

# ARIELDA VANESSA S.C.T

30.

GANGBANGER #1

What are you stupid, Flaco? He's a  
shot caller from East Side, ese.  
Straight up OG...

Flaco tries to shrug it off and keep whatever dignity he has left.  
A couple crew members can't help a stifled laugh behind his back.

49 INT. LIVING ROOM - DANIEL'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

49

Vanessa (30), a fraught, already fading Hispanic beauty in a work  
shirt rushes from the bedroom. Glares at Daniel as he walks in.

VANESSA

Where you been?

DANIEL

Don't ask.

Anthony turns from the window with an embarrassed expression.  
No question he saw some of what happened out front.

ANTHONY

Dad, why'd you --

Daniel shoots him a look to stay quiet, but Vanessa catches it.

VANESSA

Alright, what happened?

DANIEL

Nothing, V. Just father and son stuff.

VANESSA

Uh huh.

Daniel switches gears fast. Moves over and hugs her.

DANIEL

Thought you weren't working nights now?

VANESSA

Me neither, but Larry just told me to  
be there in an hour.

DANIEL

Sonofabitch can't do that, lemme --

VANESSA

-- he can do whatever he wants, Daniel.  
That is if I wanna keep my job.

Daniel eases up, seeing how frustrated she already is.

VANESSA

I'm already late. There's food on the  
stove for both of you.

DANIEL

Maybe me and Anthony will pop by before  
bedtime. See our favorite lady.

START

ROLLING

PG. 10 of 6

Vanessa finally lets out a smile.

**END**

VANESSA

I'd like that.

After a kiss, she heads out. Daniel sits down on a broken couch in the sparse, dirty apartment that no one has time to clean.

DANIEL

C'mere, Ant.

Anthony does as he's told and sits down next to his dad.

DANIEL

Reason we moved was so you wouldn't have to hang around fools like that?

ANTHONY

There's nobody else to hang with around here. I wanna go back to our old apartment, can we please?

DANIEL

You know we can't.

Anthony sulks. Daniel picks up his chin, looks him in the eyes.

DANIEL

I don't want you to end up like me, Anthony. I want you to be better than me. You are better. That's why I'm gettin' us far away from here...as soon as I can. So you can make real friends. Friends with a future.

Anthony's still questioning things.

ANTHONY

What's a shot caller?

DANIEL

Don't worry about all that.

ANTHONY

But they said you were "OG" --

Daniel can see Anthony's not going to let this go.

DANIEL

You know what an OG is?

ANTHONY

Original Gangster.

DANIEL

(shakes his head)

It's a sucker. And I ain't a sucker no more. Now go get your homework -- we'll do it together.

JOHN

Hear me out first.

(motions to the cash)

That's next year's salary -- tax free -- for one more day's work. All I need is for you to go to Malik and get him to guarantee more runs. Real ones. Tell him I'll drive the next one too so he knows I'm serious.

Daniel stares at the money in front of him, and it's so damn enticing. He knows what it could do.

DANIEL

Why do you want this so bad?

JOHN

What I told Malik is the truth. I'm leveraged to the hilt -- just like everyone else in this country. If I don't come up with some serious cash and fast? You won't have a job -- because no one here will.

OFF the two gauging each other...

108 INT. BATHROOM - DANIEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

108

As Daniel pulls on a new shirt, we realize for the first time that his torso is littered in prison tats. Another reminder of the hard life he's lead. And something's really troubling him. It could be that 9MM tucked in his jeans. He stares at his reflection in the mirror. Now he's really back in the game.

He sighs, covers the gun with his shirt. A brief moment, then -- Vanessa appears in the doorway, dressed in her work uniform, exhausted. He doesn't know how much she saw.

DANIEL

How was work?

VANESSA

Usual. You going out on one of the trucks again?

DANIEL

Looks like it, yeah.

VANESSA

How long will you be gone?

DANIEL

I don't know. They haven't told me where this shipment's heading yet.

VANESSA

(smiles)

I'm glad your boss is giving you more responsibility. Means he believes in you. I'm proud of you, baby.

START

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Daniel covers the horrible guilt he's feeling with a smile of his own. Pulls her toward him and holds her tight.

DANIEL  
I love you, V.

VANESSA  
I love you too.

OFF their intimate moment....

109 INT. KITCHEN - MALIK'S HOUSE - DAY

109

Bones lingers back as Daniel sits across from Malik. Both fixed with gangster stares. It seems effortless for Daniel to slip back into this mode, and that is what's troubling him the most.

MALIK  
I figured we square 'cause you handled business. So be real sure here, homie...

DANIEL  
Can't pass up this kinda paper -- neither can you. Was too easy.

Malik's been thinking the same, but postures to maintain control.

MALIK  
Tell you right now, y'all ain't coming outta my end.

DANIEL  
Won't have to. He's cuttin' me in since he don't know what the hell's up.

MALIK  
Which means you his crime partner, not mine. So you know what time it is.

Daniel knows exactly what that means, but keeps his game face on.

DANIEL  
He slip up a hiccup, his ass is smoked.

MALIK  
Gonna hold you to that.

Daniel nods.

110 INT. LIVING ROOM - MALIK'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

110

Malik peers through the shades -- watching Daniel walk away from the house. Bones appears next to Malik.

MALIK  
Y'all checked him with the niggas at Sandstone?

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DANIEL

Who did you just visit?!

John knows he's busted. Scrambles to make Daniel understand:

JOHN

My son...it was a mistake, and they --

It all starts to add up for Daniel.

DANIEL

-- and they made you a deal, right?

A beat of heightened tension. John can't deny it.

DANIEL

(furious)  
You know what these guys will do to me?!

BYSTANDERS turn and watch. It's becoming a scene, fast.

JOHN

I had to -- for my son.

DANIEL

And what about mine?!

John tenses as Daniel reaches into his pocket. But instead of a gun, he produces something far more deadly -- his cell phone.

DANIEL

You're a dead man.

Daniel storms off before he can respond. John's mind races -- knows the damage Daniel can do with just one phone call.

169 INT. LIVING ROOM - DANIEL'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

169

Daniel barrels in -- sees Anthony playing video games by himself.

DANIEL

Your mom already go to work?

ANTHONY

(won't look at him)  
She's sleeping.

Daniel reads the tension in his voice -- knows something's wrong.

170 INT. BEDROOM - DANIEL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

170

Vanessa lies on the bed. Her eyes are blazing red, heavy. Staring blankly at something uninteresting on the TV. Daniel enters. One look at her, and he immediately grows angry.

DANIEL

You're stoned?

VANESSA

It's just weed. What do you care?

START

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DANIEL

Excuse me?

She gets up and storms to their closet. Reaches for something, then throws the STACKS OF MONEY Daniel made right in his face.

VANESSA

Is this where you've been on your "work trips?!" Can't even watch your own damn son 'cause you're back slingin'?!

DANIEL

I'm not! I swear to you --

VANESSA

-- bullshit!

Tears form in her reddened eyes.

VANESSA

You made me a promise, Daniel. I stay clean, and you stay away from that life. Remember?

Daniel is unable to look at her now. And she has her answer. He starts PACKING everything they own in frustration.

DANIEL

You and Ant are going to your mom's --

She furiously hits the clothes out of his hand.

VANESSA

-- don't you tell me what to do. Not after lying to me!

Daniel stops himself from boiling over. She sees the look in his eyes and knows the truth is finally about to come.

DANIEL

I'm in trouble, V. But I can deal with it, if I know you and Ant are somewhere safe.

Vanessa is completely freaking out now, and it's not the weed.

VANESSA

I can't do this again, Daniel! Can't watch you go back to prison, or wind up dead this time --

Daniel grabs her and holds her tight.

DANIEL

We're gonna spend the rest of our lives together...somewhere we can be a normal family...and that money makes it real. You just gotta trust me.

Vanessa sobs, scared to let go of him.

END