

GOLDEN KEY

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PETER (late 40s), Victor's attorney, tall good-looking man with combing back hair and innocent face is standing at the window and has a conversation on the cell-phone with his wife. We can see him through the window from outside.

PETER

Yes, I forgot to do it. Right. I admit it, see! I can do it after...

We can see his office behind him. Old-fashioned red-wooden office with monumental table in the center and leather couch opposite. We can see THE URN with the ashes of Victor placed on the table. The office is filled with boxes, workers are packing things into them.

PETER (CONT'D)

Is it the end of the world, Jess?
Just tell me. No, tell me! Is it a reason to argue right now, huh?

Two women, enter the office. Peter sees them. They bumps into the workers who are rolling a cart with boxes. Boxes drop. Workers apologize.

PETER (CONT'D)

(rubs his forehead)
Look, I have million things to do, we're moving... I will do it today. I promise. Right after... I can't discuss it right now. I have people here.
(listens, getting red)
Okay, Jess! If I'm such an asshole why don't we get a fucking divorce?

Telephone on his table is ringing. Peter quits the conversation.

PETER (CONT'D)

Hi! Excuse me!
(picks up the phone)
Peter Jenkins. Got you! Stand there you are. I'm coming to you.
(to women)
I'll be right back!

Goes out.

STEPHANIE (30s), the wife of Victor, Californian millionaire, looks around. She is beautiful and not yet old. Looks confident. She is wearing a brown leather jacket and light white scarf. We can see she is in a hurry.

STEPHANIE (WIFE)
It's terrible!

VERA (40s), the *ex-wife* of the deceased, a lady with a beautiful iron face, who is already sitting on the couch. She is wearing an elegant black jacket and black skirt. Vera is holding a handkerchief in her hand and looks at workers time to time. We can see that these people irritate her.

VERA (EX-WIFE)
What's terrible? The death of your husband or... traffic?

Stephanie sits by, opens her purse and starts to dig inside. One of the workers takes the boxes that placed behind the desk and tries to take the urn too. Women both stop him.

VERA (CONT'D)
What are you doing? Are you nuts?

The worker doesn't understand her.

STEPHANIE (WIFE)
Don't you think you're a bit rude to people, Vera?

Stephanie takes out a mirror, quickly looks at herself. Vera pierces a worker with her eyes. He rushes to the door.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
I know, you also didn't attend the cremation. Was it a heart attack or stroke?

VERA (EX-WIFE)
I have no idea. You're his wife now.

STEPHANIE (WIFE)
C'mon, Vera! I was out of town. You knew that! So, what's happened?

She puts the mirror in the purse. Vera smiles.

STEPHANIE (WIFE) (CONT'D)
Is it so hard to say? You know everything about us. You're like Big Brother! Sometimes I'm not quite sure if you did break up with him or not. Who arranged everything? Peter?

VERA
He's a good friend. Victor's real friend. Maybe the only one.

STEPHANIE

Where did he go? It's weird. Why did he call us together?

A worker drops another box. The women look at him.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

He said it's important. What else could happen?

(digs in the purse again)
Where is the restroom? I don't think it's about the will. But you're here. I don't understand.

Stephanie stops and looks at Vera. Pause.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

VERA

Too many questions, Steph. I'm confused.

(smirks)
You talk so much. How could he have lived with you these ten years?

STEPHANIE

Twelve years. And he always said how much happier he was with me than he ever was with you.

She gets up and goes to the table. Looks at the envelope that is lying on it. Stephanie screws up her neck and trying to read what is written on the envelope.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Anyway I don't mind if Victor leaves you a couple of thousand. Finally you'll stop milking him.

VERA

What do you mean "milking" him? It's not about me, Stephanie. I don't need anything at all. This is only for my son. His son by the way. His only child.

Stephanie reaches for the envelope, door opens and she quickly comes back to the sofa.

3

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - DAY - THE LETTER

3

Peter enters the room with MILA (30s) young woman with a pale face and cold eyes, definitely a born old maid. She is wearing an ascetic grey dress.

VERA
 (points to the workers)
 Peter! Is it necessary?..

STEPHANIE
 I have a flight in two.. Wait a
 minute! And what's she doing here?
 If she wants to sue me for firing
 her...

PETER
I invited her. Excuse me.

Peter goes to workers who are trying to collect the boxes
 that have fallen. They talk. Vera looks at Mila.

VERA
 I suppose it's definitely about the
 will.

STEPHANIE
 Don't you think Victor wanted to
 leave her anything? Maybe some old
 clothes?

MILA
 I'm glad to see you too, Stephanie.
 Hello Vera!

VERA
 Nice dress, Mila.

STEPHANIE
 Too bright for her.

Mila takes a seat on the arm-chair. The workers leave the
 room. Peter goes to the table and stands opposite women.

PETER
 Ladies. I got this letter from
 Victor right after his death.
 (shows the envelope)
 With a DVD inside.

Stephanie tries to say something. He stops her.

PETER (CONT'D)
 No. I haven't watch it. We're going
 to do so right now. And... As for
 the letter itself.
 (he starts to read)
 'Peter! I am asking you, as my best
 friend, to fulfil my last will.
 Right after my death, please,
 gather my ex-wife Vera,..
 (he looks at her)
 ...my wife Stephanie,..

He looks at Stephanie, Stephanie looks at her wrist-watch.

PETER (CONT'D)
...and my former housemaid Mila...

He looks at Mila. Stephanie and Vera looks at her too.

PETER (CONT'D)
... to show them this video.

Somebody knocks the door.

PETER (CONT'D)
I suppose it won't be hard to do.

Somebody knocks again.

PETER (CONT'D)
Best wishes, pal! Your friend
Victor.'

The workers enter, apologize.

VERA
Leave us alone! Please!

They take the cart and go out.

4

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - DAY - VIDEO

4

Peter inserts the disc into the DVD-player.

STEPHANIE
I suppose you're racist, Vera.
Peter! How long is it? I'm flying
away in two hours.

PETER
To be honest... I don't know.

The DVD starts. We can see VICTOR (50s), short plump man with a yellow face, in a grey suit and unremarkable tie.

VICTOR
(looks into the camera)
Hey there! It's me! Vic. As you
know I'm dead. Congratulations! Is
everyone happy now? Oh yeah, you
are! I have news for you, girls.
Someone poisoned me!

Women shriek.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Oh, don't pretend you care, please!
I know you don't give a shit. I'm
sure it was one of you.
(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D)
You're all liars, girls. All of
you! And, you know, I don't know
why I loved you... all.

Victor coughs. Stephanie changes her face and takes a
piercing look at Mila.

STEPHANIE
Oh! You! Bitch!

VICTOR
Stephanie! My beloved wife! Do you
hear me?

She looks at Mila.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
I know about you and that guy.

Stephanie turns her head and stares at the screen.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
What's his name? Raul? Oh yeah!
Raul. A bit weak-headed...

STEPHANIE
He is not a!..

Vera laughs.

VERA
What a whore!

Stephanie is getting red.

VICTOR
When I knew, I started to pay him
and he wrote me regular reports
after having sex with you. After
each time you had fun. And as you
know he is rather diligent, he
described everything. Every detail.

Stephanie blushes. Vera looks at her with contempt.

VERA
Tell me who's your friend and I'll
tell who you are.

VICTOR
Vera! My wonderful first wife. The
woman I loved more than anything
else in the world.

Vera smiles tenderly looking at the screen.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

My beloved ex-wife. You always were blaming me for my dislike to our son, David. But I have to say that many years ago, right before our divorce, I had a DNA test... and you know what?

Vera screws up her face. Mila is shaking her head.

STEPHANIE

Look who's talking, Vera! How could you have lied all those years?

VERA

It's absurd! It's not true!

VICTOR

I had it run twice. Just in case.

Peter rubs his chin.

VERA

(to screen)

Liar!

(to Peter)

What are you looking at?

He shakes his head no.

VICTOR

I don't think my son could be so stupid. Sorry Vera!

Mila smirks.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

And Mila! Mila! I'm loving your little butt, girl!

Stephanie darts out of her place and tries to hit her with her purse.

STEPHANIE

I'll kill you, bitch!

Mila resists. Peter rushes and separates them.

PETER

Calm down! Calm down, ladies!
Please, let's watch it till the end.

He grabs the remote control and rewinds the DVD. Checks the women's behavior.

VICTOR
And Mila! Mila! I'm loving your
little butt, girl!

Mila smiles. Stephanie hardly controls herself.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
With you, for a while, I felt like
a man. Many times you were saying
me you love me. And I wanted to
believe.

Mila smiles triumphal.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Until I knew you were selling
information to my competitors.

Mila stops smiling.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
It's a pity, isn't it?

STEPHANIE
(to Vera)
I was right when I fired her.

Peter looks at all of them.

VICTOR
It was like a business plan to you.
You knew I'm sad, lonely. You knew
what to do to get me and become a
millionaire's wife, right?

Mila squeezes like a spring.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
But it seemed to take for a long
time. Your greed got the better of
you, Mila.

Stephanie takes a piercing look at her.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
I didn't write my last will. I had
no time for it. I was always
working. But when I got the test
results that said I've been being
poisoned for a while and I only
have one, maybe two days to live,
(tries to overcome the
pain)
... then I started to think about
my fortune.

The women take a quick look at each other.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 I'm rich, you all know it. Worth
 more than two hundred million. And
 I have to leave it to... to whom?

Pause. Victor looks at them. They feel uncomfortable.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 If I can set a price for all your
 loves how much would it cost? A
 dime? Less? And then I decided...

Everybody strains themselves.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 I sold everything and converted it
 into the cash. 200 million dollars.
 I put it all in my safe. You know
 where is it, right? You need a
 nuclear bomb to open it if you
 don't have the key.

The women look at each other suspectedly.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 And where is the key?

He shows the key. The women look at the screen.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 Did you love me or my money, huh?
 I'm pretty sure you know that I
 think. But... Anyway! Let's check
 it! Maybe I'm wrong. Here it is.
 (he looks at the key)
 All of it inside this key. If you
 loved me even a bit, you won't take
 it. If not ... Then you gotta go
 digging in my guts for it. Or jump
 into my grave.
 (smirks)
 Fuck you, girls!

He swallows the key, wheezes. Video stops. Everybody sits
 shocked and look at the urn.

5

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - DAY - BIG FIGHT

5

Mila stands up.

MILA
 I gotta go.

STEPHANIE
 Not before I teach you something!

Stephanie jumps up and slaps her. Mila punches her. Peter and Vera jump to stop them. The great mess happens. They knock into the urn. It falls on the floor and breaks. They stop and see THE KEY which is glittering among the ash.

All women instinctively reach for the key. Peter passes ahead and steps on it. The women stop and look at him.

PETER

Excuse me.

He inclines. At this moment all three of women try to push Peter and grab the key.

PETER (CONT'D)

Ladies! Ladies!

STEPHANIE

Vera! Push harder! I almost got it!

PETER

(shouts)

I'm calling the police!

He takes out his cell-phone.

MILA

You can try!

She punches him. Vera bites his hand. Peter drops the cell-phone. Vera catches it.

VERA

I got it!

Mila pushes him harder. Peter almost falls.

STEPHANIE

I got the key!

(shows it)

Oh! I broke a nail!

She frantically looks at Peter! Peter stands rigid.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

(stands up)

I broke a nail!

Peter makes a dash for the door. Vera and Stephanie rush him. Mila blocks the door by herself and starts to wail.

MILA

Oh no, mister Jenkins! Don't do it please! No!

Peter stops in astonishment.

MILA (CONT'D)
(continues)
Mister Jenkins please! Stop it! No!
No!
(she changes her voice in
a sly tone)
I can do it louder.

STEPHANIE
Oh, I know.

PETER
Are you crazy?

He looks helplessly at them.

STEPHANIE
Give us the key or we'll call the
police and say you raped her.

PETER
What?

STEPHANIE
And me too.

VERA
And me! Do you want to try and
prove the opposite in the court?

PETER
This is bullshit! You can't prove
anything!

MILA
Oh, really?

Mila goes to him and pushes him towards the armchair.

PETER
It's... it's nonsense!

He stops. The arm-chair is behind him. Mila gets on her knees
and starts to remove his belt. Peter is frightened.

PETER (CONT'D)
What...what are you doing?

STEPHANIE
Good job, Mila!

PETER
Whoa, whoa, whoa! Hey! No!

She takes off his belt and throws it to Stephanie.

MILA
Tie his arms.

Peter tries to dash to the door again but Stephanie pushes him to the armchair.

STEPHANIE

Sit still!

Peter tries to get up, Mila leans all her weight upon him. At this moment Stephanie quickly ties Peter's left arm.

PETER

Hey!

Vera rushes to him and holds his right arm. He resist. Mila presses his hand with her knee.

VERA

Steph! Scarf!

Stephanie removes her scarf and tosses it to Vera. Vera ties Peter's right hand.

PETER

What are you doing?

VERA

Shut up!

Somebody knocks the door.

STEPHANIE

We're busy!

VERA, MILA

We're busy!

Mila rushes to the door and blocks it with an arm-chair. Stephanie helps her. Peter tries to shout but Vera immediately shoves the handkerchief in his mouth. She goes to the DVD player and takes the disc out. She breaks the DVD.

STEPHANIE

Good idea, Vera!

6

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - DAY - NEGOTIATIONS

6

Mila closes the blinders. Stephanie sits on the couch, Vera sits near her. She's hardly breathing.

STEPHANIE

I'll get some water. Anybody else?

VERA

Yes. Please.

Stephanie looks at Mila. Mila shakes her head no. Stephanie pours the water into the glasses and at the same time hides the key into her bra. She goes back and hands the glass of water to Vera.

MILA

What now?

VERA

Let's decide what to do with the money and afterwards figure out what to do with him.

Stephanie involuntarily lays her hand on her chest.

STEPHANIE

What about the money?

Vera smiles.

VERA

You think you're the winner?

MILA

She's got the key! Where is it?

STEPHANIE

I am his wife!

MILA

Oh, yeah!

VERA

And do you remember the code?

STEPHANIE

What code?

Vera laughs out loud.

VERA

You lived ten years with him and don't know the code of the safe!

STEPHANIE

Twelve years. It doesn't have a code.

MILA

Even I know about it.

Stephanie looks helpless.

VERA

He never trusted you, ever!

Stephanie is drumming her fingers on the couch arm.

STEPHANIE

The safe is my house! And the key is mine. I need this money! I need it right now!

She is getting nervous.

VERA
(approaching to her)
All 200 million? C'mon, Steph! You
have the key and I know the code.

Stephanie is going crazy.

STEPHANIE
Where is a restroom?

VERA
Let's help each other. Fifty/fifty.

MILA
What about me?

They don't hear her.

STEPHANIE
(almost crying)
Your family is rich.

VERA
Steph! Why do you need money so
urgently? Can you tell me?

MILA
(louder)
Hey!

VERA
Wait a minute please! We're
talking!
(to Stephanie)
Steph! Why do you need this money?

Stephanie sobs.

STEPHANIE
I'm not gonna tell you anything!

Vera snatches her purse.

VERA
Tell me right now or I'll throw
away all your fucking cocaine!

She digs in her purse.

VERA (CONT'D)
Where is the key?

Stephanie weeps.

STEPHANIE

Raul! Raul! He's in jail now. They caught him in Mexico.

VERA

What?

Mila sits on the desk.

MILA

He sells her cocaine. Didn't you know?

Vera throws the purse to Stephanie.

VERA

It's disgusting!

STEPHANIE

And you! You! Why do you need the money? Why are you always milking us, huh?

VERA

It's not your...
(shouts)
Where is the key?

She rushes to Stephanie and tries to get it from her bra.

MILA

Yeah, Stephanie. Nobody should know that the real David's father blackmails her.

Vera stops.

STEPHANIE

What?

VERA

How did you know that?

MILA

I'll ask you again. What about me?

Stephanie fixes her blouse.

STEPHANIE

I got a key. She knows the code. Why do we need you?

Pause. Vera angrily looks at Mila. Mila smiles with her eyes.

MILA

I saw who poisoned Victor.

Pause. Vera and Stephanie look to each other.

VERA
 Numerous rapes, right? Have you all
 read about what happened to those
 girls in Griffith park?

STEPHANIE
 Yeah! Look at him! He's natural
 sexual maniac!

Peter almost crying.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
 But who will do it?

They look to each other.

MILA
 I can do it. Right now?

VERA
 (looks around)
 We need...

Stephanie shows a glass.

STEPHANIE
 This?

VERA
 No! We need something with a cap.

STEPHANIE
 (goes to the door)
 I know. I can bye it downstairs.

VERA
 Be quick. And try not to arouse
 suspicion.
 (to Peter)
 And you! If I see you trying to
 shout or doing something else
 stupid things, I'll turn your life
 into a hell. Even worse! You got
 it? Nod if you understand!

Peter nods. Stephanie goes back, takes her purse and kicks
 his leg.

STEPHANIE
 Don't fuck with me, Peter Jenkins!

Mila strokes his cheek.

MILA
 He'll be a good boy! Right?

Sweat runs on Peter's forehead.

VERA

Right?

Peter mumbles again.

MILA

He's trying to say something.

VERA

Are you?

Peter nods again.

VERA (CONT'D)

Okay. Don't play with me boy!

She takes out the handkerchief from his mouth.

PETER

Can you give me some water, please?

VERA

Later.

She shoves the handkerchief in his mouth.

8

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - DAY - RESURRECTION

8

Stephanie goes to the door, opens it and screams.

VERA

What's going on?

Stephanie steps back. Door opens and we can see Victor who is standing alive in the door frame. Women scream and move back.

VICTOR

Hello everybody!

They are all screaming.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Shut up, all of you! There's people outside! You're frightening them.

He enters helping him with a cane.

MILA

You can't be alive. I gave you so much rat poison even an elephant would've die from it!

STEPHANIE

You too?

VERA
 (quietly)
 I can't believe it! We all... How
 can he still be alive?

Victor rolls into the room and closes the door.

VICTOR
 It was a great performance girls!
 You forgot that there are cameras
 everywhere now. Everything's been
 recorded. The cops will probably
 give each of you an Oscar.
 (to Mila)
 Untie him.

Mila doesn't move.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 I said, untie him!

Mila gets Peter free.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 Sorry, Peter!

PETER
 I thought you weren't gonna show
 up!

All women take a quick look at Peter. He gets up and goes to
 his arm-chair at his table.

VICTOR
 I apologize. Even I didn't expect
 this.

VERA
 Why did you... It's...

VICTOR
 Why did I do it?
 (smirks)
 Why did you all do it?

He turns to Stephanie.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 You poisoned me because your
 boyfriend got in trouble? And the
 trial takes time, right?

Stephanie is sobbing, nods.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 Of course. No other solution! Only
 poisoning.

He turns to Vera.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 Vera. Why did you do it? You were
 afraid I wouldn't leave David
 anything if I knew the truth...
 or...

Vera looks aside.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 ...your reputation? How could I
 forget!

He looks at Mila.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 And you? Was it just revenge?
 Because I didn't want to marry you?

MILA
 I trusted you! And you used me.

VICTOR
 Mila! What are you talking about?
 You've been seducing me from the
 first day!

Mila presses up her lips.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 I wanted to test you. I thought
 maybe one of you loved me at least
 a bit. Very very small bit.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 I would've left all of that shit to
 the one who did! And you all
 clearly don't.
 (looks at them)
 Was I cruel to you? Was I an
 asshole? Sure, I was no angel.
 But...

Stephanie tries to return him the key.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 Keep it. It's fake.

VERA
 It's a stupid show, Vic!

VICTOR
 Except I am really dying.

Victor staggers. We can see it's hard for him to breathe.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

And all I want to say... don't go to my funeral. Don't come to my house. I don't want to see any of you. I'm so tired of it!

Two policemen enters the room.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

You've had everything and you weren't satisfied. Never. Because you measure your life... and love in dollars. There is not enough money for anybody. Ever. Right? Right. Why do you live with someone without love? I don't understand it.

(gives a sign to cops)

Good bye, girls.

The policemen cuffs them. Victor goes to the window, looks outside.

9

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - LATER

9

Peter sits at his massive desk. His cell-phone rings. His wife is calling again.

PETER

Yup. It was just a hard day. Yeah! I'm going home.

(pause)

Listen. I wanna say to you... I love you, Honey bunny. I really do.

JESS (O.S.)

Don't forget to stop at the store and pick up some milk, darling.

PETER

(smiles)

Sure!

Look on Victor's face of longing and admiration of his friend.

FADE TO BLACK.