

MAKE NO PROMISES

Written by

Sharon Curcio

Address
Phone Number

Establishing shot: Typical high School.

EXT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TIA DELMAR (17) sits outside, listens in--

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

CLAUDIA CAMPOS, a young English teacher, calls Counselor JANICE ATKINS.

INTERCUT Claudia's classroom/Janice's office

CLAUDIA

You know Jan, Marta Espinoza is really withdrawn these days. Now she's wrapping up her neck with a tight scarf.

JANICE

Ms. "Anti-dress-code-girl". Wrapped up? Interesting...

CLAUDIA

She seems sad, almost pained. Not the happy, carefree Marta I knew earlier this year.

JANICE

Juniors are coming in to review progress reports. I'll check with Tia, Marta's best friend. If it's boyfriend problems, Tia would know.

CLAUDIA

Step carefully. Marta could just be hiding sucker bites.

JANICE

True. But if something harmful is going on, we have to check.

Tia enters Janice's neat office, sits. Janice opens the computer screen, looks at TIA's progress report.

JANICE

A "D" in art class--

TIA

Mister Hurtado either asks us to do something too hard or too easy.

JANICE
 Ummm. To change the subject a bit,
 Tia, you're a friend of Marta
 Espinoza, aren't you?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tia leaves Janice's office, runs into OLIVE FERNANDEZ, a
 scholarly student.

OLIVE
 What happened to you?

TIA
 Ms. Atkins and Ms. Campos are all
 freaked out about Marta wearing a
 neck scarf...Then Atkins asks me
 what I know about Marta.

OLIVE
 Really?

TIA
 Well, Atkins and Campos think
 Marta's hiding something. Does
 anyone know if Marta has a new guy?

OLIVE
 Let's text Candace; she's got the
 scoop on the dating scene around
 here. What a snoop!

Tia texts CANDACE COLLINS.

Tia and Olive stand there and chat. Candace quickly replies.
 She and Olive read the text on Tia's phone.

CANDACE TEXT READS
 "Haven't heard anything about Marta
 dating again; her breakup with Tony
 was pretty bad. All I know."

OLIVE
 Some help she was!

Suddenly Tia gets a text. She and Olive are surprised and
 scan the message.

RITA TEXT READS
 "Hey Tia! Just saw Marta in the
 restroom. When she lifted her hair
 up in in the back, her scarf had
 blood on it. Is she okay?"

OLIVE

Wow. What do we do?

TIA

Gotta do something. Marta's my middle school hommie.

OLIVE

We'll figure this out.

TIA

Let's take a walk!

EXT. OUTSIDE MARTA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tia and Olive walk to Marta's home that evening. They stop. A large car slowly pulls up in front of Marta's home and parks.

A FIGURE gets out, and heads to the back of the house.

Then they see the light in Marta's bedroom go off.

Tia snaps the license plate number.

The Figure then returns and speeds away.

TIA

Why do I have a feeling I know that dude...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Olive and Tia walk to class.

TIA

...Just something freaky familiar about him.

OLIVE

Crazy. If this guy got into the Espinoza's house, how?

TIA

He must have a key. But only a family member would have a key. I am not good telling Atkins about this.

OLIVE

Do we have a choice? If anything bad happens to Marta...

EXT./INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Tia knocks on the Counselor's door. Olive's with her. Janice invites them to take a seat.

TIA

Remember you asked if anything was going on with Marta?

JANICE

Of course.

TIA

Well, we noticed a few things--

Olive interrupts.

OLIVE

She's got blood stains on that neck scarf she wears.

JANICE

Hmmm.

TIA

So last night we went to Marta's to talk to her. A car slowly pulled up and parked in front of her house. A man got out and ran to the back of the house. Marta's bedroom light flickered out. Later he came back and sped away. Here's the license plate.

Tia hands the counselor a slip of paper.

JANICE

Thank you for this. You both clearly care about Marta, and reaching out always helps.

OLIVE

Right now, I don't know what to feel.

JANICE

Situations and emotions like these are very unsettling. Be patient with yourself...

The girls leave Janice's office. Next Janice calls the campus police.

JANICE
 Hey, Ray, it's Janice Atkins. Can
 you run a plate?

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT Claudia's classroom/Janice's office

JANICE
 The name attached to the plate.
 Mauricio Edura.

CLAUDIA
 Hmmm. Maybe the school nurse can
 get a glimpse of Marta's neck.

JANICE
 Let's get Milly Shier on board.

Janice calls Milly, the school nurse.

MILLY (O.S.)
 No problem. 11th graders are due
 for hearing tests this year. Send
 her over.

INTERCUT Milly, school clinic/Janice, office

MILLY
 Hi Janice. Milly. Just did Marta's
 hearing test.

JANICE
 And?

MILLY
 She has a long red abrasion mark on
 the upper edge of the scarf. The
 scarf has blood stains. No suicide
 issue, right?

JANICE (O.S.)
 No, we're not there. But time for
 Child Protective Services.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

SIMON WATERS, (50s), African American CPS officer sits in
 Janice's office.

SIMON

Allow me to handle this with Marta.

JANICE

Do what you think is best.

SIMON

If this is sexual abuse, we do have
to file.

Janice hands a note to Simon. He glances at it. Marta soon appears in Janice's office.

Simon flashes his ID badge, then carefully walks toward Marta.

He gently lifts up her hair in the back and folds down the scarf. His eyes confirm the marks.

SIMON

Cord marks. . . sexual assault. A
license plate spotted near your
home at night, Marta -- belongs to
Mauricio Edura. Your uncle, right?

Marta nods. Her eyes well with tears.

SIMON

We're bringing him in for
questioning now. An arrest may
follow. Marta, this ends here and
now, and won't ever happen to you
again on my watch.

Marta slowly approaches Janice, unwinds the scarf, and hands it to her.

FADE OUT: