

Behind the Mirrors

by  
Julio O. Ramos

9th draft  
8/7/11

OVER BLACK

LOGO: Andinofilms (00:00:01 - 00:00:07)

Title: Behind the mirrors (*Detrás del Espejo*) (00:00:09 - 00:00:12)

1

INT. CHEAP MOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

1

ERNESTO (30), short and dark guy, comes into the hallway from an clean bedroom carrying dirty bed sheets. He welcomes

A couple, PEPE (60) and LUCIA (25) come into the clean bedroom. They lock the door.

ERNESTO (00:00:25 - 00:00:26)

It's ready.

Ernesto resumes his way through the hallway while sounds of sexual groans come from inside the other rooms.

His face draws a tender smile when he sees ROSARIO (25) come up the staircase. Ernesto kisses her and places his ear on her stomach with a proud smile. She is visibly PREGNANT.

ERNESTO (00:00:35 - 00:00:38)

Hey there. Who's that little fucker?

Rosario lets go a smile.

ROSARIO (00:00:38 - 00:00:40)

Don't talk to him like that.

Ernesto stays down on Rosario's stomach.

ERNESTO (00:00:42 - 00:00:44)

C'mon little fucker. Say Dada.  
Daaady.

ROSARIO (00:00:44 - 00:00:46)

Paucar is downstairs.

Ernesto straightens up.

ERNESTO (00:00:47 - 00:00:50)

Paucar? This early?

ROSARIO (00:00:50 - 00:00:51)

Yeah. What does he want?

ERNESTO (00:00:51 - 00:00:54)  
Don't know. I'll go find out.

Rosario walks away not too happy.

ERNESTO (00:00:57 - 00:00:58)  
Anybody went over time?

Ernesto quickly pulls out a DVD disc from a closet and hides it among clean towels. Rosario did not notice.

ROSARIO (00:00:58 - 00:01:00)  
The couple in 307.

ERNESTO (00:01:01 - 00:01:02)  
Chinawoman won't like this.

ROSARIO (00:01:03 - 00:01:04)  
Are you gonna tell her?

Ernesto shakes his head denying.

Rosario responds with a "then, she won't find out" look

Ernesto sees Rosario disappear at the end of the hallway. His glance becomes serious as he goes down the stairs.

2 INT. ENTRANCE / RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS 2

Ernesto opens the door to PAUCAR (30), a street vendor with a trashy look, and leads him into the reception.

ERNESTO (00:01:14 - 00:01:18)  
You know it's too damn dangerous  
meeting here.

Ernesto leaves the towels at the reception and keeps the DVD.  
He grabs a marker

PAUCAR (00:01:18 - 00:01:20)  
I avoid traffic at this time.  
What's the big fucking deal?

ERNESTO (00:01:20 - 00:01:23)  
We agreed to meet at the market.  
You just love fucking with me.

Ernesto writes on the DVD: "HOSTAL BAHIA BLANCA. JUNIO 6-12"

Paucar checks out the DVDs with a cynical smile.

PAUCAR (00:01:29 - 00:01:31)  
This is one week of work, right?

Ernesto confirms with a nod. Paucar hands him a few bills.

PAUCAR (00:01:38 - 00:01:40)  
Enough for your baby's stroller.

Ernesto puts the money away. He looks with rage at Paucar but controls it. He leads Paucar back to the entrance.

ERNESTO (00:01:45 - 00:01:48)  
I'll kick you in the balls next  
time you come here.

PAUCAR (00:01:48 - 00:01:50)  
Just the way I like it.

Ernesto closes the door and heads up the stairs.

3 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 3

Ernesto is on the second floor when his face turns into concern when he sees Rosario standing still as she covers her belly and mouth hesitant as to what to do.

ERNESTO (00:02:06 - 00:02:07)  
What's going on?

Rosario pushes the door gently revealing THE LEGS OF A WOMAN, naked and immobile on the bed.

4 INT. ROOM 307 - CONTINUOUS 4

The body of MAURA TOSSO (50), a pitiful plastic blonde lies naked and lifeless in bed. Her eyes are wide open.

ERNESTO (00:02:31 - 00:02:32)  
Close the door.

Rosario closes the door while Ernesto feels Maura's breath.

ROSARIO (00:02:40 - 00:02:41)  
Is she dead?

Ernesto confirms with his eyes. Rosario crosses herself.

ROSARIO (00:02:42 - 00:02:43)  
Blessed Virgin Mary.

ERNESTO (00:02:47 - 00:02:49)  
But I know this woman. Turn on the  
lights

Rosario switches the lights on and takes a closer look.

ROSARIO (00:02:56 - 00:02:59)  
Of course. It's the woman from TV.

ERNESTO (00:03:00 - 00:03:01)  
Who?

ROSARIO (00:03:03 - 00:03:04)  
Maura.

ERNESTO (00:03:05 - 00:03:06)  
Shit! That's right.

AN EMPTY SYRINGE sits next to Maura's arm.

ROSARIO (00:03:09 - 00:03:11)  
But there's no way she came alone.

Ernesto throws a glance at Rosario and then searches around.

ERNESTO (00:03:23 - 00:03:24)  
And where's the guy?

Rosario becomes scared.

ROSARIO (00:03:25 - 00:03:26)  
I'll call the cops.

Ernesto jumps to stop her.

ERNESTO (00:03:27 - 00:03:28)  
Are you crazy? Don't call the cops

ROSARIO (00:03:29 - 00:03:31)  
Don't talk to me like that.

Ernesto controls his temper and attempts to caress Rosario.  
Rosario steps back avoiding Ernesto's gesture.

ERNESTO (00:03:33 - 00:03:34)  
Sorry.

ROSARIO (00:03:34 - 00:03:37)  
Let go.  
What do we do then?

Ernesto rubs his face without knowing what to answer. Rosario  
loses her patience and leaves.

ERNESTO (00:03:43 - 00:03:48)

Wait --  
Fuck.

Ernesto locks the door quickly.

He paces to the mirror on the wall. The mirror looks WORN OUT on the edges.

He struggles to unhook it. The mirror slips to the floor and CUTS ERNESTO'S HANDS.

Ernesto licks off his blood as he picks up the mirror.

A TINY VIDEOCAMERA is attached with tape to the back of the mirror by the worn out section.

Ernesto removes the camera.

Someone TRIES TO OPEN THE DOOR.

Ernesto starts to put the mirror back up.

ROSARIO (00:04:22 - 00:04:28)

Why did you lock the door? --  
Ernesto. --  
OPEN UP.

Ernesto fixes the mirror and puts the camera in his pocket.

Ernesto opens the door. Rosario is furious as she steps in.

ERNESTO (00:04:30 - 00:04:31)

Keep it down.

ROSARIO (00:04:32 - 00:04:33)

Why did you lock the door?

ERNESTO (00:04:33 - 00:04:35)

Do you want anybody else to see her?

ROSARIO (00:04:36 - 00:04:38)

You were masturbating, weren't you?

ERNESTO (00:04:38 - 00:04:40)

Quit it, will you?

Rosario glances at the cadaver and crosses herself.

ERNESTO (00:04:56 - 00:04:57)

Did you call the cops?

ROSARIO (00:04:57 - 00:05:01)  
They're on their way.  
What happened in your hand?

Ernesto's hand bleeds a little. Ernesto becomes nervous.

ERNESTO (00:05:02 - 00:05:06)  
Nothing.  
I cut myself with the broken  
windows downstairs.

Ernesto cleans himself by licking the blood off his hands.

ROSARIO (00:05:07 - 00:05:09)  
Don't be disgusting.

Rosario searches the back pockets of Ernesto. Ernesto's nervousness increases.

ERNESTO (00:05:09 - 00:05:10)  
Stop that.

Rosario finds a handkerchief. She cleans up Ernesto's hand.

ROSARIO (00:05:12 - 00:05:13)  
Calm down.

Ernesto avoids Rosario's glance.

ROSARIO (00:05:19 - 00:05:21)  
We need to leave this place.

ERNESTO (00:05:21 - 00:05:23)  
Leave? What do we do for food then?

ROSARIO (00:05:26 - 00:05:27)  
I don't know.

Rosario looks tired. Ernesto comforts her with tender.

ERNESTO (00:05:31 - 00:05:32)  
Everything will be OK.

ROSARIO (00:05:40 - 00:05:41)  
I need to pee.

Ernesto lets go a quick laugh.

ERNESTO (00:05:42 - 00:05:43)  
Let's go then.

Ernesto cover's the body of Maura with a bedsheet.

5 INT. MOTEL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

5

Ernesto stays at the counter while Rosario steps into the bathroom. Ernesto takes out the videocamera from his pocket.

SERIES: MINI SCREEN

ERNESTO FAST FORWARDS THE VIDEO. Maura rides Francisco in bed. Maura enjoys it.

ERNESTO FAST FORWARDS THE VIDEO. Maura looks almost passed out. Francisco injects her with a syringe. Maura has seizures while Francisco only stares at her.

After a moment, Maura stays completely still. Francisco checks her pulse and makes a call on his nextel/radio.

FRANCISCO (TO NEXTEL) (00:06:38 -  
00:06:39)

The witch is cooked, "CONDOR".

CONDOR (O.S.) (00:06:39 - 00:06:42)

(nextel)

Roger that, "PUMA".

END OF SERIES

Ernesto's eyes spill horror. Police sirens are heard from afar.

ROSARIO (00:06:47 - 00:06:48)

What's are you doing?

Ernesto jumps out.

ERNESTO (00:06:48 - 00:06:48)

Shit. Rosario.

ROSARIO (00:06:49 - 00:06:51)

Watch your mouth.

ERNESTO (00:06:52 - 00:06:53)

I'm sorry --

ROSARIO (00:06:53 - 00:06:55)

Jerk --

What's that?

ERNESTO (00:06:57 - 00:07:01)

I don't know. It's a stopwatch, I thibk. I found it upstairs.



ROSARIO (00:07:01 - 00:07:03)  
 -- Ok. Ok. Put that away and let's  
 go.

OFFICER CHACALTANA (50), and intimidating man, comes in  
 followed by Captain CISNEROS (40) and other three officers.

CHACALTANA (00:07:07 - 00:07:07)  
 Good Evening.

ROSARIO AND ERNESTO (00:07:08 -  
 00:07:09)  
 Good evening.  
 Evening.

CHACALTANA (00:07:10- 00:07:10)  
 Where's the body?

ROSARIO (00:07:10 - 00:07:13)  
 On the third floor. Follow me  
 please.

Rosario leads them to the staircase. Ernesto stays behind.

CHACALTANA (00:07:15 - 00:07:16)  
 Are you sure is Maura Tosso?

ROSARIO (00:07:16 - 00:07:17)  
 Yes, sir.

Ernesto shuts the front doors and joins them.

6 INT. ROOM 307 - CONTINUED

6

Chacaltana takes a look at the dead body. Cisneros inspects  
 the room.

CHACALTANA (00:07:25 - 00:07:30)  
 Yup. --  
 Same one from the noon show. --  
 What time did she arrive?

Ernesto and Rosario stand back by the door.

ROSARIO (00:07:31 - 00:07:36)  
 Around 11pm. --  
 Some Francisco Garcia checked in  
 with her.

CHACALTANA (00:07:37 - 00:07:38)  
 And where is this guy?

ROSARIO (00:07:38 - 00:07:40)  
I don't know. I didn't see him  
leave.

Chacaltana stares at Ernesto.

CHACALTANA (00:07:41 - 00:07:42)  
Did you see anything?

ERNESTO (00:07:43 - 00:07:44)  
No, boss.

CHACALTANA (00:07:47 - 00:07:49)  
Did you find her covered like this?

ROSARIO (00:07:50 - 00:07:51)  
No. Ernesto covered her.

Chacaltana throws an intimidating glance at Ernesto.

CHACALTANA (00:07:52 - 00:07:55)  
Are you stupid or what?  
You know this implicates you,  
right?

Ernesto sees Cisneros approaching the mirror. Ernesto wipes  
his forehead with THE INJURED HAND.

ERNESTO (00:07:57 - 00:07:58)  
I did it for respect.

CHACALTANA (00:07:58 - 00:07:59)  
What happened in your hand?

Ernesto glances at his hand and licks the blood off.

ERNESTO (00:08:01 - 00:08:03)  
I cut myself fixing a broken  
windows.

ROSARIO (00:08:04 - 00:08:06)  
Use your handkerchief.

Overwhelmed, Ernesto takes out his HANDKERCHIEF while he sees  
Cisneros inspecting the mirror.

CHACALTANA (00:08:07 - 00:08:08)  
Who owns this motel, uh?

ERNESTO (00:08:08 - 00:08:09)  
Chinawoman. I mean --

ROSARIO (00:08:09 - 00:08:10)  
-- Mrs. Chang.

CHACALTANA (00:08:11 - 00:08:15)  
Mrs. Chinawoman Chang. And where is  
she?

ROSARIO (00:08:17 - 00:08:20)  
Out of town, on vacation. We're in  
charge here.

CISNEROS (00:08:21 - 00:08:21)  
Boss.

Chacaltana approaches Cisneros and sees

BLOOD STAINS and FINGER PRINTS on a corner of the mirror.  
Chacaltana throws an inquisitive glance at Ernesto.

CHACALTANA (00:08:31 - 00:08:31)  
Help me here.

Cisneros helps Chacaltana to take the mirror down.

Ernesto breathes heavily.

ROSARIO (00:08:33 - 00:08:34)  
What's wrong?

Ernesto keeps his head down.

ERNESTO (00:08:34 - 00:08:35)  
Nothing. Relax.

ROSARIO (00:08:36 - 00:08:37)  
Relax? Look at yourself.

The mirror is down. Chacaltana and Cisneros inspect the BACK  
OF IT and see

Remains of SCOTCH TAPE and BLOODY FINGER PRINTS over the worn  
out corner of the mirror.

CHACALTANA (00:08:44 - 00:08:45)  
Son of a bitch.

Rosario fixes her confused look on Ernesto.

CHACALTANA (00:08:49 - 00:08:51)  
You think you're so slick.

CHACALTANA (00:08:52 - 00:08:53)  
You videotape people fucking.

Ernesto remains silent.

CHACALTANA (00:08:57 - 00:08:57)  
Where is the camera?

ERNESTO (00:08:59 - 00:09:00)  
Please boss, not here.

CHACALTANA (00:09:04 - 00:09:06)  
You think I'm an idiot?

ERNESTO (00:09:06 - 00:09:07)  
I don't know anything, boss.

CHACALTANA (00:09:08 - 00:09:09)  
You don't know anything.

Chacaltana tackles Ernesto down to the floor. Cisneros holds Rosario.

ROSARIO (00:09:13 - 00:09:14)  
Hey. What are you doing?

CHACALTANA (00:09:14 - 00:09:15)  
Stay out of this, lady.

ERNESTO (00:09:16 - 00:09:16)  
I didn't do anything.

CHACALTANA (00:09:16 - 00:09:17)  
Shut the fuck up.

ROSARIO (00:09:18 - 00:09:19)  
What are you doing to him?

CHACALTANA (00:09:19 - 00:09:20)  
Don't move.

Chacaltana takes out the VIDEOCAMERA from Ernesto's pocket and turns it on. He hears sex noises and Francisco talking.

FRANCISCO (O.S.) (00:09:45 - 00:09:47)  
The witch is cooked, "CONDOR".

CHACALTANA (00:09:54 - 00:09:56)  
You people are unbelievable.

Rosario fixes her eyes on Ernesto. Nothing but silence between these two. Her disbelief soon becomes disappointment. Rosario exits.

CHACALTANA (00:10:07 - 00:10:06)  
Don't let her leave the motel.

Cisneros goes after Rosario.

Chacaltana stays alone with Ernesto. A moment of silence  
build up the tension

ERNESTO (00:10:12 - 00:10:18)  
Boss,  
I only do this for the extra cash.  
We have a baby on the way.

CHACALTANA (00:10:19 - 00:10:20)  
Did you see this video?

Ernesto nods.

CHACALTANA (00:10:22 - 00:10:23)  
Anybody else?

ERNESTO (00:10:23 - 00:10:29)  
No sir.  
Forgive me, boss.  
I didn't know somebody would want  
to murder Maura.

CHACALTANA (00:10:30 - 00:10:35)  
What are you talking about?  
Maura wasn't murdered.  
She's just had too much fun last  
night and accidentally overdosed  
herself.

The cynical look in Chacaltana's face makes Ernesto hesitant.

ERNESTO (00:10:35 - 00:10:39)  
C'mon boss. It wasn't an accident.  
You've seen the video.

CHACALTANA (00:10:42 - 00:10:47)  
Listen --  
Those who know too much --  
end up like her.

Chacaltana's NEXTEL/RADIO kicks in.

OFFICER (NEXTEL) (00:10:49 - 00:10:51)  
"CONDOR", the prosecutor is here.

CHACALTANA (00:10:52 - 00:09:54)  
(to the nextel)  
Roger that, "PUMA".

CHACALTANA (00:10:59 - 00:11:00)  
How unfortunate.

Chacaltana draws a smile.

Ernesto runs for the door, but Chacaltana slams it before  
Ernesto escapes.

CUT TO BLACK