

EPISODE 5

Gloria (VO)

Previously on: The Princess of South Beach. María del Carmen, my twin sister, discovered some secret letters hidden in my diary, written by a man named Antonio, who claims he's our real father. It goes without saying she hasn't been able to stop reading. And that's exactly what she's doing now.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 5.1

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Reading)

"Dear daughter, I don't know if you've been receiving my letters. I'll keep sending them in the hopes that you'll one day know the truth..."

SFX A knock at the door.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(To self)

Why can't I get through ONE mysterious letter?

Another knock. This convo happens through the door.

ESTRELLA

Señorita Gloria? Aren't you going to come down for breakfast?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Nervously)

No, no! Thank you. I'm not hungry!

RAÚL

(Dramatic)

Mi amor? It's me, Raúl. Are you sure you don't want to come? I miss you. You are the love of my life, the nuts in my oatmeal. The granite to my countertop. We're like two majestic unicorns flying high in the sky, atop //

She goes to the door and opens it.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Raúl, I don't even know what that means and I don't have time to decipher your metaphors. Thank you both for your concern, but I'm not ready to...deal with all of this.

RAÚL

Gloria, you can't keep yourself locked up forever. Is this because you don't want to deal with the press? You'll have to confront the cameras sooner rather than later... Oh wait, is this some sort of role-playing thing? You want me to break down the door and rescue you as if you were a captive princess and I, your knight in shining armor?

ESTRELLA

Should I leave?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

What? No, Raúl! And what are you even talking about? What press?

RAÚL

Have you not looked out the window? The paparazzi haven't left since the accident. Look.

They go to the window and open it. Outside we hear cameras and the shouting of photographers.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

No, no, no, no, no, there's too much going on. I need to process all this.

She shuts the blinds again, blocking out the sounds.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Por favor, leave me alone. I need to pray.

RAÚL

Pray? Since when do you pray? Or is this another role play thing where you're some kind of nun and I am a naughty priest-

ESTRELLA

I'm still here.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Trying to get rid of them)

I'll come down when I'm ready!

She shuts the door.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Dios Santo, what have I gotten myself into? The first day I leave the convent, I find out that I have a twin sister who immediately dies right in front of me in a tragic accident. And as if that isn't enough drama, I also find out that I have a super-rich family...but now these letters say they might be murderers? Forgive my tone Dios Santo but are you freaking kidding me?

We hear her shuffling letters around.

(Convincing herself)

Wait a minute, maybe these letters aren't even real. I mean, anybody could have written these. Maybe it was like, I dunno, a creative writing assignment.

She shuffles around anxiously.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I'm not going to read them. I need a distraction.

She clicks on the TV, THE TMZ ANCHOR(35) is giving the news.

TMZ ANCHOR

...Ever since she crashed her boat on Saturday, the model and celebrity Gloria Calderon hasn't left her swanky house in South Beach.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Losing it)

IS THERE NO ESCAPE?!

TMZ ANCHOR

As famous for her body as she is famous for her long list of exes, the star is set to get married next month with her boyfriend, Raul Santana, son of political advisor Nacho Santana. The couple was last seen at the Calderon Mansion, also known as the La Casa Rosa, last Saturday evening.

SFX TV shutting off.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I can't handle this anymore... I need to get out of here.

María is panicking.

She gets up and opens quietly the door, she is about to go down the stairs when...

ESTRELLA

Señorita Gloria, where are you going? Do you need anything?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Whispering)

Shhh... Estrella, I need your help.

ESTRELLA

What's going on? Do you need more tea?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Having a panic attack)

No, no tea. I need- I need some air. I need to get out of this place for a second without anyone noticing. I feel like I'm suffocating-

ESTRELLA

It's okay, it's okay. I haven't seen you this stressed out since Taylor Swift shaded you on Folklore.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Wha-what do those words mean? I need to get out of here.

ESTRELLA

Hmmmm. okay, I have an idea, here, take my apron.

Estrella takes off her uniform.

ESTRELLA

Grab these glasses and um, take this scarf. You can take my car, it's right around the back of the house. No one will recognize you in a Honda Accord.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Gracias, Estrella. You're the best.

EXT. PARK - DAY 5.2

Finally some peace, the sounds of nature. In the background, really far away, some sounds that remind us we are still in the city. María del Carmen sits on a bench.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Praying/whispering)

Dios... I don't know what to do. What would Hermana Claudia do if she were me? Or... what would you do? I need your help.

ANDRÉS(25) talks to María del Carmen.

ANDRÉS

Excuse me? You're sitting on my jacket.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Surprised)

What? Oh sorry! .. How long have you been sitting there?

ANDRÉS

About ten minutes... You didn't realize I was here but you sat right next to me and just started talking to yourself? I didn't want to interrupt because I've learned it's best not to talk to people who seem a little crazy. Not that you're crazy. I mean I don't know you but- My point is I'm not assuming anything about your mental state but- this is coming out wrong.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

It's fine. Here's your jacket. Really sorry.

ANDRÉS

Don't worry about it. Um, I also come here to clear my head when I'm feeling a little lost.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Oh. And... Do you ever find the answer you're looking for?

ANDRÉS

No, I do it more to remind myself that there's no such thing as *the right answer*. There are only options, all of them with their own set of pros and cons.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

And what choice did you make today?

ANDRÉS

I haven't made it yet. I came here for some quiet but then you showed up.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Oh, sorry-

ANDRÉS

No no, I didn't mean

(Sigh)

I'm sort of trying to make a big life decision. On one hand, I can pursue my dream, and then on the other hand I settle with what I have, which is, comfortable?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Well, it seems pretty obvious to me: You should follow your dream.

ANDRÉS

Yeah but there's no such thing as a dream without consequences. You know... ever since I was a kid, I've always wanted to be a reporter. Like the ones from the movies that end up catching the bad guys and staying up late at night chain-smoking and writing articles that'll change the

world. That was gonna be me. Without chain-smoking, I have asthma. But then I grew up and I realized journalism isn't as Leonard and Bernstein-y as I thought it was gonna be. It's a lot of articles about what kind of sandwich you are. And then when you do get the chance to write about something real, something impactful, you end up - I dunno - is it okay to lie, just a little? To get to the truth? To get what you want?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

I don't know. Maybe sometimes you have to lie to get to the truth.

ANDRÉS

I guess we're all just trying to get what we want without hurting too many people in the process.
(Sigh)

Well that was got deep

(Chuckles)

(Pause)

By the way, I'm Andrés. Andres Reyes. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

María del Carmen. Thanks for the advice, I guess. I should go. I have something I gotta do.

ANDRÉS

Alright. Good luck, María.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

You too, Andrés.

She walks away.

INT. BEDROOM. - DAY 5.3

María opens the door. Estrella is cleaning the room.

ESTRELLA

How'd it go señorita?

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Much better. Thank you for the help, Estrella. I really appreciate it.

ESTRELLA

Of course. That's why I am here. I'll leave you to rest.

Estrella leaves the room and closes the door.

We hear the letter get un-crumpled. María del Carmen sighs and starts to read.

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

Alright, where are the letters?

(Breathes in) I can do this.

(Reading)

"Dear daughter. I don't know if you've received my letters. I'll keep sending them with the hope that one day you'll find out the truth about the Calderon's.."

INT. BEDROOM -DAY 5.4

Antonio (VO)

In my last letter, I told you that Esteban and Luisa were incapable of getting pregnant and Luisa was determined to hide that fact from her father, Severo, who was obsessed with having an heir...

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INT. BEDROOM - EVENING 5.5

[Musical Transition]

French doors creak open.

We hear echoes of "LUISAAAAA" through the halls as Luisa rushes to the doors

LUISA

Papá, what's wrong?

SEVERO

Bring me water!

(Coughs violently)

She pours a glass of water. He chokes it down with rattling breath.

I'm glad you finally decided to wake up. Were you too busy eating bonbons and watching your dumb telenovelas?

LUISA

Sorry. I was asleep. It's three in the morning.

Throughout this conversation, Severo hacks and coughs in comically awkward moments.

SEVERO

We need to talk.

LUISA

If what you're about to tell me is that I need another nose job, I already told you, the doctor told me that if I get any more work done, I'll lose my sense of smell //

SEVERO

No, Luisa... The doctors have finally given me the test results back and it is exactly as I suspected. I'm...

(Coughs too long)

dying...

LUISA

No, it can't be!

Severo coughs for too long.

LUISA

(Reacting to cough)

Well, maybe it can.

(Beat)

There must be something we can do, some sort of treatment, anyth//

SEVERO

Luisa, please stop. You know how much I hate emotions. The point is...

(He coughs again)

My time has come.

Luisa begins to sob.

SEVERO

Luisa. My only daughter. It's no secret that I always wanted to have a son. A strong, determined son who could have taken the reins of my empire and steered this family towards success.

(Coughs)

But your mother was incapable of giving me a son and I had to settle with... a daughter. You know, I always thought I might have been a little too rough on you. Some would say, "too misogynistic". But I'm not sexist, not at all. I just think men are better than women. I'll admit, I had hoped that in time, even despite being a woman, you could've still, somehow, bring honor to our family name, Calderón...

(Coughs violently)

But you have disappointed me in more ways than I could have ever imagined. You're irresponsible, cruel, and frivolous. You're completely incapable of running my businesses, much less, our family. And to make matters even worse, you are ugly. Que Dios me perdone, but you look like Diego Rivera with a wig.

More coughing.

LUISA

WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS?

Do you want me to hate you before you die? Is that what this is?

SEVERO

No, Luisa. It's not so you hate me. It's so you would understand why I'm doing (cough) what I am about to tell you

(Cough) That I am going to do.

(Cough) You will not inherit a cent from my fortune.

Luisa chokes on her tears and gasps.

LUISA

What?!

SEVERO

When you married that useless excuse of a man, my only hope was that you two would have a baby, so someone that was worth a damn could take the reins of this family. But you've been married for three years, and you've given me nothing. So when I die, I will leave my whole fortune to //

LUISA

Papa, I'm pregnant! I was waiting for the right time to tell you, ehm... ten weeks. That's how far along I am.

SEVERO

You're... pregnant?

LUISA

(Bad acting)

Sí, papá. I'm totally pregnant. That's what I wanted to tell you. I'm for sure going to have a baby. The heir you've always wanted.

SEVERO

An heir. Bueno, if what you say is true, then we must discuss the future of our family...

[His voice echoes into a Musical Transition]

MARÍA DEL CARMEN

(Reading)

Of course, it was a lie. Luisa wasn't pregnant. She and Esteban were sterile. But with Severo's fortune of her father on the line, she'd have to come up with a way to get a baby. No option was off the table.

(To self)

Oh my god, what did they do?

GLORIA (VO)

What **did** they do? I guess you'll have to keep reading to find out, hermanita.

END