

EPISODE 1

EXT. PIER - DUSK 1.1

We hear footsteps on a pier. GLORIA (21), is sobbing and running away from RAUL (23) who is shouting a bit behind her.

RAÚL

GLORIA! GLORIA! Come back! Don't you get on that boat!

Gloria's sobbing continues. She climbs into a speed boat and takes off, the sound of the engine and the boat gliding along the water for a moment. Gloria's phone rings and she answers:

RAÚL

Gloria please just talk to me

GLORIA

Raúl! Shut up! I don't want to talk to you...no! No! AHHHHHHH!!!

Suddenly, a loud SLAM. The boat hits a large rock, a churning sound as the boat cracks in half a brief moment of quiet before the huge splash of Gloria's body hitting the water. We hear the gurgling water as the boat starts to sink. The sound fades behind the VO.

[Transition: Ominous Music]

GLORIA (VO)

Tomorrow, when TMZ and all the other trashy magazines talk about what happened, they'll all say the same thing: That just one month before her wedding, Miami socialite, Gloria Calderon. dramatically ran down the pier, jumped into her brand new speedboat and crashed into an unfortunately placed sea boulder. Yes, a sea boulder. Anyway, they'll say she miraculously survived without a scratch on her body. But they'll all be wrong. The magazines. Gloria's boyfriend. Her own mother. Because even though everyone saw Gloria swim to shore that night... Gloria is dead. How do I know? Because I am Gloria. DUH! But I'm getting ahead of myself. I started with the accident instead of the beginning. As you've noticed I have a flair for the dramatic. It's kinda my thing.

EXT. CHURCH COURTYARD - DAY 1.2

Fade in: Church bells. The sound of nuns singing a hymn, and children running through a courtyard.

GLORIA (VO)

(Clears throat)

So this story actually begins with an orphan girl named Maria del Carmen.

(Beat)

What? A bit cliché? This is a novela, of course there's going to be a poor innocent orphan raised in a convent. Hello?!

The sound of scrubbing, and a girl, MARÍA DEL CARMEN (19) humming a song to herself. The sound of steps approaching.

HERMANA CLAUDIA

María del Carmen...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Sí. Hermana Claudia, I'm here!

HERMANA CLAUDIA

María, hija, stop cleaning you're going to miss your bus. I'll help you with your bags.

SFX The sounds of luggage wheels and footsteps over cobblestones.

They walk and talk.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

But Hermana Claudia - According to the chore board it's my day to do the floors!

HERMANA CLAUDIA

Let Hermana Susana do that. That woman hasn't lifted a finger since '96.

HERMANA SUSANA

(From afar)

Me llamaron?

HERMANA CLAUDIA

No! No, Hermana Susana! Hay Dios mio.

(To María del Carmen)

Maria, are you sure you want to leave? It's not too late to change your mind. We could always use another nun here at the convent of (rambles the longest name) las Hermanas de la santa misericordia de Jesucristo, nuestro-Señor y esperanza eterna-

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Interrupting)

Please Hermana - we've been through this like a million times - I don't want to become a nun. I want to be a normal person. Not that nuns aren't normal people but you know what I mean. I just want to like ...pay taxes and complain about traffic and...try a cinnabon!

(Suddenly feels bad)

But - obviously I'm super grateful that you..you know..raised me. And fed me. Saved my life, you know?

HERMANA CLAUDIA

Mija please there's no need to thank me. I loved raising you as my own. All of it. Even the dirty diapers. Well, maybe not the diapers so much but everything else. I can't believe it's been 22 years. But you know what they say, "time flies by when you're serving the Lord!"

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I have never heard that one before.

HERMANA CLAUDIA

It's a nun thing. Just promise me you won't forget who you are.

Oh, and promise you won't listen to reggaeton. I'm pretty sure it's satanic. Ah que a mi me gusta bad bunny, que no es bueno.... pero de cualquier manera...The devil is what makes it so catchy.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

[Music swells]

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Hermana, before I leave. Are you ONE HUNDRED PERCENT sure you don't know anything about my parents?

HERMANA CLAUDIA

If I knew anything, I'd tell you. But as you know, you arrived on our doorstep like Moses in a basket, with nothing.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(To herself)

Oh please not the Moses story again..

HERMANA CLAUDIA

You literally arrived in a woven basket. And we gave you everything, even your name. Maria, after the Mother of God. And Carmen after that famous explorer, Carmen San Diego. I love that show...

SFX The sound of a heavy metal gate swinging open.

HERMANA CLAUDIA

Here is the address for the job I found you. Remember we are not far away. Que Dios te bendiga, Maria!

SFX The sound of the bus pulling up on a dusty road.

They hug for a moment.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Running for the bus)

I love you Hermana Claudia, adios!

SFX The bus doors open

María del Carmen boards and give her ticket to the BUS DRIVER (40)

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Jazzed)

Here's my ticket, señor. Don't forget it! Ha! Can you let me know when we've arrived at South Beach?

BUS DRIVER

(Grumbling)

Oh great another innocent ingenue on her way to the big city. As if I don't have enough to do.

Bus doors close and the sound of wheels on gravel.

[Music transition]

INT. BUS - MID-MORNING 1.3

Through the windows of the bus we hear Reggaetón music growing louder and louder. We hear the bus roll to a stop and doors open.

BUS DRIVER

(Over the speaker)

Ocean Drive, South Beach. South Beach, Miami.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Yawning)

Gracias. Do you know where I can find this address?

BUS DRIVER

Oh I don't know, do I look like a wise owl or google maps you think I can help guide you whether it's walking, driving or bike? Come on, Get off my bus!

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Right, perdón, ehm, sorry. Wow I've never felt sand before, I don't think I've ever seen the ocean..that man is not wearing any pants!

María del Carmen struggles to get her luggage off the bus.

SFX We hear the bus pull away and seagulls crying.

Her luggage wheels down the street as people laugh around her.

SFX The ding of a store bell and a door swinging open.

She rings a bell on the counter.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - MID-MORNING 1.4

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(To herself)

Oh my god this place is amazing. Is that a chandelier? I thought those were only in cartoons...

(Calling out)

Alo? Hello?

She rings a bell on the counter. Very proper receptionist Hector steps out.

HÉCTOR

(Very proper)

Good morning miss. Welcome to the Palace Country Club. Are you a new member?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

No, um, my name is María del Carmen. I don't know if I'm at the right address but today is my first day of work?

Héctor drops his proper tone and becomes snappy.

HÉCTOR

(Drops proper tone)

Oh. You're the girl from the convent. You're three minutes late.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I'm sorry it's just that-

HÉCTOR

I don't want to listen to your excuses, muchacha. As I said to my sister, Hermana Claudia-

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Wait. Hermana Claudia is your sister?!

HÉCTOR

No, but she's a childhood friend so I call her sister, Hermana Claudia.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

That's redundant.

HÉCTOR

You're redundant. As I said to my Sis-

(Corrects himself)

To Hermana Claudia, I got you a job as a lifeguard.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Squeals with joy)

Lifeguard! I thought I was going to serve coffees or bus tables but wow okay... I knew those swimming lessons would eventually pay off! Bueno, they weren't lessons per se, Hermana Susana would throw a Milky Way into the pool and the orphans had to race to get it and we lost a lot of good kids-

HÉCTOR

I don't need your tragic life story Mija. Ay por favor. You can leave your stuff in the locker room around the back. My name is Héctor Enrique Valdéz, but you can call me Héctor Enrique Valdez. You'll report to me. Here's your uniform, please get changed and I'll show you your station.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

This is my uniform?? Oh my goodness, I'll be practically naked!

HÉCTOR

Look, kid - you're not at the convent anymore. I don't know if you noticed, but there are thousands of girls on the beach suntanning their butt cracks. Ay, que pena que se ponen sus pasties aquí en las tetas y esas cosas estan blancas.. So, either put on the uniform or throw on a habit and head back.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Well, can I at least cover myself with, like, a sweater or something?

HÉCTOR

It is a hundred degrees and more humid than a fart in leather pants but it's a free country. Don't come crying to me when you get a heat stroke. Now hurry up. Appurate muchacha.

Hector walks away grumbling and María del Carmen takes a deep, excited breath.

[Musical transition]

SFX of beach life.

SFX Seagulls, whistles, laughter, and waves.

GLORIA (VO)

And that's where everything really began for our "innocent" and "sweet" and annoyingly naive Maria del Carmen. She thought it was the beginning of her normal life. Maybe she would meet a moderately handsome boy, they'd fall in love... then they'd break-up and she'd find another one... then they'd break up and she'd gain ten pounds. The point is she wanted a normal life. But after what she saw that night at the beach, A normal life would be impossible.

INT. THE OFFICE - SUNSET 1.5

SFX whistles blowing. Reggaetón music getting turned off.

The door to the office swings open.

HÉCTOR

(On the phone in a pleasant tone)

Of course Miss. Kennedy I will change that Tennis reservation right away.

Hector hangs up. Drops his "work" tone.

HÉCTOR

(Changes tone)

Jesus, nun girl you look terrible. Que fachas que crudo dios mio.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Uff, it was the longest day ever. I'm so thirsty. Can I grab a water bottle?

She cracks open a bottle and starts gulping it down.

HÉCTOR

Um, those bottles are IMPORTED AQUA from FIJI and they are for the guests. I'll just take it out of your paycheck. Be here tomorrow at 6 am, you got it? Not 6:03, not 6:07. SIX. A. M.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Sí, Héctor.

HÉCTOR

(Correcting her)

Héctor. Enrique. Valdéz.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

See you tomorrow.

The doorbell dings as she exits, her rolling suitcase thudding on the sidewalk.

The sounds of teenagers with a boombox come from the beach.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Whispered)

God he's a lot...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Blowing her whistle)

Hey! HEEY! Guys. The beach is closed! Please get out of the water, you can't be out here. Seriously, get out of here or I'm going to have to call security. The Beach is CLOSED.

She continues walking, and hears the teens laughing behind her. In the distance we hear the same engine rev, screech of tires, and sudden impact heard at the top of the show.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Gasps)

DIOS MÍO!

CROWD

Oh my god. Has that rock always been there?

We hear María del Carmen run toward the accident, the sound of the waves getting closer until she dives in.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I'VE GOOOT YOUUU!

GLORIA (VO)

Look at her, she's been a lifeguard for only five hours and she is already trying to rescue me. Remember the boat crash from the beginning with the unfortunately placed sea boulder? Yeah it's literally happening now. We follow her through the waves, hearing the water lap around her. We hear her dive, the bubbling silence and pressure of the ocean surrounding her.

And there among crashing waves; María del Carmen tried to pull me, Gloria Calderon, to safety.

But when she looked at my lifeless body she saw a familiar face. Her face. My Face. The face... of her twin sister.

SFX we hear María del Carmen burst through the waves, clearly struggling.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Gasping, between waves)

Dios, no. No, no. What is this? It can't be.

GLORIA (VO)

It was like looking in a mirror. Well Sort of, I'm like, the cuter twin. But anyway. This is the part where I die.

[Musical transition]

The sound of the water, the deep and silent pressure, slowly fades into the sound of waves. A small crowd is heard whispering. We hear María del Carmen gasp and cough water up. PAPARAZZI CROWD around and cameras snap.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I couldn't save her. Oh, Dios, please forgive me.

PAPARAZZI 1

Gloria, are you okay!?

PAPARAZZI 2

Gloria, were you out drinking?

PAPARAZZI 3

Gloria, is it true you had an affair with Steve Buscemi?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

What? No. I'm not...

RAÚL

Gloria, thank God! What were you thinking of my love!? I thought you were dead.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Who are you? Who's Gloria?

RAÚL

Oh my god, you're in shock.

(To the paparazzi)

Guys, seriously, give her some space! Come, my love, the car is right here.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

No, but I don't know you... I have to save her...I have to...

She faints. The paps go crazy.

RAÚL

She's fainted! Oh mi amor, I got you!

(Yells back to paparazzi)

Get out of the way!

(Under his breath)

All these people, I'm going to kill them. You're so cold, why is she so cold....

GLORIA (VO)

And that's how poor innocent Maria del Carmen became... Me, Gloria Calderon.

(Gets confused explaining)

O see, I am Gloria, but she is now also Gloria because everyone thinks she's me but I am not Maria del Carmen even though I look like-

(Sighs)

It sounds more complicated than it actually is. And even though me dying is a total bummer, without that accident, Maria del Carmen would have never found out who her real parents were. Not to mention, all the juicy secrets the Calderon family was hiding. But I'm getting ahead of myself, again. Told you, dramatic!

But one thing is for sure - I'm not the only one who dies in this story... Sorry - that was dramatic again.

END