

**Dr. Ricky Lee Screenwriting Workshop**  
**Revised Assignment**  
**October 4, 2020**

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Working Title: "**Hacienda Remedios**"

Genre: Drama/Thriller/Suspense

Characters: **Elisa** (20 years old; sexually assaulted in her dreams); **Agnes** (40 years old; PWD mother); **Max** (40 years old; jailed father); **Jason** (20 years old; Elisa's boyfriend); **Andy** (killed at 24 years old; Agnes' lover)

**LOGLINE:** How does one fight an enemy who exists only in dreams? Every night, a rich teenage girl is afraid to sleep as she is always sexually assaulted in her dreams by someone she doesn't know. She lives in a secluded and serene hacienda. There seems to be no reason for her nightmares until she discovers her mother's dark secret.

**STORYLINE:** It is 4:00 a.m. but **ELISA ZAMORA** is fighting off sleep as she is afraid to be sexually assaulted again in her dreams by a man she doesn't know.

Almost everyday for the past four months, Elisa, 20, has been having terrifying dreams. She is in a dark room, fighting off the sexual advances of a man whose face she could not see.

At times, she would see only the back of a man moving closer toward her. At other times she would see him pinning her against the wall, touching her back and her legs. Sometimes, she would see images of blood-stained clothes or a man's feet standing in a pool of blood. The images vary but Elisa knows they are about the same man.

This is why whenever she goes to sleep, Elisa always leaves the light on in her bedroom at Hacienda Remedios, the secluded, serene, and luxurious estate where Elisa lives with her mother, **AGNES REYES-ZAMORA**, 40, a Person With Disability (PWD).

Unfortunately, the light in Elisa's beautiful bedroom hardly helps as she still ends up in a dark and dirty room with her attacker when she falls asleep.

Whenever she wakes up after three or four hours of sleep, Elisa is breathless, terrified, irritable, angry, perplexed, and depressed. She hates the thought of receiving unwanted touches from an attacker she could not defend herself from.

Elisa's nightmares started four months ago soon after she and her college boyfriend **JASON**, also 20, started making out and becoming intimate as they spent time at Hacienda Remedios, a seven-hectare mango plantation with luxury resort amenities, including a pool, spa, a mini-golf course, tennis court, among others.

The hacienda is named after the Virgen de los Remedios, Our Lady of Remedies. A beautiful image of Our Lady of Remedies stands at the grotto near the entrance to the hacienda.

Elisa liked spending time with Jason but realized that she disliked being kissed, touched, or caressed. Her intimate moments with Jason triggered a relapse of her Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the cause of her frightening nightmares, irritability, and depression.

Elisa was diagnosed with PTSD at age four when she witnessed her then 24-year-old mother being shot in the back by her father, **MAX ZAMORA**, who was of the same age as his wife.

Agnes became paralyzed from the waist down and has become confined to a wheelchair. At Hacienda Remedios, she is always alone in her room, the library, or outside at the grotto.

She is either praying, reading a book, or writing in her journal. Agnes seems calm on the outside but on the inside, she is full of guilt and repentance for the way she lived her life. She blames herself for her daughter Elisa's PTSD but felt lost on how she could help her.

Agnes eventually mustered the courage to hand over to her daughter the journal that she had been working on for years. In it, Agnes revealed the tragic events that destroyed their family. She explained to Elisa that she made the journal especially for her, to help her process her feelings and confront her fears.

Agnes wrote how in her younger days, she was a reckless and rich party girl who never stopped living a carefree lifestyle even after getting married to Max and giving birth to Elisa at age 20.

Max, a quiet and reserved architect and businessman, was the complete opposite of Agnes. It was always Max who stayed at home with Elisa while Agnes was out partying and sometimes even staying out with her not-so-secret lover, **ANDY**, her first boyfriend.

Agnes wanted to marry Andy but her parents were opposed to their relationship as Andy was the son of one of the mango farmers at Hacienda Remedios. Hesitantly, Agnes obeyed her parents' wish to marry Max, who came from a wealthy family. But at the same time, Agnes rebelled against her parents by continuing to see Andy even after her daughter Elisa was born.

Max knew that his wife Agnes was having an extramarital relationship with Andy. Max was angry but struggled to maintain an amicable relationship with Agnes for the sake of their daughter Elisa.

Max's anger grew as Agnes started taking Elisa and her nanny on her romantic escapades with Andy to luxurious hotel suites or resorts. Elisa, at her tender age, would inevitably see her mother kissing and making out with Andy.

Max eventually reached her breaking point when Agnes and Andy approached him in his office at Hacienda Remedios. A loud argument arose as Agnes wanted to end her marriage to Max as she was pregnant with Andy's child. Elisa, only four years at the time, was intrigued by the loud voices she heard and peeked inside her father's office to see what was happening.

Max felt very frustrated and betrayed that he reached for the gun he kept in his office cabinet and got up to shoot Andy. Seeing the gun, Agnes rushed to shield Andy and ended up getting shot in the back. As Agnes fell down, Max went on to shoot Andy in the chest, killing him instantly. Elisa witnessed everything and became stunned and unable to talk for some time. Max was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Agnes lost her baby with Andy. She buried the cremated fetus of her unborn child at the grotto of Hacienda Remedios. This is where Agnes' journal ended. In closing, she wrote to her daughter Elisa: "I am very sorry for hurting you in this way, Elisa. You do not deserve this and I hope that someday, you can live your life free of anxiety."

Reading her mother's journal was very painful for Elisa but at the same time, somewhat healing. It would take some time for Elisa to recover from PTSD and accept what happened to her parents. In her nightmares, she was seeing Andy, her mother's lover.

But eventually, Elisa felt emotionally strong enough to carry on a relationship with Jason -- that being intimate with someone should be a pleasant, not a painful memory. In the end, Elisa and Jason are seen enjoying a simple, quiet, but happy day at the pool at Hacienda Remedios. Life goes on.