FADE IN

BEGIN TITLES

EXT. COMPOUND - MEXICO

It’s a mansion in a remote area. There are armed guards everywhere on the perimeter. But inside, it’s a Mexican wedding. The DAUGHTER (20) of narcotrafficker PABLO GUZMAN (51) has been married and the celebration is taking place.

There are two celebrations. One is formal around the pool with catered food; the guests are clearly upper-class Mexicans, drinking champagne. A second celebration takes place just outside a mysterious barn. The DRUG SMUGGLERS are celebrating with a barbequed goat and beer. An innocent village girl runs out of a barn. Escaping a rape. Her clothes are torn and she’s frightened.

Despite the near rape and the wedding celebration, they are loading mysterious packages into vehicles with “Viva La Vaquero,” “Bad Ass Mexican” and Mexico flag bumper stickers.

INT. GUZMAN’S MANSION - MEXICO

A LIEUTENANT (28) is monitoring radios and there are at least twenty cell phones laid out on a table with tape on them: Moscow, Paris, Los Angeles, Manila. The lieutenant also has access to a panel of television sets. It’s an almost modern information “war room”.

The phone labeled “Manila” rings and the lieutenant answers.

LIEUTENANT

Hola.

The lieutenant listens. It’s bad news. He’s resolute and calm. He turns to a series of televisions sets. It looks like ASB-CBN, GMA, and TV-5 International. It appears there has been a big drug bust at the Manila airport. The television channels are all showing the seized drugs laid out on tables and police and drug sniffer dogs responsible for the bust.

NEWS READER

Law enforcers seized 244.8 million pesos worth of suspected shabu in a drug-smuggling bust that resulted in
the killing of two drug suspects at the Manila airport only hours ago.

(beat)

Philippine National Police-Drug Enforcement Group (PNP-DEG) director Brig. Gen. Romeo Caramat Jr. said Mexican nationals and smuggling suspects Jin Long Cai and Danny Apiga were both killed in the exchange of fire during an operation at the airport at 4:30 p.m.

The lieutenant leaves the war room and walks to the family’s TV room. There is a big-screen TV and he tunes it to one of the Manila TV channels.

EXT. GUZMAN’S MANSION – MEXICO

Out on the patio, the lieutenant whispers something into Guzman’s ear, the father of the bride. His eyes become concerned. He immediately puts down the glass of champaign and accompanies the lieutenant to the TV room.

The bride notices her father and follows him inside. She’s as complicit as her father.

INT. MANILA AIRPORT HANGER

The television coverage of the drug bust is just finished and the news reporters are waiting on a press conference. There is an empty rostrum on a podium. Behind it are soldiers and police simply waiting. The press is set up and ready. Waiting.

INT. GUZMAN’S MANSION – MEXICO

Guzman looks concerned at the lieutenant. Slowly, the TV room is filling up with guests, who are all complicit in drug smuggling.

Only a few guests remain on the patio. They look like politicians, bought and trained to look the other way.

A MEXICAN POLITICIAN’S WIFE (38) follows the crowd into the mansion, despite her HUSBAND covertly waving for her to remain outside on the patio.

END TITLES
INT. MANILA AIRPORT HANGER - DAY

A communications AIDE appears and places the presidential seal on the rostrum. The President of the Philippines, PACIFICO SANTOS (75), appears at the rostrum.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I want to commend the police for their relentless efforts to wage a war on illegal drugs despite the threat posed by the Mexican outlaws.

(beat)
I’m irked to no end because it would destroy the country. And I’m greatly pained by the narcotics trade that is still rampant in this country despite my total attention to the issue. Everyone knows my focus is on ending the epidemic of illegal drugs.

A SOLDIER brings the president a GA-16. Santos smiles big. He clearly loves weapons. President Santos pulls back the slide and the crowd applauds. He holds the weapon high for everyone to see and for the photographers to capture.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
We’ve neutralized a few drug offenders here, but let me reiterate my warning to the others hiding in Mexico. If you destroy my country distributing 5.1 billion of shabu all throughout the country, I will hunt and kill you. I will kill you, deader than your dinner. It will be my pleasure.

INT. TELEVISION - MANILA AIRPORT HANGER - DAY

TELEVISION REPORTER
President Santos did not say where the drugs were believed to have come from, but said the Philippines is now a transshipment center for Mexican drug cartels.

(beat)
Most experts feel the drugs entering the Philippines are the products of this man.
Pablo Guzman, the third richest man in the world, who has a $7 billion drug empire, and is the man our president was threatening to kill.

INT. GUZMAN’S MANSION – MEXICO

Guzman is unnerved.

GUZMAN
My God. Little Filipino children are watching this on television.

The bride, daughter of the drug lord, is still in her wedding gown. Watching the television, the daughter is standing beside the politician’s wife, who has an uncertain (puzzled) look on her face. The politician’s wife looks out of place; everyone but her seems sympathetic to Guzman. The press conference continues but the daughter thinks she needs to support her father.

DAUGHTER
A well-known human rights group recently issued a report, detailing the plight of children whose fathers have been killed by this man. Many children have suffered psychological distress, and all experienced economic hardship made worse by the death of a family breadwinner.

Guzman overhears and joins the conversation, but keeps his eyes glued on the TV.

GUZMAN
And the children are being now being terrorized by this rhetoric.

POLITICIAN’S WIFE
Don’t you take care of the children?

DAUGHTER
Yes, if the children’s father was employed by my father all their needs are met.
GUZMAN
If their Mexican, sure.

DAUGHTER
It’s not so much the Mexican orphans. It’s the Filipino children his war on drugs is harming. The increased poverty and trauma have led many children to leave school or compelled them to work. Some children who lost a father have faced bullying in their school and community. Some have been forced to live on the streets, just because their father worked for us.

The politician’s wife seems to understand just how idiotic this argument is. She’s afraid to speak up but clearly, she disagrees with the drug dealers logic.

GUZMAN
The Filipino children have suffered horribly from this pretend president’s decision to unleash the police and who are only hitmen in uniforms.

The politician’s wife looks at them, looks at the drug lord and daughter incredulously. Like, perhaps they’re insane. Guzman and the daughter don’t notice, their eyes are glued to the television.

GUZMAN
(enraged)
It’s this crazy Filipino politician who is harming the children.

Guzman glances at the lieutenant.

GUZMAN
He needs to stop this endless violence that is upending children’s lives.

INT. MANILA AIRPORT HANGER - DAY

PRESIDENT SANTOS
And just to reiterate; no one has been killed unless of course they resist
arrest and our wonderful police are defending themselves.

That is the end of the speech and the president leaves the stage. There is plenty of applause.

INT. GUZMAN’S MANSION – MEXICO

The politician’s wife rapidly exits the room and takes her husband’s arm and leads him out of the party. She’s NOT been persuaded.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL TOYOTA LAND CRUISER – MANILA

President Santos has left the stage and is inside his vehicle with his AIDES and an ARMY GENERAL (50).

ARMY GENERAL
Mr. President, I can have a special forces operation in Mexico before the week is out.

Santos contemplates.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It was rhetorical.

ARMY GENERAL
We know exactly where he lives. And when he’s there. The Americans said they’d help.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I can’t.

ARMY GENERAL
We can have a team take him out.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
No, if trouble comes to our soil so be it, but I can’t export the violence.

AIDE
You understand that right?

ARMY GENERAL
Yes. It’s very principled.
INT. POLITICIAN’S CAR – OUTSIDE GUZMAN’S MANSION – MEXICO

The wife enters the vehicle as calmly as possible. Inside, she tries to slap her politician husband. She flies into hysterics.

    POLITICIAN’S WIFE
    You brought me to the wedding of a drug lord? You idiot! You idiot!

    POLITICIAN
    I tried to tell you not to go inside the house.

    POLITICIAN’S WIFE
    What? What? Are you kidding me? Do you have any idea the pain that man causes? Daily!

The politician husband presses the accelerator and exits the area. Rapidly.

EXT. MALACAÑAN PALACE COMPOUND – MANILA

A MECHANIC (24) brings a performance motorcycle from the garage into the drive. President Santos mounts and an AGENT GARCIA (38) of the PSG approaches him. Santos puts on leathers and gloves.

    AGENT GARCIA
    You’re going to have a ride around inside the compound?

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    Don’t have a kitten.

    AGENT GARCIA
    Am I having a kitten?

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    You always do.

    AGENT GARCIA
    I do?
PRESIDENT SANTOS
Sure, look at you. I do this all the time.

AGENT GARCIA
But, it’s not scheduled. And we have trouble...

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You have trouble keeping up?

Agent Garcia nods. The admission is a victory for the president.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Naturally.

President Santos secures the helmet and pulls down the visor. Santos starts the engine and revs it up.

AGENT
(into his radio)
Wild Hare, I repeat Wild Hare. All units respond.

EXT. OUTSIDE MALACAÑAN PALACE - DAY

POLICE cars from the area respond to pre-determined positions. Even a METER MAID (25) leaves her ticketing to assume her given position. An AMBULANCE DRIVER is dispatched from the Malacanang hospital. A HELICOPTER PILOT is warming up. A POLICE BOAT scrambles into action on the river. BICYCLE COPS truck down busy streets to get in position to observe. Their radio’s are ready.

EXT. INSIDE MALACAÑAN PALACE COMPOUND

President Santos has a choice of three gates. He chooses the pedestrian gate as the others have vehicles preventing his rapid exit. He guns the cycle and people jump off the path and out of the way.

The president has disappeared and we see Agent Garcia’s worried face. Or is it a hateful look? Garcia might be in charge of security but he’s a bit suspect.
EXT. OUTSIDE MALACAÑAN PALACE - DAY

President Santos exits the presidential compound at a high rate of speed and is almost immediately hit by a vehicle that must brake heavily to avoid the motorcycle. Santos then weaves in and out of traffic.

The meter maid is the first to reach her position at the beginning of Gen. Solano Street. She has field glasses and looks east down Jose Laurel Street. The president’s cycle swerves right on a whelm onto Nicanor Padilla Street.

Radio traffic.

METER MAID
He’s left Laurel and is on Nicanor Padilla heading west.

POLICE SERGENT
He never does that.

AGENT GARCIA
Once before, back in November. Remember the milk truck?

POLICE SERGENT
Oh, yea. All that spilled milk.

AGENT GARCIA
If he goes north on Nepomeceno, we’re screwed.

The helicopter is just now airborne and the pilot spots the cycle. The president is driving very fast, dodging pedestrians, other cycles, and vehicles.

HELIICOPTER
I’ve got him.

Santos passes Nepomeceno and everyone breathes a sigh of relief.

At the end of Nicanor Padilla, Santos pulls a left, as expected, and he crosses Ayala Bridge. Police cars have reached their positions on Ayala and watch the president speed by. And just now, far behind him, he’s being followed by a police car and ambulance that have managed to follow him down Nicanor Padilla.
Right on Natividad Lopez Street. He pulls up at the 2 Hands Massage Parlor. He looks in his rearview mirror. He has a few seconds to waste. He waits only a few seconds on his escort.

HELCIPOPETER
Stand by. Okay, false alarm. He’s stopped at the massage parlor.

Everyone breathes another sigh of relief.

He seems to be waiting for the police car and ambulance to catch up. A PRETTY GIRL (19) sees the president through the window. She exits the parlor and waves to the president and then blows him a kiss. President Santos sees and hears the patrol car coming down Natividad Lopez. He waves back at the pretty girl and then guns the cycle into traffic again. Another near collision.

Left on Antonio Villegas Street. Under the R2, the helicopter loses him. But, all along the path he’s passing police cars who are at assigned positions. He’s never out of sight and the police are all in communication with each other along the path. He’s lost both trailing police car and the ambulance in the traffic under the R-2.

Right on United Nations and again, he’s dangerously weaving through traffic. He rapidly decelerates at PSG headquarters, taunting them and several agents exit the building and get into cars. There he picks up a second ambulance. But on the C-2, he accelerates again and sprints over the Mabini bridge. There is a patrol boat that reports his position.

After that, he disappears. There’s a scare... he’s gone.

POLICEMAN #1
He’s gone.

AGENT GARCIA
Where did he go?

POLICE SERGENT
Check the 7-11 store.

POLICEMAN #2
What about the Yvan Navy?
POLICE SERGENT
He likes burgers.

POLICEMAN #1
But this early in the day?

AGENT GARCIA
Check it anyway. He’s tricky.

POLICEMAN #2
What about the 3n Bakery?

The police and PSG check the various eateries. Police stop to eat donuts.

President Santos has stopped at the KFC on Nagtahan Street and parked his cycle with the delivery bikes. Inside, he orders a soda. The CUTE GIRL (20) at the counter knows him, of course, and smiles at him sexily. From the sidewalk, he watches about eight police and PSG cars race by. The sirens are a very loud display of police power but also panic.

He executes a few highly illegal maneuvers and finds himself heading west on Jose Laurel again. This time the PSG and a few other vehicles have caught up with him.

POLICEMAN #2
We’ve got him. He’s moving slowly west on Jose Laurel.

POLICE SERGENT
Where was he hiding?

POLICEMAN #2
I have no idea.

AGENT GARCIA
He takes joy confounding us.

The president rides calmly, at idle speed, down Jose Laurel leading a long procession of emergency vehicles.

President Santos gives the proper turn signal and waves at the security guard as he enters a palace gate.
AGENT GARCIA
The hare has returned to the hutch.
Return to normal operations.

The president removes his leather jacket, gloves and helmet and returns them to the mechanic.

AGENT GARCIA
Mr. President, with all due respect, in the last five-minutes, you have committed about a hundred illegal acts.

The president is about to speak up, but the mechanic is quickier.

MECHANIC
You should know that the president is immune from suits during his tenure of office.

Garcia’s jaw drops; he’s been shut down by a loyal working-class man.

MECHANIC
But, unlike his predecessors who have to hide their illegal actions despite having immunity, this president’s illegal actions are out there for everyone to judge.

President Santos says nothing but nods his agreement (and thanks) to the mechanic and simply dismounts and enters the palace.

EXT. MIKITA SIDEWALK – DAY

LANI is walking to her work. She has her most prized possession, a classic MP3 player. She pushes play listens to popular but innocent Filipino songs.

She has the worst shift for a bargirl, day/afternoon. But she walks along smiling and greeting people. She knows many of the people who operate shops and she speaks with them. She buys an apple from a YOUNG MAN (18), who clearly likes her.
YOUNG MAN
You work at the Bandido, down the street?

She’s a bit frightened. She’s not a sex industry pro yet.

LANI
Yes.

YOUNG MAN
But you don’t work at night?

LANI
(she chuckles a bit)
I haven’t worked my nerve up for that yet.

YOUNG MAN
Oh, that’s cool. Just afternoons?

LANI
I’m not really a bargirl.

YOUNG MAN
Oh yea?

LANI
It’s hard to explain. I’m sorry.

YOUNG MAN
And they let you do that?

She smiles moves away and eats the apple as she walks.

She encounters a dog who looks hungry. She takes out her lunch, a sandwich. She tears off a small bite and gives it to the dog. The dog follows her to the bar where she works. Before entering she gives the remaining sandwich to the dog.

EXT. MANILA MARINA – NIGHT

A huge yacht arrives. It’s Mexican and it’s flying the flag, but as it pulls up to the dock, the EL JEFE (45) instructs that it be taken down. El Jefe hands an American flag to an OUTLAW. The outlaw questions the move but the boss points to his temple, signaling it’s a wise move. The outlaw grudgingly takes down the
Mexican flag. The American flag goes up. The leader, El Jefe, looks about. No one seems to have noticed.

Slowly half of the MEXICAN THUGGERY, the same thugs who barbequed the goat at the wedding, and terrorized the village girl, slowly emerge from below deck. They sleep during the day. They stretch and they are all clearly armed; they sleep with their weapons. It’s night so they are about to go party.

EXT. CARGO SHIP – MANILA PORT – NIGHT

A nervous custom’s official signals his co-conspirator to cut the security cameras off. A few buttons are pushed and there is no record of what leaves the ship.

A medium-sized cargo ship is docked at the port. The cargo bridge is down and Chevy Suburban after Suburban, at least a dozen are driven off the ship. They are all new and identical, Iridescent Pearl Tricoat Chevrolet Suburbans.

The last vehicle to drive off the ship is a tricked-out and jacked-up Velocity Blue 1999 Ford F-350. It is flying a medium-size Mexican flag and on the bumper there are an assortment of bumper stickers. A 5in x 3in Mexican flag sticker, “Chips & Salsa,” “La Raza,” “Puerto Costa Maya” and a “Modelo Cerveza Especial”, Mexican beer sticker. There is a sunscreen across the back window of the cab, “In Guad We Trust”

The Suburbans were silent, but this Mexican is blasting a mixture of Rap and Tejano.

INT. A HOTEL – EARLY MORNING

We hear Mexican music in the early AM. These Mexicans appear to party 24/7. A beaten and BROKEN BARGIRL (20) is limping out of a hotel room. A young FRESH BARGIRL (19) is just on that level of rooms.

The young fresh bargirl stops and looks at the broken girl, who even has facial swelling and the beginnings of a black eye. The broken girl shakes her head that she wouldn’t advise taking the job. Nothing needs to be spoken between the girls. Together the two girls escape downstairs.
EXT. MOA FERRIS WHEEL - DAY

A MEXICAN MAN (40) looks like a tourist; he pays and gets on the Ferris wheel with a suitcase. They offer to keep it for him but he refuses. He boards the wheel and then exits without the case. He’s left the suitcase in the Ferris wheel car. He disappears and the workers at the wheel don’t notice.

EXT. RIZAL MEMORIAL STADIUM - DAY

Outside a fútbol stadium in an ally, meth addict JOSEPH (24) wakes up under a cardboard box. He looks at the syringes on the ground; they litter the alley. He looks at his arms. He’s trying to reconcile the huge number of syringes. They can’t all be his needles.

At this time, two other homeless men wake up and emerge from recesses and trash containers.

A trash truck has arrived to empty a garbage bin, but there is a man who has been sleeping inside and he’s screaming and trying to escape. But he’s not able. Joseph gets up and warns the trash truck operator. Then he helps the man out of the bin.

There is a lot of commotion; people are filing into the stadium for a game. The homeless men scatter in different directions; they are without hope. Joseph is attracted to the fútbol game.

There is a hole in the fence and he squeezes through. People see him as he enters without paying. They look at him and are repulsed. Joseph looks at himself. He does look dirty. He enters the restroom and looks in the mirror. He’s a mess. He washes his face and takes out a rag from his pocket. He washes as best as he can. He receives the stares of others in the restroom as he tries to clean up.

A father and son leave the restroom and inform a policeman about Joseph, but by the time the policeman arrives, Joseph is gone.

The match is about to begin. Joseph is out to the seating. They are about to play the national anthem. A group of men, many look worse than Joseph, but maybe are alcoholics. Two are clearly drug dealer with pills. As the anthem begins, THREE MEN stand but continue talking (joking even) and one RELUCTANT MAN refuses to stand. The others encourage him, but he shakes his head and he seems to be arguing with them. The reluctant man’s friends are not willing to enforce anything.
Joseph notices some policemen who are also observing. They are on duty but they are there to watch the game and don’t want to enforce anything either.

LONG SHOT: from the police POV, Joseph approaches with his fists balled up, Joseph points a finger and threatens the man. We see the reluctant man stand rather than fight. The reluctant man’s friends point to Joseph and the police ignore the complaint and motion that the man should be standing.

The match begins.

EXT. MOA FERRIS WHEEL – DAY

A COUPLE WITH TWO KIDS squeeze into a car on the Ferris wheel, The kid points to the suitcase. His father directs the kids attention out to the view.

When the family exits the car, the father points out the suitcase to the workers. The Ferris wheel WORKER takes the suitcase and sets it aside.

INT. MIKITA BAR – DAY

Lani enters the bar and walks to the dressing room. She’s less than happy about her situation. She looks at the other GIRLS and around the filthy room. She seems to be contemplating a move.

EXT. MANILA MARINA – DAY

A dozen of the Suburbans drive from the port to the marina. They park in perfect order. In fact, some FILIPINOS are told to move their vehicles; one Filipino refuses until the driver of a Suburban shows him a gun in his belt.

The MEXICAN’S have no fear of discovery or consequences. They appear to own the town after only one day.

The obscenely “Mexican” F-350 arrives and parks in the parking lot next to all the Suburbans.

EXT/INT. GO GO BANANAS CLUB – P BURGOS STREET – NIGHT

A Suburban pulls up in front of the establishment and a group of rough-looking MEXICANS emerge. They don’t appear like young men ready to have fun. They are hardcore criminals, tattoos, knife
scars, and surgical scars that removed bullets. They are more likely to kill someone than date someone. Too much silver, gold and too much leather. Think DANNY TREJO.

One of the men, a CLOSETED GAY MEXICAN (28), is afraid and very nervous. He sneaks off without a girl and goes to the Mixed Nuts Bar, which is across the street. However, he’s followed. The FOLLOWER radios the El Jefe who is smoking weed in his Ford F-350 and the Ford begins to roll.

EXT/INT. MIXED NUTS BAR - KALAYAAN AVE STREET - NIGHT

Inside, we see a glimpse of the gay entertainment.

EXT/INT. AMAZONIA BAR - ERMITA - NIGHT

A Suburban pulls up in front. Money and dancing. Prostitution.

EXT. ROBINSON MALATE MALL - NIGHT

The Robinsons Malate is just a well-lit shopping mall, but there are some FREELANCERS standing right outside the main entrance. They are there eagerly smiling at every foreigner they see, even the ugly, scarred and tattooed Mexicans.

EXT. ARYA PERSIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Other Mexicans walk across the street to the Persian restaurant. A few of the Mexicans approach the Arab/Persian girls standing out front. Everyone scores and everyone saunters off to hotel rooms.

EXT/INT. EDSA ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Five or six Suburbans are parked out front. Enough said. There are seven bikini bars inside, full of Mexicans. The Mexicans spend far too much money in Cotton Bar and Pitstop.

EXT. MIXED NUTS BAR - KALAYAAN AVE STREET - NIGHT

The gay Mexican emerges with a new BOYFRIEND and they walk out onto the sidewalk. The gay Mexican immediately sees the F-350 parked directly in front of the gay club. He is frightened out of his wits and turns to reenter the club.

When he turns, El Jefe is standing behind him with a 17-inch Bowie knife. It’s strange but no one seems to notice for 5 or 6
seconds. A woman screams and people duck into bars to avoid the situation. The boyfriend runs for his life. El Jefe climbs into his truck and speeds off.

The sidewalk is rapidly covered with a gallon of blood.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - AFTERNOON

THEO (32) is a motorcycle cop. He comes home from work and is greeted by his WIFE and BOY (5). The interior of their home shows they are a great Filipino family, patriotic and religious. Theo changes clothes, from his uniform to his civilian clothes. He has some protective clothing to ride a cycle. The boy’s mother puts the boy in his own tiny protective clothing.

In the garage, we see three or four street bikes. It’s an impressive collection. It appears that he does all the work himself. There are old and disassembled engines laying around.

Especially notable is a cycle with a sidecar. The boy is placed into the sidecar. Behind the cycle with a sidecar, it's pulling a tiny trailer. On the trailer is a tiny minibike. This is the small boy’s first motorbike.

The boy is happy looking over the side of his compartment. Clearly, he’s excited about taking a trip with his father. When they reach the street…

THEO

Wave to your mom.

The boy turns in the sidecar and waves to his mother who is watching them depart.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - MANILA

ESMERALDA (60) is the live-in maid, who is cooking. FARAH (33) is at the table, reading a newspaper, taking notes on a pad of paper, and drinking coffee.

FARAH

Esmeralda?

ESMERALDA

Yes, ma’am.
FARAH
I have that gig at the comedy club, tonight. I just wanted to make sure you are here tonight. It might be late.

ESMERALDA
Don’t worry, Ms. Ramos. I’ll be here all night. I live here.

FARAH
Sometimes I worry.

ESMERALDA
You’re the breadwinner in this house since your husband died. You can afford me.

FARAH
Still I worry.

ESMERALDA
I think you’re doing an excellent job. What single mother can have a live-in maid?

FARAH
Thank you. You have no idea how important you are to us.

ESMERALDA
Your little girl needs you to make money. She’s in junior high and you know how important those years can be.

FARAH
Thank you.

ESMERALDA
My friends see you on TV and all they want to know about is are you as funny at home as you are on stage.

FARAH
And what do you tell them?
ESMERALDA
Nothing. I only smile and say that’s for me to know and you to find out.
(beat)
I like my job.

FARAH
We like you too.

From outside, Farah’s teenage daughter runs into the house. She’s out of breath. She’s run all the way home from school.

ESMERALDA
What is the matter, child?

DAUGHTER
I got a note.

Farah looks at her watch.

FARAH
You didn’t even stop to play?

DAUGHTER
Mom, I got a note here from the school steering committee.

FARAH
Oh, yea? Arrogant little people. Just read it to me. You didn’t do anything wrong and if you did, I’m still on your side anyway.

Farah turns from the newspaper and smiles, but she returns to the newspaper.

DAUGHTER
Mom, what are you doing?

FARAH
Looking for material.

DAUGHTER
But that’s the politics section.
FARAH
Can you think of a better place to look for jokes?

DAUGHTER
Mom, the letter.

FARAH
Go ahead and read the letter to me. I won’t be mad.

The teenager hands the letter to Esmeralda. Esmeralda reads it to herself but then quickly gives the letter back to the daughter. Esmeralda shakes her head adamantly, no!

ESMERALDA
No, ma’am. I’m not going to read this. If you think that, you are crazy.

Now, Farah puts down the newspaper. She reaches for the note and reads part of it.

FARAH
Mrs. Ramos, We couldn’t help noticing that you're telling off-color jokes on national television. And it's reported you've been drinking and dating younger men and goin' wild. And we don't believe you ought to be bringing up your little girl this way.

Farah reads more and reads out-loud some of the highlights. And as she reads the note, half out-loud and half to herself, her anger grows.

FARAH
Skimpy clothes.

(beat)
Don’t they know that’s my signature? My trademark. That’s my spiel!!! I’m a sarcastic single, without a man. How am I supposed to dress? It’s an act.

We don’t know if Farah is getting depressed or about to boil over. She’s difficult to read.
FARAH
Independent and irresponsible.
(beat)
Crude. They said my sense of humor is crude.
(beat)
Mean and nasty. Well, I am mean.

ESMERALDA
What comedian isn’t?

There is a long beat as Farah contemplates things. Anger is building.

FARAH
And it’s signed by the Secretary.
Ortigas School Steering Committee.
(calmly)
Well, when is the next time that this committee is gonna meet?

DAUGHTER
Mommy, they’re meeting tonight.

FARAH
This very night?

DAUGHTER
Mom, you’re not gonna...

FARAH
What do you want me to do?

DAUGHTER
Ignore it.

FARAH
Probably not going to happen!

DAUGHTER
Mom, please don’t embarrass me.

Farah quickly rises from the table and she fumbles for her keys and purse. She is angry and stumbles and her hands are shaking.
DAUGHTER
Mom, where are you going?

FARAH
To the meeting.

DAUGHTER
Mom, it’s not until tonight, three hours.

FARAH
Oh, we’re going out to eat first.

DAUGHTER
Ok, where we going?

FARAH
Ristorante delle Mitre.

DAUGHTER
I thought you said that was too expensive.

FARAH
(defensive)
I got paid and I’m a good provider, ask Esmeralda. She’ll tell you. And a good mother too. Right?

The daughter is a bit frightened and would never disagree with her mother when her mother is in this state, but it’s an explosive situation. The daughter is frozen.

Esmeralda must coach the daughter; she signals her to agree. The daughter slowly nods.

DAUGHTER
That is correct.

The daughter emerges from of her frozen state. Something has occurred to her.

DAUGHTER
(sly)
Mommy, can I have the lobster.
FARAH
(cheerful and loving)
Of course. Honey. You go change
clothes.

EXT. MOA FERRIS WHEEL - DAY

The POLICE come by with a DRUG INTERDICTION DOG. The dog alerts
on the suitcase. And the police look at the worker, who shrugs
that he doesn’t know. The police immediately use their radios.

EXT. LAX AIRPORT - LOS ANGELES

The VICE PRESIDENT of the Philippines arrives at LAX. The seal
of the Philippines is clearly marked on the plane. He is greeted
by American diplomats.

DIPLOMATS
Welcome, Mr. Vice President. Welcome to
Los Angeles. The trade show begins
tomorrow. May we show you to your
hotel?

EXT. EMPTY PARKING LOT NEAR THE RIVER - DAY

The purpose of Theo’s trip is to teach the boy to ride his
minibike.

They arrive and the boy gets out of the sidecar. Theo takes the
tiny minibike, probably only 3.5 hp, off the trailer and he
points to the river and gestures not to go near it.

The kid climbs on and has difficulty starting his minibike.
Theo, grabs a tool and adjusts the carburetor. The boy
kickstarts the engine and revs it up. He takes off a little
shaky through the parking lot. He grows in confidence and goes
faster.

Theo notices some plastic three-gallon waste-paper bins behind
an office building. He places them out in the parking lot in a
zig-zag pattern.

The boy weaves through them like a pro and when he has only one
more trash can to navigate, the father shouts!

THEO
Great!
And distracted, the boy hits the last trash can and it flies up into the air and lands over his head. The boy is temporarily blinded and his arms might even be limited. He drives the minibike over the embankment and into the river.

He disappears from sight. Theo descends down the embankment and brings the boy up into the parking lot. The boy is soaked but otherwise okay. The kid bounces up and down nervously. Theo enters the river again and pulls up the minibike. The boy tries to mount it again. Theo must reach out and prevent him. The father points to the sidecar. Theo puts the minibike on the trailer. The kid only wants to ride some more.

EXT. MARINA PARKING LOT - DAY

El Jefe is washing his obnoxious Mexican themed truck. Something wrong with a man so clearly in love with his truck.

INT. BOARD ROOM - ORTIGAS JUNIOR HIGH - DUSK

The eight-members of the committee are certainly surprised, when Farah wears her skimpy clothes into the room. And as she walks up to the front of the room.

FARAH
I'd like to address this meeting of the school steering committee.

They all look at each other but none have the balls to stop her. As she speaks, they look at each other like she’s an angry African lion. They only move their eyeballs.

FARAH
Well, there's Ian Biglete sittin' there and seven times he's asked me for a date

(beat)
And Mrs. Biglete sure seems to buy a lot a Pilsen, whenever he's away.

(beat)
And Mr. Macato, can you tell us why, your secretary had to leave town for her home village?

(beat)
And you Miss Pecson, you’re young and need to be told to keep your window shades pulled down!

(beat)
Well, where’s Mr. Santiago? He couldn't be here 'cause he stayed too long at Hollywood’s again?

(beat)
And if you smell Xuxa Banta's clothes you'll find she was smoking weed out in the car before the meeting. And you spray that cheap Chinese cologne to hide the smell, but it doesn’t work.

(long beat)
And then you have the nerve to tell me you think that as a mother I'm not fit. Well, this is just a little GMA telenovela and you're all Sinner or Saint hypocrites.

(beat)
You know, I do say the F word on stage. But I’m being paid. That’s right people, (mostly idiots I’ll freely admit that) pay to hear me say that word. And I’m sorry.

(beat)
But, I’m tempted to use it right now on you all, for free. But I won’t.

(beat)
And I’m a very good provider for my daughter. We have a live-in maid, lobster (occasionally), and my daughter and I have a very good relationship.

(beat)
So, just let me say this... I hope there is very little pork in your giniling, tonight. And every night until you stop judging people!

(beat)
Now, excuse me I have to go provide for my daughter. Channel 7, at 10:30 pm if any of you care to be offended.

Farah storms out of the room and collects her daughter who has been nervously waiting in the hall.
INT. MIKITA BAR – DAY

The Mexicans from the yacht have arrived at the strip club where Lani works as a dancer. It’s relatively clear she’s not very good at her job.

EXT. TAXI – MANILA – NIGHT

Farah has put her daughter in the back of a taxi. The daughter looks highly embarrassed, she’s been through this before it seems.

DAUGHTER
Mom, please don’t.

Farah leans over and takes a photo of the TAXI DRIVER, who looks frightened.

FARHA
I’m a good provider for my daughter and I have a job I have to be at. Now straight home. You have the address. If you get a speeding ticket tonight; I will hunt you. I have your photo. Hold up your ID.

The driver nervously holds up his ID. Farah photographs it with her phone.

FARAH
Now, if my daughter says, “anything odd happened in the taxi,” I’ll hunt you. Understand that.

The taxis driver nervously nods.

FARAH
If I come home and she’s not in her bed. Let’s say she’s in the bathroom. And for a second I worry, I’m gonna cut your balls off. Understand?

The taxis driver nods, too frightened to speak.

FARAH
Both of them. Understand?
The taxis driver nods.

Farah stands straight. The taxi driver zooms off.

FARAH
(shouting)
I know where you live!

INT. MIKITA BAR – DAY

The Mexicans are throwing around twenty and hundred-dollar bills. Lani notices and looks closely at the dollars. She smells the bills; of course, they smell like marijuana. She examines the bills closely.

EXT. COMEDY BAR – NIGHT

ANGEL (44) is a mechanic. We see, mechanic’s repair manuals in the interior of his sports car. He travels from his apartment above his garage and gets out behind the comedy club. He walks past a television remote truck to the front of the building. It’s a popular act. There are people standing in line and the show. The sign says, “Tonight’s Show is Televised Live.”

ANGEL
One ticket, please.

The TICKET CLERK looks at him incredulously and shakes her head “NO”.

TICKET CLERK
It’s televised and we sold the last ticket yesterday.

He looks longingly at the poster of Farah, the “beautiful” and “outrageously single” female comedian. Farah’s marketing.

Angel walks casually back to behind the club. And he’s kinda just hanging around the backstage door. He just wants a glimpse of Farah. Nothing creepy; Angel is a just a grown-up kid. Star struck. He keeps his distance, but eventually falls asleep.

EXT. MOA FERRIS WHEEL – NIGHT

There are at least fifty police standing around. The drug task force has the suitcase on a table and opens it. There seems to be two different substances in the suitcase. They point to the
methamphetamine which is obvious to them; they’ve found tons of that in the past.

The other substance looks like a gray potter’s clay molded into rectangular bricks. The rookie cops point at the strange substance and shrug. They contemplate touching it.

POLICE SUPERVISOR
Don’t touch it. The president will be here in the morning and the press.
Don’t disturb it. You are only to guard it.

A truck arrives and drops off a rostrum with the presidential seal. Also, there are decorations and flags brought in. There is a barrier set up to hold back the press and the inevitable crowd. Something important will happen the next morning.

A Mexican is observing from afar in the shadows.

INT. CABLE TELEVISION – COMEDY BAR – NIGHT

Farah is on stage and we catch her conclusion.

FARAH
I’m not really popular with big girls.
I don’t know why?

She profiles and poses her perfect body.

FARAH
But really girls you have nothing to be jealous about. This body is untouched… well practically. Untouched.
(beat)
Hey, why can a man sleep around and if the woman does even a few dozen times, she’s a slut?
(beat)
But anyway. A big girl came up to me after the last show and said, “I think you’re a fatist.” I said, “No, no. I think you’re the fattest.”

The audience applauds.
FARAH

Thank you and good night.

The audience applauds more and she exits the stage.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND - LIVE COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

At the rear of the building, down the steps comes Farah. Now awake, Angel admires her from a distance. He’s careful not to frighten her. He does however give her a very childlike innocent wave.

ANGEL

Man, oh man.
(beat)
My favorite female celebrity.

She smiles at him, waves back, and heads for her car.

She doesn’t get in, but is looking at her car tire, which unlike her body, is very flat. Only now does he approach. And he’s careful to look only at the tire. He’s shy and she’s not too frightened.

ANGEL

Need some help?

FARAH

Could you change my tire?

ANGEL

Your wish is my desire.

She’s a bit taken back because he bows to her like she’s a princess. She gives him the key and he opens the trunk. He grabs her car jack. He changes her tire with speed and expert precision.

FARAH

I sure do appreciate you changing my tire.

ANGEL

If I tell the fellows at the shop this story, you'd say I was making it up.
FARAH
Shop?

ANGEL
I own an auto repair business over on Ayala Blvd.

FARAH
Ohm that’s nice. That explains why you’re so handy with the tire.

ANGEL
We stopped work the other day to watch you on Eat Bulaga! That was great. You’re really funny.

FARAH
Thanks. They won’t believe you fixed my tire? I can fix that.

Farah poses for a selfie with Angel. He’s kneeling at the tire and she’s leaning over near his face, very close. She notices how it makes him a bit nervous; she thinks it’s sweet. She posts it on social media.

He’s changed the tire and he returns the key.

FARAH
You need a lift?

ANGEL
No, I have my car here.

He points to the Pearl Yellow Lexus LFA. Her eyes bug out.

FARAH
That’s your car?

ANGEL
You wanna go for a spin?

They get into his Lexus.

ANGEL
I’ve got all your comedy routines ma’am on my phone.
He plays one and laughs. She smiles.

FARAH
Well, I’ll be darned, you do.

ANGEL
Don’t worry; I didn’t pirate them.
(beat)
Wanna see my business?

Fast, safe but thrilling (for her) driving.

They arrive at the garage within view of the Hotel Conrad Manila. The lights and the flags and decorations. It gives off an aura. She’s clearly enamored at both the shop and the hotel.

FARAH
That’s your shop across from the Conrad Manila?
(beat)
Oh, I love that hotel.

She looks at the hotel.

FARAH
So you’re a man. What’s your definition of a romantic evening?

ANGEL
Uh... Sex?

FARAH
Hey, that’s funny. Can I use that?

ANGEL
Sure. Anything for a lady.

FARAH
You're kind of cute fellar; I NEVER do this but you wanna mess around?

She gestures to the hotel. He pulls into the hotel drive.

INT. PRESIDENT’S BEDROOM - MALACAÑAN PALACE - DAY

The room is ornate, but the president’s pajamas are plain and simple. He walks to the verandah. He has a decent view of the
city. He stands at a railing and listens to the city which never sleeps. Gunshots in the distance and fire, police and ambulance sirens.

INT. CONRAD MANILA – HOTEL ROOM – NIGHT

ANGEL
I sure wish I could’ve heard you tonight.

She smiled at him.

FARAH
Wanna hear some of my new material? While we… you know.

She unbuttons his shirt. Angel is all smile.

INT. MIKITA BAR – DAY

Lani is the last girl from the bar to be selected for an excursion. There is a tan Suburban parked in front of the strip club. The girls are herded out and crowded into the Suburban.

INT. SUBURBAN – NIGHT

Lani is being transported. She notices some bullets rolling around loose on the floorboard. Also, there are some Mexican coins. She notices the driver’s key chain, establishes that it’s a Mexican flag. Odd in Manila. Mexicans that are trying to appear American. She’s thinking.

EXT. MARINA PARKING LOT – NIGHT

There are a dozen tan Suburbans all lined up in a row. Odd.

Lani notices the name of the yacht on the bow – Los Chachos.

EXT. DECK OF THE YACHT – NIGHT

The girls are lined up on deck. Lani is looking at the American flag. She notices a wadded up Mexican flag that’s been thrown on a countertop. Not even folded.

ENGLISH SPEAKER
And girls, this is an all-night engagement. I’ll be up early in the
morning with your pay and your ride back into town.

There seems to be a pecking order. Only one of the cartel members speaks English and he’s had the first choice of the bargirls. Lani isn’t marketing herself well; she is the last chosen and the man is falling over drunk and the UGLIEST MEXICAN ever in Sinaloa.

LANI
God, what’re you drinking?

ENGLISH SPEAKER
Mescaline and gasoline.

She thought she’d heard it all. Her jaw drops.

ENGLISH SPEAKER
I’m just kidding. I don’t know what that is, but it’s probably not gasoline.

UGLY MEXICAN
¿Te gusta estar desnudo y que te miren?

ENGLISH SPEAKER
He said, “You like to lay naked and like to be gazed upon?”

LANI
(hesitant)
Sure.

ENGLISH SPEAKER
He’s harmless. Probably.

Lani doubts that.

ENGLISH SPEAKER
He’s a poet.

Lani chuckles at that.

LANI
I doubt that.
ENGLISH SPEAKER
Well, he thinks he’s a poet.

LANI
He’s just a drunk.

Lani nods whatever.

INT. BELOW DECK - THE YACHT - NIGHT

Lani and the drunk descend into the ship. The ugly Mexican stops and appears disoriented and he might fall over.

LANI
Here you are. Lean up against this.

She places him so if he tips over he won’t hurt himself. It works; he leans into the bulkhead then slides over face first. He’s totally passed out.

Lani goes up on the deck again and finds a comfortable looking deck chair. She hears a girl squeal, half panic and half excitement, and some banging around below deck. She looks at the city at night. She considers herself lucky. But her stomach growls and she goes below deck again.

She explores the ship. Finds the galley, and dips out a healthy portion of ice cream from the freezer.

She’s eating the ice cream on her way back to her deck chair, but she notices a door slightly open and a slight tv glow inside. She opens the door and peers inside. There are sophisticated communications and computers and monitors.

A recording of President Santos’ press conference from the airport is playing. The sound is off but it’s pretty clear someone has been studying it. On the other monitors, video from cell phones. It’s the same event but amateurish photography. And the subject isn’t the president on the podium but the various security. Police and PSG. How they are positioned. There is even on overall (aerial drone) shot from above, with Xs superimposed over security positions.

Lani enters the room and takes a more detailed look at the monitors. She hits a few buttons and the browser shows her the history of the user.
She turns and surveys the rest of the room. It’s an arsenal. Not just small arms, but RPGs and armored vests. That does it. Lani reaches for her phone.

**LANI**

Police, I’m on the Los Chachos in slip number 12 at the marina. I’ve been raped, help me. These men are heavily armed Mexicans.

(beat)

It’s a ship.

(beat)

You are kidding me? Where would you park a ship? Slip 12! Help. I’m injured.

(beat)

American, but they’re Mexicans. Heavily armed Mexicans.

(beat)

Well, I can’t make it anymore clear.

Lani leaves her ice cream on the desk and sees some Mexicans approaching down the hall. She runs the opposite direction. She hurdles the drunken poet and runs up the stairs to the deck.

When she reaches the deck she looks at the chair where she was reclining. But she’s being closed in on.

She puts her phone in her pocket and runs, but in the end she must dive into the bay. She swims to safety and looks back at the dock and yacht. They are searching for her with flashlights and even an inflatable.

A single police car responds, and the English speaking Mexican greets them. The Mexican seems to be talking his way out of it. He points this way and that and shows the police some papers.

The police get into their vehicle and drive away.

She takes out her phone and tries to dry it, best she can. But it’s futile. She begins to walk.

She speaks to three different police, pointing toward the marina. They each take notes on her story. Nothing seems to be happening.

She looks behind her as she walks.
INT. CONRAD MANILA - HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Farah exits the shower; calls home to check on her daughter. She is dressing and Angel’s sitting up in bed watching her.

ANGEL
Well, if I was one of them variety show hosts, I’ve have you on every night.

FARAH
It was okay?

ANGEL
You had me rolling.

FARAH
Some of that is new; you’re the first to hear it.

ANGEL
I’ll tell you, you’d sure get my vote for the best performance of the year.

FARAH
Oh? The sex or the jokes?

ANGEL
Both. I never met a women that could … well, you know… and test her new material… and…

She shrugs and sheepishly grins.

ANGEL
And in the middle of all that action. How did you?

FARAH
Multi-tasking!

ANGEL
They’ll say I was making it up.

FARAH
It’s our little secret though, right?
ANGEL
By golly, I'm gonna keep it our little secret.

FARAH
Good cause...

ANGEL
You’re always the snid single mom, without a man.

FARAH
That’s how I make a living, how I support my family. You know?

ANGEL
You won’t read about this in the tabloids. Not from me.

FARAH
Even the journalist wouldn't believe that session. Wow!

He gets out of bed and gives her a solid hug.

FARAH
I’d love that more than coffee. But please don’t make me prove it.

He stops hugging her. He glances over at the table. While she was in the shower, he had coffee delivered by room service.

She issues an incredibly sexy smile. Basically, she is persuaded.

EXT. FERRIS WHEEL – DAWN

The presidential staff has everything set -- the podium and a rostrum next to the drugs and some police are lined up behind the rostrum. TV trucks arrive. Cameramen and reporters are finding their places. President Santos is expected to make remarks on the drug bust soon.

INT. PRESIDENT’S OFFICE – MALACAÑAN PALACE – EARLY

President Santos is watching television.
TELEVISION
In breaking news, a canine employee of the Metro Manila drug task force has discovered 15 pounds of suspected methamphetamine in a suspicious suitcase, left at a Port Area hotel. Just add this amount to the approximately 50.53 pounds of meth and 15.83 pounds of cocaine in three separate busts over the last month.

Agent Garcia and his second in command, SAMANTHA SANGLEY enter the office.

AGENT GARCIA
Sir, are you ready?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Are we ready to leave?

AGENT GARCIA
Mr. President, you know Samantha Sangley; she’s my new second in command.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
So, why the delay? I need to be at the mall to make the morning news.

AGENT GARCIA
Well, sir...

PRESIDENT SANTOS
What are you guys so damn nervous about? I always make an appearance at the drug busts.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
And your enemies knows that, sir.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It’ll be okay.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
We haven’t even tested the drugs yet.
AGENT GARCIA
However, the dog did alert on it.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
Why would someone leave an entire suitcase just abandoned there?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
They’re frightened. We have them nervous. They lost their head. On the run.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
That’s when they’ll be most dangerous. This cartel, they might lash out.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Let’s go. Do right when you can and wrong when you must BUT he who hesitates is lost.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
These trips are dangerous, sir.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
We all know the danger.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
We haven’t had time to plan. They only found the drugs last evening.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, then anyone who wants to harm me, they haven’t had time to plan either.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
Are you sure I can’t talk you out of this?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It’s a drug bust there will be twenty-two-hundred cops there. Standing around, trying to look important.
AGENT GARCIA
Right, police will secure the perimeter of the mall, while you make your remarks.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
We can leave now?

AGENT GARCIA
It’s a 12-minute ride to the mall. Media is set up.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
I’d recommend making your remarks short, in and out, before the bad guys really notice.

AGENT GARCIA
The mall owner was a big supporter of your campaign. He wants to greet you.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You don’t seem thrilled.

SAMANTHA SANGLEY
Sir, your priority is the news right? Anything else is asking for trouble. We stick to the plan.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
(to Gracia)
Can we make it work?
(to Sangley)
Agent?

AGENT GARCIA
We always do, sir. In and out.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Good.
(to Sangley)
You’re new here. I know its last minute and it’s your job but, but ... It’s my job too. I make them nervous and then they make mistakes. That’s all I’m doing here.
(beat)
When the Mexicans are worried and looking at me, you law enforcement types sneak up on them and strike!

The president strikes and grabs Garcia’s arm like he is a snake. Sangley jumps back, startled.

AGENT GARCIA

Yes, sir.

They exit the office and move to the vehicles waiting in front of the palace. The motorcycle mechanic waves from the garage. Santos waves back. Garcia doesn’t appreciate Santo’s popularity.

EXT. HILTON HOTEL – LOS ANGELES – MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

The vice president of the Philippines quickly and silently moves from the hotel room to the waiting SUVS in the alley. They speed off to disappear into the night. I-405 south.

EXT. ALLEY NEAR MOA FERRIS WHEEL – MORNING

Joseph is there sitting, leaning up against a wall. He’s in bad condition. He’s crying. He has a .38 Saturday night special in his hand and one bullet. The gun has a broken handle and it’s held together with duct tape. It’s about the cheapest gun available. He puts the gun to his temple. His hands are shaking. Sweat is pouring off his forehead.

JOSEPH

I'm running on empty. Oh Lord please forgive me for what I'm about to do.

Joseph hears a lot of commotion, walkie talkies, news reports, a public address system being tested. He lowers the pistol. Car traffic, people walking to the event. A television reporter has set up just around the corner. He puts the pistol in his pocket and walks to hear the reporter. When he turns the corner he sees the Ferris wheel and the mob of people waiting. Security is there and its fairly clear the president is coming for a speech.

TELEVISION REPORTER

A common character in really bad television, this President kicks ass, consistently and thoroughly. While lampooned in the human rights circles, oftentimes, President Santos is far
more a badass than his entire Presidential Security Group detail combined. He’s publically (and privately) threatened the leader of the most violent Mexican drug cartel and he’s confiscated dozens of vehicles from corrupt government officials.

The camera pans down the street and zooms in on the preparation.

TELEVISION REPORTER #2
As you can see at the end of the street where Seaside Blvd and Marina Way intersect, this particular PSG detail is getting ready for an official visit.

(beat)
Few leaders outside of the Philippines have been placed into this role. While action presidents are fairly common around the world, our President Santos clearly sees it as an explicit part of the President's duty to be a battlefield leader in the war on drugs.

(beat)
Judging from the crowd’s reaction at other events, this president might be more than just a badass; the president could be an actual superhero.

Joseph is sufficiently distracted and won’t be killing himself today. There is a moment however when the film’s audience will realize the Joseph is an unstable drug addict walking toward the President with a loaded weapon in his pocket.

BIAS REPORTER
After years of this president’s administration, most Filipinos simply cannot imagine there are neighborhoods with low crime, with high-quality schools, with rising standards of living. The question is can the man who made us all poor win popularity on the façade of 'Law and Order'?

An ELDERLY WOMAN who has been listening to the bias reporting.
ELDERLY WOMAN
Did you say, “made us all poor?” That’s bias reporting. You should be ashamed of yourself.

The elderly woman takes her walking cane and wacks the reporter in the shin and walks toward the podium.

EXT. MOA FERRIS WHEEL – MORNING

Lani is there and she walks down the sidewalk again she is listening to festive Filipino music. It’s not every day a Makita bargirl gets to see the president make a speech. Upbeat patriotic music. She’s been walking all night but she’s excited.

She sees the ugly Mexican poet walk past her. Of course, he doesn’t notice her. She sees a strange device in his hands. It’s something like a remote control for a television or a cell phone, but she can’t make it out well. He’s holding the device strangely. She seeks out TWO POLICEMAN and then a THIRD and tells them, but by the time she persuades one to investigate, the ugly Mexican poet has disappeared into the crowd.

Joseph is there to watch the speech. He’s forgotten about the pistol in his pocket. He walks very near the rostrum.

Theo is there on his police cycle, escorting the presidential white Toyota Land Cruiser.

Angel and Farah are there. Holding hands, they’ve left the hotel and are there. To see better, they leave the sidewalk and watch from the inside of a jeepney. It puts them a bit above the crowd. With the same idea, there is a GRANDMOTHER (80+) on the jeepney. She wants to watch the speech/rally also. Despite her advanced age she has her cell phone camera ready.

Grandmother is probably the least likely to have a nice camera/phone, but she does. She films the entire event. In fact, as the film progresses, she uses her phone to tape the action sequences. Granny has few spoken lines, but she’s recording everything. She’s in many scenes from this point forward.

The president arrives and exits the Toyota. He waves to the crowd and he’s about to walk to the rostrum.

Lani spots the ugly Mexican poet and his body language gives him away and he’s clearly about to detonate something.
Lani points him out and the two policemen rush him just as he’s about to detonate something. Lani hurdles the barrier and tackles the president and is almost shot herself. But the suitcase detonates and explodes at the base of the Ferris wheel.

Simultaneously, several radio and cell towers explode. Also exploding are car bombs in front of police stations and the PSG building. Thick smoke is rising from ten or twelve strategic locations around the city, bridges, police stations, communications buildings. There will be mass chaos.

Mexican assassins rise from the roofs of the Conrad Hotel and The Mall of America. They have automatic rifles. Also, Mexicans emerge from four or five Suburbans. They have machines pistols. And approach aggressively. They decimate the PSG escorts. Half the security and police are taken out immediately.

Bullets flying everywhere. A PSG agent jumps on top of Lani, who is already on top of Santos. He’s covered. FX: The wheel falls over and narrowly misses Lani, the agent, and Santos.

Other Mexicans have RPGs and they destroy the president’s Toyota.

The crowd scatters in a panic. Joseph remains. A Mexican terrorist advances, while firing his automatic weapon. He’s just to the side of Joseph. Joseph pulls the .38 out of his pocket and fires. The .38 literally falls apart in his hands, but the Mexican drops his weapons and holds his chest. He has a shocked look on his face; he didn’t think Joseph was a threat.

The PSG and police are fighting back with pistols but are losing ground. Soon the Mexicans will be in point-blank range of President Santos.

Theo rides his cycle in a circle, around Santos, firing his weapon. He shoots several Mexicans. But it’s a delaying action, soon he will be out of ammunition and overwhelmed.

Garcia simply falls to the ground; he’s just gonna sit this one out. Samantha Sangley shoots two Mexicans and runs to a support vehicle. She is about to open the trunk when she’s shot. The agents run for cover, and fire back and the snipers, but Joseph runs to aid Sangley. An RPG flies into the front of the support vehicle. It’s front is burning, but Sangley points to the trunk.
SANGLEY

Inside.

Sangley hands the keys to Joseph but the trunk won’t open. Angel runs from the jeepney with a crowbar and he forces the trunk open. The men peer into the trunk and see a chest. Sangley isn’t able to speak with a bullet in her chest.

She surveys the situation. The official vehicles have all been destroyed, except a jeepney down the street half a block. Sangley points to the president and then the jeepney.

Painted on the jeepney at the rear has a Krupp cannon and it’s fired a round. The projectile is painted at the front of the jeepney. It’s a Spanish-American War theme jeepney.

Inside the arms locker (chest), there are heavy weapons, but Sangley’s been shot through the shoulder. Joseph and Angel lift the chest out of the car trunk. Angel signals for Farah to bring the jeepney.

Farah starts the engine and accelerates, but she hits a vehicle and the bumpers lock. It’s a problem. Bullets flying everywhere Joseph runs over and jumps on the vehicle. He bounces up and down a few times and the jeepney’s bumper is now free.

Theo, out of ammunition, uses his cycle to pull a dead PSG agent off the top of Lani and Santos. Both are disoriented.

President Santos crawls to Sangley, who is coughing up blood.

SANGLEY
(not entirely intelligible)
Don’t back down. You are doing the people’s work.

Sangley points to the jeepney that is on its way.

Joseph jumps on the hood of the jeepney. And nearly slides off but hangs on to a mirror.

The jeepney arrives and blocks a lot of the bullets from the rooftops.

Lani and the President are now aware enough to stand. Farah exits the jeepney and she and Lani help Santos onboard. Lani jumps into the driver’s seat.
On the jeepney are President Santos, Lani, Farah, Angel, Joseph, and Granny. Theo is leading them on the only police motorcycle to survive.

Farah shields the president as best as she can. Angel and Joseph load the chest into back of the jeepney. They remove a bullet proof vest from the arms chest and Farah lays it over the president then pushes him down.

THEO  
(to Lani)  
You can drive?

She nods, yes.

THEO  
Follow me.

Lani still has her head-phones on. A Filipino rock track starts up. She’s a dancer of sorts, but by chance when behind the wheel the music moves up a notch.

Theo accelerates down Marina Way and Lani follows in the jeepney. He’s trying to get someone on his radio, but the police communications have been destroyed.

But the Mexicans are decimating the jeepney with automatic fire. It’s a miracle someone in the jeepney isn’t hit.

Angel has an idea and yells to Lani.

ANGEL  
Turn right.

Lani can’t hear; she’s got loud pounding music on. The music is intense, and she drives by music and naked intuition. Instinct.

Lani makes a radical decision (Crazy Ivan) to avoid the gunfire, turns left, and she drives the jeepney inside the Mall of Asia. The bullet strikes stop.

The English-speaking Mexican who’s been supervising the operation speaks into a radio.
ENGLISH SPEAKER
Jeepney with some cockeyed canon on the side. They just pulled a “pollo loco” and drove into the mall. Inside the mall.

Theo sees the jeepney has entered the mall; he pulls a U-turn on Marina Way and enters the mall also. He catches the jeepney and passes it. The cycle scatters the shoppers as they dive out of the way.

Lani’s driving through the mall while the men open the trunk and take out automatic rifles. They load the weapons.

Farah grabs the vest and starts to put it on Santos.

SANTOS
I don’t ever.

FARAH
Well, today is different.

Bullets impact to their left and right. She just pushes him down again and lays the vest over him like a blanket and she lays down on top of him. He is again shielded.

A Suburban enters the mall and is rapidly catching them. They are taking more automatic fire. Joseph doesn’t know how to fire his weapon. Angel shows him and they return fire. A Suburban crashes into a planter. But a second Suburban is closing in. And behind it is another.

Two Suburbans reach the jeepney and pull beside them. Lani turns right rapidly and heads to the front of the mall. One Suburban can’t make the turn and goes straight. They are momentarily out of the chase. A different Suburban crashes into a woman’s dress store.

Lani drives the jeepney through the glass doors of the mall onto the circle drive. Grandmother gets it all recorded on her phone’s camera.

Bullets everywhere.

Farah is laying over Santos on the floor, under a seat.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
I can’t believe this has happened.

FARAH
You waved a gun in the face of a Mexican drug lord. What did you think would happen?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It was on TV.

FARAH
They don’t have televisions in Mexico?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Okay, my bad.

(beat)

Next time, I’ll get something more intimidating.

Farah chuckles.

FARAH
You are something. You know that?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Thank you.

Outside the mall, it’s only a short time before they’re followed again by a Suburban. Bullets fly both ways.

Joseph and Angel are using the automatic weapons to defend the jeepney. Farah is protecting the president as best as possible.

A PSG Toyota pulls up next to Suburban and they exchange gunfire. The Toyota is disabled, the PSG driver killed.

The police are torn in this film. As the chase develops here and at other places in the film, police cars intercept the tan Suburbans. Some Manila police fire on the Mexicans and fire is returned. However, some Manila police simply wave the assassins through pretend roadblocks.

Lani accidentally pulls into traffic stopped at a light and she must brake rapidly. As she stops quickly, already a healthy amount of shell casings roll forward under her feet. Angel and Joseph are putting up a spirited resistance, firing back.
A Suburban crashes into the rear of the jeepney and a Mexican flies through to the windshield into the back of the jeepney. He’s not dead and the grandmother hits him about four times with an umbrella and rifles his pockets. She finds a pistol, a fat roll of money, and a folded up piece of paper.

Angel sees that she has a pistol and holds out his hand for it. He has an automatic rifle, but he figures the older woman won’t want the pistol. She offers to give him the money and holds the pistol close to her chest. Angel takes nothing from her.

The traffic moves through the light and Theo leads Lani down a less crowded street. Joseph tries to push the man out the back, but he’s not strong enough. The grandmother helps him, she’s marginally stronger than Joseph, but together they manage.

When a Suburban gets close, and the men are reloading their rifles, Lani drives through a kid’s playground. The jeepney narrowly misses a few swings and the teeter-totter. She buys some time and momentarily loses the Suburbans chasing them.

Grandmother returns to her seat and examines the folded up paper. It’s a detailed layout of the corner of Marian Way and Seaside Blvd. There are lines-of-fire drawn from various locations where the Mexicans fired from. It’s a blueprint of the assassination attempt.

Farah is sitting on the president and won’t allow him to get up. He’s trying to sit up. Wiggling around.

**FARAH**

What are you doing down there? Some of that down there is private.

**PRESIDENT SANTOS**

Don’t flatter yourself. On a regular day, I might. But, as a general rule, I don’t fool around during assassination attempts. That just wouldn’t be prudent.

**FARAH**

Well, stay down. And stop wiggling like that. You’re making me feel uncomfortable.
The grandmother puts the Mexican’s pistol in her purse and takes the paper to President Santos. Santos accepts it graciously.

A Suburban pulls in front of Theo and the jeepney. A man with an RPG step out and aims it at them. Theo rapidly turns but the jeepney doesn’t make the turn so quickly. The RPG, misses and hits the pavement in front of the jeepney. It explodes and sprays shrapnel everywhere. One of the front tires will be flat soon.

A PSG Toyota arrives and shoots at the Suburban but the Mexicans manage to fire a second RPG and it destroys the Toyota.

EXT. JEEPNEY - LEGAZPI VILLAGE - DAY

Another block or two and the jeepney stops. Flat tire.

Farah gets up off the president. They are both a bit embarrassed.

Everyone exits the jeepney.

Once on the sidewalk, the women, Lani and Farah, watch as Santos take off his shirt. He’s not embarrassed.

PRESIDENT SANTOS

You ever saw a 75-year-old man as fit as me?

They chuckle as he IS a handsome, fit, and charismatic man.

He puts the vest over his body and puts his shirt back on.

Theo returns and wants to put him on the cycle and get him out of harm's way. But the president returns to the jeepney and grabs an automatic rifle. Theo puts the president on the back of his cycle.

They zoom through a police barricade and the loyal police fire on the Suburban chasing them. The Mexicans inside the Suburban return fire and several policemen are shot.

In front of them, Theo approaches a second police barricade and the disloyal police wave the Mexicans through. As the Suburban approach them from the front, Theo must change directions.

Theo does some crafty maneuvering; they are free momentarily.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
I guess the cartel simply offered too much.

THEO
It’s wrong.

A Suburban spots them and chases them, firing at them, but Theo weaves, turns and dodges on the cycle until the president shoots the driver and the Suburban crashes.

They brake hard outside the Mexican embassy. Theo drives the president to the door and presses the call button.

THEO
The President of the Philippines to see the Mexican Ambassador. This is an emergency.

INT. STREAMING VIDEO – NEWS STUDIO – MANILA

NEWSREADER
Fifteen PSG agents are confirmed dead, along with hundreds of wounded civilians, in an attack that has decimated most of the known reclamation land around the Mall of Asia. And the fate of our president? We still don’t know. There isn’t word yet. (beat) Normally in a situation like this the Vice President would be the acting president, but since the Vice President is out of the country, it appears that instead we are left with the Senate President.

INT. MEXICAN EMBASSY – DAY

The two SECURITY AGENTS inside the embassy pull it up on their security cameras. The door is buzzed open and Theo puts the president inside.
EXT. MEXICAN EMBASSY – DAY

Theo takes the Mexican flag from the pole and remounts his cycle. He travels a block to the CC camera. He holds the flag up for the camera to see.

INT. MEXICAN EMBASSY – DAY

LOYAL MEXICAN SECURITY
Are you?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Yes.

LOYAL MEXICAN SECURITY
There are only two guards here now. But the ambassador has a safe room.

The two Mexican security officers lock the President in a saferoom upstairs and then arm themselves to the teeth. They return to the first floor expecting trouble.

INT. GSIS BUILDING – DIOKNO BOULEVARD – PASAY CITY

We hear emergency sirens going off as MIGUEL GUILLERA (80), President of the Senate, is being rushed from the Senate chamber into an office. Guillera can’t be rushed at this age. But he certainly tries to move fast. A military man joins them, a COLONEL.

GUILLERA
How bad is it? It's pretty bad, sir.

COLONEL
All government radios except PSG are down.

GUILLERA
Really, you’d think...

COLONEL
We have to assume that these lines of communication have been compromised. If they haven’t been destroyed, then they are listening.
GUILLERA
What about other communication?

COLONEL
Both civilian and military destroyed.

GUILLERA
Holy…

COLONEL
We have drones. And the Americans are helping with satellites.

GUILLERA
But so far nothing?

COLONEL
Nothing.

GUILLERA
Nearest quick reaction force?

COLONEL
Light Reaction Regiment. Fort Magsaysay, an hour out.

GUILLERA
They should be halfway here already?

COLONEL
No, sir. There’s an unexplained delay.

GUILLERA
Get them in the air. (beat) And get a line to the American embassy and to the NICA.

COLONEL
Yes, sir. It’s probably going to be email. I’m sorry that’s what we have right now.

Colonel using is using a laptop and email to communicate.
INT. SENATE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE - SENATE BUILDING - PASAY CITY

When he arrives in his office, AIDES sit Guillera at his desk and set up a smartphone on a nine dollar mini-tripod. The communications people use books stacked on a chair to elevate the phone/camera. They are about to make a video.

AIDE
We will be ready in just a moment, sir.

GUILLERA
Where is the vice president?

AIDE
California, on a trade mission. He’s supposed to be working with the Americans on this, but they can’t seem to locate him. But he’s ordered, and I can’t believe this, he’s ordered the army not to involve themselves.

GUILLERA
Good lord, why?

COLONEL
Sir, he’s told the generals that any interference might endanger the president’s life. He’s telling them it’s a police matter.

GUILLERA
It’s a coup d’etat.

AIDE
Worse. It’s possible murder. I believe the vice president has told the police that it’s a military rescue. As a result, we are paralyzed.

GUILLERA
Well, this won’t stand?

AIDE
Streaming video and cable is your only option. Free television is gone. The broadcast tower, sir.
The eighty-year-old Senator looks into the smartphone and seems resolute as any Filipino leader before.

GUILLERA
Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. We've asked the residents of Manila to stay indoors for their own safekeeping, there has been an attack on the president’s entourage. While the situation remains fluid, much of our communications are down.

(beat)
The vice president is out of the county and appears to be working against the best interests of the president. So, I have ordered that every police authority and counter-terrorism unit in the army to come to the rescue and regain control of our streets. I believe, within a short time, we will secure our city and those responsible will be swiftly brought to justice.

The recorded message finished.

AIDE
Now, sir.

(beat)
I need your computer. The cell phones don’t seem to be working.

GUILLERA
Oh, I see.

AIDE
Thank you, sir. The internet is working perfectly. I just need to send this out.

The President of the Senate SLOWLY steps out from behind the desk. The aide uses a USB cable to connect the phone to the computer.
INT. STREAMING VIDEO - NEWS STUDIO - MANILA

NEWSREADER
Ladies and gentlemen, this is truly a sad and troubling day in Filipino history.

(beat)
The current vice president is a staunch opposition member and from a location outside of the Philippines, has ordered our military troops to stand down, that any involvement might endanger the life of the president, who may have been captured or even killed. We’ve just confirmed this with numerous anonymous sources in the military.

(beat)
As it stands now, the full force of the Philippine Armed Forces will not be available.

(beat)
Are we looking at a constitutional crisis, unique in our history?

EXT. GUZMAN COMPOUND - MEXICO

The vice president is shown at the pool drinking lemonade and talking on a cell phone, but also watching it on television.

EXT. MARINA WAY AND SEASIDE BLVD. - DAY

Agent Sangley is being put into an ambulance. She notices Agent Garcia is standing and appears uninjured. But he’s speaking into his radio. Sangley is seriously injured, but suspects treason.

Agent Garcia receives radio traffic. He responds.

AGENT GARCIA
I’m alright. I need the location of the President.

PSG DISPATCHER
We’re trying to determine that now.
EXT. PSG HQ PARKING LOT - DAY

The radio tower for the PSG hasn’t been destroyed. It’s the only radio tower in the city left standing.

There is a pitched battle. The Mexicans have the advantage. A Mexican is about to fire an RPG in the direction of the radio tower, but his leader redirects him and points to a group of PSG who are trying to flank them. The missile hits some PSG vehicles.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - YACHT - DAY

The Mexicans are monitoring the PSG radio traffic.

INT. PSG HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The agents are trying their best to track everything via the city’s traffic cameras. They see Theo signaling with the Mexican flag.

AGENT #1
What’s he doing?

AGENT #2
It’s a Mexican flag.

AGENT #1
Maybe he’s gone over.

AGENT #2

AGENT #1
He’s telling us something.

AGENT #3
Sir, the Mexican embassy is a block from there.

AGENT #1
That’s where President Santos is.

AGENT #2
Let’s go get him.
EXT. PSG HQ PARKING LOT - DAY

The PSG agents leave the building but are attacked in the parking lot. A Suburban is waiting on them. There will be a long delay. The PSG are outgunned and out positioned.

INT. PSG HQ HEADQUARTERS - DAY

PSG DISPATCHER
Sir, we have a location, sir.
(beat)
In the Mexican embassy.

EXT. STREETS OF MANILA - DAY

Tan Suburbans, who have been waiting for a location, spring into movement. They are now converging on the Mexican embassy.

A police patrol car joins with an undercover vehicle, probably detectives, attack a Suburban. But a different patrol car just idly watches a Suburban race by.

EXT. BLOCKS AWAY - STREETS OF MANILA - DAY

A front tire on the jeepney is destroyed. Everyone exits the jeepney and waits, guns ready.

Angel finds the spare tire and looks for a jack but there is only a tiny one and certainly won’t work.

Four tan Suburbans race past on their way to the Mexican embassy. Joseph fires at them as they pass without result.

Granny fires a single shot at a tan Suburban that is struggling in the back, perhaps with engine problems. And inside, the driver is seriously wounded.

FARAH
Hey, that looks like fun.
(beat)
Can I try.

GRANNY
Get your own damn gun.

Joseph brings her a rifle from the arms locker and instructs her.
JOSEPH
Just pull back the slide. And...

Farah pulls the trigger, remarkably well. She demolishes the next Suburban along. The injured Suburban coasts to a stop and then bursts into flames. Joseph and Farah slap high fives.

INT. MEXICAN EMBASSY - DAY

The LOYAL MEXICAN SECURITY GUARD sits at the array of monitors and watch the Mexican assassins arrive. He picks up his weapons.

A DISLOYAL MEXICAN SECURITY GUARD sits and waits as the Mexican assassins destroy the government vehicles on the property and make entry into the embassy.

There is a battle inside the embassy.

There are two Mexican security guards but only one fights well.

The loyal Mexican manages to kill all the intruders except three.

When the disloyal Mexican guard is in position, he shoots the loyal guard in the back of the head.

When the assassins arrive, the disloyal guard points to the saferoom. He’s delivered President Santos to the cartel, but then the disloyal Mexican guard is shot in the head.

President Santos is in a safe-room but they are rigging the door with explosives.

EXT. BLOCKS AWAY - STREETS OF MANILA - DAY

Previously, Angel had spotted a tow-truck. Angel hotwires the truck and uses the tow truck to jack up the jeepney. He changes the tire. He’s finished about the time Theo returns on his cycle.

Theo gestures to follow him. Everyone gets aboard the jeepney again and they drive to the Mexican embassy.

INT. GUZMAN’S MANSION - MEXICO - NIGHT
The vice president is sleeping. Guzman is in the pool. His lieutenant brings him the news.

LIEUTENANT
He’s still alive, in fact, he was just delivered to the Mexican Embassy.

GUZMAN
Why?

LIEUTENANT
Just lucky. Or maybe they think our enemy is their friend.

GUZMAN
We have someone there?

LIEUTENANT
Of course.

GUZMAN
And I thought it was too much to hope for.

LIEUTENANT
Now, we own his ass.

GUZMAN
Don’t kill him yet. And I need my phone.

LIEUTENANT
Fate has smiled on us.

The lieutenant hands Guzman a satellite phone.

INT. SAFEROOM - MEXICAN EMBASSY - DAY

A phone rings inside the safe-room and President Santos answers. It’s Guzman.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Hello.

GUZMAN
Friend, the free market lives. Unfortunately, you won’t.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
Who is this?

GUZMAN
My name is Pablo Guzman.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
The number one drug dealer in the entire world. Thank you for calling.

GUZMAN
Thank you but you make my business sound so seedy. I just sell what people buy. And you’re right, I’m worth more than the entire Filipino economy.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You’re a drug dealer. You’ve killed more than the Coronavirus.

GUZMAN
And about the deaths, you people exaggerate everything. The money, I earned it the old fashion way. I bought and sold. Imported and exported.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, the Filipino markets are closed.

GUZMAN
The best economic choices are between a buyer and a seller. Highest quality at the lowest price.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Sounds like that textbook crap from school. It’s only true some of the time.

GUZMAN
You’re not buying it?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I’ll lock up every one of your pushers, and I’ll kill you, before I hand my country over to you to ruin.
GUZMAN
My business model is none of your business.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You know I’m gonna kill you personally.

GUZMAN
Yes, I know you said that already.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Did it sound like I was joking?

GUZMAN
Now I’ve tried to reason with you about free-markets but you’ve been trying to kill me for years.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Is that true? You’re probably talking about the Americans.

GUZMAN
Aren’t you their puppet?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Sometimes our interests coincide and I use them from time to time. Just like everyone else. But we Filipinos, we don’t like to be controlled.

GUZMAN
Well, I’ve control of several nations. Perhaps not as strategically located as yours.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Guzman, this isn’t over. We’re not without resources, you know.

GUZMAN
I think it's over. I think your impoverished islands are toast. I think you’re toast.
President Santos observes on the security monitors they are about to blow the safe-room door. He’s warned.

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    I’m sorry to be rude. There are some assholes knocking. I better see what they want.

President Santos puts down the phone. But doesn’t hang up. He takes some of the weapons and prepares them.

Long beat.

Soon, Guzman hears an explosion and automatic gunfire over the phone. He seems satisfied.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SENATE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE - PASAY CITY

The colonel is outside the office speaking with other military branches. Senator Guillera sticks his head out of the office into the hallway.

    SENATOR GUILLERA
    Colonel. He’s still alive, in fact he was just delivered to the Mexican Embassy.

    COLONEL
    And he’s safe?

    SENATOR GUILLERA
    The American Ambassador just told me two Mexican marines put him in a safe-room.

    COLONEL
    And you’re sure?

    SENATOR GUILLERA
    I don’t like it anymore than you do, but the Americans do see and hear everything.

    COLONEL
    Well, he’s inside. The Mexicans won’t let anything happen to him.
SENATOR GUILLERA
Send the LRR to pick him up and bring him to the Palace.

COLONEL
Yes, sir. I just need to use your computer. Please.

The colonel sits at the desk and types out an email.

When finished, the colonel offers to exchange places. Senator Guillera refuses. The exhausted Senator sits in the guest chair.

SENATOR GUILLERA
I’m too old for musical chairs. Stay there.

COLONEL
All right, well, we're good now.

SENATOR GUILLERA
It'll be okay.

COLONEL
It was a huge trap.

SENATOR GUILLERA
How'd they do this?

COLONEL
They say Guzman’s worth seven billion US dollars.

The colonel returns his attention to the computer.

INT. MEXICAN EMBASSY - DAY

The Mexican assassins inside the embassy are about to breach the door with explosives. President Santos looks at the surveillance video and calmly steps behind a heavy locker opposite the door. The Mexicans detonate the charge and the saferoom isn’t safe anymore.

But out of the smoke, President Santos emerges from the room, with a two automatic weapons. He shoots the two of the three remaining Mexicans.
And then Santos is shot in the chest. The vest stops the bullet. The monogramed shirt “ELS” is however ruined. The president falls but when the Mexican comes to confirm things, Santos kills the last assassin at close range with a combat knife. And he gets the Mexican’s blood on the monogramed shirt.

Santos takes the shirt off and throws it on the floor.

And then President Santos walks through the embassy and shoots all the Mexican narco-terrorists again, once in the head, for good measure.

President Santos then steps over numerous bodies, walking to the Ambassador's office. There is a dressing room and bathroom behind the office desk and Santos finds a replacement shirt. He finds a handsome looking tie.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
(to himself)
How many ties does an ambassador need?
(picking one)
You Mexicans have caused me to lose a day of work. I like this one.

He holds the tie-up in the mirror.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
(to the mirror)
I’m taking it.

He puts the tie in his pants pocket and walks downstairs.

EXT. MEXICAN EMBASSY - DAY

Santos exits the smoldering building and sits in the sun, on a planter. Theo and the jeepney arrive.

THEO
Mr. President are you okay?
(beat)
You’re out here in the open.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I like the sun.

THEO
Well, let's get you inside.
A Mexican assassin emerges, clothes smoking from the fire, wounded and disoriented. He might be trying to surrender. Santos shoots him in the head, casually.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
(philosophical)
No.

THEO
The smoke?

At the far end of the street, there are Suburbans and small arms fire; a police car is confronting the assassins. Delaying them.

Theo, on his cycle, tries his radio again.

The Suburbans have dispatched the police car and are moving that direction. The heroes will need to move fast.

President Santos boards the jeepney.

LANI
Nice suite. Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Thank you.

Continue the chase. Now at the back of the jeepney Joseph, Angel and Farah train deadly automatic fire on whatever Suburban follows them.

INT. SENATE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE - PASAY CITY

The colonel is watching something streaming on-line. The colonel gets up rapidly.

COLONEL
Sir, you’re gonna wanna see this.
Senator Guillera doesn’t want to get up from his chair and the colonel just spins the laptop around. A journalist is streaming a report.

INT/EXT. MEXICAN EMBASSY – DAY

A JOURNALIST is on the scene of the Mexican Embassy. The building is smoldering. In the background, there are tan Suburbans but they’re keeping their distance.

JOURNALIST
Reports are that the 17th President of the Philippines, Pacifico Leopold Santos was inside the Mexican embassy when it was assaulted by assassins hired by the Sinaloa cartel of Mexico.

(beat)
As you can see, the building is smoldering and wrecked. Bodies are scattered about.

The journalist is very sedate and enters the Mexican embassy through an exploded and still burning door. There is smoke and dead bodies everywhere. The camera moves slowly.

The journalist reaches the safe-room. The camera zooms in on dead bodies.

JOURNALIST
Obviously, this was the last refuge of the President who it appears may have valiantly given his life in the war against drugs.

The journalist finds the bloody shirt on the floor. The camera zooms in on the bloody shirt and then specifically the PLS monogram. She holds it up and clearly there is a bullet hole in the bloody shirt.

She knows that she was only speculating and sensationalizing, but now reality strikes her and she weeps. Bad news!

INT. SENATE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE – PASAY CITY

The Colonel and Senator Guillera, their faces turn ashen.
EXT. STREET’S OF MANILA - DAY

There is a running battle with more Toyotas. Lani, driving the jeepney, flies into busy traffic, the music blasting in her earbuds, building in speed and energy.

Despite the velocity of the chase, our driver is calm at the wheel, weaving through traffic like a desperate NASCAR driver.

The other heroes lay low in their seats, every once in a while they fire their weapons at the Suburbans chasing them. They trade worried looks as Lani swerves.

Bullets impact the jeepney. One Suburbans screams the opposite way. It zooms past, then makes a 180 behind them. Lani sees the Suburbans behind them.

A light turns red. She floors it through the stop light. Other drivers break hard to avoid her. Cars crash, rear end in time with kick drum hits.

The Suburbans fly through the intersection, gaining. Lani nears 80 km/h, the music is building.

A lone Suburban still dogs them. Gunfire left and right. Lani hits 90 km/h. Then 100 km/h. Comes up to an intersection. Eases off. Makes a hard right at the last second into a side street. Police attack the Suburban. She loses her pursuers for a moment.

Lani races down the narrow alley, dodges dumpsters.

On the adjacent artery, a Suburban can be seen in parallel. Lani floors it to the next cross street and swerves a hard left, directly into the path of the Suburban pursuing.

Lani plows through this intersection, forcing the Suburban and all other traffic to brake violently hard.

The jeepney leaves the Suburban stalled out behind traffic and she races down another street with less traffic.

Lani holds the gas down, but the Suburban will eventually catch them. She sees something before the audience does. Lani brakes, pulls hard on the wheel (bullet casings slide accordingly on the floor). Lani crosses the double line, races through traffic and disappears up a freeway ramp.
The Suburban is left on the ground level and the jeepney is on the elevated freeway. No one saw that turn coming but Lani.

INT. JEEPNEY - HIGHWAY - DAY

Momentarily, there isn’t a chase. They’ve lost the Suburbans.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Farah said you’re a mechanic.

ANGEL
I own a garage over on Bradco.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I know that shop. Your boat is too big?
(long beat)
Well, you need to park it somewhere else.

ANGEL
You think?
(beat)
I don’t get it.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Think about it.

ANGEL
Oh, okay. I get it. The boat says that I charge too much?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, sports cars are expensive to fix.

ANGEL
I don’t work on economy cars.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I can respect that.

ANGEL
Thanks, I love the attitudes on the economy drivers.
(beat)
They save so much money in fuel they can take their NOBODY to dinner and a movie. Single and alone.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
You’re right; if you want a real woman, you gotta buy some horsepower.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Lot of cars out there.

ANGEL
Smartcars. What a joke!

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Who would drive that suicide box?

ANGEL
They won’t go fast enough to kill yourself in.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I wouldn’t be caught dead in one.

ANGEL
Why is it called a Smartcar when you look like a dumbass driving it?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I agree totally.

ANGEL
So, Mr. President. What do you drive?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
A sports car.

ANGEL
And...

The president hesitates.

ANGEL
I’m not going to steal it. You can tell me.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You won’t judge?
(beat)
A Lexus IS-F
ANGEL
You’re a long way from the bottom.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Three million pesos.

ANGEL
But I watched you destroy several billion pesos worth of cars on TV.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
To make a point. An anti-corruption message.

ANGEL
A Jaguar, a Lexus, a Corvette Stingray.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Yes.

ANGEL
You destroyed a Lexus IS-F.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Yes.

ANGEL
The very same car you drive? A Lexus IS-F delivering 0-60 in 3.7 seconds. It’s almost blasphemy.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I wish I had one right now.

ANGEL
Karma’s a bitch, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I’d be back at the Palace safe.

ANGEL
And you ruined one by running over it with a Caterpillar. To a car guy like me, that’s just wrong.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
It was bought with cash by custom officials allowing drugs into the country. Anyone dumb enough to use drug money for a car like that should have it crushed.

ANGEL
You could have just confiscated it and given it to an orphanage.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Sister Teresa would look good cruising around down in a Lexus. I agree.

ANGEL
See, that’s the sort of photo-ops you need.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Next time, I’ll give them to the sisters.

Everyone has been ordered off the streets, but there is still a slight traffic jam.

Again, Lani she stops quickly, and an incredible amount of shell casings roll forward under her feet. In fact, she must kick them out of the way so she can properly operate the brake and gas peddles. The chase stops.

ANGEL
Smoke ‘um if you got um.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You know every car I ever destroyed?

EXT. R3 HIGHWAY – MANILA – DAY

A Suburban blocks the path of the jeepney and behind them also, there is a Suburban. They are boxed in without escape.

The Suburban in front fires a rocket and the rocket impacts the passenger side front windshield and travels through the jeepney and flies out the back window. It doesn’t detonate until it strikes the Suburban behind them. Friendly fire. The Mexican’s have killed their own men with the rocket.
Construction workers pick up tools and steel bars and attack the assassins in the Suburban in front of the jeepney. The Mexicans are out of ammo and are pulled from the vehicle and beaten severely. It’s a raised highway, if the construction workers want to throw the Mexican’s off, I’m sure the stunt workers will appreciate the work.

FARAH
Did you get that?

GRANDMOTHER
No.

FARAH
Too bad.

GRANDMOTHER
I got the rocket fine.
(beat)
It’s that I’m missing.

She gestures out the side windows at the beating the Mexicans are taking from the construction workers.

GRANDMOTHER
I ran out of space on this card.

Grandmother is fiddling with a tiny MicroSD card, pulling it out from her phone. She pulls out a second MicroSD.

FARAH
You sure are high-tech. You carry around spare cards?

GRANDMOTHER
I have twenty-four grandchildren. Lots of photos you know.

FARAH
Do you know all their names?

GRANDMOTHER
Of course... what do you think I am, a moron? If I have my phone with me, well their pictures are right there by their names.
INT. JEEPNEY – R3 HIGHWAY – DAY

Just when more Mexican’s are closing in on them Lani takes a down ramp. The Mexicans are stuck in traffic on the elevated highway. She’s dodges another bullet by evasive, and inspired, driving.

INT. JEEPNEY – STREET LEVEL – DAY

A moment where they aren’t being chased.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You from here?

FARAH
I'm a native Manileño, I'm born and raised here.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I-- I love this city. Like, I love this city.

FARAH
I don't know why; they’re trying to kill you here.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
This ain't the first time, but it's the worst time.

FARAH
Well, you know Manila ain't for everybody.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
That's how you natives like it, I think.

FARAH
Nothing personal, Mr. President. But we don't want anybody just rollin' up in here.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Right? 'Cause too many people come to Manila. And it’s already so crowded?
FARAH
And then they complain about being in Manila.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Yeah.

FARAH
So like I tell them, then go home.
   (beat)
They never go; they just walk around
the city complaining about everything,
like, “Manila is so gross.”

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Manila IS gross.

FARAH
Really?
   (beat)
People don't openly take a dump in the
streets where you come from?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, I made that against the law. It
stopped some of that I think.

She thinks and then cracks a smile.

FARAH
You know, Mr. President you’re alright.
You weren’t born here in Manila but
you’re alright.

Ocampo Street and then the jeepney stops in front of the baseball
stadium.

INT. LOCKER ROOM – RIZAL MEMORIAL BASEBALL STADIUM – DAY

There is a lull in the fighting. Santos turns to Theo; they are
taking off their clothes.

THEO
I’m just a traffic cop.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, you ride well.

THEO
Thanks.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You’ve seen some serious cases?

THEO
Not really. Certainly, nothing like this.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Mostly traffic?

THEO
If you see me chasing someone, hit them with your car, cause they’ve done something relatively serious.

The president chuckles.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Never did that, yet.

THEO
What hit them with your car?

Theo chuckles.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It can be rewarding?

THEO
So you miss being a mayor?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Little bit, yes.

THEO
I’m sure on days like this... you wish you were a mayor again?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, I appreciate you being here.
THEO
That’s what I wanna hear.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
From your point of view, mounted cavalry, things going well?

THEO
Well, you should probably know millennials are joining the police force.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
And that is a concern?

THEO
Millennials.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Who’s that?

THEO

PRESIDENT SANTOS
That could be a problem.

THEO
And one wanted to drive an electric Prius, worried about the environment. Didn’t want the powerful big-block Toyota.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
What’d you do?

THEO
We gave him a bicycle and sent him down to the gay district.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
I guess you meet all sorts of women?

THEO
Women?

Theo recalls a story and chuckles.

THEO
We had this fight outside a bar. And here are two “women” on the corner, but they’re not every Filipino’s dream... you know what I mean?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Ladyboys?

THEO
So I say, “you ladies saw the fight?”
  (transgender voice)
Um huh. I saw the entire thing. Beginning to end. I saw the entire thing.
  (beat)
Can you write down on paper what you saw?
  (transgender voice)
No.
  (beat)
Well... you can’t help me out here?
  (transgender voice)
I can send you a text message.
  (beat)
I just wanna get out of there. So I give him my number and burn off.
  (beat)
And twenty minutes later, I get a message.
  (transgender voice)
Hey, mister policeman. I ain’t no rat. But come back I wanna holler at ya’.
  (beat)
But that’s not all. It’s been ten months and he’s still sending me random messages.
  (transgender voice)
Hey, mister big policeman. Where you at right now?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
What is the world coming to?

THEO
It’s rolling downhill like a snowball headed for hell.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You got kids?

THEO
A boy.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Really. You must be proud of him.

THEO
He drove his mini-bike into the river yesterday.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
How’d that happen?

THEO
There isn’t really a place for kids to learn to ride. A parking lot.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Maybe I need to look into that. I know a few people, ya know.

EXT. FRONT - RIZAL MEMORIAL BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

The Mexicans arrive in force, three Suburbans. As they search the empty jeepney, a man on the police motorcycle surreptitiously motors out of the stadium. The Mexicans notice but to them, it’s just the motorcycle cop and they of course are looking for the president.

The Mexicans throw an incendiary device into the arms locked in the back of the jeepney. It burns a hole in the locker, melts the guns, a few rounds go off and it starts a small fire.

The Mexicans hear the crack of a bat from inside the stadium.
The Mexicans move into the stadium, two by two cover formation.

The Mexicans leave outlaw in front of the stadium and he sees Grandmother in a recess and she’s playing with her phone. He walks over and she throws it inside her purse.

    MEXICAN
    Granny, what are you doing?
    (beat)
    Did you record us?

    GRANDMOTHER
    Uh, shut up. I’m an old lady.

    MEXICAN
    Give me the phone. I saw you had it.

    GRANDMOTHER
    No.

    MEXICAN
    Give me the phone! Or I’ll take it from you.

    GRANDMOTHER
    Okay.

She reaches into her purse and holds the purse up. She has a pistol inside and she pulls the trigger. She shoots the Mexican in the head.

    GRANDMOTHER
    That wasn’t smart. Now I’ll have powder burns on my phone lens.

She takes out the phone and some tissue and spits on it to clean her phone’s lens. She’s killed a terrorist but she’s more concerned about her phone’s camera.

EXT. FIELD - RIZAL MEMORIAL BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

On the field are Lani, Angel, Farah, and Joseph. Angel has a five-gallon bucket full of balls and he’s pitching at a man in a suit, looks like perhaps it’s the President, but whoever it is has a batting helmet on. The man in the helmet is belting home runs left and right.
The Mexicans approach the batter, guns drawn. They’re holding their fire until they confirm it’s President Santos. But it’s not him. The batter in the suit removes his helmet and we learn it’s Theo.

Theo and President Santos have changed clothes and President Santos is on the police motorbike heading toward safety.

The Mexicans realize they’ve been tricked and El Jefe radios the others.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA - STREETS OF MANILA - DAY

When the Mexican hitmen figure it out, they race through the streets. They are closing in on the president who is on the police cycle.

The most beautiful forty-year-old woman in all of Manila opens her garage and walks out to the front of her home. She’s just exited her car. There is a tan Suburban in the far distance. And there is one in the far distance behind him. He stops the cycle. She’s moving from her garage to her front door; she stops walking. She can’t tell who it is, maybe just a cop. His helmet visor is down. She gives a pleasant smile.

He lifts his visor. She smiles double and gestures to pull the cycle into the garage. She closes the garage after he pulls inside. The Suburban race but but Santos is inside, hidden.

EXT. FRONT - RIZAL MEMORIAL BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

Lani puts out the fire in the back of the bus. They are nearly out of ammunition. The weapons and ammunition in the weapons chest has been burned.

JOSHUA
Hey Granny, what you gonna do with all the video you’ve been shooting?

GRANDMOTHER
I’m gonnna sell it.

JOSHUA
Ta who?

GRANDMOTHER
The highest bidder, you dolt!
JOSHUA
You think they’re gonna...

FARAH
No, it makes perfect sense.

ANGEL
She might get rich out of this.

GRANDMOTHER
Somebody tell this dumbass, that man is the President of the Republic.

She looks around and would gesture to him, but Santos is gone.

GRANDMOTHER
(a bit demented)
Okay, he was here a minute ago.
(beat)
Where’d he go?

Grandmother wasn’t privy to the switch, where Theo and he changed clothes and the President made his getaway.

Grandmother immediately begins to pray for the soul of President Santos.

THEO
We switched places.
(beat)
He’s on my police bike. See?
(beat)
I have his clothes on.

GRANDMOTHER
I know that wasn’t your idea.

INT. GARAGE - RESIDENTIAL AREA - DAY

President Santos is about to get on his cycle but notices a shirt button is undone. He buttons the shirt and climbs on the bike. He looks back at her and she looks at him. It seems both are satisfied. It might even be a real romance.
She pushes the button to raise the garage door. He starts the engine and idles out to the roadway. The Suburbans appear to have gone.

EXT. STREET PACO NEAR MALACAÑAN PALACE COMPOUND

Police cars fire upon and are fired back upon in running battles with Suburbans. The President turns a corner and runs up on a battle, only moments before, that left two policemen dead in the street. One of the Mexicans is injured but two Mexicans are standing over the bodies. Santos rapidly pulls his pistol and kills both Mexicans. Santos rides on.

Also, corrupted police units are seen simply ignoring the Suburbans. Two cops are watching an action-thriller on their phones when two Suburbans cruise their roadblock.

EXT. ALLEY NEAR MALACAÑAN PALACE COMPOUND - MANILA

President Santos has arrived near the palace. He is hiding on the cycle in an alley. He’s peeking around a corner. There are three Suburbans, one covering every gate… clearly, someone has betrayed him.

He’s trying to put it straight in his head. He has the paper the grandmother took off from the dead Mexican. He’s looking at it and it clearly shows the assassins had inside information.

The jeepney pulls behind him in the alley.

Lani gets out and approaches the president. They both look around the corner at the three Suburbans. There is a tear in the president’s eye.

LANI
You’ve been betrayed.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
(macho denial)
What makes you say that?

LANI
You don’t want to admit… I can understand that. We won’t talk about it.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
(tough-guy resistance)
Talk about what?

Lani gestures at the Palace and the Suburbans.

LANI
The coup d'etat.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Where'd you hear that phrase? We haven't had one of those here since before you were born.

LANI
School. Just because I'm a dancer doesn't mean I didn't go to school.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I'm sorry. I didn't mean.

LANI
But you need to tell me where to take you. You can't trust these police, half of them are attacking the Suburbans and half of them are waving at them like family.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Seems like I can trust you.

LANI
Of course. You're my president.

Odd moment. An emotional moment for President Santos. He snaps out of this malaise.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
A dancer? I thought you were a jeepney driver.

LANI
My father had a jeepney. He died. Shot and robbed for 5000 pesos. By a drug addict.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
Pity. I’m sorry.

LANI
I’d have been at college. I wanted to do civil engineering. Traffic.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, you still can.

LANI
Probably not.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, you’re doing a good job helping me today with the traffic.

LANI
Thanks.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
So you know the city pretty well.

LANI
Ways, an app. Ways don’t give a care. It’ll take you through a school playground if it’ll save you three mins.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
That explains the...

LANI
(nodding at Joseph)
It’s like having that guy with the hygiene issues give you directions.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
So you wanna go to college?

LANI
Actually, I was thinking maybe we could make some traffic improvements.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Driving in this town is stressful. (beat)
I can’t wait for the self-driving jeepneys.

LANI
Never happen.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Why?

LANI
You? Of all people? You can’t just throw people away and replace them with a machine.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
But a computer can make 9,000 decisions a second. Humans are distracted. A computer ain’t checking out asses on Burgos Street.

LANI
And you would?

PRESIDENT SANTOS

LANI
And then a computer sees a nice ass the only thing it’s trying to do it is NOT hit it?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
So you’re saying... that’s the opposite of what I’d be trying to do?

LANI
I’m just saying. You’re a man and have all that power and it’s gone to your... It’s normal for you to behave the way you do.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I thought you were going to say, it’s extraordinary for a man my age.
LANI
You do love woman, don’t you?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Of course.

She smiles.

LANI
Hypothetically. Let’s say, in the middle of a coup, you have the opportunity for some strange… would you go for it?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I didn’t know it was a coup. I just realized when I looked at the Palace.

LANI
You thought it was just an ordinary old fashion run-of-the-mill assassination?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, yea.

LANI
Killer Mexicans chasing you through the streets, half the police have disappeared, and you stop for some pekpek? Geez.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
So? I stopped for a minute. To rest.

LANI
So you’re feeling rested?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
How’d you know I stopped?

LANI
Your zipper.

She smiles. He smiles like an impish boy. He zips his zipper.
INT. JEEPNEY - ALLEY NEAR MALACAÑAN PALACE - MANILA

President Santos gets in the jeepney. He’s exhausted and his arrogance is gone. He turns to Theo and gestures that he wants his clothes back.

THEO
You want your suit back?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I need to go to church.

Theo begins to undress.

THEO
That’s a good idea; you should have walked into a church when this entire thing began. We passed at least 20 churches today. Sanctuary.

The women (Lani and Farah) leave the jeepney and stand on the alley.

The grandmother has been recording the entire adventure. She does put up her phone’s camera, but she is peeking at the President in his underwear through the corner of her eyes. She smiles impishly.

THEO
(to grandmother)
Do you mind?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It’s okay.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Let her have a peek. She’s endured one heck of a day.

GRANDMOTHER
I doubt you have anything I’ve not seen 1000 times.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
She even got off a few rounds.
(beat)
I saw you. You didn’t think I saw you.
(beat)
It’s a nice gun? You took it off the Mexican.

GRANDMOTHER
It’s okay.

They wait for an explanation. She appears to be hiding something.

GRANDMOTHER
I’m partial to revolvers.

They wait for more explanation.

GRANDMOTHER
I’m sentimental. Okay? Can you just leave it at that?

They wait for more explanation.

GRANDMOTHER
Okay, I dated Tom Mix.

THEO
Who’s that?

PRESIDENT SANTOS

THEO
And they didn’t have automatics back then?

GRANDMOTHER
They did, but I’m sentimental.

THEO
(to the grandmother)
No? And you two… got off a few rounds?

GRANDMOTHER
That’s none of your business...
PRESIDENT SANTOS
A lady doesn’t talk about things like that. You should know that.

THEO
Well, we don’t have any revolvers.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH – DAY

The jeepney arrives and the heroes are nervous. They’re almost out of ammunition. And they are emotionally exhausted.

Theo again tries to use his police radio.

Joseph and President Santos appear penitent. They leave their weapons in the jeepney and walk into the sanctuary.

The others simply appear frightened and tired. They have their almost empty weapons at the ready.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH – DAY

The two men, Joseph and the president, sit on the front row of the sanctuary and wait for a priest.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Who are you, son?

JOSEPH
Nobody.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
No, you just helped saved my life. You’re somebody. Everyone is someone anyway.

JOSEPH
I’m a drug addict.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I’m sorry.

JOSEPH
But, I’m recovered. I’ve been sober 59 days today, or maybe that was yesterday. All this shit has happened. But I’m clean.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
Congratulations.

JOSEPH
No need; it’s court-ordered.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I guess you oppose my policies?

JOSEPH
No, I’m a big supporter.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Really?

JOSEPH
Look how screwed up I am. I didn’t get this way passin’ up on too many pipes.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, you look okay. Maybe a little thin.

JOSEPH
Being skinny sucks.
(beat)
Do you know how... how hard it is to appear tough when you weigh 102 lbs?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You need a big motorcycle.

JOSEPH
How am I gonna pull that one off? I can’t pull that look off and look like guys that don’t do meth.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Why not?

JOSEPH
Well, one thing they got muscles.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Shave your head. It makes your muscles look bigger.
JOSEPH
I wouldn’t look like Vin Diesel; I’d look like I had cancer and was on chemotherapy.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You’re okay with me. At the mall, that sweet thing driving; that young girl was laying on top of me, like that hasn’t happened to me in ten years.

JOSEPH
You’re seventy-five.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Right.

JOSEPH
That means...

PRESIDENT SANTOS
But I saw what you did. You acted fast out there.

JOSEPH
I can go fast, if I need to.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You married?

JOSEPH
Wife loved me sure, for a while, but I wore her vacuum out. Driving that thing around our apartment.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Carpet clean?

JOSEPH
Vacuum burned up. And the carpet wore out. Not where people were walking, but everywhere. I took so much dope, we had to replace the carpet, oh, once a year.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
How long were you together?
JOSEPH
Five years.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
So you think you might get together again?

JOSEPH
No. She’s moved on. A different woman likes me, but she’s got no teeth.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
None?

JOSEPH
How do you lose all your teeth before you’re thirty?
(beat)
And, you can’t take care of that last one?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Seems, if I had one tooth left, I’d brush it morning, noon, and night.

JOSEPH
You ever call someone on the phone and you’re so high you forgot who you called?
(beat)
No? I guess not.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I’m seventy-five so yes, I’ve called just about everyone and forgot who I dialed.

The two men seem to bond.

FATHER CASTRO arrives.

FATHER CASTRO
I’m sorry, I was with the children. You’re here for confession?
Father Castro looks up and realizes it’s President Santos and he’s a bit shocked.

FATHER CASTRO
Mr. President. I’m a bit shocked to see you here.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, we are old friends.

FATHER CASTRO
Yes. But you mocked priests.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I mocked erring priests and the cover-up. That’s not the same. I still believe in God.

FATHER CASTRO
I believe that, yes. Of course.

And Father Castro gestures to the confessional.

FATHER CASTRO
Who is going to go first?
(long beat)
Who needs confession the most?

Confounded, Joseph and President Santos look at each other.

JOSEPH
You’re the president. You go first.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You’re the drug addict. You go first.

Joseph enters the confessional.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH – DAY

El Jefe arrives in his F-350. He runs into the church, gun drawn. The jeepney heroes fire at him as he runs in but he’s lucky. Their guns jam or are empty. Only Grandmother’s shots come close. Grandmother shots his boot heel off.
INT. CONFESSIONAL - SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

Joseph has started his confession.

JOSEPH
Because I lost my job. My bills were getting bigger. Five thousand peso habit, I ain't got. My wife ran off with a friend of mine. I can't keep a job 'cause I'm too screwed up. I mean, look at me. DSWD 'bout to take my kids.

There is a slight disturbance outside. A jostling noise.

PRIEST
Go ahead finish.

JOSEPH
I was tryin' to get well, kept getting sicker. I was sittin' in that alley my finger on the trigger.

There is a medium disturbance outside. A wrestling noise.

JOSEPH
You know, I never meant to hurt anyone and I'll face the consequences for everything I've done. Sometimes I wonder if he’s even there. 'Cause my burden is...

There is a major disturbance outside the confessional. A body is thrown into the wall of the confessional. It sounds like a boxing match is going on.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

Joseph and the priest exit to discover President Santos and El Jefe are in a fistfight. It looks like Santos has absorbed most of the blows but El Jefe’s face isn’t pristine.

Joseph moves to get involved.

The president extends his hand for Joseph to stop.
JOSEPH
You don’t have to fight him, Mr. President. I’ll do it.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
No.

JOSEPH
No, I wanna.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Nope, I got this.

The president and the Mexican fight again. Santos takes four straight jabs to the face, but responds with a hard right. Basically, it’s Rocky Balboa vs Apollo Creed again.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

The Light Reaction Regiment arrives and position themselves at every tactical spot outside the church. Their patches “Tiradores de la Muerte” are clearly shown.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

The president and El Jefe are still fighting. They are both obstinate; neither will quit. Again, Santos takes most of the punishment. But don’t count Santos out, he responds with massive punches to the body, not so many but hard and effective. Clean-living Santos at age 75 might have more stamina than the much younger hard-living Mexican.

EXT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

Three tan Suburbans pull up and the occupant's exit and run into the church. The Sharpshooters of Death cut them to ribbons and many Mexicans don’t take more than two steps before being killed.

Light Reaction Regiment moves from their positions into the church. They move slowly, methodically, into the church. They move from the Narthex through the Nave.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

The president and El Jefe are still fighting. They are both exhausted but Santos will NOT fall. He’s taken a great deal of
punishment but slowly Santos is changing the momentum of the fight.

El Jefe is tired of messing with him. The Mexican is just going to shoot him.

EL JEFE
You know, screw this.

El Jefe turns to the first row of pews and is about to pick up his pistol. But he stops in his tracks. There are at least a dozen elite special forces with weapons trained on the Mexican boss. If he picks up the pistol, he’ll be killed.

Joseph throws his hands in the air. The elite soldiers ignore Joseph and walk past him. While the president is totally exhausted, Santos reaches up and pulls Joseph’s hands down.

EL JEFE
Okay, I give...

PRESIDENT SANTOS (exhausted)
You’d better.

The president walks to the front pew were El Jefe had placed his gun at the beginning of the fight.

The president ignores the pistol and picks up a rather large diamond ring that’s been laid out. He casually puts it on a finger.

EL JEFE
That’s not yours.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Why? I’m the combatant still standing.

The soldiers kick the knees out from under El Jefe and they cuff him. They hogtie him and don’t even give him the opportunity to walk to jail.

Father Castro whispers something in the ear of Joseph. Joseph understands and nods.
A nun brings a compress full of ice and hands it to the priest. The priest gives the president the compress and gestures to the confessional.

FATHER CASTRO
Confessional?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Father, I just go my ass kicked.

The priest simply looks at Santos. There is a long beat, but President Santos enters the confessional.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

Everyone is waiting. Lani, Farah, Theo, Angel, and Joseph are there.

The parochial school has let out and the kids are there in the church. The church secretaries and a few parishioners are there. Waiting. Policemen arrive. Reporters and television cameras arrive. The president’s staff and PSG arrive and wait.

When President Santos finally emerges from the confessional, everyone applauds. Santos can’t help smile and wave to everyone.

TELEVISION REPORTER
Mr. President. Do you have anything to say?

Santos begins to move toward the journalists. A PSG agent objects and motions to the exit. PSG Agent Garcia.

AGENT GARCIA
No, sir. Let’s get you out of here.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Agents Sangley is watching TV from her hospital bed. Her arm is in a sling and it is very painful, but she sits up. She’s dumbfounded to see Garcia. She gets out of the bed and begins to dress.

INT. SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH - DAY

President Santos ignores Agent Garcia and walks near the journalists so they can zoom in on the big diamond ring.
PRESIDENT SANTOS
I have his diamond ring.

TELEVISION REPORTER
You’re taking it for damages?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Heck, ya. Look at my face.

TELEVISION REPORTER
Was it tough, Mr. President? Are you in pain?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I tell you, I've fought tougher men but I really can't remember when. He didn’t shot me, he could have, but he sure kicked like a mule and in a church too. But the ring is mine and I’m gonna keep it.

The journalists are confounded and look at each other, as Santos shows the ring to the reporters. It has a very large diamond in it.

Finally, Garcia and the PSG agents lead him through a side door.

INT. PRESIDENT’S OFFICE - MALACAÑAN PALACE - DAY

A Russian looking OLIGARCH is leaving as an AIDE is walking in. The aide looks a bit confused. The aide wasn’t informed about any meeting.

AIDE
So, who is that?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Russian billionaire, he just bought the Mexican yacht.

The aide looks at about two-square-feet of 1000 kilograms gold bars stacked on a table.

AIDE
And what’s that?
PRESIDENT SANTOS
Six, maybe seven schools.

Santos is shown at his desk looking at an architect’s plan for a new school.

INT. PRESIDENT’S OFFICE - MALACAÑAN PALACE - DAY

President Santos is calmly sitting at his desk.

Samantha Sangley is calmly sitting there in a chair. She has an arm in a sling.

Agent Garcia knocks and enters. He’s a bit taken aback by Sangley being there. He doesn’t expect her to be there.

Garcia approaches the desk.

Agent Sangley grasps her pistol grip with her good hand.

The president pitches the paper he received onto the desk. It’s the paper that Grandmother took off the dead body of a Mexican assassin. It outlines the entire assassination.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It clearly points out our...

AGENT GARCIA
They got lucky, sir.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
This was a little more than luck.

Agent Garcia knows he’s been caught and looks at Sangley and she’s ready to draw her weapon. Garcia takes a step back and pulls a weapon and aims it at the president.

Sangley beats him to it. She shoots Garcia in the chest and Garcia’s bullet shatters an expensive, probably historic, vase on a shelf behind Santos.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Tell me it’s over.

Sangley walks over Garcia. He’s alive, and still reaching for his weapon. Sangley puts two more rounds into him.
SANGLEY
Mr. President. It’s over.

The president pushes a button on his desk. A coroner’s team is right there, immediately.

SANGLEY
(to the coroners)
Get this trash out of the president’s office.

It happens quickly. Clearly, the rapid clean up has been planned. The body is removed.

A custodian with a mop and bucket enters the room.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
He has a wife and kids.
(beat)
Can the record reflect that he died at the mall?

SANGLEY
Certainly. If that’s what you want.

The president nods.

SANGLEY
What about the others?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Fire them for incompetency.

SANGLEY
Not prosecuted?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
For what? Sitting on their ass?

SANGLEY
Bribery. Treason. Sir, you were almost killed.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
No. It’s over and I don’t want the nation embarrassed anymore. It’s over.
SANGLEY
Sir, that’s very generous.

The president makes no response. Custodian continues to clean up the blood.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
How many SUVs are undamaged?

SANGLEY
Three and there is the F-350.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You have the names of nuns that get the SUVs.

(beat)
Father Castro gets the truck.

EXT. RUIZ PLAZA - POLITICAL RALLY & CELEBRATION - DAY

The outdoor venue is full of supporters and news media.

There is a band playing.

FATHER CASTRO rolls up in the F-350. He has some Filipino flags and bumper stickers. He has some other priests with him and they all step down from the jacked-up truck. Three tan Suburbans roll up to the parking lot. Three nuns exit their SUVs, with eight orphans each. They walk toward the stage.

On stage to the left are six chairs for the guest, Joseph, Lani, Theo and his son, Angel, and Farah. The jeepney that carried them to safety is on the right of the stage. It’s a bullet-ridden hulk. The back is burned-out. There isn’t a window left unshattered. Theo’s wife is to the side of the stage.

EXT. STREETS OF MANILA ON THE WAY TO POLITICAL RALLY - DAY

President Santos and Sangley are traveling in a beefed-up Toyota, with clearly more armor than the previous presidential Toyota. Inside, there is a mysterious foreigner (American). The phone rings and Sangley answers.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Is that him?

(beat)
Finally.
Sangley nods to the American, who takes out his laptop.

Guzman and the former Philippine Vice President are watching the news from Guzman’s TV room. The pool and the rest of the house appears empty.

Sangley hands the phone to President Santos.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I thought you’d take my call. You’ve taken this so personally.

GUZMAN
What do you want?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
I wanted to touch base with you. I thought you’d lost interest in me.

GUZMAN
I’ll dedicate my life to your death. This isn’t finished.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
It could be finished at any moment. Just surrender to me now, here over the phone and we’ll end all the hostility.

GUZMAN
Fat chance. I’ll get you.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You haven’t a chance.

GUZMAN
I heard you got a new armored Toyota.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
You think I’ll need it?

(beat)
Three-inch armor.

The American with the laptop is clearly DIA, CIA or DEA.

AMERICAN
I’m cleared to proceed.
(beat)
Drone asset confirms target clear of civilian presence.

GUZMAN
It won’t help you survive. I have more resources than most third world nations. And you can’t live in that car.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
But, haven’t you heard, we’re a second world nation now.

GUZMAN
I’ll keep trying.

The American is asking a question.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
(to the American)
It’s your call.

The American punches a few buttons on the laptop.

GUZMAN
You’re right it is my call and you think this war...

PRESIDENT SANTOS
This war that you started.

The American turns the laptop around so Santos can see the screen. It’s video streamed from a Predator drone. It has a Heliborne missile and it’s making it’s way down to the hacienda.

GUZMAN
It’s only going to get worse for you! I’ll have your grandchildren strung out on meth pulling tricks for their next fix.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Listen, do you think it’s wise that we speak over the phone?
GUZMAN
What?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
The Americans have asked me to help them deliver a package.

GUZMAN
Package?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Well, it’s not arriving FedEx but it should be there pretty soon. Like now?

Santos watches as the missile arrives via the laptop.

Guzman’s home explodes. The phone goes dead.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Guzman? Guzman? Are you there?

Santos hands the phone back to Sangley; the American politely nods.

EXT. TELEVISION - RUIZ PLAZA - DAY

TELEVISION REPORTER
Again this story seems drawn from very bad television; the president has been the unfortunate target of whatever assassination attempt, kidnap attempt, assaulted-by-Mexican-narco-terrorists, coup attempt, or otherwise evil conspiracy the bad guys have planned. Only this time it was for real.

(beat)
The only thing we were missing from the television script is, often the work of an evil deputy or members of his own government gunning for him. As far as we know, no government official has been implicated in the assassination attempt, however, many officials have been fired for incompetency.

(beat)
So today we are here in Ruiz plaza to honor not only the president but also
the numerous heroes who were badass enough to rescue the president.

EXT. RUIZ PLAZA - POLITICAL RALLY & CELEBRATION - DAY

The band is playing.

President Santos drives on stage with his sprint bike.

He dismounts and grabs a rather nice-looking young lady and they dance until the band finishes playing the song.

President Santos walks up to the rostrum.

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    My fellow Filipinos, we survived!

Crowd applauds wildly.

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    Thanks to my friends, who are on stage with me. In a day of honor. They deserve your appreciation.

The heroes stand and bow and are applauded. It’s the film’s curtain call, of sorts.

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    Joseph, the bravest among us.
    (beat)
    Lani, the driver.
    (beat)
    Theo, the motorcycle cop.
    (beat)
    Angel, the mechanic.
    (beat)
    Farah, a very funny and bright lady.
    (beat)
    And Granny?

Her chair is empty. Everyone looks around; the president finds Granny on the front row, live streaming it to Facebook.

    PRESIDENT SANTOS
    There she is. She tapes the entire adventure and she’s a pretty good shot
with a pistol too. I wouldn’t mess with her.
(beat)
And look at this amazing Filipino made vehicle, “the Cannon Ball Express” that delivered us to safety.
(beat)
Three hundred and twelve bullet holes and we’re all still here. Struck by three different RPGs. Set on fire, but it still runs.

The enthusiastic crowd applauds.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
But the best news is that we are now free to continue our policies that are making our streets safe again.

Crowd applauds.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
But I feel a bit guilty; they say I provoked things.
(beat)
I want you to know this time I’ll not hold up a GA-16 and threaten the drug cartels.
(beat)
This time I’ve found a more appropriate weapon.

A Scorpion tank comes rolling up and it spins around in a tight maneuver and fires a blank shell toward Manila Bay. The tank drives away.

Crowd applauds. Santos looks at the band.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
One more song for all the good looking women out there?

The band plays a song and President Santos grabs a different girl and they dance only five seconds.
President Santos notices a NAVAL OFFICER standing at the side with an anxious look on his face. He has a tablet computer and the officer gestures to it.

Only half of the band continues to play and all eyes on the President. It looks like it might be an emergency.

Santos walks over and looks at the tablet. It’s a satellite image of the West Philippine Sea. Santos takes out his reading glasses, looks at the images, studies it.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
The Chinese are at it again?

NAVAL OFFICER
Yes sir, it seems. Playing their deadly games again.

Santos speaks casually as if the assassination and attempted coup has long been forgotten and it is business as usual.

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Get me the admiral on a secure line and move our missile destroyer, here to counter the Chinese. But I want to talk to the admiral ASAP.

NAVAL OFFICER
Business as usual, sir?

PRESIDENT SANTOS
Always.

All of the band resumes playing and Santos dances with the girl another fifteen seconds.

ROLL CREDITS

INTERRUPT CREDITS

INT. STAGE OF COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

The crowd applauds a previous joke.

FARAH
Thank you. The last time I was here, after the show, a very nice man changed
a flat tire of mine in the parking lot.  
And now he’s my new permanent boyfriend.

Audience applauds.

FARAH
You know only 10 percent of boyfriends make it to heaven?  Because if they all went, it would be called hell.  
(beat)  
But this guy is different. One of the ten percent.
(beat)
(reality hits)  
Maybe.

Audience chuckles.

FARAH
I asked him how much he loved me and he said, “I love you this much,” The only problem as he stretched out his arms I realized he has T-Rex arms and they’re only this long. That’s not very much at all, but he tries.
(beat)
He owns an auto repair shop. But not these lazy ass economy cars with a four-inch engine... he has a sports car with a big V-8.
(beat)
And he likes to go fast, if you know what I mean, girls?

The audience laughs.

FARAH
You saw on the news where Mexican drug thugs were chasing our president through the streets of Manila.

The audience applauds.

FARAH
That’s right; and they were chasing me too. That’s right; that was me on the news. Thank you, but isn’t that just
like Manila. A Mexican drug cartel is chasing the president with automatic weapons and the police still issued 3345 citations for driving violations that day. Their normal amount and not a single citation for any assassin.

(beat)
Now seriously, I can’t say it’s ever fun being shot at, on the run and fearing for your life, but I did get a man out of it. So, I guess if you think about it, in this town, it was worth it.

(beat)
Thank you and good night!

Night club audience cheers.

FINISH CREDITS

FADE OUT