

THE ACADEMY

"Pilot"

by

Nick Rheinwald-Jones

**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)