

OUR HOMELAND

Written by

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Based on True Events

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - MORNING

An American flag waves on the yard of the house. It is a rather small, yet comfy looking house, colored red, white, and blue to match the flag.

The emerging sun rays reflect on the morning dew that is on the flag.

Although it is early in the morning, the street appears busy and the noise of the town begins to be heard.

SUPER: Patterson, NJ - 2007

A fire alarm begins BEEPING loudly.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Smoke covers the place. JULIO HERNANDEZ (30s), a rugged looking Dominican immigrant, is waving his hands frantically to clear the smoke.

MARTHA RODRIGUEZ (30s), smart yet stubborn, enters the room.

MARTHA

Julio, *por Dios*. What in the world is going on here?

Julio keeps waving his hands as he says:

JULIO

Sorry, *mi amor*.

The alarm finally stops beeping.

JULIO (CONT'D)

I was just trying to get breakfast started.

MARTHA

Well, you're gonna set our house on fire!

JULIO

Woah, woah! Don't even joke about that!

Martha giggles. Beat.

MARTHA

Can you believe that? Our very own house...

Julio pours a cup of coffee and gives it to Martha.

JULIO

All thanks to that new promotion of yours.

Martha takes a sip of the coffee.

MARTHA

Too sweet.

JULIO

Thank you.

Martha smiles again.

MARTHA

I meant the coffee.

She winks at him, taking another sip.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

What were you even making anyway?

JULIO

I was...

Julio looks at the mess that he has made. He chuckles to himself.

JULIO (CONT'D)

I was trying to make pancakes.

MARTHA

Oh, honey. You can't make pancakes on high heat.

JULIO

Yeah, I think I can see where I messed up. I was just trying to make Nathan his favorite breakfast meal for his first day of school.

MARTHA

Our little boy's first day of elementary school.

JULIO

He's growing up so fast.

Martha looks past Julio.

MARTHA
Speak of the little devil.

NATHAN HERNANDEZ (6), inquisitive and full of energy, enters the kitchen. He is holding his Captain America action figure. He looks a bit groggy.

NATHAN
(still half asleep)
Bendición mami, bendición papi.

MARTHA
Dios te bendiga.

JULIO
Dios te bendiga.

NATHAN
What are you guys making?

MARTHA
Well, dad here was making pancakes.

Nathan suddenly jots awake.

JULIO
Unfortunately-

Julio shows Nathan the burned pan.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Yeah, I burned them.

NATHAN
Oh...

MARTHA
It's okay. I'll make some for you,
mijito.

Martha blows a kiss at Nathan, and Nathan leaves the kitchen.

Julio gives an apologetic look to Martha.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
(to Julio)
It's okay sweetie... Can you wake
up Jessica?

Julio gives Martha a kiss as he passes her, then begins exiting the kitchen.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Oh, and, honey...

Julio turns around before leaving.

JULIO

Yes?

MARTHA

I'm gonna need the car today. Is that okay?

JULIO

Uh, yeah. I'll just ask Canilla for a ride. I should be fine

MARTHA

I'm sorry... it's just, I'd rather not take the bus to this new job.

Julio shrugs.

JULIO

I mean, it's all good.

MARTHA

Thank you.

(to Nathan, yelled)

Do you want blueberry or chocolate chip today?

Julio exits the kitchen, and Martha begins making pancakes.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Nathan is eating chocolate chip pancakes on the table. He is now changed for school.

JESSICA HERNANDEZ (13), strong-willed and intelligent, enters the dining room. She looks tidy and ready for school.

Julio enters behind her.

JESSICA

Hey, bighead.

NATHAN

Dad, Jess is calling me bighead again.

JULIO

Jessica, stop telling your brother that he has a big head.

JESSICA

But he does have a big head...

Julio looks at Nathan, as if examining him.

JULIO
I mean true, he is a little *cacón*-

MARTHA (O.S.)
(from the kitchen)
Julio!

JULIO
But still. Be nice to your brother.

Jessica sits at the table.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Your mom made pancakes!

JESSICA
I see that. Yummy.

She serves herself a plate, and barely gets to eat about two bites when-

MARTHA (O.S.)
The bus!

Martha enters the dining room.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
The bus is here! Everyone up,
quick!

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The kids are exiting the house in a rush. Julio and Martha are right behind them.

JULIO
Bye, Nathan. Bye, Jess.

Julio waves at them.

MARTHA
Bye, *mis hijos*.

The bus leaves after the kids have boarded. Martha and Julio stand on the porch looking after the bus.

The American flag is still waving, now dry.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Julio is now dressed for work. He is wearing something suitable for construction work, including a hard hat and overalls. He is scanning the newspaper.

Martha enters the living room, dressed in a pant suit.

MARTHA

Well, how do I look?

Julio is mesmerized by Martha. He whistles at her, as she poses.

JULIO

You look like a business woman.
Like a *licenciada*.

Martha poses for a few more seconds before grabbing the keys from the table.

MARTHA

Well, wish me luck.

She gives Julio a quick goodbye kiss.

JULIO

Good luck. You got this, Ms.
Accountant.

Martha smiles and exits the house. The car can be heard leaving the driveway.

Julio is alone for a few seconds before another car pulls up the driveway. He looks at his watch.

JULIO (CONT'D)

(to himself)
Oh, Canillas. Always on time.

Julio exits.

CUT TO:

INT. CANILLAS' CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Julio opens the car door and enters the Honda Civic.

CANILLAS (40s), wise and skeptical, is driving the car. He is drinking coffee from a thermos.

JULIO

Buenos días.

CANILLAS

Good morning to you too.

Canillas turns on the radio, before beginning to exit the driveway. Merengue is playing in the background.

JULIO

Never too early for merengue, huh?

Canillas stays silent for a few minutes before awkwardness forces him to say:

CANILLAS

Yeah...

Julio is weirded out by his late response.

JULIO

Everything okay?

Canillas looks at Julio and lets out a smile.

CANILLAS

Never been better.

Julio notices Canillas turning.

JULIO

Why are we going this way?

CANILLAS

Oh, just a slight detour. There's too much traffic in the morning the other way.

Julio seems satisfied with the answer.

JULIO

Oh, makes sense.

They're driving slowly, and enter a school zone. Children are going into the school building, and buses are arriving to school.

JULIO (CONT'D)

My kid goes to this school.

CANILLAS

Ah, yeah?

Julio nods.

JULIO

His first day today.

Julio notices Canillas looking at a car behind them.

CANILLAS
(distracted)
That's nice.

Julio also looks at the car.

JULIO
Yes, we made the kids pancakes this
morning. It's their favorite.

Canillas' car is stuck in the school traffic, among buses and
some parents' cars. They are completely stopped.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Seems like there's traffic this way
too.

CANILLAS
(still distracted)
Seems so...

Two MEN exit the car behind them and begin approaching
Canillas' car. They open the door on Canillas' side.

Canillas exits the car with his hands behind his head, while
Julio remains in the car, not knowing what is going on.

Once Canillas exits and sits on the ground, Julio locks the
car. He remains inside for a few seconds before one of the
men breaks the window on Julio's side.

MAN 1
Get out of the car. Now!

Julio tries to stay inside the car, but the man is able to
unlock the door and open it. He grabs Julio by the shirt and
pulls him outside.

Julio falls to the ground, but before the man can put his
hands on him again, Julio begins kicking.

The Man backs away, giving Julio a chance to stand up.

Julio manages to punch the Man in the face, but just when he
thinks he has the upper hand, the Second Man charges at him
and throws him on the ground again.

MAN 2
Stop resisting!

The two Men are now overpowering Julio.

JULIO
What do you want??

Julio begins kicking again, but the Men have managed to restrain him enough that he is unable to move much.

MAN 1
You're under arrest.

Julio is now on his back, and the First Man is putting handcuffs on him.

JULIO
What did I do? What is going on?

The two Men take Julio to the back of their car. Canillas remains sitting down on the sidewalk, untouched.

Julio sees the Men open the trunk after he has been handcuffed.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

The room is bleak, with only a table in the middle. Julio is sitting at one side of the table, facing the door.

Julio seems tired and irritated, as he is looking down alone.

ERIK MATTHEWS (40s), sloppy looking, enters the room.

JULIO
I said I wan't going to speak to anyone without a lawyer.

Matthews pulls the chair to sit down.

MATTHEWS
Well, you're in luck then, Mr. Hernandez. I'm Richard Matthews, the public defender.

Matthews takes a seat.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)
I've been assigned to your case.

Julio is silent.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

I understand you might be frustrated with the events that have taken place today.

JULIO

That is an understatement.

Matthews shifts in his chair.

MATTHEWS

Well, I'm here to help.

JULIO

Help with what. What exactly did I do?

Matthews pulls out a document from his briefcase. He puts on his glasses.

MATTHEWS

Let's see here. Your charges include: Possession of controlled dangerous substance, third degree. Possession of controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute, third degree-

JULIO

Dangerous substance??

Julio shakes his head.

JULIO (CONT'D)

What in the world are they talking about?

MATTHEWS

The heroin...?

Julio's eyes widen.

JULIO

Heroin?! What heroin?!

MATTHEWS

The heroin you're accused of dealing, Mr. Hernández.

JULIO

What the f-

MATTHEWS

I'm afraid those aren't the only charges.

JULIO

This is crazy. I don't even use any heroin. How could I possibly distribute it?

They are both quiet as Julio tries to wrap his head around the accusations.

JULIO (CONT'D)

What are the rest of the charges then?

Matthews looks at Julio for a second. He continues reading from his paper.

MATTHEWS

...Possession of controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute within a thousand feet of school property, thir-

JULIO

Third degree.

MATTHEWS

Yes...

Matthews looks up from reading the document again.

JULIO

Well, is there more?

Matthews looks down to the paper again.

MATTHEWS

Aggravated assault, third degree. And lastly, resisting arrest... fourth degree.

JULIO

Resisting arrest?! What was I supposed to do? The cops didn't even have uniforms on...

Matthews is quiet.

JULIO (CONT'D)

So what now? You said you're here to help me.

MATTHEWS

They have a substantial amount of evidence for their case.

JULIO

How could that possibly be the case. I didn't do it...

MATTHEWS

They found the substance in the car.

Julio's eyes widen.

JULIO

What?

MATTHEWS

Yes. They found heroin in the vehicle.

JULIO

But... I... That wasn't my car anyway.

MATTHEWS

Unfortunately, they have all the evidence they need.

Matthews shrugs.

JULIO

But... I'm innocent.

Matthews sighs.

MATTHEWS

I believe you, Mr. Hernandez. However...

Matthews pulls out another document from his suitcase.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

I'm going to ask you to consider taking a plea deal.

JULIO

A plea deal?? Isn't that for people who are guilty?

MATTHEWS

Well, it does entail declaring yourself guilty. But given the evidence that they-

JULIO

No.

Matthews is shocked by Julio's curt reply.

MATTHEWS

Sorry?

JULIO

I said no. I'm not declaring myself guilty. I'm not!

MATTHEWS

Mr. Hernandez, like I said: I believe you. But that doesn't mean a jury will. I think it would be in your best interest to take a plea deal.

Julio does not respond.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

I can explain the details of what the plea deal entails.

JULIO

What does it entail?

MATTHEWS

Well, like I said, the first thing you would have to do is declare yourself guilty.

JULIO

Yeah, I get that part. What's the rest?

MATTHEWS

Well, with the charges you have right now, you could be looking at around ten years in prison... at least.

JULIO

Ten years?

MATTHEWS

Yes, Mr. Hernandez. Which is why I think that taking a plea deal would be a wise choice, as it would reduce your sentence to five years.

JULIO

FIVE YEARS?? That's still a lot.
And for something I just didn't
do?!

MATTHEWS

I cannot understate how much the
evidence they have is damning to
you.

Julio shakes his head in disbelief. He even nervous laughs.

JULIO

This has to be a joke. I wake up
this morning to go to work, just
like any other day, and this is
where I end up? Without any reason
or explanation. Suddenly I'm a drug
dealer?

MATTHEWS

I understand your frustration.

JULIO

Bullshit. This is all bullshit. I
don't think you understand shit.

Matthews is quiet for a few seconds.

Julio calms down a bit.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Don't I get a call? A phone call, I
mean? I wanna speak to my wife...

MATTHEWS

Yes, you get one call. I can
arrange for that. But be advised,
anything you say in during this
call can be used against you.

JULIO

Well, I'm innocent. I have nothing
to worry about.

They're quiet again.

MATTHEWS

What about the plea deal?

JULIO

No...

MATTHEWS

What-

JULIO

You're fired. I want another lawyer.

MATTHEWS

Oh.

JULIO

Can I call my wife now?

INT. MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Martha walks in from outside of the house. She has just gotten home from work.

Everything is quiet and dark. Martha seems weirded out by this.

MARTHA

Julio?

The lights upstairs are on.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Julio, is that you?

Martha sees Jessica sitting on the stairs.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Honey, why are you all alone here in the dark?

JESSICA

Dad's not home...

MARTHA

Oh. That's okay, sweetie. I'm sure he's just running late.

JESSICA

He's not.

Martha seems take aback by what Jessica said. She sits next to Jessica.

MARTHA

How are you so sure?

JESSICA

Nathan said he saw some men get him.

MARTHA

What do you mean? What men?

Martha checks her phone to see if she has gotten any calls from Julio. There are NO MISSING CALLS on her phone.

JESSICA

I don't know. It's just what Nathan said.

MARTHA

Where is he?

JESSICA

He fell asleep...

MARTHA

He always does that when he's stressed.

Martha stands up and turns on some lights.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Why don't you go lay down for a bit as well? I'm sure your dad will be back anytime now.

Martha smiles at Jessica, who reluctantly leaves to her room. Martha's smile fades as soon as Jessica is out of her sight. She looks at her phone again.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Julio, where are you?

She dials Julio's phone, but he does not answer. The answering machine beeps, prompting Martha to leave a message.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Julio, this isn't funny. Please call back as soon as you can.

(beat)

The kids are worried sick.

Martha hangs up the phone. Just as she puts it down, it begins to ring. Although she does not recognize the number, she immediately answers the phone.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. JAIL - PHONE ROOM - EVENING

Julio is on the phone. He is still wearing an orange jail suit.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

JULIO

Martha?

MARTHA

Julio, where are you? What is this number??

JULIO

Martha, I'm gonna need you to sit down.

MARTHA

You're scaring me.

JULIO

Just take a seat, honey.

Martha does as instructed and sits down on the couch.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Are you sitting?

MARTHA

Yes, now what is it?! Just tell me!

JULIO

I'm in jail.

Silence. They are quiet for a few seconds.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Please say something... Martha?

MARTHA

Wh- what happened?

Tears begin pouring down Martha's face, though she is trying to sound like she is not crying.

JULIO

I don't know. They're saying I was dealing heroin.

MARTHA

Jesus...

JULIO
They have evidence against me.
Substantial evidence...

Martha can no longer stay quiet and begins crying out loud.

MARTHA
How? How do they have evidence?

Nathan comes downstairs. He sees Martha crying.

NATHAN
Mami? Are you crying?

MARTHA
(to Nathan)
Hey, honey. It's nothing. Please go upstairs.

JULIO
I don't know. It was in the car,
they say. We were near a school,
Nathan's new school

MARTHA
Oh my God, Julio...

NATHAN
Are you talking to dad? Is he okay?

MARTHA
(to Nathan)
Go upstairs, sweetie.

Nathan begins going upstairs.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I think he saw you, Julio.

JULIO
What? Nathan?

MARTHA
Yes, Jess told me that he saw you.

JULIO
Oh my God.

MARTHA
Something about men getting you...

Martha begins to cry again.

JULIO
Oh, my God.

MARTHA
He must've seen the whole thing
happen...

Beat.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Have you contacted a lawyer?

Julio frowns.

JULIO
I met with the public defender, but
he just wanted me to take a plea
deal.

MARTHA
So? Did you take it?

JULIO
What?

Julio removes the phone from his ears to look at it in
disbelief.

JULIO (CONT'D)
No! I'm innocent, Martha!

MARTHA
I know. I know!... But you said
they had a lot of evidence against
you and-

JULIO
I'm innocent. They can't just put
innocent people in jail in this
country.

MARTHA
Julio...

JULIO
You don't believe me.

MARTHA
What? Of course I do!

JULIO
My own wife...

MARTHA

Julio, you're speaking nonsense. I believe you, but we have to be realistic here.

They are quiet once more.

JULIO

All I need to get out of this jail is my innocence, which I have.

MARTHA

That's the thing, Julio. We're gonna need more than just that. A lawyer, for starters.

JULIO

We're gonna need it, yes. That's not the point, though.

MARTHA

What is the point then?

JULIO

My point is that I have nothing to be afraid of, because I didn't do it.

Silence.

MARTHA

(using a softer tone)

When can I see you?

CUT TO:

INT. VISITATION ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

The room is similar to the interrogation room, except for the lack of a one-way mirror.

Julio is sitting alone, waiting.

An OFFICER enters the room.

OFFICER

You have a visitor...

Martha enters the room, as the officer leaves. In comparison to her surroundings, she looks radiant, something that cannot be said about Julio.

Julio stands up and hugs her. They kiss. They looks happy for a few seconds, then Martha tears up a bit.

MARTHA
Have you eaten?

JULIO
Yes.

MARTHA
You're already looking skinnier.
They're not feeding you right
here...

Martha caresses his face.

JULIO
It's only been a week... I wish I
was home as well.

MARTHA
The kids miss you...

JULIO
What have you told them?

MARTHA
That you're on a work trip.

Martha lets out a small whimper.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
So about a lawyer...

JULIO
I don't want to talk about that,
honey.

MARTHA
Julio, we *have* to talk about it.

JULIO
I already have a hearing...

Martha's eyes widen.

MARTHA
When?!

JULIO
Tomorrow morning.

MARTHA

Why didn't you tell me?! I could've asked off from work.

JULIO

Your new job? I don't think so...

Julio notices Martha's worried face.

JULIO (CONT'D)

I'm gonna be with the public defender.

MARTHA

You told me you fired him.

JULIO

Well, if I don't have a lawyer yet, there's really nothing else I can do.

Martha nods.

MARTHA

We need to find you a real lawyer. Maybe you can ask for more time?

JULIO

I'll see what I can do. I'm meeting with Matthews, my public defender, later today.

MARTHA

Can you give me a call.

Julio is silent. He shakes his head "no."

Martha frowns.

JULIO

But, I think I can receive calls. How about you call me tomorrow after the hearing?

MARTHA

Wouldn't that be a little late already?

JULIO

Me and Matthews should have the hearing handled. No offense, but I don't think calling you would be of much help...

Martha is still offended.

JULIO (CONT'D)

What I mean is, we can handle it.
You don't need to worry about me.

Julio kisses Martha's forehead, and she stands up to leave.

JULIO (CONT'D)

I'll wait for your call, *mi amor*.

INT. JAIL CELL - LATER

Julio is sitting alone at his cell. He looks completely MISERABLE.

INT. SAME VISITATION ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Matthews is now the one sitting at the table. He is reviewing some documents.

The Officer lets Julio in, and he takes a seat.

The Officer leaves the room. Julio and Matthews can speak privately now.

MATTHEWS

Mister Hernández... I see you've
come around.

Julio seems annoyed at Matthews.

JULIO

I'm still not taking a plea deal.

MATTHEWS

Ah, I see. So then, tell me what I
can do for your case.

JULIO

I need more time.

MATTHEWS

Time?

JULIO

Yes, I need to hire an actual
lawyer.

MATTHEWS

I am a lawyer.

JULIO

I need someone who will actually
defend me.

Matthews can't help but take some offense at this.

MATTHEWS

If you don't have the money for a
good defense, then you better take
this plea deal.

JULIO

I AM INNOCENT.

Beat.

MATTHEWS

Okay. Well, I think more time can
be arranged.

Julio looks content, cocky almost.

JULIO

Oh, and I want to go home.

MATTHEWS

That's going to be a bit harder,
I'm afraid.

Julio rolls his eyes.

JULIO

And why is that?

MATTHEWS

Well, they'd need proof you're not
just going to run away.

JULIO

I have a wife and kids, and I own a
house here. How would I run away.

Matthews writes something down.

MATTHEWS

I can bring it up, but I certainly
don't make any promises.

Julio fakes a smile.

JULIO

I guess that's good enough.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

The American flag is still waving, majestic as ever.

The neighborhood seems to be becoming more quiet, serene.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessica and Nathan are watching television. Martha is not in the room.

They are watching *Spiderman (2002)* and eating popcorn.

JESSICA

How many men were there?

NATHAN

It was two. Well, I only saw two.
It was hard to see. Can we just
watch the movie?

JESSICA

Tell me what happened to dad!

NATHAN

Mom said he's on a trip.

Jessica rolls her eyes.

JESSICA

You really believe that, *cacón*?

NATHAN

Mami wouldn't lie to us. And don't
call me that!

They're silent for a few seconds.

JESSICA

I think dad's in jail.

Nathan spills the popcorn from shock.

NATHAN

Why- Why would you say that?

JESSICA

Because I heard my teacher talk
about how there was an arrest in
front of your school the other day.

NATHAN

So?

JESSICA

It was dad! Those men that took him
were probably cops.

Nathan tears up.

NATHAN

That's not true! They weren't
dressed as cops! And why would dad
be in jail?

JESSICA

Shh.

They both look upstairs. The coast is clear.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(shouted whisper)

Be quiet! I don't want mom to hear
us!

NATHAN

Why would they lie?

JESSICA

Because, they think we're too young
and it's grown up stuff.

Nathan just thinks quietly. He has stopped crying now.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

But, you can't tell anyone that I
told you...

NATHAN

Okay...

Jessica sees how upset Nathan is and hugs him.

JESSICA

Don't worry. He's gonna get out.

NATHAN

How do you know?

JESSICA

Because... I just do.

NATHAN

What if he doesn't get out? What if
he's gone forever?

JESSICA

That's not gonna happen.

She stops hugging Nathan to look him directly in the face.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Never say that!

Nathan wipes away one last tear.

NATHAN
You're right. Everything's going to
be okay...

EXT. NEW JERSEY COURT - THE NEXT DAY

The court building is styled in neoclassical architecture. There is an American flag on the side of the building that is reminiscent of the one outside of Julio's house.

INT. COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

There is a small audience, not enough to fill all of the seats.

Julio is seated on the left side of the room.

Matthews arrives.

JULIO
Where were you?

MATTHEWS
Sorry, I was handling another
case...

Julio is even more annoyed at Matthews.

The BAILIFF stands up, though remains at the bailiff station.

BAILIFF
All rise.

The crowd stands up.

BAILIFF (CONT'D)
The Superior Court of the State of
New Jersey, Criminal Division, is
now in session, the honorable judge
Peter Swanson presiding.

JUDGE SWANSON enters the room. He is an old a white man in his early 60s.

He approaches the judge's bench.

JUDGE SWANSON

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
You may be seated.

The crowd sits back down, and so does the Judge.

Julio looks around. He is a fish out of water.

The Judge reads from a document as he says:

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

Now calling the case of The People
of the State of New Jersey versus
Hernández...

Julio swallows as he hears his name.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

Case number 10-5783. Would counsel
identify themselves for the record?

On the other side of the room, the DISTRICT ATTORNEY (40s),
reserved and threatening, is sitting down.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Good morning, your honor. James
Montgomery, on behalf of the
people.

Julio squints his eyes, trying to read Montgomery.

MATTHEWS

Good morning, as well, your honor.
I'm Erik Matthews, on behalf of the
defendant, mister Julio Hernandez,
who is seated at my right side.

Julio smiles a bit to the Judge when he is introduced. The
Judge just stares at him.

JUDGE SWANSON

Plaintiff counsel will now begin
their opening statement.

Julio wipes his smile from his face.

MONTGOMERY

May it please the court. Again,
good morning to all. There is an
old expression, "Give an inch,
they'll take a mile." This is the
case of Julio Hernández.

Julio is looks puzzled. He shakes his head.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

An immigrant, coming all the way from the Dominican Republic to enjoy the freedoms of the United States of America, namely the State of New Jersey; that is no crime, no. In fact, here in America, we value those who have come to follow their American dream. What is a crime, however, is the possession of drugs - heroin - with attempts to distribute it near a school zone. The people of the State of New Jersey thereby accuse Mister Hernández of the possession of a controlled dangerous substance to the third degree, the possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute to the third degree, and the possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute within a thousand feet of school property. Not only that, but Mister Hernandez also injured the policemen who tried to bring him into custody, so the people of the State of New Jersey are also charging him with aggravated assault, to the third degree, and resisting arrest to the fourth degree. I am here to proof beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Julio Hernández committed these crimes. Thank you.

Julio is still shaking his head, visibly angry.

The Judge seems bored, jaded.

JUDGE SWANSON

Very well. The defense counsel will now present their opening statement.

Julio looks at Matthews who is reorganizing some of his papers. He looks nervous.

MATTHEWS

May I please the court. G- good morning, everyone. I am Erik Matthews, here representing one mister Julio Hernández, husband and father, homeowner and construction worker. My client pleads-

Julio gives Mathews a look, shaking his head.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

-Not guilty to the crimes laid down
by the people of the State of New
Jersey.

Mathews looks at Julio, who is now looking at the floor.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

It is also my client's position,
that he have more time to prepare
for the case, as he is currently
seeking to hire a different lawyer.

Montgomery scoffs.

Mathews glares at him, and continues with more confidence.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Also, my client would like to know
what his options are regarding
bail... uh, thank you.

The Judge raises an eyebrow.

JUDGE SWANSON

Mister Mathews, under what
circumstances is the defendant
asking for more time?

Mathews takes a deep breath when his name is said.

MATTHEWS

Of course, your honor. He is
looking for a different lawyer.

Julio nods.

JUDGE SWANSON

Okay...

The Judge reviews some documents for a few seconds.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

Petition granted.

Julio's eyes widen in excitement.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

Now, as for bail...

The Judge keeps reviews another document.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)
Seeing as the defendant does not
have any previous criminal
activities...

MONTGOMERY
Your honor, so sorry to interrupt,
but given the fact that the
defendant, Mister Hernandez has the
means of leaving the country to his
family, I don't see bail to be a
possibility.

JUDGE SWANSON
Mr. Montgomery, it is the duty of
the court, and the court only, to
determine what the possibilities
are for the defendant.

Montgomery frowns and looks around, almost ashamed.

MONTGOMERY
Of course, your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON
Bail will be granted to Mr.
Hernandez for the price of...

The Judge reads from a document again.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)
Fifty thousand dollars, with ten
percent cash bail option
permissible. However, Mr. Hernandez
must agree to wear a monitoring
bracelet at all times, until a
verdict is reached.

Julio's eyes widen, and Matthews notices.

MATTHEWS
(to Julio, whisper)
Don't worry. This is good news.

JULIO
I don't have fifty thousand
dollars.

MATTHEWS
You'd only have to pay five
thousand.

Julio nods.

MONTGOMERY

Your honor-

JUDGE SWANSON

Court is adjourned.

The Judge strikes the gavel. Julio smiles, as Montgomery was interrupted.

INT. JAIL - PHONE ROOM - LATER

The phone room is empty, except for Julio, who is sitting excitedly. The phone is ringing

JULIO

Hello? Martha?

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARTHA

Julio? How did it go?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

JULIO

I have great news.

MARTHA

Well??

JULIO

I'm going home.

Martha can't help but smile from cheek to cheek.

MARTHA

Oh my God! That's amazing.

She tries to contain herself.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

When?

JULIO

Well, I don't know all the specifics yet. There's a downside though.

MARTHA

Oh... and what's this "downside"?

JULIO
I have to pay five thousand
dollars.

MARTHA
Oh, Julio. That's nothing! It's the
price of your freedom.

JULIO
Well, yeah, I guess... I'm still
accused though.

They're quiet for a few seconds.

MARTHA
What? What is it?

Julio sighs.

JULIO
You know how I feel. I just don't
think I should pay for my freedom,
given the fact that I didn't do
anything.

MARTHA
Oh, Julio. This is just how it
is...

JULIO
It shouldn't be like this.

Beat.

MARTHA
If it makes you feel any better, I
think they give the money back when
you're declared innocent.

Julio smiles faintly.

JULIO
I really hope that's the case.
Because I will definitely be
declared innocent.

MARTHA
Of course you are, and now that
you'll be home, you can meet more
privately with a lawyer.

JULIO
Ah, yeah, a lawyer... How do you
get one of those.

MARTHA
I've been looking at the yellow
pages.

JULIO
And?

MARTHA
They are so expensive, Julio. We
might have to...

JULIO
What?

MARTHA
I don't know. Maybe dip into
Nathan's college fund or something.

JULIO
I don't know.

MARTHA
It's either that or...

JULIO
Yes?

MARTHA
It's either that or the house.

Julio shakes his head.

JULIO
No, we just got done paying the
house. There's no way.

MARTHA
Nathan can always get student
loans, a lot of kids do that.

Julio sighs.

JULIO
We can talk about this later, when
I'm home.

MARTHA
Of course. Though the quicker you
get a lawyer, the better.

JULIO
Alright, I have to go now.

MARTHA
Bye, *mi amor*.

They both reluctantly hang up, Martha being the last one to put down the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAIL - DAY

Martha is patiently waiting for her husband outside of the prison.

Finally, Julio walks out holding a small bag where he holds his belongings. He looks a bit more rugged and skinnier than he looked in the first scenes, having a five o'clock shadow and sunken eyes.

Martha runs to him, and the two embrace. They kiss for a few seconds. Neither of them can stop smiling.

MARTHA
Look at you. They haven't been feeding you well.

JULIO
What can I say? Their cooking's not as good as yours. Three weeks of that awful food...

They laugh.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Where are the kids?

MARTHA
Oh, I didn't bring them. I actually haven't told them that...

JULIO
Ah, okay. So where do they think I have been this whole time?

MARTHA
A work trip.

Julio laughs in disbelief.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
I didn't know what to tell them.

JULIO
We should tell them the truth.

MARTHA
Don't you think they're too young?

JULIO
Eventually we'll have to tell them
either way.

Martha frowns.

MARTHA
I know. But let's not do it now.
Can you pretend you were on a trip?

Julio scratches his head.

JULIO
Yes. For now.

They embrace each other again.

INT. CAR - DAY

Martha is driving.

MARTHA
I completely forgot about the
bracelet.

JULIO
Oh, that should be no big deal.

Martha looks at Julio for a brief second before turning her
eyes back on the road..

MARTHA
I just don't want them to find out.

JULIO
Relax, honey. We can just tell them
it's also for work.

MARTHA
They're children, not dumb!

JULIO
Well then we can tell them the
truth.

MARTHA
No way...

JULIO
Then what?

MARTHA

I guess your work story will have to do.

Martha sighs.

JULIO

It'll be alright.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jessica is sitting on the couch, while Nathan stares out the window.

NATHAN

They're here!

He looks back at Jessica, who stands up next to him to also take a peek outside.

JESSICA

He looks different.

NATHAN

He's probably tired.

JESSICA

He was probably not eating right in there...

They frown.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Remember: you can't tell them that we know he was in jail.

NATHAN

But why?

JESSICA

Because, they haven't told us.

NATHAN

But we can just let them know that we know.

JESSICA

No, then they'll get angry.

NATHAN

But why?

JESSICA
I don't know. It's just the way
grownups are.

Nathan thinks for a second.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What's taking them so long?

She looks out the window again.

NATHAN
He has something on his leg.

Before Jessica can see, Martha opens the door and walks in.
Julio follows her.

JULIO
Hey hey!

NATHAN
Papi!

JESSICA
Dad!

They group hug, and Martha watches them.

NATHAN
Where did you go?!

Jessica shoots Nathan a look.

JULIO
I was on a work trip. Didn't your
mom tell you?

NATHAN
Oh, yeah, she did.

They both laugh.

JESSICA
I didn't know they there were work
trips for construction.

Julio looks at Martha, not knowing what to say.

JULIO
Uh, they only have work trips for
the best construction workers.

MARTHA
Uh, yes. Very few though.

JESSICA
I'm just glad dad's back.

NATHAN
Me too!

There is an awkward pause as Julio feels guilty for lying to the children.

MARTHA
Well, dad needs some rest now.

JULIO
I do?

Martha gives him a look.

JULIO (CONT'D)
I mean. I do.

Julio and Martha begin going upstairs as the kids just look at each other.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Martha and Julio walk into the room. Martha shuts the door behind them.

JULIO
What's wrong?

MARTHA
We need to speak in private.

JULIO
Okay...?

Beat.

MARTHA
I think I found a lawyer.

JULIO
How expensive is he?

MARTHA
She. I haven't spoken to her yet,
but I arranged for us to meet.

JULIO
When?

MARTHA

Tomorrow afternoon. I'll be at work though. Can you go on your own?

Julio looks up at Martha.

JULIO

What do you mean? Of course I can.

MARTHA

You'll take the bus?

JULIO

Yes. Why are you momming me?

Martha sighs.

MARTHA

What do you mean? I'm just asking questions.

JULIO

Yeah, but you're being patronizing.

MARTHA

I don't know what you mean. I'm just looking out for you.

JULIO

But why?

MARTHA

Because! I just don't want you to get in more trouble.

Julio scoffs.

JULIO

Wow. You really think I'm helpless, don't you?

MARTHA

Julio...

She gets closer to him, caressing his cheek.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

(almost whispering)

I just worry.

JULIO

I'm capable of handling things, Martha.

He puts her hand down, away from his cheek.

MARTHA

I know you are. I just want to make sure that you do handle them.

JULIO

I'll go see him- uh, her.

MARTHA

Thank you.

Martha opens the door again.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

We should watch a movie with the kids. They've missed you a lot.

JULIO

You told them I was going to rest.

MARTHA

We can tell them you changed your mind then.

Martha gets near him and caresses his hair.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I just want everything to be okay for them.

Julio nods and embraces her.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE WAITING AREA - THE NEXT DAY

Julio is sitting in a waiting area, though he is the only one there. He has a folder full of court documents.

There is a RECEPTIONIST (40s).

The receptionist's phone RINGS.

RECEPTIONIST

Yes?

She listens.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'll let him know. Thank you.

She hangs up the phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
(to Julio)
Mister Hernandez, Miss Day will see
you now.

Julio stands up, and goes to open the door on the opposite side of the room. He looks at the Receptionist one last time before opening the door.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Good luck.

She smiles, and Julio walks in.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The room is small, but cozy. There is a bookshelf to the right of the door full of legal documents, books, and court cases.

There is a mahogany desk in the center of the room. JANE DAY, (30s), casual, wearing jeans and a blouse, is sitting at this desk. She looks too young to be an established lawyer, not what one would expect.

JANE
You've come to the right place
then.

Julio doesn't know what to say. Awkward pause. Julio hands her some documents regarding his case. Jane doesn't open the folder yet.

JANE (CONT'D)
Why don't you tell what happened.
From the beginning.

JULIO
Sure, I was going to work...

JANE
Where do you work?

JULIO
I work building houses.
Construction.

Jane starts taking notes.

JULIO (CONT'D)
My friend Canillas was giving me a
ride.

(MORE)

JULIO (CONT'D)

We were going past the elementary school when they stopped us.

JANE

Stopped you?

JULIO

Yeah, well, Canillas stopped. It wasn't clear to me what was happening, but two men came out and began assaulting us.

JANE

Cops?

JULIO

Yes, but they didn't have a uniform on.

JANE

Oh.

She writes that down. She then opens the folder to finally see the documents. She skims them.

JANE (CONT'D)

Heroin, huh?

JULIO

That's what they say.

JANE

It was found in a car that wasn't yours then...

JULIO

Yes.

JANE

Okay... And did the cops look in the trunk before or after they arrested you?

JULIO

After...

She writes that down as well. Then looks up at Julio.

JANE

Well, Mister Hernandez. I think we do have a case here. I believe you were set up.

Julio smiles politely.

JANE (CONT'D)

Now my rates...

Julio's smile fades.

JULIO

Yes.

JANE

Like I said, we do have a case here, but it won't be cheap.

They stare at each other. Julio nervous chuckles.

JULIO

Just tell me the price.

Jane keeps staring at him. She sits back.

JANE

Eleven thousand.

Julio's eyes widen.

JULIO

Dollars?!

JANE

Yes. That would cover a basic court case. Appeals, if necessary, would be extra of course. As well as any other service that presents itself.

JULIO

For God's sake, it's more expensive than my bail!

JANE

Take it or leave it, Mister Hernandez. I haven't lost a court case in ages...

They stare at each other again.

JANE (CONT'D)

So?

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Martha is sitting on the couch as Julio stands.

MARTHA

And what did you tell her?

JULIO

I told her I needed more time to decide.

MARTHA

Julio! We don't have more time! You should've just accepted it!

JULIO

I needed to discuss it with you. And you know how I feel about paying so much just to prove that I'm innocent... I shouldn't have to do it. She even said she believes I was set up.

Martha rolls her eyes, frustrated.

MARTHA

Julio for heaven's sake. Those people *don't* think you're innocent. I know how you feel like, but that's just how it is.

JULIO

I'm innocent until proven guilty. Don't you believe that. Don't you believe me?

MARTHA

Julio... Of course I believe you...

Beat.

JULIO

I'm innocent, Martha.

MARTHA

I know that.

JULIO

No, you don't. You're just saying that.

Martha gets up.

MARTHA

I'm just asking you to be more realistic about winning this. I believe you, but we still need a lawyer!

Julio is quiet.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

We can afford the lawyer now. We already dug into Nathan's college fund for the bail. So let's just hire her.

She sits down next to him again.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Please... I know we can win this.

JULIO

(almost a whisper)
Okay...

MARTHA

Thank you.

Martha gets closer to him.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Now we have a lawyer.

Beat.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

We should do something to celebrate. Why don't we take the kids out this weekend.

JULIO

I don't see why not.

MARTHA

It'll help with making everything seem... okay.

Julio glares at her, then smiles faintly.

JULIO

We should go to the zoo. Or do something they like that.

MARTHA

Yeah, that sounds nice.

JULIO

I'll call Jane in the morning, tell her we want her to represent me...

Martha smiles.

INT. LIVING ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Julio is reading a newspaper. The kids come downstairs.

NATHAN
Bendicion papi.

JULIO
Dios te bendiga.

Julio looks at Jessica.

JULIO (CONT'D)
What do you say, Jess?

JESSICA
(half annoyed)
Bendicion papi.

Julio smiles.

JULIO
Dios te bendiga.

Martha enters from the kitchen.

MARTHA
We have a surprise for you guys.

NATHAN
What is it??

Julio and Martha look at each other.

MARTHA
We're going to the zoo!

They do not get the expected reaction. The kids are not excited.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

JESSICA
We went to the zoo last year.

JULIO
Yeah, that was a year ago.

NATHAN
All the animals are still the same.

Julio and Martha look at each other again. This time with a kind of worry in their faces.

JESSICA

My friend's dad takes her swimming.
Can't we go swimming?

NATHAN

Ooh, swimming sounds nice!

Martha and Julio don't know what to say.

Beat.

MARTHA

Don't you want hot dogs and
popcorn?... We can't really go
swimming.

Julio pulls his pant leg down, so that the kids don't see his
tracker.

NATHAN

Why not?

JESSICA

Yeah, why not?

Martha thinks for a second.

MARTHA

Because... you guys always get sick
after the pool.

NATHAN

We won't get sick we promise.

JESSICA

Yeah, we'll be fine.

Julio finally chimes in.

JULIO

We can go.

Martha is taken aback.

MARTHA

What?

JULIO

Yeah, we can go. It shouldn't be an
issue.

Martha is just staring at Julio now.

MARTHA

I mean, where would we even go? Is there even a pool near?

NATHAN

There's a public pool by my school.

JESSICA

Oh yeah, they opened it this year.

Martha seems defeated.

MARTHA

Okay, I guess we can go.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

The swimming pool is full of different families. It is not very large.

The Hernandez family enters the pool area. Julio is wearing long pants still.

JULIO

Seems nice.

MARTHA

Yeah...

Martha is clearly upset.

JULIO

Why don't you two go in the pool?
We'll catch up in a bit.

The kids let out a small cheer before running toward the pool.

MARTHA

(to the kids)
No running!

The kids stop running and instead begin to speed walk.

JULIO

(to Martha, more quietly)
What's wrong?

MARTHA

You know we couldn't come to the pool, Julio.

JULIO

Why not??

Martha chuckles, still angry.

MARTHA

You're wearing jeans for God's sake.

JULIO

Well, they wanted to come to the pool. Don't we have the right?

MARTHA

Julio, it's not a matter of having the right or not, it's a matter of making a reasonable decision.

They find empty pool chairs and sit.

JULIO

We can't deny them fun. I thought you wanted everything to be normal for them...

MARTHA

I do! But seeing their dad wearing jeans at the pool isn't my idea of normal.

JULIO

I mean, I can change my pants if that's what the big deal is.

Martha is shocked.

MARTHA

No! They'll be able to see the-
that thing!

JULIO

Are you ashamed of it?

MARTHA

What? I'm not ashamed...

JULIO

Is it because it makes me look like a criminal??

Martha chuckles sarcastically.

MARTHA

Oh, my God. Fine, then take it out if you want to. The kids are gonna have questions though.

Julio hesitates, shocked with Martha's response. He then goes to into the changing room.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - MOMENTS LATER

Julio walks out of the changing room. He is now wearing a swim suit. His tracker is completely visible.

People around the pool don't seem to care as much as one would expect.

Julio approaches Martha, and she sighs. She is looking around worried.

JULIO

See? It's fine...

The kids notice. They seem to be conversing among themselves. Martha notices.

MARTHA

What are we gonna tell them?

Julio shrugs.

JULIO

I think it's time we tell them the truth. What do you think?

MARTHA

Can't we tell them it's a work thing?

JULIO

Honey, they're not dumb.

Martha thinks for a second, then gives up.

MARTHA

I guess we can tell them the truth... in terms they understand, of course.

Before they're done agreeing, the kids are exiting the pool and walking toward Martha and Julio.

JULIO
Here they come.

The kids approach them.

NATHAN
Papi, what's that on your leg?

Martha and Julio look at each other.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Jess says that it's a tracker...

They all look at Jessica.

JESSICA
I saw one on a TV show. They put those on people so they don't run away.

Martha is looking down.

NATHAN
Why would you run away, dad?

Julio sighs before replying.

JULIO
Well, it's a long story. The police arrested me, even though I didn't do anything.

NATHAN
But why did they arrest you?

JULIO
They said that I was doing bad stuff, and they think they have proof of me doing these bad things.

JESSICA
Were you?

JULIO
Was I what?

JESSICA
Doing bad things?

Jessica and Nathan are staring at Julio now.

MARTHA
No, of course he wasn't.

NATHAN

Then why did they arrest you?

Julio sighs again, as he thinks of what to answer.

JULIO

Sometimes, they get the wrong guy,
but it's okay because they can't
prove that they did it.

MARTHA

Well, it's up to the innocent man
to prove they're innocent.

Julio looks at Martha.

JULIO

Technically, they have to prove
that the person did it.

MARTHA

I mean, yes, but they usually have
evidence against that person, which
is why they originally arrested
them.

Nathan and Jessica are just staring, now a bit confused.

JULIO

They point is, *mis hijos*, that they
arrested me, but they got the wrong
person. We're not in the D.R.
though, so I'm sure they'll prove
me innocent.

JESSICA

Then do you know who the right
person is?

Julio and Martha are both taken aback by the question.

MARTHA

No-

JULIO

Well, now that I think of it.

Martha gives Julio a look.

JULIO (CONT'D)

What I mean is, that doesn't matter
now. All that matters is that I'm
proven innocent.

Julio gives them a reassuring smile.

NATHAN
What will happen if you aren't.

Julio's smile drops.

JULIO
That's not gonna happen, so let's
not worry about it, okay?

He smiles again.

NATHAN
Okay...

MARTHA
Why don't you guys go for a last
little swim before we leave?

NATHAN
Aw, we're leaving soon?

MARTHA
Yes, it's getting late. Go ahead,
you have half an hour more.

The kids begin running toward the pool.

Walk! JULIO Walk! MARTHA (CONT'D)

Julio and Martha are left alone again.

JULIO (CONT'D)
That wasn't so bad.

Martha frowns.

JULIO (CONT'D)
I mean it could've been much worse.

MARTHA
I hope they're able to handle
knowing this.

JULIO
They're old enough, and they know I
wouldn't do anything illegal.

MARTHA
I know, but now they know what kind
of world they're living in.

JULIO
Which kind?

MARTHA
The kind of world that arrests
innocent people.

Beat.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
What did you mean when you said you
knew the 'right guy'?

JULIO
Well, I hadn't thought about it,
but I mean, they did find the drugs
in Canilla's car.

Martha also realizes.

MARTHA
Where is he? Was he also arrested?

JULIO
I don't know. I haven't seen him
since that day.

They both think for a second.

MARTHA
Maybe you should contact him.

JULIO
That's what I was thinking. Maybe I
should give him a call.

MARTHA
You don't think he's in jail?

Julio shrugs.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
I mean if they got you, and it
wasn't even your car, then they
probably got him too.

JULIO
Something tells me he's not in
jail, though.

MARTHA
What do you mean?

JULIO

I don't know. Something about the way he acted when the whole thing was happening.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Julio is sitting in bed with his cellphone to his ear, while Martha is reading a magazine.

We hear Canillas's voice on the phone:

CANILLAS (O.S.)

Hi, you've reached Canillas Perez. Right now I'm not available. If this is an emergency, the call the cops...

Julio hangs up the phone.

JULIO

This is the fifth time I call him. He won't answer.

MARTHA

Like I said, he's probably in jail.

JULIO

I'm gonna pay him a visit after work.

MARTHA

In jail?

JULIO

No, I still don't think he's in jail. I'll go to his apartment...

Martha puts the magazine down.

MARTHA

Julio, you need to be careful...

JULIO

It's just a visit, what do you mean?

MARTHA

Well, if he's actually a drug dealer, should you really be associating with him? Now that they're tracking you and all?

Julio sighs.

JULIO
I think meeting with him would just help me get some answers.

MARTHA
I don't know if visiting him is a good idea.

JULIO
We're just gonna talk.

Martha is the one sighing now.

MARTHA
Okay. But please be careful...

JULIO
I'm always careful.

EXT. HOUSE CONSTRUCTION SIGHT - THE NEXT MORNING

Julio is wearing his construction clothes. JUNIOR (30s), wearing an overall too big for him, is there too.

JUNIOR
So where have you been exactly?

JULIO
You know. I just had to take some time off...

Junior points at Julio's tracker.

JUNIOR
And what about that thing?

Julio looks down and does not answer.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Word around here is that you were in jail.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Is that so?

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Yeah...

They're quiet for a few more seconds.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Well, were you?

Julio thinks before answering.

JULIO
Yes, I was.

JUNIOR
Damn, how did you get out?

JULIO
What do you mean why did I get out?
I was innocent.

JUNIOR
I mean yeah, but most people
still...

JULIO
I was innocent so I why would I
still be in jail?

Beat.

JUNIOR
Yeah, that figures I guess. It's
just weird because Canillas was
going around saying you'd be gone
for at least five years.

JULIO
He said that? Well he's wrong about
that and about a lot of other
things.

JUNIOR
Don't get angry at me. I'm just
repeating what he said.

JULIO
So he's not in jail?

JUNIOR
Who? Canillas? Nah.

JULIO
That's good to know...

Julio continues screwing wood panels in silence.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - LATER THAT DAY

Julio KNOCKS on one of the apartment doors.

CANILLAS (O.S.)
Who is it?

Julio doesn't answer.

CANILLAS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm not buying anything!

Julio KNOCKS again.

CANILLAS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Ugh, I'm coming.

Canillas can be heard approaching the door on the other side. He finally opens the door and looks like he's been punched in the gut when he sees Julio.

Canillas can't formulate any words.

JULIO
Hey?

CANILLAS
Oh, Julio. I thought you were- what are you doing here?

JULIO
Just paying my friend a visit. Can I come in?

CANILLAS
I don't know, I-

JULIO
It'll only be for a few seconds.

Canillas looks down, thinking.

CANILLAS
I mean, why not?...

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Canillas opens the door to his MESSY apartment. Julio walks in.

CANILLAS
What brings you here?

JULIO
I think we both know why I'm
here...

Canillas gulps.

CANILLAS
Not really.

JULIO
Why are you not in jail, Canillas?

CANILLAS
That's a loaded question.

JULIO
How come?

Canillas scratches his chin.

CANILLAS
Why are you not in jail?... Take a
seat.

Julio finds room somewhere among all the messiness and sits
down.

They're quiet for a few more seconds.

JULIO
So?

CANILLAS
Ah yes, why am I not in jail?

JULIO
Yes, why aren't you.

CANILLAS
It's sort of a long story...

JULIO
Okay...

Canillas sighs.

CANILLAS
I have been trafficking drugs,
heroin to be specific.

Julio's eyes widen, but he says nothing, waiting for an
explanation.

CANILLAS (CONT'D)

I didn't start with heroin, but that's not the point... The point is I was dealing illegal substances, when I met this cop. Let's call him... Mark.

Julio sits back.

CANILLAS (CONT'D)

I met Mark and we struck a sort of deal. I would be able to keep selling these substances, if I got him people he could arrest.

Julio's mouth is now wide open.

JULIO

What are you saying?

CANILLAS

I got arrested, at some point, too. I didn't have the money to fight the case, so I... I struck this deal with the cop.

JULIO

I don't understand. A cop can't just drop charges because of a deal.

Canillas smiles.

CANILLAS

You're right. Let's see-

He thinks for a second.

CANILLAS (CONT'D)

I think he colluded with some state attorney. What was his name... John? James?

Julio's eyes widen again.

JULIO

James what?

CANILLAS

James Montgomery, I believe.

Julio realizes.

JULIO
I- I have to go.

Julio stands up followed by Canillas.

CANILLAS
Wait, so are we good? Do you see
where I'm coming from?

Julio turns around to face him.

JULIO
Of course not.

Beat.

CANILLAS
What do you-

JULIO
You're a disgusting human being. I
hope you at least know that much.

CANILLAS
Oh come on! That's just how life
is. The world isn't always a fair
place, Julio.

JULIO
Yes, because of people like you!

CANILLAS
It was either me or you. You can't
be mad at me for choosing myself.

Julio turns around to leave again.

JULIO
That's not how the justice system
works.

CANILLAS
Maybe it's not how it should work,
but that's just how it is.

Julio gives Canillas one last look, turning around again.

JULIO
Take care, Canillas...

CANILLAS
Wait, Julio.

Canillas puts his arm on Julio, trying to stop him from leaving.

JULIO
Don't touch me.

Julio shrugs Canillas's hand off of him.

JULIO (CONT'D)
I never want to see you again.

Julio exits. Canillas sits down again.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julio is in the living room. Martha is sitting at the table on her laptop.

MARTHA
What do you mean?

JULIO
He has a deal with one of the cops.
He's supposed to give him someone
to arrest instead of him or
something.

MARTHA
Oh.

Martha stands up to approach Julio.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
So all this is his fault?

JULIO
Yes, technically. He also told me
the prosecutor is involved in this
deal.

MARTHA
What? Are you sure?

JULIO
It's what he said.

Martha sits back down.

JULIO (CONT'D)
We need to tell someone.

MARTHA
Who? How?

JULIO
I can tell the judge.

MARTHA
I don't think that's a good idea.

Julio looks at Martha.

JULIO
What else can I do?

MARTHA
Why don't we tell Jane about this?

JULIO
We don't have time. I have a court appointment tomorrow.

MARTHA
What? Why didn't you tell me?!

JULIO
I didn't wanna think about it. I just wanted to spend time with you and the kids.

MARTHA
So you didn't prepare for the trial...

JULIO
I have a good lawyer now. I'm sure she'll take care of things.

Julio sits down.

JULIO (CONT'D)
There's nothing to worry about. Especially now that we know why this happened.

MARTHA
Things aren't that easy.

JULIO
Why not? We have information that is key to my case. Why not tell the judge?

MARTHA
You know what Julio? Tell the judge if you want. You never listen to me.

JULIO
What do you mean?

MARTHA
Just like when I told you not to
see Canillas. You just went ahead
and did it anyways.

JULIO
I wouldn't have found this out if I
didn't go.

MARTHA
Yes, but it was risky.

JULIO
I have to take these risks.

MARTHA
No, you don't. At least not alone.

JULIO
So take them with me.

Martha rolls her eyes.

MARTHA
Are you listening to yourself?

JULIO
What are you so afraid of?

MARTHA
I'm afraid of you going to prison!

Beat.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
I'm afraid of losing you...

Julio embraces Martha.

JULIO
Oh, honey. That's never gonna
happen.

MARTHA
What am I gonna do if it happens
though?

JULIO
It won't happen.

MARTHA
How can you be so sure?

JULIO
Because I'm innocent.

Martha sighs.

JULIO (CONT'D)
I'm telling the judge what I know.
You can support my decision or not.

MARTHA
Okay, but promise me you'll ask the
lawyer first.

JULIO
I promise.

Julio gives her a kiss on the forehead.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT HOUSE - HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

Jane and Julio are walking together.

JANE
Absolutely not.

JULIO
What? Why not?

JANE
(whisper)
I'm not about to tell a judge that
the prosecutor is corrupt.

JULIO
But he is! We need to say
something...

Jane sighs in frustration. They stop walking.

JANE
Are you familiar with the term
hearsay?

JULIO
I've heard of it.

JANE

The only evidence you have for this is that your 'friend' told you so. Do you see how that sounds?

JULIO

But it's the truth!

JANE

We don't know that. For all we know your friend was lying. I wouldn't consider him a reliable source, and neither will the judge.

JULIO

Then what *can* we do?

Jane looks at the courtroom door.

JANE

Right now, we can ask for more time. Then we can discuss this.

JULIO

So that's it? We don't say anything?

JANE

Not right now. Not till we have evidence.

JULIO

Okay.

They open the doors to the courtroom.

INT. COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

They walk over to the defendant's desk and take a seat.

Montgomery is already at the prosecutor's desk. He looks at his EXPENSIVE WATCH to see the time.

Julio can't help but stare at him, the man whose job is to accuse him.

The room settles.

BAILIFF

All rise.

They all stand up. The judge begins to walk in.

BAILIFF (CONT'D)

The Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, Criminal Division, is now in session, the honorable judge Peter Swanson presiding.

The Judge enters. He looks even more tired than before.

JUDGE SWANSON

Good morning to all. You may be seated.

The crowd sits down. Montgomery taps his fingers on the table while Julio still stares.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

Now calling the case of The People of the State of New Jersey versus Hernández, case number 10-5783.

The Judge sighs again.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

Would counsel identify themselves for the record?

Montgomery stops the tapping and barely looks up to answer.

MONTGOMERY

Good morning, your honor. James Montgomery, on behalf of the people.

JANE

Good morning, everyone. Jane Day...

Montgomery does a double take.

JANE (CONT'D)

On behalf of the defendant, mister Julio Hernandez.

JUDGE SWANSON

The prosecution will now begin its opening statements.

Montgomery stops looking at Jane and fakes a smile at the Judge.

MONTGOMERY

May it please the court.
(MORE)

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

Your honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we've given mister Hernandez more time to prepare for his case, time where we're letting a criminal walk free. It is time that mister Hernandez faces the charges that have been brought up against him, as the evidence suggests, without a shadow of a doubt, that he is guilty of crimes against the people of the State of New Jersey. Thank you.

The judge turns to Jane.

JUDGE SWANSON

The defense will now begin its opening statement.

JANE

May it please the court. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, your honor, mister Hernandez has been falsely accused of these charges, and he is an innocent man being charged for the crimes of others. It is my duty to remind the court that mister Hernandez was not driving the car in which the controlled substances were found, as it was not his own. This exposes a hole in the prosecution's allegations that mister Hernandez was in fact the sole owner of the controlled substances. Thank you for your time.

Montgomery raises an eyebrow.

JUDGE SWANSON

The prosecution may call its first witness.

Julio looks at Jane, confused. She shrugs.

MONTGOMERY

The people call the owner of the car.

Canillas enters the room. The Bailiff takes him to the witness stand.

BAILIFF

Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

CANILLAS

I do.

BAILIFF

Please state your first and last name for the record.

CANILLAS

Canillas Perez.

Canillas makes awkward eye contact with Julio.

BAILIFF

You may be seated.

JUDGE SWANSON

Interrogation may begin at this time.

MONTGOMERY

Mister Perez, are you the owner of the car were the controlled substances were found?

CANILLAS

Yes, I am.

MONTGOMERY

And were these substances yours?

CANILLAS

No.

Julio is visibly angry, shaking his head.

MONTGOMERY

Then how would you say they got there?

CANILLAS

Julio Hernandez brought them into the car. He told me to drop him by the school so that-

JANE

Objection, your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON
On what grounds?

JANE
Hearsay.

JUDGE SWANSON
The witness shall only answer the
questions posed by the court.
Understood.

CANILLAS
Yes, your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON
Please proceed, mister Montgomery.

Montgomery smiles faintly.

MONTGOMERY
Mister Perez, can you identify
mister Hernandez?

CANILLAS
Yes, he's that man sitting over
there.

Canillas points at Julio, who can't help but roll his eyes.

MONTGOMERY
Thank you for, mister Perez. I have
no further questions.

Julio and Canillas share a look again.

JUDGE SWANSON
Does the defense have any questions
for the witness?

JANE
Yes, your honor. We do.

JUDGE SWANSON
You may proceed to interrogate the
witness.

JANE
Mister Perez, are you and mister
Hernandez acquainted?

MONTGOMERY
Objection your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON

On what grounds?

MONTGOMERY

Lack of relevance.

JANE

The relevance will become clear,
your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON

You may proceed.

The Judge gives Montgomery a look.

JANE

So are you, Mister Perez?
Acquainted with mister Hernandez?

CANILLAS

Yes. Yes I am- or was, rather. We
worked together.

JANE

Is that why he was in your car?

CANILLAS

Yes.

JANE

Do you think a person should be
responsible for what is in their
car, mister Perez?

CANILLAS

Well, to a certain degree, yes.

JANE

But you weren't responsible for the
substances in your car?

MONTGOMERY

Your honor, this is going nowhere.

JUDGE SWANSON

Agreed. Miss Day, what is the
relevance to all this?

JANE

Well your honor, there is reason to
believe mister Perez was
responsible for the substances in
the car.

The Judge lowers his glasses to take a better look at Jane.

JUDGE SWANSON

May I remind you that it is not
mister Perez who is on trial here.

Montgomery can't help but chuckle to himself.

JANE

Right...

The Judge gets ready to speak again, but is interrupted by
the Clerk handing him a piece of paper.

The Judge reads silently for a second. Julio looks at Jane
for answers. She doesn't have any and looks at him blankly.

Judge Swanson finally puts the paper down.

JUDGE SWANSON

There seems to be a new development
for mister Hernandez's case.

Julio looks at Jane again, but she is focused on the Judge.

Montgomery also stares at the Judge.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

The case has come to the attention
of the Court of Immigration of the
United States...

Julio gulps.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

They have deemed deportation to be
appropriate for this case.

JANE

Your honor, how is this possible?
My client has not yet been proven
guilt-

JUDGE SWANSON

The court does not deem a guilty
verdict to be necessary for this
proceeding of deportation, as this
case would take too long for the
right of a speedy trial not to be
waived.

JANE

Is there a way of waiving this
right?

JUDGE SWANSON

Not as of now. Though, the defense does have the right to appeal this decision. Mister Hernandez has fifteen days to leave the country.

Jane and Julio remain quiet, defeated.

Montgomery lets out a smile.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

This court is adjourned.

The Judge smashes the gavel.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Martha is sitting on the couch quietly waiting for Julio. He enters, and Martha stands up.

MARTHA

What happened?

JULIO

You might want to sit down.

MARTHA

You're scaring me...

She sits down anyway.

JULIO

I'm gonna be gone for a little while.

MARTHA

What?

Julio sighs.

JULIO

I was deported, Martha.

Tears stream down Martha's face.

MARTHA

What? You can't do anything about it?

JULIO

The judge said I could appeal, but I don't know.

MARTHA

We need to do something.

JULIO

Can we talk about it tomorrow? I'm honestly exhausted.

Martha wipes away her tears and fakes a smile.

MARTHA

Sure. Tomorrow.

JULIO

I also have to see Jane to see what my options are at this point.

Julio sits down next to her and takes her hand. He kisses it.

JULIO (CONT'D)

We'll be fine.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Jane and Julio are sitting at the desk.

JANE

It's gonna be eleven thousand more.

JULIO

What? Just for an appeal?

JANE

Well, if you really want to win the case, we need to hire a detective. Those aren't cheap.

JULIO

We've been working together for some time now. There's no way you can make me a deal?

JANE

You know that's not how I work, Julio.

Julio looks down.

JULIO

I really can't afford that right now, Jane.

JANE

I'm sorry then, Julio. I really am,
but this is a business I'm running.

JULIO

What about press? Wouldn't this be
good for press? Maybe more people
would come see you...

Jane just shakes her head.

JANE

This is not that high of a profile
case. And even if it was-

JULIO

Would it not count for some kind of
community service?

She shakes her head again.

JANE

I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Julio is alone in the bedroom, packing up clothes into a
suitcase.

Martha enters, and stops by the door to look at Julio
packing. Her expression is morbid. She then walks in the
room, and gently begins to help him pack.

MARTHA

You shouldn't have to be doing
this.

They pack in silence for a few seconds.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

We need to appeal.

Julio stops packing, formulating an answer.

JULIO

I talked to Jane about that. She
said it's going to cost us more.

MARTHA

How much?

JULIO

A lot...

Julio continues packing.

JULIO (CONT'D)

I can always come back.

MARTHA

I don't think that's how
deportations work, honey.

JULIO

Once I'm proven innocent on the
criminal case. I have my folks back
in the D. R. I'll be alright.

MARTHA

If you're proven innocent...

Julio stops packing again. He is quiet for a few seconds.

JULIO

So you don't think I'm innocent?

MARTHA

That's not what I said.

JULIO

If I'm innocent, there's no reason
why I can't win the case.

MARTHA

(almost to herself)
If you have the money.

JULIO

I'm innocent until proven guilty.
That's how this country works.

MARTHA

On paper, yes. But we both know
that's not always true. We need to
appeal, hire a detective, do
something. We can't just stand here
and let them decide for you,
because we both know how that's
going to end.

Julio thinks again.

JULIO

We just can't afford it. Not right
now at least.

MARTHA

We have to.

JULIO

We already dug into Nathan's college fund. We literally have no money left, and now we've taken an opportunity from our son.

Martha looks down.

MARTHA

Julio...

JULIO

What? That is the truth.

MARTHA

A lot of kids take out loans. And nothing would be worse for Nathan than to grow up without his dad.

Julio gives her a look.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Besides, there's still another option.

Julio realizes.

JULIO

No. We can't. It's literally all we have left.

MARTHA

We need to remortgage the house.

JULIO

No! The house is the one thing that is completely ours!

Martha looks down again.

MARTHA

Well...

JULIO

What?

MARTHA

I-

JULIO

What??

MARTHA

I went to the bank this morning,
while you were with the lawyer.

JULIO

Martha, please tell me you didn't.

Martha goes to the drawer and pulls out a paper. She gives it to Julio.

MARTHA

I already remortgaged it, Julio. We
need to appeal the deportation.

Julio is at a lost for words. He begins unpacking. Martha helps him.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Julio and Jane are sitting at the desk again. This time Julio seems more relaxed than before.

JANE

So what made you change your mind?

JULIO

My wife can be pretty convincing.

JANE

I'm glad.

JULIO

When do they get here?

Jane looks at her watch.

JANE

He seems to be running late. It's a
habit.

JULIO

I don't really know what to expect.

JANE

I've worked with him on multiple
cases. You have nothing to worry
about.

JULIO

I really hope so.

There is a KNOCK on the office door.

The Receptionist walks in.

RECEPTIONIST
Detective Walker is here.

JANE
You can let him in.

The Receptionist shuts the door. Jane and Julio are quiet before JACOB WALKER (50s), extroverted and loud, enters the scene.

JANE (CONT'D)
Jacob!

WALKER
Jane, darling. How have you been?

JANE
I've been well! Take a seat.

WALKER
Of course.

Walker turns to Julio.

WALKER (CONT'D)
Jacob Walker. Pleasure to meet ya.

Julio smiles faintly.

JULIO
Julio Hernandez.

WALKER
So, what are we working on today?

JANE
Mister Hernandez here thinks that there might be a possible collusion between a corrupt cop and the prosecution attorney.

WALKER
Ooh how fascinating. And why do you believe this, mister Hernandez?

JULIO
My frien- someone told me so.

WALKER

Hmm, doesn't sound too convincing. This is a serious accusation you're making. We're gonna need more than that.

JANE

Right. And that's where you come into the equation.

Walker pulls out a small note pad.

WALKER

I'm gonna need names. Who exactly told you this information?

JULIO

Canillas. Canillas Perez.

Walker writes on his note pad.

JANE

It's worth noting that he was the owner of the car where the drugs were found.

She looks at Julio.

JANE (CONT'D)

And that he used to be Julio's friend.

Julio looks down.

WALKER

Sounds like we have a lead at least.

JANE

I'm glad.

WALKER

How much time do we have?

JANE

We have fourteen days...

WALKER

You've got to be kidding me. I need at least a month to build a case against the prosecution.

JANE

Well, we only have fourteen days.
So you'll have to work with that.

Walker sighs.

WALKER

I guess I'll have to work with
that.

Julio and Jane look at each other. Jane smiles at Julio.

JANE

You're in good hands.

Julio nods.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Martha is watching TV, when Julio walks in. He has a smile on his face.

Martha pauses the TV.

MARTHA

What happened?

Julio embraces her.

JULIO

There's a detective on the case
now. I think we actually have a
chance of winning.

Martha embraces him as well, then stops.

MARTHA

When's the hearing?

JULIO

It's in fifteen days.

MARTHA

Maybe we could pretend everything
is normal for those days. We don't
know what will happen after.

JULIO

I like that idea.

Julio kisses her forehead.

EXT. HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

The American flag still waves in the front of the house.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Julio is making pancakes again. He flips one. This time they don't look burned.

Martha enters the kitchen.

MARTHA

What's going on here?

JULIO

Just making some pancakes.

MARTHA

I'm gonna catch the bus so you can use the car.

JULIO

You don't have to do that...

MARTHA

I know, but I want to.

Julio looks at her.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

It'll help my nerves.

JULIO

Fine. Just be careful in the bus.

MARTHA

I'm always careful.

Nathan and Jessica enter.

NATHAN

It smells like pancakes!

JULIO

That's because I'm making some, buddy.

JESSICA

Are you making some for me too?

JULIO

Of course, my *preciosa*.

He kisses Jessica in the forehead.

Martha stares at them. They look like a family once again.

MARTHA

I love you all so much.

She tears up.

JULIO

And we love you...

Julio goes to comfort her.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The school bus pulls up to the house.

Nathan and Jessica board it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Martha and Julio look out of the window until the bus leaves.

MARTHA

Well, I have to go too.

JULIO

So soon?

MARTHA

The bus takes longer to get there,
sweetie.

She kisses Julio on the cheek.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Have a good day... I love you.

JULIO

I love you too.

INT. COURTROOM - WEEKS LATER

Julio is sitting at the defendant's desk with Jane. The judge is already at his desk.

Montgomery has just given his opening statement.

Martha is in the crowd.

JUDGE SWANSON

The defense may begin its opening statement.

JANE

May it please the court. Your honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, Julio Hernandez is an immigrant from the Dominican Republic. Is this the crime he is being tried for? The prosecution has failed to provide substantial evidence that would suggest mister Hernandez is guilty of possessing and distributing controlled substances. Furthermore, the defense has evidence that mister Hernandez has been pitted against a *corrupt* system. Because of this, it is necessary that mister Hernandez be proclaimed innocent of all charges.

JUDGE SWANSON

Now, hold on, Ms. Day. Do you have evidence for these accusations?

JANE

The evidence was submitted only days before this very trial, your Honor.

The Judge shuffles through some papers.

JUDGE SWANSON

I see.

He takes a look at Montgomery.

JUDGE SWANSON (CONT'D)

The defense may finish its statement.

JANE

Thank you, your honor. As I was saying, mister Hernandez's only crime is that of being an immigrant. Thank you.

JUDGE SWANSON

The prosecution may call its first witness.

MONTGOMERY

Of course. Once again, here is the owner of the car.

Canillas enters. Martha is shocked.

JUDGE SWANSON

Please state your name for the record.

CANILLAS

Canillas. Canillas Perez.

JUDGE SWANSON

The prosecution may begin interrogation.

MONTGOMERY

Can mister Perez point to the person to whom the controlled substances in his belonged.

Canillas points at Julio. Julio shakes his head.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

No further questions, your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON

Does the defense have any questions.

JANE

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON

The defense may proceed with its interrogation.

JANE

Mister Perez, where were you going when the arrest occurred?

CANILLAS

I was giving Julio a ride to our job.

JANE

Where was the location of this job?

CANILLAS

It was on main street.

JANE

And you were coming from mister Hernandez's house, right?

CANILLAS

Correct.

JANE

Then why did you drive by the school that day?

CANILLAS

I- There's usually less traffic there.

JANE

Right. So it couldn't be because you had already talked about it with one of the cops?

MONTGOMERY

Objection, your honor.

JUDGE SWANSON

Overruled.

JANE

What were you doing at 9pm on the day before the arrest?

CANILLAS

I can't remember, but I was probably home.

JANE

May I present exhibit one, your honor?

JUDGE SWANSON

Yes.

Jane sets up the court's projector to show a video.

It is a video that clearly depicts Canillas exchanging money with a police officer.

JANE

This was taken outside a convenience store near mister Perez's residence. Mister Perez, is this you?

CANILLAS

Yes...

Some people in the crowd gasp.

JANE

Who is the other person in the video?

CANILLAS

That would be officer Nuñez.

JANE

The officer that arrested mister Hernandez, right?

CANILLAS

Yes.

Montgomery is shaking his head.

JANE

No further questions your honor.

Canillas is looking at the floor.

JUDGE SWANSON

Given this new information, I will be declaring a mistrial. This nulls out the deportation, but mister Hernandez will not be proclaimed not guilty.

MONTGOMERY

Your honor...

Before Montgomery can go on, the Judge slams the gavel.

Martha smiles. Julio remains serious.

INT. COURT HOUSE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jane and Julio are walking.

JULIO

So what does this mean?

JANE

It means you're free to go.

JULIO

What about Montgomery?

JANE

The detective only had fifteen days. Not enough to time to proof his involvement.

Julio sighs.

JANE (CONT'D)

What matters now is that you can go home. You're a free man.

JULIO

At what cost?

EXT. HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

Julio and Martha pull up to the driveway. Before going inside, he notices the American flag.

He looks at it for a few seconds, then takes it down.

He puts the flag in the trash.

END