

MID-ACT II, SCENE 1

PILAR

Julian? You're not supposed to say bad things to *Tía*.
That's why she slapped you.

JULIAN

I didn't say bad things. I was trying to...
(frustrated)

Never mind!

PILAR

(beat)

You're sad. If you didn't have to stay with me, you
wouldn't be sad, right?

JULIAN

I'm not sad. I'm frustrated!

PILAR

You are angry at *Tía* and the Chinese lady?

JULIAN

Pilar, will you please be quiet a minute? I need to think!

PILAR

Okay.

(beat)

What about the man?

JULIAN

What man?

PILAR

The one you put in the bedroom.

JULIAN

Adam.

(JULIAN walks to hall
entrance)

Adam, you can come back now.

(Beat. Enter ADAM)

ADAM

Do I know why I'm hiding now?

(looks at JULIAN)

What's wrong?

PILAR

He's mad at the Chinese lady.

JULIAN

I'm not mad at the Chinese lady, Pilar.

ADAM

Who's the Chinese lady? Your terrible landlord?

JULIAN

No. Adam, I just...I need to...

PILAR

He can't go to the library so he can study.

ADAM

You're studying before rehearsal?

PILAR

What's rehearsal?

JULIAN

Part of my exam. It's out loud. We have to rehearse out loud.

ADAM

Julian calls it play practice.

PILAR

(confused)

Can I play practice out loud?

JULIAN

No, Pilar. Okay, look, I need to...I need to call my study partner.

(JULIAN goes to a dish and takes change from it. ADAM pulls him aside)

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I thought you were supposed to be at your rehearsal! It's the final one before you open!

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

I know that but I have to be here.

(loudly)
I'm going to call my study partner.

ADAM
(loud whisper)
I thought you were so nervous about the agents. Don't you need to rehearse more for them? They'll be there at opening night!

PILAR
(loudly)
What are you talking about?

JULIAN
(loud whisper)
Would you stop it? You're not making this easier, you know?

PILAR
Julian! What are you talking about?

JULIAN
Nothing, Pilar. I'm going to call my study partner to cancel.

PILAR
Maybe Adam could stay with me.

JULIAN
What?!

ADAM
Yes! That's a great idea!

PILAR
Really?!

JULIAN
No, it's not!

JULIAN
Adam, you don't know anything about taking care of her!

PILAR
I can tell him.

ADAM
Yes, she can tell me. Julian, this is a way I can help you!

JULIAN
No, it's really not helping!

PILAR

Is it a way I can help you?

JULIAN

No, Pilar.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Listen, Julian, I have had to take care of people in much worse condition than her. I'm talking bad trips, overdoses, all kinds of nasty, horrible things. Just think: all of those drugs you despise will finally pay off!

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

She's not on drugs, Adam!

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Oh, darling, I know that!

(beat)

You'll want to look your best for the agents, won't you?

(JULIAN looks torn)

PILAR

I don't want to make you sad, Julian. I'll be very good. I promise. You have to study Nathan Detroit for your exam.

(to ADAM, proudly)

I can memorize, too! Nathan Detroit is famous. Did you know that?

JULIAN

It's just...it's not a good idea.

PILAR

You're supposed to get good marks in school.

JULIAN

I do!

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Remember your name in lights...
It's your destiny. We don't
want to waste that stage
name, do we?

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

Stop it with the destiny already.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I told you I would do anything to help your career. So let me help.

JULIAN

(whispering) You're doing
enough with the agents.

PILAR

No more whispering!!

ADAM

(loud whisper)

It won't matter if I bring the agents if you're not ready,
will it?

(Long beat as JULIAN looks at
ADAM then at PILAR. JULIAN
takes PILAR by the shoulders)

JULIAN

Pilar, listen to me.

PILAR

He wants to spend time with
me, Julian!

JULIAN

Yes. Listen, if I leave you here with Adam, do you promise
to be very, very good?

PILAR

Yes! He likes me! I like him!

(looks at ADAM)

I like you!

ADAM

I like you, too.

PILAR

See? He's not scared of me!
I didn't make him go away.

JULIAN

Pilar! This is very
important.

JULIAN

I really don't want to leave you here with Adam so I need
to know that if I do, you are going to behave.

PILAR

(solemnly)

I promise to behave. I want you to not be sad.

(beat. She hugs him)

I'll be good. Don't be sad.

JULIAN

(deep breath)

Okay.

(PILAR starts clapping)

I will be back by...

(looks at watch. Muttering)

I'll be back at three. Do not let anyone in the house.

ADAM

(loud whisper)

I thought you said rehearsal ended at 4:30.

JULIAN

(loud whisper)

I'm going to have to leave early.

ADAM

(loud whisper. Teasing)

Another migraine?

JULIAN

(Thinks. Loud whisper)

No, I'll think of something else.

(normal voice as ADAM sighs)

Do not take her out of the house.

ADAM

I won't.

JULIAN

She cannot use the stove or touch anything sharp. And she can't touch anything breakable.

PILAR

I can't open windows.

JULIAN

That's right. No windows.
And no slamming doors. We
don't want to make Mr. Berger

ADAM

Okay, nothing breakable..

angry again. Right, Pilar?

PILAR

Right. We can write letters! I wrote a letter to Julian!

JULIAN

Yes. You can practice writing letters with Adam. Now, lock the door when I leave and put the chain on. This is the phone number for the...

(looks at PILAR)

library.

(scribbles on a piece of paper)

There is a phone downstairs. Only in an emergency should you leave the apartment. And never leave her alone. Ever. Always be in the same room.

ADAM

What if I have to go to the bathroom?

JULIAN

Go now.

ADAM

(beat)

What?

JULIAN

Go now. When I'm still here.

(HE points down the hall.
ADAM looks at him
uncertainly)

ADAM

So I really can't ever leave her?

JULIAN

No.

ADAM

Will she hurt herself?

JULIAN

She could.

PILAR

I don't hurt myself!

PILAR

(ADAM looks from one to the other and exits to the bathroom)

I don't hurt myself!

JULIAN

And don't read his letters or anything else that belongs to him. Okay?

PILAR

Okay.

(beat)

Julian?

JULIAN

Yes?

PILAR

(puts finger to lips)

Shhhhhhh. Right?

JULIAN

Yes.

(puts finger to lips)

Shhhhhhh. And we're never doing this again. This is special. Never again. Okay?

PILAR

Okay. Shhhhhhhh!

(re-enter ADAM)

ADAM

What are you doing?

PILAR

Shhhhhhhhh!

JULIAN

Okay, Pilar, your turn.

PILAR

My turn for what?

JULIAN

For the bathroom.

PILAR

I don't really have to go now.

JULIAN

Adam has to be in the same room with you.

PILAR

Fine!

(SHE stomps OS into hall)

JULIAN

Adam, nothing can go wrong, do you understand?

ADAM

Darling, everything will be fine.

JULIAN

It just doesn't feel right to be leaving her like this. You need to take care of her as if she were your own sister.

ADAM

Of course, darling. Julian, listen. We'll write letters, it'll be fine. You just worry about learning your songs and dances for tonight when we'll make you a star!

JULIAN

I'm supposed to be taking care of her.

ADAM

You are. And I'm taking care of you. Come on, darling. Won't you smile a little? It'll all be fine. You'll see. You'll get to do such magnificent things once you land an agent. Won't you?

(JULIAN starts to smile)

Ah! There it is! Anything to get that Broadway mansion. Right, darling?

(HE tries to hug him. JULIAN pushes him away)

JULIAN

Are you crazy? What if Pilar sees us?

ADAM

JULIAN

She's still in the bathroom. We can't do that here!

JULIAN

(calling)

Pilar! Are you done? I have to get to the library!

(PILAR re-enters)

PILAR

All done. And I washed my hands, too.

JULIAN

Okay, I'm going to go. I'll be back at three. At three, Pilar. Right?

PILAR

Yes. I'm going to write letters.

JULIAN

Okay, good. I can read them when I get home.

(HE gives her a hug)

Te quiero mucho.

PILAR

Te quiero mucho.

JULIAN

Thanks, Adam. I'll be back as soon as possible.

(ADAM walks him to the door)

ADAM

And we are going to talk...

JULIAN

We will. Before tonight. I promise. Lock the door and put the chain on after I leave. Goodbye, Pilar.

(JULIAN exits. ADAM locks the door and puts the chain on)

PILAR

Goodbye, Julian.