

"FORGIVE MY SONS"

BY

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INT. A small apartment in a run-down neighborhood

Rocio, a pregnant woman sits in agony with her legs spread in the floor. She is in labor. There are old rags beside her, along with a bucket of water.

She soaks a rag in the bucket and wipes the sweat of her face. A rush of pain invades her body and she screams, but immediately puts a belt in her mouth and bites hard on it to drown the noise.

She hears the entrance door open and looks up. Her teenage son Pedro rushes in with a bag of gauzes, bandages, pain killers and a water bottle.

PEDRO
Mamá!

ROCIO
Shhh! cállate que te van a oír.

PEDRO
Mamita we need to go to the hospital.

ROCIO
Hospital... No!! No podemos ir al hospital

Another contraction makes Rocio twist in pain. She squeezes Pedro's hand and puts the belt back in her mouth. Pedro holds her while the contraction eases.

PEDRO
What can I do to help?

ROCIO
Dame la inyección.

PEDRO
The guy at the counter wouldn't sell it to me.

ROCIO
Por que no?

(Continued)

PEDRO

You need a doctor's prescription. But I bought some regular pain meds. I have Advil, Tylenol, Aleve and Aspirin.

There is a look of fear in Rocio's face. She doesn't think she can handle the pain without any medication.

ROCIO

Ok... No pasa nada. Dame un Advil.

He takes out two Advil tablets and hands them to Rocio along with the water. She takes them as she breaths heavily. She swallows n coughs loudly.

PEDRO.

Mamá we have to -

ROCIO

I said No.

PEDRO

We need to take you to a hospital! -

ROCIO

Basta! Ayudame más bien.

Pedro sits behind his mother and opens his leg so that Rocio can lean against his chest. He holds her hand as they begin to deliver a baby into a country that doesn't want them. Rocio bites the belt as hard as she can and tears of pain begin to fall out of her eyes. Pedro whispers words of comfort to her.

ROCIO

AHHHHHH

PEDRO

Respira mamita. Respira.

ROCIO

AHHHHHH

After a couple of pushes, Rocio passes out from the pain. Pedro notices that his mom has gone silent and still. He shakes his mom desperately to wake her up.

(Continued)

PEDRO
MAMÁ? MAMÁ! Mamita Wake up!

He takes out his cellphone from his pocket and dials 911. A voice is heard from the other side of the line.

V.O
911 What's your emergency?

PEDRO
HELLO. I need an ambulance for my mom...

FADE OUT.

INT. Hospital bed

Rocio wakes up, her vision is still blurry and disoriented. She looks at the IV unit and listens to the sound of beeping machines. She looks at her arm and sees a wristband with her full name written on it. She also notices that her left arm is hand cuffed to the bed. As she begins to recover her clarity, she notices she has a scar on her belly. She calls for Pedro, who is curled up in the chair across the bed.

ROCIO
Pedro?

Pedro wakes up hastily. He jumps from his sit and goes to his mothers's aid.

PEDRO
Mamita. Thank god you're ok.

ROCIO
El bebe?

PEDRO
He's fine. They did a C-section and He's in the incubator.

ROCIO
QUE?!

ROCIO
Le pasa algo?

(Continued)

Pedro
 Don't worry he's fine. He's a beautiful, healthy baby.
 do you wanna -

Two Police Officers enter the room. Pedro and Rocio immediately go quiet. One of the police officers holds a folder with a form, while the other holds Rocio's new born baby.

Pedro looks at the officer who is holding the baby. He sees the ICE badge, immigration police. He also notices the name engraved in his shiny badge, González. He shifts his gaze at the officer holding the baby and notices his shiny badge as well. Ruiz.

The officer with the folder glances at the right top corner of the paper, where there are two clearly demarked boxes. Legal alien, illegal alien. He reads aloud.

OFFICER RUIZ
 Rocio Esperanza Lopez?

PEDRO
 OFFICER YOU CAN'T' -

ROCIO
 SH!

PEDRO
 Pero Mamá! -

ROCIO
 CÁLLATE MIJO... Forgive my son officers.

OFFICER RUIZ
 Are you Rocio Esperanza Lopez?

ROCIO
 Yes.

OFFICER RUIZ

We passed your name through the system and it shows no record of a Rocio Esperanza Gomez... Are you an undocumented immigrant living in this country ma'am? (Long deafening Silence)

(Continued)

OFFICER RUIZ
Ms. Ruiz are you -

ROCIO
Yes. (Beat)

OFFICER RUIZ
(To his partner) We need to call it in.

(Beat) Officer Ruiz stares at Officer González to make sure they are on the same page.

OFFICER RUIZ
You know the drill. Call Social Services.

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ
I'm holding the baby, you do it.

Officer RUIZ
Protocol states one of us has to stay in case they try to run.

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ
Yeah. Me.

OFFICER RUIZ
You can't. You're holding the baby.

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ
So?

OFFICER RUIZ
What if they try to disarm you? What are you gonna do, drop the baby to pull out your gun?

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ
It's a kid and a woman handcuffed to a bed. I think I can manage.

OFFICER RUIZ
It's against protocol.

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ
Fine. You hold the baby, I'll call them.

Officer RUIZ
No, 'cause if they try to disarm me I'll have to drop the baby -
(Continued)

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ

Nobody is gonna disarm anybody, don't be so dramatic.

OFFICER RUIZ

I'm not being dramatic, it's against protocol-

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ

(Annoyed) Fine! This is what we'll do. We'll give the baby to his mother. Nobody should have a problem with that. Then we will BOTH go and fill out -

OFFICER RUIZ

Protocol says that one of us has to st-

Officer González

Nooooo, let me finish. Protocol states that we need to handcuff the criminals so they don't run. Ms. Lopez is already handcuffed to the bed so she's not going anywhere. We'll BOTH call Social Services and we'll BOTH fill out the paper work. Agreed?

OFFICER RUIZ

Agreed.

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ

Ok. Come on. Let's get some food while we're at it, I'm starving.

Officer Gonzalez hands Rocio her newborn baby. She grabs it with her free arm. Both officers exit the room.

Rocio looks at her baby and cries. Pedro rushes to embrace his mother and newborn brother. She notices there is a small key hidden in her son's blanket and a small note that says "felicitaciones".

She looks at her other hand and discovers they are the keys for the handcuffs. She turns to see the officers. They are at the end of the corridor. They exchange a complicit look and Officer Ruiz winks to her. Rocio Smiles and whispers "thank you".

Both Officers turn around and begin to walk further down the corridor. Officer González's radio goes off.

V.O

All available units we have a 10-15 on 66th and Jefferson, 5 aliens in custody: 2 adults and three minors. One of them a newborn baby.

7.

Officer Ruiz gives a look to his partner to make sure they're in the same page. Officer Gonzalez smiles and give in.

OFFICER GONZÁLEZ
Fine. But you owe me lunch.

They exchange a complicit fist bump.

OFFICER RUIZ
10-4 Central. Officers Ruiz and Gonzalez on our way.

FADE OUT.

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