

ALING AIDA

Full Length Film by Al Lim

LOGLINE

After her son's sudden extrajudicial killing, a seemingly ordinary single mother pursues justice and truth while discovering a dangerous criminal underworld consisting of dirty cops and drug kingpins.

GENRE

Thriller, Drama, Crime, Revenge

CHARACTERS

Aling Aida

A seemingly ordinary nurse, a loving single parent and breadwinner, she is working hard to provide for her only son Raffy and give him a bright future. Typically mild-mannered, she will show a ruthless and violent side once push comes to shove, suggesting she is more than just a demure mother.

Capt. Berbano

The top dog of the corrupt cops. He will say anything and do whatever is necessary to detract people from delving further into the mysterious death of Aling Aida's son. He is the kind of person who will even suggest to Aling Aida's face that there is a hint of truth that his son was an addict or a pusher. He will cover up any connections to the drug kingpin he works for.

Police Inspector Gabriel Bautista

One of the good guys, he is an internal affairs officer in charge of investigating the rising EJK cases in town. Has supreme observational skills and is suspicious of Berbano. Will try to connect all the dots in the case.

Boss Javier

The big bad drug padrino kingpin in town. He has some cops, led by Capt. Berbano, under his thumb to ensure his drug empire continues to run smoothly, despite the war on drugs crackdown. He is a king living lavishly in his heavily secured compound. Wears all white, a la Scarface.

Raffy

Studying medicine to become a doctor, Aling Aida is proud of her son Raffy for choosing a path that will help many people in the future. However, his bright future was cut short in an eventful and mysterious night when he got involved with his old friend's drug pushing activities.

Chico

The patapon childhood best friend of Raffy. Currently a drug pusher for one of Boss Javier's rivals. Accidentally involves Raffy when they were caught by Capt. Berbano's men in Boss Javier's territory.

Crony 1

One of Capt. Berbano's most trusted henchmen in the force. He is the first victim of Aida's quest for the truth. Dies in a spakol (Lust).

Crony 2

Also one of Berbano's henchmen. He is obese (Gluttony), but proficient with a sniper rifle. Dies a gruesome death at the hands of Aida.

Crony 3

Berbano's most trusted right hand man. Aida's most challenging encounter amongst the Cronies. Dies by jumping after the money (Greed).

Mang Delfin

The town's funeral parlor owner. Will be easily blackmailed by Aling Aida and give her the first clue that will jumpstart her journey.

STORY SUMMARY (First Submission)

After the mysterious tokhang-style death of her son, Raffy, Aling Aida starts looking for answers. She believes whatever the police reports say are bullshit because she knows her son is a studious and honorable man who will never be involved in illegal drugs.

Knowing the justice system will go nowhere in solving her son's death, the cops covering everything up, and with the naysayers and gossip mongers getting into her nerves, Aling Aida decides to take matters into her own hands. With her resourcefulness and unmatched tenacity, she stumbles upon a conspiracy that connects a handful of dirty cops with the illicit activities of a local drug lord.

However, after each new intel she gains by hunting down and torturing the dirty cops, it becomes increasingly evident that her son, Raffy, was indeed involved in the drug trade. And it slowly eats her up.

As evidence shows her son is indeed involved in the drug trade, news and gossip start to spread among the people around her. After she couldn't take their knowing

stares and murmuring behind her back, Aling Aida reaches a breaking point as she questions the saintly image she has of her son as well as her own sanity.

Suddenly, her son's best friend Chico meets with Aling Aida and confesses everything that happened that fateful night. Chico recalled that he randomly stumbled upon Raffy, his old childhood friend, that night and invited him to some drinks to catch up. On the way home, Chico's car was flagged down by the police captain's men (who are involved in the drug trade), as they know Chico is working for a rival of the local drug kingpin.

Chico tells everything in detail, how they were intimidated by the dirty cops, how they were forced to ride with them against their will, how they were brutally tortured for kicks, and how they were finally presented to Boss Javier, the drug lord.

Since Javier is a mean dick and probably high on his own supply, he toyed with them with a game of russian roulette, pulling the trigger alternating between Chico and Raffy, until the loaded chamber was pulled on Raffy, blasting his brains out. Javier then taunted Chico to send this as a message and warning to his boss and not to mess with his territory. Finally, they let him go as they cover up Raffy's dead body, tokhang style.

After telling Aling Aida, Chico broke down, stricken with guilt how everything went down, that he did not intend to bring harm to Raffy at all, that he went into hiding after all this to save his ass and could not bring forth the truth until now.

Now with a newfound reason to fight back and bring justice to her son's wrongful death, Aling Aida decides to end it all by taking down Javier and the cops on his payroll.

However, the audience learns Chico is a drug addict, so was he really telling the truth about that night or did he just trigger Aling Aida's rage to exact revenge on the drug lord?

After learning there will be a private meeting for the cops at Javier's compound, Aling Aida invites herself to the party to wreak havoc and unleash hell on the bad guys. She systematically takes down each and every one of the dirty cops and eventually, a gruesome encounter with Javier. Javier then reveals he met Raffy before, and that he knows the real truth about him.

However, Aling Aida is having none of his shit as she bashes his face in before he could even talk. She successfully takes down the drug lord and his empire but she is in critical condition as well. As she lay dying and bloodied, Aling Aida is proud that she went to hell and back to protect her son's honor.

She lays there bloodied, dying, but smiling, remembering the best memories she had with her son. Once the bloodbath is over, the good cops roll in and find a dying Aling Aida.

STORYLINE (Scene Breakdown)

Start with a montage of Aida's and Raffy's photos on the walls of their home, from his birth to teenage years establishing their close mother-son relationship. Aling Aida returns home after a long day's work as a nurse, only to discover Raffy is dead, tokhang-style.

She goes to the police station for help. Capt. Berbano talks her down, saying they will investigate further but has strong evidence of Raffy's involvement. This angers Aida and as she storms out of the station, she crosses paths with Bautista, the internal affairs officer investigating the town's rising EJK cases, as he goes inside the police station.

Bautista shakes hands with Berbano, issues a friendly warning that he will get to the bottom of things here. Bautista also said he will shadow Berbano so they can work closely. Berbano was all smiles but after talking with Bautista, it warped into a scowl, he fucking hates Bautista as he might discover his illicit operations and connection with the local drug lord. Also it will definitely make things harder for his cover-ups.

Berbano hides, warns his Cronies to be very careful now that they are under a microscope. They agree to use burner phones to call each other through a rank system in case something goes wrong (bottom can't call top directly, vice-versa).

DENIAL

Aida learns through the grapevine that the funeral parlor where Raffy's remains were taken has been used for all tokhang cases in town. She suspects that Mang Delfin, the parlor manager, might be in on the take. She also hears rumors that he is secretly and promiscuously gay even though he's married with children.

This gives Aida an idea. She hires a gay walker to seduce Mang Delfin in the parlor. As they do their hardcore fucking, Aida secretly records everything from the window.

The next morning, Aida confronts Mang Delfin at the guise of negotiating Raffy's burol. Aling Aida tried to push his buttons but Mang Delfin denies he's on the take.

As he was about to get angry, Aida played the scandalous video she recorded of Mang Delfin and threatened to send it to his family as blackmail.

Mang Delfin caves in, confesses he has a deal with cops: he gets the bodies, they get a cut. Says one cop (Crony 1) will drop by to collect the cash, before he goes to the red light district to collect there as well. She thanks Mang Delfin, in return he asks to delete the video. As she was about to, Aida demanded a steep discount for the burol as well (make it a darkly comedic convo).

The next day, Aida drops by the hospital she works in to get her stuff. Some coworkers she passes by pay their respects, offer their condolences, but there are others who gossip as well. Aida gets her stuff but also gets some chemicals/medications from the hospital's inventory. She slips them in her bag.

The same day, as Crony 1 walks out the station to do his collection rounds, Berbano sees Bautista eyeing Crony 1. Berbano calls Crony 3 (his right hand man) to pass the message and warn everyone to be extra careful and vigilant.

As Mang Delfin is prepping Raffy's wake at Aida's house, he gets a call from Crony 1 asking where they should meet. Aida commanded the manager to say he's at her house prepping the wake so they should meet there if he wants to collect. Crony 1 agrees.

At the wake, Aling Aida overhears people talking about Raffy being an adik. Aida was trying to keep her cool but it's visible she's starting to lose her shit as the people keep on talking shit. As she was about to burst, she calmly yet threateningly stares at the talking people and says Raffy was not an addict, in fact he was studying hard to be a doctor in order to help people in the future, her son was a fucking role model to the town's youths.

As tensions were about to go higher, Mang Delfin's phone rings, breaking Aida's killer gaze, Mang Delfin agrees to meet Crony 1 outside the house. Aida follows Mang Delfin until he walks to Crony 1. She observes and sees a glimpse of Crony 1. She laser focuses her gaze on Crony 1, like a hawk eyeing its prey.

As Crony 1 left, Aling Aida acted as if she can't take it anymore and stormed out the door. However, it was all just a ploy so she can tail Crony 1 to his next destination, the red light district.

After observing from afar, Aida observed how Crony 1 made a lot of collections from different sex establishments. However, in the next establishment, Crony 1 bagged all the collected cash and securely brought it with him into a clinic-fronted/themed spakol. Aida decides to follow him inside.

Upon entering, the place is a sleazy neon lighted clinic, with everybody, from masseuses to attendants, dressed in a **nurse outfit** (complete with face mask). This means she can perfectly blend in the spakol and her cover won't be blown.

Hijinks ensue and she becomes a part of the aquarium Crony 1 was looking into. Once again, Aida was laser focused on Crony 1 like a hawk. Tensions build up as their gazes meet. However, Crony 1 chooses the buxom lady sitting beside Aida (comedic part).

Aida overhears that the buxom lady was new, and more importantly which room Crony 1 will be serviced in. Like a ninja, she discreetly makes her way into Crony 1's room.

As she entered the room, Crony 1 was naked but for a towel covering his crotch and was plopped face down on the massage bed (yung may butas sa mukha). The buxom lady was prepping her oils, then started with a light massage on Crony 1. While still facing downwards, he demands buxom lady to get undressed and start massaging his genitals.

As things are about to heat up, Aida silently goes in and stops the buxom lady. She hushed her, signaled she would take over. Buxom lady silently nods in agreement and leaves Aida alone with Crony 1.

*Execute this scene in a darkly comedic yet highly sexualized manner

Things tense up as Crony 1 decides to turn around. Aida thought her cover was gonna be blown. Good thing Crony 1 has cover on his eyes. He then pointed at his dick to signal to get started, but he also demanded his limbs to be tied up because Crony 1 was into some kinky BDSM shit.

Aida obliges and proceeds to tie up Crony 1's wrists and ankles into the bed (a special bdsm massage bed?) and she started to lightly pleasure Crony 1.

As things got visibly pleasurable for Crony 1, his silly grin slowly turned into a painful grimace. As he was about to let out an agonizing scream, Aida covered his mouth with a gag ball and strapped it shut quickly. It turns out she injected something on Crony 1's genitals (the chemicals she took from the hospital - research something medical to make it swell real quick like a balloon, make it manas, or an extreme heat sensation).

ANGER

She then proceeds to violently and angrily ask questions from Crony 1 regarding Raffy's death, his involvement, tokhang, etc. but Crony 1 couldn't cooperate as he was in excruciating pain, strapped in with his dick and balls swelling uncontrollably with a gag on his mouth, making it difficult to breathe and scream.

Crony 1 was physically and violently struggling, wanting to scream and let loose his bound limbs. His genitalia bursted(?). He suddenly stops and just plops down dead, suffering from a heart attack or shock. Aida then desperately tries to revive the guy to get some answers. Suddenly, a phone starts to vibrate (as in old school Nokia 3210 max vibration setting: earthquake).

Aida searches the room for the phone, which was inside the bag of cash Crony 1 had with him. It was indeed an old Nokia phone (perfect burner which was easily unlocked by pressing Enter and *). There was a new message from an unsaved number, it says "ingat daw tayo sabi ni ser. Meetup tayo bukas bagong lugar." Then it vibrates again with a new message stating the address. It buzzes again with a reminder to delete every message.

With a new lead, Aida hurries to leave the sleazy establishment. However the buxom lady steps in the room, and is startled as she sees Crony 1's fresh dead body lying on the massage table. With her quick thinking, Aida grabs a couple of bundles from the bag and urges buxom lady to take it and get the hell out of town ASAP.

As Aida gets home late at night, she is greeted by Capt. Berbano and Bautista and a whole squadron of cops, stating they have a search warrant. He says they waited for her to get home so they could search through her house. This infuriated her but what can she do?

She agrees for the search to be done then and there kahit may burol inside. The cops storm into her house, rummaging through the entire house (even Raffy's casket), especially Raffy's room as they try to plant evidence.

Outside the house, Bautista talks with Aida. They converse a little, Bautista learns about Aida's basic info (age, workplace, etc.) and says he's new in town, investigating the rising cases of EJK's (Aida feels he's one of the good guys). As the cops exited her front door, the crowd started to heavily murmur.

The cops came out with bags of drugs (planted evidence) from Raffy's room. This sends Aida into a fit of hysteria, she starts to violently lash out against the cops as she knows these are planted because she found no traces of illegal drugs in her house.

This creates a commotion as the cops are struggling to hold down a violent and hysteric Aida. Amidst the chaos, Bautista notices a distinguishable **keychain** (maybe a gift from Raffy) on Aida's bag as she is struggling against the cops.

As Aida was about to get more violent, Berbano's phone began vibrating. He shouts for everyone to stop so he can hear the phone call. His angry face visibly turns into shock. He instantly rounds up all the cops and tells them there's a new crime scene and they need to go there asap.

Aida falls down to her knees, shouting, crying angrily and helplessly outside her house as the cops rolled out. The people in the wake can't do anything but watch and gossip at this sorry scene.

Amidst her crying, Aida notices on the corner of her eye, a flashy souped up **Honda Civic** parked away from her house. It suddenly started and loudly drove off as Aida continued to angrily wail.

The cops arrive at the clinic/spakol, Berbano along with Bautista, meet up with Crony 3, his right hand man, at the crime scene. Berbano and Crony 3 exchange knowing looks at each other, signalling not to slip in front of Bautista.

At the crime scene, Berbano, Bautista, and the CSI team are there, looking for clues about the mysterious death of Crony 1 in a spakol, with his genitalia burst open. A cop comes in and says all the details of the death, maybe an accident, or a kinky incident gone horribly wrong (due to the kinkiness of the scene, gawing dark, dry, yet hilarious yung delivery).

As Bautista was hard at work looking for clues, investigating the bizarre nature of the scene, Berbano was called out by someone outside the room. As Berbano opened the door, Bautista was observant enough to catch a quick glimpse of Crony 3. Bautista asks the coroners when he will get the full report of Crony 1's death (lalo na kung ano cause ng pagsabog ng genitalia). Sabi ifafollowup sya ASAP.

Outside the room, Berbano and Crony 3 were conversing discreetly, making sure walang ibang nakakarinig sa kanila amidst the busy yellow-taped crime scene. Crony 3 said he secretly recovered the cctv footage of a masseuse hastily leaving with the bag of cash. Berbano commands Crony 3 to find her ASAP, but they better be careful because of Bautista. They cannot efficiently operate together to clean this up. Crony 3 says he and Crony 2 will take care of it, urging Berbano to distract Bautista as much as possible so they can clean everything up.

In his police car, Crony 3 calls Crony 2 about the death of Crony 1. Crony 2 recalls he sent the texts of the supposed meetup details to Crony 1 and now the phone is

missing, presumably with the lady in the CCTV video. They believe she has read the texts and will go to the meetup place tomorrow. Crony 2 says he will take care of it alone. He will set up a trap at the meetup place.

BARGAINING

The next morning, Aida wakes up, realizing she fell asleep near Raffy's casket. As she looked inside to see Raffy's dead face, she started to tear up, questioning if this wouldn't have happened if she was a better parent, that perhaps if she had another work than being a nurse na overworked at laging OT, she would have had more time to lead Raffy into the right path (classic bargaining talk).

But she snapped out of it, remembering she still has a lead that could clear Raffy. She decides to bolt out and go to the meeting place from the text.

She arrives at the meetup place, it's a huge hacienda (with heads of exotic animals hanging everywhere along with taxidermied animals, implying the owner is a hunter) with a construction site, however it is eerily quiet as no workers were present. Not a single soul was there. As Aida is walking cautiously through, Crony 2 is following her through a scope of a hunting rifle. He shoots at her but narrowly misses Aida. Intense sniper predator and unarmed prey scene ensues. Aida is grazed and almost caught in the traps but she makes it through and cheap shots Crony 2.

As Crony 2 wakes up, he realizes he is in his hacienda's kitchen, with food enough for a small feast on the table in front of him. It smells really good. However, as he tries to move, he realizes he is strapped onto a chair, unable to break free. He sees Aida is in the kitchen as well, eating.

Aida starts to question him but he doesn't give in. In turn, Aida starts to feed Crony 2 (susubuan nya ng food) She then questions him again but to no avail. This time, Aida gets a boiling oil from the stove then pours it on Crony 2's leg (Aida remarks something akin to Crispy Pata again a moment of dark politically incorrect comedic convo). Crony 2 begs for mercy as the pain is too much. No matter how hard he cries for help, no one can hear him as they are all alone in that hacienda.

As Aida intensifies her torture of Crony 2, he confesses he doesn't know the details about Raffy's death, they were just there to cleanup Raffy's death, make it look like a tokhang death. He didn't realize that he slipped: he said we. As Aida threatens him again, he gives a new lead: that Crony 3 will soon lead a search squadron on the hospital Raffy was employed in. To search for or plant evidence, he doesn't know. The operation is just to clean everything up.

Aida once again has a new lead. She takes Crony 2's burner phone which can contact Crony 3. There is no more point in leaving Crony 2 alive so she injected him a relaxant

and shoved a funnel on his mouth (down to his throat). She then put all the food in the funnel, making Crony 2 start to choke. She then doused all the boiling oil in the funnel, burning Crony 2's throat, making him scream in agonizing pain, boiling his organs until he gurgled his dying breath.

Aida decides to burn the whole hacienda down so there would be no trace of her in the scene. So she opened and loosened the lpg tanks in the kitchen, created a trail of gasoline to a safe distance, then struck the gasoline trail with a match. As she walks out the hacienda gates, the house blows up and everything is engulfed in flames (hero walking away from explosion/fire trope).

However, she doesn't know she left a small piece of evidence in the scene.

Through Crony 2's burner phone, she texts Crony 3 if he's already at Raffy's hospital. He replies the operation will start in an hour. He then asks if Crony 2 is done taking care of business (killed Aida). She replies yes as she hastily makes her way to the hospital.

Once again, it's fitting Aling Aida is dressed in a **nurse's uniform** as she can easily blend in the hospital. As she arrives at the hospital, she storms in. She carefully blends in, stealthily making her way to Raffy's locker.

Inside a swat van, Crony 3 starts calling Crony 2's phone. Aida is reluctant to answer it of course. After going into a missed call, Crony 3 realizes something is amiss and orders the whole police squad to armor up.

As Aida finds Raffy's locker and about to open it, she hears the police sirens outside the hospital. Crony 3 has already arrived complete with a heavily armored squad (in riot gear) to search the hospital.

Realizing she has to move urgently so she can escape, she quickly opens Raffy's locker, searches hastily and finds packs of Adderall (an opioid, used for studying by desperate students, sold illegally in the Ph). As a nurse, she of course knows what it is but she has to bolt right the fuck now.

As things are about to heat up in the hospital, Berbano and Bautista arrive at Crony 2's hacienda, sees everything is burnt down. They start to investigate the horrific scene, Berbano denies any knowledge and connection with Crony 2. Bautista finds piece of evidence left by Aida, but he pockets it in secret.

After an intense chase scene around the hospital against the armored police squadron, Aida finds herself on the rooftop of the hospital (complete with

sampayans of hospital sheets and stuff), chased by Crony 3 alone. Crony 3 is surprised that a seemingly simple mother caused the deaths of his allies.

They continue to try and outsmart each other on the maze-like rooftop, riddled with flapping sheets and stuff. Aida is quietly trying to escape as Crony 3 silently hunts her down. Crony 3 then tries to break down her psyche as he mind games her about Raffy's death. Crony 3 then announces that they found drugs in Raffy's room, and they will undoubtedly find more in his locker. He's making it sound like Raffy is indeed involved in the drug game, but Aida knows better.

Aida has to stay strong and silent, despite wanting to answer back to Crony 3 and get more answers. Crony 3 then announces that he doesn't care about Aida and Raffy, really. What's important is he gets the money.

This gives Aida the impression she has the upper hand since she is carrying the money bag Crony 3 wants. She then bargains with Crony 3: her life for the money. She talks him up while luring him on the edge of the roof, thinking on her feet how to escape and use his greed against him.

As she reaches a dead end at an edge of the roof, Crony 3 seemingly outsmarts her and aims his gun at her, shouting at her to raise her hands, as he walks slowly towards her. Aida complies, raises her hands, with her right hand holding the bag of cash.

This is too easy for Crony 3 as he cautiously goes near Aida, still aiming his gun at her, taunting her even more. But as he was about to reach her, Aida suddenly opened the bag.

The wind blows the bills away at the edge of the rooftop, flying bills in every direction. This makes Crony 3 scream in dismay and lunges towards Aida's direction like a bull seeing red. However, she dodges his charge, making him fall off the roof and land onto his demise.

Moments later, Berbano and Bautista arrive at the hospital and see firsthand the chaos outside the hospital: a stampede of people are trying to catch the scattered bills floating and lying about the hospital grounds. Berbano sees Crony 3's fallen carcass and runs towards it.

Bautista follows but at the corner of his eye, he sees a lady in a nurse costume with a distinct **keychain** dangling on her bag hastily walking away. This made him stop on his tracks, recalling that he has seen that keychain somewhere before. However, he loses the lady in the crowd and after giving up, returns to Berbano.

DEPRESSION

Aida makes it home after a long-ass day. She sits in front of Raffy's casket, still thinking about the Adderall she found in his locker. Amidst the gossiping and whispers of the people at the wake (now with less people), Aida just sits there silently. The mysterious **souped up Honda Civic** is also spotted nearby her house, as if it's waiting for something.

At the police station, Berbano is seen talking on the phone angrily at someone. Bautista is on his desk, sitting silently as well (mirroring Aida). Still deep in thought about the lady he saw at the hospital and the weird deaths of three police officers. A police report came into his desk, it's the report on Crony 1's death. It is stated that a chemical was injected into Crony 1 making his genitals swell and explode. Then the report also states this chemical is only available in one hospital in town (where Aida worked).

Suddenly, it hits him: Crony 1, Crony 2, Crony 3 & Aling Aida are all connected: Aida's a **nurse**, the chemicals that caused Crony 1's death came from her hospital, the evidence he picked up in Crony 2's burnt down hacienda, the **keychain** from Aida's bag (the night the cops searched her house) is the same as the can he saw on the lady walking hastily away from the hospital. He quickly phoned someone, requesting to look deeper into Aling Aida and give him every info that can be found.

At the wake, someone left the TV open and a flash report came in about the commotion at the hospital. There was no mention of a dead cop, it was covered up neatly. It is reported that new evidence was also found in Raffy's locker in the hospital linking him into the drug trade.

The small number of people at the wake suddenly starts to murmur around Aida, who is eerily silent and looks defeated.

Only a few people attend Raffy's funeral but it doesn't matter to Aling Aida, who was completely silent throughout the ceremony. It is expected for the bereaved ones to bawl out during a funeral but Aida is still eerily silent. Bautista is observing the funeral from afar, deeply looking into who Aida really is.

After the funeral, Berbano walks up to Aida, telling her that there's new evidence regarding Raffy's involvement in drugs. However, all his words were just white noise to Aida. She doesn't react at all.

Worse is that some news crews were waiting outside the cemetery, trying to get some sound bites from Aida. They all spouted out insensitive questions, like "ano pakiramdam mo ngayon na napatunayang adik ang anak mo?" Shit like that.

Once again, they were all white noise to Aida but as the white noise went louder in her head, she reached a breaking point and started screaming/howling at everyone. She starts to sob uncontrollably.

ACCEPTANCE

Now alone in her home, Aida is broken. She is reflecting on everything that has happened: Raffy's death, his involvement in drugs, the fake evidence in her house, the drugs in his locker, the murmurs of the people, Berbano's last conversation with her, the nosy reporters, flashing lights, the deaths of Cronies 1-3, etc.

She is trying to hold on to the saintly image of Raffy in her head, but with everything that has happened, with the case seemingly closed, with insurmountable evidence against Raffy, and no more leads, it seems pointless to struggle against the fact that Raffy was indeed in the drug trade. She accepts Raffy's fall from grace, that her son is an addict, that she raised an addict. This breaks her even more. She hits rock bottom as she cries in a fetal position.

However, a roaring motor can be heard outside her house. Aida stops sobbing and looks out the window to see what the noise was all about. It's the same that has popped up a few times earlier.

The motor stopped and a young adult came out of the driver's side. He slowly walks towards Aida's front door. He weakly knocks on the door, asking if he could come in. He sounds defeated, too.

He then says he's Chico, Raffy's old friend, and that he really knows what happened the night Raffy died and he starts to cry. Aiding Aida opens the door.

Inside the house, Chico is telling Aida how it went down that fateful night. Chico recalls, through a flashback, that he randomly stumbled upon Raffy, his old childhood friend, and invited him to some drinks to catch up.

On the way home, Chico's car (the **Honda**) was flagged down by Berbano's Cronies (who are involved in the drug trade), as they know Chico is working for a rival of the Boss Javier, the town's drug kingpin.

Chico tells everything in detail, how they were intimidated by the dirty cops, how they were forced to ride with them against their will, how they were brutally tortured for kicks, and how they were finally presented to Boss Javier, the drug lord.

Since Javier is a mean dick and probably high on his own supply, he toyed with them with a game of russian roulette, pulling the trigger alternating between Chico and Raffy, until the loaded chamber was pulled on Raffy, blasting his brains out. Javier

then taunted Chico to send this as a message and warning to his boss and not to mess with his territory. Finally, they let him go as they cover up Raffy's dead body, tokhang style.

After telling everything to Aling Aida, Chico breaks down crying, stricken with guilt how everything went down, that he did not intend to bring harm to Raffy at all, that he went into hiding after all this to save his ass and could not bring forth the truth until now. He begs for Aida's forgiveness.

A tear falls down Aida's cheek. She is slowly coming back to life now with a newfound lead and reason to fight for the truth again, Aling Aida decides to end it all by taking down Boss Javier and the cops on his payroll.

Chico says that there's going to be a party at Boss Javier's estate later that night. He is also sure Berbano and other dirty cops will be there. He decides to help by coming up with a plan to bring Aida into the party.

RESOLUTION

Chico drops Aida at the safest distance he can near Boss Javier's estate without being detected. He says he will be waiting nearby in case things go wrong (and they definitely will).

However, in a moment alone in his car, Chico breaks down and starts to cry, as if he's extremely guilty of something. Chico then sniffed some cocaine. Chico is a drug addict, so was he really telling the truth about that night or did he just trigger Aling Aida's rage to wreak havoc on the drug lord?

Is it a coincidence that Aida's **nurse outfit** would come in handy again? It's really fortunate that the maids in Boss Javier's estate are dressed up in nurse outfits (scrubs) as well. Ain't that a bitch?

Once again, Aida can blend in with the maids and make her way through the estate. There is partying, inuman, videoke going on. Aida, armed with her knowledge of medicine and chemicals, she silently poisons the food/drinks at the buffet table while scoping out where the hell Javier is.

Berbano is at the party, his phone rings, he answers. Bautista is on the other line, saying he has a new lead on this closed case. Berbano dismisses him, saying it's pointless to continue a closed case but Bautista can hear the revelry in the background. It turns out he is holding Crony 3's burner phone (he got from the commotion at the hospital). He knows Berbano is now hiding something.

He calls a squad to join him for an operation. They all roll out.

As the dirty cops and the personal army of Boss Javier starts dropping one by one like flies, Berbano notices this and orders everyone to stop eating and drinking and hunt down whoever put poison in the food.

With a handful of dirty cops and private security in tow, Berbano hastily calls for Boss Javier so they can protect him. He's locked up in his private quarters and now Berbano and a handful of heavily armed men are protecting its doors. They started shooting in all directions, pinning down Aida who can't move now as she might get hit by Berbano's men but she then sees a nearby dead security guy.

As Berbano is on lookout, he sees Chico running around. Chico is running in zig zags, trying to draw the fire of the armed men until he is fatally shot. As the armed men stopped shooting and celebrated, something thumped at their feet, it's a grenade. Chico was just a distraction. The grenade exploded, sending body parts everywhere, except for Berbano who was still barely alive (masamang damo trope).

While struggling to make sense of things due to his cloudy vision and the ringing noise in his ear, Berbano tries to figure out who is the figure walking towards him. As the figure grows nearer and clearer turning into Aling Aida, Berbano's eyes start to widen while he mutters, "ikaw..." Then darkness.

Boss Javier, now all alone in his room and his estate, super high on cocaine, begins to shoot his high-powered armalite at the door, Scarface style. He maniacally laughs as the bullets riddle through the wooden door, hoping he would hit and kill whoever crashed his awesome party. But he was only met with silence.

Growing paranoid, Javier becomes shifty and twitchy. He snorts more coke, starts moving fast but losing focus as well. His heightened sense of paranoia now closing in on him. As he turns around one more time, Aling Aida is already on his face as she stabs him but this made him shoot his armalite wildly, hitting Aida as well.

Both Aida and Javier are now lying on the floor, bleeding to death. Javier then decides to mess up with Aida's head, saying he is going to tell the "harsh truth" about Raffy before he dies.

As he's about to talk, he finds Aida is already on top of him, holding a heavy piece of cement blasted from the grenade earlier. She's having none of his bullshit and smashes his head in again and again until his face becomes an unidentifiable mush.

Having spent all of her energy, Aida flops to the floor, breathing heavily, gasping for oxygen. Instead of her life flashing in front of her eyes, she remembers the most tender moments and cherished memories with Raffy. From the moment he was

born until his teenage years. Only her favorite memories with Raffy flashed before her as she smiled and cried, content on holding onto these precious memories as she waited for death.

As dawn starts breaking, Aida's vision begins to fade. The good cops storm in the estate (classic Pinoy action movie trope), Bautista then finds the bloodied and dying Aida and tries to resuscitate her until her vision fades to black.

She suddenly wakes up, still in the estate but with medics all around her. Tagumpay! She is revived by the medics. Bautista then leads a bloody Aida out of the estate through a hail of paparazzi, news crews, and usiseros.

THE END

POST-CREDITS

Bautista is on his desk when a report comes in. It was the report he requested on Aida's background. He reads on the file and is shocked by what he sees. We then see that the documents he has on Aida are all military documents with redacted information (black lines). It turns out she was a combat medic when she became pregnant while in the force but decided to quit as when she gave birth to Raffy.

(This changes the audience's perception of Aida. If people don't get to see this post-credits scene, they would think Aida went through hell and back through sheer determination and her undying love for Raffy.

If people see this post-credits scene, it would mean Aida is military trained and is totally capable of carnage, even without holding a gun the entire movie.)

WRITER'S STATEMENT

I know there are already several documentaries, short and feature films about EJK and I have seen some of them. It is indeed a serious issue (more so a couple of years ago at its height of media prominence) that has been tackled numerous times through political and socio-economic lenses.

What makes Aling Aida different is the power fantasy it sells, a callback to the lone cowboy action flicks of The King, FPJ, where the underdog hero takes justice into his own hands, but set in modern times. No political messages, no poverty porn, just a story of an ordinary woman doing whatever it takes to attain justice and defend her son's name and honor.

To give it a more contemporary packaging, I can see this old school take should be cross-bred with a healthy dose of current influences such as the hyper violent blockbuster Taken (starring Liam Neeson), the unrelentless suspense of Mother (by Bong Joon-ho), carefully balanced with the gritty atmosphere and cinematography of the first season of True Detective (directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga).

I want the audience to see Aling Aida as the modern-day hero Filipinos need, the representation of their anger against a corrupt system and injustice. Amidst the daily violence going on, the sensationalized news reports and headlines, and the grim cinematic takes on EJK, I want Aling Aida to be the sort of escape people need these days.

Starting out as a helpless single mother and ending up taking down an evil empire, I want Aling Aida to be the ultimate modern day Filipino wish fulfillment.

There is the physical struggle, her quest for the truth, her search for leads through the corrupt cops, but I want to present more of Aling Aida's internal struggle: her declining mental and psychological state when confronting the the gossips, the embellishments against her son's name and dignity, and the victim-shaming against her (nanay ng adik, anak adik, etc.), along with her increasing and escalating penchant for violent means (starts with blackmail, the accidental spakol incident, the hacienda incident, the hospital, then finally the attack on the estate).

Throughout her journey, she herself would begin to slowly believe her son's involvement with drugs when she's confronted with evidence (planted or otherwise) coupled with the overwhelming gossips and murmurs from her neighbors until she eventually reaches a breaking point.

The **five stages of grief** is also a theme that inspired me to shape Aling Aida's quest for the truth. The movie starts with denial and ends in acceptance. The five stages mirrors her journey (her state of mind, her decisions and actions, her escalating means to get leads) but it also reflects on the other characters and events:

- **Denial** - denial of Raffy's involvement in drugs, Mang Delfin denying his involvement with dirty cops, denial of his extramarital affairs
- **Anger** - anger when confronting (and torturing Crony 1), lashes out at cops when they find evidence from Raffy's belongings
- **Bargaining** - asks 'if only' questions, Crony 2 bargaining and pleading for his life, tries to bargain with Crony 3 in the hospital rooftop chase

- **Depression** - sense of helplessness after cops find (planted) evidence in Raffy's hospital locker and was reported in the news, silent throughout Raffy's funeral, silent against the gossiping crowd
- **Acceptance** - finally accepts Raffy's involvement in drugs, accepts the harsh words from the crowd, the news, Capt. Berbano, etc. leads to her breaking down. Her acceptance of death in the end.

In the end, her son's involvement with drugs remains unclear as there is a mix of real and planted evidence throughout the story, but it doesn't matter at all for Aling Aida chooses to believe her son's innocence because her love for her son is unconditional which can be seen through the flashbacks of their memories together as she lays dying. This is the truth she believed and held onto in the end.