

**Medicaid Care Experience Simulation Project**

**"Ana Luisa"**

Written by

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&

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## EPISODE 1

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM WAITING AREA - DAY

ANA-LUISA (29), Mexican immigrant, limps into the ER, supported by her husband JAX (34) - tall and blond - who protectively keeps her steady. She leans into him, her eyes squinting in pain as she cups a blood-stained cloth to her nose. They barely make it inside before they are spotted. A wheelchair is quickly rushed over as the room seems to buzz with excitement directed more towards Jax than anyone.

Jax's attention never leaves Ana-Luisa as they usher her into a wheelchair. A NURSE guides them towards the private rooms. She eyes Ana-Luisa with concern.

NURSE

What happened, Mrs. Hill?

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM EXAMINATION BAY - DAY

The paper crinkles as Ana-Luisa shifts to get more comfortable. She winces as she moves, none of the positions seeming to work. Jax, sits beside her, having pulled up a chair. He places his hand near her, and she finally settles, automatically intertwining her fingers into his.

The nurse fills out an electronic chart. She tries to find eye contact with Ana, but Ana looks away as she speaks.

ANA-LUISA

I hit the dashboard.

Jax is thrown off by this, but quickly picks it up.

JAX

I had to slam on the breaks, this idiot cut me off. I keep telling you to wear your seatbelt even if it's just the driveway.

Jax shakes his head looking at the nurse with exasperation. The nurse gives him an understanding nod but turns her attention back to Ana-Luisa. She looks her over.

NURSE

Do you have any other pain?

Ana shakes her head tentatively.

NURSE (CONT'D)  
No dizziness or grogginess?

Ana-Luisa shakes her head slightly and winces.

ANA-LUISA  
It's mostly just my nose.

The nurse nods, a bit puzzled as she marks something down and turns to Jax.

NURSE  
How about your head?

Jax starts as Ana's breath hitches, and she winces again.

JAX  
Sorry Nurse...?

NURSE  
Sarah.

Jax smiles charmingly.

JAX  
Nurse Sarah, perhaps we can pause the questions. When will Luke get back with the results?

NURSE  
Dr. Stone should be here shortly.

Jax rubs Ana-Luisa's back gently and glances at her lovingly. She leans into his touch. The nurse subtly watches them.

There is silence for several moments. Jax's phone suddenly rings. He pulls away from her as he answers.

JAX  
Hey Bud... she can't right now but she's all good, we'll be home soon...

Ana-Luisa looks longingly at the phone as Jax speaks with his back to her.

JAX (CONT'D)  
Is Aunt Leah making dinner? Yeah, can I speak to her... who's my big man?... That's right. Okay, seeya in a bit, buddy...

As Jax waits on the line, the nurse and Ana's eyes meet. The nurse tries to connect with her, but Ana quickly looks away.

JAX (CONT'D)  
Hey... it looks like it's not too serious... Thanks for getting Eli.

DR. STONE enters. He smiles at Ana-Luisa - who gives a small returning smile - and gives a greeting nod as Jax glances up.

JAX (CONT'D)  
I gotta go, we'll be home in a few.

Jax hangs up the phone and greets Dr. Stone - they seem to be old friends. Before Stone can speak Jax nods at the nurse.

JAX (CONT'D)  
We're good from here.

The nurse is frozen for a moment as Jax tilts his head expectantly - his control is effortless. She then looks over at Dr. Stone who simply nods. She exits with a quick look at Ana-Luisa as Jax's arm snakes around her.

Dr. Stone waits for the door to close before turning to them.

DR.STONE  
You're okay with me going through the results with you both? Have to ask with HIPPA and all.

He smiles at them. Ana nods.

JAX  
Yes, that's fine.

Dr. Stone smiles and pulls up the chart - reading in an official voice.

DR.STONE  
Everything's looking alright. Nose should be fine within a few weeks. Everything else is just bruising.

Suddenly his voice drops, and he looks up at them. He speaks in a whisper, eyes full of excitement.

DR.STONE (CONT'D)  
But am I the first - does anyone else know?

They stare at him completely confused.

JAX  
Know what?

DR.STONE

You're pregnant.

Jax breathes looking stunned for a moment but quickly putting on a happy mask. His smile doesn't fully hide his shock. Ana-Luisa sharply exhales. She is shocked for a moment, but her hand quickly moves to lay on her flat belly. She stares down at herself as if puzzle pieces are snapping together in her mind. Dr. Stone moves to shake Jax's hand who is able to finally shake off the last bits of surprise for happiness.

DR.STONE (CONT'D)

I was surprised Donna hadn't told the entire town. Wait, you did know?

Stone smiles his focus on Jax who maintains his façade of knowing. Ana-Luisa simply sits, her eyes full of wonder.

DR.STONE (CONT'D)

Oh, wow. Congrats Jax.

JAX

Th-thanks, Luke.

DR.STONE

At this rate people will never take their eyes off you two.

Stone pulls Ana-Luisa into a gentle hug. He smiles as he pulls away and consults their records.

DR.STONE (CONT'D)

You don't have any prenatal care... Let's get you set up with an OBGYN - Wyatt's the best.

He looks at Jax. Jax glances at Ana-Luisa who still seems stunned.

JAX

That sounds good right, honey?

ANA-LUISA

Um, yeah that would be great.

Stone gives her a warm smile. She smiles. Jax embraces her as Dr. Stone steps away. They are both still feeling the shock of the news.

JAX

I love you.

ANA-LUISA

I love you too.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Jax pushes Ana-Luisa in the wheelchair. The couple seem deflated of the happiness they had moments ago. Jax stops in front of a vending machine and buys three chocolate bars. Ana-Luisa looks out the window, her bruises are highlighted by the sunlight and her hand never leaves her belly.

INT/EXT. JAX'S TRUCK - DAY

They ride in Jax's massive Lincoln Navigator SUV. The neighborhood they drive through is full of manicured lawns and nice houses. Jax's face is cold, Ana-Luisa is guarded.

He pulls to a stop in front of a house that mirrors its surroundings. She flinches away as he reaches out to place his hand on her thigh. They sit in tense silence for several moments.

JAX

When were you going to tell me?

Ana-Luisa shakes her head as if reliving the shock of the news.

ANA-LUISA

I-I didn't know. I was late but -

JAX

Is it mine?

Ana frowns completely thrown off by the question and looks over at him. Anger plays across her face. She shakes her head, pulling his hand into her lap.

ANA-LUISA

Of course, it's yours Jax.

Jax breathes again looking into her eyes. There's a long moment of silence as he clearly struggles to form words.

JAX

What happened...

His gaze slips down to their intertwined hands.

ANA-LUISA

It's okay-

JAX  
It'll never happen again.

ANA-LUISA  
I know.

Suddenly a small voice can be heard from the house. ELIAS (6) is peaking out the front door and waving at them from across the yard. Jax's expression lightens as he grabs the candy bars and exits. He's all smiles as he approaches the house.

JAX  
Hey bud - hope you're ready for a treat.

Ana-Luisa watches as Elias takes the bar but looks at her worried. She smiles to him and waves. He smiles with relief. As Jax ushers Elias inside, Leah (27) exits the house and looks at Ana. Ana takes a moment to gather herself as Leah makes her way over, opening the passenger door.

LEAH  
Hey Ana-Ban-ana.

She leans closer to Ana-Luisa, her expression is kind.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
Elias is all ready for bed - so you shouldn't have to worry -

ANA-LUISA  
(whispered)  
I'm pregnant.

Leah is shocked by this but her expression melts into genuine happiness. She pulls her into a hug.

LEAH  
Oh my gosh, congratulations. I'm beyond excited for you two!

Leah pulls back looking over Ana-Luisa.

LEAH (CONT'D)  
How are you feeling?

ANA-LUISA  
We're happy - just a lot to take in.

Leah happily pulls her into another hug. Emotions seem to war across Ana-Luisa's face, exhaustion winning.

EPISODE 2

INT. ANA AND JAX'S HOUSE - DAY

A spacious living-dining room is nicely decorated with new furniture and a relaxed style. Upon the walls are photos and awards celebrating the accolades of Jax. Some are framed newspaper clippings - him cutting ribbons at new businesses, breaking the ground at others, offering a giant check to the hospital. There are also pictures of the family, highlighting their political power and reach.

Elias plays on the couch with a few toys. Ana-Luisa's belly has grown, and she is clearly pregnant. She sits at the dining table papers and receipts surrounding her. She types away into a spreadsheet.

Elias glances over and sighs. She smiles amusedly as she double checks some numbers.

ANA-LUISA

Almost done, just have to finish this up for Jax.

Elias sighs again - he's used to her working - and continues playing. At the sound she contemplates for a moment then puts down her work and joins Elias on the couch.

ELIAS

It's ok, you can finish, so you don't work at night.

ANA-LUISA

Nope. Cuddles first.

He giggles as she leans in and kisses his head. He immediately cuddles up to her and begins walking his fingers across her belly. Elias glances up as she smiles down at him.

ELIAS

So, you're going to G-Ma's to shower and party?

Ana-Luisa laughs as she snuggles him.

ANA-LUISA

No one's showering. It's a fancy party for babies. They shower us in gifts - even you had one.

ELIAS

I don't remember.



ANA-LUISA

I would hope not. You were still in Mommy's belly.

Elias's face is a bit confused. Ana sees this and smiles. She takes his hand and puts it gently on her belly. A moment later, he feels a kick and they both laugh. Elias looks at Ana, his expression changes. He grabs a stuffed lion toy and holds it out.

ELIAS

He's really strong.

ANA-LUISA

Is he?

ELIAS

Yes. I want you to have him.

He sits it on her belly. She is taken aback - unable to read Elias' intention.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

So he can protect you.

ELIAS looks her in the eye, and she knows that he knows. She gets very emotional and tries to say something, but a distinct ringtone sounds off interrupting the moment. Elias recognizes the ring and hops off the couch. He grabs his small duffle bag and runs out.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

DADDY!

Ana struggles to her feet and follows him.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

DAMIEN (32), African American, stands outside of a Toyota Prius. Elias is beaming as he drops Ana-Luisa's hand and bounds towards him jumping into his arms.

DAMIEN

Hey Big Man.

ELIAS

Hey Dad.

Damien puts Elias back on the ground before pulling Ana-Luisa into a side hug. He gestures to her belly.

DAMIEN

You get bigger every week.

He laughs as she jokingly swipes at him.

ANA-LUISA  
Don't remind me. Elias...

She bends over to hug him warmly. He holds on tight before climbing into the car. She watches as Damien buckles him in.

ELIAS  
What's that?!

DAMIEN  
Shhh a surprise.

Damien straightens up and with him comes a small gift bag.

ANA-LUISA  
Not you too.

Damien smiles and looks at her knowingly.

DAMIEN  
Come on you know I was gonna get  
you something. Have a good time  
this weekend.

Ana-Luisa pulls him into a thankful hug. Damien watches her carefully as she steps away.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
How've things been?

She guards her expression.

ANA-LUISA  
They've been good. Just a lot to do  
with the baby. Donna's really  
invited everyone.

He allows for a moment to pass.

DAMIEN  
Hey, I meant to ask, how are things  
with Jax?

She shrugs and struggles to smile nonchalantly.

ANA-LUISA  
He's really excited to be a dad.  
It's cute to see him sort of figure  
it all out.

Damien nods raising his hand to brush lent from her shoulder. Ana-Luisa flinches and quickly tries to cover it up.

ANA-LUISA (CONT'D)  
Thought there was bug.

He does not look convinced and his voice lowers.

DAMIEN  
Elias has been saying some things.  
And he has nightmares.

She seems surprised at his words and pulls away.

ANA-LUISA  
Might be the shows he's watching.

DAMIEN  
It's not the shows.

There is a long pause as Ana-Luisa seems to really think about this question. Damien looks at her carefully, but she gives nothing away. She shakes her head.

ANA-LUISA  
It's nothing.

DAMIEN  
I can help.

Damien glancing at a bruise on Ana's wrist; she sees it and moves her hand away.

ANA-LUISA  
It's old.

DAMIEN  
Are you seeing someone about this?

Ana-Luisa's hand moves to lay protectively on her belly.

ANA-LUISA  
We're seeing the best doctors, Jax  
knows everyone.

Damien seems to understand what that looks like - while Ana-Luisa's expression remains unyielding. He sighs.

DAMIEN  
I can take you to see someone in  
Columbus, if you'd like.

ANA-LUISA  
Can we drop it?

Frustration slips onto her face. Before he can reply, Jax's SUV pulls up. She immediately grabs the present and laughs.

ANA-LUISA (CONT'D)  
This'll make up for all your belly  
jokes.

Damien gives a smile that doesn't quite reach his eyes. Jax  
exits his car.

JAX  
Damien.

Damian nods hello as Jax walks over putting his arm  
possessively around Ana and kisses her.

ELIAS  
Jax!

Elias reaches out, prompting Jax to pull away from her and  
lean down for a hug. Simultaneously Damien shares a  
meaningful look with Ana-Luisa.

JAX  
Have a good weekend bud.

ELIAS  
Mom says she'll save me shower  
cake.

Jax chuckles and pulls away. When he looks at Damien it is  
with a cold smile.

JAX  
How's your contract going?

Damien's expression is closed off.

DAMIEN  
Fine. They're just getting through  
paperwork.

JAX  
Well, let me know if they can't get  
through it - I can get you hooked  
up with some guys from town.

It's clearly difficult for Damien but he casually smiles.

DAMIEN  
Thanks, I'll keep it in mind.  
Alright we've gotta get going - you  
know Columbus traffic.

There's a small stare-off as Ana-Luisa takes a moment to give  
Elias another kiss.

ANA-LUISA

Be good for your dad. See you  
Sunday, okay?

ELIAS

Okay mom. Love you.

ANA-LUISA

Love you too.

She straightens up and returns to standing in Jackson's arms. Damien gives the couple one last look before hopping into his car and leaving. Jax and Ana-Luisa stand, him holding her close as she waves to the retreating car.

EPISODE 3

INT. HILL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN AND LARGE HALL - DAY

Ana, visibly pregnant and wearing a party dress. She has a sash saying, "Baby on Board". She holds a cup of punch, clearly hiding from the guests who bustle in the splendid adjacent hall. Jax walks in wearing a sharp outfit. He's in his element, every bit the scion of an upper-middle class family. He wraps his arm around Ana. They fit into each other like easy puzzle pieces. He smiles.

JAX

Hiding?

ANA

No.

JAX

You're glowing, you know that?

ANA

I feel like a tomato on two toothpicks.

JAX laughs.

JAX

But you're my beautiful tomato!  
Mom's looking for you.

(Imitating his mom)

"Jackson, where's AHHH-NA?"

ANA laughs at the impression.

ANA

Shhhh. This is what happens. You make fun of your mom, and I get in trouble.

JAX

(Pulling Ana into him)

I like getting in trouble with you.

ANA

(Pulling in close too)

Yeah?

JAX

Yeah.

They kiss. Ana's phone rings. It's Damien's ringtone. Jax stiffens. Trying not to flare his temper.

JAX (CONT'D)  
You should get that.

ANA  
It's ok, I'll call them back.

JAX  
Could be important. Answer it.

Ana is conflicted but takes the call.

ANA  
Hello? Oh, hey! What's up? Oh, sweetheart, that's so sweet, thank you! Yes, I'll tell him.

She looks at Jax and whispers.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Elias wishes you a happy baby shower.  
(To phone)  
Ok, you guys have fun. Love you!  
Bye!

JAX  
He doing ok?

ANA  
Yeah. He just wanted to tell us that.

She smiles and he feels special hearing this.

JAX  
I love that kid. Wish we had him on weekends.

ANA  
I know, but he needs to see Damien.

Jax understands, but is affected. The moment is interrupted by Donna - a stylish older woman - storming into the kitchen. She's agitated but pulled together.

DONNA  
Jackson, let us have some time with her!

JAX  
You invited the whole town, Mom.

ANA

Don't listen to him, Donna. It's lovely.

DONNA

You're the one whose lovely, AHHH-na.

Jax and Ana share a look over Donna doing the exact thing Jax imitated.

DONNA (CONT'D)

I can't wait to see our beautiful baby! Is it wrong to say that mixed babies are just more beautiful?

Jax rolls his eyes.

DONNA (CONT'D)

What? I'm saying your wife is pretty, and yes, I'm excited to finally have a grandchild. So come on, let's show him off a little.

She points to Ana's belly; Ana looks conflicted - she clearly doesn't know the gender. DOUG (31) and his wife LEAH (30) enter. Doug is Jax's younger brother, a smalltown football star whose career ended in injury - they're visibly tipsy. Donna gets tense seeing this.

JAX

Relax mom. (to Doug) Who invited this joker?

DOUG

Lay off, Jax.

JAX

Calm down.

DOUG

Just don't start today. Hi Ana, congrats. Hi mom.

LEAH

Donna, it's such a lovely party. I love all the begonias. So pretty. How did you get them out of season?

DONNA

They're Peonies. Enjoy, Ana! I know you're probably used to simpler things.



ANA

It's a great party, thank you so much.

LEAH

Yes, Donna. It's perfect. Just perfect.

DONNA

It might be the only shower I ever get. Ok! Time for gifts, we have to let people love us!

Donna strides off towards the gift area. Ana hesitates.

JAX

You ok, babe?

Leah sensing a moment, jumps in.

LEAH

Just give her a moment.

ANA

Is that ok?

JAX

Of course. We'll stall. C'mon, bro, let's tell them some of your boring football stories.

DOUG

Shut up. (to Leah) Hey, lay off the booze, mom hates when you get sloppy.

Jax laughs and pulls Doug with him to the hall. Leah lets out a big exhale.

ANA

You ok?

LEAH

Yeah, except I talk too much and get loud and sloppy. Feels like I'm a prize pig at the fair.

ANA

I'm sorry.

LEAH

Fuck it, if I smile and say yes enough, they'll make me feel like I belong in this family, right?

Leah gulps her drink and scans the counter looking for a refill. Ana doesn't know how to respond and feels awkward. Leah sees this and laughs.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Donna sure knows how to throw a party. Everything's perfect. That's why you're such a good addition to the family.

ANA

What do you mean?

LEAH

You're giving them what she wants, you're carrying a new Hill! Not like me...

ANA

You're still young.

Leah's expression changes, she takes a moment to respond.

LEAH

Right. Plenty of time. (beat) You know Doug married me because I was pregnant.

ANA

I didn't know that.

LEAH

Jax never told you? Or Donna? No one ever said, "The only reason Doug married her is 'cause she was knocked up."? God, did you see the way she looked at me? "Peonies". (beat) She blames me. For losing the baby.

ANA

That can't be true.

LEAH

She told me herself. Couldn't have been Doug's fault. It was mine, for making him mad. "Leah, he's lost so much already. Of course, he gets angry, don't provoke him." And when I lost the baby, nobody asked what was happening. It was like they all finally had a good reason to hate me... God, I'm sorry, Ana. It's your party.

ANA

No, I'm sorry. Leah, I had no idea. Jax tells me so little about Doug and you... I didn't know. What did you do? Did you ever call the police?

LEAH

Are you crazy? And what would they do? He'd only get more furious, and I'd pay.

Ana hears this and ponders something.

ANA

Have you ever thought about leaving him?

LEAH

(Laughing)

And where would I go? Everyone in this town loves the Hills, or works for them. And they all know what's happening inside. Donna too used to wear designer sunglasses over her black eyes - like father, like son.

Leah pauses and looks at Ana intrigued.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Why, are you thinking of leaving?

ANA

What? No.

LEAH

Guess we live the lives we want to live, and pay the price we're willing to pay.

She smiles bitterly and reaches out to Ana's nose.

LEAH (CONT'D)

Your nose has healed up nicely. You can hardly tell it was broken. That was some accident.

Ana pulls back, surprised by Leah's comment. Leah looks her in the eye and recognizes Ana's expression - they see themselves in each other. Donna storms in mad.

DONNA

Time to open gifts. No more  
football stories. You need to be  
with your husbands. Let's go!

LEAH

(Mock salute)  
Yes, ma'am!

DONNA

(Cold stare of a smile)  
How about some *coffee*, Leah? Hmmm?

Leah puts down her drink and puts on a smile.

LEAH

Coffee sounds great.

She leaves; Donna looks at Ana as if she were a prize.

DONNA

Ok, let's go, we'll start with Mrs.  
Farris - she's just the worst  
person, already drunk, but play  
nice, she'll leave the biggest  
gift...

**EPISODE 4**

INT. OBGYN OFFICE - COLUMBUS, OH

ANA-LUISA sits in a paper gown on the examination table. DR. ALVAREZ, a Hispanic doctor, presses gently against ANA's side.

DR. ALVAREZ

Here?

ANA-LUISA

(wincing)

Yeah, right there.

DR. ALVAREZ

Okay, well good news. There is some bruising to your abdomen, but the ultrasound and the tracings look good. As far as I can tell, there's no injury to the baby. Strong heartbeat, good movement, good fluid -

ANA-LUISA

Thank god, so nothing to worry about?

Alvarez looks at Damian - it's clear, Damian told him everything. Ana stares daggers at Damien.

DAMIEN

What'd you want me to do?

Ana ignores him, turns to Alvarez and attempts to get down.

ANA-LUISA

Thank you for your help.

DR. ALVAREZ

Mrs. Hill, I think we should talk.

ANA-LUISA

Thanks, but there's nothing to talk about.

DAMIEN

You're dragging Eli into this.

ANA-LUISA

I'm not dragging him into anything.

DAMIEN

Ana, you are. He told me everything. You're not as good at hiding things as you think.

Ana pauses and locks eyes with Damien.

ANA-LUISA

W-what did he tell you?

DAMIEN

Everything.

They hold eye contact for a moment, then as Ana gets emotional, she goes back to getting her stuff together.

ANA-LUISA

(Holding back tears)

I need to go home.

DAMIEN

What's wrong with you? He's a psycho!

ANA-LUISA

You don't know anything about him! He takes care of me and Eli like his own, gives us everything! He loves us!

DR. ALVAREZ

Mrs. Hill, you need to be thinking of the health of your pregnancy, it's not safe for you to go back. I can't imagine how hard this must be...

ANA-LUISA

No. You can't.

DR. ALVAREZ

But, your husband has been violent with you on multiple occasions - the odds he'll just stop are very low.

ANA-LUISA

And me abandoning him and taking away his child is not going to help.

DAMIEN

Don't go back, Ana. We both know he's not going to stop.

ANA-LUISA

Yes, you know that? And how do you know that?

DR. ALVAREZ

We're only thinking of the health of your upcoming child.

ANA-LUISA

Thank you.

DR. ALVAREZ

We're just trying to help you.

ANA-LUISA

I didn't ask for your help on this. I'd like to get dressed now, if you don't mind?

DR. ALVAREZ is not happy, but he gives up, and gestures to Damian that they should leave. Once they're gone, Ana takes out her phone and texts.

INT. ANA-LUISA AND JAX'S HOME: UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

An empty hallway; the door to Ana and Jax's bedroom is ajar. Ana enters the hall from Elias' room and closes the door behind her. She goes to enter her own room but something catches her eye: a full length mirror on the wall has a dirty handprint smudge on it. Ana takes the edge of her shirt and starts trying to polish the smudge away.

ANA-LUISA

(To herself)

Jeez Eli.

She continues to polish until it's clean. Ana alone in front of the mirror. She looks at herself. The sound of a car pulling up gets Ana attentive. Someone gets out and a violent slam of the door startles Ana. She listens as the door downstairs flies open and gets a bad feeling. We hear Jax's voice from downstairs:

JAX

Ana?

Ana goes to the bedroom and pushes the door closed. We hear the shower turn on.

ANA-LUISA

I'm in the shower!

JAX arrives in the hallway and stands outside the bedroom door listening.

ANA-LUISA (CONT'D)  
You're home early.

JAX  
Just wanted to spend some time with  
my wife.

He listens for her response. After a moment the shower is turned off and Ana opens the bedroom door wearing a bathrobe. She enters the hall.

JAX (CONT'D)  
Didn't mean to interrupt your  
shower.

ANA-LUISA  
It's ok, I didn't get in yet.

JAX  
You feeling okay?

Ana nods and looks away; she's not quite ready to talk about what happened earlier.

JAX (CONT'D)  
I was calling you. Did you run to  
Damien?

Ana looks at him, trying to read this.

ANA-LUISA  
No I didn't. You have to stop this.

JAX  
What were you doing in Columbus  
then?

ANA-LUISA  
Can I explain *before* you jump to  
conclusions?

JAX  
Don't need to. Doug reads Leah's  
texts, and I know everything. Why  
are you lying to me, Ana?

ANA-LUISA  
I'm not -



JAX  
Stop! Just stop the lies!

She freezes as his angry hand pins her to the wall.

ANA-LUISA  
I just went to see a doctor.

JAX  
What doctor?

ANA-LUISA  
Damian knows a good pre-natal  
doctor.

JAX  
He took you to see a doctor?! With  
my baby?!

ANA-LUISA  
It's not like that...

JAX  
Yes it *is* like that! Are you  
fucking him behind my back?!

ANA-LUISA  
I can't believe you would even ask  
me that!?

Jax puts his hand over her mouth and looks at her belly.

JAX  
Is this his?!

Ana tries to say something, but he violently pushes her  
against the wall. She instinctively turns to protect her  
belly.

JAX (CONT'D)  
Tell me!! Is it his?!

ANA-LUISA  
Get off, you're hurting me!

He lets go of her hand and punches a nearby hall table  
knocking off a vase that falls and explodes on the floor. Ana  
runs into the bedroom and lock the door. Jack pounds the  
door, getting angrier and angrier. He steps back and kicks  
the door open. He storms inside and shuts the door behind  
him.

JAX (O.S.)

You are so fucking selfish. Do you have any idea what this looks like?! You carry my child, and live in my house - you came here with nothing, zero!

He hear a violent slap.

JAX (CONT'D)

I gave you everything and you go behind my back with your ex? What do you think this makes me?!!!

We hear a violent punch and then a sound of body crashing into furniture, glass falling and shattering. Another violent punch. We hear a skull hitting something hard and cracking, then the dull thump of a body falling on the ground followed by a long silence.

JAX (CONT'D)

Get up.

Silence.

JAX (CONT'D)

Ana, get up. Ana! Oh god. Oh my god.

After a moment JAX exits the bedroom, shaking. He dials on his phone.

JAX (CONT'D)

Doug I fucked up. Can you come over?

Pause.

JAX (CONT'D)

I don't know - It's Ana - she's not - she's not moving - should I call 911?? What about the baby?!

Jax's voice cracks on the word "baby." The reality of what he's done hits him. He dissolves into sobs off-camera. A few moments later ELIAS, terrified, comes out from his room in pajamas, hugging a stuffed lion to his chest. He walks to the door.

ELIAS

Mama? Mama, are you ok?

ELIAS pushes the door ajar and revels Ana's bare legs lying lifeless on the floor among broken glass. We fade to black before the rest of her body is revealed hearing Elia's voice.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Mama? Mom. Mom! Mom!

**EPISODE 5**

INT. SOCIAL WORKER'S OFFICE. DAY

The AVATAR is a social worker on staff in a medical group. They sit at a desk - the room looks professional and well organized - file organizers and loose folders on the desk. We hear a knock at the door and Dr. Alvarez pokes his head in.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
Hey. Got a second?

AVATAR  
Of course. What's up?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
If I wanted to report a case of domestic violence, how does that work?

AVATAR  
Want to come in and sit down?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
Sure.

He enters and sits across the desk.

AVATAR  
You look shook up. What happened?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
Well, a visibly pregnant woman came to see me, and she was clearly beaten by her husband.

AVATAR  
She told you this?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
No, her ex-husband told me. He brought her in.

AVATAR  
Ok. But what did she say?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
That's the thing, she didn't even want to talk about it.

(MORE)

DOCTOR ALVAREZ (CONT'D)

I did everything I could...I mean, she's pregnant, has a small child - I did everything I could to get her to leave.

AVATAR

Must have been emotional for you.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Yeah. I have kids, two, I can't imagine them being exposed to that.

AVATAR

Could you fill me in on some details?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Of course. She came this morning, pregnant, her ex- husband asked me to see her. He's a good guy. And she's being abused by her new husband. I told her she has to leave the guy, or it could end in tragedy, and she acts like I'm a jerk for bringing it up. What the hell?

AVATAR

May I ask, are you open to some thoughts and suggestions on this?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Yeah, sure.

AVATAR

Was her ex-husband in the room during this conversation?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

(Nodding)

He brought her in.

AVATAR

Could it have felt like you two were ganging up on her?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

He just wants best for her and their kid.

AVATAR

I'm sure, but could that have been why she got defensive?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

There wasn't time to kick him out  
in the middle of her yelling at me.

AVATAR

Could you have asked her to speak  
with you privately? From the get  
go?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

She still would've fought me on  
leaving the guy.

AVATAR

What were some of the reasons for  
her wanting to stay with him?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Why would that matter?

AVATAR

It's good to try and get a whole  
picture of the family situation.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

The picture is, she's being abused.

AVATAR

Sounds like you've maybe passed  
judgement on her choices.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Kids! In the house with an abuser!  
I mean, am I crazy?

AVATAR

It's scary to think of the kids,  
but we can't assume anything.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

But that's wrong, we should assume  
the worst... shouldn't we?

AVATAR

You have to remember that we don't  
know what we don't know.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

What does that even mean?

AVATAR

It means we allow the patient to open up and to tell you the full story.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Right. The full story. But do you honestly think she sees the big picture?

AVATAR

I don't know, but how would you feel if someone judged your choices as a dad?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Fine, but even without the kids, how does she stay with an abusive creep?

AVATAR

Abuse isn't the whole relationship - there's more to their life together.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

What could be worth being beaten?

AVATAR

Did you ask if she has any family to support her?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

No.

AVATAR

What's her financial situation?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Don't know.

AVATAR

Did she have a place to go if she decided to leave?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

I... don't know. I didn't ask. Did I screw this up completely?

AVATAR

You wanted to solve her problem for her.

Dr. Alvarez looks at us - he understands something.

AVATAR (CONT'D)  
Only she can do it.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
Should I have called you in right  
away?

AVATAR  
It'd be best to ask Ana if she'd  
like to talk with me.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
She'd say she didn't want the help.

AVATAR  
Do we know that for sure?

Alvarez pauses and looks at Avatar.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
No. I didn't ask. (beat) How do we  
help?

AVATAR  
There are ways to help someone  
break unhealthy patterns. I can  
send you some articles on  
motivational interviewing, if you'd  
like?

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
Yes, please. How does it work?

AVATAR  
It's about empathy, and focusing on  
her point of view, respecting and  
validating the way she feels about  
the situation.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
Ok. What would you have asked?

AVATAR  
We could start by asking why she  
doesn't want to leave.

Alvarez shakes his head as he understands his mistake.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ  
I assumed she doesn't understand  
her own situation, right?



AVATAR

She probably has good reasons she stays.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

And this motivational interviewing will make her share that with me?

AVATAR

We can't really make anyone do anything they don't want to do.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

But it's about building trust?

AVATAR

Only then you can begin to talk about the abuse, and then potential solutions.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Listen, learn, and don't assume...

AVATAR

Offering empathy and exploring her options are the best thing we can do.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

And then, if they want to, we can talk about a safety plan.

AVATAR

You got it.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Could you work with me on this?

AVATAR

Of course, I'll send you the materials right away, and let's talk more.

Doctor Alvarez stands up to leave.

DOCTOR ALVAREZ

Thanks. I've got a patient, but I'm looking forward to reading them and to talking more. (beat) I really appreciated this.

AVATAR

Good luck!

Doctor Alvarez leaves.

EPISODE 6

INT. OBGYN OFFICE - COLUMBUS, OH

The AVATAR is Dr. Alvarez; ANA-LUISA sits in a paper gown on the examination table. Damien stands off to the side.

AVATAR

Damien, could you step into the waiting room for a bit?

DAMIEN

Maybe I should stay.

AVATAR

Thanks, but I'd like to talk to Ana-Luisa alone, if that's ok?

Ana-Luisa looks to Damien and back at us.

ANA

Yes. Of course. Damien, I'll be fine.

DAMIEN

I'll be nearby if you need me.

Damien leaves.

ANA

Is everything ok?

AVATAR

Yes. There's some bruising, but the ultrasound and the tracings look good.

ANA

That's good, right?

AVATAR

Yes, as far as I can tell, no injury to the baby.

ANA

Oh, thank god. If something had happened to the baby...

AVATAR

Mrs. Hill, may I ask you something?

ANA

I know what Damien told you. Go ahead, say it.

AVATAR

I was going to ask: how do you feel things are going at home?

ANA

Oh. I... they're fine.

AVATAR

Things are fine. Good. Could you say a little more about that?

ANA

I know what you're doing. I know how this all looks.

AVATAR

How do you think it looks?

ANA

I didn't come here for a lecture.

AVATAR

I don't want to give one, I promise.

ANA

Good, cause I came here to make sure the baby was healthy.

AVATAR

I understand. But how do you feel about your own health?

ANA

My health? I'm... fine. I'm really ok. I know this looks bad-

AVATAR

You just said you know this looks bad.

ANA

Yes. Of course, I know it *looks* bad. But he... it's not that bad. He's a good person, and we have a good life.

AVATAR

That's great. Would you tell me more about that?

ANA

My life before was hard. I was working all the time, and Elias was always with sitters, and we never had money. Jax, that's my husband, he does well, and I help out. And he's able to put Eli in a really good school. It all works.

AVATAR

A good education for Elias sounds important to you.

ANA

It is. You know... I want him to have the best life. He's so smart.

AVATAR

Sounds like you care about Elias a lot.

ANA

I do.

AVATAR

You two are close?

ANA

Yes. He watches over me like he's my guardian angel... He's really growing up and he...

Ana gets emotional.

AVATAR

Do you want to finish that thought?

ANA

He gave me his lion, for protection. I think he knows. I think he *sees*.

(Cries)

If he learns to be a man who...

AVATAR

But he has you to teach him how to be a man who doesn't, right?

Ana is silent. She takes this in.

AVATAR (CONT'D)

What do you think?

ANA

No. I'm not teaching him--but if I leave... It's not that easy.

AVATAR

You said, "if I leave," just now. Have you considered leaving?

ANA

Yeah, I did. I don't know. I thought this would - the pregnancy - I thought it would change it. And it did. Things really were better.  
(beat. Imploring)  
I don't know what to do.

AVATAR

What would you like to do?

ANA

I think we should be on our own for a while?

AVATAR

Would you like me to bring someone who can help with that?

ANA

I'm scared if Jax finds out...

AVATAR

Our social worker can help you with a safety plan to protect you and your family.

Ana is thinking again, she's intrigued - as if a whole new idea started to unfold in her mind.

ANA

Could we talk some more first?

AVATAR

Yes. Of course. I'm here.

ANA

I don't want someone telling me what to do - they don't know...

AVATAR

I promise, no one here will try to talk you into doing anything.

(MORE)

AVATAR (CONT'D)

We want you to choose what's best  
for you.

ANA

Ok. Thank you.

Ana considers where she's been and where she's going.

ANA (CONT'D)

You know... when we came here, Eli  
was four and I didn't know anybody  
except Damian. And then, when I met  
Jax, it felt like... American  
dream, you know. He loved me and  
Eli. He knows everyone, has a great  
job, this house, and this life. And  
I could start to see a really good  
life for Eli. And every time Jax  
would get angry, I would say to  
myself, you're giving your son a  
chance. But I can't let my son grow  
up like that. You know?

AVATAR

I do.

Ana takes a long moment as she arrives at a decision.

ANA

Could I talk to that social worker?

AVATAR

Of course. I'll call her to join  
us.

ANA

Could you be there too?

AVATAR

Yes. Of course. You're a brave  
person, Ana.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPISODE 7

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

A quaint but very cozy living room. It is lived in, but tidy. There's some toys strewn about, and on a nearby couch, Elias' stuffed lion. There's a bassinet with a mobile hanging above of baby animals. ELIAS stands at the edge of the bassinet staring lovingly at the infant inside. He sticks his hand in and strokes her cheek. He smiles with wonder at the tiny, precious baby. ANA enters and sits on the couch with a children's book in hand. ELIAS still stares at the baby.

ANA-LUISA

You still want to read this?

ELIAS nods enthusiastically, then looks back at the sleeping infant.

ELIAS

Can I hold her? So she can hear the story better.

ANA-LUISA

Okay, but be very gentle. Don't want to interrupt her dream.

ANA-LUISA picks up the infant. ELIAS assumes a well rehearsed position on the couch, arms outstretched. He holds his sister, minds her head, and ANA sits next to him. He snuggles into her very slowly, making sure to keep the baby happy.

ANA-LUISA (CONT'D)

Ready?

ELIAS

Wait.

ELIAS reaches over and grabs the lion. He props it on the baby so she's snuggling it.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Okay. We're ready now.

ANA-LUISA kisses the top of ELIAS' head. ELIAS kisses the top of the baby's head. ANA-LUISA reads.

FADE TO BLACK