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Alexandra Lipner is a twenty year old student at New York University. She descends from an upper middle class family. Her father Michael, is a Polish Jewish American lawyer for a prestigious law firm. Her mother Rosa, is Puerto Rican and is also a lawyer. Alexandra has lived a life of privilege, and grew up in a wealthy, predominately Caucasian town in Westchester County, New York. Alexandra was raised in the Jewish faith, had a bat mitzvah, attended Hebrew school, and went to temple regularly. While she had regular contact with the Jewish side of her family, she had limited communications with her Puerto Rican relatives. Alexandra often faced racism due to her biracial heritage. She found it difficult to truly belong to one sect or the other. Her maternal grandmother, Anita, was the only person whom she felt loved her unconditionally. Anita was born and raised in Puerto Rico and spoke very little english, and Alexandra did not speak much Spanish. Yet, the language barrier did not prevent them from establishing a close and loving relationship. They also shared a love of latin music, especially salsa music. Alexandra has a symphonic and angelic voice but she only sings for her grandmother. She sang for her parents once and told them about her dreams to become a singer and dancer one day. But, she only had the opportunity to do so only once. Her parents ridiculed her dreams and called her silly. They made it clear they would not support her dreams and proceeded to groom her for a career in law or medicine. Alexandra did not dare contradict her parents wishes, and so she was a good daughter and enrolled in NYU just as her parents wanted. However, she secretly dreamed of a

time when she would dare bring to fruition her desire to sing and dance professionally. She hoped to sing in Spanish some day and so she practiced the best she could, since there was no one she knew fluent in both in English and Spanish to help her. She also lacked the skills to dance Latin professionally.

Christopher Rodriguez is a twenty year old working class student enrolled at New York University. His father, Jose, is Dominican and is a construction worker. His mother, Esmeralda, is Puerto Rican and works as a secretary. Christopher was raised in the Bronx in a low income, predominately Latino community. Growing up, money was tight and at the age of fourteen he began working to afford the extras he wanted. Christopher's parents had a very loving relationship and it trickled down to him. On both sides of his family many disapproved of the marriage. Christopher found himself faced with deep seeded ethnic tensions between Puerto Rican and Dominican people. Even his family on both sides were callous in their treatment of him. The venom the family members spewed caused Christopher to suffer from an identity crisis. Christopher learned to speak Spanish from his mother. She also taught him how Latin dance and salsa became his favorite dance. So much so, that in addition to his regular job he was a part-time salsa instructor. Unknown to his parents, Christopher's greatest dream was to become a Latin music producer, but his parents wanted him to get a college degree and become a lawyer or businessman. So, when he got accepted to NYU, his parents excitedly took out loans to pay the expenses. It would be a major accomplishment because neither of his parents have a college degree. He did not have the heart to disappoint them and off to NYU he went. Christopher faced many obstacles in accomplishing his dream. He had no money, and he knew his parents would

only pay for college if he agreed to go into law or business. How would he be able to convince them to support his dream?

Pilot Episode: It is Saturday night and Christopher is at a campus party held by a Latin organization with a couple of friends. He happens to look across the room and sees Alexandra. They don't know each other, but their eyes lock and they know they have to meet before the evening is over. Hesitant at first, Christopher decides to walk over to Alexandra who seems to be engaged in conversation but in reality, is slyly checking Christopher out as he approaches. Christopher introduces himself, and they shake hands awkwardly. Suddenly, Celia Cruz's song "La Vida Es Un Carnival" is played. Alexandra animatedly tells Christopher, "She's my favorite artist, I love this song!" To which he responds, "Really, I love this song too, let's dance!" They practically race to the dance floor. Initially she is embarrassed at how poor her latin dancing skills are, especially since Christopher is such a great dancer, but he makes so comfortable she is able to just enjoy herself. Hours later, perspired and exhilarated, they move off the dance floor to get a drink of water. They feel like old friends, as they take turns talking about their family, upbringing, and their dreams. The more they talk, the more they realize they share similar dreams and face similar problems in achieving their dreams. Christopher looks at Alexandra and says, "I can teach you how to sing in Spanish and I can help you perfect your salsa dancing." Alexandra, overwhelmed with joy, tells Christopher, "I can help you with the business aspect of music production." They spend the next fews month in between classes and studying, practicing dancing, singing, and business practices Christopher would need to become a music producer. Their dreams now seem attainable, until they realize that in order to to do so successfully they must dedicate themselves one hundred percent to their craft. That means perhaps dropping out of

school and telling their parents about their intentions. Something they both know will not be easy for their parents to understand or accept. So they agree to just continue to practice in secret. The only person they confide in is her roommate and best friend, Susan.

Season Finale: After two months of practice both their grades have begun to slip. They also begin to drift away from the steady communications with their parents that they are accustomed to. Both sets of parents have become suspicious that something is going on. Christopher walks through the door at home late one evening and finds his parents waiting up for him. They tell him they are worried about him and need to know what is going on. Meanwhile, Alexandra's parents have decided to pay her a surprise visit in hopes of discovering what is going on. Back at Alexandra's dorm, she is confronted by her parents who are concerned about her recent behavior. When suddenly, a student walks in, and excitedly gives her the college newspaper folded to an article written about her dancing routine with Christopher, that has become the talk of the college campus. Alexandra realizes her secret is out and swallows hard as she introduces the student to her parents, who immediately grab the newspaper. As they read the article, they gasp and shoot stinging glares at Alexandra. Christopher comes through the door to tell Alexandra about the conversation he had with his parents. Her father looks back at the paper recognizing him as Alexandra's dance partner. He glares at Christopher and says "Hello Christopher, I'm Michael Alexandra's father." Everyone is quiet.