



THE SUICIDE AGENCY
Alternative Reality

Pilot Cold Open

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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 SERIES: 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! Jaku-san will never forgive me! I won't do it!

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 SERIES: 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: Rich is demolishing the office, 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
Jaku-san, you can't keep asking me
the same question.
(MORE)

AKIKO (CONT'D)

I've gotta find a new investment conglomerate that backs our dream to counsel all suicidal clients.

JAKE

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-Jaku-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? Jaku-san! 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.

Smarmy RICH HUNTER, 55, BARKS at INSTALLERS to rip out welcoming sales desks and comfy guest chairs, and replace them with plastic corporate self-service terminals.

RICH
Stack the desks over there now!

The confused STAFF including amiable MABEL JOHNSON, 22, and narcissistic MARC FERRET, 24, cower out of the way.

AKIKO
(to Installers)
Guys! Sorry! Stop what you're doing! This isn't happening.

RICH
(to installers)
Keep going, you're on the clock.

The Installers look at her, then Rich, then her, then Rich.

RICH (CONT'D)
You heard me! Get to it!

The Installers start stacking the desks. Akiko turns to Rich.

AKIKO
OmniBank has no right! Stop them!
You were supposed to wait and see
if I could get a new investment
partner before destroying the
showroom. My family's grieving.

RICH
We waited a year. The financing
agreement requires us to step in
when your leadership is M.I.A.

AKIKO
From the inception of this
business, OmniBank has partnered in
financing my vision. Without that
this business is worthless!

RICH
Your desk is intact. Don't make me
remove you from the showroom too.

The desks have all been stacked on the side of the showroom. Stunned, Akiko stares at her lone desk at the edge of a sea of open space. Speechless, she begins trembling.

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

Akiko begins slow shallow breathing to control herself.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONEEXT. WATERFALL - THE SUICIDE AGENCY 1ST PROMO VIDEO - SUNSET

Speaking to camera, vibrant Akiko, then 31, strolls along the top of a powerful misting waterfall above the valley below.

AKIKO

Hello! I'm spiritual adventurer
Akiko Lopez, founder of The Suicide
Agency, the leader in destination
end-of-life experiences.

INT. HOSPICE - THE SUICIDE AGENCY 1ST PROMO VIDEO - DAY

Continuing to speak to camera throughout this promotional video, Akiko strolls past beds of Corpse-like PATIENTS.

AKIKO

Raised in a cancer pocket, my heart
broke watching my family members in
misery. They begged for control in
how they spent their last days. My
own father's suicide was never
explained, leaving us heartbroken.

EXT. WATERFALL - THE SUICIDE AGENCY 1ST PROMO VIDEO - NIGHT

Akiko strolls to a family feast attended by LOVED ONES, aged 10 to 70. On a dais, corpse-like MORRIS, 94, and THELMA, 92, dressed as bride and groom, hold hands and weep joyful tears.

AKIKO

Now, surrounded by loved ones, in
an opportunity to share your
deepest feelings, actors re-create
the most meaningful life moments of
your life.

In 1950's period-perfect camping tableau, Mabel and kneeling Marc, re-enact Morris and Thelma's steamy marriage proposal.

MARC AS YOUNG MORRIS

Thelma, Darling, will you marry me?

MABEL AS YOUNG THELMA

Yes, my beloved Morris. I shall.

Mabel as Young Thelma ardently kisses Marc as Young Morris.

Real-Life Morris and Thelma crack denture filled grins.

LOVED ONES
 (amongst themselves)
 So lovely to see them happy! Right
 where they first met! Better than a
 wake after they're gone!

As the kisses turn into heavy petting, Mabel and Marc slip into a pup tent and create a shadow play of lovemaking.

The eyes of the youngest Loved Ones widen with interest.

The oldest Loved Ones grimace with shock and titillation.

Real-Life Morris winks knowingly blushing real-life Thelma.

EXT. WATERFALL - THE SUICIDE AGENCY 1ST PROMO VIDEO - DAWN

Akiko and beaming with health Carlos, escort wheelchair-enabled Morris and Thelma to a platform at the cliff edge.

AKIKO
 Your adventure can take place in
 the most heavenly location using
 fun, modern interpretations of
 traditional end-of-life rituals.

Akiko and Carlos place clearly-in-pain Morris and Thelma into a romantic embrace and wrap them together with lengths of red silk leaving only their faces and hands exposed.

Carlos steps away to give them a special moment with Akiko, who clasps their hands and looks deep into their eyes.

MORRIS AND THELMA
 (barely able to whisper)
 No more pain! Thank you, Akiko!

Akiko nods reverentially and steps back to stand with Carlos.

The Loved Ones wave tearfully, and smile in awe.

LOVED ONES
 (to Morris and Thelma)
 You created so much love for us!
 You two crazy kids always wanted to
 cliff dive! We love you!

Morris and Thelma kiss passionately and tip off the platform.

MORRIS AND THELMA
 Fare theeee wwwweeeeeellllllllllll!

The trailing silk lengths flutter beautifully behind them.

Loved Ones weep with joy and CLAP with the enthusiasm they would give a toddler coming down a slide for the first time.

LOVED ONES
 (amongst themselves)
 Good Job! Finally got their dream!
 A beautiful ending! So much love!

Akiko and Carlos hold each other, smiling tears of joy.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - 1ST PROMO VIDEO - DAY

Akiko strolls into the massive high-tech showroom and smiles.

AKIKO
 We currently have hassle-free
 programs for clients sixty years or
 older, or certified terminally ill.

STAFF and CLIENTS smile at Akiko as she strolls past them to enormous experience simulation pavilions skinned with LED screen adventures such as skydiving and volcano jumping.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
 Alaska and Hawaii have joined
 California, offering you more final
 adventure choices! Here's our new
 Alaskan Inuit Ice Flow Pavilion.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - ICE FLOW - 1ST PROMO VIDEO - DAY

ON WALL SURROUND SCREENS: On islands of ice at the edge of the vast arctic sea, pre-recorded ICE FLOW LOVED ONES cheer.

ICE FLOW LOVED ONES
 (individually)
 You lived to the fullest! Farewell!

ON FLOOR VIDEO SCREEN: Rippling, clear, deep arctic waters.

Akiko steps in and closes a port-holed freezer door behind her. Inuit-costumed Mabel pushes fur-wrapped elderly TWIN SISTERS on a faux ice flow. They exhale cold vapor breath.

AKIKO
 Before you book, our showroom lets
 you physically test what it will
 feel like, and prepare yourself
 before you glide out onto the real
 pristine Arctic sea.

ON WALL AND FLOOR SCREENS: A killer whale breaches onto the ice flow and snaps at the Twin Sisters.

They SQUEAL with delight. Akiko winks at them.

EXT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - STOREFRONT - 1ST PROMO VIDEO - DAY

At the showroom's dazzling window displays, Akiko, Carlos, and Young Jake, hold hands. Marc, Mabel, and the Staff smile.

AKIKO

With the latest election results, and OmniBank's continued financial support, we will soon be able to add counseling and adventures to suicidal clients who are not elderly or terminal!

CARLOS

Akiko's dream is finally going to happen! Hablamos español. Estamos aquí para usted.

AKIKO

Visit our showroom today!

Young Jake makes a joke. Akiko smiles at Carlos as his mouth opens to respond to laughing Young Jake. *NOTE: This is the same frame Jake was staring at in the Lopez Apartment.*

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Akiko stares forlornly at the frozen final frame trying to remember what Carlos was saying to Young Jake.

Her computer flashes a reminder photo of Carlos wreathed in flowers "*Friday: Carlos' Anniversary with Sarita and Jake.*"

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - FRONT DOORS - CONTINUOUS

Jill, in a flamboyant fur coat, drags Irving and his oxygen tank through the sidewalk Protesters and sweeps in through the showroom doors.

She spots Akiko and bee lines to her. Irving shuffles behind.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - CONTINUOUS

Rich senses Jill and Irving are a hot lead, brushes off an Installer's question, and jogs to intercept them.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Weepy, Akiko hears commotion, looks up from her computer and scans through the forest of newly installed self-service terminals. She catches a flash of Jill.

Hopeful of new clients, Akiko stands up and smiles just as Rich steps behind her desk almost pushing her out of the way.

AKIKO
I'm Akiko Lopez, founder of
The Suicide Agency.

RICH
I'm Rich Hunter, OmniBank's
financial field officer.

Grossed-out, Akiko slides a micro-step away from Rich.

AKIKO
How can I help you lovely
people plan your end-of-life
adventure?

RICH (CONT'D)
OmniBank has taken over day-
to-day operations of The S
Agency. We have new self
service terminals.

JILL
Jill Rae, and my husband Irving.
And baby, we are ready to roll!

IRVING
I just want this thing to be over.

JILL
(to Rich and Irving)
Akiko is going to plan our Couple's
Destination Suicide.
(to Akiko)
Spare no expense! It'll be sexy
fun!

Irving rolls his eyes and looks pleadingly at Akiko.

RICH
I can authorize premium upgrades...

Jill SNORTS at him and waves him off.

RICH (CONT'D)
Or... Help with any questions.

Rich is miffed. Akiko offers guest chairs to Irving and Jill.

IRVING
No thank you, Honey. My prostate's
callin'. I'm hittin' the head. As
long as Jill and I go out together,
I'll leave it to you gals to figure
out our method of extinction.

(MORE)

IRVING (CONT'D)

Not back in ten, call the morgue to pick up my cadaver.

AKIKO

Mr. Hunter, please assist Mr. Rae.

Bitter, Rich leads Irving away. Jill and Akiko sit down.

RICH

Mr. Rae, please follow me. I have amazing special offers for a man of distinction like yourself.

AKIKO

We'll be here, Mr. Rae. Making sure that your final adventure caters to your every last need and desire.

Irving shrugs and shuffles behind the ass-kissing Rich.

JILL

He thinks that he wants it all to be over!?! In thirty-eight years of marriage we haven't done a thing separately. Surprised he's willing to go to the toilet without me.

Jill shrugs her fur onto her chair and picks up a brochure.

Akiko watches Rich and Irving across the room.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - REST ROOM DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Rich and Irving arrive at the single-user rest room door.

RICH

Mr. Rae, what are you looking for?

IRVING

A smooth pee and a quick death!

Irving steps in. Rich blocks his ability to close the door.

RICH

Between us, Mrs. Lopez will probably be leaving soon.

IRVING

I need privacy to pee, Son!

Irving closes the door in Rich's face, and CLICK locks it.

RICH
 (screaming through door)
 IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST HOLLER!

Miffed, Rich turns to berate the Installers. But... his eagle-eye scans to watch Akiko and Jill. He scowls with envy.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Akiko focuses on Jill, while also keeping an eye on Rich.

AKIKO
 If you're both over sixty you
 qualify for the no-hassle Couple's
 Destination Suicide.

JILL
 I just hit sixty. He's eighty one!
 The age gap cramps my style!

Akiko sees Rich open a tiny notebook and make a note.

AKIKO
 I'm sure that you had much joy.
 What are the happiest moments of
 your life with Irving?

JILL
 Nothing comes to mind.

Akiko gives her a compassionate but questioning look.

JILL (CONT'D)
 I'll admit, he was sweet to me when
 we first met. I had been brutally
 attacked. He was my insurance
 claims adjuster. He dated me very
 patiently while I learned how to
 walk and talk again. But then he
 spent the rest of our God Damn
 marriage smothering me!

AKIKO
 We can revisit that. Next of kin?

JILL
 None.

AKIKO
 Any health concerns?

Jill stares at her quizzically.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

Some activities are not recommended for those with heart conditions, back problems, or who may be, or may become pregnant.

JILL

Are you serious? It's suicide.

AKIKO

State of California regulations.

JILL

Let's go with where we honeymooned, classic Hawaii. Of course, I was the invalid that time. We'll culminate our marriage at a throbbing molten volcano!

(meaningful pause)

But really, I'm here to help you. I'm designating you as beneficiary on our travel insurance!

Jill winks. *Red Flag!* Akiko swivels hard to see Rich watching her. He writes in his notebook. Jill notices. Akiko blinks.

JILL (CONT'D)

Mr. Hunter's on you like a bad smell. A shame OmniBanks's hellbent on turning your life's dream into a death factory. I can help.

Akiko is rattled by Rich and intrigued by Jill.

AKIKO

Wait? What do you mean help?

(loud for Rich to hear)

I mean, Mrs. Rae, destination Suicide Laws criminalise travel insurance on one-way trips.

JILL

(whispering)

Oh, I'm coming back. Irving's the only one who actually dies. He's been dying for ten years. I've got a rendezvous in Cabo next month. He jumps, I fake it, and get to come home to my new life.

As the other shoe drops, so does Akiko's face.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Stunned, Akiko again swivels hard to look at Rich. Oblivious, he checks the bathroom door, then his watch, pockets his notebook, stands and saunters into the Break Room.

Relieved, Akiko SIGHS and signals to Jill to follow her.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - CONTINUOUS

Akiko pointedly guides Jill across the sales floor.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - VOLCANO PAVILION - CONTINUOUS

ON WALL SURROUND SCREENS: Inside a black volcanic cone rimmed with a tropical rainforest, a sculptural diving platform, pre-recorded HAWAIIAN DANCERS and cheering VOLCANO LOVED ONES.

ON FLOOR VIDEO SCREEN: steaming, spitting, molten lava.

Akiko and Jill step into the pavilion through a port-holed door in a grass-hut, just as Mabel is helping a GRATEFUL CLIENT out of the flying trapeze harness.

VOLCANO LOVED ONES
(individually)
We love you! Thank you for all you
did for me! You're so wonderful!

Mabel raises an eyebrow implying "Do you need help?"

Akiko shakes her head, waits for Mabel and her Client to leave, then turns hard to Jill.

AKIKO
That's why you wanted to work with
me instead of a computer terminal?
You think I'll bend the rules!?!

JILL
You have a reputation in the senior
community of being "helpful."

Akiko scans past Jill's to the grass-hut door port-hole.

She catches Rich eyeballing her as he looms over the Installers. He pulls out his notebook and writes in it.

AKIKO

I do what I can. Within the letter
of the law.

CLIENTS open the grass-hut door. Akiko waves them away.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

Give us a few minutes please, my
poor client is feeling a little
fragile right now.

CURIOUS CLIENTS

Oh goodness. We'll come back later.

Akiko steps onto the diving platform and motions to Jill.

AKIKO

Get up here.

Jill sees the trapeze, senses that it's kinky, and GROWLS.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

You want a Couple's Destination
Suicide? But that what?

Akiko brusquely SLAPS the harness straps onto Jill.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

As these chanting Hawaiian dancers
end their petal throwing ritual to
ensure you a smooth passage into
the afterlife...

Akiko YANKS on each of belts to check the tension.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

What? Irving jumps into a live
volcano, you let go of his hand?
And then just walk away?

Jill tries out a Superman pose. Or two. Or three.

Looking down from the platform, Akiko flashes back on...

EXT. JAGGED GRANITE CLIFF IN THE HIGH SIERRAS - DAY

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

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - VOLCANO PAVILION - CONTINUOUS

Akiko shakes it off, steps down and onto the lava floor.

JILL

I'm not Juliet. And he ain't Romeo!

Frustrated, Akiko lies back on the floor below Jill and flails her arms miming Irving/Carlos falling into the lava.

AKIKO

Imagine Irving, turns back to you as he falls alone, confused, broken-hearted, into this scalding lava.

Akiko points at her genuinely sad face.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

Is this disappointed look going to be your last image of him?

Jill GROANS and pretends that she's a carefree spinning top.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

Why on Earth did you come to The Suicide Agency?

JILL

I don't want him to suffer. I'm humoring him with one last lovely vacation, "together" the way he wants it. Divorce is a waste of paperwork and legal fees.

Skeptical, Akiko GROANS and gets up off the floor as the Volcano Loved Ones repeat their dialogue.

AKIKO

What you're proposing is illegal. I'd be in violation of my already tenuous financing agreement. I'd never regain control of my company.

VOLCANO LOVED ONES

(individually)
We love you! Thank you for all you did for me! You're so wonderful!

JILL

My God, you just spill out your contractual vulnerabilities to strangers! Are you so tragically empathetic that you have zero instinct for negotiation?

AKIKO

Giving my clients a dignified death is all that is important to me. Mrs. Rae, listen to me carefully. A recent client of mine had a similar incident to what your proposing.

(MORE)

AKIKO (CONT'D)

The company chaperone was forced by current OmniBank policy to give the wife the final push. If she hadn't died, I'd have been up for conspiracy to murder! That little glitch got me bumped way down the sales leads list.

JILL

I'll get you leads!

AKIKO

(whispering fiercely)
I'll have to push you in, Mrs. Rae!

JILL

Get real!

Akiko looks out the grass-hut door port-hole to Rich waving cheerfully at her while he's on the phone. She blanches.

More CLIENTS try to enter. Trying to contain her fury, Akiko waves them off a little too harshly. The Clients STARTLE.

AKIKO

So sorry. Just a few more minutes.

The Clients leave. Akiko is confused.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

(to herself)
Why are we suddenly so busy?

Her arms stretched forward, Jill mimes a shark biting down.

JILL

They're like sharks. They smell blood in the water. Circling for the kill. Looking for a deal. What if I offered some business tips?

AKIKO

Why would you do that?

Jill stops posing in the trapeze to look Akiko in the eyes.

JILL

You're the heart and soul of this company. Imagine regaining financial control and finally being able to provide counseling and adventures for suicidal clients who are not terminal or elderly. Serving all the suicidal people!

A strike to Akiko's heart. Would Jill really fund her dream?

JILL (CONT'D)

I see the possibilities here that you and OmniBank have missed.

AKIKO

Like what?

JILL

Rule number one: Don't give anything away. But here's a hint: I would want you to help my girlfriends handle their husbands.

AKIKO

Are you kidding me? That's insane! I don't do murder!

VOLCANO LOVED ONES

(individually)

We love you! Thank you for all you did for me! You're wonderful!

JILL

I could get your son a scholarship at the best private school.

AKIKO

You certainly know a lot of details about my life.

JILL

The tragic "death" of your husband Carlos is public record. But, I'm wondering, does your son Jake know all the gory details about that?

Akiko forces herself onto the platform eye to eye with Jill.

AKIKO

What the hell is that supposed to imply!?! I said I don't do murder!

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - CONTINUOUS

Half-interestedly talking on his mobile phone, Rich examines the new terminals. Behind him, Irving exits the rest room.

RICH

(into mobile phone)

You're gonna be fine, Mom! It's just a little indigestion! Take some more Maalox! Gotta go, makin' money here! I'll see you at home.

Irving sneaks up behind Rich and GROWLS. Rich JUMPS.

IRVING

Whaddya doin' with your life, Son?
There are easier ways to make cash.
Believe me. You like finance? Three
words. Insurance. Policy. Clauses.

Shocked, Rich nods gratefully.

Irving turns to look for Jill, and sees her fur coat at Akiko's desk. Disgusted, he turns back to Rich.

IRVING (CONT'D)

One more tip. Keep your assets in
your own name. Don't trust anyone!

Irving heads to the volcano pavilion.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - VOLCANO PAVILION - CONTINUOUS

Akiko tries another tactic with Jill.

AKIKO

You know, he was right about you.

JILL

Who was?

AKIKO

Said you were very tricky. I hate
to tell you this, but Irving asked
me to do the same thing to you.

JILL

What?!? You talked to Irving? No!
He would never do that to me.

Akiko raises a confident eyebrow. Jill doesn't buy it.

JILL (CONT'D)

But solid negotiation tactic on
your part, planting that doubt! You
might have a sliver of killer
business cunning after all.

AKIKO

I doubt it. This is a legitimate
business that I've worked for years
to get legalized. I can't be
bought.

JILL
Bullshit! Name your price.

Disgusted, Akiko turns away and steps off the platform.

JILL (CONT'D)
(harsh whisper)
Don't you turn away from me! Don't
you make me off him by myself!

Irving totters through the grass-hut door and stares at them.

Jill and Akiko freeze wondering what he's heard. They wait for Irving to speak.

<p>IRVING Now whaddyou crazy gals up to in here? Joining the circus are we, Jill?</p>	<p>VOLCANO LOVED ONES (individually) We love you! Thank you for all you did for me! You're wonderful.</p>
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Akiko blinks at Jill who grins like the Cheshire Cat.

IRVING
Christ on a cracker! Can we go back
to your desk, Akiko? I can't stand
these syrup drippin' loved ones
practically pushing me off onto my
"final journey."

<p>JILL That's just what I was thinking, Darling.</p>	<p>AKIKO Absolutely, Mr. Rae.</p>
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Irving pulls himself onto the platform and slaps Jill's ass.

IRVING
Attagirl!

Jill GASPS and stifles her fury by contemplating revenge.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - CONTINUOUS

Akiko guides Jill and tottering Irving back to her desk.

Rich jealously tracks their movement across the room.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Irving offers Jill a guest chair and then settles in next to her and kisses her hand. She bristles.

Eyes on them, Akiko lowers herself into her desk chair.

With tears in his eyes, Irving turns to Jill.

IRVING

My life's purpose has been
protecting this lovely woman.

Jill struggles to suppress her feelings of suffocation.

Irving turns back to Akiko who is enchanted by his openness and vulnerability.

IRVING (CONT'D)

Thank you for fighting all the
bullpuckey politicians for years to
make this a legal option for us.

Akiko receives those words and blinks at Irving, for a moment a glimmer of the serenity of the old Akiko crosses her face.

IRVING (CONT'D)

Now c'mon, what'd you gals decide?
How we gonna end it all?
Parasailin' off the Mendocino
Headlands? Swimmin' with Great
Whites off Point Magu?

Jill smiles with that friggin' Cheshire Cat grin again.

Akiko is speechless.

Irving stares at her pleadingly.

She looks deep into Irving's eyes and is moved to find her higher self. She smiles at him beatifically.

AKIKO

Your lovely wife has selected a
wonderful Couple's Destination
Suicide for you two. Together. To a
real-life Hawaiian Volcano, with a
beautiful indigenous farewell
ceremony just like you saw in the
experience pavilion.

IRVING

But no cheering loved ones, fer
crissakes!

AKIKO

We can do that.

Jill PURRS with the satisfaction of winning.

IRVING
Great! Where do we sign?

Akiko looks archly at Jill.

AKIKO
If you're both certain.

IRVING AND JILL
Absolutely.

Akiko nods obediently, taps a few keystrokes, then slides an iPad in front of them to touch ID onto the screen.

AKIKO
Right index fingers here, and here.

Jill and Irving both touch the iPad with their fingers.

Jill smirks with triumph. Akiko talks pointedly at Jill.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
And as a sweetener, I'm going to personally chaperone you to ensure it all goes to plan. We do everything by the book at The Suicide Agency!

Jill is stunned and confused by this.

JILL
What!?! I mean, make sure you add an additional charge for that.

AKIKO
No additional charge.

Akiko smiles snarkily *"That's right, Bitch. I'm on your ass."*

Jill shakes her head condescendingly *"You're such a moron."*

AKIKO (CONT'D)
You have up to ten days to cancel the contract if your change your minds.

IRVING
I won't last that long. I want us to travel tomorrow morning.

Jill smirks with satisfaction.

Realizing what that means to her family plans, Akiko looks at her calendar reminder about Carlos' anniversary on Friday, closes her eyes, swallows hard, then gives Jill a hard stare.

AKIKO

I... You're certain?

JILL

Shall we give the commission to Mr. Hunter instead?

Irving rolls his eyes pleadingly. Akiko feels his pain.

AKIKO

NO! I'll take care of you.

Jill smirks. Akiko enters more key strokes into her computer.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

With Irving's terminal verification and your birth certificate, no problem getting expedited State approval to travel tomorrow.

JILL

So we're done?

Akiko nods reluctantly. Jill and Irving stand to leave.

IRVING

Thank you so much. This means everything to me. To us.

Akiko beams into Irving's eyes and claps his hands. Simultaneously, they nod at each other with gratitude.

Jill stifles a SNICKER.

Side by side, they head to the door. Together.

Jill turns back to Akiko and smirks.

Akiko wonders what the fuck she's committed herself to doing. She at Rich and SIGHS. He makes his best fake smile.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - LATER THAT DAY

Akiko scans her desk and tosses extras pens and a stack of orange paperwork into her bike messenger bag.

She tucks lengths of silk fabric into one of three large duffle bags, zips it up, and loads them onto a hand trolley.

Rich approaches her desk and attempts to express empathy.

RICH
Can I help with anything?

He steps very close to Akiko. She micro-steps away.

AKIKO
Would OmniBank re-consider my proposal from two years ago to offer counseling and adventures to suicidal clients who are not elderly or terminal?

RICH
How would we make money on that?

AKIKO
It would help so many people. The value to society is priceless. Most people who fail at suicide are happy that they failed.

RICH
I hear you, but my job here is to reduce costs, not add programs.

AKIKO
Then while I'm in Hawaii for the next four days, try not to burn down what's left of my company.

Rich steps close to her again and pulls out his phone.

RICH
Hey, have you seen the new OmniBank S Agency re-branding video on our YouTube channel?

Akiko refuses to look at it and steps far away from him.

AKIKO
It's called "The Suicide Agency!" Not the S Agency. We can't hide who we are. Is OmniBank voiding every shred of my contract? At least give me the courtesy of asking before publicly re-branding my company.

RICH
(condescending)
Akiko, let's try to work together.

AKIKO

Your life's work isn't on the line.
When OmniBank's finishes with me,
it'll move onto putting someone
else out of business. They don't
realize what they have here.

RICH

That's not fair.

AKIKO

OmniBank pays just enough to starve
me out and turn this into a, a...
(mimicking Jill)
A death factory! They want clients
to sign-up online, show up to some
anonymous warehouse like sheep,
step into a soundproof booth and be
electrocuted like cattle.

Rich is intrigued with the efficiency of that business model.

Akiko shoulders her bike messenger bag, grabs the trolley
with duffle bags and heads defiantly to the front door.

From the other side of the sales area, Marc and Mabel join
her to exit with their gear in tow.

Rich steps after them, trying to join their team.

RICH

Help me to help you.

Akiko stops to turn back to him. Mabel and Marc watch.

AKIKO

How can you help if you don't
understand what makes this business
work? See ya on Monday.

Akiko and her team step out to the sidewalk with the
synchronized confidence of the "A" team and weave smoothly
through the parting sea of Protestors.

Forlorn at being rebuffed, Rich stares through the storefront
windows, and watches them leave.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. LOPEZ APARTMENT - OPEN FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarita and Jake sit solemnly at the kitchen table drinking hot chocolate. Akiko enters, sets down her bike messenger bag, and sits to join them. Jake and Sarita scowl at her.

AKIKO

Hey, I heard about your multiplication quiz, what happened?

JAKE

(mocking)

Hey, I heard about you going away for Papí's anniversary day, what happened?

AKIKO

My client needs me. She needs help with the most important decision of her life.

JAKE

Is it more important than you being with your family? You haven't chaperoned a trip since Papí died.

AKIKO

Nothing is more important than you. But if I don't go on this trip, I won't have a job. I might even go to jail, and you and Abuelita will end up on the street. I can't let that happen.

JAKE

That's so melodramatic. Why aren't you more sad about Papí being gone?

AKIKO

Jake, I don't get to be sad. I have to keep us above water. There are consequences to my actions. We can go to the cemetery when I get back.

JAKE

It's not the same. He'll know.

AKIKO

He knows that we love him.

JAKE

He doesn't think that you love him.

That hits Akiko in the guts.

Jake stands and scowls his disappointment. Akiko tries to hug him. He skirts her arms and scoots out of the room.

SARITA

The kids at school are teasing him about your work.

AKIKO

Oh God. Should we home school him?

SARITA

We? ¡No estoy calificado para eso!

(beat)

Mi queirda nuera, do you ever think about quitting? For Jakulito?

AKIKO

Everyday. But... That would mean that Carlos' choice... That our life dream died with him. Sarita, did I do the right thing?

Sarita freezes.

For an instant her face turns to stone with the unspeakable anger of losing a son that perhaps could have been saved.

Akiko clasps Sarita's hands in hers.

Sarita blinks and comes back to the present with a sad smile.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. We'll figure it out.

Sarita EXHALES to focus on the business of raising her beloved grandson.

SARITA

Until you do, his grades are gonna suffer.

AKIKO

I'll call his teacher tomorrow.

SARITA

His counselor. He has many, many teachers.

AKIKO

Thank you for being here, Sarita, I
couldn't do it without you.

SARITA

Sí, lo sé.

Sarita winks and exits with a comical bounce in her step.

AKIKO

Hey, the client that I'm taking to
Hawaii made me an offer to help get
the business back, kind of. But
she's crazy manipulative.

Sarita stops and turns back.

SARITA

Loco puede ser bueno. !Lucha loca
con loca!

AKIKO

Huh?

SARITA

Fight crazy with crazy.

Akiko smiles, but is on the verge of tears.

SARITA (CONT'D)

Buenas noches, Querida.

Akiko nods. Sarita leaves. Akiko remains alone for a moment.

She stands up, turns off the kitchen lights and steps
ceremoniously into the dark family room, past the unopened
moving boxes.

She arrives at a beautiful FAMILY ALTAR with pictures of dead
Japanese, American, and Mexican Ancestors, Multi-Cultural
Totems, battery candles, and a prominent picture of Carlos.

Akiko kneels and lights a stick of incense. She tries to
greet Carlos casually.

AKIKO

(whispering to picture)
Dude! Whazzup?

She CHOKES with sudden grief, and covers her mouth to
suppress it.

She kisses her fingers and then touches them to the photo.

INT. LOPEZ APARTMENT - AKIKO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Her head on her pillow, Akiko sleepily opens her laptop.

Her www.OmniBank.com loan page shows two point three million dollars in receivership, and continuing to accrue fifty thousand dollars in interest monthly.

She sighs and clicks onto the S Agency (née The Suicide Agency) YouTube Channel. Her heavy eye lids close.

She opens her eyes. Her mouse slides down to a new video: "OmniBank rebrands The S Agency." She clicks on it.

INT. THE S AGENCY - SALES AREA - RE-BRANDING VIDEO - DAY

Think Apple's 1984 Black and White Macintosh Commercial, but without the hope inspiring Aryan Olympian with sledge hammer.

A line of SLEEPWALKERS, many with disabilities, step into the experience pavilions. No one exits. The pavilions belch ash.

In the dim showroom, Rich is reminiscent of a gestapo agent.

RICH

I'm Rich Hunter. When we re-branded The S Agency, we saw a way to make the product available to millions. Death will happen to you, probably sooner rather than later. Don't wait and burden your family.

The Sales Area is sea of self-service terminals with animated CG FACES smiling synthetically.

CG FACES

Welcome to the future!

The Sleepwalkers accelerate to conveyor belt speed, falling face forward into the pavilions. Rich fights through the ash toward the camera to be seen.

RICH

Make your plan online today!

INT. LOPEZ APARTMENT - AKIKO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Akiko's eyes SNAP open. She slams her laptop closed, squeezes her eyes and begins her controlled breathing exercises.

Was that real? Or her worst nightmare?

INT. HAWAIIAN AIR PASSENGER CABIN - DAY

Seated in coach with Akiko and Marc, Mabel leans into the aisle to peak into First Class.

MABEL

I want them to enjoy their travel,
but we have questions that need to
be answered or there won't be much
of a ceremony of celebration.

Cocktail in hand, Jill SNAPS the curtain open dramatically.

JILL

Hello, Team. How's it hanging?

AKIKO

Fine. You and Irving comfortable?

JILL

He's sleeping, boring me to death.

AKIKO

He's terminal, Mrs. Rae.

JILL

I'm aware of that, Akiko!

MABEL

Have you selected your meaningful
moments from the suggestions that
we sent you? We need to prepare the
scenes for your re-enactments.

JILL

I'm not sure anything we ever did
was meaningful.

Akiko blanches at that emotional bombshell.

AKIKO

(whispering to Mabel)
Start small and work up to it.

MABEL

What are your and Irving's favorite
colors?

JILL

Blue? Men like blue, right?

MABEL

Favorite food for your last meal?

JILL
Who gives a flying fig?

AKIKO, MABEL AND MARC
We do!

Jill scowls at them and turns to stalk away.

Akiko stands and moves to talk to with Jill discretely.

AKIKO
Now's the time to talk to him. Tell him how you feel, about life, about him, about your relationship. He probably knows your feelings better than you do.

JILL
Thirty-eight years of unspoken and misunderstood feelings. Why would I bother changing that now?

AKIKO
Approaching death is a sacred time. The old rules don't apply.

Jill shakes her head.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
You have three choices. One, you jump with him per the agreement that you both signed-

JILL
Not happening.

AKIKO
Two, you express your feelings and you both agree to his solo suicide with new paperwork-

JILL
You are really irritating me! Have you forgotten that I'm paying you?

AKIKO
Or three, you and I are both up for conspiracy to murder.

JILL
Get real!

Not happy with Akiko, Jill leans around her and swirls her index finger to point at seated Mabel and Marc.

JILL (CONT'D)

Can't your creative team make up something? I don't wanna get ugly.

Jill taps her finger into Akiko's chest. Confused and nervous, Akiko shakes her head.

JILL (CONT'D)

I need a fresh drink.

Jill swings back to first class and SNAPS the curtain closed.

Akiko is rattled and slides back down to sit next to Mabel.

AKIKO

She's too drunk to be coherent now.

MABEL

How are can you stay so calm when she's going to ruin everything.

AKIKO

Because before it's over, she'll understand why we're here. They always do. This is that shaky moment before she has an epiphany. It just takes time. And patience.

MARC

I hate doing scenes without understanding my character's motivations. What would Brando do without stakes and obstacles?

AKIKO

Just create a variation on our usual first-date, engagement, wedding, graduation, surprise party, retirement scenes. As long as Irving is happy, I don't care what you do. Just remember they didn't have kids.

Mabel nervously pulls out an iPad.

MABEL

I did some research on their lives to give us a timeline.

AKIKO

Great! We're gonna make it work.

EXT. HAWAII - RAINFOREST DINING AREA - NIGHT

Irving dressed as King is napping on his throne. Agitated Queen Jill fidgets imperiously on her throne.

There are no Loved Ones. Paid LOCALS enjoy the feast but are bored by the re-enactments. Ignored, Marc improvises from his favorite Marlon Brando roles. He rips his T-shirt open.

MARC AS IRVING/BRANDO
Hey Jill! Jiiiiillllll! JIIIIILLLLLL!

Mabel as Jill picks up on his cue and saunters in seductively Stella-style. He drops to his knees. She cradles him in her arms. They kiss passionately.

MARC AS IRVING/BRANDO (CONT'D)
Don't leave me, Baby.

The Locals are stunned. Sex sells and Marc knows it!

Marc throws Mabel over his shoulder and carries her off-stage.

The locals APPLAUD.

Marc and Mabel step right back into the performance area.

MARC AS IRVING/BRANDO (CONT'D)
I coulda been a contenda. I coulda
been somebody. Instead of a bum.
Which is what I am. Let's face it.

Mabel doesn't know Brando's scene partner's lines from ON THE WATERFRONT. She improvises from her heart.

MABEL AS JILL
Irving, my love, we'll get through
this set back together.

The locals applaud. Irving's eyes open. He smiles at Jill.

IRVING
Together.

Repulsed, Jill steps down to grab Akiko and pull her away.

Irving SIGHS and closes his eyes.

Akiko guides Jill to hike into the rain forest to talk.

EXT. HAWAII - RAINFOREST NEAR VOLCANO - NIGHT

Akiko uses a flashlight to guide Jill in the inky dark.

JILL

How's it gonna work? The fake out?

AKIKO

It's not. You're gonna die tomorrow morning.

JILL

Stop joking.

AKIKO

You signed the Couples' Mutual Suicide contract.

JILL

I orally void the contract.

AKIKO

Then Irving doesn't jump and dies slowly and painfully of natural causes.

JILL

No! I don't want him to suffer.

AKIKO

But you do want him dead?

EXT. HAWAII - EDGE OF VOLCANO - NIGHT

They arrive at the diving platform at the volcano edge. Jill steps onto it and looks dreamily into the molten lava glowing in the night. Akiko is wary and stays off the platform.

JILL

Get up here.

Akiko blinks to flash on Carlos slipping off the cliff...

AKIKO

No!

She shakes her head to respond politely to Jill.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

No, no thank you.

JILL

I'm not jumping.

AKIKO

No problem. Per OmniBank policy,
I'll push you.

(beat)

Irving might surprise you.

JILL

Tell him I'm grateful he saved my
life, but that for the rest of it
I've felt suffocated? That sucks.

AKIKO

Start by forgiving yourself for not
communicating the truth earlier.

JILL

You'll have to refund at least part
of my experience fee.

AKIKO

The money is the least of my
worries. I cannot let someone die
in distress and disappointment.
It's too cruel.

JILL

You are a crappy business woman!

AKIKO

You might be right about that.

Jill stares into the lava and is suddenly woozy. Akiko helps
her off the diving platform to a giant log, where they rest.

JILL

(melodramatic sarcasm)

You think that maybe I deserve to
die? Maybe Irving gave his life to
me and I should end it with him?
Could I really have done more if I
had left him years ago? Am I just a
chicken-shit kidding myself?

AKIKO

(earnestly)

Those are great questions.

JILL

Are you trying to talk me into it?

AKIKO

Only you have your answers. What
does your intuition tell you?

JILL

That I might die tomorrow morning because you don't recognize a good business opportunity! You sanctimonious bitch!

AKIKO

You've put yourself in this crucible for some reason.

JILL

Why would I do that?

AKIKO

To find out who you really are. I want that for everyone before they die. That's what the re-enactments are intended to do. Reflect on how amazing life is, and to be in control and resolved in your death.

JILL

You're so high and mighty. You talk to Carlos that way before you helped him commit his "suicide?"

AKIKO

That's not appropriate.

JILL

I think it is. I am a great businesswoman, but I can't deal with this emotional shit. I can make a buck out of anything. Irving got us into debt to scare me into joining him in this. It's just paperwork. Consolidating it won't be problem.

(beat)

You never asked me how Irving and I made our money.

AKIKO

Why would I? This isn't about money. It's about you and Irving.

JILL

There's no difference for us, just like you and Carlos. Business was us. When we met he was just an adjuster. Together we built an insurance behemoth based on me making sure that very few claims ever got paid out.

(MORE)

JILL (CONT'D)

I did background research on every client to find their weakness. Including you.

AKIKO

I'm not your client. Wait. Which insurance company do you own?

JILL

Never mind that. Now you're a prospective partner. Wanna know what I found out?

AKIKO

No. I'm only here for Irving. It's clear that you're a master manipulator with no empathy.

JILL

And you're a master empath, with no business sense. We complement each other. In some ways, we're exactly the same. We both had to get rid of our husbands to get on with living.

Stung by the accuracy of that jab, Akiko reaches into her bike bag, pulls out orange paperwork, and shoves it at Jill.

AKIKO

Here's a hard copy to convert to a solo suicide. If you get Irving to sign, I'll notarize it in the morning and you're home free.

JILL

Do you ever wish someone had taken the decision making and responsibility, done the paperwork, and absolved you of your guilt?

AKIKO

Whatever you're holding back from him, it's hurting both of you. Talk to him, listen to him, or it's not gonna end well for either of you.

Akiko turns and strides away. Jill smirks and pulls out her phone to see where she is.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

PRE-LAP OVER
BLACK:

CARLOS (O.S.)
I can't live like this! Let me go!

BEGIN SERIES: AKIKO'S DISTORTED NIGHTMARE FLASHBACKSEXT. JAGGED CLIFF IN THE SIERRAS - DIVING PLATFORM - DAY

Akiko's hands are hectically wrapping silk around a DYING CLIENT. It falls off. She tries again. It falls. Her hands become frantic as she tries again. Carlos steps in to help.

Akiko's frantic elbow shoves him. He falls away. She SCREAMS.

CARLOS (V.O.)
!Tu sueño! Your dream is gone!

Carlos slipping off of a cliff. And slipping. And slipping.

INT. ANONYMOUS HOSPITAL ICU WARD BED - NIGHT

Paralyzed and dead-eyed, Carlos' mouth opens and whispers.

CARLOS
Talk to Jake! Listen to him!

INT. ANONYMOUS HOSPITAL INFINITE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Overwhelmed, Jake stares desperately and needily at the POV.

AKIKO (O.S.)
What should I do?

Jake screams and runs wailing down the infinite corridor.

EXT. NEAR CATALINA - YACHT - REAR SWIM PLATFORM - DAY

Her feet in the water, Akiko's POV hugs Carlos' paralyzed body in her lap. She tenderly wipes salt spray from his lips.

AKIKO (O.S.)
Are you ready? ¿Preparado, mi amor?

Carlos blinks twice. She leans close to kiss him, then lets him slip off of her lap. He feels the water on his back and turns to her with panic in his eyes. She HOWLS with grief.

PRE-LAP:

An iPhone alarm PING BONG, PING BONG, PING BONG.

END SERIES: AKIKO'S DISTORTED NIGHTMARE FLASHBACKS

INT. HAWAII - AKIKO'S CABIN - NIGHT

Jolted awake, Akiko, tugs at the other side of her empty bed, sees her iPhone photo of Carlos hugging Young Jake, convulses with grief, and begins slow shallow breathing.

EXT. HAWAII - JILL AND IRVING'S CABIN PORCH - PRE-DAWN

Standing in front of Jill and Irving's cabin, Mabel and Marc hold lengths of blue silk. Beside them, Akiko blinks frequently, but otherwise appears composed.

Behind them, the LOCAL MUSICIANS sing a BITTERSWEET SONG. Four LOCAL WOMEN carry massive streams of gardenia leis.

Wearing blue swimsuits, Irving and Jill open the door and step onto the porch. The Locals SIGH with respect.

Irving and Jill watch each other like hawks with prey.

AKIKO
(reverentially)
Are you ready?

Irving and Jill nod. Akiko steps onto the porch.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
Any change of heart?

Irving stares at Jill. Jill turns smarmily to Akiko. Irving and Jill and shake their heads.

MABEL
May we dress you for your ceremony?

Irving and Jill nod. Mabel and Marc step onto the porch and wrap them in blue silk togas. Over that, Local Women wrap their bodies in gardenia leis.

AKIKO
You look exquisite.

Irving and Jill each blush with egocentricity.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
Are you ready?

Irving and Jill quickly scan each other, then turn to Akiko and nod.

Irving sheds his oxygen tank. As Akiko pushes it into their cabin, she peeks into their room.

INT. HAWAII - JILL AND IRVING'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Akiko's POV quickly scanning around the room. All desk and table surfaces are clean.

Balled up sheets of orange paper are in the trash can.

EXT. HAWAII - JILL AND IRVING'S CABIN PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Akiko tries to appear neutral and closes the cabin door.

Irving notices and makes a not-so-subtle threatening scowl at her. Alarmed at seeing a nasty side of Irving, Akiko smiles deferentially.

AKIKO
You okay?

IRVING
Never better.

He turns away from her to keep his eyes locked on Jill.

Akiko composes herself and turns to the crowd.

AKIKO
Let's begin the procession.

Irving clasps Jill's hands a-little-too tightly.

IRVING
Together 'til the end.

Jill blanches slightly.

The Locals SWOON sweetly and increase the tempo of their song. They throw flower petals onto Jill and Irving's path.

Mabel flanks Irving, ready to steady him if required. Marc walks beside Jill. Akiko and The Local Musicians follow.

EXT. HAWAII - EDGE OF VOLCANO - SUNRISE

As the sky brightens, The Local Musicians increase the tempo of their music to a fury of emotional energy.

Jill and Irving stand on the diving platform edge above the lava pit that glows in pre-dawn darkness.

Akiko, Mabel, and Marc are a few feet away.

Sunrise. The music stops hard. SILENCE in the Rainforest.

A large tree trunk slips into the lava and HISSES noisily.

Irving kisses Jill passionately. He pulls back to admire her. They both appear to have love in their eyes.

IRVING

You were the best thing that ever happened to me. Thank you for being my wife, my partner, my lover, and my friend. I could never have lived this life without you.

JILL

We had a good run.

Akiko, Mabel, and Marc strain to discern her meaning.

Believing that he is actually getting his wish to die together with Jill, tears run down Irving's face.

IRVING

Thank you for everything.

Jill smiles sadly, shakes her head, and takes a step back.

JILL

Thank you, Irving! But, I'm not going with you.

Shocked at the double cross, Irving grips her hands ferociously.

JILL (CONT'D)

Akiko! HELP ME!

Akiko steps close to the platform.

Irving instantly grabs Akiko with his free hand and with preternatural strength pulls her onto the platform with them.

Akiko blinks to a flash of Carlos slipping off the cliff... But she shakes her head and stops herself.

AKIKO

NO!

IRVING

What the hell's going on here?

Irving clutches Jill in one arm and Akiko in his other hand.

AKIKO

Mr. Rae, you're scared. I understand. Please let go of us. Let's all step off the platform to talk.

IRVING AND JILL

Screw that!

AKIKO

Mrs. Rae is telling you that she's not ready to die. You don't want her to die before she's ready, do you, Mr. Rae?

IRVING

I'm not leaving without her. She doesn't deserve to have everything.
(to Jill)
What about all that debt you can't seem to deal with?

JILL

You manufactured it to scare me into joining you. It's just paperwork. I'll get rid of it in a snap.

IRVING

Am I even dying, Jill? Did you and some doctor boyfriend fake the test results?

JILL

Look at yourself, Irving! What do you think?

The Locals, Mabel, and Marc are visibly horrified.

Akiko shakes her head, struggling to hold off her vision of Carlos slipping down the cliff.

MABEL

Maybe we should take a break, and you could all step down from the platform.

AKIKO

Yes, please. Mabel, gather everyone, take them back to the cabins and the camp, and give us some private space.

Mabel looks at her questioningly. Akiko nods her head.

Mabel gathers everyone to leave.

Akiko begins her controlled slow breathing exercises.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

This is the most sacred moment of your life. Not the time for accusations. Let's step off the diving platform and talk.

IRVING

My entire married life has been about what she wants. This is my decision. I get to decide how we go out. WE ARE GOING TOGETHER!

AKIKO

Please! Let's get off this platform and discuss this!

JILL

Fuck that! And fuck you, old man!

Jill shoves Irving off the platform taking Akiko with him.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEEXT. HAWAII - EDGE OF VOLCANO - DAY

Irving and Akiko flail backwards toward the spitting lava.

IRVING
You, bitch!

Irving can't hold onto Akiko. She tips forward and her fingers barely grab onto the edge of the platform.

As Irving falls backwards, the streaming gardenia leis tangling around his flailing limbs.

IRVING (CONT'D)
Arghhhh!

He sinks into the lava with a HISS.

AKIKO
Help me!

Jill looks down at her.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
Jill!

Akiko loses her grip and slides down the slope towards the steaming lava but manages to land on the fallen tree trunk.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
Jill! Help me, now! I have son to take care of.

JILL
Tell me how this gonna go down.

AKIKO
I'll say that Irving gave his verbal acceptance of the solo suicide. I'll notarize the paperwork right away.

JILL
Excellent. As a sweetener, I'll pay a year's worth of your loan installments to OmniBank.

Jill throws her gardenia leis into the lava. She unwraps her blue silk toga, and holding one end of it, throws the length down to Akiko like a rope. Akiko grabs on.

Jill pulls Akiko up the slope, but stops before pulling her completely onto the platform.

JILL (CONT'D)
 (ironically into the lava)
 The only person who knew really me,
 and thank Christ he's gone!

Akiko grabs onto the platform, pulls her body up and onto it, then rolls off the other side and onto solid earth.

JILL (CONT'D)
 You gonna try to push me in now?

AKIKO
 (gasping on her back)
 I'd never. Do that. To anyone who.
 Didn't want. To go. Not even you.

Akiko slumps over to the giant log and plops down, exhausted.

Jill stalks over and stands above her threateningly.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
 You almost killed me with him.
 What's wrong with you? I don't want
 your dirty money paying my loans.

Jill SNORTS in disbelief and shakes her head.

She stares and Akiko and then smiles with an evil thought.

JILL
 OH MY GOD! OH, DEAR GOD!!! HELP US!

Disgusted, Akiko gawks at Jill's manipulations.

Hearing the screams for help, Mabel and Marc run back.

Akiko stands and tidies herself before facing her team.

MABEL
 Are you okay? What happened?

JILL
 (forlornly)
 He's gone.

Jill stares at Akiko. Akiko turns gravely to Mabel and Marc.

AKIKO
 Irving gave his verbal release.
 I'll do the paperwork right away.

Akiko looks to them for reassurance. Marc shrugs unaware of the significance. Mabel nods and focuses on the work.

MABEL

Thank goodness, that will keep this all legal. Mrs. Rae, can we get you anything? Water? A blanket?

Jill turns on the faux grief.

JILL

The only one who truly knew me.

Akiko suppresses revulsion. Jill begins to genuinely weep.

JILL (CONT'D)

I wanna die. I don't want to deal with the bullshit of living.

Akiko senses some authenticity in her grief.

AKIKO

That's grief and shock talking. If you still feel the same way tomorrow morning, we can have another ceremony for you. Right now, Marc can escort you back to your cabin.

JILL

I can't stand to be in Hawaii for another second. Take me to the airport, now!

AKIKO

All right. Mabel and I will bring your things back with us.

JILL

I don't want anything from here, you know-it-all-bitch! This was the worst experience of my life. I'm suing you for trauma.

Another gut punch. Akiko tries to match Jill's cunning.

AKIKO

That will make it hard for me to complete my paperwork, Mrs. Rae.

JILL

Won't incomplete paperwork make trouble for you too, Akiko?

AKIKO

But...

Akiko looks at her team and realizes that she's been played, she plops back down onto the log.

Jill makes just the tiniest smirk that only Akiko can see.

Marc steadies Jill as they exit.

Akiko closes her eyes.

Tearful Mabel slides in next to her and clasps her hand.

MABEL

So, no epiphany this time?

Akiko tries to laugh, but shakes her head woefully.

MABEL (CONT'D)

I don't know if I'm ever gonna get used to the intensity of emotions.

AKIKO

If Mrs. Rae sues us, you might not have to much for longer.

MABEL

She wanted to live, then she wanted to die, and now she wants to live?

AKIKO

When couples have been together for so long, they truly become one. They can't believe they can live apart from each other.

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

Shattered, Akiko drops her baggage inside the door, stops to tearfully kiss Carlos' picture at the Family Altar.

AKIKO

I'm so sorry, Babe. I think our dream is over. I should have made you stay with us and not let you give up. I finally learned what you've been trying to tell me. I have to talk to Jake.

INT. LOPEZ APARTMENT - JAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Akiko creeps into Jake's tiny dark room and sits lightly onto his bed.

Facing away from her, his eyes open when she sits down, but he doesn't turn to her.

AKIKO

(to sleeping Jake)

In the promo... Papí said how proud he is that you are his son. Estoy orgulloso de que seas mi hijo.

Jake hears, but squeezes his eyes closed.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

With my client on this trip I remembered why I need to do this. To help people find out who they really are before they die. That's what Papí wanted for me. For us.

Akiko's tears begin to fall.

AKIKO (CONT'D)

But, Jaku-San, Papí gave his life so that I could continue our dream, and now... Have I wasted his life and now our dream? I let it slip through my fingers. Sumimasen, yurushite kudasai!

Jake opens his eyes but is too shocked to turn to her. Akiko covers her mouth when she starts to tremble with despair.

Unable to contain the convulsions, she runs out of the room.

When the door closes, Jake rolls onto his back, stunned.

EXT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - STOREFRONT - DAY

Akiko bores through the Protesters, avoiding George and hurting his feelings. Protester ZELDA MAY, 74, smirks at him.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - LATER

Akiko watches her favorite video of her and Carlos. But seeing Carlos makes her SHUDDER with disappointment.

Akiko watches CLIENTS come in, she stands up and tries to get their attention.

But the Clients all head to Rich who guides them to the self-service terminals where Mabel and Marc offer assistance.

Mabel shrugs at her sympathetically.

Feeling useless, she drops back down into her chair and scans the Sales Area to see who is watching. Rich nods.

Angry at herself, Akiko stands up and begins furiously collecting up her family photos and trinkets from her desk and stashing them into her bike messenger bag.

Rich notices her leaving and comes over. He stands too close.

RICH

Before you go, I need the close out paperwork for the Rae's trip.

AKIKO

I. I can give you that. But I think that her lawsuit is inevitable.

RICH

So you're running away?

AKIKO

Something like that. I don't feel like it's possible for me to reach the people who really need me. It doesn't feel important to be here.

Akiko opens her drawers, finds small items to put in her bag.

RICH

Sounds like a tricky situation.

AKIKO

Are you empathizing with me? Aren't you trying to get rid of me? I've seen you taking notes.

RICH

Is that what you think? No. No. No. I wanna be able to handle tricky emotional situations with finesse and aplomb, Akiko Lopez-style.

Akiko is stunned, skeptical, and even a little grossed out.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - SIDEWALK - DAY

Sarita in black with black lace head veil and Jake in a dark suit and tie, walk hand in hand toward the store. They stop at a kiosk to buy flowers.

As the VENDOR wraps the white flowers, Sarita talks to Jake.

SARITA

You ready to make up with Mamí?

JAKE

It felt like she wasn't missing him enough. Now, I think she just covers it up better than we do.

SARITA

We're all missing him, Jakulito. But the best thing that we can do to honor Carlos, is to take good care of you.

She gives him a hug.

JAKE

I'm ashamed.

SARITA

Don't be. You didn't have the experience to know any other way.

Sarita hands Jake three individual bundles of flowers.

SARITA (CONT'D)

(Spanish with subtitles)

I love you. She loves you. He loves you.

JAKE

Gracias, Abuelita.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Akiko is still disbelieving Rich's admiration.

RICH

I want to learn from you.

AKIKO

C'mon, Mr. Hunter.

RICH

Call me Rich.

AKIKO

Okay, Rich. Are you for real?

RICH

Look, I should have told you a long time ago. Seven years ago, my cousin committed suicide and... she didn't leave her Mom and Dad a note. They. I. We haven't been able to understand what happened to her.

Akiko steps close to him and touches her hand to his arm.

AKIKO

Oh my God, Rich! That's horrible. That's the reason I started the Agency, for my Dad. I am so sorry.

Akiko hugs him. For an instant he collapses into her arms, then panics, pushes her off of him, and steps back.

Akiko startles at his reaction.

EXT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - STOREFRONT - DAY

As Sarita and Jake approach the Protesters, George Watts, respects their solemnity and directs the others to part the waters and allow them an open path to the store doors.

Zelda May steps into their path to confront Sarita.

ZELDA MAY

You are clearly a woman of God. How can you shepherd this innocent lamb into the lair of Satan?

Jake and George are stunned, but Sarita smiles beatifically at Zelda May.

SARITA

(Spanish with subtitles)
The light of God shines everywhere.

Not comprehending the words, but warmed by the strength of their conviction, Zelda May steps back in awe of Sarita.

Sarita winks at Jake. They slyly fist bump.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - AKIKO'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Confused by Rich's push back, Akiko tests his intentions as Jake and Sarita quietly enter the store and observe.

AKIKO

So, because of your cousin, you understand why we have to do something about this, right?

Akiko sees Jake and Sarita, smiles and waves at them.

RICH

(regretful)

I shouldn't have told you. OmniBank's mandate is to make this brick and mortar showroom profitable in sixty days, or they will shut it down and go one hundred percent online.

That kicks Akiko in the guts.

AKIKO

What? Every life that we save contributes to a healthy community.

Jake and Sarita are enamored at how hard she's trying.

RICH

I don't need to hear your social-worker-religious-studies theories!

AKIKO

You were almost human for a minute. You don't have to hear any more from me today, Mr. Hunter. My family's here. I'm leaving.

RICH

You'll stay at your desk until close of business or you're in violation of your contract, and with the Rae's potential lawsuit looming, that puts me on the brink of finally being able to fire you!

AKIKO

Friday was the first anniversary of my husband's death. You know I was in Hawaii working for the company and missed it. I'm trying to make it up to my family. I'm leaving. If you finally squeeze me out because of my devotion to them, so be it.

JAKE

!No, Mamí!

Sarita's eyes grow wide. Akiko is touched by Jake.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You were right, loving me doesn't
just mean spending time with me.
It's about providing for me, and
inspiring me to do the right thing.

AKIKO

Jaku-san, these people want to
destroy the community that Papí and
I created. You're more important to
me than working with the scraps
they throw at me. Let's go.

Sarita hands Akiko a black lace veil. She pins it on her
head. Jake hands flower bundles to Sarita and Akiko.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - FRONT DOORS - CONTINUOUS

Sarita, Akiko, and Jake head solemnly toward the store doors.

Through the storefront windows George and the Protesters
outside see them coming out and part the waters for the
grieving family to exit.

On the sidewalk Jill drags mousy SUSAN SWAN, 58, through the
Protesters, and straight into Akiko, Sarita, and Jake.

Jill hands Akiko a manila envelope. Susan cowers behind her.

AKIKO

Is this your lawsuit? Have you come
to put the last nail in our coffin?

JILL

I went one giant step further than
my last offer. I bought back all
your business loans from OmniBank.

Stunned, Akiko's jaw drops open. She opens the envelope and
looks at the paperwork.

JILL (CONT'D)

Now I own The Suicide Agency.

Confused, Rich's jaw drops open.

Jill smiles sardonically. Behind her Susan smiles meekly.

Horrified, Akiko flips through the paperwork, shakes her
head, hands the envelope back to Jill, and turns to the door.

AKIKO
 (to Jake and Sarita)
 Let's go. Papí's waiting for us.

JILL
 You'll be back in charge of your
 own company.

Akiko, Jake, and Sarita turn back to Jill and Susan.

JAKE
 Mamí, that's your dream!

AKIKO
 Jaku-san, I'm sure whatever Mrs.
 Rae is offering, it isn't our
 dream.

JILL
 We're gonna help each other.

Akiko's curiosity piqued, but still skeptical of Jill's uncharacteristic generosity, she hands her flowers back to Jake and takes Jill aside. Susan follows sheepishly.

AKIKO
 What's this really about?

SUSAN
 (quietly earnest)
 Jill named a special list of her
 friends who can't afford your
 services. She'll cover our costs.

Akiko looks into Susan's earnest eyes and feels her desperation. Akiko's hardness softens for just a moment.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
 I could use your help with--

Akiko catches herself.

AKIKO
 No. Not with Jill. Absolutely not.

Akiko turns back to join Jake and Sarita. Rich, Marc and Mabel join them to find out what's going on.

JILL
 You'll be President of the Board of
 Directors and can correct all of
 OmniBank's inhumane policies.

Rich is insulted by that.

JAKE

Mamá, it's what you and Papí
sacrificed for, your dream come
true. It's back in your hands.

Akiko looks Jake directly in the eyes.

AKIKO

Jake, that's not what's happening
here. This is some kind of a power
play with our family as pawns.

JILL

It is your dream come true. And...
I'm financing your counseling and
adventure center for suicidal
clients who are not elderly or
terminal.

Stunned, Akiko GASPS. She looks back at Jill in disbelief.

JILL (CONT'D)

It's a real offer. If you stay.

JAKE

This is great, Mamá.

AKIKO

Jaku-san, you're okay with me
continuing my work here?

JAKE

Papí would be proud.

Akiko stares into Jake's eyes and sees Carlos' eyes.

In her mind's eye, Carlos' face overlaps onto Jake's face to
become one.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - SALES AREA - DAY

Giddily happy, Carlos looks directly into Akiko's POV.

CARLOS

Listen to Jake. He knows what's
right. With him you will help many,
many people.

INT. THE SUICIDE AGENCY - FRONT DOORS - CONTINUOUS

Akiko blinks and shakes her head.

Feeling Jake's love, Akiko bursts into tears of happiness.

AKIKO
Really? I... Oh...

Akiko grabs Jake and hugs him.

AKIKO (CONT'D)
Ai shi teru. I love you.

JAKE
Ai shi teru. I love you.

Sarita claps her hands with joy.

Akiko pulls back from Jake and looks lovingly at him.

AKIKO
You sure? Kakushi shin teru no?

Jake nods vigorously, tears falling down his face.

Akiko pulls out tissues and wipes both of their tears

RICH
Where does that leave me?

JILL
Out of a job, Mr. OmniBank.

RICH
But, I was just getting the hang--

AKIKO
No! You just tried to fire me from
my own company!

His shame and denial combine to into a sad old man pout.

But... Sarita smiles at him compassionately, and...
flirtatiously.

Rich notices. And blushes.

Jill feels fully in control and lets her evil Cheshire Cat
smile shine. She snatches a deep INHALE of victory.

JILL
Then it's agreed. We're gonna make
Carlos' and Irving's deaths worth
something and make some real money.

Akiko is aghast. Fearful, she turns to Jake.

He sees guilt flash across her face and brazen evil in Jill.

He blanches in confusion and disappointment.

Sarita notices and embraces Jake in a warm distracting hug.

Jake looks over her shoulder and smiles sadly at Akiko.

Petrified by the look on Jake's face, Akiko attempts to reassure him by joining in a family hug.

BLACKOUT

EXT. POSH BEVERLY HILLS SIDEWALK CAFE - A WEEK LATER - DAY

Akiko looks up from reading on her phone and GIGGLES at Jill in spite of herself. Susan nervously sips her cappuccino.

AKIKO

I admit it. I like these new promo ideas. You sure put the fun back into suicide. And none of OmniBank's corporate thumbprint!

JILL

There's no point in getting up in the morning if it's not a gas. And getting the clients to spend every last dollar when they go out!

Susan giggles uncertainly and fidgets. Akiko notices.

AKIKO

Susan, you've been patient in this transition. How did you and Jill meet? You must be old friends for her to help you in such a big way.

SUSAN

Oh no. We met last month at a charity event. She was very interested in helping me with my situation. Jill's very generous.

Not entirely surprised, Akiko's putting the pieces together.

AKIKO

Hmmm. Who's on Jill's list that The Suicide Agency can help you with?

SUSAN

I... I need... Oh, God! Jill?

JILL

She's got a miserable neighbor.

Akiko SNORTS in disbelief.

AKIKO

You want me to "off" her neighbor?

SUSAN

Carmen is an unhappy old woman,
makes my grand kids life a living
hell with her screeching and
blathering about insurance
compensation for her husband's
death! They think she's a witch! I
can't get them to go outside.
They're petrified whenever they
come over to my house.

Akiko connects the list to Jill's insurance business.

AKIKO

(seething whisper)

Insurance? What the fuck?!? These
people aren't just paperwork, Jill!

JILL

(quietly soothing)

No, no, no. We'd never ask you to
off anyone against their will. I
know you wouldn't do that. We just
want all of us to take Carmen on a
girl's weekend away and give her
the option of offing herself. Show
her the possibility. Then we can
work on your counseling center.

Akiko's face goes blank with the realization that her life's
dream is now in the hands of a wannabe serial killing.

Jill bores her Cheshire Cat smile into Akiko.

Akiko looks at her iPhone picture of Carlos and Young Jake.

She swallows her grief, closes her eyes and EXHALES.

She opens her eyes with the beatific gaze of a saint.

AKIKO

Tell me about Carmen. How can we
help her find peace with herself?

END EPISODE