screamed and she covered my mouth and I couldn't breathe. I bit down into her hand and she slapped my face. I kicked her in the groin. I ran to my room and locked it. I heard muffled sounds of yelling followed by a slap. Since that day my father and uncle Carlo protected me. My food was always cooked by Poppa or Uncle Carlo. They would even take me out to eat with them at the Casino's. Sophia didn't want to help raise me. She wanted me gone.

INT. PAOLA'S HOME - PRESENT DAY

Paola sits upright against the headboard and lights a cigarette. She Grabs for her Android.

PAOLA

(Unnerving Tone)

Hey you wake up. Time to get moving, on your feet hurry up. I need to make a call. Grab your stuff and get out take that envelope with you.

The naked girl scrambling to her feet and shut the door behind.

PAOLA (CONT'D)

(Smirking)

What did you find out. Where is Rapheala ? She wasn't in last night, and no one has seen her since Sunday. I haven't thought that far Sophia! Do you think someone took her? It's not like her to just disappear without telling us. Ah shit Sophia. She never mentioned a boyfriend. All these years I don't have a clue about that spineless bitch. If she comes back she has nothing. The club will close. She betrayed us. Fucking hell!

INT. GREENWOOD VILLAGE COLORADO - DAY

Rapheala in a hoodie sweatshirt making breakfast, in an empty modest two story Ivy covered estate.

RAPHEALA

(Muttering to herself)

Oh god ... I did it I'm away from those fuckers. Ok stop shaking Rapheala you did good. No one knows where you are, no one. Should I call Frankie or Carlo ? No no don't do that... when its time.

A loud knock interrupts her she takes her Glock36. Rapheala looks at the security camera. She hid the gun behind her Jeans.

RAPHEALA (CONT'D)

(Relieved)

Great we have furniture! Just a minute. Ok Ralph stay in my back. You never know.

Rapheala opens the front door wide. Movers and a designer Team soon occupied her new home. She left everything behind in Las Vegas to start a new life and a new identity.

INT. FRANCESCA ESTATE - HOME OFFICE - DAY

Looking out into her patio watching Hiroshi and Edgar in a swimming competition from behind her open computer. Her phone vibrates.

(O. S.)

FRANCO

(Concerned Voice)

Hey Frankie, how are you ? Is Everything alright with your brother? What time is dinner, and your not cooking are you ? Their scheduled flight is at 10pm, and ah... did you hear anything about Rapheala gone missing?

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles)

Hi Poppa whats the matter I hear something in your voice. Yeah be here by six no no me cooking yea right? Unless you want omelettes for dinner that I can do well. I got Alberto's cousin cooking for us and two Sous Chef with him. As of matter of fact their in the kitchen going insane right now.

Francesca moves closer to the window to steal a glance at Edgar and Hiroshi getting out of the pool.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(Surprised)

What? What do you mean she's gone missing? Dead? Kidnapped ? I've really been just focusing on whats been in front of me. Hiroshi is a handful and very funny kid. I love him, he is truly an awesome boy and Edgar is doing a great job. Where and who did you hear this from?

(O. S.)

FRANCO

(Concerned Tone)

Carlo's informant who goes in as a patron at her club. He saw Paola pacing back and forth. Overheard her while yelling at somebody, when he made his way to the restroom. Rapheala has been missing for several weeks. The Club was closed for two weeks. Then reopened today under a new management. Makes me wonder what Rapheala has really been up to. So I called Mark to look into it.

(MORE)

FRANCO (CONT'D)

Mark got back to me and Carlo, and the new owners are X Incorporated. Rapheala held very little investment and apparently relinquished her control and rights before she disappeared.

FRANCESCA

(Deeply Sighs)

Wow, Poppa I hope she will try to reach out to one of us. I mean it's not really our concern anymore but, I've always secretly liked her. It's much too much information. I hope for her sake that there was no malice acted out. When I was a kid she always showed me affection. Alright thanks for the heads up and see you at dinner. I better go and check on Hell's kitchen and the swimmers outside.

Francesca lurks by the window holding her phone staring blankly at Edgar.

EXT. PATIO AND SWIMMING POOL - DAY

HIROSHI

(Smiling and waving)

Hey wave to sister she is looking at us. Edgar do you like my sister? Do you think she is very pretty and smart?

EDGAR

(Lightly Chuckles)

Your being funny she is my Boss, and right now I can't look at her because I'm working and making sure you are safe, and please dry off and go back inside. I will get ready too and change for dinner.

He text message Francesca.

EDGAR (CONT'D)

(Smiles)

Hi just got Hiroshi out of the pool sending him in. I will be back as soon as possible. Just need to get ready for dinner, and again I can just order in.

(MORE)

EDGAR (CONT'D)

I don't want to intrude on you and your family time.

Francesca text message back.

FRANCESCA

(Smirks)

Absolutely not, no food deliveries. You are welcome to sit and eat with us at all times Edgar.

Edgar turns his attention back to Hiroshi.

HIROSHI

(Interjects)

When I leave you can take care of my sister very well alright? She is important to me. You must protect her from bad people Edgar san okay?

Edgar politely stood at bay and taken by Hiroshi.

EDGAR

(Assuring)

Yes of course Hiroshi san I will protect your sister always. She is special, a kind woman, and I respect her. Please don't worry. Please go in and get ready.

Hiroshi bows to Edgar and dashed away.

HIROSHI

(Shouted Back)

Hey! Edgar san you did not answer my questions! See ya.

Edgar waved playfully.

EXT. HENDERSON EXECUTIVE AIRPORT - NIGHT

Takahashi drives a darkened window Range Rover. Carlo in the passenger seat. In the back Hiromi and Franco holding hands sits quietly. Takahashi calls the Captain.

TAKAHASHI

(Speaking in Japanese)

Maiku sencho kakunoko ni chikadzuite imasu. Arigatogozaimasu

Captain Mike we are nearing the hanger. Thank you

Behind the Range Rover, Edgar and Francesca with Hiroshi in her Porsche Panamera arrives. The Captain and his Flight Crew lined up to greet Takahashi and the Sakamoto Family.

HIROSHI

(Eyes Downcast)

Father I will miss you. Thank you for having us. Everything was wonderful spending time together. Please call me everyday. I like listening to your voice, it's so cool. I will see you soon. Don't worry I will take care of mother always.

FRANCO

(Smiles)

Thank you my sweet son. I am never too far away. We are always just a phone call away. See you later. Get rested school is back in session in a few days. I love you son, and you are so cool.

Then he turns to Francesca and Edgar.

Sister I am grateful to have you in my life. You truly inspire me. Thank you for taking care of me. Please practice your Nihongo. We will talk later when I arrive in Tokyo. Edgar remember what I said okay?

FRANCESCA

(Whispering)

I love you little brother and take care of your mom. Focus on whats in front of you and the room your in. Always know where to exit. Talk to you later bye.

Edgar gives him an approving wink.

EDGAR

(Smiles Cooly)

No worries, take care of yourself and your mom buddy. Hey study hard.

Franco's family made their rounds to say goodbyes while Carlo and Edgar hang back.

They leaned against the cars outside the Hanger. Hiromi and Hiroshi's Jet moves further towards the runway waiting to ascend.

INT. GUGINO ESTATE - KITCHEN - DAY

Two weeks later Franco stands in the kitchen with the fridge door wide open. Taking two chilled bottles of water.

SOPHIA

(Greets Pleasantly)

Buongiorno Franco, are you getting ready to ride out ? The sun is not even up yet. But you are a Rooster after all. Should I join you and watch the sunrise together like the old days? The weather will be cooler today. I can make you breakfast first, or have you already eaten?

Franco turns around to return pleasantries. He shuts the fridge door.

FRANCO

(Chuckles)

Yes I have already eaten. And thanks for the offer. Do you even own a pair of tennis shoes or work out clothes? Since when did you get interested in riding a bicycle?

Sophia remains her distance from Franco.

SOPHIA

(Coyly Smiles)

I can begin today. I have clothes and I have tennis shoes. I learned many things in my life Franco, I know how to ride a bicycle.

But, maybe today isn't the day no? I have wanted to apologize for the things that did not go well in this marriage. I have been thinking of letting you go. It's the right thing to do after all. Have a nice day.

Franco watch Sophia as she starts to exit the kitchen.

FRANCO

(Taken Aback)

Hey Sophia thank you for the apology... yeah me too alright? I had a responsibility in it.

SOPHIA
(Smirked Coldly)
Yes, Franco you had much
responsibility in it.

Franco moves in her direction. Sophia retreated and continued to walk away.

EXT. RED ROCK CANYON - BIKE TRAIL - DAY

Sophia's rental Jeep Cherokee parked at a secluded area. She waits for Franco at the bottom to descend from the hilltop of the bike trail.

Franco descends from the bike trail.

FRANCO
(Serene Expression)
What a beautiful day to begin. God
thank you for everything. What the
hell... is she doing here whoa...

Franco almost missed braking when he spotted her.

SOPHIA
(Waving Her Arms In The Air)
Franco! Franco ! Stop stop ..

Franco brakes and lets his bicycle falls as he quickly jumps down.

FRANCO
(Breathe Heavily)
For christ sake Sophia what the
hell are you doing up here? I could
have run you over.

Sophia moves fast towards Franco.

SOPHIA
(Teary Eyes)
Franco I just wanted to see you one
more time and to say good bye. I
knew you would be coming through
here so I waited. See I do have
workout clothes...

Franco surrender and allows Sophia to come closer.

Franco let his guard down she shot him close range two times. The shots went through his thin bullet proof vest. He slump to the ground below her feet.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
 (Breathing Hard)
 Okay okay go Sophia you did it. You
 got your revenge go and hide. Throw
 it in the lake!

Sophia escapes to her car unseen. Franco was still alive.

FRANCO
 (Breathing in Agony)
 Argh my phone my phone. Alright
 Stella I can't join you just yet
 baby. Argh help me god please
 Poppa, Momma please I

Franco struggles reaching into his back pocket. He used voice
 command 911 then for his daughter.

FRANCO (CONT'D)
 (Cries Out)
 Hey Siri 911 !

Edgar drove in precision Frankie holds on in silence. Chaos
 of Firetrucks, Ambulance, Police traffic and people.

FRANCESCA
 (Shocked and Turmoil)
 Hey! I'm Francesca Guginio listen
 listen I want my father airlifted
 to UMC Trauma Center. It's our
 Hospital. We cannot take a chance
 on the road. I will let the
 hospital know now and for the
 Surgeons to standby. Edgar! Call
 Carlo now.

EDGAR
 (Swiftly Moves)
 Yes! I got this Frankie, I called
 him. His pulling all the resources
 and he is on his way to UMC! Who
 did this? Never mind please go and
 hold his hand. Keep talking to him.
 Tell him how much you love him .

Franco's face still and pale. The Emergency Medical Tech
 applying pressure to stop the bleeding. Frankie holds his
 hand.

FRANCESCA
 (Whispering)
 Poppa listen to me Poppa you hang
 in there I know you can hear me.
 (MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

Hold my hand feel my love and my warmth. Please please don't leave me. Your going in the helicopter okay I will see you when you open your eyes. I love you Poppa

The Medical Heliport tech safely rapidly transported Franco.

Francesca and Edgar was escorted by patrol cars towards the University Medical Center.

Franco was immediately met by two leading Surgeons. They rushed him in.

CARLO

(Angry and frustrated)

Fred and Sal both of you will guard outside that door when he comes out of this. I will be in his room at all times. No body gets in unless its Francesca. I mean no one I don't care if it's his wife Sophia No one!

FRANCESCA

(Breathing Heavily)

Uncle Carlo did you get to see him before they took him in? Its bad uncle Carlo isn't it who did this? Oh god here comes Sophia.

SOPHIA

(Hysterical)

Where is he I want to see him! Please let me ... who did this ? Why was he alone Carlo! Oh god

After eight hours the Surgeons came out to meet with the family.

DR. DAVIS

(Cleared His Throat)

Franco was shot in close proximity, one bullet we removed inches away from his heart. The bullet hit the Sternum at the anterior. It stopped it from puncturing into his heart. The other bullet went through his colon and out his back. He had luck on his side. He is a very strong and healthy man. Right now we are in a waiting game. He had internal bleeding and lost much blood.

(MORE)

DR. DAVIS (CONT'D)

We medically induced coma, assuring and giving his body and vital organs time to heal. This was a close call. Franco has a DNR, should we come to that.

DR. STANLEY

(Empathy And Concern)

I'm sorry Francesca. Please know that we are doing everything in our power to bring him back to a full recovery. He is in critical condition. Franco is a high profile and we are being bombarded with the media and their questions. What do you want us to say? Okay good we understand. Your Father owns more than a half of this Hospital and we want to keep his integrity protected. Thank you both I'm sorry this happened.

CARLO

(Eyes Moistened)

Thank you doctors. Yes say less we want this wrapped tight until we investigate and find the asshole who did this.

Sophia walks away to the waiting room and collapse down on the sofa.

SOPHIA

(Covering Her Face)

Oh Franco why?

Francesca observes Sophia in the waiting room. Edgar stays inconspicuous. She follows her stepmother.

FRANCESCA

(Apathetic)

Sophia, when did you last see Poppa? Did he say anything to you or what was his mood like ?

Sophia looks up without a hint of remorse.

SOPHIA

(Stoic)

Yes... I did see your Poppa very early this morning when I went into the kitchen at five am. I was surprise seeing him standing there in front of the refrigerator.

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

He was in his riding outfit.

We had a nice moment and I ask if he wanted company and watch the sunrise, but... he made fun of me asking if I owned a pair of tennis shoes. I also offered to make him breakfast since he has not been home much. We ah ... apologized to each other and thats how it ended with us now this I have so much to do no? Oh Franco...

Francesca studies Sophia before answering.

FRANCESCA

(Smirks and Bewildered)

What do you mean, you have much to do? You have no position in my father's company. I turned 21 a few weeks ago, and Franco relinquished the company to me as the Executive CEO. I am the head of my father's businesses. So you don't have to worry about any of it. We will work out the logistic of your share.

You don't exactly have a marriage either. As a matter of fact you were served with a divorce paper and you refused to sign it. You don't hold the cards Sophia, not one at all. Save your theatrics for your audience.

SOPHIA

(Scoffed)

Your wrong Francesca, I am Franco's wife. And I am still legally married as a Gugino. If my husband does not pull through this... god forbid I have an obligation to step in. And thats the logistic I will focus on.

Francesca glared down at Sophia absorbing the weight of her word.

INT. FRANCO'S ICU ROOM - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Francesca and Carlo standing with DETECTIVE NORMAN SMITH and OFFICER MARK ALLEN

DETECTIVE NORMAN

(Smirks)

Yea, we just got Sophia's statement. Who else knows his bike route that he was confident enough to go out riding on his own at such hour? Did Franco have trouble lately? This was deliberate an attempted murder. Your father isn't safe as long as he is breathing. We are posting Police offers on this floor. Tire marks shows a car was parked near where he was shot. The Tire marks was not from the main road. They had to walk a half a mile to get to that spot and did not want to risk being spotted near the victim with a car.

CARLO

(Smirks)

No he had no troubles, just the usual Casino business. Franco has been happy and content and stays quiet and helps everybody. He contributes to the Fire departments, the Police Departments, the schools, Hospitals, Churches, The University etc... so you boys need to go out there catch the fucking assholes who did this or I will.

INT. FRANCESCA ESTATE - HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Francesca and Hiromi on whatsApp video.

HIROMI

(Voice Breaking)

I will fly in tomorrow night and will stay low profile with my appearance but I am his partner. Will you receive us at the hospital please? would be easier if you and Edgar can escort me in. Takahashi will be with me. There is no sense in this, Franco is a good man, we have no debts to anyone. So, I don't understand who could want him dead Frankie. This is such a turmoil.

FRANCESCA

(Exhausted)

Say less Hiromi san, I have already planned for that. Sophia is the problem she can cause a significant chaos. She said if Poppa does not make it, she will step in. I told her she does not need to be concerned.

I have someone trailing her every move. Hey um I got a text from an unknown number. I thought it was you, but no contact name for that number. Its message is that it's urgent they speak to me. Anyway I am concerned about Hiroshi does he know about Poppa getting shot?

HIROMI

(Kind Tone)

Be careful and be cautious. I had to tell Hiroshi otherwise if he happens to see or hear from the media, I will be a bad mother for not being honest. He has a mature nature. I raise him on a strong foundation. We cannot keep him in the dark. He is very upset and want to come with me but I cannot do that. He is anxious and will call you I'm sure of it. Thank you Frankie I will see you tomorrow evening.

INT. FRANCESCA ESTATE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Francesca on the intercom for Edgar.

FRANCESCA

(Soft Voice)

Hey can you come in the kitchen. I want to speak to you. Sorry if you were already asleep.

Edgar enters in the Kitchen.

EDGAR

(Concerned)

Hey is everything alright? I came as soon, but I stubbed my toe on something.

(MORE)

EDGAR (CONT'D)

Listen Frankie I don't think living in the guest house is useful. I've been meaning to speak to you about this. If there was an emergency ... I'm too far away.

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles)

Alright choose whichever room you want. Are your toes okay? Is it bad? Let me take a look at it. After we talk. Listen, I called you in because Hiromi and Takahashi are flying in tomorrow evening by 11pm.

I gave specific order that there has to be someone at all times in the room with Poppa when Uncle Carlo has to be relieved. And lastly, I keep getting a text message that I don't have a contact number for. Here look at this. It's freaking me out a little.

Edgar moves closer and takes the phone to read.

EDGAR

(Grinned)

Hmm I can have Rudy check into it. Do you want to text right back now? If you don't mind can I pour myself a drink? Do you want a glass? I can't sleep I was going to watch a movie or something.

Francesca welcomed his company and begins to text back the mysterious message.

FRANCESCA

(Verbally Texts)

Who is this ? And what do you want to tell me?

Her text message was rapidly being answered.

RAPHEALA

(O. S.) (Trembling Hands)

Frankie please listen don't let anyone know who this is. Swear.

FRANCESCA
 (Shocked and Cursed)
 What the fuck Rapheala where the
 hell are you ? And what do you want
 to speak to me about?

Edgar moves in closer to look at Francesca's text.

RAPHEALA
 (O. S.)(Hands Still Shaky)
 Frankie, I'm sorry for everything I
 got pushed around by those two, and
 I couldn't take it anymore. So, I
 moved away. But before this I was
 with them and It wasn't too clear
 then, but they were plotting
 something. Especially that Sicilian
 Puta, I believe she was the one who
 shot your Poppa. I want to see
 Carlo and explain to him too.
 Please Frankie I beg of you I am
 telling you the truth. I am using a
 burner phone Frankie because I am
 scared.

Francesca stared at her phone. She looked up at Edgar
 bewildered.

FRANCESCA
 (Responded)
 Hey take it easy. I will share this
 with Carlo quietly when I can trust
 that this is really you. You could
 be playing me and wants information
 about my father? And maybe Rapheala
 is really dead and you are trying
 to con me? Just call me dammit. Do
 you have WhatsApp ? We can video
 call or call me from that burner
 phone.

(P. O. V.)

Rapheala sat motionless in her couch and makes the call to
 Frankie.

RAPHEALA
 (O. S.) (Trembling Voice)
 Hello Frankie it's me....
 I swear on my son Antonio my angel
 and I swear to my mother Teresa I
 am Rapheala can't you tell from my
 voice. I use to buy you beautiful
 head bands for your hair.
 (MORE)

RAPHEALA (CONT'D)

And pretty bras and underwear huh?
 Who would know that? Please believe
 me that it was Sophia she is the
 only one who knows Franco's bike
 trail. They used to picnic after he
 comes down from that canyon. She
 boast about what they did on those
 picnic days. Frankie she is a
 scorned woman. I have no proof but
 only that I am sure that it was
 what she wanted to do.

Francesca and Edgar stayed silent and listened.

We were in our church the last
 Sunday I spent with them. Paola
 asked what was on her mind. And
 what was she going to do? I thought
 they were talking about the divorce
 paper. I told her to sign it and be
 free she has a lot of money anyway.
 But she only got angrier and scary
 cold and ridiculed me to grow some
 balls. So, I did! And I absolutely
 feel incredible and healthier and
 will live longer. Think about what
 I am telling you Frankie. Thank you
 for taking my call. Please be safe.
 I hope someday again we can meet.
 God bless you. Goodbye my dear
 Francesca.

Francesca's head hung low. Edgar stands by her side.
 Francesca leans against him.

FRANCESCA

(Wiped Her Eyes)

Oh my god... How are we going to
 prove this? Edgar?

EDGAR

(Comforting Tone)

We can't not tonight. It will
 reveal itself as it will unfold.
 Come with me.

They go into the living room. Edgar selects a movie on
 Netflix. Francesca fell asleep next to him.

EDGAR (CONT'D)

(Smiles)

Some date you are. Alright I guess
 I'll just watch whatever this is
 all by myself.

Edgar wakes up to his own snoring and see Francesca curled up next to him. He straighten her body gently covered her with a blanket.

INT. FRANCESCA ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Francesca awoken from the smell of brewed coffee. Edgar walks in with a breakfast tray.

EDGAR

(Smiles)

Hey Frankie good morning. How did you sleep? I'm guilty I fell asleep next to you. I checked in with Carlo, Franco is fine. I have been thinking about what Rapheala told us, but it's only her word. Can you find out if Detective Norman and Mike took a statement from Paola?

FRANCESCA

(Sipping her Coffee)

Oh wow Edgar this is so good, you'll have to show me how to work that espresso machine. And thank you for this lovely breakfast. Hmm you can cook too. Your going to make some girl happy one day.

EDGAR

(Chuckles)

Thanks its really simple Francesca sure I can show you. I learned to cook at an early age to survive.

Francesca takes a huge mouthful of the omelette.

FRANCESCA

(Smacking Her Lips)

Oh man how kind of you. I didn't realize how hungry I was. Yeah it's only her word. I need extra energy today. I feel like I lost a whole day. Well what do you think? If Rapheala's suspicion is right? Sophia has to be brought to justice. Rapheala's voice wasn't rehearsed, it was natural.

Francesca moved quickly and pushed the plate down on the table.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(Eyes Wide)

Today is Sunday she will be at church drive me to the main house but lets park at my secret spot at the side gate. No one can see from that angle. I need to get Poppa's toiletries anyways.

EDGAR

(Serious)

How can we be sure Sophia she's not there ? But, yeah I would not sweep this under the rug you know what I mean? She sounds desperate for you to trust her Francesca. Alright let's forge ahead.

FRANCESCA

(Smirks)

Edgar if she is, who cares I'm going to my father's room to grab his dopp bag. Not hers. And your escorting me.

EXT. GUGINO ESTATE - SIDE GATE - DAY

Francesca punch in the code. The house was empty except for Sophia's perfume lingers in the air. Edgar cautiously walks behind.

FRANCESCA

(Anxious)

It's never easy being here in this house. I had unusual childhood I'll be quick. The housekeeper isn't here today too. But, stay alert we don't want to run into anybody.

Francesca walks out from the Primary suite with a dopp bag. On the hallway she notice a smudge of dirt on the carpet.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(Gets Down On All Fours)

Hmm... Martha did not do a good job.

Francesca got up and enters Sophia's bedroom. She stands rigid in the massive closet.

She spots a pair of sneakers thrown in the corner and inspects the shoes.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
(Sighing Deeply)
Oh fuck ...

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
(Whispers)
Edgar let's go ... Uncle Carlo is waiting, he said Sophia wants to visit Franco today. Its good timing to get that out of the way and for us to escort Hiromi in tonight.

Edgar paused and gently touched her arm.

EDGAR
(Questioning Look)
Hey, what's the matter I can feel your troubled about something. What took you so long? Did you get what you wanted ?

Francesca stayed silent as they exit the Gugini resident.

EXT. GUGINI ESTATE - SIDE GATE - DAY

FRANCESCA
(Shrugs Her Shoulder)
I feel totally gutted about what happened to my father. What if he doesn't make it Edgar? I'm not prepared like I thought I would be. And now Sophia is threatening that she will step in? Can she do that ?

EDGAR
(Smiles)
Are you kidding me Frankie ? Your the smartest and bravest woman I know. You have been groomed by Franco since you were a kid. Do not let Sophia falter your mind. What you can do is sit with your Attorney and bring Carlo and comb through everything. Maybe she's got something on Franco like his infidelity and the two illegitimate children. Nevada is a no fault divorce state. So, it can't be that. Let's go.

Edgar opens the car door for her.

INT. EDGAR'S CAR - DAY

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles)

How do you know so much about divorces ?

EDGAR

(Modest)

I am an undergraduate student in Law, but my passion changed. And look where that got me.

FRANCESCA

(Chuckles)

Ha ha very funny. I'd say you did very well, you have no mortgage, you live for free in a beautiful house, and you drive expensive cars and you are paid handsomely.

Edgar drives with ease and steal a glance in Francesca's direction.

EDGAR

(Wholeheartedly laughs)

Touche, Miss Francesca. Hey, I'm not complaining.

EXT. HOSPITAL BUILDING - NIGHT

The Hospital was still active with reporters and cops. Reporters were denied access inside the lobby. They were ignited when Hiromi approached.

TAKAHASHI

(Grunting At A Man)

Move and do not come near. Or I will hit you with your microphone!

The Reporter halts and backs away.

HIROMI

(Spoke Softly)

Speaking in Japanese

Takahashi san, hontoni kowaidesu ne, Piranha kara sukutte kurete arigato.

Translation: You are so scary Takahashi san thank you for saving me from the Piranhas.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

Francesca and Edgar awaits in the lobby. They stand behind the Security guards.

FRANCESCA
(Authoritative Tone)
Let them through, they are with us.
Quickly let them through thanks .

INT. HOSPITAL FRANCO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Carlo and Francesca gives Hiromi privacy. Leaving her with Franco under a ventilator providing him full respiratory support.

HIROMI
(Weeps in Silence)
Oh my love who did this to you ? We
were just together how could you go
out alone my darling. Please come
back to us. I will kill whoever did
this to you Franco I swear to you.

Francesca and Carlo enters back in Franco's room.

FRANCESCA
(Offers a small smile)
Hiromi san are you okay? I know its
hard to see him this way with all
these machine keeping him alive.
Tomorrow the doctors are going to
gradually reduce the medication,
allowing Poppa's brain activity and
consciousness to slowly return. If
you want we will be here by 10am.
And if you want to just rest, I
understand. I will call you
immediately. Listen, Hiromi this
doesn't mean that Poppa is out from
danger. We must prepare for either
outcome.

HIROMI
(Nods her Head)
I will rest. I don't want a scene
with Sophia although I don't care.
You and Carlo if you need anything
at all I am here for two more days.
I don't like leaving Hiroshi on his
own with his nanny and security.

(MORE)

HIROMI (CONT'D)

I have my hands full with Akira's daughter who is 30 now. She wants a war with me for my position as Head of the family and the businesses. Her name is Tammi Sakamoto. The true heir from Akira's formal wife. And she is a rotten seed. I fully understand the state that Franco is in. I will stay with him tomorrow night.

Francesca stayed rooted waiting for something.

CARLO

(Exasperated)

What are you saying Hiromi? Are you saying that Franco's son could be in danger from a lunatic that is conspiring to take you down? Son of a bitches!

FRANCESCA

(Sighing Deeply)

Will my brother be safe ? You should have taken him here then. Edgar and I could go get him. Once he is here he can stay with me and I can make sure he finish his education. I know this is a lot to handle and to think about but, he can get caught in between your war with Tammi. She might try to kidnap and use him as leverage. This is absolutely crazy Hiromi san. He means the world to us too.

Hiromi held her gaze for one long moment.

HIROMI

(Emotional voice breaks)

Frankie no. I know, I wanted to speak to Franco about what is happening on my side and get his opinion. But now this terrible tragedy? This is why I'm telling you three in this room. He is safe and he has his Flight booked in first class on Japan Airline if I need him to fly out immediately. No one know where he is. Hiroshi is a teenager not a baby. He will be ok. We made this plan together not with anyone. Not even Takahashi san.

FRANCESCA
 (Took A Deep Sigh)
 Then please let me call him now. I
 can WhatsApp him and we all can see
 him okay?

Hiromi agreed and gave Francesca her permission.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
 (Anxious)
 Hey little brother good morning. Im
 sorry to wake you so early. Listen
 very clearly please get to the
 airport Hiroshi this morning your
 mother is here with us and Poppa.
 She told us everything. See...
 everyone is here. Give me your
 itinerary. Are you okay? please be
 safe and go now. Edgar and I will
 pick you up. Love you brother. We
 will see you in eleven hours.

(O. S.)

HIROSHI
 (Tensed)
 I am awake now. I understand, I am
 prepared I will be on my way to
 Narita Intl. Airport. I will grab
 ice coffee and have small
 breakfast. You and Edgar is picking
 me up okay don't worry so much.
 Take care of my mother. Yes, I will
 be safe and thank you big sister.

INT. PAOLA'S HOME - DAY

Paola's naked body dragged and thrown into the bathtub in a
 pool of blood. Her body and face brutally beaten.

PAOLA
 (Groaned in agony)
 Help help please anyone ... help me

No one heard her cry for help. She died from the severe
 injuries.

EXT. GUGINO HOME - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Sophia on her Android.

SOPHIA

(Angry)

Paola this is the fifth time I am calling and again texting! Where the hell are you Puta. Don't you fucking abandon me now! I need to talk to you!

Sophia sits in silence until her phone rings.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Shouts)

Hello! It's about time. What who is this? Slow the fuck down. I can't understand you. You what? What do you mean dead? Oh fuck! Call the Police and don't tell them that you called me first. Do you understand me Puta! Or I will find you, yes ok good. Now call the fucking Police!

Sophia grabs a pillow beside her.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Frustrated)

AAAAAARGH ! What I'm I supposed to do with all of this shit!

Sophia lets her anger into the pillow.

INT. HOSPITAL FRANCO'S ROOM - DAY

Sophia coming out of the elevator and enters Franco's ICU room.

CARLO

(Concerned)

Sophia what is it? You look distraught. Say something well ya ?

Sophia stays rigid then theatrically breaks down.

SOPHIA

(Sobbing)

I'm sorry I canceled coming here yesterday. Oh god. Carlo didn't you hear? It's Paola ... she was found beaten to death in her home! All my friends are gone, now my husband. Oh Carlo what I'm I going to do I'm alone. I need protection... What happened here, why did they take away the ventilator ?

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

He can't breathe. Who did this and why wasn't I called I'm his wife.

CARLO

(Scoffed)

No no, don't start that Sophia the surgeons only speaks to Francesca. She is the next of kin. Try to put this into perspective. Franco is trying to come back. So, will you shut up now. He's being carefully monitored. They even reduced the medication so that he can start to gain consciousness. It's been two weeks. It's a risk but, he needs to fight his way home. I'm sorry about Paola. Hire 2 body guards.

Sophia's face was unreadable. Then she stormed out.

Ext. HARRY REID INTL. AIRPORT - NIGHT

Francesca and Edgar waits for Hiroshi to land.

FRANCESCA

(Anxious)

This is so strange waiting for Hiroshi to come out from this terminal. All his life he has flown in their private Jet. I can't wait for him to tell us about his experience .

EDGAR

(Chuckles)

Yeah, I bet. So he's never flown like a regular person before? But why now? Never mind for asking that was a lame question.

FRANCESCA

(Smiles)

No not a lame question. It was because they didn't want to alarm anyone. And it was also to throw off Akira's daughter's attention away from him. And at the time Hiromi thought it was a good idea.

The big Immigration door opens crowds of people rushing out pushing their baggages. Hiroshi finally struts out pulling a large Louie Vutton, and wearing Sennheiser Headphones.

HIROSHI

(Unhappy)

Hey! Thanks coming to get me. That was too much waiting in line Frankie. I never want to take, but nice and beautiful stewardess.

EDGAR

(Chuckles)

I'll take your luggage and you can walk closely with your sister. Whoa dude those are super cool headphones. Totemo takai desu ne.

HIROSHI

(Surprise)

Edgar san very cool Nihongo dude. You have been studying. Frankie you must do too.

(P. O. V)

Francesca's perspective on Edgar is inevitable.

FRANCESCA

(Smiles)

Very Impressive Edgar san ... that you make time for everything.

EDGAR

(Winks)

Ah, you like ?

FRANCESCA

(Calm and Sexy)

I like. Don't forget that I admitted to that.

EDGAR

(Chuckles)

Oh, I won't especially when you kick me around in Krav Maga sessions.

INT. HOSPITAL FRANCO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hiroshi enters into his father's ICU room.

HIROSHI

(Emotional)

Oh father how could this happen to you.

(MORE)

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry I'm not grown up enough to have protected you from this shit. Oh father please please wake up now. Mother please wake him up! This is a mistake he shouldn't be here.

Hiromi awakens from her nap next to Franco.

HIROMI

(Comforting)

Shhh shh, please calm down Hiroshi san. I'm sorry you have to see your father this way. I know how you feel please don't cry ok. He needs for all of us to stay strong okay? He will come back to us I promise. The doctors said he is recovering and he is breathing on his own, he is healing. Soon he will open his eyes.

Francesca, Carlo and Edgar stayed rooted in their space.

CARLO

(Smiles)

Edgar can you take Hiroshi san to the cafe downstairs or maybe the Cafeteria it is open they close at midnight. I need to to speak to the ladies.

EDGAR

(Acknowledges)

Sure that sounds fun. Let's go my man. There are real slot machines at the Cafe and delicious food.

INT. HOSPITAL FRANCO'S ICU ROOM - NIGHT

Francesca and Hiromi's faces wore a tight expression.

Carlo informed them about his earlier visit from Sophia.

FRANCESCA

(Perturbed)

Wow... Sophia must be terrified. Did she have any suspicion ?

CARLO

(Smirks)

Nope she was whining about being alone.

(MORE)

CARLO (CONT'D)

And that everyone betrayed her. She ask me for protection. And I said no. We are not getting involved in a war that she and Paola had created with the fucking Cartels. Everything they bought and distributed was from their own pockets not ours. Then before she stormed out she wanted to know why Franco's surgeons did not include her about the ventilator being removed. The audacity of that woman.

HIROMI

(Interested)

Did she say how Paola was killed ? Only because their could be a message in it. Was there ? Like what forensic experts would find except its science for them. For us its a different code in our line of work.

(P. O. V.)

Francesca and Carlo understands Hiromi. She was Franco's equal.

FRANCESCA

(Out Smarting)

Well, I know that we all have been focused with Poppa, but I still have to run the Casino's and thank god for Edgar. He and Mark at the station have become buddies. What I know Hiromi is that she was brutally beaten with a baseball bat until all her bones were broken, her face was disfigured. The report said they dumped her in the tub. She suffered from the torment, the excruciating pain they inflicted. Not only that but, they ah raped her with objects.

HIROMI

(Grimace Look)

It was the Cartels for sure. I'm sorry they tormented Paola. Those people will get their Karma for raping a woman they were killing, defenseless and already dead.

(MORE)

HIROMI (CONT'D)

Sick and reprehensible no code of ethics.

CARLO

(Uncomfortable Grin)

I agree those assholes will get their Karma. Paola was a good kid when I first knew her. She was a tough broad she ...just got sloppy.

FRANCESCA

(Contemplating)

Yeah, um I ah finally found out who was sending me messages.

Carlo and Hiromi holds their gaze on Francesca.

CARLO

(Sneering)

Frankie who what? Say it already. What have you been suppressing and keeping from me?

FRANCESCA

(Smug Smile)

Wait wait don't get your undies twisted uncle Carlo. I have my reasons until I saw fit to share it with you. I didn't have all the information then. And I finally do now okay ? Now listen please she was using a burner when she messaged me. Rapheala is very scared and alone. She ran away completely re-located and changed her name. Rapheala had been planning this escape for several months. She didn't want any of it. Sophia and Paola ruled over her. She said she was not involved with the Cartels, she never met anyone. Sophia and Paola only dealt with whoever privately. They used her to stand by for the Club.

She played her part and I believe her. When I went to Poppa's room at the house to grab his Dopped bag, I saw a small smudge of dirt on the hallway carpet. I got curious so I went into Sophia's closet. And guess what I found her tennis shoes that matched the dam dirt.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

She tried to clean it in a hurry but, residue was still there and tuck away in the corner. Rapheala said she was bullied and abuse for being meek not having any balls. Before she left she was with them at Church. Sophia was very angry and scorned about the divorce papers she got served. Paola asked what was she going to do, and whatever it is she can't turn back from it.

Sophia said she will not grant him a divorce and will never step aside so that Franco can marry his Yakuza whore. Rapheala told her to sign it and be free and that Franco didn't love her anyway, and to move on with her life. Sophia ridiculed her for that statement. She did not know exactly what they were plotting. But then, she saw it on the News. Rapheala swore on her son Antonio's grave and her mother Teresa that it was Sophia who did this to Poppa, she said Sophia would wait for him down the hill after he biked for 4 miles. Sophia bragged about it and would whisper to them in church what they did behind the bushes. She knew exactly where Poppa was going to be. It was premeditated.

(P. O. V.)

Carlo and Hiromi's faces frozen and unreadable. Hiromi's eyes were stone cold.

CARLO

(Cleared his Throat)

Where is Rapheala now Frankie? I need to know the real truth face to face.

The room went silent. Only the sound of the monitors.

FRANCESCA

(Shrugs Her Shoulder)

I honestly don't know, but she wanted me to convey everything to you. she wants to see you.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

You guys had a romantic thing before, that I didn't know about ? Cause she wants to make this right. Edgar asked Rudy to see if he could trace it. Its impossible now. She only uses WhatsApp. Do you have WhatsApp Uncle Carlo hey, are you listening?

Carlo stood frozen.

HIROMI

(Infuriated)

I need to get some air, I will walk around the hospital. I will tell Takahashi to follow. I need to think clearly about everything. But, I think Frankie you are right about Rapheala, I believe her too.

Hiromi's face went unreadable.

FRANCESCA

(V. O.) (Narrates)

I am grateful for Uncle Carlo and his protection all these years. He is old school and it's hard to read him and his past. He is my second father and my father's blood brother, faithful to the core. But, now I have a responsibility to protect my brother. Hiromi has been my father's equal I see that now. Maybe that is why Poppa's heart was mended when he earned her love. My family is complicated and many complexities that still loom over us.

Hiromi stepped back into ICU Franco's room. She holds his hand.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

(Sighs)

I will take Hiroshi home to my house now. Edgar wake Hiroshi up we will go. Call me for anything Carlo should be back with your Tea Hiromi.

HIROMI

(Tenderly Smiles)

I'm back darling. Won't you please open your eyes now.

(MORE)

HIROMI (CONT'D)

Nurse give me fresh towels and a washing basin with water and something for his lips, thank you. That would be great Frankie, Edgar san you have become a friend thank you.

EDGAR

(Chuckles)

Thanks for saying that Hiromisan yeah, he is a special young man.

Hiromi alone with Franco, gently washing his face. With careful fingers, she applies Aquaphor to his dry lips a low murmur under his breath.

FRANCO

(Faint whisper and REM)

Hiromi my love your here ... It was Sophia ...

Hiromi jolts up in surprises.

HIROMI

(Tears Pouring)

Yes my love I am here. I'm here, Shhh please don't speak so soon. I know Franco. And Frankie knows. Shh... it's wonderful to see your eyes looking at me.

Franco fights hard to focus out of the fog. He gently squeeze Hiromi's hand.

HIROMI (CONT'D)

(Group text Messages)

Your Poppa is awake! Hurry come back he wants to see you all!

Carlo bursts out of the elevator spilling tea across the floor. Another elevator opens, Francesca and Hiroshi rush out as Edgar sprints behind , blocking the nurses.

CARLO

(Cursing)

Ah shit, this fucking tea ouch! Ah to hell with it.

He dumps the cups in the trash can. And in the room when they all arrive the doctors were there.

DR. DAVIS

(looking into Franco's eyes)
 Welcome back Franco. Do you know
 what happened to you? How many
 fingers am I holding up? Do you
 recognize everyone in this room,
 slowly say their names. Ah well
 done. Good job sir.

DR. STANLEY

(Smiles Casually)
 Now he is going to be in rehab to
 regain and strengthen his muscles,
 and his back. His sternum will take
 time to heal because it's a big
 bone, so no hugging. We will move
 him immediately to a bigger room
 tonight your graduating outta here
 from ICU to a VIP room. Yeah! Okay
 I can answer any concerns.

CARLO

(Chuckles)
 When can he stand to take a shower?
 And will he still have wrapping
 around his chest? What kind of food
 can he eat?

The concerns were clarified.

The ICU Team got Franco ready for his move to an undisclosed
 private room.

Franco's family walks behind following.

INT. HOSPITAL FRANCO'S VIP ROOM - NIGHT

A spacious beautifully appointed room is arranged with
 reclining sofas for Franco's family. Outside security remains
 on high alert.

EDGAR

(Whispering)
 Hey Frankie I think I will stretch
 out in the waiting room with my
 blanket. Just across not far, I
 would feel better to be in front of
 this door and so does Takahashi
 san.

FRANCESCA

(Replied In A Whisper)

Okay are you sure your not far, and
will sleep some okay? Bye
goodnight.

EDGAR

(Winks At Her)

Yes I will sleep some, you try too.
Goodnight.

A snore breaks out from Carlo. Hiroshi reclines with his
headset fast asleep next to Hiromi. Francesca sits close to
Franco's bed.

FRANCO

(Whispers)

Frankie, Frankie pssst are you
awake? Come closer honey. I need to
speak to you.

FRANCESCA

(Quickly Wakes Up)

Hey Poppa what is it? Are you okay?
Should I get Dr. Stanley ... Poppa
I'm so happy I can hear your voice
and see you again. Thank you for
fighting so hard to come back to
us... to me.

FRANCO

(Hoarse Voice)

No no I'm okay. Frankie listen do
not do anything about Sophia. She
will get what's coming. I don't
want you to avenge for me. Do you
understand ? Do not go near her.
Run our Casinos like you always
have. Be better then me. Protect
your brother, listen to Hiromi and
Carlo if you need guidance.

FRANCESCA

(Defiant)

So, you know about it huh? I don't
need anyone's guidance just yours
and my Buddha. What about Rapheala
you know about her too? Yeah well
she ran away escaped to god who
knows where, but contacted me on a
burner phone after she saw you in
the News. She had evidence about
Sophia's demeanor the last time the
three of them met at the church.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

Sophia and Paola were plotting something. And I also found Sophia's tennis shoes hiding in the corner of her closet. She left a faint trail in the hallway carpet.

Franco holds his gaze on Francesca.

FRANCO

(Concerned)

Fucking fuck I should have cut the snakes head a long time ago. She is a conniving, devious bitch. I didn't see it coming. Do not go near her, I don't know what cartel she is involved with. I want you and Carlo to go into the Vault and take every fucking thing concerning their contents that Paola had for the streets. Load up a truck, and designate an area out of town for them. We will do this after Sophia has been terminated. I want them to know we are not playing their games the last snake's head will be cut off. We will gain their respect. They can't fuck with us Gugino's we want peace.

FRANCESCA

(Endearing Smile)

Alright I hear you, but I can't promise unforeseen circumstances regarding Sophia. What do I do about Rapheala ? Um... did she and Uncle Carlo had something ?

FRANCO

(Nods His Head)

Yeah, it was complicated. If I had known about Rapheala, being abused and undermined I wouldn't have been so harsh. But she didn't have the balls then. Hey I get it, Paola and Sophia were two peas in a pod. She was probably scared. Anyway, listen to what I have said okay? Now come here and give your old man a kiss. Goodnight Frankie. Oh one more thing ... leave Rapheala to Carlo, she knows how to contact him. Focus on the job kid...

Francesca returned to her sofa and closed her eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL - FRANCO VIP ROOM - DAY

FRANCESCA

(Wakes Up to Noises)

Ahhhh wow I over slept. Oh I need a cup of coffee. Good morning everybody. Good morning Uncle Carlo Where is Hiromi and Hiroshi? And Poppa ? I hope Edgar took them to the Penthouse so they can freshen up and have a proper breakfast.

CARLO

(Smiles)

Here is your cup of coffee madam, you made a wise choice about Edgar. We are all in love with him. Your Poppa is getting X-rayed then his therapy. I understand that you guys had a long talk through my snoring about the plan. Are you ready Frankie this has to be done soon. Sophia doesn't know where we are in the hospital. Next Sunday when she comes back from Church is the Date.

Here have some of my bacon. I'll order more breakfast from the cafeteria they will bring it up. Now that we know for sure who it was, I released the guys and had them go back to work and to their families. Franco wants to sell the Gugino Estate. He doesn't want to live there after this. We will build another home for your Poppa and Hiromi if she stays. Hiroshi should live here and be near you by the lakes. Now let's go over the Vault plan. I've put Roberto on renting a unmarked Van. No problem.

Francesca was chomping on a bacon, when Franco slowly walks in with his male nurse.

FRANCO

(Walking and chuckles)

I feel a little nauseous about it all. She wasn't all bad in the beginning ... alright, Johnny tuck me back in. I'm tired already. What I'd miss? Hey Johnny please close the door behind you thanks buddy.

INT. HOSPITAL - FRANCO VIP ROOM - DAY

Franco stays quiet until the door was closed.

FRANCO

(Exhausted and Cries)

Hey Carlo, did you go over the Vault ? Yeah okay... I don't want any of you avenging me I'm working on it. She's got to go! And I'll do it my way. She was my responsibility. Frankie stay away from her.. Carlo you hear me, you know she is fearless.

I don't want to talk about this when Hiromi gets back with Hiroshi. I...I just want to enjoy this moment with you two. I have been living in hell and darkness when she shot me. Where did I go ? My body was here, but where did my soul go ? I can't remember oh god where was I ? It was so dark and I was alone and lost ... floating.

Francesca and Carlo held Franco's hand while he speaks out in fears.

FRANCESCA

(Crying)

Oh Poppa your here with us now. You were never alone not for a moment when you were asleep Uncle Carlo and I would take turns or Hiromi. You were in a Coma so you can heal and not move around in agony. Your soul was still here Okay I promise.

Carlo dabs his eyes with his Handkerchief.

CARLO

(Reassuring sweetly)

Franco its alright to let it out. It was traumatic. But you know what you came back stronger and clearer. Thats all that matters. We are a family. You are protected my dear friend and brother.

Franco falls to sleep.

FRANCESCA

(Wipes Her Eyes)

He's been through so much uncle Carlo. I think we gotta wait until Poppa is further along in his recovery. He is going through the trauma mentally and emotionally. He needs to see a psychiatrist which I think is a good idea. And I'll speak to his doctors.

EXT. GUGINO ESTATE - NIGHT

(P. O. V.)

A dark Lexus slows down as a masked driver scopes the estate
In the backseat black gloved watches through binoculars

INT. CLUB X - NIGHT

Sophia on her phone behind a large office desk.

SOPHIA

(Shouting)

What the hell are you saying? Don't fucking blame me for the lost merchandise that Paola had! I owe you fucking nothing. As matter of fact I lost \$200 Grand for a no delivery! I need my money back! Who killed my partner Mateo? What? Why are you asking about Franco? I haven't seen him or been in the hospital I don't give a damn he is dying anyway. Their keeping him close guarded.

Sophia stands pouring a drink as she watches the monitor Club X is booming. She lifts her phone and calls Carlo.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(Rubbing Her Temples)

Hey Carlo how's Franco doing ? I thought I would call, since no one includes me in anything like my step daughter. I'm sorry I haven't been able to go and visit again. There are so many security around the hospital and each time they see me, a fucking reporter shoves a mic in my face. He what he woke up?

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Has he said anything does he remember anything to what happened? Oh, I see I will have to agree with the doctors he shouldn't be rushed to remember it will over stimulate his brain. Did they say if he would ever get his memory back? When will he get released, when he does, I need to get the house ready. Alright you will let me know in advance, and I will get everything ready and cook all his favorite food. Yea, Ciao Carlo.

INT. HOSPITAL- FRANCO VIP ROOM - NIGHT

Franco in an ear shot from Carlo hears Sophia's phone call.

CARLO

(Clicking off The Speaker)

Well boss you heard it all. She will get the house ready for you. And make sure you don't over use your brain to remember. My ass .. what a crazy bitch.

FRANCO

(Sadness In His Voice)

I truly feel sorry for her. Let her come and visit me for the last time make sure she is alone with us, then leave and give her a private moment. I will play along. Set it up.

EXT. GREENWOOD COLORADO - PRIVATE SCHOOL - DAY

Nine first graders sit painting with a teacher's aide in a small classroom. Rapheala sits at the front watching her pupils.

RAPHEALA

(Smiles Sweetly)

Harry and David are you both finish with your paintings ? I see a lot of giggles going on over there ... If, you are done you can go to the sink and wash your hands please.

Rapheala moves casually between the tables complimenting each child's work before gathering the wet paintings to hang with decorative clothespins.

RAPHEALA (CONT'D)

(Cheerful Voice)

Okay boys and girls please don't forget to give your parents the invitation cards okay put it inside your your backpack ... Thank you Elizabeth for coming in today. Have a good weekend. Children say thank you to Miss Elizabeth. Our art show collection is truly going to be great. Let's get ready to line up.

INT. RAPHEALA HOME - NIGHT

Rapheala sits alone under a blanket. She stares at the fire. A text message vibrates her phone.

(O. S.)

CARLO

(Smiles)

Hello, how was your day Miss Angelia? What did you do at school today? Hey listen when its safe I want you to come home here okay to me ? Franco and I and Frankie we discussed it. You earned your place in this family forever. You never have to live alone anymore. When you are ready you can call me. I want to hear your sexy voice again Raphe. I miss you

RAPHEALA

(Teary Eyes)

Oh Carlo you know how long I waited to hear that? I don't know Carlo I'm terrified and I have traumas. Yes, I miss you too. Your the only man in my heart. I'm sorry we separated so long ago, but I never stopped loving or caring about you. It was just too much that hard life, it distracted us and we let it destroy us. I wish you could come here... it's peaceful and beautiful Carlo. At night I get lonely but, when morning comes I'm happy and oh Carlo the children are wonderful my first graders. They fill my heart. How is Franco really doing ?

(MORE)

RAPHEALA (CONT'D)

And are you taking good care of yourself ? Well, I better say goodnight I'm crying now.

(O. S.)

CARLO

(Emotional)

Yeah Raphe it's all my fault we should have gotten married and have kids of our own, a little boy or a girl. I'm sorry I made you cry Raphe. You know what I mean? Our lives then was dangerous and full of dramas. But we could change that, we are not getting any younger we need each other's companionship. I never stopped loving you. Your very brave and courageous and I am very proud of what you have become. The children must be crazy about you Miss Angelia, I love it. Keep safe and good night kisses .

INT. THE ATLANTIS CASINO OFFICE - NIGHT

Francesca stands in the center of Franco's private Vault. Her father's various collections of Paintings, Stella's Furs, Jewelry, Cash and boxes of confiscated drugs.

FRANCESCA

(Sighs and Texting)

Hey, I'm standing in here now yes, yes of course I'm alone uncle Carlo. Edgar is outside of the Office door waiting for me. What time are you getting here to load up? I want to be done with this before sunrise. Have you set the unmarked Van pick up and drop off? Are you going with them? No, I would prefer you take a different unmarked car and hang back to watch from the distance. Oh I am sending Edgar with you on this mission. He is your driver and he will have his eagle eye with him to spot if anything goes wrong. The unmarked Van and the driver you hired... what is your instruction? No, not a good idea. The Cartels will waste them.

(MORE)

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

Don't you watch any movies uncle Carlo? Yeah, I figured. Change the plan one driver to follow the Van. Once they reach the designated location, the Van driver leaves and drives away with the tailgating car. Makes sure this happens exactly as I have instructed. I'll wait for you. See you soon. Good luck.

INT. HOSPITAL- FRANCO VIP ROOM - NIGHT

Hiromi and Hiroshi sits in their sofa to keep watch over Franco.

CARLO

(Winks over to Franco)

Yeah, duty calls at the Atlantis gotta bounce. You kids behave while I step out alright. Be back for breakfast. Goodnight ladies and gents.

EXT. AN ALLEY - NIGHT

Carlo and Edgar push the two large suitcases into the back of an unmarked Van. Carlo hands Chico an envelope labeled Spanish.

CARLO

(Serious Tone)

Now make sure you leave this on the passenger seat and get the fuck out fast with Roberto we will be watching. Thank you Chico and good luck.

INT. HOSPITAL - FRANCO VIP ROOM - DAWN

Hiroshi fast asleep Hiromi stands over Franco's bedside.

HIROMI

(Gently Kissed Franco)

My love I will go now. Please keep our boy safe. I will call you after I land. Watashi wa kokorokara anata o aishiteimasu.

FRANCO
 (He kissed Her Open Palms)
 I will, be safe my darling lady.
 Get back soon.
 e ti amo con tutto il mio cuore.

Then she bends down to gently kiss Hiroshi's forehead.

(P. O. V.)

Franco follows Hiromi's silhouette as she exits. His face is unreadable.

EXT. GUGINO ESTATE - SIDE GATE - DAY

A pair of boots makes its way towards the music streaming out of the kitchen window.

INT. GUGINO HOME - KITCHEN - SUNDAY

SOPHIA
 (Busy Humming with the Opera)
 La la la ... argh! Oh no...no!

The assailant stands above Sophia her pistol aimed at her chest and shoots her dead.

EXT. HENDERSON EXECUTIVE AIRPORT - DAY

Hiromi and Takahashi boards her Jet. Hiromi looks out the window with dark glasses.

HIROMI
 (Casually Smiles)
 Mica-chan can you make me a
 scramble eggs with caviar,
 strawberries on the side and oh a
 glass of champaign and orange
 juice. And ask Takahashi san if he
 needs anything. Thank you Ms Mica

INT. HOSPITAL- FRANCO VIP ROOM - DAY

Francesca and Hiroshi eats their breakfast with their father.

Edgar and Carlo exits the hospital elevator door on the tenth floor.

CARLO
 (Chuckles)
 Hey good morning everybody. Did you
 save anything for me?

Carlo locks eyes with Franco and Francesca.

CARLO (CONT'D)
 (Dusting Off His Hands)
 All done. Now I want breakfast.

FRANCESCA
 (Worried face)
 Hey uncle Carlo ... where is Edgar?
 The flower shop? What for? Oh thats
 so sweet.

Edgar walks in with a large bouquet of flowers.

EDGAR
 (Cheerful)
 Aren't these beautiful? I thought
 all of us needed to embrace this
 beauty and lets put it right there.
 Hiroshi san bijin-sandesu ne ?

HIROSHI
 (Chuckles)
 Okay. Hana ka imoto ka?
 Translation: Is that for my sister?

Everyone admired the floral arrangements.

FRANCESCA (V.O.)
 (Narrates)
 This is what my family business was
 like, the depths of our love for
 each other, compassion, struggles,
 respect for those who respected us.
 And it did not end here. The Saga
 continues with Hiromi's war with
 her step daughter Tammi Sakamoto.
 Franco my father, Uncle Carlo and
 Rapheala, Edgar and I and the
 coming of age for Hiroshi Sakamoto-
 Gugino.

THE END

