

LOTERIA

"Pilot"

Written by
Jenni Villarreal

Jenni.1.villarreal@gmail.com

COLD OPEN

INSERT -- A LOTERIA CARD, LA ESCALERA

INT. REICH MOTORS FACTORY BREAK ROOM - DAY

ESTELLA (early 40s, Mexican) approaches a break table where BETTY (early 40s, Black) is counting money and looking at a spreadsheet. Estella places a brown bag and two cups of takeout coffee on the table and sits next to Betty.

ESTELLA

I brought us some conchas and coffee.

BETTY

My second- and third-favorite C-words.

ESTELLA

For a woman who claims to love women you sure are disrespectful to them.

BETTY

I don't know what you mean!

ESTELLA

What's the third C-word, then?

BETTY

Cats! You know I love cats.

ESTELLA

Mentirosa!

BETTY

Okay I meant coochie.

ESTELLA

Well that's a little better than I thought actually.

BETTY

That hurts. Almost as much as this got-damned spreadsheet.

ESTELLA

How did it get to this?
Spreadsheets! Nothing should ever come to spreadsheets. It used to be so simple, years ago.

BETTY

Wasn't everything simpler years ago? But it's only fair -- people put in different amounts, they should get out different amounts when we win.

ESTELLA

If we win.

BETTY

We're going to win.

ESTELLA

You always say that.

BETTY

It's going to happen. I can feel it. And Vixen says the cards are telling her the same thing.

ESTELLA

Your daughter's overdue credit cards are telling her lots of things, I'm sure.

BETTY

Her tarot cards.

ESTELLA

K. Well, we better go down and buy our tickets.

Betty packs up as SPENCER REICH (20s, White, super nice clothes) enters the break room.

SPENCER

You're here awfully late, Betty. You gunning for my job?

BETTY

Of course not, Mr. Reich. Estella was just meeting me here to --

SPENCER

(interrupting)

You ladies doing your little lottery thing again? You know the lottery is just a tax on the stupid!

BETTY

Oh, no. We gave up on the lottery years ago.

(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)

Estella and I are collecting funds
for the hurricane survivors.

SPENCER

A different tax on the stupid! It's
not your problem! Charity begins
and ends at home.

ESTELLA

I am not sure that's how the saying
goes.

SPENCER

Well that's how life goes.

Spencer opens the bag, grabs a concha and takes a huge bite.

BETTY

Well, we gotta go. Have a good
night!

SPENCER

I always do. Later. Oh! Estella!
Please tell me the cleaners dropped
off my tux today.

ESTELLA

They did, Spencer. It's in your
room.

SPENCER

Perfecto. Adios, ladies.

Spencer leaves.

ESTELLA

How can you take having a literal
child as your boss?

BETTY

He's not my boss, he's my boss's
boss's boss.

ESTELLA

He's a brat. Took the biggest
concha.

BETTY

Charity begins and ends at home,
Estellita. Where the tuxes are.
Where big daddy is.

ESTELLA

He's nothing like his father.

BETTY
He's exactly like his father.

ESTELLA
His father is a real man.

BETTY
His father is the reason we all
play the lottery and hope like hell
we win.

ESTELLA
Chester is a good man, but business
is business. He made this town!

BETTY
Girl. He owns this town, but he did
not make it. I can't with you,
sometimes.

ESTELLA
You just don't see him like I do.

BETTY
I hope the next time I see him,
it's through extremely rich eyes.
Let's go get those tickets!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, EL CORAZON

INT. CHESTER REICH'S STUDY, DAY

CHESTER REICH, (50s, white, old money/new hair) sits at his fancy-ass desk looking at the internet. A knock at the door prompts him to pick up a stack of papers from his desk.

CHESTER

Come.

Estella walks in -- hair and makeup perfect, flattering outfit, heels. She's had a bit of a glow up.

ESTELLA

Not the first time you've said that to me.

CHESTER

Now, now, Estella -- we agreed that's in the past.

ESTELLA

Two weeks ago is not so far in the past.

Estella walks behind Chester and begins massaging his neck and shoulders. Chester shrugs away and stands.

CHESTER

Two weeks ago was a mistake.

ESTELLA

And the week before that?

CHESTER

We've made mistakes, Estella. More than once.

ESTELLA

More than once! More than one decade!

CHESTER

It's over, Estella. I've changed. Marlana and I have recommitted to each other and to our family. You were there! You planned the recommitment ceremony bruncheon!

ESTELLA

We had sex on the head table 20 minutes after the last guest left. The brioche french toast was still warm.

CHESTER

And sticky. I had to soak for hours to get the smell of maple syrup out of my --

ESTELLA

Asshole.

CHESTER

No! Well, yes, but it was especially hard to wash out of --

ESTELLA

No! You. You are the asshole. How many years have I stood by you? Waited on you --

CHESTER

You are the head housekeeper, dear. It's your job to wait on me.

ESTELLA

You know what I mean!

Chester's phone alarm goes off. He checks the phone quickly.

CHESTER

Look. It's over. The only relationship we have is employer and employee. I have to go.

Estella watches him leave, then walks over to a bookshelf and pulls out a big, new, expensive phone. On it, we see that this exchange has been recorded. Estella clicks over and we see that many "exchanges" between Estella and Chester have been recorded.

ESTELLA

No, Chester. You have to stay. With me. You're mine.

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, LA LUNA

INT. REICH MOTORS CONFERENCE ROOM, DAY

Betty Riser, Spencer Reich, WALLACE "WALLY" REICH (white, 30s, semi-nerdy tech type), DANIEL GONZALEZ (20s, looks like a boy band member dressed in business casual), and a couple other BUSINESS GUYS sit around a table.

SPENCER

Anyone got anything else this week?

BETTY

I have something.

SPENCER

I hope it's more of those amaze Spanish donuts.

BETTY

It is not. I was thinking ... we should really ramp up production on the electric car models. It's time.

SPENCER

Whoa. It's still too soon. The market is tiny.

BUSINESS GUY 1

Yes. Stay the course. Go with what we know.

BETTY

Every single indicator says the boom is coming and it takes time to shift our facilities. We should take all the good work Daniel has done --

DANIEL

Thank you!

BETTY

And start putting it into effect. Find efficiencies. Be ready early instead of rushing to catch up.

BUSINESS GUY 2

It's too soon. Spencer is dead on.

BUSINESS GUYS

(voices overlap)

We can't, too soon, jumping the gun, market's not ready, etc.

WALLY

It is time to take the electric segment of the business seriously!

DANIEL

We've found some great ways to lower the battery costs, among other things.

WALLY

The analysts are calling it, saying electric sales will go way up as the gas guzzlers fall off within the next five years.

Betty stands to speak but Spencer does so at about the same time, and he's louder.

SPENCER

Well, bro, when you're right, you're right. You and Daniel should take this on immediately.

BUSINESS GUYS

(at same time)

It's time, Great call Spencer, Electric is the future, etc.

BETTY

So. What about me?

SPENCER

What?

Murmurs of surprise come from the Business Guys. Then it gets real quiet.

BETTY

Can I at least get credit for starting this conversation?

SPENCER

Whoa. Wally had some great points, are you trying to say they were yours?

BETTY

He was backing me up!

SPENCER

Oh, Betty. You want credit for everything. Take the L, bruh.

WALLY

Wait a minute --

SPENCER

Late for my next meeting. Gotta bounce.

Spencer leaves and Wally tries to catch up to him but the Business Guys get in Wally's way, patting him on the back and such as they exit. Betty slumps back down into her chair, defeated. The conference room lights blink off.

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, LA MANO

INT. REICH MOTORS HALLWAY, DAY

Wally and Daniel are walking together. Daniel is eating the last bite of something. He athletically tosses the wrapper at an overflowing garbage can. It bounces out along with other trash.

WALLY

Nice one.

DANIEL

I was a student athlete.

WALLY

It shows.

Daniel picks up the wrapper and other trash and stuffs it back into the can.

DANIEL

What up with the garbage?

WALLY

Stacey in H.R. told me the entire custodial crew called out for the past coupla days.

DANIEL

(coughs, chokes)

Argh!

WALLY

Dude, you okay?

DANIEL

Yeah, just got a little burrito stuck in there.

WALLY

I thought you were done.

DANIEL

Still chewing.

WALLY

So, weird, right?

DANIEL

Nah, man, I take big bites.

WALLY

I mean about the cleaning crew. Why would the entire --

DANIEL

Pretty sure it's that stomach flu going around. That shit is deadly. My cousin says his teacher was out for a week-and-a-half. Super contagious.

WALLY

Ugh, that could be it.

DANIEL

Gotta be. Keep it away from me, am I right?

WALLY

Definitely, most definitely.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, LA ESTRELLA

INT. REICH MOTORS BOARD ROOM, DAY

Chester, dressed in golf gear, sits at the head of large table. Estella walks by the open door, notices Chester, and walks in.

ESTELLA

You seem underdressed for a board meeting.

CHESTER

And you seem overdressed for ...
what are you doing here, anyway?

ESTELLA

I wanted to see Daniel's new workspace.

CHESTER

Isn't that way on the other side of the complex?

ESTELLA

I might have heard you were in the building. Thought maybe you'd also like to see Daniel's new workspace.

CHESTER

Whatever for?

ESTELLA

You know what for. He's --

CHESTER

Estella, please. Not here.

ESTELLA

Why not here? Why not ever? He's your son, Chester! You should be proud of him!

CHESTER

I am! Does he not have a job here? Did I not send him to school?

ESTELLA

He earned that Reich Motors Scholarship.

CHESTER
Still my family's money.

ESTELLA
It's his family, too, Chester.

CHESTER
Not officially. I believe a Mr. Gonzalez is on the birth certificate.

ESTELLA
Is he, though?

CHESTER
Estella. What is all this about?

ESTELLA
I want us together. I want you to acknowledge your son publicly and legally. I want us to be a family.

CHESTER
Why now? Where is this coming from?

ESTELLA
I've always wanted this. But you didn't. And I always let what you wanted trump what I wanted. But now it's time to fight for what's mine.

CHESTER
It will never work. We're from different worlds.

ESTELLA
We are both from this town. Spend most of our time in the same house.

CHESTER
But I belong there.

ESTELLA
And you said I belonged in your bed.

CHESTER
Men like me say a lot of things. Do a lot of things. You can't take it seriously. You're smarter than that. Besides, I love my wife!

ESTELLA

Chester. Please. I am smarter than that, at least. You do love her money.

CHESTER

We are both from old money families.

ESTELLA

Yes, but hers actually still has all that old money.

CHESTER

How do you know any of this?

ESTELLA

I know a lot of things, my dear.

CHESTER

Well then you know why I can't leave Marlana.

ESTELLA

But you can! What if --

CHESTER

I can't. You know I can't.

Spencer, Wally and a couple of Business Guys loudly enter the board room.

CHESTER (CONT'D)

Ah! Gentlemen! Ready for that round of golf?

SPENCER

Hells yeah, dad.

CHESTER

So, Estella, you understand what I was telling you?

ESTELLA

Oh, I understand more than you think.

Chester, Spencer, Wally and the rest leave the board room. Estella watches them leave, and listens.

SPENCER (O.S.)

What was all that about?

CHESTER (O.S.)
Oh, just telling Estella about the
bedroom remodel I'm working on for
your mother.

Estella walks out of the board room and slams the door.

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, EL ALACRAN

INT. SPENCER'S OFFICE, DAY

Spencer is playing a shooter game on his computer. Wally's playing, too, on a laptop. Betty walks in unannounced, carrying a pile of papers. Spencer takes off his headphones and stares at Betty. Wally doesn't notice at first.

BETTY
Important business?

SPENCER
Very. To what do I owe this
unexpected drop-in, Ms. Riser?

BETTY
I just wanted to follow up on the
meeting we had the other day.

SPENCER
Was that not settled? We're ramping
up the electric car project.

BETTY
No, unfortunately you had another
meeting and I didn't get to finish
my thoughts.

SPENCER
Your thoughts, as I recall, were
that this was all your idea. My dad
said you liked to take credit for
things.

BETTY
I only take credit for things I
start. Like the on-site daycare,
that was my idea.

SPENCER
Not how I heard it. Dad said he
came up with that one himself.

BETTY

I bet. How about the very idea of going into the electric car business in the first place?

SPENCER

Pretty sure that was Wally.

WALLY

Huh?

Wally takes off his headphones and just listens.

BETTY

Selling electric batteries as emergency storage for home use?

SPENCER

Every electric car company does that.

BETTY

We didn't until I brought it up.

SPENCER

So, great minds think alike. I was telling dad over golf that we should go harder on the electric side of the biz. We all thought it. You aren't responsible for every good idea!

BETTY

I never said I was. But from now on, I'm gonna go ahead and get credit for the ideas that are mine.

Betty drops the stack of papers on Spencer's desk.

BETTY (CONT'D)

This is my research. And a set of emails dating back a few months where I mention this very same idea to you, long before "we all thought it."

Betty turns and leaves.

SPENCER

What was that all about?

Spencer begins to put his headphones back on. Wally walks over and touches him on the arm.

WALLY

Spence.

SPENCER

Fine. I'll look at the papers. I don't remember any of this garbage she claims!

WALLY

Well. I do.

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, EL PARAGUAS

EXT. LOPEZ MEXICAN BAKERY, DAY

Betty and Estella are chatting at an outdoor table, enjoying coffee and pastries. There are several shiny new/shiny classic cars parked and cruising the streets. None of them are Reich Motors cars.

ESTELLA

Stomach flu?

BETTY

Stomach flu. It is going around. It's plausible.

ESTELLA

For a week or two, sure. Do you think they'll come around?

BETTY

They just need a break. Let them have this.

ESTELLA

Fine. But what do we do if everyone really does get the flu?

BETTY

We'll barf that bag when we come to it.

ESTELLA

Gross. Look, I've gotta --

BETTY

Go on, mama. I ain't saying a thing.

Estella leaves. Betty gets a Snapchat message. Attractive woman, 40s, random shots of her in different outfits, a peach with cream poured over it, pretty clothes in a boutique, a close up of her lips, the Eiffel Tower.

BETTY (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Who am I to talk?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, LA ARAÑA

INT. REICH MOTORS HALLWAY, DAY

Wally and Daniel are walking and chatting. Betty is coming from the opposite direction but turns around when she sees them.

WALLY

Betty! Wait!

DANIEL

We've been trying to talk to you for days!

BETTY

I'm very busy, guys. And you must be, too, in your new electric car workspace.

WALLY

Betty! Stop. Didn't Spencer talk to you?

BETTY

Spencer hasn't voluntarily spoken to me this entire year he's been inexplicably head of this company.

WALLY

Uhhhh ...

Wally steers Betty toward an empty conference room and Daniel follows, closing the door.

INT. REICH MOTORS CONFERENCE ROOM, DAY (CONTINUOUS)

WALLY

What has gotten into you lately? Bad-mouthing the boss in public is not a good look, and it's not you!

BETTY

Things have changed, I guess. You think your brother doesn't deserve it?

DANIEL

I like this new Betty. Feisty.

Betty gives Daniel a look.

WALLY

Standing up for yourself in the meeting was great. Popping off about Spencer, though. Not the best.

BETTY

I thought you two were going to stand up with me!

DANIEL

What do you mean? We backed you up.

BETTY

But you think it's OK to just take the new assignment and leave me behind? It was my idea! I did the legwork! I talked y'all into it!

WALLY

So you haven't talked to Spencer since you visited his office. Did you get a memo, something?

BETTY

I got nothing, like always. I'm tired of putting in twice the work and getting half the recognition.

WALLY

Betty, you're on the team. We've been waiting for you to show up for a couple days now.

BETTY

What?

DANIEL

Wally and I have been talking to Spencer and were able to finally ... uh ... convince him that it really was your idea.

WALLY

Your office visit helped. He approved a title change and a spot bonus for you. Should be in your paycheck this week.

BETTY

What? Really?

DANIEL

No one told you?

BETTY
No. One. Told. Me. Anything.

WALLY
Well that explains why you didn't show up.

DANIEL
We were beginning to think you bailed on us.

BETTY
I'm beginning to think that was the point of not telling me. Why didn't you send me an email or something?

WALLY
Spencer said he'd handle it. I'm sure it's just an oversight.

DANIEL
Dude. That's your brother, you gotta admit that sounds like him. And he did say Betty was volatile.

BETTY
Volatile?! Oh I'll show him volatile!

DANIEL
Don't. That's ...

BETTY
What he wants. He seems uncomfortable with women having power.

WALLY
Yeah. Okay. Maybe. But look on the bright side. Spot bonus? Promotion? Getting to work on this project with us?

DANIEL
You did it! It's all coming together!

BETTY
I did do it. I did it.

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, EL GALLO

INT. CHESTER REICH'S BEDROOM, NIGHT

Chester is wearing a rich-guy robe. He has a drink in his hand, which he slugs back as someone knocks on the door. Chester opens it to a cart with Champagne and food on it.

CHESTER

(taking the cart but not
looking at the delivery
person)

Tell the cook thanks for this. I
know it's late.

ESTELLA

It is late, I had to wake the cook
for this little feast. You didn't
even recognize my voice on the
line. Chester, what's happened to
us?

CHESTER

I can't do this now, Estella.

ESTELLA

Why not? I know Marlana is in
Paris, shopping and pretending to
eat.

CHESTER

Well I really do eat, and I'd
rather do it alone.

ESTELLA

I had the cook make enough for two.
I'll pour.

Estella opens a ring on her finger and drops some powder into one of the glasses, adds Champagne and swirls it then hands to Chester, who is pacing around and looking back at the bathroom door, nervously and a touch drunkenly. She pours herself a glass, as well.

CHESTER

Estella. This is not the time.

The bathroom door opens and FIONA KING (20s, Asian/non-White, supermodel vibes, outré lingerie) walks out. She takes the glass of Champagne from Estella.

FIONA

Thanks. That'll be all.

ESTELLA

Excuse me? Chester, who's this? A new secretary?

CHESTER

Uh, no, she's ...

FIONA

Fiona King, I'm the new Head of Marketing at Reich Motors. And you are?

ESTELLA

Furious! Get out of here! Have some respect for yourself!

FIONA

You can't be serious. Chester, who is this person?

Chester slugs the Champagne and pours himself another.

CHESTER

I can't deal with this right now. Perhaps you'd both better leave.

FIONA

Maybe slow down on the drinks.

CHESTER

Every woman seems to know better than I do what I should do. What I want.

Chester slams this glass of Champagne back, too.

ESTELLA

Please, Chester. Send Ms. King away so we can talk.

CHESTER

I'm sending you both away. Out! Or I'll call security! Have you both fired!

ESTELLA AND FIONA

Fired?

Estella and Fiona stare each other down as Chester pulls his cell phone out of his robe pocket.

CHESTER

Yes? Security? I have a situation here.

SECURITY (O.S.)
Yes, Mr. Reich, what do you need?

FIONA
Fine. I'm going. Speakerphone,
really?

CHESTER
You'd have thought I was bluffing.
(into the phone)
Never mind, all clear. Thanks.

SECURITY (O.S.)
Have a good night, Mr. Reich.

ESTELLA
Right. Fiona? I'll see you out.

CHESTER
And see yourself out, too.

ESTELLA
This isn't over, Chester.

FIONA
Definitely not.

Fiona and Estella exit the bedroom. Chester closes the door,
whirls around, and collapses. Fiona and Estella rush back in.

ESTELLA
Chester! Oh, no! Chester! The
sleeping pills!

FIONA
Shit! How did you know I gave him
sleeping pills?

ESTELLA
I didn't.

ESTELLA AND FIONA
Shit!

ESTELLA
Give me the glass you used.
Everything. There's an incinerator
in the basement. I won't tell if
you don't.

FIONA
Not a word.

Fiona hands Estella a small bottle and a tumbler.

ESTELLA

Watch him. We'll call security when
I get back. Will just be a minute.
Don't worry, this isn't his first
pill party. And get dressed!

FIONA

Thanks --

ESTELLA

Estella. Head Housekeeper.

FIONA

Oh.

ESTELLA

Yeah.

Estella takes the tainted glasses and hurries away.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INSERT -- LOTERIA CARD, EL BORRACHO

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, NIGHT

Estella is sitting at Chester's side.

ESTELLA

I texted the boys, Chester. And
Marlena. They're all appropriately
worried and rushing to see you.
Marlena's even cutting her Parisian
vacation short.

Estella gets up and smooths Chester's hair.

ESTELLA

You should have seen us with your
security, baby. So worried about
what we thought you'd done. Thanks
for having so many sleeping pills
in your room! We barely had to
stage anything.

Estella hears voices in the hall. She sits back down as two
NURSES enter the room and check Chester's machinery and
medicine bags.

NURSE 1

Whatever happened with that big
lottery?

NURSE 2

I heard there was a winner but not
who! I want to say they are staying
anonymous or something.

ESTELLA

Oh, yeah, I heard about that. Some
small group in some small town.
Lump sum.

NURSE 1

Of course they took the lump sum!
I'd take that kinda lump anyday!

NURSE 2

Stuff like that never happens here.

Estella smirks but says nothing more. The nurses leave.

CHESTER
(moans in his sleep)
Estella stands up.

ESTELLA
Chester?

A doctor walks in.

DOCTOR
Mrs. Reich?

ESTELLA
Oh, no, doctor. I'm Mr. Reich's
head housekeeper, Estella Amador.
The family wasn't home for the ...
accident. I think Chester was
waking up!

DOCTOR
Oh. No, I doubt it. You're quite
loyal. Was it you who found him?

ESTELLA
Yes, me and one of his new
executives. He'd called her, for
some reason.

DOCTOR
Probably a mistake. He had a lot of
pills and booze in his system.

ESTELLA
The cook was concerned. Had me take
up a bunch of food.

DOCTOR
He didn't seem to touch the food,
I'm afraid.

ESTELLA
But he just made a sound. Almost a
word?

DOCTOR
He's in a coma, ma'm. His prognosis
is uncertain, for now.

ESTELLA
He'll come around. I'm sure of it.

DOCTOR
You have a lot of faith in him.
That's good.

ESTELLA

Yes. I do. You have to have faith.
Estella's phone pings and she looks down. A text from Wally.
He's on his way up to the room. Estella clicks over to her
banking app. Her balance barely fits on the screen.

ESTELLA (CONT'D)

Faith has gotten me this far.

END OF SHOW