

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

CRISTELA, 28, APPLIES MAKEUP IMPECCABLY AND REHEARSES. *

CRISTELA *

Well, I'm so glad you asked that, Mr. *
Culpepper. I just love the fact that *
in the eyes of the law everyone is *
equal from the lowest working person *
to the richest titan of industry. *

SHE SMILES, THEN FROWNS, NOT BUYING HER OWN PITCH. *

CRISTELA (CONT'D) *

C'mon, Cristela, you can do this. *

You're smart, hardworking... charming. *

ON "CHARMING" SHE TRIES OUT A COUPLE MORE SMILES THAT ARE *
INTERRUPTED BY A BANGING ON THE DOOR. *

NATALIA (O.C.) *

Rapido, Mija! You are so slow! *

CRISTELA *

And you live with your mother. *

DANIELA (O.C.) *

Cris! Did you pack the kids' lunch?! *

CRISTELA *

And your sister. *

FELIX (O.C.) *

Did I leave the sports section in *
there?! *

CRISTELA *

And your brother-in-law. *

CRISTELA GRABS THE NEWSPAPER FROM THE FLOOR, EXITS AND WE... *

RESET TO: *

INT. KITCHEN/DINING AREA - DAY *

CRISTELA ENTERS AS MATRIARCH NATALIA, SISTER DANIELA AND *
BROTHER-IN-LAW FELIX ASSEMBLE FOR BREAKFAST. CRISTELA FLIPS *
FELIX HIS SPORTS SECTION. *

NATALIA *

(RE CRISTELA) Why so fancy? *

CRISTELA *

I told you, Ma, I've got that *
interview for the internship today. *
Remember, and then you said -- *

NATALA *

A job where you work very hard and *
make no money? It's what I dreamed of *
for you when I came to this country. *

CRISTELA *

Yep. Word for word. *

DANIELA *

Well, you look very nice, Cris. *

CRISTELA *

Thank you, Daniela, I'm down four *
ounces. *

CRISTELA RUNS HER HAND UNDER HER CHIN, SCULPTING HER FACE. *

DANIELA *

I never weigh myself. *

CRISTELA

Why would you? You just wake up in
the morning, look in the mirror and
say, "Hey, not fat!"

*

FELIX

Only two kinds of people use scales,
fat people and drug dealers. At least
if you dealt drugs, you'd be able to
pay us rent.

*

*

*

*

DANIELA

*

Felix.

*

FELIX

*

What? Every time I turn around
another of your female relatives pops
up in our house. Tell me you don't
have any more.

*

*

*

*

NATALIA HANDS THE MILK CARTON TO CRISTELA.

NATALIA

Here. Make sure it's still good.

*

CRISTELA

(READING THE CARTON) It expired
yesterday.

FELIX

*

Like the lease on your bedroom.

*

NATALIA

Expiration dates are just suggestions.

Taste it.

CRISTELA SIPS OUT OF THE CARTON AND WINCES.

CRISTELA

Ma, it's disgusting.

NATALIA

Did everybody hear Cristela? We have
to drink this today!

DANIELA

Mom, we have fresh milk.

NATALIA

Ooh, everyone's so fancy this morning.

CRISTELA'S NEPHEW HENRY, 10, AND NIECE ISABELLA, 8, ENTER.
CRISTELA HANDS THEM THEIR LUNCH BOXES.

CRISTELA

Bon appetit. That's French for "I got
up early and made you lunch, so no
complaining."

HENRY

Aunt Cris, are you going to live with
us forever?

CRISTELA

Noooo. Just until I finish school,
pay off my student loans and get a job
where I can afford my own place.

FELIX

English translation: "Forever."

HENRY/ISABELLA

Yay! Forever!

THE KIDS HUG CRISTELA.

DANIELA

(TO KIDS) Come on. Go get your bus.

Izzy, my little cheerleader, I'll see
you after practice.

AS DANIELA HUGS ISABELLA, CRISTELA AND ISABELLA EXCHANGE A
CONSPIRATORIAL LOOK. ISABELLA SMILES. THE KIDS EXIT.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

I can't believe it. Today my little
girl's a cheerleader.

CRISTELA

Yeah, that great Texas tradition,
where girls learn they're not quite as
important as boys.

FELIX

Why shouldn't women cheer for men?

CRISTELA

Wow, Felix, way to be regressive.

(CHEERING) *Be regressive, B.E.-*
regressive, B.E.R.E.G. --

FELIX

Okay, okay, never mind.

DANIELA

I bet I could still fit in my uniform.

FELIX

Then how come we never play that game
anymore?

NATALIA

We didn't have cheerleading in my
village. We had fun games like getting
water from the well... and digging the
well.

CRISTELA

Which is why I never complain no
matter how hard law school gets.

DANIELA

You complain constantly.

CRISTELA

It's really hard.

NATALIA

(TO CRISTELA) Law school? Student
loans? You're wasting the best years
of your life. How are you going to
marry a nice man like Felix?

CRISTELA

Which is it, Ma? Marry a nice man, or
someone like Felix?

FELIX POURS CRISTELA A CUP OF COFFEE. IT'S ALMOST AS IF
THEY'RE FLIRTING THROUGH THE FOLLOWING.

FELIX

(TO CRISTELA, SMILING) If you were my
wife, I'd put poison in your coffee.

CRISTELA

(RAISING HER CUP) If you were my
husband, I'd drink it.

DANIELA

Break it up, lovebirds. (THEN) You
know, Cris, we're hiring. I could get
you good shifts.

NATALIA

Look at Daniela. She's a supervisor
at the call center, owns her own home,
gives me grandchildren.

DANIELA

(PLAYFUL) Easy to understand why I'm
Mom's favorite.

NATALIA

Oh, no, Cristela is my favorite.

DANIELA ROLLS HER EYES AS CRISTELA SMILES AT THE TRIUMPH.

CRISTELA

Thanks, Mom.

NATALIA

Which is why she is breaking my heart.

CRISTELA

You know, Ma, the only time a parent
was disappointed in their kid for
going to law school was because they
wanted them to go to medical school.

(MORE)

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

Not take a job at the DirecTV call
center.

DANIELA

You're bilingual, you'd start at
twelve-fifty an hour.

CRISTELA

Mom's bilingual. Hire her.

FELIX

(DOING HIS BEST NATALIA) Hello, es
Direct TV? You want HBO?! Wooo... In
my village we didn't even have
television.

NATALIA

(SERIOUS) We didn't.

CRISTELA

If I get this internship, I'll be in
the express lane for a great job after
I graduate.

NATALIA

That's one slow express lane. The
lady in front of you must have like
fifty items.

CRISTELA

One more semester, Ma. And then
you'll have to figure out a whole new
reason I'm disappointing you.

NATALIA

We work. Our people work. I work.
Your father, he worked.

CRISTELA

He left you when I was a baby.

NATALIA

Yes, but wherever he went, I'm sure he
kept working very hard.

FELIX

If we gave Cristela's room to my
cousin, it would save him a drive
before work, and he'd pay us rent.

DANIELA

We can't rent that room for fifty
thousand a month. (OFF HIS LOOK)
That's what you'd have to pay me to
live with Alberto.

FELIX

But what are we getting out of having
Cristela here?

CRISTELA

You're not getting anything out of
that broken toaster and it gets to
stay.

FELIX

The difference is the toaster actually
provided something at one point.

DANIELA

Cristela helps with the kids, and she
draws off seventy-five percent of
Mom's criticism.

CRISTELA

(TO FELIX) You're welcome.

DANIELA

We're not putting my kid sister out on
the street.

FELIX

Another place she couldn't make a
living.

CRISTELA

Tell you what, if I don't get this
internship, I'll take another semester
off, work at the call center and
contribute to the family.

NATALIA

A hard job for no pay. Let's face it,
this internship is going to a Latina.

FELIX

What kind of *idiot* does free work?

DANIELA

(TO FELIX, SHARPLY) Did you get paid
for the convenience store yet ?

FELIX

(SHEEPISH) I've called the guy three times.

DANIELA

Well, they're using that floor. Go rip it up, tell them they can have it back when they pay you.

CRISTELA

At least we've established what kind of *idiot* does free work.

ALBERTO ENTERS.

DANIELA

(SOTTO) Speaking of idiots... (THEN)
Alberto!

ALBERTO

Hola, primo. Hello family!

THE FAMILY AD-LIBS HELLOS.

CRISTELA

(POINTS TO FELIX) You're his family, not mine.

ALBERTO

(TO FELIX) *Ay, it's embarrassing how much you want me, Cris.*

CRISTELA

It's embarrassing that you think I'd want you, stupid.

FELIX

Oyes, Alberto. You're half hour late.

ALBERTO

Nombre, el trafico estaba cabron.

CRISTELA

Traffic isn't the only cabron around here.

FELIX

See, if only Alberto had Cristela's room.

ALBERTO

(TO CRISTELA) Or perhaps we could share it.

CRISTELA

(flirty) Mmm, everything you just said... (winces) GROSS.

FELIX

(TO ALBERTO) Don't waste your time. The attorney is prejudiced. She doesn't like Mexican guys.

CRISTELA

Point of clarification. (RE FELIX AND ALBERTO) I don't like these Mexicans. I looove Tony Romo.

ALBERTO

(TO CRISTELA) You look good. Girl, have you've lost weight?

CRISTELA

(SOFTENING) Okay, point for Alberto.

(POINTS TO FELIX) But I still don't

like you.

FELIX KISSES DANIELA GOODBYE.

FELIX

Talk to your sister.

FELIX AND ALBERTO EXIT.

CRISTELA

(TO DANIELA) Or don't.

DANIELA

If it were just up to me, you could

live here until you got married and

had a family of your own.

NATALIA

Please, she has more chance of

becoming white than she does of any of

those things.

AND WE...

CUT TO:

INT. CULPEPPER AND ASSOCIATES - DAY

CRISTELA SITS NEXT TO JOSH RABINOWITZ, MID-20s, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER ASPIRANTS IN THE WAITING AREA OUTSIDE TRENT CULPEPPER'S GLASS-WALLED OFFICE. THEY CAN SEE TRENT, 50s, INTERVIEWING AN ATTRACTIVE, VERY PUT-TOGETHER BLONDE, 20s.

CRISTELA

Wow, she's pretty.

JOSH

I guess. If that's your type.

CRISTELA

That's everyone's type. When guys who don't know what their type is see her, they yell, "Found it!"

JOSH

I'm Josh.

CRISTELA

Cristela. Nice tie.

JOSH

Thanks. My mom bought it for me. Specifically for this interview.

CRISTELA

My mom gave me a lecture on how I'm throwing my life away. Specifically for this interview.

JOSH

I'm lucky. I don't think anybody's parents could be more supportive than mine.

TRENT ESCORTS THE BLONDE, MADDIE, OUT HIS OFFICE DOOR. *

MADDIE *

I'm gonna be an awesome intern! *

You're the best daddy! *

MADDIE HUGS TRENT. *

JOSH *

Except maybe hers. *

CRISTELA CROSSES AND DROPS HER STARBUCKS CUP IN THE GARBAGE. *

MADDIE *

(CROSSING AWAY) I won't disappoint
you! *

TRENT *

I know you won't, Sweetie! (SOTTO) *

She is going to disappoint me. *

MADDIE TOSSES HER STARBUCKS CUP IN THE GARBAGE. *

MADDIE *

(TO CRISTELA) I'm sorry, were you
about to empty that? *

CRISTELA LOOKS AROUND, CONFIRMING MADDIE IS TALKING TO HER.
JOSH CRINGES. *

CRISTELA *

(PEERING INTO THE TRASH) Barely
anything in there. Really be a waste
of a trash bag. *

MADDIE *

(REALIZING) Oh my God, I'm so sorry.
Look at you. *

(MORE) *

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Obviously you're not the cleaning
crew. (REACHING INTO HER PURSE) Can
you validate me?

CRISTELA

Life doesn't do enough of that for you
already? (OFF HER BLANK LOOK) Not
right now, no.

MADDIE EXITS, CONFUSED, AS CRISTELA CROSSES BACK TO JOSH.

JOSH

Hold on, I think she's coming back to
ask you for a bag of oranges.

CRISTELA

In her defense, she promoted me from
janitor to receptionist in less than
ten seconds.

JOSH

I like the way you look at the world.

CRISTELA

Would it have killed you to leave off
the "at the world" part?

JOSH

(DOING THE MATH) Oh. Sure. I like
the way you look.

CRISTELA

Sorry I made you do that. Now it's
just weird.

JOSH

(WITH AFFECTION) You're kinda weird.

CRISTELA

(SMILING) So... what are you going to
do if you don't get this?

JOSH

Cross my fingers for Kelsoe, Beaudry
and Caughfield. You?

CRISTELA

Cross my fingers for DirectTV.

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

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INT. TRENT'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

CRISTELA SITS ACROSS FROM TRENT'S DESK, EYES MADDIE'S PHOTO.

CRISTELA

I met your daughter.

TRENT

The world needs terrible lawyers too.

CRISTELA

I was not aware of that. You see, I'm
already learning so much here.

TRENT

Why do you want to be a lawyer?

CRISTELA

Well, I'm so glad you asked that, Mr.
Culpepper. I just love the fact that
in the eyes of the law everyone is
equal from the lowest working person
to the richest titan of industry.

TRENT

(LAUGHING) You've been misled. (RE
RESUME) You must love law school.
Been there for six years.

CRISTELA

Paying my own way. A couple stops and
starts. But I'm not giving up.

TRENT

They say when someone's drowning, the
third time they go under it's for
good.

*
*

CRISTELA

I never learned to swim. So it'd be
more like first time, ploop, dead.

*
*

TRENT

Can't swim? How'd you get to Texas?
(CRACKING UP, THEN, OFF HER LOOK)
Just a little humor.

*
*
*

CRISTELA

Solid stuff. I was born in Dallas.
Go Cowboys.

*
*
*

TRENT

Sixty-seven million for Tony Romo?
I'd like to file a class-action
lawsuit against that guy, all the
heartbreak he's caused in this town.

*
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*
*

CRISTELA

Really? You think Romo is the
problem? How about the doddering old
buffoon who owns the team and picked
the rest of the players?

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*
*
*

TRENT

Kind of hard to be mad at Jerry.

*
*

CRISTELA

Because he's a geriatric with
dementia?

TRENT

Because he's a client. And a dear
friend.

CRISTELA RAISES A FINGER, GROPING FOR A REWIND BUTTON.

CRISTELA

(DYING) Well, let me finish. Mr.
Jones has done a lot for the
community. Built that stadium with
his own money. I mean, the Browns
wish they could go eight-and-eight
every year, am I right?

TRENT'S PHONE LIGHTS UP.

TRENT

I gotta take this.

CRISTELA RISES, OFFERS TO LEAVE. HE WAVES FOR HER TO STAY.

TRENT (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE) Yeah. (BEAT) Your client
doesn't like our offer? Well, tell
that lying piece of crap that I will
put him on the stand, pry his mouth
open and abuse him like a public
toilet at Cottonwood Park on the
Fourth of July!

CRISTELA IS SHOCKED.

TRENT (CONT'D)

And he will regret the day his mama
made the God-awful mistake of bringing
his sorry ass into this world! (SLAMS
DOWN THE PHONE) Where were we?

CRISTELA

We discussed my fondness for the law,
your fondness for Jerry Jones, and then
you came up with a very imaginative
metaphor. Was a metaphor, right?

TRENT

Just lawyering. (THEN, RISING)
Anything else you want me to pass
along to that demented geriatric who
owns the Cowboys?

CRISTELA

(CHEERFUL) I'm looking forward to
working with him?

TRENT LAUGHS AND SHAKES HIS HEAD, "NOT A CHANCE" AS WE...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CRISTELA ENTERS. ALBERTO IS ON THE COUCH WITH A BEER,
WATCHING TV.

ALBERTO

Mirala, there she is! Come sit next
to me and watch SportsCenter.

CRISTELA

Wow. You've actually made me not want
to watch SportsCenter.

ALBERTO

Man, I would love a beer.

CRISTELA

Me too.

AWKWARD PAUSE.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

Go get me one.

ALBERTO

(LAUGHS) But I'm the guy...and you're
the girl...

CRISTELA

Wow, it's so hard to believe you're
single.

NATALIA ENTERS.

NATALIA

How'd it go, mija?

CRISTELA

Pretty good. The boss's daughter
insulted me, I insulted the boss's
best friend.

NATALIA

It's just as well.

CRISTELA

No. It's not "just as well." It's
less well. It would be more well if
the interview had gone well.

NATALIA

(WOUNDED) Well... your day will get
worse when you go in the kitchen.

CRISTELA

How much worse?

NATALIA

Remember when you borrowed Felix's
truck without asking?

CRISTELA

His truck is a piece of crap and it
was barely a dent. It was like
getting yelled at for throwing a candy
wrapper into a landfill.

CRISTELA EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN AND NATALIA FOLLOWS AS WE...

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CRISTELA AND NATALIA ENTER. DANIELA MINISTERS TO ISABELLA WHO SITS WITH HER LEG UP, A CUT ON HER SWOLLEN KNEE. FELIX LEANS ON THE COUNTER SIPPING A BEER.

CRISTELA

(COVERING) Whoa, looks like those cheerleaders are out for blood.

FELIX

She got hurt playing soccer.

CRISTELA

What?!

DANIELA

Drop it. Izzy told us everything about your little rogue operation to defy her parents.

ISABELLA

(TO CRISTELA) Sorry. They asked.

CRISTELA

They "asked"? Not exactly an enhanced interrogation technique.

ISABELLA

I don't like to lie. (TO PARENTS)
Although Cristela said it's okay once in a while.

DANIELA AND FELIX SHOOT CRISTELA A LOOK.

CRISTELA

I think she's probably a little
delirious from the injury. What kind
of meds do you have her on?

DANIELA

Baby aspirin.

CRISTELA

A known hallucinogen.

NATALIA

(TO ISABELLA) Come, mija. Bath time.
Your aunt is in trouble. Again.

NATALIA LEADS ISABELLA OUT OF THE KITCHEN.

CRISTELA

(TO ISABELLA) Remind me to water-board
you later.

CRISTELA MUSSES IZZY'S HAIR, "NO HARD FEELINGS." DANIELA AND
FELIX STARE AT CRISTELA.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

Okay. Why can't Izzy play soccer?

DANIELA

Because her mother, who asks for
nothing, wanted to share this little
bond with her only daughter.

CRISTELA

So bond over soccer.

FELIX

Henry can play soccer, Izzy can cheer.

CRISTELA

Girls play soccer in this country.

All the time. Ever hear of Mia Hamm

and... and... there's a lot of 'em.

ALBERTO ENTERS, HEADS TO THE FRIDGE FOR A BEER.

FELIX

In Mexico, women know their place and

men are men.

ALBERTO AND FELIX CLINK BEERS.

FELIX/ALBERTO

Zacatecas!

CRISTELA

You guys sure seem to love Mexico.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

Except for the part where you risked
your lives not to live there anymore.

WOUNDED, FELIX AND ALBERTO MULL THE TRUTH OF THE STATEMENT.

FELIX

(TO DANIELA) Talk to your sister.

FELIX AND ALBERTO EXIT.

CRISTELA

Why does he keep saying that? Does he
think we're going to stop talking to
each other?

DANIELA

Oh, we might.

CRISTELA

Sorry about Izzy. I saw this book
once, The Blessing of a Skinned Knee.
Some surprising stuff...

DANIELA

You've been here a long time, Cris.
It's a lot to ask of Felix. Maybe if
you were contributing...

CRISTELA TAKES IT IN, NODS.

CRISTELA

Well, my interview with the big scary
man was kind of a bust. If I took you
up on your job offer, I could get my
own place. And get out of the way.

DANIELA BRIGHTENS.

DANIELA

It'll just be a formality. I'll get
you into H.R. first thing in the
morning.

CRISTELA

Since it's just a formality, can we
make it noon?

DANIELA

Oh, Cris, it's going to be great.

DANIELA HUGS HER.

CRISTELA

I know, who doesn't dream of having
her big sister as her boss?

NATALIA ENTERS.

NATALIA

Ay, mis ninas. Look at my girls.

DANIELA

Mom, Cris is starting at the call
center tomorrow.

NATALIA

(PROUD) Sisters. Working together.

CRISTELA

We'll build an empire, like Mary-Cate
and Ashley.

DANIELA

Don't joke. You watch, you're going
to sell a lot of premium packages.

DANIELA EXITS AS CRISTELA GIVES A LITTLE FIST BUMP.

CRISTELA

Living the dream by day, crying in the
shower by night.

NATALIA

No, miya, this is the right thing.
It's like my cousins Maria and
Mustache Maria.

CRISTELA

I was just thinking the same thing.

NATALIA

They both got mules on their
quinceanera. But neither could get
comfortable riding her mule. Then one
day, Mustache Maria and Maria-no-
mustache switched mules.

CRISTELA

And?! The suspense is killing me.

NATALIA

Both found the other's mule to be a
perfect fit. (THEN) Cristela, you
are finally on the right mule.

NATALIA EXITS.

CRISTELA

And yet I feel like I've been kicked
by a donkey.

FELIX AND ALBERTO ENTER FOR ANOTHER BEER. ALBERTO SEES THAT
MORNING'S SPORTS SECTION.

ALBERTO

Poor Tony Romo.

FELIX

He's lots of things, but he's not
poor.

ALBERTO

If he just got a little support from
the people around him, he could win it
all.

CRISTELA

Another point for Alberto. (HE HANDS
HER A BEER) And another.

FELIX AND ALBERTO EXIT. CRISTELA TOASTS THE SPORTS SECTION.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

With a little support, you could win
it all. I feel ya, Romo.

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

CRISTELA, DANIELA AND NATALIA CLEAN UP AFTER BREAKFAST.

DANIELA

Okay, your appointment is at ten.

NATALIA

Sit up straight. Don't slouch.

CRISTELA

Oh, now you've got interview pointers?

DANIELA

Mom, relax. All she has to do is show up. (TO CHRIS, WARMLY) But you look great.

NATALIA

She should. She took forever in the bathroom. Who spends ten minutes "putting on their face?"

DANIELA

Everybody, Mom.

NATALIA

Everyone's so fancy.

DANIELA PUTS AN ARM AROUND NATALIA.

DANIELA

Remember when you used to drive us to the nice neighborhood and point to the biggest house?

CRISTELA

And you'd say, "You're an American.
In this country, if you work hard and
make something out of yourself, then
one day..."

CRISTELA/DANIELA

"You can clean that house."

NATALIA

I was wrong. That was way too much
house for either of you to clean.

THE SISTERS SMILE.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

But I was trying to build your
confidence.

NATALIA EXITS.

DANIELA

Okay, see you in a bit.

CRISTELA

Yep.

AS DANIELA EXITS, CRISTELA'S CELL PHONE RINGS.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

(ANSWERING) This is Cristela. (BEAT)
Shut up. (BEAT) Hello? (BEAT) Oh,
no, I was just surprised. Keep
talking.

OFF HER HAPPY LOOK WE...

CUT TO:

INT. CULPEPPER AND ASSOCIATES BULLPEN - DAY

CRISTELA, JOSH AND MADDIE SIT IN THE BULLPEN. MADDIE TAKES A BAG OF DRIED APPLES OUT OF HER PURSE.

MADDIE

(TO CRISTELA) Want some?

CRISTELA

Whole Foods? That store should have layaway.

MADDIE

They're made from organic apples.

Really good.

CRISTELA

They should be. At those prices, they better show me a picture of white people picking the fruit.

JOSH LAUGHS AS CRISTELA MAKES AN "AM I RIGHT" GESTURE. TRENT ENTERS, OBSERVES HIS THREE INTERNS.

TRENT

A Jew, a Mexican and a blonde walk into a law office...

TRENT LAUGHS.

MADDIE

I don't get it.

CRISTELA

(TO MADDIE) You are adorable.

TRENT

Okay, as interns you will do whatever is asked of you. Getting coffee...

MADDIE

Not doing that.

TRENT

Transcribing documents.

MADDIE

Pass.

TRENT

Changing the copier toner.

MADDIE

(RE CRISTELA) That's all you.

TRENT

No, Maddie, you can't leave all the

grunt work to (RE CRISTELA) Murphy

Extremely Brown over here.

TRENT CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF, ANOTHER GEM.

CRISTELA

Thank you?

TRENT

(EXHALING) Okay, gang, congratulations

on landing the worst job you'll ever

have.

TRENT EXITS TO HIS OFFICE.

CRISTELA

Trust me, I've had much worse jobs.

Usually a hair-net involved. (TO JOSH)

What was your worst gig?

JOSH

Uh, my parents always worried that a job would interfere with my studies.

CRISTELA

If I ever meet your parents I don't know if I'll hug them or just start punching them in the face.

JOSH

You could punch them in the face and they'd still love you. Lot of white guilt.

CRISTELA

Good for them.

CRISTELA DIALS THE LAND LINE ON HER DESK.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

Don't pick up. You don't recognize the number. Don't pick up, don't pick up. (INTO PHONE) Hi! It's Cris. (BEAT) I know. I'm running a little late. Like maybe three, four... months. You're going to laugh, but I got the internship. (BEAT) You are so not laughing.

CRISTELA HOLDS THE PHONE AWAY FROM HER EAR AS TRENT APPROACHES. HE SETS A FOLDER ON HER DESK.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

(MATTER OF FACT) Please hold.

CRISTELA SETS THE PHONE IN THE CRADLE, HITTING "SPEAKER"
INSTEAD OF "HOLD." SHE PUSHES BUTTONS DURING THE FOLLOWING.

DANIELA (O.C.)

Are you serious?! First Felix doesn't
get paid and now you're working for
free! You're so irresponsible! I'm
tired of you sponging--

MORTIFIED, CRISTELA PICKS THE PHONE BACK UP.

CRISTELA

(INTO PHONE) Yes. Put me down for
five boxes of Thin Mints.

CRISTELA FINALLY HANGS UP SUCCESSFULLY. *

TRENT *

(RE: FOLDER) I need this entered into
the system. No personal calls. But
if those "Girl Scouts" call you back,
don't be afraid to make 'em cry. If
you're going to fight for our clients,
be prepared to kick some ass. *

TRENT CROSSES BACK TO HIS OFFICE.

JOSH

What was that call?

CRISTELA

That was reality.

JOSH

Well, I'm glad you hung up on it.

THROUGH THE GLASS THEY SEE TRENT HOLLERING INTO HIS PHONE.
CRISTELA TYPES AT HER COMPUTER. *

JOSH (CONT'D)

(TO MADDIE) Your dad seems to have a
temper.

MADDIE

Nah, he's just a big ol' teddy bear.

MADDIE CROSSES OFF.

CRISTELA

(DIALING HER DESK PHONE) Yeah, like
Winnie-the-Pooh. If Winnie-the-Pooh
was terrifying and slightly racist.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE) Hello, may I please speak
to Chuck? I'm calling from Culpepper
and Associates. (TO JOSH, OFF HIS
LOOK) That's technically true.

JOSH

(WHISPERING) What are you doing?

CRISTELA

(WHISPERING) I don't know. (THEN) Yes,
I am calling on behalf of my client,
Felix Gonzalez.

JOSH

Oh, boy.

JOSH SHAKES HIS HEAD, SMILES.

CRISTELA

Chuck, I'm sure you're aware in Texas
the Fair Labor Standards Act protects
workers against abuses like failure of
payment.

CRISTELA GIVES A "RIGHT?" LOOK TO JOSH.

JOSH

He's probably not aware of that.

CRISTELA

So I wanted to alert you that we are
beginning civil action against you to
expedite the processing of Mr.
Gonzalez's invoice. (BEAT) Oh, is that
so? Look, buddy, you will pay my
client immediately or I will take you
to court and make your life a living
hell. Have you ever been to Cottonwood
Park on the Fourth of July?!

JOSH GIVES HER A "WTF?" LOOK. CRISTELA SHRUGS.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

Well, it's hot. Very hot. Good day.

(BEAT) I said, "Good day!"

SHE HANGS UP.

JOSH

What the hell was that?

CRISTELA

My first abuse of power. I am sooo

*

cut out to be a lawyer.

*

AND WE...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

DANIELA SITS AT THE TABLE AS CRISTELA ENTERS WARILY.

CRISTELA

Heyyyy... Whatcha doin'?

DANIELA

Waiting for you. Been doing a lot of
that today.

CRISTELA SETS DOWN A PASTRY IN FRONT OF DANIELA.

CRISTELA

Pan dulce, your favorite. Mmmmm...
still warm...

DANIELA SLIDES IT OFF TO THE SIDE.

DANIELA

I stuck my neck out for you.

CRISTELA

And if you got whiplash, some day I'll
be able to sue myself on your behalf.
(OFF HER UNAMUSED LOOK) I got the
other job.

DANIELA

The "job" for no money. Can't wait to
see the apartment that gets you.

FELIX ENTERS.

FELIX

(RE PASTRY) *Conchas!*

FELIX GRABS THE PAN DULCE AND TAKES A BITE.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Ahhh... it's still warm.

CRISTELA

(TO DANIELA, RE FELIX) For the record,
this is the appropriate reaction to
baked goods.

*
*
*

FELIX SETS A CHECK ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF DANIELA.

DANIELA

What's that?

FELIX

The money Chuck owed me for that
flooring job.

*
*

DANIELA

(RE CHECK) Are you serious? I'd given
up on ever seeing this money.

FELIX

All he asked was that I tell my lawyer
to back off.

DANIELA

Lawyer? Can we afford a lawyer?

*

FELIX LOOKS AT DANIELA, THEN TO CRISTELA.

CRISTELA

Yes you can. I think we've already
established I work for free.

*
*

CRISTELA SLIDES THE PASTRY IN FRONT OF DANIELA.

*

DANIELA

(TAKING A BITE) What did you do?

*

CRISTELA

Just made a call. And impersonated a lawyer. Wonder if anyone's ever been disbarred before finishing law school?

DANIELA

You must be good. If you could make this happen in one day pretending to be a lawyer, imagine what you could do when you become a real one. We need to make sure you do. Right, Felix?

FELIX IS LOST IN THE PAN DULCE.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

Felix!

FELIX

Yeah, yeah, sure.

FELIX RISES, PUTS HIS ARM ON CRISTELA'S SHOULDER.

FELIX (CONT'D)

(WITH EFFORT) Sometimes it's not so bad having you around.

CRISTELA

Just so you know, that's going in the books as an "I love you."

CRISTELA RISES AND GIVES FELIX A BEAR HUG. NATALIA ENTERS.

NATALIA

If he's choking, you're doing that wrong.

CRISTELA

No, *Ama*, this is a hug.

NATALIA

Another thing we didn't have in our
village.

DANIELA

But we have 'em in this village.

DANIELA HUGS CRISTELA, THEN LEADS FELIX OUT.

NATALIA

So you got it?

CRISTELA

Yeah. Sorry.

NATALIA

Part of me worries they'll never let
you do it and you'll get hurt. But
part of me worries that when you're a
big deal lawyer, you'll be embarrassed
by me.

THIS LANDS FOR CRISTELA.

CRISTELA

Aw, Ma, don't be ridiculous.

CRISTELA PULLS NATALIA IN FOR A HUGE HUG.

CRISTELA (CONT'D)

(SWEETLY) I'm already embarrassed by
you.

NATALIA

(MISTY) I am so proud of you. (THEN,
RE HUG) But I'm having trouble
breathing.

CRISTELA

That just means I'm doing it right.

AS THEY HOLD THEIR EMBRACE WE...

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

*
*
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*
*
*
*

TAG

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

THE FAMILY WATCHES THE GAME AS CRISTELA ENTERS WITH BEERS.

CRISTELA

(PASSING OUT BEER) Here's something to
make the pain go away if we don't
score here.

ALBERTO

Cris, come sit next to me.

CRISTELA

That's alright. I'm fine over here.

ALBERTO

When you sat next to me, we scored.

CRISTELA

Ay, okay. No one should ever question
my commitment to the cause.

SHE SITS BETWEEN ALBERTO AND FELIX.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

Romo in shotgun, takes the snap, rolls
right, looking, extending, throws for
the back of the end zone...

CRISTELA SINKS TO HER KNEES IN GENUFLECTED JOY.

CRISTELA/FAMILY

Romooooooooo!!!

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW