

BROKEN

GLASS

(Vidrio Roto)

by

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SOMEBODY IS CUTTING HIS HAND WITH A MIRROR... HIS BLOOD DRIPS INTO A POOL OF WINE (BLOOD).

ZOOM INTO THE WINE, INTO THE RED BLOOD CELLS AND IMAGES OF MONTEVIDEO APPEAR. THEY SURROUND US, OVERWHELM US...

GLASS BREAKS.

RUN TITLE CREDITS.

FADE IN:

INT. WINE CELLAR - DAY

The walls are out of brick and the floors out of stone; the ceiling is vaulted. It's candle lit. Very dusty and humid.

An old man in a black cloak, ALEXANDRE BOUTEILLE, proceeds to write a letter on parchment with a fountain pen.

ALEXANDRE (V.O.)
(in Spanish)
Montevideo, July 1977
Dearest Valentina: I made these seven bottles, using the very best wine I've ever produced, and I did that in order to celebrate with you, each major milestone of your life. These bottles of wine will watch out for your happiness long after I'm gone. They are magical, and all yours.
Always with you,
Grandpa.

FADE OUT.

FIRST STEPS BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

INT. VALENTINA'S PARENTS HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

TITLE: MONTEVIDEO, 11 MONTHS LATER...

An 11 month old BABY, Valentina, walks with difficulty towards a wine rack where the 7 bottles are. These are her first steps, but nobody notices them.

Baby Valentina tries to grab the First Steps bottle that is displayed on the counter along with two glasses, ready for a toast and, of course, it falls into the floor, crashing. Valentina sits down on the spot and cries.

CATALINA (32), comes angrily to the scene, and slaps Valentina, quite strongly.

CATALINA
(in Spanish)
 Valentina!! How many times
 have I told not to touch
 Grandpa's bottles!

WILLIAM CLINTSOR (39), Valentina's father, comes in.

WILLIAM
 Stop that! Do not spread your
 bitterness to Valentina as
 well.

William picks Valentina up. Catalina leaves the room angrily.

William caresses the child, at first gently, in a fatherly way, but it then becomes more sexual.

WILLIAM
 She is so sweet... so sweet.

His hand ends on the baby's crotch.

FADE OUT.

FIRST LOVE BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

EXT. IDYLLIC GARDEN - DAY

TITLE: PARIS, 23 YEARS LATER...

Two young women, ALESSANDRA ROSELLE (27, confident, beautiful) and VALENTINA CLINTSOR (24, shy but lovely), in the garden of Eden. Extremely beautiful and peaceful. There is a bottle of wine with a hand-written label that reads: "First Love" in Latin. There are also two gleaming glasses next to it.

Valentina pours wine into them; they toast. They take a small sip. Alessandra lunges for a kiss. Valentina stops her, drinks her glass empty and pours herself some more. She drinks it empty too. Alessandra tries again. Valentina stops her again but with less determination.

VALENTINA
(in Spanish)
I've never done this before.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
I'm in love with you too.

Valentina softens up and allows Alessandra to kiss her.

Divine atmosphere. They slowly, tenderly start to undress. Sweet caresses, virginal love making...

INT. PHILIPPE & CATALINA'S APT/BEDROOM - EVENING

PHILIPPE
(in French)
Valentina!

The dream is broken. Valentina and Alessandra are actually in the master bedroom.

PHILIPPE DE FROIDETCHER (65, aristocratic) and his partner CATALINA BOUTEILLE (55, grand dame) burst into the room unexpectedly, dressed as if coming back from the opera. Catalina is in a fury, ranting hysterically.

CATALINA
(in French)
 Get out of here! You whores...
 Satan is in you both! You are
 the shame of my name...

Alessandra, pushed away both harshly and seductively by Philippe, leaves in panic.

PHILIPPE
(in French)
 You harlot, get out of my
 house!

Catalina grabs the wine bottle with the intention of smashing it on the floor.

VALENTINA
(in Spanish,
shouting)
 Please, mom. This is
 Granddad's bottle!

Valentina tries to stop her without success. Catalina throws the bottle violently against the marble floor.

CATALINA
(in French)
 It was never meant to be used
 like this!

The bottle shatters. Valentina doesn't respond.

Catalina, having released her anger, finds her maternal side again. Philippe leaves the room. Catalina, relieved, dives in the couch trying to contain her tears and to be as soothing as possible.

CATALINA
(in Spanish)
 Why are you doing this to me?

VALENTINA
(in Spanish)
 I am in love with her--

CATALINA
(in Spanish)
 How can you say that!

VALENTINA
(in Spanish)
 Mum, I wish you could
 understand how much Alessandra
 means--

CATALINA
(in Spanish)
 First I find you in bed with
 your father and --

VALENTINA
(defiant-in Spanish)
 Nothing ever happened!

Catalina strongly slaps her in the face.

CATALINA
(in Spanish)
 We will not tolerate this
 sordid, sacrilegious behavior.
 Tell me it will never happen
 again.

Catalina starts crying, aware that what she has to say
 to her daughter is terminal. She puts herself together.

CATALINA
(in Spanish)
 It's your choice. Either you
 find yourself a husband and
 live a normal life or...
 (pause)
 you are cut off; out of our
 lives, forever.

Catalina can't contain her tears any longer and has to
 leave the room.

Valentina can't say a word. Her whole body is in
 extreme tension. She only wants to drop to the floor
 and cry, but doesn't do it.

Valentina turns to the mirror to her left. She is
 startled when the IMAGE of a MAN, dressed like her is
 being reflected instead: VALENTIN.

In shock she turns to her right side where there is another mirror, reflecting now her own image. She feels relieved.

VALENTIN (V.O.)

We love Alessandra. We can keep her as a lover. But we need to look for a man. We need a husband. We need mum's support--

She looks right and left again. Both mirrors now reflect Valentin.

VALENTINA

I don't need her love or money-

VALENTIN

But I do.

VALENTINA

Who are you?

VALENTIN

I'm you.

FADE TO BLACK.

ALESSANDRA (O.S.)
(In Spanish)

Why?

FADE IN:

EXT. CAFE FIGARO, PARIS - DAY

TITLE: 3 YEARS LATER

VALENTINA (wearing a short blonde wig) and ALESSANDRA chatting over cappuccinos and croissants. Valentina is cold and distant, Alessandra is excited.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)

I had to.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 But, why Berlin?

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 That's where my boyfriend is
 from.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 I thought Steiny was American.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 No, that was his father; one
 of the American troops
 occupying Berlin.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 I've been missing you. It has
 been so long...

Weird pause.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 You know I love your art, Val,
 but really it has evolved a
 lot! So much more mature...

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 Yeah, that's another thing I
 wanted to ask you. How did you
 find me? Did my mother tell
 you about the exhibition or--

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 What are you talking about?
 Your mother hates me.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 Well, she was the one that put
 it together, I wouldn't be in
 Paris otherwise.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 Your mother hates me ever
 since that evening.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 What evening?

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 VAL, our evening, with your
 grandpa's bottle...

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 What are you talking about?

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 What's wrong with you, Val.
 How can you not remember?
 (long pause)
 Anyway your mother came to my
 apartment a week after that
 evening to bribe me--

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON (FLASHBACK)

CATALINA, argumentative, giving money to Alessandra.
 SHE doesn't accept it. CATALINA gesticulates more and
 more violently.

VALENTINA (O.S.)
(In Spanish)
 Why would she bribe you--

ALESSANDRA (O.S.)
(In Spanish)
 I know it's been very hard for
 you too, Val.

CATALINA slaps Alessandra before her refusal to take
 the money. SHE puts the money on a side table.

CATALINA

(In Spanish)

Alessandra, I'll personally
tell the truth about your
father if you ever go near Val
again.

(pause)

She WILL have a baby, and lead
the life the Lord expects from
her.

ALESSANDRA

(In Spanish)

Opus Dei, Scientology,
Mormons, Born Again
Christians, which Lord,
Catalina?

CATALINA leaves slamming the door.

INT. CAFE FIGARO, PARIS - CONTINUOUS

Valentina is dumbfounded.

ALESSANDRA

(In Spanish)

I respect your choices,
whatever the real reasons
behind them might be.

(awkward pause)

I'm moving to Rome. The play
I'm in is going to open there
and I'm going with it.

VALENTINA

(In Spanish)

What play?

ALESSANDRA

(In Spanish)

I sent you an invitation, Val.
Didn't you get it? It's an
adaptation of Stevenson's Dr.
Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; we had
great success here in Paris--

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
I wouldn't have missed it for
the world! I watched both
films!

VALENTIN
(In Spanish)
Well, the truth be known I
hate going to live theatre.

Alessandra is dumbfounded.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
Val, are you OK?

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
Yes.

Valentina's sad look. Alessandra perceives it.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
Do you want to see my new
paintings?

Valentina calls the waiter. Alessandra grabs the check.

EXT. CAFE FIGARO, PARIS - CONTINUOUS

The girls getting out the cafe onto the street.

EXT. STREETS OF PARIS - LATER

The girls walking down the streets of Paris towards
Valentina's temporary atelier.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APARTMENT WHERE VALENTINA'S STAYING - LATER

A very barren, simple space, with lots of canvases
everywhere. Obviously Valentina has been working here.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 This is fantastic, Val!

VALENTINA
 (embarrassed)
(In Spanish)
 Do you really like them?

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 They are so deep, so powerful,
 so conflicted!

VALENTINA
(in French)
 They say the more you suffer
 the more you can express...

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 Steiny must be having some
 good influence on you--

VALENTINA
(in French)
 I had to purge frustration
 somehow.

They lock eyes. ALESSANDRA takes Valentina's face with both hands. Very intense moment. VALENTIN pulls away.

VALENTIN
(In Spanish)
 Let me show you some
 photographs of my boyfriend
 and I.

ALESSANDRA takes Valentin's hands.

ALESSANDRA
 (not realizing of any
 difference - *in*
French)
 Carpe Diem. Seize the moment.

VALENTINA
(in French)
 I can't.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 You're the only one
 responsible for your own
 happiness.

Valentin is getting annoyed.

VALENTIN
(In Spanish)
 Do you want to see the album
 or not?

Alessandra is obviously hurt but she hides it.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 Val, are you really all right?

VALENTIN
(In Spanish)
 Of course I'm all right.
 Please sit down. Would you
 like a mate?

VALENTINA pours hot water from a thermos flask on the coffee table to the mate gourd next to it. SHE offers it to Ale.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 Thanks. Old memories...

ALESSANDRA and VALENTINA sit down. VALENTINA opens the album. Alessandra is attentive.

VALENTINA starts explaining the pictures. Camera goes in and out, from showing the photograph on the album's page, to immersing itself in it.

SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS: VALENTINA is selling her art and STEINY, on a bicycle, drops her easels.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 I was trying to sell my
 paintings by the canal. I was
 the only bouquiniste there,
 but I wasn't selling a thing.

PHOTOGRAPH 1: STEINY CYCLING TOWARDS WHERE VALENTINA IS PAINTING

Alessandra tries to focus. Tries hard...

PHOTOGRAPH 2: STEINY FALLING INTO THE EASELS

VALENTINA

(In Spanish)

Suddenly, out of nowhere, like a shooting star, this guy comes racing on his bike, skids, knocking ALL my canvases to the ground.

ALESSANDRA

(In Spanish)

Were they damaged?

VALENTINA

(In Spanish)

Nothing that I wasn't able to repair afterwards. But, at the time, I was so furious.

ALESSANDRA

(In Spanish)

I can see... It shows.

PHOTOGRAPH 3: STEINY APOLOGIZING TO VALENTINA

VALENTINA

(In Spanish)

And he was so apologetic, so sweet. He actually offered to buy them all, and, I don't know, he made me laugh...

PHOTOGRAPH 4: STEINY AND VALENTINA LAUGHING OVER THE INCIDENT

Valentina is pensive, drowned on her sweet memories. Alessandra is wounded.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 Who took the pictures?

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 These?
 (doubtful)
 I don't know. That's a good
 question, actually. Another
 mate?
 (Alessandra is
 waiting for a proper
 answer)
 It must have been from one of
 those photographers for
 tourists or, who knows,
 surveillance cameras perhaps,
 I don't know, and Steiny
 probably bought them, I don't
 remember...

Alessandra seems to accept the explanation. Valentina
 checks on her and when Alessandra raises her eyes to
 meet Valentina's, she goes back into the pictures.

PHOTOGRAPH 5: VALENTINA AND STEINY PLAYING WITH A
 "FISHING SCULPTURE"

PHOTOGRAPH 6: VALENTINA AND STEINY HAVING A COFFEE

PHOTOGRAPH 7: VALENTINA AND STEINY OVER A BRIDGE

PHOTOGRAPH 8: VALENTINA AND STEINY DANCING A TANGO

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 So, we started dating. He is a
 very good dancer, and, a
 gentleman...

PHOTOGRAPH 9: ROMANTIC CLOSE UP OF VALENTINA/STEINY

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
God, this is weird!

INSERT: WRITING UNDERNEATH THE PHOTO: "I AM IN LOVE"

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
This's not my handwriting, is
it?

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
I suppose that you fell in
love.

Pause.

PHOTOGRAPH 10: VALENTINA, STEINY AND CATALINA IN A
CHURCH

PHOTOGRAPH 11: CLOSE UP OF CATALINA WITH THE COUPLE

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
And, it went on, became more
serious, Mum, of course, loved
him--

ALESSANDRA
(pointing at a pic of
Steiny, Valentina
and her mother in
church)
(In Spanish)
I thought you didn't believe
in God!

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
I did it for Mum!

ALESSANDRA
(*In Spanish*)
I see.

PHOTOGRAPH 12: VALENTINA (W/WIG) AND STEINY IN A BISTRO

VALENTINA
(*In Spanish*)
So, I started a new life.

PHOTOGRAPH 13: VALENTINA "RIDING" STEINY IN BERLIN

ALESSANDRA
(*In Spanish*)
As a blonde...

PHOTOGRAPH 14: VALENTINA AND STEINY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

VALENTINA
(*In Spanish*)
It's just a wig.

PHOTOGRAPH 16: VALENTINA AND STEINY IN A STREET CAFE.
THEY DON'T LOOK HAPPY...

ALESSANDRA
(referring to the pic
of Steiny and
Valentina not
talking, over
coffee)
(*In Spanish*)
What happened, then? You don't
look to happy in this one.

BACK TO THE SCENE. Valentina becomes defensive.

VALENTINA
(*In Spanish*)
Nothing. Everything is fine.

ALESSANDRA
(*In Spanish*)
Really?

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
Really. Are you done with your
mate?

Pause. ALESSANDRA quickly finishes her and VALENTINA
serves herself one.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
My move to Rome is in less
than a week. It's also the
perfect opportunity to start
working on my father's
beatification. Would you come
and visit me?

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
This is the first time I have
seen you in 3 years; give me
some time...

ALESSANDRA goes back at looking at the album.

VALENTINA
(doubtful)
(In Spanish)
Steiny asked me to marry him.

ALESSANDRA has her eyes on the pictures that show
Valentina and Steiny obviously not feeling comfortable,
sad. VALENTINA realizes and closes the album.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
And we will accept.

FADE OUT.

FIRST MARRIAGE BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

INT. STEINY'S APT/CELLAR

TITLE: BERLIN 3 WEEKS LATER...

She opens her cellar compartment. It is very neat. A nice IKEA feeling. An old wooden and glass cabinet stands out. The same one we've seen in Grandfather's wine cellar. There, displayed, the wine bottles. Valentina goes for the "First Marriage" one. She has a moment of doubt. Then she steps out and switches the lights off.

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Valentina gets up the stairs. With a suitcase in one hand and the bottle in the other. There is a sense of expectancy.

VALENTINA

Hello... Hola... Wie geht's...
Bla, Bla, Bla... Dios!

She gets to the apartment door and can't find her keys. When she does, the door has some difficulties to be opened. She finally opens it.

INT. STEINY'S APT./LIVING ROOM

Valentina enters. Turns on the light. There is a big stack of mail on the counter by the entrance, neatly put together and bearing her name.

Other already opened envelopes are next to the stack. They are mostly bills addressed to: "Steiny Deinhart". She goes through them too.

She walks into the living room and puts her bags down. She looks at the time. There is some disappointment in her face: Steiny is not home.

INT. OPEN KITCHEN

Valentina uncorks the wine bottle and inhales its aroma deeply, setting then two gleaming glasses next to the bottle; she lights some candles and puts some very soft music on.

She drinks a sip of the wine directly from the bottle. She then looks at a "Berlin - 2004" Calendar on the wall, confirming the date.

VALENTINA

OK. HI! Don't say anything!
I've got a surprise for you!
Would you like to go back to
Paris next month?... Mum is
finally getting married and--
(she takes another
sip)
... well, actually... I've
been thinking about your
proposal too and...

She goes to get another sip but stops herself midway looking at the label...

INSERT: LABEL: "FIRST MARRIAGE"

VALENTINA

I was wondering whether
perhaps we--

She freezes. There is a guttural, sexual moaning sound coming from down the corridor in the bedroom, next to the bathroom. She is paralyzed. Sudden terror in her eyes. She drinks from the bottle again.

INT. CORRIDOR

She walks towards the source of the panting. She slowly approaches the door. Takes a beat and slowly opens it, just enough to see.

INT. BEDROOM

Steiny is having sex with a young man. There are condoms, lubricant and towels all around as well as Horst's police uniform. Valentina is about to scream but a male hand covers her mouth.

INT. CORRIDOR

Valentin stops Valentina from screaming. He forces her into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

The big wall-to-wall mirror. Valentin has no reflection in it; only Valentina does. She is fighting her extreme emotion and tears and starts drinking the bottle empty. Lots of wine gets spilt.

VALENTINA
(in Spanish)
 What the hell are you doing here?... You knew about it.

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 I had a premonition.

VALENTINA
*(crying hysterically-
 in Spanish)*
 God! Why didn't you tell me!
 What am I gonna do, what the fuck am--

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 Valentina: First of all calm down. I know it's tough, but you can't let him realize you found out--

VALENTINA
 Shut up! Leave me alone!

VALENTIN
 I can't leave you.

EXT. IDYLLIC GARDEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Alessandra and Valentina are making love.

INT. CATALINA'S APT/BEDROOM (FLASHBACK)

Catalina's ultimatum to Valentina.

INT. STEINY'S APT/BATHROOM (PRESENT)

VALENTINA

I am who I am, I WON'T carry
on lying to myself--

VALENTIN

We have to.

VALENTINA

No. I don't. I've been faking
orgasms for the past 3 years.
NOT feeling a thing...

INT. CATALINA'S APT/BEDROOM (FLASHBACK)

Valentin appears in the mirrors for the first time.

INT. STEINY'S APT/BATHROOM (PRESENT)

VALENTINA

This is your fault... I'm
getting out.

VALENTIN

No, you are not. We will stay
put.

VALENTINA

Who the fuck do you think you
are?

STEINY (O.S.)

Wer is da? VAL, bist du dass?
VAL, is that you?

VALENTIN

Fucking hell, he heard us!

VALENTINA

I will end this right now.

Valentin forcefully stops Valentina. He slaps her.

VALENTIN
You're not going anywhere!

Steiny starts pounding on the bathroom door.

STEINY (O.S.)
Macht die Tür auf! PLEASE!

Valentina struggles with Valentin to get to the door. He is slowly becoming hysterical too. He finishes up the bottle.

STEINY (O.S.)
(screaming)
Open the door! I can explain!!
PLEASE!

VALENTINA
He's a horny slut.

VALENTIN
But I love him.

VALENTINA
You are in love with being in
love.

Valentin put his hands in his ears to cover them.

STEINY (O.S.)
Open it now! Val, please. You
have to understand... I have
sexual needs.

VALENTINA
(shouting)
So have I!!

MONTAGE: Valentina's life flashes in a couple of seconds...

Valentina joins her arms together and charges towards the mirror (reflecting only her), still holding the almost empty bottle in her hand. THE BOTTLE SMASHES. The mirror cracks. Her wrists are cut and bleed profusely. Valentin bleeds from his wrists too. Valentina closes her eyes.

CAMERA CLOSES AS IF THERE WERE EYE LIDS.

FADE OUT:

BLACK SCREEN

O.S., Steiny is frantically pounding on the door until he breaks it.

CAMERA OPENS AS IF THERE WERE EYE LIDS.
FADE IN:

Valentin opens his eyes. We don't see Valentina anymore. Blood and wine everywhere. Big butchery. Steiny glances down at the sink and sees:

INSERT: A PIECE OF GLASS WITH THE BROKEN LABEL IN THE SINK: "FIRST MARRIAGE."

Nervous, Steiny stares, standing in his underwear, unsure of what to do.

STEINY
(to himself)
Where are the fucking towels!
(he realizes)
(in German)
Fuck!

Steiny holds Valentin. We can't distinguish the reflections in the mirror behind them.

Valentin drops to the white tiled floor. Steiny takes off his white underwear and kneels to wrap Valentin's wrist with it.

STEINY
I do love you...

VALENTIN
But...

Big pause. Steiny doesn't know how to answer.

In the reflection of Steiny's watering eyes, we see: Valentina.

We then REFOCUS on the mirror. VALENTINA IS TRAPPED
INSIDE...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL (PRESENT TIME)

VALENTIN'S POV:

Steiny's face looking at Valentin intently.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/LIBRARY (FLASHBACK)

The library is extremely cozy with wood paneling and a fire burning in the fireplace. Sheep and cow skin rugs along with some Persian ones. Nice antiques, plates and small sculptures. Sofia enters the room first, followed by Valentina and Steiny. She points at a picture frame with a picture of Alexandre.

Sofia opens one drawer and takes a child-like drawing out.

SOFIA
(*in Spanish, to*
Steiny)
Val made this more than 20
years ago.

Sofia pats Valentina on her back and messes her hair.

VALENTINA
(*In Spanish*)
Grannie, in English.

INSERT: DRAWING

SOFIA
Here you can see, is Alexandre
and his very best friend,
Angel.

INSERT: THE DRAWING PROGRESSIVELY BECOMES ALIVE WHILE:

SUPERIMPOSE ON:

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/CELLAR - (PREVIOUS FLASHBACK)

ALEXANDRE and ANGEL are making 7 bottles of wine. They pour the wine into the bottles from a golden pitcher. Then, while Alexandre proceeds to write the labels, Angel submerges the bottles in water in what it looks like a Baptismal ritual, blesses them, dries them up and passes them to Alexandre who attaches the labels to the bottles.

SOFIA(V.O.)

(in broken English)

They were like brothers. But while Alexandre started a new life with me in Uruguay as a wine maker, Angelo stayed in Italy and became a priest.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/LIBRARY - (BACK TO SCENE)

SOFIA

It was soon clear that he was a healer, working miracles such as curing people with cancer. Before long, he had become some sort of an idol for the masses, a saint.

Valentin and Steiny look at each other. The picture of Alexandre and Angel shines in the background.

SOFIA

And out of the same love he had for his fellow human being, he conceived a daughter. The Vatican did not like this, of course, which led him to an exile and a reunion with his childhood friend, here, in Uruguay.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/CELLAR

One bottle is opened by Alexandre, the one whose label reads: "First Celebration". They drink from two golden goblets. They toast.

ALEXANDRE
(*in French*)
To our friendship, to love and-

ANGEL
(*in French*)
To our heritage to the new
born. To Valentina!

ALEXANDRE
(*in French*)
And to Alessandra, your
beloved daughter, and their
future friendship.

Alexandre grabs another bottle, the one whose label
reads: "First Miracle", and gives it to Angel.

ALEXANDRE
(*in French*)
And this bottle is for you. It
represents us--

ANGEL
(*in French*)
And I will keep it as my most
precious possession, next to
my soul, my dear friend.

They embrace dearly, emotionally.

INT. HOSPITAL (PRESENT TIME)

VALENTIN'S POV:

Steiny's face looking at Valentin intently.

INT. STEINY'S APT/BEDROOM (FLASHBACK)

Steiny and Horst have just made love and Valentina
discovers them.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. STEINY'S APT/BATHROOM (FLASHBACK)

Valentin and Valentina arguing after Steiny heard them.
Steiny is still behind the glass door.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. STEINY'S APT/BATHROOM (FLASHBACK)

Valentina breaks the bottle against the mirror and both
Valentina and Valentin realize of their writs cuts.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL (PRESENT TIME)

VALENTIN'S POV:

Steiny's face looking at Valentin intently. He
smiles...

EXT. IDYLLIC GARDEN - DAY

A beautiful park in Paris, an idyllic garden.
Alessandra gives Angel's letter to Valentina.

ANGEL (V.O.)
(in French)
Dearest Valentina:
By the time you read this
letter I'll long be dead.

She is astonished when reading it for the first time.

Alessandra puts her arm around her, comforting her.

ANGEL (V.O.)
(in French)
I wanted to be buried with the
bottle your Grandpa gave me,
until you were ready to put
this bottle to its intended
use, to paint the interior of
my chapel in the Apenines.
(MORE)

ANGEL(cont'd)

The time is coming, my dear
Valentina.

SUPERIMPOSE ON:

EXT. ANGEL'S FACE AGAINST THE SKY

ANGEL
(*in French*)

A time when you feel
everything is going wrong and
there's nothing else to live
for. That is going to be our
time. Paint my walls and find
solace in them.
Forever yours, Angel.

Valentina reacts aggressively, slapping Alessandra. She
is left alone, sobbing.

INT. BATHROOM

Valentina is trapped behind the mirror.

VALENTIN (V.O.)
All I want is to keep Mum's
love, Mum's acceptance... even
if it means repressing your
love for Alessandra. I will
give Steiny a second chance.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL (PRESENT)

Valentin opens his eyes. He is much calmer. Steiny
doesn't know how to react. He is all apologetic, afraid
of Val's possible reaction.

VALENTIN
Let's go home.
(pause)
Or rather, let's pass by home
and go to a nice bar.

FADE OUT.

FIRST BETRAYAL BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

INT. BERLINER BAR - LATER

Steiny is surprised by seeing Valentin with the bottle.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
Would you open this for me?

Steiny opens the bottle, and pours it into two gleaming glasses. They toast.

Pause. Valentin takes the engagement ring off his finger, kisses it, puts it on Steiny's finger, kisses it, takes it off and puts it back on his finger.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
I am in love with you.

STEINY
(*conflicted - in German*)
I know.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
I'll be there for you,
whatever happens, no matter
what.

Pause. Steiny looks away. Valentin is annoyed, frustrated.

VALENTIN
Please tell me about this guy
I found you with.

STEINY
Do you wanna know about him or
about me?

VALENTIN

About you.

Pause. He walks inside, to the dinning area. Valentin follows him.

INT. DINNING AREA

STEINY

I was 14 the first time I was with a man. My first love was a policeman from East Berlin. His name is Horst.

VALENTIN

You were a kid.

STEINY

If that's what you wanna call it, I certainly didn't feel like it.

INT. STEINY'S FAMILY'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Horst is naked on top of Steiny; in bed.

The door opens and STEINY'S DAD, drunk, in full US-Marine regalia enters along with 2 other MARINES and 6 WHORES. At the sight, Steiny's Dad becomes extremely aggressive. He starts beating Steiny in a brutal way.

STEINY (V.O.)

Dad came back home unexpectedly... He was drunk, Dad usually was and...

(long pause; Steiny sobs)

No son of his was gonna be gay and he felt he had to beat it out of my system... and Horst grabbed his gun to stop him--

VALENTIN (V.O.)

A gun?

INT. DINNING AREA - (BACK TO SCENE)

STEINY

I told you, he is a policeman.

VALENTIN

Sorry.

STEINY

No. It's OK.

Pause. Steiny tries to put himself together.

VALENTIN

And what happened?

STEINY

I don't really wanna talk
about it.

Valentin assents; respectfully. Long pause.

SUPERIMPOSE ON:

INT. STEINY'S FAMILY'S HOUSE (FLASHBACK) - CONTINUOUS

Horst and Steiny's Dad are fighting over the gun. The other Marines watch and cheer the action. Young Steiny, still naked, is crying scared.

STEINY (V.O.)

They fought, my Dad and Horst.

(pause)

And... Dad managed to grab
Horst's gun and...

Steiny's Dad wins the struggle and unexpectedly puts the gun to his head and pulls the trigger. Big explosion.

(long pause)

And... it went off. He blew
his own brain out.

INT. DINNING AREA - (BACK TO SCENE)

Valentin stands up and hugs Steiny. Valentina is watching the scene from a far corner. She is obviously moved by it.

VALENTIN

I will be the man you need.

STEINY

You can't be.

Valentin tries to pour some more wine.

STEINY

This is too perfect for me.

EXT. OLD CEMETERY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK?/DREAM?/PRESENT?)

Full moon. Old marble mausoleums with angels stand guard over the centuries' dead. Alexandre and Angel, very young, stand in an open space, surrounded by candles. Angel is fascinated and allows Alexandre to undress him.

Much like a pagan ritual Alexandre removes his own clothes and smears mud over his body and Angel's. Naked, Alexandre lifts Angel as an offering to the moon, and kisses him.

ALEXANDRE

Happy Anniversary!

Alexandre takes the engagement ring off his finger, kisses it and places it on Steiny's finger. He kisses Angel's finger over the following dialogue.

ALEXANDRE

And, we should have a child, a baby. We should become a family and finally get married.

Angel drops the action dead pan. He is suddenly frozen.

ANGEL

This is TOO perfect for me,
too nice--

ALEXANDRE

(in very soothing
voice)

It can never be too nice when
it's powered by true love. I
love you.

ANGEL

And, I love... both of you.

Sharp pause. Like a bucket of cold water on Alexandre's
head. He turns into Valentin. Valentina materializes
naked next to Valentin. Valentin blinks and Angel
blends to Steiny.

VALENTIN

(in German)

What do you mean? What does it
mean that you LOVE us both?

STEINY

(in German)

I understand your efforts,
Val... but I can't have a
child with you. I miss him.

VALENTINA

(Valentin's voice)

Horst? If what you had with
Horst was love I could respect
that. But he manipulated you
as a child. That is not love,
not like what we have--

STEINY

(in German)

What we have isn't enough,
Val.

VALENTINA

(Valentin's voice)

So you're telling me that,
within a couple of hours you
fucked Horst or he fucked you
out of love!!

STEINY

I only said I missed him.

VALENTINA
 (Valentin's voice)
 No you didn't. You said you
 loved him.

Steiny takes the ring off and places it on Valentina's
 palm.

STEINY
 I will go back to Horst.

Valentin doesn't say a word. He shatters the First
 Betrayal bottle and the glasses they were drinking from
 against the marble tombs. He leaves.

STEINY
 (shouting after him)
 I am not live a lie any
 longer.

SUPERIMPOSE ON:

FLASHBACK: VAL'S MOTHER'S ULTIMATUM

EXT. BERLINER STREETS - CONTINUOUS

VALENTIN wearing just a raincoat, still covered in mud,
 are running, going no-where...

EXT. OLD CEMETERY - NIGHT

ALEXANDRE and ANGEL covered in mud, at the cemetery, in
 their pagan ritual.

ANGEL
 This is TOO perfect for me,
 too nice--

ALEXANDRE
 (in very soothing
 voice)
 It can never be too nice when
 it's powered by true love. I
 love you.

ANGEL
 And, I love... both of you.

EXT. BERLINER STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Valentin speaks fast, and faster, almost not thinking... being the two sides of their personality. Valentin is also Valentina... He starts spinning...

VALENTIN(A)

Where are we going?

VALENTIN

Is it possible to fall in love in 3 weeks?

VALENTIN(A)

Infatuation is a springboard to love sometimes.

VALENTIN

It always ebbs away.

VALENTIN(A)

Maybe we are too much. Too much to handle. Too many reminders of his insecurities.

VALENTIN

Can love be as selfish as to want to possess one another?

VALENTIN(A)

Possession isn't love. It's fear, insecurity, the need to be in control...

Valentin resumes running. Faster. On the tram lines...

Valentin reaches his car. It has a Berlin license plate.

VALENTIN

We have to leave.

VALENTIN(A)

Where?

INT. CAR

VALENTIN

We can't let him win. He is going to kick us out of the apartment--

VALENTIN(A)

Or put a restraining order against us--

VALENTIN

Or manipulate us into--

VALENTINA(A)

Where are we going?

VALENTIN

To Rome.

VALENTIN(A)

To see her?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OLD RUINS IN ROME - DAY

Beautiful park with ancient ruins. It's raining. There is a sense of tranquility. VALENTIN and ALESSANDRA are walking. They seem to be arguing. Valentin has a bottle of wine in his hand.

VALENTIN

(in Spanish)

I just don't want to talk about it.

ALESSANDRA

(in Spanish)

Then how am I suppose to help you?

VALENTIN

(in Spanish)

Who said I'm asking for help!

ALESSANDRA

(in Spanish)

Val, listen, obviously something big happened with Steiny. Otherwise you wouldn't be here, right?

Silence.

ALESSANDRA

(in French)

But he didn't hurt you, did he?

VALENTIN

(in French)

What is - to hurt. It's a relative concept, isn't it?

ALESSANDRA

(in French)

Everything is relative, Val. You know, the impressionist painters, Monet for example, painted the cathedral of Rouen at different times of the day, showed it at different lights, different emotions. When he painted the Cathedral at night it was almost colourless. Who is to say that what we see now, filled with life and full of colours, is more real than the monochromatic black that we see at night. Which one is reality? Both, right? How do we know our eyes are not lying to us? What about the rest of our senses. What is real? I agree with you. Everything is relative...

Valentin doesn't answer.

ALESSANDRA

(in French)

Val, I understand you. Shattered ideals need time to repair and Rome is perfect for that. I'm glad you came.

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 There's something about
 decaying beautiful structures
 that reminds us of
 Montevideo. We feel like a
 teenager--

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 We?
 (pause)
 Val, the play I am in deals
 with a character with a double
 personality. I've been doing
 some research on the character
 and--

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 And?

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 And I'm worried about you Val.

VALENTIN "looses" it...

VALENTIN
*(in French, Spanish
 and English)*
 Are you going to start
 patronizing me again? What's
 wrong with you? Can't we just
 have a normal conversation?

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 I'm telling you this because I
 love you, Val. I truly believe
 that you need to get help.

VALENTIN
 Maybe I didn't make a mistake.
 Maybe the concept of mistake
 is relative and therefore
 changes with the times,
 trends, cultures, religions,
 traditions... I think Steiny
 hates me.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 Val, are you listening to me?

VALENTIN
 Steiny thinks I'm crazy,
 doesn't he? Surely you see I'm
 not mad.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 I see both of you, Val. I
 understand you both...

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APT / LIVING ROOM - LATER

Alessandra provides Valentin with canvases and paint.
 By now, Valentin is totally wasted. She is also
 bringing bed linen for the couch and a night shirt.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 All of this is for you... to
 feel at home.

Valentin is touched by Alessandra's kindness.

VALENTIN
(in French)
 Thank you. Thank you so much.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 Do you think you are going to
 be OK on the couch?

VALENTIN
(in French)
 Perfect.

VALENTIN starts to undress. He catches Alessandra's look
 when he is about to take his pants off. He turns
 around. And gets into the couch.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 Good night, then. Sleep well.

VALENTIN
(in French)
 Thanks. I will. I'm plastered.

Alessandra doesn't leave. There is obviously something else but she doesn't know how to say it.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 Val... talking about wine... I need to ask you a favour. Do you remember that letter, of my father's, asking you to paint his chapel with the wine he was buried with?

VALENTIN reacts dimly. He is drunk.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 And whenever you feel the worst?

VALENTIN is falling asleep.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 I think the time is coming, Val... It might truly help you.

VALENTIN has a reaction that is angry but somehow softened by his stupor.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 In order for him to be declared a Saint he needs another miracle, a post-mortem one--

Suddenly Valentin gets a second wind.

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 This is not about helping me, Ale, is about helping yourself!

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
Val, really, it isn't. You
don't--

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
There will be no miracle with
that wine and there will be no
sanctification either. Your
father was a catholic priest
with a daughter, he will never
be--

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
Jesus had a daughter too!

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
Come on, Ale. The Vatican will
never admit to all that Mary
Magdalene crap. You know I'm
right. Your father and my
Grandpa might have dedicated
their lives to the Holy Grail
but--

ALESSANDRA kisses Valentin on the forehead. SHE is
deeply hurt.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
Dream with angels.

SHE leaves.

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APT / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Valentin is sleeping soundly in the couch. Valentina
gets up and writes a note on a piece of paper.

INSERT: NOTE TO ALESSANDRA

Valentina inserts the note in Alessandra's jacket's
pocket. She then goes back to bed.

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APARTMENT - THE MORNING AFTER

Alessandra wearing a robe, comes out of the kitchen holding some 2 cups of coffee. She obviously just woke up.

SHE goes towards the couch. Once she is close enough to it she realizes that Val is not there. The bed is not made.

ALESSANDRA

Val?

Alessandra looks around, goes to the bathroom, looks everywhere in the apartment. No Val.

ALESSANDRA puts some slacks on, shoes, and grabs her jacket. While putting it on Valentina's note falls on the floor. SHE reads it.

ALESSANDRA (V.O.)

(in French)

Dearest Ale: I would love to paint your father's chapel if the offer is still on. I would need some help from you in exchange though. Would you be able to use your Vatican contacts to organize an art exhibit for me? I really want to start anew, fresh in this city. I need to escape. Thanks. With all my ongoing love, Val.

ALESSANDRA

VAL!... VAL!

FADE OUT.

FIRST BORN BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT BUILDING/STAIRS - DAY

Valentin with the First Born bottle in his hand, is peeling the label off.

VALENTINA

Why?

Valentina talks from the mirror.

VALENTIN

He can't realize the power this bottle has.

VALENTINA

You are obsessed with Steiny.

VALENTIN

Real love is always obsessive.

Valentina faces Valentin.

VALENTINA

Bullshit! Real love forgives, and accepts the beloved one for who they are-

VALENTIN

Or want to be-

VALENTINA

NO. For who they are. I respect people that accept themselves for who they are, not for how they believe they have to present themselves in order to be accepted. That's why you are making me hate myself. You are the one keeping appearances.

Valentin drops the label and, passing by Valentina, he proceeds to climb the stairs.

VALENTINA

(in Spanish)

Why did you decide to visit Alessandra? Why did we spend so much time in Rome?

VALENTIN

I needed to buy some time. I needed
to get you ovulating.

VALENTINA

(in Spanish)

What!!

Valentina starts chasing Valentin upstairs.

VALENTIN

(in Spanish)

You have to face maternity. You
have to face your biological clock.

VALENTINA

Fuck you! Who do you think you are?
We are not puppet strings to be
stepped down and flattened. Steiny
is playing with us.

VALENTIN

Steiny might be the last
opportunity you have, Valentina.
Plus, Steiny gives me peace.

Valentina catches on with Valentin at the landing and
confronts him.

VALENTINA

Fuck you and your peace! Become a
nun if you want peace! We have to
forget about the bastard.

Valentina is hitting Valentin.

POV. NEIGHBOUR: VALENTINA IS HITTING HERSELF.

VALENTINA

I can't.

VALENTINA

Yes, you can. You will.

Valentin releases himself of Valentina.

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Steiny opens the apartment door. There is a moment of weirdness.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
Good to see you.

STEINY
(*in German*)
Good to see you too.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
Should I stay in the corridor, or
are you going to let me in?

STEINY
(*in German*)
Of course, I'm sorry. Come in.

Valentin gets in. They don't know how to greet each other. They are nervous...

STEINY
(*in German*)
Would you like anything to
drink?

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
Thanks.

STEINY
(*in German*)
I've found this Uruguayan
Tannat in KaDeWe. Would you
like some?

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
No.

STEINY
(*in German*)
Yes, of course.

INT. KITCHEN

VALENTIN

Are you sure Horst is not coming back tonight?

STEINY

Yes. He has a night shift. Plus he has some kind of doctor's appointment in the morning.

VALENTIN

All right.

STEINY

So, tell me, how was Italy. I was kind of shocked by how suddenly you left.

DISSOLVE TO:

Time passes... they start to get comfortable with one another...

DISSOLVE TO:

VALENTIN

... from Alessandra's father's tomb. They want me to paint his chapel with... the wine as paint. Is it not crazy?

Pause. Valentin sits down. Steiny is expectant. There is an empty pause.

VALENTIN

Steiny, I... when I was in Italy, you know, when I was there, I had lots of time to think and... I came to the conclusion that, if it hadn't been for this infidelity, I would have never known how immensely I feel for you.

STEINY

I'm so sorry that I've hurt you. I love you.

(MORE)

STEINY(cont'd)

I don't want to cause you
pain. I never did.

Valentin is achieving what he came here for. Steiny is
falling into his trap...

VALENTIN

More wine?

Valentin starts to serve wine to Steiny, again, and
again, slowly getting him drunk.

He then decides to open the First Born bottle (with no
label).

VALENTIN

All the way from Italy. It's
really good!

Valentin kisses Steiny.

STEINY

It feels like the first time.
You look really good.

VALENTIN

You too.

Valentin sips from the wine too. He turns to the
mirror. Valentina is there. She gives him a disapproval
look.

VALENTINA

You are in love with being in
love.

VALENTIN

Real love is always obsessive.

INT. BEDROOM

Steiny undresses Valentin. In the mirror reflection we
see Valentina being undress. Valentin leads Steiny to
the bed.

Valentin calls Valentina in. Like a puppeteer he
manipulates Valentina's movements and sits her next
Steiny's erected penis while feeding them with the
wine.

Steiny grabs a condom and Valentina unwraps it. Valentin takes away from Valentina. He pushes her into Steiny. They make love...

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Valentin gets up and goes to the kitchen where Steiny is. He seems to be drowning in thoughts. Valentin caresses Steiny tenderly.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
What's going on?

STEINY
(*in German*)
We shouldn't have made love
last night. That was a
horrible mistake.

VALENTIN
(*in German*)
I thought it was beautiful.

STEINY
Horst has tested HIV positive.

Steiny gets up leaving a frozen Valentin behind. Valentina comes out and crashes the bottle onto the floor. She starts hitting Valentin. He takes it.

VALENTINA
We've got what you deserve.

Valentina is crying. Valentin leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BERLINER STREETS - NIGHT

Succession of depressive events, falling to different pavements, in different parts of Berlin; always with some bottle in his hand. Valentin drinks himself ill. HE falls to the pavement.

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alessandra on the phone.

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The telephone is ringing. STEINY hears it. He doesn't answer it.

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Alessandra rings another number.

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Steiny's cell phone is ringing. It's next to the empty wine bottles, on the coffee table. STEINY doesn't answer.

INT. ALESSANDRA'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Alessandra dials another number.

ALESSANDRA
(in Italian)
Pierino? How are you?...
Thanks. Actually I need to ask
you a favour. How quickly can
you get me to Berlin?

INT. BERLINER STREETS - NIGHT

VALENTIN, extremely drunk, peeing, squatting, like a woman, on the street. A STREET HUSTLER comes to him.

HUSTLER 1
(in German)
Can I help you with that?

VALENTIN is too drunk to respond. HUSTLER 1 caresses Valentin. HUSTLER 2 joins in. In the background, MEN are having sex with hustlers. Some WHORES about too. DRUG DEALERS. SEX, more sex...

HUSTLER 2
(*in German*)
Do you wanna have some fun?
I'm only 100 Euros.

HUSTLER 1
(*in German*)
150 Euros for both of us.

A PROSTITUTE joins in.

PROSTITUTE
(*in English*)
Leave her! She has a
boyfriend. And you two know
him very well.

HUSTLER 2
(*in English*)
Who is that?

PROSTITUTE
(*in English*)
Just leave her alone.

HUSTLER 1
(*in German*)
Oh my God! Is Steiny's!!!!

VALENTIN reacts furious.

VALENTIN
How? Why? What? Steiny!!

HE starts hitting the hustlers and prostitutes, loses
balance and falls to the pavement.

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT/STAIRS - NIGHT

ALESSANDRA going up stairs.

INT. HORST'S APARTMENT/ENTRANCE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

ALESSANDRA knocking on Horst's apartment's door. The
door opens. (*The scene is an accented English*)

ALESSANDRA

Hi! I'm sorry to bother you.
You don't know me but I know
of you. You are Steiny, am I
right?

STEINY

Ja. And I know who you are.

ALESSANDRA

Hi! I'm looking for Val...

VALENTIN

Both my boyfriend, Horst, and
Val disappeared.

ALESSANDRA

What, together?

STEINY

No, they don't even know each
other.

ALESSANDRA

Any leads?

STEINY

Hospitals, bottom of rivers, I
don't know.

ALESSANDRA

Please help me. Val is ill and
I need to find--

STEINY

Aren't we all?

STEINY closes the door on her face. We can see
desperation in Alessandra's face. SHE knocks again. And
again. And again. The door opens.

STEINY

Check the red district. That's
where I would have gone.

HE closes the door again. ALESSANDRA is dumbfounded.

INT. CAR - LATER

ALESSANDRA is driving about in the red light district of Berlin. Hustlers, prostitutes, homeless... Suddenly SHE spots Valentin.

EXT. BERLINER STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Alessandra gets out of a car.

ALESSANDRA
(*in French*)
What have you done to
yourself!

VALENTIN
(*in French*)
I want to die.

ALESSANDRA
(*in French*)
You f***ing lunatic! Do you
realize what you've done to
yourself AND to others? If you
don't care about yourself,
what about your mother, what
about me?
(pause)
I don't know what to do with
you, I don't know how to deal
with you any more, I don't
know who you are...

Valentin doesn't respond.

FADE OUT.

FIRST MIRACLE BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

INT. FATHER ROSELLE'S CHAPEL - SUNSET

The reds and oranges of the sunset are streaming through the open door inflicting a surreal atmosphere. The walls are already mapped out.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 I'm totally impressed. It looks great!

Alessandra goes for a kiss. Valentin stops her.

VALENTIN
(in French)
 Please, Ale. I'm truly not prepared. I can't.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 Why not?

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 I CAN'T.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 I respect it.

Pause.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 I just want honesty, Val, there's something really wrong with you. I can only help you if you open up, Val. Please. What is it?

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 Ale, if you respect me as you say you do, you wouldn't push. I'll tell when I feel I'm ready. I'm not now.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 All right. I agree. I
 apologize...

Valentin nods his head assenting.

ALESSANDRA
(in Spanish)
 Let's open my dad's bottle.

Alessandra goes to her bag and takes the bottle out of it. She opens it. Valentin goes to her and inhales its aroma too.

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 We have no glasses. Do you
 mind drinking it from the
 bottle?

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 But we have to save it for the
 chapel. To paint Jesus' heart
 with it.

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 Ale, I've already told you
 what I think about that. We've
 got enough paint anyway, and
 we can... I don't know,
 outline the nails that stock
 J. to the cross!

Alessandra annoyingly passes the bottle to Valentin. He takes a sip. Then he passes it to Alessandra and she takes a sip. She holds the bottle when Valentin goes after it again and gets closer to the walls.

ALESSANDRA
(in French)
 Can you start applying it?

VALENTIN
(in Spanish)
 Ale, please. We are not kids
 anymore.

She looks at him intently. Valentin gets a brush and empties the bottle in a can not before taking another sip from it.

VALENTIN

It's so good!

(in French)

Truly vintage 1977! Merry
Christmas, Angel!

He starts applying the paint on the heart. The moment the wine touches the wall it acquires the most amazing colours and reflections.

VALENTIN

Oh, my God!

Valentin starts painting frantically, like possessed.

When the can is empty he motions to Alessandra and she, already in tears, gestures to the bottle: It is full again.

Tears of joy. Valentin can't believe it. He pours the bottle in the can and it instantaneously replenishes itself again. He pours it in another can, and the bottle replenishes again. And again. And again.

VALENTIN

Oh my God!

Suddenly Steiny materializes in the room and so does Angel.

STEINY

I came to say Good-bye.

STEINY

Suicidal tendencies are
hereditary. They were
streaming through my veins--

ANGEL

It is too hard to live with a
terminal disease.

The wine stops from flowing. The paintings acquire brilliant, beautiful colours. Valentin is in shock. Alessandra hugs and kisses Valentin. Valentin tries to push her away but Alessandra presses again.

VALENTIN
(*in French*)

Ale, I might have AIDS... I made love to Steiny when I was back in Berlin last, and, he was infected through his lover... I don't want to hurt you...

Alessandra kisses Valentin on the cheek.

VALENTIN
(*in French*)

But I promise you something... I'll stop drinking today. Your father really was a Saint.

She kisses him again.

Valentin drops his head. Alessandra lifts it up, kisses him softly and talks straight to his eyes.

ALESSANDRA
(*in French*)

I don't care whether you're infected or not. I'm prepared to totally abstain from making love to you. But I will not abstain from loving you.

Valentin is breaking down.

ALESSANDRA
(*in French*)

I will always be there with you and for you, both of you, whatever happens.

(pause)

I am in love with you.

VALENTIN
(*in French*)

I'm sorry. Too many emotions, too quickly. Please, I need to be on my own.

Alessandra leaves. Valentin can only hear Catalina's ultimatum. Suddenly, a bang is heard. Broken glass. A mirror?

Valentin goes frantically downstairs. To where the mirror is. With Valentina inside. The mirror has broken...

Valentin goes crazy. He knows that he is about to die. He goes towards the baptismal crypt. The First Miracle bottle is there! How did it get there?

Valentin falls to the floor. He is naked. Valentina comes out of nowhere, grabs the bottle, tries the wine but spits it out on Valentin. Valentin reacts oddly, as if he was being burnt. Valentina realizes of it. She pours the rest of the wine on Valentin. Valentin, screaming and shouting starts to dissolve until all what is left of him is a puddle of wine and blood.

Alessandra, having heard the commotion, comes back into the church. She is extremely worried.

ALESSANDRA
(*in French*)

Valentina! What are you doing? What happened?

VALENTINA
(*in Spanish*)

I'm in love with you too. I want you to come to Montevideo with me. To celebrate the New Year together.

ALESSANDRA
(*in Spanish*)

But your mother is going to be there.

VALENTINA
(*in Spanish*)

Believe me, this time is going to be different.

VALENTINA and ALESSANDRA kiss...

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Valentina and Alessandra with the doctor. He is about to open the sealed envelope with the results. The tension is unbearable. He opens it. He grins.

DOCTOR
(In Italian)
The results show, that ...you
are HIV negative.

ALESSANDRA
(In Italian)
It's a miracle!

Alessandra kisses Valentina.

DOCTOR
(In Italian)
But I have some other news--

FADE OUT.

FIRST RECONCILIATION BOTTLE...

The wine is telling the story. Drop by drop.. of blood?

FADE IN:

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/LIBRARY

In the library, in one shelf, displayed as the most precious treasure, is the 7th. Bottle, the one that bottles a white rose, whose label reads: "First Reconciliation".

Sofia is being extremely warm and tender to both Valentina and Alessandra.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
I'm afraid, Grannie.

SOFIA
(In Spanish)
Happy New Year, my girls!
This bottle is the one
Alexandre and Angel drank to
celebrate your birth. And this
rose is one of the ones that
wouldn't stop from growing
when Angelo died...
(MORE)

SOFIA(cont'd)

and that you and Alessandra
were clipping...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/GARDEN - AFTERNOON

Two girls, Valentina (aged 3) and Alessandra (aged 6) are playing in the garden by cutting white roses from the rose bushes. The moment they cut them they miraculously blossom again.

There is a wake going on. People are all wearing black, but the girls, who are wearing virginal white.

The girls go inside with the white roses.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Angelo is lying dead, dressed in white in an open coffin. Sofia and of course Alessandro are there, next to the coffin.

Alessandro picks one of the white roses up and goes downstairs.

INT GRANDPA'S VILLA/CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

Alexandre grabs the bottle labeled "First Celebration", his fountain pen and sits down. He takes his time looking at the bottle.

Tears start rolling down his old wrinkled face.

He picks up the pen and crosses the word "Celebration" off, writing "Reconciliation" instead.

SOFIA

(In Spanish)

Alexandre picked one rose up,
bottled it and left this world
to accompany his best friend,
forever. And this rose, is
still alive...

He inhales aroma of the white rose deeply and inserts it then in the empty wine bottle. He corks it.

Suddenly while he is looking at the bottle he grins, with true happiness, takes a deep breath and falls to the ground.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/LIBRARY (BACK TO SCENE)

SOFIA
(In Spanish)
 Now it's yours Val. Take it.

Valentina kisses her Grannie. Then Alessandra.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 Thank you grannie.

Valentina leaves the room and goes upstairs, to her room. Alessandra wants to follow her but Sofia motions for her to stay.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/VALENTINA'S BEDROOM

Valentina is in her bedroom. She drops to the floor, in a corner, holds her head between her hands and thinks, and thinks.

She then picks up the phone and dials a long number.

There is suddenly tremendous commotion coming from downstairs.

CATALINA (O.S.)
(In Spanish)
 WHAT! How can you do this to me, Mum? How can you dare set foot in this house, Alessandra? Where is Valentina? VALENTINA!!

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/LIVING ROOM

Valentina comes slowly downstairs. When perceived by her mother, the shouting match starts.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 How can you do this to me?
 (MORE)

CATALINA(cont'd)

Are you trying to kill me? Do you hate me that much? This is New year's Eve, the new Millennium, I've been hanging on a plane for more than 24 hours, and yet I come to get some love and comfort, my family, and you bring the very reason for our problems to it!

Catalina runs upstairs to her bedroom.

Sofia gestures to Valentina to follow her and gives her the 7th.Bottle. Valentina is afraid of going up. Sofia insists and asks Alessandra to go with her too.

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/CATALINA'S BEDROOM

Valentina and Alessandra are outside Catalina's bedroom's door, holding hands. Valentina is holding the 7th. Bottle in her hand.

VALENTINA

(In Spanish)

Mum. We need to talk to you.

CATALINA

(In Spanish)

There is nothing I will say to you until that girl is out of my house.

VALENTINA

(In Spanish)

Mum, this is grannie's house and she welcomed Alessandra...

(pause)

(In Spanish)

Mum, listen I... we...

(she looks at the bottle)

This is my ultimatum, Mum: Either you accept me the way I am and with whom I choose to be with, or... or you are forever out of my life.

Catalina opens the door in disbelief. There is a long pause. They cross stares.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 Have a good life, Valentina.

FADE TO BLACK.

CATALINA (O.S.)
(In Spanish)
 There's something I want to
 tell you.

VALENTINA (O.S.)
(In Spanish)
 Yes?

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Catalina, Alessandra and Valentina are seated at the table. There are 4 plates and cups laid out. We can see the First Reconciliation bottle in the background.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 It's about you baby.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 I'm going to have it.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 Let's go, Val

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 It's about you too,
 Alessandra.

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 Am I suddenly acknowledged? Am
 I not a painting on the wall
 any longer?

Pause.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 I admire... you bravery, Val.
 (MORE)

CATALINA(cont'd)

I somehow used to be like you.
 (pause)
 But I gave up, I gave up what
 I stood for.

CATALINA is containing tears. Valentina and Alessandra are in shock. They look at each other. CATALINA grabs the First Reconciliation bottle. SHE looks at it.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 Congratulations on your baby,
 Valentina. Congratulations, to
 both of you...

ALESSANDRA
(In Spanish)
 I think you two need to be on
 your own.
 (to Valentina)
 I'll be in the garden.

ALESSANDRA gives an approving nod to Catalina, a smile to Valentina and leaves.

Long pause.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 I know how much you fought
 against your condition, Val.
 Against yourself... You know,
 it's... genetic, I... have it
 too.

VALENTINA's touched reaction.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 I'm sorry I let you down, Val.
 I had to forgive my own father
 in order to be able to
 understand myself... and you.
 It's all relative, that's for
 sure, and it's all down to
 fear, that's for sure too...

CATALINA takes Valentina's hands. VALENTINA is sobbing.

INT. CORRIDOR

Valentina decides to open the door again.

INT. BEDROOM

Valentina contains Alessandra who wants to get in too.

Valentina confronts her mother, almost menacing, secure of herself, holding the bottle...

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 Grandpa would have liked
 myself and my son to be happy.
 Why not you?

Catalina is shocked by the news. But she doesn't react.

VALENTINA
(In Spanish)
 For the first time, mum,
 listen to me!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRANPA'S VILLA - DAY (FLASHBACK)

CATALINA (25 years old) and ALEXANDRE (55 years old) having an argument in the living room. The fire is cracking in the fireplace.

ALEXANDRE
(In Spanish)
 Who is going to get you out of
 jail the next time? If the
 Military takes over you'll
 have to flee--

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 Unless the Americans get
 involved, a dictatorship would
 never happen in Uruguay--

ALEXANDRE

(In Spanish)

It's very easy to be a
revolutionary when you have a
Dad that pays for all your
bills, clothes, this fantastic
house...

Why are you doing this to me?
Why do you hate me this much?
I gave you my life, ...I gave
up so many things for you--

Catalina looks at him. She looks repulsed.

CATALINA

*(very angry, old
anger...)*

(In Spanish)

Don't even start going there,
Father.

(pause)

May the Lord forgive you.

Alexandre looks at her dumbfounded.

ALEXANDRE

(In Spanish)

What are you talking about,
Catalina?

CATALINA

*(containing
aggressiveness)*

(In Spanish)

You know very well... Please
don't make me talk...

Alexandre slaps her.

ALEXANDRE

(In Spanish)

What, my daughter? What don't
you want to talk about?

CATALINA

*(repressing tears,
enraged)*

(In Spanish)

Angel.

Alexandre slaps her again.

ALEXANDRE
(In Spanish)
 What about Angel, Catalina?

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 He is a priest.

ALEXANDRE
(In Spanish)
 And?

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 I saw you two together.

Alexandre slaps her again, VERY strongly.

ALEXANDRE
 (containing tears)
(In Spanish)
 Saw, what exactly, Catalinita?

Catalina stands up. She is sobbing. Alexandre contains himself, and tapping on some hidden strength stands up too and grabs her from behind, turning her.

CATALINA
(In Spanish)
 Mum has to know about this--

ALEXANDRE
 (imposingly)
(In Spanish)
 Perhaps you should leave the country, Cata. You know, marry somebody from an Embassy, the British Embassy... you know, I have some friends there... I'll see to that.

CATALINA looks at him filled with hate and fear.
 ALEXANDRE leaves pretending to be calm.

ALEXANDRE

(In Spanish)

You will have a baby, and your
baby will have a baby, and the
sons of your offsprings will
have sons too, and our blood
will never die.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S VILLA/CATALINA'S BEDROOM (BACK TO SCENE)

CATALINA sitting and VALENTINA kneeling next to her
holding the First Reconciliation bottle in her hand.

CATALINA

(In Spanish)

A son?

FADE OUT.

RUN END CREDITS.