

# VICTORIOSO

"PILOT"

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EXT. PEDRO'S BACKYARD, PARTY - EARLY EVENING

DANNY SANCHEZ (14, pretends to be hard, but needs adult supervision) runs a stick across a wooden fence, a mural of an iconic luchador fight is painted on it.

DANNY'S POV

As the stick touches the fighters' feet, they begin to move.

The fight comes to life in front of Danny's eyes, one of the fighters beckons Danny to follow.

He walks faster to catch up. The fight before him is gruesome, Danny's eating it all up.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

That was me, Danny Sanchez, in 2018. At 14, I was trouble. I looked goofy as hell, was doing eighth grade for the second time, and had an anger problem that wouldn't quit. That shit ran in our family. People always said the Sanchez men were only good for fighting or fucking.

He's walking too fast, not paying attention... Bumps into his brother, JAVI SANCHEZ (26, always on some deep shit, undoubtedly loyal). Javi stares Danny down.

END POV

Javi knocks the stick from Danny's hands. Danny flips him off.

JAVI

Don't fuck with me today, Danny.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

My brother, Javi. It didn't matter that we didn't have the same dad. Just like it never mattered that he was so much older than me. Javi was my best friend from day one.

A third guy steps into frame, WILL CHAVARRIA (27, fully tatted, bombastic, sly smile). He GIGGLES. Don't let the facade fool ya, he's a good guy.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

And that was *his* best friend, Will.

They step into a party in full-swing. Liquor's flowing, people are dancing. Posters and artwork from Las Bestias Gym's heyday cover nearly every flat surface.

Will grabs beers from a nearby table. He motions for Javi to take a beer. But he doesn't.

Danny takes it, playfully bringing it to his face. Javi yanks it away from Danny, slamming it on the table. Side eye.

Danny spots a friend across the party, is about to dash off--

JAVI

No. We're in and out.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

*Dejalo.* He's got his mom's energy.  
Too bad he didn't get my brains.

They turn around. Arms locked, here comes their mom, DULCENIA "Dee" (45, drinks beer for breakfast, looks like shit) with her boyfriend, GREG (54, a fucking doormat, mostly useless).

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

My mom, Dee. She was known around Bell for a lot of things. Making good decisions wasn't one of them.

Focus on Greg, stuffing beer bottles in Dee's purse.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

Exhibit A, her boyfriend Greg.

DULCENIA

(smiles at Javi)  
Lighten up, baby, it was a joke.  
(squeezes Danny)  
I have high hopes for you, Danny.  
Your brain is still developing and  
you've got them smart people genes.

She winks at her boys, unfazed. Javi gives her a look, you'll get to know those. She giggles and grabs on to his arm.

DULCENIA (CONT'D)

Heard you got fired from the bookstore.

Javi and Danny share a look, they know what this means...

JAVI

I was laid off.

DULCENIA

Same difference, if you ask me.

DANNY

No one asked you, Dee.

DULCENIA

I mean, come on Javi... you're just not management material.

JAVI

(at Danny)

Go. I got this.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

Why Javi took care of Dee was beyond me.

Danny runs off toward his friend. He catches up to ZEKE (14, a good kid who desperately wants to be bad). They bump fists.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

Ezequiel Torres had been by my side since he moved to Bell in the 4th grade. He wasn't particularly good at anything, but he was good people.

ZEKE

Ah! I can't believe you were right, Vanessa Jimenez is dating a junior!

DANNY

Bro, I told you! Her boobs caught up with her nose, huh?

ZEKE

It's still huge and she's freshmeat!

DANNY

Stop hating! Look, next year, when I get to high school--

ZEKE

*If you get to high school.*

DANNY

(punching Zeke)

*When I get there, I'll help you and we'll be fighting off the honeys.*

The friends keep joking and laughing, punching each other.

LATER

The music's stopped. All eyes are on PEDRO GARCIA (51, cunning, charming, sleazy). He raises a glass at Javi. Javi musters a weak smile.

PEDRO

We've been working together for nearly two decades. We built Las Bestias De La Lucha from the ground up. It's been a struggle lately, but not any more! Today I sold Bestias, and we're getting our due!

The party-goers go SILENT! Everyone's confused, looking around at everyone else's reactions.

Javi looks at Dee to gauge her reaction but she avoids his gaze. Will catches this. Javi and Will share a look.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

This is as good a place as any for our story to start- when el tio Pedro sold Las Bestias De La Lucha, a gym we'd built from the ground up. It had been a burden on everyone, for quite a while now.

The PHOENIX (47, worn the fuck out and no longer trying to look good) hops on a table, WHISTLES.

PHOENIX

Do we get to keep our jobs?

The crowd MURMURS. People look at each other, questions lingering in the air, mumbled protests building.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

But it was also our livelihood.

PEDRO

We're all getting some money. This is a celebration!

Some people CHEER. Others remain arms crossed, pissed.

JAVI

Bestias is gone and what do we get?

PEDRO

This is neither the time nor the place. But I promise, this is good!

More CHEERING. Pedro stares Javi down, daring him to speak. Javi clenches his fists, the vein in his temple pulsing.

ZEKE

(whispers to Danny)

Yoooooo, your brother's about to go hulk on your uncle again.

Danny's not listening. Eyes wide, he's lost in his own world.

DANNY POV

Javi looks larger than he did before. There's a glow to him, like a superhero. His aura is pulsing.

And Pedro... he looks wicked. Like a villain. He cackles.

Drawn to the scene, Danny's walking toward Javi.

IN SLO-MO, Pedro raises his glass for a toast. The crowd raise their glasses reluctantly in response. Javi barrels toward Pedro. Danny's sidling up next to him.

JAVI

You're not fucking us over again!

Javi walks up to a smiling Pedro, pulls his arm back--

ELBOWS Danny right in the face with his backswing!

END POV

Danny snaps out of his fantasy in time to see Pedro go down. The party goes SILENT. Zeke runs up to Danny, worried.

Danny shrugs it off. *I'm fine!*

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

I wasn't fine. Nothing was. But I was gonna fix it. I was gonna focus, pass the 8th grade, and quit these goddamn daydreams. Best laid plans, right?

Dulcenia, Greg, and Will rush over. They crowd around the brothers. Pedro groans in pain, struggling to get up.

JAVI

Stay down. Danny, let's go.

PEDRO

I've always said the Sanchez men were ever only good for fighting and fucking, right Dee?

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

If more than one person says it, it must be true.

Danny flips Pedro off.

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

INT. SANCHEZ HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Danny's got an ice-pack on his face. Everyone's talking at once, SCREAMING at each other. Danny SLAMS a nearby vase on the ground. It shatters loudly. Everyone turns, looks at him.

DULCENIA

What the fuck's wrong with you?

DANNY

Oh, shut up. It's from Dollar Tree.

JAVI

Hey, fucker. Have a little respect. She's your mother.

GREG

It's Pedro's gym. Seems like he can do whatever the hell he wants.

DANNY

Seems like you can shut up, Greg!

JAVI

He blindsided us, sold the gym we've all been working at FOR DECADES.

(To Will)

You ain't headlining cause who knows if the new owner'll honor seniority.

(To Dee)

You're too drunk and too old to find a job. Which means it's on me again.

DULCENIA

He said we're all getting money.

DANNY

Javi ain't getting shit after that smackdown tonight!

WILL

Eh, it was more of a lovetap.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Dude, it was a knock out!

JAVI

Guys! Shut the fuck up.

DANNY

Shit. There goes your tuition, bro.

DULCENIA

Say what now?

JAVI

I'm starting school in the fall.

DULCENIA

You're too old to go back to school.

JAVI

I'm not asking for your permission.

DULCENIA

Who's gonna look after Danny?

DANNY

I'm not a child.

WILL

I'll help out.

JAVI

I'm finally gonna get to finish school. Pretty sure that tops being your apprentice my whole damn life.

DULCENIA

You lost your part-time and your full-time gig on the same damn day. Who's gonna pay for this house?

JAVI

Danny and I will be out of your hair before you know it.

DULCENIA

Don't threaten me with a good time.

Dulcencia lights a joint, easing onto the couch. She ain't stressing shit right now. Greg steps up to the boys, guiding them away from Dulcencia.

GREG

Don't poke the bear.

DANNY

Grow a pair, Greg.

Danny walks out of the house, Javi and Will leave the room.

DULCENIA

Ungrateful bastards.

INT. ZEKE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Danny, Zeke, and HAYZEL (14, lives & breathes the Kim K lifestyle, Zeke's twin) are playing video games. Danny is the only one that's really into it.

DANNY

It's pretty shitty you're not introducing your own brother to your hot, new friends... So he could introduce them to me.

HAYZEL

You're joking, right? Zeke wouldn't know what to say to a hot girl and you're still in middle... school.

Hayzel catches herself, but it's too late. The room goes quiet, the three of them uneasy.

ZEKE

You know what else is pretty shitty?

DANNY/HAYZEL

What?

ZEKE

Our freaking Xbox.

HAYZEL

Yeah, totally. It's so old. Your PS4 is way better, Danny.

DANNY

(mumbles under his breath)  
I don't have it anymore.  
(off the twins' confusion)  
Dee pawned it.

ZEKE

Shit. Sorry.

HAYZEL

I don't really mind the old Xbox.

ZEKE

Old things are in style now anyway, just ask the whipsters in Goodwill.

DANNY

What the hell is a whipster?

ZEKE

A white hipster! I just made it up, what do you think?

Danny and Hayzel share a wide-eyed, "I'm not saying anything" sort of look. Zeke smiles at his own ingenuity.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

Classic Zeke.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Danny sits up straight at his desk, eyes wide, clearly zoned out. The teacher, MS. CINDY JENSEN (32, sweet, teaching was her first choice), is talking at the front of the room. But Danny sees...

DANNY POV

Ms. Jensen's math problems on the board behind her coming to life. Triangles move, coming together to create images. They form the figure of a man.

The man trails behind Ms. Jensen as she walks toward Danny.

She sets a graded quiz on his desk, CLEARS HER THROAT loudly.

END POV

Danny looks down at his quiz, a "D".

DANNY  
(to class)  
Shit, y'all, I ain't failing!

MS. JENSEN  
A D is only slightly better.

DANNY  
Dang, guess that means your teaching methods have only slightly improved.

The class LAUGHS.

MS. JENSEN  
Too bad the same can't be said for your attitude.

The class OOHS.

DANNY  
Baby steps, Ms. Jensen.

The bell RINGS. All the students rush out the door. Ms. Jensen puts a hand on Danny's shoulder, holding him down.

MS. JENSEN  
Call Javi to pick you up.  
(Danny protests)  
You're not doing as well as you should be to pass. We're going to fix that.

Danny rolls his eyes.

DANNY

I'll do better next time, promise.

MS. JENSEN

No, we're going to go over this quiz now. Together. Then, you're going to do it again, by yourself.

Danny SIGHS. She opens up the math book on his desk.

INT. NELLY'S HOUSE - LATER

Danny sits at a dinner table, math book open, tapping his pencil feverishly. He's halfway through his quiz.

NELLY RAMIREZ (26, fed up, loud as fuck, Javi's sometime lover) straps a TODDLER into a high chair next to Danny.

NELLY

Watch him for a sec.

DANNY

Have your brother watch his own kid!

NELLY

He's asleep, had to work a double. It's just for a second, dude.

It's a stare-down, Danny knows he has no choice. She walks away, Danny takes Theo's spoon puts it in his little hand.

DANNY

Eat.

Theo's immediately throwing his cereal at Danny and GIGGLING. Danny smiles but goes back to his book, scoots his chair away.

Theo reaches out for Danny. Nothing. He's focused on math. Theo launches his sippy cup at Danny. Splatters on the book.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Shit, Theo!

NELLY (O.C.)

Danny, *language!*

Danny takes his book, heads to the couch. Theo's SCREAMING for attention. Danny takes Theo out of the high chair, plops him on the couch. Nelly's DOG is walking around the living room. Danny picks him up and places him next to Theo.

DANNY

Here, entertain yourselves.

He opens his books back up, starts again on his math problem.

Theo yanks the dog's tail. The dog YELPS, starts BARKING.

Theo starts CRYING. Nelly runs back in the room--

NELLY

What'd you do, Danny?

DANNY

Nothing!

Nelly picks Theo up, shushing him. Checking the time--

NELLY

I'm so fucking late.

DANNY

(mocking girl voice)

Language!

The doorbell RINGS. She plops Theo into Danny's arms.

Nelly swings the door open. On the other side is Javi.

She looks him square in the eyes. He steps up to kiss her on the lips, she gives him her cheek.

NELLY

I'm late for work.

JAVI

I lost both my jobs this week.

NELLY

So you coulda been here earlier?

JAVI

Nelly, I'm going through some shit.

NELLY

Ain't we all? Look, he's a handful.  
I can't always drop my life to--

JAVI

(yelling into the house)

Danny!

(softer, at her)

I know. I really appreciate it.

NELLY

He's necio, just like his momma.

Danny tries to slide past her. Nelly grabs his shirt.

NELLY (CONT'D)  
You're not even gonna say bye?

DANNY  
(rolls his eyes)  
Bye, Nelly. Thank you for dropping  
everything today to pick me up.

Javi kisses Nelly goodbye on the lips, she doesn't stop him but doesn't kiss him back either. She SLAMS her door shut.

Javi grabs Danny by the shoulders, pulling him to the car.

JAVI  
What are you doing? We talked about  
this, bro! Get your shit together.

DANNY  
I don't need you to look after me.

JAVI  
What have I said a thousand times?

Danny shrugs his shoulders. Javi turns him, face to face.

JAVI (CONT'D)  
Ima do better for us. Ima get us a  
place. But you gotta help me.

DANNY  
I don't have to do anything. And  
stop babying me! I can't hang at  
Nelly's every time you ain't home.

JAVI  
You keep getting in trouble,  
picking fights and talking back to  
everybody. What do you think would  
happen if I left you and Dee alone?

Danny shrugs his shoulders and hops into the car.

DANNY  
Only one way to find out.

JAVI  
For once, Danny, I'd like a day  
where I'm not dealing with all  
y'all's shit. I got my own shit, you  
know?

Javi hops in the car and turns it on.

INT. JAVI'S MOVING CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Javi's sweating bullets, fiddling with the A/C. The car shakes, he bangs on the dash. It stops shaking as he rolls to a stop in front of a Mexican restaurant. Will hops into the backseat. He throws a sandwich at Javi.

JAVI  
(hands Danny the sandwich)  
I'll have whatever you leave.

Danny tears through the wrapper, CHEWS loudly.

WILL  
Birth Control got in trouble again?

DANNY  
What does an ugly guy like you know about birth control?

WILL  
(points to a rando outside)  
Oh snap, look... look it's your dad.

DANNY  
You've been using the same joke my whole life.

WILL  
Yeah, cause I might be ugly but at least I know who my father is.

Javi looks at Will, a stern warning.

WILL (CONT'D)  
Check it. Yahoska broke up with that fool. Only a matter of time--

Side-eye from Javi and Danny. They LAUGH.

JAVI  
Old girl left you for some other dude, and you're happy she *might* come crawling back when he leaves?

WILL  
Who said *he* left *her* though?

Danny takes Will's phone and scrolls through Yahoska's feed. He finds what he's looking for shoves it in Will's face.

DANNY  
Boo-yah! Ugly and dumb. It ain't a winning combo, dude.

WILL

Man, shut up and eat your sandwich.

JAVI

You gotta stop settling for shit.

(pulls a book out)

Look, I've been reading--

WILL

Yo, put that shit away. You're the brains and I'm the beauty in this friendship. Let's keep it that way.

DANNY

You're kidding, right? You look like you fell from the ugly tree and hit every damn branch on the way down.

Will whacks Danny across the head playfully, Danny hits Will back. They go back and forth for a while.

Javi takes Danny's leftovers and just keeps on driving.

INT. SANCHEZ HOME, BOYS' ROOM - LATER

Danny, Javi, and Will trek up to the bedroom. It's a small room, two twin beds and a desk take up most of the space.

Danny sets his stuff down. There's a photo on the wall, Baby Danny in the arms of hairy man (the head is cut off).

Javi pulls a box out from under his bed. Him and Will start grinding some weed and set out some rolling paper.

DANNY

You guys gotta do this right now?

JAVI

We'll be out your hair in a minute.

Danny SLAMS his book shut, stuffs it in his backpack.

DANNY

Who needs homework anyway, right?

Javi grabs the supplies he needs, puts the rest of the stuff away. He motions for Will to follow him outside.

JAVI

Get your shit done, we're gone.

Javi takes Danny's book out his backpack and sets it back on the table. Javi and Will leave the room.

DANNY POV

The numbers on the math book come to life. Everything's moving on the page, nothing makes sense.

He picks up the book, watches the shapes come off the page for a second, and then slams it shut.

END POV

Danny puts the book back in his backpack.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL DUGOUT - NEXT MORNING

Danny sits in the dugout, a lonesome figure silhouetted in the early morning light. He takes out a cigarette, lights it.

He pulls out his math book, reading while he smokes.

In the distance, a group of OLDER KIDS (2 girls and a gang banger) are doing business, a drug deal... Danny tries not to watch but one of the girls has his full attention.

Danny pleads with himself to focus on his book. *Come on!*

But he can't help it. He watches them, eyes wide.

MARIANA (16, cute, and carefree) tears away from the group, runs into the dugout. Danny can't stop staring at her.

DANNY POV

She leans back on the fence playfully. He looks away and catches a glimpse of her legs. Her sun-kissed skin glows.

Her eyes twinkle, she smiles at him.

She takes out a joint, snatches Danny's lighter from him.

The fire burns in her eyes. She inhales and blows her smoke at him. Danny inhales loudly.

END POV

Mariana's staring at him.

MARIANA

What are you doing here, kid?

Mariana lights her joint. For real this time.

DANNY

Playing baseball, obviously.

MARIANA

This is our spot.

She points to her friends in the distance.

Danny looks around the dugout, mimes looking for something.

DANNY

I don't see your name on it.

MARIANA

So you're a little smartass?

DANNY

(stands up straight, tall)  
Ain't nothing little about me.

Mariana takes a dime bag out of her pocket and puts it in Danny's cigarette box.

MARIANA

First one's on the house.

She hands him her joint.

MARIANA (CONT'D)

It's time you moved on to the big leagues, don't you think? What's your name, kid?

DANNY

Danny.

Danny takes a puff and passes the joint back to her.

MARIANA

Keep it... I'm Mariana.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

Talk about first impressions...  
Mariana and that Mary Jane. They were both bad for my health, but I was hooked from day one.

Ms. Jensen walks out onto the baseball field.

Mariana and her two friends run off. The GANG BANGER flicks the joint in Ms. Jensen's direction but misses.

Ms. Jensen looks into the dugout, sees Danny. They make eye contact but say nothing.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Javi walks into a sixth grade classroom. Empty, save for Danny sitting in a corner talking to Ms. Jensen.

JAVI  
What'd he do now?

MS. JENSEN  
Nothing, Javier.

DANNY  
See man, why you always blaming me?

MS. JENSEN  
He needed help after class, is all.  
(she pulls Javi aside)  
I also caught him hanging out with some... bad apples today. Have you talked to him about staying away from gangs? And drugs?

JAVI  
(giggles, eyebrow raised)  
Come on, Cindy... Look at him. What gang is gonna recruit him?

MS. JENSEN  
That conversation needs to happen.  
And I wish you'd get him a tutor.

JAVI  
We're on the waitlist for the after-school tutoring program.

MS. JENSEN  
That'll take months. He needs it now.

JAVI  
He's not dumb.

DANNY  
You guys know I can still hear you, right? I'm like, right here.

MS. JENSEN  
No one is saying that you're dumb.

DANNY  
Except you kind of are.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

And I kind of was. But there was more going on in my little peanut brain than they could ever imagine.

MS. JENSEN

No, you need individual attention. Some of the high school students do small group lessons, it's cheap.

JAVI

I'll see what I can do.

MS. JENSEN

(puts hand on Javi's arm)  
If he's held back another year...

DANNY

Man, I got this, Cindy.  
(off Ms. Jensen's look)  
Alright, alright. Ms. Jensen.

Javi playfully slaps Danny across the head. Ms. Jensen waves to them as they leave her class.

JAVI

Thanks, Cindy.

INT. JAVI'S MOVING CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The engine REVS loudly, the car's moving at a snail's pace.

Javi, driving, pulls out his wallet. He's got two twenty dollar bills, gives one to Danny.

JAVI

Ima drop you off so I can go to the college. Order some food for dinner and stay in, do your homework.

DANNY

I don't have any today.

The car makes a weird noise, Javi's on alert.

JAVI

What happened to the e-tutoring?

DANNY

I ended it. Wasn't feeling it.

The car shakes. Javi hits the dash.

JAVI  
You prefer a real life tutor?

DANNY  
I can't ask a computer questions,  
now can I?

JAVI  
That's literally what Google is.  
(beat)  
You'll go the group sessions?

Danny nods. The car shakes again, violently this time. Javi checks all his gauges, bangs on the dash. The radio's face slides off, it hits the center console and cracks.

JAVI (CONT'D)  
Fuuuuuuuuck!

Javi pounds the dash, harder this time. The car shuts down. He looks over at Danny, cowered in the seat next to him.

JAVI (CONT'D)  
It's overheated, needs to cool down.

DANNY  
I know a guy that'll get us a radio.

JAVI  
Yeah? Is this those people she said  
you were hanging out with?

DANNY  
Instead of worrying about me, you  
should be concerned about Nelly  
knowing you're flirting with Cindy.

JAVI  
Don't be stupid, Danny. You know  
people don't fuck around here.

DANNY  
That's what I'm saying! Nelly will  
fuck Cindy up in a heartbeat.

JAVI  
Danny, I'm talking about bangers.

Javi looks at his watch, 4:15pm. *Fuck!*

DANNY  
I know. Gangs are bad, safe sex is  
good, don't talk back to mom.  
(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)  
 Skip the lectures and just worry  
 about the car. You steer, I'll push?

Javi can't help but smile. He steps out of the car, Danny slides over to the driver seat. Danny steers, Javi pushes.

Together, they push the car out the way, into a side street.

LATER

They've been sitting in silence for a while. Danny scrolling through his social media on his phone, Javi reading a book.

Javi looks at his watch again, 4:31pm. He turns the key, it sputters but eventually turns on.

The engine ROARS to life.

JAVI  
 You're gonna have to come with me.

He puts his hand out, Danny gives him back his money.

DANNY  
 What about these Chevro-legs?

JAVI  
 What?

Danny takes his fingers and walks them across the palm of his other hand, like a person walking.

DANNY  
 Get it? Chevro-legs?

JAVI  
 You really need new friends, Zeke's  
 stupid jokes are rubbing off on you.  
 (hands him back the money)  
 On second thought, hang on to Zeke,  
 he'll keep your ass out of trouble.

DANNY  
 Can I stop to see a honey?

Javi gives him a look. He does not have the time for this.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
 Alright, don't get your panties in  
 a bunch, mom. There'll be food  
 waiting for you when you get home.

They fist bump as Danny hops out.

JAVI  
If mom's drunk make sure she eats  
something too, okay?

DANNY  
And give her lots of water.

Javi speeds off. Danny shoots off a text: Coming thru bitch.

INT. WILL'S STUDIO - LATER

It's tiny, a foldout couch takes up all the space. The decor is lonely bachelor drab, impersonal. Will's rolling a joint.

WILL  
Some random girl gave you this?

DANNY  
Yeah, out back in the diamond. She  
was with some dude.

WILL  
A vato?

DANNY  
I don't judge people like that.

Will hands Danny the joint. He lights it for him.

WILL  
Javi know you out there dating?

DANNY  
Javi's too busy looking out for  
number one right now.

WILL  
He's got a lot on his mind, gotta  
cut your brother some slack.

DANNY  
He's gonna finish school and he's  
got two fine ass honeys fighting  
over him. Yeah, so super stressful.

WILL  
You forgetting he lost both jobs?

DANNY  
He's Bestia's best costumer. They're  
not gonna let him walk away.

They continue sharing the joint.

WILL

You think Pete cares about the gym now that he got paid? He's set.

DANNY

Javi will figure something out.

WILL

Nah, I think he's fucked.

DANNY

Five bucks says you're wrong. I bet you Javi finds a way back in.

WILL

Oh yeah? Let's make it ten then.

They shake on it.

INT. SANCHEZ HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Dulcenia and Greg are splayed out on the couch, watching a movie and eating pizza. Danny's on the recliner on his phone.

Javi stumbles in with a pile of clothes. He throws some of it down on the couch and some of it on Danny on the recliner.

DANNY

This shit smells like ass, bro.

JAVI

Greg, stop throwing your shit in with mom's. I'm not doing a grown man's laundry.

Greg takes a shirt from the pile on top of Danny, sniffs it.

GREG

Aw come on, that was the last time.

Danny dumps the pile of clothes on the ground.

DANNY

Stop being such a freeloader, Greg.

DULCENIA

Don't talk to Greg like that.

JAVI

Hey! Don't tell Danny what to do.

DULCENIA  
He's my kid.

JAVI  
Popping out a baby doesn't  
automatically make you a mom.

DULCENIA  
It is way too early for ya'lls  
shit. Go to your room or something.

DANNY  
Don't worry about it. We're out.

JAVI  
No, you have homework to do.

DANNY  
Dude, it's Friday. Besides, it's  
the inauguration of New Bestias...

JAVI  
I got bigger things to worry about.

DANNY  
Don't you wanna see the shitshow?  
(beat)  
I promised Zeke and Hayzel I'd go.

JAVI  
Zeke *AND* Hayzel, huh?

DANNY  
Shut up.

Javi grabs the pizza box and pulls Danny toward the door.

INT. LA BESTIAS RUNDOWN GYM - NIGHT

The brothers walk into a packed gym. Fold-out chairs surround the wrestling ring, lights are dim, the crowd is going WILD. They spot Will in a back corner. They walk over to him...

JAVI  
What the fuck is all this?

Will's wearing a robe, underneath we see a wrestling outfit.

WILL  
They made tonight free for anyone  
who brought at least two friends.

DANNY

That's stupid, they're not gonna make any money that way.

JAVI

Looks like the bar is making bank.

They all turn to the bar, one untrained BARTENDER is slammed.

DANNY

Picked a bad time to get on Pedro's shit list, bro.

Danny looks around, long lines everywhere, seats are filled, and people waiting to get in. He's grinning from ear to ear.

JAVI

I can fix it. Pedro will give me my costuming job back--

WILL

If you fucking grovel.

DANNY

Ef that noise. If you're gonna kiss his ass, you should be a fighter.

WILL

He ain't wrong. Payouts were handed out tonight...

JAVI

How much you get?

WILL

A grand.

Javi's clenches his fists. *Damn.* Pedro spots Javi from across the room, calling him over. Javi pretends he didn't see him.

JAVI

We've gotta go.

Danny points at Pedro.

DANNY

No time like the present.

JAVI

God, you're so dumb sometimes.

He heads off toward Pedro, passing the ring. Danny and Will look at each other, quickly get up to follow him.

DANNY'S POV

He stares at the fighters in the ring. One raises his arms, giant reptilian wings stretch out from his back, spanning the width of the ring. And just as quickly, the wings disappear.

END POV

Javi reaches the corner of the ring, Pedro walks up to him.

PEDRO

You see the crowd here tonight?  
Imagine what that would feel like  
if you were a fighter.

DANNY

Way better than being a costumer.

JAVI

The fuck? Is everyone smoking the  
same shit tonight or what?

A young INTERN crashes into them, she's carrying a crate full of sewing supplies, a measuring tape draped on her neck.

Javi takes the box from her. He takes the scissors that are pointed upward and points them downward into the crate.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Careful with that.

She smiles at him apologetically. A bell DINGS and the luchadores come into their respective corners.

PEDRO

An intern, til the department's  
back up and running. With you and  
Dee gone, we're winging it.

The Intern rushes into action. Sort of. She mostly stumbles through the short break, trying to fix a small tear.

JAVI

She quit?

PEDRO

Yeah. I gave her a nice payout so  
she could... focus on her health.

Javi GROANS. Balls up his fists, his nostrils flaring.

WILL

That what we calling day-drinking  
now?

The Intern pokes herself with the needle, lets out a SQUEAL. Javi takes the needle and box from her hands. *Come on!*

JAVI

You're not here to fix tears. You are here to help sell the action. His costume's a tear-away. All you gotta do is let the ends loose.

Javi looks into the ring, it's the PHOENIX. In his full getup, looking rundown and tired.

JAVI (CONT'D)

You gotta put up a better fight, Tio. You're not selling the hits.

PHOENIX

(out of breath, slurring)  
Forget the punches. I'm going out in a blaze of glory, with my old moves.

JAVI

(to Pedro)  
Why would you do that? Why would give Dee any money?

Audio fades, we hear only the sounds inside Danny's head...

IN DANNY'S POV

He looks up at his uncle's opponent, EL DRAGON. He SNARLS at the crowd, smoke coming out of his mouth... and then fire.

A bell DINGS.

END POV.

Danny shakes his head. *Wtf?* He looks up at EL Dragon again, there's no smoke or fire. The Phoenix is back on his feet, him and Javi are exchanging ideas on moves.

The Phoenix turns around and faces his rival, El Dragon. Both men are pumped, they begin their act.

Gesticulating toward each other, while running circles, neither advancing. They ROAR loudly, the audience CHEERS.

PEDRO

If old-ass Mario can still put on a show, just think of what you'd do.

DANNY

You'd be fucking awesome.

JAVI

Why are you suddenly interested in having me on the roster?

PEDRO

You've got that fire, just like JB.

Pedro puts a hand on Javi's shoulder. Javi stares at him.

El Dragon lifts his arms up, and the cloth of his costume expands into wings. He rushes toward The Phoenix, fabric flailing in the air.

His arm connects with The Phoenix's face. He falls down.

El Dragon crawls onto the ropes and catapults himself backward onto the struggling, grounded Phoenix.

JAVI

Is he at least supposed to win?

PEDRO

No. He just has to get through three more rounds.

The bell DINGS. The Phoenix comes back into his corner, blood trickling down his face from a tiny ding on his forehead.

PHOENIX

It'd been a while since I got a little dinged up, huh boys?

DANNY

You're a little more than dinged up.

The Phoenix passes out, Javi shakes him awake. The crowd GROANS. We see some people walk off.

JAVI

The crowd's getting restless and there's no way you'll win.

Phoenix takes a swig of someone's beer, spilling most of it.

PHOENIX

You wanna bet?

Then he rises triumphantly! And just as quickly he plops back onto his seat. So drunk he can't stand.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

Oh my, it looks like the only thing rising tonight is The Phoenix's risk for liver damage!

The audience BOOS. The Phoenix is in and out of it, struggles to get up. More people get up and leave.

Pedro wraps an arm around Javi.

PEDRO

Your mommy's not here anymore to protect you, Javi. Maybe it's time you manned up and got in the ring.

JAVI

You need Mario to lose.

PEDRO

Not like this.

(pulls out a wad of cash)

We need El Dragon to knock someone out in the last round.

JAVI

That's why this place is packed.

PEDRO

You would get a cut if you finished this off correctly. And a new job.

Danny is oblivious to his brother's dealing, engrossed in the action before him. He's tied to the ropes, watching the men in their dance.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

They say you oughta be careful what you wish for. But what could a fourteen year old know about cause and effect?

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

INT. LA BESTIAS RUNDOWN GYM - CONTINUOUS

They're all crowded around Javi. He's taking off his shoes, a luchador mask in his hand.

DANNY

You're really gonna fight?!

WILL

Holy shit, Pretty Boy's finally gonna cross the ropes!

JAVI

Shut the fuck up and hold my shirt.

Javi hands Will his shirt. Pedro sidles up next to Will.

WILL

Dee is going to kill him.

PEDRO

She doesn't have to know.

Javi takes the measuring tape from the Intern's neck. Grabs some chalk from the box and the wrist pin cushion.

DANNY

You know what this means?

WILL

You got a long way to go, homey.

Javi puts a mask on, steps in the ring. Taps The Phoenix out.

DANNY

(yelling after him)

What's your name?

Javi looks around the room, searching for ideas. He calls Danny over, whispers something to him.

Danny runs off to tell the MC his brother's name.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

I'm told that The Phoenix has lost the wind beneath his wings. But tapping in for him is an all new addition to La Bestias family, with what has to be the least intimidating name in the history of lucha, El Sastre Del Desastre!

Javi stands tall in the ring, staring down his opponent. He rolls his head, loosening his neck.

WILL  
 (to Pedro, quietly)  
 She's gonna kill you afterwards.

Pedro swallows hard, trips himself up, nearly chokes.

PEDRO  
 Dee's halfway down a bottle of  
 Chivas by now.

Will raises an eyebrow and shakes his head at Pedro. The lights pan around the room and land on Javi.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)  
 I guess now's a good a time as any  
 to tell you about our family secret.

EXT. PEDRO'S BACKYARD - DAY - FLASHBACK

KID JAVI (age 8, precocious, not a care in the world) sits in Pedro's backyard, playing with his luchador action figures.

Behind, an illegal streetfight is taking place. Hordes of men crowd around two fighters in a ring, SHOUTING profanities, egging them on. One of the men lands a punch on the other, sends a tooth flying. It rolls past Javi, he doesn't flinch.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)  
 Before the family had the Bestias  
 Gym, we had a dream. And it started  
 with illegal backyard fighting.

Javi scoots closer to his mother, DEE (27, lively & attentive) who's chatting with TIO MARIO (33, warm smile & a big heart).

DULCENIA  
 You'll be Phoenix, the mythical  
 bird rising from the ashes.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)  
 Dee was a good mom. Javi was a  
 sweet 8 year old. And his dad, JB,  
 was going to be big.

Javi listens to his mother, eyes wide, in awe. Mario, who we now know is Phoenix, takes one of Javi's toys from him--

PHOENIX  
 I'll be like this guy, Javi. But  
 yellow and with wings, eh?

Mario outstretches his arms, posing. Javi smiles.

THWACK! A punch connects, a thunderous THUD shakes the ground.

A giant bloodied face slams on the ground, inches away from Javi. One of the fighters. Blood oozes from the man's head.

Dulcencia SCREAMS hysterically. Pedro runs up to her and Javi.

DULCENCIA  
Gabriel! Gabriel!

Javi looks back into the "ring". The victorious fighter looms large, a dragon tattoo menacingly etched across his chest.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)  
And then everything went to shit  
when JB killed a guy in fight.  
(beat)  
That's the story of Javi's dad. My  
dad, the rando? That comes later.

Javi looks to the man on the ground, then back to the man in the ring, JB. Tears well in Javi's eyes, he stares at the tattoo, clutching his toys, his knuckles turning white--

Dulcencia turns Javi's face away, holding him close to her chest. His eyes remain wide open.

AUDIO PRELAP: Audience CLAPPING. Then a bell RINGS.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LA BESTIAS RUNDOWN GYM - CONTINUOUS

Javi raises his fists and crushes the chalk, powder flies all around him. He points at El Dragon.

PEDRO  
Looks just like JB in the ring.

DANNY  
Best decision you ever made, tio.

Danny stares at his brother in awe. This is his hero. El Dragon opens his mouth...

IN DANNY'S POV

Smoke rushes out of El Dragon's mouth and fills the ring.

He raises his arms, his wings swell. Veiny. Large. Imposing.

Javi takes a step back. El Dragon's tail snakes near his feet.

END POV

Danny is cheering into the ring. Will smiles at this, bemused.

DANNY  
(yelling)  
Get in there, Javi!

Javi is frozen. The crowd BOOS.

WILL  
(yelling at his friend)  
Bro, you gotta initiate. He doesn't  
know what moves you know.

Danny reaches into the ring, pinches his brother's leg. Javi snaps out of his daze, stares at Danny.

DANNY  
The clock is ticking. Do something.

Javi lunges forward, grabs at El Dragon's tail. He pulls at it and yanks him down onto the mat.

El Dragon takes the fall. Danny jumps up and CHEERS.

Javi takes his measuring tape and holds it up menacingly. He ties El Dragon's hands up behind his back.

The crowd GOES WILD. Pedro cheers. Will and Danny ROAR.

LATER - SERIES OF CUTS TO ADVANCE THE FIGHT

El Dragon picks Javi up by his torso, body-slamming him.

Javi grabs his measuring tape from the mat, starts whipping El Dragon with it.

CRACK!

The audience hears the tape connect with skin, they GROAN.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
Guess he didn't measure up to size!

Danny winces, but he can't turn away.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)  
I loved every minute of Javi's  
first fight.

--

El Dragon pulls himself back onto the ropes and lunges at Javi, spreading his wings in the process.

Javi gets caught in the fabric and takes a hard fall.

BAMMMM!

The impact shakes the ring. The audience CHEERS.

El Dragon picks Javi up, wrapping him up in a headlock.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)  
Even when he was down.

--

Javi frees his right hand from El Dragon's grip, pulls it out into the open... we see the wrist pin cushion full of needles... He turns it, jams it into El Dragon's butt.

The audience GROANS.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
I'm a bit of a rule breaker myself  
but that trick was diiiiiirteeeee.

Javi takes a deep breath, catches a glimpse of El Dragon's face. A tinge of regret washes over Javi's face.

El Dragon pulls back in agony. Wipes his hand across his butt, sees actual blood. Livid, he barrels toward Javi.

--

Javi's straddling a crippled Dragon on the mat. He lands blow after blow on him.

El Dragon's struggling to wrestle free but Javi's pinning him down. There's no escape!

PEDRO  
Javi, what the fuck are you doing?  
This isn't what we agreed to!

Javi stares at Pedro, he's mouthing "let him go".

DANNY  
What do you mean by agreed to?

El Dragon sneaks out from under him, comes up behind Javi, and drags him by the neck.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
 Uh-oh, just when you thought there  
 was a new sheriff in town...

El Dragon picks Javi up, body-slams him on the mat. He lays on top of him, pinning him down, his arm jabbing his windpipe.

DRAGON  
 Don't fuck with me, kid. We got a  
 lot riding on this one.

The REFEREE comes into the ring, begins counting down.

REF  
 One... Two...

Will, Danny, CHEER and SCREAM in the corner.

Danny catches Pedro mouthing the words "stay down" to Javi.

REF (CONT'D)  
 Three!

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
 What a spectacular evening! A truly  
 captivating first match for El  
 Sastre Del Desastre! Although he's  
 going home a loser tonight, he's a  
 winner in my heart.

The Ref holds up Dragon's hands victoriously. Javi gasps for air on the mat. Danny smiles at him, shoots Javi a thumbs up.

Javi holds a thumbs up too, when he notices--

DULCENIA, arms crossed, staring dead at them.

INT. BESTIAS LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Javi slams his locker door closed. Danny's on the other side, air boxing and miming taking hits.

JAVI  
 It was pretty cool, huh? You think  
 Dario's pissed?

DANNY  
 Doesn't matter. What's he gonna do?

JAVI  
 Kick my ass for real, that's what.

Danny spots an envelope stuffed with cash in Javi's bag.

DANNY

Guess fighting's not all bad, huh?

JAVI

(sits Danny down)

Danny, listen... I don't know if Ima fight. I don't know I'm ready to do this yet. But we can't make ends meet if Dee ain't working.

(off Danny's confusion)

I need you to work here for a bit, take my place as the costumer.

DANNY

What? No way!

JAVI

It would be after school, so I wouldn't have to worry about anyone watching you. And we need the money.

DANNY

Kids at school can't know I design fucking spandex outfits for men.

JAVI

Then don't tell anyone. You saw that intern, she sucked.

DANNY

What about my tutoring?

JAVI

It's just 'til Mom gets on her feet. Then we'll worry about you. I keep it one hundred with you, right? I've never lied about anything.

(Danny nods)

Then trust when I say, we need this. But it's only for a bit.

Danny punches a locker, relents.

DANNY

Can I borrow ten dollars?

JAVI

(gives him a twenty)

Stop making bets with Will.

(Danny smiles)

Zeke and Hayzel are at the arcade next door. Don't stay out late!

Danny dashes off.

INT. ARCADE - LATER

Danny's watching Zeke and Hayzel's DDR dance-off.

DANNY

Zeke, your dancing looks like  
you're trying to kill cockroaches!

ZEKE

You think you could beat Hayzel?

Danny and Hayzel make eye contact as she dances. She smiles.

MARIANA (O.C.)

Could you beat me though?

Danny's eyes widen, he knows the voice. Hayzel clocks this.

Zeke's stopped dancing. Mouth open, he's staring at Mariana.

DANNY

Probably not.

MARIANA

Good answer, smartass.

Just as quickly as she appeared, she takes off.

ZEKE

Oh my god. How do you know *her*?!

HAYZEL

Are we going to keep playing?

Zeke hops off the platform, shakes Danny by the shoulders.

ZEKE

Why have you been keeping this from  
me? She was hot!

DANNY

I don't really know her. She's just  
some girl I ran into.

HAYZEL

She looked like a chola.

ZEKE

Cho-la quiero, she was hot!

DANNY

(fist bumps Zeke)  
That was good. You're getting  
better at this.

Hayzel storms off, taking Zeke's gameplay tickets.

LATER

The three of them are playing skeeball. Hayzel's less angry but still giving Danny sideeye. He doesn't notice. For once, he's just having fun. Completely lost in this kid moment.

INT. SANCHEZ HOME, BOYS' ROOM - NIGHT

Danny's alone, going through Javi's bookshelf. He takes a book out, flips through it, puts it back. Takes another.

He finds one on mindfulness meditation, takes it to his bed.

He spends the night perusing the book. He reads pages over and over, trying to absorb the info.

Falls asleep with it on his bed.

MATCH CUT TO:

DANNY'S EYES WIDE OPEN ON HIS BED, LISTENING

It's the morning and behind him, Javi and Dee are chasing each other around the house, yelling.

JAVI

Where's my money, Dee? I know you got a huge payout!

DULCENIA

We got one check for the both of us, wasn't really a lot. We should set it aside. For when we need it.

JAVI

You got enough money that you quit. You got enough that you're keeping it from me. Give me my money, Dee!

DULCENIA

I can't do that. What happened the last time you tried school?

JAVI

I was having to get my drunk mother out of the bar every damn night! I failed cause you're a damn failure.

Javi slams a door, Danny shuts his eyes tight.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL DUGOUT - LATER

Danny is in the dugout reading his meditation book. It's early morning, it's quiet, and he's trying hard to meditate.

He struggles to keep his eyes closed for longer than thirty seconds. He's looking around, making sure no one's watching.

He sets his phone's timer, eyes closed, takes a DEEP BREATH. The timer counts down from one minute. Slowly.

Then suddenly--

MARIANA  
Fifteen, fourteen--

Danny opens his eyes, surprised. She smiles at him.

MARIANA (CONT'D)  
Close 'em, you've got five seconds left. Five, four, three, two--

Danny opens his eyes and smiles.

MARIANA (CONT'D)  
Close but you didn't make it to one.

DANNY  
The book says any meditation attempt *is* your meditation practice.

MARIANA  
That makes no sense.

Danny takes the book, puts it away. He gets up, ready to go.

MARIANA (CONT'D)  
Leaving so soon?

DANNY  
I have to get to work.

MARIANA  
So you didn't come here to see me?

He doesn't answer, just stares dumbfounded.

MARIANA (CONT'D)  
You really came here to meditate?  
(he nods)  
What kinda shit could you have on your mind that you need to meditate?

She pulls out a joint.



**ACT FOUR**

INT. LA BESTIAS GYM, COSTUME ROOM - LATER

Danny's at a table, surrounded by costuming materials. Javi's up on a small platform, trying on a costume.

JAVI  
(showing Danny)  
You have to cinch it here and here.

DANNY  
(taking notes reluctantly)  
Who cares about your stupid pleats?

JAVI  
I know it sucks, but it's temporary.

Javi comes off the platform, approaches his brother.

JAVI (CONT'D)  
Danny, I swear you're not going  
down the same path as me.

DANNY  
No, it's gonna be worse. Cause at  
least you're smart.

JAVI  
We're gonna figure shit out, okay?

DANNY  
Whatever.

Javi takes an empty box, starts clearing the table. He moves quickly, putting things aside, on bookshelves, or in the box.

Danny pays him no mind.

Javi goes to the bulletin board, pulls down the costume sketches. He takes a piece of paper, jots something down and sticks it onto the board. It says: "Danny's Schoolwork"

JAVI  
Look, you don't have anywhere to  
study at home... I get it. We're  
loud as fuck, it's crowded.  
(beat)  
And school is full of other kids.  
(beat)  
But this is your new office.

He motions for Danny to get up.

JAVI (CONT'D)

This whole space is yours. Doesn't have to be *just* the costume room. We can make it your study room too.

(off Danny's: Yeah?)

We'll clear half of it so you can study in peace. Any time you need quiet, you come and lock yourself in here. Nobody will bother you.

DANNY

What about the wrestlers?

JAVI

We'll get a hotel doortag--

DANNY

(smiling)

Do not disturb. I like it.

Javi hugs his little brother tightly.

INT. SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY/NIGHT

- Danny, alone in his bedroom, reading his meditation book.
- Danny going over some homework with Ms. Jensen.
- Danny smoking pot with Mariana.
- Danny studying in his new room, only slightly distracted.
- Danny fixing costumes for the luchadores.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Jensen's walking the rows, returning tests to everyone. Danny holds his breath as he awaits his paper.

She comes down his row, slides a paper onto his desk.

He turns it over, a "C+". He looks up at her, doubting. She smiles at him, ever so slightly.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

It'd been a rough few weeks but shit was finally looking up, nothing was going to knock me off my game.

MS. JENSEN

Don't get too excited. You still have your midterm exam tomorrow.

INT. SANCHEZ HOME, BOYS' ROOM - LATER

Danny's packing up his backpack, getting ready to leave.

Javi's changing out of his practice gear.

JAVI  
Gonna go study?

DANNY  
Yeah. I have a test tomorrow.

JAVI  
Hey, I'm proud of you.

Danny gives his brother a fist bump and leaves the room. He dashes into the--

BATHROOM

He's getting ready to pee when he hears...

JAVI (O.C.)  
(frustrated)  
What do you want? I'm changing.

Danny gets closer to the open door.

IN THE BEDROOM

Dee is at the threshold of the room, pleading with Javi.

DULCENIA  
You can't fight.

JAVI  
You can't stop me.

DULCENIA  
Please. You boys are too much like your father, I see it. I can't have you mixed up in shit too.

JAVI  
We are nothing like JB.

DULCENIA  
Yeah, you are. Especially Danny.

JAVI  
No, I've made sure of that.

Danny steps out of the bathroom.

DANNY  
Why would I be like JB?

DULCENIA  
I didn't mean nothing by it.

But she can't look him in the eye.

JAVI  
She just means you're rowdy.

DANNY  
(yelling)  
No. Why would we *both* be like JB,  
Dulcencia?

A stare-down between them, Dulcencia on the verge of tears.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
What's JB got to do with me?

DULCENIA  
He's your father too.

JAVI  
Fuck, mom!

Danny PUNCHES the bathroom door.

DANNY  
You said my father was some guy you  
met when you went to Guadalajara to  
see grandma.

Danny goes up to his desk, pulls the photo of Baby Danny and  
his dad off the wall.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
You said this guy was my dad.  
(shoves the picture in her  
face)  
This guy right here.

She takes the picture and rips it up.

DULCENIA  
I lied. You happy? I've been lying  
to you your whole damn life.

DANNY  
Why would you lie about that?

Dee looks at Javi.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Did you know, Javi?

(silence)

What happened to keeping it one hundred, family never lies?

JAVI

She didn't want you to have to live with what he did.

DANNY

So it was better to make me think my dad was some random one-night stand? What the fuck else aren't you people telling me?

Danny storms out of the room.

Javi shakes his head at Dee. She's sobbing quietly, slumps to the floor.

Javi grabs a towel, walks off to take a shower.

When he's out of sight, Dee pulls a flask out of her bag, takes a huge gulp.

EXT. SANCHEZ HOME - CONTINUOUS

Danny takes off running, tears streaming down his face.

LATER

Danny's runs up to Zeke and Hayzel's house. He's dashing up the front steps, but stops suddenly. Peers inside a window...

Zeke, Hayzel, their parents, and grandmother are seated at the dinner table. Food is being passed around and everyone seems happy.

Danny backpedals, running off into the night.

LATER

Danny runs past his school. He gets to the baseball diamond and pauses for a tiny second. He thinks better of it.

Continues running.

Takes a corner at full speed, clearing past the school...

Stops dead in his tracks when he sees Mariana and her friends (drug dealer included) hanging out by a car.

MARIANA

Hey there, Sunshine.

He takes a deep breath, collects himself and walks over to her.

ADULT DANNY (V.O.)

Sometimes the universe gives you what you want and not what you need, but you're stoo stupid to know the difference.

**END OF PILOT**