SWEET EYES

Written by

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# EXT. DESERT OF CALIFORNIA. DAY

Fernando, a young man, drags his luggage along the side of the road. He is covered in sweat and barely breathing out of exhaustion. Finally a pick up truck stops next to him.

INT. TRUCK. DAY

Fernando approaches the truck full of country people and hippies.

BUS DRIVER Where are you going boy?

FERNANDO (Struggling with the language) Hi... Yo... goin tu Hollywud.

A couple of the passengers laugh.

WOMAN He means California.

BUS DRIVER Hop on kid!

Fernando jumps on the back of the truck. Some Greek musicians sing and play "the Maouka" on their guitars, a traditional greek folklore. Fernando gets excited and amused by the vitality of the group. An old hippie hands Fernando a strange cigarette.

> OLD HIPPIE (Midwest accent) Why are you going to ever sunny good old California?

> > FERNANDO

Tu act.

Fernando takes a puff on the cigarette and coughs like a baby boy. The old man surprised by Fernando's reaction stares him down.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) What this is?

The old man smiles in a psychedelic manner.

Transition to soundtrack of Dolly Parton's "9 to 5".

Fernando shrugs and explodes in laughter.

### EXT. DESERT OF CALIFORNIA. DAY

The truck disappears in the horizon. Tittle "Innocent Eyes".

## INT. BUS. AFTERNOON

Fernando opens his eyes and finds they're stuck in heavy traffic on the 101 Highway. He rolls down the window and in the distance catches a glimpse of the palm trees soaring over the immensity of Los Angeles.

> FERNANDO (Without of breath) A la mierda.

# EXT. 101 HIGHWAY. AFTERNOON.

Fernando sticks his head out of the back of the truck and briefly glances at the drivers next to them. He is full of joy. This is the adventure he's always wanted to live. He waves at all the drivers passing by, getting funny reactions.

The first one is an angry driver who after getting looked at three times feels abused.

Next, a bubbly girl is having an intense conversation with her phone. She waves back trying to poorly imitate his happiness.

A guy is pouring his soul into a song until he sees Fernando. He fixes his tie pretending nothing happened.

A nerdy mom is yelling at her young children playing and climbing all over her. She sees Fernando and yells "Fuck off" as she flips him off.

A man and his dog both wearing sunglasses waive back.

Fernando raises his head to spot the Hollywood Blvd. EXIT sign.

# FERNANDO (Gasps) Hollywud...

He opens his arms to the wind and stereotypical screams the famed Titanic line "Soy el Rey del mundo"

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. WALK OF FAME. AFTERNOON.

The truck stops.

BUS DRIVER Welcome to La La Land.

FERNANDO (Super Excited) Dios. Wow... Yes. Gracias. Tenk you. Have a gud life friend.

He steps out with his luggage on the heart of Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame. The truck leaves and Fernando waves good bye. He tries to take it all in - the buildings around him, the lights, the people walking by, the museums, the tourists snapping photos, the iconic Kodak Theater and the Oscar statue. The diversity of people and street performers amazes him.

All of a sudden he stares down and notices the stars on the pavement with the imprinted names and hands of famous actors. Every time he sets foot on one of them he brings them to life with a funny impersonation. For a moment he forgets that he is surrounded by a sea of people.

> FERNANDO (CONT'D) (On the Mickey Mouse Star) (On the Beatle's Star)(Elvis Presley) (Harrison Ford) (Kermit the frog) (Marlon Brandon) (Meryl Streep)

He arrives at the iconic Kodak Theater and continues to see the imprints of celebrities of different eras. He leans down and presses his hands against the pavement. He looses his breath. Unexpectedly a girl from a distance screams with anger and frustration.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. ALLEY. AFTERNOON.

Fernando follows the high pitched screams into an Alley and finds a girl trying to open an old car. Her name is Evin, a gorgeous hipster in her twenties who's wearing no make up or fashionable clothes but still exudes the charisma of a movie star. She struggles to open the door. Fernando approaches her.

> FERNANDO Hola... sorry... perdon... yu want mi help?

> > EVIN

What?

FERNANDO

Help?

Oh... Yeah, sure.

Fernando looks at the window.

EVIN (CONT'D) I dropped my keys behind the seat and locked my self out of the car.

FERNANDO Plis ...ahh ... slow... not good englis.

He puts his bags near a dumpster.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) Creo que tengo un truco para ti. (I think I have a trick for you)

EVIN You homeless?

FERNANDO

Homeliss?

EVIN

No casa?

FERNANDO (Realizing he looks Homeless) Oh no! I just... get here. I go to hotel.

He dives into the trash for a minute and then pulls out a long wire.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) Super! Aqui. This work.

He bends the wire.

EVIN Where you from?

FERNANDO I Bolivia... como se dice... (Mimics an airplane)... Four hours ago.. Now... here...

Evin is confused.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) Different city... cheaper (Mimics an airplane). He laughs at his own joke and pushes the wire through the window crack. He manages to pull up the safety lock.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) There, tienes suerte que este auto es viejo. (You are very lucky that this is an old car)

Evin quickly gets in the car, opens the glove compartment and empties the whole drawer in her bag. Fernando is confused. She takes every possible object including the floor rugs.

> FERNANDO (CONT'D) Estas segura que es tuyo... your car?

Evin pulls the radio out with all the cables attached. She breaks them. All of a sudden a group of men appear down the alley. One of them bursts into anger.

MAN (Screaming) Hey!

Evin steps out of the car with her bag full of stuff.

EVIN (With a smirk) Run!

FERNANDO (Understanding the situation) Supongo que no...

The group of men start running towards them screaming "Police - Thieves". Fernando paralyzed for a second reacts and starts running after Evin like a lost puppy.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) Espera, Espera, Wait, wait

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. WALK OF FAME. AFTERNOON.

They run through a crowd of tourists making a big fuss. For a second Fernando turns around to find the three men getting closer and closer. A police siren approaches them in the distance. Evin makes a sharp turn into a mall and they both disappear taking cover in the bathrooms.

INT. FAMILY'S BATHROOM.

They both scramble to lock the door behind them.

FERNANDO

(Furious) Que te pasa loca de mierda. Yo me acerque a ayudarte no a robar. Estoy llegado del aereopuerto para que me metas en esto...

On the spur of the moment he realizes he's left his bags on the streets.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) Ay no!! Mis maletas... mis maletas, mis maletas, mis maletas... bags... my bags!

Evin covers his mouth as we hear police officers walking by.

POLICE OFFICER Open up its the police!

The police officer starts forcing people to open up door by door.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D) Everybody open up!

Evin opens up the door wearing a long red wig and glasses.

EVIN I will be out in a minute I am changing officer.

POLICE OFFICER Its okay, I am sorry to bother. I am looking for a boy and girl.

He leaves. Fernando is hiding on top of the Baby Changing station.

#### FERNANDO

(Whispering) He dejado todas mis maletas en el callejon! I forget my bags... callejon... street... con todos mis documentos... mi wallet.

EVIN (Whispering and enunciating) I'm sorry. Its not my fault they came back so quickly.

Fernando sits in a corner and holds his head down.

FERNANDO Dios mio esto no esta pasando... Evin sits on the toilet for a long beat. She suddenly faces the mirror, she opens up her large leather bag and searches for a white dress.

# EVIN Cover your eyes!

She unbuttons her blouse and changes into the white dress.

Fernando peaks and catches a glance of her nudity.

EVIN (CONT'D) (Surprised by his daring, smiles) Hey! I said no watching. A lady is changing here.

FERNANDO Ladies no steal.

EVIN Well, Ladies do more shit than you think to survive. No peeking.

Fernando covers his eyes. In the darkness.

FERNANDO Si mi mama supiera en la que me he metido. Aparte de actor, ladron... Ya? Finish?

He uncovers his eyes. Soft music plays (Remembering Marilyn). Evin has completed her Marilyn Monroe costume. She wears her iconic white dress along with a voluminous blond wig. Fernando is amazed at the transformation. She is so focused in her make up that for a second it feels like she is alone. She pours cheap powder like a movie star from the old movies and paints a fake mole on her cheek. She finishes the ritual pouring 99 cents perfume.

> EVIN We need to dress you up as something...

Evin empties the bag and all we see are wigs and dresses.

EVIN (CONT'D) (Smiling) I got the perfect outfit for you.

Close up of Fernando's petrified expression.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. ALLEY. DAY.

Fernando wears a large sequence lady bug costume. Evin smokes a cigarette while he tries to move a dumpster.

EVIN It's gone. Vamos

FERNANDO (Very upset) No Vamos. Sometime people hide cosas.

EVIN It's just a freaking Bag.

FERNANDO Yeah, its a friking bad con mi visa, money, clothes, everything that I... I...

EVIN

Lost...

FERNANDO Yes! Lost! I lost because you.

He walks away. Evin doesn't fret and calmly finishes smoking her cigarette. She then gasps and follows him.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. WALK OF FAME. DAY.

Evin grabs Fernando by the shoulder.

EVIN Give me back my costume.

FERNANDO Claro que si, it's a jorrible outfit ... ugly... no make sense.

EVIN Hey! (Sarcastic) That was my best friend's costume before she died.

Evin laughs at him.

FERNANDO Why you laughing?

EVIN Your costume, it's really bad. Looks horrible. Fernando cries.

FERNANDO What I do? I no money to telephone home.

Evin hugs him.

EVIN (Speaking slowly) I will take care of you. I am very sorry for what happened.

She starts fixing his outfit.

EVIN (CONT'D) My name is Evin. Yours?

FERNANDO

Fernando.

EVIN Today you're my assistant and you'll collect my tips. Follow me.

They walk.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. WALK OF FAME. DAY.

Evin and Fernando mingle with the crowd.

FERNANDO Wait. What you do?

EVIN

I am actress.

They pass by Michael Jackson's impersonator

MICHAEL JACKSON Who's this new guy?

EVIN Fernando. He will be around for a while.

FERNANDO Michael! I love you.

They greet all the impersonators on the street. Leo, a short Latino with an angelical face dressed as Spiderman comments on Fernando's costume. LEO Really Evin?

EVIN You gotta do what you gotta do. Be nice, its one of your kind.

LEO Y este tiene pinta de gringolandia. Mas tierrudo este malandro de barrio.

(This one looks like a gringo. Snob rat from the hood.)

SuperMan, Spider man and a human statue. Evin notices a woman is standing right on her spot.

EVIN That bitch took my spot.

The woman standing at her spot is Faith. She's dressed in a vintage 70's outfit and performs a country song in front of a van covered in posters that read "I am an actress", "singer composer" as well as her website and phone number.

Evin walks right up to her. They both exchange angry looks.

EVIN (CONT'D) I told you this is my fucken spot.

Evin steps on top of the subway vent. As a result of the wind soaring up her dress flies and waves in the air, adding the finishing touch that turns her into the iconic Marilyn Monroe. She smiles flirtatiously at the tourists and playfully dance in the wind trying to cover her underwear. Once in a while she gets interrupted by tourists that want to snap a picture with her. Graciously she reminds them of her price.

> EVIN (CONT'D) It's a dollar per photo.

Fernando observes as Evin becomes Marilyn. He then collects the money.

EVIN (CONT'D) It's a dollar per photo. (Posing with a tourist) "I don't want to make money, I just want to be wonderful" Suddenly a man calls her by her name. She takes a photo with him. Fernando wants to take the money from him but Evin stops him.

EVIN (CONT'D) It's okay. I'll handle this one.

Evin pulls out a strange bag and delivers it to him in a very subtle manner.

INT. RESTAURANT.

Evin and Fernando are counting the bills on the table.

EVIN God Damn it! Forty five dollars.

FERNANDO That's a lut!

EVIN That's nothing...

FERNANDO Es dinero... a lot for where I come from.

Evin checks in Fernando's pockets.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) What you doing? I am not you... thieve.

Evin picks up a menu.

EVIN Eat... whatever you want. I got you.

EXT. BUS STOP. AFTERNOON.

Evin and Fernando await for the bus.

EVIN If you want to act you need to put yourself out there. Where people can see you... Where they can find you. And you never know who you're going to meet, so always be nice to strangers.

Evin pulls a card with her name and head shot.

EVIN (CONT'D) Always... and always carry a resume.

She pulls a resume out of her purse, it appears a little dirty and crunched.

EVIN (CONT'D) You never know.

FERNANDO Wow, you actor long time?

EVIN Three years now. I got a couple of good auditions.

Fernando really pays attention. She lights up a cigarette.

EVIN (CONT'D) Ah! And start loving the camera. The more pictures people take of you the better. It means you're getting famous. "Being normal is boring."

FERNANDO How I get auditions?

EVIN With an agent.

FERNANDO How I get agent?

EVIN Fucking an agent...

Fernando is confused.

EVIN (CONT'D) (Laughter) Who comes first? The egg or the chicken?

A bus arrives and Evin teaches Fernando how to use his metrobus ticket.

INT. BUS STOP. LATE AFTERNOON.

Evin and Fernando sit on the back seat.

FERNANDO I had so much scary to come to hollywood.

EVIN "We should all start to live before we get too old. Fear is stupid. So are regrets."

The bus stops.

EVIN (CONT'D) Come on! This is our exit.

EXT. VENICE BEACH. SUNSET.

They step off on a cliff that leads to the shore. The sun is dying on the horizon. Its a spectacle of nature.

FERNANDO I come from mountains... Los Andes. You?

EVIN I come from the forest. West Virginia.

EXT. CEMETERY OF TRAILERS. SUNSET.

They arrive to a small community of hippies, bohemians and homeless people who live by the shore. There are dozens of old trailers and piles of junk forming paths as streets.

> FERNANDO You live here? Tu casa?

> > EVIN

For now.

A couple of people wave at Evin.

EVIN (CONT'D) Come on, let's go! The performance is about to end.

INT. THE ACTING CAMP. NIGHT

Evin and Fernando enter the quiet camp.

FERNANDO What performance.

As they walk to the center of the camp the audience clapps. Evin leads him backstage. The actors wave "hi" to Evin. Evin leads Fernando to the main stage.

EVIN (CONT'D) This is the show we are doing for now.

A small area of the beach is closed off with lit torches marking the main stage. The sand, the waves, the moon and the wind add magic to the performance of Othello. It's horrible, worse than a community theater performance.

Othello is played by Howard, the artistic director and leader of the "Cemetery of Trailers". He is a washed up middle aged Burning man flamboyant Bohemian. Desdemona is Hazel, a gorgeous African American gypsy in her early thirties. She is stunning and in great shape.

#### OTHELLO

Ay.

DESDEMONA He will not say so.

OTHELLO No, his mouth is stopp'd; Honest Iago hath ta'en order for't.

DESDEMONA O! my fear interprets: what, is he dead?

OTHELLO (Messing a line) Had all his hairs been lives, my great revenge Had stomach for them all.

DESDEMONA Alas! he is betray'd and I undone.

OTHELLO Out, strumpet! weep'st thou for him to my face?

DESDEMONA O, banish me, my lord, but kill me not! OTHELLO Down, strumpet!

DESDEMONA Kill me to-morrow: let me live tonight!

OTHELLO Nay, if you strive--

DESDEMONA But half an hour!

OTHELLO Being done, there is no pause.

DESDEMONA But while I say one prayer!

OTHELLO It is too late.

Othello unknowingly chokes the actress for real and she starts panicking, fighting for her life but this only makes Othello continue to choke her more. After an obvious struggle and some improvised lines; she beats the crap out of him. Lights out. Awkward clapping.

EXT. HOWARD'S TENT. NIGHT.

Evin and Fernando approach the entrance of the tent.

EVIN They say he used to be a famous stage actor and that's how he bought this place. Don't look him in the eye too much. Smile at all times.

Fernando tries to understand as they step in.

INT. HOWARD'S TENT. NIGHT.

The place is filled with old extravagant costumes, props and posters. Howard is counting the money from the audience donations. Fernando carries a fake smile.

HOWARD You were supposed to be Desdemona tonight and you flaked as usual. HOWARD (CONT'D) Who's the guy with the stupid smile.

EVIN

Fernando.

HOWARD There is no room for more people Evin.

EVIN Just him, please...

HOWARD

No.

EVIN If we don't help him he won't survive.

Evin drops some bills on Howard's hands. Howard looks up and studies Fernando carefully.

HOWARD What did you think about the show?

FERNANDO

Is funny.

Evin contains her laughter, but let's out a squeaky giggle.

HOWARD Funny? I didn't know killing your wife was funny. I didn't know Othello was a comedy...

FERNANDO No, no... is great...

EVIN What he is trying to say...

HOWARD

Great?

FERNANDO

Clowns...

Howard points to the exit.

HOWARD One night and he is out.

EVIN Yes, Howard.

They walk out.

FERNANDO He like me?

EVIN

Loved you.

EXT. THE ACTING CAMP. NIGHT

Evin, Fernando and Leo walk through the tents spread out along the beach.

EVIN Howard is getting tired.

LEO

No! He just takes it personal... because after all its his fault. Nobody wants to see old depressing crap. Theater should be happy... life is already too sad...

EVIN (To Fernando) Leo loves theater.

LEO (To Fernando) Y Evin solo quiere ser famosa.

EVIN (With a heavy American accent) Si, muy famousa! "Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world"

They arrive to a tent.

LEO Mira ahí, probablemente Hazel te deje utilizar el telefono. Coquetea con ella, se trae arrechera con los Latinos.

(Look there, Hazel might let you use her phone. Flirt with her, she likes Latinos.) LEO (CONT'D) Hazel! Mamita linda, cuchita prechiocha.

Hazel comes out from the tent.

LEO (CONT'D) Great job tonight. It was like a Mexican rodeo of angry chickens. I thought you were going to kill him.

HAZEL (Throws something at Leo) He sucked through the whole thing except the choking... fucker.

Evin gives pulls out her last bills.

EVIN That's all I got...

Hazel thinks for a second and pulls out the phone.

HAZEL Make it fast cutie.

Fernando steps in.

INT. THE ACTING CAMP. HAZEL'S TENT.

The tent looks like a theater sanctuary. There are masks, photos, costumes and props. Hazel is truly a stage lover. He sees Hazel and Leo chasing each other outside the tent, laughing like children " Who's the chicken now!?" He dials.

> FERNANDO (On the phone) Alo?!! Majo soy yo! Si!

We can hear the outburst of joy coming from the family.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) Alo? Mamita. Ya llegue. Si, todo bien mas bien. Alo? (Laughter) Pa!! Si! Ya estoy en Hollywood! Conoci a varios actores y vi la senal de Hollywood y probe un cigarro de aqui que te hace reir ahora estoy en un campo de actores. Si todos son actores...

The call drops.

Silence.

INT. THE ACTING CAMP. EVIN'S TENT.

Evin lights up some candles and incense. Fernando finishes fixing his bed.

EVIN That's your corner. Keep all your shit there.

Fernando doesn't respond.

EVIN (CONT'D) Are you okay?

FERNANDO Yes, I understand ... what I do... I so far away.

Silence.

EVIN Visualize them...

FERNANDO

Vizulaizam?

## EVIN

Imagine what they're doing. Imagine them laughing, having a good time... It'll make you feel better.

FERNANDO Is what you do?

what you do:

EVIN

Yes.

FERNANDO Where are your parents?

EVIN

Dead.

Silence.

EVIN (CONT'D) The more you visualize them the more real they are.

EVIN (CONT'D) So we gonna to do this or not?

FERNANDO Before you don't want Fernando to see you change... and now you want to... to do the chiqui chiqui.

EVIN I didn't know you then.

FERNANDO

No.

Fernando lays down and gives Evin his back. Evin is shocked.

INT. THE ACTING CAMP. EVIN'S TENT.

Very early in the morning. Fernando wakes up to the gentle crashing of the waves against the rocks. He realizes he is alone and steps out the tent covered in a blanket. Suddenly he sees Evin emerging from the ocean. Her naked body reflecting the early rays of light is magical. She slowly dries up and puts a dress on while staring at the ocean. Fernando notices her whispering at the water as if it was a real person.

Soft music.

Secretly, he observes how Evin carries on alone an honest and pure conversation. He automatically falls in love.

EVIN (Laughing Hysterically) You were so freaked out when you caught me smoking... you threw the coffee mug at the closet... crazy... What a psycho! Or when you wanted to jump outside the window if I didn't finish my homework...

Laughter fades into tears.

EVIN (CONT'D) I miss you mom. And I am really trying... Fernando notices Evin returning to the tent. Nervously, he runs back inside and lays down pretending to be sleep. Evin steps in and lays down next to him. Fernando feels awkward.

#### FERNANDO

Неу...

EVIN Sorry to wake you up.

FERNANDO

No. Is okay.

Silence.

FERNANDO (CONT'D) I see you talking to the oceano.

Long silence. Evin is speechless.

EVIN

When I was little my mom and dad used to get into horrible fights. My dad would usually end up hitting her and she would scream and chase him down the road. He would leave us for months... sometimes years and one day he never came back.

FERNANDO How old you were?

EVIN

I was ten.

Silence.

FERNANDO Where your father go?

EVIN He found a new woman

FERNANDO He never come back?

### EVIN

Oh yeah... he used to come once a year and give me the best day of my life... then leave. He used to take me out to buy a dress or ice cream and shit. Then leave again... (MORE) EVIN (CONT'D) He stopped coming for years and then he missed my birthdays, my graduation and ... I cut him out of

my life.

FERNANDO Your mom find a new father for you?

EVIN No, she never stopped loving him.

Silence.

EVIN (CONT'D) My mom would take me to the ocean. And I would see her talk to the waves for hours. She taught me that you can say whatever you want and the waves take it away.

Fernando tries to give her a hug but Evin shrugs.

EVIN (CONT'D) Get dressed, we have a long day.

Evin steps out of the tent.

INT. METRO STATION. MORNING

Fernando awaits sitting in a corner seeing dozens of people walk by to work. He stares at the ocean of walking feet and legs. Evin arrives with a coffee.

EVIN I want to make sure that you know that sex means nothing. Last night I wasn't implying anything.

FERNANDO

I am good...

They shake hands.

EVIN We're friends.

FERNANDO

Amigos...

EVIN

Buddies

FERNANDO Like people's bodies? We are human bodies?

He laughs, then she laughs.

EVIN Yes, You are my "budi".

FERNANDO (Holding out his palm) "Budis"!!

Evin laughs again.

EVIN "Sup budi". Idiot.

She punches him.

INT. METRO TRAIN.

Evin pulls out a muffin and opens it up.

EVIN

Hold this.

She pours some butter and jelly.

EVIN (CONT'D) When you meet Douglas don't mention where we live. He can't find out.

FERNANDO

Why?

EVIN Because its no body's fucking business but ours!

FERNANDO

Okay.

The train stops.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. DAY

Evin and Fernando walk through the streets of downtown. Fernando is amazed by the skyscrapers. They walk through some strange alleys and end up in an extremely luxurious loft. Evin walks in as if it was her home. An Asian man is having breakfast by the window with a stunning view of downtown.

EVIN

Hey Doug!

DOUGLAS Evin, I almost forgot how pretty you are.

EVIN (She grabs a piece of fruit) It's been only a couple of weeks.

DOUGLAS I was going to smash the fuck out of your face.

EVIN (Joking) You can't mess with my face, Its my money maker.

Douglas stands up, two men hold Fernando. He approaches Evin and slaps her.

DOUGLAS Where is my part?

She falls on the marble floor, but contains her anger and hurt with pride.

EVIN Its coming. I need a little more of your stuff to make it happen. I have some great clients Doug... I need more time and merchandise.

The tension grows in the room. We don't know if Evin and Fernando will get killed. A close up of Fernando's eyes in fear.

Credits.