

BREADCRUMBS

A screenplay by Elisa Diaz

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EXT. SANTA FE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

May 1985. Small empty parking lot in front of a single-story, adobe style building. There are three patrol cars in the lot and a beat-up Land Cruiser in a far corner.

Orange and pink clouds flood the sky as the sun rises over the mountains. Birds CHIRP and a COYOTE is sniffing around the train tracks across the street.

A 1979 Ford Bronco pulls in and parks, breaking the stillness. TWO GIRLS sit motionless inside, the engine still running.

LUISA ROYBAL, 16, slowly lowers herself out of the passenger side of the Bronco and closes the door. She is wearing pajama pants, a hoodie, and no makeup.

ANNETTE ROYBAL, 25, takes the key from the ignition and steps out of the driver's side and starts walking toward the front door of the office.

Annette and Luisa have the same piercing hazel eyes—clearly related. Luisa is standing catatonic staring toward the coyote. The coyote is staring back

ANNETTE

Lu? Luisa. Come on.

INT. LOBBY OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE - SAME

A bell JINGLES. The fluorescent lighting is almost blinding. The police radio at the desk is audible but barely coherent.

Annette is walking to the desk when a clear voice comes through

OFFICER

(over the radio)

Copy that. Still clearing up the Roybal crime scene. Body was sent to the morgue about thirty minutes ago, but CSI is still combing through things. We'll let you know when we're done here. Over.

Annette is standing in front of the front desk staring at the police radio.

The phone behind the desk RINGS and the DESK CLERK answers it. Luisa is standing in the middle of the entry way. Everything is muffled and blurred.

There are SEVERAL PEOPLE in holding cells and a YOUNG MAN, eyes closed, sitting in one of the vinyl chairs in the lobby. The cracks in the vinyl POP when he shifts his weight.

The clerk hangs up the phone. Annette is still looking at the police radio.

DESK CLERK

(smiling)

Good morning, *mija*. What can I do for you?

ANNETTE

(laughs, half-heartedly)

You're new here, huh? Sorry, um, I'm—

MENDOZA

I can take it from here, Hope. Hi, Netty—sorry, Annette. I'm sorry to call you in so early, but you said as soon as we knew anything to call, so...

DEPUTY SHERIFF ADRIAN MENDOZA, 29, is smiling at Annette. She smiles back half-heartedly. He walks around the desk and hugs her.

Luisa is still in the middle of the entryway.

MENDOZA

Hey, let's go sit down. Come on. They're not ready for you just yet.

Mendoza spots Luisa frozen in the middle of the lobby. He steps cautiously toward her.

MENDOZA

(muffled)

Hey Lu. Lu, come on.

Mendoza grabs her Luisa's and shakes her a bit.

INT. CORONER'S OFFICE - SAME

MENDOZA

(clearly, still shaking Luisa)

Luisa?!

LUISA

(quietly)

Huh?

The room is dim but has individual bright lamps that illuminate exam tables. Martinez, Annette, and DR SANDOVAL are all staring at Luisa.

Luisa was staring at the hand on the table in front of her.

MENDOZA

You just looked a little off... you're sure you're okay?

LUISA

(quietly)

Oh, um, yes, I'm sorry, yes, I'm... fine, I guess.

DR SANDOVAL

It's okay, hun. I know it's a lot.

Luisa smiles half-heartedly and looks at the DEAD BODY in front of her. The face is bloated but the man is undoubtedly related to the two girls with the same striking eyes.

ANNETTE

(choked up)

Where... um, where did you...sorry. Where was he?

DR SANDOVAL

His body was found late last night in the arroyo by Casa Solana. I'm so sorry, Netty. I'm so sorry, Luisa.

ANNETTE

No, um it's fine. (less upset) It's fine... he's always been headed this way so um... yeah. Uh, what did the uh, the autopsy show?

DR SANDOVAL

(starting to fade out)

Well, no defensive wounds. There was a cocktail of drugs in his system, which I expecting... what's interesting is his BAC was only at...

Luisa is motionless. She is still staring at her father, hands, his shoulders, then looks at his face.

CARLOS ROYBAL, 43, with a dimpled smile even in death. It is how his face rests.

FLASHBACK

INT. ROYBAL FAMILY HOME - DAY

1985. The living room. Carlos is asleep on the couch with the same dimpled smile as we saw before.

Sunlight pours onto his face from the sliding glass door to the backyard. DIANA ROYBAL, 41, is sitting in the backyard in a rocking chair smoking a cigarette and holding a hose.

Luisa stands next to the couch staring at Carlos just as in the autopsy room, except now his eyes flicker open.

CARLOS

(laughs and coughs)

Hey, creeper. How long you been standing there for? No, don't answer that. Why have you tell me when I can just have your mom yell it at me later, right?

He winks at Luisa and chuckles to himself then coughs again. She laughs and shakes her head.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CORONER'S OFFICE - DAY(PRESENT)

Luisa's eyes fill with tears. She inhales sharply and backs away from the table, grabs for something to stabilize herself, and falls. Mendoza catches her before she hits the corner of an examination table.

ANNETTE

Luisa, oh my god. Are you okay?
Adrian is she okay?!

LUISA

(coming to)

Annette, calm down, I'm fine. Really.
You can pause the freakout. Sorry,
Dr. Sandoval.

DR SANDOVAL

It's fine, Luisa... If you need to step
out—

LUISA

(sternly)

-- I said I'm fine. Will you just
tell us what happened to our dad?

DR SANDOVAL

Okay. Well, girls, to put it plainly...
your father seems to have overdosed.

LUISA

On?

DR SANDOVAL

(confused)

Oh, um yes, sorry— (sweetly) it looks
like a mixture of different opioids,
sweetheart. I'm sorry.

Luisa looks at the table again. Her brow is furrowed.

LUISA

Don't be... Look um, I'm sorry, but
this is a lot and I'm really tired,
so can we go now, Annette? Please?

ANNETTE

Oh, uh, yeah sure that's fine. I have
a couple things I have to finish here
and then we can go... Are you sure
you're feeling okay, *Ninita*?

LUISA

Don't call me that but yes, I feel fine. I just really want to go home now please.

MENDOZA

Look, Luisa, how about I take you home while Netty finishes up here? We can stop at El Comal and grab some-

LUISA

(sternly)

First, Adrian, I'm 16 not 5, bribing me with breakfast hasn't been a thing for about 10 years.

MENDOZA

Lu, I wasn't trying to patro-

LUISA

Second, being my sister's hometown booty call does not make you my brother-in-law, so, respectfully, leave me alone.

Luisa walks through the swinging doors and into the lobby, sitting on one of the POPPING vinyl chairs.

INT. LOBBY OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE - SAME

The YOUNG MAN that was sitting earlier is at the desk and Luisa stares at his shiny hair. He walks into the back just as Luisa turns to look out the window for the coyote at the tracks again, to no avail.

Annette walks out five minutes later with a file and a bag. She shakes Sandoval's hand, hugs Mendoza, and kisses his cheek. Mendoza waves to Luisa and she shyly waves back.

Annette walks past Luisa shaking her head and rolling her eyes.

ANNETTE

Get up, we're leaving.

Luisa doesn't move she just watches as Annette leaves the building. Annette bangs on the window beside Luisa and aggressively waves for her to get to the car.

The bell on the door RINGS as Luisa runs out to the lot.

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