

EVERY ROSA HAS HER THORN

Written by

(25-DE02-W08)

A middle aged woman garners courage and fortitude to confront a
false friend.

FADE IN:

EXT. ROSA GARCIA'S FRONT PORCH - DAY

ROSA GARCIA, (45), hands JAVIER RAMIREZ, (30), a check. She walks him to the front gate.

ROSA
Thanks, Javi. I hope I don't need a
new security system.

JAVIER
I rebooted the existing...but you
really should get a stronger pass
code.

ROSA
Okay.
(lifts up the paperwork)
I'll get that done.

LISA GARCIA, (20), pulls up and parks in front of Javier's work van.

LISA
(to Javier)
Hi!

LISA (CONT'D)
(to Rosa)
Did he fix the alarm?

Javier gets into his work van. Rosa waves goodbye and he pulls away.

ROSA
Yeah, but I need a stronger code.

LISA
How much was THAT bill?

ROSA
Too much.

Rosa and Lisa enter their home.

INT. ROSA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Rosa and Lisa enter the kitchen. Lisa drops her bags on a kitchen chair. She grabs some orange juice from the fridge and drinks it from the container.

ROSA
Lisa, please...

LISA
Saved a glass.

Rosa side eyes her daughter. Her phone VIBRATES. She doesn't recognize the number.

ROSA
Hello?

Lisa looks at her questioning.

ROSA (CONT'D)
(inaudibly to Lisa)
Nadine!

Lisa thumbs down.

ROSA (CONT'D)
Hey, Nadine?
(beat)
...I'm good, what's going on?
(beat)
...No, something doesn't have
to be going on for you to call.

Lisa money gestures her mom. Rosa's eyes light up and nods.

ROSA (CONT'D)
...right now?
(beat)
Sure...Joe's in half an hour?
(beat)
...alright, I'll see you then.

Rosa ends the call. Lisa looks at her.

LISA
As much as I don't like her...at
least you could ask her for the
money she owes you.

ROSA
That's a good idea. But you know
how she is, I feel railroaded
sometimes.

LISA
(facetiously)
Well...you just need a stronger
security code...

Lisa winks and Rosa laughs. Rosa grabs her purse and goes to leave the kitchen.

LISA (CONT'D)
Remember your boundaries, Mom.

Rosa gives her a thumbs up and leaves.

EXT. CAFE PATIO - DAY

Rosa sits with a cup of coffee looking at her phone and glancing around to see Nadine. She shoots a text to the number Nadine had called from. She waits for an answer.

Rosa catches sight of Nadine pulling up in an old Chevy Nova. NADINE HENDERSON, (45), hops out of the car and walks quickly toward where Rosa was sitting.

NADINE
(hugging Rosa)
Hey...party in the house!

ROSA
How are you? You look good.

NADINE
Oh thanks...getting old isn't for
sissies.

ROSA
That's true.
(beat)
I already got my coffee. You
want anything?

Rosa immediately regrets saying that.

NADINE
Oh, yeah, thanks. A double chai
latte and a cinnamon roll.

Rosa walks off.

NADINE (CONT'D)
(shouts)
Rosa...

Rosa turns around.

NADINE (CONT'D)
A vente!

Rosa gives her a thumbs up.

ROSA
(to herself)
Be strong, Rosa.

Rosa returns to the table with Nadine's coffee and pastry.

ROSA (CONT'D)
So, what's going on?

NADINE
Oh lots of stuff, in between jobs
again.

ROSA
Shoot, that's tough...yeah, I was
gonna ask you...

NADINE
(interrupting)
I know that's why I was wondering
if you could spot me a few hundred.
Got some bills to pay before the
first of the month.

Rosa bites her lip, breathes deep and sips her coffee. Nadine
watches her.

ROSA
No, I can't, I was gonna ask you
for money...I thought maybe you'd
have the \$500 I lent to you last
year. Since Paul died...things have
been pretty tight.

NADINE
Nah, I'm busted.

ROSA
Nadine, I really need the money, is
there some way you could at least
get me two hundred?

NADINE
(heavy sigh)
Probably, but I'll have to hock
something.

ROSA
(girding her strength)
Then hock it. I'm really struggling
right now.

NADINE
I'll see what I can do.
(beat)
How long's it been...since?

ROSA
Six months.

NADINE
You gonna get back out there?

Rosa tried to hide her shock.

ROSA
No, no, still getting over losing
my husband and best friend of
twenty five years. It's been
really...

NADINE
(interrupting)
I remember I used to go out with
him. Man, that was so long ago. And
then you stole him from me.

Nadine winks at Rosa.

ROSA
You guys broke up way before I even
knew either of you.

NADINE
Okay, if you say so.
(beat)
Hey, remember Mark Stafford?

Rosa looks at her phone hoping to have some excuse to escape
this torture.

ROSA
Yeah, I know him.

NADINE
I heard he's still single. I
thought he'd get nabbed fast after
his wife died.

ROSA
Uhm, he's seeing Bev, remember Bev
Wilson. They've been an item for
awhile. I told you that last time I
saw you.

NADINE
No, you didn't...I would've
remembered that 'cause he is so
fine. You told me Joe what's his
name was single. Getting old, Rosa.

Rosa remembers what Lisa said to her earlier.

ROSA
(uncomfortable)
Yeah, maybe.

Nadine scarfs down the last of the cinnamon roll and slurps
the rest of her coffee.

NADINE
Hey, I gotta bounce. I'll let you
know if I land some dough.

ROSA
Sooner than later, I hope.

Nadine hollers from her car.

NADINE
Thanks for the grub.

INT. ROSA'S KITCHEN - DAY. ONE WEEK LATER

Rosa sits at her kitchen table eating a sandwich. Her phone
VIBRATES.

ROSA
Hey, Bev...
(beat)
...now?
(beat)
...sure, I'm not busy. I'll be in
the garden.
(beat)
...See you soon.

Rosa ends the call and looks out her window. She finishes her
lunch and brings the dishes to the sink.

EXT. ROSA'S GARDEN - DAY

Rosa gets her gardening tools when BEV WILSON, (42), arrives.
Rosa opens the gate and they walk into the adjacent garden.

BEV

Wow, your roses are beautiful. How do you keep them so healthy?

Rosa lifts up the bottle of homemade insect repellent.

ROSA

Lots of this.

Rosa notices that Bev is near tears.

ROSA (CONT'D)

Bev, is everything okay? Come sit down.

Rosa guides her to the garden bench and sits next to her.

ROSA (CONT'D)

What's going on?

Bev tries to compose herself.

BEV

How could you do that to me?

ROSA

(baffled)

Do what? What're you talking about?

BEV

I ran into Nadine and she said that, that you told her...what were her words, "I hear Mark's wide open and available." How could you?

ROSA

I didn't tell her that...I know you guys are seeing each other. I told her just the opposite.

BEV

She said specifically that you let her know Mark was free for the pickings.

ROSA

Oh my gosh, Bev, you have to believe me...I did not tell her that. Really...you think I even talk that.

BEV

Well, I don't know. She's such a fast talker.

ROSA

I think Mark knows what she's like,
and you don't have anything to
worry about. I'm sorry that she did
that to you.

BEV

Why would she do something like
that?

ROSA

I don't know. She's troubled.

BEV

No, she's toxic.

ROSA

You're probably right. What did
Lisa say to me...boundaries. Need
good boundaries with Nadine.

BEV

Thanks, Rosa, I shouldn't have even
believed that you'd say anything
like that. She can get me in such a
fluster.

ROSA

Me too.

Bev heads to the gate and turns around.

BEV

You know, Rosa, Nadine's not really
your friend.

ROSA

What do you mean?

BEV

I shouldn't repeat this because
it's so mean...but she said Rosa
better get out there, she's not
getting any younger.

ROSA

Really?

Bev pauses.

ROSA (CONT'D)

What else did she say?

BEV
(biting her lip)
She said she doesn't have anymore
ex boyfriends you can steal.

ROSA
Wow, wow.

BEV
I know Paul's death is still
fresh...I'm so sorry.

ROSA
(resolved)
Don't be. Thanks for pulling the
last of the wool from my eyes.

BEV
Take care, Rosa.

Bev leaves the garden and exits through the driveway gate.
Rosa returns to her roses. One large beetle crawls on to the
leaves of her favorite rose bush. She swats it away, and
sprays it. It doesn't die. She stamps on it many times.

Rosa grabs her gardening tools and puts them away.

INT. ROSA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Rosa grabs a coffee cup from the cabinet and slams the
cabinet door shut. She throws the old Keurig pod into the
garbage, misses and picks it up and puts it in the garbage.
She kicks the garbage can. She puts a new one in and slams
the Keurig shut. Lisa enters.

LISA
What's the matter with you?

ROSA
I am through with Nadine.

LISA
'Bout time.

Rosa's phone VIBRATES. She looks at her phone and doesn't
recognize the number. She is about to hang it up, when she
realizes it might be Nadine.

ROSA
Hello?
(beat)
Nadeeene...I was hoping it was you.
(beat)
(MORE)

ROSA (CONT'D)
Oh terrific, why don't you come
by...
(beat)
Yeah, I'm home
(beat)
Okay.

Rosa ends the call. Lisa glares at her. They leave the kitchen.

EXT. ROSA'S GARDEN AND DRIVEWAY GATE - DAY

Nadine pulls up in her Chevy and approaches the gate. Rosa meets her at the gate, but doesn't let her in.

NADINE
Well I hope you're happy, I pawned
my favorite tennis bracelet.

Nadine hands her the money. Rosa takes it and pockets it.

ROSA
You mean my tennis bracelet, that
was my money.

NADINE
Whatever...I gotta go.

ROSA
Oh, no, I'm done yet...what the
heck is the matter with you?

NADINE
(aback)
What are you talking about?

ROSA
Bev came over and told me
everything. Why would you say that
to her? About Mark. About me
stealing ex boyfriends. That is
super hurtful.

NADINE
Rosa, you're losing it. That's what
you told me about Mark and I was
joking about the ex boyfriend
stuff...chill out.

Lisa gets up from the bench. Rosa looks at her and shakes her head.

ROSA

You know, Nadine, I've been dealing with your issues, like forever. And I used to think you were so smart and resilient...and tough, but you're just a user...you're a bum.

NADINE

Wow...what a great friend you are, and I just gave you money!

ROSA

My money. Not even all of it.

(beat)

You didn't even come to Paul's funeral. He was your friend too.

NADINE

Yeah, my ex boyfriend.

(winks, but falls flat)

I don't need this crap right now.

ROSA

What...does the truth hurt?

NADINE

Rosa, I don't know what's gotten into you...this whole new you repulses me and that's the truth.

ROSA

I just realized, I've let you bulldoze your way around me for so long. And that's the truth that repels you.

NADINE

Lisa, you better take care of your mama...she's not well.

Rosa puts her hand up to Lisa who's ready to jump the fence.

ROSA

Nadine, I don't know how to say this nicely, but you're like a bug that sucks the life outta people. I hope you get some help.

Nadine grabs a pencil from her car and scribbles something down on a post-it.

NADINE

Here's my new number when you feel like apologizing.

(MORE)

NADINE (CONT'D)
I'm done with you. What a friend,
after all I've done for you.
(beat)
What do they do
now...cancel...yeah, you're
cancelled.

Nadine glares at Rosa and Lisa, then jumps in the car.

ROSA
(flustered)
Well, you're...you're fired!

Nadine smirks and peels out.

LISA
You're fired? Really, Mom?

ROSA
Yeah, I panicked.

LISA
You're a lover, Mom, not a fighter.

Lisa grabs the post it note.

LISA (CONT'D)
Wanna keep this?

Lisa gives the post-it to Rosa. She looks at her daughter,
her home and her garden. She rips up the number.

ROSA
No, I think this boundary isn't
gonna move.

Lisa puts her arm around her mom's shoulders.

LISA
You did good, Mom.

Rosa and Lisa go to the garden and pick some roses for the
house.

FADE OUT.

