

ONE DAY AT TIME

"This Is It"

Episode #101

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2nd REV. SHOOTING DRAFT (PINK) - 5/4/16
1st REV. SHOOTING DRAFT (BLUE) - 5/3/16
SHOOTING DRAFT- 5/2/16

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ONE DAY AT A TIME

"This Is It"

2nd Rev. Shooting Draft (PINK)

5/4/16

Cast List

Penelope.....Justina Machado
Lydia.....Rita Moreno
Dr. Berkowitz.....Stephen Tobolowsky
Schneider..... Todd Grinnell
Elena..... Isabella Gomez
Alex..... Marcel Ruiz

Guest Cast

Carl.....Erik Griffin

Sets

INT. DR. BERKOWITZ'S OFFICE
INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT
INT. ELENA'S BEDROOM
INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM
INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

One Day at a Time

Short Rundown - "This Is It"

2nd Rev. Shooting Draft (PINK) - 5.4.16

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SCENE A

INT. DR. BERKOWITZ'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON (DAY 1)
(Penelope, Dr. Berkowitz, Carl)

OUR HERO, PENELOPE ALVAREZ (30S), A NURSE, ATTRACTIVE, TOUGH, AND
A SKILLED GIVER AND TAKER OF SHIT, IS FINISHING UP WITH A PATIENT,
CARL, 30S.

PENELOPE

1

Okay Carl, your blood pressure looks
good. And now we're going to do the thing
where I ask you some basic health
questions, and you lie to me, okay?
Alcoholic beverages per week?

CARL

2

Two, maybe three.

PENELOPE

3

Why are you lying to me Carl?

CARL

4

(SHEEPISH) Five or six.

PENELOPE

5

(WRITING) So that means ten or twelve.

CARL

6

Yeah, ten or twelve.

PENELOPE

7

Would you also like to lie to me about
smoking?

CARL

8

I stopped smoking.

PENELOPE

9

Carl, the mouthwash works but the shirt
smells like (SNIFFING) Virginia Slims?

CARL

10

(DEFEATED) They make my hands look
bigger.

PENELOPE

11

I'm not gonna write that on the chart.
Dr. Berkowitz will be here in a minute.

CARL NOTICES SOME PHOTOS LAMINATED TO THE BACK OF PENELOPE'S
CLIPBOARD. ONE OF WHICH SHOWS HER STANDING WITH SOME BUDDIES,
DRESSED IN ARMY FATIGUES.

CARL

12

Hey... what's that picture? Halloween?

PENELOPE

13

I think it was closer to Christmas.

CARL

14

But... you're in Army clothes.

PENELOPE

15

Yeah, the camouflage look was all the
rage in Afghanistan.

*

CARL

16

(PUZZLED) You went to Afghanistan for
Christmas?

PENELOPE

17

I'm gonna give you a sec.

CARL FINALLY GETS IT.

CARL

PENELOPE (cont'd)

Ohhhhhhhhhhh!

There you go.

18-19

CARL 20
So let me ask you--

PENELOPE 21
(BY ROTE) No I never killed anyone. Yes
it was hot over there. You're welcome for
my service. Anything else?

CARL 22
I was just going to ask if your husband
is also a badass soldier.

PENELOPE 23
Oh yes. He was.

CARL 24
Oh God! Sorry.

PENELOPE 25
No, he was a badass soldier, now he does
private security in Afghanistan. Anyways
we're separated.

CARL 26
(SMILING) So you're single.

PENELOPE 27
Yup. Actually I have to leave to make
dinner for my kids.

CARL 28
(FACE FALLS) Single mom.

PENELOPE 29
Well, this was fun.

DR. BERKOWITZ (50S, AN ADORABLE MESS) APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY, A
LITTLE HARRIED, A LITTLE GRUMPY... LOTTA STUFF ON HIS PLATE TODAY.

DR. BERKOWITZ

30

Penelope. (SEES CARL, BIG FAKE SMILE) Hey
Carl! (BACK TO PENELOPE) Don't you have
to go? My phone told me you're leaving
early. (TO CARL) My phone tells me things
now.

PENELOPE

31

Yes, I put a reminder in there so you
wouldn't freak out.

DR. BERKOWITZ

32

Oh thank God because I was freaking out.
How does my phone know these things? Did
I put it in there, am I losing my mind,
is it dementia? (THEN, CONCERNED) Have I
asked all this before?

PENELOPE

33

I gotta go.

DR. BERKOWITZ

34

Remind me, why do you gotta go again?
(SHOUTS INTO PHONE) Why does she have to
go?

PENELOPE

35

(UPBEAT) I'm bringing back family dinner
night! (TO CARL) We used to do it every
Friday. It was kinda my husband's thing,
so we stopped. But tonight I'm making it
my thing. 'Cause we're still a family,
dammit!

*

*

ONE DAY AT A TIME - "THIS IS IT" [101]
SHOOTING DRAFT - 05/02/16

5.
A

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

(POINTING TO CARL) He smokes lady
cigarettes. Bye!

SHE EXITS. DR. BERKOWITZ CHUCKLES AS HE PERUSES THE CLIPBOARD.

DR. BERKOWITZ

36

She's great, huh?

CARL

37

(MATTER OF FACT) Yeah.

DR. BERKOWITZ

38

Easy pervert.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

SCENE B

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - EVENING (NIGHT 1)
(Penelope, Lydia, Elena, Alex)

A MODEST BUT TIDY THREE BEDROOM APARTMENT IN ECHO PARK. AN ALCOVE IN THE BACK HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO A BEDROOM, WITH A LARGE CURTAIN SERVING AS THE DOOR.

THE FRONT DOOR KICKS OPEN TO REVEAL AN EXHAUSTED PENELOPE, ARMS FULL OF GROCERIES AND A BIG BOX OF PASTELITOS. HER SON ALEX (12), CUTE, POPULAR, LIES ON THE COUCH WEARING GIANT HEADPHONES, ENGROSSED IN HIS LAPTOP, OBLIVIOUS TO HIS BAG-LADEN MOM.

PENELOPE 39

Alex! (NOTHING) Alex, help!

STILL NOTHING. PENELOPE TAKES A LIME OUT OF ONE OF THE BAGS AND TOSSES IT ONTO ALEX'S CHEST. HE JUMPS UP, STARTLED.

PENELOPE (CONT'D) 40

Papito, let's go! You know I have a bum
shoulder, I need help over here.

ALEX 41

Okay.

CARRYING HIS LAPTOP AND WITHOUT TAKING HIS EYES OFF THE SCREEN, ALEX CARRIES A BAG TO THE KITCHEN AND RETURNS TO THE COUCH AS PENELOPE RUBS HER SORE SHOULDER.

PENELOPE 42

Thanks. Next time I'll Skype you.

SHE STARTS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN BUT SUDDENLY THE CURTAIN IN THE BACK IS THROWN OPEN DRAMATICALLY, REVEALING PENELOPE'S MOM LYDIA (70S, SPIRITED, FIT AND GLAMOROUS, TRADITIONAL WITH A TWIST).

LYDIA 43

We have a problem.

PENELOPE 44

I know, the hipsters have discovered
Portos. Line around the block, it's the
freaking Apple Store now.

PENELOPE'S DAUGHTER ELENA (14), SMART, PROUD NERD, STORMS IN.
(NOTE: BOTH KIDS ARE STILL IN THEIR CATHOLIC SCHOOL UNIFORMS,
ALTHOUGH IN A BIT MORE OF A CASUAL MODE.)

ELENA 45
Mom--!

LYDIA 46
This one? I don't like her anymore.

ELENA 47
I don't care if you like me!

PENELOPE 48
Sounds like you're on the same page.

LYDIA 49
Your daughter... (DRAMATICALLY) doesn't want to
have a *quinces*.

PENELOPE 50
What? (TO ELENA) We already booked the
room. And I found a great band! Okay it's
a D.J., okay it's your brother with an
iPod and a playlist but it's a very good
playlist.

ELENA 51
I don't care. I researched the history of
quinceañeras and found out they're
totally misogynistic.

LYDIA 52
She's been reading again! Why do you let
her read?!

PENELOPE

53

I know, I let her do math too, Mami. I'm
a monster.

ELENA

54

By the way, they made me captain of the
debate team today at school, but all she
wants to talk about is this.

LYDIA

55

She has to have a *quinces*! How else will
we know the day our girl becomes a woman?

ELENA

56

You missed it. I was 12. I was in gym.
Ironically, it happened in first period.

LYDIA

57

You're throwing away your Cuban heritage!

ELENA

58

Yeah, the bad part. I don't want to be
paraded around in front of the men of the
village like a piece of property to be
traded for two cows and a goat.

LYDIA

59

Someone thinks they're worth a lot.

PENELOPE

60

What century do you two think it is?

*

Elena, relax, it's just a fun party.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

I'll have a little too much wine,
embarrass you while I sob during my
toast, Abuelita will dance
inappropriately with one of your guy
friends.

LYDIA

61

You can count on it.

PENELOPE

62

It's gonna be great.

ELENA

63

What about any of that do you think
sounds good to me? (POINTEDLY) I'm not
doing it.

LYDIA

64

(TO PENELOPE) You need to do something
about this little *sin vergüenza*.

ELENA

65

What does that even mean?

LYDIA

66

It means you don't know enough Spanish to
know I'm insulting you!

LYDIA GOES TO ALEX, HE PULLS HIS HEADPHONES DOWN.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

67

(TO ALEX) *Ella ni siquiera sabe la
palabra sin vergüenza.*

ALEX

68

(LAUGHS) *Oye, que tonta.*

LYDIA

69

(LAUGHS) *Que malo!*

CLEARLY ALEX KNOWS SPANISH MUCH BETTER THAN ELENA AND THIS IS A
BIT HE AND LYDIA HAVE. ELENA STEWS.

ELENA

70

Abuelita, I'll learn more Spanish when
you learn English.

LYDIA

71

(OUTRAGED) I know the English! Besides,
your *abuelo*, God rest his soul, did not
marry me for my mind.

ELENA ROLLS HER EYES AND EXITS.

PENELOPE

72

(TO LYDIA) Who do you think you're
insulting?

ALEX

73

(CHUCKLING) Good one mom. (THEN) By the
way, what are the last 16 digits of your
credit card?

PENELOPE

74

What are you doing? (RE: ALEX'S SCREEN)
Are you shopping? Who said you could
shop?

ALEX

75

You said I could order sneakers for
school.

PENELOPE

76

(RE: SCREEN) Five pairs?

ALEX

77

Monday through Friday. Don't worry, I
don't need weekend sneakers.

PENELOPE

78

I can't have my son walking around in
Monday sneakers on a Saturday like a
peasant!

ALEX

79

Mom, I'm serious! I'm in middle school
now. How I look kinda matters.

PENELOPE

80

So you can buy one pair, under forty
dollars.

ALEX

81

(STUNNED) Forty? Like Four-oh?

PENELOPE

82

Like Four-oh. That'll get you perfectly
good sneakers to last the whole year.

ALEX

83

The whole year?? (DEEP BREATH) Okay Mom,
I know we're not rich. But are we (WITH
DREAD) poor?

PENELOPE

84

No! We're... (CAREFULLY) fine.

ALEX

85

That sounds like poor!

PENELOPE

86

We're not poor! Look around! We have a
TV, a refrigerator, you have a laptop!

ALEX

87

These are things that poor people have!

PENELOPE

88

We have an air conditioner!

ALEX

89

You never let us turn it on!

PENELOPE

90

The point is, you could. (THEN) But
don't. Don't ever touch that thing.

LYDIA

91

Back in Cuba it was a hundred and twelve,
and we'd have to sit under the *plátano*
tree for shade and smoke cigars. I was
five.

PENELOPE

92

All right! It's Friday night, family
dinner time! Let's go. (CALLING) Elena,
come set the table. (TO ALEX) Alex, you
help me make a salad.

PENELOPE PULLS A GIANT STEAK OUT OF A GROCERY BAG.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

93

This meat was heavily discounted so I
need to cook it before it turns.

PENELOPE LOOKS AT ALEX, WHO LOOKS GUILTY, THEN ELENA ENTERS, ALSO
LOOKING GUILTY, AS DOES LYDIA. PENELOPE REALIZES:

PENELOPE (CONT'D) 94

You already ate, didn't you?

ALEX 95

She made *ropa vieja*! I'm not made of stone!

PENELOPE 96

Mami, I told you this morning I was going
to cook tonight.

LYDIA 97

I thought it was a joke. And I thought it
was hilarious.

BEAT. PENELOPE IS DEFLATED. ALEX TURNS TO HER, CONSOLING.

ALEX 98

Sorry mom. Do you want us to sit and
watch you eat?

PENELOPE 99

No. (REGROUPING) We'll just start next
Friday, okay?

ELENA/ALEX 100

Okay. / Sounds good.

THE KIDS EXIT. FRUSTRATED, PENELOPE SLAPS THE MEAT ON A CUTTING
BOARD WITH A LOOK TO LYDIA AND RETRIEVES A TENDERIZING HAMMER.

LYDIA 101

The *ropa vieja* is in the *mantequilla* thing
if you don't want to eat your sad meat.

*

*

PENELOPE 102

I bought this, I'm eating it.

LYDIA 103

Okay.

PENELOPE TURNS ON THE SINK TO WASH HER HANDS. JUST A DRIBBLE OF WATER EMERGES ALONG WITH A LOUD TROUBLING SOUND.

SFX: PLUMBING NOISES.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

104

Yeah, that's not working. Don't worry, I
told Schneider. Here's some hand
sanitizer. (HANDS IT TO HER) And here.
(HANDS HER A SMALL TUBE)

PENELOPE

105

I don't need lipstick.

LYDIA

106

Yes you do.

PENELOPE

107

(SHUTTING IT DOWN) Okay. You know I
appreciate how much you help me. But you
have to let me establish my own
traditions.

LYDIA

108

I agree. So let's talk *quinces*.

PENELOPE

109

Mami ja. I don't want to force her. This is
all on me now, I want to handle it right.

LYDIA

110

You know, a father would make sure his
little girl had a *quinces*.

PENELOPE TURNS TO HER, STARING DAGGERS.

PENELOPE

111

You really want to go there? I'm holding
a hammer.

LYDIA

112

I'm just saying maybe when Victor gets
back you can work it out.

PENELOPE

113

(A BEAT, LAST NERVE) Remember when we all
moved in together and you said "if you ever
want me to go away, just say 'go away?'"

LYDIA

114

Yes.

A VERY LONG BEAT AS SHE LOOKS AT PENELOPE QUIZZICALLY.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

115

Oh! (PETULANT) Aye, fine.

LYDIA MUTTERS MORE SPANISH AS SHE EXITS TO HER ROOM, HUFFILY
PULLING CLOSED HER CURTAIN. BEAT. PENELOPE POUNDS THE MEAT, THEN
GIVES UP. SHE PICKS UP THE MANTEQUILLA TUB, AND COUGHS TO COVER
THE SOUND OF OPENING IT. INSIDE IS ROPA VIEJA. SHE TAKES A BITE.
AMAZING.

LYDIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

116

You're welcome.

PENELOPE SIGHS AND STARTS EATING, UPSET AT HOW DELICIOUS IT IS.

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 2)
(Penelope, Lydia, Schneider, Elena, Alex)

KNOCK AT THE DOOR. PENELOPE CROSSES AND OPENS IT TO REVEAL THE BUILDING MANAGER, SCHNEIDER, LEANING AGAINST THE DOOR FRAME WITH A BIG SMILE; ONE PART AGING HIPSTER, ONE PART HANDYMAN. HE SPORTS A LARGE, WAXED HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE.

PENELOPE 117

Hi, Schneider.

SCHNEIDER 118

(RE: MUSTACHE, SUPER PROUD) Huh?

PENELOPE 119

You grew out the mustache, huh?

SCHNEIDER 120

Finally took the plunge and went full handlebar. (BREEZING PAST HER) I'm feeling really good about it. I feel like it says I mean business.

PENELOPE 121

Yeah, if your business is making barrels. When's the shoot-out at the OK Corral?

SCHNEIDER 122

You're having some fun, but this is my face now, so...

PENELOPE 123

The face of an old timey boxer.

SCHNEIDER 124

You are on fire, but seriously
(DESPERATE) you like this, right?

PENELOPE 125

I like making fun of it. Oooh. I got one more. You're forty, and you look stupid.

SCHNEIDER 126

I knew it!

HE RIPS THE MUSTACHE OFF, REVEALING HIS ACTUAL MODEST MUSTACHE UNDERNEATH.

PENELOPE 127

What?! Hold up. That's fake?

SCHNEIDER 128

I'm not gonna grow a real one until I know if people like it. And so far, it's not testing well.

PENELOPE 129

Please say you're here to fix my sink.

SCHNEIDER 130

(DEFEATED) Yeah, fine.

SCHNEIDER METICULOUSLY UNWRAPS HIS VERY HIGH-END TOOL SATCHEL. EACH TIME IT APPEARS HE'S DONE, THERE'S YET A NEW POCKET TO UNROLL. PENELOPE NOTICES A HAMMER AND REACHES FOR IT.

PENELOPE 131

Cool hammer--

SCHNEIDER 132

(SLAPS HER HAND) Careful. That's very expensive Damascus steel.

PENELOPE 133

So we've got two fancy tools up in here.

SCHNEIDER 134

I know I look tough, but words hurt.

PENELOPE

135

You don't look tough.

HE STARTS TO ROLL HIS TOOLS BACK UP, SHE STOPS HIM.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

136

Oh, come on, you know you're the only non-Latino I trust to fix stuff. Is that racist? Who cares? It's just us.

SCHNEIDER

137

Orale güey!

PENELOPE

138

Yeah, don't do that.

SCHNEIDER

139

I regretted it as soon as I said it.

Here we go.

SCHNEIDER TURNS THE FAUCET ON, LISTENING TO DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEM.

SFX: PLUMBING NOISES.

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

140

Worn gasket in your cold water shutoff.

This is no problem, I can have it done by tonight. Maybe after dinner. What's your mom cooking?

PENELOPE

141

You've really been eating here a lot lately.

SCHNEIDER

142

Yeah, I like it too. Can you believe it's only been ten months since you moved in.

(MORE)

SCHNEIDER (CONT'D)

I remember 'cause I got my five years
sober chip and your mom baked me a cake.

PENELOPE

143

I remember. Sorry it was a rum cake.

SCHNEIDER

144

I enjoyed watching you guys eat it.
(REMEMBERING) Oh. By the way, it looks
like you accidentally threw these out.
They were in the trash.

PENELOPE

145

I wonder how they got there?

PENELOPE GRABS THE ENVELOPE, THROWS IT IN THE TRASH.

SCHNEIDER

146

Clearly this is none of my business.
What's going on?

PENELOPE

147

Why are you going through the trash?

SCHNEIDER

148

It appears we both have secrets.

PENELOPE

149

Fine, they're antidepressants. Dr.
Berkowitz thought I might need them. He
doesn't know what he's talking about.

SCHNEIDER

150

Sounds like he really cares about you.
What a dick.

PENELOPE

151

I don't need them! And I gotta get them
out of here, 'cause if my mom finds them,
it'll be "*Dios Mio* she's a junkie like
the Amy Winehouser."

FROM HER ROOM, LYDIA THROWS OPEN HER CURTAIN AND EMERGES WITH A
LARGE PHOTO ALBUM. STARTLED, PENELOPE SHOVES THE TRASH UNDER THE
SINK AS SCHNEIDER HELPS COVER.

SCHNEIDER

152

So, I'll go grab a washer, we'll fix this
thing right up.

LYDIA

153

(FLIRTY) Hello Schneider.

SCHNEIDER

154

(FLIRTY, AS HE EXITS) *Hola Señora.*

LYDIA

155

Awww, you shaved your mustache.

SCHNEIDER

156

Wait, you liked it?

LYDIA

157

Yes, it made me laugh.

SCHNEIDER EXITS SOURLY.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

158

(CALLING) *Elena mi niña*, come here.

ELENA EMERGES FROM HER ROOM AND LYDIA LEADS HER TO THE COUCH WITH
THE PHOTO ALBUM.

ELENA

159

What's up *Abuelita*?

LYDIA

160

I know you have "issues" with the
quinces, but I want to show you something
that might change your mind.

SHE OPENS THE ALBUM, REVEALING 15 YEAR-OLD PENELOPE'S GIANT SUPER-
CHEESY QUINCES PHOTO, COMPLETE WITH DOUBLE IMAGES, BRACES, POOFY
DRESS, HEAVY MAKE UP, BIG HAIR. IT'S A DISASTER.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

161

This could be you.

ELENA

162

Ahh!

PENELOPE

163

Mami! You know I hate those pictures, put
that away. And burn it.

ALEX

164

I know. Your bangs are terrifying.

PENELOPE

165

Okay, cool it. Do you know how long it
took to get it to look like a frozen
waterfall?

SCHNEIDER ENTERS WITH A TOOLBOX AND SEES THE PHOTOS.

SCHNEIDER

166

Oh hey, the *quinceañera*, you're doing it!
Elena, I knew you'd come around.

PENELOPE

167

She didn't. She thinks she's being sold
into slavery.

SCHNEIDER

168

(CONCERNED) That's not really part of it,
right?

PENELOPE

169

No!

SCHNEIDER

170

Let me talk to her. I've been doing some
outreach down at the rec center, talking
to at-risk youths.

PENELOPE

171

I don't think --

SCHNEIDER

172

(TO ELENA) Hey girl, how you livin'? Your
abuela wants to throw you a sick kick
back on a Saturday night. You know, keep
it hundred. You down?

ELENA

173

(WTF) What's happening right now?

SCHNEIDER

174

(TO PENELOPE) I tried.

PENELOPE

175

Schneider, she's gonna do it. I got this.

(TO ELENA) You know what, Captain
Debater? Let's debate.

ELENA

176

(AMUSED) You wanna debate me? I've never
lost.

PENELOPE

177

I was in war. You don't scare me.

ALEX

178

You should be scared. They call her Darth
Debater. I guess it's from a movie?

PENELOPE

179

But we're not doing a regular debate.
It's gotta be that thing I saw you do
where we argue the opposite side to
better understand each other.

ELENA

180

You mean a Lincoln/Douglas debate, my
specialty? I once successfully argued
against gravity, so...

PENELOPE

181

Oh, Imma take my earrings off now, 'cause
it's about to go down.

PENELOPE TAKES HER EARRINGS OFF AND PLACES THEM IN LYDIA'S ALREADY
OUTSTRETCHED PALM AS SCHNEIDER, ALEX AND LYDIA SIT DOWN TO ENJOY
THE SHOW.

ELENA

182

The issue before us is *quinces* or no
quinces. (TO PENELOPE) Okay, so I'm you.
(AS HER, TALKING QUICKLY) "Listen kid, a
quinces is just about the village
celebrating that you are a woman which I
know you know because you're the smartest
one in the family."

PENELOPE

183

I have better moves. Right?

ELENA

184

"But 'village' isn't literal, it just means family and friends. So what's so bad about this modern village coming together to celebrate you?"

LYDIA

185

Oye, she's good.

SCHNEIDER AND ALEX AD-LIB APPROVAL.

SCHNEIDER

186

My money's on her. Do you guys wanna take bets? Actually, scratch that. I'm addicted to gambling.

PENELOPE

187

(TO ELENA) Okay. And now I'll be you. "Oh my god do you even hear yourself?? Seriously? Your "argument" is that my adulthood has to be approved by your friends? Pass!"

PENELOPE LOOKS TO LYDIA EXPECTANTLY.

LYDIA

188

Well I'm not gonna clap for that.

ELENA

189

(ACCENTED) "So you want to crush my heart
into pieces after I worked so hard to
give you opportunity in this land of the
free and home of the brave?"

PENELOPE

190

That's not me, that's (RE: LYDIA) her.

LYDIA

191

You make me sound like I have an accent.

ELENA

192

Let's end this. Elena, you wrecked your
first communion because as a vegetarian
you wouldn't eat the body of Christ. You
even refused to take pictures with Santa
because your ~~Abuelita~~ wouldn't admit
Christmas is a pagan ritual.

LYDIA

193

Jesus and Santa were cousins! Everyone
knows this.

ELENA

194

"So when it comes to your *quinces*, I'm
pleading with you: can't you do this one
thing for your mother who loves you?"

A BEAT. LYDIA AND SCHNEIDER HAVE ACTUALLY TEARED UP.

PENELOPE

195

(SMILING) "Okay mom, I'll do it."

ELENA

196

Wait, what?

PENELOPE

197

I'm saying you win. You should have a
quinces. Like you just proved.

SCHNEIDER, LYDIA AND ALEX ALL "OOOOOOHHHHHH."

ALEX

198

Daaaannnnngggg. *Mami* set you up.

PENELOPE

199

(GIDDY) I didn't realize how right I was.
She said a bunch of stuff I didn't even
think of! *Mami, aretes*.

LYDIA HANDS OVER THE EARRINGS.

ELENA

200

Okay, but this was stupid. I'm still not
having a *quinces*.

PENELOPE

201

Just accept it. You're Cuban, you're 15,
and you're gonna have a big party and a
poofy dress and a bad photo. It's what we
do!

A BEAT AS ELENA IS FURIOUS, UNABLE TO RESPOND. THEN:

ELENA

202

¡Te odio! ¡Coño! ¡Carajo!

SHE STALKS OFF, LEAVING EVERYBODY SHOCKED. HER DOOR SLAMS O.S.

LYDIA

203

(TRIUMPHANT) She can speak Spanish.

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. DR. BERKOWITZ'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON (DAY 3)
(Penelope, Dr. Berkowitz)

PENELOPE ENTERS, ANNOYED. DR. BERKOWITZ IS THERE, TURNING OFF THE
X-RAY VIEWER.

PENELOPE

204

Mrs. Doyle is in exam room three and I
swear to god if that *vieja* calls me Maria
one more time...

DR. BERKOWITZ

205

Mrs. Doyle has Alzheimer's.

PENELOPE

206

Oh no. I'm so sorry.

DR. BERKOWITZ

207

I'm messing with you. She's just racist.
What's going on with you today? You're
all on edge.

PENELOPE

208

I had to put my foot down with Elena
about her *quinces*. I'm not sure I did the
right thing. She wouldn't talk to me all
weekend.

DR. BERKOWITZ

209

Don't worry, it gets better. Eventually,
they leave.

PENELOPE

210

It's just... it's all on me now.

DR. BERKOWITZ

211

Oh yeah. Every move you make is fraught with peril. Is this going to be the one that scars them for life? And in my case, the answer was always "yes."

PENELOPE

212

Well now I'm more depressed. It's just so much pressure, sometimes I feel like... I don't know.

PENELOPE LOOKS TROUBLED. IT ALL HITS HER A BIT. A BEAT.

DR. BERKOWITZ

213

Hey, did you ever take those--

PENELOPE

214

No. Threw 'em right in the trash. (THEN)
It's fine. There's just a lot going on right now.

DR. BERKOWITZ

215

It's more than that though, right? I mean you were talking about nightmares --

PENELOPE

216

I know what I said.

DR. BERKOWITZ

217

Look if there was something wrong with your heart and I gave you medicine, you'd take it, so why wouldn't you do the same with this?

PENELOPE

218

Yeah (BEAT) To be fair, I probably wouldn't take the heart crap either. As a nurse, I would totally recommend it, but as a Cuban, I suffer in silence.

DR. BERKOWITZ

219

A silent Cuban? I'd like to meet one of those. (LAUGHS, THEN) Listen, as far as the kids go, you're doing great. Come to me after you've spent 200 grand on college and they're performing steampunk burlesque in a loft downtown that doesn't even comp tickets. But I digress.

PENELOPE

220

Thanks. And she's a teenager. At least I'm safe for another year with the little one.

SFX: PENELOPE'S PHONE BEEPS.

SHE CHECKS IT.

DR. BERKOWITZ

221

Your phone telling you things?

PENELOPE

222

Alex ordered some sneakers for school. I get an alert every time a package is delivered.

SFX: BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.

PENELOPE LOOKS. SCOWLS MURDEROUSLY.

DR. BERKOWITZ

223

How many feet does that kid have?

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT. - EVENING (NIGHT 3)
(Penelope, Lydia, Schneider, Elena, Alex)

SCHNEIDER IS FINISHING UP WITH THE SINK AS LYDIA WATCHES.

SCHNEIDER

224

Hey, so, for the *quinces*, is there any
way I can get a plus three? I'm currently
in a bit of a lady juggling situation.

LYDIA

225

No. I've already promised you to
Consuela. Now she has a good mustache.
(OFF HIS LOOK) I'm kidding. It's not that
good.

THE DOOR KICKS OPEN ALA **SCENE A**, TO REVEAL PENELOPE, THIS TIME
HOLDING FIVE BOXES OF SNEAKERS.

PENELOPE

226

Alex!

REVEAL ALEX AGAIN LYING ON THE COUCH FACING AWAY, HEADPHONES ON,
OBLIVIOUSLY ENGROSSED IN HIS LAPTOP.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

227

Alex!!

STILL NOTHING. LYDIA CALLS FROM THE KITCHEN.

LYDIA

228

Oye you gotta get your eyes checked, he's
right there.

PENELOPE WALKS OVER AND STANDS DIRECTLY FACING ALEX, INCHES AWAY.
HE STILL DOESN'T SEE HER. PENELOPE CLOSES HIS LAPTOP WITH HER
FOOT. ALEX FINALLY SEES HER. HE PULLS OFF HIS HEADPHONES.

ALEX

229

I can explain.

PENELOPE

230

Really? You can explain how one pair of sneakers magically became five? Because that is some Jesus shit right there. (TO ALEX)

Sorry I cursed. (TO LYDIA) Sorry I said Jesus.

LYDIA CROSSES HERSELF. ALEX HOLDS UP HIS HANDS.

ALEX

231

Mom: this family's been through a lot. And I felt like I needed to provide. Because I'm the man of the house now.

PENELOPE

232

(CONFUSED) That's why you bought five pairs of sneakers?

ALEX

233

(CONFIDENT) That's why I bought no pairs of sneakers.

LYDIA

234

Is he into magic now? Can I be your assistant? No, I will become the focus.

ALEX

235

Free returns, mom. I can order any pair I want, wear them a couple times, as long as I keep them clean, I can send them right back.

ALEX STANDS BACK TO ADMIRE THE REACTION TO HIS AMAZING PLAN.

SCHNEIDER

236

I know you want to be mad, but that's genius.

PENELOPE

237

No it's not. Alex, there's no way to keep
all these sneakers clean enough to send
back.

ALEX

238

Oh no?

ALEX PROUDLY SHOWS OFF THE PAIR ON HIS FEET: THEY ARE PRISTINE.

PENELOPE

239

So it's six pairs of shoes? What about
the bottoms? You were walking around all
day.

ALEX LIFTS HIS SNEAKER, REVEALING A FILTHY SOLE. HE REACTS IN
"HORROR."

ALEX

240

Oh no.

THEN LIKE A MAGICIAN, HE TRIUMPHANTLY REMOVES WHAT WE SEE IS A
LAYER OF MASKING TAPE, TO REVEAL AN UNBLEMISHED SOLE.

ALEX (CONT'D)

241

Oh yes.

SCHNEIDER

242

You gotta get him on Shark Tank or
something.

PENELOPE

243

(TO ALEX) No, this ends now. It's like
you're stealing.

ALEX

244

(GRINNING) Yes, it's like I'm stealing.

PENELOPE

245

You're not charming your way out of this!
I said one new pair, you disobeyed me,
now you get no new pairs. Now you get
Elena's old sparkly ones.

ALEX

246

With the multi-cultural princesses? No!

PENELOPE

247

Lucky for you she never wore them because
they were too "gender specific." She did
like that they were diverse.

ALEX

248

I'm not wearing those! (FRUSTRATED) I
still don't understand why I can't buy
these! Don't you have more money now that
Papi's gone?

PENELOPE

249

(WTF) What??

ALEX

250

Well you have a job. Plus *Papi* gives you
money, right? So that's like... double
money!

PENELOPE

251

(TO ALEX) Sit down.

ALEX SITS. SCHNEIDER APPROACHES.

SCHNEIDER

252

I'll talk to him. (TO ALEX) Hey little
man --

PENELOPE

253

Out.

SCHNEIDER

254

Okay.

SCHNEIDER EXITS. PENELOPE TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

PENELOPE

255

Yes, your *papi* gives me money, but it's for basics. It's not a lot. He is absolutely doing his best, and he will always be your *papi*. But make no mistake: when it comes to money... I'm your daddy. (THEN) Tomorrow. They all go back.

ALEX EXITS, UNHAPPY, PASSING ELENA AS SHE APPROACHES PENELOPE.

ELENA

256

Everything okay? I need you to sign my test.

PENELOPE

257

(TAKING PAPER) Everything's fine. At least you're talking to me now. (SEEING ELENA'S GRADE) Wait. This says you got a D.

ELENA

258

(BUMMED) I know.

PENELOPE

259

(STUNNED) But this is social studies, you love this.

ELENA

260

Yeah. I guess I didn't try because I don't need an education now that I'm gonna be chattel.

ELENA (CONT'D)

And without schoolwork I'll have more
time to plan my magical *quinces*.

PENELOPE

261

Okay, enough.

LYDIA

262

Yes, you keep this up, you're not having
a *quinces*! (THEN) Wait.

PENELOPE

263

(TO ELENA) I can't believe you. You know
how hard I bust my ass -- by myself -- to
send you to that school so you can have
more opportunities than I did? Then you
pull this crap? I can't even look at you
right now. Just go to your room!

ELENA CROSSES OFF. BEFORE SHE GETS TO THE HALLWAY, SHE TURNS BACK.

ELENA

264

You know, you say you want me to be a
strong independent woman, like you. Then
when I say I don't want to participate in
what I think is a misogynist cultural
ritual, you tell me to shut up and do it
anyway. So which is it, Mom?

*

ELENA EXITS AS PENELOPE TAKES IN THIS BODY BLOW. A LONG BEAT AS
SHE SINKS IN THE COUCH AND PUTS HER HEAD IN HER HANDS.

LYDIA

265

You okay, *Lupita*?

PENELOPE GETS UP, WALKS OVER TO THE TRASH AND RETRIEVES HER PILLS.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

266

You're like me, when you get upset you
clean. (THEN) Wait, what's that?

PENELOPE

267

It's an anti-depressant that I'm going to
be taking, so just deal with it.

LYDIA

268

That's your answer? Drugs? (GESTURING)
Open your mouth. Spit it into my hand.

PENELOPE

269

I haven't even taken it yet. And it's okay,
it's something that helps. Do you see
everything that's going on right now?

LYDIA

270

You don't need drugs! You need your
husband!

PENELOPE

271

Stop! Victor's not the answer.

LYDIA

272

I know you didn't want him to go back to
Afghanistan, but he's making money. He's
being a good provider.

PENELOPE

273

There are jobs here where they don't
shoot at you.

LYDIA

274

We live in America. Name one!

PENELOPE

275

It's not just the job and you know that.

LYDIA

276

It's not like he cheated on you.

PENELOPE

277

That's not the only thing that matters!

LYDIA

278

We're Cuban! We don't get divorced, we die!

PENELOPE

279

(EXPLODING) Don't you think I miss him??

THIS STOPS LYDIA. A BEAT.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

280

You think I like being alone? I wanted to do this with somebody. That was the plan. Family dinners and inside jokes and one of the kids says something cute and you share a look. And even right now, to be able to say "Okay they're insane but we're not." A partner! Someone to love, someone in your bed... You know since Victor's gone I don't sleep? He used to spoon me to sleep. So yeah I miss the good stuff! Sometimes you just need somebody to give you a hug and say "I got you."

A BEAT. LYDIA IS CHASTENED AND TOUCHED. SHE OPENS HER ARMS.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

281

I meant a man.

LYDIA

282

I'm very strong. I've been doing the yoga.

PENELOPE CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE AS LYDIA ENVELOPS HER.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

283

I got you.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE H

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING (NIGHT 3)
(Penelope, Alex)

WE'RE CLOSE ON A KIDDY PAIR OF SNEAKERS WITH MULTICULTURAL PRINCESSES. TILT UP TO REVEAL A BUMMED ALEX WEARING THEM. PENELOPE ENTERS.

PENELOPE

284

(UPBEAT) If the ladies be looking at your feet something's wrong am I riiiiight?

(OFF HIS LOOK) I'm sorry.

ALEX

285

(SIGHS) I think I can make these work.

PENELOPE

286

Or...

SHE PRODUCES A SHOEBOX FROM BEHIND HER BACK.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

287

I noticed you ordered one pair that was under forty bucks. Which means you were doing the right thing before you did the many many wrong things.

ALEX

288

What?! Really! (SHE NODS) Ohhh thank you!

I was trying to be brave but even the nuns would've made fun of me.

*

*

ALEX EAGERLY RIPS THE BOX OPEN. WHILE HE DOES SO...

PENELOPE

289

Listen, don't worry about being the man of the house.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

First of all we don't have a house. So
there's that. But you just be a twelve
year old boy. Okay?

ALEX

290

Okay. And you're right, I shouldn't worry
about what's going on down here (RE:
FEET) when I got so much going on up
here.

ALEX POINTS TO HIS SMILE AS IF TO SAY "MONEY."

PENELOPE

291

Aw... puberty's gonna hit you like a
train. Goodnight!

SHE EXITS.

CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. ELENA'S BEDROOM - EVENING - LATER (NIGHT 3)
(Penelope, Elena)

ELENA READS ON HER BED. PENELOPE ENTERS AND SITS NEXT TO HER.

PENELOPE 292

Hey there.

ELENA 293

(WARY) Hello.

PENELOPE 294

So there's been a lot of yelling. Okay,
it was mostly me. But look, I hear you...
and you don't have to have a *quinces*.

ELENA 295

Thank you thank you thank you.

PENELOPE 296

And this is not because of that crap you
pulled with the test. You do that again,
I'm gonna put my *quinces* tiara on you
while you sleep and post it to your
Instagram. Do not test me, I know all
your passwords.

*

ELENA 297

(BEAT, SCARED) You know all my passwords?

PENELOPE 298

(SCOFFS) Please. You're not as clever as
you think, "GIRL POWER with a zero
instead of an O." (THEN) Look, I get the
whole misogynist thing, I do.

*

*

*

(MORE)

ONE DAY AT A TIME - "THIS IS IT" [101]
2nd REV. SHOOTING (PINK) - 05/04/16

41A.
J

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

But I hate to tell you, lots of good
stuff was started for dumb man-reasons.
Like marriage used to just be a way to
pay off debts.

(MORE)

Property of SPTV

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Plus women were being raped everywhere,
so you'd "marry" your daughter off to
some guy and say "okay he owns her now!
No raping this one!" (OFF ELENA'S SHOCKED
LOOK) My point is we've made progress.

ELENA

299

I never knew you were such a feminist,
Mom.

PENELOPE

300

I can assemble a rifle in thirteen
seconds, I'm a total badass, how are you
missing this?

ELENA

301

Sorry, it's just, a lot of times you...
sound like a mom.

PENELOPE

302

Well, I am one. And there's part of me
that buys into the cheesy "my little girl
is becoming a woman" thing. Because
you're not a little girl anymore, and
that is super weird.

ELENA SOFTENS.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

303

If I'm being honest with myself, I was
making your *quinces* about me.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

I guess I wanted people to show up and
say "look at the amazing single mom
pulling it all together by herself." It
was dumb.

PENELOPE GOES TO LEAVE. A BEAT AS ELENA TAKES THIS IN.

ELENA 304

It's not dumb. They're dumb.

PENELOPE 305

(TURNING) What? Who?

ELENA 306

The people.

PENELOPE 307

There's no people. That's just a thing I
said.

ELENA 308

No, I'll do it. All I wanted was a good
reason why, and you just gave me one.

PENELOPE 309

Really? Oh my god, that's so great!

PENELOPE HUGS HER.

ELENA 310

We'll do the whole thing. The ceremony,
the stupid waltz. We'll show them what a
single mother can pull off. I will dress
like a child bride for you, Mom!

PENELOPE

311

Okay now I feel like I should talk you
out of it. But I won't. Your *Abuelita* can
be a broken record, but she taught me
life can be tough so when you get
something to celebrate, you take it. And
then take photos. Photos I'll use to
scare your children.

ELENA

312

I'm not having children.

PENELOPE

313

(DON'T START) Not today.

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER (NIGHT 3)
(Penelope, Lydia)

PENELOPE ENTERS AND LIES DOWN TO GO TO SLEEP, EXHAUSTED BUT HAPPY.
A BEAT.

LIGHT CUE: OFF

THEN LYDIA APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY, IN HER NIGHTGOWN.

LYDIA 314

Move over.

PENELOPE 315

(STARTLED) What? What are you doing here?

LYDIA 316

I'm going to spoon you.

PENELOPE 317

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo--

BUT LYDIA CLIMBS INTO BED AND DOES SO. PENELOPE SIGHS. IT'S WEIRD.
BUT NOT SO BAD.

FADE OUT.