

## **Episode 34**

**GLORIA (VO)**

**Previously on The Princess of South Beach:** Esteban had a press conference to confirm that Nacho had "disappeared". Of course, Nacho has not "disappeared", he's dead! After threatening to expose Maria del Carmen, she accidentally killed him and then disposed of his body in a swamp. Raúl thinks that his father was murdered by the mafia, to whom Nacho owed a lot of money. Maria del Carmen and Estrella were ready to move on with their lives until a police officer investigating Nacho's disappearance knocked on their door. Now, the Calderón family is gathered in the living room, ready to answer questions from the authorities. O-M-G! My palms are sweaty...Mom's spaghetti... let's go!

**INT. LA CASA ROSA - NIGHT 34.1**

General murmuring/Overlapping

**LUISA**

Gloria fix your makeup

**RAÚL**

What is this about?

**ESTEBAN**

//I really don't have much time for this

**ESTRELLA**

I'm just...dusting...Like normal

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Please everyone, have a seat. Buenas noches, and thank you for meeting us at such an inconvenient time. I would like to introduce my new partner, Officer Hausmann.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Very stiff)*

Mucho gusto.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Obviamente, we're here in regards to Nacho's disappearance. Raúl, good to see you. I have you in my prayers during this difficult time.

**RAÚL**

Muchas gracias, Officer Gómez, truth is it's been...

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Cutting him off)*

Sí, sí. Given that all of you are the closest people associated with Nacho, we wanted to ask you some questions.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

*(Abashed)*

hehe sí, but I just want to make it clear that this is a formality more than anything else and that nobody here is being seriously considered as a suspect. //

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Cutting him off)*

Well, it's still a little too early to rule anyone out. Right now we're just trying to gather all the facts and find out exactly what happened.

**ESTEBAN**

¿Officer Hassmen?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

HOUSE-MAN.

**ESTEBAN**

¿Hoosemen?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

HOUSE-MAN.

**ESTEBAN**

Yes, of course, Hausmann. Well, I think you will find us to be perfectly cooperative. We have nothing to hide. Officer Gomez and I have been friends for over twenty years and he can confirm that, despite our public persona, we are just a regular, boring American family.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Yes, Esteban, I already told my partner that you are all model citizens and we appreciate your cooperation. This is just protocol, you know?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

It's not just protocol. Señor Calderón, you're in the middle of a mayoral race, right?

**ESTEBAN**

Yes, that's right, officer HOUSE-MEN.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Annoyed but lets it go)*

A very close race as I understand it. And Nacho, as your campaign manager, would have access to all of your most personal documents. Including any that you might want to keep secret, no?

**ESTEBAN**

Bueno, I wouldn't say that //

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Cutting him off)*

And Gloria, up until recently, you were engaged with Raúl, Nacho's son, isn't that right?

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Uh, sí, that's correct.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

A relationship that ended somewhat abruptly and in a very public manner. I'm sure that Nacho wasn't too happy about that...

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Sí, but I don't//

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Y Luisa - isn't it true that you and Nacho always had a very tense and confrontational relationship?

**LUISA**

Who? Me? Yes, I mean, we weren't BEST friends but I certainly didn't kill the man.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Who said anything about Nacho being murdered?

**RAÚL**

You think my Papi was murdered?

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Let's settle down here. We all have a history with Nacho here. I myself have gotten a little tipsy with the man on occasion. Lest we forget the Chuck E Cheese incident.

*(Laughs)*

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Clears throat)*

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

But there's no need to air out dirty laundry...

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Funny you should mention that, because that's exactly what I want to do. I think there's a lot to talk about here, so, why don't we split up? I'll interrogate, I mean, have a chat with Esteban in the study and you can start with Gloria and Luisa in the kitchen.

*A silence.*

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Did I stutter? Come on, let's get this moving.

The family starts grumbling and shuffling out.

**ESTEBAN**

*(Whispering)*

Oye, Gómez, what's her deal? I thought I paid you to keep me out of this sort of thing...

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

*(Whispering)*

She's a transfer and she's trying to make a name for herself. Don't worry, I'll make sure that nothing gets out of hand.

*(Loudly)*

Bueno, Gloria, why don't we go to the kitchen and talk for a bit?

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

*(Nervously)*

Por supuesto, this way.

*[Musical Transition]*

**INT. STUDY - NIGHT 34.2**

**ESTEBAN**

Welcome to my study, officer.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Bueno, señor Calderón, let's start with something simple: Where were you on the night of Nacho's disappearance?

**ESTEBAN**

*(Pouring himself a drink)*

Whiskey?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

No, gracias. I don't drink.

**ESTEBAN**

Like, ever? Really? You're such a charming woman, one would imagine that you'd be going out for drinks with eligible bachelors every night.//

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

*(Cutting him off)*

//Can we not? Answer my question, Señor Calderón?

**ESTEBAN**

Ah sí, I forgot, what was it again?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Where were you the night of Nacho's disappearance?

**ESTEBAN**

What day was it? Thursday? Bueno, I think I was working overnight at the office. As you well know, I'm running for mayor so there's always something that needs my attention.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Is there anyone who could corroborate your alibi?

**ESTEBAN**

Oh, I don't know, just hundreds of Miami's eligible voters. You see, so close to the election, it's important to speak directly to constituents to make sure that they understand where I stand on certain topics. So every night this week I've been personally calling voters from my office.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

And you were doing this alone? There was no one else with you at the office?

**ESTEBAN**

My assistant was there until 8 pm, but I stayed until the wee hours.

She scribbles in her notepad

**ESTEBAN**

What are you writing?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Why don't you tell me a little bit about your relationship with Nacho?

**ESTEBAN**

*(Chokes on his drink)*

What relationship? I don't know what relationship you're referring to.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Aren't you two close friends? His son was about to marry your daughter. He was your campaign manager. How was the relationship between you two?

**ESTEBAN**

Ah, sí, bueno, THAT relationship. I wouldn't say that we're CLOSE. We're friendly... we get along... more business partners than anything else

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Ah huh. When we ran a trace on Nacho's credit cards, we saw that he booked a room for a night in a hotel downtown. Do you happen to know who he was meeting there?

**ESTEBAN**

...I wasn't aware of that. No, em, I'd have to check my calendar and see if...

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

In the days before Mr. Santana's disappearance, did you notice anything out of the ordinary?

**ESTEBAN**

Sorry? What do you mean?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Anything unusual, like his behavior or...

**ESTEBAN**

*(Feeling pressured and cornered)*

Well, ehm. Yeah.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Why do I get the sense you are hiding something?

**ESTEBAN**

I don't know much because I didn't want to get involved... you know, political implications and all that. But he did mention that he owed money to... someone...

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Someone? What were his exact words?

**GLORIA (VO)**

Uh oh, Esteban, seems like Maria isn't the only one hoping the Mafia takes the fall for this one. Let's see how Maria and Luisa are doing with Officer Gomez.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 34.3**

*SFX a wrapper crumpling. A light vacuuming in the background*

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

*(Licking his fingers)*

MMM wow. Delicioso. Luisa, this calzone is amazing. Your folded pizzas are unparalleled.

**LUISA**

I ordered it.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Ah! Bueno, then your taste in delivery is outstanding.

**LUISA**

Um... weren't you going to ask us questions?

Vacuuming becomes louder.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Jeje sí, sí, I suppose I



*(Shouting over the vacuum)*

I suppose I should ask//

**LUISA**

*(Snappy)*

Estrella, could you maybe vacuum SOME OTHER TIME?

**ESTRELLA**

AY, perdón! Of course, I'll just focus on dusting for a bit.

**LUISA**

This might be the first time I've actually seen her clean the place.

*(Sighs)*

Bueno, your questions, Officer Gómez?

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

*(Very serious suddenly)*

Sí, sí. Question number one: which one of you killed Nacho Santana?

A silence.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

HAHAHAHAHAHA.

The rest nervously begin to laugh as well.

Ah! I'm joking, I'm joking. You seriously don't think I'm going to ask you about any of this, do you?

I don't know if this is the appropriate time for jokes...

*(Ignoring her)*

Luisa, we've known each other for 20 years. There's no way I'd suspect you. Besides, if you were having someone killed, don't you think I'd know?

Everyone laughs good-naturedly.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

HILARIOUS. What a funny joke. You made it. Very funny.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Bueno, all I need to know is what you guys were doing the night that Nacho went missing.  
¿Gloria?

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

I was... I was, um...Uhhhhhh

**ESTRELLA**

YOU WERE IN PRACTICE. BAND PRACTICE.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

YES. AND. ehm, I hadn't mentioned anything about it because we're still practicing... Pero así es, I was at band practice.

**LUISA**

You're in a BAND?

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Ah, muy bien, can any of your bandmates corroborate your story? Who are the members of this band?

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Uh...

**ESTRELLA**

ME! It's me. Just Gloria and ME, Estrella. I guess it's more of a duo than a band. Pero, pues, the White Stripes are a band and they're only two... so, yeah! You know what? We are a band!

**LUISA**

Gloria, I *told* you not to get too close to the help.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

*(Scribbling notes)*

Muy bien! Investigation done! And Luisa - I'll just assume you were home.

Only Estrella laughs. It peters out awkwardly. The door opens.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Gómez, I'm ready. Are you guys ready?

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

We just finished. I'll be right out.

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Está bien.

*SFX The door shuts.*

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Gloria, you're a very talented young lady. Follow those musical dreams! You know I was in a band once? Good times.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

*(Weirded out)*

Gracias, Oficial Gómez.

Everyone gets up and starts walking to the door.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Ah, and before I forget. How's that surprise you were planning for your father?

**LUISA**

¿Qué?

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

The surprise party for Esteban. The other night I pulled Gloria over, and she was on her way to pick up something for the party. I'm still waiting for my invitation...Oye, and whatever happened to that Ferrari? I didn't see it out front.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Oh, the car I was driving, um... I took it back to the dealership. It wasn't my style.

**OFFICER GÓMEZ**

Ah, qué pena. It was a hot ride. Bueno, can't wait for that invitation

**LUISA**

*(Suspicious)*

Of course, Officer Gómez. Gloria, how very thoughtful of you.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Haha, thanks mom. You know me, always thinking of others

**GLORIA (VO)**

Looks like Maria may have gotten past the police, but Luisa smells something off...

*[Musical Transition]*

**EXT. LA CASA ROSA - NIGHT 34.4**

Crickets chirp as they get into their squad car. The door to the house opens and closes and footsteps run-up to the car.

**RAÚL**

Wait! Officers, wait!

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Raúl - I thought you'd left.

**RAÚL**

Officer, what do you know about my father? Do you have any leads?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

It's too early to tell. And the case is still ongoing so I can't really share any information with you at the moment.

**RAÚL**

*(Dejected)*

Sí, bueno, I understand. Muchas gracias.

He starts walking away

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Hey Raul. Wait a second. Look, I don't know what happened to your father, but what I do know is that someone in that house is lying.

**RAÚL**

What?

**OFFICER HAUSMANN**

Just do me a favor, be very careful, Raúl. People close to Esteban have a tendency to disappear. Your father isn't the first one. If you need anything, here's my card. Give me a call. Stay Safe.

The patrol car door shuts. Raúl's footsteps head back to the house.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Raúl, are you ok? - You look pale.

**RAÚL**

Gloria - I know we're not on the best of terms right now, but I need a friend, and I know I can trust you.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Of course, what is it?

**RAÚL**

I think ...I think that Esteban might have murdered my dad...

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

*(Whispering)*

WHAT?! What do you mean?

**RAÚL**

I never would have even thought of it, but the police just told me that they suspect him. And then there's the blackmail thing my dad was looking into...Gloria, I don't know what to think.

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

What did the police say?

**RAÚL**

That it's not the first time that someone close to Esteban disappears. They told me to be careful. When my dad disappeared I immediately assumed it was the guys who beat me up - the ones he owed money to. But, what if it wasn't them? What if it's someone I know who did this?

*(Pause)*

What am I saying? ...Esteban doesn't have any reason to harm my dad...I have to figure this out myself. I'm gonna find out who is responsible if it's the last thing I do.

He starts to walk away

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

WAIT. Maybe you're right. What if there was a motive... What if your dad knew something about Esteban that he didn't want to be made public? A secret.

**RAÚL**

Gloria, what are you saying?

**MARÍA DEL CARMEN**

Raúl - there's a video I need you to see...

**GLORIA (VO)**

WHOA BOMBSHELL. María del Carmen, you really have changed. But is this scheme gonna let you off the hook, or pull you in deeper?....