

THE GARDEN

PILOT: La Cuca

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1 EXT. SWAMP - NIGHT

It's dark in the swamp. Moonlight turns shadows into monsters. And out of the sawgrass bursts ELIZABETH, running for her life. She's young - mid 20s at most - indigenous, and covered in scratches and bruises. Just behind her a MAN follows, stumbling and swearing.

MAN

Get back here, you bitch! You can't run forever!

He sways as he runs. A drunk, likely. He trips and hits the ground. Elizabeth dashes into a mangrove forest, weaving between the spindly branches, her splashes in the water a dead giveaway. The Man lunges after her. He's close, so close, a hand stretched out to-

BAM. He's hamstrung, writhing on the ground. The Man looks up, his eyes filmy and struggling to focus, and his mouth drops in horror.

MAN (CONT'D)

(whispering)

La Cuca...

CUT TO: total darkness, the low thrum of cicadas cut by a THWACK THWACK noise, the sound of something wet hitting concrete. An eye opens - it's an alligator, and it slithers off toward the noise.

OPENING TITLES: THE GARDEN

2 EXT. RICKENBACKER BRIDGE - DAWN

The sun is just beginning to rise over Miami. DR. ANDREA DELUZ pauses her run at the top of the bridge to admire the pink light hitting the skyscrapers of downtown. She's a light-skinned Latina in her mid 30s with the thin - too thin - body of an addicted runner.

Andrea's watch BINGS and she looks down to see a calendar alert: It's Juan Pablo's birthday. She swipes the notification away and we see that she's already run 15 miles. She clicks her watch off and continues running.

3 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Andrea walks out of the operating room, her scrubs smeared in blood. A younger FEMALE NURSE follows behind her. Still wearing their face masks, the two women walk to the sink and

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CONTINUED:

begin to clean hands and arms. DR. KYLE CASEY walks into the room and noticeably brightens when he sees Andrea. He's a white guy in his early 30s, Hollywood handsome and he knows it.

KYLE

There you are, Andrea. I've been
looking for you for like half an hour.
I didn't know you were in surgery.

(Kyle pronounces her name ANN-dree-uh).

ANDREA

What's going on?

KYLE

Just wanted to make sure I was still
picking you up in the morning.

ANDREA

Yeah, eight o'clock.

KYLE

(to Nurse)

Hi, I'm Dr. Kyle Casey, Orthopedics.

As he introduces himself he gives a half head nod, accompanied by a slick smile. The Nurse pauses in her washing up to pull off her face mask.

NURSE

I know. We've met before.

KYLE

(suavely)

Are you sure? I think I would remember
you.

NURSE

(visibly irritated)

I'm sure.

Kyle looks through the glass window to the operating room.

KYLE

What happened?

ANDREA

Uterine prolapse repair.

Kyle emits a small, uncomfortable laugh and grimaces.

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KYLE

Gross.

(beat)

But that seems like a lot of blood for a pretty simple surgery. I thought you were a pro.

ANDREA

It was complicated by an internal iliac aneurysm that the imaging didn't pick up.

Andrea removes her face mask and continues to scrub down.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

So, see you tomorrow?

KYLE

Sounds good. Bye, chica.

Kyle exits the scrub room, waving goodbye to both women. The Nurse rolls her eyes and Andrea stares straight ahead, turning off the tap.

NURSE

¿Que te pasa, Andrea? You're going on another date with that orthopod?

(The nurse pronounces her name Ahn-DRE-uh.)

ANDREA

No me jodas.

Andrea looks over her shoulder to make sure Kyle is gone.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Somehow we got paired for the outreach program.

NURSE

Where are you going?

ANDREA

San Lucas.

NURSE

Where's that?

ANDREA

It's off the Tamiami, like 45 minutes south of the reservation.

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