

The Closer I Get to You

Maya Thames

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C., WHITE HOUSE-- MORNING.

EXT. NORTHWEST D.C. NEIGHBORHOOD-- MORNING.

SUMMERTIME.

CARS DRIVING BY, PEOPLE WALKING ON THE SIDEWALK AND ACROSS THE STREET. NOTICEABLE CHANGE IN NEIGHBORHOODS DUE TO GENTRIFICATION. RENOVATED HOUSES APPEAR.

A MAN WALKS BY THE FRONT OF LARGE SET OF BRICK STEPS. THERE ARE COLORFUL NEATLY PLANTED FLOWERS IN THE FRONT YARD. THE LAWN IS CUT. THE DOOR IS ROYAL BLUE WITH A FRESH COAT OF PAINT. THE WINDOWS ARE TALL AND WIDE, CURVING AT THE TOP MAKING AN ARCH. THE FRAMES ARE WHITE. INSIDE LIVE THE WHITNEY'S.

INT. THE WHITNEY HOME, MAIN LEVEL, KITCHEN-- MORNING.

A woman cooking breakfast in the kitchen while she's watching Scandal. There's a lot of food on the kitchen island. The woman has on a designer robe and slippers. Her hair is wrapped up in a scarf. She's in her early 50's but doesn't look like it. She's fit and very pretty. This is Mellie Whitney.

INT. BASEMENT.

A man's in the basement working out in a personalized gym. The basement is finished with carpet. Paintings on the wall. A television area with a leather couch, and a mini bar next to that. Next to the home gym is a home office--closed off with glass doors. There's "old school" music blasting. The man has on all high tech workout apparel. An apple watch on his wrist. His airpods still in his ear with his phone nearby. The music stops--the cellphone begins ringing. The man answers the call on his watch.

JEFF:

"Jeff Whitney speaking. Right. Ok. Yeah. So let's move that to Monday. I'll be on the Hill after that."

INT. UPSTAIRS LEVEL, FLORA'S BEDROOM

There's a girl on her bed wrapping a gift in her pajamas and a bonnet on her head. She has coco brown skin. This is Flora Whitney. The TV is on-- volume is low. There's an unzipped--but packed suitcase on the side of the bed.

INT. UPSTAIRS LEVEL, HALLWAY

There's a nicely decorated hallway. Paintings worth hundreds of thousands of dollars hang on the walls. At the end of the hallway is wooden table--looks like an antique. A bouquet of fresh flowers in a butterfly detailed glass vase sits on top of it. Behind this table is a big glass window showing the fenced in backyard with an open pool and hot tub. Next to the table is a bedroom door.

INT. UPSTAIRS LEVEL, RYLA'S BEDROOM

There lies another girl but she's in a deep sleep. Her suitcase is on the side of her bed too--but half packed. She still has makeup smeared on her face and her clothes from the night before are scattered on the floor. But she didn't forget to put a scarf on her head. She has box-braids and almond brown skin. This is Ryla Whitney. Coming out of her bathroom is a third girl. She visibly looks different than the other two girls. Her skin is a light caramel. Her hair is straight yet wavy and up in a bun. She has on sweatpants and an oversized t-shirt. This is Camille Rhodes.

Camille comes out of the ensuite bathroom, she slips out of Ryla's bedroom to the hallway and into Flora's.

CAMILLE:

"You done yet?"

FLORA:

"Yeah, pretty much. I just gotta sign this card--then i'm going to see if my mom and dad are ready."

Flora walks out of the room and tip-toes down the steps with wrapped gifts and sealed cards.

FLORA:

"Mom, y'all ready?"

MELLIE:

"Yes, I just finished the pancakes. Chocolate chip just like she asked."

FLORA:

"Okay perfect, meet us upstairs."

Mellie goes downstairs to get her husband.

Flora goes upstairs to her room. She sticks her head in and whispers--

FLORA:

"C'mon Camie."

They both walk down a few steps down the hall to the front of Ryla's bedroom door.

The door is slightly cracked.

Jeff and Mellie quietly appear behind the two girls at Ryla's bedroom door. Jeff reaches his hand past the two and quietly opens the bedroom door. It creaks for a second and everyone's eyes widen. They look at each other, then to Ryla who's sound asleep in her bed. Jeff motions (with his hands) at Flora and Camille to follow him in. They take a few steps down the hall and open Ryla's bedroom door. Everyone has their phone out and camera's pointing at Ryla. Mellie is in the very back hiding behind everyone. The flashes come on, on everyone's phone (except for Mellie who has her hands tied with balloons.)

They all sing in unison.

EVERYONE:

"Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you..."

Ryla wakes up confused at first but when she realizes what's going on, she smiles.

Everyone's still singing.

EVERYONE:

"Happy Birthday dear RYLA! Happy Birthday to you."

Mellie pops out with birthday balloons that have "21" printed on them.

MELLIE:

"Surprise!"

JEFF:

"Okay now the Black version!"

Everyone sings along.

Ryla smiles from ear to ear and blushes. She sways back and forth. She flings her hands and flutters her finger as if she were a music conductor while they sing.

EVERYONE:

"Happy Birthday to ya. Happy Birthday to ya. Happy Birthday! Happ-ee Birth-day. Happ-ee Birth-day..."

They fade out and finish off with a joyful cheer.

RYLA:

"Y'all... do NOT post this."

She points at their phones.

RYLA:

"Especially you Dad. No publicity of me waking up. I look a hot mess."

FLORA:

"Maybe if you wiped that cakey makeup off your face you would look at least half decent. Like girl, who even matched your foundation. Looking like you put a mask on."

Ryla mouths quietly and waves around her middle fingers while her parents aren't looking.

RYLA:

"Fuck you!"

Flora giggles. Ryla giggles back. Before she can lift up her finger to flick off Ryla, she makes eye contact with their mother. Flora switches the subject.

FLORA:

"But yeah Dad, don't embarrass us like that on Facebook. She is my sister you know. My name is still attached to her."

Jeff smiles while swiping through photos on his phone.

JEFF:

"Yeah.Yeah."

He extends his arm out with his phone in his hand, facing him, the family and Camille. The camera app is on the screen.

JEFF:

"Selfie!"

Everyone is caught off guard and quickly tries to smile at the camera.

The clicking camera sounds makes noise each time he clicked the "take" button. It clicked 3 times.

Mellie redirects everyone's attention.

MELLIE:

"Okay you guys have to head to the airport by noon. Let's go eat some breakfast and open gifts."

RYLA:

Okay let me please my sister and go wash my face and brush my teeth real quick.

They walk downstairs. All But Ryla and Camille.

RYLA:

"Camie, you're positive you can't at least fly out tomorrow or something? It's my birthday weekend sis."

CAMILLE:

"Ry, you know I love you but my job is not trying to give me time off, plus my parents need help in the restaurant. You know how weird things are now that they're not together anymore. Then my Dad brings that ho around. Ugh, makes me and my Mom sick."

RYLA:

"I feel you. It just would've been really nice to have my best friend sip on some mojitos with me in Puerto Rico."

She turns her head and starts picking up her clothes from the ground. She then heads to the bathroom.

Camille sneaks up on her and gives her a huge hug.

CAMILLE:

"I promise I'll make it up to you. Plus you got your sister. You guys will have so much fun."

RYLA:

"If it's money Camille, then you know we can pay for your---"

Camille cuts Ryla off.

CAMILLE:

"No Ry. Stop trying to feel sorry for me. I don't want to argue today. It's your day to be happy. With or without me. I'll see you downstairs girl."

Camille walks out of the bedroom.

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Scene II

EXT. THE WHITNEY HOUSE

Ryla struggles out of the front door with her oversized suitcase, duffle bag crossed over her body and purse hanging off of her free shoulder.

Flora follows behind her with a smaller suitcase and small carry on bag.

FLORA:

"Girl we're only staying for like 3 nights. Why you packing like you moving out."

RYLA:

"Whatever Flo, at least I know I'm not missing anything."

CAMILLE:

"Okay let me go pop the trunk for y'all."

Camille walks past everyone to get to the car.

MELLIE:

"Girls, do you have everything? Toiletries. Swimsuits. Heels for going out. Oh! Make sure you ladies pack some socks for the airport. You don't want your feet to touch those dirty floors through security."

RYLA:

"Oh yeah! My sunglasses. Gotta grab the Raybans, the black Chanel's, and of course those cute Gucci limiteds."

She runs back into the house past Jeff, who is standing in the doorway.

JEFF:

"You guys should hurry up. It's always traffic going to Reagan National."

Jeff gets a phone call.

He answers it and puts his finger up in the air and mouths to Camille and the family--

JEFF:

"One sec."

He walks away from the door.

MELLIE:

"That's what I was telling Ryla but you know. This last minute trend."

Camille is helping Flora put the bags in the trunk. Mellie walks over to help.

MELLIE:

"Cami sweetie, I really wish you could go with the girls."

Mellie helps the girls pack the car.

CAMILLE:

"I know, Mrs. Mellie, I do too. But you know, family stuff. I gotta still work. All that fun stuff. But I told Ry I would make it up to her when she comes back. Plus my guy friend is a promoter, he said we

can come to his section at Bliss next weekend. So that should be fun."

Flora runs back into the house.

FLORA:

"Be right back."

Mellie looks at Flora then looks back to Camille.

MELLIE:

"I understand sweetie. Please let me know if you need anything. That will be fun, I'm sure Ry Ry will enjoy it. How's your mother doing by the way. How's she holding up? I spoke with her last week after everything was finalized, but have been meaning to check in."

CAMILLE:

"She's okay. The separation has been hard on her and stuff. You know 'cause her and my dad are still running the place together. Silly idea right. Huh!"

Camille forces a laugh, looks down, her voice begins to fade.

Mellie's faced looks concerned. Mellie rubs Camille's arms for comfort.

CAMILLE:

"Lots of tension, drama, you know... I can't even look at my Dad the same anymore. Plus this ho he tries to fake-sneak around is barely 30. Like we all know. So pathetic and embarrassing..."

She begins to tear up and choke on her words.

CAMILLE:

"Like what the hell. It's so shitty."

She bursts into tears.

Mellie grabs Camille in for a hug.

MELLIE:

"Oh, honey I'm so sorry. Please let me know if we can do anything to help. You've got our whole family behind you two. I'm gonna call Regina as soon as you all leave. We love you guys. You're our family."

She rubs Camille's back. Ryla and Flora come out of the front door together.

Camille takes both of her hands and spears her palms down her face, wiping her tears.

CAMILLE:

"Thanks Mrs. Mellie, we love you too."

Jeff follows his two daughters out of the door.

RYLA:

"Yeahh man, we're Puerto Rico ready! And Flo you can drink with me baby girl, you 18!"

Flora jokingly responds to Ryla.

FLORA:

"Jih like--moe!"

Ryla shares a small laugh with Flora.

Ryla walks towards Camille.

RYLA:

"Cami, I'm going to miss you so much!"

Ryla grabs Camille for a hug.

Camille hugs her back with a smile of comfort.

CAMILLE:

"Love you Ry. Now let's go! You guys are going to be

late for your flight."

Jeff walks towards everyone by the car.

JEFF:

"Okay ladies bring it in!"

He extends and opens his arms for a group hug.

Camille, Ryla, and Flora all come together to give Jeff a hug.

MELLIE:

"Girls I love you so much. You got your wallets, ID's, cash?"

Ryla and Flora respond in unison.

FLORA AND RYLA:

"Yes mom."

MELLIE:

"Give me kisses."

The girls and Mellie exchange hugs and kisses.

MELLIE:

"I love you guys. Please be safe. Text me when you get to the airport, when you get past security, and when you board. Cami call me when you make it home safely. We still need to talk missy."

CAMILLE:

"Yes Mrs. Mellie, I will."

FLORA:

"We will mamma. Love you!"

RYLA:

"Right, we will love you guys!"

All three girls hop in Camille's car. Music plays and the base rumbles through the car.

JEFF:

"Ha! So that's what the neighbors are complaining about at 3am when she comes home."

Jeff grabs Mellie around the shoulders. He kisses her forehead. They both wave off as the girls ride down the street in the car.

Scene III

EXT. SAN JUAN LUIS MUÑOZ MARÍN AIRPORT (SJU)

Airplane flies in the sky, and begins descending.

EXT. RAINFOREST

Ryla and Flora have on hiking clothes. It's day time and warm outside. They are running through trees in a rainforest.

Ryla yells to Flora.

RYLA:

"Catch me if you can biiyaatch!"

FLORA:

"First one to the water wins!"

RYLA:

"Oh you're on."

They both push past leaves and branches, and hurdle over tree trunks and roots.

Ryla can hear the water as she's running. She knows she's close. Sunlight peaks through the tree branches and leaves. The air is crisp. She takes a deep breath in. She's running and laughing. Then she stops.

Ryla can't move. It's like she's frozen.

She yells timidly and nervously.

RYLA:

"Flo...?"

There's nothing but the ring of silence and running water.

RYLA:

"Uhm.. uhh Flo! Okay game's over. Where are you?"

Flora is not in sight and has not responded. It's like she just disappeared.

Ryla tries to turn her head but can't. She tries to move her arms but can't.

RYLA:

"Flo! I can't move! Help me! Oh my gosh, oh my gosh."

Ryla is panicking and hyperventilating.

She hears a man breathing heavily from behind her.

Ryla gasps. She closes her mouth and is now breathing heavily through her nose. Ryla's eyes get wide. Her lips tighten.

He stops breathing hard. He takes one deep breath in before speaking.

MAN'S VOICE:

"This is your fate. Do not fight it. Do you want to get out?"

Ryla looks down and vines begin rapidly growing from the grown. They are moving like tentacles and are strap her feet down. They begin to grow and wrap around her legs.

RYLA:

"Let me go! I wanna go! I'm sorry, please! I'll do anything-- please!"

MAN'S VOICE:

"Close your eyes and open your mouth."

RYLA:

"What the hell? You want me to clo-- oh my gosh the vines. They're crushing me."

The man lightly chuckles.

He speaks jokingly but is serious. His voice pitch becomes higher. His words echo.

MAN'S VOICE:

"Do it or suffer your fate."

The man chuckles some more--in an evil manner.

Ryla closes her eyes and opens her mouth.

The man stops laughing. His tone becomes much more serious and aggressive.

MAN'S VOICE:

"Now bite."

Ryla squints her eyes and bunches her nose. She bites. She takes a couple chews.

RYLA:

"Chocolate..?"

Everything turns black.

INT. SOUTHWEST AIRPLANE

There are beeping noises and muffled swishing from planes.

Ryla opens her eyes and gasps for air.

Flora is sitting in the window seat asleep on Ryla's shoulder.

The man sitting in the row behind them taps Ryla on the shoulder.

MAN #1:

"Hey um.. Excuse me ma'am."

Ryla is still breathing heavy with no response.

He taps her again.

Ryla is frightened. She actually feels this tap. She gasps, jumps in her seat and turns around.

MAN #1:

"Excuse me... are you okay?"

Ryla looks him in the eyes.

RYLA:

"Yeah..uhm I'm sorry just a bad dream."

MAN #1:

"Oh okay. I was just waking you up because everyone's getting off of the plane."

Ryla's still shaken up. But gently smiles at him.

RYLA:

"Ohh.. right. Thank you."

She wakes up Flora. They get their stuff and start heading off of the plane.

Scene IV

INT. SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, CONDADO VANDERBILT HOTEL LOBBY

Ryla and Flora get out of their taxi from the airplane. Flora tips the driver after he passes the sisters their bags from the car's trunk. The sisters thank him again and begin to walk into

the hotel lobby.

A man in a bellman uniform greets them and requests to take their bags as they wait in line for checkin. He has a clear Spanish accent, but he speaks english very well and properly.

BELLMAN:

"Beautiful evening for two beautiful ladies. Can I take those bags for you?"

Ryla puts a big smile on her face, but Flora smiles faintly only to be polite.

Ryla laughs with flattery.

RYLA:

"Awh, thank you! That's very kind. Flora let's give him our bags."

FLORA:

"Uhm Ry..."

Ryla looks at Flora confusingly.

RYLA:

"Huh?"

Flora whispers to Ryla.

FLORA:

"I just don't feel comfortable. We don't know him. We should keep our stuff."

RYLA:

"Flo...no. Stop being so fucking up tight. Give the man your stuff. We're not doing this boujee shit on my trip. Okay?"

She answers herself.

RYLA:

"Okay."

Ryla hands the bellman her luggage and grabs Flora's to hand him her's as well.

BELLMAN:

"Here's your ticket ladies. Once you check in-- give

the man at the desk your ticket and you'll be good to go."

RYLA:

"Okay cool. Thanks!"

He puts the luggage on a cart and wheels it into the backroom. Outside of the room are other suitcase lined up by the door.

Flora caught a slight attitude from her disagreement with Ryla. They aren't speaking in the line to check-in.

The man approaches them again.

BELLMAN:

"Hey ladies, care for some of our assorted sweets? Caramel, chocolate or both?"

Ryla pauses and stares the man in the eyes before she answers. She freezes then answers him nervously.

RYLA:

"Chocolate?"

The bellman smiles and chuckles.

BELLMAN:

"Yes, chocolate. It's actually hand crafted from a family-friend's factory. I got them to partner with the hotel and what not."

Ryla snaps out of reminiscing back to her dream.

RYLA:

"Oh, uhm yeah that's really cool. Sorry I've just been out of it ever since I got here. Probably just tired from flying.

Ryla catches herself rambling.

RYLA:

"Have I met you before? You seem so familiar. Like I-- let me just stop. That makes no sense. It's my first time in San Juan."

The bellman extends the assorted tray of sweets towards Ryla and Flora.

Flora is still not talking. She gestures that she does not want any--being cautious as she usually is.

Ryla grabs a few pre-wrapped chocolates.

RYLA:

"Like I've been here to Puerto Rico before but somewhere like near "Guy-yam-a" or something like that.

Ryla begins eating the chocolates.

The bellman smiles and nods at Ryla while she rambles. For some reason she feels open and comfortable speaking to him.

BELLMAN:

"Right, yes"

.He continues to repeat "right, yes" while shaking his head and smiling.

Ryla looks over and Flora's no longer beside her. Ryla freaks out. She runs outside.

RYLA:

"Shit not again."

She yells.

RYLA:

"Flora!"

She runs back inside. She's hyperventilating again.

The bellman is gone from the lobby.

Ryla scans the huge fancy lobby.

There's people in the long line that she was in but somehow drifted away from.

She walks past the people in line towards the front desk. Past a couple next in line, she spots her sister.

Ryla sighs with relief.

FLORA:

"Ry you got the luggage ticket right?"

Ryla reaches in her jacket pocket.

RYLA:

"Yeah I put it in here, it should be--"

She checks her pants pockets and flips both of her jacket pockets inside out. She panics.

RYLA:

"I don't understand, it was right in here. I put it in before I ate the chocolates. Let me find the bellman. He remembers us for sure Flo."

The people in line behind them look like they are getting impatient.

Ryla goes towards the front of the lobby to find the bellman. She squints her eyes and believes she sees the back of him. But he's helping other guests.

She walks up to him anyway and taps him on the shoulder.

RYLA:

"Excuse me sir, I just wanted to know where my ticke-

The bellman turns around.

RYLA:

"Oh, uhm... I'm sorry."

This is not the same bellman who she spoke with.

RYLA:

"I lost my ticket and I'm looking for the other bellman. The gentle man who kind of looks like you but is..."

The bellman laughs.

Ryla stops talking and straightens her face.

RYLA:

"What..? Look me and my sister need our luggage. We're hungry and exhausted."

BELLMAN:

"I'm the only one on duty. I have been for the past 3 hours, my work buddy doesn't come in until 7."

RYLA:

"Huh? No that's impossible. I got assorted chocolates and a ticket and he took our bags into this room."

She points over to the room.

RYLA:

"That room right there! Can you just go check. It's matching luggage. Black base with red flowers on one set and blue flowers on the other. We can't lose our bags sir. And no. I am not crazy."

The guy agrees to go check.

Ryla is pacing back and forth trying to determine what exactly happened when her and Flora walked into the hotel.

The bellman is taking awhile. Ryla walks back up to the front desk. Flora has all of their luggage and is waiting on the side.

RYLA:

"What the hell is this."

FLORA:

"I guess the bellman just put our luggage on the side when we weren't looking? He's good."

Ryla looks over and sees the bellman who she just spoke with walk out of the luggage room, make eye contact with her and shake his head."

Ryla raises her voice over a few other people.

RYLA:

"It's okay, we got it! Thanks!"

Ryla pulls Flora to the side before they walk to the elevator.

RYLA:

"I'm kind of scared. Flo... I don't know what's going on but I need to tell you something."

Flora looked into Ryla's eyes frightened and confused.

Scene V

EXT. SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO-- MIDDAY

RYLA AND FLORA HAVE GOTTEN SETTLED INTO THEIR HOTEL. THEY ARE TIRED BUT PRETTY HUNGRY AND ARE DYING TO TRY A TRADITIONAL DISH CALLED "MONFUNGO" THAT A GUY TOLD THEM ABOUT IN THE HOTEL LOBBY.

RYLA:

I'm thinking I'm gonna start my trip off with a nice mimoso. I--well we need it girl.

FLORA:

Girl only because it's your birthday weekend. I'll probably try one too.

Ryla stares down at her phone.

RYLA:

It says the place is only an eight minute walk. Good exercise.

FLORA:

And you need it.

Ryla jerks her head in Flora's direction with her mouth slightly open in shock.

FLORA:

Sike just kidding girl. Love you!

The girls walk and talk down the street. They're laughing and giggling while soaking up all of the Puerto Rican culture that they can. Flora notices a cute gift shop with windchimes hanging from the store front roof, flowing in the wind.

FLORA:

C'mon Ry we gotta go in. You know how I love my souvies!

RYLA:

Souvies?

Flora grabs Rylas hand and leads her across the street to the store.

FLORA:

Souvenirs girl, let's go.

RYLA:

Ok but Flo I'm so hungry. Let's make it quick.

The two crossed the street and are at the very front of the charming gift shop. The windchimes catch Ryla's attention.

She abruptly whispers.

RYLA:

Huh?

She begins humming a song along with the ring of the windchimes.

FLORA:

Let's get something for Mom and Dad too Ry! I think mom would love this elephant statue!

Ryla continues humming. Her eyes locked to the chimes, she slightly sways back and forth, as if she was in a trance.

FLORA:

RY!

Ryla is not responding. Flora sets down her items in the store and walks up to Ryla. Flora touches Ryla on the shoulder.

FLORA:

Hey Ry, you good?

Ryla is still humming and swaying. The wind picks up, the chimes get louder. Ryla's humming gets louder. Her swaying gets more aggressive.

Flora gets scared.

FLORA:

Oh shit, no Ry. Not another dream.

Flora hugs Ryla. She whispers in her ear.

FLORA:

Ry...it's Flo...stay with me.

Ryla suddenly gasps for air.

RYLA:

What the fuck? What the fuck!

FLORA:

Ry you were in a trance.

RYLA:

Flo, I was in another dream.

Ryla folds her arms and turns her head left and right to scan her surroundings.

RYLA:

But it wasn't scary this time. It was peaceful. I don't know Flo. This shit is weird and I'm tired of not being in control of my own body. When we get back to the room I'm going to make a check-up appointment with Dr. Green.

FLORA:

Yes Ry, I was so scared. I didn't know what to do but hug you. I think you heard me in your dream.

RYLA:

Maybe Flo.. maybe. All I remember is me walking on a beach. The sun was rising. It was beautiful. I was with someone but I don't know who it's weird. I was only looking straight ahead but I could feel someone next to me. I could hear a girl's voice. I think she was trying to give me something... but then you... yeah.

FLORA:

Sorry Ry but you know what I helped you--

Ryla leans in and gives her sister a big hug and kiss on the cheek.

RYLA:

Love you forever Flo. Thank you.

Ryla grabs Flora's hand the same way she grabbed hers. They walk into the store and start picking up and analyzing the gift shop trinkets.

Scene VI

EXT. SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO-- MIDDAY

The girls, Flora and Ryla are giggling and walk out of the gift shop with a couple of bags in hand. The wind is blowing but the chimes aren't moving. No one notices, and the sisters begin to walk down the street.

RYLA:

Sis! we were supposed to be in the restaurant an hour ago.

Ryla makes a straight face at Flora. Flora gives Ryla a blank face. They both bust out laughing while walking down the street.

Ryla takes out her phone and begins typing.

RYLA:

Let me just... pull up... these direc-

A girl walking in the opposite direction of the sisters collides shoulders with Ryla. The girl looks to be Puerto Rican, like she knows where she's going and what she's about to do. Ryla is thrown off by the abrupt bump and almost drops her phone.

RYLA:

Oh shit, what hell!

Ryla begins to turn to the girl.

RYLA:

Hey watch where your--

Ryla stops. She's not sure why, but she feels like she knows this girl. Not only does she feel like she knows her now, she feels like she's known this girl all of her life. She stands down.

RYLA:

Oh... uhm my bad. I'm sorry girl.

GIRL:

no hablo ingles chiquita.

RYLA:

Oh uhm..

Ryla thinks this is the perfect moment to use her Google translate. She whips out her phone and types quickly. She reads from the phone.

RYLA:

Loss-see-en-to mooch-

The girl starts laughing.

GIRL:

Sis, I was joking. You cute though! This your sister?

Ryla looks to the side in embarrassment.

RYLA:

Oh..ha! My bad, I feel so ignorant. And yes, this is my baby sis Flora. I'm Ryla!

Ryla reaches out to shake the girls hand.

GIRL:

Oh cool, I'm Reya!

Reya looks for something in her crossbody bag. Flora looks at Ryla unsure about what she's about to get them into. Flora whispers to Ryla.

FLORA:

Ry...please be smart with this.

Ryla whispers back to dismiss Flora's comment.

RYLA:

Girl chill. I know what I am doing.

Ryla puts on a big smile while Reya continues to look through her purse.

Ryla and Flora gently nudge each other back and forth in disagreement.

REYA:

Oh! Here it is!

RYLA:

Here's what?

REYA:

Just looking out for my new girl friends. Meet me at this club tonight. It's in a resort hotel. Might be slow at first but don't leave! I'll meet y'all there around 10!

Ryla's eyes light up with excitement while Flora's lights up with fear. Flora tries to gently nudge Ryla again. Ryla

ignores her sister.

RYLA:

Oh my gosh, yes girl! We were trying to figure out what the move was for tonight anyway! Is it gonna be some fine papis in there? Aiyee Aiyee, you know what I'm saying.

Reya laughs politely trying to hold back embarrassment.

REYA:

Yeah but uhh.. don't do the whole "aiye aiye" thing. You know... seems kinda racist.

Ryla shakes her head immediately in agreement.

RYLA:

Absolutely, absolutely. Consider it deleted from my vocabulary.

Flora still looks uncomfortable. Looking at Ryla to leave.

RYLA:

But yes girl, I can't wait to go out and party with you! Let's exchange numbers! Here!

Ryla immediately gives Reya her phone. Reya begins to run off.

Flora raises both of her arms and swings them in frustration-- as if she's throwing in the towel.

RYLA:

Awhh shit!

FLORA:

Ryla I told you!! See!

Reya turns around and runs back hysterically laughing.

Reya:

Girl joking! Again!

Flora looks extremely annoyed. Ryla looks extremely relieved and forces some giggles.

RYLA:

Girl you can't be playing like that. We just met!

REYA:

Rule number one. Never give a stranger your phone. Especially dudes out here. Yeah.. you would've never seen this again. And I mean ever. Lost cause.

Ryla and Reya exchange numbers. The sisters and the new girl begin to part ways.

RYLA:

Okay bye girl, see you tonight!

Flora puts on a fake smile and waves.

Reya:

Adios chicas!

Reya disappears into a crowd of people down the street. Ryla and Flora continue their walk down the street.

RYLA:

I know you're probably pissed off Flo.

Ryla puts her arm around Flora while their walking.

RYLA:

But we're 3 minutes from the restaurant and we're gonna be lit as fuck tonight!

FLORA:

Ryla. You need to be more careful. We do not know this girl. She almost actually ran off with your phone and what if she's dangerous?

Ryla giggles. She seems unbothered by what Flora just said.

RYLA:

Flo! Baby girl. Sista girl. We. Us. Me and you. You and I. We will be ok. I got you and I got us. Plus I can feel people's vibes. She seems cool.

Flora mumbles under her breath.

FLORA:

How you know vibes, but don't know your "friends"

RYLA:

Huh girl?

Flora fake smiles.

FLORA:

Oh, nothing!

Ryla shoos away Flora's comment with her hand.

RYLA:

Good..we're here.

The sisters walk up to the door. A man who was leaving, holds the door for them.

Act VII

EXT. CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO -- NIGHTTIME

The sisters Flora and Ryla get out of their Uber. It's the day going into Ryla's 21st birthday so she's dressed, hair done nicely with her braids and edges slicked back, makeup is blended very nicely topped off with some highlight. Flora always dresses up for any occasion. She's a fashion connoisseur like her mother. Flora has on a cute and short gold-sequin club dress with some heels. Flora's 5'6 so her heels are only 3 inches.

RYLA:

We bout to get fucked up. Ohh ahh, ayeee!

FLORA:

Yeah, I am pretty excited Ry. We just gotta be careful with that girl. I mean... does she even have any friends? Are we her only friends? It's just weird Ry.

Ryla looks at Flora and then looks away as if she's annoyed.

FLORA:

Look, let me stop. It's your night Ry. I'll get lit lit with you tonight. But just pinky promise me that we'll be careful. We are no close to home.

Flora extends her pinky to Ryla. Ryla smirks.

Ryla:

Yes Flo, pinky promise.

Ryla extends her pinky to meet Rylas. They twist their wrists and touch thumbs, then kiss one another's hand.

BOTH (FLORA AND RYLA):
Sealed.

The sisters walk towards the door. A hotel employee opens and holds the door for the two and welcomes them to the resort building.

INT. CLUB BRAVO

Ryla is waiting for Flora to receive her entry stamp at the door of the club. No one thought to check the sister's IDs but 18 is the legal age for drinking in Puerto Rico.

FLORA:
Oooo, I like it out here. They didn't even press me for my ID girl.

RYLA:
Oh bet!

Ryla links arms with Flora and walks her to the bar.

Ryla shouts carelessly.

RYLA:
I mutha fucking heart Puerto Rico!

Flora laughs.

FLORA:
Girl you not even drunk yet, calm down!

They laugh together, and grab two seats at the bar.

RYLA:
Well since I need to be drunk.

Ryla looks at the bar tender.

RYLA:
Excuse me, one peach mango long island please! Wait can y'all do that?

The bartender shakes his head in agreement.

RYLA:

Yay! Okay thank you! And one for her too please. Can she have a uhmm... what you want girl?

Ryla looks at Flora.

FLORA:

Nothing too too strong, you know maybe I should actually--

Ryla interrupts Flora. She gently smiles at the bartender

RYLA:

Two peach mango long islands please sir.

Ryla gets a Facetime call from her best friend Camille who couldn't make it on the trip.

RYLA:

It's my real bitch Cammie! What it do sis, I miss you!

CAMILLE:

Awhh I miss you too RyRy! It's almost your birthday! Twenty-one, twenty-one, twenty-one!

RYLA:

Yes girl I'm so excited! Probably gonna be in this club. It's so nice girl look!

Flora sticks her head in the camera.

FLORA:

Cammie girl hey! We miss you! How's work?

CAMILLE:

Hey baby girl Flo! I miss y'all too! I really wish I was there!

FLORA AND RYLA:

Same!

CAMILLE:

And ooouu... why it look so dry over there?

RYLA:

Girl, apparently this the spot for tonight but it don't get live until later.

FLORA:

Yeah Ryla replaced you with this other girl!

RYLA:

Flo shut up. You know you irreplaceable Cammie boo.
But this girl did invite us here. I wonder where she
is.

CAMILLE:

Girl is that her behind you? Someone's staring real
hard into the camera.