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# **TELENOVELA**

“Pilot”

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Revised Network Draft

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COLD OPEN

INT. MANSION - DAY

A shirtless beefcake (GAEL), paces by a too-sexy-for-her-age woman (NATALIA), the most senior cast member (GUSTAVO), a mustachioed villain (RODRIGO) and a crying starlet (CHACHA). Here and for the rest of the script, dialogue in [brackets] will be spoken in Spanish with English subtitles:

GAEL

(to Rodrigo)

[This land belongs to the Bustamante Family. You can't just take it.]

RODRIGO

[I take whatever I want. Cattle, land -- I even took your brother's life. Who's going to stop me now?]

Our leading lady, ANA MARIA (who plays Pasión) rushes in, concerned. She looks stunning in a slinky dress, holding a briefcase as her hair blows in the wind.

ANA/PASIÓN

[Me.]

RODRIGO

[Pasión!]

We see several different shots from different camera angles, all of: Ana, glamorous, windblown, intense. Did we really need to pan up her body? Yes.

ANA/PASIÓN

[I got here as soon as I could. I was stuck in court fighting to make sure a village of deaf orphans gets hearing aids.]

(re: Natalia and Gustavo)

[Mother. Father.]

(re: Gael)

[Husband.]

(re: ChaCha)

[Girl we found alone in the desert who was raised by wolves. Do not worry. I will not stand for this.]

PULL OUT TO REVEAL: This is a TELENOVELA playing on a TV in a LATINO FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM -- where a bunch of people watch.

POP TO:

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

People are glued to the TV where THIS TELENUELA plays.

POP TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

A Latino businessman watches THIS TELENUELA on his iPad. Pull out to reveal he's on a bus which has a large *Las Leyes de Pasión* ad on the side.

POP TO:

INT. GYM - DAY

A WHITE CHICK AND AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CHICK work out on ellipticals as they watch THIS TELENUELA, mystified.

WHITE CHICK

I love this.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHICK

What are they saying?

WHITE CHICK

No idea.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MANSION SET - CONTINUOUS

The scene continues. Ana/Pasión to Rodrigo:

ANA/PASIÓN

[You're bluffing!]

RODRIGO

[I'm not. In two days I'll own the entire city. Including the land this house is on!]

Ana/Pasión gasps and FAINTS GLAMOROUSLY. A beat of her on the ground (wind still blowing her hair). HER EYES POP OPEN:

ANA

Cut!

She jumps up. Reveal this is no longer on TV; it's a live set. The director nods and the set bell RINGS, startling Gustavo awake.

CHACHA

Yay, lunch!

Rodrigo rips his mustache off, Natalia goes immediately to her resting bitch face, Gael flexes in a mirror. Ana's all business. She walks off set as the hustle of behind the scenes kicks in. This is Ana's runway. Without stopping, she pulls out her hair extensions as a P.A. hands her:

P.A.

Coffee.

ANA

(handing him her  
extensions)

Hair.

She sees a scruffy, hungover ISAAC reading the script.

ISAAC

Wow. He burns down the barn. I did not see that coming.

ANA

Isaac, you wrote it. How drunk were you last night?

ISAAC

Pretty drunk.

MIA joins her with some wardrobe options. As they walk, Ana takes out her "chicken cutlets" and hands them to her friend.

MIA

Girl, you know I'm your number one fan, but no one faints like that.

ANA

Mia, stuff like that faint got me on the cover of Spanish Cosmo ten times. Eleven if you count the time my leg was wrapped around Pitbull.

MIA

(holding up two bikinis)  
Which one do you want to wear in the trapped-in-a-well scene?

ANA

Red one.

A craft service guy comes up with a plate of food for Ana.

CRAFT SERVICE GUY  
Nachos supremos?

ANA  
(re: bikini)  
Hello?  
(he starts to walk away)  
Wait.

Ana grabs one, shoves it in her mouth and thanks him.  
Rodrigo gruffly calls out as he searches for someone:

RODRIGO  
Hugo!

Ana notices a cat, picks it up, hands it to Rodrigo, who,  
relieved, instantly turns into a big softie.

RODRIGO (CONT'D)  
Hugo, there you are my fluffy baby.  
Thanks Ana. Are you coming to my  
craft night tonight? We're making  
our own stationary.

ANA  
No thank you.

Gael catches up to Ana and Mia as he finishes buttoning up  
his shirt. Ana points to a pant-suited, stoic lady, STACEY.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Why's that lady from the network  
here?

Gael rips off his shirt and flexes. Off their looks:

GAEL  
(re: his abs)  
Job security.

MIA  
I know why she's here. I heard  
from Nina in craft service -- the  
one who got caught in that porta  
potty with Bobby the lighting guy --  
that we might be getting a new cast  
member.

ANA  
I bet it's Enrique Iglesias. I've  
been asking the network to let us  
work together.

GAEL

I love Enrique. He's who I think about during our sex scenes.

ANA

Aww, me, too.

STACEY

(approaching)

Ana, great scene. Great faint.

Ana gives Mia a "told ya so" look.

ANA

So Stacey, what's going on? Are we getting a new cast member?

STACEY

We are. He's here. And he's an old friend of yours...

Stacey gestures behind them. Ana turns around expecting...

ANA

Enrique-

It's definitely not Enrique. It's...

XAVIER

Hello, Ana Maria.

The entire stage comes to a halt. Everyone's shocked. Especially Ana, who FAINTS FOR REAL. It's not pretty.

MIA

Now that was a faint.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

OPENING CREDITS

A booming SPANISH BALLAD plays over: Gael, shirtless on horseback, Natalia walking in on Gustavo in bed with another woman, ChaCha crying, etc. Then finally, our lead, Eva Longoria, walks out of a waterfall. In close-up her hair and makeup are dry and perfect. The credit reads: And Eva Longoria as Ana Maria Calderon...

ACT ONE

INT. ANA'S HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

Ana, dressed down and comfy (she can be herself around her best friends) ices her head. Mia and Gael huddle around her.

ANA

They hired Xavier? How could they hire my ex-husband to be on my show?

(re: her friends)

Sorry. Our show. No small parts. Takes a village, blah blah blah.

MIA

We're friends. You don't have to censor yourself. Plus, Raul in accounting showed me what everyone makes -- this is your show.

GAEL

Look, there's a new network president; I bet he hired Xavi to shake things up. And you and Xavi used to be the world's most famous Latino couple. I mean, my cousin Jeff heard of you.

MIA/GAEL

White Jeff.

ANA

Gael, aren't you upset about this? You've got another hot guy to compete with.

GAEL

Well now I am.

DASHA, Ana's Polish housekeeper, brings her fresh ice.

ANA

If they were going to exploit my divorce for ratings, they should've told me. I'm all for exploiting myself. I let them air my laser hair removal on live TV.

(shows underarms)

I haven't shaved in four years.

DASHA

You know this is miracle? Every night I've prayed Mr. Xavi would come back. And now he has.

ANA

It's been three years. You're the only one not over this divorce.

Dasha exits. Mia talks about Ana in Spanish, to Gael:

MIA

[She's totally not over it.]

ANA

I know you're talking about me.

MIA

When are you going to learn Spanish?

ANA

I'm fluent enough. But when you talk really fast I have no idea what you're saying.

(super fast)

I-mean-the-reverse-is-true-too-when-I-talk-really-fast-in-English-do-you-have-any-idea-what-I'm-saying?

GAEL/MIA

Yes./Every word.

ANA

(tosses an apple to Gael)

You're mean when you're hungry-

(playfully to Mia)

And you have too many kids.

GAEL/MIA

Nailed it./Can't argue with that.

ANA

Guys, I appreciate that you're worried about me, but I've worked with Xavi plenty of times. This is just one more job together. And, the breakup wasn't that bad...

QUICK FLASHBACK POP:

The song "All By Myself" plays as Ana sits, fully dressed, in a bathtub full of crumpled tissues, BAWLING her face off as she sings along:

ANA (CONT'D)

(singing)

*All by my-seeeeelf...*

BACK TO SCENE:

GAEL

You didn't get out of bed for two months. I had to cut the dreads out of your hair.

MIA

You hated being alone. Even in the shower. I had to buy one of those old lady seats so I could hang out with you in there.

ANA

But I've moved on. I'm not bitter. I built a new life for myself. And the show is everything to me. And now Xavi thinks he can come in here and ruin it like he ruined our marriage when he cheated on me with Shakira.

MIA

(in Spanish)

[Nope. Not bitter at all.]

ANA

Stop it.

CUT TO:

EXT. STAGE - NEXT DAY

Ana pulls up to what looks like Miami Beach. Two crew guys remove what is now revealed to be JUST A BACKDROP.

Ana is really in a parking lot where she is greeted by a group of Latino fans. She gets out of her car and happily signs autographs. A FAN gives her a basket of pan dulce.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Ana enters and re-gifts the basket to a P.A. passing by:

ANA

Here, Paco. For your mom. I hope her knee surgery went well.

P.A.

Thanks! Oh, and my name's Paulo.

ANA

Really?

CUT TO:

INT. MAKE UP ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Ana flips through her script as she enters to find Gael, Rodrigo (petting Hugo the cat), ChaCha and a few makeup people standing around a chair where Gustavo sits, slumped over. They're all afraid to touch him.

ANA

People, he's not dead. Just old.

Ana goes to shake him, then hesitates. She grabs a makeup brush and pokes him. He wakes up with a snort. Everyone jumps. He goes back to sleep. Ana sits. She realizes EVERYONE IS STARING AT HER.

ANA (CONT'D)

What?

CHACHA

...Xavi.

ANA

You said his name. You're fired.  
(then)  
I'm kidding! Guys, who cares?

CHACHA

I do. Your divorce crushed me. I remember when I found out... my whole school bus was crying.

ANA

How old are you?

GAEL

Ana's going to be fine. We're all going to be fine. I mean, you don't see me freaking out just because they brought in a hot guy to replace me as the main love interest.

Gael's face drops and he starts eating a donut.

RODRIGO

(reading script, upset)

I burn down another barn? With two little *abuelas* trapped inside? Why do they make my character do these terrible things?

CHACHA

'Cauuuuse, you're a bad guy?

RODRIGO

But I've got so much more range than that. I can sing. I can play the piano.

(with cockney accent)

I can do accents.

Natalia enters in full hair and makeup. To MAKEUP GIRL:

NATALIA

Here I am fresh-faced, not a lick of makeup. Now make me beautiful...-er.

The makeup girl awkwardly dabs at Natalia with a dry sponge.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

Ana Maria, my condolences. The big guns bringing your ex on since you can't carry a show on your own anymore... so sad.

ANA

Your concern is so genuine and sweet. But no use in getting more worry lines over me.

ANGLE ON: ChaCha and Rodrigo (now brushing Hugo), nearby.

CHACHA

Why doesn't Natalia like Ana?

RODRIGO

Natalia used to be a leading lady,  
until the day Ana took her place.  
She didn't handle it well:

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. UPSCALE GROCERY STORE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Natalia has a fit as she rips up a tabloid, kicks over a fruit stand, chucks a box of cereal at someone, shouting:

NATALIA

They can't (BLEEP)ing do this! I'm  
the (BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP)ing star!

BACK TO SCENE: ChaCha and Rodrigo are where we left them.

RODRIGO

Natalia blames Ana and ever since  
then she's been like that...

He gestures towards Ana and Natalia who sit a few feet away:

NATALIA

You know what would make Xavier  
jealous? That hot, young stud  
you've been seeing. Oh, wait.  
You're alone.

ANA

Hey, I almost forgot. Happy  
Birthday, Natalia!

Everyone wishes Natalia a happy birthday. Gael sotto to Ana:

GAEL

The fake birthday thing? How old  
is Natalia now?

ANA

I do it every few months so  
technically she's a hundred and  
twelve.

(on her way out the door:)

*Feliz cumpleaños a ti. Feliz  
cumple-*

The room picks it up and sings to an irate Natalia. Ana smiles, the winner, as she leaves with Gael.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As Ana and Gael exit the makeup room:

ANA

Okay, I know Natalia's crazy, but tell me she's wrong that Xavi was put here because I'm not enough.

GAEL

Of course you're enough. The fans love you. Remember your workout video premiere? It was so packed, someone got trampled.

ANA

(happily)

There were so many people.

(then, realizing)

I mean, the trampling was horrible. That guy had permanent nerve damage.

Mia hurries by pushing a rack of costumes.

GAEL

Mia, tell Ana people love her.

MIA

Of course people love you. The fact that anyone bought your Christmas album proves that.

GAEL

You know Xavi's just here because some stupid network president is trying to make his mark. Or because I'm a fatty-fat-fat-fat and they need a leading man who people actually want to sleep with-

(then)

Sorry. I had a donut a few minutes ago and now I'm spiralling.

MIA

Network presidents do it all the time. Remember when the last guy got really into product placement?

GAEL

Juan Carlos, you will never see my sister again. I swear it on my:

ANA/GAEL  
Crest White Strips.

ANA  
You're right. This is no big deal.  
I just have to go about my day like  
he's not even here.

Ana turns and walks right into Xavi who was looking down at a script. They BUMP HEADS and both react in pain.

XAVI  
You never look where you're going.

ANA  
You always were so freaking quiet.  
It was like living with a Prius.

XAVI  
(noticing)  
Hello, Mia. Gael. Long time no  
see.

Mia and Gael, squarely on Ana's side, give him the stink eye and walk away. Gael quickly turns back and feels Xavi for a six pack. To his dismay, Xavi's got one.

GAEL  
(as he walks away)  
Damn it.

ANA  
Look, if we're working together, we  
have to be more civil.

XAVI  
Okay, how's the house we designed  
together but I don't get to live  
in?

ANA  
Great. How's my vintage Aston  
Martin you got in the divorce even  
though you can't drive stick?

XAVI  
I sold it and bought a boat.

ANA  
(done with small talk)  
This show is a well-oiled machine.  
If you're going to work here, there  
are rules you need to follow.  
First, always be on time.

(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

I do morning announcements before we start shooting. Second, I banned cell phones from set. I hate when people make mistakes because they're texting a friend: "Wow, Ana is even prettier in person" or whatever...

XAVI

Shocker: the woman who wouldn't let me eat cereal for dinner has lots of rules.

ANA

Well, it is my show. I mean, it's *Las Leyes de Pasión*...

Ana playfully gestures to the poster behind her. It says *Las Leyes de Pasión* and Ana's face DOMINATES IT.

ANA (CONT'D)

And I'm *Pasión*.

(re: his gum chewing)

One last rule: we don't do gum here. I hate the sound.

Ana holds out her hand like "gimme." Xavi spits his gum into it. Ana, grossed out:

ANA (CONT'D)

Really didn't think that through.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION SET/STAGE - LATER

Cast and crew gather to start shooting. Isaac walks by drinking something alcoholic out of a brown paper bag. He notices Natalia:

ISAAC

Oh, hey, Happy Birthday.

He does a "cheers" with his brown bag. Natalia SLAPS HIM and storms off. Isaac looks confused.

ANGLE ON: Craft service where Gael is diving into a plate of wings. Rodrigo walks up to grab some water.

RODRIGO

Wow, I've never seen you eat-  
 (about to say "wings" but  
 then realizing)  
 anything before.

GAEL

I know. I think Xavi might be  
 hotter than me. I'm out of  
 control. I need your help. If you  
 see me pigging out, just take the  
 food away. Please, buddy.

RODRIGO

No problem, brother. I got your  
 back. Starting with this-

Rodrigo takes the plate of wings from Gael. A switch flips.  
 Gael is instantly irate.

GAEL

I didn't say starting now!

Gael tries to get the wings back but Rodrigo takes off with  
 them. Gael chases after, calling:

GAEL (CONT'D)

Give those back! You and your  
 stupid leather vest and your stupid  
 face! I hate you!

RODRIGO

(still a few steps ahead)  
 That's really hurtful.

They rush by Ana (drinking coconut water) and Mia. Mia pins  
 Ana's dress together. Ana yelps in pain.

MIA

Sorry. If you would have just worn  
 the other outfit I had ready I  
 wouldn't be doing this last minute.

ANA

It doesn't matter if it's flimsy.  
 Gael's going to rip it off me in  
 the next scene.

Ana sees that Xavi is there ON HIS PHONE.

ANA (CONT'D)

He's on the phone. Already  
 breaking my rules.  
 (urgently)  
 (MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)  
Take the coconut water. Somebody  
take the coconut water.

Mia takes the water as Ana marches over to Xavi.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Excuse me. No phones on set.

Xavi, still on the phone, gestures "one second" and walks away. Ana is stunned. Mia and Gael approach.

ANA (CONT'D)  
He's ignoring my rules? Doesn't he  
know who's on the poster?

Ana gestures to another poster for the show. But she's surprised to see it's not just her face anymore. It's ANA AND XAVI sharing the spotlight. Ana and Mia are stunned.

ANA (CONT'D)  
(holy shit)  
Oh my God.

Rodrigo and Gael, still fighting over the wings stop in their tracks.

RODRIGO/GAEL  
(this is bad)  
Oh my God.

XAVI  
(pleasantly surprised)  
Oh, my God.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. STAGE - DAY

Ana stares at the poster that is now Ana and Xavi. Natalia slinks up to her.

NATALIA  
And so it begins...

ANA  
(storms off)  
I don't care what the poster says,  
this is still my show.

ANGLE ON: The Mansion set where the rest of the cast and crew wait. Ana joins them as Xavi returns, finishing up his call:

ANA (CONT'D)  
Okay, I'm starting announcements  
even if some people aren't ready.  
Make sure you all sign the get well  
card for Paco's mom-

MIA  
It's Paulo.

ANA  
Then we're going to need a new  
card. Also, Rodrigo is still  
looking for volunteers to go sing a  
capella at the animal hospital.

RODRIGO  
We're just short two altos.

ANA  
All right everyone. Let's have a  
great day.

The crew applauds. Ana turns to get started, then:

XAVI  
I have an announcement, too. Just  
wanted to thank you all for having  
me here. I'm really excited to  
join the cast.

The crew applauds politely and STARTS TO DISPERSE. But Ana refuses to let Xavi get the last word:

ANA

Um, one more announcement... Uh, today's going to kick ass. Let's all be focused and professional.

The crew applauds politely, but wants to get to work.

XAVI

Yep, professional.

ANA

Like no phone calls.

XAVI

That call was to my buddy Dwyane Wade -- I wanted it to be a surprise, but I got you all Heat tickets.

The crew cheers wildly. Ana hates this.

ANA

Know what I think we'd like more than basketball tickets? Respect!

The crew's confused. They want to stand by her, but they want those tickets! Realizing she's losing them, Ana blurts:

ANA (CONT'D)

And I'm getting you all iPhones!

Everyone cheers. Ana can't believe what she just did.

CHACHA

Yay, we can use phones on set now!

ANA

(seething, growls)

Grrr.

They all cheer some more. As Ana stewes, Xavi exits:

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - CRAFT SERVICE TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Ana catches up to Xavi who is walking away:

ANA

What was that? Get back here.

XAVI

You know what I love about not being married to you anymore -- I mean besides not having to watch you eat grapes like a chipmunk?  
(he demonstrates with squeaky sounds, then)  
I love that I don't have to listen to you anymore.

ANA

I might not be your wife, but I'm in charge here.

XAVI

Really? Did you see the poster?

ANA

I'm sick of your lack of respect. You just do whatever you want. First it's a call, then it's you skipping rehearsals. Then it's you cheating on me with Shakira.

XAVI

And there it is. For the millionth time: I never slept with Shakira.

ANA

You're a liar.

XAVI

You're ridiculous. And you know my boat? It's called the *Ana Maria*. 'Cause she's loud, high maintenance and I paid too much for her.

ANA

Get off my show.

XAVI

Make me.

Gustavo is startled awake and is surprised to see Xavi:

GUSTAVO

Xavi's back?  
(checks script)  
Which show is this?

Ana rushes out, upset, and Mia calls off after her:

MIA

Wait! Where are you going? That dress is just pinned on! Don't sit down. Don't cough. God help you if you get the hiccups!

CUT TO:

INT. NETWORK OFFICES - LOBBY - DAY

We pan across a wall of posters from different Telenovelas, each featuring Ana and Xavi in various costumes: Pirates. A nun and priest. One where Ana's a mermaid and Xavi's a merman. The camera finds Ana drawing graffiti all over Xavi's face on one of the posters as AN ASSISTANT watches.

ASSISTANT

Mr. McMann is ready to see you now.

Ana puts down the pen and heads toward:

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES MCMANN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

James sits with his back to Ana. His office decor reflects his obsession with Latinos: Incan masks, a Jai alai glove, a framed *La Bamba* poster. Ana enters on a mission.

ANA

Thanks for seeing me on such short notice. We have a casting situa-

James turns around: He's way younger and hotter than Ana expected. She's caught off guard.

JAMES

(in Spanish)

[It's a pleasure to finally meet you.]

ANA

[Ah, you speak Spanish.]

JAMES

[Yes. I've always had great respect for the Latino culture. I find the nuances of the language-]

ANA  
 (totally lost)  
 Oh, let's just keep it "cazzsh" and  
 stick to English.

JAMES  
 Okay. Please, have a seat.

Ana sits and reacts to being stabbed by a pin. She pulls the pin from her dress and chucks it, then tries to act composed.

ANA  
 Mr. McMann--

JAMES  
 James.  
 (holds out candy bowl)  
 Would you like some? I had them  
 shipped in fresh from the cacao  
 fields of Oaxaca.  
 (off her blank look)  
 Mexico.

ANA  
 Durr, I know. Ask anyone. They'll  
 tell you, "Ana's always like  
 'Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Oaxaca.'"   
 (collects herself again)  
 James. Xavier joining the show...  
 I should've been told. I asked for  
 Enrique Iglesias.

Without the pin, the sleeve of Ana's dress slips down, now unattached. Ana tries to recover without James noticing.

JAMES  
 Xavier was a last minute ratings  
 decision. People are dying to see  
 you two back together. Still, you  
 should have been informed.

Another pin pricks her. Ana adjusts it and another chunk of her dress comes loose. As she fiddles with it, more pieces unravel. She struggles to stay professional.

ANA  
 This telenovela has made your  
 network a lot of money. I have  
 made your network a lot of money.  
 (then re: a piece of tape)  
 What was this holding together?

JAMES

(grabs blanket from couch,  
over-rolls his "rr")  
You can wear my [serape].

ANA

I'm good, thanks. James, I paid  
some very expensive lawyers to make  
sure I never had to see Xavier  
again. And now you want me to make  
love to him on camera? I may have  
seven International Emmys, but even  
I can't act that well.

Ana sits back confidently and HEARS A RIP. She plays it cool.

JAMES

You've made some excellent points.  
I'll see what I can do.

Ana stands up. The front of her dress starts to fall and she  
quickly holds it up with her hands over her breasts.

ANA

The sooner the better.

She starts walking towards the door, holding her dress  
together. She gets to the door but has no more hands left to  
open it. She's not sure what to do. James saves her by  
walking over and opening the door for her.

ANA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Then with whatever dignity she can muster, she exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. STAGE - NEXT DAY

Ana parks her car in the middle of A BUSY CITY STREET. Two  
crew guys remove what is really JUST A BACKDROP. Ana is in  
the parking lot again. She walks over to the fans waiting  
for her, per usual and smiles, signs autographs. As she's  
handed a basket of pan dulce, there's a loud cheer:

FANS

It's Xavi!/Look!/Xavier!

Xavi joins her. They smile and sign autographs together.  
The fans eat it up.

FAN LADY

Are you two excited to be working together again?

ANA/XAVI

We love it!/Absolutely!

Ana and Xavi wave goodbye and head to the door, STILL SMILING. But under their breath:

ANA

Go to hell.

XAVI

I'm already there.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ana and Xavi enter. Rodrigo sees Ana holding the pan dulce.

RODRIGO

Don't let Gael see that. He's out of control on a food bender and very, very hurtful. He called the little sound mixer guy a sperm because he took the last cookie.

ANA

The really pale, bald one with the big head?

(Rodrigo nods, Ana shrugs  
"he had a point")

Well...

Ana throws the pan dulce in the trash. She notices Stacey across the room on her Blackberry. Paulo walks over and hands Ana and Xavi scripts.

PAULO

New scripts today. Big changes.

He walks off. Ana is delighted as she starts flipping through the script. To Xavi:

ANA

You might want to take a look.

XAVI

(starts flipping)  
What did you do?

ANA  
 (still flipping)  
 Nothing really. Just told Mr.  
 McMann I'd rather French kiss  
 Natalia than do a love scene with  
 you.

Mia, panicked, approaches.

MIA  
 Ana, have you read the script yet?

ANA  
 How do they kill off Xavi? Drug  
 Lords? Wood chipper?  
 (excited)  
 Fire ants!  
 (re: Mia's grave  
 expression)  
 What? What's that look for?

MIA  
 Page twenty-two.

Xavi (now excited) and Ana (now nervous) quickly flip/race to  
 the page. Xavi gets there first. He starts to laugh.

ANA  
 Ah! It's so Spanish-y. I can't  
 read that fast. What does it say?!

ChaCha runs over. Super excited, she hugs Ana:

CHACHA  
 Mommmmm! Isn't this exciting?!  
 You've always been like a mother to  
 me and now you really are!

ANA  
 What?!

XAVI  
 You got your wish. You're not  
 playing my love interest. You're  
 playing my love interest's mom.

Stacey approaches. Ana, upset, to Stacey:

ANA  
 How am I ChaCha's mother? I'm only  
 like ten years older than her!

STACEY  
 We'll age you up.

Stacey exits-- there's no arguing. Natalia appears, giddy.

NATALIA

I guess they're going to have to  
change the poster again.

As Natalia cackles, Ana starts to have an anxiety attack. Mia reaches for her, but Ana waves her off. Ana hurries through the stage wanting to be alone but there are people everywhere. Desperate to be alone, Ana opens a door to escape.

CUT TO:

EXT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ana's outside, alone on the stairwell. Finally by herself, Ana freaks out. She rips her script and pounds on the walls.

ANA

Mother?!?! I can't play a mom!  
It's Las Leyes de Pasión! And I'm  
(BLEEP)(BLEEP)ing (BLEEP-BLEEP-  
BLEEP) Pasión! Damn it, Xavi, you  
were supposed to be Enrique  
Iglesias!!

She throws the rest of her script at the trees in front of her and is surprised when it BOUNCES BACK. She (and we) now realize it was JUST A BACKDROP. The same two crew guys we've seen before move the backdrop to reveal: Ana's fans are there and have witnessed the entire freak-out.

Ana looks over and sees the elephant doors to the stage are open too and the entire crew is there recording this on the iPhones she bought them.

ANA (CONT'D)

(BLEEP)ing phones.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. MIA'S HOUSE - LATER THAT EVENING

We're watching a Spanish-language version of TMZ with subtitles-- An iPhone video of Ana's meltdown, on repeat.

COMMENTATOR ON TV  
[Ana Maria Calderon -- has this  
beauty gone mad?]

Pull back to see this is on a TV in Mia's living room. Mia comforts Ana on the couch.

ANA  
What did I do? This is just like  
Natalia's breakdown.

MIA  
This is nothing like Natalia.

Back on the TV there's a SPLIT SCREEN. One side is ANA'S BREAKDOWN. The other is NATALIA'S BREAKDOWN. They kick, scream and throw their scripts at the EXACT SAME TIME.

COMMENTATOR ON TV  
[Exactly like Natalia de los Santos  
ten years earlier---]

MIA  
Okay. So, you had a bad moment.

Mia notices her son COLIN (6) standing on a stool in the kitchen by an open blender full of liquid. Holding a purse.

MIA (CONT'D)  
Colin! Is that Tia Ana's purse?!

Colin dumps the contents of the purse in the blender.

ANA/MIA  
No!/Colin!

As Mia's two other kids come running through, rowdily throwing things at each other:

ANA  
I know being a single mom is hard,  
but I envy you. At least you get  
to come home to your kids who love  
you. I have nothing.

SFX: Glass shatters. The two other boys broke something.

ANA (CONT'D)

Come on! I'm trying to have a deep moment here!

(then, to Mia)

What was I saying?

MIA

That you were jealous of me.

ANA

Really?

(then)

I worked so hard for everything I had. My marriage. My career. And Xavi messed it all up. He lives this charmed life where he does whatever he wants with no accountability. At least when your ex-husband embezzled from his law firm he went to jail.

MIA

That son of a bitch still won't tell me where he hid the money. I know it's in the house.

ANA

Please tell me you're not doing anything crazy...

They have a quick stare down. On a hunch, Ana pulls up the rug. There are a couple of holes in the floor.

ANA (CONT'D)

Mia!

MIA

Shut up. We were talking about Xavi. Man, is he terrible.

ANA

(easily convinced)

You know Xavi still hasn't admitted he cheated on me with Shakira? And somehow I'm the one who suffers while he's off partying on his freaking boat. A boat named *Ana Maria* since he loves to torture me.

MIA

I'm sorry, sweetie.

ANA

It's okay, I know what I need to do.

(gets up to leave)

I'm ripping my name off that boat. And you're coming with me.

MIA

Ana, you're asking me in front of my children to trespass and then vandalize someone's private property. That's illegal.

ANA

I'll get you a babysitter.

MIA

I'm already in the car.

CUT TO:

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - LATER

Rodrigo enters holding a plant and heads to the sink to water it, but hears a fork hit the ground. In the mirror he can see a hand reach out from one of the stalls and grab it.

RODRIGO

Gael?

No answer. Rodrigo walks over to the stall and KICKS IN THE DOOR. There he finds GAEL SHAME-EATING A BOWL OF SPAGHETTI.

GAEL

Don't look at me! I'm a monster!

RODRIGO

I didn't realize how bad off you were. You're at rock bottom. This is rock bottom, right?

(Gael shrugs)

Well, I'm here to take care of you.

GAEL

Don't, I'll just say more terrible things.

Rodrigo, undeterred, grabs the noodles. Gael won't let go.

GAEL (CONT'D)

Get out of my face. Nobody wants to go to your a capella show. I never read your novel.

(MORE)

GAEL (CONT'D)

Your teeth whitening didn't work.  
Your dressing room smells like cat  
pee.

RODRIGO

(feelings getting hurt)  
I'm not letting go.

GAEL

Your Chris Rock impression sucks!

Gael, exhausted, lets go of the bowl and collapses in Rodrigo's arms. The two men hold each other, sobbing. A BIG HAIRY GRIP enters, sees them, and immediately walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIAMI BOAT DOCK - NIGHT

Ana drives Mia into a dark parking lot by a dock. The headlights hit the name *Ana Maria* on the side of a boat: bingo. They hop out of the car. Ana hands Mia a baseball bat as she takes a crowbar. They are both in black outfits.

ANA

Oh my God. You look so cute in  
your burglar outfit.

MIA

No you look so cute.

ANA

Burglar selfie!  
(they pose for a picture  
with Ana's phone)  
Okay, let's go.

Ana and Mia stealthily approach the boat. They get to the edge of it, but it's taller than they thought.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Ana is balanced on Mia's shoulders, struggling to pull herself over the railing.

MIA

I thought you went to the gym all  
the time.

ANA  
I've been skipping upper-body days  
to work on my butt.

Mia, hands on Ana's butt, nods "the hard work has paid off."  
One last push and Ana lands on the boat with a THUD. She  
stands up, but then freezes when the BOAT'S LIGHT GOES ON.  
She clutches her crowbar. XAVI WALKS OUT:

ANA (CONT'D)  
What are you doing here?

XAVI  
It's my boat.  
(re: her crowbar)  
What are you doing here?

ANA  
I came to right a wrong...

XAVI  
So... this is how I'm going to die.

ANA  
What?  
(realizes what it looks  
like)  
I'm not gonna kill you. I'm not  
crazy.

Ana's actions don't match her words as she frantically tries  
to pry the "Ana Maria" off the side of the boat. The letters  
don't budge so she starts whacking at them with the crowbar  
until she accidentally hits her own finger.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Ow-ow-ow.

A little out of breath and in pain, she stops, defeated.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Okay. Maybe I am crazy.

A THUD. Mia has finally made it over the railing.

MIA  
Ouch.

CUT TO:

INT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Xavi holds ice on Ana's finger. Mia is on her phone with her son.

MIA

Conner. You tell the babysitter where you put her insulin.

Mia exits to continue her call. Ana looks at Xavi:

ANA

Go ahead. Say it. I'm insane. I've been blaming you for everything wrong in my life, but clearly it's me. I ruined everything. Come on. I know you are dying to say something.

XAVI

I'm sorry.

ANA

Come again?

XAVI

I'm really sorry... I never slept with Shakira.  
(a breath, then)  
But I did sleep with her cousin. You were right. I cheated on you.

Ana's face LIGHTS UP.

ANA

Yes!!! Yesss!!!

Xavi is confused as she starts to CELEBRATE.

XAVI

Not the reaction I was expecting.

ANA

I'm not crazy! I knew you did and I couldn't prove it. But now it's official: you cheated on me.  
(then, pissed)  
You cheated on me.

XAVI

I know. My bad.

Ana, angry, gets in his face, pointing aggressively.

ANA

Why did you wait three years to tell me? Maybe we could've fixed it -- I can be very reasonable.

Xavi reacts. Ana realizes how unreasonable she looks.

XAVI

Yep. Totally reasonable. And sometimes you're judge-y, and bossy and controlling-  
(catches himself)  
Not the right time for feedback.

ANA

You're right. I wasn't perfect. We both made mistakes. But yours were way way way worse than mine.

XAVI

I know.  
(a beat)  
If it's any consolation, I really did love you.

ANA

I loved you, too.

They smile at each other.

XAVI

You know, it might've been fun to play love interests again.

ANA

Guess that'll never happen now. No one will ever see me as a leading lady now that my freak-out went viral.

XAVI

Too bad the cameras aren't here to see us having a nice moment.

ANA

They're never here when you need them.

They look at each other and get an idea.

CUT TO:

INT. BOAT'S MAIN DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

A bunch of PAPARAZZI are outside the boat. Ana and Xavi look at them through the window. Mia enters from outside.

MIA

I called the paparazzi and they're already starting to show up.

XAVI

Thanks. I know it's pathetic to call them on yourself.

MIA

No worries. Ana does it all the time.

(realizing, to Ana)

Sorry.

ANA

Xavi, thanks for doing this.

(she goes to open the door)

Okay... let's give the people what they want.

Ana opens the door to the lights of the cameras. Xavi grabs Ana and they kiss - putting on a show. After a beat the "show" turns into A REAL KISS. They break apart:

ANA (CONT'D)

Remember this means nothing.

XAVI

Right. Nothing.

Bullshit. They start passionately kissing again. As the cameras flash, we:

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

CLOSE ON: A stack of gossip magazines. Each cover has a picture of the Ana and Xavi kiss. Ana, Gael and Mia walk toward the makeup room as Gael flips through them.

GAEL

You're brilliant, Ana. No one is even talking about your breakdown anymore. All people are talking about is...

(re: various covers)

(MORE)

GAEL (CONT'D)

Ana and Xavi. Ana and Xavi. Ricky  
Martin's pantry makeover.

ANA

What?

(grabs the pantry one)

Oh, those are nice shelves...

INT. MAKE UP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ana, Mia and Gael enter. ChaCha, Rodrigo (with Hugo) and the  
makeup and hair stylists start applauding.

RODRIGO

Congrats, Ana. I'm so glad you are  
our leading lady again. You are  
the heart of this show--

(tearing up)

You are the light that shines--

ANA

(Rodrigo is too choked up  
to continue)

Aw, thank you, sweetie.

(then)

ChaCha, sorry you're no longer the  
lead. You'll have other breaks.

CHACHA

Are you kidding? I had too many  
lines. I have enough trouble  
remembering to wear underwear.

(runs hands over hips to  
check)

Whoops.

From the hallway they hear a STARTLING SCREAM:

NATALIA (O.S.)

Aaaahhhh!

ANA

I guess Natalia just found out.

Ana notices a bouquet of flowers next to her mirror. There  
is a card with her name on it.

ANA (CONT'D)

When did these get here?

(she reads the card)

It's from James. "Ana, I had to  
give the people what they want.  
And what they want is you.

(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)  
 Can't say I blame them. See you  
 soon, *Guapa*"  
 (then)  
*Guapa?* What's *guapa*?

MIA  
 Beautiful.  
 (Ana is pleased)  
 Sounds like someone's got a crush  
 on you.

GAEL  
 And he's not the only one.  
 (re: one of the magazines)  
 'Cause this kiss looked real to me.

ANA  
 Okay, I don't love that Xavi  
 cheated but once he finally  
 admitted it, I felt like we could  
 move past it. And, come on. He's  
 like the hottest guy I've ever made  
 out with.

Gael's eyes go wide. He's back in his dark place. He looks  
 at a bowl of candy. Rodrigo sees this and shakes his head  
 "no".

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Ana, now fully made-up for a scene, goes over her lines.

P.A.  
 They need you on set.

Ana starts walking to set. This is just like the cold open.  
 Ana on her "runway," back in charge. Mia follows alongside  
 and shows her two negligees.

MIA  
 For the scene in the judge's  
 chamber?

ANA  
 (points to one)  
 White one.

She walks by a sleeping Gustavo. She jabs him awake.

ANA (CONT'D)  
 Time for set, Gustavo.  
 (sees Isaac)  
 Great job on the script. When  
 Pasi3n finds out her real fath--

ISAAC  
 (covering his ears)  
 No spoilers. No spoilers. No  
 spoilers.

ANA  
 But you wrote it.

ISAAC  
 (fingers still in ears so  
 he can't hear)  
 La-la-la-la-la.

She passes Natalia who snarls, defeated. Ana keeps walking  
 and she sees James there with Stacey. He SMILES AT HER.  
 Paulo hands her a tea.

ANA  
 Thank you... Paulo?  
 (he nods, she fists pumps  
 in victory)  
 Yes!

Ana is riding high. As the actors take their places, Mia  
 gives Ana last looks. Ana sees Xavi laughing behind a set.  
 She smiles, excited for what might be. Mia notices.

MIA  
 That must have been one hell of a  
 kiss.

ANA  
 It kinda was. I think this is why  
 I haven't dated much. Maybe deep  
 down I knew there was still  
 something between us...

Her smile quickly drops when Xavi pulls a BEAUTIFUL BLONDE to  
 him and KISSES HER. Mia, still right nearby, sees it, too.

ANA (CONT'D)  
 Tell me that's a sister that I've  
 never met or seen or heard about.

MIA  
 (as the kiss gets serious)  
 That's not a sister.

DIRECTOR

Places!

Ana joins the rest of the cast on set. Xavi smiles at Ana as he takes his place on set, outside the Mansion door. Rodrigo sits behind a large desk. Natalia, ChaCha and Gael are there. Gustavo naps on a chair. Ana stands stunned. The scene's in Spanish with subtitles.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Action!

RODRIGO

[There's no way you will be able to get the money. This land is mine!]

GAEL

[Please. I will give you anything.]  
(rips open his shirt)  
[Even the clothes off my back.]

RODRIGO

[The only thing I want is Pasión!]

Gael and Natalia react: "No!" ChaCha cries. Ana just stands there. Rodrigo laughs and twirls his mustache as he walks over to Pasión. Xavi kicks open the door.

XAVI

[Not so fast. Here is your money.]

He throws a sack of money at Rodrigo.

RODRIGO

[How?!]

NATALIA

[But, we have no way to repay you.]

XAVI

[All I want in return is a kiss. A kiss, from Pasión.]

A CLOSE-UP on Ana. Her "acting" is real. She's nervous and confused. Xavi grabs Ana by the waist and pulls her in.

XAVI (CONT'D)

[What do you say, Pasión? Will you kiss me?]

A beat. Ana SLAPS Xavi. Everyone is stunned. In typical Telenovela style the camera zooms in on Ana's angry face. Then zooms in on Xavi touching his cheek. Then zooms in on each of our cast members' reactions: Gael concerned.

ChaCha crying. Rodrigo sad. Natalia loving the drama.  
Gustavo asleep. James confused. Finally landing back on  
Ana. The wind machine kicks up and our heroine stands there  
strong and beautiful. As the power ballad kicks in we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

As our cast glamorously poses:

## ANNOUNCER

This season on Telenovela...

A series of clips from the 13 awesome episodes we're about to make. Things like:

Xavi telling Ana he's always loved her.

Natalia standing next to her exact copy: "This is my twin sister... the mean one."

Rodrigo holding a gun: "What did I do?!"

ChaCha: "I never graduated from high school!" No one looks surprised.

Gael wakes up in a hospital bed with amnesia: "What's my name? I'm gay?"

Mia opens the door. Her face drops. We don't see who it is but her kids yell, "Dad?!"

A woman, we're not sure who, falls off of the roof of a tall building.

The cast stunned. Ana: "I did not see that one coming."

END OF SHOW