

Illusory

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT - AFTERNOON

An Army convoy rolls through the canyons of the Red Sea Hills, near the Port of Sudan. A Specialist named LINORE GLASS walks beside the Stryker.

A voice pipes up. It is PFC VAZQUEZ, a latino male in his early twenties.

PFC VAZQUEZ

Another day in Paradise, Battles!

PV2 CREIGHTON

Hooah!

SFC BRIGGS

Nah, boys, this shithole ain't paradise. You wanna know paradise? Paradise is the inside of Angelina Jolie's sweaty, Yankee-loving vag!

The males cheer while the women voice their disgust.

FEMALE SOLDIER 1

You're disgusting, all of you.

SFC BRIGGS turns his back toward Linore.

SFC BRIGGS

Isn't that right, Specialist?

Linore glares back at SFC Briggs, but says nothing.

SFC Briggs stops abruptly and turns around to face Linore.

SFC BRIGGS (CONT'D)

Come now, Specialist. You're one of us...

Linore averts her gaze to the route ahead and ignores SFC Briggs.

SFC Briggs positions himself right in front of Linore, nearly nose to nose with her. He lowers his voice to a dangerous tone.

SFC BRIGGS (CONT'D)

I asked you a question, Specialist Glass. I expect an answer.

SFC Briggs moves closer to Linore.

A beat.

Linore addresses her Platoon Leader and whispers.

LINORE

You don't have to do this, Ken...

SFC BRIGGS

(loudly)

Just how much would you like to  
taste Angie's tight little pussy?

Silence.

Linore's lips part as she begins her retort, but her words are drowned out by what she sees over SFC Briggs's shoulder.

Briggs reads her and does a sloppy, but sharp about-face.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S VOICE

Sergeant!

SFC BRIGGS

What the fuck...?!

We see a young boy holding a severed head as he stands over the decapitated body.

The head is that of an African female.

He makes direct eye contact with Linore and holds his gaze on her.

A beat.

Linore does not look away.

The boy smiles at Linore.

Suddenly, an explosion from beneath the Stryker rips through the uneasy silence.

The convoy falls under siege.

An eruption of small arms fire follows.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING - SIX YEARS LATER

The classroom is full of high school Seniors. Their teacher, Linore, reads from a book: Henry V by Shakespeare.

LINORE

"For though the camomile, the more  
it is trodden on, the faster it  
grows, so youth, the more it is  
wasted, the sooner it wears."

An unknown farting sound interrupts her reading.

The class bursts out into laughter.

Linore closes the book.

LINORE (CONT'D)

All right, all right, I know you're  
not much into Shakespeare. Neither  
was I when I was your age. But this  
wouldn't be an English class  
without at least a little of the  
Bard. Fallstaff's message is the  
same today as it was four hundred  
years ago: don't waste your youth.  
Especially you, Mr. Venegas.

Ricardo scoffs as the rest of the class laughs at his expense.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Okay, enough now. Settle down...

Linore picks up a book, whose cover reads: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Now. Where were we?

ALEX

Chapter Six.

RICARDO

Ho, ho...

(shoots a glare at Jianna)

HO.

The class laughs again, this time at Ricardo.

Jianna glares at Ricardo.

JIANNA

Rude!

RICARDO

Who's being rude? The one trying to help Ms. Glass find her place in the Nest, or the one trying to get all the attention?

LINORE

Hey, you two. If you don't knock it off, I'm going to make you get up here and act some Shakespeare.

Ricardo and Jianna both recoil.

LINORE (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. Now, may I continue?

Ricardo and Jianna nod eagerly.

LINORE (CONT'D)

"One Christmas at midnight on the button, at the old place, the ward door blows open with a crash, in comes a fat man with a beard, eyes ringed red by the cold and his nose just the color of a cherry. "Ho ho ho," he says. "I'd like to stay but I must be hurrying along. Very tight schedule, ya know. Ho ho. Must be going..."

Linore pauses.

LINORE (CONT'D)

So, is he really Santa Claus?

RICARDO

Of course not! He's just some mental patient.

LINORE

But he seems to think he's Santa Claus.

RICARDO

That's why he's a mental patient!

The class laughs.

LINORE

Maybe so.

Linore continues to read.

LINORE (CONT'D)

"They kept him with us six years before they discharged him, clean-shaven and skinny as a pole."

RICARDO

See? Makin' my point right there. They got him all cleaned up and back to normal.

LINORE

"Back to normal," you say? Or could it be instead that they molded him into exactly the shape they wanted? That society wanted? Why couldn't he be Santa Claus if he wanted. Why can't any of us be whatever it is we want to be?

No response.

LINORE (CONT'D)

This brings us back to our opening discussion about mental illness. Did you know that Ken Kesey actually worked in an institution and subjected himself to government experiments? He even took LSD.

ANDREA

Why?

Linore, surprised at hearing Andrea's voice, makes eye contact with her.

LINORE

That is a great question, Andrea. Why indeed. Well, he said in a few different interviews that he believed that people in these types of institutions were not actually mentally ill at all.

ANDREA

Really? But they're there for a reason.

LINORE

Perhaps the reason is because they are the exception to the rule.

ANDREA

You mean, they're there because they're better than the rest of us?

LINORE

No, not quite. Kesey believed that people who are diagnosed with mental illnesses simply perceive the world around them differently than the rest of society.

ANDREA

Outside-the-box. The normal realm of human convention.

LINORE

Exactly.

Stunned, the class begins to whisper.

RICARDO

Hey, look who's all participating and shit!

LINORE

Ricardo...

RICARDO

My bad, my bad. I mean, look who suddenly decided to 'engage in complex output with her peers' all of a sudden!

ANDREA

Well someone's got to school your dumbass.

LINORE

Alright, then...moving on...

ANDREA

Ms. G.? I have a question.

LINORE

I may have an answer.

ANDREA

Do you think Kesey was right?

LINORE

You mean about people who are considered mentally ill?

ANDREA

Yeah, do you think people like that are actually more enlightened than the rest of society?

Linore does not respond immediately.

She looks away for a moment before addressing Andrea once again.

Andrea holds her gaze steadily with Linore.

LINORE  
Do you?

The class watches on, fully engaged. Even Ricardo does not speak up.

Andrea opens her mouth to answer but is interrupted.

The bell rings.

The class does not move.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
Saved by the bell. Finish Chapter  
Six on your own and make an entry  
into your interactive journals.

As the students begin to pack up and walk out, Andrea lingers behind.

Linore turns away and begins to prepare her instructional materials for the first class.

Andrea watches her for a moment and then leaves.

The next class slowly begins to file into the classroom as Andrea walks out.

She turns back one more time.

Linore closes her eyes to mentally reset and then turns around to head to the door and greet her new class.

She sees Andrea has not yet left.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
Hey, get to class!

Andrea says smiles and then finally walks out of the classroom.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Linore stands at the sink.

She conducts her nightly ritual.



She dries her face and hands and stares into the glass mirror.

She opens a bottle of pills and extracts a small white one.

She looks at it briefly before swallowing it with a glass of water.

A beat.

FEMALE VOICE

Olivia?

Startled, Linore looks out from the bathroom into the bedroom.

FEMALE VOICE (CONT'D)

Olivia...

Linore does not respond.

Visibly shaken, she looks back into the mirror and then turns out the light.

She climbs into bed and closes her eyes.

INT. BEDROOM - 3:30AM

Linore wakes from her sleep. She rolls over to find an African boy standing at the end of her bed. She sits up slowly.

The boy says nothing.

Linore looks down to see the boy holds a severed human head.

The boy gestures for Linore to look more closely as he moves the hair aside to show the face more clearly.

We see that the face resembles Linore.

Linore inhales deeply, closes her eyes.

FEMALE VOICE

Tu n'as pas bien travaillé ces  
derniers jours, Olivia. Qu'est-ce  
qu'il y a?

(In English)

You have not been working very well  
lately. What's wrong?

INT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Linore's phone buzzes on the nightstand.

The clock on the nightstand reads: 1:38pm.

Panicked, Linore bolts out of bed and grabs her phone. She sees she has 9 missed calls and 2 voicemails from MAGGIE WRIGHT, as well as 3 missed calls and 3 voicemails from Avalon Charter High School.

LINORE

Shit!

The phone rings again.

Linore answers.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Hey!

MAGGIE

Linore? Are you okay? You never miss work, we've all been trying to reach you since first period. Are you okay?

LINORE

I'm fine, I'm fine, I just overslept....had some bad dreams last night and I couldn't sleep so I guess I was just really tired. I'm on my way now, can you let them know I'll be right there.

MAGGIE

Of course. Chambers is covering your class. I traded for bus duty.

LINORE

You're perfect, Mags, thank you. See you in a minute.

Linore hangs up and rushes out to her car and pulls out of her driveway quickly.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

A departmental meeting begins. Maggie and several other members of the PLC can be seen discussing IEPs, 504s and other student issues.

MR. CARSON  
Anyone see Linore?

MR. TABOR  
I heard she actually missed class  
today.

RENEE  
Linore missed class?

MR. CARSON  
She's never absent.

MR. TABOR  
No shit, she practically lives  
here.

MAGGIE  
She's fine, she's just not sleeping  
very well lately and I think she  
was up late working on quarter  
grades and forgot to set her alarm.  
God, you guys spend too much time  
with your students.

All teachers laugh except for Renee, who jots something down  
on her notebook.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Linore heads down the hallway, but gets cut off by Mark, the  
school's principal.

MARK  
Hey, stranger! You were very much  
missed today. We were about to  
launch a search party.

Linore smiles.

LINORE  
Really? For little old me? I didn't  
know I was such a celebrity around  
here...

MARK  
Riiiiight...hey listen, I was  
thinking...

He stops her just outside the classroom door.

LINORE

No, no...you're not allowed to do that.

MARK

We really need a new Drama teacher. Wendy just handed me her letter of resignation about five minutes ago and I know how much you miss it.

LINORE

Mark...

MARK

Hey, you know I won't take 'no' for an answer, Lin...

LINORE

You know how I feel about this.

MARK

No, all I know is how you felt-past tense-about this, but that was three years ago, Lin...

Mark begins to sing in a low tone, then raises his voice.

MARK (CONT'D)

Let it go...let it goooo....

Linore tries to shush him unsuccessfully.

LINORE

(holding back laughter)

Don't quit your day job, Mark.

Mark puts on his best "puppy dog" face, complete with pouty lips.

MARK

No bus duty, no proctoring...!

LINORE

(sighs)

Tell you what. Let me go do my current job, which involves a meeting I am supposed to be in at this very moment, and give me the weekend to think it over.

MARK

I'll take that as a yes.

He begins to walk away.

LINORE  
That's not what I said!

A gaggle of students approach, laughing and chatting indistinctly.

MARK  
Can't hear you!

Linore rolls her eyes and turns back to enter the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Linore enters the classroom, laughing.

MR. CARSON  
What are you up to?

RENEE  
Yeah, what was that all about?

MR. TABOR  
Secrets don't make friends,  
Linore...

MAGGIE  
Seriously, you guys need a  
vacation...mind your own business.

LINORE  
Too bad it's only October...NOW,  
just to squash any rumours that may  
be flying around this tiny little  
establishment, you can all relax. I  
don't have cancer, nor am I living  
a double life as an agent for the  
NSA. I forgot to set my alarm,  
haven't been sleeping well lately,  
and that's all there is to it.

MAGGIE  
Is that not exactly what I just  
told you guys?

MR. CARSON  
Umm, not exactly, no.

LINORE  
And for some reason, Mark thinks  
I'm going to take over for Wendy.  
Apparently, she just gave notice.

RENEE  
Wait, what?

LINORE  
Yep.

RENEE  
Why? What happened?

LINORE  
Did the Avengers assemble to save  
the world, or to gossip?

MAGGIE  
She's right, come on, let's knock  
it off...we can all hound Wendy  
about her very sudden and dramatic  
departure tomorrow.

Renee scoffs.

RENEE  
So he asked you?

LINORE  
(choosing her words very  
carefully)  
I told him I would think about it.  
But honestly, I'm not sure I can,  
with all the work I'm doing for  
Journalism right now.

RENEE  
(with an undertone of  
sarcasm)  
I'm sure you'll find the time. It's  
Theatre. That's your thing.

MAGGIE  
Ok, let's get this party started.  
Matt, how is Angel Cervantes doing  
with that Livescribe?

MR. TABOR  
Really well, actually, his quarter  
grade is looking good.

LINORE  
That's great to hear.

The other teachers nod.

Renee eyes Linore with daggers in her eyes, but she makes a  
concerted effort to let it go for now.

She scans her rosters and shuffles her papers around.

Linore passes out Agendas to everyone in the room.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Per Mark, you should have brought with you the data from last year at this time. We're looking specifically at the percentages of Ds and Fs at the semester. Since we're entering the second quarter, he thinks we should think about what goes wrong between now and the end of the term.

FEMALE VOICE

Olivia?

Linore looks up from her notes.

LINORE

Hmm? What's up?

RENEE

You were the one talking.

Maggie begins to show a bit of concern, but says nothing.

LINORE

Oh, I thought...I thought someone was trying to get my attention.

RENEE

No, we're good, just waiting to share our data.

LINORE

Oh, sorry. You go ahead, Renee.

RENEE

33 students with Ds and 12 students with Fs at the quarter. Of those 33 Ds, 30 of them ended up failing at the semester, and of the 12 students with Fs, 7 of them went on to fail the whole term.

MR. TABOR

Yeah, over half my kids failed, but what I don't get is why I have this feeling it's because of me somehow. What was the whole point of doing this? To make us feel like we're doing a shitty job?

LINORE

Of course not. Look, Mark just wants us to think about what is happening to our students, and why, and personally, I think that--

Voices begin to fill the space, interrupting Linore's thought.

She winces and walks over to close the classroom door.

The teachers exchange confused looks.

Linore closes the door and turns back, smiling.

LINORE (CONT'D)

They really need to soundproof the walls in this place. The kids are so loud!

She returns to her seat.

The voices continue to swell.

Maggie, realizing what is happening, takes over.

MAGGIE

Look, guys, what Linore is trying to say is that this is just an exercise in self-reflection. I don't think he meant for us to feel any particular way, just to feel some way. And then, as a team, decide what, if anything, we can do to get our kiddos to succeed.

As Maggie talks, Linore becomes overwhelmed by the voices, which grow fainter but still continue to persist.

Her attention drifts away from the discussion and she becomes nearly catatonic.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Right, Lin?

The teachers continue to be confused by Linore's strange behavior. They look to MAGGIE for action.

Maggie approaches Linore and lightly places her hand on Linore's.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Lin?



Linore, startled back to reality by the contact, turns sharply to see Maggie standing beside her, hand on hers, laughs nervously.

LINORE

Sorry. I guess I'm more sleep-deprived than I thought...

Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE

You and me both.

LINORE

Okay, gang, so where was I?

MAGGIE

Oh, I was just backing you up on what Mark said about doing this whole reflection thing.

LINORE

Right, yes, yes.

MAGGIE

So let's move on to the interdisciplinary unit plan.

We see Linore slowly pulling herself back together as Maggie continues to lead the meeting.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

LINORE

I didn't want to disappoint you. I know I'm just such a tour de force around here, but...

MARK

Lin...

LINORE

No, I'm not going to change my mind on this. I'd rather have bus duty every single day for the rest of the school year.

MARK

What? Really?

LINORE

No, not really...but...

MARK

What is it, Lin?

LINORE

It's nothing. I just...

MARK

You need to talk to me, Linore. I know I probably come across as a mind-reader, but I'm really not a mind-reader. They're not a thing.

LINORE

Stop trying to be funny, it's very unbecoming.

MARK

Oh, I don't have to try.

LINORE

Mark.

MARK

Do or do not. There is no try.

LINORE

Fine, then with all due respect, Mr. Child-in-Adult's Clothing. Do not.

MARK

Well, what-

LINORE

I think you should ask Renee.

MARK

What? Renee? Why?

LINORE

Oh come on, everyone knows how long she's been after Wendy's job. Why do you think she resigned? Because she really wants to babysit the kiddies on set?

MARK

Does she know?

LINORE

Yes, because you are loud.

MARK

Damn.

LINORE  
Damn is right.

MARK  
I... I don't know what to say.

LINORE  
Okay, then let me help you. Say you  
will let Renee run the Theatre  
Department.

MARK  
I can't do that.

LINORE  
Why not?

MARK  
Because!

LINORE  
Because...?

MARK  
Shit, Linore, because I'm letting  
her go at the end of the year.

A beat.

LINORE  
You're firing her?

MARK  
I don't want to give her what she  
wants just to have to take it away.  
It's already hard enough.

LINORE  
She's been here for ten years!

MARK  
I really can't get into all of this  
with you right now, Linore. I need  
to know you're onboard.

Linore turns around for a minute to think, and then turns  
back to Mark.

LINORE  
Alright, I'll do it. On one  
condition.

MARK  
No.

LINORE

How do you even know what I'm going to say?

MARK

Because I've known you since high school, Lin.

LINORE

Come on.

MARK

Ahhhhhh! Fine! Okay, have it your way. One more year. But it's gonna be the whole Improvement Plan and everything...the whole nine yards.

LINORE

Good. Hey, one more thing.

MARK

What's that?

LINORE

Don't tell her it was me.

MARK

She doesn't even know yet. I haven't told her.

LINORE

She's a good teacher, Mark. She's probably just a little burned out.

MARK

Speaking of burnout, you look like Hell. Go home and get some sleep.

LINORE

Have a good weekend.

MARK

You too.

EXT. LINORE'S HOUSE - EVENING

A car rolls up and parks in Linore's driveway.

Maggie exits the car and walks up to the front door.

She knocks loudly.

Linore opens the door and smiles broadly.

LINORE

Maggie, hi! What are you doing here, you should have called first--I would have had more time to do a whole dinner--come in, come in, it's got to be a million below freezing out there!

Maggie crosses the threshold and holds up two bags.

MAGGIE

Well, I thought I'd surprise you. I figured you probably haven't eaten yet, so I stopped at TJ's and grabbed a few things. Where can I set this down?

Linore leads Maggie into the kitchen.

LINORE

(gesturing to the counter)  
Anywhere is fine. I'll get the bottle opener.

Linore crosses the kitchen, opens a drawer and pulls out a bottle opener. She hands it to Maggie.

MAGGIE

Thanks, love.

Maggie expertly opens the bottle as Linore retrieves two wine glasses from a nearby cupboard.

She places them on the counter and Maggie fills them.

They raise their glasses in toast.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

To your...triumphant return to the Stage!

LINORE

(shocked)  
How did you find out?

MAGGIE

Umm, hello, Mark is louder than all the kids combined!

They both laugh, but then a realization strikes Linore.

LINORE

Shit, do you think Renee heard him?

MAGGIE

Yeah, why do you think she was such a bitch during meeting. "He asked YOU?" Ugh.. Some people never grow out of high school. Renee Herreman is one of those people.

Linore laughs as she clinks glasses with Maggie and they both take a swallow.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Linore eyes Maggie suspiciously.

LINORE

Oh please, I hate it when you act all maternal.

MAGGIE

You don't have to hide from me, Lin.

LINORE

I'm just tired, that's all it is. Honestly, haven't you ever just been exhausted?

MAGGIE

Umm, yeah, it's called being a teacher. Comes with the territory, but that's not what I'm talking about...I can tell when it's more than just tired.

Maggie takes a step closer toward Linore.

Linore starts to look away, but Maggie turns her cheek so they are eye-to-eye.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

How can I be there for you if you won't tell me when you need me?

LINORE

It's not that I don't need you...it's just...

MAGGIE

During the meeting, Lin, I could tell something was wrong.

LINORE

I was just distracted. Mark's pressuring me do this whole Theatre thing again...I'm not sure I'm ready, but he seems to think I'm the be-all, end-all for some reason.

MAGGIE

Maybe that's because you are. At least to me.

Maggie suddenly pulls away, finishes her glass and pours another one for them both.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh, but I'm your best friend, so of course I'm biased as hell. So nevermind me.

Maggie goes to take another swig, but Linore stops her.

Linore presses Maggie's hand to lower the glass and sets it on the counter.

LINORE

You meant that, didn't you?

MAGGIE

Of course I did. The kids love you, the staff love you-well, except for Miss Herreman...

They both laugh as Maggie interlaces her hands with Linore's.

Linore presses her forehead against Maggie's.

A beat.

LINORE

And I love you.

Maggie pulls back slightly.

She gazes deeply in Linore's eyes.

MAGGIE

I know.

They both laugh and smile, but Linore begins to cry.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

What is it?

LINORE  
I'm scared.

MAGGIE  
Me too.

LINORE  
The stronger I think I am, the weaker I become. I can feel the weakness creeping in again, and I'm losing the battle. That I'm going to slip away one day and never come back.

Maggie draws Linore into a tight embrace.

Maggie whispers.

MAGGIE  
I'm not going to let that happen to you.

They kiss.

INT. HALLWAY - LUNCHTIME - DAYS LATER

Loud bustling of conversations between students as they depart for lunch.

Linore can be seen as she approaches the classroom door.

She stares into the classroom window briefly.

In her hands, a bottle of prescription medication. The label reads: ABILIFY.

She enters the classroom and closes the door.

FEMALE VOICE  
Les élèves sont au déjeuner.  
(In English)  
The students are at lunch.

LINORE  
Oui, je le sais bien. Je sais.  
(In English)  
Oh yes, I know that, I know.

A knock on the door provides the necessary jolt for Linore to return to the real present.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
Come in.



In walks Andrea, the bright young quiet girl from First Period.

ANDREA  
We missed you last week.

LINORE  
Hey you! Come on over.

Linore gestures for Andrea to join her by her desk.

ANDREA  
Am I disturbing you?

LINORE  
Don't be silly, come in.

Linore rises to greet Andrea, and give her a quick side hug as Andrea comes into the room.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
How are you? What did you get up to over the weekend?

ANDREA  
Oh, the usual. Homework.

LINORE  
Any room for fun in that busy schedule of yours?

ANDREA  
No, not really.

LINORE  
No boys to distract you?

ANDREA  
None that are not related to me by blood or ethnicity. Besides, my mother would kill me. I missed you!

LINORE  
Oh, I missed you, too!

Andrea smiles and sits on a desktop across but not to far from Linore.

ANDREA  
You should have seen how it was with "the Sub".

LINORE

Oh, you mean Ms. Chambers? She's not a sub.

ANDREA

She's not? Well, I'll be damned.

LINORE

She's an assistant principal. Why are you damned?

ANDREA

Well, the boys would not stop arguing over who could give her a the biggest orgasm, and then-

Linore's eyes widen and she starts to laugh, but she stifles herself just in time to chide the brazen teenager.

LINORE

You did not just say that.

ANDREA

I did, though.

LINORE

Did she hear them?

ANDREA

I don't think so. But Ricardo swears he'd totally-

LINORE

Okay, moving on...!

ANDREA

Good idea.

LINORE

So, I know how much you pride yourself on not fitting in, but wouldn't you be happier in the Library?

ANDREA

I owe you my response. From last week.

LINORE

(knowingly)

Oh, I haven't forgotten about that.

ANDREA

Well, that's why I-

LINORE

Wait.

ANDREA

What's wrong?

LINORE

Nothing, I just want you to explain something to me.

ANDREA

I'll try.

LINORE

Why is it that you never call me Ms. Glass in front of the other kids? You always call me Ms. G. in class. Where did that come from?

ANDREA

Ah, that...well, I don't want them to think you are what your name paints you to be. I don't want them to think you are fragile. I don't want anyone to think that about you.

Andrea smiles.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

You're a badass, Ms. G.!

LINORE

Ahh, but see now, that only explains half of it.

ANDREA

The other half is very simple to explain: I see you.

The bell rings.

A thought occurs to Linore: She has not taken her meds.

LINORE

Shit.

ANDREA

What's wrong?

LINORE

Hmm? Oh, nothing, nothing, you'd better get outta here or Ms. Wright will never hang me for contributing to the tardiness of a minor. Go!

Linore stands quickly and walks Andrea to the classroom doorway.

As they pass through, Andrea turns back briefly to Linore.

ANDREA

Good talk today! See you after school, Ms. G.!

Linore smiles after her.

EXT. CARILLO HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Andrea rolls up to her house and gets out of her car.

Her mother, SENORA CARRILLO, can be seen noticing Andrea has returned home through the front window.

As Andrea walks up to the house, distracted by the novel she's now reading as she makes her way slowly toward her mother, Senora Carillo, whose voice cuts through the peace of the neighbourhood like a sharp knife.

SRA. CARRILLO

Where the hell have you been?

Andrea rolls her eyes.

ANDREA

Ma, seriously, where do you think? I was at school, you know, where I go to learn?

SRA. CARRILLO

Ah, so you think it's funny? You're so into learning with that teacher you don't let me know you're coming home late?

ANDREA

Calme-te mama, I'm 18, I don't need to tell you where I am every five minutes, orale...

SRA. CARRILLO

Orale my ass! Since when does being  
18 give you permission to  
disrespect your mother? You know,  
Miss 18, you can always go report  
to the street since you're too good  
for the house I pay for you to live  
in...

Sra. Carrillo trails off as she continues to lecture Andrea,  
crosses the threshold into the house.

The door slams and we can hear Sra. Carrillo continue her  
tirade in Spanish.

INT. CLASSROOM - NEXT MORNING - FIRST PERIOD

Linore circulates about the room. Students are arranged in a  
Socratic Seminar-style configuration, concentric circles.

Each student wields a writing utensil and graphic organizer.

Linore listens to the discussion, scoring each student  
against a rubric.

She pauses to listen to each pair individually.

The time expires and class quiets down.

Linore addresses the class.

LINORE

Very well done, all. I think we're  
in good shape for your midterm. Go  
ahead and reset the desks for me  
and then hang tight for the next  
thing. I'll know you're ready when  
I see pencils down and your  
Socratic Fish graphic organizers  
are out on your desk.

While the students move the desks back to their original  
arrangement, Linore becomes overwhelmed by the noise of the  
metal chairs legs clanging against one another.

She shakes it off for the moment and realizes her students  
ready for her and waiting.

She seemingly overcomes her slight feeling of disorientation.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Okay, let's reflect. How do you  
think it went?

(MORE)

LINORE (CONT'D)  
Remember, this is just a rehearsal.  
The real thing is next Friday.

Ricardo raises his hand.

RICARDO  
Umm, I think it was pretty freaking  
solid, Miss!

The class nod and agree.

LINORE  
Well, that's one. Thanks for  
sharing, Ricardo. Anyone else?

Jianna raises her hand.

JIANNA  
I just wanted to say that I thought  
it was cool that we had the chance  
to sort of have a "practice" test  
that way I'm not freaking out next  
week.

Others nod in agreement.

Linore smiles.

LINORE  
Sounds like it helped. I'm glad.

Alex rises from the desk.

ALEX  
Did it hurt?

Linore, still smiling at Jianna, looks over at Alex,  
confused.

LINORE  
I'm sorry? I missed it, what did  
you say, Alex?

ALEX  
Did it hurt?

LINORE  
Did what hurt?

ALEX  
When you tore his body apart?

Suddenly, Linore feels her stomach hurl up into her throat.

Alex rises.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
You thought you were God.

RICARDO  
You're sick!

ALEX  
You shouldn't be here.

RICARDO  
Sick!

ANDREA  
Get out!

One by one, students arise from their seats and gather together tightly and approach Linore.

They all begin to speak to her, taunt her, insult her.

STUDENT 4  
You are nothing but glass, weak.  
Fragile.

ALEX  
Glass.

Linore begins to break down, shouting back at the voices that surround her now.

She backs away from the class and slinks down against the wall, crying out all the while.

Ricardo advances toward her to help, but she pushes him away and he falls backward, striking his head on a chair as he lands.

Meanwhile, the real class surrounds her, fraught with concern.

Andrea stands closest to her.

ANDREA  
Ms. Glass?

Linore cannot shake the hallucination. She does not respond. Instead, she covers her face.

Andrea turns back to the class.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Everyone out of the room.

Stunned by what they have just witnessed, the other students hesitate to leave.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Get the fuck out, go!

The class begins to file out of the classroom.

Andrea looks up to check that everyone is out of the room before she kneels beside Linore.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Ms. Glass, can you hear me? It's  
Andrea. I'm going to run next door  
to get Ms. Wright.

Linore, now muttering to herself, fights and succeeds before covering her ears and continuing to weep uncontrollably.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Andrea moves swiftly up the hallway and knocks on a nearby door.

Maggie answers.

Inaudibly, Andrea whispers into Maggie's ear.

Maggie says something the others cannot hear.

She calmly nods, closes the door and we see her cross over to her classroom phone and make a call.

Andrea watches through the window patiently.

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MAGGIE  
(into receiver)  
Andrea cleared the room. The kids  
are out in the hallway. They're  
waiting for you.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MARK  
I'm on my way.



INT. LINORE'S CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Enter Maggie, who approaches and sits beside Linore.

MAGGIE

Lin, it's me, it's Mags.

Linore does not respond, continues to mutter to herself.

Maggie wraps her arms around Linore and kisses her hand.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Did you take your meds?

No response. Maggie tries again.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Lin, did you at least take the  
Abilify?

Tears begin to stream once again as Linore attempts to speak but the voices have not quite receded yet and she continues to try to talk over them to be heard.

LINORE

They know what I did, they  
know...my brain is so hot, so  
hot...you have to know, they know,  
they know, they know...leave me  
alone....leave me alone...leave me  
alone...

Linore continues to repeat herself adamantly, but softly.

Maggie strokes Linore's hair and rests her head on Linore's shoulder.

INT. PSYCH OFFICE - LATER

Linore's therapist, ANNA GOMEZ, a Latinx woman with long, curly brown hair and a soft, round countenance, reviews her notes and clicks her pen.

She pulls back a fresh sheet, nodding to the orderly who is patiently waiting on her.

ANNA

Bring her in.

Linore enters.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hi, Linore, how are you today?

Linore says nothing.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Do you know where you are?

Linore, again, says nothing.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
You're in the hospital. They called  
me to come and see you. Do you  
recognize me?

Linore nods slowly.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Good, good.

Anna makes a note on her pad.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Do you know what day it is today?

Linore shakes her head to indicate 'no'.

Anna makes another note.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
It's Tuesday. Do you know why  
you're here?

Linore shakes her head.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
There was an incident at the  
school. You were brought in under a  
5150. Do you know what that is?

LINORE  
Yes.

Anna makes yet another note.

ANNA  
You're on a 72-hour hold here until  
it's decided that you are no longer  
a threat to yourself or others.

LINORE  
Others?

ANNA  
You don't remember what happened?

Linore shakes her head.

LINORE

No.

Anna flips back to some notes.

ANNA

I'm told you've been complying with  
meds, that's really good, Linore. I  
need you to keep doing that, ok?

Linore nods.

LINORE

What happened?

Anna is about to answer when Linore's Psychiatrist, DR. ELI,  
an Africa-American woman enters.

Dr. Eli takes a seat beside Anna, but says nothing.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Did I hurt someone?

ANNA

No, not exactly. You had a pretty  
bad relapse, though...did you push  
a student, Linore?

LINORE

I don't remember.

ANNA

What do you remember?

LINORE

I was in my classroom, running a  
Socratic Fish seminar with my  
students...

ANNA

Good, what else do you remember?

LINORE

They started yelling at me.

Anna and Dr. Eli make notes on their pads.

Linore grips her temple.

LINORE (CONT'D)

I...I don't remember the rest.

ANNA

It's okay, we don't have to go over everything right now. I want you to get some rest, keep taking your meds.

LINORE

Where's Maggie?

ANNA

Maggie's at the school right now.

LINORE

Can I talk to her?

ANNA

After school lets out, we'll see about making a phone call.

LINORE

I don't have my phone.

ANNA

That's ok, the hospital is holding it safely for you. You'll get it back when they discharge you.

LINORE

How long have I been here? When can I leave? My students are probably wondering where I am.

ANNA

A little over twenty-four hours now. Linore, listen to me, it's vitally important that you get some rest and try not to worry about your job right now. Dr. Anderson is going to look after you.

LINORE

Who?

ANNA

Dr. Anderson, the staff psychologist here at the hospital. You met her when you were admitted. Do you remember?

Linore shakes her head.

INT. PSYCH WARD - LATER

Elinore tosses and turns, unable to sleep.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. LINORE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Linore's car parked in the driveway. A peaceful evening, by all accounts.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A listless Linore tosses and turns in her sleep.

FEMALE VOICE

Olivia?

Linore's eyes flutter open and she sits up, looks around the room.

Remember she lives alone now, Linore makes another attempt to go back to sleep.

FEMALE VOICE (CONT'D)

Ne te tourmente plus, cherie...

(In English)

Do not torture yourself anymore,  
darling.

Linore stirs once again.

She sits up and sees a woman, La Premiere, in her early to mid-forties, sitting beside her on the bed.

The woman smiles and reaches out to caress Linore's cheek. She bears a striking resemblance to deceased French vedette Edwige Feuillere.

She wears a late nineteenth century chantilly lace gown, her hair finely done up in the highest of fashion for the period.

LA PREMIERE

Comme tu as grandi, mon enfant.

Linore recoils.

LA PREMIERE (CONT'D)

Tu te souviens de moi? Je suis  
Julie.

LINORE  
Que voulez-vous?

LA PREMIERE  
Il y a longtemps, Olivia.

LINORE  
I asked you a question. What do you want.

LA PREMIERE  
Viens...

She stands, extending her hand out to Linore.

Suspicious, Linore refuses.

LA PREMIERE (CONT'D)  
N'aie pas peur, mon enfant. Viens.

La Premiere smiles warmly.

Linore rises, still uncertain, and takes the woman's hand.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

La Premiere and Linore walk out into the middle of an empty street.

La Premiere lingers behind Linore, placing one hand on her waist and pointing up the road with the other.

LA PREMIERE  
Tu vois?

Linore looks up the road.

A faint, glistening sphere of light shimmers in the distance.

Linore begins to walk toward it.

Bright lights flash.

A honking car swerves out of the way, the driver cursing as they barely miss hitting Linore.

DRIVER  
CRAZY BITCH, GET OUT OF THE ROAD!

END FLASHBACK.

INT. PSYCH WARD - CONTINUOUS

Linore sits up in a cold sweat.

Her thoughts race.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CLASSROOM - EARLIER

Linore remains seated on the classroom floor.

She continues to weep and shake her head.

LINORE  
No...no...laisse-moi  
tranquille...laisse-moi  
tranquille..laisse...

MAGGIE  
It's alright...I'm here...

Maggie strokes Linore's hair.

Mark enters the classroom slowly.

MARK  
How is she?

Maggie looks up at Mark and shakes her head.

MARK (CONT'D)  
I'm going to take the kids to the  
cafeteria. Can you get her out of  
here?

Maggie nods somberly.

MAGGIE  
I'll take her.

Mark attempts a half-smile and leaves.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DR. ANDERSON'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Linore sits opposite Dr. Anderson, a woman in her late thirties or early forties, who takes notes while observing Linore's behavior.

Beside Linore sits Maggie, holding her hand. Linore gazes out a nearby window, listless.

DR. ANDERSON

Linore?

Linore does not reply. Her cheeks begin to redden as they receive a fresh stream of tears.

DR. ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Linore.

She leans forward to place a hand on Linore's knee in an effort to get her attention, but fails.

Anderson pulls away and addresses Maggie.

DR. ANDERSON (CONT'D)

How long has she been like this?

MAGGIE

Since her first period class,  
around 8 o'clock yesterday morning.

DR. ANDERSON

Meds?

MAGGIE

I don't know, I think so...

DR. ANDERSON

Maggie, I understand how you must  
be feeling, but I really need you  
to cooperate. When was the last  
time you saw her actually take her  
medication?

MAGGIE

I...I don't remember.

DR. ANDERSON

Alright. What about her behavior  
the past few days. Have you noticed  
anything strange, or anything  
different about her behavior?

Maggie and Dr. Anderson lock eyes.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

A room full of parents, all shouting angrily at Mark, greets him as he enters. Several teachers are present.



MARK

Alright, alright. I-

SRA. CARRILLO

My daughter spends hours and hours  
everyday around this woman!

PARENT 1

Why didn't you tell us?

PARENT 2

What the hell is wrong with you  
people?

SRA. CARRILLO

We need to know our kids are safe  
here, Mark!

The parents nod agreement with Mrs. Carrillo, continuing to  
talk over each other.

As the volume swells louder and louder, Mark attempts to take  
control of the situation by raising his hand in the air.

MARK

I think it would be in everyone's  
best interest if we just set this  
aside for the moment and-

SRA. CARRILLO

Are you kidding me? You want us to  
just go home and act like nothing's  
wrong? I want her fired!

PARENT 1

Damn right, she put all of our kids  
in danger!

The History Teacher, Renee, steps forward and gestures for  
all to quiet down.

PARENT 2

She's a total psycho, and so are  
you if you think it's okay to allow  
that kind of person to work in a  
school around children!

RENEE

Alright, that's enough! They're not  
children!

Just then, one of the security officers, Jack, a largely  
built man in his thirties or forties, enters.

JACK

Heard some commotion, just making  
sure everything's okay.

MARK

We're fine, thanks, Jack.

SRA. CARRILLO

No, you know what, we're not fine!  
We want her removed! If you don't  
get her out of here, I'm calling  
the police!

MARK

That's...no, that's not  
happening...Jack, we're fine, it's  
fine.

JACK

I'm-what the hell is going on?

MARK

I'll, I'll catch you up in a  
minute, let me just...

JACK

Got it, okay, I'll go see how she's  
doing and check back with you in a  
few minutes. You ok?

MARK

Yeah, no, I'm fine. Go ahead.

JACK

Alright, I'll be back.

Mark nods, Jack backs out of the door, slightly hesitant. He  
leaves and Renee speaks up again.

RENEE

Mark.

Mark closes the door after Jack and turns slowly back to face  
Renee.

RENEE (CONT'D)

Did you know?

Mark looks down for a split second.

The parents all take this as a 'yes' and start in on him  
again, but Renee puts up her hand to silence them.

RENEE (CONT'D)

How long.

MARK

Three years.

The parents lose it.

Mark looks away, resigned to the chaos.

INT. CARRILLO HOUSEHOLD - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Andrea and Senora Carrillo are in the middle of a heated argument.

ANDREA

Ma, you can't judge her like that!

SENORA CARRILLO

That woman put her hands on a student, I can judge her all I want!

ANDREA

It was an accident, Ma, she thought he was trying to hurt her!

SENORA CARRILLO

I don't care what she thought, she has no business working around kids if she's going to lose her shit every time she *thinks* something bad's happening to her!

ANDREA

She's not a bad person, she was in the military and everything! You just don't even want to try to understand!

Andrea grabs her car keys.

SENORA CARRILLO

Drea, where are you going?

ANDREA

Anywhere but here, I'm sick of listening to your judgemental bullshit.

SENORA CARRILLO

Don't you talk to me like that, I'm your mother!

ANDREA  
Mothers are supposed to be  
understanding!

Andrea takes off, slamming the front door to the house hard  
behind her as she leaves.

SENORA CARRILLO  
Andrea! Get back here!

Flabbergasted, Senora Carrillo throws her hands up in the air  
and rattles off her frustrations in Spanish.

Andrea's father, Diego, peeks his head out from the kitchen.

DIEGO  
Que paso?

SENORA CARRILLO  
You better talk some sense into  
your daughter when she comes back.

DIEGO  
Gricela...

SENORA CARRILLO  
Oh, don't you start with me.

DIEGO  
You must have forgotten, eh?

SENORA CARRILLO  
Forgotten what?

DIEGO  
You know, it wasn't that long ago  
that we were talking about my Thea  
Claudia.

SENORA CARRILLO  
Ay...don't start with me, Diego.

DIEGO  
I'll start whenever I want, you  
seem to forget what all we went  
through.

SENORA CARRILLO  
No, I don't. That's exactly why I'm  
concerned.

DIEGO

Claudia wasn't crazy, she had an illness, *mi amor*. And we loved her just the same.

SENORA CARRILLO

This is different.

DIEGO

How? Explain exactly how different this is? Thea did some strange things, remember? Wandering around in the street, yelling at streetlights. She had a hard time, too, because our mother wouldn't admit she needed help. From what I heard, this lady has been doing pretty well for a while now. You're so quick to throw her away. She served in the Army, served her country. She's been through a lot. You know, I remember meeting her at all those back to school nights. She's nice, she cares about the kids. She never hurt anybody.

SENORA CARRILLO

She pushed that boy Ricardo.

DIEGO

She wasn't in her right mind.

SENORA CARRILLO

So it's okay to push somebody?

DIEGO

No, but maybe whatever medication she's been in stopped working. That used to happen a lot with Claudia. She'd have to switch because the pills stopped working. Ah, but you don't remember because you would just stay home. You never had to deal with it, face it for yourself. You were never there to see what we went through. Just buried your head in the sand and acted like it wasn't happening.

Senora Carrillo starts to shrink back.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

We're family, and you know what, we never turned our back on her.

(MORE)

DIEGO (CONT'D)  
You think it's okay to do that to  
this teacher, just because you  
don't know how to deal with it?  
That's not the Gricela I married,  
is it?

Senora Carrillo says nothing, considering her husband's words  
very carefully.

DIEGO (CONT'D)  
Think about it this way. What if it  
were Drea? What if it was our  
daughter going through something?  
Would we just throw in her a  
hospital and turn our backs on her?  
Our own flesh and blood? Let the  
system sort it out? Let me tell me  
you, no, I wouldn't.

Senora Carrillo looks down, thinking hard.

DIEGO (CONT'D)  
Would you?

INT. PSYCH WARD - LATER

Linore stares out a nearby window.

A knock at the door signals Dr. Anderson is ready for her.

DR. ANDERSON  
Linore? Are you ready?

Linore nods and rises from her bed.

INT. PSYCH OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Anderson takes a seat, flipping over a fresh sheet of  
paper.

DR. ANDERSON  
How are you feeling today, Linore?

LINORE  
I'm not really sure how to answer  
that.

DR. ANDERSON  
Just be as honest as you can be,  
Linore.

LINORE

I want to go home. No, actually, I want to go back to class.

DR. ANDERSON

You still have another twenty-four hours with us, unfortunately. I wish I could promise you'll be able to go back to teaching right away, but I'm afraid I can't do that.

Linore says nothing.

DR. ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Are you hearing any voices today?

Linore shakes her head.

Dr. Anderson makes a note.

DR. ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Good, good...any thoughts of hurting yourself or others?

LINORE

No, I don't want to hurt anyone else.

Dr. Anderson makes another note.

DR. ANDERSON

What about yourself?

LINORE

It bothers me that I pushed Ricardo...I didn't mean to hurt him.

DR. ANDERSON

It's good that you feel remorse, because you're a good person, Linore. Good people regret their mistakes.

Linore says nothing.

DR. ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Listen, your union rep from the district is going to be here shortly to talk with you. She was going to wait until you got home, but under the circumstances, now is as good a time as any, don't you agree?

LINORE  
Is now a good time?

DR. ANDERSON  
What do you mean?

LINORE  
Well, everyone keeps telling me I  
need to rest and relax...

DR. ANDERSON  
If you'd rather wait until after  
you're discharged, you're welcome  
to. I can let her know-

LINORE  
No, it's fine. Might as well get it  
over with.

Dr. Anderson nods to an orderly.

DR. ANDERSON  
Let her in.

ANGELA ROBINSON, a woman in her fifties, enters the room.

ANGELA  
Hi, Dr. Glass.

LINORE  
So formal.

ANGELA  
I try to be respectful. You earned  
that degree.

LINORE  
I did.

ANGELA  
I just need to get a statement from  
you now that you're feeling better.  
Is now a good time?

LINORE  
So everyone keeps telling me.

ANGELA  
If it's not, I can wait, but the  
sooner the better.

LINORE  
Now is fine.



ANGELA

Alright, let's start from the beginning. You've been on medication for schizophrenia since...?

LINORE

Since 2012.

ANGELA

And you've not had any relapses since then?

LINORE

Not like this.

ANGELA

So I need to tell you that I am here to help you. You've been in the hospital for the past two days so you don't know what's been happening outside of these four walls, but it's been a bit of a mess.

LINORE

(annoyed)

I'm sure it has.

ANGELA

I'm sorry, I didn't mean that how it sounded.

LINORE

Didn't you? After all, I wouldn't want to be a liability.

ANGELA

Like I said, I'm here to help.

LINORE

You're doing a hell of a job so far, Angela.

Angela shrinks back.

ANGELA

I'm sorry.

Linore relents.

LINORE

It's alright.

ANGELA

Can we start over?

Linore nods.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Alright...so I want to show that you've not presented any threat, and that you're not a threat to the students or staff now.

LINORE

What about Ricardo?

ANGELA

Ricardo is fine. He's not angry. His parents, on the other hand, are a whole other issue. They're not happy. There was quite a scene at the school yesterday.

LINORE

It's not my fault the Abilify stopped working. If it had been working, I never would have thought Ricardo was trying to hurt me, and I never would have pushed him.

ANGELA

I'm sure that's true, which is what I'm going to put in my report. However, I need to know how often you see your psychiatrist and therapist.

LINORE

I see my therapist every week and my psychiatrist every twenty to thirty days.

ANGELA

And there wasn't any indicator that your meds had stopped working until the day of the...um...

LINORE

Psychotic break?

ANGELA

Yes, that.

LINORE

Correct.

Angela makes a note.

ANGELA

Look, I have to be honest, if you hadn't pushed Ricardo, this might be a little bit easier, but as it stands, the parents don't want you coming back. I'm going to do everything I can to defend your interests here, but I can't make a promise I won't be able to keep.

Linore looks away.

LINORE

I understand.

ANGELA

How has it been with...you're on new meds now, I take it?

LINORE

Yes, I'm on Geodon.

ANGELA

And it's working for you?

LINORE

Yes. But you should know that with a disorder like schizophrenia, medications often stop working and sometimes it can be difficult to tell.

ANGELA

There weren't any warning signs before?

LINORE

Like I said, sometimes it can be difficult for me to tell. You'd have to ask my significant other, or maybe other teachers.

ANGELA

I will have to do that, unfortunately.

An orderly knocks on the door.

ORDERLY

Ms. Glass? There's someone else here to see you.

LINORE  
Who is it?

ORDERLY  
She says her name is Maggie.

Linore perks up.

LINORE  
Angela, can we...do you mind if we  
continue this discussion another  
day?

ORDERLY  
Do you want me to show her in?

LINORE  
Yes, please.

ANGELA  
Ah, yes, very well, but we will  
need to meet by the end of this  
week if that's ok.

LINORE  
I'll be home by then.

ANGELA  
Your suspension will continue until  
the investigation is complete. I'm  
sure you understand.

Linore nods.

Maggie appears in the doorway.

ANGELA (CONT'D)  
I'll do everything I can, Linore.

Linore nods.

Angela gets up and nods to Maggie as she leaves.

ANGELA (CONT'D)  
Maggie...can we talk later?

MAGGIE  
Sure.

ANGELA  
Would tomorrow at 3:30 work for  
you?

MAGGIE  
Yeah, that's fine.

Linore jumps from her chair to embrace Maggie.

They kiss.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)  
I came as soon as I could.

LINORE  
I know.

MAGGIE  
You should have seen it. It was  
crazy, Lin. Andrea and Ricardo's  
mothers are on the warpath. They  
really don't want you coming back.

Linore looks down.

LINORE  
I know.

MAGGIE  
Angela told you?

LINORE  
She gave me a certain...impression.

MAGGIE  
How are you feeling?

LINORE  
Like I don't belong here. Like I  
want to go home.

MAGGIE  
I know. It's only another day.

LINORE  
No one knows what's been like for  
me in here...

MAGGIE  
I'm so sorry, Lin...

Maggie interlaces her hands with Linore's as they sit  
together.

LINORE  
Me too.

They sit in a silence for a moment.

MAGGIE  
So what else did Angela say?

LINORE  
She told me there's a strong chance  
I won't be able to go back because  
of what happened with Ricardo.

MAGGIE  
Yeah, his mom is...

LINORE  
I know.

MAGGIE  
But you don't have any history of  
violence, you've been okay.

LINORE  
Were there signs?

MAGGIE  
Signs?

LINORE  
Angela wants to talk to the rest of  
the teachers and students to find  
out if I was acting strangely  
leading up to the breakdown.  
Anything to indicate my medication  
had stopped working.

MAGGIE  
Oh...but why? What does that have  
to do with anything?

LINORE  
Well, she says she's trying to help  
me, but it sounds like they want to  
accuse me of knowing I wasn't well  
enough to be at work and that I  
ignored the warning signs, so they  
have cause to term me.

MAGGIE  
Oh, God.

Maggie looks away for a moment.

LINORE  
What? What is it?

MAGGIE

Well, there were a few things that happened...

LINORE

Shit.

MAGGIE

Yeah...when we were in the PLC, you were saying something about it being loud but there wasn't anyone around except for us.

An uneasy silence.

Linore speaks.

LINORE

So much for trying to help me.

MAGGIE

I'm so sorry, Lin...I don't know what else to say. Angela is going to ask me, and I'm not going to be able to lie.

LINORE

It's okay. I understand.

Maggie squeezes Linore's hand and leans in to press their foreheads together.

MAGGIE

You know I love you. I'll be here for you, with you, every step of the way.

Linore nods.

They kiss.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Andrea, Ricardo, Alex and several other students gather in the hallway to talk.

ANDREA

We have to do something.

RICARDO

Yeah, like what?

ALEX

Who cares what we have to say?

RICARDO

I know she didn't mean to hurt me.

ANDREA

So you tell him that.

RICARDO

He's not going to care.

ANDREA

Of course he cares, he likes Ms. G.!

ALEX

Not enough.

RICARDO

My mom is going fucking crazy, yo.  
She thinks Ms. G. is psycho.

ANDREA

Yeah, well we know better. It's not  
like anything like this has ever  
happened.

ALEX

I heard something did happen a few  
years ago. No one got hurt, but I  
heard Ms. Glass kind of lost her  
shit once before.

ANDREA

Yeah, she has schizophrenia. It's  
not a secret.

ALEX

Apparently it was a pretty big  
secret til now.

ANDREA

Yeah because it's really no one's  
business...I mean, what if she had  
cancer, you think she'd want the  
whole world to know about it?

ALEX

If it was me, yeah I probably  
would...but that's cause when you  
have cancer, people usually act all  
supportive and shit.



ANDREA

So why doesn't Ms. G. deserve the same kind of support?

The kids consider Andrea's point.

ALEX

Okay, yeah you're right. So what do we do about it?

ANDREA

We need to go to the principal and tell him what really happened.

RICARDO

Alright, then, let's go.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Mark, surprised, beckons the kids into his office.

MARK

What can I do for you?

Andrea begins.

ANDREA

We need to talk to you about Ms. G.

MARK

I'm listening.

RICARDO

We know she didn't mean any harm.

MARK

Go on.

RICARDO

Look, if I thought I was someone else and they were coming at me...Ms. G. was in the Army, right? She probably thought I was some, what do they call 'em? Enemy combatants? Yeah that's it...she probably thought I was the enemy or something.

MARK

So you're not upset with her?

RICARDO

Nah, man. Like I said, I don't know what it's like to be in the Army or anything, but all I know is, Ms. G. served her country honorably and it's not fair she loses her job because she's going through something none of us can really understand.

Mark considers Ricardo's point.

MARK

Look, it's sweet of you to want to defend Ms. Glass. You all know I think the world of her. But it's not up to me.

ANDREA

It's not?

Mark shakes his head.

MARK

No, it's not.

ANDREA

But you're the principal!

ALEX

I don't get it.

RICARDO

Yeah, don't you decide who stays and who goes around here?

MARK

Believe it or not, this is beyond me. If Ricardo hadn't gotten hurt, it might be my call, but we've got some very concerned parents and a board full of district leaders who see it very differently.

INT. PSYCH OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Dr. Anderson reviews her notes as Linore comes in.

DR. ANDERSON

This is your last day with us, Linore. How do you feel?

LINORE  
I just want to go home.

DR. ANDERSON  
Understandable.

LINORE  
Any idea when that's going to happen?

DR. ANDERSON  
Well, I was going to go ahead and start your discharge paperwork now, but it'll take a few hours to get everything in order. In the meantime, there are a few people waiting for you in the Visitors Room.

Linore looks quizzically at Dr. Anderson.

DR. ANDERSON (CONT'D)  
Apparently, they're your students.

Linore jumps to her feet, still clad in her psych ward scrubs, and rushes out of the room.

INT. VISITORS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Linore enters the Visitors Room hastily. As soon as she sees Andrea, Ricardo, Alex and Jianna, she stops dead in her tracks, tears starting down her cheeks.

LINORE  
What...what are you all doing here?

Andrea runs up to her, throwing her arms around Linore tightly.

ANDREA  
It's good to see you, Ms. G.! How are you?

Linore cannot contain her tears.

Ricardo, Alex and Jianna join Andrea with their arms around Linore.

LINORE  
Your parents...

ANDREA

Don't worry, they don't know we're here.

LINORE

But they'll be...they'll be so angry. Are you supposed to be here?

RICARDO

Probably not, but we're all eighteen, so they can't say shit.

Alex prods Ricardo.

ALEX

Language, bro!

Ricardo nods.

RICARDO

Right, right...sorry, Ms. G.

ANDREA

Look, we know what you're going through-well, kind of...and we just wanted to come by and tell you we love you and we've got your back, no matter what happens.

RICARDO

Yeah, you don't have to worry about a thing, we're not angry.

Linore looks somberly at Ricardo.

LINORE

Ricardo, I'm so sorry...

RICARDO

Don't be...I should have backed up, given you some space...

ALEX

We know you were in the Army, that you went through some serious trauma and whatnot...we just wanted to come support you.

JIANNA

You're not alone.

Linore gestures for the kids to all have a seat, which they do.

LINORE

This means...this means everything.

The kids all smile.

ANDREA

We talked to the Principal.

Linore sobers up.

LINORE

You...you did?

ANDREA

Yeah.

RICARDO

Yeah, we wanted him to know how much we want you back.

A beat.

Linore wipes away her tears.

LINORE

I appreciate you doing that, you guys, but...I'm afraid it's not looking good for me.

Maggie appears in the doorway, talking to an orderly.

MAGGIE

What do you mean visitors? I'm the only one on the list today.

The orderly points toward the Visitors Room.

Maggie looks in, gasps and rushes in.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

What on Earth are you all doing here?

The kids all smile and jump up on their feet to hug her.

ANDREA

Hi Miss!

ALEX

How are you, Miss?

MAGGIE

I wondered why you weren't in class!

They all laugh.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Your parents are going to be very upset when they find out you've been here.

RICARDO

We know.

They laugh again.

MAGGIE

I hate to be the wet blanket here, but this could be very bad for Ms. Glass.

The kids' expressions change to concern.

RICARDO

What do you mean?

ANDREA

What? Why?

MAGGIE

You guys know there's an investigation going on.

ANDREA

Yeah, so?

MAGGIE

The Union Rep was here yesterday, she said it wasn't looking good.

ANDREA

Yeah, but wouldn't it look better for Ms. G.'s students to show up for her?

MAGGIE

Who knows, at this stage...it seems like they're not going to let her come back.

ANDREA

I don't understand why it doesn't matter what we think. We're all adults, well, at least almost all of us are...

RICARDO

It's not right, man.

MAGGIE

I know how you all feel, trust me.

Linore nods.

LINORE

Look, I really appreciate you all coming down to support me, but you shouldn't be missing class. People are going to ask questions.

ANDREA

Let them ask. We're standing by you, and you need to know that.

Linore smiles.

LINORE

You really have grown up...

ANDREA

My dad's aunt had schizophrenia, did you know that? She didn't get diagnosed for years because in our family, that's not how we do things...in our culture, it's all just nerves, they call it. It's just stress. No one sees a doctor for things like this. My dad had to help take care of her.

JIANNA

You never told me.

ANDREA

That's because we don't talk about this stuff. We just deal with it.

Linore considers this new information silently.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Look, Ms. G., my mom's taking this way too far. You always taught us about taking a stand. Well, now that we're eighteen and we're taking a stand, now everyone's tell us to sit back down, but when something's wrong, it's wrong, and we know you're a great teacher and a good person.

RICARDO

Yeah, and a badass, don't forget badass!

ANDREA

Yep, badass.

RICARDO

My mom and dad don't know what it's like to be in the military. They aren't even trying to understand. Someone has to make them try and see.

Linore says nothing.

Ricardo continues.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

You know I was gonna join the Army?

LINORE

Were you?

RICARDO

Yeah, I was gonna talk to you about it. My parents were all for it, but like I said, they don't know what it's all about, not *really*. You remember when we were reading *Farewell to Manzanar* Freshman year and you talked about some of your experiences in the Army? You didn't have to talk about any of that with us, maybe it wasn't our business. Our parents are always so busy trying to protect us, they forget how important the truth really is. But that really had an effect on me. At first, I thought I was doing the right thing joining the military, but I realized I could do more for my community if I stayed and became a teacher like you. You inspired me, Ms. G.

Tears well up in Linore's eyes.

JIANNA

Me too, I mean about wanting to be a teacher. You remember how I would refuse to talk in class at the beginning of the year? How I told you what all my other teachers—except maybe for Ms. Wright of course—!

Maggie perks up at her name.



JIANNA (CONT'D)

But all my other teachers were just awful. And then I had you this year and if it hadn't been for you, I'd never have come out of my shell. I would never have found my voice.

ANDREA

What we're trying to say is that you changed our lives for the better, and we're not letting you go without a fight.

Linore smiles.

EXT. LINORE'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Maggie pulls up in a red Jeep Renegade.

She walks up to the door, flowers in hand.

She rings the doorbell.

INT. LINORE'S ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Linore finishes brushing her hair.

She answers the door, letting Maggie inside with a kiss and a smile.

LINORE

Flowers? What for?

MAGGIE

Just because...I thought they might cheer you up.

LINORE

You're sweet. Let me cut these and get them into a vase before we head out. It'll just take a few minutes.

Maggie follows Linore into the kitchen.

INT. LINORE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They enter the kitchen, where Linore immediately begins searching for a vase.

LINORE

I know I have one here somewhere.

She opens nearly every cupboard before finally finding what she's looking for.

She grabs the vase and takes it over to the sink.

She opens a drawer and pulls out a pair of scissors.

Maggie watches her intently.

MAGGIE  
Are you alright?

Linore nods as she pulls the flowers out of their wrapping and begins to cut the ends off.

She fills the vase with water and empties the packet.

She digs into her pocket and finds a penny.

LINORE  
They'll last longer.

Maggie nods.

MAGGIE  
Ah.

Linore drops the penny into the vase and then takes a deep breath, fighting back tears.

LINORE  
Alright. I'm ready.

MAGGIE  
Are you sure you're alright?

LINORE  
I don't really have much of a  
choice, do I?

Maggie relents.

MAGGIE  
I suppose.

Maggie takes both of Linore's hands in hers.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)  
I'll be with you the whole time.  
I've already submitted my  
resignation.

LINORE  
You what?

MAGGIE

I told you I wasn't going to let  
you go through this alone, and I  
meant it.

She cups Linore's face in her hands as Linore fights back  
more tears.

LINORE

I just can't believe this is real.

MAGGIE

*This*, us...this is real. I'm with  
you. It's going to be alright.

They kiss.

INT. LINORE'S CLASSROOM - LATER

Linore takes down posters and other classroom materials and  
puts them away in crates.

Mark knocks at the door.

LINORE

Come in...

Mark enters.

LINORE (CONT'D)

No need to knock.

Linore crosses over to climb onto a step-ladder.

MARK

How are you, Linore?

LINORE

Can you hand me that staple  
remover?

Mark scans the room, locates the requested item and crosses  
the room to hand it to Linore.

MARK

Lin...

LINORE

I wish everyone would stop asking  
me that.

She presses the staple remover hard into the wall, grimacing as she struggles to pry out a stubborn staple.

MARK

Okay, then...I won't. Need a hand?

LINORE

No. Thank you. I can handle it.

MARK

I just want to know you're alright.

Linore finally pops the staple out and moves on to the next one.

LINORE

You know, I find that hard to believe.

MARK

Why would you say something like that? I don't understand.

LINORE

Of course you don't.

Linore struggles with yet another stubborn staple, but this time, her hand slips and she cuts herself on it.

She winces in pain.

Mark steps up to try and offer help.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Can you, just...back off?

Mark, startled by her outburst, backs up.

LINORE (CONT'D)

You didn't come all the way over here to see if I'm okay, you came because you feel guilty--well you know what, I'm not a therapist and I'm not here to soothe your conscience. I'm here to get my things and leave. So since we both know you're not really here to help with that, why don't you just cut the bullshit and leave me alone. I'll be done soon, anyway.

MARK

That's not fair.

LINORE

No, you know what's not actually fair? The fact that my students have no idea what to expect when they come back from winter break, but I'm pretty sure they won't expect to find their classroom, their home, stripped down to nothing and their teacher--someone they lean on for support and kindness--gone. But I'm sure none of that matters because, apparently, I'm just some psychotic freak who's too dangerous to be around kids...who's unfit to be their teacher, or even to be a teacher at all.

Mark, speechless, says nothing.

LINORE (CONT'D)

And the worst part of it is, that you just stood there...you just rolled right over and you took everything away from me.

MARK

What was I supposed to do? Ignore them? They had every right to be concerned.

LINORE

Concerned, yes, but not...not this.

Linore, still gripping her cut finger, tightens her grasp trying to fight back tears.

MARK

I don't know what to say. I didn't expect them to act like that. But they were right, it's not okay that we didn't disclose this information.

LINORE

What do you mean "disclose"? You're all acting like I am some kind of sick criminal! I have the right to privacy about my condition, and I didn't hurt anyone.

MARK

You shoved that boy to the ground when he tried to help you.

LINORE  
So that's what this is about.

Mark looks away.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
I see.

MARK  
I don't know what you want me to say.

LINORE  
You know me, Mark. You know I would never willfully harm a student, or anyone else for that matter.

MARK  
Of course I know that, Lin, but I can't ignore what happened in that classroom, and neither can the parents, and neither can the students.

LINORE  
I wasn't myself.

MARK  
I know, but I can't keep covering for you every time this kind of thing happens!

A beat as the gravity of his statement sinks in.

Linore turns away.

LINORE  
You don't trust me.

MARK  
I do, Lin. I do. I just think you need some more time to get well again. Maggie tells me you've made some good progress.

LINORE  
I'm a liability.

MARK  
You're not listening.

LINORE

Yes, I am. You just said you can't keep covering for me every time this kind of thing happens. You agree with them. That I'm a liability.

MARK

I have to do what is in the best interest of my students, Lin.

Linore scoffs.

LINORE

Your students. Of course you do. I think you should go now.

MARK

Lin...please, this isn't personal. I am just trying to do my job.

LINORE

No, you're not 'just trying to do your job'. You're covering your own ass. And you're wrong. This is my life's work, it's everything I am. So yes, it IS personal.

Mark looks at her for a moment before turning away and exiting the classroom.

He stops at the door to catch sight of her as she turns back to continue taking down posters.

EXT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Linore, having forgotten a few things and holding a crate full of materials, returns to her classroom, whose door remains ajar.

She hears voices inside and pauses for a moment before opening the door to enter.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Whilst the parents continue to speak over each other, demanding answers, Andrea's mother happens to glance to the door as Linore walks by.

She breaks away from the group and storms into the hallway to rush at Linore.

A few of them try to stop her but they are swept up in the moment.

SRA. CARRILLO

You should be ashamed of yourself!  
What you put my daughter through--  
all our kids--Drea spends nearly  
every single day with you, HOURS  
and HOURS outside of class!

PARENT 1

Why didn't you tell us you're a  
total lunatic, Linore!

SRA. CARRILLO

Because they don't care if they  
have delusional freaks injuring  
students, right Mark?

Mark advances toward Senora Carrillo as she inches  
dangerously close to Linore.

MARK

Gricela... I think we all need to  
calm down. This is obviously very  
upsetting for everyone involved,  
but this is not the way.

But then, as Mark begins to defend Linore, something unusual  
takes place.

LINORE

I-

The students, led by Andrea Carrillo, enter the classroom.  
Andrea approaches, dropping off her backpack and then walks  
toward her mother and defiantly stands between her and  
Linore. The rest of the students take their seats.

Senora Carrillo notices her daughter is the leader of the  
pack and becomes even more infuriated.

SRA. CARRILLO

What the hell is all this, Drea?  
Hmm? What do you think you're  
doing?

ANDREA

We have class today.

SRA. CARRILLO

Oh, really? Like hell you do, I'm  
pulling you out, so pick up



ANDREA

No, you're not.

SRA. CARRILLO

Oh, I'm sorry, you clearly seem to think you have a say or something-- probably some trash you got from esa guera loca over here--now get your stuff and let's go. Think you know better than me, YO soy tu mama!

ANDREA

And Ms. G. Is my teacher--our teacher, and she's given me something you never could.

SRA. CARRILLO

Oh? And just what is that exactly?

ANDREA

Wisdom.

A beat.

Senora Carrillo, taken aback by her daughter's blatant insult and defiance, stands there speechless.

At this point, Mark tries to regain control of the situation.

MARK

Andrea, kids, I see what you're trying to do here, and I think it's wonderful that you want to support Ms. Glass, but this situation is a lot more complicated than you probably realize. You need to go with your parents.

ANDREA

We're not leaving.

LINORE

Drea...

ANDREA

Ms. G., we're not leaving you.

Linore, also shocked, struggles to find words.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Look around you, Mama...you think we would all be here if we didn't believe that Ms. Glass was a good person who doesn't deserve to lose her job just because she has a mental illness?

SRA. CARRILLO

She put her hands on that boy.

RICARDO

It was an accident.

ANDREA

See, that's it right there. You think she's some dangerous psycho, but she's the kindest, most generous and caring...and badass people I know.

Linore smiles, recalling that prior conversation between them. The class all verbalize their agreement enthusiastically.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

We love you, Ms. G., and we love you. And we're not leaving until we've had our lesson.

RICARDO

That's right.

Linore turns to Mark, unsure what to do.

Mark's radio chimes in.

JACK (VOICE)

Checking in, Mark. Angela's asking where you're at.

Mark pauses before responding.

MARK

I'm in M-1 with Linore.

JACK (VOICE)

Do you need me?

Mark regards the students.

MARK

Tell Angela I'll have to reschedule.

JACK (VOICE)  
Everything okay?

MARK  
I've got a classroom full of  
parents, and their students are  
refusing to leave.

JACK  
Do you need me to come clear them  
out?

Mark pauses before answering. We see the wheels turning in  
his mind.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Mark? Are you still there?

MARK  
Yeah, I'm still here.

JACK  
Do you want me to clear them out?

MARK  
No.

Senora Carrillo scoffs. Mark attempts to allay her anger.

MARK (CONT'D)  
If the students feel they can  
handle this peacefully, then I'll  
allow it. But I would like all of  
the parents to leave. This is  
civics in action, so let's give it  
a chance.

He looks at Andrea.

Andrea and her mother lock their gazes on one another as the  
parents begin to file out.

CUT TO BLACK.

REPORTER'S VOICE  
(over black)

Breaking news out of San Fernando  
today, students at Avalon Charter  
Academy are staging a sit-in  
protest in what has turned into  
quite a moving display of  
solidarity in defense one of their  
most beloved teachers.

(MORE)

## REPORTER'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Linore Glass, who teaches 12th grade English at the small school, suffered a mental breakdown in front of her students last week and was let go after it was alleged by a parent that she shoved a student during the outburst. We have been unsuccessful in reaching the school's leadership for comment as of yet, but we will continue to follow this story as it unfolds. The protest appears to be led by Andrea Carrillo, whose classmates posted this video to social media just a little while ago. It shows the young scholar engaging in a fierce debate with her own mother, who was one of the most vocal parents involved in Glass's termination.

## EXT. OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Andrea's mother, Senora Carrillo, gives a brief interview.

## SRA. CARRILLO

This should be over, my daughter should be coming home with me, but the principal is allowing her to stay here and do this. She just turned 18, I can't make her go.

## INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The students, still seated, continue to wait with Linore.

A knock at the door, and the friendly voice of Maggie can be heard excitedly from the other side.

## MAGGIE

It's me, it's Maggie!

Ricardo jumps up and runs to let her in.

Maggie rushes in.

## MAGGIE (CONT'D)

It's all over the news!

## LINORE

What?

RICARDO

About time!

LINORE

Ricardo, what are you talking about?

RICARDO

I called the local news station. I sent them video of Drea's whole thing with her mom!

Andrea crosses the room to view Ricardo's phone.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

See? I put the whole thing online. Everything you said, Drea.

MAGGIE

This could be good, Lin. Really good!

A small spark appears in Linore's eyes, only to be cast out as a realization dawns on her.

LINORE

This isn't right.

MAGGIE

What do you mean?

LINORE

I can't be responsible for this.

MAGGIE

I don't understand, Lin, don't you want to stay?

LINORE

Not if it means shaming the school into giving me my job back. I'm not going to strong-arm anyone into doing something they don't think is in the best interest of the students.

She addresses the kids.

LINORE (CONT'D)

I want to stay. I don't want to lose you, but forcing it like this is not the right way to get what you want.

(MORE)

LINORE (CONT'D)

Now, I can appeal to the Board, I can put together a good solid case for reinstatement, and you can all write letters of support, and we can wait for their response, and I will accept whatever they decide and so will you. I know you will because you care about me, and you know it's the right thing to do. It may be hard to accept. But what I can't accept, what I won't accept is this, making a whole scene and disrupting the school all because of me. It's not fair to you, or to your classmates. They have the right to come to school, to learn in an environment without distraction. And we're taking that away from them, and it has to end now.

With that, Linore starts for the door.

MAGGIE

Lin?

Linore stops at the door, her hand on the handle. Maggie comes up to her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

This might be our only chance.

LINORE

I know.

Linore grasps Maggie's hand and gripping it tight.

MAGGIE

Just tell me you're okay.

Linore caresses Maggie's cheek and smiles.

JIANNA

Umm, guys? I think you should see this.

She beckons for everyone to join her at the window.

Some of the kids get up and move over to see what Jianna sees: a crowd of spectators, both students and teachers, has begun to form outside the classroom.

FELIX  
This is all for us?

Andrea smiles, turning to Linore.

ANDREA  
It's for you, Ms. G.

The class looks back to Linore for hope, but she has already left the classroom.

Andrea glances downward.

EXT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Linore approaches the crowd, which has grown immensely. Several reporters eagerly advance toward her.

She stops outside the gate.

Parents, teachers and other spectators begin to clap for her, but others also jeer at her.

Maggie appears and joins Linore at her side.

MAGGIE  
You didn't actually think I'd let  
you do this alone, did you?

They exchange a smile and Linore grasps Maggie's hand.

LINORE  
I won't take up anymore of your  
time. I only came out to say that I  
will be returning home. I want to  
thank my students, especially  
Andrea Carrillo and Ricardo  
Venegas, for their incredible  
display of leadership and courage.  
We live in a democratic republic,  
and we teach our students that  
every voice matters. As educators,  
we hope to instill certain  
qualities in our students.  
(MORE)

LINORE (CONT'D)

They pass through our doors year after year after year, but they also pass through our lives, and most of the time, we never know whether or not the things we really wanted for them ever happen, if the hopes we had for them to become strong, independent leaders who can think for themselves, not easily swayed by the influence of others, who can make sound decisions based on reason and logic, and who will advocate for those without a voice in this world, we so rarely have the chance to find out if they become what we want so much for them to be. But I consider myself so lucky, so blessed that I could see my kids-yes, my kids, show me that they are everything I'd hoped for, and it serves as a testament to this profession, that teachers can and do make a positive impact. But as I said to my class just a moment ago, I also believe that disrupting the learning process-even if they believe their cause is just-cannot continue, which is why I have decided to go home, to let Mark do his job, and to move on. I am instructing my class to do the same. Thank you.

Linore retreats, but questions begin to launch from the reporters as she walks away.

INT. ANNA GOMEZ'S OFFICE - A YEAR LATER

Anna smiles as Linore comes in, offering a hug.

ANNA

Linore, how are you?

Linore hugs back.

LINORE

You know, for once, I'm actually not annoyed at having to answer that question. I'm doing really well.

ANNA

Everything's working okay? Geodon?



LINORE

Yeah, so far so good. No problems.

ANNA

That's really good to hear. How's Maggie?

LINORE

She's good.

ANNA

Is she still at Avalon?

LINORE

No, no she's at the studio with me now.

ANNA

I see, and how's that all going?

LINORE

Really well, my students are amazing. I probably learn more from them than the other way around.

They share a laugh.

Anna makes a note.

ANNA

I'm really happy for you, Linore. It sounds like things are going much better for you. Do you miss Avalon at all?

LINORE

I do...I have my days. Sometimes I wish I could go back and do it all over again, but the truth is, I can't change what happened.

ANNA

That's true. We can't change the past, but we can look forward to the future, right?

Linore nods.

ANNA (CONT'D)

So what else is new?

LINORE

Maggie and I are getting married.

Anna breaks into a big smile.

ANNA  
Oh, that's wonderful!  
Congratulations!

LINORE  
Thank you.

ANNA  
Well, listen, I won't keep you. We  
can cut our visit short today. I'm  
sure you have a lot to do.

Linore smiles.

They both rise.

LINORE  
I'll see you next week.

Anba smiles as she makes a note.

INT. STAGE - A FEW WEEKS LATER

Linore works with two students as they rehearse a scene. One  
of them is Andrea Carrillo.

LINORE  
Remember moment to moment, where is  
the urgency? We need to see it, or  
we won't feel it. Everything  
Lettice does is out of immediacy,  
right? What does she want?

CHERIE  
She wants to be on stage, she wants  
to perform.

LINORE  
Good, good, you're on the right  
track, but more than that? Think  
about Lotte, and how losing her job  
meant also losing something even  
more precious.

CHERIE  
Friendship?

LINORE  
Bingo.

CHERIE

So she really just wants to be  
Lotte's friend.

LINORE

Exactly.

CHERIE

Ohhhhh...okay, I thought she was  
just a drama queen. But now I'm  
kind of seeing there's more to it  
than that. She's lonely.

LINORE

See, you didn't really need me--you  
sensed it. That's a sign of a  
really strong actress, well done!

Cherie smiles broadly.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Okay, let's go again. From the top  
of the scene. Are you good, Drea?

ANDREA

Um, yeah, just need a sec.

As the students reset, Linore turns around to go back to her  
seat in the orchestra pit. As she does this, we see the  
familiar figure of Senora Carrillo enter the theater.

Linore turns to address the students.

LINORE

Actually, Ladies, why don't you  
take a few minutes backstage and  
run lines.

The girls both nod and depart.

Linore walks up to Senora Carrillo.

LINORE (CONT'D)

Senora Carrillo, what brings you  
all the way out here?

SRA. CARRILLO

How you doing, Linore?

LINORE

I'm good, real good, thanks. What  
can I do for you?

SRA. CARRILLO

I'm probably the last person you want to see. Especially since I pushed for them to term you, but...

LINORE

Why?

SRA. CARRILLO

Why what?

LINORE

I've known you and your family a long time, Gricela.

SRA. CARRILLO

I was trying to protect my daughter.

LINORE

What about Gustavo, or Luis, or Eduardo. When did I ever give you a reason to feel like you had to protect any of your kids from me? They weren't even kids, Gricela. They were grown up. And they all graduated from high school.

Mrs. Carrillo looks down.

LINORE (CONT'D)

You said I was a delusional freak. How could you do that?

SRA. CARRILLO

I guess I was scared...I didn't understand what happened, no one explained it. I still don't exactly get it, but I'm sorry for what I said. What you did for Andrea, and for my boys? That was real, and it was a good thing. And I was jealous of that because I never really had that kind of relationship with Drea...

Linore considers Renee's words for a moment.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)

I want you to know I went to the Board, to try to get you your job back.

LINORE  
You did?

SRA. CARRILLO  
Yeah.

LINORE  
I...

SRA. CARRILLO  
Please don't thank me. I just did  
what I did because I wanted to make  
it right. I really hope they let  
you come back, Linore. They miss  
you.

She offers a hand, which Linore accepts.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)  
Look, I gotta go. I just wanted to  
apologize and tell you about the  
Board. You take care of yourself.

She offers a smile, which Linore returns.

LINORE  
You too.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Oh, one more thing...do you mind if  
I talk to Drea?

LINORE  
That's up to her.

Drea approaches.

ANDREA  
Yeah, we can talk outside.

Senora Carrillo leaves with Andrea.

EXT. ACTING STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

Andrea sits on a step.

Senora Carrillo looks away as she speaks.

SRA. CARRILLO  
How are you?

ANDREA  
I'm good, Ma. Why are you here?

SRA. CARRILLO  
I just...I just came to apologize  
to Ms. Glass.

ANDREA  
It's 'Doctor'.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Que?

ANDREA  
It's 'Doctor Glass', she has her  
doctoral degree in Theatre  
Education.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Oh.

ANDREA  
You were saying?

SRA. CARRILLO  
I was *saying*...I came to apologize.

ANDREA  
And you think that's going to make  
everything between us better?

SRA. CARRILLO  
I was hoping it could.

ANDREA  
You know you did a pretty fucked up  
thing, right? Going after her job  
the way you did...

SRA. CARRILLO  
I...

ANDREA  
You what...suddenly feel bad? It's  
too late. You got your way, you  
drove her out of Avalon, but you  
know what, you didn't drive her  
away from making a difference. And  
you can't make me leave here  
either.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Drea...

ANDREA  
No, I'm sick of waiting for you to  
get off your high horse.  
(MORE)

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Thea Claudia was amazing, and so is Doctor Glass. She's really believed in me.

Senora Carrillo looks down.

SRA. CARRILLO

I guess I owe you an apology, too.

ANDREA

Yeah, maybe.

SRA. CARRILLO

I never really took the time to think of you as an adult. As a mother, all I've ever done is tried to protect you and-

Andrea starts to interrupt, but Senora Carrillo continues.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)

And I know better now. I see a beautiful young woman with talent and a strong voice. I should have listened to you.

Andrea looks away.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)

I should have listened.

A moment of silence passes between them.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)

I can't change what I did before. Like I told Linore, I went to the board to try and have her reinstated. They said they would send a letter when they made their decision. I just wanted her to know I tried to make things right. Just like I am trying to make things right between us.

Andrea says nothing.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)

Drea...please don't make me suffer any more than I already have. Not talking for over a year? It can't be this way.

Stubbornly, Andrea still says nothing.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)  
Somos familia, *mi corazon*.

Senora Carrillo prods Andrea, who finally breaks into a smile.

ANDREA  
Alright, alright...!

Senora Carrillo smiles and wraps Andrea up in her arms.

SRA. CARRILLO  
I love you.

ANDREA  
I love you, too.

SRA. CARRILLO  
So, acting huh?

ANDREA  
Don't start with me, Ma...

Andrea starts to back up, but her mother pulls her back in close.

SRA. CARRILLO  
No, no, no I was just saying...wow,  
my daughter's gonna be a famous  
movie star.

ANDREA  
Yeah, so you better be nice to me  
or I won't be there to buy you a  
nice big house when I'm rich and  
famous.

SRA. CARRILLO  
And what's this I hear about you  
and Ricardo?

Andrea, taken aback, smiles out of embarrassment.

ANDREA  
How did you find out about that?

SRA. CARRILLO  
I have my ways.

ANDREA  
Yeah, well, don't get too excited,  
we're taking things slow.



SRA. CARRILLO  
So no babies any time soon?

Andrea laughs.

ANDREA  
Ma, no! My God, I'm only nineteen,  
you gotta give me a chance to  
really do some stuff with my life  
before I go having babies!

Senora Carrillo laughs.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Alright, alright, but you have to  
promise me when it's time for the  
wedding, you'll let me give you  
away.

ANDREA  
Uh-huh, well, that all depends.

SRA. CARRILLO  
On what?

ANDREA  
On you, and whether you keep trying  
to interfere in my life or not. You  
gotta let me make my own choices  
now.

Senora Carrillo nods.

SRA. CARRILLO  
I'll try harder, *mija*, I promise.

ANDREA  
No try, no *mija*. You better. Okay?

SRA. CARRILLO  
Okay.

They embrace.

ANDREA  
I gotta go, five minute break was  
like ten minutes ago, Doctor Glass  
is probably wondering what's  
holding me up.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Okay, okay, I'm going. I love you.

ANDREA  
I love you, too.

Andrea walks away.

Senora Carrillo watches her until she disappears behind the door.

She walks to the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Diego, waiting for Gricela, opens the door to let her in from inside.

DIEGO  
So how'd it go?

SRA. CARRILLO  
I think we're gonna be okay.

DIEGO  
I had a feeling you might.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Oh, really, and how did you know?

DIEGO  
Because it got to you. I can always  
tell when something really gets to  
you. You missed her.

Senora Carrillo says nothing for a moment.

DIEGO (CONT'D)  
You did the right thing, you know.

Senora Carrillo sighs.

SRA. CARRILLO  
I know.

A beat.

SRA. CARRILLO (CONT'D)  
You were right.

Diego smiles.

DIEGO  
I know.

SRA. CARRILLO  
Let's go home.

Diego smiles and starts the car.

The car pulls out of its space and heads off.

INT. STUDIO THEATRE - LATER

LINORE  
Okay, break's over, let's get back  
to it, ladies. Drea, where are you?

Drea appears from backstage.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
Let's try it from the top.

Drea takes her first position.

Cherie joins her onstage, positioning herself behind the desk.

LINORE (CONT'D)  
Now, remember, you've just been  
rudely interrupted whilst in the  
middle of your tour, and Miss  
Schoen is about to fire you.

Drea nods.

She knocks on the door.

CHERIE  
(in character as Lotte  
Schoen, sharply)  
Yes?

Drea knocks faintly.

CHERIE (CONT'D)  
(in character)  
Yes?! Is there anyone there?

Drea knocks more loudly.

Linore giggles.

CHERIE (CONT'D)  
YES! Come in!

Maggie enters the theatre.

Drea enters the scene.

ANDREA  
It's me, Miss Schoen.

Maggie comes up beside Linore as they continue the scene.

She whispers.

MAGGIE  
Was that Gricela Carrillo?

LINORE  
Mhmm.

MAGGIE  
What did she want?

LINORE  
To apologize.

Maggie's jaw just about hits the floor.

MAGGIE  
You've got to be kidding me. After  
all this time?

Drea breaks into her famous speech.

ANDREA  
(as Lettice)  
Fustian House is quite simply the  
dullest house in England.

The onlookers laugh as Drea recites her part to perfection.

Linore continues.

LINORE  
She said she asked the Board to  
reinstate me.

MAGGIE  
Really? What made her change her  
mind?

LINORE  
You know, as hard as it is for you  
to imagine, there are some people  
in this world who do have a  
conscience.

Maggie cracks a smile.

MAGGIE

She's really quite good, isn't she?

Linore nods.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Speaking of conscience, that may be true. In fact, here.

She hands Linore an envelope.

LINORE

Is this it?

MAGGIE

I think so.

Linore takes it, but does not open it immediately.

She marvels at Drea as Cherie and Drea continue their banter.

CHERIE

(as Lotte)

You are not expected to make things out of the house, merely to show people *round* it.

ANDREA

(still in character)

I'm afraid I can't agree. I am there to enlighten, that first of all.

CHERIE

Enlighten?

ANDREA

Light them up! 'Enlarge, enliven, enlighten!' That was my mother's watchword! She called them 'the Three E's'

Linore looks at the envelope for a few moments before smiling.

LINORE

Much better, much better, great job, ladies! I think we can skip ahead to Page twenty-five now.

The girls reposition themselves and begin.

Maggie turns to Linore.

MAGGIE

Aren't you going to open it?

Linore kisses Maggie on the lips, and takes one of Maggie's hand in hers.

LINORE

I don't need to.

MAGGIE

Oh, really? And why is that?

LINORE

Because I have everything I need  
right here, don't I?

Maggie smiles.

Hand in hand, Linore lets the envelope fall to the floor,  
unopened.

FADE OUT.