

ELEI REYES

INSPIRATION STATEMENT

As a storyteller, I've always been drawn to characters who live in the gray—those navigating between right and wrong, loyalty and betrayal, truth and survival. With this film, I wanted to explore the psyche of a woman who was never meant to have a voice—only orders. Elenna, our lead, isn't just a spy or an assassin; she's a ghost in the system, molded by invisible hands to clean up the world's darkest corners. But this time, she becomes the target. And that shift—from handler to hunted—ignites the spark of rebellion within her.

I love stories like Jason Bourne, spy thrillers that keep you on the edge of your seat with twists, tension, and emotional stakes. But I rarely see those kinds of stories where the protagonist is a woman—let alone a Latina woman of color. I wanted to create a role like that. One that carries strength, complexity, and quiet power. A character who's not just surviving the mission, but reshaping it. Reclaiming it.

The story is a thriller on the surface, but underneath, it's about agency. About identity. About what happens when a woman trained to be invisible decides she no longer wants to disappear. It reflects my fascination with hidden power structures and the invisible roles women are often expected to play in male-dominated systems—whether in intelligence, politics, or even everyday life.

Stylistically, I was inspired by the tension and mood of films like Colombiana and The Bourne Identity—stories that blend action with emotional depth and a quiet, internal war. I wanted Elenna to feel grounded and intimate, even in its most high-stakes moments. Every scene is designed to keep the audience questioning who can be trusted, including the main character herself.

As an Afro-Latina filmmaker, I'm passionate about carving out space for characters we don't often see in genres like this. Elenna's journey mirrors that experience—being underestimated, erased, and ultimately fighting to exist on her own terms.

This film is a love letter to complexity. To the messiness of truth. To the power of instinct in the face of betrayal. It's not about spectacle—it's about survival. About the danger of being invisible in a world that profits from your silence.

Elenna is the story of a woman they tried to erase. But instead of vanishing—she rewrote the mission. So many times, the world tells us how our story should be written, but it's important to understand that we have the power to write our own story.