

# AUDITION

1X06 | COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

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# AUDITION

## COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

### CAST

JOSH HUTCHERSON.....ALEX BERRETA  
ALYSON STONER.....ALISHA HALL  
PATRICK DEMPSEY.....MICHAEL BERRETA  
AMY ADAMS.....PAULA SMITH

**FADE IN:**

**INT. SMITH APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING**

We open to the asleep body of PAULA SMITH, lying on her bed, along with her jumbled covers. Her leg hangs off the side, and it's obvious that drool drips from her mouth. She suddenly lets out a monstrous *SNORE*.

We sit through BEATS of this until she is awoken by a *RINGING*. She shoots up, screaming with fear.

She darts her head from side to side, and quickly realizes the noise is coming from her phone. She picks it up off her nightstand and answers it, rubbing her eyes.

PAULA  
(out-of-it)  
Hello?

MAN (O.S)  
(through phone)  
Hello, is this Ms. Paula Smith?

PAULA  
This is she.

MAN (O.S)  
This is Dominic Sutherland, and I'm calling to confirm that the audition tapes that you have sent in for a...Alex Berreta and...Alisha Hall.

Paula slightly begins to rise up from the bed.

PAULA  
Yes, I sent those in.

MAN (O.S)  
(through phone)  
Well, if they're still interested, we'd be happy for them to come down and be a part of the commercial we're shooting for a new line of teen clothing.

PAULA  
(excited)  
Yes!! Yes!  
(calming down)  
I mean...yes.

MAN (O.S)  
(through phone)  
Fantastic. I'll contact you another  
time to set everything up.

PAULA  
Tha -- tha -- thank you!

She ends the call and lays her phone on top of her  
nightstand.

She stares forward, blankly, for a few BEATS. But she  
suddenly belts out a scream of happiness and hops onto her  
feet, not leaving her bed. She begins to jump up and down,  
bouncing, flailing her arms, continuing to scream.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - MORNING**

ALEX and ALISHA sit on their comfy couch, watching their  
plasma TELEVISION. They're both still in their pajamas, so  
we can assume it's a weekend.

Screaming is soon heard, outside the apartment, and it  
causes the friends to stare at each other, confused.  
MICHAEL soon runs in, panicked.

MICHAEL  
What's that noise?!

ALEX  
I don't know.

ALISHA  
It sounds like someone's...screaming.

*KNOCKING* is heard on the front door, the screaming still  
continuing. But it sounds closer -- right outside the door.

Michael, confused, walks over to the door, and sticks his  
eye up to the peephole.

MICHAEL  
Ugh.

He unlocks the door, and swings it open, revealing Paula,  
screaming with glee. She rushes in and sits between Alex  
and Alisha, wrapping her arms around them, squeezing them  
tight.

ALISHA

Paula, what is it?

PAULA

You're both gonna be on TV!!

Alex breaks free from Paula's grasp, thrilled and shocked at the same time:

ALEX

What?

Paula lets go of Alisha as:

PAULA

Okay, so, I gotta call this morning, from some dude with a weird name, I don't know, and he said that he would like the two of you, to be a commercial!!

ALISHA

(grinning)  
Really?

PAULA

I know, right!

ALEX

(disappointed)  
Really?

PAULA

I. Know. Right!

ALEX

So, it's *just* a commercial?

PAULA

Yea, why?

Alex gets off the couch and walks towards the kitchen.

ALEX

Then, I'm not interested.

ALISHA

(shocked)  
What?

He turns around to face his best friend.

ALEX

I don't want to be in a commercial.

MICHAEL

But I thought you wanted to actor.

ALEX

I do, but I don't want to be in something like a *commercial*.

He walks towards his room as:

ALISHA

Alex!

But he continues to walk, leaving us on a confused and shocked Alisha, Michael and Paula.

CUT TO:

**INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - ALEX'S BEDROOM**

Alex sits on his bed, his earphones lodged in both of his ears. The music blasting into his head can be heard, but nothing can be made out.

OVER ALEX'S SHOULDER we see Michael walk in through the door.

MICHAEL

Alex.

No answer.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Alex!

He finally walks over to his son, and pulls the earphones out of his ears.

ALEX

Hey!

MICHAEL

What was that about?

ALEX

What're you --

MICHAEL

Please don't play the dumb card, Alex, you got it from me.

Michael takes a seat next to his son.

ALEX

I don't want to be in a stupid commercial. They're so small, and I won't get noticed if I'm in one.

MICHAEL

Well, where do you think you're gonna start, Alex? The main role in a Christopher Nolan movie? That doesn't happen all the time.

Alex's face tenses. No reply as we --

CUT TO:

**INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM**

Alisha paces around the room frantically, hands running through her hair. As her face passes our screen, we see that her eyes are full of tears.

ALISHA

I... I can't...do this alone.

Paula steps up from the couch and tries to comfort her:

PAULA

It'll be okay. He's probably just a little light-headed from the shock.  
(disgusted)  
Or he had to vomit... Or he has diarrhea.

Alisha stops her pacing and stares at Paula.

PAULA (CONT'D)

Sorry. Not helping.

ALISHA

He's just... He's always been there to help me. To run lines with me. He's my partner!

Paula wraps her arms around Alisha, who buries her face in Paula's shoulder. Paula strokes Alisha's hair, again, attempting to comfort her.

PAULA

Shh, shh, shh. It's gonna be fine.

A door is heard *CLOSING* off-screen, and Alisha darts her head towards the direction the sound came from, Paula doing the same.

Michael soon emerges into the living room, his face showing sadness with disappointed added as well.

MICHAEL

He said he won't do it.

Alisha's eyes grow into lakes, and her tears stream all the way down her face. She throws her face back into the shoulder of Paula, who continues to stroke the teenager's hair.

PAULA

Do you want me to call them back and tell them you guys can't do it?

Alisha slowly lifts her head up.

ALISHA

No. No... I... I have to learn to do things without Alex.

Paula hugs Alisha, proud of the statement she just produced.

SMASH CUT TO:

**EXT. HOUSE - DAYS LATER**

Paula, in her car, pulls up next to the sidewalk, and stops. She directs her attention over towards Alisha, who sits in the passenger seat.

PAULA

Okay, now the dude with the weird name said that he could just tell you what you needed to do here.

(long pause; eyes bulging)

Oh. Crap.

ALISHA

What?

PAULA

I forgot to tell him that Alex wasn't gonna be here.

ALISHA

It's fine. I'll tell him.

Paula rubs Alisha's shoulder.

PAULA

Good luck.

Alisha climbs out of the car, and we follow her as she walks over towards a house with several people with camera equipment stand.

She walks up to a BOY in regular clothes, obviously not a cameraman.

ALISHA

Excuse me. Do you know where Dominic Sutherland is?

The boy points to someone off-screen.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

We follow her, again, as she walks up to a man in his mid-40's, who stands at the entrance to the house. He's talking to a CAMERAMAN, but once Alisha stands beside him, awkwardly for a few BEATS, he turns his attention towards her.

ALISHA

Uh, Mr. Sutherland?

DONALD

Yes?

ALISHA

My name's Alisha Hall and --

DONALD

Oh, yes, we were expecting you and...?

ALISHA

Alex Berreta, but --

Donald looks to his right and then his left.

DONALD

Where is he?

ALISHA

Well... You see... He's, um...

ALEX (O.S)

Right here.

TURN AROUND to reveal none other than Alex Berreta, smiling at Alisha, who begins to grin from ear-to-ear.

She runs over to him and wraps her arms around his neck, squeezing him tight. Alex does the same.

ALISHA

I thought you weren't coming.

ALEX

You've gotta start somewhere, right?

They detach as:

DONALD

I'm assuming *this* is Alex Berreta.

Alex nods in reply.

DONALD (CONT'D)

Then if you both would go into the kitchen, someone will give you your instructions there.

**CUE MUSIC:** Echoes - *The Rapture*

Our theme kicks in as Donald resumes talking to the cameraman. But we stay FOCUSED ON the two best friends, who simultaneously wrap one of their arms around each other's neck.

ALEX

Ready to make our dream come true?

ALISHA

(mocking; smiling)

Please, Alex, it's just a *commercial*.

They share a laugh as they enter the household. We PULL AWAY from the house, into the sky, as we become certain that Alex and Alisha can go nowhere but up in their acting career.

**BLACKOUT.**

**END OF ARC 1**