

THE ACADEMY

"Pilot"

by

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TEASER

EXT. LONG BEACH - AERIAL SHOT - DAY

Flying past beaches, boardwalks, the Aquarium of the Pacific
-- the nice part of Long Beach.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
My name is Cora Vasquez, and my
story begins on the day I made the
biggest mistake of my life.

A few blocks inland, a massive PARKING GARAGE looms.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - ROOFTOP - DAY

A royal blue MAYBACH sits proudly in a space, surrounded by
three guys we can take to be GANGBANGERS.

Banger #1 tries to slip a slim-jim under the window as the
other two nervously stand watch.

BANGER #2
(checking his watch)
Shit, man, three minutes now, you
know someone's called it in.

BANGER #1
(frustrated)
You wanna take a turn?

SIRENS sound, not far away. They all react.

BANGER #3
Jura, dog! Pack it in!

Suddenly the car ROARS to ignition, lights come on, and all
four doors UNLOCK.

Banger #1 raises an eyebrow. No way his slim-jim did this.

And now FEET SLIDE OUT from under the car, followed by a
body, followed by the face of a TEEN GIRL.

Meet CORA VASQUEZ, 18, holding a SOLDERING IRON.

CORA
Get in, *cabrones!*

The bangers pile into the car.

CORA (V.O.)
 And no, this right here is not the
 biggest mistake of my life.
 Boosting some rich guy's car? Not
 even close.

EXT. LONG BEACH - DUSK

The Maybach rolls past graffiti and broken street signs.
 We're no longer in the nice part.

INT./EXT. MAYBACH

Banger #1 drives, with Cora shotgun and the others in back.

CORA
 (to Banger #1)
 You better not jump credit for this
 boost.

Banger #1 shakes his head.

BANGER #1
Chale! I say this was me, Romeo
 sends me out solo to do it again.

CORA
 You scared of Romeo?

Banger #2 pipes up from the back --

BANGER #2
 Don't even joke, *mami* -- even Darth
 Vader scared of Romeo.

BANGER #3
 (also in the backseat)
 Man, what's that thing he always
 say when he wanna make you piss
 yourself? Uh...

BANGER #1
Agua calda, yo.

BANGER #3
 Oh yeah.
 (deepens voice)
 "You really in the *agua calda* now."
 Damn.

CORA
 That's it? He tells you you're in
 hot water?

BANGER #2
 (laughs)
 It's all in the way he says it.
 You'll see.

A PHONE BUZZES in back. Banger #3 checks it --

BANGER #3
 (to Banger #1)
 Pull over, dog.

BANGER #1
 How come?

Banger #3 passes him the phone. Immediately the car screeches to a stop along the curb.

Banger #1 reaches into his pocket, takes out a BLACK HOOD.

He drops it in Cora's lap.

BANGER #1 (CONT'D)
 Put it on.

CORA
 Why?

BANGER #1
 Cause he wanna see you.

Cora looks out the window, allows herself a brief smile before putting the hood on.

She taps her left jeans pocket -- the handle of a SWITCHBLADE barely protrudes from it.

EXT. LONG BEACH - DUSK

The Maybach cruises past an OLD CHEVY, parked at the curb.

INT. OLD CHEVY

The DRIVER, face unseen, touches an EARPIECE and speaks:

DRIVER
 (British accent)
 They're taking her now.
 (beat)
 I don't know. He's got two houses
 that way. A mile apart.
 (beat)
 Have to take my best guess. If I'm
 wrong? Then I move on to Dallas.
 (MORE)