

Episode 23

GLORIA (VO)

Previously on The Princess of South Beach: We got the full story on Estrella - TLDR She's gay, Gabby is her girlfriend, and Esteban definitely knows what happened to her. Meanwhile, Nacho was already in debt with some very angry mobsters and has now lost even more money on a terrible bet at the horse racing track. His only hope of getting out this alive is making sure Raul marries the fake Gloria, Maria del Carmen, and that he keeps Esteban happy. Did I mention they were having a secret affair? Yah, that's happening. Which is obviously not great for his marriage with Luisa - speaking of, let's check in on the unhappy couple

INT. LA CASA ROSA / DOORWAY - DAY 23.1

Esteban is fixing himself and picking his stuff to head out. Luisa follows him around, her pumps clicking loudly.

ESTEBAN

I'm already late. Let's reschedule.

LUISA

But you said we were gonna have breakfast together today.

ESTEBAN

I know, Luisa, but plans change. I wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't important, but Nacho says //

LUISA

Claaaro... NACHO says. Bueno, if NACHO says it, then, of course, you have you to run along, no?

ESTEBAN

Luisa can we not the with drama this morning. I haven't even had my coffee. Why don't you go, I don't know, to the mall, buy a dress. I don't know what you do with your free time.

LUISA

What for? You don't even notice when I dress up. Esteban we have to talk about our marriage.

ESTEBAN

I don't have time for this. I'll see you later.

[SFX Esteban's footsteps leaving the kitchen. We follow his footsteps outside, where he opens an umbrella. Under the umbrella, he makes a call]

ESTEBAN

Nacho, I'm on my way. Whatever this "important news" is, it better be worth it. Luisa is furious because I canceled our breakfast date.

GLORIA (VO)

Trouble in paradise. Again. But love on the rocks means good things for Maria del Carmen and Estrella's spying.

INT. LA CASA ROSA / PASILLO - DAY 23.2

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Whispered)

He's leaving now.

ESTRELLA

I wish I could follow him. But after almost getting fired I know Luisa is going to be on my ass

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Don't worry - I'll cover for you. I'll tell her I needed more...luxury tampons? I don't know, something rich people need. Go see what he's up to. There's something fishy going on.

ESTRELLA

Now, this is what I'm talking about. Real spy stuff. I knew you'd be a great partner

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ok well, he's pulling away from the driveway so...

ESTRELLA

Oh, shoot - Ok, I'm on it. See you later

GLORIA (VO)

Ohhhh so sneaky ladies! Nancy Drew has got nothing on you two. Now let's see what Nacho needed Esteban so urgently for.

[Musical transition. A busy hotel lobby]

INT. BUSY HOTEL LOBBY - DAY 23.3

ESTEBAN

A ver, Nacho, what was so urgent that couldn't wait until tomorrow?

NACHO

Esteban! Come, sit down, do you want me to order some cocktails?

ESTEBAN

This isn't a social call. Do you have any idea how annoying Luisa is when she's pissed? I left a very angry wife at home so please tell me you have something good.

NACHO

Someone's grumpy this morning. I think you're gonna change your tune when you hear what I've got for you. Do you remember that nosy reporter who was asking about those conversion camps?

ESTEBAN

(Whispering)

Yeah, I do. I was there. I specifically asked you to look into it.

NACHO

Well, it looks like Alicia Mendez was the one who sent them over to the press conference.

ESTEBAN

Alicia Mén...Oh god, you mean that awful woman that's running on the ultra-liberal ticket? I can't stand her. So she's the one behind all this?

NACHO

Yup. Looks like miss morality is playing dirty.

ESTEBAN

You don't say. So those questions were planted?

NACHO

Yeah - they're trying to shake the confidence of the base. They have nothing. And honestly, after the allegations that you have been funding those religious camps came out, your poll numbers went up.

ESTEBAN

(Whispers)

Ok but what about the other...insinuation. That I went to those camps.

NACHO

They have no proof. If she's the one behind this, it will just look like dirty politics. Everyone will think she made it up just to make you look bad. She's just afraid of you. She sees you as a threat.

ESTEBAN

Good, good.

(Beat)

My first press conference and somebody is already trying to sabotage me? They really think I could win huh?

NACHO

Oh, you're going to win. This is your moment. Everything is going great - just trust me and I will get you to the mayor's mansion.

ESTEBAN

I already have a mansion

NACHO

And now you'll have two.

ESTEBAN

I could kiss you right now.

NACHO

I thought you might say that. ... there's a room on the first floor, just for us... I booked it under the pseudonym: "Alicia Méndez".

They both burst out laughing.

ESTEBAN

Entonces, what are we waiting for? I'm hungry for some Nachos (long pause) Im sorry, that was awful. Lets get upstairs.

Their chairs pull back and footsteps walk off.

GLORIA (VO)

It seems like Nacho en Esteban are going to need some privacy... But I know of someone who'll be VERY interested in what's going in that room.

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We hear the same music in the lobby of the hotel. We hear the ringing of a phone line.

ESTRELLA

(Whispering)

Maria del Carmen? Yeah I'm at a hotel and Esteban just went up to a private suite with Nacho. (pause) I don't know, maybe they are meeting with someone in there? Maybe getting a bribe or something? How do you launder money? Maybe it's that? (Pause) Ok I'm gonna go see if I can get into their room (Pause) Yes, I will bring you back some riblets. Bye.

Transition to the sounds of an elevator dinging. We hear Estrella fumbling with the door through her line.

Estrella

(whispering)

OK how do they do this in the movies? You just jam a credit card into the crack and Oh did not expect that to actually work. ~~OK....~~

We hear through a door the sounds of Esteban and Nacho in the throes of passionate lovemaking. The door swipes open and Estrella quietly enters the room. The sounds of lovemaking get louder as we enter. We hear a phone click open, the beep of recording. Nacho moans Esteban's name

GLORIA (VO)

Very well done, Estrella. This isn't the smoking gun you were looking for, but I'm sure you can find some use for it.

[Musical Transition]

INT. LA CASA ROSA - AFTERNOON 23.4

We hear the sounds from the scene before, but of the recording, coming from an iPhone.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Oh, wow.

ESTRELLA

Ah huh. They went on like that for a solid 20 minutes. Bueno, not only like *that...* they also did *this...*

The video scrubs to more intense moaning and the sound of whipping.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ok, that's enough! That video is... very graphic, but I don't see how this helps us. It doesn't help us find Gabby. Or prove that they murdered my biological mother.

ESTRELLA

I know. You think I'm excited to find out that the guy funding all the conversion camps is gay? Outing him is not the revenge I was looking for.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ok, so then what do we do with this?

ESTRELLA

I'm obviously not going to send it to the press BUT, I *can* use it to make HIM think that I'm going to send it to the press...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

You lost me.

ESTRELLA

Blackmail. Do you know what blackmail is?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ah... no.

ESTRELLA

We can use this piece of "blackmail" i.e. the VIDEO, to get him to hand over information about Gabby, and hopefully your mom... Get it? The threat of this going public will make him more open to giving us information.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

No sé, Estrella, this feels like a step too far.

ESTRELLA

You said you were going to help me. You promised.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I know but there has to be another way.

ESTRELLA

I've been looking for Gabby for YEARS. This might be a game to you, but not to me. I'm going to do whatever I need to do to find her. And believe me, you're either with me or against me. And remember, you're not exactly innocent in all of this.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Ok, Dios mío. Take a chill pill. I'm on your side. Just promise me you won't tell Raúl.

ESTRELLA

Why would I tell Raul? I don't even like him.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I don't know! I've just been thinking and I realized that I have to break things off with him. I've been playing pretend with Gloria's life and it's not fair that he is caught in the middle of all this. I don't intend on marrying the guy and now that I've kissed Andres, I feel bad.

ESTRELLA

Waaaait, wait. You're going to call off what people are calling "The Wedding of the decade?!" Beyonce is coming. I saw her RSVP!

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Pues...

ESTRELLA

And all of this because of Andres? A guy you barely even know?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I don't even know Raul! I'm not Gloria. I can't marry him just because Gloria was about to. If I'm going to continue being Gloria, I need to start acting like it's my own life, not hers.

ESTRELLA

What do you mean YOUR life? What happened with all that crap about being honest? Are you telling me you're NEVER going to tell them the truth? You think you're going to live this life forever?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I am going to tell the truth... just not right now. At least, not until we finish what we started.

GLORIA (VO)

So it seems María del Carmen is getting comfortable in my shoes... But be careful hermanita. Because sometimes when you wear a mask for too long, you forget who is really underneath.