



Title: Unless You Kill Me.

Genre: Crime | Drama | Romance | Political Thriller

Logline: When two estranged heirs of rival drug cartels reunite on a secret island to inherit a mysterious fortune, they fall in love—only to discover their parents' empire includes a dark legacy they must either destroy... or use to bring down the corrupt government that murdered their families.

SCENE-BY-SCENE SCRIPT EXPANSION

ACT I: THE BLOODY BEGINNING

SCENE 1 – EXT. LUXURIOUS ESTATE – NIGHT

A decadent cartel celebration. Top brass drink and dance beneath chandeliers. Waiters move through the crowd with silver trays.

In the garden, a YOUNG ALEJANDRO RAMÍREZ (10), a black Spanish boy dressed in a crisp suit, hides behind a pillar. He stares at YOUNG ISABELLA DE LEÓN (8), a white Mexican girl twirling in a white dress near the fountain.

Suddenly-GUNFIRE. Explosions. The sky lights up red. Guests fall. Screams tear through the night.

GUARDS snatch Alejandro and Isabella. Their eyes meet one last time before they're shoved into separate cars.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT II: THE ISLAND LEGACY

SCENE 2 – INT. PRIVATE JET – DAY

ALEJANDRO (20), muscular and reserved, stares out the window as the island of Isla Cielo comes into view.





SCENE 3 – INT. PRIVATE JET – LATER

ISABELLA (18), elegant but fierce, arrives separately. They pass each other unknowingly at the terminal.

SCENE 4 – INT. LUXURY ISLAND RESIDENCE – DAY

FERNANDO LÓPEZ and CARMEN RIVERA, polished and secretive, greet them. An awkward introduction. A faint sense of recognition.

FERNANDO (reading):

"As per your parents' final wishes, you'll spend three days here before the full will is disclosed."

SCENE 5 – MONTAGE: ISLAND EXPLORATION

- A lively downtown market where locals sing and trade.
- A quiet beach where Alejandro skips stones.
- A high-end rooftop bar where Isabella sips a cocktail.
- Laughing together at a karaoke club.

SCENE 6 – EXT. HILLTOP VILLA – NIGHT

Under candlelight, the will is read.

CARMEN (softly):

"Every building, institution, and business on this island is yours. Even the police headquarters."

FERNANDO:

"Also: a covert drug empire. Operated legally under code."

Shock. Silence.

ISABELLA:

"What the hell is this?"





ALEJANDRO:

"Our inheritance."

ACT III: BLOODLINE AWAKENING

SCENE 7 – INT. BEACHFRONT CHAPEL – DAY

A secret yet grand wedding. A Presbyterian priest officiates. Locals fill the pews in silent respect. Beautiful ceremony. No media, no outsiders.

SCENE 8 – INT. VILLA – NIGHT

Their honeymoon begins. They explore untouched parts of the island. Mountains, jungles, secret waterfalls.

During a private dinner, they agreed and decided to write a will that would be read as soon as they leave the island.

FERNANDO:

"59% goes to the operations. 40% to you, our guardians. And 1%... to us both. In case of anything, we trust you to channel our dividends and profits to any legit aid seekers out there "

ISABELLA:

As she writes what her husband was saying "A statement. We still are who you wanted us to be. But we're doing it right"

They learn their parents weren't killed randomly- they were EXECUTED by order of the PRESIDENT.

ACT IV: ANARCHY IN DISGUISE

SCENE 9 – INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE – DAY





ISABELLA, now a political intern, blends into the upper circle. She secretly records meetings and policies.

SCENE 10 – INT. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE – NIGHT

ALEJANDRO, in military gear, hacks into defense servers. Pulls security blueprints. Sends anonymous leaks.

SCENE 11 – MONTAGE: CHAOS UNLEASHED

- Violent protests across the capital.
- Politicians smeared online.
- Blackouts. Bank crashes.
- Anonymous graffiti: "Unless You Kill Me."

FERNANDO:

"Vengeance breeds monsters."

ISABELLA:

"We're not monsters. We're architects."

SCENE 12 – INT. PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE – NIGHT

The President is cornered. Panic.

PRESIDENT:

"Who is behind this?!"

No answers. Chaos continues. Media frenzy. Public outrage.

He resigns. Announces it on national television.

SCENE 13 – INT. PRESIDENT'S HOUSE – NIGHT

He's drugged. Taken to a hidden safe house. Tortured- mentally and physically. He confesses on video to orchestrating the killings.





They drop him- disoriented and half-naked- in the middle of one of Chicago's deadliest neighborhoods. His screams are drowned by sirens and chaos.

ACT V: THE PRICE OF POWER

SCENE 14 – INT. SECURITY OFFICE – DAY

Anonymous intel has them under investigation. Suspicion mounts.

SCENE 15 – INT. PARLIAMENT HALL – DAY

They step down voluntarily.

ISABELLA:

"We'll step down to preserve the institution. Even if all we've done is serve it."

SCENE 16 – INT. INVESTIGATION HEARING – DAY

They are cleared. Not guilty. No links found.

SCENE 17 – INT. PRIVATE MEETING ROOM – DAY

Officials offer them permanent leadership roles.

ISABELLA:

"What good is returning to hostility and suspicion?"

ALEJANDRO:

"We gave more than asked-because we cared."

They accept only after being promised full authority, respect, and immunity.

ACT VI: REDEMPTION THROUGH REFORM

SCENE 18 – INT. NATIONAL STADIUM – DAY





ISABELLA addresses the nation. She reveals their journey. Applause erupts.

SCENE 19 – INT. TECH HUB – NIGHT

ALEJANDRO trains youth in ethical hacking and digital defense.

SCENE 20 – FINAL MONTAGE

- Prisons reformed.
- Corrupt generals arrested.
- Children in new schools.
- Alejandro and Isabella walk hand-in-hand through a transformed city.

Voiceover (ISABELLA):

"They suspected one of us. But we are not one or the other... we are one. Unless you kill me."

FADE OUT.

TITLE: *UNLESS YOU KILL ME*

TAGLINE: *They killed their parents. Now they run the nation.*

With an add on a **strong social or ideological punch** (e.g., commentary on government-cartel relationships, youth reclaiming power) it'll spark conversations.



1. Alejandro Ramírez

- **Age:** 20
- **Ethnicity:** Black Spanish
- **Background:** Son of one of Spain's most powerful cartel leaders. Orphaned in a violent raid. Raised in seclusion under the protection of Fernando López, one of his father's most trusted lawyers.
- **Education:** Dual degrees in Computer Science and Military Engineering. Enlisted in the army under a pseudonym. Expert in cybersecurity, defense systems, and covert operations.
- **Personality:** Silent storm. Calculated, brooding, highly loyal, protective. Easily underestimated. Moral compass fueled by childhood trauma.
- **Arc:** Transforms from a hidden heir into a strategic rebel, then redeems himself by becoming a technological reformist.

2. Isabella de León

- **Age:** 18
- **Ethnicity:** White Mexican
- **Background:** Daughter of a Mexican drug queenpin. Raised by Carmen Rivera, her family's legal advisor and moral mentor. She believed her parents died in a political conflict.
- **Education:** Studied Political Science and Economics at a prestigious private institution. Top of her class. Master of public speaking, debate, and diplomacy.
- **Personality:** Bold, fiery, intellectually sharp, emotionally intelligent. Graceful in public, lethal in private.
- **Arc:** From idealistic intern to insider operative to national reformist.

3. Fernando López





- **Age:** 50s
- **Role:** Guardian of Alejandro. Brilliant corporate attorney and secret operator of the family's empire. Loyal to a fault.
- **Traits:** Stoic, cautious, highly disciplined. He plays long games, always with a contingency.
- **Function in Story:** Acts as a moral counterweight. Helps stabilize Alejandro emotionally and strategically.

4. Carmen Rivera

- **Age:** 40s
- **Role:** Guardian of Isabella. Strong Presbyterian values. One of the two co-managers of the legal cartel empire.
- **Traits:** Maternal, wise, emotionally grounded. Keeps Isabella from being consumed by vengeance.
- **Function in Story:** Bridge between the past and the future. Symbol of legacy and redemption.

5. The President

- **Age:** 60s
- **Real Name:** CLASSIFIED in file — revealed only during his torture confession.
- **Role:** Antagonist. Signed the kill order that led to the assassination of Alejandro and Isabella's parents.
- **Traits:** Charismatic in public, authoritarian in private. Hides cowardice behind power. Collapses under pressure.
- **Arc:** From feared leader to exposed criminal, humiliated in the most brutal and poetic way possible.

6. The Island (Isla Cielo)



- **Role:** More than a setting — it's a character itself. Represents the legacy, mystery, and power of the protagonists' bloodline.
 - **Traits:** A paradise with shadows. Urban and rural, wild and controlled. A dual nature reflecting Alejandro and Isabella.
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CHARACTER SHEET: *Unless You Kill Me*

ISABELLA DE LEÓN

- **Age:** 18 (early scenes), 20s (main arc)
- **Ethnicity:** White Mexican
- **Background:** Daughter of a powerful Mexican cartel leader. Raised in elite schools overseas under a new identity.
- **Profession:** Political science and economics graduate. Government intern turned reformist.
- **Personality:** Intelligent, eloquent, calculated. Fiercely independent but deeply emotional beneath.
- **Motivation:** Justice, truth, and honor. To break corrupt systems using her insider access and political reforms.
- **Arc:** From confused heiress to political mastermind and national reformer.
- **Visual Cue:** Always wears a symbolic jade necklace from her mother. Sharp suits, minimalist elegance.



ALEJANDRO RAMÍREZ

- **Age:** 20 (early scenes), late 20s (main arc)
- **Ethnicity:** Black Spanish
- **Background:** Son of a rival cartel family. Raised by a lawyer in Europe; trained in military and engineering fields.
- **Profession:** Army veteran, software and defense systems engineer.
- **Personality:** Stoic, methodical, introspective. Loyal and dangerously brilliant.
- **Motivation:** Protect Isabella. Uncover truth behind the betrayal and destroy the rot within the state.
- **Arc:** From orphaned warrior to strategic enforcer and digital ghost.
- **Visual Cue:** A wrist tattoo hidden beneath his sleeve—coordinates to the island. Often in dark tones or tactical wear.

FERNANDO LÓPEZ

- **Age:** 50s
 - **Ethnicity:** Latino
 - **Profession:** Former cartel lawyer turned guardian
 - **Personality:** Highly intelligent, fiercely loyal. Cool-headed and moral.
 - **Role:** Alejandro's guardian. Co-manager of the secret empire. Acts as advisor and conscience.
 - **Visual Cue:** Always seen in a three-piece suit. Keeps an antique pocket watch.
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CARMEN RIVERA

- **Age:** 40s
- **Ethnicity:** Latina
- **Profession:** Legal guardian to Isabella. One of the architects of the hidden cartel operation.
- **Personality:** Maternal yet ruthless when needed. Balances law and deception like an artist.
- **Role:** Co-guardian. Master of discretion. Appears gentle but can pull strings behind closed doors.
- **Visual Cue:** Wears a rosary bracelet. Often dressed in silk with subtle religious motifs.

THE PRESIDENT (Unnamed)

- **Age:** 60s
- **Ethnicity:** Central American
- **Profession:** Head of State
- **Personality:** Charismatic in public, sinister in private. Represents institutional corruption.
- **Role:** Antagonist. Secretly allied with a rising cartel. Orchestrated the assassination of Isabella and Alejandro's parents.
- **Arc:** From untouchable leader to exposed criminal. Ends up disgraced, tortured, and humiliated.
- **Visual Cue:** Always clean-shaven, sharp suit, national pin on his chest.

NEW CARTEL BOSS (Name TBD)





- **Age:** 30s–40s
- **Ethnicity:** Open to casting
- **Role:** Shadowy cartel leader backed by the president.
- **Motivation:** Greed and dominance. Wants to wipe out the older generation.
- **Presence:** Mostly unseen until revealed late in the movie.
- **Visual Cue:** Always seen in partial shadow or reflections. Rarely speaks directly.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Character	Role	Notes
Priest	Presbyterian pastor	Officiated the wedding on the island. Symbol of legacy and quiet strength.
Special Investigator	Assigned to the Alejandro–Isabella case	Becomes key to clearing them. Eventually respects them.
Media Anchor	TV personality	Represents public perception. Their tone shifts from suspicion to reverence.
Rival Government Official	Tries to pin the chaos on the duo	Ends up humiliated when they’re exonerated.

MOOD BOARD: *Unless You Kill Me*



ISABELLA DE LEÓN

Visual Aesthetic:

- **Colors:** Ivory, blood red, emerald green.
 - **Textures:** Silk, linen, structured suits, delicate lace.
 - **Lighting:** Soft candlelight when vulnerable, sharp sunlight when in power.
 - **Styling:**
 - Early: Minimalist elite fashion (oversized sunglasses, pastel blazers).
 - Middle: Clean-cut, elegant powerwear (structured blouses, high heels, subtle accessories).
 - Late: Commanding robes and ceremonial wear — presidential but modern.
- Inspiration:** Charlotte from *Queen of the South*, Claire Underwood (*House of Cards*), modern Jackie Kennedy.
- Symbol:** A jade necklace from her mother.
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ALEJANDRO RAMÍREZ

Visual Aesthetic:

- **Colors:** Deep navy, obsidian black, military green.
- **Textures:** Tactical gear, heavy cotton, matte leather.
- **Lighting:** Often shot in partial shadow or backlit for mystery.
- **Styling:**
 - Early: Tailored streetwear, tech-inspired outfits.
 - Middle: Stealth-mode gear and tactical wear.





- Late: Simplified elegance—black suit, clean lines, Cuban heels.
Inspiration: Ghost from *Call of Duty*, Killmonger from *Black Panther*, Javier Peña from *Narcos*.
Symbol: Coordinates tattooed on his wrist.

FERNANDO LÓPEZ

Visual Aesthetic:

- **Colors:** Mahogany, deep gray, bronze.
- **Textures:** Wool suits, antique woods, aged leather.
- **Lighting:** Warm interiors, often near bookshelves or windows.
- **Styling:**
 - Always three-piece suits with cufflinks.
 - Glasses with thin gold rims.**Inspiration:** Michael Clayton meets Alfred from *Batman Begins*.
Symbol: Antique pocket watch—wound before every major speech.

CARMEN RIVERA

Visual Aesthetic:

- **Colors:** Soft lavender, pearl white, midnight blue.
- **Textures:** Silk, soft cotton, glass.
- **Lighting:** Often lit with stained-glass reflections, glowing candles.
- **Styling:**
 - Dresses with religious motifs, shawls, elegant but conservative cuts.**Inspiration:** Olivia Pope's mother (*Scandal*), quiet matriarchs from Spanish





telenovelas.

Symbol: Rosary bracelet.

THE PRESIDENT

Visual Aesthetic:

- **Colors:** Rich navy, corrupt gold, blood orange.
- **Textures:** Smooth marble, velvet, glass.
- **Lighting:** Bright flash bulbs, sterile white government lighting.
- **Styling:**

- Tailored presidential suits with lapel pins, slick hair.
- Shifts to disheveled clothes during his downfall.

Inspiration: Logan Roy (*Succession*), Pablo Escobar in exile (*Narcos*), Nixon.

Symbol: Government lapel pin — removed during torture scene.

NEW CARTEL BOSS (Unnamed)

Visual Aesthetic:

- **Colors:** Chrome, matte black, crimson.
- **Textures:** Steel, smoke, latex, concrete.
- **Lighting:** Always seen through blinds, shadows, or in dark clubs.
- **Styling:**

- Designer streetwear mixed with cartel flash.
- Rings, sunglasses, sleek combat boots.

Inspiration: Villain in *Sicario*, "Berlin" in *Money Heist*, Joker's charisma but not



the chaos.

Symbol: A ruby ring etched with a snake — zoomed in during key scenes.

SCENE MOOD SNAPSHOTS

- **The Island Wedding:** Warm, golden light. White petals everywhere. Spanish guitars. Locals cheering.
- **Chicago Dump Scene:** Rain, neon signs, sewer steam. Wide-angle lens. Drenched color grading.
- **Reform Announcement Stadium:** Massive national flags, cool-tone lighting, confetti like falling feathers.
- **Final Walk:** Quiet city dusk. Golden hour. Camera slowly pulls back as the couple walks in silhouette.