

ROOM OF PRESCIENCE

Written by

Cameron Hall

INT. UPPER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wind rolls over the windows. Ghostly light complements deep shadows. THELMA ROMANO turns over in bed to face her husband, RAFAEL. With one look, she is sure that he is asleep.

Thelma slowly rises from the bed and pulls a backpack from below it. She exits the room.

INT. A-MART CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Thelma's legs are propped up on a stool. She is reading a pamphlet. She hears a chime at the door. A customer, BENNY, enters. Far from Thelma's attention, the customer searches the store before walking up to Thelma.

Thelma stands up.

THELMA

Another black and mild, Benny?

BENNY

Actually, I'll get a Marlboro this time.

THELMA

Changing things up, I see.

BENNY

Ten seventy-nine, right?

Thelma scans the pack, checks the price, and nods.

THELMA

Right on the money. Did you have a vision of that?

Benny nods and hands her the cash. He takes the cigarettes and leaves.

BENNY

Keep the change.

THELMA

Did you see anything else?

Benny reflects on the question.

BENNY

Yeah...but it's still unclear what exactly it is.

He heads towards the door to leave.

THELMA

Wait!

BENNY

What?

THELMA

When are we finishing my training?

Benny smiles.

BENNY

Soon, I promise. You only have one more lesson, so be patient.

INT. A-MART CONVENIENCE - NIGHT - LATER

Thelma plugs in her ears. She flips the sign on the store door so that the CLOSED side faces out.

She kneels in one of the aisles, filling a rack with canned food as music blares through her headphones. She can't hear much of anything beyond the music.

Another customer enters the store. He is purposefully ignorant of the CLOSED sign. With a pair of handcuffs, he slowly walks up to Thelma.

Thelma is oblivious to the man behind her. But, in one quick moment, as the stranger prepares for an attack, Thelma turns and sees him standing over her.

Suddenly, a THUD.

The stranger collapses on the floor and behind him stands Benny.

Benny crouches and searches the assailant's body.

BENNY

Pistol. In the left pocket. Like I saw.

THELMA

Why didn't you-

Benny tucks the gun away and holds the legs of the assailant's body.

BENNY

We have to leave. Help me move him outta here.

Thelma crouches down and assists him.

CUT TO:

INT. BENNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT CONT.

Benny's car enters. Thelma and Benny stand at its rear end and open the trunk. Inside, the now unconscious assailant can be seen with his mouth taped and hands and feet tied.

Thelma closes the trunk and then heaves a sigh.

THELMA

So...you had a vision of that happening?

BENNY

I did. But it didn't become clear until after I left.

THELMA

(scoffs)

Your ability to see the future is more limited than I initially thought.

BENNY

Well, this entire situation would've gone a lot worse if I wasn't there.

THELMA

Maybe if you finished my training sooner, I could've stopped it myself.

BENNY

I haven't had the time recently. Besides, we can't do it now. We need to find out why this guy tried to attack you.

Thelma pauses. She takes a moment to reflect on Benny's words.

THELMA

He didn't intend on hurting. Only taking me.

BENNY

How do you know?

THELMA

Because I know the man who sent him after me.

INT. RAFAEL'S ABODE - KITCHEN - EVENING - FLASHBACK

Thelma grabs three beers from a fridge.

THELMA (V.O.)

I was involved with a very dangerous man once. A long time ago.

INT. RAFAEL'S ABODE - HALLWAY - FLASHBACK

With the beers in hand, Thelma walks through a shadowy hallway, at the end of which, a red light pours through the narrow slit of a slightly open door.

THELMA (V.O.)

His name was Rafael Romano. He led and operated a lucrative black market business in the South. Weapons, drugs, you name it. He could get it.

EXT. BENNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT CONT.

Benny listens intently.

BENNY

It sounds like you were mixed in with some bad people.

THELMA

That's an understatement. A guy like Romano is not to be crossed. He's an opportunist.

INT. RAFAEL'S ABODE - POKER ROOM - FLASHBACK

Thelma enters a room. She sees a trio of men gathered around a table, each of them with cards in hand. Smoke fills the air. Rafael sits farthest from where she stands.

THELMA (V.O.)

Anything that gets in the way of business is a threat that needs to be disposed of.

She hands beers to both of his friends before stopping beside him and placing his drink next to him. She leans over and kisses his cheek.

THELMA (V.O.)

And the only thing he cared about more than his business...was his wife.

Thelma leaves the room. She slowly closes the door, the sight of her husband obscured as it closes.

EXT. BENNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT CONT.

Benny sighs.

BENNY

Jesus...

THELMA

He's the only person who could've done this. After all these years, he's finally found me.

BENNY

I didn't know you were entangled with those kinds of people.

THELMA

No one does. But maybe through him, we can find Rafael. But we have to be careful how we approach this.

Thelma turns to Benny.

THELMA (CONT'D)

Which is why we need to finish our training.

Benny crosses his arms.

BENNY

Well, there's no better time than now.

EXT. BENNY'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT CONT.

Benny switches on a light. He carries a table sitting in the center of the room away, leaving an old rug there alone.

Benny gestures Thelma to sit next to him. They stand together in the center of the room.

Benny holds hands with Thelma.

BENNY

Okay, I need you to close your eyes.

Thelma does as Benny requests.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Slow your breathing. Our energies are becoming intertwined. Do not move.

Thelma winces. Her hands begin to shake, but Benny tightens his hold on them. Thelma attempts to control her breathing.

Thelma regains control over herself. Her hands recline into a relaxed position. She simply stands there with Benny.

Benny sighs. He lets go of Thelma's hands.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Open your eyes.

INT. THE ROOM OF PRESCIENCE

Thelma follows Benny's command again. She and Benny stand together in a ring of light. Beyond the ring, there is nothing but a void of darkness.

THELMA

This is it, isn't it?

Thelma walks towards the darkness. Before she can understand what she is doing, her hand almost makes contact with the darkness and noises erupt before her. Thelma sees something in the dark. Something from which the noise emanates.

BENNY

Do you see that? It's your fate.

THELMA

I can barely make out what I am seeing...

Thelma moves her hand.

BENNY

It's pure sensation. It's not always clear what lies beyond the light. But sometimes, you can not only feel, but know, what's ahead.

Thelma's hand shutters. She reacts with hesitance to what she perceives in the dark.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Do you feel that? That is not a path that you want to go down. That is the worst imaginable fate. You see it, don't you?

THELMA

(trembling)  
It's death...

Benny grabs her arm. He begins guiding her hand across the seemingly empty space before her.

Suddenly, the noises Thelma hears begin to filter out until a single sound can be concentrated on. A constant buzz, an electrical whir...

THELMA (CONT'D)

I can...I can see myself with him.

INT. RAFAEL'S CAR - MORNING

A light rain taps on the car windows. Rafael lounges in his seat, his hands tapping on the stirring wheel. A man enters from the side.

HENCHMAN #2

Mr. Romano.

Rafael begrudgingly sits straight. A frown is spread across his face.

RAFAEL

Where is she?

HENCHMAN #2

She managed to escape. We checked the security footage of her workplace and one of our men was stopped by what looked like a friend of hers.

RAFAEL

Stopped? How? I sent you two to do a simple job. Where is she now?

HENCHMAN #2

We aren't sure, sir. We've sent out more of ours to locate her.



RAFAEL

We already had her. And somehow you managed to fuck that up!

HENCHMAN #2

I won't allow this to happen again.

RAFAEL

Get out of here. I don't want to see your face again unless you have my wife! Do you understand?

HENCHMAN #2

Yes, sir.

The henchman awaits another word from Rafael.

RAFAEL

What are you waiting for? Go!

The henchman exits from the passenger side. Rafael reclines into his seat.

EXT. PARK - MORNING CONT.

Thelma walks slowly. Sounds fill the air. She wanders, observing attentively to the many futures in her path. She stops.

A gun is hidden in her waist. She surveys the area and her eyes close in on an alley. She squints.

She hears sounds of a struggle in the direction she faces. She begins to turn away and walks towards a different path in the same direction. From the alley, the henchman appears, seconds after Thelma passes the area--a sign she anticipated him being there.

INT. RAFAEL'S CAR - MORNING CONT.

Rafael sits quietly in his car. He hears a loud thud outside the window. Rafael's hand wanders over to the glovebox. The door swings open. Entering is Thelma. She carries a gun.

THELMA

Don't move, Rafael.

Rafael is frozen. Thelma sits beside him, her gun, ready to fire at him with the slightest movement.

THELMA (CONT'D)

Raise your hands.

Rafael raises them.

Thelma presses the gun against Rafael's neck.

RAFAEL

You wouldn't, Thelma.

THELMA

You sent your men after me?

RAFAEL

I-

THELMA

You don't have to answer that. I know what you will say before it is said.

RAFAEL

(nervous chuckle)

Thelma, baby, put the gun down. I didn't want to hurt you if that's what you're thinking.

THELMA

How do you think this is going to end, Rafael?

RAFAEL

With you and me together, how do you think? You left me all those years ago.

(beat)

I just want my wife back.

THELMA

I am not your wife, Rafael. I am not yours to own and abuse anymore.

RAFAEL

It's been so long. I missed you so much, Thelma. I promise, things-

THELMA

-won't be the way they used to be?

Thelma chuckles.

THELMA (CONT'D)

You don't understand, Rafael. There is only one way this can end between us. I can see it. I've known it for a while now.

Rafael is quiet. The cogs in his mind start to turn.

RAFAEL

You wouldn't dare...

THELMA

See? Even you know now.

INT./EXT. RAFAEL'S CAR - NIGHT CONT.

For a quick moment, a flash of light illuminates the foggy windows. Thelma exits the vehicle. She wipes the smoking gun with a dry cloth and throws it back onto the seat.

THELMA (V.O.)

It's like you said. It was hazy.  
But, I could still myself there. In  
the car with him.

INT. BENNY'S HOME - BEDROOM - MORNING

Benny sits on a bed. Thelma faces him from a chair in the corner of the room.

THELMA

I just needed to keep walking in  
that path and before I knew it, I  
was there. The feeling was the same  
as when I envisioned it.

BENNY

How do you feel?

THELMA

I feel...I feel like I made my  
choice long before I pulled the  
trigger. It was time Rafael was on  
the other side of the gun.

BENNY

Well...you're finally free now.  
Rafael's gone. You're future's  
yours.

THELMA

You're right.

BENNY

So...what future do you see for  
yourself now?