

BEWARE THE ALL TURNS INTO NOTHING

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Female hand lights a cigarette - We see her lips inhale deeply- The ash becomes a fierce red- She exhales and smoke invades the car- As the smoke dissipates. ROCIO is revealed - 45 (1975). Andalusian raised. Gipsy, Olive skin, dark hair, strong facial features, powerful.

She sits in the passenger seat. Her anxiety is palpable; she taps her foot, looks around nervously, and licks her lips. Her makeup is excessive: strong black winged eyeliner. She wears an Etro-style tunic, silk. Several long necklaces, including one with a cross.

Her phone rings; she puts out her cigarette and picks up.

ROCIO

Mama, si he llegado ya...Llama a
Javier si quieres ir a algún sitio
que tiene que estar en casa... esta
noche estoy de vuelta

She looks at the screen as she gets another call.

ROCIO (CONT'D)

Mama, luego te llamo, te quiero
beso

Hangs up and pick up the other call

ROCIO (CONT'D)

Si, Matthew?

Intelligible voice on the other side.

ROCIO (CONT'D)

Slow down motherfucker. What are
you saying? Uhum, Uhum, what the
fuck? Tell that son of a bitch that
if he doesn't...

Angrily, she grabs her Spanish fan from the dashboard and puts the phone on speaker

MATTHEW (O.S.)

You know what you signed. The
document has a confidentiality
clause that his paternity can never
be revealed. You follow? Even with
the adoption papers...

Loses patience and hangs up. Looks outside and signals her chauffeur, Moritz, without looking at him. She lights up a cigarette and is deep in thought.

We hear the driver's door open and close. In a long-sleeved white shirt, Moritz's arm is visible on the armrest.

MORITZ

Ma'am everything okay?

Rocio exhales the smoke from the cigarette, Moritz turns on the car and starts moving. Rocio dials her girlfriend on speaker. It goes directly to voicemail. A sweet and sexy woman's voice answers.

PHONE (O.S.)

This is Ale, in this moment I'm..

Rocio hangs up. Awkward silence

ROCIO

How far are we from this witch?

MORITZ

We just have to go up this road,
ma'am.

Grabs her PHONE and plays 80s Modern Talking; she slightly moves her head along in rhythm with the song. After a moment, she lowers the volume.

ROCIO

I know I asked you before, but
these joints I smoke kill my
memory. ¿Do you believe in god?

MORITZ

Yes, ma'am, I'm catholic.

Rocio is touching the cross in her necklace.

ROCIO

And when you pray, ¿what do you
pray for?

MORITZ

For my mum back in Germany, she's
all I have.

ROCIO

Family is all that matters.

MORITZ

Yes, ma'am, biggest priority. But
she is not easy to handle.

ROCIO

Did she manage to leave the...

We see Moritz, a blonde German. Submissive and respectful, saying no. He takes a moment, then, with caution.

MORITZ

If I may ask, what do you pray for,
ma'am?

She takes one puff.

ROCIO

I ask god to kill the bastard of my
ex-husband.

Rocio exhales smoke

ROCIO (CONT'D)

But the mother fucker doesn't
listen

Turns the music volume back up. Rocio keeps her eyes on the road.

2 EXT. DESERT VIEW FROM MOVING CAR - AFTERNOON - 2016 2

The car stops. Moritz's hand turns off the engine

3 INT. CAR - DESSERT ROAD - AFTERNOON - 2016 3

MORITZ

I think we are here, ma'am.

4 EXT. DESERT - ALIANA'S SPOT- AFTERNOON 4

Rocio peeks outside her window and sees a tent. Besides the tent.

5 INT. CAR - PIONEER TOWN - AFTERNOON 5

She laughs while grabbing her bag

ROCIO

What is this shit show?

Moritz exits and opens the door for Rocio. She turns off the cigarette.

MORITZ

Maam

Rocio gets out of the car.

6

EXT. DESERT - ALIANA'S SPOT - AFTERNOON

6

ROCIO

Gracias. And please, call me Rocio;
don't make me sound older than I
already am.

Moritz sighs and returns to the car. Rocio walks towards the tent. Without any regard puts out her cigarette. She sees ALIANA, 30s. white skin, dark/orange hair, blue/green eyes. Psychic, Italian & British. She is wearing a long tunic made with hippie fabric in light green tones. She has a necklace and several bracelets, a nose ring. She wears a blue turban with her hair flowing out from the sides. Aliana comes out of the tent and approaches her. Grounded, calm, and unapologetically herself.

ALIANA

You must be Rocio.

They shake hands. Aliana smiles and makes a gesture inviting her for a walk. Rocio peaks at Mayari, who is standing behind the table.

ROCIO

You said you were Italian.

7

EXT. PATH - AFTERNOON

7

They start walking.

ALIANA

I am, yes. On my mother's side.

Rocio sees a flower in a cactus and grabs it.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

I hope you are not confronted by
the session I've prepared for you.

ROCIO

I'm not no. I feel at home, to be
honest.

Aliana uses her hands to speak and points out the desert.

ALIANA

You told me you were from Almería,
did some research, thought the
dessert would give you a feeling of
connection to your roots.

ROCIO

It's giving me goosebumps. Your mother got famous for her extravagant sessions, didn't she?

8

EXT. RITUAL SPOT - AFTERNOON

8

Aliana stops at her ritual spot: a colorful cloth with large rocks on each corner. She bends over to fix one end of the cloth. Rocio looks skeptical.

ALIANA

She did, yes. Started with some fame among Italian gypsies. But after I was born, we had to move to London, and that's where she hit the jackpot.

ROCIO

Had to?

ALIANA

I was the disgrace (laughs innocently)(Mocking). They could not accept that my mom had a child with a white British guy.

Looks at Aliana and they sigh as they both know what they are talking about.

ROCIO

Scandal is what puts someone on the radar. Ironical.

ALIANA

Thanks to being exiled, English became my first language, and it allowed me to see my dad more often.

They continue on the path.

ROCIO

But you ended up in California.

ALIANA (V.O.)

When my mother passed, it felt safe for my soul.

9 EXT. ALIANA'S TENT- DAY

9

Rocio looks at Aliana and laughs. They both get into the tent.

10 INT. ALIANAS TENT - DAY

10

Aliana pulls out the chair for Rocio. Rocio sees Mayari MAYARI 20S, Philippine, queer, wearing suit pants up to her stomach and a white shirt tucked in with a black bow tie. Him/Her hair is tucked backward with gel. She/He holds a metal tray with a black and a white candle. She stands next to the table.

ALIANA

So... Rocio. What brings you here?

Rocio sits down, and starts thinking about all her problems; she tenses up.

ROCIO

Don't get me wrong, I fucking hate asking for help. But I cannot think clearly, you understand?

ROCIO (CONT'D)

I need to fucking think clear.

Rocio looks again at Mayari, expecting Rocio to introduce her. Aliana is grabs the sand clock, cards and palo santo from the morrocan bag.

ALIANA

I can see in your eyes that you have a big desire towards something, most probably an individual whom I can tell you dislike.

Aliana sits down and flips the sand clock on the table and grabs the palo santo. Rocio takes her phone out.

ROCIO

Fuck there is no service. How can I make a call?

Mayari rests her tray and lights the palo santo. Cleanses space.

ALIANA

Is it that urgent?

Rocio says yes with her head. Aliana turns to Mayari, who is still cleansing the table.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Mayari, pakiabot mo ang telepono

Mayari rests the palo santo in the ashtray. She walks towards the Moroccan bag and takes out a wooden box. She places it on the table beside Aliana and takes a moment to open it. There is a vintage phone inside. Mayari grabs her tray and goes to her position. Rocio looks at Ale's phone in her iPhone and dials the vintage phone. We hear phone dialing until it comes to voice mail.

PHONE (VO)

Hi, this is Ale.

Rocio hangs up and exhales. Aliana looks back and points at Mayari.

ALIANA

Oh, by the way, this is Mayari, my loyal life companion. We were raised together; her mother was always beside my mum, and now she is always beside me.

Aliana looks back at Rocio.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Don't feel uncomfortable in her presence; she doesn't speak a word of English. Do you want to introduce yourself? Or should I do the honors?

ROCIO

Go for it, show me what you've got.

Rocio rests her head on her hand, her elbow propped on the table.

ALIANA

I can feel the emotional burdens you carry. You're a lost soul caught in a climax that exists outside this reality; a forsaken spirit that never finds rest.

ROCIO

This is sounding like bullshit, do you wanna...

Aliana raises her finger

ALIANA
Do not interrupt me, please.

Rocio seems surprised but complies.

ALIANA (CONT'D)
I will try to contain the whirlwind
so that, at least in this life, you
can allow yourself the luxury of
resting.

ROCIO
You mind if I smoke a joint?

Aliana closes her eyes

ALIANA
In doing so, you transcend into
your next life with greater
positivity.

Rocio with a deadpan expression and Aliana opens her eyes.

ALIANA (CONT'D)
Go for it.

Rocio grabs a rolled joint from a tube and lights up. Aliana
pulls out an ashtray from the Moroccan bag.

ROCIO
You've said nothing about me yet.

ALIANA
Look, you must interpret these
concepts with a wider perspective.
Stop thinking inside this reality
you've created.

Rocio looks doubtful.

ALIANA (CONT'D)
Shall we see what the cards have to
tell us?

ROCIO
Let's do it.

She hits the joint

ROCIO (CONT'D)
Do you have water? I am going to
suffocate in this heat.

ALIANA
Mayari tubig, pakiusap

Mayari rests the tray on the table, opens the Moroccan bag, grabs a glass, and a jar filled with water, lemon, and ice. Serves a glass to Rocio. Aliana takes out cards and Palo Santo from the bag and leaves them on the table.

ROCIO
Mayari. Beautiful name

ALIANA
Right? It means the goddess of the moon in Talago.

Rocio looks at Mayari and nods. Mayari grabs the tray and gets behind the table. Aliana pulls out the first card.

ALIANA (CONT'D)
The reversed Queen of Pentacles... speaks of a motherly presence, maybe an imbalanced home. An absence in your emotional needs.

Rocio doesn't answer, takes a hit of joint.

ALIANA (CONT'D)
Leading you into a search for care and love.

ROCIO
Raised by a single mom. She was... miserable; her only goal was to seek wealth, ended up alone and with a kid.

Aliana looks at her, not understanding.

ROCIO (CONT'D)
After having me, she put on weight, men stopped looking at her the way they used to. Moreover, she was carrying me around.

ALIANA
Her focus in life kept her from offering the energetic nourishment you truly needed. This muted your inner spirit. To the point where you lost yourself?

Rocio lights up the joint and makes a sign to flip the card. Aliana flips the card.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

The Ten of Wands, a symbol of burdens carried alone, is often rooted in the past. Rocio, how early did you begin carrying what was never meant to be yours?

ROCIO

I blame no one for my circumstances.

She lights up the joint, smoke takes us to FLASHBACK.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM- ALMERIA - MORNING- 1980S - FLASHBACK 11

Mother, holding a tequila glass and smoking while she combs the hair of child Rocio. She then walks out of the frame and comes back with box of pills, she gives them to child Rocio.

ROCIO (V.O.)

Mamma lost herself. She projected onto me what she had not accomplished. She hated me to the point where she did not accept my gender. This was the biggest barrier for me to achieve what she wanted. Always raised as her little girl. She put me on hormones at the age of 14.

12 INT. TENT 12

ROCIO

By 16, I was walking into the surgical room in Casablanca and officially became Rocio.

Aliana is about to cry.

ALIANA

That must have been a heavy burden, Rocio. Moments that never truly left you... quiet shadows woven through your life.

ROCIO

I've always felt like a woman, to be honest.

(MORE)

ROCIO (CONT'D)

My grandmother lost her five
siblings and father during the war.
She was traumatized by it and
became obsessed with having female
descendants only.

The black candle held by Mayari on the silver tray suddenly
lights up. Rocio Notices and interrupts.

ROCIO (CONT'D)

When did you light that?

Aliana looks at the candle, ignores it. Rocio looks down, and
Aliana peeks back at the candle with a scared look, making a
gesture to Mayari to blow it out. She acts as if nothing
happened and wipes a tear from her face. Mayari blows it out,
which makes it blurry, taking us into a dream sequence.

13

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE - NIGHT

13

Rocio's figure, standing in the desert.

ALIANA (V.O.)

Your soul's silent journey toward
dark energy guided your path. In
this lifetime, that energy has
manifested as your mother, a vessel
of unresolved wounds that linger in
the physical world. You have
powerful intuition, but in the
challenge to find balance, your
emotions may cloud your thoughts,
shifting them into confusion.
Building into an illusion, one
you'll need to shatter to reach
where you're truly meant to be.

14

INT. TENT - DESERT - DAY

14

Smoke dissipates, Rocio is revealed.

ROCIO

A year later, she kicked me out.
Walked me to the station without
saying a word and sneaked me into
the first train, handed me a note,
with a name and an address in
Barcelona.

ALIANA

Even as you walked away, the ending
didn't unfold as you hoped.

She hits the joint

ROCIO

That fucking bitch! I got there,
and Carmen, my mother's friend, had
heard nothing from her for the past
years; she thought my mamma was
dead.

Exhales smoke exasperated

ROCIO (CONT'D)

Anyway, she agreed to take me in.
She even found a job for me in an
agency.

ALIANA

Modeling?

Rocio says yes with her head.

ROCIO (CONT'D)

I had a unique look; No one ever
questioned my gender. Until I met
Alejandro, a handsome boy who fell
in love with me. Part of one of the
most powerful families in Spain.

ALIANA

I can see in your eyes the poison
left by him.

ROCIO

At the time, it felt as if god was
handing me my mama's dream in a
silver tray.

ALIANA

But the dream did not unfold as
your mama was predicting.

Rocio takes a deep breath.

ROCIO

He was married. I was honest with
him, and he was devoted to me for
that. I don't know if he was in
love or was just having his biggest
sexual romantic fantasy.

(MORE)

ROCIO (CONT'D)

Anyway, he wanted a child, we decided to adopt. But he never left his wife or legally recognized Catalina.

ALIANA

Your precious child brought you light and energy into your path. But also attached you to a dark burden that you still carry.

ROCIO

I left that bastard five years after the adoption. Offered me a shit deal, which I accepted, and flew to Los Angeles.

While smiling, Aliana flips the next card.

ALIANA

Three swords, a sign of heartbreak and sorrow. Speaks of true love. What is your heart feeling?

Rocio doesn't answer, and we can see her face emotionless. With confidence, Aliana breaks in.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Maybe heartbreak carried from Alejandro? But I can tell it's something recent. Maybe involving a woman?

Rocio surprised swipes her tongue around her teeth and hits the joint.

ROCIO

Seven years ago, I found my true love. I have another kid with her. But nobody knows about it.

Aliana shocked, smiles and taps Rocio's hand.

ALIANA

I see, true love raised mixed feelings on you, made you fall into your most hated self.

15 INT. FLASHBACK - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

15

Catalina is sitting at a wooden dining table, and Rocio approaches her with a plate of food, sits next to her, and plays with her hair. There is a catholic cross on the background wall.

ROCIO

I became my worst enemy! I traditionally raised Catalina, the best I could. Never told her the truth. About me or my parallel family.

She lights the joint

ROCIO (CONT'D)

She is my whole world. No one will come across what I have built.

16 EXT. ALIANA'S TABLE - DESERT - DAY

16

Rocio lights up the joint.

ALIANA

How did your lover handle this?

ROCIO

She just wants my money.

Rocio burst

ROCIO (CONT'D)

What money?! I'm broke; this country has given me nothing but credit debt.

ALIANA

Rocio, ground your soul; open your heart! The material world is just a delusion that will end up killing your pureness.

ROCIO

If Catalina were legally his fucking daughter, there would be no issue. You know how much that fucker is worth?

Aliana shakes her head and flips the fifth card

ALIANA

The Ace of Pentacles, you're going to like this one. Sign of new beginnings in the material world. Doors will open very soon, bringing a shift into abundance.

Rocio looks hopeful.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

When the moment comes, don't hesitate.

ROCIO

He who hesitates loses

Aliana flips the last card: The Devil. She stays silent, Rocio closes and opens her eyes, smiles with worry and exhales. Hits the joint.

ALIANA

The unwanted card. Reveals the parts of yourself you try to ignore. Makes darkness feel seductive and powerful enough to drag you to a place of no return. Stay aware. The Devil only wins when you forget who you are.

Rocio hits the joint and exhales deeply. Aliana stands up, gestures towards the ritual section.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Listen, I have a ritual that may help. It's highly energetic and aligns with your deepest desire.

Rocio stands up.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Choose a card that represents you.

Rocio stares at the cards, thinking about which to choose.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

For stronger alignment, I'd suggest choosing one that came up during your reading. Let it speak to you.

Aliana makes a gesture with her hand to the outside of the tent. Rocio grabs the Ace of Pentacles.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Come with me, Rocio.

17 EXT. PATH - AFTERNOON

17

They start walking. Aliana carries the Moroccan bag.

ALIANA

We're not even aware of what our desire truly is. We tend to project our emotions and needs into the physical world. That only masks what we're searching for underneath it all. I want to ask you: Do you believe you're truly aware of that desire?

ROCIO

I am very aware of my desires.

18 EXT. RITUAL SPACE - AFTERNOON

18

They arrive at the ritual space and Aliana invites Rocio to sit. While on her knees, she opens the bag and takes the sack of crystals and a palo santo from inside.

ALIANA

For this ritual, we'll need a few crystals.

She begins placing them carefully. Aliana lights up the Palo Santo covered with sage and cleanses the area. She takes out a paper and a feather pen from the bag.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

I want you to write that desire or feeling on this piece of paper.

She hands it over. Rocio takes it.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Keep in mind, I want you to use one word. Let it stay abstract. The more it breathes, the more it reveals.

Aliana starts building the crystal tarot grid: she places the card in the middle and arranges crystals around it in a triangular shape. Rocio writes "stability", folds paper and hands it back. Aliana places paper under the card.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

Are you ready?

She holds Rocio's hands

ALIANA (CONT'D)

I need you to focus all your energy
on your wish and close your eyes.

They both close their eyes

ALIANA (CONT'D)

With pure intent, I call upon the
energy of The Fool, the power of
Black Tourmaline, Labradorite, and
Green Aventurine, and the fire of
transformation. May the Universe
receive this wish in divine timing,
aligned with my highest good. So it
is.

They stay silent, meditating. Rocio opens one eye, sees Mayari
in the background. Closes her eyes again and opens them with
surprise. Mayari is not there anymore. Looks at Aliana, her eyes
are still closed, and she closes her eyes again. Until Aiana
opens her eyes and smiles.

ALIANA (CONT'D)

I will leave it up all night so it
absorbs the energy from the moon.

They stand up and start walking back towards the tent.

19 EXT. PATH - AFTERNOON

19

ALIANA

Tonight is a full moon; perfect
timing. Its energy will amplify the
ritual's intention.

20 EXT. OUTSIDE TENT - AFTERNOON

20

ROCIO

Thank you.

They hug each other.

ALIANA

I'm here for you, Rocio. I truly
hope this session guides you closer
to the path your soul is meant to
follow. Take care.

Rocio hands her 300 dollars. Aliana stays in silent, looking at
Rocio, as she walks away. While Rocio approaches the car, we see
Aliana vomiting in the background. Rocio gets to the car, where
Moritz is waiting for her, and opens the passenger door.

MORITZ
How did it go, ma'am?

Rocio gets into the car and doesn't answer. Moritz closes the door and heads to the driver's seat

21 INT. CAR - ROAD - SUNSET - 2016 21

Moritz turns on the car, and Rocio gets out a cigarette

MORITZ
We are heading back, right?

ROCIO
Yes, vamos.

Exhales smoke, plays music on her phone, pulls down the sunshade, opens the mirror, looks at herself. Close the mirror and the sunshade.

22 EXT. VIEW OF CAR RIDE - ROAD - SUNSET-NIGHT - 2016 22

Shot of the ride, which transitions to the night.

23 INT. CAR - NIGHT 23

Rocio's phone rings. She picks up with confidence and puts the call on speaker.

ROCIO
Si, Matthew

MATTHEW (O.S.)
Rocio, something has happened.

There is silence. Rocio feels the worry in Matthew, her confidence disappears.

MATTHEW (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Alejandro... sounds unbelievable,
but he had a sudden stroke while
skiing, passed away. I can't
believe this can happen to someone
in their fifties.

ROCIO
What the fuck you can't believe.
Matthew, what the fuck are you
saying. The fuck am I supposed to
do?

MATHEW (O.S.)
Rocio, listen, I will no longer be
working for you..

Hangs up the phone and exhales loudly after grinding teeth.
Rocio looks pissed, she then tenses down and smiles. Moritz
stops the car and looks at her with worry. Rocio stays
sitting in the car thinking.

MORITZ
Ma'am, we have arrived.

She grabs another cigarette, lights it, and hits it.

ROCIO
Moritz, listen. Keep this for me.

She takes off her necklace with the cross and puts it around
Moritz's neck while looking into his eyes.

MORITZ
Oh, ma'am, I can't accept this.
Really I...

ROCIO
I will ask for something in return.
Pray for me.

MORITZ
I will, ma'am. Do you realize that
god has heard your wishes?

Rocio looks at Moritz with surprise, which transforms to a
threatening look. Moritz gets down and opens the door.

MORITZ (CONT'D)
Maam

ROCIO
Gracias

Rocio gets out of the car

ROCIO (CONT'D)
And stop fucking calling me ma'am.