

INT. BEDROOM. DAY.

In front of the mirror sits Aunt Helen (85), applying lipstick to her lips. She stands up, wearing a crumpled white nightshirt, her hair disheveled. Notices a beautiful bonnet on the wardrobe. Reaches for it, takes it, causing the shelf to rattle as various items fall. Sofia (51) rushes into the room.

SOFIA

Aunt Helen? What happened?

(notices the lipstick)

Oh, my God! What is this?

AUNT HELEN

(putting on the bonnet, with an important look)

I'm running late.

SOFIA

Where to?!

AUNT HELEN

Michael is waiting for me. I have a date.

SOFIA

What Michael, Aunt Helen?

AUNT HELEN

Well, mine, my Michael. Oh! I forgot my teeth.

She reaches into a glass on the table, takes out her dentures, and puts them in her mouth.

AUNT HELEN

(smiles with her teeth at Sofia)

How do I look?

SOFIA

(tired)

Please, let's sit for a moment.

Sofia sits Aunt Helen on the bed, takes water and a pill bottle from the table. There's one pill left. She takes it out and hands it to Aunt Helen.

SOFIA

Well, tell me how you met Michael.

AUNT HELEN

And you won't tell anyone?
(takes the pill)

SOFIA

No one.

AUNT HELEN

Not even Sean. Although he's my husband, sometimes...

SOFIA

Aunt Helen, Sean passed away thirty years ago.

AUNT HELEN

Did he?

SOFIA

I'm sorry. And do you remember who I am?

AUNT HELEN

Oh, of course. Claudia, my daughter.

SOFIA

I'm Sofia. Claudia's sister.

AUNT HELEN

She has a sister?!

SOFIA

(tucking her back into bed)
You need to lie down.

AUNT HELEN

(submissively settling in)
Yes, yes, of course. As you say.

A few seconds of silence. Then Aunt Helen gets up again.

AUNT HELEN

I'm running late.

SOFIA

Aunt Helen!

AUNT HELEN

Someone is waiting for me... You won't tell anyone?

SOFIA

Michael?

AUNT HELEN

What Michael! Jacob.

SOFIA

Jacob?

AUNT HELEN

(heading towards the exit)

He just called me. We met at the train station.

SOFIA

Where did he call you?

Aunt Helen moves towards the door, but very slowly. Sofia observes. Aunt Helen still wears the bonnet, nightshirt, and slippers, with her lips painted.

AUNT HELEN

Do you have powder?

SOFIA

Why?

AUNT HELEN

Well, someone is waiting for me... Steven.

SOFIA

Steven?!

AUNT HELEN

Just don't tell Sean. He doesn't know about Oliver and me.

SOFIA

Aunt Helen, what year is it now?

AUNT HELEN

What?

SOFIA

What year is it now?

AUNT HELEN

65th.

SOFIA

(sadly getting up, gently putting her back to bed)

No, it's 2023 now.

AUNT HELEN

Well, what did I say?

Pause. Aunt Helen lies still for a while.

AUNT HELEN

(humming)

"I love you, baby...

And if it's quite alright, I need you, baby..."

Sofia gets up, steps aside, makes a phone call. Aunt Helen continues to sing.

SOFIA

Hello, Claudia? Yes! No, everything's fine, it's just... Aunt Helen is having a flare-up here... Uh-huh... Gave her the last pill. Yes, it seems we need more. Okay, I'll go buy some.

(hangs up)

AUNT HELEN

"To warm the lonely night

I love you, baby, trust in me when I say..."

SOFIA

(turns to Aunt Helen)

Aunt Helen, I'll go to the pharmacy now, and you lie here and behave yourself, agreed?

AUNT HELEN

Of course, dear.

Sofia exits. Aunt Helen lies on the bed with a vacant look. When she hears the door close, she jumps off the bed, spits out the pill she held in her mouth all this time.

She reaches under the bed, retrieves a safe disguised as books. Opening it, tablets similar to the ones Sofia gave her spill out, and she hurriedly tucks them back in. She takes out an iPhone, unlocks it, and dials a number.

AUNT HELEN

Hello, Michael? It worked! I'm on my way.