

Rod and Eve sit quietly at the kitchen table. Rod's Mother enters carrying a tray with a pitcher of fresh lemonade and three glasses. She sets it on the table.

Takes a seat.

Her eyes move from Eve...

...to Rod.

ROD'S MOTHER

518 Where's Nissi?

518

ROD

519 She's at the house.

519

Rod's Mother gives him a look. Rod immediately catches it.

ROD

520 Don't start. This is Eve. Marcus introduced us. I just got with her today.

520

Seeing he's not helping matters, Eve leans forward.

EVE

521 I'm here because people are trying to take your family's land. The property is in Rod's name. I came because he needs to understand what's happening.

521

Rod's Mother studies Eve. Long enough to make her uncomfortable.

ROD'S MOTHER

522 And how'd you find your way into all this?

522

EVE

523 My grandfather knew your mother.

523

ROD'S MOTHER

524 His name?

524

EVE

525 Most people knew him as Wendell... His real name was-

525

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ROD'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
dangerous than telling you the
truth.(pause) Thought we have more of
an adjustment period. But we don't and
the time is now.

She studies Eve.

ROD'S MOTHER
536 Is he looking for my son? 536

Eve nods.

EVE
537 It's only a matter of time. 537

Rod's Mother closes her eyes for a brief moment. She already
knew. She stands. Walks into another room. Rod looks at Eve.

ROD
538 If I sign the papers for the land all 538
of this ends right?

EVE
539 No, it all begins. 539

Rod gets up. He starts pacing. Trying to make sense of
everything.

ROD
540 If this Morelli guy wants it so bad... 540
Why don't we just sell it? Take the
money. Walk away. End all of this.

Rod's Mother returns carrying a small wooden box. She gently
sets it on the table. Looks directly at Rod.

ROD'S MOTHER
541 Because it isn't yours to sell. (beat) 541
It's yours to protect. Then... to pass
down. Just like every generation
before you.

Silence. She opens the box. As she does she looks at Eve.

ROD'S MOTHER
542 Who's involved? 542

EVE
543 By now... probably everybody. 543

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544 **ROD'S MOTHER** 544
Well that's not good.

Eve looks at Rod's Mother in the eyes as if she will understand the magnitude of what she's about to say.

545 **EVE** 545
He's already making moves. He thinks
Marcus is the grandson.

546 **ROD'S MOTHER** 546
And how did that happen?

547 **EVE** 547
Marcus showed up loud, pretending to
be Rod.

548 **ROD'S MOTHER** 548
And where is he now?

549 **EVE** 549
We don't know. He took off.

Rod's Mother nods once. She reaches into the box. Pulls out an old brass key. Its edges are worn smooth with age. She places it in Rod's hand.

550 **ROD'S MOTHER** 550
Your grandmother wanted you to have
this. Don't ask what it opens cause I
don't know. Guess you will when it's
time.

Rod stares at the key. She reaches back into the box. Removes a small weathered notebook.

551 **ROD'S MOTHER (CONT'D)** 551
This belonged to her. It won't answer
every question... But it'll help you
ask the right ones.

She reaches into the bottom of the box. One last item. A weathered zippered canvas bag. She places it in Rod's hands. It's surprisingly heavy. Rod slowly unzips it. Neatly bundled stacks of cash. Small velvet pouches tucked between them. He opens one. Loose diamonds sparkle in the kitchen light. Rod looks up. Speechless. His mother isn't watching the money. She's watching him.

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552 **ROD** 552
 This can't be real.

553 **ROD'S MOTHER** 553
 Oh... it's real.

 She looks at Eve.

554 **ROD'S MOTHER** 554
 Could you give us a minute?

 Eve nods. She heads for the front door. She looks back at Rod.

555 **EVE** 555
 I'll be outside.

 The door quietly closes.

 Silence.

 Rod's Mother walks to the kitchen window. She gently parts the curtain. Looks outside.

 A beat.

 She lets it fall closed. Rod notices.

556 **ROD** 556
 What?

 She doesn't answer. Instead.

557 **ROD'S MOTHER** 557
 Do you trust me?

558 **ROD** 558
 You know I do.

 She turns. Her eyes fill with emotion. Not fear. Acceptance.

559 **ROD'S MOTHER** 559
 Then don't ask questions. Not tonight.
 Just listen. Hear me good Rod.

 Rod nods.

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ROD'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

560	Leave. Right now. Don't come back here. Don't call me. Don't try to protect me or Nissi. I've known this day was coming for a long time. Trust me I'm ready. Do you understand me?	560
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Rod shakes his head.

ROD

561	I can't just leave mom.	561
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ROD'S MOTHER

562	And you can't stay baby. You won't live to see whatever you think you got here.	562
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She steps closer. Places her hands on his face.

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