

The Starcrossed Ballad
Episode 2

By Laura Santos and Ashlie Rodriguez

SCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. ESCARLATA'S ROOM - 3:00PM

SFX. DOOR KNOCKING

She walks into her cousin's room two days later. ESCARLATA is sad and still processing the situation and is letting her cousin MERCEDES know what happened that night.

MERCEDES

(active and happy)

Hola hola, ¿se puede?

ESCARLATA

(mumbling)

Okay, but be quick.

MERCEDES

(mellow voice)

Hey mija, what's up, what happened? You haven't been out of your room in two days.

(concerned)

Did it go that badly?

ESCARLATA is facing down and on her belly. She turns around and yawns.

ESCARLATA

(depressed)

Yeah... not at all how I expected.

MERCEDES

Ay y porque? Bueno, tampoco sé que esperabas.

ESCARLATA

Well, he found out by himself when he saw the credit card statement because I'm a fucking dumbass!

(embarrassed)

He also accused me of it not being his and that I was cheating. But...

MERCEDES

Aja... y despues que paso? No pares ahí. Jaja

ESCARLATA

Then he made a big scene right there in the restaurant, and all his henchmen started pointing their guns at me...

MERCEDES

(outraged)

Pero WHAT DA FUCK, que le pasa al loco este? Teniendo su hijo dentro, no me quiero imaginar qué hubiera hecho si no estuvieras embarazada.

ESCARLATAS'S Phone buzzes with multiple message notifications.
She looks at the phone and sighs.

ESCARLATA

Oh not again...

MERCEDES

What happened? What's going on?

ESCARLATA

I keep getting these threatening
messages from unknown numbers... It has
to be from Fernando's goons.

MERCEDES

Oh mai God...que dicen?

ESCARLATA

They go like "No sabes en lo que te
estas metiendo" and "you're not going
to ruin el patrón with your bullshit
ass belly"

(worried)

And even "el bebe entro bien pero no va
a salir, ni tu con vida."

MERCEDES

Verdad que los hombres son dos-caras,
hipócritas. You should totally call the
police and snitch on all his dirrty

business. I'm sure you've seen
plenty...

ESCARLATA

(apprehensive)

I...but...How could I do that to the
father of my child?

MERCEDES

For all we know, a el no le importa
eso asi que... please mami c'mon, think
about your safety and the baby's.

ESCARLATA

Fine... I'll call them after I shower.

MERCEDES

No no no, ahora, dale... que yo te vea

ESCARLATA

(sighs)

Ugh okay.

ESCARLATA grabs her phone to dial the local police station to
report a crime.

SFX. DIALING THE POLICE STATION

POLICE OPERATOR

Miami Dade PD South Flagler Station,
how can I help you?

ESCARLATA

Hi... my name is Escarlata Ruiz. I want to report some text harassment from a dangerous drug-trafficker...

POLICE OPERATOR

(surprised)

Oh damn mama, where do you know this man from?

ESCARLATA

We used to have a relationship... I have seen him be featured in the Crime stopper section.

(worried)

Now, I'm pregnant with his child and I fear for our safety... his pawns don't stop texting me.

POLICE OPERATOR

Oh ma'am, I'm so sorry to hear about that but unfortunately, unless he physically harms or stalks you, we can't send any officers to be involved. Especially if it's not him but his associates doing it.

ESCARLATA

(upset)

So what am I supposed to do?

POLICE OPERATOR

I'm so sorry ma'am... all I can tell you is to keep your phone at hand and dial 911 if anyone attempts to harm you. We'll be there ASAP.

ESCARLATA

(angry)

Well thanks for nothing, pig! ACAB all the way!!

ESCARLATA hangs up abruptly.

MERCEDES

Oh wow, pues la policía no sirvió para mucho. Lo único que te puedo decir ahora es que te consigas una pistolita para tu protección.

ESCARLATA

Ya te me estas poniendo gangster, I hope I'll be fine...

MERCEDES

You better hope so... Just don't go out much. Does he know where you live?

ESCARLATA

(sighs)

Yeah, they do... but he had that driver
killed, so...

MERCEDES

Mija, that was the cue for leaving.
Verdad que eres comemierda sis.

ESCARLATA

Ay ya, no jodas mas, there's nothing I
can do now so deal with it.

ESCARLATA goes to hide in the bathroom and she slams the door.

SFX. DOOR SLAM

SCENE 2

INT. BUTCHER AISLE IN PUBLIX - 8:25PM

SFX. PHONE DIALING

CARLOS

Hello?

ESCARLATA

(worried whisper)

Carlos! I'm at Publix right now... I need
your help. There's this man who has
been following me around for the past

hour... I keep trying to lose them but they keep showing up! I don't know what to do...

(scared)

...I don't know where to go.

CARLOS

Just keep calm, let's hope it's not one of Fernando's rascals trying to scare you.

ESCARLATA

I'm going to the produce department... but he has been threatening me through text. Anyhow, I can't seem to lose him, I've walked down the same aisle 3 times and he's still behind me.

CARLOS

Oh wow, I wish I could be there to protect you. Try hiding in the bathroom and I'll go get you.

(pauses to think about it)

Even better, why don't you come over to my place? I have plenty of people to protect you and that big beautiful belly of yours.

ESCARLATA

(weirded out but scared)

Ummm... I'm not even showing yet but
okay... sure... please get here ASAP, I'm
scared.

CARLOS

I'll send one of my drivers to go pick
you up now. The Publix at 37th right?

ESCARLATA

Yes... 37th and Flagler.

CARLOS

He's on his way now... in exactly 10
minutes, go outside and meet him at the
front.

ESCARLATA

I will... thank you so much.

CARLOS

Es mi placer, princesa. I'll be blessed
with your presence soon.

ESCARLATA hangs up the phone.

SCENE 3

INT. CARLOS'S MANSION IN PINECREST, FL - 9:05PM

ESCARLATA IS LET IN BY CARLOS' DRIVER

ESCARLATA

Carlos? Hello?

CARLOS walks out dressed to the 9s. He is carrying a huge bouquet of pink roses.

CARLOS

Escarlata... how do you do it? You always manage to look so breathtaking. Did my chauffeur pay for your groceries?

ESCARLATA

No, I did.

CARLOS

I'll cash app you now... an extra 300 for the trouble.

ESCARLATA

Carlos... you don't have to do that.

(weirded out)

...I mean you *really* don't have to do that.

CARLOS

Oh no baby girl, eso es lo mínimo que puedo hacer, especialmente después de todo lo que ha pasado. Déjame cuidarte.

ESCARLATA

Uuuuy que fancy. Ya veremos.

CARLOS

Bueno, te voy a cargar hasta mi cama, que es la más cómoda de toda la casa. Tu me dices si quieres que me quede ahí, te podré cuidar y velar para que estés bien.

ESCARLATA

Ay, tu verdad que me fascinas.

ESCARLATA gives Carlos a kiss on the cheek. He picks her up and carries her to his room. Scene ends.

SCENE 4

INT. CARLOS' BEDROOM - 7:03AM

ESCARLATA is lying alone in his bed, naked. She dials Mercedes.

SFX. PHONE DIALING

MERCEDES

Alo?

ESCARLATA

Mercedes... no lo vas a creer.

MERCEDES

Girl, where are you? A dónde te metiste? You can't just not come home like that and not tell me where you are.

ESCARLATA

Estoy con mi nuevo sugar daddy. Carlos.

(sighs lovingly)

I really like him, he's willing to take care of me and the baby.

MERCEDES

What da hell? Verdad que tu nunca aprendes. No sales de una para entrar a otra.

ESCARLATA

Shush it, you never let me be happy! I think he left for work already.

SFX. INCESSANT KNOCKING

ESCARLATA

Wait, give me a sec. Ay la sirvienta no para de tocar la puerta y hay tremendo ruido afuera.

SFX. SQUEAKY WINDOW WOOD SOUND

Window slowly opens as ESCARLATA is searching for Carlos outside of the room, in the hallway.

MERCEDES

Are you okay? No me asustes

ESCARLATA

Ay miya esperate por dios, que es que creo que hay alguien afuera.

Light steps can be heard approaching from behind.

ESCARLATA

Ay no, y la puerta...

MERCEDES

Esto esta super creepy, estas segura de que este hombre es de confiar? Recuerda que los dos son peligro-...

ESCARLATA peeks out of the room when she is grabbed from behind and greeted with a hand over her mouth. She muffled screams as the intruder puts a chloroform and alcohol napkin over her face.

SFX. DROPS PHONE

MERCEDES

Escarlata? Estás ahí? Dime que paso?

SFX. MISCELLANEOUS DRAGGING NOISE

MERCEDES

Prima!!! Respondeme o voy a llamar a la policia! Tu sabes que te tengo en

FindMyIPhone...

(hoping it's all just a joke but
worried)

No juegues conmigo que vas a quedar mal
con tu nuevo macho...

SCENE 5

INTRUDER #1 drags ESCARLATA's semi conscious into the back of the room. MAID continues to knock on the door.

INTRUDER #1

I'm going, I'm going jefa!

SFX. DOOR OPENS.

MARIA THE MAID

Oh wow, well that took you long enough.

ESCARLATA

(delirious and semiconscious)

..Please.. don't hurt me, I'm pregn..

MARIA THE MAID

(sardonically)

HAHA, that's exactly why we are here.

Stop resisting, you're just making it worse for yourself.

ESCARLATA

What do you want? Why are you doing this?

MARIA THE MAID

Tu pensaras que yo solo soy una sirvienta, pero para ti seré mucho más. Me recordaras como tu peor pesadilla, Yo soy, Maria Cuchillo de Palo!

MERCEDES screams unintelligible from the phone

MERCEDES

(very low and distant from the phone on the floor)

Leave her alone!!! I'm calling 911 right now!

MARIA THE MAID

BROO, do something about the fucking
phone call. I think she's still on the
line!!

INTRUDER #1

Ya voy jefa... no me pegue :(

ESCARLATA

(very high, drowsy, and about to
pass out)

Someone help me... todo me da vueltas...

uff que había en ese pañuelito??

MERCEDES

Wait... no, please let me talk to -

To the noises coming from the phone, #1 decides to stomp on it
until it's broken in half.

SFX. STOMPING AND CRACKING GLASS

INTRUDER 1

(maliciously whispering)

Now they won't find her in time... como

el patron ordeno.

ESCARLATA is tied up as she's fighting the high from inhaling.

INTRUDER #1 and #2 continue their misdeeds with the purpose of

slashing her belly and taking the inconvenient baby out for

their boss, Fernando. ESCARLATA goes unconscious as they butcher

her up with the baby she was carrying.

SCENE 6

INT. MERCEDES'S LIVING ROOM - 7:17AM

MERCEDES tries calling 911 but she has no address to provide, they tell her to drop by the station to report her missing instead.

911 OPERATOR

911, what's your emergency?

MERCEDES

(desperate)

I think my cousin is in danger, she hung up on me in a weird tone and I think there were people around her, threatening her.

911 OPERATOR

Give me the location of the incident, we'll send help to verify. How long has she been gone or missing?

MERCEDES

I'm not sure where she is, FindMyiPhone is not working but I'm sure something is wrong, please help.

911 OPERATOR

How long has she been missing?

MERCEDES

I haven't seen her since yesterday, but the conversation we had happened just 10 minutes ago.

911 OPERATOR

This is fairly recent, if we don't have a location, there's not much we can do. I recommend you pass by your nearest station and report the incident so they can open an investigation.

MERCEDES

(teary and desperate)

Pero, pero... what am I supposed to do? I I can't help her...?

911 OPERATOR

(cold)

I'm sorry, neither can we. I recommend you pass by the police station ASAP. Have a nice day, ma'am.

SCENE 7

INT. BAPTIST HOSPITAL ROOM DAYS AFTER - 3:02AM

CARLOS stopped visiting and gave up hopes of her waking up, afterall, she was not pregnant anymore. MERCEDES is in and out

depending on her shifts at the Seaport. ESCARLATA is alone and she woefully wakes up, decides to call MERCEDES and notices the date.

ESCARLATA

(in pain)

Ouch, I'm aching deeply. Oh NO, where am I? Fernando?! What are you doing here?

FERNANDO

I came here to ensure your gorilla grip pussy doesn't hurt anyone else... I hope you understand that you're only alive porque yo lo permito. You cannot tell anyone what we did to you...

ESCARLATA

(confused)

What did you do to me...?

(realizing)

OH FUCK, my baby! That was you... and Carlos' maid?!

SFX. FOOTSTEPS

MARIA

I told you already! I'm no one's maid!

FERNANDO

It's okay, baby... we're just here to make sure she keeps her trap shut about what happened.

ESCARLATA

Keep my mouth shut? You're crazy! As soon as I get my hands on my phone, I'm calling the press and telling them everything!

FERNANDO

Not if I have anything to say about it... Maria, you know what to do... This is what you've been training for!

MARIA

I'm on it, papi!

Maria grabs Escarlata's pillow and begins to smother her with it.

ESCARLATA

(increasingly panicked)

No...What are you doing Maria... stop it!

No! No!!!!

SFX. HEART RATE RAPIDLY INCREASES, THE MACHINE STARTS BEEPING. THEN SLOWS DOWN, AND ENDS IN A FLAT LINE.

FERNANDO

Tenemos que irnos, babe! Corre! Corre!

SFX. PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY

NURSE RUNS IN AFTER HEARING HOSPITAL ALARM

NURSE

Oh dear, what happened here?

(notices pillow on Escarlata)

CODE BLUE! CODE BLUE!

(breathing rapidly and panicking)

Stay with me, help is on the way!

Please! Don't give up! Help is coming!

SFX. FLATLINE hold a couple seconds then stops.

INTRODUCTION SCRIPT:

Laura: Hello everyone! My name is **Laura Santos** and I'm **Ashlie Rodriguez**.

Laura: And together, we wrote "the Starcrossed Ballad".

- *How was your experience writing it? What stood out to you?*

Laura: It was pretty entertaining, writing a story about a topic that some can relate to but giving it a telenovela twist

Ashlie: Fun. We originally wrote it for...

- *Where did you get the inspiration for the story?*

Laura: Sugar daddy website. My friend is a sexworker and we got the inspiration from her trying to teach me easy ways to make money so we both got an account on a sugar daddy website.

- *Why did you decide to name the play "The Starcrossed Ballad"?*

Ashlie: Play on Shakespeares term- starcrossed lovers

- *How did you come up with the names of the characters?*

Ashlie: Escarlata. Originally Scarlett

Laura: Maria the maid we gave her that name because the person we casted for the voice is also named Maria and we thought it was a pretty generic and common name for a service worker.

- *Thank you to...*

Laura: Prof. Sendin, Ale and Jimena, all the voice actors that helped to make this happen, Maurizio who drew the art for the cover of the podcasts, and my friend Thais whose skill inspired the story

Ashlie: We really hope you enjoy it! This is Urbanites, Season 2, Episode 6 “The Starcrossed Ballad,” Part II, the Finale.