

AUDITION

5.09 | SIXTH TIME'S THE CHARM

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TheVPN (<http://www.vpn-tv.proboards.com>)

AUDITION

5.09 | Sixth Time's the Charm

MAIN CAST

ALEX BERRETA JOSH HUTCHERSON
ALISHA HALL ALYSON STONER
DAVID SULLIVAN ANSEL ELGORT
ROSE BRAUN BRIDGIT MENDLER
MICHAEL BERRETA PATRICK DEMPSEY
PAULA SMITH AMY ADAMS

GUEST CAST

ANGELA DAVIS ELIZABETH GILLIES
MANNY TYLER POSEY

FADE IN:

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALEX continuously walks to and from the living room, reading a piece of paper he's holding -- A SCRIPT. ROSE follows him, his own personal cheerleader.

ROSE
So, you're sure you wanna do this?

ALEX
Yes, Rose.

ROSE
And not just because I think you should, right?

ALEX
Yes, Rose.

ROSE
Because this part just sounds *perfect* for you, and I just want you to be happy, you know?

ALEX
Yes, Rose.

ROSE
Are you just saying "Yes, Rose" to everything I say?

ALEX
Yes, Rose.

He stops, turns around. Looks at her, smiles.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I know. You're the most amazingly supportive girlfriend ever.

Rose smiles at him. Alex KISSES her.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Now, I have to go. I'm gonna be late.

ROSE
And that would not be good.

ALEX
No, no, it would not.

ROSE
 You seem like you're in a better
 place right now. The audition
 hasn't even happened.

ALEX
 Having someone like you in my
 corner is a really driving factor
 in that department.

ROSE
 Break a leg.

ALEX
 I'll break two. Just for you.

A laugh between the two, then another KISS. This one slower
 and softer. Alex turns and heads out of the apartment.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - HALLWAY - DAY

As the door shuts behind Alex, he pulls out a small bag of
 blue pills. He takes one out of the bag. Stares down at it.

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rose turns around from the door.

ROSE
 (calling)
 Alright! He's gone! You can come
 out now!

Down the hallway, a door FALLS OPEN, allowing ALISHA,
 MICHAEL, PAULA, and DAVID to come tumbling onto the floor.

PAULA
 Ow.

ROSE
 Why did you all shove yourself into
 the laundry room?

MICHAEL
 Have you ever seen Alex do laundry?
 Exactly.

They all rise up, groaning from their falls.

PAULA
 I think I broke... everything.

ROSE

Okay, Alex should be gone for a couple of hours. How do we start planning this?

Silence.

DAVID

Great start, everyone.

ROSE

Anybody have any ideas on... anything?

ALISHA

No, none. None at all.

MICHAEL

Maybe we can start with a theme?

DAVID

Comic --

ALL

No.

DAVID

I'm offended.

PAULA

What about supreme alien space princesses from medieval England?

MICHAEL

What?

PAULA

I watched a really weird documentary last night.

ALISHA

Red carpet theme?

PAULA

Really?

(face to face w/ Alisha)

Really?

ALISHA

Okay then, why don't we just split the workload up? Someone find a venue, someone find a theme, someone pick out food.

PAULA
I call food!!

Everyone stares at her ravenous enthusiasm.

ROSE
Amazing!

PAULA
Michael can help!

Paula pats Michael's stomach, then quickly flashes her eyes. She can't believe she just did that.

MICHAEL
Hey!

PAULA
(recovering)
Food, Michael... food!

ROSE
I can do the theme.

ALISHA
And I can try find a place.

DAVID
(to Alisha)
I'll help.

Alisha's caught off guard.

ALISHA
Yeah. Okay.

DAVID
(smiling)
Cool.

Alisha sends him a smile back as --

VZZZ. VZZZ. VZZZ.

Alisha pulls out her phone to a NEW TEXT MESSAGE alert, from Angela: "Hey, what's up?". Alisha types a reply...

"Planning a party for Alex lol. Wbu?"

"Hmm. Who all with?"

"David, Rose, Paula, and Alex's dad"

"Mind if I stop by for a quick sec?"

"Sure, everything good?"

"Yep :)"

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Alex sits by himself, reading the script page in front of him. Several other ACTORS sit in the various chairs, doing the same thing. Alex looks around, sees everyone else. His confidence visibly diminishes. He sinks down. Cowers.

Someone takes the seat beside him, startling him. Beside Alex now sits a similarly built Hispanic man. He has a bright smile on his face. This is MANNY.

MANNY
Hiya!

ALEX
Hi.

MANNY
I'm Manny.

ALEX
Alex.

MANNY
Nice to meet you.

Alex gives him a complimentary smile and returns to his script.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Wait. I saw you on my TV this morning.

ALEX
You did?

MANNY
Yeah, for some movie I think.

ALEX
Oh. Yeah. It's called 'Warfare'.

MANNY
That's so cool!

ALEX
(genuine smile)
Thanks.

MANNY

Sorry I'm talking so much. I'm pretty nervous.

ALEX

We all get nervous, man.

MANNY

Oh, yeah. Totally. I've just been out of the game for a while.

ALEX

How come?

MANNY

I wasn't really having the best of luck with my auditions.

The words hit Alex. He relates.

ALEX

I know what you mean.

MANNY

It was just a lot to process.

(beat)

Sorry. I don't mean to spill my life story on you, a stranger, at a casting call.

ALEX

No, it's fine. Really. It's oddly comforting.

(long pause)

I'm kind of going through the same thing.

MANNY

Well, you're here. That shows more courage than most people.

ALEX

Why do you say that?

MANNY

I think you deciding to show up to the audition in the first place is pretty courageous.

ALEX

(processing)

I guess I never really thought about it that way.

MANNY

You know, some of the best advice I've ever gotten was that acting is one of the bravest things a person can do. What we do is awesome!

ALEX

(chuckling)

Yep.

MANNY

So, what made you show up to this one? You know, if you even still wanna talk. Talking helps me relax.

Alex sighs, contemplates.

ALEX

If I'm honest, this was kind of the last hoorah for me.

MANNY

What do you mean?

ALEX

If this one didn't work out I was just gonna... stop.

The words shock Manny, confuse him.

MANNY

Stop...?

ALEX

Acting. If it keeps not working out, I mean... maybe I'm not meant to be an actor. What's the point?

(beat)

I can't believe I just told you that. I wasn't going to tell anyone that.

MANNY

You can't just quit when you hit a few bumps in the road. I almost did, and I'm so glad I didn't.

ALEX

It's more than a few bumps. It feels like I'm on a constant, downward slope.

MANNY

This business definitely isn't for the faint of heart.

ALEX

And I thought I had some pretty thick skin. Los Angeles is a lot different than my hometown.

Beats of silence. Manny tries to figure out what to say.

MANNY

Look, I don't know you. I have absolutely no idea what you've been through. But I know that you wouldn't come to LA to try and become an actor if you didn't absolutely love it. We don't put ourselves through this hell for the fame or the money or the status. We do it because it changes lives and we can't live without with.

Alex lets those words sink, taking everything in.

ALEX

It just gets really hard when it's nothing but constant rejection. I thought I had something going when I got that movie role, but... I've been to so many more auditions, and I've had so many denials.

MANNY

Something will come your way soon. You just have to have the courage to try.

(beat)

Sometimes the only thing you can do is just try again tomorrow.

Alex's eyes gloss over. A new recognition. His attitude slowly changes, from insecure to... calm. At ease.

ALEX

That's some pretty sound advice.

MANNY

Someone told it to me once, and I've been dying to pass it along to someone else.

ALEX

Glad I'm that lucky contender.

MANNY

I've been through exactly what you're going through. So many people have. You'll get through it.

Manny smiles at Alex, and Alex can't help but smile back. A stranger becoming his closest confidant.

The door to the audition room opens and a WOMAN pokes her head out, reading from a list.

WOMAN

Alex Berreta?

ALEX

(deep breath)
Here I go.

MANNY

Break a leg. Or two.

Alex nods to him, rises, and marches to the audition, sporting something he hasn't had in a while -- confidence.

But, as we LOOK BACK to the chair where Alex and Manny were sitting, we see them both empty. Manny is GONE. Or, in fact, he may have never been there to begin with...

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alisha sits by David on the couch, scrolling through things on a LAPTOP. There's still an awkward tension.

ALISHA

Thanks for, uh, helping me look at places.

DAVID

No problem.

More scrolling. More tension.

ALISHA

So, I heard you wanted to pursue comic books now. I don't think I've ever seen a more perfect career match in my life.

DAVID

(chuckling)
Thanks. I'm pretty stoked to see what happens.

Alisha smiles at him, and David smiles back. The tension fades, and a friendship begins to reignite.

ON Rose, who walks over to Michael and Paula as they flip through recipe books.

ROSE
How's it going guys?

PAULA
Do you think Alex would like
rhubarb carrot pie?

ROSE
Uh...

MICHAEL
Maybe baked celery and pepper mash?

PAULA
(intruiged)
Ooh!

ROSE
I was thinking more of... chips and
a cool cake.

MICHAEL
Uh huh...

PAULA
So... no rhubarb carrot pie?

ROSE
I don't think so.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

SNAP BACK as Alisha stands and goes to the door, opening it to reveal ANGELA standing in the doorway, carrying an extremely large bag.

David, Rose, Michael, and Paula turn to the doorway, stunned.

ANGELA
(to everyone)
Hi.

ALISHA
Come on in, Angela.

Angela enters. Alisha closes the door. Everyone still stares.

DAVID
Angela?

ANGELA
Hello.

PAULA
Okaaaay, elephant in the room.
What's going on?

ALISHA
Angela is staying in town for a
little bit, and she asked if she
could come over and talk to you
guys.

ROSE
About what?

ANGELA
Well, um... I really don't know how
to properly articulate what I want
to say right now, so...

She begins to dig in her large bag. She pulls out a VIDEO
CAMERA and takes it over to Rose.

ROSE
What --

ANGELA
To replace the one my extremely
bitter, past self destroyed with
the contents of a water bottle.

ROSE
(smiling)
Wow. Angela, thank you.
(to herself; concerned)
Why don't I film things anymore...

DAVID
It must've just been a plot device.

Angela goes back in her bag and pulls out a GIFT CARD. Hands
it over to David.

ANGELA
I know you're into, like, comic
book people, so... go nuts.

DAVID
Whoa. Thanks!

Digging back into her back, Angela goes to Michael and Paula.

ANGELA

I don't ever think I've said two words to you two, so I just got you some frozen french fries and tater tots.

She hands them a bag of each.

PAULA

This is the best day of my life.

MICHAEL

(confused)
Thank... you...?

ANGELA

I know gifts don't really mean anything and are in no way the proper amount of apology for how I treated you guys, but... but I hope it's a start.

DAVID

You didn't need to get us anything, Angela -- even though they are *incredible*. But, we forgive you.

ANGELA

(sigh of relief)
Yay!
(beat)
I would really like to start some type of... friendship with all of you. If you'll let me.

Everyone sends an array of smiles and nods.

PAULA

You gave me tater tots, so... yeah, definitely.

Angela can't help but laugh. A release of anxiety, the guilt she has from her past slowly leaving her.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - HALLWAY - DAY

Alex climbs the stairs up to his apartment floor.

VZZZ. VZZZ. VZZZ.

He pulls his phone out. An unsaved number is calling him.

ALEX
 (answering)
 Hello?

On the phone, the voice of a man, FELIX:

FELIX
 Alex Berreta?

ALEX
 Yes?

FELIX
 Hi, this is Felix from the audition
 today.

ALEX
 Oh. Hi?

FELIX
 I don't really do this, but we just
 finished up auditions here, and...
 Well, we were really impressed with
 what you showed us.

ALEX
 Uh-huh...

FELIX
 And, we'd love it if you could come
 back in and do some further
 readings within the next few days?

Alex GASPS, stunned. He can't believe it.

CUE MUSIC: Echoes - *The Rapture*

ALEX
 Really?

FELIX
 Yes, I've got some available time
 slots tomorrow if you're available.

ALEX
 Oh my God. Okay. Okay!

Felix continues to talk as Alex LAUGHS to himself. A
 success. His bumps in the road have passed. A new journey is
 just ahead of him.

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE