

The Pen

By

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"Heal the Divide"

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Cast of Characters

Talia: Latinx. Assimilated.
Mo: Latinx. Tough, punker.
Lupe: Latnx. Sweet, innocent
looking
A Voice:

Scene

A holding cell

Time

The near future.

Three Latina girls sitting on a bench. One is removing split ends from her Mohawk. One is sniffing. One looks annoyed.

TALIA

I don't belong here.

MO

Mija. Nobody don't belong anywhere.

TALIA

What? That's a double negative.

MO

Shut up. Miss fancy-pantalones. Pues.

LUPE

(To Talia)

I'm sorry.

MO

Don't be a pussy.

LUPE

(gasps)

TALIA

Pussy is not a bad word. neither is snatch, chocha, or cunt. (Lupe flinches) Oh my god.

LUPE

I would pray for you, but they took my rosary away.

MO

Bitch, you can pray for me. Pray for me that they let us go, otherwise it's three strikes and I'm out.

LUPE

I knew it was a terrible idea to join up with this whole women's movement. My dad--

MO

Is an asshole--

TALIA

Amen.

LUPE

My father is very respected in the community--

MO

Girl. Your crazy papi spent all his time preaching to his flock to vote for Presidente Loco, 'cause of his "Christian values"-- whatdefuck--

TALIA

I think he deserves to be deported. I don't feel a bit sorry for him.

LUPE

But, mi mami-- there are six of us.

TALIA

(Rolls her eyes.)
Birth control = the devil--

MO

And she can't feed yo ass? Because your undocumented right wing preacher daddy just got taken away by ICE? I got this shit right?

TALIA

How many of the kids are citizens?

LUPE

The three little ones.

TALIA

This world has gone completely insane.

MO

Shit. I'm toast muthafuckers.

TALIA

For your information (To Lupe) My father is also a right wing lunatic. I tell him everyday. It's ruined our relationship.

LUPE

And that's OK with you?

TALIA

Well. It's not OK, but its necessary for my sanity. He was INDOCTRINATED, HYPNOTIZED by Fox News and those Nazi blowhards.

MO

He must have money.

TALIA

Um. (He does)

LUPE

My dad watched those Fox shows too. We don't have money.

MO

Da fuk? Lemme guess, shit don't stink old patriarch family values, hates niggers?

LUPE

Oh!

TALIA

Shit.

LUPE

That's a very bad word!

MO

Bad because it's true?

LUPE

My papi would take anyone into his flock!

MO

So, are there any negritos?

LUPE

There aren't any in my neighborhood.

TALIA

My father isn't OVERTLY racist. But ever since 9/11 he has definitely looked askance at the Muslim doctors at his hospital.

(A strange sci-fi sound is heard.)

MO

We were in that van a hella long time.

TALIA

I know. I think I bruised my tail bone.

MO

Last time I got clipped, word was they had turned the old swap meet into a "Holding and Distribution" center.

TALIA

I'm a citizen.

MO

Got papers?

TALIA

I have my drivers license.

MO

Where?

TALIA

In my purse-- (realizes her purse is nowhere to be seen) where's my purse--?

MO

Yeah, you learn fast, Morena.-- OK, You? (To Lupe)

LUPE

I'm not here legally.

TALIA

Your father really is an idiot.

MO

Right, nuff said OK? I heard they're just looking at you now, and deciding if you're white or not.

(All three know they are not "White" looking. They are alarmed.)

LUPE

It's awfully quiet. I mean if there are supposed to be a lot of people here. A lot. I mean-- how many undocumented--

TALIA

I am legal! I was born here!

LUPE

I know-- you're practically white.

MO

(Looking around.)

I ain't never been in holding this long. And I get picked up alla time.

TALIA

How on earth do you manage to get out?

MO

Imma lawyer and shit.

(Lupe and Talia exchange a look.)

Yeah, implicit bias. You see me, you don't see no education.

TALIA

Why do you talk like that?

MO
Bitch. Imma off duty. Don't it exhaust you, pretending to be white alla time?

TALIA
(This stings.)
I'm proud to be educated.

MO
Lemme guess. Liberal Arts?

LUPE
I was going to say--

TALIA
I HAPPEN to be a writer. Yes.

MO
OK. So I happen to be a lawyer. You?

LUPE
I work at my dad's church. I do the books.
(She takes out a wad of cash from her bra.)
This should help us out.

MO
Amen. The all 'merikkkan dollar.

TALIA
You stole that?!

LUPE
My father spends it on anti-abortion tracts and his Mustang.

MO
Orale, pues.

TALIA
Shouldn't you give that back to the people who donated it?

LUPE
I do. I buy groceries with it and leave it on people's doorsteps.

MO
Naw.

TALIA
Huh.

LUPE

Anyway. This is this week's take. He got a lot because of the ICE proceedings. And because Trump--

(Mo spits, Talia shudders and Lupe crosses herself.)

Said he needed money to help ransom that blind English baby.

MO

But fuck American babies.

TALIA

I don't want to talk about him-- it. Every time I hear "President" and its name-- (Screams)

MO

We gotta talk about it. Who do you think put us in this holding cell? Do you see an exit?

(They look.)

LUPE

No. Nothing. Except-- (At the front of the stage.)
What's that?

TALIA

A camera?

MO

A button.

(They gather closer.)

"Press when you are ready."

WTF. Games.

TALIA

Is it an escape room? My roommates and I did one in Berkeley--

MO

Idiot. We didn't get picked up, thrown in a van and deposited in this (Indicates the room.) hamster cage for fun.

TALIA

How do you know? Maybe they want to see which one of us is worth saving.

LUPE

What do you mean?

TALIA

It was a joke.

MO

Naw, tho'. So you heard the "Holding and Detention" rumors too.

TALIA

It was all over twitter.

LUPE

I don't twitter.

TALIA

(Rolls her eyes. To Mo:)

It's like willful ignorance. (Emphatically) It's the only place to get the real news! Louise Mensch--

MO

Conspiracy theorist and right wing whack-job.

TALIA

Maybe. But she's been right! A lot. She said Trump--

(Mo spits, Talia shudders and Lupe crosses herself.)

is really high on using Russian tactics. These facilities opened in Arizona and Texas right after the takeover. It's taken this long to get into Califas.

MO

They mighta coulda rolled us into Arizona. I couldn't tell how long we were in the van--

LUPE

7 hours.

MO

Oh shit. Sh-it.

LUPE

What?

MO

Girl. This is worse than I thought.

TALIA

For you maybe. For you, who willfully embrace the street style that so obviously will get you into trouble, but I'm an intellectual--

MO

Lord, girl. "Intellectuals" you mean target practice for the #2A NRA?

(Silence.)

LUPE
Should we press the button?

MO
I guess.

TALIA
Wait! What if--

MO
What?

TALIA
What if twitter was right?

MO
Then at least this end quicker. I hate suspense and
shit.

TALIA
Let me do it.

*She pushes an imaginary button on the 4th wall. A
blast of loud noise, Fox News, Trump speech, "Lock
Her Up." comes up. The clang clang sound from law
and order. A loud maniacal clown laugh. The women
look at each other. The light becomes
otherworldly.*

That's--

*A tweet is projected onto the stage floor. It
says:*

*"Stradsvutye" Mo and Talia stand. They raise their
arms as if in greeting.*

Uh-- Russian?

A VOICE
(Russian dialect.)
Welcome to the underground. We are the resistance. We
understand.

TALIA
Understand what?

A VOICE
We have been dealing with corruption a long time. We
come from the future. After the takeover.

LUPE
Corporeal takeover.

A VOICE

We have you aboard our ship.

TALIA

Prove it.

*The stage glows, and is covered with stars. The
three women cannot breathe. The stars go out.*

It's a trick--

MO

Nah. This shit real. (Mo removes her jacket takes out a packet)

I've have what you asked me for last time. Here. (Lays the package down)

TALIA

What's that?

MO

Loteria cards. My mom's graduation picture. A recipe for tamales. An Aztec calendar. An ipod with all of Morrissey's songs on it.

LUPE

Here: (she takes a package out of her pocket.)

Frida's Journal. My Virgen de Guadalupe prayer card. My uncle's purple heart. A grandmother's ashes.

MO

Do you have anything to give?

TALIA

I'm-- here (she takes off her earrings, pulls pencils and paper out of her pockets. Quickly draws.)

Here: is where I was born. Here is where we traveled, here is where I lived. Are we dead?

A VOICE

In the year 2020, as the Un-tied States were on the brink of collapse. North Korea, with the blessing and aid of the "President for Life" blows up a camp that was filled with people from California, Arizona, Texas and Upper Mexico.

MO

This is the third time we've tried. They've had me and Lupe before. We failed.

LUPE

Twice. I've seen my friends and family die twice. I can't see that again. You have to help us.

TALIA

Me? What can I do? I'm nothing-- it was pure chance that I ended up here! I'm useless! A liberal arts major!

A VOICE

You must enter the camp. You have never been in the time line. We think you have the ability to stop the destruction before it starts. You can write the next chapter.

TALIA

But-- if I'm not in the time line. Wait-- I hate science fiction, but isn't fucking with time a serious problem?

MO

People die! You have to go back and save them! This is it. If we fail the third time, the rift in the continuum will close!

LUPE

You get to be a hero!

TALIA

I'm not a hero--I

A VOICE

You. You wore a pussy hat, you protested, you made calls, you raised your fist. YOU scream for change for justice--

TALIA

On the internet, yeah--

A VOICE

YOU can save many, many people from certain death. You can change this time line and assure that YOUR people, Latinx, Hispanics, The brown ones, the people targeted for deportation and death, you alone can save them

MO

You can put actions behind your tweets, your social media, your talk. This is it. Action behind your words! We've followed you for years! You have a strong voice!

LUPE

And your martyrdom will assure you'll be remembered forever. The bravest member of the resistance. The one who threw herself into the core.

TALIA

But. I. I don't want to die! I mean all that, that's talk, you know? That's-- amplifying the message. I'm not going to sacrifice myself! Why should I? I'll be OK!

A VOICE

I see.

The intense noise and light fills the stage again. As if rewound. The women are on the bench again. The light is normal. Talia looks around wildly.

TALIA

What? What happened?

MO

Hmmm? Shit. I'm hungry.

LUPE

Are you OK?

TALIA

I-- what?

MO

Shit, keep it together y'all. (A sound) We're next.

TALIA

Next?

LUPE

They had to make sure there was room for us.

MO

Damn. Damn. This is it.

A loud sound of a crowd and bright lights.
Well c'mon.

TALIA

The camp.

LUPE

I wish my dad had kept his mouth shut. I don't want to die.

MO

We all gotta go sometime.

(Mo and Lupe walk towards the light.)

Well. C'mon--

TALIA

(To the sky)

Hey-- HEY! I want to help! I can help, let me do something. I'm sorry! I'm just scared-- I--

Crowd noise gets louder, there are people crying.
I changed my mind! I--

Everything gets very loud as Talia is left alone. The paper she drew flutters down to her feet. The sound of screams gets louder.

LIGHTS OUT.