

ALMA Y ALLEGRA  
Eps. 1: "The Grass Isn't Always Greener"

written by

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COLD OPENING

INT. K-12 SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

THUD.

ALMA (13) AFRO-LATINA, REACHES FOR HER GLASSES, FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR, BRAIDS SPREAD OVER THE GROUND. WHIPS HER HAIR BACK, PLACES GLASSES ON HER FACE AS SHE SITS UP.

SHE LOOKS AROUND AND ALL HER CLASSMATES ARE POINTING AND LAUGHING, EXCEPT ONE.

STEVE (14), TOUGH RUGGED REDHEADED TEEN, STANDS TO THE SIDE WITH HIS ARMS CROSSED AND THE BIGGEST SMIRK ON HIS FACE.

DENNIS

Nice one, dude.

ALMA'S POV: DENNIS (14), EMO WITH PLAID SHIRT, RAISES HIS ARM, IT FEELS LIKE SLOW MOTION, AND GIVES STEVE A HIGH FIVE BEFORE RESUME HIS CACKLE FEST.

ALMA LOOKS DOWN AT HER FEET. HER SHOELACES ARE UNTIED.

SHE TIES HER SHOES. POPS UP, LOOKS BACK AT THE BOYS THEN RUNS THROUGH THE HALLWAYS...

ALMA (V.O.)

It was never this bad. It was actually  
never supposed to be like this.

INT. BROOKLYN APT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

ALMA IS 7 YEARS OLD, BOBOS IN HER HAIR, SITTING AT HER "TEACHER DESK". HER MOTHER, PATSY (40 SOMETHING), PREGNANT WITH HER T.W.A (TEENYWEENY AFRO) STARING BACK AT HER.

PATSY

We are gonna give you a backyard to  
run in. You can make some new friends.

ALMA

I like my friends here.

PATSY

They will be just as nice as your  
friends in your class here.

ALMA

Promise Mommy?

PATSY

I know so.

PATSY AND ALMA, HAND IN HAND, WALK TOGETHER TO...

INT. ALMA'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM

ALMA STARTS TAKING CLOTHES OUT OF HER DRESSER DRAWERS. PATSY  
OPENS A ARIEL SUITCASE ON ALMA'S BED AND FOLDS THE CLOTHES  
INTO THE SUITCASES.

ALMA LOOKS AT HER STUFFED ANIMALS, TAKES A MOMENT WITH HER  
DOLPHIN,

ALMA

Can I bring, Fin?

PATSY

You can bring whatever you want. We  
will make your new room just as homey  
as this one.

ALMA SITS ON DESK CHAIR, HOLDING FIN, SPINNING AROUND.

INT. K-12 SCHOOL - NURSE'S OFFICE - PRESENT

ALMA SITS ON THE CHAIR, TRYING TO CATCH HER BREATH.

NURSE

Well nice to see you too.

ALMA TRIES TO SPEAK AND THEN BURSTS OUT CRYING.

ALMA

They tripped me. (beat) They tripped  
me, pointed and laughed.

NURSE

Who do I have to beat up?

ALMA

(laughing)

You know that is gonna make things  
worse.

NURSE

But hunny, we have to do something.  
Terrorizing you is not, should not, be  
permissible or tolerated at this  
school.

ALMA GATHERS HERSELF AND LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW.

ALMA

I promise I will go to the principal's  
office.

NURSE

Report them. (beat) You wanna know  
what I think?

ALMA TURNS BACK TO LOOK AT HER.

NURSE (CONT'D)

They jealous of you and your brains.

THE TWO LAUGH.

ALMA

They have a funny way of showing it.

NURSE

You have advanced language they don't.  
(beat) They only know how to be petty.

ALMA

Petty is an understatement.

NURSE

But you. You have been thinking about  
your future since you got here. You  
were planning for college from day 1.

ALMA

They say when we grow up, it would be  
much better than this.

NURSE

And that is the biggest truth. Believe  
that. It was much better for me too.

ALMA AND THE NURSE HAVE A MOMENT.

ACT IINT. K-12 SCHOOL - NURSE'S OFFICE - DAY

ALMA SMILES AND CHECKS HER WATCH.

THE NURSE OPENS HER LOCKER. HANDS SOMETHING TO ALMA.

ALMA GRABS THE OBJECT AND HEADS INTO THE BATHROOM.

INT. BATHROOM

ALMA IS HOLDING A BRACE. SHE PEELS BACK THE VELCROW AS SHE LOOKS UP TO THE MIRROR....

INT. NEW JERSEY ORTHOPEDICS - DAY - FLASHBACK

IT IS SUMMER. ALMA IS 10, WITH HER GRANDMOTHER, YOLANDA, PATSY AND AUNTIE SHIBVAUN. YOLANDA AND SHIBVAUN LOOK LIKE TWINS. FOUR GENERATIONS OF GIBBONS WOMEN. THE SUPPORT AND LOVE IS STRONG.

ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR

Here you go Alma. You pull back the velcro like this. (beat) The braces will continue to be different as you grow. This one gives you more room in the toes.

YOLANDA

That sounds good. It will be better as you get bigger.

DOCTOR POINTS AT THE TOE SECTION OF THE BRACE.

ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR

There are no more divisions. You can move freely in the brace and in your shoes so you don't have cramps.

(MORE)

ORTHOPEDIC DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Just wear it when you are doing a lot  
of walking.

ALMA  
Basically all the time.

AUNTIE SHIBVAUN  
You'll be surprised how fast it will  
go. I mean I remember when you were in  
diapers. AND now you are 10. Wow.

ALMA  
Auntie!!!

PATSY  
She's right.

SHIBVAUN IS SURPRISED AT WHAT HER EARS ARE HEARING.

PATSY (CONT'D)  
You are a growing girl. The time will  
come when you won't need the brace at  
all. Time is going fast.

INT. BATHROOM - PRESENT DAY

TEARS FALL AGAIN DOWN ALMA'S FACE.

ALMA  
(sniffling)  
I can do this. I can do all things.  
Pain is temporary. Joy comes in the  
morning. But Lord, can your joy come  
any sooner?