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The Wedding War

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The Wedding War

A Screenplay

Presented to

The Faculty of the School of Film & Television,
Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles, California

In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Fine Arts

By


M. Garcin Painter


This feature length screenplay written by

Meredith Garcia-Painter

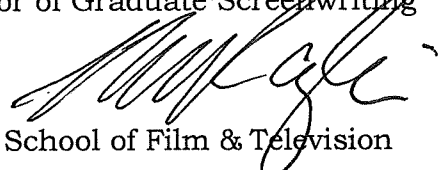
under the guidance of a faculty committee from the School of Film & Television at Loyola Marymount University, and approved by the members of the committee, has been presented to and accepted by the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the thesis requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting.

Advanced Screenplay Project Committee:

Committee Chair: SCWR 690 

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Date 5-9-19

THE WEDDING WAR

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INT. WEDDING RUNWAY MAGAZINE (WRM) - ELEVATOR - DAY

JOCELYN (27) Mexican-American, focused, and determined, waits in a packed elevator, her arms full.

She glances at the panel buttons. One lights up, she taps her foot. Another lights up. Her foot taps faster.

The doors slide open. Jocelyn jumps through.

Jocelyn runs through a busy office. PEOPLE greet her and jump out of her way. All the decor is WEDDING related.

On the wall in fancy script are the words: WEDDING RUNWAY MAGAZINE.

She hurries past a row of cubicles where TORI (23) Black, nerdy, and eager to please, jumps up.

TORI

Jocelyn, we have a problem!

JOCELYN

Nope, it's all good. I have the new photos for the Lazaro dress. Crisis averted.

Tori takes the photos and immediately flings them behind him.

TORI

Great, but not the problem. Elliot is on his way to see Argentina. Reports indicate he's not happy.

They hurry down the hall.

ARGENTINA'S OFFICE

Framed magazine covers on the walls. Big windows, modern furniture, a trendy office...that's been hit by a hurricane.

Color swatches litter the floor, papers are scattered in every direction. There are mountains of dresses all over.

Jocelyn and Tori survey the scene, horrified.

TORI

Oh, my Black Jesus. Where is she?

JOCELYN

I don't know, but we have to clean this up before Elliot sees.

Tori grabs an armful of dresses and throws them into a closet. He grabs more, then lets out a YELP.

ARGENTINA (40s) frazzled yet beautiful, is passed out on a cloud of taffeta and lace.

TORI

Found her! Argentina, wake up!

Argentina wakes with a jolt.

JOCELYN

Elliot is on his way to see you,
right now!

She looks at her phone.

ARGENTINA

What should we do?

JOCELYN

You get ready. We'll handle *this*.

Argentina disappears into her private bathroom. Tori and Jocelyn scramble to get the office in order.

HALLWAY

A pair of shiny men's shoes step off the elevator.

They head down the hall. PEOPLE jump out of the way and hide in their cubicles as the shoes pass.

ARGENTINA'S OFFICE

Jocelyn organizes Argentina's desk. Her pocket rings.

She digs out her phone as she tries to create order from chaos. The faceplate says: MARI. She hesitates, then answers.

JOCELYN

Hey, Mar! Can't really talk now.

TORI

(whispering frantically)
What the hell are you doing?

Jocelyn picks things up from the floor.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MARI'S ART STUDIO - DAY

A mess of paint, canvases, and brushes. It's an artist's paradise. MARI (22), Mexican-American, adorable and energetic, stands at a table mixing paint.

MARI

Jocelyn! So, Kevin and I were thinking of having dinner at this new restaurant uptown.

Jocelyn's opens the closet, dresses tumble out knocking her back and swallowing her. Tori gives her a look of offense. He rushes to dig her out.

TORI

(silently)
Get off the phone.

MARI

It's called Fusion, and Kevin's cousin owns it. It's up and coming, so I think it will be perfect. How is tomorrow around 7? Promise you'll come!

Jocelyn fights her way from the dresses.

JOCELYN

Sounds great! Text me the details.

HALLWAY

The perfect head of hair and shoes come closer.

ARGENTINA'S OFFICE

Jocelyn tries to force the dresses back into the closet, but they continue to fall.

MARI

Awesome! I'm a little worried that it might be too hipster for dad. He can be so picky sometimes.

HALLWAY

The shoes turn the corner. Argentina's office is ahead.

ARGENTINA'S OFFICE

Tori sees the perfect head of hair coming at them.

TORI

Jocelyn!

JOCELYN

Ok, sounds good. Gotta go, bye!

Jocelyn forces the closet door shut and hangs up right as the door swings open.

ELLIOT ROSS (50s) a fierce businessman, who intimidates everyone despite being FOUR FEET TALL, surveys the room. It's perfect, no sign of mess. Jocelyn smiles.

ELLIOT

Where is she?

JOCELYN

She is...

The bathroom door slides open. Argentina steps out. She's picture perfect and stylish, all frazzle gone.

ARGENTINA

Elliot, mi amor! Sorry I missed your calls! Forgive me?

ELLIOT

You two, out!

Tori and Jocelyn leave quickly.

TORI'S DESK

Jocelyn and Tori collapse into a pair of chairs.

TORI

You couldn't have sent Mari to voicemail?

JOCELYN

She's my sister.

TORI

I have three sisters. I *don't* answer the phone for any of them.

GINNY (O.S.)

That's because you aren't codependent like Mari and Jocelyn.

GINNY (20s) Caramel skin and mischief in her eyes, pops over the cubicle.

JOCELYN
We are not codependent.

GINNY
There are tumors growing in brains
that aren't as close as you two.

Jocelyn rolls her eyes.

JOCELYN
Email Lucy and confirm that Jean
will be here Monday.

GINNY
Will you let me take a new Prada
purse from the sample closet?

JOCELYN
No, I'll let you keep your job.
Tori, will you--

TORI
No! I am taking an extended lunch,
and I may drink wine, and not feel
bad about it.

He grabs his bedazzled lunch box and walks off.

INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

Jocelyn rides the packed Subway. She juggles between eating
food from a takeout box and checking her emails.

Her phone dings. A text from MARI: *See you tomorrow!*

EXT. BROOKLYN - STREET - NIGHT

Jocelyn walks towards MARTINEZ'S AUTO GARAGE. A group of KIDS
riding their bikes almost hit her.

JOCELYN
(in Spanish)
Watch it!

INT. MARTINEZ AUTO GARAGE - NIGHT

An old rusted car is lofted in the middle of the room. Salsa
music plays from a radio. Jocelyn enters through the open
garage door.

JOCELYN

Papa?

There's a loud CLUNK from under the car.

EDDIE

Ahhhh.

EDDIE (50s), Mexican, stout, a giant teddy bear, rolls out from under the car. There's oil on his face and shirt.

JOCELYN

Are you okay?

EDDIE

Sí, I'm fine.

JOCELYN

Shouldn't you be closed?

Eddie goes to his workbench.

EDDIE

I am closed, but Mrs. Gonzales asked me to look at her brakes.

JOCELYN

Is that all you're looking at?

EDDIE

Your aunt left tamales in the fridge for you.

Eddie heads inside. Jocelyn follows.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - DAY

The house is cluttered but homey. Pictures the family are on the walls. Eddie washes up in the sink.

JOCELYN

Are you bringing Mrs. Gonzales to Mari and Kevin's dinner tomorrow?

EDDIE

It's Kevin's going-away party.

JOCELYN

I'm sure Mari won't mind.

EDDIE

She's going to be heartbroken when Kevin leaves.

JOCELYN
You're changing the subject.

Eddie gives her a look.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
She'll be fine. They've only been
dating for four months.

EDDIE
Sí, but they're in love.

JOCELYN
You can't fall in love with someone
in only four months.

EDDIE
You're too cynical.

JOCELYN
Cynical is a synonym for realistic.
So are you bringing Mrs. Gonzales?

INT. MARI'S ART STUDIO - DAY

Mari stands in front of a large canvas. Her arms and overalls
covered in paint. Music blasts in her headphones.

She dances and doesn't notice as KEVIN (25), Chinese, a
heartthrob with a gentle smile, sneaks up behind her with a
bouquet of roses.

He grabs her from behind. She jumps and paint splatters
across his expensive suit. Mari pulls her headphones out.

MARI
I'm so sorry.

KEVIN
It looks better this way.

Mari wipes the paint. She makes it worse.

MARI
I don't think it can be saved.

Kevin shrugs and kisses her.

MARI (CONT'D)
Your suit is definitely ruined.
Your mother will NEVER forgive you
if you go to a meeting like this.

KEVIN

It'll bring some fun color to the room. How has your day been?

MARI

Stressful, I spent all day inviting everyone. Are we really doing this?

KEVIN

Yes, absolutely.

MARI

Did you tell your mother?

KEVIN

Just texted her the details.

INT. CHEN INDUSTRIES - MEETING ROOM - DAY

A meeting room with Chinese decor, a large conference table, and an amazing view of the Financial District.

A cell phone on the table lights up with a text from: KEVIN.

TRISH and LISA nervously sit across the conference table.

On the other side is VICTORIA CHEN (50s), Chinese and intimidating. On her lap is PRETZEL (4), a spoiled King Charles Spaniel. Victoria tries to feed the dog treats. He rejects them.

ALEXANDRIA CHEN (30s), Chinese, stoic, and obedient sits next to her mother. She types notes.

VICTORIA

Come now, Pretzel.

TRISH

We created a mock up design for the Fall Charity Gala.

Lisa holds up a picture. It's a Halloween-themed ballroom with trendy decorations.

TRISH (CONT'D)

We thought that a masquerade theme could help bring in a--

VICTORIA

No.

TRISH

I understand you might be a little
hesitant, but last month--

VICTORIA

I don't care what you did last
month.

TRISH

We wanted to bring a more modern
flair to the event.

VICTORIA

This is a Chen event, and it's been
held successfully for the past
twenty-five years. We don't need a
modern flair.

Trish opens her mouth. Victoria cuts in.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming, but I don't
think you understand our vision for
this event.

Victoria presses a button under the table. A SECRETARY
appears to show the women out. Victoria returns to feeding
Pretzel.

ALEXANDRIA

They came highly recommended.

VICTORIA

This is a Chen Gala not a Trump
Gala, Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA

I'm sorry. I was trying to--

VICTORIA

She was a moment from suggesting
Chicken Nuggets for the menu.

ALEXANDRIA

I'm sorry, Mother.

Victoria walks out of the room. Alexandria follows.

HALLWAY

Victoria and Alexandria walk through the busy offices of Chen
Industries. People bow and show Victoria respect.

VICTORIA

You sent Kevin everything for this afternoon?

ALEXANDRIA

I emailed him and texted him.

VICTORIA

What is the dinner tonight?

ALEXANDRIA

I think a farewell dinner before he leaves for London. He's invited some friends, Mari, and her family.

VICTORIA

Mari?

ALEXANDRIA

His girlfriend.

VICTORIA

The *artist*.

Alexandria picks up Pretzel. She tries to juggle him and her planner. The dog wiggles and bites at her earrings.

VICTORIA'S OFFICE

Simple office decor with Chinese themes. Pictures of the Chen family. It's the office of a CEO. Victoria sits at her desk.

Alexandria puts Pretzel down. He prances to a tiny house in the corner, an elaborate miniature of the Forbidden City.

VICTORIA

Has he said anything about London?

ALEXANDRIA

Only that he's excited about working in the new branch.

VICTORIA

The merger deal with Edwin Sung. They must have come to terms. He probably wants to celebrate.

ALEXANDRIA

I don't think that's it, Mother.

VICTORIA

I don't know what else it could be.
We're having a farewell dinner for
him in a few weeks, and I've been
telling him to pin that deal down
before he leaves.

Victoria looks at a picture of her family fondly.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

London will be good for Kevin.
It'll help prepare him to take over
the company.

ALEXANDRIA

I'm sure he's excited.

VICTORIA

Make sure the car is here at six.

Pretzel barks.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

And get Pretzel different treats. He
doesn't like the new ones.

ALEXANDRIA

Yes, Mother.

Alexandria leaves.

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelyn looks over pictures with two DESIGNERS.

JOCELYN

It'll work for Fall, but we need
something else for Spring.

The Designers leave as Tori enters with a dress bag.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

What's that?

TORI

Your dress for tonight.

Jocelyn gives him a confused look.

TORI (CONT'D)

Mari called me. She said that you
need something more festive than
your usual wardrobe.

JOCELYN

Why?

TORI

No idea, but I worked my magic.
Now, let's go. Car comes at six.

Tori takes her by the hand and pulls her towards the door.

INT. FUSION RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Upbeat music, cheerful decorations, the room is bustling with energy. Mari and Kevin are surrounded by a group of friends.

Jocelyn enters and spots Eddie. She heads over to his table.

EDDIE

You look beautiful, mija.

JOCELYN

Thanks, Dad. What's going on?

MARI

Jocelyn!

Mari throws her arms around her sister.

MARI (CONT'D)

Your dress looks great! Tori is amazing. I'm so glad you're here! Now, I can tell you the good news!

JOCELYN

What news?

MARI

We're getting married!

Jocelyn takes a moment.

JOCELYN

What?

Mari holds out her hand, a LARGE diamond sits on her finger.

MARI

Kevin proposed!

JOCELYN

Ahhhh, congrats, but isn't this a little sudden?

MARI

We know it's fast, but when you know, you know!

Jocelyn grabs a glass of wine from a passing WAITER and instantly drinks.

MARI (CONT'D)

He completes me.

Jocelyn snorts into her drink.

JOCELYN

Kevin, what about London? Aren't you leaving at the end of the month?

KEVIN

Yes, and I was ready. But then I realized I don't want to be without her. So, I asked her to go with me.

MARI

And I said yes! We're getting married ASAP, so I can go too!

JOCELYN

What?

KEVIN

We know it's soon...

MARI

But if we get married before he goes to London...

KEVIN

My company will sponsor her visa.

MARI

If we wait I have to apply on my own, and it could take months.

Mari reaches out and takes Jocelyn's hand.

MARI (CONT'D)

Help me plan my wedding?

Kevin and Mari beam. Jocelyn relents.

JOCELYN

You know I'd never say no.

Mari squeals and throws her arms around Jocelyn.

MARI

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
You're the best sister ever!

Mari sees a FRIEND, she releases Jocelyn.

MARI (CONT'D)

We'll be right back.

JOCELYN

What the hell?

EDDIE

And you thought this was going to
be a boring dinner.

JOCELYN

How are you okay with this?

EDDIE

They want to be together.

JOCELYN

Okay, but she's just going to
uproot her life and move to London?

EDDIE

Mija, they make each other happy.

JOCELYN

I need something stronger.

Jocelyn heads to the bar.

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

A sleek car stops at the curb outside of the restaurant.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Victoria types on an iPad.

Alexandria and AMY (22), Chinese, the family misfit, wait for
Victoria to finish. Amy taps her fingers on the door.

AMY

We're late.

VICTORIA

Your watch is three minutes fast.

AMY

And it's says we're late.

VICTORIA

I am just finishing a few notes.

AMY

I could have taken a taxi.

VICTORIA

Nonsense, taxis are for criminals.

AMY

What?

VICTORIA

Just one moment...and done.

She sets her iPad aside and gets out of the car.

VICTORIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Are you coming?

INT. FUSION RESTAURANT - BAR - NIGHT

Jocelyn catches the BARTENDER'S attention.

JOCELYN

Whiskey, neat.

LUCAS (30), Chinese and playful, stands at the bar.

LUCAS

Tough night?

She glares.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Not a fan of the happy couple?

JOCELYN

The bride is my sister. I'm
absolutely happy for her.

LUCAS

Might want to practice that a
little more.

BARTENDER # 1 sets her drink in front of her. She downs it in one gulp and signals for another.

JOCELYN

I am happy. But it's only been four months! I have cheese in my fridge older than that.

LUCAS

I feel sorry for the fridge. But when you know you, you know.

JOCELYN

Everyone needs to stop saying that.

Jocelyn walks away. Lucas smirks.

ENTRANCE

Victoria, Amy, and Alexandria enter. Amy takes in the atmosphere. A smirk spreads across her face.

Kevin rushes over and wraps his arms around Amy.

KEVIN

I'm so glad you're here!

AMY

(Whispering)

You're going to be in so much trouble.

Kevin lets go and hugs Victoria.

VICTORIA

Lucas' restaurant is nice. I hope his menu is up to standard.

KEVIN

I'm sure it is, Mother.

Alexandria takes in the room.

ALEXANDRIA

What's going--

AMY

We're going to get a drink.

She pulls Alexandria away.

KEVIN

I'm so happy you're here, Mom.

VICTORIA

Me too. Were you able to get all the details figured out?

KEVIN

Of course. Did Amy tell you?

VICTORIA

Amy didn't say anything. A mother always knows these things.

KEVIN

I'm so glad you're behind us.

VICTORIA

Of course. I think the merger is--

Mari appears.

MARI

Victoria, I'm so happy you're here!

She wraps Victoria in a hug. Victoria stiffens.

MARI (CONT'D)

I know it's a bit sudden, but I am so happy to join your family.

VICTORIA

Come again?

She notices Mari's ring. She takes in the decorations, the happy people. It finally dawns on her.

EXT. FUSION RESTAURANT - GARDEN - NIGHT

Peaceful and romantic, tea lights hang over ivy-covered trellises. Victoria pushes Kevin outside. Alexandria and Amy follow.

AMY

(whispering)
This should be good.

VICTORIA

Explain.

KEVIN

Mom, I know it's sudden, but I want to marry Mari. I love her.

VICTORIA

You've known her for four months.

ALEXANDRIA

We should go back inside.

Alexandria tries to pull Amy away. Amy pulls back.

AMY

100 bucks says Mom blows her top.

KEVIN

How long did you know dad before
you were married?

VICTORIA

That was different.

KEVIN

Because your parents arranged it?

VICTORIA

We understood what we were getting
into. We knew each other and what--

KEVIN

Mom, I know Mari. I know who she
is. My eyes are wide open and I
love her. She makes me happy.

VICTORIA

Kevin, you're confused.

KEVIN

I'm not. Mari makes my life better.
She's the person I want to see when
I wake up, and the last person I
want to see when I go to bed. She's
my other half.

VICTORIA

Kevin, you should take some more
time to think this through.

KEVIN

I don't need more time, Mom.
(In Chinese)
It's going to be fine.

VICTORIA

Kevin--

Kevin hugs her and heads back inside. Alexandria and Amy
watch as Victoria shakes with anger.

AMY

She's gonna blow.

INT. FUSION RESTAURANT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Victoria throws the door open. It hits the wall with a BANG. Alexandria and Amy run in behind her.

VICTORIA
Married? Married? Married!

ALEXANDRIA
Mother, you have to calm down.
You're ruining your makeup.

Alexandria hands her a paper towel. Victoria grabs it and shreds it to pieces.

The door opens. Jocelyn stops and surveys the scene.

JOCELYN
Everything okay?

AMY
Ahh, we just need a moment.

Jocelyn backs out of the bathroom. Victoria paces.

VICTORIA
What is Kevin thinking?

AMY
He's is probably thinking that he
loves her, and wants to marry her.

VICTORIA
You knew, didn't you?

AMY
I suspected...

VICTORIA
And said nothing?

ALEXANDRIA
Mother, think of water. It's
calming. Oceans, waves,
waterfalls...

AMY
Mari makes Kevin happy.

VICTORIA
Mari is a nice girl, but Kevin
doesn't need a nice girl. He needs
someone to support him like--

AMY

Like you supported Dad?

Amy and Victoria stare each other down.

ALEXANDRIA

(an octave higher)

Lakes, ponds, rivers...

AMY

Kevin's not Dad. He doesn't need what Dad did. You and Dad were lucky and fell in love after you got married. Not everyone gets that.

VICTORIA

You don't understand.

AMY

What I understand is that Mari and Kevin are getting married. And despite what you want there's nothing you can do about it.

Amy leaves. Victoria pats her face to fix her makeup. She waves her hand under the paper towel dispenser.

It doesn't do anything. She waves her hand again. Nothing.

Once more. Still nothing. She bangs her hand on the machine over and over again.

It WHIRS, and gives her one TINY half sheet. She smacks it again. Then storms out. Alexandria is frozen.

ALEXANDRIA

Puddles? Puddles are calming.

The paper towel machine falls and CRASHES to the ground.

DINING ROOM

Jocelyn watches the Chen and Martinez families mingle. Mari and Kevin glow with joy.

Victoria, Amy, and Alexandria join the group. Mari links her arm with Victoria's. She pulls her over to Jocelyn.

MARI

Jocelyn, I wanted to introduce you to Kevin's mother.

VICTORIA
Nice to meet you.

Jocelyn recognizes Victoria from the bathroom.

MARI
Jocelyn is going to help us plan
the wedding!

VICTORIA
How *wonderful*.

Jocelyn notices Victoria's tone.

JOCELYN
It will be. We're going to pull out
all the stops.

VICTORIA
Of course, there are expectations
that we must consider.

JOCELYN
I'm sure we'll make it perfect.

MARI
Jocelyn is the Assistant Editor of
Wedding Runway Magazine. If anyone
can pull off a wedding in a month
it's her.

VICTORIA
Well, things always come up
unexpectedly. Nice to meet you.

Victoria pulls away.

MARI
Isn't she great?

JOCELYN
She's something.

LUCAS
Dinner is ready.
(to Jocelyn)
Lucas, Kevin's cousin, and the best
man.

He holds out his hand. She sidesteps him. The group sits
around a large table. Kevin stands.

KEVIN

We both want to say how happy and thankful we are for the support of our families. We know things are a little out of the ordinary, but we know this is right.

Kevin lifts his glass.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

To love.

Everyone lifts their glasses. Victoria's glass isn't raised as high. Jocelyn notices.

EXT. MARTINEZ GARAGE - ROOF - NIGHT

A typical flat roof illuminated by Christmas lights. Jocelyn sits on a beach chair nursing a drink.

The door opens. Mari appears with a bottle of wine in hand.

MARI

There you are!

JOCELYN

Here I am.

Mari sits down. She refills Jocelyn's glass. Jocelyn takes the bottle and gives Mari her glass.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

You really haven't lost your mind, right? A wedding in a month? And London?

MARI

I know it's a little crazy, but I want to be with Kevin. I just--

JOCELYN

If you say, "You just know," I'm going to vomit on you.

MARI

You've done it before.

JOCELYN

I said riding tea cups after a chili dogs was a bad idea. You never listen.

MARI
But you thought I was going to
throw up.

JOCELYN
I admit I was wrong.

MARI
I was traumatized.

JOCELYN
You got over it.

Jocelyn takes a gulp from the bottle.

MARI
We can do this, right?

JOCELYN
We can do anything.

They clink drinks.

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelyn scrolls through pictures of wedding dresses. Ginny
pushes open the door.

GINNY
Did I read Mari's Instagram right?

JOCELYN
I hope not since you're supposed to
be working.

Ginny shows Jocelyn her phone. A picture of Mari and Kevin.
Mari displays her LARGE engagement ring.

GINNY
They're getting married? In a
month? We have to interview them.

JOCELYN
Pardon?

GINNY
You know when Argentina sees this
she's going to demand that story.

JOCELYN
Yeah, we're not doing that. I have
enough on my plate planning this
wedding. I don't need more.

Tori walks in.

TORI

Jocelyn, you never told me that
Mari was dating Kevin Chen.

Her face is blank. Jocelyn looks at Ginny. She shrugs.

TORI (CONT'D)

Do you know who he is?

JOCELYN

He's Kevin.

TORI

Oh my god! He's the son of Victoria
Chen! *The VICTORIA CHEN!*

JOCELYN

I still got nothing.

Tori flips his iPad around. It's a prestigious business
publication featuring an article on Victoria.

TORI

After her husband died she took
over the family company and turned
it into a thriving international
business. While raising three kids.
She is a hero, and one of the
baddest bitches in the city.

JOCELYN

Emphasis on the bitch part.

TORI

You have to introduce me.

JOCELYN

Not happening.

TORI

Why!

JOCELYN

I barely know this woman, and I
have a strong suspicion that she's
not happy about these nuptials.

TORI

She is my idol. I want to be her
when I grow up.

GINNY

Weird.

JOCELYN

Stop fan-girling and go back to work, both of you.

Ginny leaves. Tori huffs then leaves.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

A taxi pulls up to a large lavish house. It's bigger and much more lavish than necessary, the picture of perfection.

Mari and Jocelyn step out of the taxi.

JOCELYN

Wow. This is...

MARI

Beautiful, right? Victoria helped design it.

JOCELYN

I bet she did.

MARI

Victoria is amazing. She's going to help us so much, and she already has ideas for everything!

JOCELYN

(sarcastically)
Great.

Amy opens the door and waves at Mari and Jocelyn.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY

The house screams opulence and is mostly European style decor. Amy, Jocelyn, and Mari sit on one couch, while Alexandria sits alone.

Victoria lords over everyone in a elegantly carved chair. CARLA (40s) calm and dedicated, serves tea.

MARI

Your house is beautiful, Victoria. I'm in love with it already.

VICTORIA

Thank you.

She drinks her tea.

MARI
We're so excited.

VICTORIA
That's good.

Victoria puts her tea down. It's business time.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Now, I know that you and Kevin
wanted something simple, but it
comes to a Chen wedding there are
expectations that must be met.

Victoria nods to Alexandria. She drops a THICK binder onto
the table with a loud THUD. Mari jumps.

ALEXANDRIA
I've compiled a comprehensive
binder. It has everything we'll
need, and the things you'll need to
learn.

Mari's face falls. The first page is an expansive family tree
of the Chen family. It's all in Chinese. Alexandria pulls out
another binder. It's much slimmer.

ALEXANDRIA (CONT'D)
Your copy contains all the family
members you will have to introduce
yourself to. As well as a history
on the Chen family that you'll need
to know, and a list of all the
important families that we do
business with, their proper titles,
and family history as well.

Jocelyn's jaw drops. Mari stares helplessly.

ALEXANDRIA (CONT'D)
In the second half you'll find our
list of approved vendors,
designers, and caterers associated
with the Chen family.

Amy flips a page.

ALEXANDRIA (CONT'D)
Everyone has been thoroughly vetted
for scandal or shady business
practices and we have current
background checks on everyone.

Mari takes a deep breath.

MARI

Wow, you've thought of everything.

VICTORIA

Normally there are several important and significant ceremonies that we would have before the wedding, but with the time frame we won't be able to stick to tradition.

MARI

I know how important these traditions are to you, Victoria. Kevin and I are disappointed that we can't have all of them, but Kevin wants to have the Family Tea Ceremony.

JOCELYN

What is that?

ALEXANDRIA

It's a ceremony held before the wedding to signify the unification of the families.

JOCELYN

That sounds nice.

AMY

(whispering to Jocelyn)

It's really a chance for all the Aunts to see how much Mari doesn't live up.

JOCELYN

Oh, great.

Alexandria opens the binder and flips to another page. Mari is visibly overwhelmed.

VICTORIA

Of course, it's your wedding. We don't want to do anything you don't want to do.

MARI

No, it's just you know a lot.

ALEXANDRIA

In that case--

VICTORIA

Tell me girls, are there any traditions that you would like to include from your family?

MARI

I'm sorry?

VICTORIA

Your family is from Mexico. Are there any family traditions that we should include?

ALEXANDRIA

We could always add tacos to the reception menu.

Amy's eyes go wide.

ALEXANDRIA (CONT'D)

Or would tama-les be better?

AMY

(whispering)
Alexandria!

JOCELYN

Umm tamales are great, but it's really not that big of a deal.

MARI

We don't really have any traditions like that. When our parents came it was all about assimilating. Neither of us speak Spanish well, just enough to understand what Dad wants for dinner.

Mari's joke doesn't land.

VICTORIA

So, you lost your heritage. How unfortunate.

JOCELYN

Well, we didn't lose anything. We're still Mexican. Just cause we don't speak Spanish doesn't mean we aren't. We're Mexican and American.

VICTORIA

Hmmmm, yes.

There's a tense silence.

MARI

I'm sure there's some family tradition that our Dad knows about.

VICTORIA

I'm sure we can add it to the binder.

Victoria sips her tea.

FOYER

Jocelyn flips through the large binder. Pretzel runs up to Jocelyn and BARKS.

JOCELYN

Shoo.

He continues to stare. Jocelyn takes her foot and pushes Pretzel away. He lays down for her to pet his belly.

MARI (O.S.)

That's Pretzel. Victoria's fourth child.

Mari walks over and reaches out to pet Pretzel. He snaps at her and BARKS.

JOCELYN

I see the resemblance.

VICTORIA

Pretzel, don't be rude.

Victoria picks up the dog.

MARI

Thank you so much for having us, Victoria. I'm so excited.

VICTORIA

Of course. It was lovely.

Mari heads outside.

JOCELYN

Well, it's been great. I'm going to look through this, and get back to you.

VICTORIA

Oh, no need. You're so busy, Jocelyn. Let us handle this.

(MORE)

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
We'll make sure that Mari has an
amazing wedding.

JOCELYN
Of course, but I don't want to
leave everything on your shoulders.

VICTORIA
My shoulders can take the weight.

Jocelyn stares, outside the taxi honks.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
I believe that's for you.

JOCELYN
Yeah.

VICTORIA
We'll contact you when more of the
details get sorted out.

Jocelyn leaves.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jocelyn climbs into the taxi. She takes one last look at
Victoria. Victoria waves her off with a smile.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Alexandria appears next to her mother, her wedding binder in
hand. Victoria's smile drops.

ALEXANDRIA
Should I start making calls?

VICTORIA
Absolutely not.

Victoria walks off.

EXT. MARTINEZ GARAGE - ROOF - NIGHT

Jocelyn and Mari flip through the binder.

JOCELYN
I can't even read some of these
English translations.

MARI
I'm hoping Kevin can help us.

JOCELYN
This is crazy, Mar.

MARI
Victoria is just trying to help.
Tradition and family are important
to her, and I want include her in
the planning.

Eddie joins them.

EDDIE
What are you girls working on?

JOCELYN
(false excitement)
Victoria gave us a binder!

Jocelyn shows him.

MARI
It's to help guide us through
wedding planning, which is very
thoughtful of her.

Jocelyn rolls her eyes.

MARI (CONT'D)
She just wants everything to be
perfect for us.

EDDIE
And what do you want, mija?

MARI
I just want to be married to Kevin.
That's the most important thing.

JOCELYN
Yeah, well according to Victoria
it's just a footnote. First, there
are hoops we have to jump through.

Jocelyn unfolds a large list.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Mari, in a traditional Chinese dress, sits in front of an
ELDERLY PRIEST. Kevin beside her. The family around them.

The Priest stares at her through large bifocals. He raises his hands over Mari and YELLS in Chinese. Spit flies everywhere. She endures but cringes each time she gets hit.

Amy and Jocelyn cringe for her. Pretzel shakes as spit lands on him as well.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mari tries to eat with chopsticks. She's terrible and drops things. Kevin tries to encourage her. It's doesn't help.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Mari, Jocelyn, and Amy sit on the couch. Alexandria stands in front of a trifold board. The board is an extensive family tree with names and pictures of various Chen family member.

Mari stares blankly. Jocelyn tries to take notes.

Lucas comes around the corner, notices the board, and quickly u-turns.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Eddie sits at the table. Mari approaches with a tea tray. Amy and Jocelyn watch.

Mari sets the tray down and serves it to Eddie. Amy interrupts her. She's done something wrong. She starts over.

Mari tries again. Amy interrupts. The position is wrong. She starts over.

Mari serves the tea. Everything is good Eddie takes a sip and instantly spits it back out and gags.

INT. MARI'S LOFT - DAY

Kevin and Mari clumsily try to dance, as Jocelyn and Lucas watch.

Lucas offers Jocelyn his hand. She turns away to focus on the wedding website she created for Kevin and Mari.

INT. JOCELYN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jocelyn watches a documentary about Chinese Tea Ceremonies. Mari sleeps in a chair.

Jocelyn has a deck of flash cards with the pictures of the Chen family members in front of her.

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The floor is dark save her office. Jocelyn works as the JANITOR cleans.

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelyn is asleep at her desk. Ginny carefully places paper clips on Jocelyn. She's attempting to balance one on Jocelyn's nose when Tori walks in.

TORI

What are you doing?

GINNY

She told me to wake her up at nine.

Tori looks at the clock: 9:10 A.M.

TORI

Go find something else to do.

Ginny grumbles and opens the door right as Argentina walks in.

ARGENTINA

Jocelyn!

Jocelyn pops up. Paper clips fly everywhere.

ARGENTINA (CONT'D)

Oh dear, what's happening here?

Jocelyn processes. Tori is frozen.

GINNY

She's just a little tired from working so hard on the new issue.

JOCELYN

Yes, that!

ARGENTINA

Right, Elliot wants a mock up by the end of the week.

Jocelyn nods.

ARGENTINA (CONT'D)

I have a meeting at eleven, then lunch with...a friend. I'll probably be out the rest of the day. Don't forward my calls.

JOCELYN

Yes, sounds good. Will do.

Argentina sashays away.

GINNY

She's totally banging Elliot.

TORI

Go be productive.

Ginny glares, then leaves. Jocelyn goes limp in her chair.

TORI (CONT'D)

Are you dying?

JOCELYN

Yes.

TORI

Will you promote me first?

She glares.

TORI (CONT'D)

Is this because of Mari's wedding?

JOCELYN

Kevin's mother is ridiculous! She has an invite list of 245 people! I don't even know that many people.

TORI

Well, there are standards for a Chen wedding.

JOCELYN

She keeps saying that. What does it mean?

TORI

Do you know nothing?

TORI'S DESK

Tori slaps an issue of Wedding Runway Magazine down. The cover is a Chinese woman in a high-fashion wedding dress.

TORI

WRM Spring issue 2012. Sara Chen,
niece of Victoria Chen, married
Marcus Zhao, son of Zhao Financial.

Jocelyn opens the issue. It's a full spread about Sara and
Marcus' lavish wedding.

JOCELYN

How much did this wedding cost?

TORI

A couple million.

JOCELYN

What!

TORI

It was tame compared to Victoria's
sister's wedding in the 80s.

JOCELYN

Why do you know all this?

TORI

I have three sisters and no male
cousins. This is all I know.

Ginny pops over the cubicle divider.

GINNY

Uh Mari's on line one. She said
she's been calling your cell but
you haven't been answering, and
it's a "total emergency".

JOCELYN

Jesus, what now?

INT. MARI'S STUDIO - BEDROOM - DAY

The room is a mess. Clothes and shoes are all over. Mari has
half of her hair in curlers.

MARI

Joce, I need a favor!

Intercut with:

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelyn's face falls.

JOCELYN

What's going on?

MARI

Victoria set up a cake tasting appointment for Kevin and I this afternoon, but Victoria isn't feeling well and asked us to attend this big shareholders, board members, dinner thing for her.

Jocelyn brings up her calendar. Her afternoon is booked.

JOCELYN

So, you want me to go to the cake tasting instead?

MARI

Would you? It's not too much trouble?

JOCELYN

Not at all, I'm free this afternoon.

Jocelyn moves things around and fires off emails.

MARI

Thank you so much! You are the best!

JOCELYN

You better not complain about the flavor.

MARI

Never, you're my favorite sister.

JOCELYN

I'm your only sister.

MARI

Technically not anymore!

Jocelyn stiffens.

JOCELYN

Yeah. Not anymore.

MARI

Thank you so much!

They hang up. She glances at a picture on her desk. It's her, Mari, and Eddie. She lets out a sigh.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

A stylish small bakery. Jocelyn enters and goes to the desk. A RECEPTIONIST smiles at her.

JOCELYN

Hi, I'm here for Mari Martinez's appointment.

LUCAS

And I'm here for Kevin Chen.

Lucas appears, a large smile on his face.

RECEPTIONIST

One moment.

JOCELYN

What are you doing here?

LUCAS

Kevin felt guilty and didn't want you to be alone. Plus, I'm a chef.

JOCELYN

What does that have to do with anything?

LUCAS

I know food.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry. We don't have an appointment for Miss Martinez scheduled for today.

JOCELYN

I don't understand. She said that her mother-in-law scheduled an appointment for her.

The Receptionist checks the computer again.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry. We don't have anything.

JOCELYN

There has to be some kind of mistake. Can I just see that?

Jocelyn tries to face the computer towards her.

RECEPTIONIST

Excuse me! You can't do that.

The Receptionist tries to pull the computer back.

JOCELYN

I'm positive she said it was today.

Jocelyn holds onto the computer.

LUCAS

Okay, let's just take a moment.

He pulls Jocelyn back.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Hi, hello, Miss. Nice to meet you.

The Receptionist regards him with suspicion.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Is Cal in today?

RECEPTIONIST

He is.

LUCAS

Can I talk to him? I'm a friend.
Tell him it's Lucas Chen.

The Receptionist leaves.

JOCELYN

I had it under control.

LUCAS

Definitely had it under control.
The wrenching her computer away
from her totally said, "control of
the situation."

JOCELYN

This is not helping. They lost
Mari's reservation.

LUCAS

I'm sure it will be fine. Just wait
a second.

JOCELYN

And if it's not fine? What do we do
then?

LUCAS

I'm sure there's a Costco near.

JOCELYN
You're not funny.

LUCAS
I kinda am.

The Receptionist returns.

RECEPTIONIST
Cal said, "He doesn't have time to waste with a fast-talking playboy who thinks he's a chef, but because he owes you a blood debt we can accommodate you today."

She leads them to the back.

LUCAS
See everything's fine.

JOCELYN
What is a blood debt?

PRIVATE ROOM

A multitude of cupcakes sit on a serving plate.

RECEPTIONIST
These are our most popular combinations. Just let us know which you want when you're done.

She leaves. Jocelyn unceremoniously grabs a cupcake, takes a bite, chews quickly, then swallows. She shakes her head.

She grabs another cupcake and does the same thing.

JOCELYN
Nope.

LUCAS
Are you tasting before inhaling?

JOCELYN
It's not rocket science. You find one you like and pick it.

LUCAS
Jesus. No, stop.

Lucas takes the cupcake from her. Jocelyn tries to get it back.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
You're insulting the cake.

JOCELYN
It'll be more insulted if it
doesn't get picked.

LUCAS
It will rejoice at being saved from
your unappreciative gnashing
mandible. Respect the cake.

JOCELYN
I'm not going to respect the
inanimate object that I'm eating.

Jocelyn tries to grab the cupcake again. Lucas twirls out of her way, but their feet get tangled.

The Receptionist returns.

RECEPTIONIST
Excuse me. You're being too loud.

They fall. Jocelyn grabs the tablecloth on her way down. Cupcakes go flying. She lands on top of Lucas. Cupcakes lie around them.

PRIVATE ROOM - LATER

Three mangled cupcakes sit on a serving tray.

JOCELYN
I can't believe she won't give us
any more.

LUCAS
It's cause you didn't respect the
cake.

JOCELYN
Oh my god shut up about the cake.

She reaches for a cupcake. Lucas stops her.

LUCAS
Eh eh eh just a moment, you're not
going to bite into it like Jaws.

Lucas cuts one of the cupcakes in half. He holds a bite up for her. Annoyed she opens her mouth and eats.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Think of the textures, the flavor profile, how it all mixes together.

She chews as slow as possible to be annoying. After a moment her face changes. She actually tastes it.

JOCELYN

It's good, but heavy for summer.

LUCAS

Next.

Jocelyn eats a another. She savors this one.

JOCELYN

I like it. It's soft and fluffy and not overpowering.

Lucas tastes it and nods. They taste the last one. Their faces change and they spit the cake out at the same time.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

Nope, not that one.

LUCAS

Yeah that's not a good one.

JOCELYN

I think we have a winner.

LUCAS

See what happens when you actually appreciate the cake.

Jocelyn glares. The Receptionist returns.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I think we'll go with the lemon.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Jocelyn and Lucas exit the bakery.

LUCAS

I think we picked a good one.

JOCELYN

Hopefully Mari and Kevin will be happy.

LUCAS

Hopefully Victoria will be happy.

Jocelyn rolls her eyes.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
So, would you be interested in
getting a cup of coffee? I know a
great place not far from here.

JOCELYN
I can't I have to get back to work.

She hails a passing cab.

LUCAS
Got it, raincheck?

JOCELYN
Maybe.

She climbs into the cab.

LUCAS
I'm considering that a yes.

She laughs as the car pulls away.

INT. JOCELYN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jocelyn types away on her laptop, her phone pressed to her
ear.

JOCELYN
It was so weird, Mar. She said she
didn't have any record of your
appointment at all.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MARI'S LOFT - NIGHT

Mari, in a fancy dress, takes off her jewelry.

MARI
Really? Victoria said she made the
appointment. Do you think she
canceled because of the dinner?

JOCELYN
I don't know, but thankfully Lucas
was able to help sort it all out.

MARI
Lucas?

JOCELYN

Yeah, he said Kevin sent him so I wouldn't be lonely.

Mari makes a face.

MARI

Oh, I didn't realize Kevin had done that. Well, did you have fun?

JOCELYN

It actually wasn't bad. He claims I have no respect for cake, but it was kind fun.

Mari smiles.

MARI

Well don't forget we have dress shopping Friday.

JOCELYN

This Friday?

MARI

Yeah. Don't tell me you didn't get Victoria's email?

JOCELYN

I didn't see anything.

Jocelyn checks through her inbox. Nothing.

MARI

Are you sure? Alexandria said she sent it to you.

Mari types on her phone.

MARI (CONT'D)

There I forwarded you the email.

Jocelyn opens it. The date is for Friday. She glances at her work calendar. Friday is packed with meetings.

MARI (CONT'D)

It's going to be so much fun!

JOCELYN

Yeah, so much fun.

MARI

Okay, I'll see you then! Night.

JOCELYN

Night.

They hang up.

Jocelyn starts moving things on her calendar.

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Tori rolls into her office in his chair, annoyance all over his face.

TORI

Someone must have died.

JOCELYN

I'm sorry?

TORI

Someone must have died for you to undo all my hard work on your calendar.

JOCELYN

No, no one died.

TORI

Then is there an impending apocalypse that I don't know about?

JOCELYN

Wedding dress shopping this afternoon.

TORI

Are you out of your damn mind? We have too much to do.

JOCELYN

Mari needs me there.

TORI

Really, she needs you there? She has to have you there?

JOCELYN

It's an important moment.

He shakes his head. Jocelyn's phone DINGS. She shuts her computer and stuffs it into her bag.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'm finishing
everything up and I'll send it to
this afternoon.

She heads out the door.

EXT. SOHO STREET - DAY

A car pulls up in front of a boutique. Jocelyn climbs out and
heads inside.

INT. HAN'S BOUTIQUE - DAY

A magical wonderland of dresses, different colors, sizes, and
styles.

Mari and Victoria examine a large ostentatious dress. Amy and
Alexandria sit on the couch, a wide space between them.

Mari lets out a SQUEAK of excitement and runs to Jocelyn.

MARI
So glad you're here!

JOCELYN
Me too.

VICTORIA
Jocelyn, so glad you could make it.

JOCELYN
Yeah, almost didn't though.

VICTORIA
Almost.

LI-WEN (30s) Chinese beautiful and stylish, enters.

LI-WEN
(in Chinese)
Victoria, we're ready.

VICTORIA
Perfect. Ladies, this way.

Li-Wen leads the group to the back of the showroom.

SHOWROOM

The women, save Mari, sit facing a row of dressing rooms. Li-Wen stands off to the side with her ASSISTANT.

LI-WEN
(in Chinese to Victoria)
We've chosen several pieces that
fit your requirements.

The curtain opens, Mari's in a giant ballgown. It swallows her.

AMY
Wow.

VICTORIA
It's interesting.

JOCELYN
I think maybe something a little
less...wow. The dress should
accentuate Mari, not outshine her.

AMY
Or consume her.

VICTORIA
The dress should make a statement.
We don't want her to be a
forgettable.

JOCELYN
Yes, but it's about Mari not the
dress.

Victoria opens her mouth.

AMY
Next! Can we see the next one?

The curtain opens. The dress is covered in giant fabric flowers. Amy gags. Alexandria shakes her head.

Another dress, knee length, wispy, and strapless. Mari twirls. Jocelyn and Amy like it. Victoria shakes her head. Amy snaps a picture.

Li-Wen pulls the curtain. It's an old Victorian-style dress. Mari is covered from neck to toe. Victoria smiles. The others shake their heads.

The curtain opens once more, an extremely tight floor-length dress. Mari can barely walk.

Another dress, it's strange with various angles.

EVERYONE

No.

The curtain closes. Li-Wen is annoyed.

SHOWROOM

The group is exhausted. Amy is sprawled out on the couch. Alexandria pops a pill. Only Victoria is withstanding.

The curtain opens. Mari steps out in an elegant sleeveless dress, a large smile on her face.

JOCELYN

You look great.

MARI

I love it.

Amy gives her a thumbs up. Li-Wen lets out a sigh of relief.

VICTORIA

No.

Everyone freezes.

JOCELYN

Sorry?

VICTORIA

No, it's not right.

Mari wilts.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

We need something more traditional.

AMY

(whispering)

Traditional meaning Chinese.

Mari is devastated. Jocelyn glares at Victoria.

LOBBY

Victoria stands at the front desk speaking with an ASIAN RECEPTIONIST. Jocelyn slides up beside Victoria.

VICTORIA
We're looking for a day to come
back.

JOCELYN
Great. Can we talk? In private?

The Receptionist leaves.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
I just wanted to make sure
everything was okay.

VICTORIA
Why wouldn't it be?

JOCELYN
You just seem a little...agitated.

VICTORIA
Why would I be agitated? My son is
marrying the "girl of his dreams."

JOCELYN
Yeah, that doesn't make it seem
like you're happy at all. Are you
mad that they're getting married?

Victoria purses her lips.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
You are.

Victoria walks away. Jocelyn follows.

Victoria tries to walk away. Jocelyn blocks her.

VICTORIA
Fine, if you must know I am not
thrilled about the situation.

JOCELYN
Why?

VICTORIA
Why? Am I the only one who isn't
blind?

JOCELYN
I'm sorry?

VICTORIA

You seem reasonable, Jocelyn. Do you really think that this marriage is a good idea?

Jocelyn hesitates.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

You don't.

JOCELYN

Whatever I think doesn't matter. It's about Mari and Kevin. They're happy together. Isn't that what's most important?

VICTORIA

No. Kevin and Mari are from two different worlds, and no matter how in love they think they are, nothing is going to change that.

Jocelyn is taken aback.

JOCELYN

I think you're being a little harsh.

VICTORIA

And I think you're all living in a dream. This entire mess is going to end in disaster. For some reason I'm the only one who sees it and the only one who will do anything about it.

Victoria rejoins the group and plasters a fake smile on. Mari loops her arm through Victoria's as they leave.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Ginny, Tori, and Jocelyn sit at a small table.

GINNY

She said that?

JOCELYN

Yes.

TORI

Are you sure you understood her?

Jocelyn glares.

GINNY

What do you think it means?

JOCELYN

I don't know. She may be planning to murder Mari.

Jocelyn's phone DINGS. She looks at a text from Mari.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

Seriously? Again?

GINNY

What?

JOCELYN

Victoria shot down another hall for the reception.

GINNY

Mmhmm.

JOCELYN

What?

GINNY

You said there was no reservation for the cake tasting.

Jocelyn nods.

GINNY (CONT'D)

And she didn't send you that email? Think it could be on purpose?

JOCELYN

You mean like sabotage? No, that's crazy. She wouldn't...

Jocelyn and Ginny look to Tori.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

You know her. Would she do something like that?

Tori is a deer in the headlights.

TORI

You guys, she's my idol.

GINNY

Tori!

TORI

Yes, yes, she would totally do something like that.

JOCELYN

Oh my god. The dress, the cake, she's trying to sabotage the wedding!

GINNY

You gotta tell Mari.

Jocelyn picks up her phone. She sets it down again.

JOCELYN

I can't.

GINNY

I'm sorry?

JOCELYN

Mari thinks that Victoria is her best friend. She won't believe me if I tell her she's trying to sabotage things.

GINNY

Then what are you going to do?

JOCELYN

I'm going to make sure that this wedding happens. Victoria Chen be damned.

GINNY

Yes, get it!

Ginny and Jocelyn high five.

TORI

She is going to eat you alive.

JOCELYN (V.O.)

First, I need an ally.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Large and cluttered, the bedroom of a rebel. Band posters on the walls clash with random Chinese decorations.

Amy stands, the phone pressed to her ear.

AMY
You think Mom's making moves
against the KevMar?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelyn works with the phone on speaker.

JOCELYN
I don't know what that is.

AMY
The KevMar. It's their brand and
the hashtag I made for them. Never
mind. How do we defeat Mom?

JOCELYN
There's something I need you to
get.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alexandria sits in the kitchen working. Her planner and
wedding binder next to her.

On a fancy pillow, sits Pretzel. He lets out a WHINE.

ALEXANDRIA
You were just at the groomers. No
going outside.

Amy peeks around the corner. She makes her way to the pantry.
She pushes the door. It CREAKS.

Amy cringes. She waits. Alexandria doesn't notice.

The door is open just enough. Amy contorts her body through
the crack. Pretzel watches.

Amy slips back out, holding something. Pretzel perks up. She
opens her hand, dog treats. She backs down the hall. The dog
follows.

Alexandria is completely oblivious. Amy returns, sans
Pretzel.

AMY
Hey...Alexandria. What's up?

Alexandria is instantly suspicious.

ALEXANDRIA
I'm working.

AMY
Cool. Anything interesting?

ALEXANDRIA
The bi-weekly report for the board.

AMY
So, not interesting.

ALEXANDRIA
Did you need something?

AMY
Nope, just checking in.

Alexandria returns to her work.

AMY (CONT'D)
(silently)
Three, two, one.

A muffled BARK from somewhere. Alexandria tenses. She looks at the empty dog pillow.

ALEXANDRIA
Where's Pretzel?

AMY
He was just here.

More muffled BARKS. Alexandria rushes to the window.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Pretzel runs freely through the backyard chasing squirrels.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alexandria panics and runs outside.

AMY
(insincerely)
Oh no! How did that happen?

Amy opens Alexandria's wedding binder. She takes her phone out and snaps pictures.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Alexandria chases the dog as he runs after a squirrel.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Amy quickly snaps more pictures.

Through the window Amy sees that Alexandria has Pretzel. Amy closes the binder right as Alexandria enters. She's winded and messy. The dog is covered in grass and mud.

AMY

Yay, you got him. Well, I've got
a...thing to go to. See ya!

Amy heads out. The dog BARKS.

INT. WRM - JOCELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelyn's computer DINGS. The pictures appear in her messages. Jocelyn scrolls through. Tori and Ginny read over her shoulder.

JOCELYN

She hasn't planned anything. She
told Mari she ordered the flowers
days ago.

GINNY

Yeah, she's definitely trying to
ruin this.

JOCELYN

I can't believe it.

GINNY

Well at least now you get to be in
charge like you wanted.

Jocelyn glares.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Busy flower shop, Jocelyn stands at the desk with the
DESIGNER.

JOCELYN (O.S.)

We pretty much have to start from
scratch and pull everything
together in the next two weeks.

A picture of an extravagant flower arrangement with a Chinese theme sits in front of them. Jocelyn slides it away.

Jocelyn pulls up another arrangement on her phone. The design is pretty and simple.

INT. JOCELYN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jocelyn pulls double duty editing the new WRM edition, and wedding planning.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mari, Amy, and Jocelyn sit at the table. Mari looks over a piece of paper with three columns of names.

MARI

Victoria is okay with eliminating guests? Really?

JOCELYN

Yes, Lucas said we can have the reception at his restaurant, and it won't hold all these people. So, we need to condense.

MARI

I'm just not sure about this.

Jocelyn turns her computer around. There's a mini diagram of the tables in Lucas' restaurant.

JOCELYN

We can only fill this many tables. Inviting everyone requires another restaurant.

Mari's unsure.

AMY

Well I can tell you all these people...

She circles two of the columns with a pen.

AMY (CONT'D)

Are inconsequential.

MARI

Your mother's sister?

AMY

They're not that close.

Eddie walks through the door.

MARI

Okay, but let's make sure we cut from my side too, I want to make sure it's even.

JOCELYN

Fine, Tía Lucia just had hip surgery. She doesn't need to be hobbling around a wedding.

EDDIE

Tia Lucia died two years ago.

JOCELYN

Good, one more name off the list.

Jocelyn types. She notices it's quiet. Everyone stares at her in horror.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

I mean not good that she died, obviously, but good that we have more room to work with.

They continue to stare.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

Yeah, okay, I know. I'll pray for forgiveness later.

Amy crosses out more names.

INT. HAN'S BOUTIQUE - OFFICE - DAY

Li-Wen sits across from Jocelyn and Amy.

LI-WEN

(in Chinese)

Does Mrs. Chen know about this?

AMY

Of course, she realized that Mari should have her dream dress.

Li-Wen eyes them suspiciously.

LI-WEN

(in Chinese)

I have strict instructions that all changes must be approved by Mrs. Chen.

AMY

English, please. My mother is extremely busy, so she asked us to handle this.

LI-WEN

(in Chinese)

I can't change things without Mrs. Chen's approval.

Jocelyn notices WEDDING RUNWAY MAGAZINE on Li-Wen's desk. She thinks for a moment.

JOCELYN

I'll be right back.

Jocelyn leaves.

HALLWAY

Jocelyn slips into an empty dressing room.

FRONT DESK

Li-Wen's Assistant NI (20s) Chinese, stands at the front desk. The phone RINGS. She answers.

NI

(In Chinese)

Han's Wedding Boutique.

VOICE (O.S.)

Oh my goodness! Hi, this is Ginny calling from Wedding Runway Magazine.

Ni freezes.

NI

(in perfect English)

Oh hello, how can I help you?

DRESSING ROOM

Jocelyn has her phone to her ear.

JOCELYN

So, I'm such a goof. I totally botched my boss' calendar. I know she's in a meeting with Ms. Wen right now, but can you tell me when it's supposed to end?

She opens the door just a crack and watches Ni at the desk.

FRONT DESK

Ni's face drops.

NI

Your boss?

JOCELYN (O.S.)

Yes, Jocelyn Martinez, the Assistant Editor at WRM.

DRESSING ROOM

Jocelyn watches Ni process.

JOCELYN

She is there, right? Her calendar said she had a meeting with Li-Wen today. I thought it was to discuss the focus pieces we were considering for the Spring Issue.

FRONT DESK

Ni's eyes go wide. She looks down the hall where Li-Wen and Amy's heated argument continues.

NI

Would you excuse me, please?

She puts the phone down.

OFFICE

Jocelyn sits contently next to Amy. Li-Wen and Ni talk in the hallway. Ni shows Li-Wen a copy of Wedding Runway.

AMY

What did you do?

Li-Wen and Ni return, both sporting identical smiles.

LI-WEN
(in perfect English)
Ms. Martinez, I spoke with my
people. We would be happy to make
the changes for your sister.

Amy's mouth drops. Jocelyn smiles.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Jocelyn and Amy walk out of Han's.

AMY
How the hell did you do that?

JOCELYN
Jefferson High School Theater Club,
I was the best Sweeney Todd they
ever had.

Amy takes a moment.

AMY
You mean you were the best in
Sweeney Todd.

JOCELYN
No. No, I do not.

Jocelyn walks off.

INT. MANDARIN ORIENTAL SPA - PEDICURE ROOM - DAY

An elegant and expensive spa, soft calming music plays. A
place for total relaxation. Victoria and Alexandria wear
plush robes as two NAIL TECHNICIANS work on their feet.

Alexandria scrolls through her iPad while Victoria relaxes.

A group of older ASIAN WOMEN walk past the room. HELEN (60s)
Chinese, stops when she sees Victoria.

HELEN
Victoria?

Victoria is visibly annoyed, but sits up with smile.

VICTORIA
Helen, lovely to see you.

HELEN

Finally got a day off? Good for you. You look so tired.

VICTORIA

Well that's what happens when you aren't living off your husband's accomplishments.

HELEN

How are you doing with everything? I heard about Kevin and his *situation*.

VICTORIA

Our *situation* is fine. Kevin and his fiancé are fine.

HELEN

Alice said that her invite arrived last week.

VICTORIA

She received an invitation?

HELEN

Yes, I still haven't received mine.

VICTORIA

I'll check into it. I'm sure it was just an oversight.

HELEN

I'm sure. I wouldn't want to miss *that* event. Let's do lunch soon.

VICTORIA

Sounds wonderful.

Helen returns to her group. Victoria turns to Alexandria.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

What invitations?

Alexandria is already on her phone.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Victoria slaps an invitation down in front of Amy.

Amy fidgets at the table nervously. Victoria stares her down. Alexandria stands a few feet away watching.

VICTORIA
Explain.

AMY
It's an invitation.

VICTORIA
Don't be coy. It insults us both.

AMY
I have no idea...

Alexandria slowly shakes her head behind Victoria's back. Amy is caught. Pretzel comes running into the room.

AMY (CONT'D)
Pretzel, come here boy.

The dog runs over and jumps on her lap.

VICTORIA
What are you doing?

AMY
If I'm holding him there is less of chance that you'll kill me.

Victoria leans in. Amy swallows.

VICTORIA
Talk.

AMY
Jocelyn found out you weren't actually doing anything for the wedding, so I took pictures of Alexandria's binder, and we've been using it to plan.

Victoria continues to lean forward. Amy leans back to avoid her mother's gaze. She slides under the table to hide. She holds Pretzel tight.

POV UNDER THE TABLE: Victoria's fancy shoes walk away. Alexandria bends down and looks at Amy.

ALEXANDRIA
You can come out now.

AMY
No. I can't move.

Pretzel wiggles free. Amy is frozen in place.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Jocelyn, Amy, and Ginny sit together. Amy is visibly frazzled.

JOCELYN
So she knows?

Amy nods.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
And she hasn't said anything?

Amy shakes her head.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
And she hasn't done anything?

AMY
I spent the whole night hiding in my closet waiting for her to make her move.

GINNY
You look like a squirrel that's been chased by toddlers.

AMY
This must be how prey feels when a tiger is near.

JOCELYN
Calm down. Maybe she just realized she's defeated.

GINNY
You dumb as hell.

JOCELYN
Seriously, the tea ceremony is Saturday, and the wedding is Sunday. What can she do?

They stare at her.

INT. FUSION RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

Jocelyn's mouth hangs open in shock. The entire room has been decorated in Red and Gold. Workers bustle around the room putting up Chinese-themed wedding decorations.

LUCAS
They've been here since 6 A.M.

He looks at her face.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
You didn't do this.

JOCELYN
No.

LUCAS
And I'm guessing that you didn't
create this menu then.

He hands her a piece of paper.

JOCELYN
A taco bar, really?

Mari and Kevin enter. Kevin's face lights up. Mari's falls.

KEVIN
Oh wow, it looks amazing! Great
job, Jocelyn.

JOCELYN
Mari--

Mari puts a smile on.

MARI
I love it, Joce! It's amazing!

KEVIN
Yeah, you and Mom did a great job.

JOCELYN
Yeah, totally.

ENTRANCE

Victoria walks in with Alexandria and Amy. Victoria wears a
smug smile.

AMY
(to Alexandria)
Is Mom a witch?

ALEXANDRIA
I stopped asking questions a long
time ago.

AMY
You know where the bodies are
buried don't you?

Alexandria walks off.

DINING ROOM

Victoria joins Mari, Kevin, and Jocelyn.

KEVIN

Mom, this is amazing! I love it.

VICTORIA

I'm glad. We put a ton of work into it. Didn't we, Jocelyn?

Jocelyn bites her tongue and nods.

MARI

It looks great, Victoria. Thank you so much.

VICTORIA

Thank you dear, and I know it's a little themed, but I wanted to make sure that your heritage was represented as well.

Victoria leads her over to a small table decorated in Mexican colors. There are tiny sombreros, maracas, and a wedding bell piñata. Mari's face is blank. Jocelyn fumes.

BATHROOM

Jocelyn throws open the door. It hits the wall with a BANG. Amy and Mari come in after her.

JOCELYN

I can't believe her!

AMY

Yeah, this is a lot. Even for her.

JOCELYN

A piñata and a taco bar? Really? We have to do something!

MARI

Okay, it's not what we planned, but does this all really matter?

AMY

This feels familiar.

JOCELYN

What are you talking about, of course it matters!

MARI

Joce, I just want to marry Kevin,
and have a simple--

JOCELYN

Yes, a simple, not crazy over the
top wedding. Don't worry, we'll
find a way to fix this.

MARI

But--

JOCELYN

I promise we'll figure something
out. Your wedding is going to be
perfect.

Jocelyn hugs Mari then leaves. Amy follows. Mari lets out a
heavy sigh.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jocelyn paces the room, furious. Eddie plays solitaire.

JOCELYN

I can't believe her! The audacity!
Who does she think she is?

EDDIE

Yes, it's almost as bad as planning
a wedding behind someone's back.

JOCELYN

Really? You're taking her side?

EDDIE

I'm not taking anyone's side. I
think you're both overdoing it.
Just sit down and talk with her.

JOCELYN

No, no, we're way past that.

EDDIE

Jocelyn, I think you've lost sight
of what this wedding is about.

JOCELYN

It is about Mari and Kevin and she
is trying to make it about her!

EDDIE

She?

Jocelyn gives him a look.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Mija, the wedding is Sunday. Who cares what it looks like. How about you focus on taking your sister out tomorrow for her bachelorette party?

JOCELYN

I just--

EDDIE

Forget Victoria. Have one more night of fun with your sister. You don't know when you'll have another.

Jocelyn relents.

JOCELYN

Okay.

Eddie returns to his game.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

I still can't believe she added a taco bar!

INT. NYC RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A classy New York restaurant where the water is overpriced. Jocelyn, Mari, Alexandria, and Ginny scan the menus. There's one open seat left.

GINNY

I say we splurge and get the sushi.

MARI

I was thinking about the salad.

ALEXANDRIA

That's probably safer. You wouldn't want to chance food poisoning.

GINNY

Food poisoning? This is a four-star restaurant.

ALEXANDRIA

Exactly.

GINNY
(to Jocelyn)
Is she for real?

Jocelyn rolls her eyes and focuses on her menu.

MARI
Where's Amy?

JOCELYN
She texted saying she'll be late.

ALEXANDRIA
Are you ready for tomorrow, Mari?

MARI
I'm a little nervous.

GINNY
What's tomorrow?

MARI
It's the Tea Ceremony. It's a ceremony to represent the families coming together, and to thank our parents for raising us.

GINNY
And Victoria is hosting that?

Jocelyn fights a smirk.

ALEXANDRIA
It's a very important tradition.

A BLONDE WAITER appears.

BLONDE WAITER
Are we ready, ladies?

Alexandria opens her mouth but is cut off by Amy's arrival.

AMY
Ladies put those menus down and follow me. I have a surprise!

JOCELYN
What?

AMY
I have planned a bachelorette night to remember!

BLONDE WAITER
I can come back.

JOCELYN
No! We're going to order. Amy, we agreed on just dinner and drinks tonight. Nothing crazy.

AMY
Come onnnnn! We have to send Mari off properly.

BLONDE WAITER
I'll give you a moment.

The waiter goes to leave.

JOCELYN
No!

Ginny grabs him.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
We're ready to order.

AMY
Jocelyn, we deserve a little fun after everything we've survived.

MARI
What does that mean?

BLONDE WAITER
Ladies, I have other tables--

He tries to walk away. Ginny pulls him back.

JOCELYN
This isn't a good idea, and it's not what Mari wants. Is it?

MARI
It might be fun, just for a while.

JOCELYN
Really?

Mari shrugs. Ginny releases the waiter. Amy smirks.

EXT. NYC - STREET - NIGHT

The women follow Amy outside.

AMY

This is the surprise.

Amy waves her arm at a private party bus parked at the curb. Jocelyn and Alexandria are wary. Ginny and Mari are excited.

INT. PARTY BUS - NIGHT

It's brightly colored and backlit by lights. Music blasts from hidden speakers. A stripper pole stands in the middle.

AMY

Welcome ladies!

MARI

Oh my gosh! How fun!

Jocelyn is unsure. Alexandria is horrified.

GINNY

Does it come with strippers?

AMY

We have to pick them up.

ALEXANDRIA

What!

AMY

Kidding.

(to Ginny)

Not kidding.

Amy pulls out a feather boa and fake crown to decorate Mari.

Ginny pours drinks from a minibar. Alexandria takes a sanitizer wipe from her purse and wipes the seat.

AMY (CONT'D)

It's fabric, Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA

Which is worse! I'm sure they don't steam clean it properly.

Amy offers a drink to Jocelyn.

AMY

I know it's not what you planned,
but Mari's having fun.

Mari has a large smile as she wraps a boa around Alexandria.

AMY (CONT'D)
I swear we won't get too crazy.

Jocelyn takes the glass.

JOCELYN
Nothing too crazy.

Amy nods. They clink glasses.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Music blares. Lights flash. Dancers thrash and flail. At the bar Alexandria and Jocelyn nurse drinks.

Alexandria clutches her purse and tries to avoid touching anything. Amy, Mari, and Ginny dance a few feet away.

Jocelyn hands Alexandria a cocktail.

JOCELYN
It's a cosmopolitan.

Alexandria eyes the glass warily.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
I didn't spike it.

ALEXANDRIA
I'm more concerned with their sanitation practices.

She takes a sip.

ALEXANDRIA (CONT'D)
It's good.

She relaxes.

JOCELYN
You don't dance?

Jocelyn sets her drink on the bar. Alexandria puts her drink down and digs in her purse.

Amy appears and motions to the BARTENDER.

ALEXANDRIA
My mother wouldn't approve.

AMY
Good thing mom's not here.

ALEXANDRIA

Mother always encouraged us to be composed in public.

Amy rolls her eyes.

AMY

You two need to loosen up.

ALEXANDRIA

We're Chens. We have a reputation to uphold in public.

AMY

Oh my god, no one cares!

The Bartender puts three shots in front of Amy. She downs one then pours the others into Alexandria and Jocelyn's drinks.

Mari and Ginny join them at the bar.

GINNY

I just got a text from a friend about an amazing DJ in Alphabet City. Anyone interested?

They all look at Jocelyn.

AMY

We have the bus all night.

Mari waits anxiously.

JOCELYN

Okay, let's finish these and go.

They all toast, finish their drinks, then head for the door.

INT. PARTY BUS - NIGHT

The music bumps. They all dance. Alexandria has let go of her purse and has another drink. Ginny twirls around the pole. Amy pours shots. They all drink.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Lights flash with the music. People dance wildly. It's a full-on rave. The women jump with the crowd.

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

The group stumbles from the club towards the bus.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

They down more shots. Mari and Ginny dance on a bar in front of a rowdy crowd. Alexandria waves her arms in the air.

A line of shots is set in front of them. The Bartender lights them on fire. Everyone cheers. Mari blows out the fire. They all drink.

Ginny takes a body shot off a shirtless man.

INT. PARTY BUS - NIGHT

The group dances to loud music. Mari and Jocelyn jump on the seats. Ginny and Amy take more shots.

Alexandria swings her sweater over her head. Amy smacks her face against the stripper pole.

INT. JOCELYN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

The sun shines through the blinds. Birds twitter outside. Mari and Jocelyn sleep soundly in Jocelyn's bed.

LIVING ROOM

Amy is passed out on the couch. Amy's phone BUZZES on the table. It stops.

Jocelyn's phone BUZZES in the kitchen. It stops.

Amy's phone BUZZES again. She twitches in her sleep. A phone RINGS from somewhere in the apartment.

The front door flies open. Ginny walks in wearing workout clothes. She shows no symptoms of the night before. She spots Amy on the couch.

GINNY

Aww how cute. Wake up ladies!

BEDROOM

Jocelyn opens her eyes and cringes at the sun. Ginny saunters in.

GINNY

Wakey wakey ladies. You're due for
tea ASAP.

Jocelyn sits up, her hair a mess, makeup smeared.

JOCELYN

What time is it?

GINNY

8:40 A.M.

JOCELYN

What?

Jocelyn looks to confirm it. She scrambles out of bed.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

Wake up! We're late!

She pulls the blankets off Mari. Mari sits up. There's a dick
drawn on her forehead in eyeliner.

GINNY

Oh shit.

JOCELYN

Coffee, now!

Jocelyn pulls Mari from bed.

LIVING ROOM

Jocelyn pulls a half asleep Mari into the living room. She
sits her down on a stool and hands her a wet washcloth.

JOCELYN

Scrub. Amy, get up!

Mari halfheartedly wipes at her face.

Jocelyn pulls the blankets off Amy. She's covered in glitter
and sporting a bruise on her forehead.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

We have to go!

Jocelyn runs to her bedroom. Amy rolls off the couch.

AMY

Where are we?

GINNY
Jocelyn's apartment.

Jocelyn rushes out and throws two dress bags and shoes onto the couch. She rushes back to her room.

JOCELYN
We have to go!

AMY
Yeah, yeah we got it.

MARI
I don't feel right.

GINNY
It was that last fireball shot. I felt it this morning before my run.

AMY
Your run?

Jocelyn comes out, a bag slung over her shoulder.

JOCELYN
We have to go ASAP.

She pulls Mari to her feet. Amy takes a large drink of coffee as they head for the door. They're almost gone when Amy stops.

AMY
Where's Alexandria?

Jocelyn looks around. She's nowhere to be seen. Amy calls her. A phone RINGS from the closet.

CLOSET

The door opens. Alexandria sleeps on a pile of coats clutching her purse.

Jocelyn and Amy look at each other. Jocelyn pulls Alexandria out of the closet.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Lucas anxiously checks his phone. He glances down the hall to the main room where a large group of people mingle. He tries to call Jocelyn. The line RINGS and RINGS.

He hangs up and turns back towards the hall way and comes face to face with Victoria. He jumps.

LUCAS
Jeez, Auntie!

VICTORIA
Where are they?

LUCAS
Not sure, I'm trying to find them.

VICTORIA
Everyone is waiting.

LUCAS
I know.

Victoria storms off.

INT. GINNY'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jocelyn, Mari, and Alexandria sit in the backseat of the cramped car. Alexandria has dark sunglasses on.

Jocelyn scrubs at the eyeliner on Mari's forehead.

In the front seat Amy leans against the window.

JOCELYN
Amy, what kind of eyeliner is this?

AMY
Mom brought it from Hong Kong. Why is the radio so loud?

JOCELYN
This isn't coming off!

ALEXANDRIA
It's waterproof for up to 20 hours.

Everyone freezes.

GINNY
Damn, China.

Jocelyn scrubs harder.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Lucas speaks into his phone.

LUCAS

I really hope you guys are on your way. Victoria is about to lose it.

He hangs up as Kevin, wearing a fancy tuxedo, appears.

KEVIN

I still can't reach Mari.

LUCAS

I can't get anyone, and I think your mother is going to explode.

Kevin paces and tries Mari again.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVE WAY - DAY

Ginny parks the car. The women all climb out.

GINNY

Good luck!

They grab the bags from the trunk then head to the door.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

The door swings open. Lucas and Kevin's mouths drop at the sight of the women.

Mari's forehead is red from the scrubbing. Jocelyn is frazzled and out of breath. Amy's bruise looks worse. Alexandria, still wearing glasses, holds her head.

LUCAS

What the hell happened to you all?

AMY

Why are you yelling?

KEVIN

Babe, are you okay?

Mari falls into Kevin's arms. Alexandria holds the wall for support. Amy goes to sit, but Lucas grabs her.

LUCAS

Oh no, you have to get ready. The whole family is here. If your mother sees this you're screwed.

AMY

Why me?

ALEXANDRIA

Because it's your fault. It's all
your fault.

Jocelyn grabs Mari.

JOCELYN

Okay, upstairs, now.

The group starts up the stairs. Alexandria struggles. Kevin
and Lucas exchange a look.

BEDROOM

Jocelyn fixes Mari's hair as Mari drinks a glass of brownish
sludge. Mari cringes and tries to hold it down.

MARI

This tastes like anger and sadness.

JOCELYN

Lucas said it'll help with the
alcohol toxins. You should feel
better soon.

Mari finishes and sets the glass down. She dabs more
foundation on her forehead.

MARI

I can still see it.

JOCELYN

It's fine.

MARI

Which one of you drew it?

Jocelyn thinks.

QUICK FLASHBACK: Mari is passed out on the bus. Jocelyn and
Alexandria giggle as they draw on her.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Jocelyn dabs more foundation on her.

JOCELYN

I'll tell the photographer to get
rid of the flash.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Eddie enters.

EDDIE
Almost ready?

Eddie looks at Jocelyn. She's gone very still.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
You okay, mija?

JOCELYN
Yeah, I'm good. I'll be right back.

Jocelyn heads to the hallway.

BATHROOM

Jocelyn shuts the door quickly. She's sweating profusely and takes deep breaths. She gags, but holds it down. She takes a moment. She might be okay.

A KNOCK on the door.

AMY (O.S.)
Jocelyn, you ready? Mom wants to start soon.

JOCELYN
Yeah, just a second.

Jocelyn composes herself then heads for the door.

HALLWAY

Alexandria is outside of the room where the family has gathered. She looks ill. Victoria lords over her.

VICTORIA
What happened?

ALEXANDRIA
We went out. It was...interesting.

VICTORIA
What does that mean?

ALEXANDRIA
Amy hired a party bus. We went to clubs, so many clubs.

Victoria fumes, then walks away.

FOYER

Kevin and Lucas wait at the bottom of the stairs. Lucas taps Kevin's shoulder. Kevin looks up.

Mari stands at the top of the stairs in an elegant Qipao dress. Kevin's face lights up. Mari smiles, her exhaustion gone. She descends the stairs.

Kevin and Mari are in their own world.

Victoria comes down the hallway. She pauses and watches the moment.

KEVIN
You look amazing.

MARI
Jocelyn scrubbed my forehead raw.

KEVIN
Can't tell.

He squeezes her fingers. She smiles.

AMY (O.S.)
Oh my god who designed this dress?

The moment is over. Amy stops at the top of the stairs.

AMY (CONT'D)
What'd I miss?

Jocelyn shakes her head. Alexandria enters the foyer.

ALEXANDRIA
The Aunts are getting hungry.

LUCAS
We better get this going. Last time
we made Aunt Fiona wait for lunch
she almost ate Pretzel.

Kevin leads Mari to down the hall. Amy grabs Lucas.

AMY
If I fall, I'll rip this dress, and
Mom will kill us all.

Lucas looks over his shoulder at Jocelyn.

She gives him a nod and follows. She stops when she sees Victoria in a daze.

JOCELYN
Victoria? Are you okay?

Victoria composes herself.

VICTORIA
Of course. I'm fine.

She turns and follows the group. Jocelyn rolls her eyes.

JOCELYN
(to herself)
I'm fine.

FAMILY ROOM

Various family members stand around the room. Two fancy red pillows sit in front of a couch.

Mari and Kevin enter. The room claps.

Amy chugs water from various glasses. Jocelyn notices a few WOMEN sneer at Mari.

Jocelyn fans herself discreetly. Amy sidles up to her a glass of water in each hand.

AMY
You're sweating.

JOCELYN
I'm okay.

One of the Aunts holds a large tray filled with small cups. Victoria motions for Jocelyn to join.

VICTORIA
It's your duty to pass tea to the
Bride, then to the Groom.

She hands Jocelyn the finely crafted tea tray. Jocelyn almost drops it. Several women gasp.

JOCELYN
Sorry, it's heavy.

VICTORIA
It's been in our family for
generations. It's very important.

JOCELYN
I'll take care of it.

Carla places the tea pot on the tray. Victoria narrows her eyes.

Victoria joins a group of AUNTS and takes Pretzel into her arms. The Aunts whisper in Chinese to Victoria.

Eddie appears next to Jocelyn.

EDDIE
You ready, mija?

JOCELYN
I need to grow another arm in five seconds, but you know.

Eddie notices her face is red.

EDDIE
Are you okay?

JOCELYN
It's just a little warm.

Carla claps her hands. Alexandria flinches at the sound. The room quiets.

VICTORIA
(in Chinese)
It's time to begin everyone.

Eddie squeezes Jocelyn's shoulder.

Mari and Kevin kneel on the red pillows. Kevin on the right
Mari on the left.

Eddie sits on the couch. He smiles. Kevin returns it. Mari's face is blank.

Jocelyn pours the tea. She's clumsy, but it's not disastrous.

Everyone waits. Mari is still as a statue.

Jocelyn waits. Mari continues to stare straight ahead.

KEVIN
Mar?

Mari slowly turns to Jocelyn. Jocelyn hands her the first cup. Mari stiffly passes it to Kevin.

Every eye is on Mari. A few Aunts whisper behind their hands.

Victoria watches tight-lipped. Jocelyn hands Mari the second cup. The couple bow to Eddie.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Thank you for all the love and support you've given us. Thank you for raising Mari to be an amazing woman, and for welcoming me into your family.

Mari is quiet. Kevin glances at her. She remains silent, her face blank.

MARI

Thank you for your love.

Victoria's eye twitches. The crowd whispers.

Kevin hands Eddie his cup of tea. Eddie drinks. Mari hands him her cup. He drinks.

They bow. Then hand the cups to Jocelyn.

EDDIE

I'm so happy for you and I can't wait for what the future has in store for you.

Kevin smiles. Eddie leaves the couch.

Jocelyn shifts from one foot to the other. Sweat rolls down her brow.

Off to the side, Lucas and Amy watch.

AMY

Is it just me or is something wrong?

Lucas nods.

Victoria gracefully sits on the couch and crosses her ankles, Pretzel on her lap.

Kevin beams. Victoria focuses on Mari.

Jocelyn hands Mari the cup, her hand shaking. Mari passes it to Kevin, then takes her own. Jocelyn shifts uncomfortably.

KEVIN

Mom, thank you for all you've done for me. For loving me, for raising me, for teaching me. Thank you.

Victoria nods. A high-pitched WHINE comes from Mari.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Mar? Are okay?

Her eyes are wide and fearful.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Oh no.

Mari turns and vomits into Victoria's lap.

People scream and gasp, then rush for the door.

AMY

Oh shit.

Jocelyn pushes the tray into Carla's hands and rushes to Mari, but she trips on Mari's dress.

She lands on top of Mari pushing her into Victoria's lap right as Mari lets out another wave of vomit.

CARLA

Miss Victoria!

Carla drops the tea try. It clatters to the floor, tea and cups spilling. Pretzel BARKS.

Jocelyn rolls off of Mari onto the floor. Eddie rushes forward to help Jocelyn.

Kevin pulls Mari away from his mother and tries to comfort her.

AMY

Mom?

Victoria is silent and still, her face full of rage. Pretzel BARKS again.

Everyone looks. The dog is covered in vomit. He twitches. They all know what's coming next.

JOCELYN

Nooo!

Time slows. Kevin shields Mari. Carla covers her eyes. Eddie crosses himself. The dog shakes spraying Victoria.

Victoria looks down her outfit, the couch, and shoes are all ruined. Her eyes fall on the tea try on the floor.

Her eyes turn to Jocelyn, then to Mari. She shakes with rage.

VICTORIA
We're finished here.

Jocelyn cringes then drops her head to the floor.

KITCHEN

Mari, Kevin, Eddie, and Jocelyn sit at the kitchen table.
Kevin has his arm around Mari. She sniffles.

Lucas rinses Pretzel in the sink.

In another room Victoria yells in Chinese.

KEVIN
It's okay. It's not that bad.

AMY
It feels pretty bad.

Mari cries harder.

JOCELYN
Thank you, Amy.

Alexandria enters, stoic and stiff.

ALEXANDRIA
(to Kevin)
Mom wants to speak with you.

Kevin and Mari stand.

ALEXANDRIA (CONT'D)
Just you.

KEVIN
What?

MARI
I understand.

KEVIN
No, if she has something to say she
can say it to both of us.

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

KEVIN
Too bad, it's either both of us or
nothing.

ALEXANDRIA

Alright.

They follow Alexandria out. Amy takes Mari's seat.

AMY

I want to apologize in advance for my part in this.

JOCELYN

I'm sorry.

AMY

I may have added shots to your drinks last night, which probably contributed to this situation.

JOCELYN

(angry)

Are you kidding me?

LUCAS

You should not have admitted that.

AMY

I was trying to make sure we had a good time!

JOCELYN

I knew something was wrong! I only had a few drinks!

AMY

I'm sorry.

Jocelyn grabs Amy's hand and pulls her up.

AMY (CONT'D)

Where are we going?

JOCELYN

You are going to tell your mother this is all your fault.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelyn pulls Amy towards Victoria's office right as the door flies open. Mari runs out sobbing. Kevin chases after her.

KEVIN

Mari! Wait!

Mari runs out the front door.

AMY
What the hell?

Amy and Jocelyn follow Kevin outside.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVE WAY - DAY

Mari makes her way down the long driveway.

KEVIN
Mari, wait. Please!

He takes her by the arm. Mari struggles to pull away.

MARI
Let me go!

Jocelyn and Amy catch up to them. Amy wheezes from the run.

JOCELYN
What's going on?

MARI
Victoria is against us getting
married.

JOCELYN
What?

MARI
She said that today just proves how
much of a mess our marriage will
be, and that she won't support us
making this mistake.

JOCELYN
Don't listen to her, Mar!

MARI
Maybe she's right. It's all been a
mess since we got engaged.

KEVIN
She's wrong.

Kevin wraps his arms around her.

Jocelyn turns back to the house, fury in her eyes.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Jocelyn throws open the door ready to do battle. Lucas sees her and tries to intercept.

LUCAS
Maybe calm down first?

Jocelyn sidesteps him and continues down the hall.

FAMILY ROOM

Carla desperately scrubs the couch.

Victoria picks up one of the tea cups. It's chipped. Jocelyn storms into the room, Amy and Lucas behind her.

JOCELYN
You've got some nerve, Victoria. Is this really what you wanted? My sister is devastated.

VICTORIA
She'll get over it.

JOCELYN
Are you kidding me?

VICTORIA
I'm keeping my son from making the worst mistake of his life.

Victoria tries to walk away. Jocelyn grabs her shoulder.

JOCELYN
What's your problem? Do you just want to ruin everyone's happiness?

VICTORIA
I am protecting my son.

JOCELYN
You are keeping your son from escaping! It's psychotic! You need to cut the cord and let go!

Victoria shakes with rage. Quick as lightning she reaches out and slaps Jocelyn.

Jocelyn's mouth drops. She's shocked, but it doesn't last. She WHACKS Victoria back.

It's the final straw. The two women go at it like rabid cats.

AMY
Okay, finally!

Alexandria enters the room. Her mouth drops. She's about to intervene when Lucas stops her. He slowly shakes his head.

Amy pulls her phone out and records.

The fight knocks over bunch of family pictures. Amy gets in closer with her phone.

Victoria has Jocelyn in a headlock. She tries to get her to submit. Her hair is a mess, out of place for the first time in years.

VICTORIA
Surrender!

JOCELYN
I'm not surrendering shit!

Jocelyn uses her body against Victoria and shoves her into a table. A vase falls and shatters. Victoria won't let go.

Jocelyn bites Victoria's arm. Victoria SCREAMS. Her grip loosens. Jocelyn tackles Victoria. They struggle, right as Eddie, Kevin, and Mari enter.

Kevin and Eddie pull Victoria away from Jocelyn. Lucas holds Jocelyn back as the women try to get at each other.

KEVIN
Stop it! Stop it now!

VICTORIA
This is exactly what I'm talking about!

JOCELYN
Really? Why don't you tell the truth, Victoria? Admit that you've been sabotaging the wedding to split Mari and Kevin up!

The room goes quiet.

MARI
Is that true?

Kevin and Eddie release Victoria. She's a deer caught in the headlights.

KEVIN
Mom?

VICTORIA

No...I was...

Kevin waits expectantly.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

I wanted to keep you from making a mistake.

MARI

It is true.

JOCELYN

Everything has been her! She was lying about planning the wedding the whole time. If I hadn't-

MARI

And you knew?

Jocelyn freezes.

MARI (CONT'D)

You knew and said nothing?

JOCELYN

I was trying to handle it.

MARI

Without telling me? The person who this affects the most?

JOCELYN

I thought-

MARI

What? That I couldn't handle it? I'm not a child, Jocelyn!

JOCELYN

I know, but-

MARI

But nothing! You should have told me! You're just as bad as she is.

Mari leaves. Kevin shakes his head then follows.

JOCELYN

Mari, wait!

Jocelyn runs after them.

AMY

That could have gone better.

Alexandria glares.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVE WAY - DAY

Mari and Kevin are in Kevin's car.

JOCELYN

Mari! Stop!

Kevin starts the car and pulls off.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVE WAY - DAY

Jocelyn is left behind in the dust. Lucas approaches.

JOCELYN

Damn! Is your car here?

LUCAS

Do you think that's a good idea?

JOCELYN

My sister just took off and I need to talk to her.

LUCAS

Why don't you give her some time?

Jocelyn starts back to the house. Lucas takes her arm.

JOCELYN

Get off me!

LUCAS

Let's just take a breath. You're a little excited.

JOCELYN

Stop acting like you know me! You don't know anything about me!

LUCAS

I know Mari doesn't want to see you and that this is partially your fault.

JOCELYN

Excuse me?

LUCAS

Did you ever once consider telling
Mari what Victoria was doing?

JOCELYN

I was-

LUCAS

You were trying to protect her, but
Mari is an adult. She needs to
fight her own battles.

JOCELYN

You don't know anything about us!

LUCAS

You're right. I guess I don't.

Lucas leaves. Jocelyn stands in the driveway alone.

INT. EDDIE'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Eddie drives while Jocelyn watches the passing world outside.

INT. CHEN HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Victoria stands at the window a phone pressed to her ear. The
line RINGS and RINGS. It doesn't connect. She hangs up.

ANGLE ON PHONE: Victoria presses Kevin's name again.

INT. FUSION RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The restaurant is decorated elegantly for the reception.
There's a dance floor in the middle of the room. All the
tables and chairs have been arranged around the space.

Lucas grabs a champagne bottle and walks away.

INT. MARI'S STUDIO - NIGHT

Mari and Kevin are on the couch. Mari cries. Kevin comforts
her.

EXT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - ROOF - NIGHT

Jocelyn sits on the roof, a bottle of tequila next to her.
She drinks from the bottle.

EDDIE (O.S.)
Isn't that what got you in trouble?

Eddie sits next to her.

JOCELYN
She won't let me explain.

EDDIE
And what will you say?

JOCELYN
I want to tell her that Victoria--

EDDIE
So, it's all Victoria's fault?

Jocelyn huffs.

JOCELYN
It's mostly Victoria's fault!

EDDIE
When your Mama left I couldn't
function. I threw myself into work
and forgot everything else.

He takes a drink from the bottle.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
It took me too long to remember I
had you and Mari to take care of.

JOCELYN
You took care of us. You worked,
paid the bills, kept a roof over
our heads.

EDDIE
Yes, but you needed more. Mari
needed more. And at that time you
took care of her, and you've never
stopped.

JOCELYN
I'm supposed to take care of her.

EDDIE
You're supposed to be her sister,
not her eternal babysitter.

Jocelyn wipes tears away.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

You're both grown up now. You have to let her be her own woman. You have to let go.

JOCELYN

If she talks to me again.

He puts an arm around her and hands her the tequila.

EDDIE

She will. Though it might be awhile. You're both stubborn.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - JOCELYN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jocelyn sleeps in her childhood bedroom. Her phone is on the side table. It lights up, but is silent. It lights up again, still silent.

There's a muffled BANGING. Then VOICES. Jocelyn snuggles into her pillow. The THUDDING of footsteps.

Her bedroom door flies open. Jocelyn jolts awake. Amy stands in the door.

AMY

How do you not have your phone on?
I've called you nine times!

Jocelyn falls back into her pillows.

AMY (CONT'D)

You have to get up!

JOCELYN

One good thing about a canceled wedding is that we get to sleep in.

AMY

In regular circumstances, yes.
However, we have an emergency.

Jocelyn sits up.

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Eddie cooks breakfast.

AMY (O.S.)
Alexandria said that Kevin snuck
back in last night to get all their
marriage documents.

Jocelyn comes down the stairs a phone pressed to her ear.

JOCELYN
Tori, you remember that piece we
did on shotgun weddings last year?
I need the reference list.

INT. WRM - TORI'S DESK - DAY

Tori sits at his desk, stunned.

TORI
Do you have something to tell me?

INT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jocelyn pulls on her shoes.

JOCELYN
Just text it to me! And why are you
in the office on a Sunday?

She hangs up. Amy types on her phone.

EDDIE
What's going on?

JOCELYN
Mari and Kevin are eloping!

EDDIE
Well, maybe thats for best. Isn't
it what they want?

JOCELYN
It's not what Mari wants! She's not
some random back alley chapel kind
of girl!

EDDIE
Mija...

JOCELYN
Look, I know I made this mess, and
now I have to clean it up. I have
to do this for Mari.

EDDIE
Go get her.

INT. DRIVE WAY - DAY

Amy throws Jocelyn her car keys. They climb in. The tires SQUEAL as they take off down the street.

INT. AMY'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jocelyn's phone dings. Amy picks it up.

AMY
Tori sent the list. There's a chapel in the Bronx that does \$50 weddings.

JOCELYN
They wouldn't go that far.

AMY
Jersey City?

Ew. JOCELYN Ew. AMY (CONT'D)

JOCELYN
What else?

AMY
Cupid's Queens, LGBTQIA Inclusive Center, Wonderland Wedding Chapel, 24/7 Bail Bonds and Marriages-

JOCELYN
Wait, go back to the last one.

AMY
24/7 Bail Bonds and Marriages?

JOCELYN
No, the one before. Where is it?

AMY
By the Met. Near where Mari works.

JOCELYN
That one.

Jocelyn turns the wheel. The tires screech.

INT. WONDERLAND WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY

Paper mache hearts, lace pom-poms, blinking tea lights, an arch in the middle of the room flanked by two creepy cupids. A wedding nightmare.

Mari surveys the room. Off to the side, Kevin speaks with the OFFICIANT. They shake hands. Kevin joins Mari.

KEVIN

He said they'll be ready soon.

Mari looks warily around.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

It'll be alright.

Kevin kisses her temple. Mari leans into him.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Amy's car swerves through traffic. Another car BLARES its horn. The car turns into bumper to bumper traffic. It's cars as far as the eye can see.

INT. AMY'S CAR - DAY

Jocelyn bangs her hands on the wheel.

JOCELYN

Damn it!

AMY

Careful! Lucy is sensitive!

JOCELYN

How far is the chapel?

AMY

Five blocks.

Jocelyn spots a minivan about to park in a metered spot. She guns it and slips in right as they turn on the blinker.

AMY (CONT'D)

Jesus! It's not NASCAR, Jocelyn!

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

They jump out. The MINIVAN driver rolls his window down.

MINIVAN
Hey! What the hell?

JOCELYN
Emergency!

AMY
If you do anything to my car I will
make calls and you will never be
seen again!

Minivan gives her a nervous nod. Amy's phone DINGS.

AMY (CONT'D)
Okay, I know for a fact that Kevin
and Mari are at the chapel.

JOCELYN
And?

AMY
Mom is also on her way there.

JOCELYN
Damn it! How did she know?

AMY
Apparently, she finally figured out
the "Find My Friends" app.

JOCELYN
Great.

AMY
I have a feeling it's code for "Mom
went nuts and called in favors."

They pick up their pace.

INT. WONDERLAND WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY

Mari picks a bouquet of fake flowers from a row of choices.
She clips a cheap mini-veil into her hair. She looks into a
mirror and lets out a heavy sigh. It's a means to an end.

EXT. WONDERLAND WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY

Jocelyn and Amy round the corner as Victoria's car pulls up.

JOCELYN
Cover me!

Victoria steps out and rushes for the doors. Jocelyn sprints. She gets there first. She slips inside.

Amy throws herself in front of the doors to block her mother.

AMY
Hey, Mom. What are you doing here?

VICTORIA
Amy, move.

AMY
I can't. I'm a champion of love.

Victoria glares.

INT. WONDERLAND WEDDING CHAPEL - LOBBY - DAY

Jocelyn is knocked back by the decor.

JOCELYN
Whoa.

A RECEPTIONIST smiles at her.

RECEPTIONIST
Hello, how can I make your nuptials
amazing today?

JOCELYN
I'm good. Where is your chapel?

The Receptionist points to a set of double doors.

There's a COMMOTION behind her. Victoria tries to pry the door open. Amy hangs on to her.

VICTORIA
Get off!

AMY
No! I'm a champion of love!

Amy pulls Victoria back and the door slams shut.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Jocelyn throws open the doors of the chapel.

JOCELYN
STOP!

The couple at the alter turn. It's not Mari and Kevin. It's a young AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN and a pregnant HISPANIC WOMAN.

HISPANIC WOMAN
Who the hell are you?

JOCELYN
Ahhh...

HISPANIC WOMAN
Another baby momma?

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN
No! There's only you...I think.

HISPANIC WOMAN
What?

JOCELYN
Sorry. I thought my sister was getting married. Mari Martinez?

OFFICIANT
They have the one o'clock slot. They're in the garden waiting.

JOCELYN
Got ya.

Jocelyn slowly backs out of the room.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
Sorry to interrupt. Best wishes with all of this.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN
Hey, girl. What's your name?

JOCELYN
No.

She pulls the doors closed.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Jocelyn steps into the garden. She sees Mari and Kevin on a bench, their backs to her. Jocelyn opens her mouth, but stops as Kevin speaks.

KEVIN
Are you sure you're okay with this?

MARI

I'd rather be married this way than not at all. Besides, when we look back in 70 years it's not the wedding that matters anyways.

Mari notices Jocelyn.

MARI (CONT'D)

Jocelyn!

JOCELYN

Hey, Mar, I came to talk.

MARI

I don't want to talk to you.

Mari turns away. Kevin gives Jocelyn a sympathetic look. There's a COMMOTION from inside.

KEVIN

What's that?

JOCELYN

That would be your mom, and sisters.

MARI

You brought them here?

JOCELYN

Technically, I brought Amy. Victoria was already on her way.

KEVIN

I'll deal with them. You need to talk to your sister.

MARI

I don't want to talk to my sister.

He kisses her forehead. He heads inside.

JOCELYN

I would also get a new phone if I were you. Something untraceable.

Kevin nods then leaves. Mari turns away.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

So, this was the plan?

(beat)

Come on, Mar.

MARI

You come on! I don't even know what to say to you!

JOCELYN

Maybe, hey sis, I know you messed up, but I forgive you?

MARI

Messed up? You lied to me. You hid things from me! You manipulated me! You did more than mess up, Jocelyn.

JOCELYN

Alright, so I wasn't fully truthful about the entire situation.

MARI

You didn't trust me to handle it.

JOCELYN

I--

MARI

You didn't trust me. Say it.

JOCELYN

I didn't trust you to handle it. But can you blame me? You usually need my help.

MARI

Excuse me?

JOCELYN

Mari, I've filed your taxes for the past five years.

MARI

Because you always demand to.

JOCELYN

And who filled out your apartment application?

MARI

You wouldn't let me! You came with copies of my paystubs! I'm not a child, Jocelyn! I don't need you!

JOCELYN

I know, and that's what sucks.

Jocelyn sits on the bench.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

When we were kids you needed me all the time, but now you have Kevin.

Mari softens. She joins Jocelyn on the bench.

MARI

Joce--

JOCELYN

No, this is how it's supposed to be. You grew up. You fell in love. You have someone else to rely on now. And you don't need me anymore. It just took me a while to realize that.

MARI

You're still my sister.

JOCELYN

But I'm not the only one anymore.

MARI

You're the one who put my hair into pigtails every morning and poured my cereal. The one who taught me how to ride a bike, to throw a punch, lie to dad.

Mari takes Jocelyn's hand.

MARI (CONT'D)

You're always going to be my sister. I'm always going to need you for something. Just not everything.

She pulls Jocelyn into a hug.

MARI (CONT'D)

And I do want you there when I get married.

JOCELYN

Okay, but not here.

MARI

What else are we supposed to do? I just want to marry Kevin.

JOCELYN

But here? No family, no friends,
and with the creepiest cupids to
ever exist?

Mari's face falls.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

It's like Chuckie and a pigeon had
babies together.

Mari cringes.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

Imagine them in the background of
all your pictures.

MARI

We need to leave. But Victoria is
still opposed to us getting
married.

JOCELYN

Leave Victoria to me.

INT. CHAPEL LOBBY - DAY

Mari and Jocelyn enter the lobby. Kevin and Victoria argue in
Chinese. Amy is in a chair while Alexandria holds a bag of
ice to her sister's forehead.

KEVIN

If that's your decision, so be it,
Mother.

Kevin storms outside. Victoria follows.

JOCELYN

What happened?

ALEXANDRIA

Mom said she'll disown Kevin if he
marries Mari.

Mari and Jocelyn head outside.

EXT. WONDERLAND WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY

Kevin storms off. Victoria heads in the opposite direction.
Mari goes after Kevin. Jocelyn lets out an annoyed groan then
follows Victoria.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Victoria storms through the crowd mumbling in Chinese. A MAN bumps into her.

MAN

Hey watch--

She glares at him. He instantly shrinks.

MAN (CONT'D)

Never-mind.

She continues on. Jocelyn tries to catch up. Victoria waits on a corner for the crossing light to turn.

Jocelyn runs up next to her. She's out of breath.

JOCELYN

You're fast for someone so tiny.
I'm sorry, can we talk?

The light turns. Victoria crosses the street and enters Central Park. Jocelyn follows.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Victoria speed walks.

VICTORIA

I have nothing to say to you.

JOCELYN

Okay, well then just let me talk.

VICTORIA

It doesn't matter. I've made up my mind. If Kevin wants to throw away his life he'll do it without me.

JOCELYN

But is that what you really want?

VICTORIA

What do you know?

JOCELYN

I know you don't want to lose your son, but if you keep acting batshit crazy you will!

Victoria stops.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - LAKE - DAY

Victoria and Jocelyn sit on a park bench.

VICTORIA
Everything was to protect him.

JOCELYN
I know. In your weird, twisted,
overbearing way. I get it.

VICTORIA
And now I've lost him.

JOCELYN
I was doing the same thing with
Mari. My dad helped me realize that
we can't make their decisions for
them.

VICTORIA
They've only known each other for
four months! He doesn't even know
her shoe size.

JOCELYN
And I'm sure she doesn't know his
allergies or his favorite brand of
shampoo or what part he was in his
second grade school play.

A young BOY passes and runs up to his MOTHER. She wraps her
arms around her son. They have matching smiles.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)
But at the end of the day those
aren't the things that really
matter. They were willing to get
married in the Wedding Hall of
Horrors. That counts for something.

VICTORIA
And what if it's a mistake?

JOCELYN
Well, then it's their mistake.

INT. WONDERLAND WEDDING CHAPEL - LOBBY - DAY

Mari, Kevin, Alexandria, and Amy wait as Jocelyn and Victoria
enter. Victoria hesitates. Jocelyn gives her a nod.

KEVIN

Mom--

Victoria holds up her hand.

VICTORIA

Would you? Would you walk away from everything for Mari?

KEVIN

If I have to, yes.

VICTORIA

And you, would you stay if he had nothing? No money? No job? Lived in a van down the road?

MARI

I love him, van and all.

Victoria sighs. She accepts it.

VICTORIA

Alright then.

AMY

Wait! *Alright then?* That's it?

VICTORIA

Of course not! We only have a few hours to pull a wedding together. Now stop being dramatic and hop to!

Victoria exits. They're all stunned.

JOCELYN

You heard the woman. Let's go!

They all jump to.

INT. WRM SAMPLE CLOSET - DAY

Ginny opens the closet doors. Alexandria, Amy, and Mari's mouth drop.

GINNY

Isn't it so beautiful.

Jocelyn leads the group to Hair and Make-Up.

INT. WRM HAIR AND MAKE-UP - DAY

The bridal party sit in front of a row of mirrors as Hair STYLISTS and Make-up ARTISTS work on them.

AMY
No, no more!

Amy tries to avoid the make-up brushes that come at her.

INT. WRM SAMPLE CLOSET - DAY

Ginny rolls a rack of dresses into the hallway. She backtracks to grab a fancy purse.

GINNY
I deserve it. I DESERVE it.

She hides it amongst the dresses.

EXT. CHEN HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Carla comes out of the house. She holds a large dress bag and a mini bag, a phone pressed to her ear.

CARLA
Yes, ma'am we're on our way.
Pretzel! Come!

Pretzel stares, but doesn't move.

CARLA (CONT'D)
Pretzel.
(beat)
Yes, ma'am.

She presses a button on the phone and holds it out.

VICTORIA (O.S.)
Pretzel come!

The dog instantly runs to the car. Carla climbs in after him.

INT. FUSION - DAY

Lucas sits amongst the decorated tables. He pours champagne into a glass. He's about to drink when the doors fly open.

He jumps. His chair tips backwards. He hits the ground spilling champagne all over.

An army of WORKERS all in black and white file in. Victoria and Tori come in behind them. Tori has a checklist in hand and an earpiece in his ear.

TORI

Can I just say what an honor it is to work with you Mrs. Chen. You're my idol!

VICTORIA

Less chit chat. We need to move those tables.

TORI

Of course. Interns move those tables! The aisle is going down the middle!

LUCAS

Auntie? What's going on?

VICTORIA

Slight change of plans. We're having the reception and the wedding here.

She notices an Intern doing something wrong.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

No, not that way!

Lucas stares.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

You should call your people. We're going to need more help. Not that way!

She rushes off to scold the Intern.

TORI

Come with me, cutie. I'll catch you up.

Tori leads Lucas towards the kitchen.

INT. WRM DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Argentina watches as Ginny holds up a dress to Alexandria, then quickly discards it.

GINNY

That one makes you look fat.

Ginny pulls another dress and holds it up.

GINNY (CONT'D)

That one makes you boring. Well,
more boring.

Alexandria's mouth drops.

Further down Jocelyn sits with an iPad and a phone. A Stylist tries in vain to style her hair.

JOCELYN

I don't understand. We ordered the
cupcakes! Why did you donate them
to a shelter?

Amy struggles to walk in heels. She wobbles. An Intern catches her. She straightens and tries again.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

I don't care if it's a charitable
donation! Go get them back! Or I'll
feature your bakery in the
Unreliable Businesses section of
our July issue.

Jocelyn hangs up.

ARGENTINA

Fixing a wedding in 24 hours, after
ruining it. I want that story
written up ASAP.

Jocelyn looks at her with fire in her eyes.

ARGENTINA (CONT'D)

After the festivities of course.
Don't be so dramatic, Jocelyn.
Elliot, mi amore!

Elliot stands in the doorway. Argentina runs over to him. He glares at Jocelyn.

Jocelyn returns to her work.

EXT. FUSION - STREET - DAY

A white van pulls up in front of the restaurant. A DELIVERY MAN opens the back of the van. There are boxes of cupcakes.

TORI

(to his earpiece)
Yes, they're here, in record time.

INT. FUSION - KITCHEN - DAY

Lucas leads his team of CHEFS as they quickly cook a feast.

INT. WRM DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Jocelyn pulls Mari into a dressing room. Mari is confused.

Argentina pulls the dressing room curtain open. The dress from Li-Wen's shop waits for her. Mari lights up.

INT. FUSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A simple arch stands in the middle of the room.

Guests file in and take their seats at the tables.

EXT. FUSION - GARDEN - NIGHT

The wedding party minus Kevin and Lucas wait anxiously.

AMY

I hate these shoes, HATE them.

GINNY

I'll take them when you're done.

AMY

As long as you don't mind the
bloodstains at the toe.

Amy tries to balance in the heels. Ginny adjusts Eddie's tie.
Jocelyn fixes Mari's dress.

TORI

Are we ready?

Everyone looks to Mari. She nods.

INT. FUSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kevin stands under the arch with the Officiant and Lucas.

Victoria sits at a table in the front with Carla.

Soft music plays. The lights dim.

Amy carefully walks. She wobbles. She's about to fall.
Victoria covers her eyes.

Alexandria appears and catches her arm. The sisters share a smile. They walk together.

AMY

These things are evil.

ALEXANDRIA

Cause they're made by men.

Jocelyn walks next and takes her place.

The song changes. Mari and Eddie come down the aisle. Eddie leaves Mari at the arch. Kevin takes her hands.

Pretzel, clad in Chinese-themed outfit prances to the couple, the rings tied to his hat.

The dog goes to Mari. She takes the rings. He barks and runs back to Carla.

Mari and Kevin exchange rings then kiss. The room cheers.

DINING ROOM

Tiers of cupcakes tower in the corner. Music plays. People dance. It's a lively and happy celebration.

Jocelyn stands at the door watching. Victoria joins her.

Mari and Kevin dance. They're both glowing with happiness.

VICTORIA

He's so happy. They both are.

JOCELYN

And that's the most important thing.

They toast each other, respect between them.

Jocelyn notices Lucas at the bar talking with a Waitress.

Victoria sees Jocelyn's lingering gaze. She leans in.

VICTORIA

You know he didn't inherit the Chen stubbornness.

Victoria nudges her. Jocelyn readies herself then joins him.

BAR

The Waitress walks away and Jocelyn slides into her place.

LUCAS

Great wedding. See what you and Victoria can do when you aren't trying to kill each other.

JOCELYN

She's not as bad as I thought.

He gives her a look.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

I mean she's not Mother Teresa, but she's not the Devil.

LUCAS

That is a very wide spectrum.

The silence hangs between them.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Did you need something?

JOCELYN

No, I--

LUCAS

Well, I need to check on--.

JOCELYN

I'm sorry.

LUCAS

For?

JOCELYN

Everything. Lashing out. Yelling. Being a bitch. You were telling me things I didn't want to hear. I reacted badly. You've been nice and supportive and amazing.

LUCAS

And?

JOCELYN

And I'd really really like it if you forgave me.

LUCAS

And?

JOCELYN

And I'm running out of answers.

LUCAS

And you were going to ask me to dance.

JOCELYN

And would you like to dance?

He takes her hand.

DINING ROOM

Lucas leads Jocelyn to dance. Kevin and Mari dance nearby.

Eddie watches his daughters with a large smile. A woman sits down next to him, MRS. GONZALES.

Argentina and Elliot dance together. She spins him around then dips him. Tori hands a fifty to Ginny.

The music changes, Avicii's "Without You" plays.

The couples meld into a group. Amy and Ginny Vogue. Kevin and Lucas do bad robot moves. Pretzel spins in circles.

Alexandria and Amy pull Victoria onto the dance floor. Her discomfort is obvious, but they lead her in a wave.

Jocelyn takes Mari's hand. They share a moment.

MARI

Thank you.

They hug and hold on for a long moment. It's the end of an era. Mari pulls away and returns to Kevin.

Jocelyn watches, then turns to Lucas with a smile.

FADE OUT.

THE END.