

CUTTHROAT - PHIL SIDES

NOTE: Phil is in his office when he calls Vega, a struggling actress who he's on the verge of dropping as a client. But until he does, he turns on his Phil charm. Assume the call is on speaker or ear buds (no need to mime a phone).

SCENE 1 (PHIL & VEGA):

As Vega walks from her CAR she gets a call from her smarmy agent PHIL. She takes a deep breath, fakes being upbeat.

VEGA

Hey Phil! How's my big bad agent?

INT. PHIL'S OFFICE - SAME TIME / INTERCUT VEGA/PHIL

Phil checks himself out with his PHONE'S SELFIE MODE while they talk. He's consistently preoccupied throughout the call.

PHIL

Vega! How's my favorite Latina mommy? Or should I say Latinx? Tell me what you prefer.

VEGA

Either way, it doesn't matter.

PHIL

Don't say that Vega. It does matter. I want you to know that I see you. You are seen.

Vega rolls her eyes.

VEGA

Thank you. So what's up?

PHIL

I hope you're ready for some good news muchacha!

VEGA

(suddenly excited)
There's interest in my project? See I told you people would like a movie about a single mother struggling to survive!

PHIL

Uhh, what? No, no no, even better.
You know how you're tired of
shooting, in your words, quote
"crappy horror films"?

VEGA

Yeah...

PHIL

Well the good news is you're free!
From the "crap"! You don't have to
go back to set tomorrow!

The outside darkness grows as Vega reaches her front door.

VEGA

What are you talking about? I just
got back from there.

PHIL

So it sounds like they're re-
casting your role, but I view this
as a positive! You can focus on
more important things, like your
baby! Or is it bambino? What's baby
in Spanish?

VEGA

(loudly)

They're *firing* me?!

TWO PASSERSBY stare at her in an unsettling way. She forces a
smile, turns away, and lowers her voice for the call.

PHIL

They said that you've been quote
"tired and difficult to work with".
Their words, not mine. You know I
think you're muy fabuloso.

VEGA

That's B.S.! This is all because I
wouldn't let the producer feel me
up today!

PHIL

Whoa now Vega, I don't want to get
involved in any he said, she said,
but bottom line, this is gonna be
good for you. I can feel it.

An agent holding two beers stops by Phil's desk and motions
for him to get off the phone.

VEGA

Bottom line is *I need the money*
Phil. Can't you call them back?
Talk to them? I *really* need this.

No response as Phil grabs a beer, completely distracted.

VEGA (CONT'D)

Hello? Phil? Did you hear me?

PHIL

Vega I gotta run, super duper busy
over here, but let's figure out
next steps soon, alright? Remember,
I *believe* in you!

CLICK. Vega glares at the phone.