

CAROLINA.

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OVER BLACK:

CAROLINA (V.O.)
This was my big bang --

INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM

An OBSTETRICIAN hunches before a SCREAMING PREGNANT WOMAN. A STERN LOOKING DAD sits in the background.

OBSTETRICIAN
We're almost there --

The Screaming Pregnant Woman gives one *almighty* push. The Obstetrician leans in fist first.

OBSTETRICIAN (CONT'D)
Nurse. Come quick! Shit --

Two NURSES run to the Obstetrician's aid. The Pregnant Woman grabs her stomach in pain.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
That's me in there --

The Pregnant Woman screams in agony.

PREGNANT WOMAN
Carolina!

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM

The Pregnant Woman lays strapped down on a bench under a set of bright lights. She's wearing a GAS MASK but nothing's gonna knock her out. She sweats each breath. Eyes WIDE OPEN.

SURGEONS scrub up. *It's gonna be messy.*

CAROLINA (V.O.)
Expected to be my family's Halloween treat, I arrived instead on the Fourth of July weighing just 1 pound 10 ounces and measuring only 12 inches long. Because I was 16 weeks early my eyes were still fused shut.

INCUBATOR ROOM

We see the Pregnant Woman and STERN LOOKING DAD hunching over an INCUBATOR looking over their baby who's eyes are FUSED SHUT. We ZOOM IN on the TINY FETUS.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
 I fought for every breath, facing
 daily challenges caused by a heart
 defect, bleeding in my brain, and a
 heart murmur --

A HEART MACHINE registers the faintest of BEEPS.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
 Most parents dream of holding their
 child only seconds after they're
 born. But for my parents and me, it
 would be a very long time before we
 could cuddle --

We PULL BACK to reveal the same INCUBATOR but now her Parents
 are wearing winter jackets and a woolen jumpers.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
 After 113 days in the NICU, I went
 home with my parents --

INT. BEDROOM

The Mother and Dad hunch over a CRIB. The Mother looks much
 more relaxed, she smiles.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
 Only to be told --

The Dad points his finger down at the CRIB in frustration.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
 That I was born --

DAD
 (yells)
 WRONG!!

Carolina starts crying. The Dad storms out the room leaving
 the Mother alone with her child. She picks Carolina up and
 nestles her against her bosom.

MUM
 (whispers)
 Don't listen to him.

CAROLINA (V.O.)
 That's right. My Dad said I was
 born wrong.

TITLE CARD: Carolina.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Sun beats down on GRAVES and fallen TOMBSTONES.

SUPER - 30 years later.

Carolina and her Dad stand over a tombstone. The Dad's eyes are FUSED SHUT. Tears stream down his face.

By his side, Carolina who's dressed in red, starts swaying around like she avoiding a Muhammad Ali comedy routine.

CAROLINA

Buzz off!

Her Dad is visibly perturbed.

DAD

What is it now?

CAROLINA

A bee.

She SQUEALS as she tries to swipe it away.

DAD

Bees need an environment that contains insect-pollinated flowering plants.

CAROLINA

I know that Dad --

Carolina swipes about her face.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

Buzz off!!

DAD

If you knew that you'd know that in *no way* can a bee be trying to sting you --

CAROLINA

Dad!?

DAD

Look around -- It has to be a wasp.

Carolina can barely take her eye off the Bee! She TRIPS.

DAD (CONT'D)

Do you see any insect-pollinated
flowering plants?

Carolina scans the grounds of the cemetery quickly. A moment
of realised shame comes over her face.

There are *no* insect-pollinated flowering plants.

The Dad points his finger down at Carolina in frustration.

DAD (CONT'D)

WRONG!!!

He swiftly whacks the Buzzing BEE away with his rolled
newspaper. WHACK. The Bee flies into a gravestone and is
knocked out. But not cold. It's legs twitch.

Carolina reaches out her hand hoping her Dad will lift her
up. Dad is oblivious.

DAD (CONT'D)

It's a *Braconid Wasp* which is a
species of *Callibracon* --

Carolina helps *herself* up and dusts *herself* off.

DAD (CONT'D)

Are you listening to me?

CAROLINA

(not listening to him)
Yes.

DAD

You're always wrong.

CAROLINA

(not listening to him)
Good.

DAD

Good?

CAROLINA

Good. Not bee --

DAD

I said, You're always wrong!

A FIRECRACKER goes off. BOOM! It's the 4th of JULY.

DAD (CONT'D)
From the moment you were --

CAROLINA
Born!?

DAD
Rule one of birth. HEAD FIRST!

The FIRECRACKERS continue to EXPLODE. Crowds OOOH and AHHHH..

EXT. CEMETERY - TOMBSTONE

The Bee stands up and gathers itself. A quick BUZZ of the wings and it's alive. It spins around gathering it's bearings. It spots Dad and Carolina.

DAD
We wouldn't be here right now if
it weren't *for you.*

BEE - POV

Through the KALEIDOSCOPIC EYES of the Bee we see The Dad bearing down on his daughter.

DAD (CONT'D)
Your first boyfriend. Your clothes.
Nursing? --

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Carolina stumbles.

DAD
WRONG. WRONG. WRONG. WRONG. WRONG!

CAROLINA
I love nursing. I loved Jimmy. And
as for my clothes don't even start.
You wear the same clothes day in
day out, year in year out. I
express who I am daily with what I
wear and it makes me feel --

DAD
WRONG!

CAROLINA
Go to hell!

We hear a loud BUZZZZZZZZZZING sound. And it increases in volume and speed.

It's THE BEE flying at full speed into - STING!

Dad suddenly grabs his neck in AGONY and SCREAMS in pain.

We see the Bee *stuck* into the Dad's neck like a pin.

The Dad violently swipes the Bee away and it falls to the ground. The STINGER *still* in his neck.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

Dad?!

DAD

I've been stung you idiot.

CAROLINA

By what?

DAD

For christs sake. The wasp!

Carolina looks to the ground and sees the Bee shaking on it's back. She reaches down, scoops him up and EXAMINES it.

It's definitely a Bee.

DAD (CONT'D)

My epi-pen!

CAROLINA

WRONG!

DAD

Wrong?

CAROLINA

YOU'RE WRONG! You've been stung by
a bee!

DAD

My epi-pen. *Please --*

He drops to the ground in agony his swollen face is purple.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation Carolina pulls out an EPI-PEN from her bag.

DAD (CONT'D)

Carolina you can't get this --

She stares at her Dad in disbelief. A wave of sadness sweeps over her.

CAROLINA

Wrong?

DAD

Right.

He goes into CARDIAC ARREST and starts shaking like a fish. Spit drools down his chin. His eyeballs are about to POP OUT.

But Carolina just stares. Until...

She notices under her Dad's foot there's a small PURPLE CONEFLOWER - An insect pollinated flower he'd been standing on.

CAROLINA

(yells)

WRONG! WRONG! WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!

Carolina stands for a moment to catch her breath then reaches down to check his pulse.

Nothing.

She looks to the little Bee in her hand. It TWITCHES one last time. BZZWPT. Carolina's eyes freeze shut.

She takes out the epi-pen and inserts it into her Dad's chest. She injects. Waits. And prays.

Nothing. The Dad lays motionless.

Slowly she gets to her feet.

She spots a FLOCK OF BIRDS flying into the distance.

A smile breaks on her face.

FADE OUT.

CAROLINA.