

Begonia - Excerpt

written by

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EXT. LOS PROTEGIDOS CEMETERY - DAY

A cop, SARAH, a blonde woman in her mid-20s, and police chief JOHNSON, a slightly heavier, bald man in his mid-30s, stand in front of the graves of Maria and Vivian, both with an identical begonia flower engraving and begonia flower atop them.

Two PARAMEDICS load a body onto a stretcher, one of them putting the bloody, dangling arm back to rest. They pull a sheet over the body and carry it down the aisle of headstones.

A COP is pulling yellow tape around the area of the grave.

Four GRAVEYARD EMPLOYEES watch from nearby headstones and the main office, each wearing identical gray polo shirts.

Sarah watches one of the employees. She turns back to Johnson.

SARAH

Must've been a popular guy.

JOHNSON

Don't think they're here for him.

SARAH

How so?

Johnson points at Maria's grave.

JOHNSON

She was buried here just a couple days ago.

Johnson points at Vivian's grave.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

She was moved here the day before.

SARAH

Why the move?

Johnson shrugs.

JOHNSON

Something the guarantor and cemetery company settled.

Sarah peers out at the employee.

SARAH

And our guy? What's his deal?

JOHNSON
No idea yet.

Johnson points at the main office.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)
Found him on the guest list at
Maria here's funeral. Heartbreak.
That's motive enough.

Sarah paces over to a beer bottle a couple graves down.

SARAH
Family? Sibling? Friend?
(a beat)
Lover?

The empty beer bottle.

JOHNSON
Haven't had time to ask around yet.
My money's on friend. She was
unmarried.

SARAH
Secret lover?

Sarah begins walking back. Johnson chuckles.

JOHNSON
He lived up in Virginia. Unless
they met on some dating site, it's
unlikely.

Sarah stops by Johnson, atop a trail of blood in the grass.
She watches it, turning her head to the sound of an ambulance
siren starting.

Her and Johnson turn their heads towards the ambulance at the
front of the cemetery.

A couple more employees are watching it from the parking lot
as it drives away. Sarah watches them.

SARAH
They seem very interested.

JOHNSON
How often do you have someone kill
themselves at a cemetery?

Sarah keeps her eyes on the employees.

SARAH
(quietly)
Fair enough.

Sarah turns back to the two graves.

SARAH (CONT'D)
So our guy...

Sarah snaps her fingers at Johnson.

JOHNSON
Andres.

SARAH
Andres. He gets drunk a couple
nights after his friend is buried,
decides to slit his wrists and
bleed out, nobody finding him until
the following morning.

JOHNSON
And...?

SARAH
Nothing, just...

Sarah looks down at Vivian's grave.

SARAH (CONT'D)
She had just been moved here, too.

JOHNSON
You thinking it has to do with her?

SARAH
Not particularly. Just...

Sarah watches the grave.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Does she fit in somehow?

Vivian's headstone.

EXT. LOS PROTEGIDOS CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

Sarah nods at her. She begins to walk towards the entrance, glancing back at Alicia as she bends over in front of the graves.

ALICIA

I got you something. Your favorite.
It was the least I could do.

Alicia sets the blue orchids on top of her mother's grave.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

I brought you some, too. Didn't
know what you liked.

Alicia sets the other set of orchids on Vivian's grave.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, mom. I know things...
things have been tough the last
couple years.

(a beat)

I should've been there for you
more. I know I wasn't around a lot.
I said I was busy. I know you know
the truth.

She picks up the begonia from her mothers grave and twirls it in her fingers.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

I was still mad. I don't know why,
I shouldn't have been. I should've
been there for you.

(A beat)

Just know that I'm still going. I'm
still in school, I'm still working
towards my degree.

(a beat)

I still... love you.

A beat. Alicia sets the begonia back on her mother's grave.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

And I miss you more than I could've
ever imagined I could miss someone.
If only we had had more time
together.

Alicia picks up the begonia from Vivian's grave.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
(softly)
I could've changed that.

She twirls this flower as well.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
Just... please take care of your
little sister now, okay? Take care
of each other. I won't be long
before I come back.

A beat. Alicia winces.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
Ow!

Her finger is oozing a drop of blood from a thorn in the begonia flower. A couple drops fall to the grass below. Alicia pulls her finger to her mouth and sucks the blood. She sets the flower back down on the headstone. She lets out a sigh and stands up.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
I love you both.

She stands, then turns her head.

The MALE CEMETERY EMPLOYEE, a middle-aged man, watching her from one of the graves. He is holding a bouquet of begonias in his hand, has just placed one on the headstone below him.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Weirdo.

Alicia turns towards the graves, then turns back, walking back towards the entrance, the male employee watching her.