BUDDIES

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EXT. OAK BROOK, OHIO - ESTABLISHING

The small town is nestled in the lush green countryside. A bright blue sky with puffs of white cloud is the backdrop.

SUPER: Ohio, 1964

Muffled youthful voices and laughter emanate from a dilapidated shed behind an abandoned farmhouse. A lopsided, make-shift sign hangs on the closed door. It reads, in large printing: "Oak Brook Secret Club - Keep Out!"

INT. SHED - DAY

JOEY, BILLY, SAM AND ROY, all 10, are crowded together and sitting in a circle on the floor of the small shed.

JOEY My parents are makin' me go to that stupid fireworks thing in the park. BILLY Mine, too. JOEY It's so childish. ROY We are children. JOEY Leave it to Roy to sound like a 45- year-old. SAM He is right. JOEY Who asked you, squirt? BILLY We all get a say, Joey. JOEY Well, then I say we make this a Fourth of July that will... make us famous.

BILLY (incredulously) How?! Joey's eyes narrow as his idea crystallizes. JOEY Well... I know! The fireworks are in a shed by the bandstand. I saw 'em yesterday. We can steal 'em before anybody gets there. SAM We can't steal them. JOEY Why not, Sam? 'Fraid of getting in trouble? Sam averts his eyes. BILLY We could take them and then have our own fireworks display on the other side of the park. (intensely) Heads would explode! JOEY Cool! ROY I don't think we can do it. SAM I don't think we should. You don't really, do you, Billy? BILLY Look, we'll take an oath not to squeal on each other. But we get word around that we did it and soon... we'll be legends! SAM I don't want to be a legend. JOEY Don't worry. Youwon't be. (beat) Come on. Is everybody in?

Joey puts his hand in the middle of the circle. Billy puts his hand on top of Joey's, then Roy and then Sam tentatively places his hand on top. JOEY Okay... Operation Fireworks is a Go!

EXT. PARK - DAY

The abandoned park is still in the early morning hour. Joey darts out from behind a copse of oak trees followed closely by Billy and Roy. Sam, the smallest in stature, is a distant fourth. They run past the empty bandstand.

STORAGE SHED - LATER

The boys run up to the storage shed. Joey pulls on the door and it opens.

JOEY The losers didn't even lock it!

Joey and Billy giggle.

The boys walk inside. Their eyes grow wide when they scan the array of firecrackers. There are scores of boxes and several huge Roman candles.

JOEY Jeez! Look how many there are.

BILLY And how big they are!

ROY Told you we couldn't do it.

SAM Let's just go.

JOEY Not so fast... I'm not ready to give up my claim to fame so easy! (beat) What can we do, Billy?

Billy's brow furrows as he thinks for a moment.

BILLY Okay... here's what we'll do. We take as many fireworks as we can carry.

ROY There'll be so many fireworks left that they'll still be able to have a show and there goes the legend.

BILLY I know. We'll get a hose from Sam's house --SAM -- Why my house?! JOEY Ignore him. BILLY We'll get the hose, hook it up and soak the rest of 'em. JOEY Then they're totally screwed! And there won't be no show --BILLY -- Until we put on our show on the other side of the park. JOEY This is so great! ROY There's no way we can light the fireworks without getting killed. JOEY We'll have Sam light 'em. SAM (horrified) What?! JOEY Don't worry, Sam. I'd never send a boy to do a man's job. (beat) Come on! Grab 'em!

LATER

The boys are running back across the park, their arms loaded down with fireworks. There is a police car parked off to the side. The Oak Brook POLICE CHIEF is sitting in the police cruiser. He spots the boys and tracks them as they run. He starts up his police car.

> POLICE CHIEF Little pricks!

LATER

As the boys reach the edge of the park, the Police Chief is standing on the sidewalk directly in their path. He has a scowl on his face and his arms are folded across his chest. The boys almost run into him.

> JOEY Oh, my god!

BILLY

We were just... uh --POLICE CHIEF -- You were just stealing the fireworks. (beat) Not sure what in the world you'd do with 'em and why you'd steal 'em.

> SAM I didn't want to.

JOEY Shut up, whimp!

POLICE CHIEF Go on. Turn back around and put 'em all back.

The boys turn around and start back. Billy and Roy run ahead with their fireworks.

POLICE CHIEF (yelling after them) I'll be telling each of your parents. (louder) And whoever doesn't get 'em back there in ten minutes I'll throw in the clinker! Tears start to brim in Sam's eyes.

SAM (to the other boys) I told you!

Joey drops the fireworks he's carrying and grabs Sam roughly by the shirt.

JOEY (angrily) You better shut up, Sam. Or I'll light one of these firecrackers and stick it right up your butt!

Sam pulls away from Joey and starts to run but falls and trips. He moans as he holds his ankle. He starts sobbing.

JOEY (bewildered) What's wrong?!

SAM (whimpering) I twisted my ankle. I can't do it. I'm gonna wind up in jail!

POLICE CHIEF (O.S.) (yelling) Come on. Move it!

Joey scowls at Sam.

JOEY Come on. I don't want to have to visit you in prison.

Joey piles Sam's fireworks on top of his, pulls Sam up and half-carries him as they head for the shed.

EXT. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION - PARK - NIGHT

A crowd has gathered for the celebration. A band is playing patriotic songs.

Sam is seated on a lawn chair with his MOTHER on one side of him and his FATHER on the other. Roy walks by. The boys look at each other.

MOTHER (tersely, to Sam) Don't even think about it.

Billy is sitting with his MOTHER in the stands. She flashes an angry look at him. He avoids her eyes.

A short distance away, Joey is sitting with his parents on a blanket in the grass. As the fireworks explode in the air, they illuminate Joey's stoic face as he gazes up at them.

FADE TO:

EXT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

SUPER: Central High School

Students scurry across the campus of the rambling school as they rush to their classes.

SPORTS FIELD

Joey, now 18, is working out with the football team. He stands and tosses the football around as two GIRLS pass by on the field. They look at him and giggle. He runs over to them and laughs and talks with them MOS.

INT. CLASSROOM - CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Billy, Roy and Sam are sitting alone in the classroom as Joey enters.

BILLY It's about time! JOEY I had things to take care of, chairman. (beat) Besides, I don't know why you put me on the prom committee. I don't give a shit if we even have one.

BILLY I need your brawn.

ROY Since he doesn't have any brains.

JOEY I'll take a hard body over your giant-sized brain any day of the week, Roy.

BILLY Children! Let's all get along.

SAM I think we should have a theme at the prom.

ROY I think we ought to forget the prom and spend the money on something important... like the Biology Department. SAM Why don't we have an anti-war theme? I could give a speech. JOEY Everyone would have to be drunk to get through that. (beat) That gives me an idea... we could spike the punch! BILLY That's rather banal. JOEY I'd probably be insulted if I knew what that meant. SAM Having any alcoholic beverages at the prom is strictly against the school rules. JOEY Ooh... I'd never dream of breaking the rules. ROY It think the whole thing sounds like a snooze. I'd rather read a good book. ROY You do that, Mr. Excitement. The only thing I'm looking forward to is the after party at Mary Ann's house -- no parents and the booze will be flowing. BILLY Okay, I, as your wise and exalted Prom Committee Chair, proclaim that we'll just let the girls decorate the gym however they want to --

JOEY -- Now you're talkin'.

BILLY But no alcohol and... no anti-war theme. Sam sighs. BILLY Sam, if it really means that much... you can give your speech. Sam perks up, a wide smile crosses his face. Billy's face grows serious. BILLY This is probably one of the last things we'll do together. (beat) We've been best buddies since we were ten. We're all going off in different directions, different colleges. (beat) Who knows when or if we'll ever see each other again. Joey, Roy and Sam all appear to be moved by Billy's words. INT. SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT The qym is decorated in traditional prom fare with crepe paper streamers and spinning disco ball in place. The band is playing and the kids are dancing in the semidarkness as Joey dumps a flask of liquor into the punch. LATER Sam is on the dais standing at the mike but he is being drowned out by the loud rock music and the raucous party qoers. SAM

(loud) ... In conclusion, the US Army can't be...

Sam scans the crowd desperately.

SAM (louder) ... We cannot be the policemen for global democracy... GIRL dancing with Joey.

GIRL What's he talking about?

JOEY No one ever knows.

Joey pulls the girl closer and puts both hands on her rear end. She giggles.

LATER

Sam notices several GIRLS who appear tipsy. He seeks out Joey in the crowd.

SAM Did you do it? Did you spike the punch?!

JOEY Don't knock it little buddy 'til you try it.

Sam gets into the face of the much taller and more muscular Joey.

SAM (yelling) You ruin everything you touch!

Joey gives Sam a few vigorous pushes backward. Suddenly, Billy appears and steps in between them.

BILLY Sam, I was just looking for you. (beat) A group of kids over on the couch want to know what the military industrial complex is.

SAM

Really?

LATER

Sam is sitting on the couch with several other STUDENTS talking to them MOS.

One girl has drifted off and another is downing a drink. Sam turns to the other two students who get up and walk off.

SAM (calling after them) Hey, guys, come back. I was just getting to the good part...

The students continue walking away. Sam sighs, takes the glass out of the sleeping girl's hand and takes a drink.

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

SUPER: Three years later

The snow is falling on the modest brick ranch house.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - BILLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joey, Roy and Sam are lounging on the couch and floor around the fireplace. A large decorated Christmas tree is in the background.

Billy enters and hands each one a bottle of beer. Joey holds his up in toast.

JOEY Salute! Now that we're legal we can drink like fishes. (takes a big swig) And believe me I do.

Bill slouches down on the couch.

BILLY (to Joey) So, think you'll go pro?

Joey smiles widely.

JOEY I've already been scouted, man!

ROY A football career is a short one. What will you do after that?

JOEY After I make my millions?! (beat) I'll be fine. You'll all be coming to me for loans!

Joey smiles and winks at the others.

BILLY And, Sam, you'll be teaching by next year, right? JOEY Those who can do, those who can't teach. ROY Teaching is an honorable profession, a tad more honorable than adults playing kids' games. JOEY Fuck you, Roy. SAM How about you, Billy? BILLY I think I may go onto law school. ROY That's not a bit surprising. JOEY He's always been our chief persuader, always could talk us into or out of anything. JOEY There's little doubt where the human lab rat will end up? ROY Rejoice! Medical research may discover a way to fix the scrambled brains of football players. BILLY No matter what happens -scrambled brains to courtroom fact that we are the original

Joey pats Billy on the back.

Joey focuses on Roy.

Billy holds up his beer bottle in toast.

dramas -- nobody can take away the founders of the Oak Brook Secret Club and we'll always be there for each other. We'll keep our oath of secrecy --

SAM

-- and our vow to never squeal on each other, remember that?

Laughter.

ROY Here! Here!

Everyone raises his glass in toast.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

The distinctive skyline of New York City at night spans the screen.

SUPER: Years later

EXT. BAR & GRILL - MANHATTAN - NIGHT

Joey, like the rest of the buddies is now 30. He is sitting at the bar finishing a drink and motioning to the BARTENDER for another. He lights a cigarette and takes a long drag.

Billy enters the crowded, noisy bar craning his neck and scanning the room. A look of recognition comes across his face as he focuses on Joey sitting at the bar.

Billy makes his way through the crowd and gently taps Joey on the shoulder. Joey spins around and looks at Billy. A smile stretches across his face. He stands and shakes hands with Billy then hugs him.

> JOEY It's great to see you, Billy! Really great!

Billy looks Joey up and down.

BILLY I can't believe it... you look exactly the same!

JOEY You, too, man.

BILLY Except I'm still a growing boy -wider instead of taller, that is.

They both laugh.

BILLY Let me buy you a drink, Joey.

LATER

Joey and Billy are sitting at a table. The room has cleared out a bit and the noise level has decreased. Billy is nursing his drink. There are several empty glasses in front of Joey. The WAITER sets another drink down in front of Joey.

> BILLY So, you're moving to the City? (tentatively) Alone?

JOEY Yeah. Alone.

BILLY What happened, Joey?

Joey sighs.

JOEY A lot... a helluva lot.

FLASHBACK

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) College football field: Joey is working out with the team.

JOEY (V.O.) I was on an uphill trajectory when I got that football scholarship to Central.

B) College campus: Joey, on crutches, is making his way through the crowded campus.

JOEY (V.O.) I was poised to go pro until my last year. I got fucked when I broke my leg.

C) Ext. Church: Joey and JANE emerge from the church as man and wife, ducking the rice being thrown at them.

JOEY (V.O.) But I did win the heart of the homecoming queen. She was a vision, wasn't she? BILLY (V.O.) We were all there, Joey -- Roy, Sam and I, our mouths all agape at how beautiful Jane was.

D) Int. Joey's house: Jane, quite a bit heavier with disheveled hair and sloppy clothes, is nursing a baby with another toddler running all around.

JOEY (V.O.) As I said she "was" a vision. After each of our kids, she got fatter and sloppier. My trophy wife turned into a crab-ass ogre.

E) Office: Joey walks by the desk of the female RECEPTIONIST,19. They share a knowing look.

JOEY (V.O.) I got a great job at my father-inlaw's insurance company but that all ended when I got involved with the young receptionist there.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

END FLASHBACK

Joey drains the last of his drink.

JOEY I lost my job, got divorced, married the little receptionist and had a kid with her.

BILLY Where's... where is she?

JOEY We only stayed married a few months. (beat) The little bitch cheated on me.

Joey goes to take another drink but his glass is empty.

JOEY What happened, Billy?!

Joey appears desperate, afraid like he almost doesn't know where he is. He shakes his head to recover a bit.

JOEY Somehow my hopes and dreams weren't lining up with reality.

JOEY (CONT'D) (beat) I remembered that you and Roy had both wound up in New York so I decided to move here... kinda start all over and maybe reconnect to a better time. Joey and Billy are silent for a moment. BILLY (gently) What are you going to do? JOEY I'll find something. Got to... I owe child support on three kids now. BILLY You'll see it through. (beat) Roy just ran into Sam the other day. JOEY How is the little pain in the ass? Billy chuckles. BILLY I'd lost touch with him for a few years. But he's in the metro area, too. Joey raises his glass in mock toast. JOEY Sounds like it's reunion time for the old Oak Brook Secret Club. EXT. SKYSCRAPER - MANHATTAN - ESTABLISHING - DAY A towering skyscraper standing taller than the buildings around it is focused upon.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY

A swanky hallway leads to the glistening double-glass doors embossed with gold lettering that reads, "FOSTER, HALL AND WITT, Attorneys-at-Law". INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY Billy is at his desk and on his cell phone. BILLY Sam! God how have you been? INT. SAM'S OFFICE - COLUMBIA UNVIERSITY - DAY Sam is sitting at his desk and on the phone. There is a portrait of Sigmund Freud hanging behind his credenza. SAM I'm great. I can't believe I'm talking to you. It's been --INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN BILLY AND SAM BILLY -- It's been too long. (beat) I hear you're a professor. SAM Of psychology. BILLY Wow! I bet you've got some stories to tell --SAM -- The kind I can't share. (beat) And... you're a lawyer... with quite a prestigious firm in Manhattan I understand. BILLY I hope I don't disappoint them. SAM (CONT'D) I couldn't have been more surprised when I ran into Roy last week. SAM (CONT'D) I wasn't surprised to hear about his success, either. BILLY Big shot at a medical research firm.

SAM The medical research part fits but it's the "executive" part that's somewhat unexpected. BILLY He suffers from angst over that. (beat) You might have to treat him. Billy and Sam laugh. SAM (tentatively) I... uh... understand Joey's had his share of troubles. BILLY More than his share would be more accurate. (beat) Just saw him last week. In fact that's why I called. (beat) I thought it would be great if we all got together -- a reunion of the founding members of ye old secret club. Sam sighs. SAM I'm not sure about that, Billy. (beat) Joey and I really never really got on that well and now with the added stress of his problems --BILLY -- Sam! You guys were ten years old! You professionals would call this "regressing", right? BILLY (CONT'D) (beat) Besides, Joey was all bluster. He challenged us, pushed us to do more. Too bad it didn't work on

> SAM Guess the child in me still burns from his abuse. (MORE)

him.

SAM (CONT'D) (beat) But you're right. It's silly of me to avoid him. That was all a very long time ago. BILLY We're all adults and in control of our lives now. Sam blanches at Billy's words. BILLY I'll arrange a dinner time and place and text everyone. SAM I just had a thought. Instead of dinner, why don't we meet for a game of racquetball. BILLY I think that's a good idea... for another time. (beat) We need to get together and catch up with each other first. Sam is stoic. BILLY I'll be in touch. Sam looks at the phone as Billy clicks off. SAM (wistfully, to himself) We're all in control... as much as we can be. INT. POSH RESTAURANT - MANHATTAN - NIGHT Joey and Billy are seated at a table for four. The WAITER serves a second drink to Joey. Billy indicates that he doesn't need a refill. JOEY This will be really weird. BILLY It'll be fun.

JOEY (quietly) Say, Billy, I'm a little short on funds and --BILLY -- Don't worry about it. I got you covered. JOEY I'll make it up to you. Joey's attention is drawn across the room as the MAITRE D leads Roy and Sam to the table. JOEY There they are! Joey stands to greet Roy and Sam. He shakes hands and hugs both. Roy and Sam are less enthusiastic. JOEY Another meeting of the Oak Brook Secret Club is hereby in session! Everyone laughs. Billy shakes hands with Sam. BILLY Great to see you, professor! JOEY Professor?! Professor of what? SAM (quietly) Psychology. JOEY A shrink?! I might need you, man. (beat) My problems might be too much of a challenge for you. ROY They always were -- for all of us, Joey. Joey and Billy laugh -- Joey perhaps a little too long and hard. Sam averts his eyes. WAITERS converge on the table with magnums of champagne and tall champagne flutes. The waiters begin filling the glasses.

BILLY I ordered champagne in celebration of our reunion. The buddies hold up their flutes in toast. JOEY To the Oak Brook Secret Club which on one warm July night was almost famous! There are laughs and clinking glasses. Everyone drinks to the toast. BILLY So, Sam. Roy says you have a wife and... kids? SAM No kids - not yet. JOEY They can be expensive. SAM My wife is a professor, too. In NYU's English Department. (beat) We'll probably have kids one day but we have real substance in our marriage. Sam smiles for the first time, proud. SAM I like to call it a marriage of the minds. Joey guffaws. JOEY Maybe that's why you don't have kids. SAM (defensively) There's... there's a lot to say for contentment. JOEY I thought that was for cows. Billy looks nervously back and forth between Sam and Joey.

21.

BILLY Having a lot in common with your wife is a good thing. (beat) That's the underpinning of a deep mutual understanding. JOEY Does your wife understand you, Billy? BILLY We have a good marriage. And my kids -- I have a boy and two girls - - they're all bright, do well in school, they're involved in sports

JOEY -- The ideal life that I once aspired to but hence was rejected by.

BILLY You'll be fine. You're a survivor.

ROY Didn't I read something about you in the paper, Billy?

Bill smiles, proud.

- -

BILLY You may have. I've just been named to lead the Hayes Murder defense.

SAM That's a high-profile case.

BILLY It'll be good PR.

JOEY Which translates into big bucks.

BILLY

Could. (beat) But there's never enough money.

JOEY Wives can be demanding.

Billy takes a drink.

BILLY As I said before, I have nothing to complain about... nothing. Joey glances at Billy who does not return his look. ROY You were also named a junior partner at your law firm, right? BILLY Oh... yeah. JOEY (mocking Billy) Oh... yeah. I forgot about that. It totally slipped my mind! (beat) Well, all I can say is compared to you quys, I'm sitting in the corner with the dunce hat on. ROY What are you into, Joey? JOEY Debt up to my ears. Joey shrugs and takes a long drink. I got a communications degree. I figured the Big Apple was the best place to take advantage of it. ROY You and Jane divorced? JOEY And so did Heather and I. ROY My advice -- find someone in communications, Joey. Someone who really gets off on it. (beat) My wife and I are both scientists. We get along great because we love science more than anything else. JOEY Kids? ROY Two. The boy just came in second in the national science fair.

BILLY Like father and mother like son.

ROY If he and his sister keep their nose in the books and out of trouble, they'll follow --

JOEY You gonna let them have any fun along the way?

ROY Ironically, having fun doesn't always lead to a happy life, does it?

Joey shoots an annoyed look at Roy.

JOEY

Perhaps loving a scientist doesn't either.

ROY Fuck love. My research is what's important. It saves lives.

SAM I was surprised that you did such an un-Roy-like thing in climbing the corporate ladder.

ROY Not as surprised as I was. Titles mean nothing to me.

JOEY They just make for a nice round number on your paycheck.

Billy senses the tension.

BILLY Hey... Why don't we order?

INT. RACQUETBALL COURT - ATHLETIC CLUB - NIGHT

Joey and Roy are playing partners against Roy and Sam. Sam serves several aces in a row.

JOEY Sam, you are one surprise after the other. Sam hits a bullet of a shot that strikes Joey in the leg.

JOEY Ouch! Damn! (beat) I'll take that personally by the way.

There is a slight smile on Sam's face.

LATER

Roy hits a ball low on the wall that neither Joey or Billy can get to. Sam puts his arms up in victory.

ROY

We won!

LOCKER ROOM

Billy, Sam and Roy are toweling off and getting dressed. Joey walks out of the shower covered in a towel.

JOEY Billy, we can't let them get away with this.

BILLY

Rematch!

JOEY You were quite impressive in there, Sam. Not the little nerd I remember.

SAM I never really was that little nerd.

BILLY Same time next week, fellas?

SAM Next week?! How about tomorrow night?

INT. RACQUETBALL COURT - ATHLETIC CLUB - DAY

Joey, Bill and Sam are walking toward the racquetball court.

BILLY

Roy's delayed. He has to deal with some problem in the lab.

Joey opens the door to the court. RAUL CABRERA, 35, is taking practice shots against the front wall. Raul is darkly handsome with black eyes and chiseled features. He is tall and lithe.

He turns and sees Joey, Bill and Sam entering. Raul smiles widely.

RAUL I am so sorry. Is this your court?

The buddies walk over to Raul.

BILLY We have it reserved. But it must be destiny. We need a fourth. Would you like to join us?

RAUL I would love to.

Raul partners with Sam and walks off with him. Joey pulls Billy aside.

JOEY (whispers) If I was gay, that guy would have to beat me off with his racquet. (beat) That is one beautiful man!

BILLY Was that a Freudian slip or are you trying to tell me something?

JOEY Don't be ridiculous. I'm a womanizer from way back. Just ask my ex-wives.

LATER

Joey and Billy are walking off the court. They are both sweaty and panting. Raul and Sam are walking ahead of them.

> BILLY (quietly) Looks like the Latin beauty got the better of you.

He's so pretty, I let him win. INT. RESTAURANT - DAY Joey, Billy, Sam and Raul are seated at a table when Roy comes rushing in. BILLY Roy, this is Raul, your replacement. Roy looks puzzled. ROY My replace --BILLY He took your place on court. ROY Oh, glad you connected up. RAUL (to Roy) Your friends are some mighty competitors. BILLY Raul invited all of us for lunch. But we won't let him get away with paying. JOEY Speak for yourself. Raul smiles widely and looks at each buddy. RAUL I insist. It is on me. Please... enjoy. LATER Everyone is finishing up their meals. Waiters are taking away dirty dishes and pouring more wine. RAUL

JOEY

I started my import business in Argentina but we decided that it'd be better positioned to grow and expand in New York.

JOEY Who's the "we"? RAUL Me and my wife. She has helped establish the business here. BILLY What products do you deal in? RAUL Mainly fine arts, exotic artifacts... Raul looks intensely at Billy. RAUL ... and other items that are in demand. SAM I've always had an avid interest in artifacts from the Inca civilization. RAUL Coincidentally, I may have some articles from that empire coming in soon. I'll be sure to let you know. Raul sets his fork down and looks intensely at each buddy. RAUL I've a wonderful idea. I'm having a private showing at my apartment next week. I would be honored if you all would come. (beat) We'll have a grand time. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - 5TH AVENUE - NIGHT A uniformed DOORMAN is stationed at the double glass doors of the posh upper East Side apartment building. Joey and Billy and his wife, BETH, 28, emerge from a limo and are met on the sidewalk by Sam and his wife, ALISON, 30, and Roy and his wife, EMMA, 31. They greet each other MOS.

The doorman opens the door.

DOORMAN The Cabrera party?

Billy nods.

The doorman ushers them over to a private elevator. He pushes the up button for them.

DOORMAN This will take you straight to the penthouse.

JOEY Penthouse?

INT. LIVING ROOM - PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

The elevator doors open onto an opulent multi-level penthouse with a breathtaking view of New York City at night.

JOEY

Jesus!

BETH (whispers) Oh my god! Who is this guy again?

The room is crowded with elegantly dressed men and women. There are displays of paintings, sculptures and exotic artifacts interspersed throughout the area and highlighted with diffused spotlights. A three-piece trio is playing classical music softly in the background.

There are waiters and waitresses in uniforms serving drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The champagne is flowing.

As the buddies step off the elevator, Raul spots them and heads right over.

Raul greets them MOS hugging each of the men and kissing both cheeks of each of the wives.

RAUL I am so thrilled that you all could make it.

Raul looks about.

RAUL (loudly) Enrique!

ENRIQUE, 21, is Raul's manservant. He is a tall, strapping and attractive Latino. He hurries over to Raul.

RAUL

Enrique! Please bring my special friends champagne all around.

Enrique nods to Raul and hurries off.

BILLY We're anxious to meet your wife.

Raul smiles slightly.

RAUL Everyone always is.

Billy looks perplexed.

Raul looks about and focuses on SASHA, 27, his wife who is coming their way.

RAUL Here she is. Gentlemen, this is Sasha.

Sasha approaches. She is tall with a slender yet curvaceous shape. Her perfect oval face is framed in thick luxurious black hair. Her emerald eyes are in lovely contrast to her olive complexion. She is wearing a low-cut evening gown that clings to her body.

Sasha is incredible.

Raul smiles slyly to himself as he watches the not unexpected reaction that his new friends are having to his beautiful wife.

Joey looks stunned. Billy is captivated. Sam is immobilized. Roy is transfixed.

> SASHA Raul has told me about all of you.

SASHA (CONT'D) (beat) He is so happy to make American friends.

Raul puts his arm around Sasha. She pulls away slightly, quickly glancing at him.

RAUL Sasha is happy to share me. She is not like many wives who are concerned about their husband's activities when they're away. JOEY I'm sure your wife would have nothing to worry about.

Joey looks intensely at Sasha who smiles back. She then looks at the buddies' wives.

SASHA I hope we will all come to have special meaning in each other's lives. (beat) Please excuse me. I must meet with the caterers.

Sasha rushes off. Joey follows her with his eyes.

JOEY (quietly, to Billy) I would love to have special meaning in her life.

BILLY (quietly, to Joey) Staring is rude, Joey.

Joey doesn't answer, still mesmerized by Sasha.

Billy cranes his neck watching Sasha talking to Enrique across the room. Sasha's eyes lock onto Billy's with great intensity. Suddenly, Beth is standing next to him.

> BETH Enjoying the view?

Billy is startled and glances at Beth who is also staring at Sasha.

BILLY Oh, the city lights? Manhattan at night is without comparison.

Billy returns his gaze to Sasha.

BETH I was thinking more in terms of the... fine art.

BILLY I like fine art. (beat) I see that you do, too.

Beth rolls her eyes, glares at Sasha and walks off in a huff.

Beth, Alison and Emma are huddled together as Sasha walks up to them smiling demurely. As she walks past Roy and Sam, their heads turn and follow her every movement.

> SASHA Be sure to visit the buffet, ladies. (beat) Please let me know if there is anything you need.

Sasha walks off, passing Billy who spins around and watches her has she passes.

BETH (quietly to Alison and Emma) All I need is for her to leave my husband alone.

ALISON She's the kind of woman who could eat a man alive and make him love every minute of it.

EMMA Even a woman would probably love it...

Beth and Alison are perplexed and look intensely at Emma who watches Sasha as she crosses the room.

Emma feels their eyes on her and turns to them, blushing and forcing a laugh.

EMMA (flustered) ... I mean perhaps... I don't know... I was just...

EMMA (CONT'D) (enthusiastically) Didn't she say something about a buffet?!

LATER

Roy is alone in a dark corner of the living room. He watches as Sasha bends over to speak to a seated guest. Her full breasts nearly breach her flimsy dress. Roy begins to breathe a little heavier.

Emma just behind Roy and out of his sight is also transfixed by Sasha.

Across the room, Sasha is aware that she has drawn the attention of Roy and Emma as she glances at them through a thick strand of her hair that has fallen across her face.

Emma turns her attention to Roy who is obviously becoming aroused by the sight of Sasha.

A WAITER walks up to Roy with a full tray of drinks. As he turns to take one, he spots Emma. Roy takes two glasses.

ROY I was just looking for you.

EMMA (unconvinced) Really? (unconvincingly) And I was just looking for you, too.

Across the room, Sasha is standing in a group of guests but is keeping an eye on Roy and Emma.

SASHA'S POV: Roy offers Emma one of the glasses but she rejects it. She folds her hands across her chest. Roy leans closer to her and speaks MOS. Emma scowls at him and then hurriedly walks off.

BACK TO SCENE

Sasha smiles slightly to herself.

Roy drains the drink he offered Emma and sets the empty glass on a passing waiter's tray. He starts to take a drink from his glass but stops in mid-motion when he spots Sasha walking directly toward him.

Roy's eyes are wide with awe/fear and he swallows hard as Sasha walks up to him. Sasha takes the drink from Roy and finishes it. She hands the glass to Enrique.

> ENRIQUE (to Roy) Would you like another drink, sir?

SASHA (to Enrique) Not yet. Please leave us.

Enrique nods to Sasha and walks off. Sasha looks intensely at Roy.

SASHA You're Roy? Roy can only manage to nod "yes".

SASHA Ahh, the medical researcher. (beat) I have a favor to ask of you. Do you mind coming with me?

Sasha turns on her heel with the zombie-like Roy right behind her.

OFFICE DOOR

Sasha stops at the door and opens it.

SASHA Please come in. I found an article on a new cancer cure. My father has the disease.

OFFICE

Sasha and Roy enter the room. Sasha closes the door behind them. Sasha rushes up behind Roy, his back to her. She puts her arms around his torso. He turns toward her GASPING. Suddenly, her mouth is on his and her hands quickly find his crotch.

Roy is breathing heavy as Sasha maneuvers her shoulders to allow her flimsy top to slip down and expose her generous, perfect breasts. She pulls his head down on her chest. Roy is moaning in pleasure. Suddenly, Sasha steps back and away from Roy and pulls her dress back up, a look of dismay on her face.

> SASHA (softly) I have to apologize.

ROY (panting) There's really no need to --

SASHA -- It must be... I didn't realize that someone like you would have such an impact on me.

A few tears come to Sasha's eyes.

SASHA It's just that my father suffers so and... my... husband... he doesn't even care. He has all the money in the world and refuses to help him. Sasha looks at Roy imploringly, searching his face. SASHA And then there's someone like you... who saves people, saves lives... Roy is still breathing heavy and having to deal with an erection. Sasha looks him up and down. SASHA I am so sorry... Sasha walks close to Roy, her lips to his ear. SASHA (whispers) Perhaps we could meet one afternoon. ROY (barely audible) Restaurant? SASHA I was thinking... hotel room. (now matter-of-factly) Can I show you the article I spoke of? Roy follows Sasha over to the desk where she sits and logs onto a computer. Just then, the door flies open. It's Raul. Roy's eyes grow wide in panic. RAUL I was wondering what you two were up to. ROY We were just --SASHA -- Medical research, darling. Roy swallows hard as Raul is distracted by loud laughter from the party. RAUL You two eggheads have fun!

Raul, with a big smile on his face, hurries off. Roy breathes a sigh of relief as Sasha focuses on the computer screen as she keys in data. Roy watches her in total disbelief.
INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY Sasha is naked and lying on top of Roy who is also naked. She rolls off of him. Roy is perspiring and moaning in pleasure. Sasha, without a visible sign of perspiration, watches him closely. Roy turns to Sasha. ROY (breathlessly) I've... I've never felt like this before. Sasha caresses Roy's face. SASHA I know... me too. Roy sits up and pulls Sasha to him. ROY I just feel so much -- it frightens me. SASHA Don't ever be afraid of... love. (beat) But there are other fears. My husband cannot know about us. And your other friends, I don't trust them. ROY Billy and Sam and Joey? I don't understand --SASHA -- I don't trust anyone, Roy. SASHA (CONT'D) (beat) If my husband was to find out... ROY I know he'd be hurt --SASHA -- No, Roy, I would be hurt. He would kill me. Roy looks astonished.

SASHA Raul doesn't love me. I'm just one of his many possessions -- like his exotic art. (beat) He doesn't want me but he will never allow anyone else to have me.

ROY (hesitantly) Raul wouldn't really hurt you, would he?

SASHA Roy, as I said, he would killme. (imploringly) You see the superficial Raul -the happy man with a big smile always on his lips. (pause) But the Devil smiles, too, Roy. (beat) You don't see the dark man who is filled with rage and evil and who has a gang of murderous thugs at his side who will do whatever he commands.

Sasha grabs Roy tightly.

SASHA I want to be with you, Roy. You're all I think of. But as long as Raul is... in the picture, that can never be.

ROY (CONT'D) If he ever hurt you, I can't even imagine what I would do.

In a tight embrace and her face away from Roy, Sasha's eyes are dead, cold.

SASHA Perhaps you should start to imagine because his hurting me... or worse... will happen.

Roy's face is filled with anguish and a simmering anger. Roy pulls away from the embrace. He looks deeply into Sasha's eyes that have now returned to life. ROY (emphatically) I promise you Raul will never hurt you or everkeep me from you.

Roy takes Sasha into his arms and kisses her passionately.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sasha is sitting at her dressing table combing her hair and applying make-up. There is a stoic, almost morose look on her face.

ELENA, 65, a small Hispanic woman and Sasha's maid, enters with a silver tray containing a coffee pot and a coffee cup. Elena sets the tray down on a side table and pours a cup of coffee and sets it on the dressing table in front of Sasha.

Sasha takes the lipstick that she is applying and slams it down on the dressing table. Elena freezes in place.

SASHA (angrily) The fucking world is run by men. But you already know that.

Elena nods knowingly.

SASHA Women have to use their charms to make their way in this world.

ELENA (softly) You are blessed to have both beauty and intelligence.

Sasha sighs and hands her hairbrush to Elena who takes it and begins gently brushing Sasha's hair.

Tears brim in Sasha's eyes and her face twists in anguish and pain. She turns to Elena who puts her arm around Sasha's shoulder. Sasha buries her head in Elena's embrace. Sasha sobs.

> ELENA What is it, dear? SASHA (crying) Old ghosts.

ELENA Old ghosts are hard to kill.

Elena looks morose, averts her eyes.

ELENA I live with them as well.

SASHA I don't know if the hurt will ever stop.

ELENA (almost inaudibly) The hurt never stops.

ELENA I pray every day that it will and that those old ghosts will go back to Hell.

Sasha straightens up, pulls away from Elena and wipes her tears away. Her eyes become cold and dead.

SASHA Old ghosts are good for one thing... they remind me not to allow new ones into my life that will haunt me later.

INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Billy is poring over a document on his computer screen when his desk phone buzzes. He sighs and keeps reading. The phone buzzes again. He rolls his eyes and picks up his phone.

> BILLY (agitated) Becky, I told you not to disturb me!

Billy listens for a moment and looks at his watch.

BILLY Shit... he's here already. Look... have Mr. Brown plant his ass on the couch and tell him I'll be with him as soon as I can. Okay? (beat) I'll stick my head out when I'm ready. And don't bug me again!

Billy slams his phone down and refocuses on his computer screen. In a few moments his office door swings open again. Billy scowls and looks up. BILLY (angrily) I told you...

Billy stops mid-sentence when he sees Sasha standing there. She gazes at Billy, a demure smile on her face. BECKY, 25, is right behind her.

> BECKY Billy, I tried to stop her --BILLY -- That's okay, Becky. (to Sasha)

Sashà! What a surprise.

Billy stares at Sasha, his eyes drinking in her beauty. He stands and walks over to her.

BECKY (quietly to Billy) Mr. Brown is getting antsy.

BILLY Give Mr. Brown a magazine.

Billy slams the door in Becky's face.

BILLY (tentatively) It's so... nice to see you. (beat) Have a seat.

Billy pulls out a chair for Sasha who sits down. Billy sits in the chair opposite her.

BILLY You look even lovelier in broad daylight.

Sasha lowers her eyes, feigning modesty.

SASHA Your words make a difficult time more bearable.

Billy looks concerned.

BILLY Difficult time? What's wrong, Sasha?

Sasha stands abruptly.

SASHA I should have never come to you. I was just at a loss. I should leave.

Sasha rushes to the door. Billy stands and grabs her arm.

BILLY I'm not going to let you leave. What's going on?!

SASHA I must apologize. I knew you were an attorney and I thought you might be able to help me.

Billy escorts Sasha back to her chair.

SASHA I feel so warm. It's probably my problems more than the temperature.

Sasha unbuttons her suit jacket and slowly pulls it off revealing a see-through blouse with a v-neck that plunges nearly to her waist. Billy takes it all in and takes a deep breath.

> SASHA Are you... do you handle divorce?

BILLY (surprised) Divorce? (beat) Uh, I'm a defense attorney... criminal.

SASHA Well, I haven't committed a crime yet.

SASHA (CONT'D) (beat)

SASHA (CONT'D) But sometimes a marriage itself can be a crime.

Billy is bewildered.

BILLY I'm not sure I understand. Are you considering divorcing Raul?

SASHA I want a divorce. It's a dream that I've had for guite a long time. BILLY If I may... what has stopped you? SASHA Fear. Billy frowns, confounded. SASHA My husband is a very powerful man. In his native Argentina he is known as El Señor. BILLY Sorry, I don't know --SASHA -- A drug lord, Billy. Raul is a drug lord! Sasha stands and paces back and forth. SASHA (emphatically) Do you think he just trades pretty pictures and dug up artifacts?! Look at the life he lives. BILLY (bewildered) I had no idea. SASHA Billy, he has a gang -- some would call it an army -- of murderers who are at his beck and call. SASHA (CONT'D) (beat) I hope they didn't follow me here. Sasha stands and walks to the window looking out over the city. Billy follows and stands behind her. SASHA Once when I hinted that we should separate, he told me what would happen to me.

Sasha dissolves into tears. Billy grabs Sasha arms.

BILLY What?! Tell me what he said!

Sasha wipes her tears.

SASHA

He told me that if I ever try to leave him, that I would be an artifact that someone else would dig up one day.

Billy shakes his head, stunned.

BILLY Raul seems so --

SASHA

-- I know... Raul seems so nice, such a happy, pleasant man. But Satan lurks beneath those laughing eyes. I... I don't even know how many deaths he's responsible for.

Billy is stunned. Sasha walks back toward the door.

SASHA

You're not a divorce attorney. I should have never taken up your time you. It was just a fantasy. (imploringly) Please, I beg you, don't tell Raul that I came to you.

Bill stops Sasha at the door again.

BILLY I won't say a word.

SASHA To no one, Billy.

BILLY

To no one. (beat) I'll help you however I can. I'll put you in touch with the best divorce attorneys in Manhattan.

SASHA I'd feel better, safer if you were part of it.

BILLY I'll support them however I can. SASHA I know you're busy. I really need to go now. (beat) Can your assistant call a cab for me?

Billy smiles and shakes his head.

BILLY I'll go you one better. I'll have one of our drivers take you home.

SASHA I'd be grateful but... can you go with me?

BILLY (hesitantly) Uh... sure.

Billy leads Sasha to the back office door where they start to exit. Just then there is a light rapping on the front office door and Becky slowly pushes it open. She looks surprised to see Billy leaving.

> BECKY (quietly) I'm sorry... Brown is having a conniption fit.

BILLY Tell him I've been called out. I'll be back in twenty minutes.

BECKY

But --

BILLY (sternly) -- Stall him, Becky.

INT. LIMO BACKSEAT - DAY

The limo is parked in front of Sasha's building. She is sitting close to Billy.

SASHA (CONT'D) ... if only Raul could have the integrity and character of someone like you, Billy. BILLY Everything will work out, Sasha. I'll... I'll see to it. SASHA How can I ever thank you? You'll be saving my life, literally. JAKE, the limo driver, opens Sasha's door and holds it open. SASHA (to Billy) Can you come up? (coyly) It's tea time. Billy smiles. BILLY I... I better not. SASHA Raul's out of town. Sasha gazes intensely at Billy. He sighs. BILLY All the more reason not to come up. Sasha averts her eyes as her hand drops on Billy's thigh. Billy is obviously becoming aroused. SASHA I feel a connection to you, Billy. I feel it inside... and out. Billy looks at the limo driver. BILLY Jake, give me a minute. Jake nods and shuts the door. BILLY (breathlessly) I feel it too, Sasha. I felt it the second I saw you. Billy frowns, confused.

BILLY Raul's a friend or I thought he was. (beat) I'm afraid being alone with you would be dangerous.

Sasha gently caresses Billy's cheek and searches his face.

SASHA (somberly) I live in danger... remember?

INT. PENTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

As Sasha walks quickly down the hallway, she is discarding her clothes. Billy is a few steps behind her, pulling off his shirt and tossing it on the floor. They enter Sasha's bedroom.

Across the hall the door to another room is slightly ajar and Elena is standing in the shadows, watching.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Billy and Sasha are on the bed both naked. She is cuddled in his arms.

BILLY (softly) While you've been dreaming of divorce I've been dreaming of... of this from that first night.

SASHA It was the same for me, Billy. I felt extraordinarily drawn to you. (beat) I even wondered if you could be my knight in shining armor.

SASHA (CONT'D) It appears that you may be.

Billy's cell phone buzzes. He grabs it and looks at the caller ID.

BILLY Reality interrupts our dream.

Billy clicks on the phone.

BILLY Yeah, Becky. (pause, listens) Mr. Brown fired me? Billy looks at Sasha and makes a silly face. She stifles a giggle. BILLY I'll deal with Mr. Brown. Be in soon. Billy clicks off his phone. Sasha caresses Billy's chest. SASHA Looks like I cost you a client. Billy holds Sasha tightly. BILLY It was more than worth it. Billy kisses Sasha all over her face. SASHA Was? BILLY Hmm? Sasha rolls on top of Billy. SASHA "Was" is past tense. The afternoon's not over yet. Sasha slides down Billy's body under the covers. Billy's eyes roll back in his head and he moans in delight as Sasha begins to pleasure him. INT. PENTHOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY Sasha and Raul are sitting at the table. Elena serves breakfast then leaves the room. Raul is scanning his iPad.

> RAUL Oh, Sasha... while I'm gone next week, the items for the Inca exhibit should come in.

> > SASHA

And?

RAUL Get hold of my friend, Sam, if you will. He's anxious to see the collection. SASHA And he will get excited over that? RAUL Shame on you, Sasha. Some people appreciate art and history. Raul smiles and looks off in the distance. RAUL Sam is a great little guy but I'm afraid he doesn't have a very exciting life. (quietly) He says he and his wife have a marriage of the mind. SASHA Not great for orgasms. Raul laughs. RAUL You are so naughty, Sasha. Raul returns to his iPad. SASHA (tersely) I looked at the books. RAUL (not paying attention) The importing --SASHA -- Not the books from your little hobby, Raul. I refer to the imports that make us real money. Raul puts his iPad down and focuses on Sasha. RAUL It's not a hobby, Sasha. My pieces are getting a lot of attention from very influential people. Sales are up. Sasha sighs, exasperated. Raul leans closer to Sasha.

RAUL Sasha, we don't need... that kind of money. I've told you for months that we shouldn't nurture that... business. Sasha slams down her coffee cup, sloshing the coffee out of it. SASHA The books reflect your snobbish sentiments. We've been down the last three months. (beat) That won't make our friends in Brazil very happy. RAUL They are your friends, Sasha. Sasha glares at Raul. SASHA They've meant a lot to me. RAUL Those people cause pain and misery for many. SASHA I have lived in pain and misery. RAUL But you don't now. Of course... I know that old ties are hard to break. SASHA Especially with those who rescued you. Those men saved me. SASHA (CONT'D) Saved me from --RAUL -- I know how you suffered. But the cartel just took you away... it didn't healyou. RAUL (CONT'D) Those old memories still haunt you. I know. You cry out in your sleep. Sasha stands abruptly.

SASHA (angrily) Don't even pretend to know what I went through! (beat) Your father didn't fuck you, did he?! Sasha starts to leave but Raul stands and grabs her arm. RAUL (gently) I'm sorry, darling. I don't mean to open old wounds. You know I love you more than anything ... (teasing) ... even more than my exotic art. Raul tries to kiss Sasha but she turns her head; his lips land on her cheek. RAUL Let us put all the old ghosts behind us. Sasha, we're here in America now, establishing ourselves. We have a new life. SASHA There was nothing wrong with the old one, the life the cartel gave me. Elena enters and pours more coffee. She lingers. Sasha sits back down. Raul looks at Elena and frowns. RAUL Leave us, Elena. Elena nods to Raul and leaves. Elena glares at Raul. SASHA She wasn't hurting anything. She can barely understand English. Raul shrugs and sits down next to Sasha. RAUL Sometimes she gives me the creeps. (beat) RAUL (CONT'D) Like I was saying the imports are doing well and they are giving us entrée into elite New York

society.

(MORE)

50.

RAUL (CONT'D) (beat) Besides my inheritance, my family money dwarfs what we get... (derisively) ... peddling drugs.

SASHA You look down your nose on it but it got me out of the favela. It has been my security. I cannot just let go of it. (annoyed) You don't know what it means to live in poverty. And my dear husband, you just don't just break up with the cartel on a whim.

Raul averts his eyes, concerned.

RAUL I can handle them.

Raul takes a drink of coffee then gently takes Sasha's hand.

RAUL A new focus would be good for both of us. I've been thinking... maybe it's time we start a family. (smiling) Wouldn't you like to see a little boy running around here who looks just like me?!

SASHA I dream of the day.

Raul reaches over and hugs Sasha. Out of his line of vision, she rolls her eyes. Sasha pulls away from Raul.

SASHA But, Raul, now is not the time for a family. We haven't been together that long. We're just getting used to one another.

Raul throws his napkin down, deflated.

RAUL So, it's no to babies and yes to cocaine, eh?

Sasha smiles.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha enters wrapped in a towel, her hair still wet from a shower. Elena is straightening up the bedroom, gathering laundry in a basket.

SASHA Leave that for now.

Sasha hands Elena a smaller towel. Elena sits on the bed next to Sasha and begins to towel dry her hair.

SASHA Raul told me he wants to start a family.

Elena looks closely at Sasha and shakes her head "no."

SASHA (in Spanish) Poor Raul thinks I can't wait to see Raul, Jr. tagging around after him.

Sasha smiles.

SASHA He would have a shit fit if he knew I had myself... I can't think of the Spanish word... but they call it "fixed" in English.

Elena stands and drops the towel from around her body. Elena helps her on with her robe.

SASHA Two children were enough for me. Just like you, eh? Two were enough for you?

Elena nods her head "yes."

SASHA (in English) There's no reason he needs to know about the children --

ELENA -- Or the two husbands who fathered them. It would only hurt you. Elena glances over her shoulder.

ELENA (quietly) Where is Raul?

Sasha smiles coyly.

ELENA He's out tonight... out with his new buddies.

Elena heads for the door with her laundry basket as Sasha disrobes and crawls into bed. As Elena opens the door, Enrique is standing there. Elena turns and looks at Sasha. Sasha sits up, allowing her cover to drop exposing her naked torso.

> SASHA (softly) Come, Enrique. Come keep me warm.

INT. RESTAURANT - MANHATTAN - NIGHT

Joey, Billy, Roy, Sam and Raul are seated at a table. BUSBOYS are removing dirty dishes. WAITERS are refilling their empty wineglasses.

JOEY Whose the designated driver?

RAUL My driver who waits outside!

Everyone laughs.

RAUL Sam, I should be receiving the Inca artifacts soon. (beat) I'll be out of town. I told Sasha to let you know when they come in. You can have a private viewing.

SAM I look forward to it.

JOEY I'd like a private viewing...

Everyone looks at Joey, waiting for the "punch line". Joey looks back innocently.

JOEY ... of the artifacts. What else?! RAUL I had no idea you had an interest. Of course you can see them as well. (to Billy) I understand there's been some excitement at the law firm. Billy blanches. BILLY Why? What do you mean? Raul looks nonplussed. RAUL The Times article about a whole slew of motions being filed on your big case. Billy sighs, relieved. BILLY Yes, the motions... they'll be going for months. SAM You still lead the defense team? BILLY I've been out lately on... other matters. Billy hangs his head. BILLY (exasperated) Look, sorry if I've been a little edgy but... Beth and I have separated. JOEY Join the club. Joey lights a cigarette. ROY What happened? BILLY We've been growing apart and... there's...

RAUL ... someone else?! Billy glares at Raul. BILLY There is someone else. Sam shakes his head, astonished. SAM Billy you and Beth of all people, separating --ROY -- It does happen, Sam. RAUL So you're involved with another woman? BILLY (tersely) Not just involved... I'm in love, Raul. RAUL I suppose that's good and bad news. BILLY What do you mean? RAUL Good that you're in love... bad that your marriage is suffering. JOEY Marriage isn't all what it's cracked up to be. RAUL Some marriages are an exception to that rule, my friend. Roy, his hand trembling, goes to grab his wine glass from the table and knocks it over. Billy stands abruptly. BILLY I need to get outta here.

RAUL To see your lover? Billy slams his wine glass down and walks off. RAUL Was it something I said? ROY The man's in love, Raul. Love... can do all kinds of things to you. JOEY That doesn't sound like my favorite lab rat. ROY People change, Joey... people can change. INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY Roy is on top of Sasha in the last throes of love-making. He falls exhausted on top of her. ROY (breathlessly) Sasha, I love you beyond anything I ever imagined. (beat) I've never known this kind of love before. Roy kisses Sasha passionately. LATER Roy is holding Sasha. ROY My focus used to be on DNA and neurons. Now all I think about is you. SASHA (smiling) I guess I'll take that as a compliment. Sasha kisses Roy all over his face. SASHA You said you needed to get back to the lab.

Roy looks at his watch on the night stand and grimaces.

ROY I'm already late. I better get back before they throw me off the board.

SASHA You go ahead. I'll shower and dress after you leave. I don't want to get in your way.

ROY Sure you don't mind my rushing off.

SASHA Not at all.

LATER

Sasha is alone. She is dressed and heads for the door.

ELEVATOR

Sasha steps onto the elevator. The floor indicator shows that she is on the 18th floor. She presses the button for the 9th floor.

HALLWAY

Sasha exits the elevator and walks down the hall and stops at a hotel room door. She slides a key card in the door handle lock. The door opens. Billy is standing there, smiling. He pulls open the door.

> BILLY Hi... traffic?

Pardon?

SASHA

BILLY You get stuck in traffic?

SASHA Yes... it was the traffic.

HOTEL ROOM

Billy pulls Sasha inside the room, takes her in his arms and kisses her passionately.

INT. SAM'S OFFICE - COLUMBIA UNVIERSITY - DAY

Sam is working at his computer when his phone rings. He picks it up.

SAM This is Sam. (frowns, listens) Who is this? (listens) Elena? Oh, Elena, Raul's --(listens) The artifacts? He said he'd let me know --(listens) This afternoon? I'm kind of tied up and --(listens) They're going to move them? Okay... I'll make time.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PENTHOUSE - DAY

Enrique answers the door. It is Sam.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Sasha, dressed in a skimpy bikini is swimming laps in the pool.

Enrique leads Sam pool side. Enrique nods to Sam and turns and leaves. Sam looks after him and then at Sasha. He is very uncomfortable, close to panic.

Elena swims over to Sam, rests her arms on the side of the pool and looks up and smiles at him.

SASHA Sam! How nice to see you.

SAM Uh... nice to see you also.

SASHA Raul isn't here. Can I help you?

SAM I got a call from... your housekeeper. SASHA You did? What did she say?

SAM She said the artifacts... you know, the Inca art pieces had come in. SASHA I'm sorry... but they haven't come in. (beat) I have to apologize for Elena. She doesn't speak English well and lately... well, she gets confused. I'll have to scold her. SAM That's okay. I'll... I'll just go ahead and leave. SASHA You don't have to. Why don't you come in for a swim? Sam reels a bit and has to steady himself. SAM I couldn't do that. Sasha looks intensely at Sam. SASHA You're a psychologist? SAM Yes... I teach psychology. SASHA That's fascinating. SASHA (CONT'D) (beat) I heard something about you that surprised me. SAM About me? SASHA From Joey... Joey said ... (quietly)

... you were homosexual.

Sam turns several shades of red. His scowls, angry.

SAM That... that is not true! SASHA I didn't think so. I told him I thought you were manly, even virile. Sam is trembling from both anger and arousal. Sasha fools with something in the pool. SASHA Oh, my goodness! Sasha holds up her bikini bottom. SASHA Look! My bikini bottom. It just slipped off. Sam falls to his knees. SAM Oh, my god! SASHA (softly) Why don't you come in and show me how virile you are, Sam? Sam trembles and is obviously aroused. SASHA You want me to slip off my top. SAM (excited) Yes! Yes! Sam starts to unbuckle his pants when Elena comes rushing out. Sam turns his back to Elena. She leans down and whispers to Sasha and then walks quickly away. Sasha frowns. SASHA (feigning fear) Raul just called. He's on his way home. Sam looks faint.

> SASHA We can meet again to continue our... conversation... if you want.

SAM (breathing heavy) Yes... I want to. I really do want to.

Sasha sees that Sam is aroused.

SASHA I'm so sorry. I don't know what got into me. Something just happened... you just turned me on... your intelligence, your profession. And you're so kind. If I could have someone like you... (worried) But you need to leave now. Raul will beat the hell out of both of us.

Sam is breathing heavy as he stumbles off.

SASHA (quietly) I'll get hold of you, soon.

As Sam makes a hurried exit, Sasha's lips curl in a slight smile.

Elena comes pool side a few moments later with a large towel.

ELENA Everything okay?

SASHA Perfect. The last one will come to me.

INT. BAR & GRILL - MANHATTAN - DAY

Joey is sitting at the bar when Sam comes up and sits on the bar stool next to him.

JOEY Glad you showed. I was counting on you paying my tab.

Sam has a scowl on his face. He gets the BARTENDER'S attention.

SAM (to the bartender) Shot of whisky.

Joey emits a low whistle as the bartender pours Sam's shot.

JOEY That's a manly drink. Sam downs the shot and slams the glass down on the bar. He grimaces at the taste of the strong liquor. SAM It is a manly drink, Joey. JOEY (annoyed) What the fuck is wrong with you?! (beat) You invite me here out of the blue then you act like you're ready to tear my head off. SAM Don't tempt me. Sam turns and glares at Joey. SAM I saw... I saw Sasha. JOEY Lucky you. SAM She... she told me that you told her that I was a... homosexual. Joey holds his stomach laughing. JOEY Is this a joke? SAM It's not funny, Joey. JOEY She told you that? When would I have even seen her?! SAM Why would she lie? JOEY Was Raul there? SAM Uh... no.

JOEY I don't get this. I --SAM -- She came on to me. Joey looks very skeptical. JOEY Now I know you're lying. SAM (emphatically) I am not lying. (quietly) She wanted to get it on. Joey guffaws again. JOEY (mocking) Well... did you? Did you get it on with her? SAM No... but she wants to get together again. Joey rolls his eyes. JOEY What about your wife, goody-twoshoes? Sam nods at the bartender for another shot. The bartender quickly pours the shot which Sam downs immediately. Sam breaks down, tears rolling down his face. He turns to Joey. SAM (imploringly) Joey, she's just so... so beautiful! Who could turn her down?! JOEY I couldn't. There wouldn't even be a debate.

Joey downs his beer as the bartender slides another bottle in front of him.

JOEY Look, Sam, I never told anyone you were gay. I never even thought it... at least not that often.

Sam scowls at him.

JOEY I don't know what the hell is going on.

Joey gazes off in the distance, perplexed.

JOEY

Hmm.

EXT. PENTHOUSE - DAY

A taxi is parked across from the penthouse.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Joey is sitting in the back of the cab watching. The CAB DRIVER turns around and looks at Joey.

CAB DRIVER Hey, pal, you know the meter's running?

JOEY Not a problem, pal. I'll be charging it to my law firm.

EXT. PENTHOUSE - DAY

Sam is standing on the side of the entrance in a recessed portion of the building.

The DOORMAN opens the glass door and tips his hat as Sasha exits and heads for her limo. Sam rushes out and stops her. She turns and stares at him, surprised.

SASHA

Sam!

SAM I've tried to call you --

Sasha looks around worried.

SASHA -- Raul has people watching me... dangerous people. SAM I don't underst --SASHA -- You don't know the real Raul. He screens my calls. That's why you haven't been able to get to me. (beat) I want to see you and I'll find a way. I better go now. Don't try to contact me. I'll call you. (beat) It's dangerous for both of us.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Sasha rushes to the limo. The doorman helps Sasha into the back of the car. With a remote device, she opens the panel between her and PAUL, her driver.

SASHA Tiffany's, Paul.

Sasha shuts the panel. She turns and watches Sam who is walking slowly away, looking back over his shoulder at her. She looks straight ahead, a slight smile on her face.

INT. TAXI

There is also a slight smile on Joey's face.

JOEY (to himself) Poor Sammy. (to the cab driver) Follow that limo.

EXT. TIFFANY'S - DAY

Sasha's limo pulls up to the curb. Joey's taxi pulls up right behind it. Tiffany's DOORMAN opens the limo door for Sasha who exits and heads for the store. Joey rushes out of the cab and stops Sasha before she reaches the store.

> SASHA Joey... isn't it?

JOEY I need to talk to you.

The Tiffany's doorman walks over.

TIFFANY'S DOORMAN Is everything okay, Mrs. Cabrera?

SASHA (to Tiffany's doorman) Everything's just fine. (to Joey) Coffee?

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Sasha is seated at a table. Joey brings two cups of coffee over to the table and sits across from her.

Sasha lets her coat slide off her shoulders revealing a tightfitting red dress that hugs her voluptuous body. Joey ogles her and is not subtle about it.

> JOEY You make me forget what I wanted to talk about.

Sasha sips her coffee.

SASHA I hear you're looking for a job. My husband needs another driver.

Joey grabs his stomach feigning pain.

JOEY Ouch! That hurt but I thrive under abuse. (beat) My little friend Sam, the one who's stalking you, told me something very strange.

SASHA

Oh?

JOEY He told me that you told him that I told you... are you following this?

Sasha just gazes at him.

JOEY Anyway, he claimed you told him that I told you he was a homo.

Sasha smiles slightly.

SASHA

There must have been a misunderstanding. In fact, Sam hinted that you liked boys and girls.

Joey's frowns and leans closer to Sasha.

JOEY

I only fuck women and I've fucked more than you could count.

SASHA I can count fairly high.

Joey stares intensely at Sasha.

JOEY

There was something else that totally threw me. He told me that you came on to him. I would think you'd have better taste than that.

Sasha smiles.

SASHA Poor man. He must have misinterpreted multiple things. He stopped by uninvited on the pretense that he wanted to see some of my husband's art work. (beat) My maid told him to wait in the living room but he came out to the pool where I was swimming. (beat) I think he may have become aroused... I always swim in the nude.

JOEY I'm aroused at just the thought.

SASHA He became a little rambunctious and I had to calm him down.

Sasha averts her eyes.

SASHA I don't want Sam to get hurt. My husband --JOEY -- Raul's a puppy dog. SASHA With fangs. Raul is an abusive, cruel man who thinks the word fidelity only applies to his wife. JOEY He cheats on you?! I can't imagine. SASHA There have been scores of women. The one time he caught me... Sasha averts her eyes. JOEY What happened?! SASHA I was only half-dead. The man... wasn't as lucky. JOEY Are you saying that Raul --SASHA -- I know you're friends. I shouldn't bring all this up. Joey smiles knowingly. JOEY I do find it hard to believe that Raul is such a bad ass but... he cheats on you? Sasha nods "yes". JOEY How do you deal with that? SASHA I cheat right back. But not openly, of course. He would kill me. (whispering) I noticed you that first night.

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Sasha slips her hand under the table and finds Joey's crotch.

JOEY (loudly) Oh, my god...

An OLDER WOMAN sitting near by looks at Joey and scowls.

JOEY (to the older woman) I just got word that my portfolio doubled.

The woman sneers, gets up and moves to another table. Sasha smiles as she intensifies her fondling.

Joey's eyes roll back in his head.

JOEY (quietly) You keep that up and we'll be arrested. (beat) I need to be with you.

SASHA It's dangerous.

JOEY Danger can be a turn-on.

SASHA It can be a turn-off if you wind up dead.

JOEY I'll take my chances. Besides, I think you might be, shall we say, exaggerating about Raul.

SASHA I guess we'll see about that.

Sasha stands abruptly.

SASHA I have to go. I need to pick up a diamond necklace that's being repaired. (beat) I like diamonds almost more than sex. JOEY When... when can I see you?

SASHA Maybe... next week.

Sasha looks intensely at Joey.

SASHA Maybe sooner. (beat) I'll be in touch.

JOEY I'd stand up but I can't right now.

Sasha heads for the door. Joey sighs heavily.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha and Joey are in bed. Joey is on top of Sasha. She is moaning in ecstacy. He finishes and plops on top of her.

SASHA (breathlessly) I thought you'd never stop.

JOEY I can't get enough of you.

SASHA

I noticed.

JOEY I didn't see you resisting. (beat) I want more.

Sasha pulls Joey to her. She closes her eyes and succumbs to him as he takes her in his arms.

INT. LIVING ROOM - PENTHOUSE - DAY

Sasha enters the penthouse. Elena is tidying up the room. Sasha sits on the couch and pats the spot next to her.

SASHA

Sit. Let me tell you about Joey.

Elena puts down her feather duster and sits next to Sasha.

ELENA Joey? He's the one with no job and no wife?

SASHA Yes, but... he is a fabulous lover.

Sasha gazes off in the distance, recalling.

SASHA I found him extremely arousing -in a primitive, basal sort of way. (beat) Hmm... another time and another place... and who knows?

Elena appears worried as she looks intensely at Sasha. Sasha pats Elena's hand.

SASHA But... nothing has changed. (beat) He's just another dick. But at least I'm finally getting some visceral enjoyment out of this.

INT. RACQUETBALL COURT - ATHLETIC CLUB - NIGHT

Roy and Raul are playing a singles game against each other. Raul shoots an ace against the front wall that Roy can't get to.

> RAUL Two more points and victory is mine!

Roy glares at Raul as he serves another ball. Roy returns the serve. Raul fires the ball back and takes front court. Roy aims the ball and smashes Raul hitting him sharply in the testicles. Raul bends over and feigns injury then laughs.

> RAUL You trying to put me and my alter ego out of commission?!

Roy only glares back.

RAUL Let's finish up. The guys are waiting for us.
Joey, Billy, Roy, Sam and Raul are sitting at a table strewn with beer bottles and wine glasses.

RAUL All I can say, my friends, is I'm glad I was wearing my cup. Roy almost took out my most prized possession.

Raul laughs. The others look at him with various degrees of derision. Raul looks back at forth at them, stunned.

RAUL You guys act like you're at a funeral! Lighten up! (beat) Don't forget the bash I'm throwing next month. I won't take regrets from any of you.

A buxom BLONDE WOMAN, 30, walks over to the table. She bends down next to Raul, whispers into his ear, hands him a note and then walks off.

Raul looks slyly at the other guys then scans the note.

RAUL (quietly) Her phone number and... she just whispered something very interesting into my ear.

JOEY She's worthy of a tumble, Raul. Go for it.

RAUL Would you -- if you had what I have waiting at home for you?

Joey glares at Raul. Raul tosses the phone number on the table.

RAUL She's up for grabs.

JOEY I have something better waiting for me, too.

Billy glances at Joey, curious. Raul looks at the others.

RAUL No takers? (pause) Seems we all must have something better waiting for us. INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT Enrique is standing before Sasha. She is bruised and bloodied. Enrique is crying. SASHA (sternly) Again! ENRIQUE (crying) No! I can't! I won't! Sasha grabs Enrique's arms. She looks intensely into his eyes. SASHA You have to, Enrique. ENRIQUE (pleading) We don't need Raul's money! ENRIQUE (CONT'D) We have more than enough through the cartel. SASHA We don't need Raul's money?! Since when does anyone not need \$100 million? (softly) You know how important this is to me. Enrique hangs his head. The tears drip off his face. Sasha takes Enrique's face in her hands. SASHA (softly) We can't just leave to chance that one of Raul's friends will come through for us. Enrique gazes at Sasha. SASHA Now, once more... just once more. That's all.

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Enrique's face is twisted in agony as he looks up at Sasha. She takes a few steps back and nods at him, prodding him on. Enrique makes a fist and hits Sasha sharply on the cheek. She gasps in pain. Enrique falls to his knees. Sasha clutches him to her chest.

> SASHA (softly) I'm all right. (beat) Everything will be fine.

Sasha is wincing in pain as Enrique smothers his sobs in her chest as she tenderly embraces him. Her eye is swelling and coloring. Enrique looks up and caresses her face.

> ENRIQUE Your beautiful face...

SASHA You did this for us.

ENRIQUE (tentatively) What will... what will you tell Raul?

SASHA He won't be back for weeks. It'll all be cleared up and it will have served its purpose by then.

Sasha strokes Enrique's hair.

SASHA (gently) I'm so proud of you.

EXT. PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Sasha wearing a fur hoodie rushes from the building toward her waiting car. Sam steps out of the shadows.

SAM (hoarse whisper) Sasha!

Sasha turns abruptly. She is standing in a shadow.

SASHA (whispers) Sam! I... I can't talk now.

SAM When... when will I ever see you? Sasha takes Sam's hand and leads him to the pavement beneath a nearby streetlight. She pulls her hood down exposing her bruised and battered face. Sam gasps in horror. SAM (horrified) What happened?! Tears brim in Sasha's eyes. SASHA I told you Raul was vicious. He accused me of having an affair with one of his business associates. (beat) Sam, it's not true. I am not having an affair with that man or any man. Sasha hangs her head. SASHA (choking on her tears) But he wouldn't believe me. Sam, Raul is dangerous. SAM I don't care. I want to be with you. Recapture that moment we had. Sasha looks around fearfully, kisses Sam and caresses his crotch. SASHA Be patient. Things will change ... they have to. Sasha rushes off to her waiting car. EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT Sasha with her fur hoodie pulled up rushes from her car to the restaurant.

Sasha walks in and spots Roy who stands and waves to her. She rushes over to him.

SASHA Let me switch seats. I can't be in the light.

ROY

Why?

Roy changes seats, perplexed. Sasha takes the seat away from the focus of the overhead light.

SASHA

This.

Sasha slips the hoodie down. Roy gasps.

ROY (loudly) Oh, my god! What happened?!

A few DINERS stare. Sasha shushes him.

SASHA (quietly) Raul.

ROY I'm going to kill him!

SASHA No... I don't want you to get in trouble... or hurt.

ROY (imploringly) Sasha, why did he do this?!

SASHA He thinks I'm involved with one of his business associates.

Roy looks panicked for a moment.

ROY The other night at the bar, he stared at me like he knew something. SASHA He doesn't know about us. (beat) But, of course, he thinks I'd screw all his friends.

Sasha smiles almost imperceptibly as Roy looks off in the distance.

ROY You need to get away from him. Be with me. I'll leave my wife. We'll get a place together.

SASHA All that will happen in time, if... when Raul is out of the picture.

Sasha stands.

SASHA I must go now before... things get worse.

ROY

Sasha...

SASHA (whispers) Don't contact me. I'll be in touch.

EXT. MANHATTAN CONDO BUILDING - DAY

With a scarf draped around her face, Sasha rushes into the building.

INT. BILLY'S CONDO - DAY

Billy opens the door. He is horrified as he whisks Sasha in and pulls her scarf off.

BILLY (stunned) It's worse than you said. (beat) I'm calling the police.

Billy starts to step away.

SASHA Wait. He'll be out of town after the party. I'm afraid to act before then. BILLY Why? SASHA He has too many people around. I'll have more freedom. BILLY Stay here with me. SASHA Billy, I'm not going to put you in danger. (beat) I thought I saw someone following me. BILLY What if one of his goons saw you come here? SASHA If Raul asks, I'll tell him I visited a girlfriend. BILLY We need to contact the authorities. SASHA We will but not yet. I don't want a bullet through my forehead. SASHA (CONT'D) (beat) I need to go. Billy looks disappointed. Sasha hugs Billy. SASHA (softly) I want you, too, Billy. But I'm in no shape for sex. INT. BAR - NIGHT

Joey and Sasha are sitting at a table in the dark room.

JOEY Raul's going to be missing a set of balls.

Joey puts his arm around Sasha and nuzzles her ear.

JOEY Even with your black eye, you're the prettiest girl I ever saw.

Sasha begins to fondle Joey.

JOEY Cool her down. We can't do anything here.

SASHA

We can't?

Sasha stands, reaches out to Joey and yanks him up. She takes off for the back of the bar. He follows.

INT. LADIES ROOM - LATER

Joey is banging Sasha against the wall. The bathroom door is locked. There are sounds of thrashing and moaning.

LATER

Joey and Sasha straighten themselves up. Suddenly, there is an urgent knocking on the door.

JOEY

Shall we?

Joey crooks his arm and offers it to Sasha.

She takes his arm as Joey unlocks the door and they face a bewildered WOMAN who Joey nods to as he and Sasha walk by her.

EXT./INT. PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

The penthouse is jammed with partygoers. Loud music is blaring from a live band that is set up on a raised platform on the far side of the swimming pool. Fog from dry ice is emanating from the stage. Tall flames of fire flash up intermittently from pyrotechnics behind the band.

There is no lighting other than strobe and other exotic light features which add to the chaos of the scene.

There are dozens of WAITERS and WAITRESSES serving the guests -- Enrique among them.

Joey, Billy, Roy and Sam all come stag and are gathered around each other. Raul greets them with smiles and hugs. Raul is obviously high.

RAUL (slurring his words) My best buddies.

JOEY Jesus! You're flying high and it's not even nine o'clock.

Raul laughs. Sam is scanning the crowd.

RAUL The champagne is flowing, my friends. (quietly)

RAUL (CONT'D) If you want a little whiff of white stuff as a chaser, let me know.

SAM Where's... where's Sasha?

RAUL She has a migraine. How do you like that -- a hangover before getting drunk?! She'll be out later if she can.

Billy glares at Raul.

LATER

Roy is standing alone near the bar when he spots Elena who is motioning to him.

HALLWAY

Roy and Elena are standing in the hallway.

ELENA (whispering) I am so frightened...

ROY What's wrong?

ELENA

Sasha.

ROY Raul said she has a migraine.

Elena scowls.

ELENA If she has a migraine it's only because he nearly beat her head in. (beat) I fear for her life. (beat) He has ordered her to meet him on the patio behind the band.

ROY (frantically) When?!

ELENA I'm not sure. Watch him.

Elena looks around, fearful, and hurries down the dark hall.

ROY

Elena...

Roy's face is filled with anger, desperation.

SERIES OF SHOTS - ELENA SPREADS THE WORD

A. As Joey drains a flute of champagne, Elena is suddenly standing by his side. He bends down as she whispers in his ear. Elena hurries off as Joey, in anger, squeezes the champagne flute and snaps off the stem.

B. Sam is standing near the hallway that leads to the bedrooms. He is looking down the hallway when suddenly Elena is heading right for him.

Elena whispers in his ear. He looks at her in horror. They have a quick passionate and animated exchange MOS. Then Elena hurries away. Sam's face is drawn; his eyes are doleful.

C. Billy is making his way through the horde of humanity when he is suddenly face-to-face with Elena. She grabs his arm and leads him away.

In a dark corner, Elena whispers to Billy. He looks shocked. Elena dabs her eyes with a tissue. She is soon swallowed up by the crowd and disappears in it. Billy frantically scans the crowd but can't find her again.

D. Outside near the bar, Elena is whispering to Raul. He looks at her puzzled and then pats her on the back. With a big smile and a drink in his hand he resumes his partying. INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Enrique is lying with Sasha on her bed. She is stroking his hair.

SASHA You are just Plan B.... (smiling) ... andwhat a handsome Plan B you are! (beat) If it does comes down to you, it will be swift, my darling.

Enrique hangs his head.

SASHA And then... we'll be together forever and never want for anything.

Enrique looks up.

ENRIQUE What if someone sees --

SASHA -- It's so dark and loud and you'll be all in black. Everyone is high or drunk or both.

Sasha embraces Enrique.

SASHA Besides, Elena is efficient. She'll lead the cops to the others. No one will suspect his loyal man servant.

Tears brim in Enrique's eyes.

ENRIQUE (emotionally) You know that I would not do this for anyone else in the world?

SASHA I know, my love, I know.

Sasha takes Enrique's face in her hands gently kisses his lips.

SASHA Do this for me, for our love.

EXT. BALCONY

Raul is laughing it up with a group of guests. He glances at his watch. He is very drunk and begins to wade through the crowd in the direction of the band.

Billy is standing at the outside bar watching as Raul slowly moves toward the band. He begins to make his way through the jammed balcony.

Roy is watching from the other side. As he slowly moves through the crowd, he is delayed when several guests are shoved into the pool directly in front of him. The commotion blocks his passage temporarily.

Joey leaves the bathroom and lights a cigarette as he scans the crowd. He looks all about and doesn't see Raul. He starts elbowing his way through the crowd.

JOEY (to himself) Where the fuck did he go?

Sam is standing alongside the band platform. He watches as Raul moves to the opposite side of the stage.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Enrique stands at the back patio door in the darkened room. The blade of a long knife flashes as he places it in the sheath at his waist. He opens the door and steps out. He is wearing all black -- his black hoodie is pulled down hiding part of his face.

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Raul squeezes past the crowded dance floor and steps into the open area behind the band. It's pitch black other than reflections from the flashes of fireworks and fleeting patches of fog from the dry ice. He steps over to the patio wall, leans on it to steady himself and looks out over the beautiful city lights.

Suddenly, Sam emerges from the shadows. He rushes the very inebriated Raul and shoves him. Raul instinctively backs away from him and steps up onto a long, elevated flower box at the patio wall. RAUL (slurring his words) What the hell is wrong with you?!

Just then Billy and Roy enter the area from the same side as Raul did. With one powerful shove, Sam pushes Raul over the balcony. Raul screams as he falls to his death. The music drowns out his screams. Billy and Roy exchange horrified looks. Sam is hyperventilating.

In the shadows just beyond the area is Enrique who also witnessed Raul's end.

BILLY Sam, what the hell...?!

SAM (breathlessly) He shouldn't have hurt her. He shouldn't have.

ROY (disbelief) You killed him.

BILLY (to Roy) We need to get him outta here.

Billy grabs Sam and rushes him out of the area. Roy follows.

Still standing in the shadows, a slight smile comes over Enrique's face. He dashes off.

A very drunk woman, SUE CHARLES, 45, wavers as she slowly walks toward the area behind the band.

SUE (to herself, slurring) Somebody... scream?!

Just then Enrique races by in the dark toward Sasha's bedroom patio door. Sue watches, puzzled.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Enrique lets himself back into the room from the patio door. Sasha is sitting on the bed in the dark.

SASHA Is it done?

Enrique rushes to Sasha's side.

ENRIQUE When I arrived, his friend, Sam, was there. He... he pushed Raul over the balcony.

Sasha's eyes grow wide in disbelief.

ENRIQUE Raul is dead. Sam killed him.

Sasha's face transforms from shock into satisfaction.

SASHA (almost to herself) Sam loved me the most?!

Enrique embraces Sasha.

ENRIQUE I love you the most, Sasha! I love you the most.

Sasha pats Enrique's back as she gazes off in the distance, a smile on her face.

SASHA (softly) I know... I know. (beat) We must prepare for the police. We know nothing.

Enrique looks up.

ENRIQUE But I'm an eye witness.

SASHA No... that would put you there. (beat) We know nothing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joey, Billy, Roy and Sam gather together in a quiet hallway off the living room.

JOEY He what?!

Sam is trembling. Tears are streaking down his face.

SAM Sasha and I... she wanted us to be together. There are stunned, disbelieving looks on the faces of Joey, Billy and Roy. BILLY ROY Sasha and I are in love. I You're are crazy, Sam. Sasha left my wife for her. and I... JOEY -- Hold it! Everybody shut up! Joey looks intensely at each of his friends. JOEY It's dawning on me that we all got fucked in more ways than one. BILLY (to Joey) You... you, too? JOEY Quite regularly, in fact. ROY (stunned) We were all... JOEY Fucking her. SAM (forlornly) She wanted us to be together. ROY (despondent) I don't know what to think. JOEY I'm guessing everybody got the sob story from the maid? They all look at each other astonished and deflated. SAM (despondent) The cops will be here soon. I have to --

JOEY -- You don't have to do anything. We were set up, all used. BILLY It could have been any of us. JOEY All Sasha was to us is our buddy's wife. Got that?! (beat) We'll compare notes on the Spider Lady later. But for now... Joey, angry, extends his hand. JOEY ... we took a vow a long time ago. BILLY (quietly) To never squeal. Billy, wistful, puts his hand in the middle. Roy, distraught, follows suit. ROY (tentatively) Never squeal. Sam is hanging his head. JOEY Sam... come on. SAM I can't... I... JOEY Do it! Sam slowly puts his hand on top of the other three. SAM (almost inaudibly) Never squeal. FOYER - PENTHOUSE - NIGHT The foyer is strung with yellow police crime scene tape. Uniformed cops are escorting a group of partygoers onto the

elevator.

PARTYGOER 1 Why do we have to go to the meeting room?

UNIFORMED COP Everybody has to be interviewed before we let anyone go.

PARTYGOER 2 (slurring her words) Why can't we stay in the apartment - - by the bar?

UNIFORMED COP I think you may have had one too many already, ma'am. The entire penthouse is a crime scene.

LATER

There are two UNIFORMED COPS standing guard in the foyer. They are watchful as the elevator door opens and Lead Homicide Detective BARBARA BRANDT, 39, and Detective STEVE COLLIER, 31, step into the foyer.

> BARBARA (to the cops) Everybody gone?

COP 1 They're all being interviewed downstairs in the meeting room.

BARBARA Tell 'em to save the good ones for us. (beat) What about the family?

COP 1 The wife's in her bedroom with a couple of servants. (beat) I'll lead you down there.

BARBARA First, we need to see the balcony where the deceased fell from. EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

In the dim patio lighting Barbara and Steve inspect the area where Raul was pushed to his death. Barbara shines a flashlight on the flower box.

CAMERA POV: The flowers are trampled in the tall, long flower box.

RETURN TO SCENE

STEVE Looks like he did the Mexican hat dance.

Barbara accesses the spot.

BARBARA It wouldn't have taken much effort to push him over from there.

STEVE Or if he was drunk -- accidental suicide?

BARBARA -- If he was drunk, it would have been even easier to push him over. I don't smell suicide.

HALLWAY

Barbara and Steve are standing before Sasha's bedroom door. Barbara knocks. Barbara and Steve look at each other as the sound of muffled voices emanates from the room.

Finally, Elena opens the door. Barbara and Steve flash their detective shields.

BARBARA We need to see Mrs. Cabrera.

ELENA She's very upset... right now.

BARBARA I would expect so. But we need to see her... now.

SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha and Enrique are sitting on a couch holding hands in an alcove of the bedroom suite. Elena rushes over to them.

Sasha nods at Enrique who stands and hurries over to the desk on the opposite side of the room. There is another knock on the door.

> SASHA (to Elena) Get me a box of tissues then let them in.

Elena grabs a box of tissues and hands it to Sasha. Sasha grabs a handful of tissues, crumples them up and scatters them on the floor near her.

LATER

Barbara and Steve are standing before Sasha who is dabbing her eyes with a tissue.

BARBARA Mrs. Cabrera, the New York Police Department extends its deepest sympathy for your great loss.

Sasha nods, overcome with emotion and unable to speak.

BARBARA

You and...

Barbara glances at Elena and Enrique.

BARBARA ... your servants will have to vacate the premises.

SASHA Leave here? Why?!

BARBARA It's a crime scene.

SASHA I'll need time to prepare.

BARBARA

There is no time. (beat) We can either interview you downstairs in the meeting room where everyone else was taken or we can arrange for a hotel room -- SASHA (angrily) -- Enrique, call the St. Regis and reserve the executive suite.

Barbara watches as Enrique immediately grabs the phone.

BARBARA We'll give you an hour and talk to you there.

SASHA If I could have some privacy...

BARBARA Unfortunately, homicides are not private matters.

Barbara leans against the wall, planting herself, indicating that she's not moving until Sasha, Elena and Enrique are gone.

Sasha glares at Barbara.

LATER

Barbara and Steve look about the room, now abandoned by Sasha, Elena and Enrique, as forensics TECHS, UNIFORMED COPS and DETECTIVES converge on the scene.

Barbara and Steve stroll into Sasha's large closet that is a room itself. She clicks a switch on the wall and is startled as the racks of clothing begin to move on tracks like that of a cleaner.

> BARBARA Can you believe that?

Steve clicks on another switch and a panel slowly opens revealing a gigantic "jewelry box".

Rows and rows of jewelry - - diamonds, pearls and precious gems -- are displayed.

STEVE A photo of this closet is next to the word "opulent" in the dictionary.

A forensics TECH walks up to them. He is holding a black hoodie with a pair of forceps.

TECH Look what I found. STEVE Even the filthy rich wear hoodies.

TECH But they usually don't stick them in the back of a linen closet.

Barbara and Steve exchange an intense look.

DOWNSTAIRS

The assembly hall is filled with uniformed cops and detectives in varying stages of interview with the partygoers.

The cops have clipboards and are asking questions MOS of those being interviewed. Joey, Billy and Roy are being interviewed by different cops.

When Joey finishes he spots Sam who is sitting alone and looking despondent. Joey passes by.

JOEY (an aside, quietly) Hang in there. All they're asking for is name, rank and serial number.

Sam looks up imploringly. Joey leans down close to Sam.

JOEY (quietly, emphatically) You're not a suspect.

INT. EXECUTIVE SUITE - ST. REGIS - NIGHT

Sasha is sitting on a couch in the suite across from Barbara and Steve.

BARBARA When were you informed of your husband's death?

SASHA When? It all seems like a dream, a nightmare now... (beat) I was in my room. I had a terrible migraine. My maid, Elena, came to me and told me that there had been a... horrible accident.

BARBARA Accident? BARBARA I would discount "accident". What else could it be?

SASHA

Suicide?

BARBARA What has his state of mind been lately?

SASHA He's... he was a cocaine addict. So his moods could vary quite a bit.

Barbara glances at Steve.

STEVE Did your husband have any known enemies?

SASHA

I'm not sure but he was involved with a gang -- some very dark people -- from his native Argentina. I don't know who they are. He didn't allow me to get involved with them.

Barbara stares at Sasha for a moment then jots down a few notes.

BARBARA We'd like to speak to your servants... uh...

Barbara looks at a document.

BARBARA ... Elena and Enrique? They are here with you?

SASHA Yes... I need to lie down. I'll send Elena out.

Sasha leaves.

(quietly to Steve) She doesn't seem into protecting her husband's legacy.

Elena opens the door to the living area and takes a seat on the couch across from Barbara and Steve.

BARBARA You are Elena Lopez?

ELENA

Yes, ma'am.

BARBARA Mrs. Cabrera told us you informed her of her husband's death.

Elena nods "yes". She hangs her head in distress.

STEVE Had Mr. Cabrera shown any signs of depression in recent days?

ELENA I did not have much contact with Mr. Cabrera.

BARBARA Did Mr. Cabrera have any enemies that you know of?

Elena starts to tremble.

BARBARA Something wrong, Mrs. Lopez?

ELENA It's nothing...

BARBARA Anything you can tell us may help.

ELENA I could lose my job.

BARBARA Whatever it is, you need to tell us.

Elena takes a deep breath.

ELENA (CONT'D) There were some friends of Raul's at the party who... who all desire Sasha.

BARBARA Was she involved with any of them?

ELENA Oh, no... she loved her husband. She had to constantly contend with the advances of these men.

Barbara assesses Elena's words for a moment.

BARBARA Was Mr. Cabrera aware of their feelings for his wife?

ELENA She tried to hide it from him. She didn't want him to feel betrayed.

BARBARA I need their names.

Elena stands as if to go.

ELENA I was wrong to say anything. How can I accuse these men of...

this?!

BARBARA We need to talk to them.

Elena sighs.

ELENA

(quietly, defeated) I know them only as Joey, Billy, Roy and Sam. I don't know their last names.

Barbara nods at Steve who makes a call on his cell phone as he steps out of the room.

INT. MEETING ROOM - APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

The room is thinning out. Sam is being interviewed by a uniformed cop. Joey, Billy and Roy are seated alone at another table waiting for Sam.

A DETECTIVE is on her cell phone as she works at her laptop.

DETECTIVE 1 You don't have last names?! (beat) I'll have to run queries on the first names. (aggravated) Patience, Steve! INT. EXECUTIVE SUITE - ST. REGIS - NIGHT Enrique is being interviewed by Barbara and Steve. BARBARA What was your relationship with Raul Cabrera? ENRIQUE I was his personal servant. BARBARA How about with Mrs. Cabrera? ENRIQUE She is... was my boss' wife. BARBARA Has Mr. Cabrera been depressed? ENRIQUE Not that I noticed. STEVE Did he have any known enemies? ENRIQUE Raul Cabrera was a nice, happy man who everyone liked. BARBARA Where were you during the party? ENRIQUE Serving drinks both inside and on the balcony. A tear runs down Enrique's face. Barbara peers closely at him. BARBARA Enrique?

ENRIQUE It's sad how things turn out... sometimes. Barbara looks perplexed. INT. MEETING ROOM - APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT Sam has finished his interview and walks toward Joey, Billy and Roy. They head for the door. A uniformed cop stops them at the door. COP 2 You guys are Joey, Billy and let's see... The cop looks at a scrap of paper in his hand. COP 2 ... Sam and Roy? JOEY Yeah... so? COP 2 Detective Brandt wants a word with you. JOEY Who's Detective Brandt? COP 2 The lead homicide detective. (beat) Stick around. The cop walks off. Sam begins to tremble. SAM I am a suspect. JOEY (quietly) Shut up. You're not a suspect. ROY Maybe we're all suspects. BILLY That doesn't help, Roy. ROY It is what it is.

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INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Barbara and Steve are riding down the elevator.

BARBARA There's something off about the maid. (beat) She gave up the names of these men a little too easily.

STEVE Could be our great interrogation skills.

Barbara rolls her eyes.

STEVE Enrique was a dead end.

BARBARA (wistfully) A sad dead end.

MEETING ROOM - LATER

Barbara is sitting across the table from Joey.

BARBARA What was your relationship with Raul Cabrera?

JOEY

Buddies.

BARBARA With his wife, Sasha?

JOEY My buddy's wife.

Barbara peers intensely at Joey.

BARBARA I've been told that you had a thing for her.

Joey leans closer.

JOEY You get a look at her? A woman might even find her alluring, right Detective? BARBARA We're talking about you.

JOEY She's a nice lady married to my friend. I hardly know her.

At another table, Steve is sitting across from Billy.

STEVE The widow is fucking hot!

BILLY Sasha is a very attractive woman.

STEVE I heard you had a thing for her.

Billy is slightly rattled.

BILLY Who told you that?

STEVE I ask the questions.

BILLY Sasha was my friend's wife.

Steve takes a few notes on his iPad.

BILLY Was the death... was it suicide or homicide?

STEVE As I said, I ask the questions.

STEVE (CONT'D) (beat) That'll do it... for now. Send Roy over.

Steve stares intensely at Billy.

LATER

Roy is sitting across from Steve.

STEVE What was your relationship with --

ROY -- Raul was a friend. STEVE I was gonna say what was your relationship with Sasha Cabrera.

Roy's face colors.

ROY Raul's wife... my friend's wife.

Steve peers at Roy.

STEVE (mocking) Are you blushing?

ROY Of course not.

STEVE I thought maybe you were having inappropriate thoughts about the widow. No?

Steve writes a few notes down.

STEVE I heard you two were getting it on.

ROY That's a lie!

Roy is rattled. Steve looks at Roy's trembling hand.

STEVE You better get something for that.

STEVE (CONT'D) (beat) I'll be in touch.

LATER

Barbara is meeting with a nervous Sam.

BARBARA So you were good friends with Raul and... Sasha.

SAM Friends... with Raul.

Barbara notices the perspiration forming on Sam's forehead.

SAM I... uh... I don't know.

BARBARA Did you have a personal relationship with Sasha?

Sam stands abruptly.

SAM

NO!

Sam trembles as Barbara stares at him.

BARBARA I was just asking.

LATER

The room is abandoned. Barbara and Steve are sitting together at a table.

STEVE Either Roy had a hard on for Sasha or there was something going on.

BARBARA Sam was a basket case the second I mentioned her name.

STEVE Doesn't make them murderers.

BARBARA But it does makes them worthy of further scrutiny.

A uniformed cop walks up to the table.

COP 3 Hey, Brandt. There's someone I think you should talk to.

Barbara looks up at him, curious.

LATER

Barbara and Steve are interviewing Sue.

SUE I saw the guy. BARBARA

What guy?

SUE The guy that murdered Raul.

BARBARA You saw a guy murder Raul?

SUE Not exactly.

Barbara and Steve exchange a knowing, skeptical glance.

SUE But I saw him run away from the place where... where Raul...

BARBARA

Show us.

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Barbara, Steve and Sue are standing on the balcony by the nowdeserted bandstand.

> SUE I was a little inebriated... but I know what I saw... and heard. (beat) I was with a group standing here.

Sue plants herself in a spot just at the front of the bandstand.

SUE Then I... uh... either stumbled or got shoved and I wound up here.

Sue takes several steps beyond the bandstand.

SUE I thought I heard a scream. Then suddenly I saw this guy race by.

BARBARA It was a guy?

SUE I'm sure of that. (beat) He ran from the left and disappeared down that way. Sue points to the right.

STEVEN Could you identify him?

SUE It was too dark.

BARBARA Can you describe him at all... what he was wearing?

SUE He was tall, dressed all in black and seemed young from his physique and how fast he ran.

Barbara and Steve exchange a quick glance.

STEVE Anything unique about his attire?

SUE He was dressed like a rapper.

BARBARA

A rapper?

SUE He was wearing a rapper's sweatshirt. (beat) You know, with a hood.

Barbara breathes a sigh of relief.

BARBARA You've been very helpful, Miss Charles. We'll be in touch.

LATER

Barbara and Steve walk slowly down the dark patio away from the main balcony. The pathway ends at a patio door.

BARBARA This dead ends at Sasha's patio door.

STEVE The room where the black hoodie was hidden. BARBARA

Enrique.

STEVE Sasha was in the bedroom nursing a headache.

BARBARA

So I heard.

Barbara shines her flashlight around the doorway.

BARBARA I know forensics was already out here...

Barbara flashes her light on a huge potted plant near the door. Her light catches a flash of something for an instant. She peers closely at it, her brow furrowed.

> BARBARA You got some plastic gloves on you?

Steve digs in his jacket pocket.

STEVE I always have some on hand in case I have to perform a rectal.

Barbara rolls her eyes and holds out her hand.

BARBARA Give me a clean one... now!

Steve smiles slyly and hands Barbara a plastic glove which she takes and pulls onto her right hand. She fumbles around in the back of the thick plant, connects with something stuck in the soil and gives it a robust tug.

Barbara, eyes wide with surprise, holds up a long-bladed knife that gleams in the beam of her flashlight.

BARBARA Look what I found!

Steve emits a low whistle.

STEVE But Raul fell to his death.

BARBARA Maybe he was stabbed first.

Barbara and Steve look at each other and then both gaze at the knife.

Barbara and Steve are witnessing Raul's autopsy. The body is hardly recognizable as human. A glob of Vick's Vapor Rub is smeared under their noses. They grimace as they look on.

Medical Examiner CHARLES MATTHEWS, 55, wearing a surgeon's mask, begins the examination.

OUTER OFFICE - LATER

Barbara and Steve wipe the glob off from under their noses as Matthews, mask down, addresses them.

MATTHEWS Smashed like a bug.

BARBARA Could he have been stabbed before he fell?

MATTHEWS My men had to literally scrape him off the pavement and do a headcount on his organs. (beat) His liver nearly rolled into a sewer. They never did find the second kidney. (beat) To answer your question, I didn't see any stab wounds but I defy anyone to find one in that roadkill.

INT. DINER - DAY

Barbara and Steve are seated at a table and looking at menus in the crowded, noisy restaurant. A WAITRESS walks up to the table. Steve peeks around his menu.

> STEVE I assume you won't be ordering liver and onion.

BARBARA No, but you just reminded me why I'm not hungry. (to waitress) Just coffee.

STEVE (to waitress) Make mine black. STEVE The lab has the knife and the hoodie --

BARBARA -- Now we need to get Enrique's DNA.

STEVE What about the four buddies?

BARBARA I think they may have more to share.

Barbara gazes off in the distance.

BARBARA And there's certainly more to find out from Sasha Cabrera.

INT. FOYER - BILLY'S CONDO - DAY

Billy rushes over to the door and throws it open to find Joey, Roy and Sam standing there. Billy glances around behind them.

> BILLY Come on in. Hurry!

LIVING ROOM - LATER

The men, their faces stoic, are having drinks as they talk.

JOEY So... raise your hand if you screwed Sasha.

Joey raises his head but no one else responds. Billy takes a long drink then looks at the others.

BILLY I left my wife, my family for her.

JOEY I didn't have either one to leave or I would have.

Roy scowls; his face twisted in anger, pain.

ROY She became everything to me. (MORE) Roy chuckles wryly.

ROY I've let everything go... I didn't have much of a marriage but my work was everything. (beat) Now that's... the board is ready to suspend me. I've abandoned all my responsibilities.

BILLY (angrily) Why did she do all this?!

JOEY I think a scenario may be emerging.

ROY Raul beat her. He abused her!

JOEY That was her story. We won't get to hear Raul's side.

All at once they turn to Sam who averts his eyes.

JOEY Okay, so we were all duped.

BILLY She was using us. Driving us to do what...

SAM (barely perceptible) What I did.

JOEY She warn you guys not to tell anyone else about your relationship?

BILLY No one ever saw us together.

Roy nods, devastated. Sam hangs his head.
BILLY We didn't even know about each other until... last night. Billy's phone tones, indicating the receipt of an email message. He picks up the phone and quickly scans the message. He looks up at the others, somber-faced. BILLY My office... two detectives were there to see me. ROY (distraught) They're going to want to see all of us again. Sam collapses into sobs. JOEY (angrily, to Sam) Be a fucking man for once in your life! Billy shakes his head at Joey. He pats Sam on the back. BILLY We're all in this together. We'll be fine if we stick to our stories. Remember, it's not against the law for cops to lie. (beat) But... I'm sure this is just routine. INT. SHOW UP - HOMICIDE DIVISION - DAY Barbara and Steve are standing behind a two-way mirror with a MAN and WOMAN. Joey, Billy, Roy and Sam file out in a line with several other MEN. They all face the mirror. BARBARA You recognize any of them? MAN I'm not sure... I think maybe the

CAMERA POV: Billy

second quy.

WOMAN I'm sure I saw the fourth guy and yeah, the second man, too. CAMERA POV:Roy

INT. BAR & GRILL - MANHATTAN - NIGHT Joey and Sam are sitting at a table in a dark corner of the bar. JOEY So they took swabs for DNA and our prints. (beat) Not too scary. SAM (morose) Unless you're guilty. (imploringly) SAM (CONT'D) What if DNA was left at the... the spot where Raul... (beat) I'm thinking of turning myself in. JOEY Get that out of your fucking head! SAM I can't stop thinking about it. Billy and Roy enter the bar. JOEY There they are! Billy and Roy walk over to the table and join Joey and Sam. SAM (nervously) What... what took you so long?! ROY Two witnesses saw Billy and me walk behind the bandstand ... Sam holds his head in his hands. SAM Oh, God! No! I did it and you're suspects! Billy shushes Sam.

BILLY (quietly) We're not necessarily suspects. We were just seen there. There's nothing to connect us to the...

SAM Say it, Billy, the murder!

BILLY It was just routine.

JOEY They tell you guys not to leave town?

Billy and Roy avert their eyes.

JOEY Yeah... just routine.

INT. EXECUTIVE SUITE - ST. REGIS - DAY

Elena let Barbara and Steve into the suite. Immediately, Barbara notices dozens of shopping bags and fancy boxes --Tiffany's, Versace, Dolce & Gabbana -- strewn all about the room. Sasha enters from the bedroom.

BARBARA

I see you've been shopping.

SASHA

Remember, I was forced to leave the crime scene as you call it with only the clothes on my back. (beat) Please have a seat.

Barbara moves a few shopping bags off the couch. She and Steve take a seat across from Sasha.

BARBARA Did you have any problem with...

Barbara is distracted by a noise and sees that the bedroom door is ajar.

BARBARA We are alone?

SASHA

Of course.

The bedroom door is pulled silently shut.

SASHA My servants? Of course not.

BARBARA What is your relationship with them?

SASHA I'm assuming you don't have help or you wouldn't ask such a question.

Barbara scowls at Sasha.

SASHA My servants are like employees except they live with me.

STEVE Raul had no problem with Enrique?

SASHA (smiling) Enrique was like Raul's little brother.

BARBARA Were you involved in any extramarital affairs?

SASHA That is too insulting to answer.

Barbara takes a few notes.

BARBARA We need to see Enrique.

LATER

Enrique emerges from another room appearing apprehensive.

BARBARA Enrique, we need you to come downtown with us.

Enrique's eyes open wide, panicked.

ENRIQUE

Why?

BARBARA We need the lab to take a swab for a DNA analysis. ENRIQUE (horrified) Am I arrested?! BARBARA The DNA will decide that. Enrique looks distraught. LATER Enrique is pacing nervously in front of Sasha. ENRIQUE They suspect me! SASHA Who knows? I think that nosy lady detective might even suspect me. ENRIQUE (pleading) Sasha, I need to tell them that I witnessed Sam kill Raul. Sasha looks intensely at Enrique for a few moments. SASHA (quietly) I have a better idea. INT. HOMICIDE DIVISION - DAY Barbara is working at her computer when Steve rushes in. STEVE They're gone! Barbara stares at Steve, uncertain, processing his words. INT. EXECUTIVE SUITE - ST. REGIS - DAY Barbara and Steve are somber-faced, amid uniformed cops and technicians, as they walk through the suite. There is trash and discarded items all about.

> BARBARA They must have left right after we brought Enrique back. (MORE)

BARBARA (CONT'D) (angrily) We should have locked him up.

STEVE It was a weak case. His fleeing made it stronger.

BARBARA Great! Now we have a good case but no suspect. (beat) She's from Brazil. We need to get hold of Interpol.. right away.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - BRAZIL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

SUPER: Outskirts of Brazil

The dense jungle is crowded with lush greenery and dotted with bright flowers. In a clearing, a large estate with an opulent mansion comes into view.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MANSION - DAY

Sasha and Enrique are nude and lying in bed. Sasha is stroking Enrique's chest. There is a worried look on Enrique's face.

> SASHA Everything will be okay.

ENRIQUE (distraught) I'll forever be looking over my shoulder.

SASHA We're protected here. There are no more worries, Enrique.

Sasha takes Enrique's face in her hands and kisses him tenderly.

INT. HOMICIDE DIVISION - DAY

Barbara slams a document down in front of Steve who is sitting at his desk.

BARBARA Guess who's got a rap sheet! STEVE The Interpol report... (surprised) Sasha's involved in the drug cartel?!

BARBARA

A big player, apparently for years. And there were two husbands before Raul - one missing and presumed dead and the other in prison that she never bothered to divorce.

STEVE But it looks like the Brazilian police tracked Enrique down.

BARBARA There are warrants to arrest all three of them.

STEVE All three?

.I three:

BARBARA

Another revelation -- Elena is Sasha's and Enrique's mother. Enrique is Sasha's half-brother.

BARBARA (CONT'D) They're all involved.

STEVE One happy little secret family, eh?

BARBARA

You know... the governor pressured the D.A. for an arrest. But I don't feel 100% about this. Raul's buddies were somehow involved -- I just don't know how. (beat) But that's a conversation for another day. If things go smoothly, we'll soon be on our way to Brazil to pick up some prisoners. Sasha is on her cell phone and slips out of bed. Enrique is lying in bed sound asleep. There are empty wine glasses and several bottles of pills on the night stand. One pill bottle is overturned. Pills are scattered on the night stand and on the floor beneath.

> SASHA (quietly, into her phone) Just a minute.

Sasha steps out into the

HALLWAY

where she continues her conversation.

SASHA What is it? (pauses, listens) I see... how soon? (pause) Very well.

Elena walks up to Sasha.

SASHA (quietly) We have to go, Mama. Right away. The police are going to arrest Enrique.

Elena gasps and holds her hands over her face. Sasha embraces her.

SASHA I know... I know, Mama.

ELENA (pleading) We cannot leave him.

SASHA I don't want to but... we have no choice.

ELENA (sobbing) No... no. SASHA Do you want them to arrest me, too?

Elena shakes her head.

SASHA Then you must do as I say. You owe me that, don't you, Mama. (beat) El Señor is sending a car. Hurry. Get ready to leave.

BEDROOM - LATER

Four Brazilian POLICE OFFICERS are surrounding the bed and holding automatic rifles on Enrique as he wakes from his sleep. He shakes his head, trying to clear it.

Enrique looks at the police officers and then glances at the open closet and sees only empty clothes hangers clanging in the light breeze.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - SAO PAULO - ESTABLISHING - DAY

SUPER: Sao Paulo

The large white adobe building surrounded with palm trees is a contrast to the bright blue Brazilian sky. It is a beehive of activity with police officers and citizens coming and going.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Barbara and Steve are sitting across from a very distraught Enrique.

ENRIQUE I didn't do this. I didn't kill Raul! (beat) I saw who did it. It was one of his friends. The one called Sam.

BARBARA Why didn't you tell us this before?

Enrique hangs his head.

BARBARA A witness saw you run from the scene. STEVE Your DNA is on a black hoodie hidden in a linen closet.

BARBARA And we found your knife.

Enrique looks up, stunned.

BARBARA The one you stuck in the big plant. It was loaded with your DNA, too. (beat) Was the plan to stab Raul but then it was more opportune to shove him to his death?

ENRIQUE It wasn't me, I tell you. It was Sam!

Barbara leans closer to Enrique.

BARBARA Enrique, did Sasha want Raul gone? Things will be easier for you if you tell us who else was involved.

ENRIQUE (tersely) I did not kill Raul and had no plans to.

Enrique takes a deep breath and averts his eyes.

ENRIQUE Sasha... would never hurt anyone.

INT. SAM'S OFFICE - COLUMBIA UNVIERSITY - DAY

A morose-looking Sam signs a paper, folds it up and puts it in an envelope. He writes "Alison" on the envelope. Suddenly, there is a loud knocking. Sam steps over to the door and opens it. It's Joey.

> JOEY You been watching the news?

Sam shakes his head "no." Joey walks in. Sam pushes the envelope aside but Joey spots it and grabs it.

JOEY What's this?

SAM

Nothing.

JOEY

I hope it's not a suicide note or worse a confession because they just arrested Enrique for the murder and have arrest warrants out for Sasha and Elena.

SAM (stunned) I was going to turn myself in... (softly) I wanted to tell Alison everything.

JOEY Why would you want to do a stupid thing like that?

Joey looks around and spots a glass candy dish. He dumps the candy out in a waste can, puts the letter in the candy dish and sets it on fire with his lighter.

> JOEY We don't want this thing turning up some day.

JOEY (CONT'D) (beat) We need to go meet Billy and Roy. They're waiting for us.

SAM I... I can't.

JOEY Come on. Do I have to carry you again?

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Enrique is handcuffed and sitting across the aisle from Barbara and Steve.

BARBARA (quietly) Some cases you can just file away in the archives and pat yourself on the back for a job well done. (MORE)

BARBARA (CONT'D) (beat) This won't be one of them. There's a lot more to this story. I feel it in my bones. STEVE What about Sasha? BARBARA We'll track her down. She could be anywhere... Paris, Dubai, Hong Kong. She apparently has connections everywhere. (beat) Is a day's notice enough if we have to hunt her down? STEVE An hour's notice will do. Barbara smiles and looks out the window into the black night.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Joey, Billy, Roy and Sam are finishing up their dinner.

JOEY I know this will break all your hearts, but I won't be around much longer. (beat)

JOEY (CONT'D) I'm going to try to dig up my old life.

BILLY You going to reconcile with your wife?

JOEY Yeah, I just don't know with which one yet.

Billy smiles wistfully.

BILLY We all have the ghosts of former lives to face. SAM (barely audible) I'll never be the same.

BILLY None of us will, Sam... none of us ever will.

FADE TO BLACK