

INT. OFFICE - EL PASO- DAY- PRESENT

BARBARA, an attractive brunette 24-year-old, is sitting at a conference table and two FBI agents wearing suits are sitting on the other side of the table questioning her.

FBI AGENT #1

You were married to Antonio Palermo?

BARBARA

Yes, I was.

FBI AGENT #1

Do you still communicate with him?

BARBARA

On occasion. Rarely.

FBI AGENT #2

Did you know a Christopher Delauder, who was once employed by your former husband?

BARBARA

Yes. I knew him.

FBI AGENT #1

Did you know he was murdered?

Barbara hesitates, squirms and then shakes her head "no".

BARBARA

No...I didn't.

FBI AGENT #1

Do you know why anyone would have wanted him dead?

Barbara stares blankly at the agent, chewing her lip.

FBI AGENT #2

Barbara, do you know why anyone would have wanted to kill him?

Barbara is obviously pondering the question as the two agents are drilling her down with their stares. One is drumming his pencil against the table and the other is clicking his pen as they both anxiously await her answer.

OLDER BARBARA (V.O.)

I didn't know how to answer his question. Not for sure, anyway. I hadn't known Chris, who had been my boss, all that well, though a few things about him did stand out: First of all, he was a retired magician and used to try to impress me with his dexterity...

INT. CLUB-NIGHT

CHRIS DELAUDER, A tall, well dressed man with a goatee, and Barbara are standing next to a bar in a club and Chris is rolling a half dollar across his knuckles as Barbara watches, amused.

OLDER BARBARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Secondly, he seemed like a kind man when I knew him...

Chris performs the disappearing coin trick, pulling it from behind Barbara's ear, to her delight.

EXT. CLUB-DAY

CHRIS and several ladies, including Barbara, are exiting a building. Chris locks the door before they all walk away.

OLDER BARBARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...and third, when he closed Tony's business down, even then I knew that he'd underestimated the potential consequences of his actions.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HONEY'S NIGHTCLUB- HOUSTON- NIGHT- 4 YEARS EARLIER

Honey's is a darkly lit nightclub with pounding dance music. Barbara is waiting tables when she spots TONY PALERMO, aka PAPA, a 40-something, tough looking Italian man with salt and pepper hair and beard and piercing blue eyes, sitting very erect at a table, alone.