

Served  
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Pilot

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COLD OPEN

EXT. RUTH BADER GINSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - MIDDAY

RBG Elementary, a huge, aging school in the suburbs. Renamed after the School District finally voted to not allow their schools to be named after slaveholders. A few measly "Back to School" banners hang from the walls.

The lunch bell RINGS.

MR. ANDERSON, an energetic 40-something Black schoolteacher walks down the hallway, leading a line of diverse children. As they round the corner, he abruptly stops.

KATARINA KENNEDY, 6 and carrying an oversized lunch pail with her name embroidered on it, slams into him.

The janitor, DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE, a stocky Hawaiian man, drags a leaking bag of trash in front of them.

MATIAS, the tiny Mexican boy next in line, grows impatient as his stomach growls.

MR. ANDERSON releases his class, some going to the lunch tables, and the rest heading inside the auditorium/cafeteria. Waving them goodbye with a smile, he sighs in relief and books it for the teacher's lounge.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - MIDDAY

MATIAS pushes past the other children. He reaches the card cart, snatching his lunch card by sliding between a few children who can't figure out which is theirs.

HERMIONE

Does anyone see a card that says  
"Hermione"?

MATIAS joins the lunch line leading into the cafeteria.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MIDDAY

Square pizza. Frozen burritos. Greasy hamburgers. The epitome of American nutrition. Cafeteria workers replace trays of hot food. Children pick up single pieces of lettuce at the salad bar, tossing it on their plates before grabbing milk from the chest fridge.

The Head Cafeteria Worker, MALIA THOMAS, a Black woman in her 40s, is swiping lunch cards and taking money at the register.

TINA MORALES, a 30-something Puerto Rican woman with no filter, is at one side of the lunch counter passing food out. At the other side is ALEX KENNEDY, the 24 year old newbie.

MATIAS peeks ahead of the line, looking at the food choices.

TINA MORALES

Excuse you.

TINA pulls the tray of food away from a shy KINDERGARTENER.

TINA MORALES

What's the magic word?

KINDERGARTENER

P-p-please...and thank you, Ms. Tina.

TINA MORALES

That's what I thought.

She slides the tray back to the KINDERGARTENER, who scurries off.

MATIAS shirks away from TINA, stepping up to the counter and smiling at ALEX.

ALEX KENNEDY

What would you like, sweetheart?

MATIAS points to the Uncrustables peanut butter and jelly sandwich. ALEX slides it over.

ALEX KENNEDY

Enjoy!

MATIAS doesn't answer. He grabs the Uncrustables, the tray dropping to the floor. Ripping open the package, he takes a large bite, savoring it.

TINA MORALES

Matias! No! Dammit!

MATIAS's face is turning red, an allergic reaction.

ALEX KENNEDY

Oh, my god...

MATIAS stuffs the rest of the sandwich in his mouth, and makes a run for the door.

MALIA rushes from her post and sprints for him, grabbing him

by the shoulders and attempting to pry his swollen jaw open.

MALIA THOMAS

Spit it out! *Basta!* Spit it out!

MATIAS squirms, smiling in victory before swallowing the rest of the PB and J. Coughing, he licks the remaining peanut butter off his face. MALIA sighs and lets him go. She walks over to the phone on the wall, pushing the autodial button labeled *Nurse*.

MALIA THOMAS

Cheryl? He did it again.

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE

ACT I

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Lively music on the radio plays while TINA dances and scrapes leftovers into a trash can.

WALTER, a high-strung middle-aged man with a propensity to play by the rules, and ALEX are deep inside the chest refrigerator.

ALEX KENNEDY

That's 96 chocolate, and 217 2%.

WALTER scribbles on the clipboard. ALEX starts to add more milk cartons inside the fridge, humming along to the music.

WALTER

Uh uh ah -- pull the other ones forward. Didn't you read the manual? Furthest expiration dates to the back or she will kill us.

She nods her head in MALIA's direction. MALIA is at the register, on the phone.

MALIA THOMAS

(into the phone)

---I understand Mrs. Ayati, but it's District policy. He still owes \$67.25 from last year--I know, I know he hates cheese, but a cheese sandwich is all I can give him until he pays--

MALIA pulls the phone away from her ear as MRS. AYATI spews incoherent obscenities. The line clicks.

MALIA slams the phone down, taking a deep breath. She sees the dirty dishes that TINA has stacked next to the sink and heads for WALTER and ALEX.

MALIA THOMAS

(to ALEX)

You'll be on dishes for the next month.

ALEX KENNEDY

Look, I'm really sorry, I didn't realize--

MALIA THOMAS

You're lucky he passed out *inside* the nurse's office this time.

MALIA walks away, closing her office door. WALTER quickly continues to load milk cartons, finally minding his own business.

ALEX moves over to the sink, staring into the each of the three sections.

ALEX KENNEDY

(to herself)

Scrub, rinse, sanitize.

She turns on the taps at each of the sinks and struggles to pull the rubber gloves onto her hands.

TINA MORALES

He always preys on the new folks.

TINA slides a dirty tray into the sink in front of ALEX.

TINA MORALES

And when he can't, he goes for Gertie.  
That's why she's on card duty.

TINA nods her head in the direction of GERTIE, an frail 78 year old woman who is painstakingly wiping grimy lunch cards and placing them in their slot on the cart.

ALEX KENNEDY

How long has she been here?

TINA MORALES

No one is really sure, school district lost her file in a fire back in the 80s.

They watch GERTIE for a second, seeing their future.

TINA MORALES

(snapping out of it)

Don't worry about it, you'll be loading the salad bar in no time.

She dances away to the music. The outside kitchen door bursts open, sunlight pouring in.

SHANG YU, Henry Golding if he was a bus driver, wearing a safety vest over well tailored clothes, enters.

SHANG YU  
Now, where are my ladies at?

GERTIE perks up, a huge smile on her face.

SHANG YU  
Why Gertie, did you put on lipstick  
for me?

GERTIE blushes as he kisses her cheek. WALTER pulls his head  
out of the chest fridge.

WALTER  
Why, aren't you looking dashing today?

SHANG spins around to show off his outfit as he makes his way  
toward TINA, giving her cheek an air kiss.

SHANG YU  
Hey mama, got any leftovers I can  
snag?

He heads for the main refrigerator.

TINA MORALES  
Don't touch the Hot Pockets, those are  
for tomorrow.

SHANG tosses the Hot Pocket back in the fridge and fishes out  
a burrito. He pops it in the microwave and then slides up to  
ALEX, perching on the edge of the sink.

SHANG YU  
Heard you caused quite the commotion  
today.

ALEX tries to shrug it off.

ALEX KENNEDY  
Nothing an Epi-Pen can't fix.

The microwave beeps as MALIA emerges from her office. She  
looks at SHANG suspiciously, but allows him to kiss her  
cheek.

MALIA THOMAS  
You're early, kinder pick up isn't for  
another hour.

SHANG begins scarfing down the hot burrito, burning his  
mouth.

SHANG YU  
 (mouth full)  
 Staff meeting is in 10 minutes.

The kitchen stops. DAVID, the janitor, walks in from the auditorium, a bit nervous.

SHANG YU  
 (gesturing at ALEX, continued)  
 She heard about Skippy over here and pushed it up. Didn't you see my text? *Jill* is on her way.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
 (clearing his throat)  
 Ms. MALIA? The lunch tables---

MALIA THOMAS  
 Not now, David! Tina--shut that off.

TINA turns off the radio. MALIA steels herself, commanding the room.

MALIA THOMAS  
 You know what to do.

ALEX looks around, confused. The rest of the group is now in battle mode, quickly wiping counters, hiding trash cans, and taking off their aprons before disappearing into the auditorium.

ALEX shuts off the water and struggles to take her gloves off. She finally does but sends her wedding ring flying off, clinking to the floor, out of sight. ALEX gets on her hands and knees to look for it.

MALIA THOMAS  
 Let's go, Alex!

Torn, ALEX looks back to the floor once more. She gets up to follow the rest of them into the auditorium.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

DAVID is setting up tables and chairs. The other BUS DRIVERS and college-age PLAYGROUND ATTENDANTS are already sitting, scrolling on their phones.

PATRICK, a playground attendant, greets SHANG as he rolls up to the table in his wheelchair. ALEX takes a seat.



The auditorium door swings open as PRINCIPAL PARK, a perpetually chipper woman, KAITLIN, the brassy school secretary, and CHERYL, the school nurse, enter. They hold the door open for JILL, the frigid School District Supervisor.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
(overly enthusiastic)  
Good afternoon to all my *non-teaching* staff! How is the first day of school going?

No one answers her question.

JILL  
Denise, I think I'll take over from here.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
Yes! Let's get right to it, I'll just set this down.

PRINCIPAL PARK sets down a half eaten sheet cake and a handful of plates, forks, and napkins decorated with books and apples.

ALEX tilts her head in an attempt to read the frosting. "We Lo- O- Teach-". Leftovers from the teacher's lounge.

SHANG YU  
Beggars can't be choosers, I guess.

The PLAYGROUND ATTENDANTS finally put down their phones, happily taking large pieces. DAVID places a slice in front of MALIA. She doesn't look at it.

ALEX awkwardly offers one up to JILL, who declines with a wave of her hand. KAITLIN pulls out a notebook and begins to take notes with a wacky pen.

JILL  
(flatly)  
As Principal Park said, welcome to a new school year of budget cuts.

MALIA THOMAS  
Budget cuts?

Hardly anyone else stirs, too distracted by the cake. ALEX's ears perk up but she continues eating her stress. Damn, this cake is good.

JILL

Yes, Ms. Thomas. The School Board came to the conclusion that a few changes would be made to cut costs, seeing as your department has yet to recover nearly \$5,000 in unpaid lunch fees.

MALIA THOMAS

Well, I'm not going to let the kids starve.

JILL

Of course not. But if these reductions prove to be unsuccessful, we will resort to cutting hours and *staff*.

She looks over at GERTIE, who is obliviously savoring the cake, and PATRICK, who puts his fork down. This stops the rest of the group mid-bite. She has their attention now.

JILL

Fortunately, Olympiana has generously offered to provide new playground equipment.

PATRICK

Olympiana? Weren't they just exposed for using child labor in the Philippines? Didn't like 17 kids die?

JILL

18, actually.

ALEX looks at PATRICK, also uncomfortable.

JILL

(continued)

Cheryl, you'll have to go back to generic band aids, no more cartoon characters or diverse skin tone packs.

CHERYL nods, a bit sad.

JILL

(continued)

Our transportation team will no longer be provided with complimentary adult diapers.

BUS DRIVER #1

But I have a medical condition and if

we can't leave the kids alone then--

JILL

I didn't say you couldn't wear them.

SHANG YU

(to BUS DRIVER #1)

I have a Costco membership, we can split a pack.

JILL

And finally, the cafeterias will be rolling out our new Home Cooked Meals initiative.

TINA MORALES

Home cooked meals? I can't cook.

JILL

With your food delivery tomorrow, the kitchen will also receive ingredients to serve a new menu item on Friday.

GERTIE

(matter of factly)

Friday is pizza day!

WALTER

Yeah, how are we supposed to compete with pizza?

JILL

The PTA is growing concerned with the amount of processed food on the menu.

MALIA THOMAS

(sarcastically)

Like the cheese-whiz sandwiches most of the kids are stuck eating?

JILL

(ignoring MALIA)

Your team and the kitchen staff from Sunnyside will present your recipes to the PTA and School Board on Friday afternoon. You will be judged on taste and the number of students who order your meal. If your dish fails to impress...

JILL eyes GERTIE and PATRICK again.

JILL  
(continued)  
Remember what I said about budget cuts.

The school bell RINGS. ALEX rises, but quickly sits down when she sees that no one else moves. It is silent for a minute, as the rest of the group looks to JILL.

JILL  
(beat)  
You're dismissed.

PATRICK speed rolls away, followed by the other PLAYGROUND ATTENDANTS and BUS DRIVERS. JILL exits the auditorium, and the admin staff follow.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
Enjoy the rest of your day everyone!  
Looking forward to another great year!

MALIA swiftly takes her piece of cake and books it for the kitchen. SHANG helps GERTIE out of her seat.

SHANG YU  
Hey, Walt? Can you take her? I gotta pull the bus around for the kinders.

WALT takes GERTIE's hand as SHANG jogs over to the outside door.

ZOOM IN ON A GRATUITOUS SHOT OF SHANG'S ASS BOUNCING IN HIS TIGHT PANTS.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL TINA AND ALEX, STARING.

TINA MORALES  
All this time...I was fantasizing about a diaper.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - EARLY THE NEXT MORNING

A sign on the wall reads "It has been 0 days since an injury at work." Underneath that, a school photo of MATIAS with a warning label.

ALEX and WALTER are on their hands and knees, looking underneath the fridge, sink, and ovens. TINA half-heartedly looks around, while GERTIE sleeps in a chair.

ALEX KENNEDY

I was able to play it off, saying I went to get it cleaned, but--

TINA MORALES

Just tell him to buy you a new one.

MALIA emerges from her office.

MALIA THOMAS

He just pulled in.

ALEX and WALTER get off the floor.

WALTER

(to ALEX)

Don't worry, we'll find it.

TINA fusses with her hair then gently nudges GERTIE awake.

TINA MORALES

Come on, mama.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALLEY - EARLY MORNING

A large delivery truck backs in, stopping at the side door. FRANCISCO, the delivery guy, hops out.

He tips his hat at TINA, who giggles. FRANCISCO lowers the ramp, opening up the back of the truck. He looks at ALEX, handing her a large red box.

FRANCISCO

Careful, Skippy, it's not light.

ALEX rolls her eyes.

GERTIE slowly pushes a cart of bread through the door, while everyone else moves quickly to unload the rest of the truck.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - EARLY MORNING

WALTER

Just open it already.

Three huge red boxes sit on the prep table, "Home Cooked Meals Initiative" stamped on them.

TINA MORALES

This is like one of those cooking shows.

MALIA whips out a box cutter and slices through each box. TINA, ALEX, GERTIE, and WALTER rip through them, pulling out unrecognizable ingredients.

WALTER

What are we going to do with this?

GERTIE opens a container and sniffs it.

TINA MORALES

How is this any better than what we're already serving?

MALIA THOMAS

(sighing)

We'll test some recipes after lunch.

ALEX looks in the boxes again.

ALEX KENNEDY

You know, my mom had this recipe...

MALIA slides a pen and notepad over to ALEX, who starts to write down ingredients.

ALEX pauses mid-scribble, struggling to remember. MALIA's excitement fades.

ALEX KENNEDY

(continued)

I'll figure it out.

MALIA THOMAS

In the meantime, everyone needs to come up with a few other ideas.  
Walter, put this in the fridge please.

She starts to walk away, but doubles back.

MALIA THOMAS  
Double check nothing is expired.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH TABLES - MIDDAY

PLAYGROUND ATTENDANTS lazily meander around the lunch tables, looking at their cell phones.

KID 1  
Can you help me open this?

KID 1 raises a chip bag up to them, and they wave him away. He attempts to open the bag again, pulling with all his might. It explodes all over himself and the table.

He is devastated.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MIDDAY

ALEX throws a dirty tray into the sink, rushing back to the oven to pull out a fresh tray of food. She burns her hand, nearly dropping the tray.

ALEX KENNEDY  
Crap.

TINA and WALTER hand out food as children pass through the line.

TINA MORALES  
Alex! Where are the sloppy joes?

ALEX KENNEDY  
Coming!

She hurries over to replace the empty tray. Sliding the hot tray down, she looks up to see HERMIONE picking up something shiny off the floor.

ALEX drops the empty tray on the floor behind her, not taking her eyes off HERMIONE.

WALTER  
Girl, what is with you?

ALEX abandons her post, trying to get to the other side of the counter for a better look. HERMIONE puts ALEX's wedding ring on their thumb.

HERMIONE  
 (mesmerized)  
 Shiny!

ALEX steps in front of HERMIONE, laying down the charm.

ALEX KENNEDY  
 Hey, sweetie, whatcha got there?

HERMIONE  
 It's mine! I found it!

ALEX KENNEDY  
 You see finders keepers is really more  
 a theory than actual--

HERMIONE takes off, abandoning her tray off food and bolting out the cafeteria door. ALEX follows.

MALIA THOMAS  
 What the hell?

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH TABLES - MIDDAY (CONTINUOUS)

HERMIONE scurries to freedom, but ALEX is at a full sprint now. ALEX catches up and attempts to pull the ring off HERMIONE's thumb.

Other children and PLAYGROUND ATTENDANTS have started to gather around them.

PATRICK  
 (to other PLAYGROUND ATTENDANTS)  
 5 bucks on Hermione.

ALEX and HERMIONE are in a full tug of war.

HERMIONE  
 It. Is. Mine!

ALEX KENNEDY  
 (struggling)  
 I'm sorry, I really need this back!

KATARINA pushes to the front of the crowd.

KATARINA KENNEDY  
 Mommy?

ALEX freezes. HERMIONE's thumb finally slips out of the ring, her fist punching herself in the face.



INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - MIDDAY

ALEX sits on a small bench meant for children, awkwardly sitting low to the ground. She nervously fiddles with her extravagant wedding ring.

KAITLIN, the secretary, types on the computer, as GIRL 1 cries at the reception desk.

KAITLIN

He sent you to the Principal's office  
even though Carl was the one who  
pulled your hair?

(dialing her phone)

Well, we will see about that...

HERMIONE emerges from the Nurse's office with CHERYL, holding a bloody tissue to her face. Blood is splattered all over the front of her shirt.

CHERYL

You've sure got a way with kids.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

PRINCIPAL PARK's office is dimly lit and tranquil. A small fountain flows in the corner. ALEX fidgets in her chair.

PRINCIPAL PARK

How are you feeling?

ALEX is thrown by the question.

PRINCIPAL PARK

(continued)

Feel free to use the emotion chart to  
help.

PRINCIPAL PARK slides over a colorful chart of facial expressions.

ALEX KENNEDY

Frustrated.

PRINCIPAL PARK

Go on.

ALEX KENNEDY

(beat)

Scared.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
Fascinating.

PRINCIPAL PARK stands and goes to look out her window.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
I often find that behavioral issues stem from unexpressed emotions. I encourage all my students to be honest with how they are feeling.

ALEX KENNEDY  
I'm sorry, am I in trouble?

PRINCIPAL PARK  
Kaitlin sent an incident report to the district, standard procedure. But since Hermione technically punched herself, you're not "in trouble."

ALEX KENNEDY  
Then why am I here?

PRINCIPAL PARK  
I was curious. Concerned, really.

ALEX stiffens, she's been caught.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
(continued)  
Our more *protective* parents tend to volunteer in the classroom too much, or bribe other families for field trip chaperone spots. But you are the first to join our staff.

ALEX KENNEDY  
(laughing awkwardly)  
Oh! I needed something to do while Katarina was at school. I was going a little stir crazy.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
I understand that the transition is hard for many parents, but I ensure you that Katarina can thrive on her own. If your presence becomes a distraction, I may resort to transferring you to another kitchen.

ALEX KENNEDY

I understand.

PRINCIPAL PARK

Now, get back to the cafeteria, I'm really looking forward to destroying Sunnyside Elementary in this recipe contest.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

ALEX leaves the administrative office, letting out a huge sigh of relief. Walking back to the cafeteria, she opens up her phone to her contacts.

As she hovers over the contact "Mom", her phone RINGS, interrupting her thoughts.

ALEX KENNEDY

(answering the phone)

Hi, baby. Oh, just picking up my ring from the jeweler, then heading to spin class.

The caller inaudibly speaks on the other end.

ALEX KENNEDY

(continued)

Aww, again? Last month you promised me you'd start making it home for dinner.

(sigh)

I'll have Tati save you a plate.

ALEX hangs up the phone and opens up the Find My Friends app. She scrolls to "Baby (emoji of a wedding ring)" and clicks "Locate". The app triangulates the location.

She puts her phone away, frustrated.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

ALEX pulls a disgusting looking casserole out of the oven.

TINA MORALES

*This* is what your mom used to make?

ALEX KENNEDY

I must've missed a step.

WALTER

More like a few.

MALIA THOMAS  
Didn't you get ahold of your mom?

ALEX KENNEDY  
It--went to voicemail.

MALIA THOMAS  
Clean this up.

REVEAL HALF EATEN PLATES OF MYSTERY DISHES AND DIRTY POTS SURROUNDING THEM.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JANITOR'S CLOSET - AFTERNOON

DAVID organizes supplies on his shelf.

MALIA THOMAS  
Knock, knock.

MALIA comes in, holding two cups of coffee. DAVID perks up and smooths his hair back.

MALIA THOMAS  
Mind if I hide in here for a bit?

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
You know you're always welcome here  
Ms. Malia.

She smiles and offers him the coffee.

MALIA THOMAS  
Cream and two sugars right?

He realizes he's been smiling back at her a little too long.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
How's the new girl?

MALIA THOMAS  
Currently destroying my life plans. I need the district's education credit to stay afloat until graduation. Jill is itching for an excuse to get rid of me, and this girl isn't helping.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
You'll be alright, you're the best they have.

MALIA THOMAS  
Except for you, of course.

He smiles.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

ALEX, dressed up, leans against an expensive car. The school bell RINGS and children come running out. KATARINA struggles to carry her huge lunch box.

KATARINA KENNEDY  
Mommy! Where's Tati?

They embrace.

ALEX KENNEDY  
I wanted to pick you up today. How was your day?

KATARINA KENNEDY  
I broke Hermione's crayons.

ALEX KENNEDY  
Katarina!

KATARINA KENNEDY  
She called you a mean name 'cuz you took her "shiny."

ALEX KENNEDY  
(sighs)  
It was a big misunderstanding.

ALEX starts helping KATARINA into her car seat.

KATARINA KENNEDY  
Are you going to come to school everyday mommy?

ALEX ponders her response.

ALEX KENNEDY  
Katarina, can you keep a secret?

END OF ACT II

ACT III

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT - EARLY MORNING

A few cars are parked in the lot, but drop off hasn't started yet. KATARINA bursts from ALEX's car, holding a new giant stuffed giraffe with the tag still on it.

ALEX KENNEDY

Mr. Giraffe can't go to school,  
remember.

KATARINA KENNEDY

But you said if I didn't tell Daddy--

ALEX KENNEDY

He'll be right here waiting for you.

KATARINA pouts as ALEX puts the stuffed animal back in the car, buckling it into the car seat. ALEX grabs KATARINA's lunch box before closing the car door.

They hold hands as they head to the side door of the cafeteria/auditorium.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH TABLES - CONTINUOUS

ALEX waves to PATRICK, who is monitoring a few kids who are eating breakfast. She hugs KATARINA goodbye.

KATARINA KENNEDY

Can I eat cafeteria food now?

ALEX hands KATARINA her lunch box. She nearly drops it.

ALEX KENNEDY

Definitely not.

ALEX watches KATARINA scurry off, then heads inside.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

WALTER (O.S.)

(loud whisper)

--That ring! What is she doing here?

ALEX pauses in front of the cafeteria door, listening.

TINA MORALES (O.S.)

(loud whisper)

I could hawk that thing and retire.

They laugh. ALEX takes a deep breath then enters.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MIDDAY

PATRICK is destroying KID 2 on the basketball court, dribbling a neon basketball reading "Olympiana". Sinking shots left and right. KID 2 finally gets the ball but misses his shot.

PATRICK

Another one bites the dust! Next!

KID 3 steps up. PATRICK bounce passes the ball to her.

It pops and deflates. All the kids in line groan.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MIDDAY

End of the lunch rush. Two kids fight over the last chocolate milk as another climbs into the chest cooler.

MALIA is at the register, swiping lunch cards for the last couple of kids in line. She perks up as SOLUNA, a 3rd grader, approaches.

MALIA THOMAS

(in American Sign Language)

*Hello, Soluna!*

SOLUNA

(in American Sign Language)

*Hi, Ms. Malia!*

SOLUNA hands over her lunch card.

MALIA THOMAS

(in American Sign Language)

*Thank you.*

SOLUNA smiles and takes her tray outside.

Watching, ALEX pulls out the empty tray in front of WALTER.

ALEX KENNEDY

I didn't know she could sign.

WALTER

Youtube. She asked the district to pay for the staff to be taught some basics, but they said *it wasn't in the budget.*

ALEX pulls out the other tray in front of TINA.

WALTER

(continued)

It probably doesn't help that Tina cursed out a kid last year.

TINA MORALES

It was an accident!

TINA demonstrates, using using all four fingers to touch her chin and move her hand out in front of her.

TINA MORALES

(continued)

I went under my chin instead in front of it.

They all laugh.

ALEX KENNEDY

(beat)

Anyone figure out a magic recipe yet?

WALTER

I sent Shang home with the dish I made yesterday, hopefully that's the one.

TINA MORALES

What happened to your mami's recipe?

ALEX KENNEDY

It's--not coming out right. I've searched online, looked at cookbooks...

SHANG throws the door open, looking a bit pale and sweaty. He scoots some kids out of the way and makes a beeline for WALTER.

SHANG YU

What the *hell* did you put in that food?

WALTER

(stammering)

Salt, pepper--

SHANG YU

You are taking me to Costco later. I'm down to my last diaper.



INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - EARLY EVENING

DAVID vacuums the stained carpet, jamming to music in his headphones.

Metal CLANGS in the kitchen. DAVID pauses to listen.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

ALEX KENNEDY (O.S.)  
 Damn it! This still isn't right!

Frustrated, ALEX shovels unrecognizable food from a baking dish into a trash can. Nearby, KATARINA sleeps in a chair with Mr. Giraffe, still wearing her backpack.

ALEX KENNEDY  
 (in a mocking voice)  
*"You'll never find a husband if you can't cook."*

ALEX slams the empty tray into the sink and winces, looking to see if KATARINA has woken up. She hasn't.

Alex slides to the floor, tears filling in her eyes.

Looking up, she notices DAVID in the doorway.

ALEX KENNEDY  
 David! I'll-- I'll make sure it all gets cleaned up.

DAVID offers her a bright white rag.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
 It's new, I swear.

She takes it and wipes her face.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
 (continued)  
 They're not going to fire you over losing a recipe competition. Unless you're planning to send *another* kid to the nurse's office this week.

ALEX cracks a weak smile.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
 (continued)  
 Go home, I gotta lock up, and this

job's not worth losing sleep over.

ALEX fiddles with her wedding ring but doesn't move.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
(continued, nodding to the ring)  
Isn't someone waiting for you to get home?

ALEX shakes her head.

ALEX KENNEDY  
I've been tracking his phone,  
and...well...

ALEX starts sobbing. Unsure of what to do, DAVID sits on the floor next to her.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
I'm sorry kid. What an asshole.

ALEX bites her lip, trying not to let any more tears fall.

ALEX KENNEDY  
I'm such an idiot.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
Come on, you're not an idiot.

ALEX KENNEDY  
I dropped out of college to marry him,  
and I signed a pre-nup!  
(sniffling)  
I'm trying to save some money before  
he leaves me.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
What kind of guy makes you sign a pre-nup?

ALEX KENNEDY  
He's--a bit older.

DAVID looks at her, waiting for her to continue.

ALEX KENNEDY  
(sighing)  
Financial aid wasn't covering much and  
I found this website where I got paid  
to go on dates.

ALEX pulls out her phone to show him a photo of ALEX and her smoking hot silver-haired husband. He is WAY older.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
You married your *sugar daddy*?  
(beat)  
No offense, I--

ALEX KENNEDY  
I know. At first, it was totally weird. I had hardly dated anyone, let alone someone who insisted on taking care of me. But then he started giving me money for my mom too and I thought he-- loved me.  
(beat)  
I have to pretend everything is fine. He thinks I joined the PTA.

KATARINA stirs a little, but stays asleep.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
What about the little one?

ALEX KENNEDY  
I'm distracting her with toys but might have to follow up with karate lessons.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
Isn't he at least going to take care of *her*?

ALEX KENNEDY  
By suing for sole custody and shipping her off to boarding school.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
What about your family? Your mom?

ALEX shakes her head.

ALEX KENNEDY  
We got into a huge fight just after the wedding. I can't even bring myself to call her for the actual recipe.  
(beat)  
She doesn't even know about Katarina.

ALEX puts her face in her hands. DAVID reaches into his pocket.

ALEX KENNEDY

(continued)

I just want to take care of my kid and  
move on with my life.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE

You will. Trust me.

He drops a key in her hand.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE

Lock all the doors on your way out.  
And *please* don't burn the place down.

EXT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALLEY - THE NEXT DAY - MIDDAY

A young PIZZA DELIVERY GUY from PIZZA PALOOZA pushes a tower  
of hot pizzas through the door.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

WALTER (O.S.)

Don't worry! It tastes really good,  
Alex.

TINA, WALTER, and ALEX stop preparing trays to glare at the  
PIZZA DELIVERY GUY as he rolls in. GERTIE gives him the  
finger as she slams food onto the tray.

MALIA scowls and signs his clipboard, confirming the order.  
PIZZA DELIVERY GUY doesn't move.

MALIA THOMAS

What are you still doing here?

He pulls out a duffle bag from the bottom of the cart.

MALIA THOMAS

Really?

SMASH CUT TO:

PIZZA DELIVERY GUY is in a ridiculous pizza costume, giving  
kids high fives during the lunch rush.

PIZZA DELIVERY GUY

We've got cheese, pepperoni, or our  
specialty, the Palooza!

WALTER

That has to be cheating.

Empty pizza boxes are stacking up quickly as the kids make their lunch choices. Trays of the new entree lie cold, untouched.

TINA MORALES

Jill fights dirty.

GERTIE happily eats a slice of pizza at her station, the milk fridge.

MATIAS comes through the line, curiously looking at the new option. He sticks his finger in the dish, tasting the food.

He smiles, savoring the bite.

TINA MORALES

You touch it, you take it!

MATIAS takes the tray and continues in the line.

WALTER

And that makes?

MALIA THOMAS

(from her station)

Nineteen!

They sigh.

ALEX gets a bit desperate, picking up a tray.

ALEX KENNEDY

What about this, kiddo? Doesn't that look delicious?

The kids in line scoot around her to grab slices of pizza. ALEX holds out the food to HERMIONE.

HERMIONE

(cowering)

Don't hurt me!

HERMIONE grabs the tray from ALEX and runs.

TINA MORALES

Well, we still have the taste test.

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

MALIA, GERTIE, TINA, WALTER, and ALEX come in from the cafeteria, each holding a couple of the untouched trays.

TINA MORALES

I didn't know we were supposed to dress up.

They look down at their dirty aprons. TINA removes her hair net. PRINCIPAL CASPER and the SUNNYSIDE KITCHEN STAFF are dressed for a formal presentation.

ALEX grips her tray, nervous.

PRINCIPAL PARK flashes them two thumbs up. DAVID stands by with a trash can.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE

You've got this.

(gesturing to the trash can)

Jill is just being dramatic.

MALIA half-heartedly smiles at him, then looks back at GERTIE who is slowly shuffling over.

One long banquet table has been set up at the front of the room. PTA MEMBERS, mostly uptight homemakers, sit next to JILL and the suits of the SCHOOL BOARD. Scorecards sit in front of them.

The two principals meet at the center of the room.

PRINCIPAL PARK

Rex.

PRINCIPAL CASPER

Denise.

They give each other too-firm of a handshake.

JILL

Let's get this over with. RBG Elementary, you're first. I understand only 23 students chose your dish at lunch today.

The RBG kitchen staff steps forward with their trays.

The judges take bites, chewing slowly. ALEX fiddles with her wedding ring.

PTA PARENT 1  
It definitely tastes...homemade.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1  
I like it, reminds me of my grandma's  
cooking.

The judges ponder this, nodding while writing down their  
scores and notes. The food is good.

GERTIE squeezes ALEX's hand. ALEX tries to smile.

JILL  
Sunnyside Elementary, please bring  
your dish forward.

The SUNNYSIDE KITCHEN STAFF bring their entree over, a 4-star  
restaurant quality dish.

ALEX KENNEDY  
(whispering to WALTER)  
Did they get different ingredients?

JILL  
87 students chose this dish over  
pizza.

The judges dig in.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 2  
This is magnificent!

PTA PARENT 2  
My Jimmy will love this!

The judges enthusiastically nod in agreement, eating more.  
PRINCIPAL CASPER and the SUNNYSIDE KITCHEN STAFF look smug.

JILL  
I believe we've reached a consensus.  
Sunnyside Elementary is the--

PTA PARENT 3  
Wait!

PTA PARENT 3 digs in her food, disgusted. She pulls out a  
long hair, gagging.

Everyone gasps. A few judges spit out their food. DAVID runs  
over with a trash can.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1  
I think I'm gonna be sick.

PTA PARENT 2  
I'm transferring Jimmy to another school!

PRINCIPAL CASPER's mouth is hanging open. The SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS whisper to each other.

JILL struggles to hide her disappointment.

JILL  
It appears that a visit from the Health Inspector is in order for Sunnyside Elementary.

The SUNNYSIDE KITCHEN STAFF, still shocked, hang their heads.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
What kind of kitchen are you running over there, Rex?

DAVID quickly takes the Sunnyside food and tosses it in the trash can.

DAVID KAMAKAWIWO'OLE  
I'll take that off your hands.

JILL puts a hand up to silence the room.

JILL  
In light of this...unfortunate turn of events, by default, Ruth Bader Ginsberg Elementary has...won.

The RBG kitchen staff hugs each other, GERTIE in the middle.

GERTIE  
Pizza day is the best!

JILL, the PTA MEMBERS, and the SCHOOL BOARD get up to leave.

PRINCIPAL PARK  
Woohoo! Take that Sunnyside!

PRINCIPAL CASPER and the SUNNYSIDE KITCHEN STAFF depart in shame.

MALIA looks at ALEX.



MALIA THOMAS

Not the way I wanted to win, but, good job. I'll take some leftovers home, hot sauce adds a nice kick to it.

ALEX KENNEDY

Can we...start over?

MALIA smiles.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

Excuse me? I hate to break up the festivities.

The RBG kitchen staff pull apart.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

(continued)

I was wondering if I could have a copy of the recipe? I'd like to try making it myself, my grandma was never good about writing things down.

TINA and WALTER push ALEX forward.

ALEX KENNEDY

Oh, sure! Um, you'll need...

Her voice trails off as MALIA catches DAVID's eye.

DAVID winks as he smooths his hair back. She smiles.

MALIA THOMAS

(in American Sign Language)

*Thank you.*

**END OF ACT III**

TAG

INT. RBG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

SHANG and GERTIE sit on the floor with PATRICK, surrounded by pizza boxes. GERTIE eats a slice.

SHANG YU

How'd we end up with all this pizza?

GERTIE

I took it.

PATRICK

You took it?

GERTIE

Don't worry...

GERTIE pulls out the pizza costume that the PIZZA DELIVERY GUY was wearing earlier.

GERTIE

He won't tell.

SHANG and PATRICK look at each other, concerned. They shrug, and grab a slice of pizza.

END OF PILOT