

START
Sc. 1

INT. APARTMENT

3

ELENA RODRIQUEZ (30), is dressed to the nines on a ZOOM CALL for her ONLINE ACCOUNTING COURSE in New York. LABELED BOXES ARE EVERYWHERE. She has clearly recently moved in. She sits on her couch - computer screen open and speaks directly into the camera. ELENA is HIGH PERFORMING, DRIVEN, TYPE A and FOCUSED.

Audience sees XYZ CASE STUDY: Elena is finishing up the process of taking her professor and classmates through her financial findings for this fictional company.

ELENA'S DETAILED FINANCIAL SPREADSHEET FILLS SCREEN

ELENA

...and could all take a look at the GREEN column - these are the revenue projections. Years one through three show steady growth..

(beat)

I've adjusted for seasonality, material costs, and standard delays. Bottom line - this company is stable, positioned to grow and should be just fine.

(beat)

Thank you.

Elena finishes and looks confident how it went.

PROFESSOR LAMBERT (50's) chimes in.

PROFESSOR LAMBERT (V.O.)

Thant's how you present a financial case. Well done, Elena.

ELENA

Thank you, sir.

(CONTINUED)

PROFESSOR LAMBERT
Comprehensive and detailed. As
Always.

Elena smiles. Her presentation went great.

PROFESSOR LAMBERT (V.O.)
Next weeks assignment posted by 5
today. That's it for today.

Elena shuts computer screen. Feeling good.

She looks at some boxes against the wall - still not
completely moved in.

She looks at her side table. A bible sits with a
CELEBRATON OF LIFE PROGRAM. She reaches for it and pulls
out the program, looks at it. It is her mom's (picture
and date of her recent passing).

Sticky Note, handwritten inside bible: "God will never
Give you more than you can handle....Never Forget...Mom."

Elena nods/tender smile.

ELENA
Descanses bien, mamita.

TRANSLATION: "Rest Well, Mommy." She takes a breath and
regains her bearings. She places it back in the bible.

With Determination and laser focus she quiets herself and
quietly speaks her mantra in preparation for the day.

ELENA
"No Distractions. No Detours. No
Excuses."

Her countenance shifts from sad to one of
strength/purpose.

END
Sc. 1

Sc. 2
START

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

6

Moments later a stressed Preston exits the break room with his coffee and his spreadsheets.

He rounds the corner and CRASHES into ELENA who is lost and makes a quick turn into his way. BAM! His coffee splashes across his shirt - and the financials he is carrying fall to the ground.

ELENA

Oh my gosh! I'm sorry! I'm so so sorry!!!

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

Mayhem. Preston dripping coffee, they both scramble. Preston doesn't even look up to see who it is.

PRESTON

No, it was my fault. I'm totally pre-occupied.

They both lean down to get the financials. Elena and Preston grab at SAME TIME and while both are bent over Elena sees ALL RED in the revenue column.

ELENA

(re: red everywhere)
That's not good!

They meet eyes. Preston transfixed.

PRESTON

I was hoping if I stared at them long enough they might turn green.

Elena caught off guard, smiles and lets out a small laugh (he's quick and funny). They both stand. They look at each as if time is standing still. Adorable silence.

Elena snaps out of it FIRST.

ELENA

Unfortunately - it doesn't work that way with numbers.

PRESTON

Unfortunately - I'm finding that out the hard way.

ELENA

(sincere)
Sorry to hear that.

PRESTON

(sighs)
Me, too.
(beat)
Are you new here?

ELENA

First day. I'm the new temp.

PRESTON

Welcome.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

Preston shirt, brown and drenched.

ELENA (CONT'D)
(re: shirt stains)
You're not by chance going to the
10 AM bank meeting?

Preston gives off a pained wince. Elena gives a "Oh No"
type of look.

ELENA
Sorry.

Preston gives a lighthearted, super cute "Oh Well, it is
what it is" look.

PRESTON
So I'll look a little rough.
Trust me. It's the least of my
problems.
(beat)
I'm Preston.

He reaches out to shake her hand.

ELENA
Elena.

Sparks between them at the touch. Elena again breaks
adorable silence.

ELENA (CONT'D)
I'll see you in there. Charity
thought I should observe.

PRESTON
Great idea.

Elena smiles and turns.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
I'll be right in.

Preston watches her walk off.

Sc. 2
END

Sc. 3
START

INT. APARTMENT

47

Elena sits on her couch with Cecelia. She is a mess.

ELENA

...I just ran out.

CECELIA

I am so sorry.

ELENA

I couldn't believe it.

(beat)

I knew something like this would happen to me.

CECELIA

What do you mean?

ELENA

I did it again. I lost focus.
And more time.

CECELIA

(clarifies)

You opened your heart to someone.

(beat)

What you did was BRAVE. You swung
for the fences.

ELENA

And I struck out!

Elena shakes her head, through her tears.

Leave on a broken, frustrated Elena.

END
Sc. 3