

Episode 33

GLORIA (VO)

Previously on: The Princess of South Beach. Esteban finally came face to face with his political nemesis, Alicia Méndez. During their live radio interview, Alicia confronted Esteban about Gabby's disappearance - yes the same Gabby Estrella has been looking for all these years. Raul is still recuperating after being beaten up by the thugs Nacho owes money to. Oh, and of course, people have finally noticed that Nacho is missing... because he is dead...because Maria del Carmen accidentally murdered him. So let's see how Esteban is doing without his campaign manager slash lover.

EXT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY 33.1

SFX the sound of cameras and hushed talking. A large crowd of reporters is getting ready for the start of a press conference. The mic feedbacks as Esteban prepares to speak.

ESTEBAN

Hola, hello, is this thing on? Bueno, thank you all so much for being here, muchas gracias por estar aquí. Unfortunately, I'm here to confirm that my campaign manager, Nacho Santa, disappeared three days ago.

Flurry of cameras and murmurs.

ESTEBAN

Por favor, por favor. As you can imagine, this is a very delicate time for me and my family. Nacho is more than an employee, he is one of the Calderon's. We are praying, day and night, for his safe return. The last we heard of him was when he left his home, last Thursday, after spending some time with his loving son, Raul. Here to comment on that: Raul Santana.

SFX Cameras flurry, reporters shout out questions then settle as Raúl takes the podium.

Raúl sounds terrible, like he's been crying for days.

RAÚL

Thank you all for being here. I know that my father would be moved by how many people have shown up today. My fa... my father isn't perfect, but he is a good man. We would appreciate any information anyone may have about my father's whereabouts. And Esteban, I want to thank you for everything you've done for my family during this difficult time.

Raúl starts to get choked up and Esteban quickly comes on stage.

ESTEBAN

Sí, thank you very much, Raúl. As you can see... he's sick with worry. We all are. We thank the brave officers of the Miami PD, who are working tirelessly to help us find Nacho. Thank you all for coming, and please, do keep Nacho in your prayers. Gracias.

SFX reporters shouting as Raúl and Esteban's footsteps leave the podium. The reporters are muffled as a door closes behind them. Heels walking fast down a hallway ala Aaron Sorkin.

KAREN

Esteban, here's your coffee.

ESTEBAN

Gracias, Karen. How did I do?

KAREN

Excelente. You seemed genuinely compassionate and stoic at the same time.

(Worried)

How are you? I know you and Nacho are close and I imagine...

ESTEBAN

(Dry)

I'm fine. He'll show up, you'll see.

SFX running footsteps approaching. It's Raúl who interrupts the conversation between Karen and Esteban.

RAÚL

(trying keep up to)

Um, Esteban, I need to talk to you about something//

ESTEBAN

Raul, you did a terrific job out there. Don't worry, I'm sure your dad will show up any moment now.

RAÚL

That's exactly what I need to talk to you about.

ESTEBAN

(Ignoring him)

Karen, how are we looking in the latest polls?

KAREN

We're ten points ahead with the elderly and the evangelical community. And we're trending up with goat herders.

ESTEBAN

Huh, okay.

(Surprised)

Well, all that's great news. I really thought that all of this would hurt us in the numbers, but I guess not!

KAREN

It's like they say, all publicity is good publicity.

RAÚL

Esteban, I have to tell you something. It's important...

Sfx several footsteps walking. One set of heels and two different set of shoes.

KAREN

(Interrupts and stops)

There is one thing we should be worrying about. The Alicia Méndez crowd has a hashtag called #WheresGabby trending on Twitter.

ESTEBAN

We need to change the narrative. Immediately. Karen, I need something I can use against that snake. Find it.

KAREN

I'm on it.

Her heels click away. A door opens to a room with a TV on in the background. where Luisa and María del Carmen have been waiting for Esteban. Raúl hasn't left Esteban's side.

ESTEBAN

Luisa, Gloria. Are you ready for the photos? The press is waiting on our exit.

LUISA

(coldly)

Esteban, Nacho is missing. Do you really want to use this moment for a photo op? Your best friend might be in danger.

ESTEBAN

We're three days away from the election. They'll be time for sentimentalities after we secure the votes //

RAÚL

I THINK MY DAD IS DEAD!!!

A silence. Raúl sobs.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Raúl, what do you mean?

RAÚL

I'm almost sure they killed my papi. Before he went missing, he told to me that he owed a lot of money to some very dangerous people. I don't know exactly who. I only know that he was being threatened and that the night he went missing someone attacked me. Ask your mom, Gloria, she was the only one who visited me at the hospital.

Silence.

LUISA

Esteban, why don't you look surprised?

ESTEBAN

He may have mentioned he owed money to some people but I assumed he would take care of it.

LUISA

So you're you knew Nacho was in trouble and you didn't do anything to help him?

ESTEBAN

Por favor, Luisa, I don't have time for one of your outbursts. Raul I'm sorry that you got attacked, I knew about the money problem, but I didn't realize it was this bad. Is there any more information you have about your father.

RAÚL

Only that when he left he was looking for the person responsible for blackmailing you, Esteban.

All overlapping:

LUISA

What blackmail?! Esteban, don't tell me that//

ESTEBAN

NO. No, no, it has nothing to do with that.

RAÚL

Does the blackmail have to do with the money?

LUISA

WHAT BLACKMAIL?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(nervously)

What are you guys talking about?!

ESTEBAN

EVERYBODY SHUT UP! I NEED TO THINK! (Composing himself) Raúl, who else knows about what you just told me?

RAÚL

No one.

ESTEBAN

Then let's keep it that way until after the election. The last thing I need is another scandal. We can continue discussing this at La Casa Rosa. Now everybody put your sad faces on and let's go. I'm need to swing by the office, I'll meet you later back home.

They all start to shuffle out of the room.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Raúl hang on... I'm very sorry about your dad

RAÚL

(ice cold)

Gloria - where have you been? I was in the hospital and no one could reach you. I know we aren't together anymore but I still thought you'd care about me. It's like I don't know you anymore.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Raul I'm sorry

RAÚL

Save it, Gloria.

Raúl's footsteps walk away. María stands still for a moment, then follows her family down the hallway. We hear a rush of cameras and reporters calling her name. She walks away with no comment but one reporter follows her.

ANDRÉS

Gloria. Gloria! Wait. Gloria, hey!

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Andrés - I have no comment.

ANDRÉS

What? No, I'm not reporting on you right now. I've been calling you...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Oh! You're not reporting on me *right now*?

ANDRÉS

I wanted to say I'm sorry.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Sorry for pretending to be in love with me to investigate my family?

ANDRÉS

I wasn't pretending.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Get out of my way Andres.

ANDRÉS

Pero Gloria//

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Goodbye, Andrés.

The door of a limo shuts and the window rolls up. The car rolls away.

GLORIA (VO)

Oooff, Savage. Maria del Carmen really is embracing her inner Gloria. And with everyone suspecting its the mob who is responsible for Nacho's disappearance, maybe María and Estrella might get out of this mess scot free.

[Musical transition]

INT. CAR - DAY 33.2

Sfx to a tie unraveling. Esteban tries to open the window of the moving car but cannot seem to do it. Desperately he pushes the button unsuccessfully.

ESTEBAN

Jorge Alberto, can you open the god damn window? The button isn't working!

(To himself in a lower voice)

I need some fresh air...

JORGE ALBERTO

Mmjm.

Sfx to the sound of a button being pressed and a lock being released. The window opens.

ESTEBAN

(Gasps for air)

Jesus, Nacho, where are you?

Sfx key dial.

OPERATOR

You have one saved message. To hear your saved message please press one...

Sfx key dial.

NACHO

Hey, Esteban! I guess you're not there. I just wanted to thank you... For everything. You know? You're really important to me and well... I just wanted to say thanks. Really. For everything. Talk to you later...

Sfx very low sobbing

ESTEBAN

(So sad)

Where are you Nacho?

INT. LA CASA ROSA - EVENING 33.3

The kitchen, Luisa stands over an almost boiling kettle.

GLORIA (VO)

Aw, looks like Esteban cares about Nacho more than he lets on. But that's a secret love that Nacho took to the grave, and by grave I mean swamp. Speaking of secret loves, have you forgotten that Raul and Luisa hooked up? I haven't. The image is burned into the back of my eyes.

SFX a door opens and Raúl's footsteps enter.

RAÚL

Ah, Luisa, I didn't know you were here. I'll leave you alo //

LUISA

No, por favor!

(an awkward pause)

I enjoy your company. Raúl, we haven't been able to talk ever since...

RAÚL

Since..sí, bueno, we haven't had much time to ourselves lately...until now.

LUISA

(Blushing)

The other night was great uh- but obviously a mistake.

RAÚL

A big mistake.

LUISA

And it can never happen again.

RAÚL

(with a smile)

No, no, of course not...

SFX a door opens and footsteps come into the kitchen.

LUISA/RAÚL

Esteban!

ESTEBAN

Vaya, and what do you two have going here? What a weird vibe. What are you two having a secret affair or something? Haha.

Luisa and Raul laugh a little too hard.

ESTEBAN

Ha. Um. Okay. I guess we all need a laugh right now.

Esteban grabs a protein bar and starts to head out.

ESTEBAN

Well I'm off to bed. I'll leave you two to whatever this is.

SFX the door closes. The vibe has changed.

LUISA

Bueno, ehm. Buenas noches. Raúl.

RAÚL

Buenas noches, Luisa.

GLORIA (VO)

Wow. I haven't witnessed sexual tension like that since I got trapped in an elevator with Benedict Cumberbatch. Let's see how Estrella and Maria del Carmen are handling their post-murder stress.

[Musical Transition]

INT. GLORIA'S BEDROOM - EVENING 33.4

We fade in on tense whispers between Estrella and María del Carmen.

ESTRELLA

I can't believe it, there are over 2000 tweets with the hashtag #WheresGabby. I didn't think so many people would care.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Looks like our your plan is finally coming together.

ESTRELLA

Hey, uh, Maria do we want to talk about the elephant in the room?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Hmm?

ESTRELLA

Are you okay?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I'm fine. Why?

ESTRELLA

I dunno, just spitballing here but um, you accidentally killed someone and then covered it up and now everyone in Miami is looking for him? I mean, you we're freaking out about it before and now you seem cool as a cucumber.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Shhh. Lower your voice. What is there to talk about? Raul told everyone that Nacho owed money to the Mob and so it's only *logical* that they are the ones who killed him. Case closed.

ESTRELLA

Yeah but, me and you know what actually happened.

María del Carmen

I SAID CASE CLOSED. Okay? The damage is done. I don't want to talk about I anymore.

ESTRELLA

Okay but-

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

-What do you want from me? Want me to go out there and tell everyone what happened? Do you want to spend the rest of your life in jail?

ESTRELLA

That's not what I meant. I just want to talk to you-

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

-What's done is done. God just handed us a miracle. The best thing we can do is take it.

ESTRELLA

That's... a bit of a stretch.

SFX the doorbell rings. We hear from the distance Luisa yelling.

LUISA (OFF)

ESTRELLA, GO SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR.

ESTRELLA

Por Dios, who could it be so late at night? Luisa probably ordered another calzone, she always does that when she's stressed out.

SFX we hear Estrella's footsteps as she walks to the front door. Someone is insistently knocking. She opens the door.

OFFICER GÓMEZ

Buenas noches

ESTRELLA

Buenas noches, officer...

OFFICER GÓMEZ

Gómez. Are your bosses around?

ESTRELLA

¿Huh?

OFFICER GÓMEZ

It's regarding Nacho Santana's case. My partner and I, can we come in?

GLORIA (VO)

Uh, oh Estrella. It looks like that miracle didn't last long...