

Heritage

By

Anna Maues

INT. MRS FERNANDEZ'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Liana walks into the kitchen and sits on a tall stool near the kitchen island.

Mrs. Fernandez turns on the coffee maker...

MRS. FERNANDEZ

Are you donating your father's clothes to Goodwill? I am sure the Church would be happy to take them too.

...she continues to chop veggies on the cutting board.

MRS. FERNANDEZ

I can't believe almost a month has gone by. I miss talking to him in the morning. Did he tell you we used to chat every morning?

Liana is impatient. She shakes her legs vigorously. Mrs. Fernandez looks for a frying pan, making a lot of noise.

LIANA

No, he didn't -- Apparently there are a lot of things my father forgot to tell me, right?

Mrs. Fernandez finds the frying pan.

Outside, the Thompson's dog starts to bark. Mrs. Fernandez looks through the kitchen window.

MRS. FERNANDEZ

That dog! It's like this every day now. Such a lovely little thing, but that's just annoying. They should get him a toy.

LIANA

Yeah, that would be lovely. Mrs. Fernandez--

Mrs. Fernandez sets the pan on the stove.

MRS. FERNANDEZ

I love puppies, but, Jesus Lord, it's 6AM!

LIANA

Mrs. Fernandez, do you know if my father was involved in anything -- You know -- Bad?

(CONTINUED)

The dog keeps barking...

MRS. FERNANDEZ
Maybe it's the porch. They should let him inside -- Poor thing, he spends the entire day there. You know, they call it Hulk.

LIANA
Mrs. Fernandez, please.

Mrs. Fernandez starts dropping the vegetables into the frying pan, avoids looking at the girl.

MRS. FERNANDEZ
Hulk, like in the comic book--

LIANA
I found a box in his closet.

Suddenly, Mrs. Fernandez stops what she is doing.

MRS. FERNANDEZ
Everybody keeps boxes in their closet, Liana. That's a normal thing.

LIANA
And I found another one in the garage -- That one with a gun.

Mrs. Fernandez drops half of the veggies on the floor.

She gets down to clean the mess. Liana goes to help her.

LIANA
Mrs. Fernandez. I need to know -- I need to know what he was--

Mrs. Fernandez gets up holding the cutting board with the veggies.

MRS. FERNANDEZ
Ezekiel was a great man and father. He took care of you when your mother left. He loved you to the moon and back. Let that be the memory that you cherish. A good, righteous man.

(then)
We all have our secrets, but I can assure you that your father was only trying to help and protect

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MRS. FERNANDEZ (cont'd)
those who couldn't protect
themselves.

Liana loses her patience and raises her voice.

LIANA
I deserve to know everything.

Mrs. Fernandez reacts. Liana controls her tone and tries to bring down the heat

LIANA (CONT'D)
I deserve to know who I am. It's
like I don't know him anymore and I
keep on trying to put this puzzle
together.

Liana laughs with tears in her eyes. The struggle is palpable.

LIANA (CONT'D)
Sometimes I am afraid I am losing
my mind. -- I don't know what is
going on in my head. I have all
those thoughts rushing through my
brain. Bad, angry thoughts.

Liana clenches her fist as she talks. Mrs. Fernandez looks at the girl like she is seeing something familiar happening in front of her eyes. She is still holding the pan.

MRS. FERNANDEZ
My child--

LIANA
I think it is in me. Whatever was
in him, grows in me now.

Mrs. Fernandez throws the pan inside the sink. She takes a deep breath and leans towards the sink, her back facing the girl, her head is down.

MRS. FERNANDEZ
Ezekiel 9:10 - "So I will not look
on them with pity or spare them,
but I will bring down on their own
heads what they have done." -- Some
people deserve the fate they get,
Liana.

Liana breathes heavily looking at the woman. She knows the passage, she saw it before. Mrs. Fernandez reaches for the tap. She turns on the water...