Tania & Virginia

Scene Ten: Friday Morning

TANIA. Virginia. I don't mean to intrude on your morning.

VIRGINIA. Tania. I've taken the day off. Don't you have a big fancy-schmancy party happening tomorrow?

TANIA. Pablo and I are good people. We don't want to hurt you.

VIRGINIA. Frank and I are good people too.

TANIA. I'm so sorry I said those things to you.

VIRGINIA. Thank you. Well, it wasn't my finest moment either. And at least I learned something. Swearing in Spanish seems so much more satisfying.

TANIA. I promise, you won't hear that type of language again.

VIRGINIA. Would you like a seat? You must be tired.

TANIA. Thank you.

VIRGINIA. You should take a load off. Here let me help you prop up your feet. Your poor ankles.

TANIA. I never thought I would swell up like this.

VIRGINIA. None of us do. And then it happens. But it's so worth it. You'll see. Kids add a lot of color to your life. I love being a mother.

TANIA. Virginia –

VIRGINIA. Call me Ginny.

TANIA. Ginny, you need to know, I never intended for this to get like this.

VIRGINIA. I know. I know. The men got involved and suddenly...

TANIA. Exactly! The men talked and then things just blew up. And I don't want this to get worse. I knew if I came here, and we talked that would be a step in the right direction. There has to be a compromise.

VIRGINIA. I am so relieved to hear you say that.

TANIA. It's just been so overwhelming and all at once. The pregnancy, the move, and the firm and now all this

stuff. The entire office is coming tomorrow. The baby is due in five weeks...

VIRGINIA. The only thing that matters is you need to take care of yourself. Keeping you and the baby healthy has to be your priority.

TANIA. Yes. Of course.

VIRGINIA. So ironic this all had to happen the same week as Frank's gardening competition.

TANIA. I'm so sorry about the timing.

VIRGINIA. Well I know throwing this party isn't easy either.

TANIA. What we do for our men.

VIRGINIA. Our crazy, neurotic men.

TANIA. Impulsive, and more impulsive.

VIRGINIA. Wanting to win, wanting it all.

TANIA. Ah – BOYS!

(They laugh.)

VIRGINIA. Although, we women want to win too. Don't we?

TANIA. Yes but for different reasons.

VIRGINIA. Very different.

TANIA. Pablo and I are just trying to build a better future for our family.

VIRGINIA. Yes, of course you are. It's the...United Statesean dream.

(They laugh.)

I think I might have a very similar story to yours. I grew up with very few things. Not in New Mexico. But Buffalo. Like you, I made my way into the world. I started earning money...oh my...the flushness of it, the possibility of it, gave me quite a rush. Made me want things even more. But things that I could not buy. Like Respect.

TANIA. Ginny, we didn't mean to be disrespectful.

VIRGINIA. Of course not. But you were.

TANIA. You do understand we do have the right to build the fence.

VIRGINIA. Yes, I do. But think about it. Your husband makes an impulsive decision that in six days destroys decades of someone else's hard work. Don't you find that kind of...entitled?

TANIA. But you are the ones who felt entitled to plant flowers wherever you want...

VIRGINIA. Can you hear yourself? You are accusing us of what? Planting flowers. Now what kind of crime is that?

TANIA. It's our land. And those flowers are detrimental to the environment.

VIRGINIA. Great! Save the world, but screw your neighbors. What kind of environment is that? You said you didn't understand how this all spiraled. I'm an engineer... So I'm explaining it to you: Your desire for more started this all.

TANIA. You mean my greed?

VIRGINIA. I didn't say that word. Did I?

TANIA. No one has ever called me greedy before.

VIRGINIA. You are a woman. They probably masked it with more generous words...like ambitious and determined... or bitchy. It's so unfair. Believe me, I know.

TANIA. I'm greedy for hoping to get what I paid for? So Virginia, what are you? How did you get more land than you bought?

VIRGINIA. As far as I remember, this has been like this for a very long time.

TANIA. And that's the crux of it. You have because you have. Because you are used to it. Stolen goods are not stolen, they are acquired. The world is already so entrenched in your favor you don't even need to recognize how you benefit from inequity. You are blind to your privilege! And you don't stop unless you are held accountable. You...you people...you...

VIRGINIA. You? What do you mean...by: you people?

TANIA. *(Beat.)* You and Frank.