

Synopsis for “Untitled Project” , a tv-show by Jaan Carlo Morales.

The story starts in the slums of Tijuana, Mexico. A place often misrepresented as a vacation spot for frat-boys and people with a need for guilty pleasures. Mouse, a Latino 18-year-old living with his two small sisters Itzel and Sarai in an orphanage, carries out a plan to bring some savory food to the young orphans who he lives with. His plan works out perfectly thanks to fireworks, stealth, and his trustworthy best friends Hector and Dante, but not without having to escape from the clutches of two henchmen twins working for a mass drug lord. After old-timer cop Raudiel swiftly rescues a badly-beaten Mouse, we start diving into the rotten core of the Tijuana underground, where a chain of events start to take place that will change the course of young Mouse’s life forever.

This begins when the henchmen twins walk into a club known as “The Holy Heaven” to receive an emotional beatdown by their big bad boss, Miguel Angel “The Archangel” Rodriguez, for sabotaging one of his drug operations by chasing down Mouse. “Beg.”, growls the drug lord, as he commands his servants to beg for his forgiveness. After intimidating his employees, he flexes his power just enough to remind them just how beneath him they really are.

Mouse arrives to the orphanage to find his sisters extremely excited due to the fact that it’s visiting day for their sweet mother, Natalia. At dinner time, after the orphanage’s ruthless caretaker leaves to her lodgings, Mouse and Hector feed the hungry orphans with tamales. Natalia appears at the orphanage with enough time to eat with her children and sing them a lullaby full of broken promises and an impossible future. After a sad conversation with Natalia full of hard-hitting truth about her mysterious job, Mouse hugs his mother with a tearful goodbye. Natalia walks out of the orphanage to find a black SUV expecting her, she climbs onto the car before it drives off to her own personal hell.

It’s day-time as Mouse, Hector, and Dante walk through the busy markets of Tijuana while having a truly deep conversation about why tacos beat hamburgers, and the important difference between commercial and local coffee. This conversation summons an American businessman to walk out of a Starbucks after they walk past.

The American is on a mission to meet his friends at non-other than The Holy Heaven. We follow him on this mission as he utterly disrespects the Mexican soil beneath him by treating the people who live on it like nothing but pure garbage. He reaches the strip club to find all of his American businessmen friends, who share the same cheap suit and disrespect that he carries around. After a couple of rounds of alcohol and misogyny, heavyweight pimp Horacio offers them the dessert menu they were waiting for. They look through their options until they find just what they wanted. Horacio guides them through a hallway full of screams, they reach the end of the hallway, where they find a red-lit room with a bed. Sitting on that bed, is Natalia, expecting her hourly customer, only to be surprised with five simultaneous customers. They strip as they walk towards her, she does nothing but stare at Horacio as he closes the door on her both figuratively and literally.

Mouse and Dante patiently walk across the neon-lit streets of the Plaza del Zapato, a place known for its cheap beer and its possibilities. As this happens, a stoned Hector lies on the roof of the orphanage playing a small tune on his guitar before noticing suspicious individuals walking in the hallways of the orphanage. He spies on them to find out their motives. He uses his stealth to get closer to the men, recognizing the Archangel's henchmen as they kidnap Mouse's sister, Itzel. He is surprised to find out that the orphanage's caretaker is working side-by-side with the Archangel, as she accepts a payment in return for the young girl. When we revisit Mouse, Dante tries to mentor him through the sport of courting a Mexican woman. Dante succeeds at finding a date for the night, while Mouse only succeeds at finding embarrassment and a raging anxiety attack. Dante bails on his date to accompany a saddened Mouse back to the orphanage.

When they arrive, they find a horrified Hector waiting for them at the door. Hector explains to the two what he saw, causing Mouse to go into a fit of rage. Dante and Mouse jump into Dante's car and drive off to the Holy Heaven, where they cause a diversion so that Mouse can enter the club. The first thing Mouse sees as he walks in, is a private window with a window large enough for him to notice one of the Archangel's henchmen. Mouse has no plan, only vengeance on his mind, as he acts like a waiter to storm into the room, shatter a whiskey glass on the henchmen's skull, and threaten to murder the man if his sister is not delivered

to him. After Horacio tempts him to murder the henchmen, Mouse fails, receiving a blow to the face that knocks him out instantly.

He wakes up inside the Archangel's office, the Tabernacle, where the Archangel subtly reveals to him that Mouse's mother was raped to death, using Natalia's bled-up white lingerie as both DIY brass knuckles, and proof. The Archangel explains to the young man that his mother was to be sold to the international sex-trade business using the Dark Web, and that he had gone so far into the process that he had already sent in her blood samples to show that she is clean. So, instead of going through the process of selling another woman, he decided to kidnap Natalia's own kin, to skip the blood sample process and go straight to replacing her as a prostitute.

A shocked, bleeding Mouse lies on the floor as the Archangel gives him a proposition, to either find a replacement that's even better than his sister, or to buy her for \$20,000. All of this while he works beneath him as a drug hustler. Mouse stands to his feet, a cocktail of emotions within his head as him and the Archangel drink to seal the contract. As Mouse is escorted back to the elevator, the Archangel reminds him that he has two weeks, or that he will die. Mouse makes eye contact with a laughing Archangel as the doors to the elevator close, embarking him on a journey of growth, love, and sacrifice.