

Zelos

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INT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS HOME = LIVING ROOM = DAY

MARIA(39) T-shirt, jeans, messy hair, barefoot watches a commercial on TV.

COMMERCIAL VO

Imagine modern possibilities and genetic science, connecting. Imagine your capabilities and reproductive cloning combining. Now imagine that everything you ever wanted, but didn't have time for, is possible. Zelos. Be more, be envied.

She exits the room.

1 **INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - KITCHEN - DAY**

1

Two identical round cakes. Hands set the first cake on a fancy stand. Icing. The second cake goes on top of the first.

Globs of icing. A butter knife blends the two cakes into one.

A modern but messy kitchen. Dirty dishes. Stains and crumbs on the counter.

MARIA adds sprinkles to her cake. She eyes the clock, stressed.

Maria grabs Hunter's mister and squirts at her kids. They laugh. She gives the water mister back to Hunter with a big hug. He steals frosting with his finger.

Tailored shirt and loafers, MORDECAI(42), carries pizza, he places the boxes on the counter, comes up behind Maria and nuzzles her neck. She shakes him off.

MARIA

You got the two large?

MORDECAI

Yes. You better hide the evidence before Ari gets here.

He points out two EMPTY CAKE MIX BOXES.

Maria picks up the cake mix box.

MARIA

Yes, you mean this?

Mordecai kisses her.

MORDECAI
Yes, I mean that. OK?

MARIA
Yea.

She goes to throw it in the garbage can, but it's full.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Oh shit. Mordecai come on.

MORDECAI
What?

MARIA
I told you to empty the recycling
container, it's so fucking full.

MORDECAI
What are you doing?

MARIA
I am trying to get it down?

Maria tries to cram the boxes into an overloaded garbage can.
Uses her bare foot to stomp it all in.

Without knocking, her friend bursts in.

ARI
Hi.

MARIA
Hi.

ARI(38) in a funky but stylish vintage dress, kisses past
both of Maria's cheeks.

ARI
Sorry we're a bit early.

MARIA
No, it's OK.

She holds up a decadent chocolate ganache cake with shaved
chocolate curls and sits on a table next to Maria's cake.

It makes Maria's look like shit.

Her two kids, BELL and PARKER follow.

Maria's children HUNTER(12) and SIDNEY(10), stop to admire
Ari's cake.

Maria goes pale.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Wow, that's... I told you not to
make anything. I was going to...

ARI

What kind of friend would I be if I
didn't bring something?

ARI (CONT'D)

I also made my bouillabaisse.

MORDECAI

You did? Oh thank you.

DAVID(38), T-shirt, worn jeans, and desert boots -- a bit too
good looking carries in a shiny, brand new looking copper
pot. He moves the pizza aside to make room for it.

MARIA

Oh, the bouillabaisse.

Pearls of sweat run down Maria's forehead.

Maria looks between Ari's perfect cake, the copper pot and
her own admiring family.

She can't breathe.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Just give me a second.

Maria exits.

2 INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - BATHROOM - DAY 2

Sitting on the toilet, Maria takes deep breaths

3 INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 3

Maria aggressively clears her throat.

MARIA

You can all stop talking about me
now.

DAVID

Oh, that's a lovely blouse.

MARIA

Thanks.

ARI	MARIA (CONT'D)	*
I think I have one just like	You want some.	*
it.		*

MARIA (CONT'D)	*
Probably.	*

DAVID		
You dOUNg OK?		*

MARIA		
Yea, yea, I am good. Good, good,		*
good! It was just, I think I am		*
little allergic to Ari's perfume or		*
something, but I'm good now.		*

ARI		
Well ah, I was just saying that I		*
signed both of us up for the		
Realtor's 10K Fun Run for the		
Homeless.		

Maria looks at Ari, confused. Hands Ari a glass of wine.

MARIA		*
Oh, the...		*

ARI	MARIA (CONT'D)	*
I know you're not much of a	No, I've run.	*
runner but as co-chairs of		
the committee, it's our		*
responsibility to set a good		*
example, don't you think?		*

MARIA (CONT'D)		
Yes. I am totally, totally game.		*

ARI		*
Great.		*

Ari notices something about her glass. It's not clean.

MARIA		*
Oh, this is filthy. I'm sorry. Let		*
me...		*

ARI		*
It's fine. It's fine.		*

MARIA		
It's really gross, I'll...		*

ARI		
Maria, it's fine.		*

An awkward moment between the two women. *

ARI (CONT'D) *
 You know maybe it does need a *
 little rinse. *

Ari goes to rinse the glass. *

Maria sticks her tongue out at Ari, behind her back.

4 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - GARDEN - DAY**

4

Maria watch's as two delivery men unload a COFFIN SIZE BOX *
 with "ZELOS" logo on it. *

Mordecai struggles to open the cumbersome box. Maria bites *
 her lip in anticipation. *

MORDECAI *
 Is she really going to be *exactly* *
 like you? *

MARIA *
 Well I gave them my DNA, so lets *
 just hope she doesn't look like *
 Mickey Rourke. *

Mordecai unscrews the lid. *

Maria lifts it. They stare at what's inside. *

Maria's blood runs cold.

In lies a CLONE OF MARIA. Pale. Dead looking. Wearing granny *
 panties, a sports bra, and a necklace that spells: ZELOS. *

MARIA (CONT'D) *
 What the fuck is she wearing? *

Mordacai looks through the manual. CARTOONY ILLUSTRATIONS *
 smile up at him. *

Mordecai finds a sealed plastic bag with a large SYRINGE, *
 filled with BLUE LIQUID. *

He flicks the syringe. Awkwardly squirts liquid everywhere. *
 Fumbles with the injection. *

MORDECAI *
 You sure about this? *

MARIA *
 Yes. Hurry up. *

He pushes the plunger down. Nothing happens.

Zelos' chest rises. Falls. Mordecai stares in awe. Maria closes her eyes. *

Zelos sits up. Opens her eyes and looks down at herself -- her hands, her arms, her legs, her clothes. *

ZELOS
What the fuck am I wearing?

Maria opens her eyes. *

MARIA
Hi. *

5 **INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY**

5

Maria, in running gear, ties her shoe-laces. At the table, Zelos, in a simple white dress, fills in blank FOR SALE REALTOR SIGNS.

Next to a smiling picture of Maria, Zelos writes "102 HYACINTH AVE." in perfect block letters.

ZELOS
What was Ari's time last year?

MARIA
Fifty nine. I'm hoping to do it in fifty seven.

Maria sits. Pulls on her running shoes. She looks between Zelos' sign and another. Zelos' handwriting looks neater.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Is your handwriting nicer than mine?

Zelos is not sure this is a compliment.

Maria lifts her arm and smiles. *

MARIA (CONT'D)
Shit. If you can bake like Ari, we're in business. *

Maria does a little dance, sitting down. *

ZELOS
I'll work on it.

Hunter runs into the room, hands and face covered in a pink paste and bits of colorful paper.

HUNTER
 Mom, I need more glue. Morning Auntie Zelos.

ZELOS
 Good morning, Hunter.

MARIA
 Sweetie, your face. *

Zelos stands up to fix the sign.

HUNTER
 Don't go in my room. *

Her face and shoulders drop. Maria pulls off a running shoe. *

ZELOS
 What are you doing?

MARIA
 He needs me.

ZELOS
 You run. We can't beat Ari if you don't train. I can help Hunter with his project.

Zelos takes Hunter's hand and skips out of the living room. *

6 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DAY** 6

Maria puts her headphones inn. She runs.

7 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY** 7

Maria, sweaty and pink cheeked, looking a hot mess, runs up the driveway.

Zelos is gardening and sees Maria running towards her. *

Clapping, she cheers Maria on. Runs along side her.

A MAILMAN stands by the mailbox. He sees both women, realizes they look identical, and watches in confusion. *

8 INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - KITCHEN/HALL - MORNING 8

Sidney waits impatient geared up in a soccer uniform. Maria in a YELLOW AND BLACK STRIPED REFEREE OUTFIT paces back and forth on the phone. Zelos prepares snacks for Sidney. *

MARIA *
 (on phone) *
 Four, thirty, no I can't I promised *
 to take my daughter... *

SIDNEY *
 Mom. *

MARIA *
 Actually, I totally can. Yeh, hold *
 on a second. In fifteen minutes. *
 Yes that's fine. OK, great. *

Maria looks at her watch. Then signals at Sidney that she is stuck on this phone call. Sidney frowns. *

Zelos hands Sidney the snacks, pulls the referee shirt off Maria and puts it on. She pushes Sidney out the door. *

Maria waves to them. *

9 INT/EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 9

Maria rolls out and stretches after a long run. Zelos plays Yatzi with Hunter and Sidney, they laugh. *

Sidney and Hunter chase each other around the house. *

SIDNEY *
 You'll never get that. *

In the corner, Mordecai reads his book, alone. *

10 INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - BEDROOM - MORNING 10

AN ALARM CLOCK buzzes along a night stand. Maria's hand shoots out to grab it. *

Maria already in RUNNING CLOTHES, shimmies towards the edge.

Mordecai GRABS HER. PULLS HER BACK IN by the waist. *

He nuzzles the back of her neck. Slides his hand up her belly, under the hem of her shirt.

Maria squirms away.

MARIA
I've got to go. *

MORDECAI
Not even a quicky? *
*
*

Maria sits on the edge of the bed. Mordecai watches, clearly annoyed. *

MARIA
No I've got to get my run in. If I
don't do it now I'll never do it. I
still have to make signs for the
realtor's open house. *

MORDECAI
Can't Zelos do it? *

MARIA
She can't. She's baking cookies for
Hunter's party. *

MORDECAI
Ever since you got caught up in
that stupid race you've hardly
spent any time with me. No late
night films, no planning our trip
to Tokyo, just nothing. Nothing. *

MARIA
I'm sorry. OK. When I get done with
the race I'll make it up to you and
Old Faithful. *

Not in the mood, Mordecai pulls away. *

MORDECAI
I miss you. *

11 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - POOL - MORNING** 11 *

Zelos in a loose tank and sleeping shorts, cleans the pool. *

At the sight of Maria's sadness, Zelos' smile fades. *

12 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME = POOL = LATER** 12 *

Zelos rubs Maria's back.

ZELOS

Everyone at the office wants you to
beat Ari. There's a whole bet
going on.

MARIA

I don't even like running.

Maria's head drops into her hands. Zelos leans in and rubs
her back.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I love him Zelos. I'm just
overwhelmed.

Zelos kneels down to comfort her.

ZELOS

Everything is going to be OK.

In the window, Zelos notices their reflections. Their
identical features.

Zelos is deep in thoughts.

13 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - CAR PORT - DAY** 13

Panting, sweaty, Maria comes to a halt. Doubled over she
checks her watch. Fifty nine minutes.

Maria smiles. Proud of herself.

14 **INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - HALL - DAY** 14

Maria walks towards her bedroom.

15 **INT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - BEDROOM/CLOSET/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS** 15

On the floor, her running shorts, shirt, and Mordecai's
boxers.

Steam and moans roll into the room from the bathroom.

Mordecai and Zelos make love in the shower.

They never even notice Maria.

Maria hides in her walk-in closet with Zelos' coffin-like
box. She watches from inside.

Mordecai and Zelos groan loudly. Maria's eyes grow.

MORDECAI

Oh Maria, you feel so amazing.

Her jaw drops in horror.

16 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - GARDEN - DAY** 16

Maria and Zelos (with her necklace back on) argue.

ZELOS

I thought you'd be happy. We helped your marriage!

ZELOS (CONT'D)

I've never felt so alive. He loves... you.

Maria slaps her, hard.

It catches both of them off guard. Zelos looks at Maria, hurt.

17 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT** 17

Maria sits down the Zelos instructions.

MARIA

There's got to be a way to abort her or send her back.

MORDECAI

She's not a rug from Ikea, you can return if it doesn't tie the room together. She's a person. Sort of.

Maria wordlessly flips through the manual.

MORDECAI (CONT'D)

What the hell, Maria? I thought you loved Zelos, the children love her.

MARIA

What about you?

MORDECAI

Yea, I like having her around.

Maria bites her lip.

MARIA

Yea, I need to tell you something.

With heavy footsteps, Maria throws her body over the finish line--two steps ahead of Ari.

Both women melt down to their knees.

Maria weakly throws one arm up in celebration, the other holding onto the ground for support.

Between gulps of air, Ari breaks down. She starts crying.

Maria can't help but smile at the sight.

MARIA

Come on, Ari. It's just a race.
There's always next year.

Maria pulls herself up onto her feet. *

David hurries over to them. He scoops Ari up. Cradles her in his arms. She wraps her arms around his neck and sobs.

Maria watches, surprised by the reaction.

DAVID

It's ok. *

ARI'S ZELOS

No, no it's not. Ari's going to send me back! *

DAVID

No. I won't let her Zelos. *

He holds her tightly. Shushes her comfortingly.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I love you. *

David kisses Ari's Zelos. *

DAVID (CONT'D)

I love you so much. *

Like a punch in the face, Maria notices the SILVER CHAIN, identical to her Zelos' around Ari's Zelos' neck. *

22 **EXT. HOLLYWOOD HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT** 22 *

Zelos' coffin. *

The family playing Yatzi. Maria outside the window,
watching.

*
*

THE END.