

Black ICE
(no translations)

A One Act Play (approximately 25 to 30 minutes)

By Gary Davis

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26 pages (version with translations follows)

SETTING

An interrogation room in an ICE facility located in California in the present.

CHARACTERS

COMMANDER HAYES male, mid 50s, cold & cruel, commander in Enforcement and Removal Operations of ICE.

DEPUTY SIMMONS female, 30s to 40s, works with Hayes as a translator, is new to translating and so not fluent

MAGDALENA SPINOLA late 60s, early 70s, refugee from Guatemala seeking asylum, does not speak English.

SCENE OPENS

(As lights come up, Commander Hayes and Deputy Simmons are sitting across from each other at a table in an interrogation room. The room is empty and sterile. There are folders and papers, and a handheld radio on the table. Both are wearing jackets.)

HAYES

Congratulations, Simmons. Is this your first official interrogation as a translator?

SIMMONS

Yes, commander.

HAYES

You've been working towards this for a long time now. We're all proud of you.

SIMMONS

I'm a little nervous. I still have a lot to learn. I'm not nearly as fluent as I would like to be yet. I hope I don't mess up too badly.

(laughs)

HAYES

I'm not concerned. This is all pretty basic shit. A little heads up, Simmons. It'll be announced later today.

SIMMONS

What's that, commander?

HAYES

Lakers are playing a home game next week. The big man is treating the staff with loge tickets.

SIMMONS

Loge Seats! Holy shit! Can spouses come, too?

HAYES

'Fraid not. This is strictly on the books as a 'team building' exercise. So that means **you** have to be there, no passing your ticket off to hubby.

SIMMONS

Ha, ha! Like I'd pass that off! He'll be so jealous!

HAYES

OK, Simmons, who's our first alien today?

SIMMONS

(pulls out a folder and hands it to him)

Magdalena Spinola.

HAYES

Magdalene, named after the whore.

SIMMONS

(facially reacts, but otherwise ignores the comment)

She's an elderly woman from Guatemala. Fled the country, fearing for her life, gangs, blah, blah, blah. You know ... the usual.

HAYES

Jesus! Why do we get so many Guatemalans!

SIMMONS

Well, between US backed dictators and being overrun with drug cartels it's never been a very stable country.

HAYES

(after a long pause staring at her)

That was rhetorical. Do I look like I want a history lesson?

SIMMONS

Oh, sorry.

HAYES

Anyone come with her?

SIMMONS

(pulls out a paper from the file)

Brought her 11 year old granddaughter with her.

HAYES

(looking at paper with photo)

Cute kid.

SIMMONS

Too cute apparently.

HAYES

Angelita.

(mispronounces it as ayn-jel-iy-ta)

SIMMONS

That's ahn-he-*lee*-ta.

HAYES

Like I give a shit. Angie it is. What's this? She has a different last name, Toledo.

(pronounces it like the city)

SIMMONS

Tole-

(Simmons starts to correct his pronunciation, but Hayes gives her the evil eye, so she backs down)

According to the file it's the married name of Magdalena's daughter.

HAYES

So where are the kid's parents?

SIMMONS

Unknown.

HAYES

Earmark that. We need to find out. If the parents are still in Guatemala, we can send the kid back immediately without grandma's consent. Where is she now?

SIMMONS

Karnes Center, Texas. The report says she's being very helpful, taking care of the babies. Also keeps the younger children around to protect them from bullies. The report also says that her language skills are very poor and that she's likely developmentally disabled.

HAYES

A tread, huh?

SIMMONS

A what?

HAYES

What, you never heard 'tread' before? It means retard.

SIMMONS

I think I'll stick with developmentally disabled. Although it's strange, developmentally disabled kids usually don't have the leadership skills that this kid obviously has. I wonder if there's something else going on here. Anyway, yesterday I sent an email to the Karnes staff asking them to interview the kid. Find out about her parents. I'm hoping for a call sometime today to see what they found out.

HAYES

Good thinking. Hmmm, already starting her own gang. They don't waste time.

(Again, Simmons gives a visual reaction, but doesn't comment; Hayes is leafing through the file, finds photos)

Ah, Jesus! What the fuck is this?! Is this the same kid?

SIMMONS

(winces at the photos)

Yeah, it is. Human trafficking. Child prostitution and pornography is big down there. These were found on the internet.

HAYES

They're all fucking animals. They're not sending us their best, are they?

SIMMONS

Magdalena claims she grabbed the kid from the gangs and fled the country.

HAYES

Right. For all we know, she took the pictures herself. Are we even sure Magdalena is the kid's grandmother. She could be just another damn coyote.

SIMMONS

It's been confirmed. Magdalena **is** Angelita's grandmother.

HAYES

OK, look, here's the plan. We need to get her to sign the form relinquishing custody of the child. Promise her anything. But once she signs, grandma's on a plane back to Guatemala! Then if we find out mom and dad are still down there, the kid goes back, too.

(picks up the handheld radio)

OK, bring in the first one.

(Simmons goes to the door and brings in Magdalena, directs her to sit down at the table. She sits so she's facing the audience with Hayes and Simmons on either side of her.)

MAGDALENA

(shivering; hugs herself to keep warm)

Hace mucho frío aquí.

SIMMONS

She says she's cold.

HAYES

Yup. Ignore that.

SIMMONS

¿Eres Magdalena Spinola?

MAGDALENA

Sí.

SIMMONS

Soy el diputada Simmons. Este es el comandante Hayes.

MAGDALENA

(hesitantly, almost begging)

Mi nieta, ¿donde esta mi nieta?

SIMMONS

Ummm ... 'nieta' means granddaughter. She's asking about Angelita.

MAGDALENA

Sí, Sí! Angelita!

HAYES

Tell her we're asking the questions here!

SIMMONS

Un momento, por favor. Primero tenemos algunas preguntas.

HAYES

Por favor? You don't need to say 'please,' Simmons. We're the ones in charge here. You need to let her know that in your voice, the way you talk to her. And don't look so surprised. You can't be on this job as long as me and not pick up at least a couple words.

SIMMONS

Uh, right, sorry. Excuse me, but something sounds a little off here.

HAYES

What do you mean?

SIMMONS

Don't get me wrong, her Spanish is fluent, certainly better than mine, but she seems to have a peculiar accent that I can't place. I've not heard it before.

HAYES

Accent?

SIMMONS

Like I said, she is fluent, but I'd be willing to bet Spanish is not her primary language.

HAYES

Holy shit! Are you saying she could be a Russian or maybe a Muslim?

SIMMONS

No, no, nothing like that. Probably just a regional dialect or something.

HAYES

Well, we'll keep it in mind, definitely look into that. But first thing's first. We need to find out about the parents.

SIMMONS

¿Dónde están los padres de Angelita?

MAGDALENA

(pause, painful to say)

Mi hija y su esposo, ambos están ... muertos.

HAYES

Well, that didn't sound good.

SIMMONS

No, she says they're dead.

HAYES

Her saying it doesn't make it true. Ask what happened.

SIMMONS

¿Qué les pasó? ¿Cómo murieron?

MAGDALENA

(again very painful and difficult to say)

¡Mi hija, mi hermosa hija, era una buena madre! Angelita fue secuestrada por las maras. ¡Le hicieron cosas terrible!

SIMMONS

Her granddaughter was kidnapped by gangs – las maras - who did terrible things to her.

HAYES

Tell me about it!

(takes a picture from the file and pushes it towards Magdalena)

MAGDALENA

(in tears)

¡Mi Angelita, no, no, no, no!

(clutches the picture to her breast)

HAYES

(grabbing the picture away from her)

She still hasn't told us what happened to the parents.

SIMMONS

¿Pero qué pasó con sus padres?

MAGDALENA

Su padre, que en paz descansa, fue tras ella. Trató de recuperarla. Pero lo atraparon, lo torturaron y lo mataron con un machete.

HAYES

Machete! Shit, I understood that!

MAGDALENA

(not able to contain the tears)

Luego hicieron lo mismo con mi hija.

SIMMONS

(affected by what she's hearing)

When the father tried to get Angelita back, he was tortured and murdered. They did the same to her mother. Commander, I gotta tell you, I don't think she's making this up. It's killing her just telling this story.

HAYES

(grudgingly)

You may be right. But if the parents were murdered trying to get their daughter back, how the hell did she get her?

SIMMONS

¿Cómo conseguiste alejar a Angelita de las maras?

MAGDALENA

Me la trajeron. No querían la molestia de cuidar de ella. Así que me dijeron que la cuidara hasta que vinieran a buscarla de nuevo.

(said in anger and hatred)

Pero nunca dejaría que esos cerdos volvieran a tocar a mi nieta, mi Angelita.

SIMMONS

She says they couldn't be bothered to take care of Angelita, so they told Magdalena to take care of her till they came back for her. Magdalena fled with her before they could come back. Oh, and she says they're pigs.

HAYES

(mockingly)

Pigs! Well, that's a hell of a story. We'll see how much of that Angie confirms.

(takes out a form)

OK, time to get her to sign this release. Tell her if she wants Angie to stay here, she needs to release her to our custody.

SIMMONS

(hands her a pen and the form)

Si quieres que Angelita se quede en este país, tienes que firmar aquí.

MAGDALENA

(picks up the form and tries to read it)

¿Qué es esto? No puedo leerlo. ¿Esto es Inglés?

HAYES

Let me guess. The old bat can't read it. Tell her if she wants Angie to stay here, she's gotta sign.

SIMMONS

¿Quieres que Angelita se quede en América?

MAGDALENA

¡Sí, sí!

SIMMONS

Entonces tienes que firmar estos papeles dándonos la custodia.

MAGDALENA

¿Custodia? No lo entiendo. ¿Por qué necesitas la custodia? Yo me encargaré de ella. Cuidaré de ella. Ella es todo para mí.

HAYES

Tell her she's a criminal. She's broken the law entering our country. She's on the next plane to Guatemala. But if she doesn't sign the papers, Angie's on that plane, too.

SIMMONS

Entrar sin permiso en nuestro país es un delito. Eres un criminal y puedes ser procesado.

MAGDALENA

¡No, no, no soy una criminal! Vinimos buscando asilo. ¡Seguí las reglas! Se lo ruego, déjeme ver a mi nieta. Déjeme hablar con ella. ¡Por favor!

SIMMONS

She says they didn't break in. She says they followed the rules to seek asylum - asilo.

HAYES

Yeah, who gives a shit!

SIMMONS

But commander, if she followed the rules, if she applied for asylum, she's entitled to a hearing at least.

HAYES

She followed the rules? Here's her file. You read it. Did YOU see that in there anywhere?

(pause)

Well, did you?

SIMMONS

No. But that doesn't mean -

HAYES

No, that's exactly what it means! Christ, Simmons, you're going all soft on me! Look, I get it, I do! It's the kid. You see these pictures of this little angel –

MAGDALENA

Angelita.

HAYES

(viciously to Magdalena)

¡Cállate!

(back to Simmons)

You see these pictures and it's horrifying. You want to hold her and save her from the world. Believe me, I understand. I used to be that way myself. You want to be a mom to this kid. You want to rescue her. Fine, rescue her. But this old crow doesn't need to be any part of that. She's going back.

SIMMONS

But she's the only family this girl has! Without her

(points to Magdalena)

what will happen to her?

HAYES

She'll be fine. She'll start out in foster care until she's permanently adopted.

SIMMONS

Babies get adopted! Very young children get adopted. This girl is 11 years old, she's not likely to ever get adopted. She'll probably stay in foster care until she's 18.

HAYES

So what if she does? She'll get through it fine.

SIMMONS

(forcefully)

No she won't!

HAYES

How could you possibly know that?!

SIMMONS

(trying to hold it in, but can't contain the explosion)

BECAUSE I DIDN'T!!!

HAYES

(pause, about to respond, but there's a sound from the radio on the table, he picks it up angrily)

What the hell is it?

(pause as he listens)

I'll be right there!

(puts the radio back on the table)

It's what we've been waiting for, a call from Karnes Center. I'm going to go take it. YOU stay HERE. If you know what's good for you, those papers will be signed by the time I get back. Afterwards you and I will have a loooong talk, Simmons. You understand me?

SIMMONS

Yes, sir.

(Hayes exits leaving the two of them alone, Simmons sits down at the table)

Well, there goes my job.

(looks at Magdalena)

Dije, ahí va mi trabajo.

MAGDALENA

(puts a hand on Simmon's hand)

Tal vez no sea el trabajo para ti.

SIMMONS

I thought it was. Maybe it's not.

(long pause as Simmons looks at Magdalena still hugging herself to keep warm; then she stands up, takes off her jacket and puts it on her; Magdalena pulls it around her)

MAGDALENA

Gracias.

(pause)

Mi Angelita, ¿dónde está?

SIMMONS

Está...

(long pause)

está en un centro en Texas.

MAGDALENA

¡Texas! ¡Pero eso está a miles de kilómetros!

SIMMONS

Sí... Lo siento mucho.

(long pause)

¿Puedo hacerte una pregunta?

MAGDALENA

Sí.

SIMMONS

God, this is such a trivial question. Perdóname, esto es tan trivial. Your accent ... Pero tu forma de hablar me parece extraña. Born, born, what's born – nació. ¿No nació usted en Guatemala?

MAGDALENA

Sí, nací en Guatemala. Pero el español no es mi primera lengua. Hablo K'iche'.

SIMMONS

K'iche'. ¿Qué es eso?

MAGDALENA

Angelita y yo somos descendientes indígenas de los mayas.

SIMMONS

Mayans! K'iche' is one of the Mayan languages!

MAGDALENA

Sí. El k'iche' es una de las muchas lenguas mayas. Es la que hablamos en nuestra casa y pueblo.

SIMMONS

¿Angelita también lo habla?

MAGDALENA

Sí, el K'iche' es su lengua materna.

SIMMONS

What about Spanish? Ummm ... ¿Angelita habla algo de español?

MAGDALENA

Muy poco. En nuestro pueblo no hay muchas oportunidades de hablarlo.

SIMMONS

I'll be damned. She barely speaks Spanish because Spanish isn't her native language. The staff doesn't look into it because it's too much bother, so they just label her as developmentally disabled. But she's not, probably the opposite. Pero Angelita es una niña brillante, ¿no?

MAGDALENA

Sí, estoy muy orgullosa de ella.

SIMMONS

Yeah, you've reason to be proud. Angelita también es dura, ¿verdad?

(holds up a clenched fist meaning 'strong')

Me han dicho que en el centro protege a los niños más pequeños.

MAGDALENA

Sí, esa es mi Angelita. Siempre ha cuidado de los niños más pequeños del barrio. Creo que de grande será una abogada que luchará por su pueblo.

SIMMONS

Little Angelita growing up to be a lawyer – una abogada. That would be something!

MAGDALENA

Y un día será una buena madre. Si pudiera vivir lo suficiente para conocer a sus hijos, moriría como una mujer feliz.

SIMMONS

(almost in tears)

That would be so wonderful. I hope that happens. I hope you do meet Angelita's children some day. I ... I could never have children myself. Ummm ... yo nunca podría tener hijos.

MAGDALENA

(grabs her hand and squeezes)

Lo siento mucho.

SIMMONS

(suddenly with steely resolve)

¿Se presentaron realmente en la frontera como solicitantes de ASILO? Did you follow the rules... ¿Seguiste las reglas del ASILO?

MAGDALENA

Sí, sí, ¡he seguido las reglas!

SIMMONS

Damn it! You shouldn't be locked up here! Ummm ... ¡No deberías estar encerrada aquí!

MAGDALENA

Diputada Simmons, dígame sinceramente, ¿qué es este papel?

(holds up the form)

SIMMONS

El comandante Hayes ... wants to send you back ... quiere enviarte de vuelta a Guatemala. Si firmas ese papel, no volverás a ver a Angelita. Nunca conocerás a sus hijos.

MAGDALENA

(in tears)

¡Oh, Dios mío! ¿Qué puedo hacer? Si Angelita puede quedarse aquí, tal vez esté mejor sin mí.

(with sad resignation)

Tal vez debería firmar el papel.

SIMMONS

Don't say that! She needs you! Umm ... umm ... ¡Angelita te necesita más que nada!

MAGDALENA

¿Pero qué puedo hacer?

SIMMONS

(grabs the form)

¡Primero, never ... nunca, nunca firmes ese papel! El comandante Hayes se enfadará mucho. Ummm, threaten, threaten ... ¡Le amenazará! ¡Pero nunca debe firmar el papel! Deberías tener un abogado ... to fight for you ... que luche por ti.

11/18/22 version

MAGDALENA

(with a smirk)

¡Si espero lo suficiente, Angelita puede ser mi abogada! ¡Entonces el Comandante Hayes estaría en verdaderos problemas!

SIMMONS

(they both laugh long and hard)

Oh God I wish I could see that! Little Angelita giving Hayes a thrashing in court! But you don't have that long. Pero... necesitas un abogado de verdad ahora mismo ... right now.

MAGDALENA

¿Cómo puedo conseguir un abogado? Ni siquiera se me permite usar un teléfono.

SIMMONS

(considers her next move very carefully)

I'll help. Yo te ayudaré. Cuando llegue a casa me pondré en contacto con Americans for Immigrant Justice y les hablaré de ti y de Angelita. Te proporcionarán un abogado gratis ... free.

MAGDALENA

¿Gratis?

SIMMONS

Sí, gratis. Pero debes recordar, nunca firmes el papel por más que se enoje. Y se enfadará mucho. ¡Te amenazará! It'll get worse before it gets better. ¡Se pondrá mucho peor antes de mejorar!

MAGDALENA

Gracias. Muchas gracias por su ayuda... y por su honestidad.

HAYES

(reenters abruptly and grabs the form to put it back in the folder)

Well, we don't need this anymore. You're on the next plane, grandma!

SIMMONS

What? What are you talking about? What's going on?

HAYES

The note, the call. Apparently there's been an outbreak of this new coronavirus at Karnes.

MAGDALENA

¿Coronavirus?

(said with dread)

HAYES

Apparently she knows that word. The granddaughter caught it. They don't expect her to make it. She's got a few days at the most, maybe a little longer. So we don't need grandma to sign shit. Our work is done here.

(smiles, packs up all the paperwork to put in folder, Simmons is in shock)

Well, go ahead and tell her.

SIMMONS

I... I can't. I can't do it.

(she is visibly shaken, also disturbed by Hayes' callousness)

MAGDALENA

(sees something is wrong)

Pasó algo. ¿Qué es? ¿Qué es lo que está mal? Por favor, dímelo.

HAYES

Don't go all soft and squishy on me, Simmons! Do your God damned job!

(Magdalena is still shaken, breathing rapidly; Simmons is frozen)

Oh, for Chris's sake. I don't need you for this. I know that much myself.

(Looks down at old woman, pulls out the note and shakes it at her)

Muerta! Esta muerta!

(said with relish, old woman breaks down)

SIMMONS

Why are you telling her that? She's not dead yet!

HAYES

What difference does it make? She's never gonna see her again.

SIMMONS

You sonofabitch! You enjoyed that!

HAYES

If it means less paperwork...

SIMMONS

No, it's more than the paperwork. You enjoyed her pain!

(turns to Magdalena)

No, no, no conoce el idioma. He didn't say it right. No lo ha dicho bien. Su nieta no está muerta... no está muerta. Pero... pero... está enferma... muy enferma.

(long pause)

Es el coronavirus.

MAGDALENA

(openly weeping)

¡Oh, Dios mío! ¡Virgen bendita, por favor, que esté con mi Angelita!

SIMMONS

Ella... no se espera que dure mucho... unos días, un par de semanas como mucho.

HAYES

What are you telling her?

SIMMONS

The truth!

MAGDALENA

¡Oh, mi bebé!

(after gasps)

Por favor, déjame ir con ella. Déjame estar con ella. Déjame sostener su mano en sus últimas horas y consolarla. ¡Mi bebé, mi dulce niña!

SIMMONS

N-n-no puedes hacer eso. Te contagiarás el coronavirus. It'll kill you! ¡Te matará!

MAGDALENA

La traje a América para salvarla de la violación y asesinato. En cambio, la he condenado a muerte. Ya estoy muerta. Por favor, te lo ruego, ¿no me harás este pequeño favor? Dios te bendicirá por ello.

HAYES

What's she going on about?

SIMMONS

She says she brought Angelita to America to save her life, but instead she's killed her. She wants to go to her granddaughter. She wants to hold her hand and care for her, comfort her as she's dying.

HAYES

What? But she would catch it, too!

SIMMONS

She knows that.

HAYES

But it'll probably kill her!

SIMMONS

She KNOWS that!

HAYES

I ... I can't authorize that. Jesus! How would that look?

SIMMONS

No, no lo permitirán.

(the old woman breaks down, tries to regain her composure. Stands up radiating dignity. Looking at Hayes drops Simmons jacket from her shoulders and begins to unbutton her blouse)

HAYES

What the hell's she doing? Christ, I'm not gonna fuck the old bat!

(Magdalena has exposed on her breast a very large crucifix made of gold and jewels. It is her last possession. She removes it and holds it out to him)

What the hell? Has she had this the entire time she's been here? How could we not find this? Ask her where she got it!

SIMMONS

Quiere saber de dónde has sacado esto.

MAGDALENA

Ha estado en mi familia durante muchas generaciones.

SIMMONS

She says it's been handed down in her family for many generations.

HAYES

Christ, that could be hundreds of years old! I've never seen anything like it!

MAGDALENA

(holds it out to him again and in what little English she knows)

Take.

(He is transfixed and can't bring himself to touch it. She puts it on the table and pushes it towards him.)

HAYES

What?!

SIMMONS

She wants you to take it. She's giving it to you if you'll send her to her granddaughter.

MAGDALENA

Es mi última posesión en el mundo. Es oro. Es Dios. ¿Qué es más importante para ti?

SIMMONS

She says it's her last possession. She says it's gold ... and it's God. And

(pause)

she asks which is more important to you?

HAYES

But I'd be sending you to your death.

SIMMONS

Dice que te estaría enviando a la muerte.

MAGDALENA

(looking at Hayes)

Le dije que ya estoy muerta. Te lo ruego. Por favor, concede esta bondad a una vieja muerta.

SIMMONS

She says she's already dead and begs you grant this kindness to an old dead woman.

HAYES

(very long pause staring at the crucifix, eyes flit back and forth between Simmons, Magdalena and the crucifix)

Put her on the next flight to Texas. You'll escort her. She'll be in your custody the entire time - in cuffs!

SIMMONS

I guess I won't make it to that Lakers game.

HAYES

No, you won't. And let me make this perfectly clear, if she doesn't make it to Karnes or if ANY word about THIS

(points to the crucifix)

gets out, you'll be in deeper shit than you can ever get out of, Simmons! And you WILL stay with her ... to the very end! Am I understood?

SIMMONS

Yes, Commander.

(as she escorts Magdalena out of the room)

Vamos a Angelita.

MAGDALENA

Gracias. ¡Muchas gracias!

(to Hayes)

Eres un hombre enfadado. Rezo para que este símbolo de Dios lleve tu alma a la paz.

SIMMONS

She said -

HAYES

LEAVE! NOW!

(follows them to the door and locks it after they leave and leans against the door for a moment; crosses back to the table still transfixed by the crucifix; paces the room unable to take his eyes off of it but unable to touch it; stops in front of it, his breathing is labored; reaches out with great hesitation and fear finally touching it; breaks down in tears openly sobbing as he collapses to his knees; slowly brings the crucifix closer holding it to his cheek in an embrace, still weeping)

Forgive me!

(long pause)

Forgive me, Father! For I have sinned!

Fin

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[with translations]

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30 pages (pages 27 – 56)

SETTING

An interrogation room in an ICE facility located in California in the present.

CHARACTERS

COMMANDER HAYES	male, mid 50s, cold & cruel, commander in Enforcement and Removal Operations of ICE.
DEPUTY SIMMONS	female, 30s to 40s, works with Hayes as a translator, is new to translating and so not fluent
MAGDALENA SPINOLA	late 60s, early 70s, refugee from Guatemala seeking asylum, does not speak English.

SCENE OPENS

(As lights come up, Commander Hayes and Deputy Simmons are sitting across from each other at a table in an interrogation room. The room is empty and sterile. There are folders and papers, and a handheld radio on the table. Both are wearing jackets.)

HAYES

Congratulations, Simmons. Is this your first official interrogation as a translator?

SIMMONS

Yes, commander.

HAYES

You've been working towards this for a long time now. We're all proud of you.

SIMMONS

I'm a little nervous. I still have a lot to learn. I'm not nearly as fluent as I would like to be yet. I hope I don't mess up too badly.

(laughs)

HAYES

I'm not concerned. This is all pretty basic shit. A little heads up, Simmons. It'll be announced later today.

SIMMONS

What's that, commander?

HAYES

Lakers are playing a home game next week. The big man is treating the staff with loge tickets.

SIMMONS

Loge Seats! Holy shit! Can spouses come, too?

HAYES

'Fraid not. This is strictly on the books as a 'team building' exercise. So that means **you** have to be there, no passing your ticket off to hubby.

SIMMONS

Ha, ha! Like I'd pass that off! He'll be so jealous!

HAYES

OK, Simmons, who's our first alien today?

SIMMONS

(pulls out a folder and hands it to him)

Magdalena Spinola.

HAYES

Magdalene, named after the whore.

SIMMONS

(facially reacts, but otherwise ignores the comment)

She's an elderly woman from Guatemala. Fled the country, fearing for her life, gangs, blah, blah, blah. You know ... the usual.

HAYES

Jesus! Why do we get so many Guatemalans!

SIMMONS

Well, between US backed dictators and being overrun with drug cartels it's never been a very stable country.

HAYES

(after a long pause staring at her)

That was rhetorical. Do I look like I want a history lesson?

SIMMONS

Oh, sorry.

HAYES

Anyone come with her?

SIMMONS

(pulls out a paper from the file)

Brought her 11 year old granddaughter with her.

HAYES

(looking at paper with photo)

Cute kid.

SIMMONS

Too cute apparently.

HAYES

Angelita.

(mispronounces it as ayn-jel-iy-ta)

SIMMONS

That's ahn-he-*lee*-ta.

HAYES

Like I give a shit. Angie it is. What's this? She has a different last name, Toledo.

(pronounces it like the city)

SIMMONS

Tole-

(Simmons starts to correct his pronunciation, but Hayes gives her the evil eye, so she backs down)

According to the file it's the married name of Magdalena's daughter.

HAYES

So where are the kid's parents?

SIMMONS

Unknown.

HAYES

Earmark that. We need to find out. If the parents are still in Guatemala, we can send the kid back immediately without grandma's consent. Where is she now?

SIMMONS

Karnes Center, Texas. The report says she's being very helpful, taking care of the babies. Also keeps the younger children around to protect them from bullies. The report also says that her language skills are very poor and that she's likely developmentally disabled.

HAYES

A tread, huh?

SIMMONS

A what?

HAYES

What, you never heard 'tread' before? It means retard.

SIMMONS

I think I'll stick with developmentally disabled. Although it's strange, developmentally disabled kids usually don't have the leadership skills that this kid obviously has. I wonder if there's something else going on here. Anyway, yesterday I sent an email to the Karnes staff asking them to interview the kid. Find out about her parents. I'm hoping for a call sometime today to see what they found out.

HAYES

Good thinking. Hmmm, already starting her own gang. They don't waste time.

(Again, Simmons gives a visual reaction, but doesn't comment; Hayes is leafing through the file, finds photos)

Ah, Jesus! What the fuck is this?! Is this the same kid?

SIMMONS

(winces at the photos)

Yeah, it is. Human trafficking. Child prostitution and pornography is big down there. These were found on the internet.

HAYES

They're all fucking animals. They're not sending us their best, are they?

SIMMONS

Magdalena claims she grabbed the kid from the gangs and fled the country.

HAYES

Right. For all we know, she took the pictures herself. Are we even sure Magdalena is the kid's grandmother. She could be just another damn coyote.

SIMMONS

It's been confirmed. Magdalena **is** Angelita's grandmother.

HAYES

OK, look, here's the plan. We need to get her to sign the form relinquishing custody of the child. Promise her anything. But once she signs, grandma's on a plane back to Guatemala! Then if we find out mom and dad are still down there, the kid goes back, too.

(picks up the handheld radio)

OK, bring in the first one.

(Simmons goes to the door and brings in Magdalena, directs her to sit down at the table. She sits so she's facing the audience with Hayes and Simmons on either side of her.)

MAGDALENA

(shivering; hugs herself to keep warm)

Hace mucho frío aquí.

[It's so cold in here.]

SIMMONS

She says she's cold.

HAYES

Yup. Ignore that.

SIMMONS

¿Eres Magdalena Spinola?

[Are you Magdalena Spinola?]

MAGDALENA

Sí.

SIMMONS

Soy el diputada Simmons. Este es el comandante Hayes.

[I'm Deputy Simmons. This is Commander Hayes.]

MAGDALENA

(hesitantly, almost begging)

Mi nieta, ¿donde esta mi nieta?

[My granddaughter, where is my granddaughter?]

SIMMONS

Ummm ... 'nieta' means granddaughter. She's asking about Angelita.

MAGDALENA

Sí, Sí! Angelita!

HAYES

Tell her we're asking the questions here!

SIMMONS

Un momento, por favor. Primero tenemos algunas preguntas.

[One moment, please. First we have some questions.]

HAYES

Por favor? You don't need to say 'please,' Simmons. We're the ones in charge here. You need to let her know that in your voice, the way you talk to her. And don't look so surprised. You can't be on this job as long as me and not pick up at least a couple words.

SIMMONS

Uh, right, sorry. Excuse me, but something sounds a little off here.

HAYES

What do you mean?

SIMMONS

Don't get me wrong, her Spanish is fluent, certainly better than mine, but she seems to have a peculiar accent that I can't place. I've not heard it before.

HAYES

Accent?

SIMMONS

Like I said, she is fluent, but I'd be willing to bet Spanish is not her primary language.

HAYES

Holy shit! Are you saying she could be a Russian or maybe a Muslim?

SIMMONS

No, no, nothing like that. Probably just a regional dialect or something.

HAYES

Well, we'll keep it in mind, definitely look into that. But first thing's first. We need to find out about the parents.

SIMMONS

¿Dónde están los padres de Angelita?

[Where are Angelita's parents?]

MAGDALENA

(pause, painful to say)

Mi hija y su esposo, ambos están ... muertos.

[My daughter and her husband, both are ... dead.]

HAYES

Well, that didn't sound good.

SIMMONS

No, she says they're dead.

HAYES

Her saying it doesn't make it true. Ask what happened.

SIMMONS

¿Qué les pasó? ¿Cómo murieron?

[What happened to them? How did they die?]

MAGDALENA

(again very painful and difficult to say)

¡Mi hija, mi hermosa hija, era una buena madre! Angelita fue secuestrada por las maras. ¡Le hicieron cosas terrible!

**[My daughter, my beautiful daughter, she was a good mother!
Angelita was kidnapped by the gangs, they did terrible things to her!]**

SIMMONS

Her granddaughter was kidnapped by gangs – las maras - who did terrible things to her.

HAYES

Tell me about it!

(takes a picture from the file and pushes it towards Magdalena)

MAGDALENA

(in tears)

¡Mi Angelita, no, no, no, no!

(clutches the picture to her breast)

HAYES

(grabbing the picture away from her)

She still hasn't told us what happened to the parents.

SIMMONS

¿Pero qué pasó con sus padres?

[But what happened to her parents?]

MAGDALENA

Su padre, que en paz descansa, fue tras ella. Trató de recuperarla. Pero lo atraparon, lo torturaron y lo mataron con un machete.

[Her father, may he rest in peace, went after her. He tried to get her back. But he was caught, tortured and killed with a machete.]

HAYES

Machete! Shit, I understood that!

MAGDALENA

(not able to contain the tears)

Luego hicieron lo mismo con mi hija.

[Then they did the same to my daughter.]

SIMMONS

(affected by what she's hearing)

When the father tried to get Angelita back, he was tortured and murdered. They did the same to her mother. Commander, I gotta tell you, I don't think she's making this up. It's killing her just telling this story.

HAYES

(grudgingly)

You may be right. But if the parents were murdered trying to get their daughter back, how the hell did she get her?

SIMMONS

¿Cómo conseguiste alejar a Angelita de las maras?

[How did you get Angelita away from the gangs?]

MAGDALENA

Me la trajeron. No querían la molestia de cuidar de ella. Así que me dijeron que la cuidara hasta que vinieran a buscarla de nuevo.

(said in anger and hatred)

Pero nunca dejaría que esos cerdos volvieran a tocar a mi nieta, mi Angelita.

[They brought her to me. They didn't want the trouble of taking care of her. So they told me to care for her until they came to get her again. But I would never let those pigs touch my granddaughter again, my Angelita.]

SIMMONS

She says they couldn't be bothered to take care of Angelita, so they told Magdalena to take care of her till they came back for her. Magdalena fled with her before they could come back. Oh, and she says they're pigs.

HAYES

(mockingly)

Pigs! Well, that's a hell of a story. We'll see how much of that Angie confirms.

(takes out a form)

OK, time to get her to sign this release. Tell her if she wants Angie to stay here, she needs to release her to our custody.

SIMMONS

(hands her a pen and the form)

Si quieres que Angelita se quede en este país, tienes que firmar aquí.

[If you want Angelita to stay in this country, you need to sign here.]

MAGDALENA

(picks up the form and tries to read it)

¿Qué es esto? No puedo leerlo. ¿Esto es Inglés?

[What is this? I can't read it. Is this English?]

HAYES

Let me guess. The old bat can't read it. Tell her if she wants Angie to stay here, she's gotta sign.

SIMMONS

¿Quieres que Angelita se quede en América?

[Do you want Angelita to stay in America?]

MAGDALENA

¡Sí, sí!

SIMMONS

Entonces tienes que firmar estos papeles dándonos la custodia.

[Then you have to sign these papers giving us custody.]

MAGDALENA

¿Custodia? No lo entiendo. ¿Por qué necesitas la custodia? Yo me encargaré de ella. Cuidaré de ella. Ella es todo para mí.

[Custody? I don't understand. Why do you need custody? I will take care of her. I will look after her. She is everything to me.]

HAYES

Tell her she's a criminal. She's broken the law entering our country. She's on the next plane to Guatemala. But if she doesn't sign the papers, Angie's on that plane, too.

SIMMONS

Entrar sin permiso en nuestro país es un delito. Eres un criminal y puedes ser procesado.

[Breaking into our country is a crime. You are a criminal and can be prosecuted.]

MAGDALENA

¡No, no, no soy una criminal! Vinimos buscando asilo. ¡Seguí las reglas! Se lo ruego, déjeme ver a mi nieta. Déjeme hablar con ella. ¡Por favor!

[No, no, I'm not a criminal! We came seeking asylum. I followed the rules! I beg you, please let me see my granddaughter. Let me speak to her. Please!]

SIMMONS

She says they didn't break in. She says they followed the rules to seek asylum - asilo.

HAYES

Yeah, who gives a shit!

SIMMONS

But commander, if she followed the rules, if she applied for asylum, she's entitled to a hearing at least.

HAYES

She followed the rules? Here's her file. You read it. Did YOU see that in there anywhere?

(pause)

Well, did you?

SIMMONS

No. But that doesn't mean -

HAYES

No, that's exactly what it means! Christ, Simmons, you're going all soft on me! Look, I get it, I do! It's the kid. You see these pictures of this little angel –

MAGDALENA

Angelita.

HAYES

(viciously to Magdalena)

¡Cállate!

[Shut up!]

(back to Simmons)

You see these pictures and it's horrifying. You want to hold her and save her from the world. Believe me, I understand. I used to be that way myself. You want to be a mom to this kid. You want to rescue her. Fine, rescue her. But this old crow doesn't need to be any part of that. She's going back.

SIMMONS

But she's the only family this girl has! Without her

(points to Magdalena)

what will happen to her?

HAYES

She'll be fine. She'll start out in foster care until she's permanently adopted.

SIMMONS

Babies get adopted! Very young children get adopted. This girl is 11 years old, she's not likely to ever get adopted. She'll probably stay in foster care until she's 18.

HAYES

So what if she does? She'll get through it fine.

SIMMONS

(forcefully)

No she won't!

HAYES

How could you possibly know that?!

SIMMONS

(trying to hold it in, but can't contain the explosion)

BECAUSE I DIDN'T!!!

HAYES

(pause, about to respond, but there's a sound from the radio on the table, he picks it up angrily)

What the hell is it?

(pause as he listens)

I'll be right there!

(puts the radio back on the table)

It's what we've been waiting for, a call from Karnes Center. I'm going to go take it. YOU stay HERE. If you know what's good for you, those papers will be signed by the time I get back. Afterwards you and I will have a loooong talk, Simmons. You understand me?

SIMMONS

Yes, sir.

(Hayes exits leaving the two of them alone, Simmons sits down at the table)

Well, there goes my job.

(looks at Magdalena)

Dije, ahí va mi trabajo.

[I said, there goes my job.]

MAGDALENA

(puts a hand on Simmon's hand)

Tal vez no sea el trabajo para ti.

[Maybe it's not the job for you.]

SIMMONS

I thought it was. Maybe it's not.

(long pause as Simmons looks at Magdalena still hugging herself to keep warm; then she stands up, takes of her jacket and puts it on her; Magdalena pulls it around her)

MAGDALENA

Gracias.

(pause)

Mi Angelita, ¿dónde está?

[My Angelita, where is she?]

SIMMONS

Está...

(long pause)

está en un centro en Texas.

[She's ... she's in a facility in Texas.]

MAGDALENA

¡Texas! ¡Pero eso está a miles de kilómetros!

[Texas! But that's thousands of kilometers away!]

SIMMONS

Sí... Lo siento mucho.

[Yeah ... I'm so sorry.]

(long pause)

¿Puedo hacerte una pregunta?

[Can I ask you a question?]

MAGDALENA

Sí.

SIMMONS

God, this is such a trivial question. Perdóname, esto es tan trivial. Your accent ... Pero tu forma de hablar me parece extraña. Born, born, what's born – nació. ¿No nació usted en Guatemala?

[Forgive me, this is so trivial. But the way you speak seem strange to me. Were you not born in Guatemala?]

MAGDALENA

Sí, nació en Guatemala. Pero el español no es mi primera lengua. Hablo K'iche'.

[Yes, I was born in Guatemala. But Spanish is not my first language. I speak K'iche'.]

SIMMONS

K'iche'. ¿Qué es eso?

[K'iche'. What is that?]

MAGDALENA

Angelita y yo somos descendientes indígenas de los mayas.

[Angelita and I are indigenous descendants of the Mayas.]

SIMMONS

Mayans! K'iche' is one of the Mayan languages!

MAGDALENA

Sí. El k'iche' es una de las muchas lenguas mayas. Es la que hablamos en nuestra casa y pueblo.

[Yes. K'iche' is one of many Mayan languages. It's the one we speak in our home and village.]

SIMMONS

¿Angelita también lo habla?

[Angelita speaks it too?]

MAGDALENA

Sí, el K'iche' es su lengua materna.

[Yes, K'iche' is her mother tongue.]

SIMMONS

What about Spanish? Ummm ... ¿Angelita habla algo de español?

[Does Angelita speak Spanish at all?]

MAGDALENA

Muy poco. En nuestro pueblo no hay muchas oportunidades de hablarlo.

[Very little. In our village there's not much opportunity to speak it.]

SIMMONS

I'll be damned. She barely speaks Spanish because Spanish isn't her native language. The staff doesn't look into it because it's too much bother, so they just label her as developmentally disabled. But she's not, probably the opposite. Pero Angelita es una niña brillante, ¿no?

[But Angelita is a bright kid, isn't she.]

MAGDALENA

Sí, estoy muy orgullosa de ella.

[Yes, I'm so proud of her!]

SIMMONS

Yeah, you've reason to be proud. Angelita también es dura, ¿verdad?

[Angelita is tough, too, isn't she.]

(holds up a clenched fist meaning 'strong')

Me han dicho que en el centro protege a los niños más pequeños.

[I'm told that at the center she is protecting the younger children!]

MAGDALENA

Sí, esa es mi Angelita. Siempre ha cuidado de los niños más pequeños del barrio. Creo que de grande será una abogada que luchará por su pueblo.

[Yes, that's my Angelita. She's always looked after the younger children in the neighborhood. I think she'll grow up to be a lawyer fighting for her people.]

SIMMONS

Little Angelita growing up to be a lawyer – una abogada. That would be something!

MAGDALENA

Y un día será una buena madre. Si pudiera vivir lo suficiente para conocer a sus hijos, moriría como una mujer feliz.

[And one day she'll be a good mother. If I could live long enough to know her children, I would die a happy woman.]

SIMMONS

(almost in tears)

That would be so wonderful. I hope that happens. I hope you do meet Angelita's children some day. I ... I could never have children myself. Ummm ... yo nunca podría tener hijos.

MAGDALENA

(grabs her hand and squeezes)

Lo siento mucho.

[I'm so sorry.]

SIMMONS

(suddenly with steely resolve)

¿Se presentaron realmente en la frontera como solicitantes de ASILO? Did you follow the rules... ¿Seguiste las reglas del ASILO?

[Did you really present yourself at the border as asylum seekers? Did you follow the rules for asylum?]

MAGDALENA

Sí, sí, ¡he seguido las reglas!

[Yes, yes, I followed the rules!]

SIMMONS

Damn it! You shouldn't be locked up here! Ummm ... ¡No deberías estar encerrada aquí!

MAGDALENA

Diputada Simmons, dígame sinceramente, ¿qué es este papel?

[Deputy Simmons, tell me truthfully, what is this paper?]

(holds up the form)

SIMMONS

El comandante Hayes ... wants to send you back ... quiere enviarte de vuelta a Guatemala. Si firmas ese papel, no volverás a ver a Angelita. Nunca conocerás a sus hijos.

[Commander Hayes wants to send you back to Guatemala. If you sign that paper, you will never see Angelita again. You will never meet her children.]

MAGDALENA

(in tears)

¡Oh, Dios mío! ¿Qué puedo hacer? Si Angelita puede quedarse aquí, tal vez esté mejor sin mí.

(with sad resignation)

Tal vez debería firmar el papel.

[Oh, my God! What can I do? If Angelita can stay here, maybe she's better off without me. Maybe I should just sign the paper.]

SIMMONS

Don't say that! She needs you! Umm ... umm ... ¡Angelita te necesita más que nada!

[Angelita needs you more than anything!]

MAGDALENA

¿Pero qué puedo hacer?

[But what can I do?]

SIMMONS

(grabs the form)

¡Primero, never ... nunca, nunca firmes ese papel! El comandante Hayes se enfadará mucho. Ummm, threaten, threaten ... ¡Le amenazará! ¡Pero nunca debe firmar el papel! Deberías tener un abogado ... to fight for you ... que luche por ti.

[First, never, ever sign that paper! Commander Hayes will be very angry. He will threaten you! But you must NEVER sign the paper! You should have a lawyer to fight for you.]

MAGDALENA

(with a smirk)

¡Si espero lo suficiente, Angelita puede ser mi abogada! ¡Entonces el Comandante Hayes estaría en verdaderos problemas!

[If I wait long enough, Angelita can be my lawyer! Then Commander Hayes would be in real trouble!]

SIMMONS

(they both laugh long and hard)

Oh God I wish I could see that! Little Angelita giving Hayes a thrashing in court!
But you don't have that long. Pero... necesitas un abogado de verdad ahora mismo
... right now.

[But ... you need a real lawyer right now.]

MAGDALENA

¿Cómo puedo conseguir un abogado? Ni siquiera se me permite usar un teléfono.

[How can I get a lawyer? I'm not even allowed to use a phone.]

SIMMONS

(considers her next move very carefully)

I'll help. Yo te ayudaré. Cuando llegue a casa me pondré en contacto con
Americans for Immigrant Justice y les hablaré de ti y de Angelita. Te
proporcionarán un abogado gratis ... free.

**[I'll help you. When I get home I'll contact Americans for Immigrant
Justice and tell them about you and Angelita. They'll provide you a
lawyer for free.]**

MAGDALENA

¿Gratis?

[For free?]

SIMMONS

Sí, gratis. Pero debes recordar, nunca firmes el papel por más que se enoje. Y se
enfadará mucho. ¡Te amenazará! It'll get worse before it gets better. ¡Se pondrá
mucho peor antes de mejorar!

**[Yes, for free. But you must remember, never sign the paper no
matter how angry he gets. And he will get very angry. He will
threaten you! It will get much worse before it gets better!]**

MAGDALENA

Gracias. Muchas gracias por su ayuda... y por su honestidad.

**[Thank you! Thank you so much for your help ... and for your
honesty.]**

HAYES

(reenters abruptly and grabs the form to put it back in the folder)

Well, we don't need this anymore. You're on the next plane, grandma!

SIMMONS

What? What are you talking about? What's going on?

HAYES

The note, the call. Apparently there's been an outbreak of this new coronavirus at Karnes.

MAGDALENA

¿Coronavirus?

(said with dread)

HAYES

Apparently she knows that word. The granddaughter caught it. They don't expect her to make it. She's got a few days at the most, maybe a little longer. So we don't need grandma to sign shit. Our work is done here.

(smiles, packs up all the paperwork to put in folder, Simmons is in shock)

Well, go ahead and tell her.

SIMMONS

I ... I can't. I can't do it.

(she is visibly shaken, also disturbed by Hayes' callousness)

MAGDALENA

(sees something is wrong)

Pasó algo. ¿Qué es? ¿Qué es lo que está mal? Por favor, dímelo.

[Something has happened. What is it? What's wrong? Please tell me.]

HAYES

Don't go all soft and squishy on me, Simmons! Do your God damned job!

(Magdalena is still shaken, breathing rapidly; Simmons is frozen)

Oh, for Chris's sake. I don't need you for this. I know that much myself.

(Looks down at old woman, pulls out the note and shakes it at her)

Muerta! Esta muerta!

(said with relish, old woman breaks down)

SIMMONS

Why are you telling her that? She's not dead yet!

HAYES

What difference does it make? She's never gonna see her again.

SIMMONS

You sonofabitch! You enjoyed that!

HAYES

If it means less paperwork...

SIMMONS

No, it's more than the paperwork. You enjoyed her pain!

(turns to Magdalena)

No, no, no conoce el idioma. He didn't say it right. No lo ha dicho bien. Su nieta no está muerta... no está muerta. Pero... pero... está enferma... muy enferma.

(long pause)

Es el coronavirus.

[No, no, he doesn't know the language. He didn't say it right. Your granddaughter is not dead...not dead. But ... but ... she is sick ... very sick. It's coronavirus.]

MAGDALENA

(openly weeping)

¡Oh, Dios mío! ¡Virgen bendita, por favor, que esté con mi Angelita!

[Oh my God. Blessed virgin please be with my Angelita.]

SIMMONS

Ella... no se espera que dure mucho... unos días, un par de semanas como mucho.

[She ... she isn't expected to last long ... a few days, a couple weeks at most.]

HAYES

What are you telling her?

SIMMONS

The truth!

MAGDALENA

¡Oh, mi bebé!

(after gasps)

Por favor, déjame ir con ella. Déjame estar con ella. Déjame sostener su mano en sus últimas horas y consolarla. ¡Mi bebé, mi dulce niña!

[Oh my baby! Please let me go to her. Let me be with her. Let me hold her hand in her final hours and comfort her. My baby, my sweet child!]

SIMMONS

N-n-no puedes hacer eso. Te contagiarás el coronavirus. It'll kill you! ¡Te matará!

[You can't do that. You'll catch the coronavirus. It'll kill you!]

MAGDALENA

La traje a América para salvarla de la violación y asesinato. En cambio, la he condenado a muerte. Ya estoy muerta. Por favor, te lo ruego, ¿no me harás este pequeño favor? Dios te bendicirá por ello.

[I brought her to America to save her from rape and murder. Instead I've condemned her to death. I'm already dead. Please, I beg of you, won't you do me this small kindness? God will bless you for it.]

HAYES

What's she going on about?

SIMMONS

She says she brought Angelita to America to save her life, but instead she's killed her. She wants to go to her granddaughter. She wants to hold her hand and care for her, comfort her as she's dying.

HAYES

What? But she would catch it, too!

SIMMONS

She knows that.

HAYES

But it'll probably kill her!

SIMMONS

She KNOWS that!

HAYES

I ... I can't authorize that. Jesus! How would that look?

SIMMONS

No, no lo permitirán.

[No, they won't let that happen.]

(the old woman breaks down, tries to regain her composure. Stands up radiating dignity. Looking at Hayes drops Simmons jacket from her shoulders and begins to unbutton her blouse)

HAYES

What the hell's she doing? Christ, I'm not gonna fuck the old bat!

(Magdalena has exposed on her breast a very large crucifix made of gold and jewels. It is her last possession. She removes it and holds it out to him)

What the hell? Has she had this the entire time she's been here? How could we not find this? Ask her where she got it!

SIMMONS

Quiere saber de dónde has sacado esto.

[He wants to know where you got this.]

MAGDALENA

Ha estado en mi familia durante muchas generaciones.

[It's been in my family for many generations.]

SIMMONS

She says it's been handed down in her family for many generations.

HAYES

Christ, that could be hundreds of years old! I've never seen anything like it!

MAGDALENA

(holds it out to him again and in what little English she knows)

Take.

(He is transfixed and can't bring himself to touch it. She puts it on the table and pushes it towards him.)

HAYES

What?!

SIMMONS

She wants you to take it. She's giving it to you if you'll send her to her granddaughter.

MAGDALENA

Es mi última posesión en el mundo. Es oro. Es Dios. ¿Qué es más importante para ti?

[It's my last possession in the world. It is gold. It is God. Which is more important to you?]

SIMMONS

She says it's her last possession. She says it's gold ... and it's God. And

(pause)

she asks which is more important to you?

HAYES

But I'd be sending you to your death.

SIMMONS

Dice que te estaría enviando a la muerte.

[He says he'd be sending you to your death.]

MAGDALENA

(looking at Hayes)

Le dije que ya estoy muerta. Te lo ruego. Por favor, concede esta bondad a una vieja muerta.

[I told her, I'm already dead. I beg you. Please grant this kindness to an old dead woman.]

SIMMONS

She says she's already dead and begs you grant this kindness to an old dead woman.

HAYES

(very long pause staring at the crucifix, eyes flit back and forth between Simmons, Magdalena and the crucifix)

Put her on the next flight to Texas. You'll escort her. She'll be in your custody the entire time - in cuffs!

SIMMONS

I guess I won't make it to that Lakers game.

HAYES

No, you won't. And let me make this perfectly clear, if she doesn't make it to Karnes or if ANY word about THIS

(points to the crucifix)

gets out, you'll be in deeper shit than you can ever get out of, Simmons! And you WILL stay with her ... to the very end! Am I understood?

SIMMONS

Yes, Commander.

(as she escorts Magdalena out of the room)

Vamos a Angelita.

[We're going to Angelita.]

MAGDALENA

Gracias. ¡Muchas gracias!

[Thank you! Thank you so much!]

(to Hayes)

Eres un hombre enfadado. Rezo para que este símbolo de Dios lleve tu alma a la paz.

[You are an angry man. I pray this symbol from God will lead your soul to peace.]

SIMMONS

She said -

HAYES

LEAVE! NOW!

(follows them to the door and locks it after they leave and leans against the door for a moment; crosses back to the table still transfixed by the crucifix; paces the room unable to take his eyes off of it but unable to touch it; stops in front of it, his breathing is labored; reaches out with great hesitation and fear finally touching it; breaks down in tears openly sobbing as he collapses to his knees; slowly brings the crucifix closer holding it to his cheek in an embrace, still weeping)

Forgive me!

(long pause)

Forgive me, Father! For I have sinned!

Fin