

Scene #1

PENELOPE #1

ACT ONE

SCENE A

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

START

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

PENELOPE

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

CARL

Two or three. *

PENELOPE

Why are you lying to me Carl? We've been *
through so much since meeting ten minutes *
ago, you're gonna straight up lie to my *
face?

CARL

(SHEEPISH) Five or six. *

PENELOPE

(WRITING) Ten or twelve. Would you also *
like to lie to me about smoking? *

CARL

I don't smoke. *

TELSEY+CO

Dr. 1 of 10

PENELOPE

(WRITING) Smokes when he drinks. And I'll
put you down for "tried Ecstasy in
college." Dr. Berkowitz will be here a
minute.

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

CARL

What's that picture? Halloween?

PENELOPE

I think it was closer to Christmas.

CARL

But... you're in Army clothes.

PENELOPE

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

CARL

You went to Afghanistan for Christmas?

PENELOPE

I'm gonna give you a sec.

CARL FINALLY GETS IT.

CARL

Ohhhhhhhhhhh!

PENELOPE (cont'd)

There you go.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

You didn't know women were in the Army
now?

CARL

I didn't know the hot ones were.

9-2-11

PENELOPE

You just insulted every woman in the Army
but me. And I'll take it!

CARL

So--

PENELOPE

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

CARL

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

PENELOPE

Oh yes. He was.

CARL

Oh God! Sorry.

PENELOPE

No, he's still a badass soldier, but
we're separated.

CARL

(SMILING) So you're single.

PENELOPE

Yup. Actually I have to leave in a minute
to make dinner for my kids.

CARL

(FACE FALLS) Single mom.

PENELOPE

Well, this was fun.

END OF SCENE

De 9 5 6

Scene #2

PENELOPE #5

~~ELENA (cont'd)~~

~~Then when I tell you I don't want to participate in what I think is a misogynist cultural ritual, you tell me to shut up and do it anyway. So which is it?~~

~~ELENA DISAPPEARS INTO THE HALLWAY AS PENELOPE TAKES IN THIS BODY BLOW. SHE SINKS IN THE COUCH, SHELLSHOCKED.~~

START

PENELOPE

It's happened. The teenager thing is like a real thing. Everybody talks about it but I was cocky, I thought it wouldn't happen to me.

LYDIA PLOPS DOWN NEXT TO HER IN SEEMING SOLIDARITY. A BEAT, THEN:

LYDIA

This is why you need Victor.

PENELOPE TURNS TO HER, STARING DAGGERS.

PENELOPE

Don't.

LYDIA

The reason they're giving you all this sass is because he's not here to back you up! Let's face it, he was better at being the bad guy.

PENELOPE

Yeah, well, being a bad guy wasn't exactly a stretch for him.

LYDIA

Of course. But you're only separated. Just putting that out there.

PLU 56

PENELOPE

Why are you putting that out there? I'm not going back to Victor!

LYDIA

All I'm saying is you've given this a try and maybe you can work things out. It's not like he cheated on you.

PENELOPE

That's not the only thing that matters!

LYDIA

Oye, Marriage is like that steak you bought: unless it's gone completely bad, it's still good!

*
*
*

PENELOPE

I don't need a bad guy!

LYDIA

Yes you do!

PENELOPE

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

THIS STOPS LYDIA. A BEAT.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

You think I like being alone? I wanted to do this with somebody. That was the plan. Family dinners and inside jokes and one of the kids says something cute and you share a look. And even right now, to be able to say "Okay they're insane but we're not." A partner!

(MORE)

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PENELOPE (cont'd)

Someone to love, someone in your bed...

You know since Victor left I don't sleep?

He used to spoon me to sleep. So yeah I

miss the good stuff! Sometimes you just

need somebody to give you a hug and say "I
got you."

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

PENELOPE (cont'd)

I meant a man.

END OF SCENE

LYDIA

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

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

~~LYDIA (cont'd)~~

~~I got you.~~

~~ALEX ENTERS WITH SCHNEIDER, WHO STANDS IN THE DOORWAY PROUDLY
HOLDING A SMALL GROSS TIN OF CLEANING GOO AND PRISTINE SNEAKERS.~~

~~SCHNEIDER~~

~~All clean. But don't put them near your~~

~~eyes, that's why this stuff was recalled.~~

~~ALEX SCAMPERS TO HIS ROOM, TRYING HIS BEST TO AVOID ENGAGING.~~

~~ALEX~~

~~Yup, it's all good! I love you Mom!~~

~~AND HE'S EXITED. PENELOPE CALLS OFF.~~

PENELOPE

~~They're all going back tomorrow, papito.~~

~~You're seoooooo lucky. (THEN) Thank you~~

~~Schneider.~~

OK to E6