

MISS HOMEWRECKER

Written by
Maurice Vaughan

FADE IN:

BLACKSCREEN

SCARLETT (V.O.)
What's the last difficult thing in
your life that you remember?... Did
you avoid it?... It's easier to take
the easy way out, isn't it?

EXT. SAN DIEGO, C.A. - NIGHT

View of a "San Diego City Limit" sign.

APPEARS ON SCREEN: **2014**

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BELMIRA DA COSTA (21), a sexy Brazilian woman, has a candle
lit dinner with HENRY WILLIAMS (50) on the love sofa.

She wears a white wedding dress. He wears a wedding tuxedo.

She gazes into his eyes, which have a lustful look. She's
ravishing and very physically fit. She's seductive, yet
dominating, dangerous, and mentally unstable.

Henry, an old-fashioned, romantic gentleman, forms his hands
like a screen and holds it so her face is in frame.

HENRY
Picture perfect.

She blushes. She touches his left hand with her left hand.
They wear engagement rings.

BELMIRA
(seductive)
I can love you better than your
fiancée.

Henry's fiancée, SUSAN GREENE (50), comes in the front door,
exhausted. She totes a heavy stack of paperwork. Henry jumps
from his seat.

HENRY
(disoriented)
Susan!

Susan stares at the dinner. Her eyes quiver and gloss over.

SUSAN
(fearful)
What is all of this?

Belmira nonchalantly stands up. She steps close to Henry and grabs his arm. She narrows her eyes at Susan.

HENRY
(to Susan)
You're not supposed to be home.

Susan frowns and slams the papers on the floor.

SUSAN
(angered)
"Not supposed to be home"?! Is that
your excuse?!

Henry fidgets with his hands, panicking.

HENRY
Yea-yeah.

SUSAN
What?

Henry looks at Belmira. She kisses his cheek. He frowns evilly at Susan.

HENRY
Yes, Susan! Yes, it's my excuse!

SUSAN
How could you, Henry?

HENRY
(furious)
How could you?!

Susan frowns her eyebrows, confused.

SUSAN
(infuriated)
How could I what?!

HENRY
Work so much!

BELMIRA
(to Henry)
Do you want me to handle her?

HENRY
(whispering)
She has a gun in her purse.

SUSAN
(to Henry)
I work that much so we won't have to
when we're old! So we can spend those
years together!

Henry's rage calms.

HENRY
You do?

SUSAN
Yes!

Henry stares dumbfoundedly.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
You're going to let this woman ruin
what we have?!

HENRY
(blunt)
She gives me everything you don't.

Susan glares furiously at him. She notices his tux.

SUSAN
Why are you wearing your tuxedo?

She notices Belmira's dress.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Why is she wearing my dress?

Henry grabs Belmira's left hand and kisses it.

HENRY
Because we were practicing.

SUSAN
For what?

HENRY
Unless you change, I'm marrying her.

Belmira smiles. Susan's mouth trembles. She cries.

HENRY (CONT'D)
(to Susan)
Forget waiting until retirement. I
want you now. What's your decision?

Susan frantically searches her purse. She pulls out a small
pistol. Henry puts his hands up.

Susan aims at Belmira, but she's gone. Susan aims at Henry. She circles around, aiming the gun.

SUSAN
Where is she?

Belmira is kneeled behind the long sofa.

HENRY
(to Susan)
Put down the gun.

Susan moves towards him, aiming the gun. He steps back. She aims at him as she looks for Belmira.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Forget her. I was wrong.

Belmira peeks at Susan. Susan's back faces her.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Put down the gun.

Belmira rises up behind the sofa, staring evilly at Susan. Susan spins around, aiming. Belmira is gone.

HENRY (CONT'D)
We can talk.

Susan quickly faces him.

SUSAN
No, Henry, you don't want to talk!
You want to leave!

Belmira grabs Susan's hair from behind and yanks her head back. Susan's arms fly up, and the gun fires. The bullet hits the ceiling.

Belmira steals the gun and throws Susan down. Belmira aims at her. Susan quivers.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Help me, Henry. I'm your fiancée.

Henry stares at her.

HENRY
Are you going to change?

SUSAN
If you stay. Stay and we'll work everything out.

Henry frowns.

HENRY
 (to Belmira)
 Let's go.

Belmira's eyes tear up.

BELMIRA
 You want to marry me?

HENRY
 (smiling)
 Yes, Belmira --

Belmira quickly puts her finger to her lip, quieting him.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Yes, Luna, my sweetheart.

Belmira smiles.

SUSAN
 No, Henry, please don't do this.
 Please --

Belmira grabs Susan's left hand. Susan screams. Belmira yanks off Susan's ring.

BELMIRA
 He's mine!

She shoves Susan down. She drops Susan's ring.

Belmira locks arms with Henry. They leave the house. Belmira takes the gun with her.

Susan stares at the door, crying and quivering. She looks at her ring on the floor. She yells infuriatedly.

EXT. LOS ANGELES, C.A. - DAY

View of a "Los Angeles City Limit" sign.

APPEARS ON SCREEN: **2019**

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

SCARLETT HUNT (25) sits asleep at the table. She's girly, vibrant, and loving.

Beside her arm is a framed photo of her and her fiancé, Ryan, playing on the beach.

On the table is a cellphone, laptop, stacks of notebooks (labeled with brides' names), and a stack of wedding invitations in envelopes.

An envelope is separated from the stack. It's labeled: "Mom."

SCARLETT
(having nightmare)
You don't want us?... Mom, stop
him!... Mom, no!

She jumps up, awoke, and sprints through the room.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD IN L.A. - DAY

Scarlett runs for her life. Her eyes are wide open. She breathes frantically.

She abruptly stops running and looks around. She sighs.

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Scarlett plops down at the table. She rubs her tired eyes. Her cellphone rings. She answers.

SCARLETT
(sleepy voice)
Love Right Weddings. Scarlett Hunt
speaking.

PAIGE (PHONE)
(irate)
Why didn't you pick up the first four
times I called?!

SCARLETT
Miss Hamilton, I'm sorry. I fell
asleep. I was actually about --

PAIGE (PHONE)
If you weren't so busy planning your
wedding, you'd have time for mine!

SCARLETT
Miss Hamilton, I'm not fighting with
you about this --

PAIGE (PHONE)
(furious)
You want to ruin my special day?!!!

Scarlett hangs up and slides the phone across the table. She folds her arms and leans back.

She looks at the invitation envelopes. She grabs the one labeled "Mom" and turns it face down.

The front door shuts. Joy fills her face.

RYAN CHAMP (27) enters, carrying a laptop and clipboard. He's very kind, committed, handsome, tall, and strong.

RYAN
(smiling)
Hi, sunshine.

She puts her arms out. He jogs over and hugs her tightly. She closes her eyes and enjoys it. **They hug as they talk:**

RYAN AND SCARLETT
How was your day?

They laugh.

SCARLETT
How was your day?

RYAN
Rough and great.

SCARLETT
How was it rough and great?

He pulls back from the hug. He sighs.

RYAN
(disheartened)
LA is rough. I didn't expect it to be this bad.

He daydreams a moment, then smiles.

RYAN (CONT'D)
But helping those kids and families is the great part.

SCARLETT
Aww. They appreciate you... I appreciate you.

RYAN
Thanks, sunshine. How was your day?

SCARLETT
Paige Hamilton yelled at me.

RYAN
(upset)
What? Why?

SCARLETT
Because I took a nap.

He laughs.

RYAN
What?

She laughs.

RYAN (CONT'D)
What did you do when she yelled?

SCARLETT
Hung up.

RYAN
You couldn't work something out with
her?

SCARLETT
(aggravated)
I'm not dealing with difficult
people.

He crouches. He grimaces in pain and grabs his back.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(worried)
You ok?

RYAN
Yeah. My back's been giving me
trouble today.

He looks her directly in the eyes, deeply disturbed.

SCARLETT
What?

RYAN
Did you run today?

SCARLETT
(perky)
No. I worked and thought of you.

RYAN
(serious)
Did you run?

The happiness in her face dims. She stares at him.

SCARLETT
(grieved)
How did you know?

RYAN
You forgot to shut the door when you
came back.

She turns her back to him. She shuts her eyes tightly and covers her ears.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(desperate)
Tell me about the nightmare.

She stays in the fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Talk to me so we can work through
whatever caused it.

She stays in the fear position. He goes in front of her and touches her leg. She turns her back to him. He sighs.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(mad)
You're not making this easy,
Scarlett.

She stays in the fear position.

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ryan, mad, eats chips. He stares in the bag.

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Scarlett, emotional, watches the kitchen doorway. She wipes away tears. Ryan comes in with a plate of chips.

SCARLETT
I'm sorry, Ryan. Don't be mad.
Please.

He carries her the plate. He carefully places it on the table. The chips form a big heart. Her eyes twinkle.

RYAN
(smiling)
How can I stay mad at the woman who
has my heart?

She blushes and snickers. He sits close to her. They share the chips, enjoying each other.

He sees a box of used clothes on the floor.

RYAN (CONT'D)
What's that box of clothes for?

SCARLETT
For the kids and families you work with. There's more in the garage.

He kisses her.

RYAN
No one does the things you do.

SCARLETT
(reciting love motto)
"I'm yours."

RYAN
"Yes, you're mine."

SCARLETT
"We belong to each other."

RYAN
"For all time."

EXT. SIDEWALK IN SAN DIEGO - DAY

The sun beams. Belmira (now 26) walks, quickly scrolling through men's profiles on a cellphone dating app.

She's the sexiest thing walking. She's very physically fit. She wears shades, a "San Diego" t-shirt, and short shorts.

She carries a purse and wears a wedding ring.

BELMIRA
(disgusted)
Is a dating app really what I'm reduced to?

She closes the app. She looks at traffic.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
Ahhh! Where are you engaged men?!

She sees a handsome SURFER (20) heading her way, toting a surfboard. He holds a bottled water.

SURFER
Whoa! What wave brought you in?!

She rolls her eyes.

SURFER (CONT'D)
Hey, how about some "you/me" time?

She looks at his left hand. He doesn't wear an engagement ring.

She pushes past him, and he grabs her arm. She glares viciously at him.

SURFER (CONT'D)
I was serious about the "you/me" time.

BELMIRA
You're not wearing an engagement ring.

SURFER
(amused)
Cause I'm not engaged.

BELMIRA
(enraged)
You're wasting my time!!!

He jumps, startled. She takes his water and stomps off.

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM - DAY

Ryan relaxes in bed, watching a romantic movie on a tablet.

RYAN
(to connected bathroom; playful)
You're missing the best part,
sunshine!

SCARLETT (O.S.)
(playful)
You must be in the movie!

He laughs.

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Scarlett blissfully models her glamorous wedding dress in the mirror. The dress is simple and doesn't take long to put on. She twirls like a princess.

RYAN (O.S.)
I want to see you in the dress!

SCARLETT
On our wedding day!

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM - DAY

Scarlett's cellphone on the bed gets two texts. Ryan checks the phone. The texts are from, "Fab Lil Sis."

RYAN
Ashley texted you!

SCARLETT (O.S.)
What's it say?!

RYAN
(reading first text)
"Hey bride-to-be! Miss u!!!!!"
(reading second text)
"Im volunteerin with Bryce. Mom needs
u and Ryans help packin 4 move."

INT. RYAN AND SCARLETT'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Scarlett frowns infuriatedly.

EXT. SIDEWALK IN SAN DIEGO - DAY

Belmira speedwalks, frantically surveying men who walk by. She sweats profusely. She has two waters and her purse.

EXT. RESTAURANT IN SAN DIEGO - PARKING LOT - DAY

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

The van's rear faces the street.

Vinyl letters on the driver-side door read: **"Tender Love
Wedding Cakes" 212-555-0118.**

INSIDE MINIVAN

A wedding cake topper is glued to the dashboard, facing out.

ASHLEY HUNT (17), a harmless, peppy "girly girl," eats lunch. She can barely keep her eyes open.

She wears a high school cheerleading shirt, jeans, and work boots; all covered in dirt. She wears a pink crossbody bag.

INSIDE SPORTS CAR

Belmira sits in the driver seat.

She opens the dating app on her phone. She searches men's profiles. She yells, frustrated. She puts the phone in her purse.

A cop car slowly passes behind her. She sees it in the rearview mirror.

She quickly takes a pistol, a large hunting knife, and loaded pistol clips out her purse. She shoves them in the glove compartment.

She nervously eyes the cop car until it's gone. She sees men inside the restaurant.

BELMIRA

(angered)

There better be a good one in here.

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira speedwalks past the van, heading to the restaurant. She sees the wedding topper on the dashboard.

INSIDE MINIVAN

Ashley's phone in her bag gets a text. She takes it out.

Belmira rushes to the passenger-side.

ASHLEY

(reading text)

"Thanks 4 helpin today buddy!"

(upset; sarcastic)

Yeah. I'm the buddy.

She sees Belmira at the passenger-side and screams. Belmira knocks on the window, which is up.

Ashley locks the doors and dials "911."

BELMIRA

(muffled by window)

If you're calling the police, don't!

Ashley looks at her.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)

I need to talk.

Ashley doesn't push "Call," but she keeps her thumb near it.

ASHLEY
(to herself; afraid)
Please don't be a crazy person.

Belmira knocks harder. Ashley cracks the window.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Um, hello?

Belmira takes off her shades and looks at the topper.

BELMIRA
Why do you have that?

Ashley looks at the topper.

ASHLEY
I use it to promote my business.

BELMIRA
Business? You're what, fifteen,
sixteen?

ASHLEY
Seventeen.

BELMIRA
(staring dazed)
Seventeen... I remember that age.

Ashley gets uncomfortable.

ASHLEY
I-I make wedding cakes.

BELMIRA
(snaps out daze; excited)
Weddings?!

Startled, Ashley goes for the window button --

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
Wait, I'm sorry!

Ashley doesn't push the button. She keeps her thumb near the button to call "911."

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
I just get excited when I think about
marriage.

She holds up her ring and stares at it, dazed.

ASHLEY
Are you married?

Belmira snaps out of her daze.

BELMIRA

I was.

(elated)

But I'm sure I'll get married soon!

ASHLEY

(friendly)

Aww. My sister's getting married to a super fantastic guy in two months.

BELMIRA

(fascinated)

I wish I could meet him. He sounds wonderful.

ASHLEY

He is! I wish I had what she has.

BELMIRA

(under breath)

Me too...

(playing sad)

Can you give me a ride? I don't have a car.

ASHLEY

Where you going?

BELMIRA

(stalling)

Um, um. Wherever you're going is fine. It'll get me off my feet awhile.

Ashley looks at the "911" dialed on her phone, then at the door lock button.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)

(playing innocent)

I know I'm a stranger, but I'm harmless.

Ashley smiles. She cancels the "911" and unlocks the doors. Belmira quickly opens the door and gets in. Ashley puts her food in the backseat. She tries to start the van; it won't.

ASHLEY

Oh, I forgot. My van's been acting up. Sometimes it doesn't start.

She tries to start the van; it won't.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Are you in a rush?

Belmira looks away and frowns.

BELMIRA
(under breath)
Yes.

EXT. SAN DIEGO, C.A. - DAY

View of a "San Diego City Limit" sign.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD IN SAN DIEGO - DAY

OUTSIDE SUV

The SUV speeds along.

Vinyl letters on the driver-side door read: **"Love Right Weddings" 212-555-0105.**

INSIDE SUV

Scarlett drives angry. Ryan sits passenger-side. He looks at the "Mom" invitation envelope in his hands.

RYAN
You ok yet?

SCARLETT
Why wait until now and ask our help?
She knows how rush hour traffic is.
Plus all of that packing.

RYAN
Is your mom and Ashley moving to an
apartment or house?

SCARLETT
I don't know... I hope we're not
there long.

RYAN
Maybe your mom should move near us.

SCARLETT
(flabbergasted)
What?! Why?!

RYAN

What if something happens to her when Ashley goes to college and no one's around?

SCARLETT

Like what?

RYAN

Anything. Someone breaks in.

SCARLETT

No one's breaking in or messing with that woman. She took self-defense... And she has a stun gun. Like three of them.

He laughs. She tries to stay mad, but she laughs.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Scarlett pulls in behind a pickup truck. The back of it is full of unfolded cardboard boxes.

INSIDE SUV

Scarlett narrows her eyes angrily at the house.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

A moving truck is in the yard.

The house has a steel security screen door. Porch chairs and potted flowers line the house.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

INSIDE SUV

Ryan blows the horn. He grins at Scarlett. She smiles. When he looks away, she frowns.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

PEARL SMITH (46) exits the house wearing work boots and coveralls with big front pockets. She's a fierce, stubborn, physically fit woman with the heart of a lion.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

INSIDE SUV

Scarlett stares at Pearl maliciously as they talk:

RYAN

Ready to get out?

SCARLETT

Can you get Ashley to bring you home afterwards?

RYAN

Why?

SCARLETT

I'm not doing this.

RYAN

(annoyed)

You just got here and you're leaving?

SCARLETT

I can't do it.

RYAN

You won't even deal with your mom?

SCARLETT

Nope.

He stares at her in complete disbelief.

RYAN

You're really leaving?

She nods. He sits quiet.

RYAN (CONT'D)

(distraught)

Are you gonna leave every time something hard comes up?

She looks at him, confused.

SCARLETT

What?

RYAN

(angered)

Fine, leave!

He gets out and slams the door.

SCARLETT
Ryan, wait!

OUTSIDE SUV

Ryan opens the trunk. He slams the envelope on the tote. He takes the tote out; it's light. Scarlett stands by the taillight, sad. She holds a purse.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
We don't have to fight.

RYAN
Are you staying?

She hesitates to answer. She looks at Pearl. Scarlett looks at Ryan, then struggles to smile.

SCARLETT
I'll deal with her.

Ryan puts down the tote and hands her the envelope. She hesitantly takes it and puts it in her purse.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Ryan carries the tote to the front door. Scarlett walks slowly behind him. They're both frowning.

PEARL
What's in the tote, Ryan?

Ryan puts down the tote and hugs her.

RYAN
Hi, Miss Smith. Our wedding outfits are in it. Scarlett doesn't leave them anywhere.

Pearl quickly goes inside. Scarlett smirks.

SCARLETT
Figures.

RYAN
Why did she go inside? Was it something I said?

Scarlett opens the screen door for him.

SCARLETT
(mad)
No. It's her.

Ryan takes the tote inside. Scarlett closes the door and stands alone.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD IN SAN DIEGO - DAY

INSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira marvels at the wedding topper on the dashboard.

ASHLEY
I live here.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Scarlett sees the van. She jumps up and down excitedly. She opens the screen door and sticks her head in.

SCARLETT
Ashley's here!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD IN SAN DIEGO - DAY

INSIDE MINIVAN

Ashley spots Scarlett.

ASHLEY
(thrilled)
Scarlett's here!

Belmira sees Ryan hurry out the house. She gasps.

BELMIRA
(infatuated)
Is that the groom?

ASHLEY
Yeah.

BELMIRA
I'll get off at your house.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

The van parks in the space closest to the front door. Scarlett runs to the van. Ashley jumps out. They scream girly and hug.

INSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira stares seductively at Ryan.

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Scarlett and Ashley continue their hug and girly scream.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Pearl comes out the house. She smiles at the sisters' celebration.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

INSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira takes a small, pink folding knife out her bra and hides it in her purse.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Pearl and Ryan see Belmira get out the van.

PEARL

Who is that, Ryan?

Belmira looks at them.

RYAN

I don't know.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Scarlett and Ashley finish hugging.

SCARLETT

Ash-Ash! Look at you!

ASHLEY

We were building a house! I got messy!

SCARLETT

No, I meant how gorgeous you are!

Ashley blushes. She twirls like she's wearing an elegant dress. Her twirl interrupts Belmira's stare at Ryan.

Ashley flashes her crossbody bag.

ASHLEY

(to Scarlett)

Thanks for sending my bag.

SCARLETT
You need something to carry your
college ID in.

Ashley blushes.

ASHLEY
(sarcastic)
Or carry the pepper spray mom gave
me.

They laugh. Scarlett's eyes tear up.

SCARLETT
You're growing up too fast.

ASHLEY
Aww. Don't cry. I'm gonna cry.

They hug. Belmira gazes at Ryan. Scarlett notices.

SCARLETT
Hi. Who are you?

Belmira looks at her. Scarlett smiles.

BELMIRA
(uninterested; lying)
Jennifer.

She looks at Ryan lustfully. Scarlett gets uncomfortable.

SCARLETT
(to Ashley)
I have some more clients who need
cakes made for their weddings. Do you
have time?

ASHLEY
(joking)
Maybe in fifty years.
(ecstatic)
I've got a fantastic recipe for your
cake.

SCARLETT
(enthusiastic)
What is it?!

ASHLEY
Nope! Not till your special day. But
I can say it's the perfect cake for a
perfect couple's wedding.

Belmira looks at Ashley.

SCARLETT
Aww, thank you, Ash. Speaking of...

She takes a stack of wedding invitation envelopes from her purse and hands it to Ashley.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Your invitation's on top. You can give the extra to anyone you want.

Ashley screams girly. She holds out an envelope for Belmira to take. Belmira stares at it, then fake smiles.

BELMIRA
You hold it for me.

ASHLEY
Ok.
(to Scarlett)
You give mom her invitation?

Scarlett frowns and raises her eyebrow. Ashley frowns.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(excited)
Mom! Scarlett gave me my invitation!

SCARLETT
Ashley, don't! --

Ashley waves her envelope for Pearl to see.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Pearl sees the envelope. She quickly grabs a porch chair.

PEARL
I better get these to the moving truck.

RYAN
Let me help.

He takes the chair.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Scarlett has your invitation.

PEARL
(quickly)
No, no, it's nothing --
(changing subject)
Help me move these chairs.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ashley finishes waving the envelope.

SCARLETT
(irritated)
You didn't have to do that, Ashley.

Ashley smiles. She puts the envelopes in her bag. Scarlett sees Ryan and Pearl toting chairs to the moving truck.

BELMIRA
(to Ryan; excited)
Hi! I'm Jennifer!

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Ryan looks at Belmira.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Scarlett frowns at a smiling Belmira. Ryan jogs up. Scarlett watches him. He extends his hand to Belmira. She blushes and shakes it.

RYAN
Hi. I'm Ryan. Scarlett's fiancé.

Belmira looks at the moving truck.

BELMIRA
(flirtatious)
What are you doing?

RYAN
Moving -- um, not me. Scarlett's mom
and Ashley.

BELMIRA
Can I help?!

RYAN
I can't say. It's not my house or
stuff.

ASHLEY
Mom, can Jennifer help?

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Pearl sees Belmira eyeing Ryan lustfully.

PEARL
(suspicious)
For now.

ALONG THE HOUSE

Ryan grabs a chair. Belmira grabs one. They tote them to the moving truck. She bumps him with the chair.

BELMIRA
(playful)
Sorry.

RYAN
It's all right.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Scarlett watches Belmira, worried.

ASHLEY
(to Scarlett; perky)
Are you helping?

Scarlett gives her a "Yeah, right" look.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Let's try on your dress again!

Scarlett gleams happily.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Pearl sees Scarlett and Ashley heading to the front door. Pearl focuses on Scarlett as they go inside. Pearl sighs.

Ryan and Belmira stand near Pearl.

RYAN
Miss Smith, what would you like me to do now?

PEARL
Move the empty boxes from my truck
into the garage.

BELMIRA
(delighted)
I'll help you, Ryan!

Pearl eyes her, irritated.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

OUTSIDE PICKUP TRUCK

Ryan takes unfolded boxes from the truck, stacking them for
easy carry. Belmira lays boxes on his arms.

RYAN
Thanks.

BELMIRA
(flirtatious)
You're welcome...
(whispering)
Are you happy?

RYAN
Excuse me?

BELMIRA
(whispering)
Are you happy? With your fiancée?

Ryan stares at her, confused.

RYAN
Yes.

He takes the boxes to the garage. Belmira frowns. He
returns. She stacks boxes on his arms.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Why do you ask?

BELMIRA
(whispering; seductive)
Because if you aren't happy, I could
make you happy.

Ryan stares at her. She waits for his response.

RYAN
(angered; stern)
I have a fiancée.

He takes the boxes to the garage. Belmira bends a box in anger. He returns. She offers him the box. He just stares.

BELMIRA
(whispering; seductive)
Are you sure you're happy?

Ryan stares at her. He sees Pearl open the moving truck.

RYAN
(whispering)
I shouldn't be saying this, but
I'm... I'm semi-happy.

BELMIRA
(whispering)
Why?

Pearl looks at them. Ryan sees her. He takes the bent box from Belmira.

RYAN
(whispering)
Stack the boxes. I don't want
Scarlett's mom to think we're doing
anything.

Belmira stacks boxes on his arms.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I'm semi-happy because...

BELMIRA
(whispering)
You can tell me.

Ryan hesitates.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I know you just met me, but I'm a
good listener. And it seems like you
have something you really want to
talk about... Maybe your fiancée
hasn't been doing her job.

Ryan thinks about what she said. He shakes his head "no."

RYAN
(whispering; angered)
My fiancée does fine.

BELMIRA
 (whispering; playing mind game)
 Sure. My mistake. Whatever problems
 you two are having must be nothing.
 Talk to her about them and work
 things out.

Ryan stares at her. He takes the boxes to the garage.
 Belmira frowns and balls up her fists. He returns.

RYAN
 (whispering)
 We can't talk about this out here.

Belmira suppresses her anger and unballs her fists.

BELMIRA
 (whispering; seductive)
 We can go inside.

RYAN
 (whispering; stunned)
 What? Scarlett's in there.

BELMIRA
 (whispering)
 Fake an injury so you can rest. It'll
 get everyone's attention at first.
 When they go back to what they're
 doing, let me in the back. We'll talk
 in the bathroom.

RYAN
 (whispering)
 Why the bathroom?

BELMIRA
 (whispering)
 So no one can bother us. Say you need
 to soak your body because of the
 injury.

Ryan looks at Pearl going in the garage.

RYAN
 (to Belmira; whispering)
 Only to talk, Jennifer.
 (whispering; firm)
 Only to talk.

BELMIRA
 (whispering)
 Talking does wonders.

Ryan sighs.

RYAN
(whispering)
Stay here.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Bulk food, gallon waters, hygiene supplies, and cleaning supplies line the wall. Pearl counts the supplies. Ryan enters nervously.

Pearl writes on a packet of paper. The packet contains family names. Beside the names, she writes what food and supplies they need.

Ryan lingers at a cooler full of ice and bottled waters.

PEARL
Ryan, I want you and Scarlett to take some of these supplies home. I'm sure the families you work with can use them.

RYAN
Thank you, Miss Smith.

Pearl counts supplies. She hears him yell.

Ryan sits on the floor by the cooler. He holds his back, grimacing in pain. Pearl runs up.

PEARL
What happened?

RYAN
Hurt my back when I bent over for water. It's been giving me trouble.

PEARL
Let's get you inside.

She helps him up. She struggles because of his height/size. Belmira runs in, panicked. Ryan is shocked to see her.

BELMIRA
Is he ok?!

PEARL
(annoyed)
He's fine.

Belmira puts Ryan's arm over her shoulders. Pearl eyes her angrily. Ryan watches Belmira nervously.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Scarlett gleefully models her wedding dress in the mirror.

The mirror is covered in school sports photos, photos of Ashley and friends, and photos of her and Scarlett.

Ashley watches Scarlett in awe. Someone knocks on the door.

SCARLETT

(playful)

Don't come in, Ryan, I'm trying on my dress.

PEARL (O.S.)

Come out here, Scarlett. Ryan hurt his back.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Scarlett runs in, panicked. She wears her clothes, and she's barefoot. Ashley runs in, scared. She holds her crossbody bag and Scarlett's purse.

Ryan lies on the couch, grimacing in pain. Pearl stands by him. Scarlett kneels at his side.

SCARLETT

What's wrong, baby?! What happened?!

RYAN

I bent over and hurt my back.

Belmira enters. She stands at Ryan's head. He looks at her. Pearl eyes her suspiciously.

PEARL

Did you find the bathroom?

BELMIRA

Yes.

ASHLEY

(referring to Ryan)

Is he gonna be ok?

RYAN

(grimacing in pain)

Yes. I just need to rest. Maybe a bath, too.

SCARLETT

You scared me, babe.

Ryan grabs her hand and kisses it.

Belmira goggles romantically at Ryan. Pearl notices.

PEARL
 (to Belmira; upset)
 Jennifer, thank you for sticking
 around, but we have it from here.

Belmira continues to goggle at Ryan. He looks at her.

PEARL (CONT'D)
 (to Belmira)
 Time to leave, Jennifer.

Belmira frowns. She mopes towards the doorway, watching Ryan. He watches her.

SCARLETT
 (to Ryan; reciting love motto)
 "I'm yours."

Ryan stops watching Belmira and looks at Scarlett.

RYAN
 Um, yes. "Yes, you're mine."

SCARLETT
 (concerned)
 "We belong to each other."

RYAN
 (smiling)
 "For all time."

Scarlett gazes happily into his eyes.

At the doorway, Belmira gasps, yearning for that type of love.

PEARL
 (to Belmira; hard)
 Jennifer.

BELMIRA
 (frustrated)
 I'm leaving.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Pearl locks the security screen door. She shuts the front door on Belmira, who's furious.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ryan watches the doorway, anxious. Pearl enters.

RYAN
(grimacing in pain)
Is she gone?

Scarlett frowns at his question.

Pearl looks out the window. Belmira stares at her threateningly. Pearl shoos her away. She leaves.

PEARL
She is now... Scarlett, be careful
with Ryan around that woman. I know
her type.

SCARLETT
(upset)
Now you want to give me relationship
advice?

Pearl starts to reply angrily, but she suppresses her anger.

Scarlett puts a pillow under Ryan's head.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(tenderly)
Rest.

RYAN
Thanks, sunshine.

Scarlett smiles and blushes.

PEARL
Who's going to help me pack now?

ASHLEY
I can, mom.

PEARL
No, you volunteered enough today. Get
some rest.

SCARLETT
(to Pearl; bewildered)
Ryan's hurt and you're worried about
moving your stuff?

PEARL
I know he's not feeling well. I'm not
heartless.

SCARLETT

You sure?

Pearl fights hard not to respond.

RYAN

Sorry, Miss Smith. Scarlett, will you help her?

Scarlett gives him an "Are you kidding?!" look. He frowns. He closes his eyes and shakes his head.

Scarlett looks at Pearl. Pearl waits for her decision.

SCARLETT

(reluctant)

I'll help.

PEARL

Fine with me.

SCARLETT

Ashley, can you sleep on the other couch encase Ryan needs anything?

RYAN

No, I don't want to burden her. She can sleep in her room.

ASHLEY

(bubbly)

No, it's fine! First I'll make pizzas for when Scarlett and mom take a break!

Pearl smiles. Scarlett frowns.

Ashley puts Scarlett's purse on the center table. She skips to the kitchen, holding her crossbody bag.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Pearl stops at a console table. She takes a cellphone from her coveralls and puts it in a purse on the table.

She unlocks the doors and exits.

Scarlett mopes to the door, putting on her shoes. She sighs and leaves out.

Beside the table is a softball bat, a pink tennis racquet, and a cheerleading bag with pom poms.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Belmira watches Ashley put on an apron and hairnet.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ashley yawns.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ryan slowly gets off the couch, checking if anyone watches.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Belmira watches Ashley take a mixing bowl from the cabinet.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ryan limps in, holding his back; playing hurt.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Belmira sees Ryan, and her eyes light up.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ryan sees Belmira. He holds up a finger for her to wait.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Belmira nods excitedly.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ashley rinses the bowl in the sink. Ryan creeps towards the patio doors, watching her.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Belmira anxiously watches Ryan.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ashley preheats the oven.

Ryan reaches the patio doors, watching her.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - PATIO DOORS - DAY

Belmira appears at the doors. She grins.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ashley looks at Ryan.

ASHLEY

Ryan?

Ryan spins around, startled. He stares at her, horrified; breathing rapidly.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

Ryan looks at the patio doors. Belmira is gone.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Belmira is kneeling.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

RYAN

It's ok, Ashley.

ASHLEY

What are you doing?

RYAN

(disoriented)

Um, um, um... I wanted to make sure the patio doors were unlocked for Scarlett and Miss Smith. If they need to move anything through here from the back.

ASHLEY

Aww. You're so sweet.

Ryan smiles nervously. He opens a patio door.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

Kneeling, Belmira looks up.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ryan walks to Ashley at the counter and observes the pizza ingredients.

RYAN
What kind of pizzas are you making?

Belmira looks through the patio door.

ASHLEY
One veggie, one pepperoni.

Ryan sees Belmira. He points at the hall.

RYAN
(to Ashley; smiling)
I love pepperoni.

Belmira speedwalks to the hall.

ASHLEY
(peppy)
Mom loves pepperoni, but Scarlett and I love veggie. Course, you know that about sis!

RYAN
(ashamed)
Yeah.

He looks at the hall. He grabs his back.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(grimacing in pain)
I'm going to take a long bath for my back.

ASHLEY
Pizza'll be ready later if you want some!

RYAN
You're so kind. You're going to make a guy really happy one day.

Ashley bites her lip nervously and shakes her head "no."

Ryan limps towards the hall.

ASHLEY
I'll let sis know you're in the bath.

Ryan hangs his head, ashamed.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

OUTSIDE PICKUP TRUCK

The back of the truck is empty. Scarlett angrily slams a potted flower in it. She wears protective gloves.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Pearl drags over the cooler. She wears protective gloves.

She looks at Scarlett, who gets a potted flower from along the house.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

OUTSIDE PICKUP TRUCK

Scarlett slams the potted flower in the back of the truck. Pearl gently places a potted flower in it.

PEARL

After we finish with my flowers,
we'll get my plants from the back.

Scarlett folds her arms.

SCARLETT

They're just flowers and plants. Let
them die.

PEARL

(angered)

No. They're mine to protect. You'd
protect what's yours, right?

SCARLETT

(sarcastic)

Yeah. Every stupid flower and plant
in my yard.

PEARL

(furious)

You don't have to act like that!

Scarlett throws up her hands and stomps off.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Scarlett snatches a bottled water from the cooler.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

OUTSIDE PICKUP TRUCK

Pearl watches Scarlett sit down on the cooler and drink the water. Pearl shakes her head and sighs.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ashley sets the oven timer for 15 minutes.

Her phone, in her crossbody bag on the counter, gets a text. She checks it. It's from Bryce.

ASHLEY
(reading text)
"Hey u busy?????"

She texts: "Hey!!! Just makin pizzas from scratch!"

She waits. She gets a text.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(reading text)
"U bake AND cook? Thats cool!!!"

She smiles. She gets a text.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(reading text)
"I like talkn 2 u."

She blushes.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(reading same text)
"Youre like Layla but she wants 2 b
my girl."
(talking)
No, I want to be!

She gets a text.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(reading text)
"I gotta ask u somethin..."

Her eyes widen in horror. Her lips tremble.

Her quivering hands text: "Cant reply now. Dont make decision till I text! PLEASE!!!!!"

She grabs her bag and runs out.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Scarlett and Pearl bring potted plants from the back. Pearl leads. Scarlett frowns angrily. Ashley runs out the house, holding her phone and bag.

ASHLEY

Scarlett!

Scarlett drops the pot.

SCARLETT

What happened, Ashley?!

Ashley runs past Pearl and hugs Scarlett. Ashley sobs.

PEARL

What's wrong?!

ASHLEY

It's Bryce, Scarlett!

PEARL

(furious)

Who is Bryce, Ashley?! What did he do to you?! Where does he live?!

ASHLEY

No, mom! It's not like that! Bryce is a boy I like, and he's gonna be Layla's boyfriend, not mine!

She puts her face in Scarlett's shirt and wails loudly.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

What am I gonna do?!

PEARL

I'll take this plant to the truck.

SCARLETT

Come on. Ashley clearly needs you. Tell her what to do.

PEARL

I'll take the plant to the truck.

She hurries towards the pickup truck.

SCARLETT
Stop crying, Ashley. I'm here. Tell me what happened.

ASHLEY
Bryce is gonna ask Layla to be his girlfriend, but I love him!

SCARLETT
(surprised)
Love?

She stops hugging and looks her in the eyes.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Ash, do you know what love is?

ASHLEY
No. Mom won't talk to me about it, so how can I know?

Scarlett sees Pearl organizing the potted flowers and plants in the pickup truck. Scarlett frowns.

SCARLETT
(to Ashley; gentle)
Let's go in.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Scarlett enters, comforting Ashley. Scarlett looks at the couch where Ryan was.

SCARLETT
Where's Ryan?

ASHLEY
Bath.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in a bath. It's almost full. The faucet runs.

Belmira's purse is on the sink.

Belmira sits on the tub. She runs her hand through the bath. He watches nervously.

She turns off the faucet. He sees her wedding ring.

RYAN
Are you married?

BELMIRA
(heavy-hearted)
No. My husband Henry died in a wreck
two months ago. I'm looking for a
husband.

RYAN
(surprised)
You move on kind of fast.

BELMIRA
Being lonely is too painful.

Tears drop from her eyes.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
(furious)
I will get married.

He stares at her, concerned. She smiles.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
(flirtatious)
Hopefully to you.

RYAN
(angered)
I have a fiancée, and we're only
supposed to be talking.

BELMIRA
I know.

RYAN
I shouldn't be doing this. I love
Scarlett.

BELMIRA
I understand your love is loyal. Love
me like that.
(seductive)
I can love you better than she can.

RYAN
(smiling)
You don't know my sunshine.

BELMIRA
She can't be perfect.

RYAN
(grieved)
No... No, she's not.

BELMIRA
What's one thing about her you don't
like?

He stays quiet.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
One thing.

He thinks a few moments.

RYAN
There is more than one... But she
does three things that really bother
me.

BELMIRA
Tell me the first.

He hesitates. She smiles gently, reassuring him.

RYAN
The way she acts to her mom. She
won't even call her... I've never
seen anything like it. I love my mom,
and I want her to have a relationship
with hers.
(frustrated)
It's like she doesn't understand.

BELMIRA
I do. Relationship is all I care
about.

RYAN
She loves her sister Ashley like
crazy, but she can't stand her mom.
How can we be a family the way
Scarlett and her mom act toward each
other?

BELMIRA
I have a good relationship with my
mom.

His frustration goes away. She grins mischievously.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Scarlett and Ashley sit on the couch, laughing. Ashley still looks sleepy. She wears her crossbody bag.

ASHLEY

Wow. You never told me that about Ryan. Can he get any sweeter?!

SCARLETT

That's my sweetheart.

Ashley scrolls through Bryce's texts on her phone. It has one battery life bar.

ASHLEY

I want my first relationship to be like you guys'.

SCARLETT

Me too.

ASHLEY

Hopefully it'll be with Bryce. He's sweet. He's nice. He's picture perfect.

SCARLETT

(joking)
He sounds horrible.

They laugh. Ashley becomes sad.

ASHLEY

What's horrible is him dating Layla instead of me.

SCARLETT

When is he going to ask her?

ASHLEY

Tonight... But he's not 100% sure she's the right one, so he asked what I think he should do.

SCARLETT

Why you?

ASHLEY

(frowning)
Cause he thinks of me as a buddy.

SCARLETT

Why haven't you told him how you feel?

ASHLEY

Too scared.

(emotional)

Even if I wasn't, I can't compete with Layla. And I don't know how to be romantic. I wouldn't even know how to handle a relationship with Bryce. I'll never find love.

Scarlett's eyes water. She hugs her.

Pearl passes the window outside. Scarlett sees her and frowns.

SCARLETT

(to Ashley)

Since Pearl won't, I'll tell you what to look for in a romantic relationship.

ASHLEY

For real?

SCARLETT

Yeah. I want you to have better experiences out in the world than I did... And if Bryce is the one, you'll be prepared.

Ashley smiles, thrilled.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Write this on your phone.

Ashley takes a stylus pen from her bag. **She writes fast as she listens:**

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Write, love is great. But you gotta have the right attitude about it. When you do, love is better than massages, foot rubs, spa baths, and chocolate, all wrapped in one.

Ashley laughs.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

You have to be patient. I know you like Bryce, but you have to see if he's really the one. Spend time with him. Talk with him.

ASHLEY

I do.

SCARLETT

As more than buddies.

ASHLEY

I dunno. I get butterflies like crazy if I try talking to him like that.

SCARLETT

You'll get there.

Ashley smiles.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

(thinking; enthusiastic)

What else about love?

ASHLEY

What about the bad parts?

The enthusiasm in Scarlett's face dims.

SCARLETT

(gloomy)

Um... Ashley, let's just stick to the good parts.

ASHLEY

How can I know what to look for if I don't know what to avoid?

Scarlett stays silent a few moments.

SCARLETT

(regrettable)

You're right...

(thinking)

Let's see. I would say there are like four major struggles in romantic relationships. We'll call them --

ASHLEY

"Love Struggles."

SCARLETT

Sure. The first is "Small Changes"... He starts acting differently out of nowhere.

ASHLEY

Act differently how?

SCARLETT

(thinking)

Ummm. Say he used to hold your hand in public, but he stops. I mean, completely stops. That's a small change. But just because they're small doesn't mean they can't hurt a relationship.

The front door shuts. Pearl enters, wiping sweat from her face and breathing heavily. They stare at her.

PEARL

Scarlett, help me in the garage.

SCARLETT

(mad)

Ashley's fine, by the way.

The loud timer in the kitchen blares.

ASHLEY

(excited)

The pizzas!

She dashes to the hall with her phone. Scarlett stomps past Pearl, heading down the hall.

PEARL

The garage, Scarlett.

No reply. Pearl puts her hands on her hips, angered.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Scarlett approaches the bathroom door and knocks.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Sitting on the tub, Belmira darts her eyes at the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

SCARLETT

It's Scarlett. You feeling better, babe?

RYAN (O.S.)

I'm taking a bath... Don't bother me.

Scarlett steps back, surprised by his response. She stares at the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Scarlett angrily folds a cardboard box and tapes the bottom. Pearl boxes items. She wears protective gloves.

SCARLETT
Why are we doing this?

PEARL
Packing?

SCARLETT
Why are we doing this? Us? Couldn't you hire movers?

PEARL
I will. For the big stuff.

SCARLETT
Couldn't you get the guys you volunteer with to pack this stuff?

PEARL
Yes, but I didn't want them tied up with my house when so many others need help.

SCARLETT
(mad)
So you bothered us?

PEARL
Why is it a bother?

SCARLETT
What else would it be, a day at the beach?

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath. Belmira sits on the tub, soaping a washcloth. She washes his arm.

He's uncomfortable. She smiles. He smiles, becoming comfortable.

BELMIRA
What else about that woman bothers you?

He thinks. His smile washes away.

RYAN

She hides this one thing from me.
Nothing but this thing.

BELMIRA

What is it?

RYAN

She has these nightmares that wake her up and cause her to run... If she talked to me about what caused them, I could help her face it. But she won't tell me.

BELMIRA

Why not?

RYAN

(upset)

I don't know. And I'm about done waiting for a reason.

She grins mischievously.

RYAN (CONT'D)

She says she loves me but she keeps this secret? How is that love?

BELMIRA

It's not.

RYAN

How can I fully trust her if she keeps a secret?

Tears build in his eyes. He stares off angrily. She wipes his tears.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Do you have any secrets?

She stays quiet.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Tell me your past.

She looks away, saddened. She sighs. She looks at him.

BELMIRA

You're worth telling.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ashley lies asleep on the couch. She holds her phone and wears her crossbody bag. The front door shuts. Scarlett enters, sweaty. She has two bottled waters.

SCARLETT
Thirsty, Ash?

She sees Ashley's asleep.

ASHLEY
(eyes closed; sleepy voice)
Just resting my eyes, dreaming of
Bryce.

She opens her eyes and sits up, dazy from the nap.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(sad)
We'll only be a thing in my dreams.

SCARLETT
Don't say that.

ASHLEY
Why not? I can't beat Layla in
getting Bryce. I should just let her
have him.

Scarlett frowns. She hands Ashley water and sits by her.

Ashley takes the stylus pen from her bag. **She writes on her phone as they talk:**

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Whatever about Layla right now.
What's Love Struggle #2?

SCARLETT
"Attitude, ugliness, lie." A guy
might start giving you an attitude,
like being snappy, impatient, so on.
He might start acting ugly, like
calling you an inappropriate name or
something. And he might start lying.

ASHLEY
All that sounds terrible.

SCARLETT
It is.

She drinks water.

ASHLEY
Will you come around more?

Scarlett chokes on water.

SCARLETT
I work, Ashley. And you get to see me
double when we coordinate at
weddings.

ASHLEY
Not come around more to see me.

SCARLETT
(upset; firm)
No, Ashley.

ASHLEY
(aggravated)
I wish you and mom would get over
whatever you and her need to get
over.

Scarlett hops up and stomps towards the doorway.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(remorseful)
Where you going?

SCARLETT
Check on Ryan.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Scarlett knocks on the bathroom door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Sitting on the tub, Belmira darts her eyes at the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Scarlett knocks.

SCARLETT
Ryan.

Ryan doesn't answer.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Belmira grabs her purse off the sink.

SCARLETT (O.S.)
Ryan, you hear me?

Belmira takes the pink knife from her purse. She unfolds the knife. The blade is two inches.

RYAN
(to Belmira; whisper shout)
Don't hurt her! Are you crazy?!

Belmira looks at him.

SCARLETT (O.S.)
Ryan, you've been in there a while.
You ok?

Ryan watches Belmira, terrified.

Belmira eyes the door violently. She grips the knife.

SCARLETT (O.S.)(CONT'D)
How does your back feel?

RYAN
(to Scarlett; irritated)
You don't have to keep checking on
me!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Scarlett steps back, shocked.

RYAN (O.S.)
Don't be a pest! My back hurts! Let
me soak!

SCARLETT
(to herself)
Pest?

She nervously lifts her hand to knock, but she leaves.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Scarlett enters and bumps into Pearl who's coming out.
Scarlett pushes past her, aggravated.

Scarlett sees the couches are empty.

SCARLETT
Where's Ashley?

PEARL
In the kitchen eating.

Scarlett touches her forehead and sighs.

PEARL (CONT'D)
What are you sighing for?

Scarlett rolls her eyes.

SCARLETT
Nothing you want to hear.

PEARL
Are you rested enough to help me with
the gutters and downspouts? I don't
want to leave them dirty for the next
owners.

Scarlett closes her eyes and groans.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Scarlett holds a ladder against the house. She wears
protective gloves.

She stares at the ladder, daydreaming.

RYAN (FLASHBACK V.O.)
(irritated)
You don't have to keep checking on
me!... Don't be a pest! My back
hurts! Let me soak!

Pearl approaches. She wears a hard hat and protective
gloves.

Scarlett comes out of her daydream.

Pearl grabs the ladder and puts her foot on the first step.
She looks at Scarlett.

SCARLETT
What?

PEARL
I really asked you to come because I
want us to spend time together.

SCARLETT
 (flustered)
 What, why?

PEARL
 Ashley's leaving for college soon,
 which I'm proud and sad about... It
 really has me thinking.

SCARLETT
 About what?

PEARL
 How little time a person has before
 they're gone.

Scarlett stays quiet.

PEARL (CONT'D)
 Are you going to start coming to the
 house when I move?

SCARLETT
 You talked to Ashley?

PEARL
 No, why?

SCARLETT
 Never mind.

PEARL
 Will you come around?

SCARLETT
 Why, you'll be lonely?

PEARL
 I'd rather we not talk about that.

They stand quiet for a few moments.

PEARL (CONT'D)
 Will you come to the new house? More
 than you have here?

SCARLETT
 I don't know.

PEARL
 Please.

Scarlett thinks about it.

SCARLETT

Would you even have time with all the volunteering?

PEARL

I'd rather have who I love than be doing what I love.

Scarlett smiles slightly. Pearl smiles big.

Pearl places her foot on the second step of the ladder.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath, washing Belmira's arms with the soapy washcloth as he daydreams. She's on the tub. She smiles.

BELMIRA

(seductive)

Isn't this lovely?

He daydreams as he washes her arms.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)

What's bothering you?

He comes from his daydream. He stops washing her.

RYAN

(angered)

Scarlett.

BELMIRA

(malicious)

What about that woman?

RYAN

(getting angrier and angrier)

What bothers me most is she's cowardly. She gives up too quickly. If someone yells too much, threatens her, or things get too hard, she avoids it or runs. I hate it.

He cries angrily. She frowns, saddened.

RYAN (CONT'D)

What's gonna happen when something ground-shaking rocks our lives? Will she quit and run?

She holds his face in her hands.

BELMIRA
 I will never leave...
 (determined)
 I will never stop fighting Scarlett
 for your love.

She moves close to his face.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
 (seductive)
 But it's on you to pick me.

She kisses his cheek.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Scarlett eats veggie pizza at the table. Ashley sits by her,
 eating veggie pizza. She wears her crossbody bag.

Ashley checks Bryce's texts on her phone. It dies.

ASHLEY
 (aggravated)
 Really?

SCARLETT
 What, Ash?

ASHLEY
 My phone's dead.

SCARLETT
 Were you thinking about texting
 Bryce?

Ashley shakes her head "no."

ASHLEY
 (joking)
 Butterflies.

Scarlett laughs. Ashley puts the phone in her bag.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
 I'll get my charger from the van
 later. What's the next Love Struggle?

SCARLETT
 Love Struggle #3: "Fights."

ASHLEY
 Fights like arguing?

SCARLETT
Fussing, and physical.

ASHLEY
I think fussing is worse.

SCARLETT
Why?

ASHLEY
Your fist can damage, but your words
destroy.

SCARLETT
(grieved)
I don't know.

ASHLEY
(timid)
Have you and Ryan, um...

SCARLETT
Have we what?

ASHLEY
Like...

She hesitantly balls her fist as an expression of fighting.

SCARLETT
(panicked)
No!

Startled, Ashley puts her fist up as a guard.

Scarlett stares at the fist. Tears crowd Scarlett's eyes.
Ashley's eyes water. Scarlett gently unballs the fist.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Sorry, Ashley. I just really don't
like the idea of him and me fighting.
We never have. And we never will.

Ashley lowers her head.

ASHLEY
Sorry for asking.

Scarlett lifts Ashley's chin. Ashley cries.

SCARLETT
It's not your fault.

ASHLEY
I'm not crying cause of that.

SCARLETT
Then what? The situation with Bryce?

Ashley pauses a few seconds.

ASHLEY
Did mom and dad fight?

Scarlett leans back, surprised by her question. Scarlett turns away. She shuts her eyes tightly and covers her ears.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry to ask, but how come you get to know everything about him?

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(pleading)
Tell me something.

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
It's ok. You don't have to tell me anything.

She gets up and hugs her. Scarlett opens her eyes and uncovers her ears. Ashley sits. Scarlett smiles, teary-eyed.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(wiping tears)
What?

SCARLETT
Something simple as your touch made me feel better.

Ashley smiles. Scarlett taps her lip, thinking.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(lively)
I have an idea!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Scarlett happily runs to the bathroom door and knocks.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Sitting on the tub, Belmira darts her eyes at the door.

SCARLETT (O.S.)
 (excited)
 Ryan, baby, I wanna massage your
 back!

Belmira looks at Ryan in the bath.

BELMIRA
 (whispering; angered)
 Do I need to get my knife?

RYAN
 (whispering; firm)
 No.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

SCARLETT
 (worried)
 Ryan?

Ryan doesn't answer. She turns the doorknob. It's locked.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
 Ryan, you're scaring me.

The door slings open -- Ryan charges out; towel around waist. She jumps back, startled.

RYAN
 (furious)
 Why do you keep checking on me?! I'll
 be done when I'm done!

Scarlett stands, frozen and afraid. He waves her off. He turns to go in the bathroom. She steps to him.

SCARLETT
 Baby --

Ryan swings around and draws back to punch her. She screams, petrified, and sprints down the hall.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

Scarlett sprints towards the door, panicked.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Scarlett quickly unlocks the door and opens it.

A hand grabs her. She screams and spins around with her arms guarding her face.

ASHLEY
(startled)
Scarlett, what's wrong?

Scarlett peeks and sees it's Ashley.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Why were you screaming back there?

Scarlett quickly swats away her tears.

SCARLETT
Um... There was a big bug.

ASHLEY
(perky)
You're still terrified of bugs?!

SCARLETT
Yeah.

ASHLEY
Did Ryan kill it?

SCARLETT
Yeah, he killed it.

ASHLEY
Aww. He's such a gentleman.

SCARLETT
I'll be back in a minute, Ashley.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

The sun sets. Scarlett closes both doors. She runs a few steps, then drops to the ground and cries profusely.

She takes off her engagement ring and holds it.

Pearl brings a dead potted plant from the back. She sees Scarlett crying. She puts down the pot and approaches.

PEARL
(hesitant)
Scarlett, why are you out here crying?

SCARLETT
What does it matter?! I can't talk to you about it!

Pearl stares helplessly at her cry.

PEARL
Is it about...

SCARLETT
(enraged)
My engagement, yes! Go on! Finish
packing so you can move to your new
house!...
(hopeless)
Mine is burning down.

She cries. Pearl sees she's holding the ring. Pearl stays quiet a while.

PEARL
I'll try to talk about it.

SCARLETT
Really?

Pearl sits. Scarlett wipes tears and clears her throat.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
First, he told me not to bother him.
Then, he called me a pest. Then, he
drew back to... hit me.

Pearl's nostrils flare. Scarlett covers her face and sobs. Pearl balls up her fists. She gets up.

PEARL
(furious)
Is he still in the bathroom?

Scarlett notices Pearl's fists.

SCARLETT
Fighting won't help. And what if
Ashley sees? The "perfect" couple's
love exposed by fighting and hate.

She shakes her head "no."

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
If she sees that, she'll give up on
ever finding someone who'll love her.

Pearl's fury changes to concern.

PEARL
What do you want to do?

Scarlett stares at the sunset.

SCARLETT
(solemn)
Cancel the wedding.

She shoves the ring in her pocket and gets up.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Let's get done so I can leave.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM - DAY

One side of the bed doesn't have pillows.

Scarlett holds a large cardboard box. She stares at its emptiness.

FLASHBACK BEGINS:

IN HALL/AT BATHROOM DOOR

RYAN
(to Scarlett; furious)
Why do you keep checking on me?! I'll
be done when I'm done!

He turns to go in the bathroom. He swings around and draws back to punch her.

FLASHBACK ENDS

Pearl brings items from the closet and lies them on the bed: Jewelry box, photo album, wedding dress in garment bag.

Scarlett sits the box on the bed. Pearl unzips the garment bag, and she carefully takes out a new 1990s wedding dress. She cradles it, smiling like a bride.

SCARLETT
(bitter)
Why didn't you throw that in the
trash?

Pearl stares at the dress.

PEARL
It was easier to keep it.

Scarlett rolls her eyes.

PEARL (CONT'D)
I saw Ashley's invitation... Where's
mine?

SCARLETT

(stunned)

You want to come to my wedding?

PEARL

(surprised)

Why wouldn't I?

SCARLETT

My first crush. My first kiss. My first date. Boyfriends. When I first wanted to bring Ryan home. Every crush that Ashley had. Anything that dealt with relationships or love, you sidestepped, so I figured you didn't want to be at my wedding.

PEARL

You girls' romances were never the reason... Your dad...

Scarlett turns, shuts her eyes tightly, and covers her ears.

PEARL (CONT'D)

(infuriated)

I couldn't move on.

She grasps the dress tightly, wrinkling it.

PEARL (CONT'D)

And with what that man did, I couldn't face anything dealing with love. Not even talking about it.

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

Pearl loosens her grasp on the dress and calms down.

PEARL (CONT'D)

I really want to get married, but...

She sees Scarlett in her fear position.

PEARL (CONT'D)

(sorrowful)

I know, darling.

She looks at the dress.

PEARL (CONT'D)

It's time I throw this in the trash.

Scarlett opens her eyes and uncovers her ears. She turns to Pearl. Pearl puts the dress in the box. She slides the box across the floor. Scarlett smiles big.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath, splashing Belmira. She's on the tub. She laughs and splashes him. He laughs.

FLASHBACK: Framed photo of Scarlett and Ryan playing together on the beach.

Ryan stops laughing. Belmira splashes him, but he doesn't react.

BELMIRA
(seductive)
Play with me.

RYAN
(solemn)
Not right now.

BELMIRA
Why?

Ashamed, he shakes his head and looks down.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
(sad)
What's on your mind other than me?

RYAN
(looking down; ashamed)
Scarlett.

She narrows her eyes evilly.

BELMIRA
(suppressing anger)
What about that woman can have you so
distracted from me?

RYAN
We love each other. Yeah, she has
flaws, but there's lots I love about
her...
(reminiscing)
She does these special things.
Sometimes they're little, but they're
sweet and caring.

BELMIRA
(seductive)
I do special things.

RYAN

People love how she plans weddings...
Speaking of weddings, our wedding's
in two months! And we just brought a
house!

BELMIRA

We can get married today. You can
move in with me. And I have money.

RYAN

(stern)

I need to be there for all the
families I work with. She does so
much to help them, too.

BELMIRA

We can help those families. Together.

RYAN

(sorrowful)

She'll fall apart if I leave.

BELMIRA

(self-pity)

What about me?

He looks her in the eyes.

RYAN

(disgusted)

What about you?

BELMIRA

Ryan.

He lifts up to get out the bath -- she pushes him down.

He tries to get out -- she grabs his arms. He fights to get
away, but she desperately holds on.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)

No.

RYAN

Let me go.

BELMIRA

No, no, no.

RYAN

Get off me.

BELMIRA

No!

RYAN
(whisper shout)
Quiet!

He looks at the door, afraid someone heard her.

BELMIRA
(whispering)
You're mine.

RYAN
(whispering; angered)
Get off me; I'm leaving.

BELMIRA
(whisper shout)
No, marry me!

RYAN
(whisper shout)
I'm not like Taylor or Henry!

She tries to kiss him -- he blocks it with his arm. He tries to get out -- she pushes him down with all her strength.

BELMIRA
(whisper shout)
I love you!

RYAN
(whisper shout)
I don't love you!

She kisses him intensely. He calms down as she does.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Wedding cake pans and wedding cake decorations cover the counter. Ashley packs them in a large cardboard box. She wears her crossbody bag.

Scarlett mopes in, thinking heavily.

ASHLEY
(stoked)
I can't wait to make your cake!

SCARLETT
(half listening)
What cake?

ASHLEY
Your wedding cake.

Scarlett snaps out of her distraction.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(worried)
Everything ok?

SCARLETT
Fine.

She helps box the items.

ASHLEY
What's the last Love Struggle?

SCARLETT
"Cheating."

Ashley stops boxing and listens closely.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
There's many reasons -- all wrong --
someone cheats... One of the top
reasons has to be...

She grabs a wedding cake pan.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Wanting your cake and eating it, too.

ASHLEY
Does that mean, like, a man has a
woman he loves, but he still wants
someone else?

SCARLETT
Exactly.

ASHLEY
Say a guy I'm in love with cheats. Do
I stay with him and stick it out,
even though he did me wrong?

SCARLETT
I don't know.

Ashley stares at her pitifully, wanting to know something.
Scarlett notices.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
I know you wanna ask. It's ok... The
answer is, I've had a few bad
experiences, and a couple really bad
ones. I wasn't in love with any of
those guys, so it didn't break me.

ASHLEY
Did you stay or leave?

SCARLETT
I always left.

They box the items silently for a while.

ASHLEY
(ecstatic)
You'll never have to worry about that
with Ryan because...
(cheerleader cheer and slap)
"Hey! Hey! Ryan is never cruel! Ryan
is always sweet! Came in like a wave!
Swept you off your feet!"
(shaking hands like pom poms)
Go Ryan!!!

They laugh. Scarlett lights up with an idea.

SCARLETT
You got any tea packs and lemons?!

ASHLEY
Yeah, why?

SCARLETT
I'm going to make my babe his
favorite. He loves drinking tea in
the tub.

ASHLEY
(skeptical)
You sure he'll want it?

SCARLETT
(fearful)
Why would you say that?

ASHLEY
(joking)
Cause your tea is nothing compared to
the pizza I made!

They laugh. Scarlett playfully pushes her. Scarlett lights
up with an idea.

SCARLETT
Hey, does Bryce like cake?!

ASHLEY
Yeah.

SCARLETT
Bake him a cake!

ASHLEY
(shy)
You think he'll like it?

SCARLETT
If he's anything like my Ryan, he
loves food and spontaneous things.

ASHLEY
(sparky)
Ok! I'm sure I can come up with
something!

She takes a cake recipe book from a drawer. The book's girly
and customized. Pearl enters.

PEARL
All that's left is a few more little
things, then we can pack everything
in the truck. I'll call movers
tomorrow for the big stuff.

SCARLETT
I'll help with the little stuff after
I finish Ryan's tea.

PEARL
(irritated)
You're really making tea for him
after what he did?

Ashley looks at Pearl, confused.

Scarlett walks to Pearl. Scarlett checks if Ashley is
listening, but she's happily reading her book. **Scarlett and
Pearl whisper:**

SCARLETT
It's ok. Ryan was probably just going
through something.

PEARL
(unconvinced)
Did that something have to include
his fist?

SCARLETT
I'm not giving up on him yet.

PEARL
(stern)
Be careful.

SCARLETT

I will... We'll be back to normal soon.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath. Belmira sits on him, naked. They stare at each other with lust.

BELMIRA

Are you ready?

RYAN

Yes.

She kisses his neck. He pulls her hair, jerking her head back. She gasps excitedly.

He kisses her neck. With every kiss, it gets more intense. She moans.

She sits up and rides him hard; they make wild love.

He watches her with erotic pleasure. As she rides, her pleasure increases.

She rides him harder and faster.

They both close their eyes and enjoy the ecstasy.

She can barely take it. Her hand squeezes the tub.

It becomes too much for her to handle. Reaching her climax, she screams -- he quickly covers her mouth.

He closes his eyes and enjoys the final moments.

He releases her mouth. She grins, satisfied.

BELMIRA

(lustful)

Who do you want?

He opens his eyes. An evil, seduced look is in them.

RYAN

You.

She grins evilly.

BELMIRA

Will they prevent us from leaving?

RYAN

Scarlett and Ashley, no. But be careful with Pearl. Scarlett said she took self-defense and has stun guns.

She gets out the tub. He follows her. The water on them falls to the floor.

She takes the knife out her purse.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Don't hurt them.

BELMIRA

I've done this before. It's best to avoid confrontation. Unless they get in our way.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

The sun continues to set.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Scarlett pours piping hot water into a mug. It sits on a small glass plate. In the mug is a tea bag and lemons.

Ashley happily reads her recipe book. Pearl eats pepperoni pizza by her. Ashley shows her a recipe, and Pearl smiles.

SCARLETT

(to Pearl)

Can I use the bathroom key?

PEARL

It's in my survival drawer.

Scarlett opens a drawer labeled with red tape. She searches the items: Three stun guns, pepper spray, windproof lighter, disposable lighters, matches, flashlight, batteries, room keys on a keyring.

She takes the keys. She grabs the plate holding the mug.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

The bathroom door opens. Ryan looks out and checks the hall. He steps out, holding Belmira's hand. They're dressed.

She holds her purse and the knife. Light reflects off the knife's sharp blade.

Scarlett enters, staring down at the tea as she carefully holds it.

Ryan and Belmira duck into the bathroom.

Scarlett looks down the hall. She has the keys.

SCARLETT
 (to herself)
 Everything is ok. The wedding will go on. We'll be in love. Have some babies. Everything will be perfect.

She reaches the bathroom.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
 Don't screw this up, Scarlett. Don't cause a fight.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

The water on the floor makes it dangerous to walk.

Ryan stands at the sink. He fidgets with his hands nervously and breathes heavily.

The doorknob turns. He stops fidgeting.

The door sways open. He cuts his eyes to the tub.

Scarlett carefully enters with the tea. She stands at the door, not wanting to intrude.

SCARLETT
 (apprehensive)
 Babe, I don't want to fight.

He eyes the tub nervously, not hearing her.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
 (perky)
 I made your favorite drink!

He looks at her. He suppresses his edginess.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
 Can we talk?

RYAN
 Yes. Just let me finish, and I'll be out.

Tears build in her eyes.

SCARLETT
I never wanted to fight.

He watches her, hoping she leaves soon.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(reciting love motto)
"I'm yours."

His eyes widen in surprise.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(remorseful)
Aren't you going to say your part?

RYAN
Of course. Start over.

She smiles.

SCARLETT
(reciting love motto)
"I'm yours."

RYAN
"Yes, you're mine."

SCARLETT
"We belong to each other."

He stays quiet. His eyes tear up and shake. She waits nervously for him to finish their motto.

RYAN
(woeful)
"For all time."

He looks down, ashamed. He closes his eyes. She cries. She smiles through tears.

SCARLETT
I'll wait in the living room.

He opens his eyes and looks up.

RYAN
I'll be there.

She turns. She realizes she's holding the tea.

SCARLETT
Oh, your tea.

She turns to him. He sees water on the floor.

RYAN

Stop!

She steps in the water and slips.

The tea flies from the mug.

She slams shoulder-first into the wall.

The tea falls in the tub where Belmira lies. It scalds her face, and she screams violently.

Scarlett looks at the tub, nursing her shoulder.

Ryan rushes to the tub, almost slipping. He looks in. Belmira holds her burned face as she goes berserk.

Ryan stares at her, terrified.

RAPID FLASHBACKS BEGIN:

MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath... Belmira sits on the tub. She runs her hand through the bath. He watches nervously.

MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

BELMIRA

(to Ryan)

I understand your love is loyal. Love me like that.

MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath, splashing Belmira. She's on the tub. She laughs and splashes him. He laughs.

MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Belmira kisses Ryan intensely.

MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan lies in the bath. Belmira sits on him, naked... She kisses his neck... She sits up and rides him hard; they make wild love.

He closes his eyes and enjoys the final moments.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)

(lustful)

Who do you want?

RAPID FLASHBACKS END

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Belmira goes berserk. Ryan stares at her with the evil, seduced look.

RYAN
I want you.

Pearl busts in, alert. She holds the softball bat.

SCARLETT
(to Pearl; nursing shoulder)
Be careful, the floor's wet!

Ashley runs up. She stands in the doorway, frightened. She wears her crossbody bag.

PEARL
(irate; to Ryan)
Did you hit my daughter?!

Ryan marches to her, fists balled. She swings the bat. He ducks. He grabs her and pushes her backwards.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Ashley backpedals to avoid being ran over by Pearl.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan slams and locks the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Pearl bangs on the door.

PEARL
Scarlett!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan stares furiously at Scarlett.

Belmira goes berserk in the tub.

SCARLETT
(terrified)
Who's in the tub?

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Pearl bangs on the door.

PEARL
Leave her alone, Jaxon!

ASHLEY
(terrified)
Who's Jaxon, mom?

Pearl bangs on the door.

PEARL
Ryan, if you touch my daughter!...
Ryan!!!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan looks in the tub at Belmira, who goes berserk.

SCARLETT
(teary)
Ryan, are you cheating on me?

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Pearl bangs on the door.

PEARL
(to Ashley)
Give me your pepper spray!

Ashley's quickly takes pepper spray from her bag and gives it to her.

PEARL (CONT'D)
Go get my spare keys and stun gun!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ryan gently touches Belmira. She goes berserk. Pearl bangs on the door in the background.

SCARLETT
(to Ryan; teary)
Is she why you've been acting so differently?

RYAN
 (to Belmira; loving)
 It's going to be ok.

SCARLETT
 (to Ryan)
 If-if something was wrong, you didn't
 have to run to another woman. You
 could've talked to me about it.

Ryan looks at her, angered.

RYAN
 I've tried!

Scarlett doesn't reply. Ryan looks at Belmira. She still
 goes berserk.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 (loving)
 It's going to be ok, sunshine.

Belmira calms down.

SCARLETT
 (shocked)
 What did you call her?

Ryan gently strokes Belmira's hair near the burned spot. She
 watches him as she moans in pain.

BELMIRA
 (near crying)
 I'm ugly now. You won't love me.

RYAN
 (smiling)
 That's not true.

SCARLETT
 Who is she to you?

RYAN
 My fiancée.

Scarlett slaps her hand over her mouth.

Belmira smiles at Ryan. He helps her out the tub.

Scarlett sobs profusely. Belmira glares evilly at her.

Scarlett unlocks the door and opens it.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Pearl sees Belmira behind Scarlett.

PEARL
Behind you, Scarlett!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Belmira slams the door. Scarlett turns around. Belmira locks the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Pearl bangs on the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Belmira unleashes haymaker punches on Scarlett like a trained boxer.

Ryan watches anxiously from the sink.

Scarlett's back slams against the door as Belmira hits her.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Pearl hears Scarlett's back hitting the door. Scarlett screams.

PEARL
Scarlett!!!

Ashley runs up with the spare keyring and a stun gun. Pearl quickly takes them and hands her the bat.

Ashley looks at the bat, unsure what to do with it.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Scarlett guards her face the best she can against Belmira's bone-cracking hits.

Belmira slings her towards Ryan. Scarlett slips and crashes to the floor.

The door swings open. Pearl runs in. She aims the stun gun and pepper spray at Belmira. Belmira backs up to Ryan.

Pearl puts the pepper spray in her coveralls. She aims the stun gun at Ryan and Belmira as she helps Scarlett up.

Scarlett is bruised and bloody.

Belmira snatches her purse off the sink.

PEARL
(to Belmira; aiming stun gun)
Don't try anything, Jennifer!

Belmira raises her hand and purse, playing innocent.

Pearl checks Scarlett's face. Scarlett grimaces in pain.

Belmira quickly takes the unfolded knife from her purse. She rushes forward and pulls Scarlett from Pearl.

Pearl zaps the stun gun at Belmira -- Belmira puts the knife to Scarlett's throat.

BELMIRA
Back up, Pearl!

Pearl backs up, holding up her hand and stun gun.

Ryan watches Belmira and Scarlett anxiously.

RYAN
(to Belmira)
What now, Bel -- I mean Jennifer?

Pearl continues to hold up her hand and stun gun.

Belmira sees a terrified Ashley in the hall with the bat.

BELMIRA
Girl. Ashley. Go get every purse and phone. Bring them to me. Fast!!!

Ashley jumps, startled.

PEARL
Go, Ashley.

Ashley runs away.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ashley grabs Pearl's purse off the console table.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ashley grabs Scarlett's purse off the center table.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Belmira holds the knife to Scarlett's throat. Scarlett is horrified.

Pearl continues to hold up her hand and stun gun.

PEARL

Don't hurt my daughter, Jennifer! She didn't do anything to you!

BELMIRA

(infuriated)

Look at what she did to my face!!!

Scarlett cries. Pearl watches helplessly.

Ashley runs up to the door with the two purses.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)

Ryan, get the purses.

He goes, being careful not to slip. He takes the purses.

ASHLEY

Why, Ryan?

He stares, speechless. He takes the purses to Belmira.

BELMIRA

Check them for phones and keys.

Ryan checks. In Scarlett's purse is the wedding invitation envelope labeled "Mom." He doesn't notice.

RYAN

(to Belmira)

Their phones and keys are here, Jennifer.

Belmira hands him her purse.

BELMIRA

Pearl, let us pass and I'll let Scarlett go.

PEARL

You think you're getting away, homewrecker?

SCARLETT
(to Pearl)
Please. Let them go.

Pearl swallows her stubbornness and steps aside.

BELMIRA
(to Pearl and Ashley)
Both of you get into the hall.

Ashley and Pearl back out.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Belmira walks Scarlett out the bathroom. Ryan follows with the purses.

Scarlett watches Pearl, petrified.

PEARL
Let her go, Jennifer.

Belmira looks at Pearl, then Ashley. Belmira pushes Scarlett into Pearl.

Belmira and Ryan run away. Pearl chases them.

Scarlett and Ashley hug.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

Belmira and Ryan sprint towards the door. Pearl chases.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Belmira and Ryan reach the door. Belmira quickly unlocks and opens the doors.

Ryan sees Pearl closing in. He shoves the three purses into Belmira's hands, then pushes her outside.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

It's dusk; minutes before night. Belmira stumbles from Ryan's push.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ryan slams the screen door and locks it. Pearl rams him from behind, pinning him against the door.

Belmira slams into the door, holding the knife. She yells angrily.

Ryan turns around, breaking free from Pearl. He grabs her.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

Scarlett runs in, crying frantically.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ryan tosses Pearl into the console table. She held onto her stun gun.

Belmira watches fearfully through the screen door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ashley tiptoes in, trembling with fear. She holds the bat.

SCARLETT

You don't need to see this, Ashley.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ryan grabs Pearl's stun gun. She headbutts him. He staggers. She zaps him with the stun gun. He convulses and yelps.

Belmira screams and strikes the screen door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

SCARLETT

(to Pearl)

Stop shocking him!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ryan kneels from the shock. Pearl keeps her distance, aiming the stun gun.

Belmira strikes the screen door.

PEARL

Ashley, get my duct tape!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ashley backs away, horror-stricken.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Pearl looks down the hall.

PEARL
Scarlett, get the tape and tie up
Ryan!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

Scarlett shakes her head "no."

SCARLETT
(terrified)
I-I can't do that to him.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Recovered from the shock, Ryan lunges at Pearl. She shocks him. He convulses and yelps. Belmira screams.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - HALL TO FRONT DOOR - DAY

SCARLETT
(to Pearl)
Don't hurt him!

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ryan drops, disabled by the shock. Belmira screams.

Pearl takes Ashley's pepper spray from her coveralls.

Pearl unlocks the screen door and steps back.

Belmira snatches open the door. She rushes in with the knife. Pearl douses her with pepper spray.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Belmira backpedals out the house. She falls. She screams and frenziedly wipes the spray off her face.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Pearl slams and locks the screen door.

PEARL
(to Belmira)
Stay out of my house!

She slams the front door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett sits on the couch, dazed. Her face is swollen and bruised. It's clean of blood.

She's hugging Ashley. Ashley trembles. She wears her crossbody bag. The bat is on her lap.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ryan stares furiously. He's thoroughly tied to a rolling chair with duct tape. His mouth, arms, and legs are thoroughly taped also.

He yells through the tape.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Belmira snatches dish soap from the bulk supplies.

Her face is clean of pepper spray, but she suffers from its sting. She struggles to see and breathe.

She squeezes soap into a mope bucket full of water.

She closes her eyes, then dips her head into the water.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Pearl hurries in with three stun guns. She's infuriated. She hands Ashley a stun gun.

Pearl holds out a stun gun for Scarlett to take.

SCARLETT
What is that for?

PEARL
We need answers about that woman.

SCARLETT
Answers from who?

PEARL
Ryan.

SCARLETT
(angered)
We're not hurting him! You shocked
him enough!

PEARL
Take the stun gun.

SCARLETT
No.

PEARL
If he gets free or she gets in here,
you need to protect Ashley.

SCARLETT
We should call the police.

PEARL
They took our phones.

Ashley, still trembling, looks at her bag.

ASHLEY
They didn't take my bag.

PEARL
Give me your phone. I'll call the
police. Get Jennifer arrested.

ASHLEY
I forgot. My phone's dead. And my
charger's in the van.

SCARLETT
(to Pearl)
We can go to your neighbor's house
and use their phone.

PEARL
No.

SCARLETT
What do you mean no?

PEARL
She's too dangerous to bring my
neighbors in this.

SCARLETT
We should leave then.

PEARL
We're not leaving either.

SCARLETT
(shocked)
Why not?

PEARL
We're not letting her get away so she
can wreck another home.

SCARLETT
We can't fight her! She's too strong!
Look at my face!

Pearl holds out the stun gun for Scarlett to take.

PEARL
Take it.

SCARLETT
I'm not fighting her, and I'm not
shocking my fiancé, even if he breaks
free!

PEARL
Take the stun gun!

Scarlett stares at her sorrowfully. Pearl puts a stun gun on
the center table.

PEARL (CONT'D)
Stay here with Ashley.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pearl enters with a stun gun. Ryan bangs about in the chair.
She stares at him as she slams the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett and Ashley fearfully watch the doorway. A long
pause of silence echoes through the house.

The sound of rolling wheels comes from the hall. Pearl rolls
Ryan in on the chair. Scarlett jumps up.

Ryan's woozy from being shocked repeatedly. Scarlett runs to
him and drops to her knees.

SCARLETT
Ryan, baby, are you ok?

RYAN
(woozy; evil)
Get away from me.

SCARLETT
(to Pearl)
How many times did you shock him?!

PEARL
Enough to get my answers about her.

SCARLETT
Who is she?

PEARL
Her real name is Belmira da Costa. A recent widow. She's trained in boxing and weaponry. And she's on the run from police.

SCARLETT
Why haven't they caught her yet?

PEARL
They know what she looks like, but they don't have her name.

SCARLETT
Why are they after her?

PEARL
For hurting the women she stole fiancés from.

Scarlett looks at Ryan, confused. He stares at her evilly.

SCARLETT
(to Pearl)
Why does she steal engaged men?

Pearl takes a deep breath and exhales, grieved.

PEARL
Love.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Belmira runs towards the moving truck, holding the three purses. Her hair and the upper part of her shirt are soaked.

PEARL (V.O.)
 (sorrowful)
 At seventeen, her high school
 sweetheart, Max, proposed to her.

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Belmira reaches the truck. She can see better, but her eyes
 still burn.

PEARL (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 After graduating, he left for another
 woman.

Belmira takes a picture of Ryan and Scarlett from a pink
 wallet in Scarlett's purse.

PEARL (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 She was so heartbroken, she became
 depressed and mentally unstable.

Belmira rips the picture in half, separating Ryan and
 Scarlett.

PEARL (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 She desperately wanted to get
 married, but the heartache of waiting
 for a man who'd love and marry her
 was too painful.

Belmira stares lovingly at Ryan's picture.

PEARL (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 So, she decided to steal engaged men
 who already had the ability to love.

Belmira kisses Ryan's picture.

PEARL (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 Destroying lives and engagements in
 her wake.

Belmira balls up Scarlett's picture.

She throws the three purses in the back of the truck. She
 slams the door.

She faces the house and yells violently.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett stares at Ryan.

SCARLETT
(grieved)
Do you love Belmira?

RYAN
(bitter)
Why do you care? You're not even
wearing your engagement ring.

Scarlett looks at her left ring finger. She quickly gets her ring from her pocket and puts it on.

SCARLETT
(panicked)
Here it is. See. I just took it off
because --

RYAN
I don't care.

Scarlett gets off her knees and sits down, staring at him in disbelief.

ASHLEY
(terrified)
Is she coming back, mom?

PEARL
She won't stop coming for him. But
you don't have to be scared.

She takes a stun gun and Ashley's pepper spray from her coveralls.

Scarlett stares dazedly at Ryan. He stares hatefully at her.

Pearl gently puts her hand on Scarlett's shoulder.

SCARLETT
What is it?

PEARL
I need your help fighting her.

SCARLETT
No.

PEARL
If you want him to stay, help me stop
her.

SCARLETT
No, it's too dangerous. We need to
leave now.

Pearl takes her hand off Scarlett's shoulder.

PEARL
(aggravated)
We're not running.

SCARLETT
Yes, we are!

They glare furiously at each other.

ASHLEY
How can we leave? She's out there.

Scarlett thinks.

SCARLETT
Whose vehicle is closest to the door?

Ashley timidly raises her hand.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(thinking up plan)
Ok. Um, someone drives your van to the door, we-we load Ryan in, and we leave before she gets to us.

PEARL
Who, you? I'm not sending your sister, and I'm not running.

SCARLETT
Give me your keys, Ashley.

Ashley takes her keys from her crossbody bag. Scarlett runs to her for the keys, but Ashley pulls them away.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Hurry, Ashley!

ASHLEY
I forgot. For like four days my van's been acting funny. Sometimes it starts. Sometimes it doesn't.

Scarlett yells frustratingly.

PEARL
Forget about it.

SCARLETT
(firm)
No.

Pearl shakes her head, disappointed.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Ashley, give me your keys.

Ashley hands her the keys.

PEARL
(to Scarlett; regrettable)
If you're dead set on leaving, let me
get you a flashlight.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Scarlett stands alone, terrified and breathing erratically.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - PATIO DOORS - NIGHT

Belmira pulls on the door; it's locked. She holds her knife.
She sees Pearl rush into the kitchen.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Pearl looks at the patio doors. Belmira is gone.

Pearl takes the flashlight out the drawer that's labeled
with red tape.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Scarlett paces nervously. She shakes her hands, loosening
up. Pearl runs up with the flashlight. She turns it on and
gives it to her.

Pearl takes a stun gun and Ashley's pepper spray from her
coveralls.

PEARL
Take them.

SCARLETT
I just want to go.

Pearl sighs, frustrated. She sees the tennis racquet by the
console table.

PEARL
Take Ashley's racquet.

SCARLETT
For what?

PEARL

To at least protect yourself.

Scarlett hesitates, then grabs the racquet.

Pearl aims the stun gun and pepper spray at the door.

PEARL (CONT'D)

(to living room)

You ok, Ashley?!

ASHLEY (O.S.)

(scared)

Yes!... The van is unlocked,
Scarlett! Be careful! I love you!

SCARLETT

(to living room)

Love you, too, Ashley!

PEARL

(to Scarlett)

Open the door when you're ready.

Scarlett stares at the doorknob. She inhales and exhales a while. She unlocks and opens the door.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Belmira, coming around the house, sees the door open.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Scarlett's holds the racquet in self-defense position. Her flashlight shines through the screen door.

Pearl aims the stun gun and pepper spray.

Scarlett unlocks the screen door -- Belmira charges into it. Scarlett screams and slams the front door.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Belmira strikes the front door with her fist.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Scarlett panics.

PEARL

Open the door.

SCARLETT
She's right there!

PEARL
Open the door and move aside.

Scarlett hesitates. She unlocks and opens the door, then jumps aside.

The screen door is open. Belmira isn't there.

Pearl aims her weapons at the doorway.

PEARL (CONT'D)
Shine your flashlight over my
shoulder, Scarlett.

Scarlett moves behind her and holds the light over her shoulder.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Belmira leans up against the house near the door. She grips the unfolded knife.

Scarlett's flashlight shines through the doorway. Pearl aims her weapons.

SCARLETT
Where is she?

PEARL
Doesn't matter. If she's there, I'll
fight her while you run to the van.

Belmira looks at the van.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Scarlett steps in front of Pearl, shining the flashlight and holding up the racquet. Pearl aims her weapons.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Scarlett steps out, shining the flashlight and hiding behind the racquet. Pearl stays close, aiming her weapons.

Scarlett shines the light at the yard, moving truck, and driveway. No one's there.

PEARL
Go.

Scarlett sprints to the van. Pearl stays at the screen door.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Scarlett swings open the driver-side door.

The passenger-side door is slightly cracked open.

INSIDE MINIVAN

Scarlett hops in the driver-side and slams the door. She hits the button that locks all the doors.

She puts the flashlight in the passenger seat and quickly puts on her seatbelt.

She shoves the key in the ignition.

SCARLETT

Please start.

She starts the van. She smiles. She puts it in "Reverse."

She looks behind her to back up. Belmira is in the backseat. Scarlett freezes, terrified.

BELMIRA

(angered)

You burned my gorgeous face.

Scarlett quivers.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Pearl sees Scarlett looking back in the van.

PEARL

(to herself)

What is she doing?

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira grabs the flashlight from the front seat. She climbs up front, holding the flashlight and knife.

Scarlett quivers.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Pearl sees Belmira in the van. Pearl gasps, horrified.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Pearl quickly looks in.

PEARL
(to living room)
Ashley, lock the screen door!

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

Scarlett stares at Belmira, petrified.

Belmira puts the knife on the dashboard. She shines the flashlight at the wedding topper.

SCARLETT
Please... Leave Ryan alone.

BELMIRA
(enraged)
You don't deserve him!

Scarlett screams. Belmira punches her -- the racquet blocks the punch.

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Pearl slams into Belmira's door, holding the stun gun and pepper spray.

INSIDE MINIVAN

PEARL
(muffled by window)
Leave my daughter alone!

Belmira pummels the racquet with fast, hard punches. The impacts rock Scarlett. Some punches hit her.

Pearl bangs on the window.

SCARLETT
Mom!!!

PEARL
Scarlett, unlock the doors!

SCARLETT

I can't!

PEARL

You can! Fight her!

SCARLETT

I can't! She's too strong!

PEARL

You can! You want to get out of there, fight! Fight her!

Belmira pummels the racquet and Scarlett.

PEARL (CONT'D)

Fight her!!!

Scarlett yells angrily. She grabs Belmira's hair and pulls. Her head jerks.

Scarlett hits the button to unlock all the doors.

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Scarlett jumps out, leaving the racquet.

INSIDE MINIVAN

Pearl yanks open Belmira's door. Pearl goes to shock her with the stun gun -- Belmira grabs her hand.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Scarlett sprints to the screen door. She looks at the van.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Pearl backs up from the van, aiming her weapons.

INSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira grabs her knife off the dashboard.

OUTSIDE MINIVAN

Belmira holds the knife in attack position. Pearl aims her weapons.

Belmira steps to Pearl. Pearl shoots the spray. Belmira quickly turns. The spray hits her hair.

Belmira spins around. She slices rapidly and skillfully with the knife.

Pearl backs up, nervous.

Belmira spins in circles, slicing rapidly and skillfully.

Pearl shoots the spray. Belmira ducks. The spray misses.

Belmira jumps up and slices at Pearl, nearly cutting her.

Pearl runs to the house. Belmira laughs loud and psychotically.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Pearl runs up to Scarlett.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Ashley lets Scarlett and Pearl in. Ashley holds the bat and stun gun. She's horrified. Pearl slams and locks the doors.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Belmira stares at the house psychotically.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Scarlett hugs Ashley securely. Scarlett catches her breath. Pearl catches hers, too.

PEARL

She's more dangerous than I thought.
We'll need a plan.

She checks Scarlett's face.

SCARLETT

She didn't hurt me that much.

PEARL

Because you defended yourself.

SCARLETT

I hope it's the last time.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Belmira watches Ryan. She's calm. She taps her lip with the knife, thinking.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ryan stares at the doorway, anxious. Pearl walks her daughters in, comforting Ashley. Scarlett rushes to Ryan and kneels in front of him.

SCARLETT
Hey, baby, I'm ok.

RYAN
(worried)
Where's Belmira? Is she ok?

SCARLETT
(upset)
Who cares? I'm here.

RYAN
(enraged)
You're here now, but you'll leave me eventually!

SCARLETT
(shocked)
I wouldn't leave you. Why would you say that?

RYAN
If you would've paid attention all these years, you'd know why! And you would've changed!

SCARLETT
(heartbroken)
I have paid attention. I've done nothing but love you.

Ryan laughs hysterically. She stares at him, bewildered. He continues to laughs.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(angered)
I loved you!

RYAN
(infuriated)
Belmira will love me, and she won't
put me through what you put me
through!

Scarlett's eyes fill with tears. He stares at her evilly.
Scarlett sees Pearl comforting Ashley on the couch.

SCARLETT
Can you help me with something, Ash?

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Belmira drags the cooler towards the house. She holds the
knife.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Pearl stares angrily at Ryan. He stares the same way.

Scarlett dances in, wearing her wedding dress. She's
barefoot. Ashley follows, carrying Ryan's tux and dress
shoes. She smiles.

Scarlett's beauty erases Ryan's anger. He marvels at her.

RYAN
Your wedding dress.

Pearl covers her mouth. Her eyes water.

Scarlett blissfully models the dress for Ryan. She twirls.
She moves close to him and gazes fondly into his eyes.

SCARLETT
You wanted to see me in my dress.

RYAN
It's more beautiful than I imagined.

SCARLETT
(emotional)
We get married in two months.

Ryan marvels. She nervously waits for a response.

Ryan frowns. He lunges at her, but the tape restrains him.
She falls back and crashes to the floor.

Pearl runs to Scarlett. Ashley's joy reduces to horror.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Belmira puts on Pearl's protective gloves.

The cooler sits under the window. The knife and racquet lie on the cooler.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

RYAN

(to Scarlett; enraged)

Married in two months?! And how long would we be married?!

Scarlett stares terrifyingly at him as Pearl helps her up.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You'd leave me! You'd run like when you have your nightmares!

Scarlett turns her back to him. She shuts her eyes tightly and covers her ears.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You think everything's perfect with us?!

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)

It's not! You won't deal with your mom! And you won't tell me why you have those nightmares! Aren't I supposed to be the one you love?! Why the secret?!

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)

And you give up! If it's too hard or poses any threat, you pack up or shut down! You're a coward, a pushover, a wimp, a weakling!

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Marry you? What's going to happen when something big comes against our marriage? Will you quit and run then?!

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 What are you running from in your
 nightmares?!

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 Tell me, or I'm leaving you!

SCARLETT
 (in fear position)
 My dad!!!

Ryan waits for her to reveal more.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
 (in fear position)
 I'm running from my dad!!!

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Belmira watches what's happening inside.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett stays in her fear position. Ryan stares, confused.

RYAN
 What about your dad?

Scarlett stays in her fear position.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 (enraged)
 Face me and tell me, or I'm leaving
 with Belmira!

Scarlett breathes deeply and exhales. She slowly uncovers
 her ears and opens her eyes. She keeps her back to Ryan.

She looks at Pearl.

PEARL
 (desperate)
 Don't make us relive it.

SCARLETT
 (despaired)
 But I'll lose him if I don't.

PEARL
 Don't make Ashley know it.

Scarlett stares at Ashley, who holds the tuxedo and dress shoes.

ASHLEY
(terror-struck)
What is it, Scarlett? What about dad?

PEARL
Leave the room, Ashley.

ASHLEY
(angered)
No. You two've sidestepped me every time about dad. I want to hear.

SCARLETT
Please leave, Ashley.

ASHLEY
(firm)
No.

RYAN
Scarlett, tell me!

Scarlett jumps, startled.

She keeps her back to Ryan a few moments. She slowly turns.

FLASHBACK BEGINS:

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

APPEARS ON SCREEN: **2002**

Eight-year-old Scarlett faces the front door.

The door is cracked. The noise from a man and woman arguing comes through the crack.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A packed suitcase is slammed down. A newborn baby cries in a room. JAXON HUNT (29) slammed the suitcase. He wears shades. He's handsome and very physically fit.

Pearl (29) stares heatedly. Her fist is balled. She holds a baby bottle full of milk.

PEARL
Put your suitcase back!

JAXON

Make me!

PEARL

Why are you leaving me for her?!

JAXON

So I can follow my dream!

PEARL

You've been doing that here!

He sighs.

PEARL (CONT'D)

I brought a wedding dress!

JAXON

No one told you to! What woman buys her dress before the man proposes?!

PEARL

Someone who wanted to show how loyal she was to their future!

JAXON

Go find someone who can show you the same thing!

Scarlett watches from the front door.

PEARL

You were never going to marry me.

Jaxon laughs mockingly. Pearl's anger turns to sorrow.

PEARL (CONT'D)

We have two kids!

JAXON

You and the kids are great. But it's easier following my dream with Jessica.

Pearl starts to reply, but she gets choked up.

SCARLETT (O.S.)

(to Jaxon)

You don't want us?

They look at Scarlett standing by the door.

PEARL

Scarlett, you're supposed to be outside!

SCARLETT
You don't want us, dad?

Jaxon is too embarrassed to answer.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
What about Ash?

Jaxon goes down the hall.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
(confused)
Where is he going, mom?

Pearl is too busy watching the hall to reply. Jaxon returns with a sports duffle bag and professional track shoes (spikes).

Pearl grabs the shoes -- he pulls away.

PEARL
You're not leaving!

Jaxon picks up his suitcase.

SCARLETT
(scared)
Mom, stop him.

Pearl desperately looks around, not knowing what to do. Jaxon heads towards the door.

PEARL
(raving)
Leave, Jaxon! We don't want you!

SCARLETT
Mom, no!

Jaxon reaches the door. Scarlett runs to him and grabs his duffle bag. He tries to get it free, but she has a grip.

He pulls too hard, and she crashes to the floor. She cries.

Pearl launches the full baby bottle at Jaxon, striking him in the chest. He yells in pain.

He drops his stuff and charges at Pearl. She drops and covers her head with her forearms. He strikes her violently.

Scarlett sees and screams. Jaxon continues to strike Pearl.

Scarlett turns her back to the violence. She shuts her eyes tightly and covers her ears. She cries.

Jaxon slings Pearl. She crashes beside Scarlett.

Scarlett opens her eyes. She sees Pearl balled up, guarding her head with her arms and crying.

Scarlett jumps up and races to the door.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Scarlett sprints out the house.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD IN SAN DIEGO - DAY

Scarlett runs as fast as she's ever ran. She never stops.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett sits down on the floor, sobbing wildly. She strikes the floor with her fist. She screams in anguish.

Pearl sobs.

Ryan's tux and dress shoes lie at Ashley's feet. She covers her ears and shakes her head. All hope has fled her.

Ryan stares, shocked.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Belmira watches what's going on inside, confused. She grabs the racquet off the cooler.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett, crying and in anguish, looks at Ryan. She gets up and goes over, then kneels.

SCARLETT

I told you. Will you stay with me?

RYAN

It's not enough.

SCARLETT

(desperate)

What then? What do you want?

RYAN

I want you to change.

The window shatters. Ashley screams. Scarlett hides beside Ryan.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Belmira smashes the entire window with the racquet.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Pearl steps in front of Ashley, protecting her.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Belmira throws down the racquet. She steps on the cooler.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Belmira steps up on the window seal. The gloves protect her hands from the glass edges. Her knife is on the seal.

RYAN

(to Belmira; loving)

Sunshine.

Belmira blushes.

Pearl gets the stun gun and pepper spray from her coveralls.

Belmira sees Scarlett near Ryan. Enraged, Belmira jumps inside, crushing glass on the floor.

Belmira snatches off the gloves. She grabs her knife off the window seal.

Belmira charges at Scarlett. Pearl runs at Belmira and shoots the spray -- Belmira ducks.

Belmira cuts Pearl's hands. Pearl screams and drops her weapons.

ASHLEY

Mom!!!

Belmira scoops up the pepper spray. She douses Pearl with it and knocks her down.

Scarlett watches, helpless and petrified.

Ashley runs to Pearl with the bat. Pearl coughs uncontrollably as the pepper spray stings. She can't see.

Belmira throws down the pepper spray.

Furious, Ashley takes a stun gun from her crossbody bag.

Ashley runs at Belmira with the stun gun and bat, screaming. Belmira steals the bat and throws it. She takes the stun gun and throws it.

Ashley backs away from Belmira, trembling.

BELMIRA
Scared little Ashley.

PEARL
Scarlett, help your sister!

Scarlett stays where she is, shivering. Belmira walks up. She slides Ryan's chair away.

Belmira gets in Scarlett's face. Scarlett looks away. Belmira puts the knife near Scarlett's face.

RYAN
(to Belmira)
Wait!

Belmira cuts her eyes to him. Scarlett looks at him.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(to Scarlett; stern)
Will you make up with your mom?

Scarlett looks at Pearl.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Will you stop quitting?

SCARLETT
I can make up with my mom. But I-I...
I'm not sure I can change what my
past made me.

RYAN
(angered)
Are you going to let what your
parents did force me out?

Scarlett opens her mouth to speak, but she stops. Ryan shakes his head, disappointed.

SCARLETT
Help me to change.

RYAN

No.

Scarlett looks wide-eyed, shocked.

Belmira grabs Scarlett's left hand. Scarlett screams.
Belmira steals her engagement ring.

BELMIRA

You don't deserve this.

She drops the ring.

Belmira frees Ryan from the tape with her knife. They kiss.
Scarlett watches in horror.

Ryan gets his tux and dress shoes off the floor.

SCARLETT

(reciting love motto)

"I'm yours. Yes, you're mine. We
belong to each other --

RYAN

(irritated)

I don't want to hear it.

Scarlett plops to the floor, hopeless.

BELMIRA

(to Scarlett)

Take off that dress. You'll never
find anyone like Ryan to marry you.

Scarlett sits there, numb; not reacting. Ryan puts out his
arm for Belmira to grab.

RYAN

Ready to leave?

BELMIRA

(ecstatic)

There are keys in the van!

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Ryan and Belmira dash to the van, holding hands. He carries
his dress shoes. She carries his tux.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett sits in her numb position. She stares at her ring
on the floor.

Pearl lies suffering from the pepper spray and knife cuts. She blinks rapidly to flush the spray from her eyes.

Ashley, terrified, crouches down beside Pearl. Ashley's shaking hand touches Pearl's eyelid.

PEARL
(grimacing in pain)
Don't touch! They'll flush out eventually.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

Ryan is in the driver seat. Belmira is the passenger.

He turns the key in the ignition. The van doesn't start. They're confused.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett sits in her numb position. She stares at her ring. Ashley, terrified, crouches down beside her.

ASHLEY
(urgent)
Scarlett, go get Ryan. Please.

The van tries to start but fails.

SCARLETT
Why? He loves her and hates me.

ASHLEY
You two were perfect! I wanted a marriage like yours!

Scarlett looks away from the ring.

SCARLETT
Were we perfect?

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

Ryan tries to crank up the van. It doesn't start.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett sits in her numb position.

PEARL
 (suffering from spray/cuts)
 Scarlett, I know you blame me for not
 leaving Jaxon before he got physical.
 I regret that. I regret not getting
 over him until today.

The van tries to start but fails.

PEARL (CONT'D)
 What I regret most is you seeing him
 that way and your life being ruined.

She cries. It turns into a loud, unrestrained sob.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

Ryan tries to crank up the van. It doesn't start. Belmira folds her arms and frowns.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett, numb, watches Pearl cry. Ashley cries.

PEARL
 (suffering from spray/cuts)
 Ryan is different than Jaxon,
 Scarlett. Don't let her take him.
 Don't have that regret.

The van tries to start but fails.

PEARL (CONT'D)
 And don't live in the past; fight!
 You fought her in the van! Fight her
 now!

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

Ryan tries to crank up the van. It doesn't start. He strikes the steering wheel. He searches himself for something.

RYAN
Where's the SUV keys?

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett sits in her numb position.

SCARLETT
What's the point in fighting?

PEARL
(suffering from spray/cuts)
For love.

Scarlett looks at her.

PEARL (CONT'D)
(infuriated)
If you love that man, you fight, and
you never stop!

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE MINIVAN

RYAN
(frustrated)
Where's Scarlett's purse, Belmira?

Belmira quickly looks at the moving truck.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett stares at a furious Pearl.

PEARL
(suffering from spray/cuts)
That's your fiancé! You planned your
wedding! You're getting married in
two months! You and Ryan brought that
house so he could be there for those
needy kids! And you're going to have
children of your own!
(grieved)
Ones who won't see their parents act
like yours did.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

INSIDE BACK OF MOVING TRUCK

Ryan quickly searches Scarlett's purse, throwing out items.

A wedding invitation envelope drops on the floor. It's labeled: "Mom."

Ryan finds Scarlett's keys.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlett stares at her ring on the floor.

Pearl stands up, fighting through the pepper spray sting and pain from her cuts. She can't see.

PEARL
(emotional)
Scarlett, I'm sorry for that day. But
you have to fight now.

Scarlett thinks a few moments.

SCARLETT
(emotional)
I forgive you. And ok.

Pearl smiles through the pain.

Scarlett picks up her ring. She balls up her fists. With a fire lit in her, she frowns and gets off the floor.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
Ryan's brainwashed, Ashley. This
isn't how love is.

ASHLEY
I know... I'm even gonna text Bryce
after this. I'm not letting Layla
have him.

Scarlett smiles and nods.

PEARL
(fierce)
Go fight, Scarlett. Stop her.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

INSIDE SUV

Ryan cranks on the engine. He smiles. Belmira kisses him.

They finish kissing. Scarlett stands at the hood with the bat. She's fed up.

OUTSIDE SUV

Scarlett wears Ashley's crossbody bag. She tightens her grip on the bat. She wears her engagement ring.

INSIDE SUV

Ryan and Belmira watch Scarlett angrily.

OUTSIDE SUV

Scarlett strikes the hood with her hand.

SCARLETT
Get out here, Belmira!

INSIDE SUV

BELMIRA
(to Ryan; angered)
How does she know my name?!

RYAN
(to Scarlett; out window)
What are you doing?!

OUTSIDE SUV

SCARLETT
I'm not letting you go!

INSIDE SUV

Ryan shakes his head frustratingly. Belmira laughs.

BELMIRA
(to Scarlett; out window)
Now you want to fight?

OUTSIDE SUV

SCARLETT
I'm right here.

INSIDE SUV

Belmira stops laughing.

BELMIRA
(aggressive)
I'll handle her, Ryan.

Ryan nods.

OUTSIDE SUV

Belmira jumps out with her knife. Scarlett rushes her.
Belmira slices at her with the knife. Scarlett jumps back.
Belmira quickly advances to her, rapidly and skillfully swinging the knife.
Scarlett swings the bat. Belmira easily dodges.
Scarlett swings. Belmira easily dodges.
Scarlett swings. Belmira easily dodges. She laughs.
Scarlett yells and swings. Belmira catches the bat.
Terror hits Scarlett.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
(amused)
You should've stayed in the house.

Scarlett frowns, fierce.

SCARLETT
You should've left my fiancé alone.

BELMIRA
(enraged)
You won't stop my wedding!

Scarlett snatches the bat away. Belmira draws the knife back to cut her. Scarlett hits her in the mouth with the bat end.

Belmira stumbles back, disoriented. She touches her bloody lip. She looks at the blood, shocked.

She glares wickedly at Scarlett.

Belmira throws down the knife and charges her. Scarlett swings the bat. Belmira ducks and tackles her.

Scarlett crashes to the concrete. Belmira falls on her.

Belmira pummels her with punches. Scarlett guards her face with her hands.

BELMIRA (CONT'D)
(irate; punching)
You won't ruin my special day!!!

SCARLETT
(infuriated)
It's my day!!!

Belmira continues to pummel her.

Scarlett changes her guard to a forearm. She fumbles for something in the crossbody bag.

Belmira grabs the forearm blocking Scarlett's face.

Scarlett pulls a stun gun from the bag. She shocks her. Belmira convulses and yelps.

INSIDE SUV

RYAN
Stop, Scarlett!

OUTSIDE SUV

Scarlett pushes Belmira off her.

Ryan grabs the stun gun, startling Scarlet. He yanks it, but she holds on tightly.

SCARLETT
No! Let go!

RYAN
You're not hurting her!

He snatches the stun gun away. He slings it far.

Belmira lies on the concrete, woozy from the shock.

Scarlett hurries to her feet. Ryan pushes her down. She looks at him, confused.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Leave us alone! Let us be happy together!

SCARLETT
(infuriated)
I won't!

RYAN
(threatening)
Stay back.

Scarlett stays put.

Belmira stands up, recovered from the shock. Ryan grabs her arms gently.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Are you ok?

Scarlett takes pepper spray from the bag.

BELMIRA
(to Ryan; smiling)
I'll always be ok as long as I have
you.

Scarlett douses her with pepper spray up close. Ryan jumps back, avoiding the spray. Belmira goes berserk.

RYAN
Why did you do that, Scarlett?!

Scarlett stares hatefully at Belmira. Belmira screams as she frantically wipes her face.

Ryan stands near Scarlett, breathing violently. His fists are balled.

SCARLETT
(determined)
I won't let you go with her.

RYAN
You better!

SCARLETT
No.

RYAN
I will hit you!

SCARLETT
Try it.

Ryan stares in disbelief at her boldness.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
I will spray you.

Belmira wipes her face and coughs. The spray stings badly.

BELMIRA
Get us out of here, Ryan!

RYAN
Go in the house, Scarlett.

SCARLETT
I won't.

Ryan punches at her. She ducks. She douses him with spray. He stumbles as he wipes his face.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)
I love you too much, Ryan!

Ryan drops to his knees, wiping his face and yelling.

Belmira wipes her face, coughing and grimacing in pain. Scarlett shoves her down.

Scarlett stands over her, staring viciously.

Scarlett puts her spray in the bag. She takes out a wedding invitation envelope. It's labeled: "Guest."

She rips the envelope in half and drops it on Belmira.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

You don't get an invitation.

Ryan wipes his face, grimacing in pain. He stands up, unable to see. He falls.

Scarlett kneels at him. She stares at him, infuriated.

He yells because of the stinging. He strikes the concrete.

Scarlett's anger fades. She gently touches his arm.

RYAN

Belmira?

Scarlett sighs, sorrowful.

SCARLETT

No.

RYAN

(angered)

Where's Belmira?!

Scarlett looks at her engagement ring.

SCARLETT

(emotional)

You really don't love me anymore?

Ryan stays quiet.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

I want to be your wife. I want to be the mother of your children.

Ryan stays quiet.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

I won't leave you when something huge comes up.

Ryan stays quiet.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

If we have problems, we'll talk and work them out. No matter what they are. Ok?

RYAN

Ok... And I...

Scarlett waits for his response. He sobs. She looks at him with pity.

RYAN (CONT'D)

How could I do this to you?! Why throw everything away for her?! Why?!

Tears pour down Scarlett's cheeks.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. I'm so, so sorry. I'm sorry.

Scarlett looks down, overwhelmed.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Will you forgive me? Eventually?

SCARLETT

I forgive you right now.

Ryan turns his head and cries. Scarlett hugs him.

RYAN

Thanks for not giving up on us.

Scarlett smiles. She finishes hugging and stands up.

SCARLETT

(angered)

I'm going to tie up Belmira.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

INSIDE BACK OF MOVING TRUCK

Scarlett sits Belmira down roughly. Belmira's mouth and body are thoroughly secured with duct tape. Her eyes burn from pepper spray. She can't see.

Scarlett steps on a wedding invitation envelope. She picks it up. The front is labeled: "Mom." She smiles.

OUTSIDE MOVING TRUCK

Scarlett hops from the back with the three purses.

She looks at a driver's license. It reads: "Jennifer Santos."

SCARLETT

(amused)

Jennifer Santos.

(angered)

I'll keep this until the police come.
Belmira da Costa.

Belmira grimaces in pain. Scarlett steps on the bumper.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

You won't ruin any more engagements.

She pulls down the door --

One last glimpse of Belmira before it slams.

FADE OUT.