

Unimported

EP. 101: "SUPER CAUGHT"

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Note: Unless otherwise stated, all the Afro-Latine characters are medium to dark skinned with 3C-4C hair types. Also, all Spanish lines will be translated in English subtitles.

TEASER

USING EARLY 2000S CAMCORDER FOOTAGE

FLASHBACK TO: 2006 NBA CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION

It's 2006 and the Miami Heat have just won the NBA Finals. This opening scene is being shown through a camcorder. VICTOR RODRIGUEZ (late 20s), an Afro-Cuban immigrant father, records his family as they drive down 49th street in Hialeah, FL. The street is jampacked with cars and people banging on pots and pans, waving flags, wearing Miami Heat paraphernalia, especially the White Hot t-shirts and jerseys, celebrating the win.

MARISOL RODRIGUEZ (SOLY, late 20s), Victor's wife, a 2nd generation Afro-Cuban and mother to their toddler that sits on her lap, cheers and waves a Cuban flag that says "Miami Heat" on it out of the passenger side window.

SOLY

Woooo!! MIAMI! MIAMI!!!

Their 3rd gen Afro-Cuban daughter, ESPERANZA RODRIGUEZ (ESPY), currently a 2-3-year-old toddler sits on Marisol's lap as they slowly cruise through the overpacked street.

VICTOR

Here baby, record everything you see!

Victor hands the camcorder to Marisol and she puts it out the window.

VICTOR

Be careful with that! But get some good stuff.

A very young Espy watches as her mother records the crowd as everyone is cheering.

THE 2006 SCENE TRANSITIONS TO PRESENT DAY

The setting is still 49th street but now it's present day and a 17-year-old Espy is recording SOS Cuba protests on the street. Espy is a proud member of the size 18 & up club, has relaxed/heat-damaged hair, and wears baggy/loose-fitting clothes.

Still using pots and pans, people are screaming in protest of the atrocities in Cuba. Some protestors cry, some pray, some scream about politicians. Espy is recording everything she sees in the street, equally as packed as the street was in the 2006 scene. The street is full of Cuban flags, "Patria y Vida" signs and shirts, SOS Cuba signs and words painted on cars and bodies.

PROTESTOR #1

Por favor Dios, salva a Cuba!
(Please God, save Cuba!)

Espy records as people shout out prayers and pleads to God, the U.S. government, the Cuban people, anyone who will listen. Anyone who will care. Some people speak right into her camera, some just march passed.

PROTESTOR #2

Ayudar a mi familia, te lo ruego!
(Help my family, I'm begging you!)

PROTESTOR #3

Patria y Vida! (Homeland and Life!)

As Espy is recording what's going on around her, a car slows near her and stops. The window rolls down to reveal Espy's mother, Soly now in her 40s, who doesn't look happy at all to see her daughter on the street filming the protest.

SOLY

Esperanza Rodriguez!

Espy immediately recognizes that voice. Shit. She turns her head to confirm her worst nightmare and sure enough, her mother is staring back at her.

SOLY

Get your ass in this car, RIGHT
NOW!

Espy lowers her camera and scurries into the car before she has to be told a second time.

OPENING TITLES: "UNIMPORTED"

INT. SOLY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Soly is driving home with Espy now in the passenger seat. She's upset that she found Espy at the protest.

SOLY

What the hell are you thinking
Espy?!

ESPY
I just-

 SOLY
Just what?!

Espy is visibly annoyed that she was cut off before getting the chance to explain herself.

 SOLY (CONT'D)
Fix your face. Now.

Espy tries to mold her face into a neutral mask but only manages to fix her eyebrows.

 ESPY
Mami, I was documenting history.

As she says this, Espy turns her head and looks out the window.

 SOLY
And what if you had been arrested?
Or worse?

Espy doesn't answer or looking back to her mother.

 SOLY (CONT'D)
Huh?! What is so worth documenting
that you'd risk your future like
that?

 ESPY
Our people! They're tired and
speaking up. Someone has to make
sure they're remembered, that their
cries don't go unheard.

This hits Soly and she has to take a few moments to take in what Espy said. But still.

 SOLY
And that someone is you? Una mojona
who's still in high school? And-

Wait a minute. Why aren't you in
Pre-Med Club?

Espy is confused, taking a moment before realizing what her mom's referring to. Soly thinks Espy has been attending an imaginary school club to prepare her for Medical School.

 ESPY
We errm..don't meet on Tuesdays.

Soly isn't sure that she believe this but they are pulling into their driveway and she sees her mother, CARIDAD MARTINEZ (CARI/ABUELA), an undocumented Afro-Cuban immigrant in her 60s in the front yard pulling the trash bin in from the curb. Soly forgets to be upset with Espy.

SOLY
 Okay. Just don't do stupid shit
 Espy.

Espy nods and jumps out of the car as soon as they pull in. She runs inside waving to Caridad, or Abuela as she calls her.

ESPY
 Hi Abuela!

Cari pauses dragging the trash bin to beam at Espy.

CARI
 Hola mi niña! Como era la escuela?
 (Hi my girl! How was school?)

Espy doesn't stop to answer Cari and she is already inside before Cari finishes her question.

Soly comes up, taking the trash bin from Cari.

SOLY
 Mami, why are you pulling this in?
 Your back isn't gonna stop hurting
 if you keep pushing it.

Cari scoffs and tries to wave Soly away but Soly pulls the bin the rest of the way.

CARI
 Eso no es pesado! Deja, ya.
 (That isn't heavy! Give me a
 break.)

Soly kisses her mother's forehead before heading into the house.

SOLY
 Cabeza dura.
 (Hard headed.)

When Soly can no longer see her, Cari hunches over and winces.

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Espy comes in her room, frustrated.

Espy's room is painted a neutral color, a color that could be used for multiple types of rooms. She has decorated the walls with posters and quotes from her favorite films. Nothing is on the wall with pins, tacks, or anything that could put a hole in the wall.

Espy's movie personality type celebrates Latine artists with films like Roma, City of God, and Pan's Labyrinth while still showing the influence of white-centric film, namely 80s films, with a splash of Spike Lee and John Singleton, and a fingernail tip's amount of Tarantino sprinkled on it. She likes pointed, political and satirical works as well as fantastical and absurd films to fuel her escapism.

She offloads video from her computer to her camera and as the clips are transferring, she pulls up an untouched application to the University of Miami. She scrolls through the empty slots and then clicks on the tab that shows the transferring videos. The videos still have a long way to go. She clicks back to the school application and starts to fill in her name when she hears her dad call her.

VICTOR (O.S.)

Espy! Dinner!

Saved by the bell.

ESPY

Okay, coming!

She looks at the application a moment longer and clicks the X to close the window. A pop-up question asks her if she is sure she wants to exit the application without saving it. She's sure and closes out of the application.

INT. DINING ROOM TABLE - NIGHT

The family's kitchen bleeds into a small attached room where the washer and dryer are and it's in that small pocket that the dining table sits.

At the table sits Espy's dad, Victor and her grandfather, CARLOS HERNANDEZ (ABUELO), Cari's unofficial husband who is also an Afro-Cuban undocumented immigrant who works in a factory. Cari serves Carlos a plate and leaves to make another plate. As Espy sits down, Soly sets a plate down for Victor.

SOLY

Espy, get up and get yourself a plate. You're a big girl.

Soly heads back into the kitchen and Espy just looks back at the men at the table who were just served plates. They both look down or up and around the room, pretending they don't see her looking at them and know why.

Before Espy can get out of her seat, Cari sets a plate down in front of her.

CARI

Toma, mi ciela.
(Take this, my dear.)

Soly comes back with her own food and scolds her mother.

SOLY

Mami. La vas a malcriar.
(Mom, you're going to spoil her.)

CARI

Shh. Ella esta cansada de la escuela.
(Shh. She's tired from school.)

SOLY

Cansada? Ella-
(Tired? She-)

CARI

Siéntate y come.
(Sit down and eat.)

Soly thinks about arguing but Cari gives her a look that says "I don't care how old you are, I am still your mother" and Soly sits down. Victor and Carlos see everything but just eat, minding their business.

Espy starts to eat and gets a few bites in before Soly interrupts her.

SOLY

Don't eat all of that.

Espy's appetite is ruined. She sets her fork down and sits back, pulling her phone out.

SOLY (CONT'D)

No phone at the table.

Espy rolls her eyes.

ESPY
Is breathing allowed?

SOLY
Excuse me?

Instead of taking the hint to backtrack, she doubles down.

ESPY
I just want to be clear on the
rules, Warden.

SOLY
Watch it. I don't care that you're
turning 18 soon. This is still my
house, I'm still your mother, y no
me faltáras el respeto!
(And you will not disrespect me!)

ESPY
(speaking under breath)
Can't wait until I'm not in your
house anymore.

SOLY
What was that?

Before Espy can get herself into anymore trouble, Victor
chimes in.

VICTOR
Espy, why didn't you tell us about
the college tour trip?

This derails Espy's bite back at her mom and she looks
slightly embarrassed.

ESPY
Oh. Umm, I don't want to go.

Victor doesn't believe her and neither does Cari as she walks
in.

CARI
Mentirosa.
(Liar.)

VICTOR
I'm with her on this one.

Victor and Cari share a surprised look. Did they just...agree
on something? Everyone else at the table to shocked too.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
 It seems like a cool trip. Taking
 y'all to all the schools from here
 to Tallahassee!

ESPY
 Who told you?

VICTOR
 I ran into ChiChi as I was leaving
 work and she said she was excited
 for it. How come that was my first
 time hearing about it?

Espy groans.

ESPY
 Because the trip is \$200 Papi.

Victor fails to hide his sticker-shock.

ESPY (CONT'D)
 And last year, the seniors told me
 it wasn't even that cool.

VICTOR
 When is the trip? I'll make
 something work.

ESPY
 The trip is tomorrow. It's okay
 Papi, it's really-

SOLY
 Unnecessary.

Victor and Espy both look to Soly in annoyed disbelief.

SOLY (CONT'D)
 You're going to UM anyway. No need
 to see all those other schools that
 you'll just get distracted at.

VICTOR
 Well the trip would still be a cool
 experience.

Soly scoffs.

SOLY
 \$200 for a "cool experience"? You
 know what's cool? Actually getting
 in and not just visiting. How is
 that application coming anyway?

ESPY
It's coming.

SOLY
How many reference letters have you gotten?

ESPY
A lot of teachers have said it's still too early for them to write-

SOLY
Mercedes was telling me that ChiChi and Caesar each got one from Principal Morales the other day.

Espy is annoyed.

ESPY
That's great.

SOLY
You have to take this more seriously Espy.

ESPY
I'm taking it seriously.

SOLY
I can't tell.

Victor has had enough.

VICTOR
Marisol, por favor. Dejela!
(Marisol, please. Leave her alone!)

Soly looks back at him like he lost his mind. He knew he messed up the second the words left his mouth.

SOLY
Oh excuse me. Do you want to handle the school stuff then?

Victor tries to backpedal.

VICTOR
No. I just meant-

SOLY
No no no, mi amor. Please, by all means, take over.

(MORE)

SOLY (CONT'D)

You get her books for the SAT and ACT, you overlook her application, you pick her up from club meetings.

VICTOR

Okay Marisol, I get it.

SOLY

Get what? There's nothing to get. You want me to leave her alone? Okay. If she doesn't go to school, it'll be on you.

Carlos and Cari desperately try to eat and mind their business, pretending like they don't see what's going on. Carlos isn't hiding his nosiness very well. Cari slaps his arm to stop listening.

VICTOR

Oh. Kay. Marisol. I get it! Coño.

Victor pushes away from the table and walks away, leaving his unfinished dinner.

SOLY

Way to go Esperanza.

Espy is confused on how this is her fault. Carlos takes his cue to leave and Cari gets up to start clearing the table.

SOLY (CONT'D)

No.

Cari stops and looks to Soly.

SOLY (CONT'D)

Espy, clear the table.

Espy's plate is still barely touched.

ESPY

What, why?

SOLY

Because I said so!

With that, she leaves the table and calls back to her mother.

SOLY (CONT'D)

Mami, don't you touch a single plate.

Cari doesn't argue and kisses Espy's forehead as she walks away. Espy looks at the full table, defeated.

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Espy is laying in her bed, in her dark room on her phone. As she's scrolling through social media, her bedroom door cracks open. She quickly locks her phone and pretends to be sleeping.

CARI
(whisper)
Espy?

Slowly, Espy lifts her head to see who it is. After seeing it's Cari, she sighs in relief and gets up to turn on her side table light.

SOLY
Hey Abuela. Que pasa?
(What's up?)

Cari hands Espy \$200 in cash.

CARI
Para el viaje.
(For the trip.)

ESPY
Abuela. No. No I can't-

Cari shakes this off.

CARI
(broken English)
Keep it. Is for you dream.

ESPY
Abuela, my dream is to go to UM.

CARI
Ese no es tu sueño, eres una
artista.
(That is not your dream, you're an
artist.)

Espy is confused.

ESPY
Sueño. Umm..dream. Oh! Yes, I'm
going to have good dreams.

Cari just smiles as Espy plugs her phone in and sets an alarm for school, knowing Espy's Spanish isn't the best. Cari sets the money down on Espy's side table and tucks Espy and kisses her.

CARI
 Dulces sueños, querida.
 (Sweet dreams, my dear.)

ESPY
 You too, Abuela.

Cari turns the light out and walks out of the room, pausing to watch Espy sleep for a moment.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

CARLA JIMENEZ (CHICHI,17), Espy's 2nd Gen Afro Cuban-Dominican best friend sits in 1st period on her phone, saving a seat for Espy. ChiChi is lighter skinned with a Dominican blow out that never frizzes and flows down her back. She wears tighter fitting clothes that show her slim-thick figure. She's a brilliant, well-dressed, aspiring immigration lawyer.

Her twin brother, CAESAR JIMENEZ (CESI,17), walks up to her. Cesi looks just like ChiChi and he's just as smart, but doesn't have an ounce of ChiChi's ambition and drive. In an ideal world, Cesi would be able to sprawl out on his couch or a hammock and read a book every day without any responsibilities. He doesn't put nearly as much care into his dress.

Cesi moves ChiChi's bookbag from the seat she was saving for Espy and sits in it.

CHICHI
 No.

CESI
 Come on Cheech. Let me sit here and save that spot for Espy.

CHICHI
 No.

CESI
 But-

CHICHI
 No.

Espy comes into the classroom and Cesi sees her.

CESI
 ChiChi, please. I'll do your math homework all next week!

ChiChi sees Espy and puts her phone away, rolling her eyes.

CHICHI

Caesar, I would never trust you to do my homework. Find someone else's best friend to have a weird crush on, bye.

Defeated, Cesi gets up and moves a few seats back.

ESPY

Good morning Cesi!

Cesi freezes.

ChiChi sighs.

CHICHI

Caesar, go find a seat.

He manages a small, quick wave in Espy's direction before walking away.

CHICHI (CONT'D)

Morning to you too, hoe.

ESPY

I was getting to you.

They touch cheeks and make a kissing sound, a Miami greeting, and then Espy sits down.

ESPY (CONT'D)

Good morning. What'd you do after school yesterday? Any interesting run-ins with anyone we know?

Caught. ChiChi grimaces.

CHICHI

Okay, in my defense he asked about where I'm applying and I got so excited about seeing UF. I just let it slip, my bad girl.

ESPY

It's whatever.

Espy pulls out school supplies as other students start to file in and do the same.

CHICHI

Was he upset?

ESPY

I don't know honestly. It was a weird night.

ChiChi remembers something and leans in closer to whisper.

CHICHI

Oh that's right, Soly caught you on 49th! How could you let yourself get caught, monga? How bad was it?

ESPY

Still accessing. Anyway, my abuela gave me money for the trip. And my dad signed the permission form this morning, think they'll still take it?

CHICHI

Definitely. I'll walk to Principal Morales with you.

Espy looks her up and down.

ESPY

Are you two...

ChiChi takes a second to realize what she's insinuating and blushes and rolls her eyes. The bell for class to start goes off and a few kids run into the room.

CHICHI

Shut up.

Espy laughs but arches her brow. The teacher puts their phone down and gets up to start the lesson.

ESPY

I mean no one else has gotten a rec letter from the principal, just saying.

CHICHI

I'm not like anyone else bitch. Now, if you'll excuse me I'm going to pay attention to class. Because I care about my education.

ESPY

Mm-hmm.

TEACHER

Alright class, who wants to share their thoughts on what Rochester and St. John's characters represent?

ChiChi raises her hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Carla.

CHICHI

Their characters are just different examples of how men use women as tools. Without regarding women as human beings who have lives and desires separate from their own.

TEACHER

How so?

CHICHI

I mean look at Bertha. Using ethnicity and mental illness as catalysts for violence is problematic enough but Rochester marries her, locks her in a dungeon, hires someone to make sure she stays in her place, and then brings his new girl in the house while his dungeon bae is locked up in the attic? Shit, I would've burned the house down too.

The teacher chuckles.

TEACHER

Interesting take Carla. Anyone else?

MAX MARSHALL, a Black student in their class, raises his hand and the teacher chooses him. Max is a stereotypical "cool kid", dark-skinned, handsome, effortlessly social and immeasurably intelligent.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Max.

MAX

ChiChi has a point with what she said about Bertha and Rochester but, no one has that same energy for St. John.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

My boy was ready to marry his *cousin* just to have a wife. He was going to be a missionary, aka a colonizer forcing Christianity on a community with a long established culture and history, and he didn't want the "savages" to view him as weak. He needed a wife to show he was to be respected.

ChiChi is impressed but when Max nods his head at her, she just looks away.

TEACHER

Whew. We're coming in hot this morning! Very good observations Max and Carla. Who else has some spicy thoughts on the class's literature?

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

ChiChi and Espy walk out of class as Cesi runs after them.

CESI

Hey guys! Wanna work on a skit together for the Jane Eyre project?

ChiChi shrugs.

CHICHI

Would be a lot more fun than a paper.

CESI

Just what I was thinking. Espy could be Jane, which would make me-

CHICHI

Bertha?

ChiChi and Espy bust out laughing. Cesi doesn't find his sister's joke funny.

ESPY

The skit is a great idea Ces. How about I direct? We can do a scene on Bertha's death.

CHICHI

Kinda dark, E. I love it. I'll be Jane.

CESI

Wait, who's gonna be Rochester then? It might make sense for me to be St. John if you're Jane but...still weird.

Just then, Max walks up to the group in the hallway and Espy's eyes light up as ChiChi's demeanor changes to a more nervous and giddy girl.

MAX

Hey ChiChi. Good point in class today.

ChiChi gives him a tight smile.

CHICHI

Thanks.

Espy looks at ChiChi, waiting for her social butterfly, effortlessly flirty friend to come back and replace whoever this is.

ESPY

We're gonna do a skit for the Jane Eyre project. ChiChi's gonna be Jane, we could use a Rochester.

ChiChi burns holes into Espy's head with her stare.

MAX

Ayee, count me in. That's much better than a paper.

CESI

Exactly what I thought!

CHICHI

Caesar was actually saying he wanted to be Rochester, so you'd have to be Bertha.

MAX

Damn. Cause I'm Jamaican?

Silence. ChiChi looks mortified. As she's finding her words, Max bellows a hearty laugh.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm just fucking with you, lighten up! My goodness, I wish I could replay my memories like that one Black Mirror episode so I could see your face over and over.

ChiChi is embarrassed but laughs.

CHICHI

Aww, you wanna see my face on
replay?

Max stops laughing but keeps a flirty smirk.

MAX

I definitely wouldn't mind.

Espy and Cesi look as if they're watching a novela. Cesi is cringing. The bell for the next class interrupts the moment.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'll see y'all later.

(to ChiChi)

Find me at lunch, we'll need each
other's numbers if we're gonna be
partners.

ChiChi nods, trying to stifle her smile and play it cool. When he leaves, Espy eyes widen and mouth gapes open as she looks at ChiChi.

ESPY

Carla Marie Jimenez! What was THAT.

ChiChi feigns ignorance and shrugs her shoulders.

CHICHI

What was what? You asked him to be
Rochester.

ESPY

And now I see why he accepted so
quickly.

CHICHI

Yeah cause he doesn't wanna do a
paper.

ESPY

Or maybe because he wants to do
you.

CHICHI

Shut up Espy, you're such a child.

ChiChi rolls her eyes and stomps off, embarrassed. Espy follows after her.

ESPY

Oh ChiChi Eyre! Don't you run away,
this conversation isn't over!

Cesi is left standing alone.

CESI

Wait, have I seriously been casted
as Bertha?

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - END OF SCHOOL DAY

ChiChi stands outside of the school, waiting for Cesi and Espy, grinning at her phone and texting. She's in her own world, biting her lip trying to stop a smile, biting her thumb in between texts. She's clearly texting someone she has a crush on.

PRINCIPAL MORALES, the young early 30s principal of the school and ChiChi's biggest fan, walks up to her.

ChiChi reads a texts and squeals to herself.

PRINCIPAL MORALES

Do my ears deceive me or did I just
hear ChiChi Jimenez *giggle*?

ChiChi is startled and quickly puts her phone in her pocket. Principal Morales clocks this.

PRINCIPAL MORALES (CONT'D)

Oh wow. Now I have to know who's on
the other end of that conversation.

CHICHI

No one. It's just Espy being dumb.

PRINCIPAL MORALES

Mm-hmm. Should've known I wouldn't
keep your interest. Smart, young,
and beautiful.

ChiChi is flattered but also weary. She looks around for her brother or Espy.

CHICHI

Oh stop it. I told you, it was
nothing. Interests have not
wavered.

He walks in closer and tucks a piece of hair behind her ear.

PRINCIPAL MORALES

Good.

His hand lingers on her ear a moment and then drops suddenly and he takes a generous step back.

PRINCIPAL MORALES (CONT'D)

Thanks for volunteering Carla but we already have a class supervisor for the trip. Just enjoy yourself.

Carla is confused until Espy shows up next to her. Espy doesn't trust Principal Morales and is trying to make sense of the glimpse she just caught.

ESPY

Hey Principal Morales.

PRINCIPAL MORALES

Esperanza. I hear you'll be joining us tomorrow after all.

ESPY

Yup.

PRINCIPAL MORALES

Glad to hear it. Well ladies, I have a dog to feed.

ESPY

And a wife to see.

Principal Morales gives her a politician's smile.

PRINCIPAL MORALES

Yes. And a wife to see. Good night ladies.

ESPY

See ya, Principal Morales.

ChiChi barely looks up at him.

CHICHI

Bye.

When he's gone, Espy turns to ChiChi.

ESPY

Cheech. What the fuck?

CHICHI

What?

ESPY

You're gonna pretend like that
wasn't super weird? What did I just
walk in on?

CHICHI

You're like obsessed with me today.
It was nothing.

ChiChi's lying to her face.

ESPY

Chi-

Before she can finish, LAUREN ROSARIO and her minions ALEXA
and KATÉ, walk up to them.

Lauren Rosario is the self-appointed Queen of Miami. She is a
white 2nd generation Cuban, with blonde hair and blue eyes.
She speaks perfect Spanish and English and is incredibly
smart but acts like she doesn't know what Spanish or math is.
She doesn't live in Hialeah but in it's "nicer" next door
neighbor, Miami Lakes, so people think she's rich. But she
lives in an efficiency so...yeah.

Alexa and Katé share the same one brain cell which is
controlled by Lauren, contingent on the fact that they think
she's rich.

LAUREN

Hey Epilepsy. ChaCha.

Espy and ChiChi simultaneously roll their eyes.

ESPY

Hi Lauren.

CHICHI

It's ChiChi.

ESPY (CONT'D)

You know, epilepsy is actually a
serious diso-

LAUREN

Yeah whatever. I need a favor.

Alexa and Katé just stand behind Lauren.

CHICHI

Do your pets speak or..?

Lauren ignores this.

LAUREN

You make lil movies or whatever
right?

ESPY

Yeah. Why?

LAUREN

I need you to make one for me.

CHICHI

Why would she ever make something for you?

LAUREN

I can give you like \$100.

Espy is curious.

ESPY

What do you need?

CHICHI

You can't be serious?

LAUREN

My sister's quinceañera is coming up. We need a videographer.

ChiChi looks like Lauren just smacked her across the face.

CHICHI

The cheapest you can get a quince videographer for is \$500. And they'll be using their back up iPhone 5 that lives in the back of their junk drawer.

ESPY

I got you.

CHICHI

Hello?!

LAUREN

Cool. I'll pay you after you send me the video.

ESPY

Don't worry about it.

CHICHI

ESPY.

Lauren looks Espy up and down, not trusting her kindness. But accepts.

LAUREN
 Suit yourself. I would've gone up
 to \$400.

Espy feigns regret.

ESPY
 Damn. I got got.

Lauren doesn't say anything. She turns toward ChiChi.

CHICHI
 E, can we-

LAUREN
 Oh that's what that noise is. I
 forget you know how to talk
 sometimes Caca.

Alexa and Katé laugh at this.

KATÉ
 Caca.

Alexa makes poop sounds.

CHICHI
 Real mature glossy puppets.

CRISTOBAL GARCIA, the school pretty boy, Guapo Papi, star Quarterback, whose only goal is to get the hell out of Hialeah, walks up to Lauren. He's a handsome brownskin Latino who also pretends he doesn't speak Spanish, despite having immigrant parents. He answers to Chris.

CRISTOBAL
 I've been calling you. My dad needs
 the car, if you're coming with me
 then we're going now.

Lauren is surprised at his approach but collects herself in a split second.

LAUREN
 Sorry honey, I was just telling
 Esperanza (pronounces it like an
 English-speaker, Ez-pur-Ahn-za)
 here that the price she gave me for
 my sister's video was far too low.

ChiChi goes to say something but then Espy pinches her and shakes her head.

CRISTOBAL
 Whatever. We have to go.

He looks at Alexa and Katé.

CRISTOBAL (CONT'D)
 They can't come.

Lauren looks at them apologetically and whispers.

LAUREN
 (whisper)
 I'll make it up to you guys.

CRISTOBAL
 Hey Espy, hey Cheech. Come on
 Lauren.

ChiChi waves and he walks away, Lauren following closely behind, before Espy's reply can be heard.

ESPY
 Hey Cristobal. You excited for-

ChiChi chuckles and shakes her head.

CHICHI
 That was painful to watch.

ESPY
 Shut up.

Now ChiChi is laughing loudly.

CHICHI
 I mean, you have a crush on the
 star quarterback pretty boy who
 couldn't name 3 of your physical
 features if his life depended on
 it. You've watched too many rom-
 coms.

ESPY
 I hate you.

Espy walks away and ChiChi follows behind.

CHICHI
 Speaking of desperate, have you
 seen my brother?

They walk off of school campus.

INT. HOME - LATER

Espy walks in to the house. Her parents are both still at work and Cari is in the kitchen.

Lured by the smell of frying eggs and rice, she walks into the kitchen and gives Cari a kiss on her cheek.

 ESPY
Hey abuela.

Cari beams when she sees Espy and stops cooking to hug her.

 CARI
Como era la escuela?
(How was school?)

 ESPY
Good. Watcha making?

Cari smirks and fixes Espy a plate.

 CARI
Arroz con huevos fritos.
(Rice with fried eggs.)

Espy takes the plate, grateful for her abuela's cooking.

 ESPY
Gracias.
(Thank you.)

She kisses Cari again and heads to her room.

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Espy's eating her food as she edits footage. She has interviews from different settings already edited and somewhat pieced together. She plays part of the unfinished project and it shows ESTRELLA (mid 40s), a cafeteria lady and the mirror image of Lauren in a few years. The footage was taken at the school.

 ESTRELLA
Es dificil por que, la gente fuera de Hialeah no entiende. No entienden la dura vida que vivimos aqui. Mi propia hija esta avergonzada de mi. Es dificil. Muy dificil.
(It's hard because people outside of Hialeah don't understand.

 (MORE)

ESTRELLA (CONT'D)

They don't understand the hard life that we live here. My own daughter is embarrassed of me. It's hard. So hard.)

Espy gets out of that and opens the footage she offloaded from the protests. She plays one of the videos.

PROTESTOR

La gente está loca por pensar que el gobierno estadounidense va a hacer cualquier cosa. Ni siquiera ayudarán a Puerto Rico, y esa es su tierra.

(People are crazy to think the American Government is going to do anything. They won't even help Puerto Rico, and that's their land.)

Espy sighs and shakes her head at the clips she filmed.

ESPY

I wish there was something I could do.

She edits the clips for hours and falls asleep.

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - MORNING

Espy's phone buzzes with a phone call, startling her awake. She's disoriented but answers the phone.

ESPY

Hello?

CHICHI (O.S.)

Where are you?!

Espy looks around confused, and looks down at her clothes.

ESPY

Umm.. I don't. I. Where am I supposed to be?

CHICHI (O.S.)

Dude. The college tour trip?

Espy's eyes widen.

ESPY

Shit!

She drops her phone onto her desk and runs around her room stuffing clothes into a bag.

CHICHI (O.S.)
Hurry up! Just Uber here, walking
will take way too long.

Espy runs into the bathroom.

CHICHI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
E? Hello? Bitch, you better be on
your way. Goodbye!

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Espy is running through the house with wet hair and a messily put together overnight bag.

Carlos sits on the sofa reading a newspaper.

Espy runs passed him to find something, then passed him again to find something else. He looks up from his paper to witness the mess that is Esperanza Rodriguez. She's like a car crash, you feel bad but all you can do is watch the disaster.

Espy runs passed him again hopping into a shoe, a piece of toast in her mouth, trying to order an Uber.

ESPY
(frustrated)
Ugh! Why would you cancel Joseph,
why?! I'm gonna miss the bus. \$200,
poof, gone.

Carlos sits calmly on the couch and clears his throat.

ESPY (CONT'D)
What am I gonna do?

Carlos clears his throat a little louder. Espy is still messing with her phone.

ESPY (CONT'D)
I need a ride right now. Maybe
Lyft? They're the better ride
service anyway.

Carlos is over it.

CARLOS
Oye!

Espy finally notices him.

ESPY

Oh, good morning abuelo! Sorry, I really need to find a ride to school.

Carlos uses his hands to motion to himself.

CARLOS

Halooo. Aqui esta tu Uber mami.
(Hellooo. Here's your Uber.)

Espy looks at him trying to figure out if he's joking.

ESPY

Umm..thank you abuelo. Pero, it's okay.

Carlos is offended.

CARLOS

Eh, mira eso. La mendiga esta siendo quisquioloso.
(Heh, look at that. The beggar is being picky.)

Espy knows he's right. She has no other choice. She sighs.

ESPY

Abuelo, can I get a ride to school please?

Carlos is elated.

CARLOS

Por supuesto mi corazon, vamos!
(Of course, let's go!)

Espy's eyes roll to the back of her head.

INT. CARLOS' CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Carlos' car is a small, put put car that should not be legal to drive due to several health hazard concerns. The inside door panel on the passenger side is missing a door handle, the seats are torn up, and the car shakes when it's on. It's like a massage chair on wheels.

Espy and Carlos both reach the top of the car with their heads, having to hunch to fit. Espy has her bag in her lap and knees almost up to her chest.

Carlos has an ear-to-ear grin on his face, happy to have an excuse to drive. Espy would like to be anywhere else in the world.

Their bodies bump and shake down the road, the shaking getting worse at a red light. As Espy's body shakes from the massage on wheels, Cristobal pulls up next to them in his car. Cristobal is driving, Lauren is in the passenger seat, and Lauren's minions are both in the back seat. To Espy's horror, they wave at her and laugh. She sheepishly waves back.

She drops her head into her bag on her lap.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Espy gets out of the massaging death trap and thanks Carlos for the ride.

 ESPY
Thanks abuelo.

 CARLOS
Quiere que yo to recoja cuando
vuelvas?
(Want me to pick you up when you
get back?)

Espy looks horrified at the thought of being in this car again.

 ESPY
No no no, that's okay thank you.

Carlos looks disappointed but he expected that answer.

 CARLOS
'Ta bien.
(It's okay.)

He pulls out some cash to give her.

 CARLOS (CONT'D)
Toma. Para comprar cositas de tu
universidad favorita.
(Take this. To buy little things
from your favorite college.)

 ESPY
No abuelo, it's okay. I don't want
anything.

Carlos isn't taking no for an answer.

CARLOS

Entonces, compra cosas para mi y
abuela.
(Okay then, buy things for me and
abuela.)

Espy nods, understanding, and takes the money. She blows him
a kiss.

ESPY

Te amo!

CARLOS

Y yo tambien, mi corazon.
(Love you too.)

Espy walks away from the car toward the full bus, a chaperone
is waving at her to hurry and she runs to the bus. Carlos
watches that she gets on and then drives away.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

Espy is the last one to get on the bus. As she walks to the
back, she passes Cristobal, Lauren, Alexa and Katé. The
minions mimic the shaking of Carlos' car by bouncing their
bodies up and down. Lauren laughs and Cristobal just smirks,
trying not to make fun of Espy but the minions are putting on
quite the show.

Espy keeps walking back. She passes Max...and ChiChi. She
gives her a surprised but approving look. Her seat is taken
so she keeps walking back. Until she reaches the back. Where
Caesar is.

CESI

You made it!

ESPY

Yep...here I am.

ChiChi looks down the aisle back at her and mouths "I'm
sorry".

CESI

So which of the colleges are you
going to visit today?

Espy's confused.

ESPY

All...of them?

CESI

No not the universities. We're all going to the same campuses, but each school has separate colleges. Like the College of Communications or College of Education.

ESPY

Oh.

CESI

Basically, what field are you interested in?

Espy pulls her hoodie up and puts her earphones in.

ESPY

Probably just the College of Medicine.

She leans her head against the glass and drowns Cesi's incessant talking out.

BEGIN MONTAGE - COLLEGE TOUR

The school bus travels from Miami to Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, to University of Central Florida in Orlando, to University of South Florida in Tampa, to University of Florida in Gainesville, making its final stop at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

At FGCU, Max and ChiChi go for a long walk on the campus lake bank. Not quite the beach, but romantic enough.

At UCF, Cristobal walks into the football stadium and sits in the empty stands. A coach waves him down.

At USF, Cesi finds the Journalism department.

At UF, Lauren and her minions walk by a group of CUTE BOYS and Alexa and Katé get distracted. Lauren keeps walking alone, finding herself in front of the School of Medicine.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE - AFTERNOON

Espy walks slowly through FSU's beautiful campus. She finds herself at the School of Medicine. She's uninterested.

She looks to the side and sees a circus tent.

EXT. FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY CIRCUS - MOMENTS LATER

As Espy walks up to the circus tent, students come out of it, startling her briefly. She slowly walks into the tent to find circus performers practicing their routines. She finds a seat and enjoys the show.

EXT. FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY - LATER

Espy leaves the circus, giddy and excited. She looks across the street to find the College of Motion Picture Arts.

She just stares. Should she go in? A part of her knows the second she passes that threshold, it'll change something for her.

She decides against it and as she's walking away Lauren stops her.

LAUREN

Don't.

Espy jumps, she thought she was alone.

ESPY

Don't what?

LAUREN

Don't walk away.

How the hell did Lauren know what Espy was thinking?

ESPY

I don't know what you're-

LAUREN

Your "lil films" are good. My mom told me you interviewed her for the project you're putting together. It's important. We need things like that. People like you. To tell our stories.

Espy doesn't know what to say.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Go inside.

Lauren starts to leave.

ESPY

I will, if you will.

Lauren stops but doesn't turn to face Espy.

 ESPY (CONT'D)
 We were in the same gifted classes
 from 1st grade to 8th grade Lauren.
 I know you. I know you're probably
 the smartest person I know. All you
 ever talked about was medical
 school.

Lauren says nothing.

 ESPY (CONT'D)
 Why do you want people to think
 you're dumb?

Lauren thinks for a moment.

 LAUREN
 I am.

 ESPY
 No you're no-

 LAUREN
 The smartest person you know.

Lauren walks away.

Espy watches her leave, sad for a moment. She looks back at
 the College of Motion Picture Arts.

INT. FSU COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS - LATER

Espy is in the lobby of the film school, looking at the wall
 of fame with posters of famous movies made by FSU alumni. She
 looks up and recognizes some movies which blows her mind.
 She's admiring the wall when an ADMISSIONS RECRUITER walks
 into the lobby.

 ADMISSIONS RECRUITER
 Pretty spectacular isn't it?

Espy feels like she got caught trespassing.

 ESPY
 I'm sorry, am I allowed in here? My
 school's here on a tour and I-

 ADMISSIONS RECRUITER
 You're fine honey, relax. You're
 welcomed here.

This touches Espy more than she expected.

ADMISSIONS RECRUITER (CONT'D)
Wanna see how car scenes are
filmed?

Espy's face lights up.

EXT. THE JIMENEZ'S CAR - NIGHT

ChiChi and Cesi's mom, Mercedes, drives the kids home. They are giving Espy a ride home.

MERCEDES
Periodismo? Que bueno papito!
(Journalism? How great baby!)

Cesi beams hearing his mom approve of his newfound passion. He has his face glued to a pamphlet from USF's Journalism program.

MERCEDES (CONT'D)
Y tu ChiChi?

ChiChi is grinning at her phone, smitten.

MERCEDES (CONT'D)
Hola? Hay alguien en casa?
(Hello? Anyone home?)

ChiChi snaps out of her haze.

CHICHI
Huh? Oh, me encantaron todos las
universidades mami.
(Huh? Oh, I loved all of the
universities mom.)

ChiChi goes right back to texting. Mercedes watches her in the back through the rear view mirror, suspicious.

MERCEDES
Y tu Espy?

Espy is lost in thought. The car slows to a stop in front of her house. Espy gets out.

ESPY
Gracias Merci.

MERCEDES
Por nada bebe. Dile a tu mama que
dije hola.

(MORE)

MERCEDES (CONT'D)

(You're welcome baby. Tell your mom
I said hi.)

ESPY

Okay. Buenas noches! See y'all
tomorrow ChiChi and Cesi.

The twins are engrossed in their own reading and mumble goodbyes.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Espy walks into her house to find her dad and Carlos on the couch and Cari in the kitchen.

Victor and Carlos are completely engrossed in a game of chess.

ESPY

Hi Papi, hi Abuelo. I'm back.

Victor gets up to walk over and give Espy a hug.

VICTOR

Heyy! What's up college tourist!

Carlos makes his move. Victor makes a hard U-turn, leaving Espy hanging.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Oye, tramposo!
(Hey, cheater!)

Espy's unfilled arms hang in the air left by the cancelled hug. Cari comes around her and fills the hug.

CARI

Como fue?
(How was it?)

ESPY

It was amazing abuela. Thank you so
much. I got you all little
keychains.

Espy pulls out FSU keychains and hands them out. The grandparents are happy to get theirs, smiling and kissing Espy. Victor just about has a heart attack when he gets his.

VICTOR

What is this?! You brought Seminole
paraphernalia into this house?! Are
you insane?!

ESPY
 (laughing)
 Papi, you'll be alright.

VICTOR
 It's not me you should be worried
 about.

Espy's smile fades as she realizes she still has to say hi to her mom.

ESPY
 I can deal with Mami. Where is she
 anyway?

Victor shrugs and pays attention to his game again.

VICTOR
 She's around here somewhere. You
 know how easy it is to lose people
 in this mansion.

Chuckling, Espy heads to her room.

VICTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Que es eso?! Estas inventando
 reglas ahora?
 (What is that?! You're making up
 rules now?)

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Espy opens the door to her room to find her mother. At her desk.

One of the video clips from earlier play out loud as Soly listens. Espy is frozen with terror.

Hearing Espy come into the room, Soly turns toward her daughter.

SOLY
 What is this?

Espy wasn't prepared for this.

ESPY
 It's umm. It's just a school
 project.

Soly's words drip with rage.

SOLY
Lie to me again.

The anger off Soly catches Espy off guard.

SOLY (CONT'D)
This is what you've been spending
your time on?

Espy is still speechless.

SOLY (CONT'D)
Huh?! Because it isn't "Pre-Medical
Club"! I called your school.

Espy's eyes widen with terror.

SOLY (CONT'D)
I was worried that you'd miss
something. I called to make sure
they knew you were going on the
college tour since it was so last
minute.

Espy can't get her mouth to work.

SOLY (CONT'D)
Imagine my surprise when they had
no idea what club I was referring
to. I thought to myself "No, they
must be mistaken. My daughter would
never lie to me like this. She
would never *take my money* like
this."

The guilt hits Espy like a train.

ESPY
Mami I-

SOLY
No. No, no, no. Mami nothing. Don't
even call me that. You're no
daughter of mine.

This takes the air out of Espy.

SOLY (CONT'D)
My daughter, wouldn't lie and steal
from her mother. My daughter, she
knows exactly how hard I work. My
daughter is kind, and smart, and
she's not a liar.

(MORE)

SOLY (CONT'D)

She wouldn't say she needs "club dues" or to stay 2 hours after school when she knows her grandmother could use help cooking.

Soly is laying into Espy, she knows exactly which cords to hit.

SOLY (CONT'D)

No. My daughter loves her family. I don't know who you are, but you're not my daughter. So, don't call me Mami.

Soly brushes passed Espy to leave the room and Espy grabs her arm.

ESPY

No Mami! Mami, I'm sorry! Please, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Espy tries to get Soly to stop walking out but Soly yanks her arm back and leaves the room, slamming the door in Espy's face.

Espy sits with what just happened. With what she did.

ESPY (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Mami..I'm so sorry. I'm so so sorry.

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Espy has obviously been crying. She has a red nose, puffy eyes, and tired skin. She lays in her bed, drained of tears and emotion. A husk.

There's a light knock on the door and she shoots up in bed.

ESPY

Mami?

Cari comes into the room.

Espy is disappointed but also happy to see a comforting face.

CARI

Estas bien?
(Are you okay?)

ESPY

No.

Espy lays back down.

Cari comes over, sits on the bed and strokes Espy's hair.

ESPY (CONT'D)
Mami hates me.

Cari starts to chuckle. Espy is mortified.

ESPY (CONT'D)
It's not funny abuela. She really hates me.

CARI
Eres su hija. Ella nunca podria odiarte.
(You're her daughter. She could never hate you.)

Espy feels the hurt of her mother's words all over again.

ESPY
She said I wasn't her daughter.

Cari sighs.

CARI
Ella solo esta enojada.
(She's just angry.)

Cari strokes Espy's hair as she speaks to her.

CARI (CONT'D)
Cuando sali de Cuba, tuve que dejar atras a toda mi familia.
(When I left Cuba, I had to leave my entire family behind.)

Espy tunes in, she's never heard this story.

CARI (CONT'D)
Conoci a tu abuelo aqui.
(I met your grandfather here.)

Cari takes a moment to think about her life.

CARI (CONT'D)
Algo que aprendi hace mucho tiempo es, que tienes que seguir tus sueños. No importa que.
(Something that I learned a long time ago is, you have to follow your dreams. No matter what.)

Espy sits up to look at her grandmother. Cari takes Espy's face in her hands.

CARI (CONT'D)

Tu mama no siempre va a entender.
 Pero, ella siempre te amara,
 incluso cuando este enojada. Sigue
 tus sueñitos grandes y pequeños.
 Ella se pondra al dia.
 (Your mother is not always going to
 understand. But, she will always
 love you, even when she's mad.
 Follow your dreams, big and small.
 She will catch up.)

With that, Cari kisses Espy's head and gets up off the bed. She groans loudly like she's in a lot of pain. Espy is immediately concerned.

ESPY

Abuela? Are you okay?

Espy puts her hand on Cari's back and holds one of her hands as Cari uses the other to push off the bed with.

CARI

Si, querida. Estoy bien. No te
 preocupes.
 (Yes my dear. I'm okay. Don't
 worry.)

Espy isn't convinced but Cari slowly walks out of the room.

Espy sits at her desk. She pulls up FSU's film school application on her computer, saves her documentary project and adds it to the application. She fills out the application and essay questions.

INT. CARI AND CARLOS' ROOM - NIGHT

Cari makes it to the room she shares with Carlos and nearly collapses onto the bed. Carlos is sleeping but rustles slightly.

Cari begins to cough.

CARLOS

(half asleep)
 Caridad? Que paso?
 (Caridad? What's wrong?)

Cari tries to quiet her coughing.

CARI

Nada mi amor. Vuelve a dormir.
(Nothing my love. Go back to
sleep.)

INT. ESPY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Espy clicks send on her application to FSU's film school.

INT. CARI AND CARLOS' ROOM - NIGHT

Carlos goes back to sleep. Cari coughs a bit more, covering her mouth to muffle the sound a bit. When she pulls her hand away, there's blood on it.

END OF EPISODE ONE.