

# *Professional Literary Services*

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Title: Running Blind November 16, 2000

Treatment by: Brad M. Bucklin from an idea by Robert Nagao

Time: 1990's

Setting: Mexico, Southern California

Premise: A Latino singing star, popular in his native Mexico, is poised to make the cross over into the American market when he is approached by the Mexican mafia. They want a piece of his success but he refuses. The Mafia retaliate by killing his family including his mother, father and brother. While he escapes death he is blinded by the experience and disappears from sight, surfacing eight years later in Southern California as an up and coming singing sensation.

Synopsis: DANNY CASTILLO is eighteen and already a seasoned veteran of the Latino music scene in Mexico. Since the age of five he has played the guitar and sung traditional Mexican songs, then branched out into popular Latino music. His popularity on the rise in Mexico he is poised to make the all important transition to the emerging Latino music scene in the US. Still being managed and supported by JUAN, his father, a promoter CARLOS ESTRADA, visits the Castillo's and tells them that he represents a group of very interested investors who want to help Juan to make the transition.

Juan is suspicious of Carlos and finds out that he is really representing the Mexican Mafia. Neither of them want to get involved so they tell Carlos that they are not interested in the offer.

The mafia does not appreciate being turned down and starts harassing the Castillo family. Juan employs body guards to protect his son and family and when it becomes evident that Danny and Juan are not going to give in to the mafia's demands, they take more drastic measures. In an attack on the Castillo home, Danny's parents and eleven year old brother are killed before his eyes, the horror of the event is so emotionally upsetting to Danny that he loses his ability to see. Danny and his twelve year old Sister ELIZABETH, escape the massacre.

On the verge of his greatest success, Danny disappears.

Eight years later, a virtual unknown but very talented blind Latino musician and

singer starts playing clubs in the Southern California area where Latin music has blossomed into a major music presence. Shying away from the spotlight, Danny constantly turns down offers by promoters and larger venues. Scared that the mafia will find him and hurt his sister, they constantly are looking over their shoulder.

A particularly persuasive Manager, ESTELLE RODRIQUEZ, finally gets Danny to agree to do a concert at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration. He is an instant hit with the audience, but is only able to relish his new found adulation for a short while before his worst fear comes true, the mafia have found him.

Scared for their Safety, Elizabeth goes to the police and is referred to LARRY LOPEZ, a special agent assigned to Mexican Mafia related cases. He recognizes Danny and is eager to help not only because he is a fan but because a romance starts to blossom with Elizabeth.

The mafia are relentless, feeling that they were cheated out of a deal that could have made them millions and because Danny had the audacity to escape with his life. A hit man, ENRIQUE PORTILLO, is sent to kill Danny and anyone close to him. Through contacts in California, Enrique locates Danny. There is an attempt on his life which is foiled by Larry. Officer Lopez pursues Enrique while romance grows between Estelle and Danny. The hit man goes after Estelle, Danny and Elizabeth, cornering them in Danny's apartment after severely injuring Larry. Danny is again helpless to prevent the ones he loves from harm as the hit man toys with his victims. In the moment of crises Danny regains his sight as suddenly as he lost it and is able to kill Enrique.

Danny's notoriety soars as he is awarded a grammy for his musical achievements. Under the watchful eye of Larry and the Mafia task force Danny, Estelle and Elizabeth live as normal lives as can be expected around a rising superstar.

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