

THE SUGAR MOMMY MURDER MYSTERY

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A lie detector graph needle moves up and down on a long paper. MAXIMO, 50s, in a *DAVID BOWIE* red lightning make up, red wig and costume, is sitting on a metal chair in a small, dim-lit police interrogation room. His arm is rigged to a lie detector machine on a metal table, facing the camera, as if talking to the interrogator.

MAXIMO

I did not kill Catalina Aurello...

SUPER: TEN YEARS AGO

INT. OFFICE ROOM IN THE MANSION - NIGHT

In a wood paneled office library that has an old world feel, MAXIMO, younger and more stylishly dressed in a black long sleeves and pants, is standing behind CATALINA, 40s, an eccentrically fashionable socialite wearing a short black dress with a black net veil over her eyes who is sitting by the desk.

An urn and a picture of FELIX, 40s, her late husband is displayed on top of it. ROCCO, 20s, CATALINA'S gay son, in black mourning suit, is standing in front of them. He is followed by an elderly man in his 70s, FELICIANO, his grandfather.

ROCCO

(In a rage)

You have no right to bring that son-of-a-bitch here! You have no respect, Mother! Father's body was just cremated hours ago and here you are canoodling with the guy you cheated on with him! You have no ounce of self-respect. Not even to your in-laws! Grandpa Feliciano is right here. What do you have to say for yourself, Mother?

CATALINA

Rocco, please. Calm down, okay? I can explain everything to you if you just lower your voice and calm down-

ROCCO

Calm down? You're telling me to calm down?

CATALINA

Rocco, please—

ROCCO

No wonder Father died early. He got sick because of you. You are a fuckin' whore. (Pauses) I wish it was your body we burned and turned to ashes instead.

FELICIANO

Rocco, come on, son. (to Catalina) Felix was good to you, Catalina. My only regret in life was to have him marry a low-life like you. If only I had known my Felix were to die before me, I would never have given him the company. And I hope to God you don't ruin it like you have ruined my son.

FELICIANO ushers ROCCO out the room. MAXIMO squats beside CATALINA and takes both her hands and kisses them.

MAXIMO

(Softly)

If you want, I'll just leave. I don't want to get in between you and your son.

CATALINA

No, darling. I need you here with me.

CATALINA caresses his face and smile. They are about to kiss when the door opens, it's FREDERICA, 40s, short hair, CATALINA'S lesbian twin, wearing framed glasses, a sharp suit black attire. She catches them.

FREDERICA

Cat! Maximo! What the hell are you doing?

CATALINA and MAXIMO straighten themselves.

CATALINA

Oh, Freddie... I was just so upset—

FREDERICA

Cat. Please. This is not the time
and place. (scoffs) You're
unbelievable.

FREDERICA shakes her head in disgust and leaves.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

MAXIMO in deep thought.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)

Mr. Maximo Potenciano, did you have
any personal relationship with the
victim?

MAXIMO

Catalina and I... We are
complicated people--

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)

That's not what I'm asking, Mr.
Potenciano.

MAXIMO

(grunts because of stomach
pain)
Yes. We did. We had a brief
relationship... long time ago.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)

Are you alright, Mr. Potenciano?

MAXIMO

(grimaces)
It's fine.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)

Was there ever a time during your
brief relationship that you've
physically abused the victim?

MAXIMO'S face falls ashen.

SUPER: THIRTY YEARS AGO

INT. MAXIMO'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

CATALINA, 20 and MAXIMO, 20, are fighting. MAXIMO slaps
CATALINA and she falls hard on the coffee table, her head
bumps on the side, blood gushes out of her forehead.

CATALINA cries and looks scared as she feels the blood on her face. Her fingers shake as she sees the blood on them. MAXIMO stands there in shock that he just hurt her.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)
Mr. Potenciano? Mr. Potenciano?
Maximo?

MAXIMO just grunts due to stomach pain but he remains tight-lipped. The needle of the graph spikes rhythmically.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. CATALINA'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Earlier that day.

In a stately, palatial mansion, with immaculate furnishings and beautiful decor, CATALINA, attractive and slim at 50, in a SANDY from Grease black outfit (but instead of blonde, she sports a pink wig) hosts a pop icon costume dinner party for her and her twin sister FREDERICA'S 50th birthday with just a few guests.

It's an intimate but lively affair with strobe lights, and 80s music is playing in the background.

MAXIMO, as *David Bowie*, is taking pictures with his camera. He takes pictures of the others dance in the living room. He checks his shots.

GABRIEL, mid20s, suave and handsome as *DANNY from GREASE*, dance funkily with CATALINA as *SANDY from GREASE*, wearing the iconic black outfit that tightly hugs her well-toned body and red heels complete with long RED-POLISHED NAILS.

KENZO, mid20s, as *AXL ROSE rock n' roll attire* with long hair and bandana, drinks a beer and dances with KLARISSE, mid20s as *MARILYN MONROE in pink long gown* costume.

BLESSILDA, 50s, an elegant and softly mannered socialite snob as *JACKIE KENNEDY*, in a baby blue coat, pillbox hat and white gloves with a flute of champagne stands beside MAXIMO in the corner.

BLESSILDA

Maximo? As in Maximo Potenciano?
The former lover of Catalina
Aurello who's now an
internationally famous
photographer? (scoffs) I never
thought I'd see your face in this
place ever again.

MAXIMO

(wryly)

Great to see you again, Blessilda.

BLESSILDA

You surprise me, Maximo, dear.
(brushes off an invisible lint on
his shoulders) You clean up nicely.
How long has it been since we saw
each other last? Ten years ago was
it?

MAXIMO continues to take pictures.

MAXIMO

At Felix's wake. Yes. And you?
What's your reason for being here?

BLESSILDA

(glares at him)

If you must know, I was invited to
this atrocious dinner and it would
be rude for me to turn down one of
my oldest friend's intimate
birthday party now, wouldn't it?
Even if she stole my fiance but
that's so thirty years ago.

BLESSILDA watches CATALINA and GABRIEL as if they are two
teenagers in love, GABRIEL kisses CATALINA'S neck. She smirks
at MAXIMO.

BLESSILDA (CONT'D)

Look at them go. Horny as
jackrabbits in Spring. Kinda like
the two of you and Catalina back in
the days. Don't you regret letting
her go? A rich lonely widow in your
arms. All those gold and diamonds
just turned into stones.

MAXIMO

(stern)

I was never after her money.

BLESSILDA

Nobody buys that. Not me, not
Catalina... And not even you, Maximo
dear.

MAXIMO

Say cheese, gorgeous.

MAXIMO takes a close-up picture of BLESSILDA with the flash
on that blinds her. MAXIMO smirks with victory and walks
away. BLESSILDA squints and huffs.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

BLESSILDA, in her *JACKIE KENNEDY* costume sits on the metal
chair with her arm rigged to a lie detecting machine on the
metal table. She is disheveled, make up is smudged from
crying. She faces the camera.

BLESSILDA

Dear God. I did not kill Catalina
Aurello, okay?

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)

According to other witness
testimonies, Mrs. Cua, you and the
victim had some colorful
encounters.

BLESSILDA straightens up.

BLESSILDA

Friends fight. Catalina and I are
no different. We fight, we argue,
and for crying out loud, we stab
each other in the back!

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S)

Ma'am?

BLESSILDA

Ugh. I didn't mean in that sense—
What I mean, Detective Monty, is
that we badmouth each other, we try
to tank each other's businesses, we
steal each other's boy toys. And
that's just how we are because
that's our world. It's something
you wouldn't understand. But I
would never ever literally stab her
in the back with any kind of
weapon, or in any part of her body.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)
Is it true you were engaged with
Felix Aurello, the deceased husband
of the victim? Before they were
married?

BLESSILDA
That has nothing to do with this
investigation.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)
Answer the question Ma'am.

BLESSILDA
Thirty years ago. Thirty years ago
I was engaged to marry Felix. He
was... well, as cliché as it sounds,
he was the love of my life... But I
moved on, got married and up until
his untimely death, we remained
very dear friends.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)
Mrs. Cua, were you the last person
Mr. Aurello spoke with before he
died?

BLESSILDA nervously licks her lips. The needle on the graphic
paper moves faster.

SUPER: TEN YEARS AGO

INT: HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

FELIX, 40s, delirious and pale, lying in the hospital bed in
a hospital gown with a nasal cannula over his nose and an IV
infusion attached to his arm.

BLESSILDA, 40s, is sitting next to him, holding his hand.
She's crying softly.

FELIX
(weakly)
Blessy...

BLESSILDA
Shhh... Don't talk Felix... Try to
rest, okay?

FELIX smiles. He cups her cheek, trying to brush off her
tears with his thumb. They look at each other with a mix of
tenderness and loss. But it's undeniable that their love for
each other is still there.

FELIX

If there is one thing, I regret in this world... It's not being able to live with you for the rest of my life...

BLESSILDA

Me too... Oh Felix...

She starts to cry, FELIX hushes her.

FELIX

Whatever happens... You are the only one I've ever loved, until the very end... I still love you, Blessy...

BLESSILDA nods her head. A DOCTOR in white lab coat comes in with a clipboard.

DOCTOR

Mr. Aurello? Are you ready to sign the papers?

BLESSILDA looks at them back and forth in confusion.

BLESSILDA

What are you signing, Felix?

FELIX

I'm so sorry, Blessy... (to doctor)
Doc?

The DOCTOR hands him a pen and the clipboard. The paper says DO NOT RESCUCITATE. FELIX signs. BLESSILDA is mortified. DOCTOR takes the pen and clipboard and nods to them before leaving.

BLESSILDA

You can't do this to me... Felix...
It's not your time yet... Please...

FELIX

I will always... always love you...

BLESSILDA sobs, her head on his chest. FELIX whispers something inaudible to her, a secret he's been keeping all this time. She stops crying and looks at him in shock and disbelief.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

BLESSILDA is crying softly. She wipes her tears away with her free hand and composes herself.

BLESSILDA

Felix was a good man. He was a damn good man and he deserved so much better than that narcissistic backstabbing starlet skank.

DETECTIVE MONTY (O.S.)

What did Mr. Aurello tell you on his deathbed?

BLESSILDA

He told me... Oh, God. He told me to kill that bitch.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. CATALINA'S MANSION - OFFICE LIBRARY - NIGHT

BLESSILDA is in a corner standing by a table full of photo frames. With a flute of champagne in one hand and a picture frame of FELIX in the other. She's admiring a photo of him with sad, loving eyes.

CATALINA approaches her from behind. BLESSILDA turns around.

CATALINA

Blessilda, darling! (kisses on both cheeks) I'm so sorry I was swamped a while ago.

CATALINA eyes the frame in her hand. She takes it from BLESSILDA'S hand and puts it back on the table. BLESSILDA tries to appear not so bothered.

CATALINA (CONT'D)

(smug)

It's a party dear. Not a funeral. Come, I'll introduce you to Gabriel's friends. You're going to flip when you hear this. I'm fucking his best friend Kenzo--

BLESSILDA

You never loved him. Felix. You never loved him at all.

CATALINA exasperates and rolls her eyes at BLESSILDA.

CATALINA

Blessilda, it's been over 30 years.
When are you ever, ever going to
move on from this? Felix chose me.

BLESSILDA turns away from CATALINA and finishes her flute of champagne fast. She takes a deep breath.

BEAT.

BLESSILDA'S IMAGINATION:

She breaks the flute glass on a surface, turns and cuts CATALINA'S throat in a flash. Blood spurts. BLESSILDA'S face is splattered, her eyes wild and unhinged. CATALINA drops dead. BLESSILDA hyperventilates as she realizes what she just did.

CATALINA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Blessilda?

BLESSILDA snaps back to reality.

She turns to face CATALINA with disdain.

BLESSILDA

You're right, Catalina. Felix had
to choose you. He had no way out,
you forced him to choose you.

BLESSILDA leaves in a huff. She exits the door and bumps into KENZO, 20s, a hot mess with bargaining powers over his sex. He's in an AXL ROSE costume with long wig and bandana that accentuates his hypersexuality even more. He smiles cockily at BLESSILDA.

KENZO

I'm Kenzo by the way.

KENZO extends his hand for a handshake.

BLESSILDA

Ah, the side-fuck. If I were in the
mood I'd tell you to come with me
and ditch her. But right now, just
get the fuck out of my way.

BLESSILDA swats his hand away. KENZO moves and mockingly bows to her, letting her pass, smirking. He goes inside the office library to where CATALINA is. CATALINA is heard giggling and moaning and whispering to KENZO to stop.

CATALINA (O.C.)
(giggling)
Not here...Kenzo stop it. Stop.
Come on, I'm not joking. Someone
might catch us- Stop...

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KENZO is sitting on the chair, arm rigged to the lie detector machine. His face is bruised and bloody. He faces the camera, his face in pain and fear. Across him, we finally see DETECTIVE MONTY, 40s, plain looking, plays with a fidget spinner on one hand, a folder with papers open in front of him on the table.

KENZO
I didn't kill Mrs. Aurello. That's
the truth. Believe me. I have
nothing to do with her death. I've
never even laid a hand on a woman
before.

FLASHBACK SHOTS:

KENZO SLAPS HIS GIRLFRIEND KLARISSE.

KENZO PUSHES KLARISSE AGAINST THE WALL.

KLARISSE IS CRYING AND BEGS HIM TO STOP.

HE THROWS HER ON THE BED AND HER PHONE AND LEAVES.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY
How did you and Mrs. Catalina James
Aurello meet, Mr. Kenzo Yoshida?

KENZO takes a deep breath.

KENZO
She was Gabriel's sugar mommy.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Sugar mommy?

KENZO

Yeah, you know. These rich old chicks take on young guys to, you know, have sex with in exchange for cash or somethin' dope like an Audi or a trip to Cancun. Anyways, Gabriel introduced her to me at the bar we both been working at. And then tonight was the second time I met Cata-Mrs. Aurello again.

DETECTIVE MONTY

So you've only met her twice, including tonight's dinner party?

KENZO

That's correct, sir.

FLASHBACK SHOTS:

KENZO AND CATALINA HAVE SEX ON THE BED.

KENZO AND CATALINA KISS AND GIGGLE ON THE COUCH.

KENZO AND CATALINA RELAX IN THE BATHTUB WITH CANDLES.

KENZO AND CATALINA SMOKE AND LAUGH IN THE BALCONY.

KENZO AND CATALINA HAVE ROMANTIC DINNER IN THE GARDEN.

DIFFERENT OUTFITS FOR EACH SHOTS TO ESTABLISH FREQUENCY OF VISITS.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)

Were there instances that you've met the victim outside of the bar? Instances that your friend Gabriel doesn't know about?

FLASHBACK SHOTS:

KENZO AND CATALINA SWEETLY KISS IN THE CAR.

KENZO AND CATALINA GO TO A HOTEL.

CATALINA LEAVES A WAD OF CASH ON THE BEDSIDE WHILE KENZO IS STILL ASLEEP. SHE'S ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN KENZO OPENS HIS EYES AND GRABS HER WRIST. HIS EYES BEG HER TO STAY. SHE LEAVES THE ROOM WITHOUT LOOKING BACK. HE IS CRUSHED.

KENZO (V.O.)

Why would I do that? She was my friend's main chick. I don't do stupid shit like that man. Over a sugar mom? Come on.

GABRIEL AND KENZO, IN A BAR, GABRIEL SHOWS KENZO THE RING. KENZO PRETENDS TO BE HAPPY FOR GABRIEL AND THEY DRINK SHOTS TO CELEBRATE.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)

Did Gabriel ever tell you of his plans to propose to Mrs. Aurello?

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

KENZO restrains himself from getting affected.

KENZO

Never. We were all shocked.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY:

INT. OFFICE LIBRARY - NIGHT

KENZO and CATALINA kissing in the office library after BLESSILDA left. CATALINA trying to stop KENZO but he continues on.

CATALINA

Kenzo, please... Someone might see us...

KENZO

Great, then we don't have to hide anymore...

CATALINA

Gabriel might see us...

KENZO

Let him see this... then he'll break up with you... and then you're all gonna be mine...

CATALINA

You brought a date... She might wonder where you've been...

KENZO

Klarisse? Are you jealous of Klarisse? This is new... and exciting...

CATALINA pushes him away harder. KENZO stops kissing her and scoffs, obviously pissed.

KENZO (CONT'D)

If you don't like what we're doing just fucking say so.

CATALINA

Kenzo, wait, listen. What we had was just for fun. Nothing serious... I enjoyed you, and you obviously enjoyed me as well... We can't let this go on anymore...

KENZO

Are you seriously falling for Gabriel?

CATALINA

I just want a simple man. And you, Kenzo, you're incredibly intoxicating and complicated.

KENZO

I'm complicated? (moves closer to her) I thought you wanted the thrill? Knowing that he's just in the other room...

KENZO kisses her passionately again.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Babe? Babe?

CATALINA and KENZO scramble to get away. CATALINA hurriedly hides behind the curtains leaving KENZO standing in the corner. GABRIEL sees him.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Oh, dude. Didn't know you were here.

KENZO

Yeah, it's easy to get lost in this crib man.

(MORE)

KENZO (CONT'D)

This place is a freakin' fortress!
You lucky bastard. Ending up with
that rich old... batshit crazy
sugar momma, eh?

CATALINA mouths the word "*batshit crazy*" behind the curtain
as she listens to them.

GABRIEL

Screw you bruh. Catalina's not
batshit crazy. Maybe a little but
I'm gonna marry her. I'm gonna ask
her during dinner.

KENZO

You for real man?

GABRIEL

Yeah, I brought the ring I showed
you at the bar last week, dude.

KENZO

Woah, I thought you were gonna pop
up the question like, in a year
from now or something.

GABRIEL

I don't have a year. Once we get
married, I'm moving in this sweet
ass crib. Buy my own condo, set up
my own studio and get this, start
my own music label company. I'm
gonna be a producer man.

KENZO

Wow, you've thought about this,
huh? You really sure about this old
dingbat. Dude, she's like 50 and
you just turned 25.

GABRIEL

Did you see how she melts in my
arms? I won't get another chance
like this man. You know how much
she's worth? Billions. Yeah,
billions with a capital B.

GABRIEL is giddy while KENZO purses his lips and nods along
with him. CATALINA covers her mouth in disbelief.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

GABRIEL in his *DANNY from GREASE* costume sits uncomfortably on the chair, his arm is rigged to the lie detector machine. DETECTIVE MONTY sits across straightening three pieces of papers. They are pictures of GABRIEL and CATALINA in compromising positions. DETECTIVE MONTY lays them out like cards in front of GABRIEL.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Mr. Gabriel Milby Jr., do you
recognize the people in these
photos?

GABRIEL is nervous. He looks down at the photos. He knows exactly what they are.

GABRIEL
It's me... and Catalina.

DETECTIVE MONTY studies him.

DETECTIVE MONTY
You have any idea who took the
photos?

GABRIEL stays silent. DETECTIVE MONTY points one by one to the pictures.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
This one, on a balcony. This, in a
parking lot. And this, in a ladies'
room at some dance club downtown.

GABRIEL starts to chew on his thumb. DETECTIVE MONTY sighs and picks up the paper and puts them away.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
Catalina James Aurello of Aurello
Precious Stones & Minerals Mining
Group. One of the world's largest
supplier gold and diamonds, am I
right, Mr. Milby?

GABRIEL nods.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
Rich beyond anyone's wildest
dreams. A widow, a fitness buff; at
age 50 she can kick any 20-year
old's ass. She was a huge hit in
the early 90s. She was known as
Catalina James. All the boys wanted
a girl like Catalina James.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)

She was going to be a superstar when she married Felix Aurello. That was the end of her acting career, and the start of her American royalty dream.

GABRIEL

I didn't kill Catalina.

DETECTIVE MONTY smirks.

DETECTIVE MONTY

But you're the one who took these photos, right?

GABRIEL turns pale.

FLASHBACK SHOTS:

GABRIEL SINGING IN A BAR, HE EYES CATALINA IN THE FRONT ROW AND WINKS AT HER. SHE RAISES A MARTINI GLASS TO HIM.

GABRIEL AND CATALINA IN A HOTEL ROOM, ON THE BED, KISSING PASSIONATELY.

CATALINA LEAVES THE ROOM IN THE MORNING. CASH IS ON THE TABLE. GABRIEL COUNTS THE CASH AND SMILES.

GABRIEL IS AT THE BAR SINGING AGAIN AND CATALINA IS THERE.

THEY HAVE SEX IN THE HOTEL. SHE LEAVES HIM CASH. HE COUNTS IT AND SMILES.

THE THIRD TIME HE SEES HER AT THE BAR, HE BUYS HER A DRINK AND THEY HAVE A CHAT AT THE TABLE.

AT THE HOTEL, THEY JUST LIE IN BED, COVERED IN SHEETS AND TALK. GABRIEL IS MAKING HER FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM WITH HIS CARING GESTURES. SHE LAUGHS AND SMILES AT HIM.

SHE LEAVES HIM CASH BUT HE GIVES IT BACK TO HER.

CATALINA IS IN THE LIVING ROOM WHEN A BOQUET OF FLOWERS IS BROUGHT TO HER BY SHIRLEY, 50S, THE PETITE HOUSEKEEPER. CATALINA READS THE CARD AND IT'S FROM GABRIEL.

IN THE LIVING ROOM, A BIG TEDDY BEAR IS BROUGHT IN AGAIN BY SHIRLEY FOR CATALINA. CATALINA IS GIDDY.

ANOTHER GIFT ARRIVES, A BALLOON TIED TO A CD. IT'S A DEMO OF GABRIEL, A SONG HE APPARENTLY WROTE FOR HER. "CATALINA"

CATALINA PUTS THE CD IN HER STEREO IN HER ROOM. SHE HEARS SOMETHING OUT IN HER BALCONY.

CATALINA IS ON THE BALCONY, GABRIEL IS OUT ON THE STREET SERENADING HER WITH HIS SONG.

CATALINA AND GABRIEL ARE MAKING LOVE IN HER ROOM.

INT. CATALINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

CATALINA and GABRIEL are laying under the sheets, just facing each other like new lovers.

GABRIEL

So, what are we right now?

CATALINA

Mmm... What do you mean?

GABRIEL

I mean, am I your boyfirend now, or what?

CATALINA

I'm not sure what you mean? I didn't think that far in advanced what we are-

GABRIEL gets up and exasperates. He wears his boxers.

CATALINA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

GABRIEL

I just don't want to waste your time, or mine. If this is going nowhere, I'm leaving.

CATALINA

Gabriel, I don't know what we are.
And look, I really, really like you
but this, what we are right
now—It's complicated.

GABRIEL scoffs.

GABRIEL

How? I like you, and I think you
like me too. What's complicated
about that?

CATALINA sits up and covers her chest with the sheets.

CATALINA

I'm almost fifty, Gabriel. Won't
you get embarrassed that you're
hanging out with a 50 year old
widow?

GABRIEL

Is that what you're worried about?
Or are you more worried that people
will talk about us. You own half
the world's gold and I'm a
struggling musician. You know what?
It is something to be worried
about.

CATALINA

Gabriel...

Gabriel wears his pants and shirt.

GABRIEL

If I wanted your money, I would be
fine having mindless sex in a hotel
rooms. But I don't want that... I
want you...

CATALINA

Gabriel please listen—

GABRIEL

No, you listen. And I'm going to
ask just once. Will you go out with
me?

CATALINA hesitates. She pulls off her wig. She's bald with
wisps of hair sticking out. GABRIEL stands there in a slight
shock.

CATALINA
I'm balding. Do you still want me?

GABRIEL
(worried)
DO you have cancer?

CATALINA
Alopecia. It's what makes my hair
fall. It's hereditary, my twin
Freddie and I both have it.

GABRIEL sits beside her and takes her hand. He caresses her
face. He looks relieved.

GABRIEL
Jesus, Babe. Is this what you're
worried about? Catalina, I still
want you. Hair or no hair.

CATALINA smiles. GABRIEL kisses her.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
So? What do you say? Will you
finally go out with me?

CATALINA nods and laughs. They kiss again.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL is dazed in his memory. DETECTIVE MONTY watches him
closely.

DETECTIVE MONTY
And since you never asked for any
monetary compensation as part of
your act as the dutiful boyfriend,
you found a way to extort miney
from her, didn't you?

FLASHBACK SHOTS:

CATALINA AND GABRIEL HAVING SEX IN THE BALCONY. KLARISSE,
20S, A SKANKY GIRL WITH A FULL-ON MAKE-UP VIDEO TAPES THEM
WITH HER PHONE FROM BEHIND THE CAR.

CATALINA AND GABRIEL HAVING SEX IN A PARKING LOT. KLARISSE
TAKES A VIDEO OF THEM FROM BEHIND A POST.

CATALINA AND GABRIEL HAVING SEX IN THE LADIES' ROOM. KLARISSE STANDS ON TOP OF THE OTHER STALL TO TAKE THE VIDEO.

CATALINA SITTING IN HER OFFICE DISTRAUGHT, HER LAPTOP IS OPEN. AN ANONYMOUS EMAIL IS SENT TO HER WITH ONE OF THE VIDEOS ATTACHED: "DEPOSIT \$100,000.00 INTO THIS ACCOUNT NUMBER FU25D456 TOMORROW AT NOON OR YOUR VIDEO WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. DO NOT CALL THE POLICE."

CATALINA OPENS HER ONLINE BANK ACCOUNT AND TRANSFERS \$100,000.00. SHE CONFIRMS IT. SHE LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE'S ABOUT TO PASS OUT.

GABRIEL IS IN THE NEXT ROOM. HIS PHONE BUZZES A NOTIFICATION. RECEIVED PAYMENT. HE SMILES SINISTERLY.

GABRIEL GOES INTO CATALINA'S OFFICE WITH A SMALL ADORABLE STUFF TOY GIFT. SHE SHUTS HER LAPTOP IN A HURRY. GABRIEL GIVES HER THE STUFF TOY AND HUGS HER FROM BEHIND. SHE LAUGHS BUT THERE'S WORRY IN HER EYES. SHE DOESN'T SUSPECT HIM AT ALL.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

Even if you deny this, Mr. Milby, we have evidence of your online transactions. Even though Mrs. Aurello didn't report this to the police, someone close to her did. We have discovered that Mrs. Aurello transferred \$100,000 three times during the course of this blackmail. In total, you have received \$300,000 from her, didn't you? You can deny all you want, but we have the videos, the laptop and the bank account that's linked to your name.

GABRIEL looks up, nervous.

GABRIEL

I did not kill Catalina.

The needle graph spikes.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY:

INT. CATALINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark with just a table lamp on. In SANDY from GREASE costume and pink wig, CATALINA'S body is lying spreadeagled on the floor with her throat cut open clean. Her mouth spurted foam. Blood pools around her. As the blood reaches her hand, on her finger, a diamond ring sparkles brightly.

ROCCO (O.S.)

(angry)

Mother! Mother! Where are you? I need to talk to you! You cannot marry Gabriel not until you put my name back in the Will! That money is rightfully mine! Mother!

ROCCO, now 30, walks into the room and turns on the light. He is dressed as *FREDDY MERCURY* with a mustache, white tank top and tight denims. He is in shock. His mother has just been murdered.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

Mother...? Mother...? NO!!!!!!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ROCCO, in his blood-stained *FREDDY MERCURY* costume, sits with his arm rigged to the machine. He is in shock but tries to cooperate. DETECTIVE MONTY reads through his papers.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Mr. Rockefeller Aurello-

ROCCO

ROCCO. I hate being called Rockefeller. It's what you'd name your yapping chihuahua.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Okay, Mr. ROCCO Aurello, (sighs deeply) According to our sources, your father removed you as the heir of Precious Stones & Minerals Mining Group from his Last Will and Testament. And your mother is honoring this when she passes on?

ROCCO

How convenient. Now she's dead. And I'm just left with a spare change worth five million dollars.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Wow, five million dollars? That's hefty.

ROCCO

Hefty? Five million dollars is hefty to you when the Aurello Precious Metals Mining Group is worth seven point two billion dollars?

DETECTIVE MONTY

Do you have any idea why your father may have removed your name from the Will?

ROCCO

My mother, Catalina, is-was an unpredictable woman. She's going to do everything as long as she gets what she wants. And what she wants is for me to suffer.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Apparently you're a film director? But none of your films raked in cash. Most of them are... flops.

ROCCO

I don't make generic features.

DETECTIVE MONTY

And because of these flopped films, you owe your investors a ton of money that cost around five million dollars? They were about to press charges against you but your mother paid them off.

ROCCO

To be clear, it was my money she used to pay them off. That was my inheritance which she won't release to me until she's dead! And yet she would marry some scum bucket turd who's blindly ripping her off and she doesn't suspect a fucking thing! That's why I wanted her to reverse my father's Will and have her name me as her heir to the company and-- wait a minute...

ROCCO leans back on his chair and realizes something.

ROCCO (CONT'D)
 You're not suspecting that I killed
 my own mother, are you?

SUPER: TEN YEARS AGO

INT. CATALINA'S MANSION - OFFICE LIBRARY - DAY

A LAWYER just finished reading the LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of
 FELIX AURELLO. CATALINA sits on a chair beside ROCCO who is
 livid and gets up. FREDERICA sits on the opposite chair.

LAWYER
 And that concludes Mr. Felix
 Aurello's Last Will and Testament.

ROCCO
 Five million dollars?! Are you
 fucking kidding me? Why do I only
 get five million dollars?! Mother!
 Answer me!

FREDERICA
 ROCCO. Don't talk to your mother
 that way-

ROCCO
 No Aunt Freddie, this is not right!
 I'm his son, I'm their son and I
 don't get to inherit the company?
 What did I do to Father? I was a
 good son to him!

CATALINA
 ROCCO, this was your father's Will.

ROCCO
 Did he cut me off because I'm gay?
 Did you tell him I'm gay?

CATALINA
 Of course not!

ROCCO
 Then why did he?

CATALINA
 That was his decision, ROCCO. I
 don't know what goes inside his
 head.

ROCCO

Well of course you don't. You were never there for him at all. You're just in it for the money too. You were nothing but a skanky little 90s wannabe who stole someone else's fiance because you got conveniently knocked up--

SLAP! CATALINA slaps him. ROCCO is defiant.

CATALINA

You don't know anything.

FREDERICA steps in between them.

FREDERICA

Cat, ROCCO... Please, stop it. The lawyer's still here.

ROCCO

One day, Mother. I'll get what's rightfully mine. I'll get it, I swear.

ROCCO leaves in a huff. CATALINA hugs FREDERICA and cries. FREDERICA consoles her.

LAWYER

Mrs. Aurello, doesn't ROCCO know the truth?

CATALINA

ROCCO cannot know the truth. He must not know the truth.

FREDERICA rubs CATALINA'S shoulders to comfort her. FREDERICA looks at the door with great concern.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Standing by a tall table set outside the garden, ROCCO, in FREDDY MERCURY costume, is smoking a cigarette with his partner, JESSIE.

JESSIE, mid 20s, nerd-type with thick-rimmed glasses in PRINCE costume of a purple long coat with lacy cravat. JESSIE is a paralegal. A piece of glass with white COCAINE powder is on the table. JESSIE lines up the COCAINE in rows with a *RETRACTABLE CUTTER'S BLADE* and snorts with a rolled-up paper up his nose.

JESSIE

Woow! This place is huge, Boo.

ROCCO

Welcome to my childhood nightmare.

JESSIE

When can I meet the monster who raised you?

ROCCO

I'd rather you didn't. But it's too late. You're here now, and dressed up as Austin Powers.

JESSIE

Austin Powers? Aww, Boo, come on. I'm Prince. Can't you tell?

JESSIE does a small twirl. ROCCO takes the rolled-up paper from JESSIE'S hand and snorts up COCAINE.

ROCCO

(giggles)

Sorry to break it to you hon, but you're definitely Austin Powers.

ANNALYN, mid 20s, half-Asian, young and pretty maid, carries a tray of drinks to them. She puts the drinks down at their table. She's shy and timid. The men didn't even bother to hide their drugs from her.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

Are you Shirley's daughter?

ANNALYN

Yes, my name's Annalyn.

ROCCO

Are you new here, Annalyn?

ANNALYN

Just started six months ago, Sir.

ROCCO

Does my mother bring around any guys aside from Gabriel?

ANNALYN

Sir?

JESSIE

Don't grill the help, Boo. She won't tell you anything.

ROCCO ignores him. He pulls out a hundred dollars and hands it to her. She shakes her head at first.

ROCCO
I won't tell if you won't.

ANNALYN looks flustered but she takes the cash.

ANNALYN
Kenzo comes here whenever Gabriel's out. He's the one in that Axl Rose costume.

JESSIE
Ooh, he is hot. Props to your mom, boo.

ROCCO glares at him.

ANNALYN
Your mother just bought Kenzo a Hummer for his birthday last month.

JESSIE BOY
Boo, I hate to tell you this, but your mother spends way too much dough on her sugar babies. That's why we need to get your name on that Will before these bloodsuckers bleed her dry.

SHIRLEY, 50s, Asian, petite, comes out.

SHIRLEY
Annalyn!

ANNALYN
Sorry, I have to go.

ANNALYN leaves them. JESSIE snorts up, he passes the rolled-paper to ROCCO who shakes his head to decline.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

SHIRLEY and ANNALYN are carrying plates and utensils in the dining room to set up the wares for the dinner. SHIRLEY goes around the table to set it up while ANNALYN is behind her with the plates.

SHIRLEY
What were you and ROCCO talking about outside?

ANNALYN

Nothing, Mom. They're just asking when I started here. That's all.

SHIRLEY eyes her suspiciously but continues to set the table.

ANNALYN (CONT'D)

ROCCO seems nice—

SHIRLEY

(scoffs)

Nice? They act nice because they want something from you. Don't trust their sort. In their eyes, we're nothing. Don't you forget that.

ANNALYN

I'm about to take my nursing license exam and I'll be able to find work. I'll get us out of here so you don't have to work anymore.

SHIRLEY

Thanks, honey. I'm so proud of you and I'm very glad I raised you right.

They are still setting up the table when FREDERICA, in a loud *CYNDI LAUPER* orange and red wig, metallic make-up and costume goes to the dining room.

FREDERICA

Shirley, can you bring up a tray of chamomile tea for Catalina, and also a bottle of aspirin.

SHIRLEY looks at ANNALYN.

ANNALYN

It's okay, I'll finish this up.

SHIRLEY nods suspiciously and leaves the dining room. FREDERICA proceeds to straighten some of the plates and utensils on the table.

FREDERICA

Make sure everything's aligned, okay, Annalyn?

ANNALYN

You look so pretty, Cyndi Lauper.

ANNALYN approaches her coyly. FREDERICA looks at ANNALYN curiously and turns to look if anyone can see them. ANNALYN giggles. She fixes FREDERICA'S wig a bit.

ANNALYN (CONT'D)
Don't worry, nobody can see us.

FREDERICA
(unsurely)
Are you sure?

ANNALYN
Girls just wanna have fun, right?
After the party, I'll go to your
condo tonight. We'll have our own
party there.

ANNALYN kisses her quickly on the lips. FREDERICA is stunned.

ANNALYN (CONT'D)
Happy birthday, Freddie.

SUPER: SIX MONTHS AGO

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

CATALINA and FREDERICA are having coffee by the patio.
FREDERICA is in a scrub suit reviewing some papers seriously.

CATALINA
I'm glad you're teaching classes
nearby. At least you get to stay
here with me every weekend.

FREDERICA
(grumpily flips through
her document)
Yeah, well it's only temporary. I'm
doing this as a favor to the Chief.
I'm already swamped at the ER and I
don't need the extra workload to
teach students how to cut up and
sew up pig skins at 8am on a
Saturday morning.

CATALINA
Cheer up. This is a good thing. The
Chief's tapping you to take up his
position someday (looks across the
lawn)

FREDERICA looks up. SHIRLEY is walking towards them with ANNALYN in tow. ANNALYN is wearing shorts. FREDERICA discreetly observes her.

FREDERICA
Who's that girl with Shirley?

CATALINA
That's Shirley's daughter. She's going to stay and work here temporarily since she's taking classes for an examination apparently.

FREDERICA
I didn't know Shirley had a full-grown daughter.

CATALINA
That's why she left in the first place, to raise her daughter. Then she came back five years ago since her daughter was off to college. She needed the cash and I needed someone I can trust in this house.

FREDERICA
(snorts)
You trust her?

CATALINA
And you don't? She been with the family for such a long time.

FREDERICA
I don't know. She just seems too eager all the time. I bet her daughter's doesn't fall far from the same annoying apple tree.

CATALINA
Be nice, Freddie.

SHIRLEY approaches them. ANNALYN stands behind her mother.

SHIRLEY
Mrs. Aurello, Ms. Freddie, this is my daughter, Annalyn.

ANNALYN nods and smiles at them. For FREDERICA, the time seems to stop. She's smitten by ANNALYN'S simplistic, bare beauty.

FLASHBACK SHOTS OF FREDERICA AND ANNALYN

FREDERICA IS SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM COUCH WORKING ON DOCUMENTS AND BOOKS. ANNALYN BRINGS HER A TRAY WITH WHISKEY BOTTLE AND A GLASS AND SETS IT DOWN. FREDERICA WATCHES HER CLOSELY, ANNALYN SMILES.

FREDERICA FELL ASLEEP ON THE COUCH, ANNALYN BRINGS HER A BLANKET AND COVERS HER. ANNALYN ARRANGES THE PAPERS, BOOKS AND THE BLACK MEDICAL BAG ON THE TABLE NEATLY.

FREDERICA WAKES UP AND SEES THE BLANKET ON HER AND NEATLY ARRANGED PAPERS. SHE SMILES INWARDLY.

FREDERICA IS WORKING AGAIN IN THE LIVING ROOM. PAPERS ARE SCATTERED, HER MEDICAL BAG IS OPEN WITH DIFFERENT SURGICAL EQUIPMENT LAID OUT ON A BLACK FOLDABLE CASE SUCH AS SURGICAL BLADES, GAUZES, NEEDLES, AND SUTURES.

ANNALYN BRINGS HER A TRAY OF WHISKEY AND GLASS. ANNALYN SETS IT DOWN. FREDERICA ASKS HER TO SIT BESIDE HER. SHE DESCRIBES TO ANNALYN THE STUFF SHE'S DOING. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER KNOWINGLY.

FREDERICA IS IN THE BEDROOM GETTING READY FOR BED. ANNALYN BRINGS HER A TRAY OF WHISKEY. ANNALYN SETS IT DOWN ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE. FREDERICA POURS ONE FOR HER. ROMANTIC LOOKS EXCHANGED. THEY KISS SOFTLY.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

ANNALYN is sitting on the chair, her arm is rigged to the lie detector machine. She looks as though she had been crying.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Ms. Annalyn Lester. How long have you been working at the mansion?

ANNALYN

Six months, temporarily.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Temporarily?

ANNALYN

I'll be taking my nursing license exam soon. I've been studying at the test center in St. Germain every Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

DETECTIVE MONTY

At St. Germain? Isn't that two hours from here?

ANNALYN

It's the best review center in the province. I stay at a friend's house and then I come back here on Saturday mornings for work.

DETECTIVE MONTY

During the course of six months, has anything happened between you and Ms. Frederica James? The twin sister of the victim?

ANNALYN gasps and thinks about her answer.

ANNALYN

I didn't mean to fall for Freddie.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Tell me, did Dr. James and her sister ever had a fight?

FLASHBACK SHOTS

ANNALYN PEEKS INTO THE OFFICE LIBRARY AS FREDERICA ARGUES WITH CATALINA WHILE WAVING A DOCUMENT IN HER FACE.

ANNALYN KNOCKS ON THE DOOR, THE SISTERS STOP ARGUING WHILE ANNALYN BRINGS A TRAY OF TEA.

FREDERICA SAYS SOMETHING AND CRUMPLES THE DOCUMENT AND THROWS IT AT CATALINA'S FACE THEN LEAVES. AS ANNALYN SETS THE TRAY DOWN, CATALINA LIGHTS UP A CIGARETTE.

INT. FREDERICA'S BEDROOM CONDO - NIGHT

At Frederica's condo. ANNALYN and FREDERICA are covered under the sheets. FREDERICA is staring off while ANNALYN snuggles with her.

ANNALYN

You seem to be in a bad mood. What did you two fight about?

FREDERICA snorts.

FREDERICA

You shouldn't be asking those kinds of question. You still work for my sister, your boss.

ANNALYN snuggles closer.

ANNALYN

I'm just worried about you,
Freddie. I've never seen you get
that angry before. It must be that
upsetting, huh?

FREDERICA is irritated and turns away from her.

FREDERICA

Annalyn, do you mind staying at the
mansion tonight? I just want to be
left alone.

ANNALYN is hesitant but gets up and leaves.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ANNALYN

That was the only time I saw them
fight.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Do you know what it was about?

ANNALYN looks hesitant.

FLASHBACK

INT. OFFICE LIBRARY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CATALINA and FREDERICA are in the office library arguing.
FREDERICA is angry, waving some document.

FREDERICA

DNA test! Rocco submitted a request
for a paternal DNA test!

CATALINA

Calm down, Freddie-

FREDERICA

If it weren't for the head of the
DNA lab, I wouldn't have known
about this. We wouldn't have known
that Rocco requested this!

CATALINA

Freddie-

FREDERICA

This is a fuckin' A-bomb Cat! And it's all your fault. I don't know why I ever listened to you--

CATALINA

We both agreed to this. We both wanted this.

FREDERICA

You wanted this! And now he's gonna find out the truth--

CATALINA

We don't know that yet. Maybe he won't go through with it. And maybe it's a good thing that he does--

FREDERICA

This request? (waves document in front of Catalina) It's a good thing?

ANNALYN knocks and brings in a tray of tea. FREDERICA and CATALINA stop arguing.

FREDERICA (CONT'D)

Everyone's right. You really are a selfish whore. And it took me my entire life before I could see it.

FREDERICA crumples the document and throws it at CATALINA'S face and leaves.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

Annalyn? Annalyn?

ANNALYN looks up from her deep thoughts, worried.

ANNALYN

I don't think Freddie killed her sister. No, Freddie did not kill her sister...

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A ten-seater dining table is laid with food and pastries. CATALINA sits at the head of the table and on her left is GABRIEL. Beside GABRIEL is KENZO, then KLARISSE, then MAXIMO.

To CATALINA'S right is ROCCO, then JESSIE, then BLESSILDA. At the other end of the table sits FREDERICA. Most of the guests are chatting away. FREDERICA seems bothered, MAXIMO notices this. He leans to talk to her.

MAXIMO

Freddie, are you okay?

FREDERICA

(snaps)

I'm fine. (drinks a glass
of wine)

BLESSILDA overhears.

BLESSILDA

Oh, Freddie dear. I know the feeling. Catalina is once again the center of attention even though it's both your birthdays. She always steals the spotlight while we old-timers are lumped here in the back.

FREDERICA

What the hell are you babbling about, Blessilda?

BLESSILDA

Oh, nothing. It's just that I overheard that her young beau will be proposing to her tonight. Isn't that outrageous?

MAXIMO

(disbelief)

Gabriel's proposing?

FREDERICA

It is outrageous.

BLESSILDA

(to Frederica)

Catalina Aurello strikes again. I can't wait to see Rocco's reaction when he hears this. That boy is going to flip mad as hell.

(MORE)

BLESSILDA (CONT'D)
 I wonder where he got it from.
 Felix was not hot-tempered at all.

MAXIMO
 (to Blessilda)
 Catalina can make her own
 decisions. If that's what makes her
 happy, I'm happy for her.

FREDERICA
 You mean that, Maximo?

MAXIMO
 From the bottom of my icy cold
 heart.

BLESSILDA
 I don't think I wished Felix a
 happy marriage after he chose
 Catalina over me.

SUPER: THIRTY YEARS AGO

INT. MANSION'S GARDEN - DAY

Young FELIX and BLESSILDA in the garden standing, facing each other. BLESSILDA slaps FELIX. She's crying.

BLESSILDA
 How can you do this to me, Felix?
 How can you do this to me?!

FELIX
 Blessie, forgive me... I don't know
 what else to do...

BLESSILDA
 You could have kept it in your
 pants! You were supposed to marry
 me! Not that whore!

FELIX
 I have to marry her. My family's
 reputation will be ruined if I
 don't.

BLESSILDA
 Your name is more important than
 your promise to marry me? How about
 me? How am I supposed to face this
 alone?

FELIX looks ashamed. BLESSILDA takes off her engagement ring and gives it back to FELIX.

BLESSILDA (CONT'D)
I just hope she's worth the fuck.

She leaves FELIX standing.

FLASHBACK

INT. MANSION'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

On the side table, a picture of FELIX and CATALINA married. CATALINA is sitting on the couch, sporting a long hair with bangs and reading a magazine, 9 months pregnant. FREDERICA, short hair, glasses, sits across drinking tea. FELIX goes in the living room followed by FELICIANO, 50s, father of FELIX.

FELICIANO
Frederica, you must let me pay your medical school. After all, (puts his hand on Frederica's shoulder, lets it linger) you're now part of the family.

CATALINA
(stern)
That's so kind of you, Feliciano.
But Freddie can manage--

FELICIANO
I insist, Catalina. Frederica, call my secretary to write you up a cheque. (squeezes her shoulder)

FREDERICA
(sweetly)
If you insist, thank you so much,
Mr. Aurello.

FELICIANO
Call me Feliciano.

FREDERICA
Alright, thank you Feliciano.

CATALINA glares at FREDERICA.

FELICIANO
(winks at Frederica)
My pleasure. As much as we'd like to stay and chat, Felix and I have to get going.

(MORE)

FELICIANO (CONT'D)

We're going to check that new site Felix purchased over at Quebec. Now that I've named Felix as the chairman of Aurello Precious Stones & Minerals Mining Group, he should be learning the ropes as early as now. We should head out soon.

FELIX kisses CATALINA on the head.

FELIX

Don't give birth yet while we're gone.

FELIX chuckles and leaves the room with FELICIANO. CATALINA and FREDERICA look at each other meaningfully.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

CATALINA is in labor, pushing the baby out as a DOCTOR and NURSE assist her delivery. FREDERICA is holding her hand.

DOCTOR

Push!

CATALINA

AAAHHHH!

DOCTOR

One more and push!

CATALINA

AAAHHHH!!!

The baby comes out and cries. CATALINA is relieved. The baby is placed on her chest. FREDERICA is happy. CATALINA is stoic as she holds the baby in her arms.

After the delivery, CATALINA is asleep. FREDERICA is holding and singing to the baby. FELIX rushes into the room as if he ran a marathon. He is surprised to see the baby but welcomes it. FREDERICA gives it to him and he happily carries it around.

FELIX

What name did Catalina give him?

FREDERICA

Rocco. Catalina named him Rocco.

FELIX
 Hi Rocco. Hi Rocco boy... It's me,
 your father...

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. CATALINA'S BEDROOM

ROCCO just turned on the lights and saw his mother's body on the floor with her throat cut open.

ROCCO
 Mother!!!! Mother!!!!

ROCCO rushes to her side, frantic not knowing what to do.

ROCCO (CONT'D)
 Help me!!!!

FREDERICA rushes into the room. She is in shock. GABRIEL, MAXIMO, KENZO, BLESSILDA, KLARISSE, JESSIE, SHIRLEY and ANNALYN go inside. Everybody is terrified. JESSIE stops everyone from going forward.

JESSIE
 Rocco! Get up from there! No body goes near the body! It's a crime scene!

FREDERICA
 That's my sister!

She rushes but JESSIE stops her.

JESSIE
 You're going to destroy the evidence if you step in! Let the police investigate! Call them now! Shirley! Call the police! Hurry!

SHIRLEY nods and goes out. ROCCO gets up and backs away from the body. He is crying. He hugs JESSIE who is trying to console him. FREDERICA burst into tears. ANNALYN tries to rub her shoulder but FREDERICA swats it away and runs off. EVERYONE is in a complete daze and shock.

ROCCO
 (crying)
 I called her a bitch!

JESSIE rubs his back while gazing at the dead body.

JESSIE BOY
Shhh... It's not your fault, Boo...
It's not your fault...

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

JESSIE is sitting on the chair with his arm rigged to the lie detector machine. DETECTIVE MONTY has a folder open. He spins his fidget spinner.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Mr. Jessie Blue Silas. Are you
related to Judge Jessie Belle
Silas?

JESSIE BOY
My grandmother.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Are you a lawyer too?

JESSIE shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

JESSIE BOY
A paralegal.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Must be hard to have that weight on
your shoulders all the time, huh?
To be the grandson of Judge Jessie
Belle Silas.

JESSIE didn't answer.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
We have a record here that Rocco
Aurello was caught with a couple
grams of cocaine last year at a
club. There were no charges. He was
also with somebody but the name of
his companion had been strike out
of our records.

JESSIE
Am I being interrogated? Do I need
a lawyer here present?

DETECTIVE MONTY
That is your right, Mr. Silas. But
this is just a preliminary inquiry.
We're just getting witness accounts
of what happened tonight.

JESSIE

I can have the best damn lawyer here if I want to, but you're a lucky, Detective Monty. This is my partner's mother we're dealing with.

DETECTIVE MONTY shuffles through his papers.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Were there any animosity between Rocco and his mother?

JESSIE rolls his eyes.

JESSIE

Animosity? That's their love language. They always fight.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Because of money?

JESSIE

Money, men, the company--

DETECTIVE MONTY

Is it true Rocco had his DNA taken? And that you're the one who suggested it?

JESSIE purses his lips. He thinks about his answer.

JESSIE

Rocco was removed as the heir of Felix Aurello. Don't you think that was suspicious? Rocco was close to his father. And Catalina can be a very manipulative lady. She didn't marry into money just by being an innocently naive girl. Rocco's dad's health was deteriorating and it's very likely that he was not in his right mind when he removed Rocco in his will. So I pushed the DNA angle to prove he's the rightful and legal heir of his father.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Felix Aurello is dead. Whose DNA did you use for comparison?

JESSIE
Feliciano Aurello's. Rocco's
grandfather.

DETECTIVE MONTY
And what was the result?

JESSIE
It hasn't arrived yet.

DETECTIVE MONTY
And what was Rocco's reaction when
Gabriel Milby Jr. proposed to
Catalina?

JESSIE purses his lips.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

EVERYBODY is seated as before. They're having dinner and
guests are chatting, small talks. JESSIE leans over to
whispers to ROCCO.

JESSIE
Hey Boo, are these your mom's new
friends. They look... Extra boujie.

ROCCO
Please don't rub it in.

JESSIE
What? Maybe Catalina is finally
opening up to new perspectives.
Something fresh.

ROCCO
(snorts)
This is not fresh. My delusional
mother is a serial cradle snatcher.
She likes them hot and young. And
humps like a jackhammer bunny.

JESSIE
Now I know who you take after.

ROCCO
Shut up and eat. We're leaving
after this awful dinner--

GABRIEL stands up and clinks his glass with a table knife. Everybody stops eating and listens to what he has to say. GABRIEL is holding up his glass to make a toast.

GABRIEL

Thank you all for coming to my beloved Catalina's intimate Iconic themed birthday dinner. Oh, and that goes to you too, Freddie, Happy birthday.

GABRIEL nods to her. FREDERICA smiles uncomfortably. MAXIMO, KENZO and ROCCO looks bothered; BLESSILDA and KLARISSE looks smug while JESSIE BOY is curious. CATALINA is in a daze of what's happening.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(to Catalina)

Babe, I know we just met, but even in these few short months of knowing you. I know in my heart that you're the one for me.

CATALINA smiles. GABRIEL takes her hand.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Whatever others might say, I don't give a damn. I'm just happy to be by your side.

GABRIEL kneels and takes out a ring. KLARISSE squeals, JESSIE covers his mouth in shock. The others are silent.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Catalina James Aurello, will you make me the luckiest man tonight and marry me?

CATALINA smiles unsurely. She locks gaze with FREDERICA whose face cannot be read. GABRIEL puts the ring on her finger.

ROCCO

Mother! You cannot marry him!

GABRIEL gets up and faces ROCCO.

GABRIEL

It's up to your mom what she decides.

ROCCO

Don't sell me that bullshit that you love her. You don't love her. You love her billions.

GABRIEL
I'm not after her money, Rocco.

FREDERICA gets up and takes ROCCO by the arm and tries to pull him away from the fight.

FREDERICA
Rocco, stop.

ROCCO
No! Mother is clearly insane for going with this fraudster.

GABRIEL
I'm not a fraud.

KENZO gets up and blocks GABRIEL from lunging at ROCCO.

KENZO
Dude, don't-

GABRIEL
This is not okay, bro. Just because they're rich they think lowly of us-

ROCCO
I do! And you all are extorting her.

GABRIEL
Oh, really, Rocco? And you? Didn't she bail you out because you owe your investors millions that you wasted in partying and drugs? Oh, and by the way, all your movies suck.

JESSIE
You piece of shit!

ROCCO lunges and throws a punch at GABRIEL but hits KENZO instead. MAXIMO pulls KENZO away; JESSIE and FREDERICA pulls ROCCO before KENZO could punch ROCCO back. BLESSILDA and KLARISSE got up to avoid the fight.

FREDERICA
Rocco! Stop it!

ROCCO is reeling. MAXIMO is blocking both KENZO and GABRIEL with his arms from reaching ROCCO.

ROCCO
Oh, would you look at that, Boo.
The awesome threesome.

JESSIE
Now's not the time, Rocco. Let's
not downgrade to their level.

FREDERICA
Rocco, come on.

FREDERICA and JESSIE pull ROCCO out of the room but ROCCO wiggles free and looks back.

ROCCO
Gabriel, do you know what you,
Maximo and Kenzo have in common?
(Pause and smirks) That's right,
even Kenzo. All of you have entered
Catalina's slice of paradise.

FREDERICA slaps ROCCO. ROCCO in shock, walks out. JESSIE follows him. GABRIEL turns to KENZO frowning.

GABRIEL
Kenzo?

KENZO
I love her. I love Catalina, man.
And Rocco's right. You're using her
for her money--

GABRIEL punches KENZO. KENZO nurses his lip. MAXIMO stands in between them.

GABRIEL
You lying trash!

KENZO
I know everything that you and
Klarisse did... I know about the
money--

FREDERICA
What money?

KENZO
Ask your future brother-in-law.

KENZO storms off. CATALINA appears faint as she puts her hand on her chest.

CATALINA
I can't breathe... I need air--

FREDERICA assists CATALINA to go out of the room eyeing the remaining guests suspiciously. GABRIEL bumps against MAXIMO'S shoulder as he leaves, KLARISSE follows him.

MAXIMO shakes his head in disbelief. SHIRLEY and ANNALYN rolls in a three-tiered cake, surprise that the room is empty.

BLESSILDA drinks from her champagne flute in the corner with a smug smile. She swipes the icing with her finger and licks it.

BLESSILDA
Aw, isn't that the sweetest cake?

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

GABRIEL and KLARISSE are smoking outside. GABRIEL is angry pacing back and forth. KLARISSE is sullen.

GABRIEL
What does Kenzo know?

KLARISSE
Everything. He knows everything.

GABRIEL
The videos? The money?

KLARISSE
Everything!

GABRIEL
Why didn't you tell me? You should've said something.

KLARISSE
(scoffs)
I can't predict what he's gonna do. I didn't know he was gonna out us to them.

GABRIEL looks as though he wanted to hit her.

KLARISSE (CONT'D)
It's a silver lining that he sleeps with her, you know. He has his secrets from you, maybe that's why he kept yours.

GABRIEL
And you, you have secrets from me too?

KLARISSE takes a drag of her cigarette.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KLARISSE, in her MARILYN MONROE pink gown, one of her gloves is removed, with her arm attached to the lie detector machine. She tries to light up a cigarette with her lighter that has a sticker logo of a WOMAN'S BODY SILHOUETTE "*Miss Midnight Club*". It won't light. DETECTIVE MONTY strikes a match and lights hers. She took a long drag.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Ms. Klarisse Casper. How did you meet Gabriel Milby Jr.?

KLARISSE

We both worked at the same bar.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Bar?

FLASHBACK

INT. BAR - NIGHT

GABRIEL sings on stage, CATALINA is in front watching. KLARISSE is the waitress who gives CATALINA her drink. CATALINA gives KLARISSE \$100. KLARISSE walks away in awe at the tip given to her.

KLARISSE (V.O.)

I part-timed as a waitress there.
He plays every other night.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)

Have you ever seen Mrs. Aurello go to this bar?

KLARISSE (V.O.)

She's always there whenever Gabriel plays. She even tipped me one time \$100 for a glass of martini.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

Ms. Casper, were you the one who took the sex videos of Gabriel and Mrs. Aurello to blackmail her?

KLARISSE turns pale.

FLASHBACK SHOTS

KLARISSE TAKES A VIDEO FROM BEHIND A CAR

KLARISSE TAKES A VIDEO FROM BEHIND A POST

KLARISSE TAKES A VIDEO FROM THE LADIES ROOM

KLARISSE (V.O.)
Gabriel said he'd pay me. I just
needed the cash.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)
You can go to jail for this, Ms.
Casper.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

KLARISSE starts to cry.

KLARISSE
I didn't think anyone would be
hurt. Gabriel said she was rich a-
and--

DETECTIVE MONTY
Aside from working as a waitress at
the bar. Where else did you work?

KLARISSE frowns.

KLARISSE
Just there, at the bar.

FLASHBACK

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

In a dark room with strobe lights and music, there's a small
couch with a man sitting and drinking alcohol. Two SEXY
STRIPPERS dance on his lap. One of them is KLARISSE. The guy
puts in cash in her bra. She makes him drink more alcohol.
She dances sexily with the other STRIPPER.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

GABRIEL finishes his set at the stage, KENZO is a roadie, he gets the equipment. KLARISSE brings KENZO a bottle of beer. KENZO winks at KLARISSE.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)
How about Kenzo Yoshida, how did you meet him?

KLARISSE (V.O.)
He's Gabriel's friend. We hung out, briefly.

FLASHBACK SHOTS

KENZO IS HOLDING UP A PHONE WITH CATALINA AND GABRIEL'S SEX VIDEO WHILE SHOUTING AT KLARISSE.

KLARISSE IS TRYING TO EXPLAIN.

KENZO SLAPS HER.

KENZO PUSHES HER AGAINST THE WALL.

HE THROWS HER ON THE BED AND THE PHONE AND LEAVES.

KLARISSE CRIES AND BEGS FOR HIM TO STAY. SHE PICKS UP THE PHONE AND STOPS CRYING.

WITH A STRAIGHT FACE AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED, SHE CALLS SOMEBODY. SHE MOUTHS: "HELLO, KENZO KNOWS."

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY
But Kenzo brought you as his date to Mrs. Aurello's dinner party.

KLARISSE
Look, Detective Monty, I can't answer for everyone's motives. (she puts out the cigarette on the table ashtray furiously) Kenzo just asked me, and I went. I wanted to see the place, eat rich people food and drink rich people wine. That's it. (scoffs) I was as surprised as anyone that he's actually Catalina's secret lover.

KLARISSE looks as if she wants to imply that KENZO did it. DETECTIVE MONTY writes down something.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

SHIRLEY is carrying a tray of an *EMPTY TEACUP* and a *BOTTLE OF ASPIRIN* with bags of tea leaves and sets it down on the counter. She finds ANNALYN washing the pots and utensils with yellow gloves in the kitchen sink with water running and splashing all over the place.

SHIRLEY

Don't overload the sink. The water's going to overflow and someone might slip here.

ANNALYN'S clothes are wet.

ANNALYN

Sorry, Mom. I just want to get these done before the party ends. I'm meeting friends after. I'm borrowing some books for the exam.

SHIRLEY

Looks like the party's done anyways. (snorts) That's what happen when you have too much money. Everyone is your enemy. Even your own blood.

ANNALYN

Don't mind them anymore-

SHIRLEY

Why don't you go ahead and change into dry clothes, you don't want to catch a cold when you go out later. Leave these to me.

SHIRLEY opens the cabinet below and found another pair of rubber gloves, beside it is an open package of *RAT POISON* which she pushes in to hide from the view. ANNALYN discreetly sees this but ignores it. She smiles at her mother before leaving. SHIRLEY slides the *EMPTY TEACUP* and its saucer into the overflowing sink and starts to scrub it absentmindedly.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

SHIRLEY is sitting with her arm rigged to the lie detector machine. DETECTIVE MONTY sifts through paperwork.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Ms. Shirley Lester. Are you
married?

SHIRLEY
No, sir.

DETECTIVE MONTY
But you have a daughter.

SHIRLEY
Just the one. Annalyn. She's going
to be a nurse, you know.

DETECTIVE MONTY
You must be proud of her.

SHIRLEY
She's a very bright girl. Top of
her class. She didn't get the
smarts from me though.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Must be from her father then?

SHIRLEY
(shakes her head)
Her father was a stupid man. He
died before he even knew her.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Sorry to hear that. (clears his
throat) Ms. Lester, how long have
you been with the Aurello family?

SHIRLEY
Almost all my life. My mother
worked there before me.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Did they treat you well?

SHIRLEY purses her lips and smiles hard.

FLASHBACK SHOTS

YOUNG SHIRLEY, 20S, BRINGS BOTTLE OF SCOTCH TO YOUNGER
FELICIANO IN HIS OFFICE, HE TOUCHES HER BEHIND BUT SHE DIDN'T
REACT TO IT AND LEAVES.

SHE IS FIXING FELIX'S BED WHEN YOUNG FELIX COMES OUT IN A TOWEL AND DROPS IT IN FRONT OF HER. SHE CONTINUES FIXING THE BED WHILE HE, NAKED, CASUALLY WALKS TO HER.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SHIRLEY

They were wonderful people.

DETECTIVE MONTY

And Catalina James Aurello? Was she a wonderful employer as well?

FLASHBACK SHOTS

PRESENT TIME. CATALINA IN THE GARDEN HAVING BREAKFAST TAKES A SIP OF HER JUICE. SHE SMILES AT SHIRLEY WHO SMILES BACK.

CATALINA IN THE OFFICE WORKING ON PAPERS. SHIRLEY BRINGS HER A FOOD TRAY. CATALINA IS THANKFUL.

CATALINA IN BED, SHIRLEY BRINGS HER NIGHTLY TEA. CATALINA SMILES AT HER. SHIRLEY CLOSES THE DOOR WITH A SMILE.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SHIRLEY

She was. I'm... I'm going to miss her so much.

DETECTIVE MONTY

What can you tell me about Catalina's sister. Frederica James.

SHIRLEY frowns.

SHIRLEY

Ms. Freddie? She's a doctor. She's... She keeps to herself most of the times. Works hard. She's been staying at the mansion for a few months now. She doesn't really ask me to do anything for her. She always asks my daughter. I guess she's more comfortable with Annalyn than with me.

DETECTIVE MONTY

I see.

SHIRLEY

Did you know that Mr. Feliciano Aurello paid for Ms. Freddie's medical school?

DETECTIVE MONTY

When did he do that?

SHIRLEY

When Mrs. Aurello was pregnant with ROCCO. Mr. Feliciano made an offer and Ms. Freddie accepted it just like that. Catalina was furious.

FLASHBACK TO THIRTY YEARS AGO

INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pregnant CATALINA and Frederica in the living room just after FELIX and FELICIANO left.

CATALINA

Why did you accept the money? You have to say no. I can't let you take advantage of the situation--

FREDERICA

He was willing to pay for it. It's for medical school. When will a chance like this come up again? They've got tons of money. This is spare change to them.

CATALINA

We are not some charity case.

FREDERICA

It's not charity--

SHIRLEY brings in a tray of drinks. The TWINS abruptly stop talking. They eye each other meaningfully.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

Didn't that strike you as odd?

SHIRLEY

Odd? Well, she was part of their family now but...

DETECTIVE MONTY

Yes?

SHIRLEY

You see, Mr. Feliciano has been rumored he can be handsy with women... And Ms. Freddie was not spared of the rumor too.

SHOTS

YOUNG SHIRLEY SERVING A GLASS OF SCOTCH TO MR. FELICIANO IN THE GARDEN. HE TOUCHES HER BEHIND.

YOUNG SHIRLEY WASHES THE DISHES. MR. FELICIANO PRESSES HIS BODY CLOSELY BEHIND HER BACK AS HE PUTS THE EMPTY SCOTCH GLASS ON THE SINK, SORT OF WRAPPING HIS ARM AROUND HER. SHIRLEY TAKES THE GLASS AND WASHES IT, IGNORING FELICIANO UNTIL HE LEAVES.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

Did he ever touch you?

SHIRLEY

He never did, sir. Thank God.

DETECTIVE MONTY

And what about Felix? Were there any rumors about him being... handsy?

FLASHBACK SHOT

YOUNG SHIRLEY FIXING THE BED, FELIX COMES OUT IN JUST A TOWEL. HE DROPS THE TOWEL. SHIRLEY CONTINUES FIXING THE BED. FELIX LOCKS THE DOOR. SHIRLEY TURNS AROUND, PUTS DOWN THE WEDDING PICTURE OF FELIX AND CATALINA ON THE SIDE TABLE AND SMILES COYLY AT HIM. FELIX KISSES HER.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

Oh no, Sir. He was a perfect gentleman. He was sweet and kind.

(MORE)

SHIRLEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Too kind actually. He was forced to
 marry Catalina, you see. Even
 though he was already engaged to
 Ms. Blessilda.

FLASHBACK SHOT

YOUNG SHIRLEY IN THE BATHROOM WITH A POSITIVE PREGNANCY TEST.

SHIRLEY IN THE OFFICE LIBRARY WITH FELIX. FELIX SHAKES HIS
 HEAD, AS IF DENYING ITS HIS.

FIVE-YEAR OLD ROCCO COMES INTO THE OFFICE WITH A TEDDY BEAR.

FELIX PICKS HIM UP AND GIVES SHIRLEY CASH BEFORE HE LEAVES
 THE ROOM. HIS GLARING EYES INDICATE "GET RID OF IT."

SHIRLEY LOOKS AT THE CASH AND TOUCHES HER BELLY, QUIETLY
 ENRAGED.

SHIRLEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 That man had honor and integrity.
 He did the right thing to protect
 his family's name from ruin.

FLASHBACK TO THE PARTY

INT. OFFICE LIBRARY - NIGHT

FREDERICA sits on the desk. An empty glass nearby. She opens
 a locked drawer with a key. A manila envelop with DNA
 LABORATORY RESULTS in the front. She frantically opens it. On
 top, it says: *ROCKEFELLER AURELLO and FELICIANO AURELLO DNA*
MATCH. At the bottom, it says: 0.0000%

FREDERICA slumps in exasperation. A knock on the door.
 FREDERICA quickly hides the paper.

It's MAXIMO with an empty glass. He enters the room and walks
 around opening cabinets until he finds an old bottle of
 Scotch. He opens it, sniffs the bottle before pouring it into
 his glass. He takes a sip. He makes a sour-y face.

MAXIMO

Ooh, that's a strong one. (walks around with the bottle) I remember this room. This is where ROCCO caught us.

FREDERICA

You mean you and Catalina?

MAXIMO

Who else? You were there. The old man was there too. What was his name? Feliciano? ROCCO took after his prick of a grandfather. I could tell he's a prick. (drinks)

FREDERICA takes the empty glass beside her and gestures to MAXIMO. He pours her some from the bottle he's holding.

FREDERICA

Yeah and a creep too, apparently. (sips, sour face) What a night huh?

MAXIMO

Hey Freddie? (beat) You never told Catalina about us, did you?

FREDERICA

What do you mean? (sips) What about us?

Maximo chuckles lightly.

MAXIMO

That night, I went by your place? You were studying for your medical school crap and Catalina was out of town for a movie. We just broke up because some rich guy was hitting on her.

FREDERICA

Go on... (sips)

MAXIMO

We got so wasted, and you said... you said you'd never been with a man before...? Do you remember?

FREDERICA

Vaguely. Was I freaking out about studying?

MAXIMO

Yeah! Pretty much. That's why we drank that night. (drinks) And then we did it. I mean, we never spoke about it after--

FREDERICA

Did what? Have sex?

MAXIMO

I don't know if you're serious or you're just pulling my leg--

FREDERICA

I'm kidding of course.

FREDERICA takes a sip.

MAXIMO

Just wondering why you never told your Catalina about us.

FREDERICA

Didn't need to. It wasn't a big deal.

MAXIMO

Oh, okay. Cool.

FREDERICA

Yeah, besides, I'm a lesbian. Always had been. I guess I just wanted to see what it's like you know, what's the hype behind having sex with a man.

MAXIMO

Oh, right. Yeah, um. Good to know. Freddie, into women. Got it.

MAXIMO and FREDERICA raise their glasses to each other and drink when ROCCO screams.

ROCCO (O.S.)

Mother!!!! Mother!!!!!! Help me!!!!

FREDERICA'S face is filled with dread.

INT. CATALINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A couple of police are there, taking pictures of the crime scene, the bloody body of CATALINA. They mark the evidence they find.

DETECTIVE MONTY exhaustively enters the scene, FIDGET SPINNER in his hand, and speaks with SERGEANT HARRIS, 40s, in a police jacket, white gloves and a cap holding a clipboard and pen.

DETECTIVE MONTY

What do we got, Sergeant Harris?

SERGEANT HARRIS

Apparent homicide, Sir. Her name was Catalina James Aurello, age 50. Today was actually her birthday.

DETECTIVE MONTY

The Catalina James who married that mining mogul?

SERGEANT HARRIS

The one and only.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Oh... I used to be a fan. Had her posters on my dorm room wall, her magazines... She was something back then.

SERGEANT HARRIS

I can't imagine you having any interest in anything at all. Besides your job, sir.

DETECTIVE MONTY

(snorts)

Haha. Okay, Harris. Walk me through it.

SERGEANT HARRIS walks around the body with his clipboard.

SERGEANT HARRIS

Right. A clean cut right across the base of her jaw from left to right. Looks like the perpetrator did it from behind, pushed the victim's neck forward for the blade to precisely cut through the jugular vein. But why the need to push the neck forward?

DETECTIVE MONTY

Hmm. Perhaps it was a short knife?

SERGEANT HARRIS

Like a pocket knife?

DETECTIVE MONTY

An extremely sharp one.

SERGEANT HARRIS

But look. (he squats to inspect)
It's thoroughly clean. Like an
expert slaughterer.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Slaughterers prefer long and heavy
knives. Our suspect used a short
and remarkably thin blade. This act
almost has a touch of... Almost
like a touch of grotesque finesse
to it.

SERGEANT HARRIS

Grotesque finesse, right. (writes
on clipboard) So someone smart
then. We can easily eliminate the
dumb ones.

DETECTIVE MONTY squats and observes the amount of blood.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Does this look like too much blood
to you?

SERGEANT HARRIS

Sir?

DETECTIVE MONTY

Look at the way she bled out.
(inspects closer at the throat) No
clotting... (he sniffs close to her
mouth) I guess we have to include
the dumb ones too. No one leaves
the house. I want everyone down at
the station within the hour. Plus I
want you to add someone on that
list.

SERGEANT HARRIS

Someone who was not in the house at
the time of murder, Sir?

DETECTIVE MONTY

Precisely.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

FELICIANO, in a fedora hat and suit, white-haired with an air
of affluence. DETECTIVE MONTY browses through some papers.

FELICIANO

(disgusted)

This is preposterous. Why am I even here, Detective Monty?

DETECTIVE MONTY

We are questioning everyone related to the victim--

FELICIANO

I was not even in attendance at that woman's dinner party--

DETECTIVE MONTY

Mr. Aurello, did you submit a sample of your specimen to the DNA laboratory to prove that you are blood-related to your grandson, ROCCO?

FELICIANO

Why, yes. We went there together, about a month ago I believe. But what does that have to do with the murder--?

DETECTIVE MONTY

Everything. The DNA result plays a key role in this horrifying incident.

FELICIANO

I don't understand... ROCCO just wants to prove that we are related so he can overrule his father's Will in court... Unless... No... It can't be...

DETECTIVE MONTY

I'm afraid so, Mr. Aurello.

DETECTIVE MONTY pushes an ENVELOPE with *DNA LABORATORY RESULT* written in front. FELICIANO takes out the paper from inside. His eyes widen as he reads it. He covers his mouth in shock.

SUPER: 30 YEARS AGO

INT. OFFICE LIBRARY - DAY

FELICIANO is seated behind the desk while FELIX is standing in front of him, his head lowered in shame. FELICIANO stands and slams the table in front of him.

FELICIANO

(angry)

What were you thinking Felix?! You are engaged to Blessilda Rogers whose father owns one of the largest cargo shipping lines in North America!

FELIX

I'm sorry, Father--

FELICIANO

(scoffs)

Are you even sure you're the father? A girl like her? She's a predator hoping to reel in the next sucker she sinks her teeth into. And you, you're the biggest sucker out there. Dammit!

FELIX

But I am the father. It matches the time we... the time we spent together.

FELICIANO

You're ruining our name and our company's reputation.

FELIX

What should I do?

FELICIANO

We have no choice. You must marry that girl.

FELIX

Marry her?

FELICIANO

Our stocks are down and we're hurting right now. If a word of this scandal gets out, we're done. We must do it before the press gets a wind of this. We'll release a statement that you two fell in love and eloped. The papers eat that kind of crap. But we must do this before she starts showing.

FELIX

But what about Blessilda?

FELICIANO
You deal with her. This is your
screw-up, not mine.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

FELICIANO, he's dazed and stumped.

FELICIANO
She manipulated us all. And I was
right about her. My son never
listened. Oh God. Did Felix know
about this? He did, didn't he?
Oh... (realization hits) That's why
he removed ROCCO from his Will.

DETECTIVE MONTY
That's what we believe so too.

FELICIANO
Poor boy. Who else knew about this?

DETECTIVE MONTY
I'm sorry, Mr. Aurello. I can't
tell you right now--

FELICIANO
Do you think ROCCO did it? Do you
think ROCCO killed Catalina over
the inheritance?

FELICIANO'S face is ashen as his eyes fell on the DNA result
match of 0.0000%

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. ROCCO'S ROOM - NIGHT

JESSIE is cutting up cocaine on a table with his RETRACTABLE
CUTTER. ROCCO is lying on his bed, staring up at the ceiling.

ROCCO
What was she thinking? She can't
marry that rat.

JESSIE
I didn't hear her say yes.

ROCCO

I'm not on the Will right now, and if she marries him, even with a prenup, he can still manipulate her into getting him everything he wants.

JESSIE

Like a jet? A yacht?

ROCCO

Does it matter? He has access to it all.

JESSIE

Don't you find it odd that the results are not in yet? The lab should've sent it weeks ago.

ROCCO

Call them.

JESSIE

Now? I doubt anyone's working there.

ROCCO

I don't care how you do it. Just call them now.

JESSIE takes out his phone and dials.

JESSIE

I'm only doing this because you brought me here to meet your mother, and that means you're serious about us, right, Boo?

ROCCO

Just call them dammit!

JESSIE

Alright, easy... It's ringing.

LAB STAFF (V.O.)

Hello?

JESSIE

(serious voice)
This is Judge Jessie Belle Silas' Office. I'm calling regarding a court order with one of your patients.

(MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)

There's a DNA test result under Rockefeller Aurello that our office has requested to be released immediately-- On whose authority? Ma'am, this is the Office of Judge Silas. Do I need to call her to speak with you?

ROCCO is gesturing to JESSIE not to screw up.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

What do y? By who..? Dr. Freddie James? Yes, yes, we know her. Well, she hasn't forwarded the copy to our office so please let me know the result or I'll have your employee number--

JESSIE turns pale.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Are you absolutely sure...? Right. Well, thank you for your cooperation.

JESSIE hangs up, shaken. ROCCO frowns.

ROCCO

What happened?

JESSIE

Your aunt took the result--

ROCCO

What?! Why would she do that?

JESSIE

ROCCO... It was not a match. You're not an Aurello.

ROCCO is shocked.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

You have to convince your mother to put your name in the Will now. Before anybody else finds out you're not your father's son.

ROCCO

Why didn't Freddie say something?

JESSIE

Maybe she was just trying to protect you and your mom--Maybe she hasn't told anyone yet. You need to go to Catalina now and change her mind.

ROCCO

(sardonic)

Right. But first, I need to look the part of someone who doesn't know anything. This family is going down to hell.

ROCCO sees the cocaine on the table and the CUTTER BLADE beside it. He pulverizes and lines it using the BLADE. He snorts the coke with a rolled paper.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

Acting 101, baby.

ROCCO bows, still holding the CUTTER in his hand and leaves. JESSIE looks worried.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

JESSIE looks ashen.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Was ROCCO really that angry?

JESSIE

He... He's always angry.

DETECTIVE MONTY

But when he went to see his mother, he was high.

JESSIE

He was furious.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Furious enough to kill his mother?

JESSIE

Rocco would never do that.

DETECTIVE MONTY

I called the DNA lab. She said someone from Judge Silas' office called to specifically request the results of the DNA.

JESSIE looks down. He almost has tears in his eyes.

JESSIE
Rocco would never...

DETECTIVE MONTY
He was high, he's obsessed with the inheritance, then he finds out he's not the biological son of his father. He's angry and hurt... He blames his mother for everything... What do you think would happen next?

JESSIE
(tearfully)
No... No...

DETECTIVE MONTY
Do you have anyone else in mind that you can think of who would hurt Mrs. Aurello?

JESSIE
Did you try asking Blessilda Cua? She hates Catalina to the bone.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

BLESSILDA in the chair, uneasy. DETECTIVE MONTY looks over his notes.

DETECTIVE MONTY
How did Felix die?

BLESSILDA
Is that relevant to this case?

DETECTIVE MONTY
According to this medical report, he died of acute liver failure.

SHOT

FELIX DRINKING IN THE OFFICE AT NIGHT. THE BOTTLE OF HIS FATHER'S SCOTCH ON THE TABLE. A TABLOID HEADLINE OF CATALINA WITH ANOTHER MAN ON THE DESK. HE DRINKS AND PASSES OUT DRUNK ON THE PAPER.

BLESSILDA (V.O.)

He drank too much. Catalina wasn't exactly the wife he thought she would be to him. She drove him over to the edge with her not-so-secret love affairs.

DETECTIVE MONTY

So he drank to deal with her? Why not just divorce her?

BLESSILDA

That's what I thought too. He would still be alive today but... I think... He still wanted another child. One of his own... With her.

DETECTIVE MONTY

So you knew?

BLESSILDA

He had a hunch. That's what Felix told me in the hospital.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Felix lying in the hospital whispering to BLESSILDA the truth.

FELIX

Rocco is not my son... Kill CATALINA after I die...

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

So you knew the whole time? Did you blackmail Mrs. Aurello with this information?

BLESSILDA

I wanted to. But if I did, then I have to carry out Felix's dying wish. To kill her.

DETECTIVE MONTY
But the thought crossed your mind?

BLESSILDA
(inhales)
It crossed, yes. But I never
attempted it.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Where were you at the time of the
murder?

BLESSILDA scoffs and rolls her eyes.

FLASHBACK TO PARTY SHOT

BLESSILDA AND KENZO SITTING BESIDE EACH OTHER ON THE COUCH IN
THE LIVING ROOM. BLESSILDA IS HOLDING A FLUTE OF CHAMPAGNE.
SHE RUBS KENZO'S LEG, GOING UP TO HIS GROIN. HE SWATS HER
HAND AWAY. ROCCO SCREAMS IN THE BACKGROUND AND THEY BOTH LOOK
AT EACH OTHER CURIOUSLY.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY
Do you have any idea who wanted her
dead instead?

BLESSILDA
Aside from Felix? (snorts) You know
they say, it's always somebody very
close to the victim... Very, very
close...

BLESSILDA smiles smugly.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

FREDERICA in *CYNDI LAUPER* costume. Her arm rigged to the lie
detector machine. She absentmindedly taps her RED POLISHED
NAILS on the table. She faces DETECTIVE MONTY. Her face is
smudged from crying, looking dazed.

FREDERICA
(in a quiet voice)
I'm the one who killed her.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Ma'am?

FREDERICA
I killed my sister, Detective
Monty.

DETECTIVE MONTY
You killed her?

FREDERICA
(grunts of stomach pain)
That's what I just said.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Are you alright, Ma'am?

FREDERICA
Do I look like I'm alright to you?

DETECTIVE MONTY
Do you want something to drink?

FREDERICA
(grimaces)
No.

DETECTIVE MONTY flips through his notes.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Then let's start from the very
beginning. Leave nothing unturned.

SUPER: THIRTY YEARS AGO...

INT. STUDIO - DAY

CATALINA is getting photographed in a professional studio by
MAXIMO. She poses clothes and swimwear. HAIR and MAKE UP
personnel retouches her. Then back to the shoot again.

MAXIMO shows CATALINA the pictures, she kisses him.

FREDERICA (V.O.)
CATALINA was a star. She wanted to
be a star. She was on magazines,
she was making movies. She was on
the rise. MAXIMO was her lover but
he was jealous. He was jealous
because she was becoming popular,
and because she's been getting
other men's attention.

EXT. LUXURY CAR - SIDEWALK - DAY

CATALINA getting out of a luxury car and says goodbye to the DRIVER, FELIX. The car leaves. MAXIMO is standing by outside the building and sees this and confronts her. CATALINA pushes him away, ending their relationship.

FREDERICA (V.O.)

She ended their relationship because of his jealousy. And she wanted to rise up. She wanted it all. She was the next big thing...

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)

But she didn't.

INT. SMALL ROOM - DAY

FREDERICA cries to CATALINA. She shows CATALINA a pregnancy test. CATALINA comforts FREDERICA.

CATALINA

But... You're gay. How did this happen?

FREDERICA

Catalina!

CATALINA

Okay, I'm sorry. Uhm, so who's the father?

FREDERICA

Some guy. Doesn't matter. I was drunk and I was stressed out with my exams. Cat, what am I going to do? I'm freaking out.

CATALINA

We'll figure it out.

FREDERICA

I don't want it. I can't... I can't quit my job, I can't quit studying. If I have this now, there's no way I can support myself and this baby alone! I'm supposed to be a doctor Cat... I need to get rid of it.

CATALINA

Don't do something you'll regret, Freddie... I... I may have a plan.

FREDERICA

What plan? There's only one plan!

CATALINA

Trust me on this, okay? It's gonna be alright...

INT. PARK - DAY

CATALINA shows FELIX the positive pregnancy test. He looks at her baffled.

CATALINA

I'm pregnant, Felix. It's yours.

FELIX

But... we used protection.

CATALINA

(shakes her head)

It didn't work. I'm carrying your baby, Felix.

FELIX

How... How long?

CATALINA

Three months.

FELIX

What am I supposed to tell my father? And Blessilda?

CATALINA

Everything. You tell them everything.

INT. MAXIMO'S ROOM - DAY

CATALINA tells MAXIMO she's pregnant with FELIX'S child. He slaps her and her head hits the table. She's bleeding. She is shaking with fright. HE stands there in shock.

MAXIMO

I'm so sorry Catalina... Oh my God, I'm so sorry...

CATALINA

Get away from me.

She stands and walks away bleeding.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

CATALINA in a chic wedding dress and veil, FELIX in a nice suit, takes a picture together. It is their wedding day. FELICIANO stands nearby displeased, FREDERICA wears a loose shirt and leggings to hide the bump watches with despair.

INT. CATALINA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Facing the bathroom mirror. CATALINA is wearing, sweater and jeans. FREDERICA is wearing eyeglasses and a maternity dress.

FREDERICA

Are you sure this is going to work?

CATALINA

We didn't go through all of that drama for nothing.

SHOT

CATALINA IN THE BATHROOM. "BLOOD" IN HER UNDERWEAR. SHE SHOUTS. FELIX GOES IN AND SEES THE BLOOD.

CATALINA ON BEDREST. FELIX HOLDING HER HAND, WORRIED. FREDERICA, WITH A FEMALE DOCTOR, STANDING OVER THE BED SHAKING HER HEAD.

FREDERICA PAYS THE FAKE FEMALE DOCTOR OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM. THE DOCTOR KISSES HER CHEEK KNOWINGLY.

INT. CATALINA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

FREDERICA

What if he insists?

CATALINA

(snorts)

And risk another scare?

FREDERICA

(sighs)

Okay. And what about after I give birth?

The two remove their wigs, they are balding with wisps of hair sticking out from their scalps, they exchange their wigs. FREDERICA removes her glasses and gives to CATALINA.

She wears them. The transformation is complete. CATALINA smiles and hugs a worried FREDERICA.

SHOT

CATALINA-AS-FREDERICA ACCEPTING FELICIANO'S TUITION FEE OFFER, EYES FREDERICA-AS-CATALINA MEANINGFULLY.

FREDERICA-AS-CATALINA GIVES BIRTH IN THE HOSPITAL.

BACK IN THE BATHROOM, THE TWINS SWITCH WIGS AND APPEARANCES BACK. THEY NOD AT EACH OTHER. A SECRET THEY'LL KEEP FOREVER.

CATALINA (V.O.)
 We'll say we need to visit our relatives for a month, you lose all the weight and we come back as us again. Come on, we used to do this when we were kids. No one's going to suspect a thing.

FREDERICA (V.O.)
 You better hope this works, *Freddie*.

CATALINA (V.O.)
 Oh it will, *Catalina*...

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

FREDERICA
 She sacrificed her acting career to save mine. She married Felix, made him believe Rocco was their son. She raised him, she tried her best with him so I can have my own life.

DETECTIVE MONTY
 Does Rocco know you're his mother?

FREDERICA
 (shakes her head)
 It wouldn't change a thing.

BEAT.

DETECTIVE MONTY

(inhales)

You're right, it wouldn't. Because you're not his mother.

FREDERICA

Wh-what are you talking about?

DETECTIVE MONTY

His mother, was the victim. The real Frederica James. She was the one who was killed tonight. And also, you did not kill your sister, *Mrs. Catalina Aurello*.

CATALINA is stumped.

CATALINA

(gasps)

How did you--?

DETECTIVE MONTY

It's very simple, really... It's your nails.

CATALINA looks at her nails.

CATALINA

My nails?

DETECTIVE MONTY

As a fan, I knew you very much liked your red nails. They were your signature style. And also because Dr. James was an ED surgeon, and they simply cannot have nails as long nor sharp as yours in their line of work. It's very hard to operate with those, I imagine. And by the time the coroner's done with the autopsy, they'll figure out that the body is actually hers.

CATALINA

It's my fault-- I'm the reason she's dead. I put her through this. I killed her... It should've been me... Someone wanted me dead... Oh, poor Freddie... I'm so sorry...

She cries.

DETECTIVE MONTY
 (sympathetic)
 Mrs. Aurello, why did you switch
 with Dr. James?

FLASHBACK TO PARTY

INT. OFFICE LIBRARY - NIGHT

CATALINA in SANDY COSTUME hiding behind the curtain
 overhearing GABRIEL AND KENZO in the library about the
 proposal. She has her mouth covered with her hands. The TWO
 men left.

FREDERICA in CYNDI LAUPER costume comes into the office with
 a document. CATALINA comes out from behind the curtain.
 FREDERICA is surprised but didn't waste time to show her the
 document.

FREDERICA shows her a document of the money transaction,
 \$100,000 three times to an account belonging to GABRIEL MILBY
 JR.

CATALINA
 Gabriel plans to propose to me
 tonight? I don't think I can keep a
 straight face until the police
 arrives.

FREDERICA
 Yes you can. Pretend to be
 surprised and just say yes.

CATALINA
 No, no. It has to be you. I'm
 shaking... Look... (shows her
 trembling hand) We have to switch.
 I... I don't think I can face him
 like this...

FREDERICA
 Okay, fine. I'll do it. I just need
 something to calm me down too...

CATALINA
 Chamomile tea always soothes my
 nerves...

FREDERICA
 (snorts)
 Great, and aspirin too for my
 headache.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

In front of the bathroom mirror, CATALINA, in CYNDI LAUPER costume, retouches their make up and puts on the baby pink wig on FREDERICA who is already in her SANDY costume. They look at each other in the mirror and hug.

CATALINA (V.O.)

Freddie found out that it was Gabriel who had been extorting money from me. We planned to have him arrested. But we didn't know he was going to propose so we switched because I was too coward to face him.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CATALINA takes a deep breath.

CATALINA

It's my fault she's dead.

DETECTIVE MONTY

I'm sorry for your loss, Mrs. Aurello. (pauses to let her get her bearings) But do you have any idea who among your guests wanted you dead?

CATALINA

(scoffs)

Blessilda. I imagine my father-in-law wanted me gone too.

DETECTIVE MONTY

He wasn't anywhere near your place.

CATALINA

(inhales)

It can't be Maximo...

DETECTIVE MONTY

And you don't think seeing you with Gabriel triggered something in him that can offset his... temper?

CATALINA

Maximo was hot-headed before but no. I think Maximo is Rocco's father.

DETECTIVE MONTY
 (frowns)
 Have you always known this?

FLASHBACK

INT. SMALL ROOM - NIGHT

FREDRICA and MAXIMO on the floor, with books and bottles, drunk and drinking tequila. MAXIMO was crying because of the breakup. FREDERICA consoles him. They look at each other, MAXIMO removes her glasses and sees CATALINA in FREDERICA, they kiss.

CATALINA (V.O.)
 Maximo mistook me for Freddie. She never told me it was him. (cries)
 Maybe that's why she stuck with me, even after everything I did to her life... She's been carrying this guilt that she slept with my him and he's the father of her child!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY offers her a handkerchief. She takes it and dabs her tears. She grunts again, her stomach hurts.

CATALINA
 (grimaces)
 All this time, she's been living in misery. Oh, and Maximo. He didn't even know... After all this time.

She coughs. She covers her mouth with the handkerchief. Blood comes up.

CATALINA (CONT'D)
 Someone still wants me dead...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Lying on the hospital bed with IV infused in her arm. CATALINA is wearing the CYNDI LAUPER costume still. DETECTIVE MONTY is beside her. A DOCTOR reads off his charts.

DOCTOR
 Your bloodwork came back. You've ingested brodifacoum.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Rat poison. Someone tried to poison
you. Or whoever they think you are.

DOCTOR
(worried)
You're lucky we were able to stop
the bleeding in time.

CATALINA
Would you excuse us for a second,
Doc?

DOCTOR
Sure.

DOCTOR leaves.

CATALINA
Someone wanted me and Freddie dead.

SERGEANT HARRIS runs inside the room frantically. He's out of
breath.

DETECTIVE MONTY
What's happening?

SERGEANT HARRIS
Maximo Potenciano! He's in the
emergency department! H-he started
convulsing and throwing up blood at
the station. We didn't know what
was happening. He said he drank a
bad bottle of scotch.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Another poisoning! I'll go down as
soon as I can.

SERGEANT HARRIS nods and leaves.

CATALINA
I had a glass of that too. At the
library! Someone tried to poison
us. What do we do?

DETECTIVE MONTY
Mrs. Aurello, we have arrested
Shirley Lester, your housekeeper
for poisoning your husband. The
bottle you had, it was the same
bottle she filled with rat poison.

CATALINA

She what?!

DETECTIVE MONTY

Do you know any reasons why Shirley would've done this?

CATALINA

(in shock)

No... I mean... Shirley was gone for years when she got pregnant to raise her daughter-- She only came back after Felix died... Oh, God... You don't think--?

DETECTIVE MONTY

That's right. Shirley's daughter, Annalyn is Felix's child.

CATALINA

What do we do now, Detective Monty?

DETECTIVE MONTY

We're going to catch the killer.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

In a closed room with long table and chairs sit the following: ROCCO, JESSIE, KENZO, GABRIEL, KLARISSE, ANNALYN, FELICIANO, BLESSILDA, MAXIMO, CATALINA as FREDDIE. Most of them still in costume. DETECTIVE MONTY and SERGEANT HARRIS stands by the door. DETECTIVE MONTY has some folders on the table.

DETECTIVE MONTY

How are you feeling, Dr. James?

CATALINA

Better, thank you.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Mr. Potenciano?

MAXIMO

A little but dizzy but otherwise I'm fine. Are we going to get to the bottom of this, Detective? Someone tried to kill me and Freddie.

DETECTIVE MONTY

That's why I called all of you here.

He looks around the room. He takes a paper and looks at it.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
Ms. Shirley Lester, my team has found rat poison under the kitchen sink. Was there a rat problem at the mansion?

SHIRLEY
Years ago. Now they're gone.

DETECTIVE MONTY
They found brodifacoum in Catalina's blood. Highly potent blood-thinners. That's why she bled out that much that fast. You know what's made of brodifacoum? Rat poison.

SHIRLEY
(frowns)
Wait. Are you saying that I killed Mrs. Aurello?

DETECTIVE MONTY
Did you?

SHIRLEY is in disbelief.

SHIRLEY
I would never do that to Mrs. Aurello. She has done nothing wrong to me. She's the one who asked me to come back after Felix died to take care of the mansion. If not for her, I would not be able to send Annalyn to nursing school. I did not poison her.

DETECTIVE MONTY
But you did poison someone, didn't you?

SHIRLEY turns pale.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
Felix Aurello died of acute liver failure with traces of brodifacoum in his blood. He never had this medication prescribed to him by any physician. So brodifacoum plus high-alcohol content, that's a formula for a slow and certainly painful death.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
 And no one would suspect foul play
 because his wife cheated on him and
 he found out he's not the father to
 his only son, (snorts) It's
 understandable that the poor man
 drank himself to death. Lucky for
 you, you were gone for years to be
 placed at the scene where the
 murder took place. Am I right, Ms.
 Lester?

FLASHBACK SHOT

SHIRLEY CRYING IN THE OFFICE LIBRARY WHEN FELIX LEFT HER
 AFTER SHE TELLS HIM SHE'S PREGNANT.

THAT NIGHT, SHE RETURNS TO THE OFFICE LIBRARY AND PUTS
 CRUSHED RAT POISON INTO HIS BOTTLE OF SCOTCH AND HIDES IT FAR
 INTO THE CABINET. SHE LEAVES THE ROOM WITH HER LUGGAGE.

INT. BOARDROOM ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SHIRLEY
 He was a heartless little bastard.

BLESSILDA
 You killed Felix?!

ROCCO
 Shirley, how could you?

FELICIANO
 I cannot believe this. After all
 these years we've been nothing but
 good to you!

SHIRLEY
 Good?! You can't keep your filthy
 hands to yourself you dirty old
 man!

SHIRLEY is sobbing. ANNALYN is consoling her. DETECTIVE MONTY
 picks another envelope.

DETECTIVE MONTY
 Let's continue on. I have here are
 two DNA results.

ROCCO

We already know that I am not my father's son. That's why I don't get to inherit any of the wealth he's left behind.

DETECTIVE MONTY

You're right. You're not his son. But someone is Felix's child. Annalyn Lester.

ROCCO

What?

DETECTIVE MONTY

She matches DNA with Feliciano Aurello.

FELICIANO

How did you get that? I never had my DNA matched with her. (looks at Annalyn)

DETECTIVE MONTY

You're right, you didn't.

FLASHBACK

EXT. LAB CLINIC - DAY

A male LAB TECHNICIAN, 50s, standing outside holding two envelopes in one hand. He hands DETECTIVE MONTY the DNA results.

As DETECTIVE MONTY inspects the names on the envelopes, the LAB TECHNICIAN lights up a cigarette with a LIGHTER that won't light. The LIGHTER has a LOGO. DETECTIVE MONTY offers to light up the LAB TECHNICIAN'S cigarette.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)

I received a copy of you and Rocco's result. But someone at the lab must have thought I wanted all results by you. Imagine my surprise when I was handed this.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY shows them the second DNA result.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Annalyn Lester, a 90.9% match with her paternal grandparent, Feliciano Aurello. She was the reason Shirley left the mansion. The reason why Shirley poisoned your son.

SHIRLEY

He wanted to kill our baby. Our baby! I cannot let him do that-- If he only knew our daughter, he would be so proud of her.

JESSIE

Wait, how did Annalyn get a hold of Mr. Aurello's DNA? We're the only ones who had it done at the lab?

FELICIANO

I never gave her any samples.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Annalyn? Care to explain.

ANNALYN is tight-lipped.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)

How are your classes at that review center in St. Germain going?

ANNALYN

It's fine.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Except that, you never attended any of those classes, did you?

SHIRLEY

What? Annalyn, you told me you were studying.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Care to tell you mother what you've been doing?

ANNALYN

That's none of your business.

DETECTIVE MONTY

But it is my business. My business to find out why we're all here. That brings me to Ms. Klarisse Casper.

Everyone looks at Klarisse.

KLARISSE

What does that have to do with me?

DETECTIVE MONTY

You told me you've been working part-time as a waitress at the bar where you met Gabriel and Kenzo. But there is another place where you've been working, isn't there?

KLARISSE

You're the detective, you tell me.

DETECTIVE MONTY holds up the LIGHTER with a LOGO *MISS MIDNIGHT CLUB*.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Does this look familiar to you?

KLARISSE

It's a common lighter. Anyone can have those.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Yes, but you see, this one is given to members only of Miss Midnight Club. You can't find it anywhere. You've been working as a stripper--

JESSIE

They prefer exotic dancers.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Very well, an exotic dancer at this club?

KLARISSE looks defeated.

ROCCO

Why does it matter if she worked there?

DETECTIVE MONTY

It matters because Klarisse bribed the Lab Technician at the DNA Clinic. That's how they acquired the sample without Mr. Aurello being present there. Didn't you?

FLASHBACK

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

In a dark room with strobe lights and music, there's a small couch with a man, the LAB TECHNICIAN, sitting and drinking alcohol.

Two SEXY STRIPPERS dance on his lap. One of them is KLARISSE. The LAB TECHNICIAN, puts in cash in her bra. She makes him drink more alcohol. She dances sexily with the other STRIPPER. The other STRIPPER turns out to be ANNALYN.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)
And you were not the only one who worked there. Now tell me, Klarisse. How did you and Annalyn plan the whole thing?

Everyone looks at Annalyn.

SHIRLEY
Annalyn, did you..?

ANNALYN
(to Shirley)
You wanted me to work when we could've had it all! All I had to do was to prove I was his daughter!

GABRIEL
(to Annalyn)
You knew each other? You and Klarisse actually know each other?

DETECTIVE MONTY
There's more to that, Mr. Milby. You see, Klarisse and Annalyn did not just know each other. They carefully planned the whole thing together.

KENZO
Wait. I was with Klarisse. We had a relationship. How did this all happen?

DETECTIVE MONTY
To get everyone on board, it was a matter of meticulous planning.

DETECTIVE MONTY paces around the room.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)

Their goal was for Annalyn to inherit the money. There's already proof she is Felix's daughter via Feliciano's DNA sample. Rocco, in his father's Will, was already removed as heir. The only one who remains between Annalyn and the billions of dollars was Catalina. So, how to eliminate Catalina? Simple, just get her out of the picture and pin it on someone else. And the obvious one would be--

ROCCO

Me. Angry, drug-addicted, drowning in debt, did I already mention the will? Right, the number one suspect to kill his own mother.

DETECTIVE MONTY

But you didn't. And they know it won't be that simple. You see, Annalyn and Klarisse know that Catalina has a natural appetite for young, handsome men. Just the tabloids alone would tell you that. And Gabriel was an easy choice who fit their plan.

GABRIEL

Because I'm young and handsome?

DETECTIVE MONTY

And terribly vain and easily manipulated. At the bar, Klarisse targeted you, urged you to go after Catalina, to charm her, seduce her, to make her fall in love with you. But they wanted to see how gullible is Catalina with her money too. So Klarisse manipulated you into blackmailing Catalina with sex videos. Just to see how far she'd go to protect her reputation.

ROCCO

You took sex videos of my mother?

KENZO

And blackmailed her for it.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Right. But you, Kenzo, you had also been seeing Catalina.

KENZO

I didn't mean for that to happen.

DETECTIVE MONTY

Right. You were not part of the plan. That's why when Annalyn saw you at the mansion, they came up with something to pull you away from Catalina. Klarisse dated you, when that didn't work, she "accidentally" left the sex videos for you to see, thinking that it would deter you. Again, it didn't work. Why? Because you, Kenzo, was truly in love with Catalina.

CATALINA looks at KENZO who frowns a bit as if recognizing CATALINA under the guise of FREDERICA'S Cyndi Lauper costume.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)

It was only a matter of time before Catalina recognizes this, that's why Gabriel had to propose right away. Annalyn and Klarisse saw they cannot control Kenzo. And I assume marriage would be the final step in securing her under their plan.

MAXIMO

So that's it? They made Catalina fall for some schmuck and offed her?

DETECTIVE MONTY

Not quite. To make it look like someone else did the crime, they had to come up with more than one suspect. They had to cover their bases. That's why Annalyn planned to get close to Dr. James. Their relationship was kept from the family so no one knew about it.

BLESSILDA

They're sisters after all. Both liked cheap thrills.

CATALINA glared at her.

DETECTIVE MONTY

At first, when I saw the cut on the victim's neck, I suspected that it was done by someone with professional skills, like someone who is a trained surgeon.

BLESSILDA

Freddie. Top surgeon in the city.

DETECTIVE MONTY

True. But Dr. James had been teaching surgical techniques, and you know who else can understand these medical techniques?

BEAT.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)

A nurse. A trained nurse like Annalyn Lester.

FLASHBACK SHOT

IN THE LIVING ROOM, WITH BOOKS AND NOTES OPEN, FREDERICA FALLING ASLEEP ON THE COUCH.

ANNALYN PUTTING A BLANKET OVER FREDERICA.

ANNALYN LOOKING AT THE BOOKS AND PICTURES OF SURGICAL INCISIONS. SHE STEALS A SCALPEL FROM THE EQUIPMENT BAG.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE MONTY

With the DNA proof on hand. Catalina gone. Many suspects in the house who hate her enough for the police to go around. What could go wrong, right? But what they didn't anticipate was Dr. James figuring out about the transaction irregularities of Gabriel's blackmail.

GABRIEL inhales sharply.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
Nor the fact that Catalina
overheard Gabriel and Kenzo talking
about the proposal taking place at
dinner. And that spooked her out.
And they did what they had done
before to get themselves out of a
sticky situation.

BLESSILDA
What's that?

CATALINA
We switched.

Everyone gasp.

MAXIMO
What do you mean you switched?

CATALINA
We switched, Maximo. It means I am
alive, and Freddie is the one who's
dead.

They all look at each other puzzled.

ANNALYN
(mortified)
Since when?

CATALINA
Before dinner. You killed her,
Annalyn. You killed the person who
actually cared for you.

ANNALYN is ashen.

CATALINA (CONT'D)
That's right. You didn't get me.
You get nothing.

ROCCO sinks to his seat, he slowly goes to CATALINA.

ROCCO
Mother?

CATALINA shakes her head.

CATALINA
I should have told you the truth
from the beginning. We both should.

ROCCO

What do you mean?

CATALINA

I... I'm not your mother, Rocco.

ROCCO

What?

CATALINA

Freddie was. We... we switched when she found out she was pregnant... With Maximo's child.

MAXIMO'S jaw drops.

MAXIMO

What?

FELICIANO

So who married Felix?

CATALINA

I, I did. We only switched when Freddie started showing. She didn't want to stop studying. So I married Felix, I tricked him into thinking I was pregnant so... So Freddie can fulfill her dreams of becoming a doctor.

BLESSILDA

You selfish, conniving whore.

CATALINA

I did what I had to do. For Freddie. And now she's dead because of me.

MAXIMO

Rocco's my son?

CATALINA

I didn't know too, until you told me when you thought I was Freddie. That's when it hit me. You were the one Freddie slept with that night. And she never even told me.

ROCCO

So Freddie was my mother? This whole time?

CATALINA

And you were closer to her, you loved her more than me. I know that and it's okay because she was your mother. I'm sorry Rocco. I'm so sorry we lied to you.

ROCCO takes his seat in a daze. JESSIE consoles him. MAXIMO and ROCCO look at each other awkwardly.

KENZO

Catalina?

CATALINA

(smiles weakly)

It is.

KENZO rushes to her and hugs her tight.

KENZO

I... I don't know what to say... I'm so happy... I'm so happy you're alive...

DETECTIVE MONTY

(clears his throat)

Moving on, after the twins switched, Shirley brought chamomile tea and aspirin to Dr. James, who was now dressed in Catalina's costume. The chamomile tea, which was a frequent drink of Catalina, was laced with brodifacoum. Filled by Annalyn, not Shirley. Since Shirley had no intentions of killing her.

FLASHBACK

INT. CATALINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

FREDERICA standing in the middle of the dim room dressed as SANDY in GREASE with baby pink wig and costume, ANNALYN stands behind her with YELLOW WASHING GLOVES, slashes her throat and leaves.

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.)

And after that proposal incident at dinner, Dr. James fell ill and went up to rest in her room.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE MONTY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It was the perfect timing for
murder really, everyone was in the
house. Except it was the wrong
Catalina.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Everyone sits there in silent shock.

DETECTIVE MONTY
Sergeant Harris? Bring them in.

SERGEANT HARRIS opens the door and SIX cops came in.

DETECTIVE MONTY (CONT'D)
Annalyn Lester, Klarisse Casper,
are arrested for the conspiracy and
murder of Frederica James.

SHIRLEY
You can't do this.

DETECTIVE MONTY
This brings me to you. Shirley
Lester, you are charged with the
murder of Felix Aurello. And
Gabriel Milby Jr?

GABRIEL
I didn't kill anyone!

DETECTIVE MONTY
No but you are charged with
extortion and embezzlement.

The police take the FOUR away.

KLARISSE
This is unfair! You all treat us
like dirt! (to Catalina) You should
have been dead!

ANNALYN
I am the rightful heiress of Felix
Aurello! That money is mine!

CATALINA
No. It is not. It is mine. You
already took what's important to
me. I hope you rot in hell.

GABRIEL

(to Catalina)

I throw up in my mouth every time I
had to kiss you.

KENZO

Good luck kissing other men's
tongues in prison.

GABRIEL realizes he's going to prison. KENZO holds CATALINA'S hand. She puts her head on KENZO'S shoulder. He comforts her. They all watch the FOUR get taken away.

DETECTIVE MONTY

I guess that's that everyone. Case
is closed.

FELICIANO stands to leave, shakes hands with DETECTIVE MONTY and nods curtly at CATALINA. BLESSILDA stands and does a mild bisou bisou with CATALINA as if nothing happened between them.

ROCCO and JESSIE, MAXIMO stand to leave. ROCCO kisses CATALINA on the cheek goodbye. ROCCO awkwardly shakes hand with MAXIMO. MAXIMO returns it with a small, curious smile. MAXIMO nods at CATALINA. He exits the room. ROCCO and JESSIE leave smiling sadly. KENZO shakes hand with DETECTIVE MONTY and leaves.

CATALINA faces DETECTIVE MONTY, a sad smile on her face. She has a big purse on the floor. She takes something out of her purse. It's a picture frame of her back in her heyday with an autograph signed. She gives it to DETECTIVE MONTY.

She kisses his cheek and leaves the room. KENZO is waiting for her. They leave together.

DETECTIVE MONTY chuckles at the photo. He takes his papers, studies the room a bit, knocks on the table and leaves the room.

FADE OUT.

THE END