

I SEE YOU

By

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Based on, a Scary Potential Future

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## **I SEE YOU**

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**Logline:** Two Hispanic sisters find themselves victim's of a new Facial Recognition surveillance system that has falsely deemed one of them a "Murderer."

### **CHARACTERS**

Maria Morales (18) - A very popular Guatemalan-American preppy cheerleader with overachiever tendencies that because of her poor upbringing in Guatemala, tries to completely distance herself from her old life. Embracing a princess like persona. Unlike her younger sister, Emily, who's the complete opposite.

Emily Morales (17) - Maria's younger sister. A quirky, headstrong, conspiracy theorist, who rejects being Americanized and believes that the government has become pure evil and is spying on its citizens with ill intent. She also sees Maria as a sell out for "abandoning" her culture and conforming.

### **SYNOPSIS**

Guatemalan American cheerleader Maria Morales, wants to make the best of her senior year and get into her dream school and live the American dream. But things change when she's falsely identified by facial recognition, as the murderer in a gang shooting where she loses an old friend of hers, and is pinned for his, and several other murders, potentially setting Maria up for death row. Her younger sister Emily, vows to solve the case and clear Maria's name by finding the real killer, and exposing the faulty facial recognition software, which seems to be selectively used by certain law enforcement. It's a race against time to expose the truth... Before it's too late.

FADE IN:

1 VIRTUAL PHOTO MONTAGE 1

On a COMPUTER MAINFRAME, Multiple virtual photos of people fly by, the computer finally stops on one picture of the "Morales Family." A homemade video starts playing.

1A EXT. BEACH IN GUATEMALA - HOMEMADE VIDEO (2013) 1A

A CHILD MARIA (10) stands on the beach smiling in RAGGED clothes, holding a pair of homemade POM POMS, while her dad FILMS her. CHILD EMILY (9) walks by and waves at the camera.

DAD (O.C.)

Maria, would you like to show our American viewers how good your English is getting?

CHILD MARIA

Hola! Or hello as you say in English. I'm Maria and I love you America! My dream is to become a professional cheerleader when I grow up, and I know it would come true if I came to America! It would be like when Cinderella became a princess!

DAD (O.C.)

Wow! Anything else Maria?

CHILD MARIA

Si, I have a little song!

She starts singing and Emily photobombs her. Maria playfully pushes her away and continues. The VIDEO ENDS. A fast TIME LAPSE is triggered and a SLIDESHOW of pictures of them go by, up to their early teen years (12 and 13) where they come to America and take a picture by the STATUE OF LIBERTY.

Maria plays with new friends, while Emily stands a little off to the side. As it progresses, it slowly shows them growing further apart over time, until Finally stopping on a picture of them in the present day.

MARIA (18) sits laughing at a table full of popular friends, while EMILY (17) sits at a table by herself, writing face down in her notebook.

END MONTAGE

2

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM - AFTER SCHOOL (PRESENT)

2

Grown up Maria is living out her dream of being a popular cheerleader, and practices drills with the cheerleading team. Emily sits on the bleachers by herself writing in her notebook. Maria comes out and does a series of amazing FLIPS getting everyone cheering.

Emily even looks up from her notebook. Maria finishes with grace and takes a bow, then looks at herself on her PHONE. ASHLEY (18) comes over to her.

ASHLEY

Maria, you don't need to touch up your makeup. You look amazing!

MARIA

Oh, I'm not doing that. I'm just playing with this new app called Funny faces! It's basically a deep fake simulator. Here, watch this...

PHONE POV: Ashley leans in closer and some other girls come over. Maria swipes the screen and suddenly, turns into CINDERELLA. The girls start freaking out. Emily gets up and starts heading over. She calls over in a GUATEMALAN ACCENT.

EMILY

You know they're just stealing your data right? It's made by the same company that sells big brother level facial recognition surveillance systems, to totalitarian countries like China.

MARIA

Emily, can you ever shut up about your conspiracy theories? What's your point?

EMILY

We have the same system as them now here. So I wouldn't be giving them more free info. The computer has a hard time telling apart minorities. So it might think you're an illegal and deport you, Cinderella!

She throws up her hand and accidentally knocks Maria's PHONE on the track, and CRACKS it. Maria is PISSED. Emily freezes.

MARIA

You're buying me a new phone, and you are WALKING HOME!!!

She storms off. Leaving Emily frozen as it starts RAINING.

3

EXT./INT CELL PHONE REPAIR SHOP - RAINING

3

Maria gets out of her car and walks in wearing a BLACK HOODIE. An identical Latin girl comes in with the same HOODIE as Maria. Maria goes over to the Latino clerk AUSTIN (18) at the counter, who recognizes her as she puts her PHONE down.

AUSTIN

Maria! Long time no see! I haven't seen you since you left Guatemala! Como estas?

MARIA

Wait, Austin! You work here now? How long have you been in New York?

AUSTIN

Oh, your dad pulled some strings and got me here a few months ago! Hopefully we can hang out sometime.

MARIA

Yeah, maybe. Just Let me know when you fix it!

He waves bye. The other HOODED GIRL Walks up to him and Maria walks outside. SUDDENLY, GUN SHOTS RING OUT. SCREAMS are heard and Maria walks in to see the HOODED GIRL, wearing a BLACK BAG, SHOOTING at a wounded TEEN BOY. Maria runs in and strikes her, wrestling for the GUN, which flies outside.

They both dart after it outside. The girl almost reaches it first, but Maria TACKLES her down into the wet pavement, and they fight for it fiercely on the ground. Maria rolls on top and they trade punches. The BLACK BAG sits alone inside.

SECURITY CAMERA POV: It scans the two hooded girl's and zooms in on Maria. "Maria Morales active shooter" flashes. BACK TO NORMAL. The Other girl finally breaks away and HEADBUTTS Maria, giving her a BLOODY NOSE and runs away. POLICE SIRENS can be heard ROARING in the distance.

Disoriented, Maria stumbles back into the store. Her vision returns and she sees 5 DEAD BODIES across the store. Austin leans dead against the cash register. Maria starts CRYING as POLICE run onto the scene. Maria screams "No!" and punches the ground. SHERIFF GANO comes up behind her and cuffs her.

SHERIFF GANO

Maria Morales, you're under arrest for drug trafficking and murder!

MARIA

What!?

They open up the BLACK BAG, revealing tons of bags full of COCAINE covered in blood stains. They SLAM Maria down.

4

INT. FEDERAL GRAND JURY COURT HOUSE - DAY

4

A JUDGE slams down his GAVEL. Maria is in court sitting next to her LAWYER DAD and her mother. Adjacent to them is Sheriff Gano and the PLAINTIFF JOHNSON. Maria looks ahead nervously. Emily sits next to their mom and stares down the Sheriff.

JUDGE DAVIS

Court is now in session! Let the Prosecution make its opening statements.

The plaintiff goes up and Sheriff Gano sets up a PROJECTOR and turns it on. Emily starts taking notes.

PLAINTIFF JOHNSON

Thank you. First, I'd like to show the crime scenes biometric, security footage!

SECURITY FOOTAGE plays: Maria angrily walks into the shop. "Potential malintent" flashes over her. The other GIRL comes in after. They split off towards Austin. One leaves, the other walks over. She points to a BLACK BAG behind him then tries to take it. Austin tries to prevent her.

She pulls out a GUN and shoots Austin, then grabs the bag and starts killing the fleeing witnesses. The camera scans her and "Maria Morales active shooter" Appears on screen.

The jury gasps. An image of THE BLACK BAG full of COCAINE Pops up on screen. Dad tries to calm an ANGRY Maria.

SHERIFF GANO

This is what 5 people were killed for, and It's full of 2 million dollars worth of imported cocaine!

PLAINTIFF JOHNSON

We believe Ms. Morales is involved in a high level of organized crime. With motive and a past with the--

MARIA

NO! They're lying! I'm not the SHOOTER! This is bull sh--

JUDGE DAVIS  
 Enough! You will not disrespect my  
 court. Take her to jail!

He slams down his GAVEL and Maria's carried out. Emily looks back down at her notes which have the main case points written down. She writes in her notebook "Game on."

5 INT. WOMEN'S PRISON COMPOUND 5

Maria wanders through the cell block in a JUMPSUIT. She walks down a path to the mess hall through a sea of diverse inmates. Maria gets sized up by a group of Hispanic girls led by ANAHI (22) The whole lunch room seems to be whispering when Maria walks in.

Maria tries to ignore them, but right before she sits down, Anahi pushes out her leg and TRIPS Maria. She falls down and the whole cafeteria starts laughing at her. Anahi mocks her.

ANAHI  
 Hola, pom poms. How's the floor  
 taste princess?

Maria ignores her and leaves. Anahi doesn't like this.

6 EXT. CELL PHONE REPAIR SHOP 6

Emily takes pictures from outside AUSTIN'S SHOP, evading the police guarding the store. Then rides away on her BIKE.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

She rides through an alleyway where she takes pictures of the graffiti on the wall, she sees a DEVIL HORNS picture and one of a DOUBLE HEADED SNAKE eating 5 MICE and fighting one RAT. Emily eyes a guy spray painting a girl watching a painter.

EMILY	PAINTER
I like your paintings.	This isn't what it looks like!

6A INT. EMILY'S ROOM 6A

Emily sit's in her room and talks on the phone with someone from Austin's work while watching the SECURITY FOOTAGE.

EMILY  
 So, who's shift was he covering for again?

Emily's WEBCAM turns on and it starts recording her quietly.

INTERCUT:

7

INT. WOMEN'S PRISON PHONES - AFTERNOON

7

Maria runs over and dials home. Anahi walks by and bumps her shoulder. The phone RINGS and Emily picks up from home.

EMILY

Hola, is this the girl who cussed  
out the court?

MARIA

Emily, be serious! What happened? I  
feel like I'm on death row here!

EMILY

Well... There have been some talks  
of giving you the federal death  
penalty if you're guilty. Don't  
worry though, I got this!

MARIA

What? That's insane! Please tell me  
dad found anything helpful?

EMILY

Well, the police say they're unable  
to identify the second girl. Which  
says a lot, but you're in a prison  
full of Latin gangs. Ask around,  
someone might know something.

MARIA

Yeah, I guess you're right--

The call times out and Maria looks up to see another Hispanic girl, TORI (19) signaling her attention. Maria leaves and follows her. Suddenly, a SECURITY CAMERA zooms in and scans them, as they sit down at a table.

TORI

Hi, I'm Tori. I know a few things  
about the girl you're looking for.

MARIA

How do you know about her? The cops  
couldn't even find her. Just me.

TORI

We go way back, and I can tell you  
they'll never find her.

(MORE)



TORI (CONT'D)

There's a fine line between the law  
and crime and she walks it like a  
tightrope.

CAMERA POV: It zooms out from the two, revealing a DARK  
FIGURE watching them through a screen. He signals and ANAHI  
leaves.

MARIA

What? Are you saying she has inside  
connections? That would make a lot  
of sense. But, why are you helping  
me?

TORI

Because I can tell by one look at  
you, that you don't belong here. I  
rode with her since I was 12. She  
stabbed me in the back and now  
she's MS-13's top hit girl.

MARIA

(Intrigued)

What is her name?

Anahi looks down at them talking from the upper level.

7A

INT. PRISON OFFICE ROOM - NIGHT

7A

She walks into a dimly lit office room. Sheriff Gano steps  
into the light. A SHARPENED SHANK lays at the end of a table.

SHERIFF GANO

Anahi, she's asking too many  
questions. I'd like you to take  
care of this before tomorrow.

ANAHI

(Laughing)

Would you like me to help Maria  
(She grabs it) get ready for her  
trial?

8

INT. EMILY'S ROOM - NIGHT

8

Emily reviews the SHOOTING VIDEO again and notices something  
different. She zooms into the picture and notices a small  
SNAKEHEAD TATTOO on the wrist of the other girl. She scans it  
again. It finds A MATCH for the other girl. Emily looks at  
the screen in shock.

EMILY

I thought the police said this  
could only Identify Maria? Bingo! I  
have to get this to dad!

9

EXT. EMPTY ROAD - NIGHT

9

Emily rides her BIKE on the way to her dad's office. Suddenly  
a POLICE CAR pulls beside her. It gently pushes her off the  
road. She screams FALLING DOWN A HILL.

INT. PRISON SHOWERING ROOM

Maria looks out from her shower curtain side to side, then  
closes it and begins to shower. Anahi and her gang enter the  
room and look at Maria's shower. Maria looks out of the  
shower and puts on her towel, then sees the girls smirking  
back at her. Anahi holds out her SHANK.

ANAHI

Oh, Maria! How bout a makeover for  
your big day in court!

They all charge at Maria who screams. Her SHADOW can be seen  
struggling against the girls, who quickly overpower Maria and  
start brutally beating her down while laughing.

10

INT. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT - DAY

10

Maria's dad and the judge and prosecution, waits for Maria to  
arrive. Suddenly, the door swings open and Maria's brought in  
severely BEATEN and tired. She's sat down next to her dad who  
looks at her in shock. The judge leans in and checks.

JUDGE SMITH

Alright gentlemen, since she's late  
You may make your opening argue...  
MS Morales! Are you alright?

Maria nods and he SLAMS the GAVEL DOWN. Her dad checks her  
concerned. Sheriff Gano enjoys this.

DAD

Maria, who did this to--

MARIA

I'm ok dad. Just go.

He opens an EMAIL from Emily and goes up angry with a REMOTE.

DAD

I could go on about how facial recognition has a largely higher rate of inaccuracy with women of color, or I could show you the missing suspect. My daughter Emily found her, before her accident! And This girl has been verified!

A picture of a different Hispanic girl, with a SNAKEHEAD TATTOO comes up on screen. Sheriff Gano is SHOCKED.

MARIA

Defense calls Celeste... Gano!

SHERIFF GANO

You're Honor She's my...

JUDGE SMITH

Bring her in Gano!

The Judge is about to SLAMS down his GAVEL, when the courtroom doors open CELESTE GANO (20) A beautiful half Guatemalan girl, walks in all made up in a nice dress.

CELESTE

Is someone looking for me?

The whole court is stunned. She has everyone fooled. Maria glares back angry. The Plaintiff smiles and walks her to the witness stand.

PLAINTIFF JOHNSON

Ms. Gano, I'm sorry, but at first glance you don't look much like a murderer. Can you tell us a little about yourself?

CELESTE

Well, I'm an artist. I actually made that tattoo on the screen. It matches my dad's. It represents the struggle between the law and crime.

She and the Sheriff show their TATTOOS. She glares slyly at Maria. Celeste starts crying and recites her story.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

I was walking out of the store and suddenly I heard gunshots, I went back in and I saw her shooting this little boy. I tried to stop her but I was too late! I'm sorry I didn't report what I saw after they caught her. I was just so scared!

The plaintiff comforts her. He then hits a button on his REMOTE and the footage of the shooter (Maria to the camera) being disarmed and then the two girls wrestling outside, where Maria is clearly shown on top, punching Celeste. The jury gasps.

PLAINTIFF JOHNSON

The facts speak for themselves.  
Maria was first shown entering with  
anger and potential malintent. Then  
facial recognition identifies her  
as the shooter, you see her clearly  
beating down the one witness who  
barely escapes.

He changes slides and shows several jailed GANG MEMBERS.

PLAINTIFF JOHNSON (CONT'D)

I would also point out, that MS.  
Morales has several relatives that  
are associated with nothing short  
of Drug cartels, Barrio 18 and MS-  
13! While MS. Gano comes from a  
line of loyal police. That's all.

He lets Celeste go. She walks by Maria and flashes her the most cunning EVIL SMILE, through her fake tears. Sheriff Gano is enjoying himself. Maria finally snaps and jumps up.

MARIA

You know, I grew up in a place torn  
with poverty and gang violence. I  
lived in a shack! I didn't have  
your childhood. I was ashamed of  
where I came from, and I tried to  
distance myself from people from my  
past. Because I was scared I'd end  
up like you! Your fake tears won't  
save you. May God have mercy.

Maria starts walking away when Celeste loses her smile and goes back to her expressionless state and calls back.

CELESTE

That was a very touching speech for  
someone that just killed 5 people.  
I hope they give you the chair.

Maria turns around and they both charge at each other. The two girls are broken up by police and sat down.

MARIA

(Crying)

Why is it that no matter how nice I  
speak, no matter how much I learn  
or how many things I achieve, that  
because of some computer, and the  
broken system behind it, that you  
can't tell the difference between  
me and her!

Dad comes up and starts playing an old HOMEMADE VIDEO.

DAD

I hope you realize now what's  
happening. I'm asking you, not as a  
lawyer but as a father, watch this  
before you reach a verdict.

The video of CHILD MARIA about to sing, plays where it left  
off. She sings "God Bless The U.S.A" by Lee Greenwood.

A series of reaction shots from the song highlights are seen  
as it impacts the jury. Emily and her mom are seen watching  
it from her hospital bed. The song ends and child Maria does  
a backflip and the screen turns off. The Judge looks out and  
breaks the FOURTH WALL.

JUDGE SMITH

What is your verdict?

**FADE OUT:**





