

BLOOD AND BUTTERFLIES

Screenplay by

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Based on, the novel
Blood and Butterflies
By
John Charles Harman

FADE IN:

TITLE CARD:

"Everyone is a moon and has a dark side of which they never show to anybody" Mark Twain.

TITLE CARD:

Bored is the man alone who consumed by guilt, ponders plots he may never carry out. Yet, when NEVER becomes the focus and obsession of his twisted mind, he snaps.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

TITLE CARD: Day 14

MARIA, 30s, an attractive Latino woman, and SUSI, 20s, a petite Korean woman are sitting on the couch. TONY, 40s, a well built man, is sitting on the couch opposite waving his gun at them. Knock at the front door.

TIM SLOAN (O.S.)
LA Police. Open this door
immediately.

Tony motions to Maria and Susi not to move. Maria runs towards the door. Tony grabs her by the hair, forcing her back into the couch.

SUSI
Tony. What are you doing?

EXT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Detective TIM SLOAN, 40s, a good looking well built man. Tim with two officers, draw their guns. Tim knocks again on the front door.

TIM SLOAN (O.S.)
Tony Salerno. It's the LAPD. We
know you're in there, and we are
coming in.

Tony walks toward the door. His gun still pointed at Maria and Susi.

TONY SALERNO
I've got a gun and I'm not opening
the door. Back away from the door
and go downstairs, or I will shoot
someone.

Susi weeps, in Maria's arms.

TIM SLOAN (O.S.)

Tony. We just want to talk to you.
Please just put down the gun and
let us in.

Tim motions the officers, to make their way toward the
kitchen window.

TONY SALERNO

This is the last time I tell you
pig. Get away from the door or I
start shooting.

Susi jumps off the couch, walks towards Tony. Tony pushes her
back into the couch.

SUSI

Tony. Tony. What are you doing?
Please just calm down, and think
about this.

TONY SALERNO

Sit down. You lying bitch. This is
all your fault.

Susi on the couch with Maria, continues to weep.

MARIA

You know they are coming in Tony.
Is that your name? You do know that
I work for the police department.
Don't you?

Tony pushes the gun into Maria's temple.

TONY SALERNO

I told you to shut the hell up.

"a phone rings."

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Where is that phone coming from?

MARIA

It's mine. I left it on my bed.

Tony sits on the couch opposite Maria and Susi. Placing his
gun in his lap, he reaches over touching Susi's leg.

TONY SALERNO

I never told you Susi. I used to be
a traffic cop. So trust me, I know
exactly what the protocol is, and
what they are doing out there. I
know I don't have a chance. And
honestly I don't really care.

Maria stares at Tony trying to place who he is.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

I just want you to know Susi. That I did not kill that prostitute. She slipped in my kitchen, and hit her head on the floor.

Susi's eyes widen. Her mouth open in shock.

SUSI

Oh my god Tony. What are you talking about? What have you done Tony?

TONY SALERNO

I'm telling you both the truth. I don't have any reason to lie to you now. It's all over for me. She tried to steal from me and we struggled, when I tried to get her purse, away from her. She just slipped, and hit her head really hard on the floor. I didn't kill her. It was an accident. She just slipped.

MARIA

Then why are you holding us hostage? I'm sure the police, will listen to your side of the events.

TONY SALERNO

Why? I'll tell you why. Because I took her body and dumped it, in the Malibu Hills that's why. And when the police search my apartment, they are bound to find matching fibers and shit, linking me to her murder. I'll still get life and go down for manslaughter, for trying to cover it up. Do you think that just because I used to be a traffic cop, they will cut me a break? I don't think so. Plus, what if they find out about the other ones?

Tony bangs his gun against his head.

MARIA

What other ones Tony?

TONY SALERNO

Shit. What?

MARIA

What other one's Tony?

TONY SALERNO

You should have both minded your own business, and stayed out of mine. Get up both of you. We are moving into the bedroom.

With his gun, Tony motions for them to move. Maria and Susi get up from the couch and walk towards the bedroom. A shot rings out. Dropping his gun, Tony falls to the floor. A second shot is fired. Tim and the Swat team break through the door. Tony is lying dead on the floor in a pool of blood.

INT. NEW AGE STORE - TAROT CARD READING - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 1

Maria sits at the table, having her tarot cards read. The CLAIRVOYANT, 60s, smiling, points to the cards laid out on the table.

MARIA (V.O.)

Maybe if I knew then, what I know now. I would have listened, and heeded the warnings. To me, it was just the usual stuff. A new love on the horizon, trouble brewing in a situation, the possibility of losing a love one. Anyone that has ever had their fortune told, will tell you that it's all about hope. Hope for your relationship, your kids, your life etc. I wonder if she really had any idea, when she let me walk onto the street that day. The events that were about to transpire in my life.

Standing up, the Clairvoyant hugs Maria.

CLAIRVOIYANT

Remember, you are a strong and beautiful soul Maria. I will be here if you need me.

MARIA

Thank you. I'm sure I will be fine. How much worse can life really get? I will think about what you have said though.

Maria smiling, walks out the door.

EXT. LAPD PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Maria walks past Tim, in the parking lot. A nervous and infatuated Maria, stops in her tracks.

MARIA

Hi Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Maria. Are you finished for the day?

MARIA

Yes Tim. I just need to grab a few things before I head home. You?

TIM SLOAN

For the moment anyway. You never can tell.

MARIA

I know exactly what you mean Tim. Do you have time for a drink?

TIM SLOAN

Any other day, I would love to have a drink with you. But I have to collect my girls from school. Can I take a rain check?

MARIA

Sure. I'll hold you to that Tim.

TIM SLOAN

I look forward to it Maria.

Maria smiling, watches Tim walk off. Tim stops, turning around, he runs back to Maria.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

You know what? Maybe I do have time for a quick drink. The girls will be fine for a few more minutes.

Tim and Maria, walk off. Walking close to each other, they smile.

INT. LA HOTEL ROOM - DREAM SEQUENCE - DAY

Tim and Maria, kissing uncontrollably make their way to the bed. Tim on top, the two start undressing each other on the bed.

INT. LA BAR - AFTERNOON

Maria looking up, wakes from her daydream. Tim walks over, placing two drinks on the table opposite Maria.

TIM SLOAN

I'm really glad, that we are finally doing this.

MARIA
Me too, Tim.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tony with drink in hand, stands at his kitchen bench.

" a phone rings."

Tony cordless telephone, in hand.

PHONE CONVERSATION

TONY SALERNO
So Fred. Did you hear the news?
They caught that sniper today. I
thought for sure it would have been
some whacked out white guy or ex
marine or something. Can you
believe it was some black guy? He
even shot the bus driver.

Tony pauses.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)
No. There is no way that he would
have shot that bus driver if he
knew he was black. Actually. From
what I have heard, was that he has
already come out and said, that he
hates white men. To me that means,
that he must not have seen, that
the driver was black. Or maybe, he
was just one of those light skinned
blacks.

He pauses again.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)
Well Fred. You think whatever you
want. I'm just repeating what the
news has just said. Anyway thanks
for calling buddy. Take care of
yourself and we will catch up soon.

Hanging up the phone, he smiles. Opening a locked kitchen
drawer, he pulls out a drawing. He looks at the picture of a
person lying in the back of the car, with a handgun sticking
out of the hole.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)
Someone needs to clean the shit in
this city up.

Placing the drawing back, he locks the drawer. Drink in hand,
he walks to the window. Gazes out into the rainy night
street.

EXT. LA STREET - GANG QUARTER - FLASHBACK

Tony lays in his car boot, looking out a drilled out hole onto the street. A CRIP GANG MEMBER MALE, 20s, walks alone, down the street. A shot rings out. The Mexican falls down dead on the street.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

" a phone rings."

PHONE CONVERSATION

MARCO (O.S.)

Hey dad. It's me are you home? Just thought I'd let you know how Arizona is going, and to see if you have found out, when you can come out and see me? Well okay Dad. Love you, and I hope to see you soon. Take care old man.

Tony listens to the answering machine. He pours another drink. Unlocking the drawer again, he dials a number on his phone. A knock at the door.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY

Tony walks over, opens the door. CHELSEA, 20s, is standing in the hallway.

CHELSEA

Hey baby. Are you ready for some fun tonight?

TONY SALERNO

Hey Chelsea baby. Can we give tonight a miss? I've got a few things I need to do, and Marco rang to talk to me before. So I probably should call him back, and see how he is going. Anyway sorry baby. I will make it up to you another night.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tony closes the door. Walks into his bedroom closet. He removes a floor board, pulling out a hand gun. Gun in bag, walks out the door.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 2

Tim packs up his paperwork. Placing his folders into a bag. Head of Homicide DETECTIVE MACINTOSH, 50s, stands at his desk.

MACINTOSH

Hey Sloan. Some gang kid's been shot. I need you on this case. All I know is that they found the body this morning in the bushes. The girlfriend says that the victim left her house around midnight.

TIM SLOAN

But sir, What about the gang unit? You know I have plans for the weekend. Can't someone else cover this? I promised my family that I would take some time away, and take them to the beach this weekend. It has been organized for months. Surely there is someone else to cover these moronic death wish teenagers.

MACINTOSH

I'm Sorry Sloan there's not. I've got Maria bringing the files up to you, as we speak.

TIM SLOAN

Yep understood Sir. I'll call my wife.

Macintosh walks off. Picking up a photo of his wife and family, he stares at the picture.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Tim Sloan's wife LINDA, 38, an attractive woman with blonde hair, is washing dishes. The children COLLEEN, 14, and APRIL, 8, are sitting at the kitchen table. Tim walks in, goes to the kitchen table, kisses his daughters.

TIM SLOAN

Good morning my beautiful ones. I gather everyone slept well and is ready for another great day.

Tim walks over, kisses his wife.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

Good Morning honey.

LINDA SLOAN

Morning.

Linda brushes past Tim. Tim trying to kiss her, misses. Laughing, he walks over to collect his breakfast. He sits down at the table.

TIM SLOAN

So I was thinking that maybe we could head to the beach later today.

LINDA SLOAN

Does that mean, that you have finally taken a weekend off to spend time with your family?

TIM SLOAN

I still have to go in for a while today. But I should be out just after lunch. Then I thought that maybe you and I, could go out for dinner somewhere in West Hollywood tonight. Just you, me and a nice bottle of red.

LINDA SLOAN

Well I won't hold my breath. We have been going to go out for dinner on a Saturday night, for the last ten years. I'm glad I don't feel the need, to buy a new dress for these occasions. The dress would be out of date, before the dinner ever happened.

TIM SLOAN

Oh come on Linda. You know I'm trying to get out. When are you going to stop throwing my career in my face, every chance you get. Why can't you just understand, that I am trying. You know that there's just not that much around, at the moment. At least the force has job security.

LINDA SLOAN

I guess that college degree, would have come in pretty handy right now.

TIM SLOAN

Oh my god Linda. Is the life we have really that bad? I'm so sick of having the same god damn argument, every day of my life.

LINDA SLOAN

I'm just saying Tim.. Maybe when you look at it from that perspective, you can understand why I think and know, that the force has stolen our family.

APRIL SLOAN

Hey Dad. Can we go to Santa Monica? Will you take me on the Ferris Wheel?

TIM SLOAN

Of course I will sweetie. Do you think that we will be able to see our house from there?

APRIL SLOAN

Maybe Daddy. I can't wait to find out. Can Mommy and Colleen come on it as well?

Tim walks over, sits down next to Colleen.

TIM SLOAN

What about it sweetie? Do you want to come for a ride on the Ferris Wheel?

COLLEEN SLOAN

The Ferris Wheel is so lame Dad. Can't we go to the Beverly Centre instead?

TIM SLOAN

No. We are not going to a shopping mall as our family outing. We need to hear the roar of the Pacific Ocean, and breathe in that fresh air.

APRIL SLOAN

Can I bring Teddy with me?

TIM SLOAN

Course you can honey.

LINDA SLOAN

Just make sure your home to fulfill this promise. Then maybe I might, start to like you again.

Looking sternly, Linda hands Tim his lunch.

TIM SLOAN

Well on that note kids, time for your Dad to hit the station and put away some bad guys.

(MORE)

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

Make sure you're packed and ready
to hit the beach for lunch.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

Linda walks in, places a picnic basket on the desk. Tim phone
in hand, hangs up the phone.

TIM SLOAN

Linda.

LINDA SLOAN

Are you ready to go Tim? The girls
are in the car. We thought we would
just pick you up from here.

TIM SLOAN

I'm really sorry Linda. Something
at work has come up. There's been
another gang murder and Macintosh
has put me on the case. I'm really
sorry. Can you tell the girls...

LINDA SLOAN

Tell them yourself Tim. I'm so sick
of this shit. Why do you continue
to make promises to us, that you
have absolutely no intention of
keeping?

TIM SLOAN

It's a murder investigation for
Christ's sake Linda. I'm not
heading out to party.

LINDA SLOAN

Well. Who knows what you're doing
Tim. Your girls are growing up, and
you have basically missed their
whole life. But I guess you made
that decision, the day that you
decided to join the force. Don't
bother about the rest of the day
Tim.

Linda grabbing the picnic basket, walks off.

TIM SLOAN

What.... Linda. Linda. Shit.

Shaking his head, he sits at his desk. He looks up. Maria
approaches his desk. Maria is wearing a loose silk shirt and
tight pencil skirt. She has a confident smile on her face.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

Tim's tries to act professional. Maria stands smiling, at Tim's desk.

TIM SLOAN

Hi Maria.

MARIA

Oh. Hi Tim. Here is the report on that homicide last night.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks Maria. Did you read the report?

MARIA

You know that I'm only supposed to bring the reports down to you. I wouldn't want to break the rules Mr. Sloan.

Maria smiles with a sexy smile at Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Maria. I've told you before. Just call me Tim.

MARIA

Yes Tim. I read some of it. Usual stuff. Black male. Seventeen years old. Known Crip gang member. The victims name is Jamil Johnson. Been in Juvenile Hall since he was twelve years old. Um what else. The time of death was 12.30 AM. Shot with a 22 caliber bullet. Most likely a hand gun at close range. Oh yeah, and his girlfriend said he left her house around midnight.

TIM SLOAN

Wow Maria. You should be in this department. Thanks for the overview. That was very sweet of you. It's been a long day and I just wanna get out of here.

MARIA

Yeah. It's been a long day for me too. I didn't want to come in today, but the boss said that he needed me to catch up on the backlog of paperwork. The overtime helps anyway. It was nice seeing you Tim. I hope you have a nice weekend.

Maria smiles, turning around to walk away.

TIM SLOAN

Maria. Wait. I just wanted to say before you go. That just seeing you today made my day.

MARIA

Oh. Thanks Tim. You too.

Maria still smiling, walks away from the desk. An awkward Tim trying to resist, blurts out another sentence.

TIM SLOAN

I love your smile Maria.

MARIA

Yours too Tim. Yours too.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Tony sits on his couch, with a pizza and six pack of beer watching the game. The score is 5 to 0 and the Giants are winning. Yelling at the screen, his phone rings. He walks over, answers the phone.

PHONE CONVERSATION

TONY SALERNO

Hello. Oh hey Fred. What's going on?

Tony pauses.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Yep. Just watching the game buddy. I bet 1500 dollars for the Angels to win the world series and their playing a shit game. I need them to win tonight, to take it to a game seven. Are you watching it?

He pauses again.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

I think I'm going to head down to the bar for a while, and drown my sorrows.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Yeah I did see something about that. Well you know it's LA buddy. I'm lucky the ghetto is nowhere near me. The stupid pieces of trash gang members are everywhere. As far as I'm concerned let them kill each other.

(MORE)

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

It can only be a good thing, if there is one less punk out there, with less pregnant teenagers and fewer drugs on the street. I mean there are thousands of idiots out there. As far as I'm concerned, one shot to the back of the head, is a good thing for society. The cops don't do a damn thing. I mean, forget about global warming. LA is boiling with putrid humans, that need to be wiped out. Get the hell back to Mexico, you degenerate scum suckers, I say.

Tony pauses again.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

It really is out of control Fred. Oh shit hang on. I think the idiots are making a comeback. I'll call you later.

Hanging up the phone, he sits back on the couch. Yelling at the television, he picks up some pizza and beer.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Now that's how it's done you bastards. Get your shit together and make me some money.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Maria arriving home, finds FELIX, 40s, a good looking greying man, sitting on the couch. Empty beer bottles and food cover the table. JULIO, 12, and LEO, 6, watch the game, while sharing a bowl of popcorn.

MARIA

Hey guys. I'm home.

JULIO

Hey Mom.

LEO

Hello Mommy. You're missing the game.

Maria walks over, kisses her sons on their forehead.

MARIA

Sorry guys. I had heaps of paper work to get through. Have you all had a fun day?

FELIX

Did you bring me some more beer home? I left a message on your phone.

MARIA

No. Sorry Felix. I didn't get the message. Although you look like, you have had enough to me.

FELIX

How about you just mind your own business, and go down to the corner, and get me another six pack. The game's halfway through, and I can't miss it. Besides that's the least you can do. I been stuck here all day, since you took the car.

MARIA

I've been at work Felix. But sure, I can put my shoes back on, and go down to the shop to get you more beer. Why not. Boys do you want to stay with your drunk father, or come with me?

JULIO

Can we stay Mom? The game's still on and now we are winning.

MARIA

Of course you can sweetheart. I will be back in a few minutes. What do you guys feel like for dinner?

LEO

Daddy made us popcorn mommy.

MARIA

Yes I can see that. But unfortunately that is not what I call, a substantial food group for dinner. I'll have a look and see what I can find.

FELIX

Don't forget the beer.

Maria walks over to the kitchen bench. Taking her purse from her bag, she opens it. She pulls out two tickets to the game. Glancing at Felix, she pushes the tickets back into her purse. Picking up her keys, she walks out.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 3

Maria standing at the door, kisses her sons as they walk out.

MARIA

OK guys. Have a great time. See you when you get back.

JULIO

Are you sure you don't want to come Mom?

MARIA

I would love to come sweetie. But I have some Mom stuff to do. I need to get your school uniforms washed, and ready for the week. But we will do something together when you get back.

Maria kisses her sons again, herding them out the door.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Bye guys. Love you.

Closing the door, she walks over and sips her coffee. Smiling, she grabs her purse, pulling out the tickets. Staring at them, she reaches for the phone. Dialling Tim's number, she hangs up as it connects.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Oh just do it you idiot.

She laughs, breathes deeply. Dials the number again.

INT. TIM SLOANS HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

PHONE CONVERSATION

Tim and Linda are asleep in bed. The phone rings on the bedside table. Tim reaching over, picks up the phone.

TIM SLOAN

Tim Sloan.

He waits for an answer.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

Hello.

Hanging up the phone, he rolls over and looks at Linda.

LINDA SLOAN

Who was that?

TIM SLOAN

I'm not sure honey, they hung up. Go back to sleep it's only early. I have to go in today, but I promise I won't be too long.

LINDA SLOAN

Great. More promises Tim. That's just what I need, at this time in the morning.

EXT. LAPD PARKING LOT - MORNING

Maria walks over, as Tim gets out of his car.

TIM SLOAN

Maria. Hi. You're early today?

MARIA

Well sort of. I'm not working today, but I wanted to catch you before you started.

TIM SLOAN

What's going on?

MARIA

It's just that I have two tickets to the game today, and I thought that you might like to go with me?

TIM SLOAN

You mean the seventh game of the world series?

MARIA

That's the one. And apparently they are pretty good seats. Macintosh gave them to me yesterday. And since there is only two tickets, I can't give them to my family. So I thought that maybe you, would like to go to the game with me. It's supposed to be a pretty big game.

TIM SLOAN

Wow. That is really a surprise and really thoughtful of you. I have never been to a game seven of a world series. Actually, I've never been to a world series game. Can you believe that? I would love to go. Why don't we just meet at a restaurant or something near there. The game's at five right?

MARIA

Yes it is. Where do you want to meet?

TIM SLOAN

How about El Cholos on Katella Avenue?

MARIA

Okay. I know where that is. How about we meet there about four?

TIM SLOAN

Sure. Four it is then. This should be fun. See you there.

MARIA

OK Tim. See you there.

Maria shrieking with joy, walks off. Tim walks into the Department building.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tony hung-over and still drunk, makes his way to his dirty kitchen sink. He pours himself a glass of water, swallowing two aspirin pills.

I/E. TONY'S CAR - THE FREEWAY - DAY

Tony in his 1970 Mustang, cruises down the freeway. He pulls up, beside a Latino guy in a highly chromed Honda. Driving past, he winds down his window giving him the finger. He parks, at the front of Denny's Restaurant.

INT. DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Tony sitting in a booth at Denny's, watches SUSI, approach the table.

TONY SALERNO

Hi. What can I get for you Sir?

Glancing at her name badge, he smiles.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Susi. Right. Did I pronounce it correctly?

Susi smiling, nods in agreement.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Well. I could use some coffee to start thanks.

Pouring a cup of coffee, she places it on the table.

SUSI

There you go. Can I get you anything else?

TONY SALERNO

I think I'll have the grand slam breakfast thanks.

Susi with Tony's breakfast in hand, returns to the table. Tony reading the front page story about his kills, eats his meal. Finishing his meal, he wraps a five dollar bill around a twenty dollar tip. Writing a note, he gets up and walks out.

I/E. TONY'S CAR - THE FREEWAY - DAY

Driving off, he looks in the rear view mirror talking to himself.

TONY SALERNO

OK. So I killed one gang member. So what. It was only one scum bag, and will make no difference in the grand scheme of things. Maybe I should do something bigger. Drugs, freaks, gangs, gays. This city is out of control. Maybe dropping a bomb on the county jail, is the way to go. That would clean the shit out, in one clear sweep.

Pulling up at his apartment, he makes his way down the hallway to his door.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Reaching his door, his neighbor approaches.

NEIGHBOR

Hi Tony. Hey how about those Angels? They pulled it off, and are going to game seven. I'm having some people over later, if you want to come over and watch the game.

TONY SALERNO

Thanks. I'll think about it. I have a lot to do today.

With key in door, Tony attempts to escape from his neighbor.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Tony walks in, lays on his bed. He places a pillow over his head.

" a phone rings."

PHONE CONVERSATION

INTERCUT - TONY SALERNO'S BEDROOM/DENNY'S RESTAURANT

TONY SALERNO

Hello.

SUSI

Hello. Is this Tony? This is Susi from Denny's. You asked me to call you.

Tony is silent.

SUSI (CONT'D)

You wrote your number on a piece of paper at Denny's earlier today, and asked me to call you.

TONY SALERNO

Oh Hi. Yes. Susi. I remember. Sorry I was taking a nap, and just woke up. You are the lovely Korean lady, with the pretty smile. How are you? I'm glad you called. I have to say though, I'm a little shy and this is the first time, that I have ever done anything like this.

SUSI

Well thanks Tony. I'm flattered. Although, I have to be up front with you, and tell you that I'm engaged. I don't want to give you the wrong idea. I just really wanted to say, thanks for the tip.

TONY SALERNO

Oh. I completely understand Susi. Although, I must say I'm a bit sad, as I really like you. I'm happy that you called anyway. Maybe we can just be friends. I can be a good listener.

SUSI

Sure Tony. That would be nice. Would you mind if I called you again, sometime?

TONY SALERNO

You can call me anytime Susi. I'm usually up pretty late. So feel free to call back, and we can talk again.

SUSI

OK Tony. I will. Well it was nice meeting you, and I will call back. I just can't promise when. Like I said, I have a boyfriend.

Smiling, he rolls over on the bed.

TONY SALERNO

Well. It's been nice talking to you Susi. I look forward to talking to you, again soon.

SUSI

It's been nice talking, to you too Tony.

Hanging up the phone, he rolls over. He replaces his pillow over his face.

INT. EL CHOLOS RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Maria sits at the bar, wearing red leather pants, a white silk shirt with black blazer sipping a Margarita. Looking up, she sees Tim standing at the bar ordering a soda. Eyes meet, in a lustful exchange of glances. Tim walks over.

TIM SLOAN

Hi Maria. Wow. You look really nice.

MARIA

Thanks Tim. You look nice too.

Sitting down, she touches Tim's leg with her hand.

TIM SLOAN

I'm sorry I was a bit late. I was stuck in traffic. I guess we had better get going. The traffic is going to be crazy.

MARIA

Yes I agree Tim. Let's go now. The game starts at five thirty.

They exit the bar.

I/E. TIM SLOAN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Driving in the car, the two exchange flirting glances and smile.

EXT. THE STADIUM - AFTERNOON

Closing the car doors, they approach the main gates of the stadium. Tim holds Maria's hand as they walk. Stopping dead in his tracks, he grabs Maria. Kissing her passionately, in front of a passing crowd.

TIM SLOAN

Oh Shit. I'm so sorry Maria. I just had to kiss you.

In shock, she laughs while grabbing Tim's hand.

MARIA

It's fine Tim. I wanted you to kiss me.

TIM SLOAN

This is so crazy. So I guess we better watch the game.

Nodding and grinning from ear to ear, she re-adjusts her blouse and blazer.

MARIA

That sounds like a good idea. This is so exciting. I love watching the game, the atmosphere here is incredible.

TIM SLOAN

Yes it is. Did you see the game yesterday? They were down 5 to 0, and came back to win.

MARIA

I saw a bit of the game, with my boys.

TIM SLOAN

Yeah. I didn't see the whole game either. I listened to the first part on the radio, as I drove home from work.

Thunder sticks in hand, they take their seat. The National Anthem starts to play.

EXT. THE STADIUM - SEATING AREA - NIGHT

MARIA

Thank you, for coming with me Tim.
I'm having such a good day.

TIM SLOAN

Me too Maria. Thanks for asking me.

Cheering and screaming at the game, they continue to kiss.
Maria glances at the clock on the scoreboard.

MARIA

Oh my god Tim. It's 9 PM.

TIM SLOAN

I know. And it's going to be crazy
getting out of here. I don't want
to, but maybe we should go now.

MARIA

Yes. It's getting late, so maybe we
should leave.

EXT. STADIUM PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Making their way to the car, they continue to kiss. Opening
the car door, Maria kisses him again. Pulling away, she gets
into the car.

TIM SLOAN

OK. Time to take you back to your
car pretty lady. I can't believe,
how fast the night has gone.

MARIA

I know. Thank you Tim. Tonight with
you, has been incredible.

TIM SLOAN

It's been crazy, that's for sure.

I/E. EL CHOLOS RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Pulling up beside Maria's car, she grabs her purse, before
opening the door.

MARIA

So I guess, I'll see you at work
tomorrow. Thank you again, for a
wonderful night.

TIM SLOAN

Thank you Maria. Tonight with you,
has been amazing.

Standing beside Maria's car, she unlocks the door. Kissing Tim again, she opens the door.

MARIA

We both, really need to get home Tim. It's so late. Everyone will be wondering, where I am.

TIM SLOAN

Yep me too. I'm surprised that no one has rung, to try and track me down yet. Can we talk at work tomorrow?

MARIA

Of course we can Tim. Thanks again. See you tomorrow. Night.

Turning around, Maria blows Tim a kiss from her car. Tim seeing Maria safely in her car, drives off.

INT. TIM SLOANS HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tim walks in, gets undressed and hops into bed. Linda wakes up, rolling over to face him.

LINDA SLOAN

Tim where have you been? Is everything okay? Where where you?

TIM SLOAN

Linda. I have to tell you something. I went to the game. I wasn't at work.

LINDA SLOAN

What do you mean, you went to the game. What game?

TIM SLOAN

The seventh game for the world series.

LINDA SLOAN

Don't tell me, that you were at the Angels game Tim?

TIM SLOAN

Yes honey. I was. I actually went to work, but someone there had an extra ticket, and they asked me to go. I'm sorry, I didn't call to let you know.

LINDA SLOAN

So, you leave your family, sitting at home once again.

(MORE)

LINDA SLOAN (CONT'D)

So you can go off, and have fun on your own at the game. Why are you just telling me now? Why didn't you tell me, on your way to the game Tim? Who were you with?

TIM SLOAN

I'm sorry honey. It all happened so fast, and before I knew it I was at the game. It was too noisy, to hear anything in there.

LINDA SLOAN

Whatever Tim. I'm tired. We will talk about this, in the morning. I'm going, to check on the girls.

Throwing back the covers, she gets out of bed. She walks out.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - COLLEEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Linda walks in, sits on Colleen's bed. Colleen sitting up in bed, pauses her laptop and takes her earphones out.

COLLEEN SLOAN

Is that Dad home? Are you alright mom? You look upset.

LINDA SLOAN

Yes it's your father. Guess where he's been?

COLLEEN SLOAN

Where?

LINDA SLOAN

He's been at the game.

COLLEEN SLOAN

No way.

LINDA SLOAN

Yes way.

COLLEEN SLOAN

That sucks big time Mom. Why didn't he take us? He knows we wanted to see that game. He told us he would get tickets, and never did. That's so unfair. I can't believe he did that. He's so selfish.

LINDA SLOAN

I know sweetheart. But the games over, so there is no use in getting angry now. It's very late, so turn off the laptop, it's time for bed.

(MORE)

LINDA SLOAN (CONT'D)
I will deal with your father. Good night my angel.

COLLEEN SLOAN
Good night Mom. Make sure you tell him, that I am not happy with him.

LINDA SLOAN
Oh don't you worry my darling. I will.

Linda kisses Colleen, and walks out. Colleen closing her laptop, turns off the light.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maria walks in, looks at Felix sitting on the couch, smoking a cigarette.

FELIX
Where the hell have you been Maria? Do you know what time it is? And don't lie to me. I know you weren't at work.

MARIA
Where are the boys?

FELIX
They are in bed. Now answer the god damn question. Where were you?

MARIA
Look Felix. I don't want to get into an argument with you, and wake the boys. How much, have you had to drink?

FELIX
Where.. Were.. You.. Maria?

MARIA
I was given a ticket, and went to the game. Did you watch it? It was great.

FELIX
Why are you lying to me. Look at the way your dressed . Red leather pants, no bra. You lying slut. You were with some guy, weren't you?

MARIA
Watch what you call me Felix. I'm not lying, I was at the game.

FELIX

So what was the final score?

MARIA

It was 5 to 1.

FELIX

Yeah right. You probably just heard the score, on the car radio. So who is it? Who are you cheating on me with? I know you have been cheating, for some time. All the nights at the gym. Trying to make yourself look good, so other men will want to screw you.

MARIA

Well you certainly don't. Do you? Or maybe, it's just that you are so drunk, all of the time that you are incapable. And to set the record straight. I go to the gym for me you asshole, and not for anyone else. You should be pleased, that I look after myself. Not criticize me for it. Besides, if you think that calling me a prostitute, will upset me. You're wrong. To me, that means I must look damn good.

Looking at each other, they laugh.

FELIX

Well. I still don't believe, that you went to the game.

MARIA

I did. I went with one of the detectives, from the station.

FELIX

So. Who is this detective then?

MARIA

His name is Tim Sloan, he works in Homicide. He's no one special. Just the person, that I hand my reports to.

FELIX

Yeah right. You're dressed like that, and your telling me, you're not interested in him. Give me a break Maria. I'm not a complete idiot.

MARIA

You know what Felix. You can believe whatever you want. I really don't care anymore. You better stop drinking, and sober up. I have things to say.

FELIX

Sure. Like you're going to say anything, that you haven't already said before.

MARIA

Well maybe that's true. But you are going to listen to me. Because this time, I mean it Felix. I'll start with the fact, that I do not want you to touch me anymore. Do you understand? You will not come into my bedroom, when you are drunk, and force yourself on me. For now, you are sleeping on the couch. I will also not, be signing my paycheck over to you anymore. The days of supporting your drinking and gambling habit, are over. If you want us to stay married, then you will seek help. Whether that's AA or counseling, I don't care. You also need to change your friends, so you don't get roped into, going out drinking and gambling. Look Felix. You are a good father to our boys. And I do think that the good person, that I fell in love with, is somewhere in there. You just need to find that person again. And if things don't change soon. Then I'm done. Do you understand what I'm saying, Felix?

FELIX

Go now then. If that's the way you feel. Piss off, with your detective boyfriend, you slut. You're the one that's changed. Ever since you got the job at the police station. You have been walking around, like you're better than everyone. And let me tell you something. I don't give a shit, what you think.

Standing up, Felix knocks his beer to the floor. He walks out, slamming the door.

EXT. MALIBU HILLS - PARKING SPOT - NIGHT

Tony parks, listening to the game update on the radio. A car slows down, pulling off the road. Parking next to him, the PASSENGER, 20s, rolls down his window.

PASSENGER

Hey Homie. What's up? What are you doing up here?

TONY SALERNO

Trying to be alone.

PASSENGER

Oh sure, right. You want to be alone, cause you're up here smoking the good stuff. Aren't you? I bet you have some good weed. Can we have some?

TONY SALERNO

Look. You tattooed freak. I'm up here because, I want to be alone. I don't take drugs. So why don't you just move along now. Do you understand me? Get lost.

PASSENGER

What did you say to me? Listen Gabacho. I don't take orders, from any white man.

Lifting up his arms, he points a pistol at Tony's head.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)

See this, you white piece of crap. I'll blow your brains out, just for disrespecting me. Now throw your wallet over here, right now.

Casually, Tony reaches under his seat. Pulling out his hand gun, he silently counts the remaining rounds.

TONY SALERNO

OK. OK. Hey I'm sorry. I'll give you my wallet.

Placing the gun on the seat, he slowly lifts his hands into the air.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry if I offended you. Please don't take my wallet. I have credit cards in it.

PASSENGER

Shut the hell up. You ugly white culero.

(MORE)

PASSENGER (CONT'D)

Hand me that wallet now, or I will
blow your freaking brains out.

TONY SALERNO

OK. OK. Here take it.

With hand on gun, Tony hands the passenger his wallet. In a split second he shoots the passenger dead, between the eyes. The passenger slumps, onto the driver. Tony shoots the driver. Slamming his foot on the accelerator, the driver tries to flee, stopping a few meters away. Driver slumped over, Tony shoots him in the head. Walking around, he checks the passenger is dead. A radio broadcast, announces the Angels have won. Grinning from ear to ear, he returns to his car. He drives off.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Upon seeing his neighbor, Tony quickly attempts to open his door .

NEIGHBOR

Hey Tony. How did you like the
game?

TONY SALERNO

It was a good game. I'm glad the
Angels won. Well, I've had a huge
day. Night.

Tony walks in, turns on his TV. Pouring a drink, he sits on the couch.

EXT. REDONDO BEACH PIER - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 4

Walking to the end of the pier, Tony throws his gun into the ocean. Getting back in his car, he drives off.

EXT. TIRE SHOP - DAY

Tony walks out of the tire shop. Walking around his car, he admires his new tires. Smiling, he gets into his car, drives off.

EXT. MALIBU HILLS - PARKING SPOT CRIME SCENE - DAY

STEVEN BREEZE, 50s, a distinguished greying man, in a police uniform exits his police car. He walks over to the crime scene. Yellow police tape, seals off the area. Police cars and their lights, are still flashing. Reaching the crime scene, he places a pair of gloves on. He opens the car door, examining the bodies inside.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Maria walks in, looks at Felix asleep on the couch. Grabbing her bag, she walks out.

INT. DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Maria sits down in an empty booth. Picking up a newspaper smiling, she reads the front page headline. Susi approaches the table.

SUSI

Hi. My name is Susi. Can I get you some coffee?

Looking up, Maria smiles at Susi. Susi stands at the table, pen and ordering pad in hand.

MARIA

Yes. Some coffee would be nice thanks.

Walking away, Susi returns with coffee.

SUSI

Can I get you anything to eat?

MARIA

Um. Maybe some pancakes. They sound good.

SUSI

Good choice. The pancakes are great here.

MARIA

OK. So the pancakes it is then.

Susi glances, at the front page of the paper.

SUSI

Did you watch the game? I don't really know much about sports, but I watched it with my boyfriend, and roommate. It was pretty exciting.

MARIA

I was at the game yesterday. It was great. I had such a good day.

SUSI

Really. You were actually there? You were so lucky, to be able to watch it live.

MARIA

Yes. I was very lucky. My boss gave me two tickets, so I went with a friend from work. I loved every minute of it.

SUSI

Wow. I heard the tickets were selling for well over, a thousand dollars each.

MARIA

I was thinking of giving them away. But I'm so glad I went. It really was a lot of fun.

SUSI

Well enjoy your pancakes. Just let me know, if you need anything else.

MARIA

Thanks. I will.

Susi walks over, heads to the kitchen. She returns with Maria's pancakes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Wow. They look amazing.

SUSI

I told you they were a good choice. Enjoy.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - MORNING

Detective Macintosh, approaches Tim's desk.

MACINTOSH

Hey Tim. How are you?

TIM SLOAN

I'm good thanks sir. How are you?

MACINTOSH

I'd be better, if this gang shit would end. I just came by to brief you, on another two suspected gang related murders, that occurred last night. The bodies were found late last night, on La Tuna Canyon Road in Malibu. Technically, it's county land, as it's outside of the city limit. It's usually under the Malibu Sheriff's Department. But I think, you should take a look at it. I think it could be related, to the other shooting.

TIM SLOAN

What evidence has been found to support that?

MACINTOSH

The report says that they were both shot, with a 22 caliber bullet from a handgun. It may just be a coincidence. But two different shootings ,in one weekend, with a 22 caliber bullet, seems odd. I want you to look over the report, and check it out. I have contacted the Malibu Sheriff's Department, and they told me, that they will cooperate. I'll send Maria down with the report. Oh yeah. Maria told me, that you both went to the game last night. I hope you enjoyed it. I gave her those tickets, you know?

TIM SLOAN

Thanks for the tickets sir. The game was incredible. Maria told me, that you gave them to her.

MACINTOSH

I'm glad you guys enjoyed it. I know you're a big fan. Let me know, what you find out in Malibu.

TIM SLOAN

I'll get on to it straight away sir. Thanks again for the tickets.

MACINTOSH

You're welcome Tim. I'll speak to you, when you get back.

Macintosh walks off smiling. He passes Maria in the hallway.

MACINTOSH (CONT'D)

Hi Maria. You were quick with that report.

MARIA

Just doing my job sir.

Looking up, Tim sees Maria approaching. Nervously he smiles.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Hi Mr. Sloan.

TIM SLOAN

Hi Maria. How are you?

Tim focusing on Maria's breasts, looks up at her face..

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

Thanks for bringing the report down to me. I had a great time with you last night. How are you?

Maria laughs.

MARIA

I'm good thanks Tim. Did you get home alright?

TIM SLOAN

I'm fine. Just a bit tired, I woke up early this morning. Couldn't sleep.

MARIA

Me too. I was showered and dressed by 7 am, so I ended up stopping at Denny's for breakfast. Have you ever tried the pancakes there? They are so good.

TIM SLOAN

I can't say that I have. I will have to try them sometime.

Maria smiling, leans over Tim's desk whispering in his ear.

MARIA

I've been thinking about you. I had such a good time with you last night. I think we should do it again.

TIM SLOAN

Me too.

MARIA

So when can we get together again? I really want to see you.

TIM SLOAN

We have to be careful around here.

MARIA

Don't keep me waiting too long Tim. I really want to spend some alone time with you.

Walking away, she turns around. A rattled Tim, sits at his desk.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Talk too you later Tim. Good luck with the case.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks Maria. Have a good day.

INT. MALIBU SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - DAY

Tim walks in, heading straight to the front desk.

TIM SLOAN

Hi. I'm Tim Sloan. I'm with the LAPD gang task force unit. I'm here to see Steven Breeze.

Overhearing Tim's conversation, Steven walks towards him.

STEVEN BREEZE

Hi Tim. I'm Steven Breeze. I'm glad you could make it up here. Macintosh says, that it could be related to one of your cases.

TIM SLOAN

We had a Crip shot near South Central last Friday night. He was shot, with one bullet to the back of the head, with a 22 caliber handgun. Macintosh gave me a summary of your report, of last night's shooting. He said that a 22 caliber handgun, was also used and he thinks, that there may be a connection. Has ballistics on the bullets come back yet?

STEVEN BREEZE

We should have the report back tomorrow morning. I'm happy to keep you in the loop though. We don't get things as fast as you guys here.

TIM SLOAN

Can you tell me anything else?

STEVEN BREEZE

All I can tell you, is that two Mexican gang members got shot. Not Crips. It appears that they were either racing, or being chased when they were gunned down. The passenger had a gun, but he never got a shot off. We are in the process, of making castings of the other cars tire tread. We also have some pretty clean footprints, so we now know that it was only one person.

(MORE)

STEVEN BREEZE (CONT'D)

I will send you over a copy, of the ballistics as soon as it arrives. Meanwhile, can you leave me a copy of your report on the other shooting? I'll take a look at it, and get back to you.

TIM SLOAN

Probably the soonest, that I can get the report over to you will be tomorrow afternoon. You know how entrenched in bureaucracy, the department is.

They both laugh.

STEVEN BREEZE

Don't I know it. No problem. Have a good day, I'll call you when the report arrives.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks Steven. I really appreciate your help.

STEVEN BREEZE

You're welcome Tim.

Shaking Steven's hand, Tim walks out.

I/E. TIM SLOAN'S CAR - CELL PHONE - DAY

Tim speaking on his cell phone.

PHONE CONVERSATION

TIM SLOAN

Hi sir. I just spoke to Steven Breeze at the Malibu Sheriff's Department. He wants to know if we can exchange files. I will head back up here tomorrow, when the ballistics report comes in.

MACINTOSH (O.S.)

That's fine Tim. Thanks for the update. Some idiots here, would have just gone up there, and not told me a damn thing.

Tim SLOAN

Of course sir. This is your lead anyway. I'm just following it up for you. I will speak to you, as soon as I know more.

MACINTOSH (O.S.)
Thanks Tim. Night.

TIM SLOAN
Good night sir.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tim walks in the back door. Linda is cooking dinner, with a glass of wine in hand, is wearing a very short tennis skirt.

LINDA SLOAN
How was work?

Throwing her arms around Tim, she greets him with a kiss and a hug. Looking confused, Tim grabs a beer from the fridge.

TIM SLOAN
Work was fine. I thought that you would still be mad with me, for going to the game.

LINDA SLOAN
I was. But I thought about it, and I understand. I know how much you love the game. I think the girls, are still upset with you though.

TIM SLOAN
And where are the lights of my life?

LINDA SLOAN
In their room doing their homework. I told them I would call them, when dinner was ready. Colleen is just upset, that you went without her. You know how much she loves it. She really is your daughter Tim.

TIM SLOAN
Your so right honey. I will make it up to her. So what's with the tennis skirt?

Standing back, Linda shows off her outfit to Tim.

LINDA SLOAN
You like? It's really short huh? I told you a few weeks ago, that I was thinking of taking some tennis lessons. You were the one, that said that I need to get more exercise. So I signed up, and had my first lesson today. I'm going for another one, after I drop the girls off to school tomorrow.
(MORE)

LINDA SLOAN (CONT'D)
I hope you're hungry? I've made lasagne and salad for dinner.

TIM SLOAN
It smells great. Have I got time to take a shower before dinner?

LINDA SLOAN
Only if you're quick. I'll be serving in about five minutes. I thought, that we could send the kids to bed early tonight, and spend some time together.

TIM SLOAN
Can we do it another night honey? I've had a huge day. I thought that I would just eat, and go to bed. I'm glad, you had a fun time at tennis.

LINDA SLOAN
Yes me too. That's fine Tim. Feel free to ignore my needs, yet again. Go and have a shower, I will call you when dinner is ready.

Tim walks out. Linda shaking her head, opens the fridge and tops up her glass of wine.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maria walks in, places her bag on the bench. Julio and Leo are sitting on the couch, watching television.

MARIA
Hi guys.

JULIO
Hey Mom.

LEO
Hi Mommy.

MARIA
Where is your father? How long have you guys been here by yourself?

Leo walks over, hugs Maria.

LEO
He left just before you got here.

MARIA
Oh did he now. Did he say where he was going?

JULIO

He didn't say. He just got a message on his phone, and went and had a shower. All he said, was that he had to go out for a while.

MARIA

Did he say when he would be back?

LEO

No he didn't say Mommy. What's for dinner? Can we have take out?

MARIA

Well that depends. Have you guys finished your homework?

JULIO

Sort of?

MARIA

So I'm guessing that means no. I think before we think about dinner. You guys need to go to your rooms, and finish your homework. Okay? Then we can maybe talk about take out.

Leo

Yeah. Thanks Mommy. Can I choose?

MARIA

Not till after your homework. Now go on boys. Otherwise, it will be midnight before we eat.

Gathering up their books, the boys walk off. Maria takes off her shoes. Opening the fridge, she pours a glass of wine.

INT. DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

TITLE CARD Day 5

Tim and Maria are sitting side by side in a booth, with their back to the door. Macintosh walks in. After watching them laugh and touch each other constantly, he walks out.

EXT. TENNIS COURT - DAY

Linda walks onto the court. DERRICK, 20s, an extremely good looking muscular man, walks towards her.

DERRICK

Hey there beautiful. You're back. I was hoping I would see you again soon.

LINDA SLOAN

Hello. Yes I'm back. I thought that since I had a free day today, I would come back for another game.

DERRICK

I'm so glad you did. So are you ready to kick my ass or what?

LINDA SLOAN

Definitely. Bring it on.

Laughing nervously, she hits the ball.

DERRICK

So tell me. How is it that you are so beautiful, and yet you're here alone?

LINDA SLOAN

My husband is a detective. So time together is non existent. I'm proud of him, that he's out there making a difference though. God knows, LA can use all the help it can get.

DERRICK

I know. It's pretty bad in some parts. Still, that's no excuse for not spending time with you.

LINDA SLOAN

Believe me I hear you. The saying, that your married to the force. I'm living, breathing proof of that.

DERRICK

So how do you do it? Life must get pretty lonely sometimes.

LINDA SLOAN

It certainly does. So I guess, that's when you take up tennis.

DERRICK

I can't believe, how cool you are about it. You really are not only stunning, but an amazing woman.

LINDA SLOAN

I didn't realize that flattery, was included in the lesson price.

Putting his racket down, Derrick approaches the net.

DERRICK

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you feel uncomfortable.

LINDA SLOAN

You didn't. It's just been a really long time, since anyone told me that I was beautiful. Anyway, lets get back to the game.

DERRICK

OK. OK. I get it. Maybe though after the game, I could persuade you to have a coffee with me. As friends?

LINDA SLOAN

As friends? I'd like that. I don't have to be anywhere for a while.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

Tim sits at his desk, writing Maria a note. Picking up the phone, he leaves a message.

PHONE CONVERSATION

TIM SLOAN

Maria. It's Tim Sloan. I need you to come to my desk and pick up a report. There are some notes in it, that I need you to attend to.

Tim hangs up the phone, walks off. Maria arriving at Tim's desk, picks up the folder. Looking inside, she reads the note. She stops Macintosh, as he walks past Tim's desk.

MARIA

Hi sir. Can I speak to you for a minute?

MACINTOSH

Of course you can Maria. What's up?

MARIA

I was wondering, if it would be okay if I finished at 2 o'clock today? Leo has a parent teacher meeting, that I need to attend.

MACINTOSH

That's fine Maria. Of course you can finish early. How are Felix and the boys?

MARIA

They're good sir. Just growing up far to quick. Thank you for being understanding.

MACINTOSH

No problem Maria. I hope it all goes well.

MARIA

Thanks sir.

Maria walks off.

EXT. LAPD PARKING LOT - DAY

Maria walks towards Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Hello beautiful.

MARIA

Hello yourself.

Standing close, they try not to embrace.

TIM SLOAN

Can you take your car and follow me? I need to follow up on that case. It shouldn't take too long.

MARIA

Sure Tim. I can follow you. I'll see you there.

TIM SLOAN

Can you just wait in the car, when we get there? I promise, I won't be too long.

MARIA

That's fine. Take as long as you need. I'll just grab a coffee, while I wait for you. It will give me plenty of time, to think about all the things, that I want to do to you.

Looking at Maria, he laughs.

TIM SLOAN

Why did you have to say that? Now, I'm going to be a distracted driver on the road. Thanks for putting that image in my head.

MARIA

You're welcome Tim. I'll see you very soon.

Jumping in their cars, they drive away.

INT. MALIBU SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - DAY

Tim walks in, looks at Steven standing at the door.

STEVEN BREEZE

Hi Tim. Didn't you get my message?
The report's not back yet.

TIM SLOAN

No problem Steven. How about I come
back tomorrow afternoon?

STEVEN BREEZE

That will be fine Tim. Sorry to
make you do the drive. See you
tomorrow.

TIM SLOAN

Sounds good. See you then Steven.

EXT. MALIBU SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Tim walks over to Maria's car. She is lying back in the
drivers seat, with her shirt buttons undone enjoying the
sunshine. Putting his head in the window, she grabs him and
kisses him.

TIM SLOAN

Well I'm done.

MARIA

That was quick.

TIM SLOAN

The report wasn't back yet. So I'll
have to come back up tomorrow. So
are you ready to get out of here,
and do something?

MARIA

What do you have in mind?

Tim smiling, continues to kiss Maria through her car window.

TIM SLOAN

Follow me beautiful. I have an
idea.

MARIA

OK.

Leaving Maria, he walks back to his car.

INT. MALIBU HOTEL - RECEPTION DESK - AFTERNOON

Tim and Maria stand in the hotel reception, holding hands. The RECEPTIONIST, 20s, approaches them.

RECEPTIONIST

Hi. Can I help you?

TIM SLOAN

Yes thanks. My wife and I, would like an oceanfront room thanks.

RECEPTIONIST

Very good sir. We have one ready now. Do you need the porter to take your luggage to the room?

TIM SLOAN

No thanks. We're fine.

Leaving reception, with their arms around each other.

MARIA

I can't believe that we are doing this Tim. We are so bad.

TIM SLOAN

Yes we are Maria.

INT. OCEANFRONT HOTEL ROOM - BALCONY - AFTERNOON

Tim and Maria stand and embrace, on the beach front balcony.

MARIA

Wow. This place is incredible.

Turning towards each other, they kiss and grab each other in a passionate embrace. Still uncontrollably kissing, they undress each other as they make their way to the bed.

INT. OCEANFRONT HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Making love multiple times on top of the sheets, they lay naked in each others arms. From their bed, they watch the sunset. Looking at his wedding ring, a guilty Tim jumps out of bed.

TIM SLOAN

Look at the time. We have to get going soon.

A still naked Maria, lying on the bed.

MARIA

Come back to bed Tim. I want to do that all over again.

TIM SLOAN

I can't Maria. It's getting really late. We both need to get home. I'm just going to jump in, and have a quick shower.

MARIA

Do you want some company?

TIM SLOAN

I have to get home Maria? I won't be long, and then you can have one if you want.

MARIA

OK Tim. But I know you want to come back to bed.

Tim walks off. Maria wrapping a sheet around herself, walks onto the balcony.

EXT. OCEANFRONT HOTEL ROOM - BALCONY - AFTERNOON

Tim walks onto the balcony, he stands beside Maria.

TIM SLOAN

It really is beautiful out here.

MARIA

It certainly is. I wish we didn't have to leave so soon.

TIM SLOAN

I know. But we both have kids waiting at home. Are you going to have a shower? We should get going soon.

MARIA

You go if you want Tim. My parents have the boys tonight, and Felix is out. So I don't have to rush to get home.

TIM SLOAN

If you don't mind, I think I will. Sorry to leave you here Maria. I just really have to get home.

Maria smiles, kisses Tim.

MARIA

It's fine Tim. I understand. You should go. Thank you for an incredible afternoon. I will see you tomorrow.

TIM SLOAN

It's been an incredible day. Thank you, for coming up to Malibu with me. Enjoy your time here. See you tomorrow.

Grabbing his coat, Tim walks out the door. Maria stands on the balcony, watching the waves crash to the shore.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tim walks in. Linda wine in hand, is wearing a tennis skirt. Colleen and April, sit doing their homework at the kitchen table.

TIM SLOAN

Hey guys.

LINDA SLOAN

How was your day? I was just about to call you. Are you hungry?

TIM SLOAN

Absolutely starved. Will dinner be long?

LINDA SLOAN

About fifteen minutes. You have plenty of time, to have a shower if you like.

TIM SLOAN

OK. Thanks honey I will. So girls how was your day?

APRIL SLOAN

It was good daddy. We are learning to paint.

TIM SLOAN

That's cool honey. Did you bring your masterpiece home?

APRIL SLOAN

No daddy. It's not finished yet. I can't bring it home until it's done.

TIM SLOAN

Oh. Silly me. You can tell I'm no Picasso. So what about you Colleen? Did you have a good day?

COLLEEN SLOAN

It wasn't to bad I suppose. As good as school can be, I guess.

TIM SLOAN

Well, I was going to wait till
after dinner, but I have something
for you.

Looking up, Colleen sees Tim holding two tickets. Running
over, she grabs the tickets while hugging him.

COLLEEN SLOAN

Oh my god. Thanks Dad. This is so
cool.

TIM SLOAN

You're welcome sweetheart. I wanted
to make up for not taking you the
other night.

APRIL SLOAN

Can I go too Daddy?

LINDA SLOAN

How about you and I have a girls
day, and see a movie on the weekend
sweetie? You can choose any movie
that you want.

APRIL SLOAN

OK Mom. We will have more fun then
Daddy and Colleen.

COLLEEN SLOAN

I doubt that.

Tim walks over, kisses Linda on the cheek.

TIM SLOAN

Just call me when dinner is ready.

LINDA SLOAN

OK. Don't be too long.

Tim walks out. Linda continues to cook.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 6

Tim sorting through his paperwork, looks up. Steven Breeze
walks in.

STEVEN BREEZE

Hi Tim. I have the report. I
thought I'd come to you. Is there
somewhere that we can talk?

TIM SLOAN

Hi Steven. I was just about to call you. Let me grab my report, and follow me into an interview room.

INT. LAPD INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

In the interview room, Tim and Steven sit at the table.

STEVEN BREEZE

So, I thought that I should go over this straight away with you. It seems that our shootings are linked. The ballistics have just come back on the bullets, and they match. So it looks to me, as if we could be seeing the beginning, of some sort of serial killer. Either that, or we just have someone that likes to kill gang members.

TIM SLOAN

I'm blown away Steven. I never would have thought, that these cases were linked. Do you know how many gang related killings, that our department deals with a year? What about you guys?

STEVEN BREEZE

Actually. We are pretty lucky. Homicides are nearly non existent for us. Sure, we get the occasional body dumped in the hills, once in a while. And maybe an occasional domestic violence homicide. But really that's it, apart from the usual summer beach party, noise disturbance issues. I have already cleared it with my boss, and we are turning the case over to you. Although, if possible I would still like to be kept in the loop.

TIM SLOAN

Of course. Anything that I know, you will know. I'm still shocked, that these crimes are linked.

STEVEN BREEZE

I know. I had to read the report a few times myself, before it sunk in. Would you mind, if I took a copy of your report back with me?

TIM SLOAN

That's fine Steven. I have already made you a copy, complete with the crime scene photo's. Maybe together we can catch this bastard.

STEVEN BREEZE

Sounds good Tim. Keep me posted.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks again for everything Steven. I will.

Tim and Steven shake hands. Steven walks out, as Tim gathers his files together.

INT. LAPD MARIA'S DESK - DAY

Arriving at Macintosh's office, Tim looks at a smiling Maria sitting at her desk.

MARIA

Hi Tim. How are you?

TIM SLOAN

Oh. Hi Maria. I didn't come here to see you. Sorry I didn't mean it that way. I just really need to speak to Macintosh.

Maria smiling, plays with the top buttons on her shirt.

MARIA

That's fine Tim. Why don't you have a seat. He should be back from lunch any minute now. Tim, you know that we need to talk about things.

TIM SLOAN

I know Maria. You are very right. We do need to talk. I can't now, but I promise we will.

Macintosh walks in, looks at Tim and Maria talking.

MACINTOSH

Sloan. What are you doing here? Are you flirting with my secretary? Shame on you.

TIM SLOAN

No sir. I need to discuss something urgent with you. I have just finished with Detective Breeze, from the Malibu Sheriff's Department. I think you're going to want to hear, what I have to say.

MACINTOSH

Well don't keep me in suspense Tim.
Come in my office, and give me your
update.

INT. LAPD MACINTOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

Tim and Macintosh walk in, they sit at Macintosh's desk.

MACINTOSH

So tell me Sloan. What's going on?

TIM SLOAN

We have just got the ballistics
report back, from the Malibu
shooting, and they match our gang
case. Detective Breeze and I, are
both under the assumption, that we
could have a serial killer, on our
hands. I just thought, that you
need to know this information, and
to see how you want me to proceed.
Malibu has already, handed the case
over to us.

MACINTOSH

So. It seems that we have a
situation on our hands. You do
understand, what I'm talking about?

TIM SLOAN

Yes sir. I do.

MACINTOSH

I think that the best way to
proceed is, that I will update the
Chief with your findings. He needs
to be prepared for the fall out, if
the press gets hold of this. The
last thing this department needs,
is the damn press running around.
Telling the public, there is a
serial killer on the loose. Between
you and me, my opinion, is that it
is most likely one of the Russian
gangs. They are trying to seize
control, by taking out the lesser
gangs. They hate the blacks, and
the Latino's. And just between you
and me. I actually think, that they
are doing the city a service. But
in saying that, it is homicide, so
we are bound by the law to solve
it.

TIM SLOAN

I totally agree sir. How do you want me to proceed?

MACINTOSH

First, we need to find out, if this definitely is related, and if we are looking for a serial killer. I will talk to the Chief, and get him to assign a few more people, to your case. You will still be, the lead detective on this. However, I need answers and results fast. This could potentially be a nightmare, for the department.

TIM SLOAN

I understand sir. That's why I came straight to you.

Getting up, Tim makes his way to the door.

MACINTOSH

Oh. One more thing Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Yes sir.

MACINTOSH

I see the way, you flirt with my secretary. I am not the only one. Just remember, that you are a married man, so you need to start acting like one. I would hate to see an office scandal, ruin your career. Do you get, what I'm saying Tim?

TIM SLOAN

Yes sir. I'm sorry, it won't happen again.

MACINTOSH

Make sure that it doesn't. You have a very bright future Tim. I'm counting on you, to be completely focused on this case.

TIM SLOAN

I will sir.

Tim walks out.

INT. LAPD MARIA'S DESK - AFTERNOON

Ignoring Maria, he keeps walking.

MARIA

Bye Tim.

INT. LAPD MARIA'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Maria busy working on her computer, looks up to see Macintosh standing at her desk.

MARIA

Yes sir.

MACINTOSH

Maria. I have just spoken to Tim, about the chemistry between the two of you.

MARIA

I'm not sure what you mean sir.

Macintosh raises his eyebrows and smiles.

MACINTOSH

At the end of the day, it has nothing to do with me, and it certainly is not my business. However. My advice to you is this, if Linda and Felix are both comfortable with you spending time and having breakfast together...

A guilty Maria, looks down at her bench.

MACINTOSH (CONT'D)

Yes, Maria. I saw you both. Anyway as I said, if there is nothing more than friendship between the two of you, then you should be able to tell your spouses about your outings together. If you can't tell your spouses, then I would say, be very careful Maria. No good can come of this.

Macintosh walks off, leaving a guilty Maria still looking at her desk.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tim walks in, looks at a sleeping Linda. He undresses, and gets into bed. Putting his arm around Linda, she wakes looking over at him.

LINDA SLOAN

Are you okay? I was starting to get worried about you.

TIM SLOAN
I'm fine honey. Sorry I didn't
call, I was in a task force
meeting.

Leaning over, he kisses Linda.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)
Have I told you, how much I love
you lately?

LINDA SLOAN
What? What are you talking about
Tim?

TIM SLOAN
I just need you to know, I'm sorry,
if I have neglected you.

Linda already asleep, does not respond. Turning off the
lights, he cuddles into her.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tony watching his television, sits on his couch.

TV REPORTER
We have breaking news just in.
According to a source in the LAPD
gang unit. We can now report the
shooting of a young back male in LA
last Friday night, and the
shootings on Sunday night in the
Malibu Hills are linked. Police are
looking at the possibility, of a
Serial Killer, who seems to be
targeting the gang members of LA.
We will keep you updated, as more
information comes to hand.

Tony sits on his couch, talking to the TV and laughing.

TONY SALERNO
You will have to catch me first.
And since you have no gun, you
won't catch me. You morons.

Walking over, he pulls an invitation off the fridge door.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)
It's about time I had some fun.

I/E. MARIA'S CAR/STREET - NIGHT

Driving into her street, yellow tape seals off her apartment. Police and Ambulance lights, are flashing outside the building. Parking the car, she runs across the street. She sees Julio, Leo, MARIA'S MOTHER, 60, and MARIA'S FATHER, 65, standing by the ambulance, with a body bag on a stretcher beside them. Pushing past the crowd of onlookers and police, she reaches her family.

EXT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - OUTSIDE - NIGHT

MARIA

Oh my god. Let me through. That's my family. What's going on?

Rushing over to the crying boys, she is met by her father.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Oh my god Dad. What happened?

MARIA'S FATHER

I'm so sorry sweetheart.

MARIA

It's Felix, isn't it?

MARIA'S FATHER

Yes my child, it is.

MARIA

Oh god. Can someone please tell me what happened?

MARIA'S FATHER

We dropped the boys home, and found him about twenty minutes ago. We were just about to call you. Come on sweetheart, come and sit down.

MARIA

The boys found him? Was it murder? What did he die from? I only spoke to him an hour ago?

MARIA'S FATHER

The police are saying suicide. They found an empty bottle of Valium, on the night stand.

MARIA

Valium? Felix doesn't take Valium. There must be some mistake. I need to go and talk to one of the officers.

MARIA'S FATHER

You just stay with the boys. I will go and see what I can find out.

Maria's father walks off. Maria, Julio and Leo sit on the curb all huddled together. Grabbing Julio and Leo, she hugs them as the stretcher is placed in the ambulance. Struggling to their feet, they stand crying in the middle of their street. The ambulance drives away.

EXT. KINGS HEAD BAR - HALLOWEEN - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: Day 7

Halloween

Tony lines up at the door, wearing a Halloween costume. The costume is a mother holding her infant baby, his head is the babies. His fat neighbor walks up, greeting him in the line.

NEIGHBOR

Holy shit Tony. Is that you?

TONY SALERNO

Yes it's me.

NEIGHBOR

That is a great costume Tony. You are definitely going to win best costume of the night.

TONY SALERNO

Well. My mother and I, have to line up now. Have a good night.

NEIGHBOR

Hey. Where are you going buddy? Come and join us. We are just about to go in.

TONY SALERNO

No. I'm fine thanks. I'll just see you inside.

NEIGHBOR

Oh come on Tony. We are neighbors, and it's Halloween. Besides, we are going in now.

Tony looks around, at the people on the street. They are staring and laughing at his costume.

TONY SALERNO

OK then. I'll come in with you guys.

Walking up to the bar door, a BOUNCER, 30s, greets Tony.

BOUNCER

Hey Tony. Is that you? Mad costume my friend.

TONY SALERNO

Yeah. It's me. Have you met my mother Luciana?

BOUNCER

Ooh. Very clever Tony. I think I may have to charge you double. I hope you and your mom have a great night. Have you got some ID? We can't have a baby in the bar.

Tony laughs, with the other people standing in line.

BOUNCER (CONT'D)

Go on in there. And have a great night. You've just scored yourself a free VIP pass for the night. Please keep your mom out of trouble.

TONY SALERNO

Thanks buddy. I will. I doubt she will last till midnight. Thanks for the pass.

INT. KINGS HEAD BAR - BAR - NIGHT

Tony walks up to the bar, joining his neighbor and a group of people. He orders a drink. Watching the dance floor, he spots JESSICA, 20s, an attractive blonde, wearing a tight fairy costume. She is dancing with her friends. Her boyfriend JOSH, 20s, sits beside Tony at the bar.

TONY SALERNO

Is that your girlfriend?

JOSH

Yes it is. She is beautiful isn't she?

TONY SALERNO

She certainly is. You are a very lucky man.

JOSH

Thanks man. My name is Josh. Your costume is crazy man. Good choice.

TONY SALERNO

Thanks man. I didn't think, that it would attract as much attention as it has.

(MORE)

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

In hindsight I think I should of been like you, and just worn normal clothes.

JOSH

Really? There's no fun in that. Where is your sense of adventure?

TONY SALERNO

Yeah maybe.

JOSH

I would have dressed up, if I didn't have a football coaching session to do. I was on my way to the pros, and then I did my knee. So now I coach. Not really my dream, but at least I'm helping other people reach theirs.

TONY SALERNO

That sucks for you buddy. But good on you for still getting out there, and making a difference. Me. I would spend my life, pissed at the fact, that I missed out.

JOSH

Oh. Trust me, it took me a long time to get to this mind set.

Making her way over to Josh, Jessica sits on the vacant seat next to Tony.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Tony. I want you to meet Jess. I was just telling Tony that his costume is very cool.

JESSICA

Hi Tony. It's nice to meet you. Great costume. Are you having a good night?

TONY SALERNO

Yeah. It's actually a lot better than what I thought it was going to be.

Jessica smiles, dancing in her chair.

JESSICA

Oh. I love this song. Tony do you dance?

Josh gives him the nod of approval, to dance with Jessica. Jessica grabs his hand, pulling Tony towards the dance floor.

TONY SALERNO
I normally don't dance.

JESSICA
Oh. Come on Tony. We're missing the song.

TONY SALERNO
OK. One dance and that's it. As long as it's alright with Josh.

JOSH
It's fine by me buddy. Enjoy yourself. Besides, I like watching her dance.

They make their way onto the dance floor. Jessica dancing close to him, drags him to the back of the dance floor. She wraps her body around his. Tony reciprocates. Deep into the music and each others bodies, they kiss. A guy dressed as a woman comes up from behind, kissing Tony on the neck. Realizing that the woman is a man, a fight breaks out on the dance floor.

TONY SALERNO
What are you doing? You freak.

Tony turning around, grabs the guy by the throat. He pushes him back into the crowded dance floor.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)
Get the hell away from me. Touch me again, and I'll kill you.

Josh rushes over to Tony and Jessica, on the dance floor.

JOSH
Hey man. Are you OK? What the hell happened?

TONY SALERNO
Some gay just tried to molest me. So I kicked his ass.

Their conversation is interrupted, by a BAR HOSTESS, 20s.

HOSTESS
Congratulations. You have just won the best costume for the night. Here is your prize money.

TONY SALERNO
Wow. That's so cool. I never win anything.

HOSTESS
You deserve it. Your costume was insane.

TONY SALERNO

Thank you. And thanks for the money. I'll have to dress up more often.

HOSTESS

You're welcome. Enjoy the rest of your night.

TONY SALERNO

So guys. It's been great meeting you. But I think I'm going to take my money and run.

JOSH

I'd do exactly the same thing. See you next year.

Putting the envelope in his pocket, Tony shoots down the his drink. He exits the club.

EXT. GASLAMP BAR - HALLOWEEN - NIGHT

Tony walks up, shakes the GASLAMP BOUNCER, 40s hand.

GASLAMP BOUNCER

Hey Tony. Good to see you. Are you coming in?

TONY SALERNO

That depends. How busy is it in there tonight?

GASLAMP BOUNCER

It's Halloween man. The place is pumping.

TONY SALERNO

You know what? I think I'll give it a miss. I just won three hundred bucks, at the last bar for my costume. I think I'll call it a night.

GASLAMP BOUNCER

Your loss man. You would get some serious attention, in that costume. Are you sure I can't tempt you?

TONY SALERNO

No thanks. Not my scene.

GASLAMP BOUNCER

Enjoy your money.

TONY SALERNO

Thanks. I will.

EXT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - OUTSIDE ON STREET - NIGHT

Out the front of his apartment, a drunk Tony sees CICI, 20s approaching him.

CICI

Hi. Oh your a guy? Sorry I thought you were a women.

TONY SALERNO

Well I am a guy and you're a woman. Do you want to get to know me better?

CICI

That depends. What did you have in mind?

A taken back Tony, looks at her blankly.

TONY SALERNO

So are you a cop?

CICI

No. Are you?

TONY SALERNO

Of course I'm not a cop. How many old women with babies are cops?

CICI

So would you like a date or not sugar?

TONY SALERNO

Yeah. I want a date. My name is Tony. What's yours?

CICI

Hi Tony. It's very nice to meet you. I'm Cici. Do you live far from here?

TONY SALERNO

No. This is me here. So how does two hundred, to spend the night sound?

CICI

Why not. But I will need the money up front.

TONY SALERNO

Sure.

CICI

OK then Tony. Show me the way.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Walking into his apartment, they kiss. Pushing him away, Cici takes a step back.

TONY SALERNO

So. I guess you need me to pay for this?

CICI

Sorry Tony. Unfortunately I do. It will only take a second, and then we can get back, to the good stuff.

Pulling his wallet out, he takes out two hundred in cash. Handing Cici the money, he places his wallet on the bench.

TONY SALERNO

This should cover it then.

Leading Tony to the couch, she sits him down. She performs oral sex on him. Tony pushing her away, grabs her bending her over the couch. He enters her from behind. After they have finished, Tony lays on the couch falling asleep.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Wow. That really was something else. I'm glad you came upstairs.

CICI

I know. It really was something. Close your eyes and get some rest. I'm just going to clean myself up. Do you mind if I take a shower?

TONY SALERNO

No. That's fine. Help yourself.

Getting up, Cici walks to the bathroom door.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Turning on the shower, Cici quietly opens the bathroom door. Looking at an asleep and snoring Tony, she turns off the shower. Gathering her things, she tries to sneak out.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Quietly making her way to the kitchen bench, Cici removes the money from Tony's wallet. Pushing the money into her pocket, she places the empty wallet back on the bench.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walking into Tony's bedroom, Cici sees an unmade bed with clothes and shoes strewn across the floor. Walking over to the night stand, she picks up a watch and gold ring placing it in her bag.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Cici tries to unlock the front door. She struggles with the lock, making her way back to the couch. With Tony asleep, she reaches into his jeans, grabbing his keys. The keys fall to the floor, Tony jumps up.

TONY SALERNO

Hey. What the hell are you doing? I paid you to stay the night. You're not going anywhere.

CICI

Sorry Tony. It's just really late, and I need to get home to my baby.

TONY SALERNO

Baby? What a load of shit. You were trying to rip me off.

CICI

Not at all Tony. You were asleep, so I thought, I would just get going.

Making her way towards the front door, Tony opens his wallet.

TONY SALERNO

You bitch. Where is it? I want my money back, right now.

CICI

I don't know what you're talking about Tony.

Walking over to Tony, she starts kissing him on the neck. Tony picking her up, walks down the hall.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Throwing her on his bed, he pins her down. He rips off her shirt.

CICI

Wait. Stop for a minute Tony. We need a condom. Do you have any in here?

TONY SALERNO

No.

CICI

That's fine. I have some in my bag.
I will go and grab one.

Leaving Tony on the bed, Cici walks out.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Seeing Tony's keys on the counter, she tries to unlock the door. The key ring is full of keys, with one last key to try. An angry Tony comes up behind, pushing her away from the door. Grabbing the keys, he drags her to the kitchen bench.

TONY SALERNO

You thieving whore. Where do you think you are going? Give me my money back.

Reaching into her purse, she grabs a can of mace. She sprays Tony in the face with it. He grabs his face and eyes in pain.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

You Bitch.

Punching Cici in the face, she falls, hitting her head on the corner of the kitchen bench. In slow motion a business card flies out of her purse, falling into the back of an open drawer. Laying dead on the kitchen mat, a large pool of blood streams from her head. Walking over, Tony shakes her, throwing the excess rug over her. Walking over to the fridge, he opens a beer. Drinking his beer, he sits down on the floor beside her.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 8

With the drapes drawn, Maria lays in bed. Her parents walk into the room, closing the door. With a cup of tea in her hands, Maria's Mother sits on the bed beside her.

MARIA

Mama. What are you doing here?
Where are Felix and the boys? I had the worst nightmare. I dreamed that Felix had killed himself.

MARIA MOTHER

Oh my darling child. I don't know how to tell you this. It's true, Felix took his own life and he is gone.

(MORE)

MARIA MOTHER (CONT'D)

The doctor gave you an injection
for your shock, to help you sleep.
I'm so sorry honey.

MARIA

Where are the boys?

MARIA'S MOTHER

The boys are fine. They are with
your sister. Here, have some tea.
Please try and have some.

MARIA

I don't want any tea Mom. I want
Felix back. Why would he do this to
me?

MARIA'S MOTHER

I don't know sweetheart.

EXT. MALIBU HILLS - CRIME SCENE - DAY

Arriving at the crime scene, Tim sees police lights and yellow police tape securing the area. Cici's body is laying in a pile of bushes, wearing only her bra, skirt and heels. On the side of her head is a deep gash, with a dark bruise on her cheek. Walking over, he grabs a pair of gloves from Steven. With gloves on, they squat down next to Cici's body.

TIM SLOAN

So what can you tell me?

STEVEN BREEZE

Dead prostitute. Blunt force trauma
to the head. Killed elsewhere. Body
dumped here. Time of death
approximately eight hours ago. Will
know more when the coroners report
comes back.

TIM SLOAN

So she wasn't shot?

STEVEN BREEZE

No. I doubt that it's related, but
I thought I should inform you
anyway.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks Steven. I appreciate it. Let
me know if you uncover anything
interesting, in the coroners
report.

STEVEN BREEZE

OK. I'll be in touch.

Leaving Steven standing over the body, Tim returns to his car.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

A knock at the door. Maria's Father opens the door.

MACINTOSH

Hello. I'm Detective Macintosh, Maria's boss. Can I speak with her please.

MARIA'S FATHER

Maria can't come to the door, at the moment. Who did you say you were?

MACINTOSH

It's Macintosh, Maria's boss at the LAPD. I saw the police report yesterday. How is she coping?

MARIA'S FATHER

So you know, that Felix was found dead. They say it was suicide.

Macintosh gently places his hand, on Maria's Father's shoulder.

MACINTOSH

I'm so sorry for your family's loss. If there is anything that I, or the department can do, please just let me know.

MARIA'S FATHER

Thanks for your concern Macintosh. Maria has always said, that you were a good man. I will tell her that you came by.

MACINTOSH

Whatever she needs. We will be there for her, and the boys.

MARIA'S FATHER

Thanks Macintosh. I will get her to call you, when she is able to.

Maria's Father closes the door.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

A FEMALE OFFICER, 30S, approaches Tim's Desk.

FEMALE OFFICER

Hi Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Hi. What's up?

FEMALE OFFICER

Macintosh has just sent me down to see, if anyone from your department. Is interested in putting in some money, for Maria and the boys.

TIM SLOAN

What do you mean for Maria? Is she okay? Why is Macintosh asking people to give her money?

FEMALE OFFICER

You haven't heard yet? Felix was found dead, the other night. They are saying suicide.

TIM SLOAN

Oh my god. That is horrible. Has anyone talked to her? Are she and the boys okay?

FEMALE OFFICER

All I know, is that Macintosh spoke to her father this morning.

TIM SLOAN

Poor Maria. She must be devastated. I will put in whatever I can. Can you come back and see me later?

FEMALE OFFICER

Sure Tim.

The female officer walks off. Tim sitting at his desk in shock, picks up his cell phone. He walks off.

EXT. LAPD PARKING LOT - DAY

Tim pacing the car park, tries calling Maria.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY - DAY

A knock at the door. Maria's Father opens the door.

TIM SLOAN

Hi. I'm Detective Tim Sloan. I'm very sorry for your family's loss. Would it be okay, if I spoke to Maria?

MARIA'S FATHER

Hi Tim. I'm Maria's father. Let me see if she is able, to come to the door.

Tim playing with his wedding ring, waits for Maria.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Closing the door behind her, Tim grabs her. He hugs her tightly.

MARIA

Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Maria. I've been trying to call you. I heard about Felix. I'm so sorry for your loss.

MARIA

I'm okay thanks Tim. Just trying to get my head around it. They are saying it was suicide.

TIM SLOAN

So it was suicide? Are they certain? I'm sorry to do this, but I have to ask. Did Felix know about us?

Maria stepping back, wraps her sweater around herself.

MARIA

No Tim. It had nothing to do with you.

Hearing a sigh of relief in Tim's voice, Maria steps further away from him.

TIM SLOAN

Oh thank god. I thought he had found out about us.

MARIA

I really need to go Tim. The boys need me, and I have a house full of people. I have a lot to do, over the next few days. I will call you, when everything settles down.

TIM SLOAN

If you need anything at all. Please just call. I want to be here, for you and the boys.

MARIA

Thanks Tim. That means a lot. I have to go.

Walking in, she closes the door.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

With letter in hand, Maria's parents walk in. They sit on the bed beside her.

MARIA'S MOTHER

Hey sweetie. Do you need anything?

MARIA

No thanks. I just need to sleep. I feel so tired.

MARIA'S FATHER

You can sleep in a moment, but first your Mother and I, need to give you something.

Maria's father hands Maria a sealed envelope.

MARIA

Where did you get this?

MARIA'S FATHER

Felix left it on your night stand. When we found him, we saw the note and took it. We thought that it should be your decision, if you want to share the contents, of the note. I'm sorry, we didn't give it to you last night. We thought that you already had, enough to deal with.

MARIA'S MOTHER

We will leave you, to read it in private. We will be right outside, if you need us.

Kissing her on the forehead, Maria's parents walk out. Sitting up in bed, she takes a deep breath. Hands shaking, she opens the envelope.

FELIX (V.O.)

Maria. You really don't know how much I loved you. I have always tried my best, to be good to you and the boys. I know you are a strong woman, and you will raise them well. I hope that in time you can forgive me.

(MORE)

FELIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My decision to end my life, has nothing to do with you, or the boys. I just could not live this way any longer. I have always loved and respected you Maria. But now, I have to be honest and tell you, that I have been living a lie. The day that I met you, my whole life changed. You were the first woman, that I had ever been with. You see, before I met you, I had only been with men. I have struggled, with my true self for years now. Only recently making the decision, to return to the arms of other men. When you thought that I was out drinking and gambling, I was really out sleeping with other men. Today, I went to the Doctors, and he told me that I, have AIDS. I could not bring this shame on our family, once people knew that I was sick. I did not want to waste, the little money that we have on my treatments. I would prefer, that money was for you and the boys. I will always love you, and our sons Maria. Please know, that I tried my best to change, but lost the battle. I hope you, and the boys can forgive me for what I've done. Please don't tell anyone, the reasons for my death. I love you, and I am eternally sorry. Felix.

Screwing up the letter, Maria puts her head under her pillow and screams.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 9

The family is gathered after the funeral. Relatives are standing around the room talking, while Julio and Leo sit on the couch with Maria's Mother.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Maria lays on her bed, in her black funeral dress. Looking at her cell phone, she takes a deep breath. She dials a number. Hearing Tim's voice mail, she leaves a message.

PHONE CONVERSATION

MARIA

Hi Tim. This is Maria. If you're free tomorrow, can we meet? Please call me back Tim, there is lots to say.

Placing down her cell phone, she picks up the letter. Unscrewing the letter, she reads it again. Rolling over in bed, she hugs her pillow.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

With a bunch of flowers in hand, Tim walks in. Looking puzzled, he sees Linda's tennis clothes laying on the kitchen floor. Flowers in hand, he walks through the kitchen.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Opening his bedroom door, Tim sees Linda in bed riding Derrick. In shock, he bursts into the room.

TIM SLOAN

Linda. What the hell are you doing?

Dropping the flowers to the floor, he stands looking at them in total disbelief.

LINDA SLOAN

Oh shit. Tim what are you doing here?

Leaping out of bed, Derrick pulls up his pants. Making his way to the door, Tim cuts him off.

TIM SLOAN

Where the hell do you think your going? Somebody needs to start talking.

Grabbing Derrick around the throat, Tim chokes him.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

Who are you? And what the hell are you doing in my bed, with my wife?

Jumping up, Linda runs to the door. She pulls Tim's hand, from Derrick's throat. Tim releases Derrick, pushing him out the door.

LINDA SLOAN

Oh my god Tim. What the hell are you doing? Take your hands off him. This is your fault, not his. Leave him alone.

Derrick runs out of the room. Tim walks over, looks at Linda hiding under the covers.

TIM SLOAN

How could you do this to me Linda?

LINDA SLOAN

Don't you dare come near me Tim.
Touch me, and I will make sure they
gaol you.

TIM SLOAN

Answer the question Linda. How
could you do this to me? Haven't I
been good to you?

LINDA SLOAN

Good to me? Are you actually
serious? I'm the one that has been
good to you. I have been the
perfect wife. Cooking, cleaning and
raising your children. Why are you
so surprised Tim? If you neglect
something long enough, it is bound
to die. And don't try to make out
like you're the saint here. You are
far from absolved in this. So tell
me Tim. Who did you go to the game
with?

TIM SLOAN

You're out of control. I can't be
around you at the moment. I have to
leave.

LINDA SLOAN

That's right Tim. Do what you
normally do and ignore this. Is it
any wonder that we are here?

TIM SLOAN

Linda. I walked in, to find you
having sex with your tennis
instructor in my bed. I don't even
know who you are anymore.

Tim walks out, slams the door.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Opening the door, Tony sees Susi wearing a tight blue dress.

TONY SALERNO

Well hello there, pretty lady. I'm
glad you could make it.

SUSI
Thanks for the invite Tony. You
look great.

Kissing him on the cheek, she brushes past him. Smiling, she places a bottle of vodka on the kitchen bench.

SUSI (CONT'D)
I hope you like Martini's?

TONY SALERNO
I'm a rum drinker. But I will try
anything once.

SUSI
Glad to hear it. I think we are
going, to have a very good time
tonight. Oh my goodness. Did you
cook for me?

Tony walks over, opening the oven. He pulls out a burnt
roast.

TONY SALERNO
I tried. But I think we will be
just relying on the vodka tonight.

SUSI
That's fine Tony. I'm hungry for
something else anyway.

Susi walks over, grabs and kisses Tony. Picking her up, he carries her down the hallway to his bedroom.

INT. LA MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

In their motel bed, under the covers Tim and Maria lay beside each other. The air is thick with tension, as they quietly lay still on separate sides of the bed.

MARIA
So why are we here Tim? What do you
want from me?

TIM SLOAN
I don't know Maria. I really don't.

Tim jumps out of bed, pulling up his pants. He walks over to the dresser, picks up his car keys and walks out.

EXT. PACIFIC PALISADES - LAKE SHRINE - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 10

Maria walks over, she sits on the grass staring at the Lake. Tim walks up behind her, watching her stare at the water.

TIM SLOAN

Maria.

Turning around, with tears in her eyes. She gets to her feet, embracing Tim.

MARIA

Hi Tim. I wasn't sure that you would come.

TIM SLOAN

I'm here Maria. I feel so sad, that this has happened to you and the boys. Is everything starting to settle down for you?

MARIA

Sort of. My sister and most of the others have gone back now. The boys and I, will probably go to my parent's, for a few days. I think that the best thing that I can do for the boys, is to get them out of that apartment.

TIM SLOAN

That's probably for the best. How are the boys?

MARIA

The boys are devastated, but are trying to be strong for me. You know that they were the ones, who found Felix?

TIM SLOAN

I know. I feel for them. So what the hell happened Maria? I have only heard bits and pieces from Macintosh, and the others at the station.

MARIA

I don't know where to start Tim. You know that Felix and my relationship, has been in trouble for a long time now. He just became a different person, to the person that I thought I knew. Although in some screwed up way, all I have now is answers. And I don't really know what to do, with the new information.

TIM SLOAN

What do you mean? What have you found out about Felix?

MARIA

Look Tim. This life is crazy. I mean, really crazy. I am here with a married man, that I really care about, and just maybe have even found my soulmate. And just when I think that I know what I what, Felix decides that his life, is all too hard and kills himself. I'm just trying to come to terms with the fact, that my whole life with Felix was a lie. He left me a note Tim. That's all I was worth. After all the years, was a god damn note. And an empty bottle of Valium on my night stand as a reminder.

TIM SLOAN

He left a note? Can you tell me what it said? If you don't want to I totally understand.

MARIA

It's okay Tim. I want to tell you. But first, I think that we need to talk about us. I really, really, care about you Tim. I want you so much. However. I do not want to be that woman. The one, sleeping with a married man. That's not who I am Tim. I know, that since our afternoon in Malibu. You have been feeling guilty, about cheating on Linda. Then last night, I don't even know how to process what happened last night. It's like I was your way out, of feeling immense pain. Stop me, if I'm wrong Tim.

TIM SLOAN

You're not wrong Maria. I am so sorry. I never meant to hurt you.

MARIA

I know that Tim. And I'm not hurt. I am sad, that you have had a change of heart. But I do understand, that you and Linda have been together forever.

TIM SLOAN

Yes we have. And you are right. I do want my marriage to work. I don't regret what happened with us, and I will never forget it.

(MORE)

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

I am so attracted to you, that it drives me crazy. But I want to see, if I can save my family.

MARIA

And that is such an honorable thing Tim. I wish that there were more men in the world, like you. So we are agreed? Friends? Or at least, we can try? I won't be back at work for a while. I am taking some time out, to spend with the boys and heal.

TIM SLOAN

That sounds like a good idea. Let me know if you need anything. Anything at all.

MARIA

Thanks Tim. We will be fine. I need to tell you something else though.

TIM SLOAN

What is it Maria? You can tell me anything.

MARIA

Well, it's recently come to my attention, that my darling Felix had a secret life.

TIM SLOAN

I'm sorry. I'm not following.

MARIA

I have just found out that Felix, was gay. He left me a suicide note. The reason that he killed himself, was because he had just, been diagnosed with AIDS.

Tim freezes, looking visibly shaken.

TIM SLOAN

AIDS AIDS?

MARIA

Yes Tim. AIDS. He has been out sleeping around with other men.

TIM SLOAN

Oh my god Maria. We need to get tested.

MARIA

I was yesterday, and I am all clear.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

So I'm sure that you will be fine. But the right thing to do, was to tell you. Felix and I have not made love, in more than six months. I guess I should have questioned it, but we had not been happy for a very long time. At least now, I know why.

TIM SLOAN

So you're okay? That's a relief.

Maria places her hand, on a terrified Tim's leg.

MARIA

I'm sure you will be too, Tim. But, you should get tested. Just to be on the safe side.

TIM SLOAN

I will do that today. I hate to do this Maria. But I really need to get going. I have a meeting.

MARIA

Of course Tim. Thank you again for meeting me.

Standing up, they hug. Looking into each others eyes, they kiss. Tim pulls away.

TIM SLOAN

I'm sorry. I really have to go Maria.

MARIA

I know you do Tim.

Letting go, of Maria's hand. Tim walks away. She waits for him to turn around, he doesn't. Sitting on the grass, placing her hands over her face. She cries.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You, have asked me to forgive you Felix. I don't know if I can. How could you do this, to your family? I would have understood, if you had just talked to me. But no. You took the coward's way out. How am I ever, going to get past this Felix? How? And now, I have just lost Tim. How am I supposed, to deal with any of this? It's not fair. I can't cope with this.

She continues to cry. BRENT, 50s, walks over, placing a hand on her shoulder.

BRENT

Hello. Are you alright?

Looking around, she wipes the tears away. Looking up at Brent, she smiles.

MARIA

I'm fine thanks. Just a bad day.
That's all.

BRENT

I saw you and your friend, from
across the lake. I just wanted to
tell you, that I think you are very
beautiful. And just so you know,
I'm not trying to hit on you.

She looks at Brent, with disbelief and wariness.

MARIA

Thank you. That is a very nice
thing to say.

BRENT

Where did your friend go?

MARIA

Oh. He had a meeting to get to. So
he had to leave.

BRENT

I'm very sorry to hear that. My
name is Brent. Would you mind, if I
had a seat next to you?

MARIA

Actually. I'm not really in a
talkative mood, at the moment. Do
you mind, if I say no?

Looking up, she sees two butterflies dancing behind Brent's head.

BRENT

That's fine. I totally understand.
I will be sitting just over here,
if you feel like talking.

Nodding her head, she watches Brent walk away. Watching the butterflies follow him, she smiles. He sits down on the grass staring at the lake. Laughing to herself, she gets up. She walks over to Brent, standing next to him.

MARIA

OK. Why not? I guess it wouldn't
hurt, to have a conversation with
you. My name is Maria.

BRENT

Hi Maria. I am the writer. Well, that's what I'm calling myself for today anyway.

Looking puzzled and uncomfortable, she looks around.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Sorry Maria. That was a joke. Hi my name is Brent. It is very nice to meet you. Would you like to sit down?

MARIA

Sure. But only for a minute. I really have to get home.

BRENT

So. Who was your friend that left?

MARIA

Oh. He was just someone from work.

BRENT

Hmm. So let me guess. You are both married to other people, and he came here today to end the affair.

Her mouth open in shock, she looks at Brent.

MARIA

How do you know that?

BRENT

I didn't. It was just a guess. I saw the way that you were looking at each other. Then he got up and left without looking back. So I gathered that things were not good.

MARIA

It is a really nice day. Don't you think?

Turning to Maria, he smiles.

BRENT

OK. I get the hint. No more personal questions or assumptions. To answer your question though, yes, it is a beautiful day. So let's see. What can we talk about? I know. So do you believe in aliens Maria?

Laughing, shaking her head.

MARIA

Aliens? Um. Sort off. My aunt is still convinced, that she saw a flying saucer once. What about you Brent? Do you believe in Aliens?

BRENT

Most definitely. I really can't understand anyone that doesn't. All those planets and solar systems. There's gotta be something else out there.

MARIA

You would have a great conversation with my Aunt. Life has been so crazy lately, that I don't know what I believe anymore.

BRENT

Would you like to elaborate? I promise no judgment.

MARIA

You know what? I actually don't. And I don't mean that with any rudeness. It's just that, I have recently lost my husband, and all I have done is think. I'm so sick of it. All I want to do, is look at the water and forget. I'm sorry.

BRENT

Don't apologize Maria. That's perfectly fine. Although, if you are looking to completely zone out. I can recommend a walk around the lake. I would be honored to accompany you. I promise, I won't speak.

Laughing, she grabs Brent's hand. Looking up, she sees two butterflies still dancing behind Brent's head.

MARIA

You know what? A walk around the lake sounds great. And yes, I would very much enjoy your company. You can bring your friends too, if you like.

BRENT

My friends?

MARIA

The butterflies. They have been constantly dancing behind you today. Come on let's walk.

BRENT

OK then. But before we go. Since I am not going to be talking. Could I suggest that we meet back here. One month from today? I promise that I will tell you all about myself, and I'm guessing that you, have enough going on, in your life at the moment. Do you think, that you would be okay with that?

MARIA

Well, if the butterflies want to be near you. How can I say no?

Linking her arm through Brent's, they stroll around the lake.

INT. DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 11

Maria walks into Denny's and sits in a booth. Susi seeing her walk in, smiles. Picking up her order book, she walks over to the table.

SUSI

Hello. You're back?

MARIA

Hello.

SUSI

Can I get you some coffee?

MARIA

Coffee would be great thanks.

Susi walks off, she returns to the table with coffee. Maria with tears in her eyes, sits at the table staring into space.

SUSI

Are you alright?

MARIA

No. But I will be. Thank you for asking though. I've just had a really bad week.

Sitting down at the table, Susi touches Maria's arm.

SUSI

Do you need someone to talk too?

MARIA

I'm sorry. I'm fine. My husband has just died.

SUSI

Oh my goodness. I am so sorry to hear that. Of course you're not fine, and that's okay. I can't even imagine, what you're going through at the moment. Do you have family and friends around you, to support you?

MARIA

Yes. I have my mom and dad, and my sons. The boys are at my parent's place. I just needed to get out of the house. So I thought, I would come here for a coffee. This place is close to where I work.

SUSI

Are you back at work already?

MARIA

No. I just started walking, and this is where I ended up. I work for the LAPD. They have been very good to me, and told me to take as much time as I need.

SUSI

As they should. Look. I know that you don't know me. But I finish my shift in about fifteen minutes. Would you like to go for a walk in the park, and sit and talk for a while? Sometimes talking to a complete stranger can help.

Tears stream down Maria's face.

MARIA

Thank you for the offer but I'm okay.

SUSI

No you're not. You just lost your husband. Just give me fifteen minutes to finish up, and then we will go for a walk.

MARIA

Are you sure? That's so lovely of you.

SUSI

I'm positive. Will you be okay for a few minutes?

MARIA

Yes. Thank you. You are very kind.

Smiling Susi walks away from the table, leaving an upset Maria staring into her coffee cup.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - DAY

Tim picks up the phone, dials Linda. He leaves a message on the answering machine.

PHONE CONVERSATION

TIM SLOAN

Hi Linda. It's me. I will try you on your cell, but if you get this message, will you meet me at our favorite bar at 2 PM, so we can talk, before you pick the girls up from school. I love you Linda.

Tim hangs up the phone. Looking up, he sees Macintosh standing at his desk.

MACINTOSH

Is everything alright at home Tim? That call didn't sound very good.

TIM SLOAN

Yes sir. Everything is fine. Just a misunderstanding.

MACINTOSH

Good to hear Tim. I just came by to see if you have seen Maria.

A guilty Tim, starts to loosen his tie and top button.

TIM SLOAN

No sir. Not at all.

MACINTOSH

Good Sloan. Make sure you keep it that way. She has a lot to deal with at the moment. Any updates on the case?

TIM SLOAN

I'm working on it sir. You will be the first to know, if there are any breaks in the case.

MACINTOSH

Good. Thanks Sloan. Good luck with your wife.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks sir.

Smiling, Macintosh walks off. Tim dials Linda again.

INT. BAR - ONE BLOCK FROM DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Maria and Susi walk into the bar, they sit down on the stools at the bar. The BARTENDER, 30s, leans over the counter.

BARTENDER

Hello Ladies. What can I get for you?

Turning to Maria, Susi smiles.

SUSI

I don't know about you, but I could use a Margarita.

MARIA

You know what? Make that two.

SUSI

We are just going to find a quiet table. Do you think that you can bring them over to us?

BARTENDER

No problem ladies. Have a seat. Your drinks won't be long.

Susi beckons Maria to a quiet table in the corner.

SUSI

I know that I said the park. But who can beat a stiff drink?

Nodding her head, Maria laughs and sits down at the table.

MARIA

Thank you for this Susi. I feel much better already.

Walking over, the bartender places two Margarita's on the table.

BARTENDER

Thanks ladies. Enjoy.

INT. WEST HOLLYWOOD - BAR - AFTERNOON

Linda walks in, she sits opposite Tim at the table.

TIM SLOAN

Hi Linda. Thanks for meeting me.

LINDA SLOAN

I don't really see the point in this. The only reason that I am here, is because of the girls. What do you want Tim?

TIM SLOAN

What do I want?

Tim stops and lowers his voice.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

I want to know why, I found my wife in our bed, with her tennis instructor. Have you lost your mind Linda? What the hell were you thinking?

LINDA SLOAN

I was thinking, that just maybe it was time, to find someone that would love and appreciate me.

TIM SLOAN

I appreciate you Linda.

LINDA SLOAN

I'm talking about as a lover Tim. Not your own personal servant, that spends their time cooking, cleaning and raising your children. I'm sorry Tim. It's this simple. I want more.

TIM SLOAN

I know and I'm sorry, that you feel that way. I just took it for granted, that we were solid. But I know, that if you give me another chance. I can do much better and make you happy again. Please Linda, just say you will try.

LINDA SLOAN

All I have done is try Tim. Try and try to no avail. The only reason that I came here today Tim, is to tell you that, I want a divorce.

Getting up from the table, Linda walks out. A shell shocked Tim watches her leave.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

TITLE CARD: Day 12

Susi is in the kitchen cooking breakfast. She opens the drawer and rummages through it. At the back of the drawer she discovers a business card. The card says outcalls only with the name Cici on it. Quickly she closes the drawer, as Tony walks in. He walks over, kisses her.

TONY SALERNO
Morning sweetie.

SUSI
Good morning. How did you sleep?

Throwing her arms around Tony, she passionately kisses him.

TONY SALERNO
I slept great. Wow. Something smells good.

SUSI
I thought I would get up early, and cook you breakfast. Why don't you have a seat at the table, and I'll bring it over.

TONY SALERNO
I will in a minute. I'm just going downstairs to grab the paper.

SUSI
That's fine. You go and do that, I'll finish getting breakfast ready.

Picking up his wallet, he walks out. Susi quickly opens the drawer, pulling out the business card. She grabs her cell out of her bag, dialling Maria.

PHONE CONVERSATION

INTERCUT - TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT/MARIA'S APARTMENT

SUSI (CONT'D)
Hi Maria. It's Susi. How are you?

MARIA
Hi Susi. I'm doing okay. We came in to see you and have breakfast, but they said you had the weekend off.

SUSI
Yes I do. It's great. Maria the reason that I'm calling, is that I need to ask you a favor.

MARIA
Anything Susi. What do you need?

SUSI
You said that you work for the police department. I think that my boyfriend Tony, is sleeping with prostitutes.

(MORE)

SUSI (CONT'D)

I found a card in one of his drawers, and I was wondering, if you could check it out for me? I can drop it off to the Diner later, if that is okay?

MARIA

That's fine Susi. I will drop in and pick it up. I will give it to my friend Tim. He is a detective, so he will know what to do with it. I will call you as soon as I know anything.

SUSI

Thanks Maria. I really appreciate this.

MARIA

That's the least I can do Susi. Thank you, for being a friend to me, when I really needed someone.

Susi hears Tony's footsteps approaching the door.

SUSI

Maria. I have to go. I will talk to you later.

Putting her cell phone and the card in her bag, Tony opens the door.

TONY SALERNO

I'm back.

SUSI

Excellent. Breakfast is ready. I'll bring it over to you.

Picking up the plates, she places them on the table as Tony sits down.

TONY SALERNO

Thanks sweetie. I could get used to this.

SUSI

I'm glad you think that. I like being here with you. Can I ask you something Tony?

Sitting down, she looks at Tony as he eats his breakfast.

TONY SALERNO

Of course you can. Fire away.

SUSI

I guess I just need to know where this is going? You and me I mean.

TONY SALERNO

I'm glad you asked me that Susi. I was going to wait until after breakfast, but I have a surprise for you.

MARIA

A surprise? Really? What is it Tony?

TONY SALERNO

I sort of thought that, since you have the weekend off, that maybe we could go away for the weekend?

SUSI

Really? Where?

TONY SALERNO

Well it wouldn't be a surprise, if I told you that, now would it? I thought that we could leave straight after breakfast. I promise I'll tell you our destination, when we're in the car

SUSI

I can't believe that you have organized this. You really are wonderful.

TONY SALERNO

Thank me tonight sweetie. Come on eat your breakfast. We have a road trip to undertake.

Straddling Tony on his chair, she kisses his face and neck.

SUSI

Don't you worry I will. Just give me a few minutes to throw some things into a bag.

Getting off Tony's lap, she picks up the plates. She makes her way back to the kitchen.

SUSI (CONT'D)

Is it okay if we swing past the Diner first? I just need to drop something off.

INT. DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Maria walks in, standing at the counter. The WAITRESS, 20s, approaches.

WAITRESS
Hi can I help you?

MARIA
Yes hi. I'm Susi's friend Maria.
She said she was going to leave
something here, for me to pick up.

She hands Maria an envelope.

WAITRESS
Yes it's here. Here you go. Can you
believe, that her new man Tony is
taking her to Vegas for the
weekend?

MARIA
Vegas? Really? She will have a fun,
weekend off. Thanks for that. I
really have to get going.

WAITRESS
You're welcome. Have a good day.

MARIA
You too.

I/E. TONY'S CAR - VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

Driving up the Vegas Strip at night, they marvel at the
Casinos and lights.

SUSI
So Tony. Why Vegas? Are you asking
me to marry you?

TONY SALERNO
What? Hell no. I just thought that
we could have a fun weekend away.
Is that what you really thought was
going to happen?

Susi in the passenger seat, laughs. She touches his hand.

SUSI
It's okay Tony. Don't freak out on
me. I was just joking.

Pulling into the Tropicana Hotel, they park and exit the car.

INT. TROPICANA HOTEL - RECEPTION DESK - NIGHT

Tony and Susi walk over, to the reception desk. THE RECEPTIONIST, 30s, approaches.

SUSI

This place is so cool Tony. I have always wanted to stay here.

TONY SALERNO

Yep. It's awesome. Let's get checked in.

RECEPTIONIST TROPICANA HOTEL

Hi. Welcome to the Tropicana Hotel Las Vegas. How can I help you tonight?

TONY SALERNO

We have a strip view room booked under Salerno. Is it ready yet?

RECEPTIONIST TROPICANA HOTEL

It certainly is sir. Here is your room card and hotel information. Do you need any help with your bags?

TONY SALERNO

No we're fine thanks.

SUSI

Thank you so much. I can't wait to see our room.

RECEPTIONIST TROPICANA HOTEL

You're welcome ma'am. We hope you enjoy your stay.

INT. TROPICANA HOTEL - STRIP ROOM - NIGHT

They walk in, making their way over to look at the floor to ceiling view of the Strip. Smiling, arms around one another, they admire the view.

SUSI

Wow Tony. I think I have died and gone to heaven. This view is incredible. Why have I never been here before?

TONY SALERNO

It's pretty spectacular hey? There are a thousand other cities, but nothing compares to this one for me.

SUSI

It is so beautiful.

TONY SALERNO

If you think this is great. Wait till we are down on the Strip and part of it. The atmosphere here is amazing. That's why they call it Vegas baby. Do you feel like a rum and coke?

Tony pulls a thermos, out of his bag.

SUSI

Wow. You came organized. What else have you got in those bags?

TONY SALERNO

Everything that I need, for the perfect weekend in Vegas.

Opening his bag, he pulls out a yard glass on a neck chain. Placing it over his head, he waves it around his neck. Susi laughs.

SUSI

You're crazy baby. And yes I would love a rum. So what are we going to do first?

Walking over, he gives Susi her drink. He kisses her neck, and unbuttons her top.

TONY SALERNO

You know. A little bit of this, and a little bit of that. It's been a long week, without you in my bed. I thought we could catch up first.

SUSI

I have missed you too Tony. Thank you, for bringing me here.

TONY SALERNO

You're welcome baby.

Taking the glass out of Susi's hand, he places it on the table. Grabbing her and kissing her roughly, he rips off her panties. He throws her on the bed. Pushing her legs apart, he enters her. Ignoring the look of shock and fear on her face, he continues.

SUSI

Tony. What are you doing? Please stop. You're hurting me.

TONY SALERNO

Shut up and get in the mood. You need to loosen up.

SUSI

Please stop Tony.

Finishing, he looks at Susi and smiles. She smiles back at him. Looking away from him, her look turns to hatred.

TONY SALERNO

That was so good Susi. You really do screw like a champion. I could get used to having you around.

Rolling off her, he turns his back to her. Laying in the bed, with tears in her eyes she listens for him to fall asleep. Stumbling out of bed in pain, she walks to the bathroom.

INT. TROPICANA HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Locking the door, she turns on the shower. Starting to cry, she hears Tony knock on the door.

TONY SALERNO (O.S.)

Hey Susi. Why is the door locked? Do you want to go downstairs and grab some dinner?

Opening the shower door, she wipes her face.

SUSI

That sounds good Tony. I will be with you in a few minutes.

TONY SALERNO (O.S.)

OK. Well try and hurry up. I've definitely worked up an appetite. I can't wait to get home later and do it all over again.

Turning off the shower, she wraps a towel around herself. She hobbles towards the bathroom door.

SUSI

I will be with you soon Tony. Why don't you just pour yourself another rum.

INT. TROPICANA CASINO - BLACK JACK TABLE - NIGHT

Walking through the casino, Tony sees people sitting at the black jack table. Mesmerized by the table, he stops dead in his tracks.

TONY SALERNO

So what do ya reckon Susi? Do you feel lucky?

SUSI

Not particularly. I'm not a big gambler. As far as I'm concerned, it is a waste of drinking money.

Tony walks over, sits down at the table.

BLACK JACK DEALER

Good evening sir. Are you a fan of black jack?

TONY SALERNO

I'm a fan of anything that puts cash in my pocket, without breaking a sweat. Winner winner chicken dinner. You'll be sorry, that I sat down at your table tonight.

BLACK JACK DEALER

Very good sir. How much should I deal you in for?

Turning to Susi, he kisses her on the cheek and smiles.

TONY SALERNO

You don't mind if we have a quick game, right?

SUSI

No Tony. That's fine. I might just have a quick look at the shops. Is that okay with you?

BLACK JACK DEALER

Don't hand over your credit card man.

Tony laughs, at the black jack dealers response.

TONY SALERNO

That's fine sweetie. Just don't be too long. And can you get me a rum on the way back?

BLACK JACK DEALER

We will take care of that for you sir. Enjoy the shopping ma'am.

SUSI

Thanks. Play nice boys.

Kissing Tony on the cheek, she walks off.

INT. LAPD TIM SLOAN'S DESK - NIGHT

Maria walks over, sees Tim sitting at his desk. Opening her wallet, she takes out Cici's card.

MARIA

Oh hi. I didn't think you were here.

TIM SLOAN

Oh hi Maria. I'm still here catching up on some work.

MARIA

Tim. I need to ask you a favor.

TIM SLOAN

What is it? Is everything okay?

MARIA

I need you to run a background check on someone.

TIM SLOAN

Sure. Who is it?

MARIA

It has nothing to do with me. It is just one of my friends. She thinks it belongs to a prostitute. She wants to know, if her boyfriend is a regular?

TIM SLOAN

OK. I can call her and ask. But she probably won't tell me anything. All I can really do, is run his name through the system, and see if anything comes up. When do you need it by?

Maria hands Tim the card. He points to a small brown mark on the card.

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

This is blood Maria.

MARIA

What? Really? Are you sure?

TIM SLOAN

I'm positive. I will send this to the lab, and see what they can tell me. Do you know what her boyfriend's name is?

MARIA

No. I'm not sure Tim. But I will give her a call, and find out. I'm late to pick up the boys. I really have to get going. Thanks for looking into this for me Tim.

Tim still staring, at the blood on the card.

TIM SLOAN

That's fine Maria. I will call you when I know more.

MARIA

OK. Thanks. Talk to you later. Have a good night Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Thanks Maria. I will.

Macintosh approaches Tim's desk, with an envelope in his hand. He walks up, hugs Maria tightly.

MACINTOSH

Hi Maria. How are you doing? Are you and the boys coping okay?

MARIA

We're okay thanks sir. Just taking one day at a time. I was actually on my way down to see you. I was wondering, if I could come back to work next week. With Felix gone, we really need the money. He has gambled away every cent we have. So as much, as I would like to remain under my blanket, the boys and I do not have that luxury.

MACINTOSH

Of course you can Maria. As I have already told you. Whatever you need. Although I do want you to promise me, that you will call it a day, if your not coping with things.

MARIA

Alright sir. Thank you. You have made this whole mess, so much easier for us. I will always, be thankful for your kindness sir.

MACINTOSH

Well, you better thank the whole department.

He hands Maria a sealed envelope, with her name on it.

MARIA

What's this sir?

MACINTOSH

Just a little something, to help you and your boys, get back on your feet. Everyone here put in. You are very loved Maria.

Crying she opens the envelope. She pulls out a check for fifty thousand dollars. She takes a deep breath.

MARIA

Oh my god sir. I can't accept this. This is so much money.

MACINTOSH

That is for you and the boys Maria. Spend what you need, and then put the rest away, for the boy's future. I'm sorry to run, I have a meeting with the Chief. I will see you next week. If anything changes, just let me know.

Throwing her arms around her boss, she hugs him again.

MARIA

Thank you again for everything sir. I will see you Monday.

Walking off, Macintosh leaves a shocked Maria with the envelope firmly in her hands. She looks at Tim.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Can you believe this Tim? Is this really happening?

TIM SLOAN

Yes it is Maria. And no one is more deserving, than you and your boys. Sorry to rush off. I have to get this to the blood guys before they finish. I will talk to you soon.

MARIA

OK. Thanks Tim.

Picking up Cici's card, Tim grabs his bag and rushes off. Maria standing at his desk, is still staring at the check.

INT. TROPICANA HOTEL - STRIP ROOM - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 13

Waking in their hotel room bed, they hug and kiss one another.

TONY SALERNO

Good morning sweetie. So what do you think about Vegas? Are you ready to do it all over again?

SUSI

Morning. I am having a wonderful time here with you. I love this place.

TONY SALERNO

I knew you would. Hey. I have a question to ask you.

Her eyes open wide, rolling over she hugs Tony.

SUSI

Yes Tony. What is it?

TONY SALERNO

Well. I was sort of thinking that maybe, you might like to move in with me.

SUSI

Are you serious? Don't mess with me Tony.

TONY SALERNO

I'm deadly serious. Although not all at once. I think that we should take our time and move in slowly. You know, maybe we could increase the nights you stay over slowly, and see how it goes. Then if all goes well, we will take the plunge. What do you think? Are you alright with this?

SUSI

Alright. I'm so happy Tony. I would love to live with you.

Reaching over, she pulls Tony on top of her.

SUSI (CONT'D)

Let me show you how happy I am.

Kissing Tony's neck and lips.

TONY SALERNO

Yep. I could definitely get used to this.

They make love in their hotel room bed.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Walks into the kitchen, she sees a light flashing on her answering machine. Pressing the play button, she smiles on hearing Tim's voice.

PHONE CONVERSATION

TIM SLOAN (O.S.)

Hi Maria. This is Tim. It is just after 6 PM. I just wanted to let you know that I have a lead, on the card from your friend. It is very important, that as soon as you get this message, you call me. I will be in the office for about another hour. If not call me on my cell.

A worried Maria, picks up her phone and dials Tim. Linda answers the phone.

PHONE CONVERSATION

INTERCUT - MARIA'S APARTMENT/TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE KITCHEN

LINDA SLOAN

Hello.

MARIA

Oh hello. This is Maria. I'm not sure if I have the correct number. I need to speak to Tim Sloan. He asked me to call him back.

LINDA SLOAN

Oh hi Maria. This is Tim's wife Linda. Thank goodness you called. He has been very concerned about you. I'll put him on the phone.

Handing the phone to Tim.

TIM SLOAN

Hi Maria. This is Tim. Are you okay?

MARIA

I'm fine Tim. What's going on? You sound worried? What did you find out about the card?

TIM SLOAN

Maria. I think you will need to sit down to hear this. The card that you gave me, the one with the name Cici on it. Well it turns out, that her real name is Cecilia Jorgenson. Does that sound familiar?

(MORE)

TIM SLOAN (CONT'D)

She was the body we found in Malibu. She died from blunt force trauma to the head. The card did have a drop of blood on it. And the lab is analyzing it as we speak. But they are pretty sure, that if will be hers.

MARIA

What? Oh my god. This can't be happening. My friend is in Vegas with this guy, right now. Are you sure, that it is the same person Tim?

TIM SLOAN

I'm positive Maria. Just waiting for the lab to confirm it. We are organizing, a warrant to search her apartment as we speak. You need to get in contact with your friend, and get her back from Vegas straight away. Don't scare her though, while she is still with him. We don't want him to know that we are onto him yet. Are you okay Maria?

MARIA

Yes thanks Tim. I'm just in shock, and scared for my friend. I will ring you back, as soon as I speak to her. Thanks for letting me know what's going on Tim.

TIM SLOAN

So do you know anything at all about this guy? A name. An address. Anything?

MARIA

All I know is that his name is Tony. And my friend's name is Susi. I'm sorry Tim, we have only just met, and I have not asked her what her last name is. Oh. Wait. She works at Denny's, just a few blocks from the station. They should be able to tell you more. I will try calling her now.

Hanging up the phone, she calls Susi's cell. A voice mail message comes on.

PHONE CONVERSATION

SUSI (O.S.)

Hi this is Susi. You have reached my voice mail. Just leave me a message and I will call you back. Have a nice day.

MARIA

Hi Susi. This is Maria. I need you to call me, as soon as you get this message. There is something very important that I need to talk to you about. So call me straight away, okay?

Hanging up the phone, she dials Tim again.

PHONE CONVERSATION

INTERCUT - MARIA'S APARTMENT/TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE KITCHEN

MARIA (CONT'D)

Hi Tim. It's me. She didn't answer her phone. I am really concerned now. I don't even know where she is staying in Vegas. I am such a terrible friend.

TIM SLOAN

That's not true Maria. I'm sure that you are a great friend, to Susi. You said it yourself, you have only just met her. So don't beat yourself up, because you don't know everything about her.

MARIA

Your missing the point Tim. The thing about being a friend, is that you know these sort of details, and I didn't even bother to ask.

TIM SLOAN

You're being way to hard on yourself Maria. I'm sure she is fine. You said it yourself, she is in Vegas. I'm sure she will call you, as soon as she gets the message. I've found out where she lives, and there was nobody home. So I am heading over to her house again first thing in the morning, to see what I can find out.

MARIA

I hope you're right Tim. Let me know what you find out.

Hanging up, Maria dials Susi's number again.

EXT. SUSI'S APARTMENT - OUTSIDE FRONT DOOR - DAY

TITLE CARD: Day 14

Tim and another officer arrive at Susi's apartment door. Tim knocks on the door. ELLEN, 20s, of Korean descent answers the door.

TIM SLOAN

Hi. I'm Tim Sloan from the LAPD gang unit task force. I'm sorry to impose, but I just need to ask you a few questions about your roommate Susi.

ELLEN

Hi. Susi isn't here at the moment. She is in Vegas with her boyfriend Tony. Is she alright? Has something happened to her?

TIM SLOAN

That's why we are here. We believe that your friend, could be in danger. Could we come in a talk to you for a moment? You're Ellen right?

ELLEN

Yes. I'm Ellen. Susi is my roommate. Of course. Come in.

INT. SUSI APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walking in, Tim and the officers sit on the couch. Ellen sits on the couch opposite them.

ELLEN

Is Susi alright? I'm not sure what I can tell you.

TIM SLOAN

As far as we know she is fine. We just need some more information on her boyfriend. Have you heard from her since she left for Vegas?

ELLEN

No. But that's not unusual. She always turns her cell off when she is with him.

TIM SLOAN

How long have they been together?

ELLEN

Only for about a month I think. I have only met him a couple of times, but I never liked him. There is something very strange about him.

TIM SLOAN

Are you sure that they are in Vegas? When are they due back?

ELLEN

Today I think. Detective Sloan, I am scared and worried for her. I have a very bad feeling. What did he do?

TIM SLOAN

We have some evidence, that we need to talk to her about. Can you tell us what his full name is?

ELLEN

No. I'm sorry all I know is his name is Tony. What do you mean evidence? Is Susi going to be okay?

TIM SLOAN

I can't go into it now. But it would probably be best, if you weren't here when they get back. Do you have a friend's place, that you can go to for a while?

ELLEN

Yes I do. This is really serious isn't it?

TIM SLOAN

I'm not going to lie to you. It could be. So just to be safe, let's get you out of here. We will give you a ride to your friends house.

ELLEN

OK. Thanks.

Getting up from the couch, Tim waits while Ellen gathers her things together.

I/E. TONY'S CAR- THE FREEWAY - DAY

Driving on the freeway, back to LA.

SUSI

Tony. I have something else, that I need to ask you, before we get back to LA. It is pretty stupid. But I need to know the answer, before I live with you.

TONY SALERNO

Do you want to know if I am a serial killer?

Looking at each other, they laugh.

SUSI

I know you're not a serial killer Tony. This is about a card, that I found in your kitchen drawer the other day.

TONY SALERNO

What card?

SUSI

The one that has the woman's name Cici on it. I don't care, if she is a prostitute, and you have used her before. I just need to know, that you are exclusive with me. Especially now, that we are moving in together.

Tony shifts, moving uncomfortably in his car seat.

TONY SALERNO

I'm not sure what you're talking about Susi. If you want to know if I have ever slept with a prostitute, the answer is yes. Most guys do. It was a long time ago, and I probably just threw her card into the drawer. Have you got the card? Show it to me.

SUSI

I haven't got it. I threw it away. Anyway it doesn't matter now. I just needed to know, that you weren't sleeping around on me.

TONY SALERNO

Well I'm not. And I have to say, I may need to rethink my decision, to have you move in. I don't want someone in there, that goes through my stuff.

SUSI

I wasn't. I didn't. It was in the kitchen drawer, when I was looking for tongs, to cook breakfast with the other day. Please just forget that I said anything at all. Please Tony. I really want to live with you. I love you.

TONY SALERNO

You love me. Well holy shit woman. Maybe it's time you start trusting me.

SUSI

I know. I'm sorry I brought it up Tony. Please forgive me, for being so stupid.

EXT. LA - GAS STATION - AFTERNOON

Pulling into a gas station, Tony gets out to refuel the car. Reaching into her handbag, she turns her cell phone on. There is 10 missed calls on the screen. Susi calls Maria.

PHONE CONVERSATION

INTERCUT - LA GAS STATION/MARIA'S APARTMENT

SUSI

Hi Maria. It's Susi.

MARIA

Oh my god. Susi where are you? I have been trying to call you.

SUSI

Sorry Maria. Tony took me to Vegas for the weekend. I have had my phone turned off all weekend. We have just arrived back in LA. Tony is getting some gas, so I thought I would give you a call. Is everything alright?

MARIA

Susi. I really need to talk to you about the card, that you gave me. It belonged to a woman named, Cecilia Jorgenson.

SUSI

I know, she was a prostitute. Tony and I have talked about it. Maria. Tony has asked me to move in with him. We are heading back to his place now.

Maria tries to remain calm, as she speaks to Susi.

MARIA

Instead of going to Tony's, do you think that he could drop you off here for a while? I really need to talk to you.

SUSI

I don't see why not. I'll ask him and see what he says.

Tony putting his head through the car window, sees Susi talking on her cell.

TONY SALERNO

Who are you talking to?

Jumping in fright, she sees Tony's face in the window.

SUSI

It's my friend Maria. The one that I told you about, who lost her husband last week. She wants to know, if you can drop me off, as she needs to talk to me.

TONY SALERNO

What about?

SUSI

Girl stuff Tony. So is that okay? Will you drop me off? She doesn't live far from here.

TONY SALERNO

I guess so. But I thought we were going back to my place, to keep continuing our weekend of making love.

SUSI

We are. We will. I promise. I just need to see, if she is alright. Her husband has just died Tony.

TONY SALERNO

Alright. I'll drop you off. But don't be too long.

SUSI

Thanks Tony. I won't.

Placing the cell phone back against her ear.

SUSI (CONT'D)
Are you still there Maria? That's fine. I'm on my way. See you in about twenty minutes.

Susi hangs up the phone, reaching over she kisses Tony on the cheek.

SUSI (CONT'D)
Thanks Tony. I really won't be long. We will continue our weekend, as soon as I get back.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Maria cell phone in hand, dials Tim.

INTERCUT - MARIA'S APARTMENT/SUSI'S APARTMENT

MARIA
Tim it's Maria. I just spoke to Susi, and she is coming here.

TIM SLOAN
What? I have officers waiting around the corner, at her place.

MARIA
Sorry Tim. She wasn't going home anyway. She was headed back to Tony's. She said she will be here, in about twenty minutes. What do you want me to do?

TIM SLOAN
That's okay Maria. Does she know anything yet?

MARIA
Only that I have some information on the card.

TIM SLOAN
Good. Keep it that way. We will speak to her together. Stay where you are. I'm on my way.

Jumping into his car, he places his siren on top of the car and goes screaming down the street.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Arriving at Maria's apartment, Susi knocks on the door. With a look of relief, Maria opens the door.

MARIA

Susi. You're here. Come in.

Susi walks in, Maria locking the door behind her.

SUSI

Is everything okay Maria? You look worried.

MARIA

I'm much better now that you're here. Come in and have a seat. I need to talk to you.

Sitting on the couch, she grabs Susi's hand.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Are you sure that you are alright?

SUSI

I'm fine Maria. What's wrong? You're starting to scare me.

MARIA

I'm sorry. I don't mean to. I'm just glad that you are here.

A knock at the door. Maria gets up from the couch, opens the door. Tony is standing there.

TONY SALERNO

Are you Maria? Is Susi here?

Hearing Tony's voice, Susi walks to the door.

SUSI

Tony. Is that you? I'm here.

Tony standing in the doorway, holds Susi's wallet in his hand.

TONY SALERNO

You left your wallet in the car. I thought you would need it to get home.

SUSI

Thanks Tony. What would I do without you?

Looking at Maria, Tony scans her apartment. He sees a notepad sitting on the bench. A red pen circle surrounds Cecilia's name.

SUSI (CONT'D)

I will be home soon Tony. Thanks again.

As Susi closes the door, Tony bursts his way through. He sees the name circled on the notepad. Picking up the notepad, he waves it in Susi's face.

TONY SALERNO

What the hell is this Susi? Why is this name written, on this bitch's notepad? What the hell is going on?

Grabbing Susi and Maria by their arms, he forces them into the couch. Walking to the front door, he dead bolts the lock. Pulling out a handgun, he aims it at them.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

You had better start talking Susi. I'll ask you again. Why does this bitch, have that whores name, written on a notepad?

SUSI

What are you doing Tony? I gave the card to Maria. I asked her to help me find out, who Cici is.

TONY SALERNO

And why would you do that?

Sitting in the couch shaking, Susi weeps.

SUSI

Because she works for the police department. I'm so sorry Tony. I just wanted to find out, if you were still sleeping with her.

Turning his gun towards Maria.

TONY SALERNO

Is that the truth? So tell me. What did you find out, you meddling bitch?

MARIA

I found out, that the card belongs to Cecilia Jorgensen. The woman that you murdered, and dumped in the Malibu Hills.

SUSI

What? Tony, what is she talking about? Maria what are you saying? I don't understand.

MARIA

It's over Tony. The police know you are here, and they are on their way.

TONY SALERNO

Oh, it's not over by a long shot
bitch.

Maria and Susi sit on the couch holding hands in fear for their life. A crazed Tony sits on the couch, in front of them waving his gun at them. A knock at the front door.

TIM SLOAN (O.S.)

LA Police. Open this door
immediately.

Tony motions to Maria and Susi not to move. Maria runs towards the door. Tony grabs her by the hair, forcing her back into the couch.

SUSI

Tony. What are you doing?

EXT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Tim with two officers, draw their guns. Tim knocks again on the front door.

TIM SLOAN

Tony Salerno. It's the LAPD. We
know you're in there and we are
coming in.

INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tony walks toward the door. His gun still pointed at Maria and Susi.

TONY SALERNO

I've got a gun, and I'm not opening
the door. Back away from the door,
and go downstairs, or I will shoot
someone.

Susi weeps, in Maria's arms.

TIM SLOAN (O.S.)

Tony. We just want to talk to you.
Please just put down the gun, and
let us in.

Tim motions the officers, to make their way toward the kitchen window.

TONY SALERNO

This is the last time I tell you
pig. Get away from the door or I
start shooting.

Susi jumps off the couch, walks towards Tony. Tony pushes her back into the couch.

SUSI

Tony. Tony. What are you doing?
Please just calm down and think
about this.

TONY SALERNO

Sit down. You lying bitch. This is
all your fault.

Susi on the couch with Maria, continues to weep.

MARIA

You know they are coming in Tony.
Is that your name? You do know that
I work for the police department.
Don't you?

Tony pushes the gun into Maria's temple.

TONY SALERNO

I told you to shut the hell up.

"a phone rings."

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

Where is that phone coming from?

MARIA

It's mine. I left it on my bed.

Tony sits down in the couch opposite Maria and Susi. He places his gun in his lap.

TONY SALERNO

I never told you Susi. I used to be
a traffic cop. So trust me, I know
exactly what the protocol is, and
what they are doing out there. I
know I don't have a chance. And
honestly, I don't really care.

Maria stares at Tony trying to place who he is.

TONY SALERNO (CONT'D)

I just want you to know Susi. That
I did not kill that prostitute. She
slipped in my kitchen, and hit her
head on the floor.

Susi's eyes widen. Her mouth open in shock.

SUSI

Oh my god Tony. What are you
talking about? What have you done
Tony?

TONY SALERNO

I'm telling you both the truth. I don't have any reason to lie, to you now. It's all over for me. She tried to steal from me, and we struggled, when I tried to get her purse away from her. She just slipped, and hit her head really hard on the floor. I didn't kill her. It was an accident. She just slipped.

MARIA

Then why are you holding us hostage? I'm sure the police, will listen to your side of the events.

TONY SALERNO

Why? I'll tell you why. Because I took her body and dumped it in the Malibu Hills, that's why. And when the police search my apartment, they are bound to find matching fibers and shit, linking me to her murder. I'll still get life, and go down for manslaughter, for trying to cover it up. Do you think, that just because I used to be a traffic cop, they will cut me a break? I don't think so. Plus, what if they find out about the other ones?

Tony bangs his gun against his head.

MARIA

What other ones Tony?

TONY SALERNO

Shit. What?

MARIA

What other one's Tony?

TONY SALERNO

You should have both minded your own business, and stayed out of mine. Get up both of you. We are moving into the bedroom.

With his gun, Tony motions for them to move. Maria and Susi get up from the couch and walk towards the bedroom. A shot rings out. Tony drops his gun and falls to the floor. A second shot is fired. Tim and the Swat team break through the door. Tony is lying dead on the floor in a pool of blood. They all look around to see Julio, holding a handgun next to Leo. Running over, Maria takes the gun away from Julio. Hugging him, she hands the gun to Tim.

MARIA

Julio. Oh my god. Are you okay? Leo what about you? Are either of you hurt?

LEO

No Mommy. I'm fine.

Grabbing Julio, Maria hugs him again.

MARIA

Julio. Darling. Thank you. You saved our life. Come and sit down on the couch with me.

Sittings on the couch, Maria, Susi, Julio and Leo watch while Tim turns the apartment into a crime scene.

INT. TONY SALERNO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tim and the swat team burst into Tony's apartment. They search for weapons and evidence. A swat team member walks into the kitchen.

SWAT TEAM MEMBER

Sir. I think we have found something.

TIM SLOAN

What have you got?

SWAT TEAM MEMBER

We found these under a false panel in the cupboard.

The swat team member undoes a box, containing fifty guns with ammunition scattered throughout.

TIM SLOAN

OK. Tape it off and get forensic's up here. Make sure you get a sample of the carpet fibers. I will expect a copy of the report on my desk asap.

With the swat team still combing Tony's apartment, Tim walks out.

INT. TIM SLOAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

TITLE CARD: One month later.

Tim walks in, and passes Derrick walking out. Glaring at him, he keeps walking. Linda stands at the kitchen bench, drinking a glass of wine. Looking around, she sees Tim standing behind her.

LINDA SLOAN

Tim. What are you doing here? It's not your day with the girls.

TIM SLOAN

I think it's about time, we really talked. Don't you? I hate that this is happening to us. What was he doing here?

LINDA SLOAN

It's not what you think Tim. And last time I checked, we were not together.

TIM SLOAN

So enlighten me Linda. Just what exactly am I supposed to think, when I come home a month later, to find the guy that was in bed with my wife, walking out of my kitchen.

LINDA SLOAN

I don't know Tim. Maybe you can start, by accepting your role in this situation. I'm sorry, that you had to see what you did. I'm not sorry, that I did it. I'm so sick of just existing. I want to live. And with Derrick, I have never felt so alive. So as far as I'm concerned Tim, anything that you have to say, is too little to late.

Walking over, he takes the glass of wine out of Linda's hand. He places it on the bench. Picking up her hand, he gently holds and strokes it.

TIM SLOAN

Please Linda. I know that I'm not blameless. I know that I have neglected you, and turned the passion that we used to share, into emptiness. But all I know, is that I still love you, and I want our family back. I'm willing to forgive you, if you agree, to give me another chance, to make you feel alive.

LINDA SLOAN

I don't know Tim. I think that lately, we have just hurt each other, too much to go back. I do, still love you Tim. As for being in love with you, I'm not so sure anymore.

(MORE)

LINDA SLOAN (CONT'D)

I don't think I have felt that way about you, for quite some time now.

TIM SLOAN

I know honey. And that's my fault for neglecting you. I now know, that I want our life, and love back. You Linda, always have and always will, be my only reason for breathing.

LINDA SLOAN

I don't know Tim. Do you really believe, that we can go back? There has been so much craziness lately.

TIM SLOAN

All I can tell you, is that I am willing to try. Are you? Because if you are, then I have booked us a weekend away, at the Napa Valley. No kids. Just you and me. So what do you think honey? Are you willing to give our marriage, another go? I am so in love with you Linda. You, and the girls are my life. I have loved you, from that first day at school, and will continue to love you, until my last day on earth.

Both with tears in their eyes, they smile at each other. Linda gently touches Tim's face.

LINDA SLOAN

I still love you too Tim. And I want our life back too. Not the one that we currently have. I want the life back, when just seeing you, took my breath away.

TIM SLOAN

See that's the difference Linda. You still, take my breath away everyday. But being away from you, I now know that you are my everything. So is now, okay with you? Your mom, will pick up the girls after school, and stay here for the weekend. All you need to do is pack a bag. So are you up for a weekend in Napa?

LINDA SLOAN

Yes Tim. I will give us another chance. I want nothing more, than to have my husband, and my family back. But, we need to take this slow.

(MORE)

LINDA SLOAN (CONT'D)

A lot has happened Tim, so lets just see how the weekend goes, before we go making life decisions. Will you wait while I pack?

TIM SLOAN

I'm not going anywhere honey. You are stuck with me for life.

Smiling at Tim, she starts to walk out. Suddenly she stops, turning back towards Tim.

LINDA SLOAN

So. I was thinking. Would you like to help me pack?

TIM SLOAN

I thought you would never ask.

Walking over, he picks her up, carrying and kissing her, he walks down the hallway.

I/E. MARIA'S CAR - THE FREEWAY - DAY

Maria on her cell phone to Susi.

PHONE CONVERSATION

MARIA

Hey Susi. It's me. Just calling, to see if you are still on for dinner, and Margarita's tonight? I've got a few things to do, but I should be home about six. See you then. Oh and don't forget the you know what.

INT. DENNY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Taking off her apron, Susi takes her cell phone from her bag. She smiles, listening to the message from Maria. Hanging up, she pulls out a bottle of tequila from her bag. Ellen walks in.

ELLEN

So are you ready to go Susi? The movie starts in half an hour.

SUSI

Yes. I'm ready. I just have to be at Maria's at six. It's Monday Marguerita night.

ELLEN

That's fine. We will be out in plenty of time.

They walk out of the restaurant, down the street and into the movie theater on the corner.

EXT. PACIFIC PALISADES LAKE SHRINE - DAY

Maria walks over, sees Brent sitting on a blanket, gazing at the Lake. She sits on the blanket beside him.

BRENT

Hi.

MARIA

Hello.

BRENT

I didn't think you would remember. But I'm very glad you did. It's wonderful to see you again.

MARIA

Thanks. I nearly did forget. Oh. Sorry that sounded rude.

BRENT

That's fine Maria. No offense taken.

MARIA

So. Brent. Isn't it? I think the last time that we met, you promised to tell me more about yourself.

BRENT

I certainly did Maria. So. Here goes. Hi my name is Brent Townsend. It is very nice to make your acquaintance.

Holding out his hand, Brent gestures for Maria to shake hands.

MARIA

Nice to meet you once again, Brent Townsend. So Brent. What do you do?

BRENT

Well okay. Here goes. Sorry if I sound like, a dating advertisement. I'm not very good talking about myself. However. I did promise so bear with me. I guess I should start with the basic data. I'm fifty two years old.

In disbelief, Maria raises her eyebrows.

BRENT (CONT'D)

I was born in Malibu. I grew up the typical Malibu surfer kid. Fairly wild, but not a fighter. Just had love, and total respect for the water. I went to college in Santa Barbara, and played on the Volleyball team. I have worked and written my entire life. But only have I lately, started to rise to the challenge, of getting my work published. So are you bored yet?

MARIA

Not at all Brent. Please continue.

BRENT

After college I worked as a personal trainer, that led me to invent some personal training devices, which I had patented. To my surprise, people actually liked them, and I did pretty well out of them. I then married an ex Florida model, and had a son. He is now 18 years old. My son has been living with me for the past three years, and I have been divorced for about five. Um. What else. Oh yeah. I love to read and stay close to nature, so I come here often, just to bask in the lake's serenity, in a city of madness. I live not far from here. So this place is my perfect escape, from the world for a while.

Brent looks at Maria, and sees her eyes starting to well with tears.

BRENT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for rambling. Maria are you okay?

MARIA

Yes Brent. I'm fine thanks. You're not rambling at all. That was a really beautiful introduction, about yourself. I hope and pray that someday, I will find peace again. As you were talking, I started thinking back on the events of the last month. It's very complicated. I'm sorry to get upset Brent.

BRENT

Not at all Maria. Do you want to talk about it? I am also a very good listener.

MARIA

I wouldn't know where to start.

BRENT

Wherever you want to Maria. You can talk to me about anything. I will not judge you.

MARIA

OK. So. I'm a thirty two year old, whose nice normal life in the last month, has just been turned upside down. I guess, if I'm honest that's the reason, that I came back here today. I wanted to try and recapture, a little of the inner peace, that I felt for a fleeting moment, last time I was here with you. I don't really know how to say this, because at the moment, I just feel very sad.

BRENT

You're okay Maria. I'm here with you. Keep going.

Brent gently, holds Maria's hand.

MARIA

Firstly. I had an affair with a guy at work. We had been attracted to each other for years, but have only just recently acted on it. The last time that I was here, was with him. He told me that he still loved his wife, and wanted to work things out. My gay husband, committed suicide, after finding out that he had AIDS. I made a new friend, whose boyfriend, turned out to be a serial killer. He held us and my family hostage in my apartment, before my oldest son shot and killed him. This has all transpired in the last month. And to tell you honestly, at the moment I'm terrified at the thought, of what this month will bring.

BRENT

Wow Maria. That's some story. I think you are an incredible woman to have endured, and survived all of that. You are an inspiration to all of us.

MARIA

No. I'm not an inspiration. I just hope my boys can grow up, and be normal well adjusted kids. I hope that my actions, have not screwed them up for life.

BRENT

Not at all Maria. Apart from the affair. The rest of it, was out of your control. You can't punish yourself, for the bad things happening. That's just life. It's how we come out the other side, that matters. And to see you sitting here, after the month you have had. You are such a strong incredible woman. I am blown away by your courage.

MARIA

I'm not courageous. I was just doing what I needed, to survive and be there for my boys.

BRENT

You know what I believe Maria? I believe there is meaning in life. There is love. The purest love in life, is that of a parent to a child, and you are very fortunate to have that.

MARIA

Thank you Brent for saying that. I feel much better, after talking to you. You know, apart from the affair. I have always tried to be a good person and not hurt other people. I was never sure in life, whether being nice made a difference or not. But after the last month that I have had, I have a new respect for life, and the people that I hold dear.

BRENT

That is a very wise thing to say Maria. Life is a never ending process, of learning from our mistakes.

(MORE)

BRENT (CONT'D)

Darwin's theory of Evolution is based on that concept. Survival of the fittest. It's pretty fitting.

MARIA

Especially in LA. That is so true Brent. I have never thought of it that way before.

BRENT

You will be fine Maria. I will make sure of that.

MARIA

This sounds crazy. But somehow, I already know, that you will Brent. I'm so lucky to have met you.

Behind Brent's head, Maria sees two butterflies dancing in the background. She closes her eyes, hears the gunshot and sees her apartment floor filled with blood. Opening her eyes, she sees the butterflies still dancing, behind Brent's head.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Do you believe in fate Brent? I think that my life, is finally the way it should be. Maybe we can write a new chapter in our lives together?

Putting his arm around Maria, Brent kisses her on the cheek. They both watch two Butterflies dance in front of them.

BRENT

I couldn't agree with you more Maria. And I would be honored, to start a new chapter with you.

Resting her head on Brent's shoulder, as his arms surround her. Smiling at each other, they both gaze back at the lake.

MARIA (V.O.)

Who knows, where the path of life will take me. All I know, is that I have to find the courage, and strength, to live my life with love and integrity. For myself, and for my sons. In the last month, we have witnessed more horror and tragedy, than any family should. I still believe, that despite the evil that resides in our world, goodness and love, will still prevail. As for me. At the end of these life changing events. I now know, that even through all of the death, and despair.

(MORE)

MARIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There is always the possibility, of
the re birth, of a new life and
love. I will always remember. The
blood and the Butterflies.

FADE OUT.