

EPISODE 4

INT BEDROOM - DAY 4.1

GLORIA (VO)

Previously on: The Princess of South Beach. Oh, right. My twin María del Carmen decided to usurp my fabulous life after I, Gloria Calderón, tragically died in a boat accident (Boohoo). But after meeting my family, the Calderons, María del Carmen read a mysterious letter that she found in MY diary, which she opened WITHOUT my permission. And the very mysterious letter said...

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

“Dear Gloria, I hope you’re doing well and are still receiving my letters. I can’t even imagine how many have failed to reach your hands, but if you’re reading this, then you need to know that your entire life has been a lie.

[Musical cue]

Voices should overlap as they read the letter in tandem

ANTONIO(VO)

Gloria, I know this is hard to believe, but the people who raised you are murderers. You're not a Calderon. You are MY daughter.

(Reminiscing)

I still remember the day your mother told me she was pregnant. It was the happiest day of our lives. I had always dreamt of having a daughter, so imagine how happy I was when your mother told me she was pregnant with//

[Musical Cue - Memory]

ANA (25) and Antonio are talking.

ANA

Twins! We're gonna have twins!

ANTONIO

Ana, Anita, mi amor, are you sure?! Two babies?

ANA

¡Sí! You're going to be a double dad! My belly is going to be so big I'm gonna look like an overstuffed chipotle burrito.

ANTONIO

Well then give me a side of guac cause I'm gonna eat you up. Too much?

ANA

A little.

ANTONIO

This is a miracle. A double miracle. Two girls.

(A pause)

Pero, what are you going to do about your job? Luisa is not a particularly understanding person. And her father is even worse. Do you think they'll fire you for being pregnant?

ANA

No se. I hope not, but I never know what to expect from the Calderons. They're...something else. Bueno, I'll tell Señora Luisa on Monday and we'll see what happens. But don't worry. The most important thing is, we're gonna have a family!

[Musical Cue - Voices echo to transition into the letter]

Antonio (VO)

In those days, your mother and I had just arrived in the United States. We were poor but full of hope for a better future for our little family. I worked in a factory, packing fruits, and your mother was working as a maid in the house of DON SEVERO CALDERÓN (85), the richest and most powerful man in all of Miami.

[Lighting strike - transition]

SEVERO

¡LUISAAA!

LUISA

Sí papá, I'm coming!

SFX hurried footsteps down a hallway. Severo has a hacking cough throughout.

SEVERO

Water... bring me water.

SFX water pouring into a cup. He chokes it down.

SEVERO

Luisa, what happened to your hair?

LUISA

I bleached it. You said I would look better blonde.

SEVERO

No. I said you would look better if I was *BLIND*. What are you wearing?

LUISA

Ah, Esteban invited me to a fancy dinner tonight.

SEVERO

(Grim and with a hacking cough)

On my dime I'm sure. Esteban... You couldn't have married a more useless person.

LUISA

He's not useless, papá...

SEVERO

(Barking)

He's useless. I gave him my most successful factory, and what did he do? He left it in ruins. As if that weren't bad enough, the two of you still haven't given me a grandson. An heir. I'm not getting any younger, you know? I'm going to die waiting for you to fulfill the only task you're qualified for.

LUISA

Don't worry, papa, you'll see soon we'll//

She is interrupted by a coughing fit.

LUISA

Papá, when are you going to see the doctor?

SEVERO

Why would I go and see another doctor? So he can tell me what I already know? That I'm dying of disappointment - Surrounded by people who do nothing but spend my money?

LUISA

(Looking for way out)

Is there anything else I can do for you, papa?

SEVERO

No, you're useless. Leave me alone with my regret. It's better company anyway.

LUISA

(Deflated)

I...nevermind

SFX heels walking away, a heavy french door closes. We hear Luisa sniffle. A second pair of footsteps approach quickly, carrying a tray of tea that rattles.

LUISA

Finally, where were you?

ANA

I was preparing some tea for your father, Señorita Luisa.

LUISA

How long does it take to boil water?! He almost died of a coughing-fit while you were taking your sweet time.

ANA

Perdón, señorita Luisa. I'll try to be more efficient with boiling in the future.

LUISA

Enough with the excuses. I already did your job for you and now I'm late for my dinner. Bring me my red boots.

SFX footsteps running away then rapidly coming back.

LUISA

(To herself)

Stupid maid - why is good help so hard to find.

ANA

Here you go señor//

LUISA

(Spitting fire)

YOU'RE USELESS!

SFX the boots being flung across the room. Dramatic score.

LUISA

I didn't say the MAROON boots, I said the RED boots.

ANA

Perdón, señorita Luisa. It's my fault. I'll bring you the correct ones.

LUISA

(Under her breath)

I have to do everything myself...

SFX footsteps away, and returning. A zipper zips up.

LUISA

That's better. The skirt looks better with the red boots, don't you think?

ANA

Si, señorita Luisa. You look pretty/

LUISA

(Talking over her, not really listening)

We have dinner reservations at the most popular restaurant in all of South Beach.

ANA

Oh, that's lovely! I hope you both have a great night//

LUISA

All the other girls will be so jealous when they see me in this dress. And looking like this, I'm gonna drive him crazy. He's not going to be able to resist.

ANA

Sí, you look very beautiful//

LUISA

And we'll finally be able to conceive that grandson my father constantly demands.

(Mocking)

"A woman's job is to be a mother, Luisa." "When are you going to get pregnant Luisa?" "Your face looks like a Picasso, and I don't mean it in a good way, Luisa". It's not like I'm not trying. Being a mother is the only thing I've ever wanted to do in my life...

ANA

Don't be so hard on him, señorita. You already know that his disease has him all worked up.

LUISA

And who asked for your opinion?

ANA

Sorry... Enjoy your dinner, señorita, ehm... Señorita Luisa, there's something I wanted to ask you...

LUISA

Don't tell me you need another day off to go to the doctor. I knew that if I gave you ONE day off it would become a problem.

ANA

No, no I don't need another day off. The reason I had to go to the doctor was that... well... I'm pregnant!

LUISA

(Stiffly)

Oh... Sí, pues... That's... great news. Congratulations.

ANA

¡Gracias! My husband and I are just so excited to have a family and I'm more than excited...

LUISA

Sí, sí yeah I get it... Bueno, I have to go. I'm already late for my dinner.

(Starts leaving. Suddenly stops)

Ana, please don't mention this whole pregnancy thing to my father. The last thing I need is another example of how I've failed.

Musical Transition.

Antonio (VO)

(Merging into María's voice)

You see, Luisa and Esteban had been trying for months to conceive the grandson Severo so desperately wanted. Luisa had always been a difficult person but with the news of your mother's pregnancy, she went crazy with jealousy. Excuse the harsh language but that woman is a bit of a b-

The scene is abruptly cut short by a knocking at the door.

LUISA

(Through the door)

Gloria. Time to eat.

We hear the letter crumple as she hides it in her pillow.

MARIA DEL CARMEN

Ehm... Gracias, but I'm not hungry right now.

LUISA

(Opening the door)

Gloria, don't be ridiculous. If this is about your diet, I already told you you look beautiful. Pero estas bellisima. Besides, if you lose any more weight, the wedding dress won't fit.

MARIA DEL CARMEN

No it's not that I... I feel dizzy.

Luisa sits on the bed with her, kissing her head.

LUISA

Do you want me to call Dr. Constantino again?

MARIA DEL CARMEN

Oh god no. No thank you... I just want to be alone. I have a lot of stuff in my head and I need time to think.

LUISA

I know this is all overwhelming, mi niña. The accident, the wedding, all the pressure your father puts on you. But you know you can always count on me. If you need to talk or whatever. I love you mi niña linda.

MARIA DEL CARMEN

(Struggles to say the word)

Gracias... Mamá.

LUISA

I'll tell Estrella to bring you some soup. Now rest, mi amor.

Luisa shuts the door. María del Carmen yanks out the letter and continues reading.

MARIA DEL CARMEN(VO)

Ok back to the letter.

(Merging into Antonio's voice)

Excuse the harsh language but that woman is a bit of a bitter lady. Anyway - after months of failed attempts, Luisa and Esteban had finally decided to get fertility tests done and see if there was a problem...

ANTONIO(VO)

Excuse the harsh language but that woman is a bit of a bitter lady. Anyway - after months of failed attempts, Luisa and Esteban had finally decided to get fertility tests done and see if there was a problem...

INT. RESTAURANT. - NIGHT 4.2

SFX we hear music and laughter of diners in a swanky restaurant

THE WAITER (25) approaches the table where Luisa is sitting.

WAITER

Hola, señorita. What would you like to drink?

LUISA

Mira, I'm very flattered but I'm married.

WAITER

Ehm, I'm... I'm the waiter.

LUISA

(Kinda flirting)

Pues, don't get fresh with me, ok? Bring me a martini, dirty... very, very dirty.

WAITER

Sí, señorita.

SFX we hear Luisa flip open her phone, dial her voicemail.

ESTEBAN

(Voicemail)

Luisa, forgive me. I'm going to be a little late, the traffic is insane...

WAITER

(Just reading out the order)

One very, very dirty martini.

SFX she shuts her flip phone.

LUISA

Ohhhh, did that handsome man over by the bar send me this?

WAITER

(Awkward)

No. Ma'am it's literally the drink you ordered like thirty seconds ago.

LUISA

Pues, if he didn't send it, why is he looking straight at me?

WAITER

He's not looking at you, he's... looking at me.

LUISA

How dare you?! Why on earth would he be looking at you?

WAITER

Cause he's my boyfriend.

SFX waiters' footsteps retreat as Esteban reaches the table, frazzled.

ESTEBAN

Luisa, sorry for making you wait.

LUISA

(Correcting)

Again. Sorry for making you wait AGAIN.

ESTEBAN

Luisa please, I don't want to fight. I got the test results and I'm terrified.

LUISA

(Pulling papers from her purse)

I got my results too. But I didn't want to open them by myself.

ESTEBAN

Me neither.

LUISA

I'm scared. What if it's me - I knew I shouldn't have taken so much Quicktrim.

ESTEBAN

Hey, hey - I'm sure everything is going to be fine. Let's read them at the same time.

(Taking a deep breath)

SFX sounds of paper ripping.

ESTEBAN

Esteban is 100% sterile.

LUISA

Luisa is 100% sterile.

Restaurant sounds goes silent, someone clears their throat. It's the waiter.

LUISA

Did they have to write a percentage?

ESTEBAN

Maybe a crowded restaurant wasn't the best place to do this.

Sounds of the restaurant continue.

ESTEBAN

Bueno, it's not what we expected but at least now we know why we can't get pregnant.

LUISA

(Holding back tears)

Sí... it's better to know.

ESTEBAN

I know how much you wanted to be a mother. I'm so sorry.

LUISA

(Unable to hold it in)

I don't know how I'm going to break it to my father.

She dissolves into tears and we fade into VO.

ANTONIO(VO)

(Merging into María's voice)

With the news that they were both sterile, Luisa would have to tell her father that she would never be able to give him the heir he demanded. Maybe it wouldn't have mattered if...

SFX knocking at the door. María del Carmen slams the book shut and hides the papers.

LUISA

Gloria? I'm going to bed but I wanted to check on you first. How are you feeling?

MARIA DEL CARMEN

(Stiffly)

Ehm, much better, gracias... mamá.

LUISA

Ay que bueno

Sits on the bed

LUISA

I'm so proud of the woman you've become. It feels like just yesterday you were kicking around in my belly.

MARIA DEL CARMEN

Ah, sí, mhm...

Luisa kisses her on the head.

LUISA

I love you, hija. Ok I'll let you rest.

The door closes.

MARIA DEL CARMEN

Ay, Diosito, What am I going to do?

GLORIA (VO)

That's what we are all dying to find out, little sis. What *are* you going to do?

END