

VOZ OFF:

Raul, you catch me closing the bar . Of course, I know what day is the day after tomorrow., . well, I don't know, roses, , a bouquet of roses, yes. Of your children , or of Raúl y Sofia, whatever you want . No, i`m not going, I told you no. Well look, this year neither. Damn, the only thing I want from that day is for it to end. I don't care what our aunt says.! Don't talk to me like that! okay, really Raul, I have to close

SOFÍA

(dryly)

*Manuel, finish up . I need to close.*

At another table, there are a couple of young neighborhood guys laughing and having beers. Sofia looks at them.

SOFÍA

*Come on guys, I'm closing.*

YOUNG MAN 1 (25) and YOUNG MAN 2 (25) leave their bottles on the bar and approach Manuel, patting him on the back.

YOUNG MAN 1

Manolo, go home.! Leave something for tomorrow.

YOUNG MAN 2

*Leave him alone, don't you see he works here as a customer?*

The guys laugh heartily.

MANUEL

*Well yes, here I am, fulfilling my workday.*

YOUNG MAN 1

*Come on, champ!*

They high-five and say goodbye amicably.

YOUNG MEN

*See you later, Aligator*

Manuel is lost in thought. Sofía, who is cleaning the tables and picking up the last glasses, approaches him from behind and touches his shoulder.

SOFÍA

*Manuel, please, finish that and go home. I'm closing.*

Sofía finishes cleaning the bar. Manuel stops watching TV, takes the last sip of his beer, and grabs his backpack.

MANUEL

*Sorry, I'm leaving. Do you want me to take out the trash?*

SOFÍA

*No, leave it, I'll do it.*

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Sofía closes the bar's shutter with two garbage bags beside her. Once she locks the shutter, she grabs the bags, one falls and breaks, some things spill out.

SOFÍA

*Shit.!*

While she gathers what fell from the trash as best as she can, distant noises and agitated voices are heard. Sofía looks towards the end of the street, puzzled.

She grabs the two trash bags as best as she can. She walks quickly towards a nearby dumpster and throws them in.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Sofía walks briskly down the street from where the noises came. Now silence reigns. She turns a corner and finds Manuel lying on the ground, bloodied and bruised. She gets scared, kneels beside Manuel, looks at him, and checks his wounds. He has blood on his head.

SOFÍA

*Manuel, what happened to you?!*

MANUEL

*Some kids, those skinheads... they called me old...*

SOFÍA

*Did they take anything from you?*

MANUEL

*I don't think so (Manuel searches his pockets, pulls out a wallet, some receipts) they just wanted to...*

SOFÍA

*Let's go to the hospital, to the police. We have to report this.!* Bastards!

MANUEL

*They were really young.*

Sofía helps Manuel get up. She takes his backpack and carries it herself. Manuel walks leaning on Sofía.

INT. HOSPITAL TREATMENT ROOM - NIGHT

Manuel sits on a stretcher with a bandage on his head wound, finishing a glass of water. Sofia sits on a nearby chair. A friendly-looking DOCTOR (40).

DOCTOR

*The dizziness is normal right now, you need to have someone with you for a couple of days in case you feel worse, vomit, or lose consciousness. Nothing should happen, but you have a severe contusion, so we need to monitor you. Does your daughter live with you?*

SOFÍA

*I... no... I'm not his daughter. He's, well, he was a friend of my parents. I think he lives alone. Right, Manuel?*

MANUEL

*Yes, yes, I've been alone since my Juana died.*

DOCTOR

*And can we call a relative, a nephew...?*

MANUEL

*I don't have anyone here, some cousins in Extremadura.*

SOFÍA

*Maybe I... I can visit him tomorrow before opening the bar.*

MANUEL

*To my house? No, no, it can't be. You can't be there. Really. It's just... We have a cockroach infestation in the building, and it's not suitable. I'd be very embarrassed. We've been waiting for the exterminators for days but nothing yet. It's horrible. I've gotten used to it, but I don't want anyone to, no...*

SOFÍA

*Ugh, cockroaches. But it's just for a moment. Go in and out.*

MANUEL

*No! (firmly) Seriously! I don't want you to come to my house. It's okay, I'll manage, I'm fine.*

DOCTOR

*You really shouldn't be alone right now. Excuse me, but I have to see the next patient. Sofía doesn't know what to do but takes the initiative, reluctantly.*

SOFÍA

*Alright then. Let's go to my place. (to the doctor) Two nights, you said, right?*

DOCTOR

*That's right.*

INT. SOFÍA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sofía is putting sheets on a bed in one of her rooms. The room looks inherited as well. Walls with textured paint, old furniture, old paintings, old lamps, and old curtains.

The room has a double bed, and nightstands... it's Sofía's parents' old room. She's not comfortable there. A dripping faucet can be heard in the distance.

Manuel, with the medical papers and a box of medicines in one hand, sits in a chair, curiously looking around.

MANUEL

*Your faucet is leaking.*

SOFÍA

*Yeah, I need to call the plumber. I haven't had time. I'm going to bed. If you feel bad or anything, let me know. Wait a minute*

Sofía gives him a keychain with a small giraffe. Manuel looks at it and smiles a little.

SOFÍA

*For tomorrow, in case you need to go out. Well, remember going to the police station.*

MANUEL

*Thanks for this, really, Sofía.*

SOFÍA

*Try to sleep.*

Manuel is left alone in the room.

INT. SOFÍA'S HALLWAY - DAY

Sofía peeks into her parents' room to check on Manuel. He's awake, staring at the ceiling with a somewhat frightened expression.

SOFÍA

*Manuel, I have to go. I left coffee made in the kitchen. The bar's number is written on a paper. Are you... okay?*

MANUEL

*I had a nightmare.*

SOFÍA

*Oh, that's tough.*

MANUEL

*(having trouble speaking clearly)*

*Yeah.... I was in my house and... no... the cockroaches again. They were coming. .  
It's okay now.*

SOFÍA

*I `ve to go.*

INT. BAR - DAY

Alex (30), Sofía's coworker, sensitive and sarcastic, is making coffee. The bar is full of people, several at the counter waiting to order. Sofía rushes in.

ALEX

*Those sheets sticking to us...*

SOFÍA

*Shut up, shut up, what a mess. I have Manuel at my place because he was beaten up yesterday, and, well... I haven't slept.*

ALEX

*Manuel, the one who always sits there? No way! Who beat him up? People are nuts. But go rest, I can handle it.*

SOFÍA

*No, no, there's too many people.*

INT. SOFÍA'S HOUSE - DAY

Sofía enters her house with some shopping bags. She hears noises in the kitchen and heads there. It's Manuel. There's a toolbox on the table, and he's putting things away. There's also a nearly empty glass of vermouth.

SOFÍA

*Hello. But... what are you doing?*

MANUEL

*Hello, Sofía. I found the tools and fixed your faucet.*

Sofía looks at Manuel, his face wound, his messy appearance.

SOFÍA

*Thanks, Manuel, but you need to rest. (she puts away the groceries in the fridge and shelves)*

MANUEL

, I'm fine now. Besides, you have such a comfortable and clean house, with all that light.

SOFÍA

Did you go to the police station?

MANUEL

Yes, yes, I went. But it's going to be hard to catch them.

SOFÍA

Those bastards...

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### **Scene 11. INT. BAR - NIGHT**

Sofía and her coworker Alex are behind the bar, preparing tapas and drinks, and serving the customers. The bar is quite full and lively.

### **Scene 12. EXT. STREET - ENTRANCE TO THE BAR - NIGHT**

Sofía just closed the shutter. Everything is calm. She looks at the bar sign for a few moments, then heads towards her home.

### **Scene 13. INT. HOUSE - NIGHT**

Sofía enters her house and goes to the living room. The table is set for dinner with some canapés, lettuce hearts with anchovies, and chicken stew. There's a bouquet of daisies on the dresser, where the top drawer is open. Manuel is sitting on the sofa, looking at several framed photos of Sofía and her parents.

SOFÍA

*What is this?*

MANUEL

*I prepared a dinner to thank you for everything you've done for me.*

Sofía looks at Manuel with the photos.

SOFÍA:

*What are you doing ?*

MANUEL

No, no, forgive me. I was looking for a lighter and I saw... it's been so long since I've seen your parents, since Luis... Why don't you put the photos here? Look at this one with you as a little girl, so beautiful. well, come on ,sit down. This is going to get cold.

SOFÍA

I'm not hungry; I'm not going to eat.

MANUEL

But how can you not eat after working all day? Come on, you must eat something. Wait, Come on, a toast, for you and your parents, who were the best people...

SOFÍA

That's enough, Manuel, for God's sake! I don't want to dinner.I don't want to toast.. I just want to be alone. . stop drinking.

When you leave tomorrow, leave the keys on the table and slam the door. Good night.

## **Scene 14. INT. SOFÍA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Sofía can't sleep. She gets up and notices the light coming from her parents' room, visible through the gap under the door. She hasn't seen this image in years. She goes to the living room and approaches where Manuel had placed the photos. She picks one up and looks at it. It's of her mother. Almost unconsciously, she ends up stroking the glass covering the photo.

## **Scene 15. INT. SOFÍA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Sofía gets up. The house is silent, and when she peeks into her parents' room, she sees that Manuel has already left. The bed is made. Sofía goes to the kitchen and finds two 20-euro bills and a note on the table that says "For the inconvenience." Sofía makes a face of annoyance. She has a coffee and grabs Manuel's police report from the living room. She looks at his address.

## **Scene 16. EXT. STREET - DAY**

Sofía walks down the street towards Manuel's house.

## **Scene 17. EXT/INT BUILDING ENTRANCE - DAY**

Sofía arrives at the building entrance. She rings the bell a couple of times. No one answers. At that moment, a neighbor (50), with heavy makeup contrasting with her tracksuit, comes out the door, and Sofía asks her.

SOFÍA

*Excuse me, does a man named Manuel live here? In 2F?*

NEIGHBOR

*Yes, Manuel lived there, but we haven't seen him for a week. And I think about three days ago, the police came and took what was left of his things.*

SOFÍA

*What do you mean, the police?*

NEIGHBOR



Yes, the eviction. Who are you?

SOFÍA

*Eviction? But Manuel, he's been evicted... are you sure? And the cockroaches? Didn't they have an infestation of cockroaches?*

They remain silent for a few seconds.

NEIGHBOR

*(slightly annoyed) What cockroaches? Hey, maybe you're at the wrong house. There are no cockroaches here. Everything is clean here. Manuel was evicted, yes. I don't know much more. It was about a week ago. What can I tell you, I think the poor man wasn't well, ever since his wife died he fell apart, closed his shop, and when they raised the rent, well, many had to leave, that's life.*

Sofía processes the information, surprised.

## **Scene 18. INT. BAR - DAY**

Sofía enters the bar. Alex is serving. Among the customers, she immediately sees Raúl (48) sitting at a table near the bar. Sofía tenses up. She approaches him.

SOFÍA

*What are you doing here?*

Raúl hugs her, and she returns the hug, somewhat stiffly. She sits in front of him.

RAÚL

*I'm sorry about the argument the other day, Sofi... I took a detour in case you decided to come... I think it's important, everyone has been asking about you. The uncles have come from Valladolid. It's been three years now, Sofi. You have to face it, it was an accident. They are our parents even though they are no longer here. Please come*

SOFÍA

*I told you I have a lot of work and no, no. No. (with contained violence because she doesn't want to cause a scene in the bar) Do you think this ambush is normal?! Why don't you leave me alone with this already! Do I tell you what you should do?*

RAÚL

*No, for a long time you haven't said that or anything. It's getting worse, worse each time.  
(tries to calm his tone)*

*Sofi, dear... you can't go on like this...*

SOFÍA

*(trying to compose herself despite her emotion showing)*

*I have a lot of work.*

Sofía gets up and hurries to the back room of the bar. She enters quickly, so nervous she bumps her knee against a corner. She can't help but break down crying, inconsolably.

## **Scene 20. INT. BAR - DAY**

Sofía gradually calms down and stops crying. She composes herself and goes back to the bar. Suddenly, she sees Manuel sitting in a corner, with the same clothes, his backpack beside him, somewhat disheveled and with an air of caution. Alex is serving him. Sofía quickly goes back into the kitchen and comes out with a letter in her hand, approaching Manuel.

MANUEL

*Hello Sofía, good day.*

SOFÍA

*Hello.*

*(Sofía looks at him for a few seconds before speaking and gives him the letter)*

*Here, your concierge gave me this.*

*(Sofía reaches into her pocket and takes out the keys he left the other time, putting them next to him. Manuel looks at her, processing the information.)*

*Stay a few more days...*

(Manuel is surprised, not knowing what to say. Alex, who is walking away, looks curiously at the situation)

ALEX

*What's happening here?*

(to Alex)

*He has... cockroaches in his building... an infestation of cockroaches.*

ALEX

*Ugh, gross.*

SOFÍA

*Yeah, disgusting...*

(Manuel looks at Sofía, about to say something but finally doesn't)

*Hey, can you take over for a while? I need to go somewhere.*

ALEX

*Sure, no problem.*

SOFIA

*I have to go to somewhere.*