

EPISODE 9

GLORIA (VO)

Previously on: The Princess of South Beach. Maria del Carmen and Estrella went to see doctor Hidalgo where Maria found out that I, Gloria, had had an abortion shortly before the accident that I had also asked for some DNA testing because of secret letters claiming the Calderon's aren't my real parents. Meanwhile, my father, Esteban, made Nacho, my boyfriend's father, his campaign manager for his mayoral campaign. Things keep spicing up as Nacho apparently also has some money issues... PHEW! Well, let's keep rolling!

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY 9.1

DOCTOR HIDALGO

Bueno Gloria, those samples should be enough to run the tests, we'll call you back when we get the DNA results.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Thank you doctor. Em, I don't have a phone. Estrella? Can you give them your number? I'm waiting on the results of some tests.

ESTRELLA

Of course, Señorita Gloria.

DOCTOR HIDALGO

Estrella, can I talk to you alone for a moment?

ESTRELLA

Sí cómo no, doctor.

They walk into a room and close the door.

DOCTOR HIDALGO

Estrella, have you noticed that Gloria has been acting very strange?

ESTRELLA

SUPER strange.

DOCTOR HIDALGO

Physically she's in perfect health, but I think she may be on the verge of a mental breakdown. I advise her not to leave her by herself until she's better.

ESTRELLA

Sure thing, doctor.

GLORIA (VO)

It looks like Estrella just became Maria's nanny. But with all the drama it seems like what Maria wants is a nun.

INT. PARKING LOT - DAY 9.2

The sound of footsteps echoing on concrete walls. The beep-beep of a car unlocking.

ESTRELLA

Gloria? Gloria wait!

(She catches up)

What did the doctor tell you? How's the baby doing?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

The baby...um, there is no baby.

ESTRELLA

Oh my god, did you lose it in the accident?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Um. Yes.

ESTRELLA

I'm so sorry.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

You know, I don't want to talk about it right now. I feel like I need some time alone. I'm going for a walk by myself.

ESTRELLA

Well, I don't think that's such a good idea.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Estrella, I'm fine.

ESTRELLA

But the doctor told me to...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I'm asking you as a favor to please leave me-

ESTRELLA

But I don't think so...

GLORIA (VO)

Well, María del Carmen. What do you think I would do in this situation?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Shift in tone)

Estrella. You're a maid and you work for me, right?

ESTRELLA

Yes...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Then I'm ordering you to go back home.

ESTRELLA

(Stiffly)

Looks like you're feeling more like yourself again. Okay. I'll wait for you back home...

GLORIA (VO)

Wow Maria del Carmen I didn't think you had it in you. But just because you give orders doesn't mean they'll be followed. And where do you think you're going, hermanita?

A car engine kicks on and leaves the parking lot.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY 9.3

SFX A bus pulling into the bus stop.

The doors open and we hear footsteps onto the bus.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Excuse me señor, is this the bus that takes you to the convent of las hermanas de la Santa Misericordia de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y esperanza eterna, santificado sea su-

BUS DRIVER

(Cutting her off)

Sí sí, this is the one. Now hurry up...Oye, has anyone ever told you you look like Gloria Calderón?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Grimly)

No - first time.

SFX Bus rolling away. Musical transition.

GLORIA (VO)

And while Maria del Carmen is on her way back to the comfort of the nuns, Luisa is having her very own crisis...

INT. OFFICE - DAY 9.4

SFX bubbles from a fish tank. Heels pace back and forth. Luisa is clearly going out of her mind and her therapist DR. GOLDBERG (40) is calm throughout

DR. GOLDBERG

So then Luisa, how have you been feeling this past week?

LUISA

(Agitated)

I already told you. Good. Perfect. Excellent.

DR. GOLDBERG

Luisa, I've been your psychiatrist for almost two years now. And every single session you say the same exact thing up until there are only 10 minutes left in the session and then you decide to tell me all of your problems.

LUISA

What are you talking about?

I'm Luisa Calderon, I don't have problems.

DR. GOLDBERG

Luisa, everybody has problems. Even the pope has problems. We've already talked about how your fear of opening up to others stems from the trauma of never receiving your father's love...

LUISA

Who do you think you are talking to me like that?

DR. GOLDBERG

Your therapist, talking to you like that is literally my job. Luisa, por favor, sit down your pacing is wearing a hole in the carpet.

She huffs and sits.

DR. GOLDBERG

Now, take a deep breath. What's bothering you?

LUISA

Well... if you really want to know so badly, I think Esteban is cheating on me.

DR. GOLDBERG

I see. Why do you think your husband's being unfaithful?

LUISA

He's working late every single night and when he gets home he doesn't even want to touch me.

DR. GOLDBERG

When was the last time he touched you?

LUISA

October.

DR. GOLDBERG

Bueno, that's not that bad.

LUISA

of 2001.

DR. GOLDBERG

Ok, that's concerning.

LUISA

He's obsessed with this idea of becoming the Mayor and ever since he started working with this man, Nacho, he's stopped talking to me. Sure he hasn't touched me in almost two decades, but at least before, we would talk. I can feel it in my bones. Something different is happening.

DR. GOLDBERG

You know, sometimes trauma takes years to manifest itself. I think what we are witnessing here is the result of years of suppressing internal trauma.

LUISA

Me? Trauma? I already told you I don't have any trauma! or problems I am Luisa Calderon!

DR. GOLDBERG

Look... Repeating your name doesn't get rid of your traumas. Let's talk about your father.

LUISA

My father has nothing to do with this.

DR. GOLDBERG

Luisa, why are you so scared to talk about him?

LUISA

I'm not! MY father didn't traumatize me. I just hear his voice calling me "useless" every time I look at myself in the mirror, and in my dreams, and any time there's a lull in a conversation.

DR. GOLDBERG

(Interrupting)

Luisa, the way a father treats his daughter is crucial in the formation of a woman's self-esteem.

LUISA

My self-esteem is fine.

DR. GOLDBERG

Since I started seeing you, you've gotten 17 plastic surgeries.

LUISA

No one said self-esteem was free.

DR. GOLDBERG

Luisa, a woman's worth is about a lot more than her physical beauty.

LUISA

That's what people who can't afford plastic surgery say.

DR. GOLDBERG

(Sights)

Have you been doing your daily affirmations?

LUISA

(They have had this convo before. she says this begrudgingly)

Yes. I'm an intelligent, beautiful, and powerful woman.

DR. GOLDBERG

Good. But Luisa, you can't just say it. You have to believe it. Your self-worth should come from yourself, not your father, not your husband.

Luisa remains quiet.

DR. GOLDBERG

Looks like we're out of time.

GLORIA (VO)

Wow, mom had more inner demons than I knew. I wonder how Maria is handling hers.

INT. CONFESSIONAL BOOTH - AFTERNOON 9.5

SFX the singing of nuns echoes faintly.

We hear the screen door slide open inside the confessional.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Perdóname padre que he pecado...

SFX light snoring.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

¿Padre? ¿Hello?

SFX a startled snort awakens...

HERMANA CLAUDIA

María del Carmen??

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Hermana Claudia??? What are you doing inside the confessional booth?

HERMANA CLAUDIA

Ah, I fell asleep here. I was hiding from Hermana Susana, she's a good nun but so annoying. Wait... what are you doing here?? Héctor Enrique Valdez called me to tell me you never showed up for your second day of work. We've been worried sick.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ay, Hermana Claudia, I've missed you so much! You won't believe what happened to me. Everything in Miami is so much... crazier than you told me.

HERMANA CLAUDIA

I told you that reggaeton was the work of the Devil!

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

No, Hermana, I need your help. I don't know what to do.

HERMANA CLAUDIA

Ah. Pues, tell me hija. There's nothing that prayer can't solve.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I think we're gonna need more than prayers for this one. Do you know who Gloria Calderón is...?

SFX "zoom out" - María del Carmen and Hermana Claudia's voices become a bit muffled and more distant.

GLORIA (VO)

Be careful with your story María del Carmen. You never know who might be listening...

END