

Episode 22

GLORIA (VO)

Previously on The Princess of South Beach: Estrella was desperately looking for evidence to help her unmask Esteban and find her missing friend, Gabby. Luisa caught her red-handed and was about to fire Estrella when Maria del Carmen swooped in and saved the day! Well done, sis!

INT. LA CASA ROSA/ BEDROOM - DAY 22.1

ESTRELLA

Listen, I appreciate you saving my ass but to be honest I've been pretty annoyed with you. You said you'd help me investigate the Calderons and you keep blowing me off. I can't waste more time.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Yeah I know but there's just a lot going on and I'm still getting used to all this.

[Music cuts out abruptly as Estrella interrupts]

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I was just a naive girl in a convent and all of a sudden I was-

[Music begins as María del Carmen launches into another monologue]

ESTRELLA

I KNOW I DON'T NEED YOUR BACKSTORY AGAIN. Jeez. I get it, you have your story but I have mine too. I think it's time I tell you what's really at stake for me.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Okay you're right. I've been sort of been a bit selfish and

Music begins as Maria del Carmen launches into another monologue.

it's just been so hard being out of the convent for the first time and seeing the-

[Music cuts out abruptly as Estrella interrupts]

ESTRELLA

You're doing it again.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Sorry. Go ahead.

ESTRELLA

(Sighs)

Well the first thing you need to know about me is that I'm gay.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Oh! Okay, that's cool... seems unrelated but-

ESTRELLA

Shhh. Don't interrupt. It's relevant to my motivations. Why don't we start this story in 2010. Everyone was into Twilight, Lady Gaga was wearing meat, and I was done pretending to be straight. I had known for years. I mean I had had a crush on Alexandra Renquist since, like, sixth grade and I was tired of being someone I wasn't. So one day I marched into my living where my parents were playing Scrabble and I said it. I came out to my parents.

Gasp from Maria del Carmen.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ay, Estrella. I bet that was awful. Did they kick you out? Disowned you?

ESTRELLA

What? No. María del Carmen, this is the 21st Century. I know that every time a gay person comes out on TV it's a tragic lifetime special but they were super cool with it. Actually, they said they knew since I insisted on renting Tomb Raider like fifteen times. Point is, they were super supportive and encouraged me to get involved in LGBTQ activism. I joined a bunch of clubs, started volunteering, and at one of the meetings I met Gabby. Oh, she was so freaking cute. She had this frizzy red hair and she would always tell the corniest jokes. I fell for her SUPER hard. We dated but she wasn't out to her parents yet so we hung out at my place mostly. And, I kept encouraging her to come out to her parents and just live her truth or whatever. God, I regret it so much. She told me she was finally gonna do it and then all of a sudden I couldn't reach her. I called her for days and days and nothing. So I decided to go to where I wasn't allowed to go: her parents' house

ESTRELLA

So I decided to go to where I wasn't allowed to go: her parents' house

[Flashback sound effects]

EXT. GABBY'S HOUSE - 22.2

[Knock at a door]

GABBY'S MOM

Excuse me, can I help you?

ESTRELLA

Hi, Ms. Um. Gabby's Mom. I'm Gabby's friend from school. We have chemistry together. Is Gabby home?

GABBY'S MOM

No.

ESTRELLA

Okay, cause we have an assignment due together. Do you know when she'll be home?

GABBY'S MOM

Gabby isn't coming home for a few weeks. She's at camp.

ESTRELLA

Camp in the middle of the school year?

GABBY'S MOM

Not that this is any of your business but Gabby needed to reset her priorities. She's at God's Holy Light and she will be there until she...gets better. Now excuse me I have to get dinner ready.

[Door closes. SFX Music transition back to scene]

ESTRELLA

I knew what God's Holy Light was. I had protested in front of that awful place dozens of times. I encouraged her to come out and then she ended up in a gay conversion therapy camp.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Um... I don't know what that is.

ESTRELLA

Gay. Conversion. Therapy. It's not real therapy its religious fanatics convincing gay kids that they're a sin. They try to convince kids that they'll never be loved or happy unless they become straight. As if its something that you can choose. It's psychological torture. And it wasn't until weeks later that I finally got a letter from Gabby.

pulls out a letter.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

You have it on you?

ESTRELLA

I had a feeling we'd get into this today. Read it.

SFX paper rustling

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Dearest Doris. Whose Doris?

ESTRELLA

Me. Remember? Estrella is my fake name.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Your parents named you Doris?

ESTRELLA

It's a family name now can you keep reading.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Dear Doris. I miss you so much. I'm sorry I disappeared. I'm sure you must have been worried. I've been trapped at God's Holy Light for weeks now and they won't let me leave. It's been hell here. They took our phones, they won't let us talk to our families, and they barely give us any food. The only thing that's keeping me going is knowing you're out there. But Doris I'm scared. The other day something happened. Something happened to a very powerful person. His name is Esteban Calderon.

(María del Carmen gasps)

ESTRELLA

Keep reading Maria del Carmen!

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Sorry. His name is Esteban Calderon. Doris is very powerful. He's one of the people who give money to this place. I saw him do something. I can't tell you what it is, I don't want to involve you. But I think he knows that I know his secret and now - maybe I'm just being paranoid - but I think he wants to get rid of me.

(María del Carmen gasps)

ESTRELLA

Can you wait to the end to gasp?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Sorry I've been reading a lot of dramatic letters lately. "Now I think he wants to get rid of me. I need to get out of here. Please help me. I love you. Gabby" Oh my god. Wait, didn't that reporter at Esteban's press conference say something about this.

ESTRELLA

Yes. But I'm not done telling the story. My parents and I immediately headed to the camp to try to get her out. But when we got there they said they had no record of anyone named Gabby ever even attending that camp. And she's been missing ever since. I spent years trying to put together the pieces. Her family refused to speak to me. They moved away. And the only thing I knew for sure is that Esteban Calderon had something to do with it. He knows where Gabby is.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

So how did you end up here?

ESTRELLA

I knew the Calderon's were too powerful to go to the police. These people have the entire police force on their payroll. I had to investigate on my own and get information from the inside. And one day it came to me on a silver platter. I saw that Casa Rosa had posted a wanted ad for a maid. So I just showed up

(Flashback sound effects)

EXT. LA CASA ROSA - DAY 22.3

Doorbell. Door open.

LUISA

Ugh. I can't believe I'm answering my own door. Who are you? What do you want?

ESTRELLA

Hi um, I was sent from the luxury maid service place.

LUISA

Oh, white gloves inc?

ESTRELLA

That's the one! I was informed of the job posting and would be honored to service the illustrious house of the Calderon's, madam.

LUISA

Finally, one who knows her place. What's your name?

ESTRELLA

E...Ehh....Ehhhhstrella.

LUISA

Estrella?

ESTRELLA

That's what I said! *(To herself)* for some reason.

LUISA

Well I guess I can take a look at your resume and perhaps we do a vacuum test to see how you do. Come in.

ESTRELLA

Thank you madam.

[Door closes. SFX Music transition back to the scene]

ESTRELLA

It ended up being way easier than I thought to get in. But now I've been trapped here for three years without making any real progress. Until you got here.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Wow. I've been so focused on myself I didn't realize your story was so fleshed out.

ESTRELLA

Did you think people just wake up one day seeking revenge on the most powerful people of Miami without having a robust backstory to back it up?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I hadn't thought about it too much. Well thank you for sharing all of this with me and I promise I'll stop being so self-centered and start helping you with the investigation.

ESTRELLA

You sure you won't be too distracted with that hot reporter guy?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

What? Which reporter? Oh Andres! I had forgotten about him already

ESTRELLA

You're a terrible actress.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I dunno I'm doing a pretty good job of convincing people I'm Gloria.

GLORIA (VO)

As if little sis. You may think you're pulling it off but sooner or later someone is going to catch you. Actually, its definitely sooner.