

The Common Law

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FADE IN:

INT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC - NIGHT

A group of young women in varying stages of pregnancy are gathered in a small, bland looking room. The paint is peeling off of the walls.

A table hosts juice boxes and varieties of snacks: carrots and celery, bags of chips, and an already-half-empty plate of chocolate cupcakes.

A petite young woman, LUPE (18), approaches the snacks table with wide, hungry eyes. She has long, wavy black hair that trails past her shoulders. She has bright brown eyes and exquisitely long eyelashes. She wears a heavy, tattered backpack that looks to be overflowing with stuff. Although she wears baggy clothes, her swollen stomach protrudes.

She eagerly takes a juice box and a bag of chips.

She glances over her shoulder to see if anyone is watching her. She starts to stuff the pockets of her sweatshirt with potato chips and juice boxes.

NANCY, a blond middle-aged woman (and the only person who is not pregnant), clears her throat, garnering the attention of the women in the room.

NANCY

Ladies, if you would please all take a seat...

A few quickly scramble to grab the last of the snacks.

NANCY

Yes, get your snacks and then we can begin...

They all sit down, their metal chairs scraping against the linoleum floor. Lupe rips open a bag of chips and begins to eat.

She glances back towards the snacks table and the only things left are the carrots and celery. She smirks.

Nancy takes a seat, and the women turn their attention towards her.

NANCY

Now, first off, I want to thank you

all for making it to the support group tonight. Now, I see some new faces in the crowd. Would you be willing to introduce yourselves?

A couple of the girls awkwardly introduce themselves. The circle eventually comes to LOLA (18), another girl who already looks like she's been crying. She is pretty in a classic way; almost looks like Grace Kelly, but with a bigger nose and freckly face. Her makeup is smudged all around her eyes, and her messy blond hair is tied back in a ratty ponytail.

LOLA

I'm... I'm Lola. I'm six months pregnant.

Nancy nods. She looks at Lupe expectantly. Lupe takes a long sip of juice box.

LUPE

I'm Lupe.

She takes another long drag of the juice box.

LUPE

Also six months along.

Nancy smiles.

NANCY

Thank you all for joining us tonight, ladies. We welcome you, and invite you to partake in this safe space. So I wanted to start off tonight by asking how we are all feeling when it comes to our pregnancies.

YASMIN, a pregnant mother with gorgeous wavy hair and acrylic nails, rolls her eyes.

YASMIN

My feet are too damn big. And my nose is so swollen I can't even fit my nose ring in anymore.

She smiles and the women laugh. REBECCA, another young woman with a more docile, doe-like face, sighs.

REBECCA

The swelling is the worst. But also

the morning sickness. Can we all talk about how morning sickness is a lie?

The women cheer. Lupe looks uncomfortable. Nancy laughs. They start shouting back and forth at each other.

YASMIN

For REAL! I'm throwing up both day and night.

Another expectant mother, ERIN, starts snapping her fingers.

ERIN

I'm seven months in. When does the vomiting stop? When can I actually just eat my breakfast and not yak it up? I can't even sit through the first hour of class without needing to excuse myself.

REBECCA

And the cravings. The cravings. Has anyone else been eating pickles with Cheeto dust and mayonnaise? It's disgusting. I love it.

ERIN

Real talk, how many times have you guys pissed yourselves?

Yasmin and Rebecca join in on the conversation eagerly. A few girls raise their hands, somewhat ashamed.

The commotion continues on for a few minutes, but Lola's dark chuckle breaks through the noise. All the women turn to look at her.

NANCY

Did you have something that you wanted to share, Lola?

Lola bites her lip, and then shakes her head.

LOLA

No. No I don't have anything to share.

She bursts into tears, and the women look at each other, confused and concerned. Nancy is the only one who looks unperturbed, and she nods.

NANCY

I know. It can be hard to come to a support group for the first time and open up in front of all these people.

Lola shakes her head, sobbing. The intensity is just as loud as before. Erin rolls her eyes and mutters under her breath.

ERIN

Jesus...

LOLA

That's not why I'm crying. My boyfriend, h-he left me.

NANCY

Oh no, I'm so sorry to hear that.

Rebecca smirks.

REBECCA

Yeah? He left? How long did it take for him to leave?

Yasmin laughs.

YASMIN

Mine ran out on me as soon as I showed him the pregnancy test.

ERIN

My guy lasted three months before he dumped my ass. Said I was getting too fat.

Nancy shoots a disapproving look at the girls, but she doesn't intimidate them. They keep grinning and laughing with each other.

NANCY

Ladies... let's not make light of how Lola is feeling right now.

Nancy leans forward and grabs a box of tissues off of the coffee table. She offers them to Lola, who grabs them by the fistfuls, and blows her nose ferociously.

Lupe keeps sipping from her juice, looking around the room and listening to the various whispers of gossip and laughter.

Lola wrings her hands, leaning forward and exhaling a shaky

sigh.

LOLA

I told myself I wasn't going to do this without him. My boyfriend, I mean. And the fucked-up thing— sorry, sorry, am I allowed to say "fucked up" here?

NANCY

Whatever language you need to use.

LOLA

The fucked up thing is that I showed him a sonogram of our baby today, and he freaked out and left. He said it got to be "too real" for him. Too real? How is me walking around with a HUGE belly not real enough?

Yasmin shakes her head.

YASMIN

Some men, y'know, they just be like that sometimes.

ERIN

They don't have to confront the problem until it hits them in the face.

Lola sighs again. Her voice is so quiet, so heartbroken.

LOLA

I have no idea how I'm going to do any of this on my own.

Lupe looks at her with deep concern.

LUPE

I have no idea how I'm going to do this either.

The two of them lock eyes. Lola bites her lip. Lupe clears her throat and looks around the room.

LUPE

My uh... my boyfriend didn't run out on me. He was totally excited to be a dad. He would've been a great one, I'm sure. But he, uh, died.

The women stare at her in complete shock. A few gasp; some cover their mouths.

Self conscious, Lupe tousles her hair, biting her lip nervously.

LUPE

My parents kicked me out when I told them I was pregnant. And his parents never liked me, so I never told them, and... yeah. Yeah, I'm at a loss. I think I'd be more devastated and start bawling, but I'm so freaked out right now, it's like I can't even register it, you know? Like, I just have to focus on the day to day and hope it gets better. But every day gets harder and... it's too hard to be a parent on my own.

Her eyes appear wet, but she blinks the tears away. She rubs her hands together and lowers her head.

LUPE

Sorry. Yeah. It's tough.

NANCY

Thank you for sharing, Lupe.

She smiles and then continues to address the other women in the room, who are starting to share.

Lola gazes intently at Lupe.

INT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The women are starting to pack up and head home. They pull on their coats and scarves. A few of their parents walk into the clinic, some of them smiling, some of them pissed off.

Lola waits over by the door. Lupe, now wearing a black winter coat and a knit hat, heads over to the door.

Lola grabs her arm and squeezes it, her smile warm and friendly.

LOLA

Hey. Thank you for sharing tonight.

LUPE

Yeah, well... it's kind of what we're

supposed to do.

Lupe looks at her again.

LUPE

I'm... really sorry about what happened to you.

LOLA

Well... I guess I should've known better.

LUPE

Known better?

LOLA

Yeah. He didn't really have his shit together.

LUPE

We're like, teenagers.

LOLA

I'm 18.

LUPE

Yeah, so am I. But we're still teenagers. How are we supposed to have our shit together?

The two are silent for a few awkward moments. Lupe places her hands inside the pockets of her sweatshirt and one of the juice boxes falls out.

Lupe crouches down to grab it. Lola giggles.

LOLA

I was wondering what happened to all of the juice boxes.

LUPE

Hey, they're free. Gotta stock up.

Lupe jams a straw into the juice box and starts sipping on it. Lola laughs.

LOLA

Do you need a ride home?

LUPE

A ride?

LOLA

Yeah.

Lola fishes her keys out of her purse.

LOLA

Where are you staying?

INT./EXT. LOST SOULS SHELTER - NIGHT

Lola's early 2000s Sedan squeaks to a halt outside of a ramshackle shelter. The doors are propped open and the electricity is flickering. Staff hand out blankets to the visitors. A homeless man pukes on the side of the building.

Lola winces. She double checks to make sure her windows are locked.

LOLA

Are you *sure* you want to stay here?

LUPE

This is the only shelter that has enough room this late at night.

Lupe unbuckles her seat belt.

LUPE

Thanks for the ride.

Two men start fighting in the line. Lola and Lupe watch in shock. Screams escalate.

Lola puts the car into drive.

LOLA

Nope! You can stay with me tonight.

She peels away from the mission. Lupe, confused, buckles her seatbelt once more.

LUPE

I really don't want to impose on you.

LOLA

And I don't want a dead pregnant woman on my conscience. So let's just go back to my apartment.

INT. LOLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lola's apartment is small, cramped, and crappy. The fluorescent lights flicker overhead. Stacks of mail sit on the counter top.

Lola leads Lupe down the hallway into her bedroom.

INT. LOLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lola's bedroom is similarly messy: clothes strewn about the floor; boxes of hand-me-down baby clothes laying open. Lola pulls back the covers of the bed and looks at Lupe.

LOLA

It might be crowded with two of us,  
but sleeping on the couch is going to  
hurt your back. Trust me. I slept  
there once and my spine is still  
jacked up.

Lupe removes her coat and set it on top of the wardrobe.

LOLA

I apologize for the smell. That is  
uh... I don't know what that smell is.  
I think something died in these walls.

Lola snuggles under the covers of the bed. Lupe, awkwardly, walks over and crawls under it as well.

LUPE

This mattress feels amazing.

LOLA

I have two mattress pads on it.

LUPE

Ooh. Nice.

Lola yawns, wriggling under the mound of blankets.

LOLA

You need anything?

LUPE

No. No, honestly this is... this is...

Lupe dozes off before she can finish her sentence.

INT. LOLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lupe sits in the kitchen eating a bowl of cereal. Lola yawns and walks down the hallway towards her.

LOLA  
Morning. Sleep well?

LUPE  
Fantastic. Thank you.

LOLA  
No worries. Do you want coffee?

LUPE  
Are pregnant people supposed to drink coffee?

Lola shrugs.

LOLA  
Are pregnant people supposed to be societal outcasts living on the fringes of society, struggling to survive?

LUPE  
What?

LOLA  
Nothing. So I take it you're not a coffee drinker?

Lola shakes her head. She reaches into the fridge. A half-full pot of coffee sits inside.

She pours the coffee into a mug along with some milk and sits next to Lupe at the kitchen table.

LOLA  
What are you up to today?

LUPE  
Probably going to head to the local library. I'm trying to apply for a new job. I work at a coffee shop on Sundays, but I'm going to need more hours.

Lola nods, her expression inquisitive. She takes a sip of coffee and looks at Lupe.

LOLA

Hey. So... you know how my boyfriend ran out on me? Well... he was the whole reason I got this apartment in the first place. And like, without him, I can't afford it.

LUPE

That sucks. He sucks.

LOLA

He sucks a fat one. But anyways... um... look. If you want to stay with me for a while, you absolutely can. In fact, I could use the help.

Lupe stares at her with wide eyes. Lola, embarrassed, begins to ramble.

LOLA

I mean, I know it's weird and all, but I think that you and I both are in some deep shit and I think that it would just make sense for us to band together. Since we're both in shitty situations, right? I know that's weird to say, since I just met you yesterday, but—

LUPE

Lola.

LOLA

You are totally fine to say no, I mean, as you can tell, my life's a bit of a mess and the apartment is a mess and—

LUPE

Lola, yes.

Shock registers on Lola's face. She covers her mouth with her hands.

LOLA

What? Really?

LUPE

Yeah. You think I've got any better options here?

LOLA

Well, no.

LUPE

Then... guess we're roommates now.

Lola laughs giddily, clapping her hands together. Lupe smiles.

LUPE (VO)

From there on out, it was just... me and Lola.

MONTAGE

- Lola and Lupe decorate the nursery. They dance to music on their phones as they assemble two cribs.

- Lupe holds back Lola's hair as she projectile vomits into a toilet.

- Lupe eats breakfast at the kitchen table while circling jobs in the classifieds. Lola sets down a glass of OJ and hands her a couple of prenatal vitamins.

- Lupe, dressed in professional interviewing clothes, sits across from a chef in a lively restaurant. The chef, MATEO, smirks, and then reaches across to shake her hand. Lupe ecstatically shakes it back.

- Lupe bursts through the door of the apartment. She excitedly tells Lola about her new job. Lola flings her arms around her neck and hugs her tightly.

- Lupe, dressed in a waitress uniform, quickly prepares vegetables in the back. Outside the restaurant is crowded, guests irritably waiting for food. Lupe starts to delegate orders to others in the kitchen, working with an astounding speed and precision. Mateo stares at her, in shock.

- Lola and Lupe stand in line at a fast food restaurant, talking excitedly to each other. They stop, then both look down at the floor. A puddle of water forms at Lupe's feet.

- Lola squeezes Lupe's hand in the delivery room. Lupe, screaming and crying, tries her best to push. Lola encourages her, rubbing her back and murmuring to her soothingly. Finally, a baby's cries are heard.

LOLA

You did it! Whew. Thank God I've got

two weeks left, right?

Lola then glances at her feet, noticing a puddle of water. Lupe laughs breathlessly, collapsing against the bed in exhaustion.

- Lupe tucks the babies, VIVI and LIAM, underneath the blanket. Lola adjusts the mobile rotating above the crib. The two are exhausted, but they smile at each other.

- Lola and Lupe bounce the babies on their laps as they pore over high school textbooks and open notebooks.

- Lupe holds the babies in her arms. She smiles as Lola affixes their diplomas to the wall above their bed.

- Lola lies in bed asleep. The bedroom door opens and Lupe enters. Lupe crawls into bed beside Lola. A few minutes later, one of the babies starts crying. Lupe moves as if to leave the bed, but Lola strokes Lupe's hair and then departs.

LUPE (VO)

Our life together was hard, but being alone throughout all of this would've been harder. Because there were two of us, we got a lot more done. We were able to get jobs, to pool our money together, and we even got our diplomas. The first few months of having the babies were hard but... things quickly got easier.

MONTAGE - FAST FORWARD

- Lola sits at a massive desk, answering multiple phones. She writes things down on a legal pad. In between scribbles, she answers quizzes on a Paralegal studies course on the computer.

- Lupe brings a massive birthday cake to the babies, who sit at the table and clap their hands. The two moms try to teach them how to blow out the candles.

- Lupe jogs into work and tries to put on her waitress name tag. Mateo shakes his head with a smile and offers her a white button up jacket. Lupe puts it on and quickly scrambles to the back to prepare food.

- Lola and Lupe wave goodbye to Vivi and Liam as they walk into kindergarten together.

- Lupe shows Vivi how to pack a cardboard box. Lola is hauling boxes onto the moving van.

- The kids scramble out of Lola's sedan, and race up to a house with a "Just Sold" sign laying in the road. Lola and Lupe smile at each other, then hug.

LUPE (VO)

It was kind of magical how it all worked out. And now... I can't imagine spending my life with anyone else.

SUPER: SIX YEARS LATER

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe stands in the kitchen, dancing to some pop music while she washes a huge stack of dishes. The front door opens and Lupe ducks her head outside.

Lola, dressed in a smart, tight suit, strides into the kitchen, briefcase in hand.

LUPE

How was your day?

LOLA

Tough. This case that Carl is working on is... woof.

Lupe smirks. She reaches into the fridge and pulls out a bottle of beer, cracks it open, and passes it to Lola.

LOLA

Mmm, thank you.

Lola takes a swig and sighs, satisfied.

LOLA

Where are the kids?

LUPE

Play date, remember? They're over at Asher's house.

LOLA

Oh, that's right. Am I picking them up?

Lupe stops, confused. She reaches in her pocket, checks her phone, and shakes her head.

LUPE

Nope. Hannah should be dropping them off.

Lola glances at the counter top, where various bills have been ripped open. Little post-it notes saying "PAID" and "UNPAID" are stuck to the front.

LOLA

Awesome. How are the bills looking?

LUPE

Big. As per usual. I took care of the cable and utility bill today... all that's left to pay is the mortgage bill.

Lupe reaches for her laptop but Lola stops her, shaking her head.

LOLA

No. Get ready for work; I'll take care of it.

Lupe smiles. She retreats into their bedroom.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - SHARED BEDROOM - DAY

Lupe steps into their bedroom, which has two queen sized beds laying across from each other. Half of the room is Lola's, and this is designated by the piles of manila folders and various legal tomes. Lupe's side of the room is more brightly decorated, and features a variety of secondhand cookbooks.

On a wall above Lupe's bed is a bulletin board decorated with photos and a series of "Happy Birthday Lupe!" cards, hand drawn with colored pencils and oil pastels. One of them hangs open, and inside, Lola's signature can be seen.

Lupe smiles at the bulletin board when she sees it. She changes into a short white t-shirt and black dress pants.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe walks back out into the living room and sees Lola sitting at the counter, a giddy smile on her face.

LUPE

Wow, I have never seen someone so happy to pay the mortgage before.

LOLA

No, no...

Lola bites her lip, and looks at Lupe excitedly.

LOLA

This... this guy... Connor. He texted me. He wants to take me out on a date.

Lupe stares at Lola in complete shock for a moment. She shakes her head and smiles.

LUPE

Connor? Who is he?

LOLA

He's a lawyer at the firm I work at. He just started like, maybe a month or two ago?

LUPE

Oh right, right. The dude from Chicago.

LOLA

Yeah!

Lola looks expectantly at Lupe.

LUPE

Well, that's cool.

Lola giggles excitedly.

LOLA

Isn't it!? I'm so surprised that he asked me. What do you think I should say?

LUPE

You should say...

Lupe looks at Lola's face, smiles, and keeps shaking her head.

LUPE

... you should say yes.

LOLA

Yes?

LUPE

Yes.

LOLA

Yes!

Lola excitedly sends a text back to CONNOR and hugs her. She takes the laptop and heads off to their room.

LOLA

Have a good night at work. See you when you get home!

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe's knife angrily chops up the pieces of a tomato. Each THWACK of the knife is angrier than the last. Lupe does not stop; instead she continues to slice with expert precision.

MATEO (45), Lupe's boss, pokes his head around the corner and stares at her with bugged-out eyes.

MATEO

Damn, girl! What did that tomato ever do to you?

LUPE

Mateo...

Lupe shakes her head but doesn't stop chopping. Mateo approaches her, grabs the knife, and sets it down.

MATEO

What's got you in a huff? Is it Vivi's teacher again?

LUPE

No, it's...

Lupe squeezes her eyes shut.

LUPE

It's nothing. Let me just finish the rest of these tomatoes.

Lupe reaches for the knife again. Mateo shakes his head and sets it down firmly.

MATEO

Damn it, Lupe, calm down. You look like you're going to kill somebody.

What happened?

LUPE

... some guy asked Lola on a date.

Mateo stares at her with a look of profound disappointment.

MATEO

No.

LUPE

Yes.

MATEO

NO!

LUPE

It happened.

MATEO

Girl, no! What happened to that dinner date you had planned?

LUPE

I never got the chance to bring it up.

MATEO

Never got the chance? Never got the chance? You've been living together six years, stop lying! You've had TONS of chances.

Lupe shakes her head and picks up the knife again, and returns to chopping.

LUPE

I never acted like our relationship has been anything but platonic.

MATEO

You are two single women raising your babies together. How is that platonic?

LUPE

A lot of women join up to raise their babies together. Like... bonobos. Or penguin.

MATEO

You're not a monkey or a penguin.

LUPE

Whatever! Humans are animals. In the animal kingdom, it's common for two of the same gender to raise a baby together.

MATEO

No, honey. I'm like 98 percent sure that the animals are gay when that happens.

LUPE

They can be but they don't have to be.

MATEO

Gay, gay, gay, gay, gay.

LUPE

Why did I start this conversation with you?

Mateo shakes his head.

MATEO

No. No. I don't accept this. Y'all are my OTP. You are common law spouses.

LUPE

Common law spouses? What?

MATEO

It's when people act like they're married but they aren't. You guys are basically married, so this shit? This is infidelity. You need to tell her to cancel the date.

LUPE

I can't do that! She was so happy, and so excited, why would I do that? Just so that I can tell her how I feel? What if she doesn't feel the same? And then I ruin everything?

Lupe shakes her head. A WAITRESS walks into the room and approaches them, but Mateo doesn't notice her and he keeps talking.

MATEO

But what if you do feel the same? And then you can finally relieve all those

built up years of sexual tension? Just imagine for a moment how good the sex is going to be. Just think about it.

The waitress opens her mouth, closes it, and walks out of the room. Lupe looks at Mateo dryly.

LUPE

This is not a professional work environment.

MATEO

She'll be fine. What's she going to do, report it to OSHA?

LUPE

Mateo, look. I don't even know if Lola is queer. Like she mentioned dating a girl once when she was like, 13, but in the six years that I've known her? Has *never* expressed interest in women. Aside from like, Tessa Thompson, and like, duh, it's Tessa Thompson. But I'm no Tessa Thompson.

MATEO

Girl, you're like the Walmart brand version of Tessa Thompson!

Lupe glares at him. Mateo holds up a hand, feigning innocence.

MATEO

I say that with all the love in my heart. But seriously, you should just *ask* her.

LUPE

And what if I ask her and I ruin our children's lives?

The knife finally slips, and a spurt of blood sprays the front of Lupe's apron.

LUPE

Oh shit!

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lupe sits on the toilet, embarrassed. Lola crouches in front of her, examining the gnarly gash on Lupe's hand. Lola pushes

her glasses up her nose.

LOLA  
I swear to God, this needs stitches.

Lupe pouts, shaking her head.

LUPE  
Lola, no...!

LOLA  
Lupe, I'm serious.

LUPE  
It's fine, I cut myself worse than  
that before.

LOLA  
That is literally nothing to brag  
over.

Vivi steps into the door frame, rubbing her eyes. She is dressed in footie pajamas, and her black hair is somewhat disheveled. She yawns.

VIVI  
Mommy? Liam and I are waiting for our  
story.

LUPE  
In a minute, baby. Can you go back to  
bed and wait for me there?

Vivi nods and returns to her room. Lupe looks at Lola, then exits.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - VIVI AND LIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lupe sits in a chair between their two beds. Liam and Vivi lay snuggled underneath their blankets, listening to her read.

Lupe yawns as she closes the picture book and sets it on her lap. Liam sits up.

LIAM  
Hey, Lupe. How did you cut your  
finger?

LUPE  
It slipped, Li. No big deal.

LIAM  
It looks wicked.

Lupe laughs and rolls her eyes.

LUPE  
Thank you, Liam. Alright. Everyone  
ready for bed?

The two shake their heads in unison and giggle. Lupe places her hands on her hips in mock frustration.

LUPE  
You're not going to ask what I think  
you're going to ask for, are you?

VIVI  
One more story, Mommy!

LIAM  
Yeah! One more story!

LUPE  
No... no... I'm tired tonight.

VIVI AND LIAM  
Please, please, please, please,  
please?

Lupe laughs and holds up her hands in defeat.

LUPE  
Alright. But I get to pick the book,  
okay?

VIVI  
Okay...

LUPE  
"Guess How Much I Love You."

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lupe yawns, hovering over two lunchboxes. Lola walks into the kitchen and shakes her head.

LOLA  
No. Bedtime. Let me finish that.

LUPE  
I can do it; it's not a big deal.

LOLA

It is a big deal. You had a rough night at work, and you need some rest. Just let me take over, okay?

Lupe sighs and steps off to the side. Lola begins assembling the sandwiches for their children.

LUPE

When are you going out with this Connor guy?

LOLA

Friday night. Unless you're working?

LUPE

Nope.

LOLA

And is that okay with you?

LUPE

It's alright with me. Where is he taking you?

LOLA

We are going to a nice little burger place. Nothing fancy.

LUPE

Are y'all going to hang out after?

Lola shrugs.

LOLA

I mean, maybe? You know, since having a kid, I feel tired as soon as it hits nine o'clock.

LUPE

Drink a Redbull.

LOLA

Gross!

LUPE

What about a Monster?

Lola laughs and shakes her head. She finishes packing up the lunchboxes and places them in the fridge.

LOLA

No, I don't want to be out too late anyways! From my experience, staying out really late leads me to make bad decisions. It's how I ended up pregnant with Liam.

LUPE

I thought you got pregnant with Liam because Jorde didn't tell you the condom broke.

LOLA

Well, yes, but still. I don't want to set this expectation with Connor that I'm someone who can just party all night, y'know?

LUPE

Does he know that you're a mom?

LOLA

Yeah, he knows. And he says it doesn't bother him, so...

LUPE

Did you tell Liam about the date?

LOLA

I did. He seems off about it, which I kind of expected.

LUPE

He'll be fine. He doesn't like change.

LOLA

Ugh. Remember when we first moved in here? And how much he cried when we told him that we weren't going back to that shit-show of an apartment?

Lupe laughs, doubling over. Lola laughs too, shaking her head.

LOLA

"But Mommy, I *like* the moldy kitchen counters! These counters are *too* clean!" I can't believe that those words came out of his mouth.

LUPE

I can't believe that *mold is* what he missed about the apartment. That's it. That's all that it takes to make a house a home. Mold.

INT./EXT. LUPE'S CAR - ROAD TO SCHOOL - DAY

Lupe drives along the road and glances in the rearview mirror. Vivi and Liam are staring outside. A generic pop song plays in the background.

LUPE

Are you guys excited? It's Friday night! That means we get to hang out all night!

LIAM

I wish Mommy was hanging out with us.

Lupe winces and turns her attention back to the road. She flicks her blinker on.

LUPE

It's just one Friday night, Liam! Not a big deal.

LIAM

Isn't it weird that Mom is dating someone?

LUPE

Uhh...

LIAM

I thought Mom was going to be single forever. A spinster.

LUPE

Who taught you that word?

LIAM

What word?

LUPE

Spinster.

LIAM

Oh. Well the other day, Ms. Carter was reading a story, and it said the word spinster, and so that's how.

LUPE  
Your mom isn't a spinster.

LIAM  
Well she's not going to be if she ends  
up marrying this guy.

Lupe shakes her head and refocuses her attention on the road.

LUPE  
No one is saying that she's going to  
marry this guy, Liam. They're just  
friends. Going out for a nice dinner.

VIVI  
But people only start dating when they  
want to get married.

LUPE  
Vivianna Medrano, no one is getting  
married.

The car falls silent. Liam looks at Lupe again.

LIAM  
Is he really just taking her out for  
burgers?

LUPE  
Yes, to my knowledge, that's what's  
happening.

LIAM  
That's what Ms. Carter calls a "cheap  
date."

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

MONTAGE

- Lupe sits on the floor with the kids as they play a game of Operation. They giggle and scream whenever the buzzer sounds.
- In the kitchen, Lupe shows Vivi and Liam how to make cookies.
- The kids snuggle up on either side of Lupe as they watch some sort of Disney movie on TV.
- Lupe carries Liam to bed. She pulls the blankets up to his chin and kisses his forehead.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lupe sits in front of the couch, watching some sort of Food Network show. She scribbles down some notes on a notepad.

The front door opens. Lupe checks the time: it's only 9 o'clock.

Lola enters the room. She is dressed in a corduroy skirt and knee-high cowboy boots. She removes her scarf and flops down on the couch next to Lupe.

LUPE

Wow, you're home earlier than I expected. How was your date?

LOLA

It was a lot of fun.

She smiles and looks at Lupe.

LOLA

Thanks for watching the kids. I have a present for you.

LUPE

A present?

Lola giggles and bounds over to the kitchen. She returns with a bottle of Cachaça, sugar, and lime juice. Lupe sits up immediately, her eyes wide.

LUPE

No...! You got this?

LOLA

I made a stop at the liquor store on the way back.

LUPE

Oh my God...

Lola mixes them a couple of drinks. Lupe laughs and eagerly takes a sip. They sit back on the couch and chat with one another, pouring drinks for themselves.

LUPE

Caipirinhas are the greatest. They are truly the best drink. I've been begging Mateo to put them on the menu and he just won't do it. It's just...

LOLA  
Tragic. The word you're looking for is  
tragic.

LUPE  
It is! It really is!

Lola smiles, staring at her glass. Lupe grins and elbows her.

LUPE  
So? How'd it go?

LOLA  
It was fine. It was good. He was  
sweet... Held open doors for me.

She glances at Lupe.

LOLA  
He asked me out on another date.

The smile nearly fades from Lupe's face, but she takes a sip  
of her drink and she recovers.

LUPE  
Yeah? Are you going to do it?

LOLA  
Uhh... I don't know. Maybe? Like  
he's... he's so hot, Lupe. He really  
is. Like chiseled jaw, dreamy blue  
eyes; he checks off all the right  
boxes. But he's not...

Lola shakes her head.

LOLA  
No, it's not even him, it's just...  
it's not fair for me to just expect  
you to stay at home with the kids when  
I go out on dates.

LUPE  
And why not?

LOLA  
I just feel guilty. You do so much  
around here already, and...

LUPE  
Because I can do it. You're a

paralegal, Lola. You're busy being the breadwinner.

LOLA  
I know, I know, but...

Lupe shakes her head. She reaches forward and takes Lola's hands. Lola looks at her, somewhat emotional.

LUPE  
Does going out with him make you happy?

LOLA  
Yes.

LUPE  
Then I don't care.

LOLA  
You don't?

LUPE  
No. I care about you being happy.

Lola smiles and blinks repeatedly. She nods.

LUPE  
Besides. Your son is worried about you becoming a spinster.

LOLA  
A *what*?

LUPE  
Yep. A spinster. He said it in the car this morning.

LOLA  
Oh my God!

LUPE  
Also apparently Ms. Carter taught him the meaning of a "cheap date," so the next time that we hit up parent-teacher conferences...?

LOLA  
Oh my God!

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe is at work chopping vegetables again, this time slower, almost like she's in a state of depression. She stares down at the colorful set of sliced vegetables in a complete daze.

ZOE, a teenage waitress, enters the room.

ZOE

Hey Lupe? There's someone on the phone for you.

Lupe turns to look at Zoe.

LUPE

Can you take a message? I'm doing prep-work.

ZOE

They said that they're done waiting because they called the other day, and no one ever got back to them.

LUPE

Are you sure that they weren't just looking for Mateo?

ZOE

They specifically said your name.

Lupe rolls her eyes and removes her apron. She turns to the rest of her staff who are prepping food for tonight's rush.

LUPE

Everyone, keep going. Ricardo, ¿estás a cargo, ok?

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - OFFICE - DAY

Lupe squeezes into the crowded office. She unscrews the cap to her water bottle and takes a sip before pressing the hold button.

LUPE

Mateo's Menagerie. Lupe Medrano speaking.

She hears hushed bickering in Spanish on the line. Lupe rolls her eyes.

LUPE

¿Hola, como estas? Soy Lupe. Puedo entenderles.

ESTER (OS)

Dios mio. It really is her.

Lupe arches a brow and stares at the phone, confused. She picks up the phone and speaks into the receiver.

LUPE

Yes. I'm the sous chef of this restaurant. Is there something that I, or perhaps my boss, can help you with?

ESTER (OS)

Yes... yes... you can. Lupe, do you remember us?

LUPE

I'm sorry, who is this?

SEGUNDO (OS)

We are Rodrigo's parents.

Lupe stares in shock. She opens her mouth, then closes it abruptly. She stares around the room, completely disoriented.

LUPE

I-I'm sorry. What...?

SEGUNDO (OS)

We've been trying to find you for a long time now. We heard from your parents...

LUPE

... What are you talking about? I haven't spoken to my parents in years.

Lupe can hear a clamor in the background; it sounds like Ester is wrestling the phone away from her husband. The line crackles.

ESTER (OS)

They told us that they kicked you out because you were pregnant. With Rodrigo's baby. Is that true?

SEGUNDO (OS)

What happened to the baby? We want to

see-

Lupe immediately hangs up the phone.

She slowly rises to her feet, and walks out of the room.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - KITCHEN - DAY

Zoe is carrying plates and dishware to the front. Lupe taps her shoulder. Zoe looks at her guiltily.

ZOE

I'm sorry, Lupe, they were just really upset.

LUPE

It's okay. If they call back, though, hang up. Immediately. Let all the servers and hosts know.

Zoe nods.

ZOE

Understood.

EXT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - DAY

Lupe pulls up in the driveway. She exits the car and can hear the sounds of squealing laughter from Liam and Vivi.

She enters the backyard and sees Lola chasing the kids through the sprinkler.

Vivi, her hair dripping wet, turns over her shoulder and looks at her mother excitedly. She sprints towards her.

Lupe smiles warmly, her eyes overwhelmed with emotion.

She crouches to her feet and she welcomes her daughter into her arms with a hug and kisses both of her cheeks. Liam sprints over and she embraces him too; kisses him.

Lola motions over to Lupe.

LOLA

Throw a suit on! Come on!

Lupe smiles, and raises to her feet. Vivi and Liam start to beg her to join in.

VIVI  
Come on, Mommy, Lola's doing it with  
us! It'll be fun!

LUPE  
I'll be right back.

EXT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - DAY

Lupe, now clad in a swimsuit, joins Lola in chasing the  
children through the maze of sprinklers in the yard.

EXT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lola and Lupe sit on the porch, watching as the kids run  
squealing through the sprinklers.

LOLA  
I've been thinking about what I want  
to plant this summer.

LUPE  
Yeah?

LOLA  
Well. I've been thinking, and I  
haven't been able to come up with any  
ideas.

Lupe chuckles, and Lola elbows her playfully.

LOLA  
Last year we did perennials and  
tulips. Those were nice but I'm  
thinking for something bigger. Bolder.

LUPE  
Hmm... Well what's your favorite  
flower?

LOLA  
I don't think I have a favorite  
flower.

LUPE  
Everyone has a favorite flower.

LOLA  
I mean, roses. Roses are nice. But  
thorny, prickly bushes aren't my  
thing.

LUPE

You know what my favorite flower is?

Lola pauses, waiting for Lupe to speak.

LUPE

Orchids. I love orchids.

LOLA

Orchids? Really? You never mentioned this before.

LUPE

You never asked. But yeah. Orchids. They remind me of my abuela's house in Baja. She grew these massive, beautiful orchids. And she told me that they were like, a symbol of love. She always gave me an orchid for the car ride home. And when they died, my mom showed me how to press the petals, so they'd stay beautiful forever. I made a necklace with one of them. It was one of the few things I took when my parents kicked me out.

LOLA

A necklace?

LUPE

I lost it. I think I lost it at a mission or something. Or someone stole it.

LOLA

... you never told me that story before.

LUPE

Yeah. I mean, it's super depressing. I had to tell myself it was just stuff.

Lupe tucks a strand of wet hair behind her ear. Lola stares at her for a moment, then turns back to look at the kids.

LOLA

I think orchids are a good idea. I'd love orchids.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lupe sits in front of the bathroom mirror, wringing out her wet black hair with a towel.

Lola appears in the doorway behind her, smiling.

LOLA

Hey. Want to take the kids to Applebee's? My treat.

LUPE

Ooh. Applebee's. Fancy. You know, I did have some pork chops and apples that I was planning to cook up...

LOLA

You've cooked every night this week. Let me treat you to something, okay?

Lupe blushes, smiling. She ducks her head so that Lola can't see her face.

LUPE

Okay.

Lola smiles and runs her fingers through Lupe's hair.

LOLA

Okay.

INT. APPLEBEE'S - NIGHT

Lola and Lupe sit at a table with their children. Plates of food sit in front of them, half eaten.

Vivi and Liam are eating chicken fingers with sides of steamed broccoli.

Liam distastefully picks up a piece of broccoli with his fingers.

LOLA

Liam, honey. Use your fork. Broccoli is not finger food.

LIAM

French fries are finger food.

LOLA

Liam. Eat your broccoli. Look at Vivi,

see? See how she's eating her  
broccoli?

Liam glances over at Vivi's plate, which is empty. Vivi looks  
between Lola and Liam.

VIVI  
I'll eat your broccoli, Liam!

LOLA  
Vivi, no. You finished your broccoli.  
He has to eat his own.

LIAM  
But I wanted french fries.

LOLA  
You eat french fries all the time at  
school. You need to eat your  
vegetables.

Liam pouts, crossing his arms and slinking down in his seat.  
The APPLEBEE'S WAITRESS returns to their table.

APPLEBEE'S WAITRESS  
Would anyone be interested in any  
dessert tonight?

Liam's eyes brighten and he sits up.

LIAM  
I want an Oreo milkshake!

VIVI  
Me too!

LOLA  
You can't have a milkshake until you  
finish all of your broccoli.

LIAM  
But I don't want to eat my broccoli!

Liam's now in full-on meltdown mode. Tears spring to his eyes  
and he kicks his feet in frustration. The waitress shares a  
knowing smile with the two moms.

APPLEBEE'S WAITRESS  
I'll come back later.

She hurries away from the table as Liam starts to cry and

whine. Lola leans over the table.

LOLA

Liam. You have three pieces of broccoli left. You are a big boy and you can do it. If you can't finish these pieces of broccoli, you can't have a milkshake.

LIAM

BUT I HATE BROCCOLI!

Liam shoves the plate off of the table and it shatters on the floor. Lupe and Lola stare at him in shock as he continues to scream and pitch a fit.

EXT. APPLEBEE'S - NIGHT

Lola wrestles with Liam and tries to put him in the car. Vivi is already sitting in her car seat.

Lupe hangs back and speaks to the APPLEBEE'S MANAGER.

LUPE

We are so sorry about that. He's not usually like this.

APPLEBEE'S MANAGER

It happens! Don't worry about it. Have a good rest of your night.

LUPE

Thanks. Sorry, again.

INT./EXT. LUPE'S CAR - NIGHT

Lupe climbs into the passenger seat and buckles up. Lola's hands are on the steering wheel.

Liam has calmed down somewhat, and he is sniffing, sobbing quietly.

Vivi leans her head against the window frame, trying to ignore his cries.

Lola puts the car in reverse and looks over her shoulder as she backs out the car. She speaks to her son in a calm, but tense voice.

LOLA

Liam, that was absolutely

unacceptable.

LIAM

If you just let me get french fries!

LOLA

But I'm your mother, and I told you that you can't have french fries.

LIAM

Because you're a meanie!

LOLA

I'm not doing it to be mean, Liam. I'm doing it because you need to eat more vegetables. Vivi ate her vegetables. Do you think it's fair that because of your bad attitude that she didn't get to eat dessert tonight?

LIAM

It's not my fault that Vivi didn't get to eat dessert tonight!

LOLA

Yes, it is. Because you threw a plate on the floor. When we get home, you're going to have a time-out.

LIAM

No!

Lola's voice becomes a growl of frustration. She shakes her head, her eyes turned up to the heavens.

LOLA

Liam, I don't know why you're acting like this!

Once again, Liam is in meltdown mode. Vivi covers her ears with her hands.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - SHARED BEDROOM - DAY

Lupe, wearing her pajamas, sits cross-legged on her bed. She once again has a legal pad and is scribbling down recipes.

Lola enters the room with a heavy sigh. She closes the door behind her.

LOLA  
Kids are in bed.

LUPE  
And asleep?

LOLA  
Yep. Even Liam. I have no idea what  
got into him tonight.

LUPE  
I think he's just tired. We played  
outside in the yard today and then we  
took them out to eat. That's a long  
day.

LOLA  
I guess so...

Lola changes into her pajamas. Lupe tries to distract herself  
by looking at her legal pad, but can't help but glance up  
when Lola is putting on her tattered Rolling Stones t-shirt.

Lola climbs into bed. Her phone buzzes, and she reaches for  
it.

A soft smile crosses her lips as she looks at the screen.

LUPE  
Connor again?

LOLA  
Yeah. He was just sharing this stupid  
GIF with me.

Lola shows the GIF to Lupe.

LOLA  
He's on a quest to find all GIFs from  
*The Office* and send them to me.

LUPE  
But I thought you hated *The Office*.

LOLA  
Yeah, that's kind of why he does it.  
He thinks it's funny. It kind of is,  
honestly.

LUPE  
Is it?

Lupe is surprised by the harshness of her tone, and she averts her eyes for a moment. Lola stares at her, and then nods slowly, smiling.

LOLA

Yeah. It is.

Embarrassed, Lupe returns to scribbling down notes in her legal pad.

LOLA

Would you be able to watch the kids again if we go out next Friday night?

LUPE

Yeah, I could do that.

LOLA

Alright. Thank you. Connor's been talking about this little hole-in-the-wall Italian place; he's been super excited about it.

LUPE

I'm glad that the two of you are having fun.

Lola smiles. She closes her eyes and lays her head against her pillow.

LOLA

You know something? I don't think I've ever been in a romantic relationship with someone whose had their shit together.

Lupe flinches. Lola appears not to notice.

LOLA (CONTINUED)

I mean, Jorde tried. Like those first few months when I was pregnant with Liam, I think he really tried. But when he saw that sonogram photo it was like...

She searches for the words, staring up at the ceiling.

LOLA (CONTINUED)

... like he was realizing everything that he was going to have to give up. A basketball scholarship. College.

Hanging out with his friends. But me? Naive little me? I thought, "As long as I have him; as long as I have somebody, I'll be okay."

Lupe nods. Lola glances over at her.

LOLA

Connor just carries himself with a lot of confidence, and it's nice to be around someone like that, y'know? To have someone who may not have everything entirely figured out, but is levelheaded enough to just keep pushing forward. Maybe it's the lawyer in him.

Lupe nods again.

LOLA

Lupe... is everything okay?

LUPE

Huh? Yeah, why?

LOLA

Well... you came home today from work and... I don't know. There was something about you that felt off.

LUPE

Nah. I'm just tired. Long day. Tough prep work. Too many bell peppers.

Lola chuckles.

LOLA

How's your finger looking?

Lupe holds it up to her.

LUPE

Nearly healed. I didn't need stitches after all.

LOLA

You're still going to have a scar, though.

LUPE

I'm pretty sure I'd have a scar even

if I got stitches. Besides, scars are bad ass.

Lola laughs.

Suddenly, Lupe's cell phone starts ringing. Confused, Lupe glances over and looks at the caller ID. Lola groans.

LOLA

Who the hell is calling you this late at night?

LUPE

I don't know...

Lupe answers the phone.

ESTER (OS)

Lupe Medrano, we just need to...

Lupe immediately disconnects the call. She glances over at Lola and shakes her head.

LUPE

God, I hate telemarketers.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe stands inside the walk-in freezer. She holds a clipboard and pen, and examines the plastic containers on the shelves full of various foods.

Mateo approaches the door.

MATEO

Hey, Lupe. The school is on the line and asking for you.

Lupe lowers the clipboard.

LUPE

Oh no. Again? Is it Liam?

MATEO

Yes, it's about Liam.

LUPE

Shit.

Lupe sets the clipboard down on the shelf and walks out of the fridge.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - OFFICE - DAY

Lupe walks into the crowded office and answers the phone.

LUPE

Hello? Yes, this is Lupe Medrano.  
Yeah. Hmm? What? Um... no his mother  
isn't available. Look, I'll be right  
there, okay? Give me fifteen minutes.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - LOBBY - DAY

Lupe, wearing her raincoat and carrying her purse, approaches Mateo, who is going over reservations with another HOST at the front desk.

LUPE

Mateo, I'm so sorry, I will be right  
back.

MATEO

It's alright, Lupe.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Liam sits across from PRINCIPAL HUDGENS, a man in his late 30s with a comb over. He nods sternly to Lupe as she enters the room.

Lupe takes a seat and unzips her coat, shuffling it off her shoulders.

LUPE

Sorry that I'm late. What is this  
about?

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

I'm sorry, are you Liam's mother?

LUPE

Uhh... no. No. I'm Liam's godmother. I  
told you on the phone that Lola  
couldn't make it because she's at  
work.

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

I really would have preferred to  
discuss this situation with his  
mother.

Lupe smiles impatiently, tilting her head to the side.

LUPE

Well. As I mentioned before, she's not available. She's a paralegal, so she's in court. And I believe that Lola listed me as Liam's emergency contact, and as a member of Liam's household. So any information that you discuss with me today, I can give to Lola.

Principal Hudgens folds his hands together. He leans forward and looks directly at Liam.

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

Can you explain to your godmother what you did?

Liam averts his eyes and stares at his shoes.

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

Liam.

LIAM

It was the teacher's fault.

The principal shakes his head and leans back in his seat, rolling his eyes. He looks at Lupe.

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

Today was Library Day for the first graders. When the kids misbehave or don't do what the teacher asks, they get a warning on their Behavior Chart. Liam got two this week so he couldn't check out books. Ms. Carter tried to explain this to him, but he got upset and kicked her. Then bit her ear.

LUPE

I'm sorry, her ear? How did he bite her ear?

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

Well, when he kicked her, he hit her bad knee. She fell on the ground, and he... climbed on top and bit her.

Lupe is disappointed, but she speaks softly to Liam, as if in shock.

LUPE

Liam... Why on Earth would you do

that?

LIAM

Because it's not fair. And DeVante and Skylar were making fun of me.

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

Did you tell Ms. Carter that?

LIAM

Ms. Carter wasn't listening to me! No one ever listens to me!

PRINCIPAL HUDGENS

Liam.

LUPE

Look. Let me just take him home for the day, alright? I think he just needs a little break. I'll discuss this situation with his mother.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LOBBY - DAY

Lupe signs out Liam for the day. Liam stands next to her and pouts.

INT./EXT. LUPE'S CAR - DAY

Liam, sitting in his car seat, stares out the window. Lupe glances up at him in the rearview mirror.

LUPE

I gotta go back to work, okay? So you'll just come with me.

Liam doesn't respond.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - LOBBY - DAY

Lupe walks in through the front door, holding Liam's hand. Mateo smiles boldly at Liam.

MATEO

Hey, hey, hey, little man! What's going on?

He extends his fist. Liam grins and bumps it back. They mimic an explosion.

MATEO

You here to help out in the kitchen today, my guy?

LIAM

Yeah!

MATEO

Want to help me peel some potatoes?

LIAM

YEAH!

Liam sprints to the back of the restaurant, towards the kitchen.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - KITCHEN - DAY

Liam carefully scrapes the skin off of the potatoes and dumps them into the trash bin.

He holds one up to Lupe.

LIAM

Is this one good, Lupe? I kind of goofed it up.

LUPE

It looks perfect, mi amor.

Lupe pulls up a chair and sits alongside him. She uses a paring knife to scrape off the potato skin.

LUPE

So, Liam... what's going on?

LIAM

What do you mean?

LUPE

I don't know. You've just been a little angry lately.

LIAM

I just feel angry.

LUPE

Do you know why?

LIAM

I guess... I don't know. It feels

weird that Mommy is dating someone.

LUPE

Yeah?

LIAM

I don't think I like him. Connor.

LUPE

Why not? Didn't you have fun when you went out for lunch with him and your mom?

Liam shrugs his shoulders.

LIAM

Not really. The food was good. He let me get french fries. But he is a BIG know-it-all. Mommy says all lawyers are know-it-alls.

Lupe laughs.

LUPE

That's true.

LIAM

But you're not a know-it-all, Lupe. Sometimes there are days where I think you don't know anything.

LUPE

Uhh...

LIAM

Like when you don't know how to get Alexa to stop playing music. Or like when the vacuum won't work because you don't know you didn't plug it in.

He smiles at her.

LIAM

I like those things about you.

LUPE

Well, thank you. Those are some of the things that I don't like so much about myself, but I'm glad that you like them.

LIAM

I just... I don't want things to change. And I don't know why Mommy isn't happy with the way things are now.

LUPE

Why do you think your Mommy is unhappy?

LIAM

Because if she was happy, everything would stay the same. And she wouldn't want to date know-it-alls like Connor.

Lupe bites her lip. She stares at her son, and he doesn't notice her.

LIAM

I think you're enough, Lupe. I think you're enough.

Lupe turns her attention back to the trash can. She blinks away a sudden surge of tears and continues to scrape the potatoes.

LUPE

Liam. Your Mommy loves you. She loves you so much. That's why she works so hard to take care of you. And she is happy. She is happy with or without Connor. Sometimes adults just want to make new friends. Or meet new people. Or form new relationships. It's a normal part of growing up, mijo.

LIAM

I don't think I ever want to grow up.

Lupe smiles.

LUPE

No?

LIAM

No. Grownups are complicated.

LUPE

True.

LIAM

But at least you don't have to go to school. Or have Ms. Carter for a teacher.

Lupe receives another phone call on her cell phone. It's once again from a number she doesn't recognize. She sends the call to voicemail, and then blocks the number.

LIAM

Who was that, Lupe?

LUPE

Telemarketers. They won't leave me the hell alone.

Liam gasps.

LIAM

Lupe, you swore!

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - LOBBY - DAY

Lola walks in the door with Vivi in tow. She smiles at Mateo when she walks through the door.

LOLA

I guess we switched kids today!

MATEO

Lola, honey! How you've been?

Lola hugs Mateo tightly. Mateo crouches down and smiles at Vivi. He offers her a fist bump too.

LOLA

Where are they?

MATEO

In the kitchen. They were just wrapping up on prep work.

VIVI

Lola, can I go help with the prep?

LOLA

Sure, baby. Go on.

Vivi toddles to the back of the restaurant. Lola smiles at Mateo.

LOLA  
How've you been? How's Josh?

MATEO  
Ooh, girl, driving me crazy lately.  
He's on another dieting scheme. He is  
now trying an all-fruit diet.

LOLA (LAUGHING)  
What?

MATEO  
It's bad. He buys a ton of jackfruit  
and it stinks up the house. Just...  
ugh. At least his farts smell like  
strawberries, though.

Mateo shrugs his shoulders and smile.

LOLA  
That totally sucks. Hey, I really  
appreciate you letting Lupe bring Liam  
here today. He's been really upset  
these past few months.

MATEO  
Eh, it's fine! Plus, he helps with the  
prep work. I just hope Lupe stops  
getting all these phone calls.

Lola stares at him for a moment, perplexed.

LOLA  
Phone calls?

MATEO  
Oh yeah. Someone just keeps calling  
her on the daily. Sometimes they call  
her cell, sometimes they call the  
restaurant. It's obnoxious, but what  
can you do?

Lola nods slowly, too reluctant to say anything else.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - VIVI AND LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lola sits on the bed next to Liam.

LOLA  
... So you understand what you did was  
wrong, right? And that we're never

going to do it again?

LIAM

Yeah...

LOLA

And you're going to write your teacher an apology letter and give it to her on Monday?

LIAM

Yes, Mommy.

LOLA

Okay. Good.

She hugs her son and kisses his head.

Vivi and Lupe walk into the room.

VIVI

Can Liam and I play now?

LOLA

In a minute. I had something I actually wanted to ask all three of you.

Lupe, confused, sits down on Vivi's bed. Vivi crawls onto her lap.

LOLA

Connor has a cabin up north. He's throwing a big party for his birthday this weekend, and he was wondering if we wanted to visit.

LUPE

All of us?

LOLA

Yes. He invited all of us. He's got kayaks, and there's a big private beach for us all to swim on.

VIVI

Ooh! That sounds like fun! Can we go, Mommy? Can we, can we?

Lupe smiles nervously and looks at Lola.

LUPE

If he invited us, then sure, we can go.

Vivi cheers. Liam smiles but otherwise appears unexcited.

EXT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - DAY

Lupe packs the car with a duffel bag of her things, and Vivi's backpack.

Liam stares at them while they are packing the car.

LIAM

Mommy, why can't we all ride together?

LOLA

Because baby, we're riding with Connor.

A black Escalade SUV curls around the corner of the street, and pulls up alongside the curb.

CONNOR, a gorgeous man with blue eyes and gelled up black hair, exits the car. He wears sunglasses, an unbuttoned polo, and board shorts. He is the epitome of cool.

Lupe stares at Connor nervously.

Connor approaches the group, his smile blindingly white. He lifts up his sunglasses and kisses Lola's cheek.

CONNOR

Hey, baby!

He crouches down and looks at Liam, who blatantly avoids his gaze.

CONNOR

Hey, Liam. How's it going?

Liam doesn't respond. Connor rubs his head and stands up.

He notices Lupe and Vivi. He approaches with a cordial smile, his hand outstretched.

CONNOR

Hey, Lupe. Good to finally meet you.

Lupe shakes his hand back with a thin smile.

LUPE

Likewise.

Vivi stares up at Connor with wide eyes. She shyly ducks behind her mother's legs. Lupe glances down at her daughter and brushes back a strand of her hair.

LUPE

This is Vivi. My daughter.

CONNOR

Hi Vivi. I hope you're ready to have some fun!

Connor looks at Lupe with a smile, placing his hands on his hips.

CONNOR

You sure you want to drive this ol' clunker up there? You can ride with us in the Escalade. It's climate controlled.

LUPE

Oh, no, we'll be good. While this ol' clunker isn't as fancy as an Escalade, it gets the job done.

CONNOR

Sure. Well, looking forward to this weekend. Weather's supposed to be good for boating.

Lupe nods. Over his shoulder, she can see Lola getting Liam buckled up in his car seat.

Lupe helps Vivi into her car seat, and then gets in her car.

She turns the key in the ignition. It won't start. The car keeps coughing and sputtering.

VIVI

Mommy, the car is broken.

LUPE

No, baby. It's not broken. It's just got a frog in its throat.

VIVI

Huh?

Lupe tries again to start the car. It won't work. She sighs heavily and leans her forehead against the steering wheel.

INT./EXT. CONNOR'S ESCALADE - DAY

Vivi and Liam excitedly bounce in their car seats, staring out the windows. Lupe is awkwardly sandwiched between the two of them.

Lola, who is sitting in the passenger seat, looks up in the rear view mirror at the kids. She smiles.

LOLA

Okay, guys. I spy, with my little eye... something blue.

VIVI

Billboard!

LIAM

Aww, Vivi, you're no fair! It was on your side of the road.

Vivi and Liam giggle. Lola smiles, rolling her eyes.

She reaches across the median and squeezes Connor's resting hand.

Lupe's gaze fixates on their hands. Her expression deflates, looking hollow.

EXT. CONNOR'S CABIN - FRONT YARD - DAY

The Escalade pulls up outside a long gravel driveway. A massive, luxurious cabin sits on stilts, high up among the trees. A massive porch wraps around the side of the house, overlooking a glistening blue lake below. It's the kind of cabin that people with old money would buy.

Vivi and Liam unbuckle themselves from their car seats and excitedly scramble out of the car.

LUPE

Hey! Kids, wait a minute!

LIAM

Vivi, I'm going to climb that tree!

VIVI

Not if I climb it first!

LUPE

Kids...

Lupe climbs out of the car, shaking her head. Lola places a reassuring hand on her shoulder.

LOLA

Let's let them get their energy out for a bit. I'll help you take your bags to your room.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - LUPE'S ROOM - DAY

Lupe opens the door to her bedroom. A fireplace sits in the back corner. Lola lifts her duffel bag and sets it onto the four poster bed.

LUPE

So I know that you said he was a lawyer, but is he also the son of an oil tycoon or something?

LOLA

I think his parents made some early investments in Apple or something like that. This is absolutely not his. It's the family's.

LUPE

Ahh.

LOLA

What's up?

Lupe shrugs her shoulders.

LUPE

Nothing, it's a lot to take in all at once. It's a gorgeous place.

LOLA

Yeah, it is. Reminds me of one of those bougie homes on HGTV. It's pretty but it's also like "Wow, okay, have you ever paid your taxes?" Oops. Don't tell Connor I said that.

Lupe laughs softly. She runs her fingers along the grains of wood in the walls, which are polished and glistening and smooth.

She examines her fingertips, as if inspecting for traces of dirt, but there is nothing.

Lola sits down on the bed, folding her hands on her lap.

LOLA

Hey, I hope you don't think that you're going to be the third wheel or anything. Like I said, this is Connor's party. He's inviting a ton of his Ivy League friends. I kind of invited you for the emotional support. Like, literally, expect me to cling to you the entire night.

LUPE

No, it's fine. Sorry. I'm just anxious.

Lola bites her lip. She opens her mouth, then closes it.

LUPE

What?

LOLA

Mateo said something the other day. Something about you getting phone calls?

LUPE

He said what?

LOLA

Phone calls? He said that you've been getting them a lot these past few months.

LUPE

O-oh. Well, it's nothing, it's just...

Connor suddenly appears in the doorway, a big smile on his face.

CONNOR

Hey, y'all. Settling in alright?

LOLA

Yeah, Connor.

CONNOR

I moved your bags into our room. Did

you get a chance to check it out?

LOLA

Oh, well, I was going to...

Lupe shakes her head. Lola notices this, and her eyes blink in surprise. She turns her attention back to Connor and smiles warmly at him.

LOLA

Actually, yeah, why don't you show me the room?

Lola walks out of the room with Connor.

Lupe takes another look at the massive lonely expanse that is her bedroom.

She sits down on the bed with a heavy sigh.

EXT. CONNOR'S CABIN - PORCH - NIGHT

The cabin has been transformed into the ideal party place. Tea lights are strung from the house's massive columns and into the trees.

An array of catering tables line the back wall of the house. They serve varying types of sea food and noodles.

The entire space is crowded with people, wearing fancy party clothes with labels from stores like Anthropologie and Burberry.

Lupe looks very out of place in a knee length Old Navy sundress. She stands in line, holding a massive dinner plate.

A smiling CATERER points to a hot tray full of crab legs.

CATERER

How many do you want?

LUPE

Oh. Um. Two?

CATERER

You can have more.

LUPE

Two should be fine... oh.

The caterer gives her three crab legs. With a nervous smile,

Lupe exits the line and returns to the table where Liam and Vivi sit.

They are dressed in their nicest clothes: Liam, a tux with board shorts, and Vivi, a gorgeous ruffled pink dress. Her hair is done in little curls, which she keeps touching.

VIVI

Mommy, I love my hair. It's so floofy.  
I feel just like a princess.

LUPE

You look beautiful, honey.

LIAM

Lupe, can I get more chow mein?

LUPE

Help yourself, guys. It's an open buffet.

VIVI

Why did you only get crab legs, Mommy?

LUPE

Oh, this is just round one. I'll go back for more.

LIAM

I want to try one!

Liam scrambles out of his seat and rushes over to the catering table with his plate. Vivi joins him.

Lupe attempts to take a bite of her crab leg.

LOLA

Lupe! Hey.

Lupe glances up and sees Lola walking towards her in a red open-backed maxi dress. She looks elegant, but her expression is reluctant; nervous. Lupe stares at her, aroused and surprised.

LUPE

Holy shit.

Lola blushes, biting her lip.

LOLA

Oh God. Is it too much?

LUPE

No, it's... wow. You look...

LOLA

Stupid? Because I feel stupid. This is so over-the-top.

LUPE

No, Lola. You look gorgeous.

Lola blushes and tucks back a strand of her hair.

LOLA

Can you smell the hairspray on me? It took forever for my hair to hold the curls.

LUPE

I can't smell anything.

Lola smiles.

LUPE

Where did you get that dress?

LOLA

Uhh, Connor got it for me. As a surprise. It's funny, it's his birthday, but he got me a present.

LUPE

What did you get for him?

LOLA

He told me that he didn't want anything, but I thought I would make him a card. Like I do for you and the kids' birthdays.

LUPE

I'm sure he'll love it.

LOLA

Lupe. Is everything okay? I mean, I just want...

LIAM

Mommy you look like a goddess!

Liam races up to his mother and gives her a hug. Lola smiles and kisses his cheek, ruffling his hair.

LOLA  
Trying a crab leg, huh?

LIAM  
Yeah!

LOLA  
Okay. Let me know if you can't finish it; that's a lot of food.

LIAM  
Yeah but I'm a big boy, Mommy!

LOLA  
You are!

Liam takes a seat. Vivi returns to the table and sits on Lupe's lap.

LOLA  
I'm going to go get some food, and then I'll come back and...

CONNOR (OS)  
Lola! Come over here! I've got some people I want you to meet.

The family of four turns in the direction of Connor, who is surrounded by smartly dressed women and men with hipster facial hair.

Connor holds a bottle of Stella Artois. He motions for Lola to come over.

Lola glances back at them. Lupe smiles reassuringly.

LUPE  
It's okay. Go say hi.

LOLA  
Alright. But I'll be back in a few, okay?

LUPE  
Okay.

Lupe watches as Lola strides over to the group. Lola smiles politely at everyone who is chatting with her, and Connor hugs her side, his hand placed protectively on her hip.

Lola laughs and leans in closer to Connor's side, resting her

head against his shoulder.

Lupe frowns as she continues to watch them.

She picks up her crab leg and snaps it in half. A satisfying CRUNCH is heard.

EXT. CONNOR'S CABIN - PORCH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lupe walks across the porch, a bored expression on her face. She takes a sip from her lemon drop and rolls her eyes at a party-goer's obnoxiously loud laughter.

LOLA (OS)

This is my best friend, Lupe. Lupe,  
come over!

Lupe looks up and sees Lola sitting on a couch with Connor and his friends.

Lola pats the seat beside her. Lupe reluctantly takes a seat, offering a small smile to the row of people sitting before her.

Lola, a little intoxicated, drapes an arm around Lupe's shoulder and addresses the crowd.

LOLA

Let me tell y'all something, this  
bitch literally saved my life.

The crowd laughs, and Lola does too, but she continues.

LOLA

No, no, seriously. I had no one. No  
one. But who did I meet but her?

A gorgeous MODEL smiles warmly at Lupe.

MODEL

What do you do for a living, Lupe?

LUPE

I'm a sous chef at Mateo's Menagerie  
in downtown Minneapolis.

A few of them gasp, their eyes wide with shock.

MODEL

Bitch, no way. You work at the  
Menagerie? I love their braised spare

ribs. I ate there so much my trainer told me to stop.

LUPE

Yeah. Everyone's crazy about the spare ribs. I was the one who developed the red wine balsamic-vinegar reduction for them.

LOLA

Oh please. You developed that *entire* recipe. Even Mateo says that you did it. See, the benefits of living with a chef, y'all, is that she brings home all these different ingredients and just throws them together. You're going to get fat, but you're going to be happy as hell.

Lupe laughs nervously. She can see Vivi and Liam lingering in the background, as if waiting to ask her a question. Lola doesn't notice them.

LOLA

And heck, this is just what Lupe can do with *money*, mmmkay? Like, when we were dirt poor, she found creative ways to make mac and cheese fancy. She grew her own herb garden on our windowsill. The girl bakes her own breadcrumbs, I mean, holy shit. Holy shit, am I right?

Connor takes a sip from his bottle and smiles, looking vaguely irritated.

CONNOR

It's going to be tough for me to beat that when we move into together.

Lupe stops, her eyes wide with shock. She looks between Lola and Connor.

LUPE

Wait, what?

Lola smiles and waves a hand dismissively at Connor.

LOLA

Oh pfft, we're not doing that anytime soon.

Liam bites his lip, his eyes wide with shock and bubbling up with tears. He hiccups, and quickly runs away.

VIVI

Liam?! Liam, wait, come back!

Lupe stands up immediately, and moves away from the crowd.

LUPE

Liam! Liam!

VIVI

Mommy, where is Liam going?

LUPE

I don't know, baby.

Lupe scoops Vivi into her arms. Balancing her on her hip, she pushes through the crowd.

She keeps calling his name. As soon as she spots him, he disappears into the seemingly endless waves of people.

Lupe sprints down the steps of the porch, and into the yard.

EXT. CONNOR'S CABIN - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

As Lupe reaches the last step, she spots Liam, sprinting off into the darkness of the forest.

LUPE

LIAM!

Lupe weaves through the crowded rows of Mercedes and BMWs to the edge of the yard.

She peers through the darkness, but she can see nothing.

Lola comes sprinting down the stairs with Connor and a few of his friends. They spy Lupe and rush over.

LOLA

Where did he go?

LUPE

H-he just ran off into the woods!

LOLA

Okay, let's go find him.

Lupe blinks rapidly, her chest heaving. Lola gently squeezes

her hand.

LOLA

Hey, Connor, can you go and get some flashlights? Does anyone have any flashlights? We need some, right now. Let's go.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Armed with a flashlight, Lola leads the charge. Lupe trails behind, holding onto Vivi's hand.

They can see other flashlights waving around in the background and people screaming out Liam's name.

Lupe yells out Liam's name repeatedly, and Vivi joins in as well.

They wander around the forest, ducking underneath tree branches and stepping over rocks.

Progressively, their dresses get dirtier. The curls in Vivi and Lola's hair become loose; flat.

Lupe's face becomes progressively more panicked, her voice strained and hoarse with tears.

LUPE

Liam! Liam, please! Please come back!

Her voice cracks, and she starts hyperventilating. Her knees quake, and she collapses to the ground. Vivi squeals in shock, jumping away from her mother.

Lupe sobs, her body wracked with pain. Lola crouches down in front of her, setting the flashlight to the side.

VIVI

What's wrong with Mommy?

LOLA

She'll be fine in just a few moments, baby.

Lola tucks Lupe's hair behind her ears. She squeezes her hands tightly.

LOLA

Lupe. This is not your fault.

LUPE

B-but I was supposed to be watching him!

LOLA

No, Lupe. We're going to find him. Just take a few deep breaths with me, okay?

LUPE

We need to keep moving.

LOLA

Take a breath with me first, okay? Ready? Just inhale. Now exhale.

Lupe practices her breathing, and Lola guides her along. Finally, Lupe's chest relaxes.

Lola smiles at her.

LOLA

Okay. Let's go find our boy.

A shout rings out through the woods.

MAN

Found him! I found him! He's okay!

Lupe and Lola both sigh with relief, their shoulders slumping forward.

EXT. CONNOR'S CABIN - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

The adults all reconvene in the space in front of the house. Some of the cars have already left.

A MAN with a hipster mustache and the model lead Liam out of the forest by his hand.

Lola bristles angrily, glaring at Liam. Liam sees her look and gulps.

LIAM

I'm going to go to bed.

LOLA

Not yet. What do you say?

LIAM

I'm sorry.

LOLA

That's right. Now you can go to bed,  
and in the morning, we're going to  
discuss this.

Liam scrambles up the steps and into the house.

Lupe stares at the ground, wiping a few wayward tears from  
her eyes.

MODEL

What's wrong, Lupe?

LOLA

She's just a little tired. I think  
we're going to turn in for the night.

CONNOR

Lola...

LOLA

Let me put the kids to bed, Connor.  
You guys have fun, I'll be back out in  
a little bit.

Lola puts her arm around Lupe and leads her into the house.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - LUPE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lupe sits down on the bed, a towel around her shoulders. Her  
hair is damp and stringy, as if she just got out of the  
shower.

Lola smiles at her.

LOLA

Hey, are you feeling better?

LUPE

A bit. I haven't had a panic attack in  
so long, I forgot... how draining they  
are.

She sighs heavily and buries her face in her hands.

LOLA

Lupe. I'm so sorry.

LUPE

Why are you apologizing?

LOLA

Because I should have been the one watching Liam. I should have been sitting with you. Then this wouldn't have happened.

Lupe shakes her head. She looks at Lola intently.

LUPE

You're thinking about moving in with Connor?

LOLA

He brought it up once or twice.

LUPE

You've only been dating for two, what, maybe three months?

LOLA

I know.

LUPE

You sure you should be rushing into something like that?

LOLA

It was just an idea that he brought up.

LUPE

Would you move in with him?

LOLA

I mean, maybe! Yeah, maybe down the line, I would.

LUPE

But what about our house? What about the kids?

LOLA

Lupe, I'm not actually thinking of doing this right now.

LUPE

Are you in love with him?

Lola blinks, shocked.

LOLA

What?

LUPE

Are you in love with him?

Lola takes a minute to consider this. She bites her lip and shakes her head.

LOLA

No. Not right now. That'd be too fast. And like I said, I'm not that young or stupid anymore.

Lola looks at her, hurt and disappointed.

LOLA

You really think that I'd let myself get carried away that quickly? You honestly think I'm that stupid?

LUPE

I don't know, Lola. I just need you to be upfront with me about it.

LOLA

It's between me and Connor.

LUPE

No, I *know* that. I just mean that if you're thinking about moving out, then I need to know, because there's no way that I can afford our house on my own.

LOLA

Lupe. You don't need to worry about that right now.

Lola sighs.

LOLA

I'm sorry, is this too weird for you? Do you really want to be here right now?

LUPE

Yes, I do.

LOLA

Because I don't want you to feel obligated to stay if you're not going

to be able to relax and enjoy yourself.

LUPE

I don't feel obligated, Lola. I want to stay.

Lola exhales, nodding.

LOLA

Okay. Well. I put the kids to bed. I'm feeling a little drained so I think I'm going to hit the hay myself. You should probably get some rest, too.

Lupe nods.

Lola stands and exits the room. She closes the door behind her.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lupe walks out of her room and down the hallway, rubbing her eyes tiredly.

She enters the open-air kitchen, bathed in moonlight from the skylight overhead.

She fumbles through the cabinets, and grabs a glass from one.

As she turns on the faucet from the sink, she overhears a voice. She fills up her glass halfway before pausing and turning off the faucet.

She stands there at the sink, listening.

CONNOR

... I can come and see you next weekend. How does that sound? Forget the cabin. We can get on a plane and go to Malibu. First class.

Lupe's eyes widen with shock.

She carries her glass through the hallways, following the voice.

She finds Connor standing on the back porch, facing the lake. He holds his phone up to his ear.

CONNOR

... Yeah. Yeah, babe. No worries.

Lupe's eyebrows narrow. She lifts her fist and rapidly knocks on door frame.

CONNOR

Shit!

Connor jumps, and his phone falls from his hands. It tumbles over the side of the porch railing.

Slowly, Connor turns back to Lupe. His warm chivalrous expression is gone; instead a terrifying rage surfaces on his face.

CONNOR

What the hell? What do you need?

LUPE

Who's the babe?

CONNOR

What?

LUPE

Babe. The babe you're going to see in Malibu. Who is she?

Connor laughs, shaking his head.

CONNOR

I have no idea what you're talking about.

LUPE

Really? You're going to play that game with me?

Connor scoffs, rolling his eyes. He leans back against the railing of the porch, casual; calm and collected.

Lupe smirks, taking a sip of water from her glass.

LUPE

You know it's funny, men like you think you're so smart when you lie. My children are better liars than you.

CONNOR

Your children?

LUPE

My children. Yes. You heard me.

CONNOR

I wonder how Lola would feel if she heard you calling Liam yours.

LUPE

I wonder how Lola would feel if I told her you were going to fuck some bimbo in Malibu next weekend.

Connor laughs again.

LUPE

Hey. Don't fuck with me, Connor. Whose word is she going to take? Mine, the person who she's been living with for six years? Or you, the smarmy lawyer she's been dating for two months?

CONNOR

You want to play that game? I got to say, Lupe, I find it so funny that this fiery side of you comes out after you spent the whole day moping and having little meltdowns. You seem like a really stable woman to raise children with.

Lupe flinches, her eyes wide with surprise.

CONNOR

Oh yeah, don't be surprised when I throw punches back. I can be just as snappy and funny as you, Lupe. Tell you what, when I go fuck this bimbo in Malibu, I'll give Lola a freebie and let her fuck you.

LUPE

Excuse me?

CONNOR

Oh please. You saw her in that dress tonight and you were practically drooling. You're not slick.

Lupe searches for words, but is unable to find them. Connor laughs.

CONNOR

Yeah, I bet you think you are. But any dumbass could take a look at your situation and know something's not right. Well, except for Lola. She apparently hasn't figured out your game yet. Which... wait a minute, I haven't figured it out either. What's your plan to win Lola over, exactly? Or did you even get that far?

LUPE

You...

CONNOR

Really, it's just sad. You're Lola's security blanket personified. But you're not even smart enough to take advantage of that.

Connor approaches Lupe confidently; his eyes menacing.

CONNOR

You're getting so mad at me, Lupe, for doing the things that you want to be do with her. But you know who you really should be mad at? Yourself. Because you're too chickenshit to own up to the fact that you are just dying to sleep with Lola.

Lupe backs up against the wall, her eyes wide with shock and fear. She drops her glass of water and it spills everywhere.

She squares her shoulders, glaring back up at him. Connor smiles, placing a hand on the wall above her, blocking her pathway of escape.

CONNOR

I'll let you in on a secret. Lola's pussy? Probably an 8/10. She has a little bit of a tummy, got some stretchmarks, but damn if she isn't willing to do some freaky shit in the sheets.

Lupe slaps him fiercely, seething.

LUPE

Pig.

Connor touches his jaw, turning back to face her. He smirks.

CONNOR

If you tell Lola what I'm doing in Malibu next weekend, I'm just going to tell her how you feel. And then it's all over for you and your daughter.

Lupe shoves him backwards. Fists clenched, she heads back into the house.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lupe marches down the hallway and approaches a set of double doors. She almost knocks on the door, when she hears the sound of someone crying.

VIVI (OS)

Mommy...?

Lupe turns and sees Vivi teetering down the hallway in her pajamas. She sobs, rubbing her eyes.

VIVI

Mommy, you weren't in your room...!

Lupe rushes over to her and crouches down.

LUPE

What's the matter, mija?

VIVI

I had a nightmare. Can I sleep with you?

LUPE

Oh...

Lupe glances warily back at Lola's door, but shakes her head. She turns her attention back to Vivi and smiles warmly, kissing her daughter's forehead.

LUPE

Yes, baby. Come on. Let's go back to sleep.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - LUPE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Vivi curls up against Lupe's side in bed. She snores softly.

Lupe lays awake, staring angrily up at the ceiling. She

strokes her daughter's hair repeatedly.

She glances at the time and sees that it reads 3 in the morning.

She turns her attention back to the ceiling, and wills herself to fall asleep.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - LUPE'S ROOM - DAY

Lupe is stirred awake by the sounds of trilling birds.

She glances next to her, and sees that Vivi is gone.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe walks down the hallway and sees that Liam and Vivi are sitting at the table. A HOUSEKEEPER flips chocolate chip pancakes on the griddle.

VIVI

Mommy! Connor says that we're going out on the boat today.

LUPE

Where's Lola?

LIAM

My mom is getting ready.

INT. CONNOR'S CABIN - BATHROOM - DAY

Lola sits in front of a vanity, applying facial moisturizer. Her hair is pinned up in a towel.

She taps her phone and changes the song playing on her Spotify app.

Lupe bursts into the room. Lola glances up in the mirror, smiling wryly.

LOLA

Hey. I thought you were Liam. He's the one who interrupts me in the bathroom.

LUPE

I need to talk to you.

LOLA

Oh good. I had something that I wanted to talk to you about too. I felt like

we maybe didn't end last night's conversation on the best note, and I just...

Lupe sits on the edge of the Jacuzzi tub. She rubs her hands together, and exhales sharply.

LUPE  
Connor has a side chick.

LOLA  
What?

Lola laughs as if this is ridiculous. Lupe shakes her head.

LUPE  
I went up to get a glass of water last night, and I heard him talking on the phone to some woman. They're going to go Malibu next weekend.

Lola blinks, staring at Lupe. She shakes her head.

LUPE  
He lost his phone. I scared him, and it fell over the edge of the porch railing. He's going to probably lie and try to tell you something else, but—

LOLA  
— see, this is what I wanted to talk to you about.

LUPE  
What? Wait, why?

Lola closes her eyes, and exhales slowly.

LOLA  
I think you're jealous about Connor.

LUPE  
Jealous? Wait, what?

LOLA  
See, because last night you were freaking out about me moving out of the house, and asking if I was in love with him and...

LUPE

Lola, Lola, Lola. That is completely besides the point of what I'm trying to tell you right now.

LOLA

Is it? Because after having a meltdown last night, you're trying to tell me that my boyfriend is cheating on me.

Lupe stares at Lola in complete shock. She scoffs in disbelief.

LUPE

W-what? You honestly think that I would...

LOLA

I mean, I'm not blaming you for anything.

LUPE

Whoa, wait a second-

LOLA

- I just need you to be honest with me. And lately I feel like you haven't been.

LUPE

Honest with you? Wait, you think I've been dishonest?

LOLA

Yes. A bit.

LUPE

With what?

LOLA

The phone calls?

LUPE

What phone calls?

Lola sighs, frustrated. She pinches the bridge of her nose between her two fingers and shakes her head.

LOLA

See, this is what I'm talking about. You should know what I'm trying to

say. Mateo knows about it, and yet I don't?

LUPE  
What phone calls?

LOLA  
Mateo says that someone keeps calling you. All day and all night. And I've been trying to bring it up with you, but you've been dismissing me.

LUPE  
It's nothing.

LOLA  
See? Like that. That's you dismissing me. Dismissing me over a very valid concern that I have—

LUPE  
— If it was important, I would've told you about it by now.

LOLA  
What?!

Lola is angry now. She removes the towel from around her hair and throws it on the floor.

She stands up and places her hands on her hips.

LOLA  
Lupe, there is someone harassing you with phone calls! And stalking you! We have two small children at home, you can't just hide this shit from me!

LUPE  
Lola. No one is stalking me; I'm not being threatened. It's nothing.

LOLA  
Then why won't you just tell me what the fuck is going on so I can stop worrying about it?

Lupe remains silent. She swallows, and wrings her hands. Lola scoffs, shaking her head. She paces back and forth.

LOLA

This is what I'm talking about. This is what's really unfair. You're telling me that my boyfriend is untrustworthy, but you're doing shady shit, and avoiding my questions, and I just... I mean what the fuck? Is this because I'm dating Connor?

LUPE

I didn't realize that you felt this way.

Lola starts sniffing. A few tears trickle down her cheeks but she keeps talking.

LOLA

How could I not feel this way, Lupe? You're clearly unhappy! And weird shit is going on and you're not talking to me about it. You literally had a panic attack last night, and you haven't had one in years. It's like I'm on the outside looking in and I fucking hate it. As if you haven't pushed me away enough already.

Lupe's eyes narrow, but she addresses Lola in a calm, tense tone of voice.

LUPE

Pushed you away? What the hell are you talking about?

LOLA

You're not happy about me dating Connor. And you haven't been, right?

LUPE

No.

Lola waves her hands in the air wildly.

LOLA

Okay, so why didn't you say anything about it?

LUPE

Because I wanted you to be happy!

LOLA

I can't be happy when you're clearly resentful of me for moving on with my life. Lupe. Lupe, please...

She sits down, squeezing her hands tightly. She stares at her fiercely, emotionally.

LOLA

Are you attracted to me?

LUPE

What? That has nothing to do with this—

LOLA

— it has everything to do with it. And I want you to know that I'm not mad. I'm not mad. You were really young when you got into a relationship with Rodrigo, and I know that your family was super Catholic, and...

LUPE

Do *not* bring up Rodrigo. Don't.

Lola pauses, takes a breath, and nods.

LOLA

Okay. I won't. But Lupe, if you have feelings for me, you just need to tell me.

Lupe scoffs, shaking her head.

LUPE

Why? Why is that so goddamn important to you right now? So that you can tell me that you don't feel the same? So that you can tell me that I'm a creep? So that you can tell me that you want Vivi and I to move out?

LOLA

No! You know that I love you, I just—

LUPE

— you just what, Lola? You just want an excuse to give me when you leave?

Lola stares back at her, shaking her head. Lupe removes her

hands from her grasp.

LOLA  
So it's true.

LUPE  
Oh my God.

Lupe snuffles, wiping the tears falling from her eyes. She glares at Lola.

LOLA  
Lupe, I just wanted to...

LUPE  
What? What did you want? To tell me that it's not going to work out because you're straight? You know, I think it's funny that you're *just* realizing this, after we spent three years of our lives sleeping in the same bed when we had no money. After we spent *six* years raising our children together. After we bought a house together; after we built this life together. You know why Liam's been upset? Do you have any clue?

Lola narrows her eyes.

LUPE  
He is terrified that you're going to leave me and Vivi. He is terrified of it. All of us are. And it's scary for me too, because I have no idea what your game is...

LOLA  
You think that I'm playing games with you?

LUPE  
Well, I really hope that you aren't.

Lupe sobs, wiping the tears from her eyes.

LUPE  
This was never a game to me, Lola. This was us. I love you; I'm so in love with you, and I don't know how you haven't realized it until now,

but...

She hiccups, shaking her head.

LUPE

... I can't force you to stay with me.

LOLA

Why didn't you ever say anything?

LUPE

Because I was worried that my whole world would come crashing down on me. And that's happened before, and I didn't want it to happen again. Pretending that I just wanted to be your best friend is easier than telling the truth.

LOLA

It's easier to live a lie than tell the truth?

LUPE

What do you want me to say?

Lupe wipes the tears from her eyes. Lola exhales, closing her eyes.

LOLA

I think... I think I need a break.

Lupe's voice drops to a whisper, her eyes wide with shock.

LUPE

What?

LOLA

I need some time to think. Alone. Can you... just... take Vivi and go home?

LUPE

You want me to go home? But what about what I said about Connor?

LOLA

I'll talk to Connor, but I literally don't think I can be in the same space with you after you just admitted to lying to me for six years.

Lola's voice breaks, and she sobs. She covers her mouth and shakes her head.

LOLA

I just can't do this right now.

INT./EXT. DRIVER'S CAR - DAY

Depressed, Lupe sits in the backseat of a car, holding Vivi's hand.

A DRIVER from Connor's estate glances up at the mirror every so often.

VIVI

Mommy, what happened? Why aren't Lola and Liam coming home with us?

Lupe doesn't respond.

EXT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - DAY

Lupe unloads the bags from the back of the car. She closes the lid of the trunk.

VIVI

Mommy, there're old people at our house.

Lupe looks up and notices a Maserati parked in the driveway.

Then she sees a middle-aged (closer to elderly) Latino couple standing on the porch. They are wearing pressed, monochrome outfits. They turn to look at Lupe and their eyes widen in shock. It is ESTER and SEGUNDO.

VIVI

Mommy, who are they?

Lupe gulps. She takes her daughter's hand and squeezes it once, then twice.

She approaches the walkway.

ESTER

Hello, Lupe. May we come in?

EXT. CONNOR'S CABIN - FRONT YARD - DAY

Lola looks up from underneath the cabin porch, where Connor stood just last night. She wears a shawl over her swimsuit,

and crawls among the rocks and twigs, as if in search of something.

CONNOR (OS)

Lola! What are you doing? We've got to go!

LOLA

In a minute!

She removes her phone from her purse and dials Connor.

She doesn't hear anything, but among the green foliage, she sees a white screen flashing.

She approaches it, and picks it up. It's Connor's cellphone, it's screen horribly cracked, but otherwise intact and functional.

LIAM (OS)

Mommy!

LOLA (OS)

In a minute!

Lola clicks open the message icon and scrolls through Connor's texts.

She coolly rolls her eyes, and pockets the cell phone.

EXT. CONNOR'S YACHT - DAY

Lola strides down the boardwalk at a confident pace. Her duffel bag and Liam's backpack are slung over her shoulder.

Liam sits on the couch on the yacht, looking confused.

Connor removes his sunglasses, looking a bit frustrated.

CONNOR

What's all this? Where have you been?

LOLA

I found your cellphone.

She smacks it down on beside the boat's steering wheel. Connor's eyebrows raise.

CONNOR

Oh. So you did.

Lola crosses her arms. Connor looks at her sheepishly.

Lola turns to her son.

LOLA

Liam. Go back to the cabin and wait  
for me there, okay?

Hearing the icy tone in his mother's voice, Liam nods and  
races back up to the cabin.

Connor shakes his head. He reaches forward and tries to touch  
Lola's arm, but she snatches it out of his grasp.

CONNOR

Take it easy. Look, this isn't... it's  
not that big of a deal, okay? I was  
seeing her before I was seeing you.

LOLA

Oh great, so I'm the side chick?

CONNOR

No. You're my girlfriend.

LOLA

If I'm your girlfriend you have no  
business fucking other women.

She shakes her head.

LOLA

Jesus. Lupe was right. I knew Lupe was  
right, but I figured I'd give you the  
benefit of the doubt. Give you a  
chance to defend yourself. Don't know  
what I expected.

CONNOR

Like you haven't been sleeping with  
her.

LOLA

Who? Lupe?

CONNOR

Who else would I be talking about  
other than the pathetic woman who is  
completely and totally obsessed with  
you?

Lola glares at Connor.

LOLA

Don't you *dare* talk shit about her in front of my face.

Connor smiles smugly, glaring back at her.

CONNOR

You know, Lola, maybe this is my problem. You're not ready to commit because your heart's already in it with someone else. Can you really blame me?

Lola hesitates, then her eyes widen. She squares her shoulders and faces Connor with a newfound sense of confidence.

LOLA

You're right.

CONNOR

Wait, I'm right?

LOLA

You're right. This is a total waste of my time, and I'm acting like I'm too stupid to know better. But I do. I may not know entirely what I want, but I know it isn't this.

She races off of the boat.

Connor remains on the boat, completely dumbfounded.

CONNOR

Hey! What the hell? It's my birthday, you know! You can't dump me on my birthday!

Lola turns around and looks at him, laughing breathlessly, her eyes shining.

LOLA

Your birthday was yesterday and also, I don't care!

She continues up the hill, calling out for Liam.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

Lupe sits across from Ester and Segundo. She hides her trembling hands underneath the kitchen table.

Vivi is playing in the background with her toys, playfully talking to herself. Ester watches her, a loving smile on her face.

She turns back to Lupe and sips from her mug of coffee.

ESTER

The private investigator gave us your address a long time ago, but it took us some time to get our papers together so that we could come visit.

LUPE

You're still in Mexico?

ESTER

Oh, no. We moved to Costa Rica about five years ago. Mexico... that was where we raised Rodrigo. It was just... too painful to stay there.

Lupe nods. Segundo stares at her, almost like a lawyer cross-examining a witness on the stand.

SEGUNDO

How much does she know about Rodrigo?

LUPE

Enough.

SEGUNDO

What does that mean?

Lupe's eyes flash. She speaks in a harsh, bitter whisper.

LUPE

Just... not too much. I showed her pictures. I tell her stories about him. She knows he's dead. She doesn't know that he killed himself.

Ester sighs, but is unperturbed by Lupe's tone.

ESTER

Well of course not. That's not something that you tell a small child.

But she doesn't know about us? About your parents?

LUPE

As I mentioned once before, my parents kicked me out of the house when they found out I was pregnant. And you had both moved back to Mexico, and I was under the impression that I would never see you again.

ESTER

Well, you wouldn't have, if we hadn't found out about Vivianna. I find it odd that you never contacted us and told us. We would have given you money to raise her.

Segundo shakes his head.

SEGUNDO

Anything. We would've given anything to know that Rodrigo had a daughter.

LUPE

Rodrigo tried to tell you. It's why he wanted to leave Mexico. You didn't listen.

ESTER

Really, Lupe, are you going to hold that over our heads? Isn't that a bit callous?

LUPE

As callous as you treated your own son?

SEGUNDO

You were children. Dumb children. And my son had too bright of a future to be sleeping with the daughter of a migrant worker.

ESTER

His grades started slipping when he was with you.

LUPE

I guess his grades were more important than his own life.

ESTER

How dare you!

LUPE

You forced him to move back to Mexico when he *knew* I was pregnant, and he killed himself when you wouldn't let him come back.

Vivi raises her head, concerned, but not entirely sure what's going on. Lupe glances at her for a brief moment, then fixates her gaze on Ester and Segundo.

LUPE

I was never going to let you have a relationship with Vivi. Here you go. You've met her. But there is no way in hell I will ever let you have a relationship with her.

SEGUNDO

We understand that you're angry, Lupe.

LUPE

That is a vapid understatement, Segundo.

ESTER

But we want to offer our help. We can pay for Vivi to be educated in a private school. If she's Rodrigo's daughter—

LUPE

— *IF?* —

ESTER

— then I'm sure she's just as gifted and talented as he was. You want to cultivate that. You don't want her to end up like you, do you?

LUPE

What do you mean —

Segundo holds up a hand in front of his wife, as if to simultaneously shield her and dismiss Lupe's aggressive tone.

SEGUNDO

You've done a good job in raising her. For a woman with no formal education,

to be living in a house like this?  
 You've done well for yourself. But  
 we're still concerned over some other  
 things that our investigator told us  
 about.

LUPE

Like what?

ESTER

Like the fact that you share this  
 house with another adult woman and her  
 own son?

LUPE

What's so wrong about that?

SEGUNDO

You might think us old-fashioned, but  
 it is of our belief that—

ESTER

— old fashioned? It is a *sin*. I am not  
 letting my grandchild be raised in a  
 house of sin!

LUPE

You have no right to take my daughter  
 away from me.

ESTER

Oh, I'm sure you believe that. But  
 ultimately that's up for the courts to  
 determine.

Lupe stands up and slams her hands on the table.

LUPE

You *cannot* take my daughter from me! I  
 would rather die than give her to you!

VIVI

Mommy, what's happening? Who is taking  
 me away?

Lupe's body is racked with sobs, but she stares down  
 Rodrigo's parents with a terrifying, unbreakable ferocity.

LUPE

You hurt your son in more ways than  
 you could ever imagine! Six years

later and you're still acting like everyone else is responsible but you!

ESTER

Our son's life was on track before we hired your mother to work at our house, puta!

LUPE

Oh, you're going to call me a puta now? Well I'd rather be a puta than be a heartless fucking bitch!

Vivi starts to cry as the commotion grows and the conversation between the adults grows more aggressive and vicious. Segundo begins to slam his hands on the table.

The front door clicks open, but no one stops shouting.

Vivi, sobbing, waddles over to the door and reaches for someone.

Lola enters the house, holding Vivi on her hip, and clutching Liam's hand.

Ester slaps Lupe across the face with a resounding smack. Lupe yelps in pain. Vivi and Liam scream.

Lola immediately sets Vivi down on the ground and lets go of Liam's hand.

She charges toward Ester and grabs her by the arm. Ester tries to shake her off, but Lola tightens her grip.

Her stare is murderous.

LOLA

You want to try that? In my home? In front of my kids?

Ester and Segundo stare at her in shock.

LOLA

You want me to call the cops and let them explain how you assaulted a woman in her own home, in front of her child?

ESTER

Assaulted...?

LOLA  
You hit her. I saw you do it. Don't  
play dumb with me.

Lola looks back and forth between the two of them.

LOLA  
So you want to talk to the cops? Do  
you?

The couple visibly deflate, ashamed and afraid. Segundo bites his lip and tries to speak.

SEGUNDO  
I am terribly sorry that things got  
out of hand, but you see, we were—

Lola grabs a broom leaning against the wall. She smacks it on the table and holds it like a baseball bat.

LOLA  
Look at me and tell me if I give a  
shit. Go ahead.

She approaches them slowly, and they back towards the door. But this isn't fast enough for Lola. She smacks the broom against the wall and causes some of the pictures to fall down.

LOLA  
You have until the count of three to  
get the hell out of my house, or I'm  
going to find a baseball bat instead.

They scramble for the door. Vivi and Liam are frightened, but somewhat impressed when the couple runs out of the door.

Lola stands in the doorway and watches them scramble into their car. They peel out, tires squealing.

Liam pokes his head out the door. Lola tousles his hair.

LOLA  
Did you get the license plate number,  
Liam?

LIAM  
Yeah, Mommy. Right here.

He offers her a slice of paper with a number scrawled on it in crayon.

LOLA  
Good job.

Lola takes the paper from him with a heavy sigh and sets down the broom.

She turns her attention back to Lupe, whose cheek is now bruised.

VIVI  
Mommy, are you okay?

Lupe snuffles and nods.

LOLA  
Kids, can you give us a minute,  
please? And close the door.

Vivi and Liam nod and go to their bedrooms. They close the door. A few moments later they crack it open and stick their heads out.

Lola grabs Lupe's shoulders and gently forces her to sit down into the chair. Lupe is shaking.

LOLA  
Who were they?

LUPE  
Rodrigo's parents.

LOLA  
Those were the people that were  
calling you?

Lupe nods, biting her lip. She snuffles.

Lola sits down next to her and touches her face, examining the bruise.

LOLA  
That's why you didn't want to talk  
about it.

LUPE  
I thought if I ignored them they would  
go away. But they showed up today and  
I was too scared to tell them to  
leave. I froze, I just kept thinking  
about everything that they did to  
Rodrigo and...

Lupe sobs, burying her face in her hands.

LUPE

And they wanted to take Vivi from me,  
and...

LOLA

Lupe. They're crazy. They don't have a  
right to take Vivi away from you.

LUPE

I know, I know it's irrational, I  
just...

LOLA

No one is going to take Vivianna away  
from you, Lupe. Ever.

LUPE

I know.

Lupe continues to sniffle. Lola reaches across and tucks a  
strand of her hair behind her ear.

Lupe's eyes suddenly widen, and she looks up at Lola in  
shock.

LUPE

Wait a minute. Why are you here? How  
did you get back here so quickly?

LOLA

Well, uh... shortly after you left, I  
found the phone. And the texts. And I  
confronted him about it and...

Lola runs a hand through her hair, exhaling with a huff.

LOLA

... well, he came clean. Pretty  
easily, too.

LUPE

So you had him drive you home?

LOLA

Oh no, I called an Uber.

LUPE

An Uber?!

LOLA  
Don't be mad. It was like a three  
hundred dollar Uber.

LUPE  
*LOLA.*

LOLA  
I will admit that this was NOT my  
smartest decision. But I will be  
covering the cost entirely.

LUPE  
Oh my God...

LOLA  
I should've just left with you but I  
was too... stupidly upset to think.

Lola shakes her head.

LIAM (OS)  
Vivi, stop pushing me! I can't hear  
them!

VIVI (OS)  
Quiet!

Lola and Lupe smirk at each other, and then start laughing.  
Vivi and Liam run into the room.

VIVI  
Why are you laughing? What's so funny?

LUPE  
You two. You're just goofy goobers.

Lupe lifts Vivi onto her lap and hugs her tightly. Guilt  
surfaces on her face.

LUPE  
Honey, I'm so, so sorry.

LIAM  
Who were those people, Lupe?

Lupe exhales slowly, looking at her children. She touches  
Vivi's face and strokes her cheek.

LUPE  
Those were Vivi's grandparents. Her

father's parents.

VIVI

I thought grandmas were supposed to be nice.

LIAM

Yeah. That lady looked like Edna from *The Incredibles*. But like, a whole lot meaner.

Lupe pulls Vivi onto her lap, hugging her tightly.

LUPE

They are *not* nice people. And that's why you've never met them, Vivi. And... I never wanted you to meet them.

VIVI

I don't think I wanted to meet them either. They're scary.

She reaches up and touches her mother's cheeks, patting them gently.

VIVI

Don't cry, Mommy. Don't cry. It's all okay now.

Lupe smiles, the tears immediately rushing to her eyes again.

VIVI

Mommy, I just said don't cry.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - VIVI AND LIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Vivi and Liam sleep in their beds, mouths open, snoring softly.

A rotating nightlight flickers, bathing the room in soft pink light.

Lupe stands in the doorway, watching the kids. She smiles and closes the door.

INT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lupe walks down the hallway, and sees that Lola sitting at the kitchen table. She bounces one leg anxiously, her hands are folded together across her lap.

Lupe stops, and stares at her for a moment.

Lola looks up.

LOLA

What?

LUPE

I don't know.

Lupe shuffles in place, averting her eyes.

LUPE

I guess I feel like I should be telling you that I'm sorry, but I'm also kind of not, because he was a piece of shit, and I think that you deserve better.

LOLA

Did you literally just say "Sorry not sorry" to me getting dumped?

LUPE

I mean when you put it that way it sounds really bad.

Lola laughs, shaking her head. She stands up and migrates over to the refrigerator.

She reaches inside and withdraws two bottles of hard cider.

She heads over to the sliding door, and glances over her shoulder at Lupe.

LOLA

Come sit with me?

EXT. LOLA AND LUPE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lupe, carrying a tray of chips and guac, pushes open the door with her foot.

Lola sits in a patio chair, sipping from a beer and staring off into space.

LOLA

You didn't have to make snacks, you know.

LUPE

I know I didn't have to, but the avocados were going to go bad otherwise.

Lupe scoops a massive mound of guac onto a chip, taking a bite. Lola offers her the other hard cider.

Lupe sips from it. She lays across the chaise lounge and stares up at a night sky full of stars.

LOLA

It's a beautiful night.

LUPE

Yeah. It is. If you discount the light pollution and everything.

LOLA

Light pollution sounds like a totally made up phrase.

LUPE

It's not.

LOLA

I know that it's not, but I mean, come on. How can light pollute anything? Light is mass-less, right?

LUPE

I think it's just a fancy way of saying that if an area gets too bright, birds can't see and they smack into buildings and die.

LOLA

Then we should call it "Light Induced... Bird Vision Impairment."

Lupe laughs.

LUPE

That sounds worse.

LOLA

It does.

LUPE

Are you... are you feeling okay?

LOLA

I'm feeling a lot of things right now  
and I'm not sure if I would describe  
any of those as being "okay."

Lupe flinches, taking another sip from her cider.

Lola sits up, turning to face her. She rubs her hands  
together and her expression is conflicted; sad.

LOLA

I think I've been a complete asshole  
to you. Like... like I should have  
seen all of this coming, and I just  
pretended like it wasn't happening,  
and I ignored it.

LUPE

I could have been honest.

LOLA

I don't think I put you in a position  
where you could be honest with me. And  
it was unfair of me to blow up at you  
and call you a liar, because I haven't  
exactly been honest myself.

Lupe nods, waiting for her to say something else. Lola  
laughs, shaking her head.

LOLA

Sorry. I guess this is hard for me to  
say.

LUPE

Take your time.

Lola takes a deep breath.

LOLA

I think one of the reasons why I was  
so mad at you when you told me that  
you loved me was because I had been  
waiting years for you to say it, and  
you didn't say it until I was with  
someone else.

LUPE

Lola...

LOLA

But I can't exactly place the blame entirely on you. So...

LUPE

... so... ?

LOLA

I feel hurt. I feel angry. But that's not from anything that you've done. It's from the feeling that I've wasted my time, on the wrong people, over and over again. And... and I feel like I don't want to waste any more of it. I want to spend my life with the right person. I want my son to know what it means to find someone so right, and love them so much that they'll never let go of them.

LUPE

So what are you saying?

LOLA

There are a lot of things I want to say. But right now... I'd like you to go out with me. On a date.

LUPE

A date?

LOLA

A date.

LUPE

You don't have to if you don't...

LOLA

Oh, I want to. So just... let me take you out.

Lupe smiles. She tucks a strand of hair behind her ear, trying to suppress her giddiness.

LUPE

Yeah. I would love that. But where are we going?

LOLA

That's for you to find out.

LUPE

When?

LOLA

When? When...

She snaps her fingers.

LOLA

Tomorrow night. Give me a day to throw it together.

LUPE

Throw what together?

Lola stands up, her eyes glittering excitedly.

LOLA

You'll see.

She kisses Lupe's cheek, dips a chip in some guac, and dashes off inside the house.

Lupe, starstruck, touches the cheek that Lupe kissed.

MONTAGE

- Lupe walks into their shared bedroom and sees a note laying alongside a knee length verdant green dress. The note reads, "Put this on and come outside XOXO."

- Lupe, now dressed up, walks into the living room/kitchen. Vivi and Liam giggle, knowing smiles on their faces. They hold open the front door. A BABYSITTER smiles, watching over them. Lupe strides out the door.

- Lola, wearing a suit with a loose collar, leans against her freshly washed Sedan. She smiles, and holds open the passenger side door for her.

INT./EXT. LOLA'S CAR - NIGHT

Now inside the car, Lola begins driving. Lupe glances over at her, smirking.

LUPE

Okay, you've been quiet all day.  
What's the plan?

Lola reaches across and squeezes her hand.

LOLA  
You'll see.

The car pulls up alongside Mateo's Menagerie, the sign lit up and sparkling.

Lupe glances at Lola.

LUPE  
Really?

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - LOBBY - NIGHT

Lola holds open the door for Lupe.

Lupe, stunned, walks inside.

The entire lobby is decorated with twinkling heart-shaped tea lights and shades of red. Behind the host's desk, the entire restaurant is empty.

Zoe is the only person in sight. Her uniform is the same, save for a tie decorated with hearts.

Lupe is in a completely state of shock.

ZOE  
Ahh, you're finally here.

LUPE  
Where are all the customers?

ZOE  
We're closed for a special event.

Lupe glances over at Lola, her eyes wide. Lola smiles, taking her hand and squeezing it.

Zoe takes a couple of menus and steps off to the side, gesturing with a grand sweep of her arm.

ZOE  
I'll lead you to your table.

They weave through the tables, also decorated with waves of heart shaped candles.

In the center rests a table with a white tablecloth draped across; a vase of single red orchid sits on top.

LUPE

An orchid!

Lupe smells the flower as she takes a seat in the chair.

Zoe hands her a laminated menu. Lupe examines it and bewildered, she notices that the margins are filled with crayon doodles.

LUPE

Oh my God. Is this Liam and Vivi's...?

LOLA

Yeah, they wanted to help.

LUPE

Oh wow, this is so cool...

Mateo, dressed in his chef's uniform, approaches the table. He crosses his arms behind his back. He smiles knowingly at Lupe and winks.

MATEO

Ladies, it is a pleasure to have you both here. I am your personal chef tonight.

LUPE

This place looks incredible.

Mateo breaks character for a moment, his eyes lit up delightedly.

MATEO

I know, right? It's bitchin'.

He clears his throat and regains his composure, beaming with pride.

MATEO

Your first course tonight, as per the menu, is creamed spinach atop a grated Parmesan quinoa flatbread. To follow that, we have a Spanish tortilla, and for the third course, a Mustard Chicken Milanese. I'll circle back to you after the third course to discuss dessert options.

Mateo nods to them and departs, retreating back into the kitchen.

Lupe looks over her shoulder and can see her coworkers pressed against the glass wall of the kitchen, excitedly waving and giving her thumbs up.

Mateo barks at them to get to work and laughing, they all scramble into action.

Lupe giggles and turns her attention back to Lola. Zoe brings a bottle of red wine to the table and quickly departs.

Lola smiles and uncorks the wine, pouring a glass for Lupe.

LUPE  
This is so extra.

LOLA  
I go big or I go home.

LUPE  
I love it.

LOLA  
I feel like when you've waited six years to have a first date, it better be pretty freaking extravagant.

Lupe giggles.

LUPE  
Cheers to that.

They clink their glasses together.

INT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - LOBBY - NIGHT

A set of dirty dishes clutters the table. The wine bottle sits half empty. Lola and Lupe lean in towards each other, blushing, smiling, not saying a word.

LOLA  
It's getting late.

LUPE  
It is.

LOLA  
Want to go for a walk?

LUPE  
Yeah.

EXT. MATEO'S MENAGERIE - PORCH - NIGHT

Lupe, a jacket draped around her shoulders, walks around the porch alongside Lola.

Lupe twirls the orchid between her fingers.

LOLA

So as far as first dates go, that was a...?

LUPE

Hmm... 20 out of 10. I would give you a 30, but it was weird that Mateo would pair a Spanish tortilla with chicken and a flatbread.

LOLA

So you're saying that I should've let you plan the menu?

Lupe laughs, playfully elbowing Lola. Lola grabs her hand and squeezes it.

Lupe smiles, pressing her chest against Lola's. She wraps her arms around her neck. Her hands move to her cheeks.

LUPE

Can I kiss you now?

Lola moves in and kisses her on the mouth. Lupe's eyes widen, her body tense with surprise and wonder, before she succumbs to the passion of the moment; her body pressing further into Lola's.

After several long moments, they pull away from each other, somewhat breathless. Lola is stunned.

LOLA

Oh shit, we should've been doing this a long time ago.

Lupe giggles, leaning in to exchange a few more kisses.

LUPE

Next time, can I plan our date?

LOLA

And then I plan the one after that.

They lean in to kiss again.

LUPE (VO)  
And so we did.

MONTAGE - SERIES OF DATES, RAPID SUCCESSION

- Lupe and Lola kissing on a bench in the park.
- Lupe and Lola exchanging a kiss over a cafe table.
- Lupe and Lola kissing in the sedan.
- Lupe and Lola at a club, leaned in close together, kissing as they dance.

LOLA (VO)  
We had about... what, 85 dates?

LUPE (VO)  
You counted them all?

LOLA (VO)  
Well... yeah. Is that too much?

EXT. OUTDOOR WEDDING SPACE - DAY

Lola and Lupe kiss at an altar. Both are wearing white.

Vivi and Liam stand in the background, orchids affixed to their outfits, squealing joyfully as their mothers kiss.

People throw flowers and rice at them as they kiss. Cameras flash.

Mateo, sitting next to his husband JOSH, sobs, dabbing at his eyes with a handkerchief.

Josh looks at Mateo warmly and gently pats his hand.

MATEO  
My fucking OTP.

Lola finally pulls away from Lupe; the two breathless in each other's arms.

LUPE (VO)  
Nah. It's just enough.

The crowd cheers them on, encouraging them.

Lola and Lupe, embarrassed, look back towards their audience, laughing.

They turn back to each other, and kiss one more time.

FADE OUT.

END.