

THE SUICIDE AGENCY
Alternative Reality

Pilot

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COLD OPEN

INT. RAE FAMILY HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Seething JILL RAE, 60, and morose, oxygen-assisted IRVING RAE, 81, scowl at their computer screen.

The "PAST DUE CLAIMS OWED" spreadsheet shows twenty CLIENT NAMES and a total of three hundred million dollars of debt.

JILL
We're dead!

IRVING
Time to end it. Together.

Irving places his decrepit hand over Jill's manicured hand.

She stifles revulsion. MOUSE CLICK. Her steely eyes scan the search engine screen. Another click.

From the glowing screen, soothing blues and greens dance across their faces.

The powerful sound of a misting WATERFALL bathes them in calm.

They EXHALE.

Together.

Disgusted, she side-eyes him.

BLACK OUT

PRE-LAP:

CARLOS (O.S.)
I can't live like this! ¡Por favor!

BEGIN SEQUENCE: AKIKO'S DISTORTED NIGHTMARE FLASHBACKS

INT. ANONYMOUS HOSPITAL ICU WARD BED - NIGHT

Paralyzed, CARLOS LOPEZ, 32, blinks desperately at the POV.

AKIKO (O.S.)
I can't help you die! Jeiku-chan
will never forgive me! I won't!

EXT. JAGGED GRANITE CLIFF IN THE HIGH SIERRAS - DAY

Carlos slips down a cliff. And slips. And slips.

CARLOS (V.O.)
My fall destroyed your dream. ¡Tu
sueño! Explain to him. Let me go.

INT. ANONYMOUS HOSPITAL INFINITE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

A callous ICU DOCTOR stares blindly into the POV.

ICU DOCTOR
He could live for years like this.

JAKE LOPEZ, 9, SCREAMS at the POV and runs WAILING down the infinite corridor.

END SEQUENCE: AKIKO'S DISTORTED NIGHTMARE FLASHBACKS

PRE-LAP:

An iPhone text alert PING BONG, PING BONG, PING BONG.

INT. LOPEZ APARTMENT - AKIKO'S ROOM - DAY

Jolted awake, AKIKO LOPEZ, 34, tugs at the other side of her empty bed, sees her iPhone photo of Carlos hugging YOUNG JAKE, 6, and convulses with grief as she reads the text.

"MABEL: They're repossessing the desks, get over here now."

Akiko begins slow shallow breathing to gain control.

INT. LOPEZ APARTMENT - OPEN FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

ON TV SCREEN: In the frozen final frame of the First Suicide Agency Promo Video (*which we will see later*) Akiko smiles at Carlos as his mouth opens to respond to laughing Young Jake.

In a modest apartment crammed with unopened moving boxes, SARITA LOPEZ, 53, in nurse's uniform, and Jake, now 10, in school uniform, eat oatmeal and stare forlornly at the TV.

Frantic and red-eyed Akiko, races into the room in mismatched clothes, with an over-stuffed bike messenger bag.

AKIKO
C'mon let's go! Turn it off.

JAKE

But, what was Papí saying to me?

Akiko sees Jake's sad face, stops and EXHALES empathetically.

AKIKO

Jeiku-chan, you can't keep asking me the same question. I've gotta find a new investor that backs our dream to counsel all suicidal clients.

JAKE

Our dream? Papí died because he worked there! Why do you still go?

AKIKO

I go for my clients, and for you.

Jake's eyes belie his sadness and disappointment in her.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

Please. Drop me at the showroom and Abuelita can drive you to school for you multiplication quiz. Then she can visit her many, many boyfriends at the Hospital.

On cue, Sarita breaks the tension with a comical pirouette.

SARITA

Mind your Mamí, or she'll send you on one of her "special trips."

JAKE

Naw! She could never come up with something awesome enough to end the lives of Super-Fantastic-Jeiku-san, or Abuelita-Especiale!

They strike silly super-hero poses and fist bump each other.

AKIKO

You two teasing me about my work?

JAKE

Mamí, do you ever feel guilty about ending someone's life?

AKIKO

Jake! I help people have peace and control in how they decide to end their lives. What's up with you today?

JAKE
Friday's Papí's first anniversary.

AKIKO
I know. I'll plan us a little trip.

SARITA
A little trip, or a "little trip?"

Giving in to the humor, Akiko smirks and rolls her eyes.

JAKE
I know how I'd take us out.
Matterhorn ride! No safety belts!

Jake and Sarita wave their hands and SQUEAL like they're on the Matterhorn. With a shocked SNORT, Akiko joins the fun.

AKIKO
Seeing mutilated bodies and bright red blood splattered on the ice cave walls would definitely make kids barf their Disney Happy Meals!

Jake and Sarita GIGGLE. Akiko JINGLES the car keys.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
We three are gonna be alive a long time. Desu ka? Jeiku-chan! Hayaku!

Jake melts when she speaks Japanese, their secret language, but he glances at Sarita, feeling guilty for leaving her out. Sarita smiles, shakes her head, and winks at him.

EXT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - STOREFRONT - DAY

Akiko bolts out of the family car into a throng of sidewalk PROTESTERS with signs reading: "Thou Shalt Not Kill," "Only God can Decide," and "Suicide should not be FUN!!!"

Protester GEORGE WATTS, 68, smiles at Akiko and directs the others to clear a path for her. She waves gratefully.

AKIKO
Morning, George. How's Miss Lucy?

GEORGE
Strugglin' with her arthritis.

She grimaces empathetically and sprints past him to the door.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - CONTINUOUS

Akiko bursts into the massive high-tech showroom and SHRIEKS.

The Agency's confused SALES STAFF cower in the corner. A smarmy FURNITURE REP, BARKS at MOVERS to carry the remaining sales desks and chairs out the door.

FURNITURE REP
Keep movin'. Load 'em on the truck!

MABEL JOHNSON, 22, seated in the last desk chair, spreads her arms wide to protect the last desk, Akiko's desk.

MABEL
I will not yield my ground!

Dramatic MARC FERRET, 24, protects the last two guest chairs by HISSING at the Movers with fiery Godzilla-clawed poses.

AKIKO
(To Furniture Rep)
I'm looking for an investment partner! My family's grieving.

FURNITURE REP
You had a year to get up to date.

AKIKO
You're destroying the dream my husband and I created. Have you ever lost the love of your life?

FURNITURE REP
Lady, look... I'll leave the desk, task chair, and two guest chairs. I'll say "damaged beyond repair." But, they're gonna charge you.

Mabel and Mark SIGH relief. Devastated, Akiko nods forlornly.

As the Furniture Rep leaves, Akiko stares her lone desk in the sea of open carpet filled with computers and desk accessories. Speechless, she begins trembling.

MABEL (O.S.)
Akiko! Akiko! What can I do?

Akiko's head begins to wobble as she starts slow shallow breathing to control herself.

BLACKOUT

END COLD OPEN