**Dr. Ricky Lee Screenwriting Workshop: Day 1 (August 12, 2020) Assignment**

Working Title: **“Hacienda Remedios“**

Written By: Veronica Pulumbarit (Batch 25 Group 4)

**LOGLINE:** How do you fight an enemy who exists only in your dreams? Elisa Zamora is afraid to sleep as she is always sexually assaulted in her dreams by a man whose face she could hardly see. Ultra-rich, Elisa lives in the posh, secluded, and serene Hacienda Remedios and 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 dreads being sexually assaulted again in her dream. Almost everyday for the past few months, Elisa has terrifying dreams revolving around the same man. 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 down against the wall, touching her back and her legs. She would see images of blood-stained clothes or a man’s feet standing in a pool of blood.

This is why Elisa always leaves the light on in her bedroom when she goes to sleep. But the light hardly helps as she still ends up in a dark room with her attacker when she falls asleep.

On the outside, there seems to be no reason for Elisa’s nightmares. Ultra-rich, she lives in a secluded, serene, and luxurious three-hectare mango plantation -- Hacienda Remedios in mountainous Mariveles, Bataan. She was raised here alone by her mother Agnes Zamora after her father died when he was four.

Immediately after her husband’s death, Agnes chose to live in Mariveles with her daughter Elisa where they do not know anyone. Agnes, a Person With Disability (PWD), built Hacienda Remedios, named after Our Lady of Remedies, to create a safe enclave for Elisa and shield her from prying eyes and reckless mouths.

Elisa, 20, is the sole heiress to a conglomerate involved in real estate and construction, which her mother is running remotely from opulent Hacienda Remedios. Elisa’s posh bedroom — in muted tones of beige, blue, and white — seems like an oasis. Everything is luxurious. Elisa’s bed, imported directly from Italy, costs more than P1 million; her bespoke beddings, woven with 22-carat gold, cost between P200,000 to P300,000. But these are meaningless as Elisa’s nightmares always bring her to a dark and eerie place where she is fighting against a man who is touching her offensively.

Growing up, Elisa had a fairly pleasant childhood as she was homeschooled in Hacienda Remedios, where she and her mother were surrounded by a staff of about 20 people including a tutor, a private chef, maids, gardeners, drivers, and security personnel.

Elisa vaguely remembers that right after her father’s death at their old house in Quezon City, she started having nightmares and would wake up crying in the middle of the night. She was brought to different psychiatrists and one of them suggested moving Elisa to a new environment while continuing psychiatric treatment and doing art therapy, often prescribed for trauma patients.

Agnes had always told Elisa that her father Max Zamora died of a heart attack. This, however, is not true. Max was shot to death by his business partner Robert, a young, rich, and handsome guy who had a brief but passionate relationship with Agnes.

In Hacienda Remedios, Agnes, wheelchair-bound, would often lock herself up in her room or the library where she would spend hours praying, seeking forgiveness from God and her husband Max as she blamed herself for his untimely death. She was alone but she was tormented by memories of her husband’s killing and the hateful words uttered by her husband’s relatives.

Meanwhile, Elisa started to have frequent nightmares when she moved to New York to study Fine Arts. She had her first relationship with a guy, a Filipino-American Broadway dancer, Jason, her classmate. Elisa was happy and couldn’t understand why the nightmares began when she and Jason started to grow intimate. She didn’t like being kissed or touched and sought counselling for this. She broke up with Jason, stopped studying and returned home to Hacienda Remedios, hoping to find healing. However, the nightmares worsened because Elisa was depressed.

Agnes was troubled as she knew the root of her daughter’s nightmares but was torn between telling her the truth or keeping it a secret. Eventually, Agnes confessed to Elisa that her father was shot to death by Robert, who stole P1 million from the real estate firm they set up together. The incident happened at their old house in Quezon City, inside Max’s office. Elisa, then four years old, was hiding outside the door after she heard her father arguing with Robert.

Agnes, who was not a PWD then, tried to intervene but Robert suddenly grabbed her and caressed her sensually to spite Max. Robert spoke of being intimate with Agnes, angering Max, who tried to fight him but Robert suddenly pulled out a gun. Seeing the gun, Agnes tried to shield Max and was shot in the back, near the lower spine. This didn’t stop Robert, who proceeded to shoot Max twice, near the heart. Max died, Agnes survived but became a paraplegic. Robert ended up in prison. Hearing this story, Elisa then realized that it was her mother whom she was seeing being attacked in her nightmares.

Opening up to her daughter became a turning point for both Elisa and Agnes. They started to heal together in Hacienda Remedios through art therapy and counselling. Elisa also visited an unremorseful Robert in prison and told him that she would no longer let him deprive her of the full life that she deserved. She felt sad though that she lost her father over P1 million, the cost of her bed. In the end, Elisa is seen waking up from a blissful sleep beside her now fiance Jason at Hacienda Remedios. Elisa gets up, looks out the window and sees her mother Agnes who is outdoors, doing art with children from the neighborhood. They may never entirely heal from their past but they are ready to move on, make a fresh start, and share their lives with others.

Ricky Lee Screenwriting Workshop

**Day 1 (August 12, 2020) Exercise “Tokhang”**

Working Title: **“Mistaken Identity”**

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Was Mario Gomez’s death by tokhang really a case of mistaken identity? The police claimed that Mario was mistaken as a drug peddler. But as his girlfriend Ana Velasco searches for answers, she discovers the truth about Mario: that the cop who killed him was his longtime lover and Mario’s mother had tried for years to separate them.