**Working Title: “IKYAS” Batch 25**

**Written by: Nena Jane Achacoso August 20, 2020**

**Logline:** Abandoned hospital child grows up in an abusive foster family. Finding refuge in the family’s in-house maids, they plan for her escape.

**Synopsis:**

Occupying the middle seat between Patrinada and Nicolo - a couple in their 30s, is Adelina, 15 years old, an orphan child adopted by the *Cabellas* - a rich family with 11 kids and 20 in-house maids. Adelina wakes up in a bus while on their way to the pier - hoping to catch the ship that will leave to Bohol at midnight. The bus has the other side of the aisle open - the kind that we can only see in the 1960s while it rushes down to the highway of Davao City.

*“Adopted ka”* shout her older foster brothers as they bully Adelina, 11 years old, telling her that she is not their real sister. One day, one of her eight foster brothers pours hot boiling water to Adelina, chasing her around the house.

Crying, Adelina’s wounds are treated by Petra, a maid who works for the *Cabellas*. Jolio, Petra’s husband, also works as a driver for the family, reveals that she really isn’t a *Cabella* and that she was brought one day by their Doña from the hospital, saying that she was an abandoned hospital baby.

The bus stops for check-point. The army comes up and searches the bus from front to end. Nicolo passes a jacket to Patrinada to cover Adelina, afraid that they might be searching for her.

At the age of 13, her foster parents separated her into the maids’ room, away from her three foster sisters. Jolio and Petra welcome her, treating her as their daughter. They tell her stories about their hometown, Bohol - how the Malunggay leaves are as big as a 5 peso coin and how the sea shines so bright back in that island.

Adelina hides her face back on the bus by lying down in Patrinada’s lap, pretending to sleep. One of the armies demands to lift the jacket, and he grabs the jacket from Adelina’s face. On the reveal, she’s not the one they are searching for, and they moved on. Adelina feels a pang of disappointment, expecting that her foster family would at least look for her. The bus then starts to move.

Adelina’s foster brothers justify their mistreatment towards her by saying that she did not belong in their family. Further threatening her that they will do much more to her because their parents would not even care about her.

Not being able to stand the abuse and mistreatment, she desperately searches for refuge. Finding comfort and security from Jolio and Petra, she asks them to take her to Bohol. Well aware of Adelina’s situation in this mansion, they agree to help her.

Back on the bus, they arrive at the pier. When they buy their tickets for the ship, Adelina second-guesses her decision and refuses to say her name to the ticketing counter. The couple steps up for her and registers Adelina’s name as Adelaida *Castillon,* naming her as their daughter.

One day, when Adelina is left by her foster family again with the maids, her foster brother comes to molest her. Jolio catches the act and teaches the boy a lesson.

The boy confines back to his parents, threatening the driver to be arrested by the police if he will lay his finger again to their son. Afraid, the driver doubts their plan for Adelina’s escape, fearing that they might be arrested.

Adelina heard Jolio telling Petra that they might be arrested if they will help her. Adelina didn’t want that to happen, so she runs away by herself. Adelina didn’t get away too far. She finds herself stuck in the gasoline station that was owned by her foster family.

Boarding on the ship, Adelina tells the couple that she has to use the bathroom. Little did they know, Adelina plans to run away from them with the thought that she has become a liability to them.

Because of Adelina’s attempted escape, she is punished. Her foster parents lock her up to a room. Jolio and Petra blame themselves for Adelina’s pain, considering her as their daughter, they finally decide to help her. They asked their cousin, Nicolo and Petrinada, who also works together in the neighboring mansion, to take Adelina with them back to Bohol.

On the ship, when the couple has found their seats, Adelina hasn’t come back yet. Worried, they search for her around the ship. The thought of not knowing where to go finally hits Adelina, not knowing if she made the right decision, she breaks down.

Adelina’s foster parents locked her in a room alone as they all go out for a family business. The maids steal the key from the family to let Adelina out from the room. At this moment, they know that this is their chance to get Adelina out of this mansion.

In the ship, the steward caused a commotion when he finds Adelina, telling her that she cannot board the ship without a guardian. Nicolo and Petrinada rush to her worried, telling her that they searched the whole ship for her. The steward still demands to see proof for their relationship.

Jolio calls Nicolo and Petrinada to wait by the gate while Petra guides Adelina out from the mansion. At the gate, Adelina struggles to open it.

Adelina then tells the steward that, indeed, they are her parents. Nicolo and Petrinada show a birth certificate to the steward. Satisfied, he leaves them alone.

The maids hear a familiar sound of their family’s truck. Adelina hurriedly climbs the gate and jumps to the other side, wounding her ankle in the process. Together with Patrinada and Nicolo, they run away from the mansion.

A couple of hours pass by; they arrive in Bohol. To cover up and to seal her escape, she changes her name and identity to Adelaida. Adelaida is now welcomed by the couple’s family in Bohol, finding refuge in the family that helped her escape.