

ACT I
Scene 9

(LIGHTS UP on TEENAGE NONA'S
BEDROOM. Three Days Later)

MRS. D'ANGELS (O.S.)

Carmela what's wrong with you? You've locked yourself up for three days. Come out right now and eat something.

TEENAGE NONA

I'm not feeling well Mama ... and I'm not hungry.

MRS. D'ANGELS (O.S.)

What do you mean you're not hungry? I've been cooking all morning - your favorite pancakes. Vena ca pronto!

(KNOCK AT DOOR)

MRS. D'ANGELO (O.S.)

Now what? ... Boy oh boy. Today musta be your lucky day. You got a visitor. We'll talk later.

TEENAGE NONA (to MRS. D'ANGELO)

No, Mama. I can't see anyone today...

(O.S. TEENAGE ALEJANDRO KNOCKS ON
TEENAGE NONA'S DOOR)

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

Carmela, it's me. Alejandro. I just came by to say Hi. Let me in.

TEENAGE NONA

(Sobbing)

Not now Alejandro. Please go away.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO (O.S.)

I'm not leaving till you tell me what's going on. Why are you crying?

(LOCK CLICKS. TEENAGE NONA unlocks
the door. TEENAGE ALEJANDRO ENTERS)

TEENAGE NONA

Alejandro, it's not a good time for a visit. I really need to be alone.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

No, you don't. What's the matter? You look like you need your best friend ... and that's me.

TEENAGE NONA

No ... really. I need to deal with this myself. *(Still sobbing)*

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

Deal with what?

TEENAGE NONA

I got this telegram three days ago.

(TEENAGE NONA hands ALEJANDRO the telegram. He reads it.)

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

Carmela, I'm so sorry. I had no idea. Don't worry. It's going to be okay. I'm here.

TEENAGE NONA

No. It won't be okay.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

I promise you, Carmela. Sooner or later, it will.

TEENAGE NONA

You don't understand. It's more than just Tommy. I'm alone now ... and ... and I'm going to have to quit high school.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

Why?

TEENAGE NONA

Because my family will disown me and I'll have to leave town. I won't graduate. Oh my God and the church will probably... I'm a disgrace.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

(Interrupting)

Disgrace ... for what?

TEENAGE NONA

(Sobbing)

I'm having Tommy's baby.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO *(takes a beat)*

For real? You're pregnant?

TEENAGE NONA

Isn't that what having a baby means? *(beat)* I'll have to quit school.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO

Why?

TEENAGE NONA

Sister Veronica doesn't allow pregnant girls to stay in school.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

That's crazy.

TEENAGE NONA

Crazy or not, those are the rules. I only have one option.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

What's that?

TEENAGE NONA

Go into hiding. There is a place up in the Bronx run by the nuns at Misericordia Hospital. I think it's called Rosalie Hall. A friend of mine went there.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

Well, that doesn't sound too bad.

TEENAGE NONA

But I'll have to give the baby up for adoption.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

Is that what you want to do? Give your baby away?

TEENAGE NONA

I don't know what I want to do Alejandro. Tommy and I were to be married and if a baby came along, it would be loved and somehow fit into our life. If you're touring and making money, you can always hire some help.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

That's true. But if you give the baby up for adoption, what are the odds that God will ever send you another one? What if this is your only chance to be mom?

TEENAGE NONA

I didn't think about that.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

A baby is supposed to be a blessing, Carmela. In today's world, it needs two parents ... one to work and one to stay home and take care of it. I can't let you give your baby away.

TEENAGE NONA

What else can I do?

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

I have an idea.

TEENAGE NONA

What?

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

You can marry me.

TEENAGE NONA

No, Alejandro. That's not a solution.

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

Sure it is. I'll give the kid my name and we'll have a good life. (*beat*) But I need more than a part-time wife ... and this baby needs a full-time mother. If I'm going to promise to take care of the both of you, I need a promise from you too.

TEENAGE NONA

Like what?

TEENAGE ALEJANRO

That you give up these crazy dreams of travelling and being on stage. Like my father always says, "Dreams live in the future." They don't live in the now, Carmela. That telegram is proof of that.

TEENAGE ALEJANDRO & TEENAGE NONA (SINGING DUET)
ALL WE HAVE IS THE NOW

ALEJANDRO	NONA
DON'T TELL ME HE'S THE ONLY ONE DON'T TELL ME, THAT YOUR HEART'S UNDONE DON'T TELL ME HOW YOU NEED TO RUN JUST STOP AND THINK CAUSE NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.	
ALL WE HAVE IS THE NOW EVERY MOMENT SHARED BECOMES A MEMORY ALWAYS LIVING IN THE PAST SO WHY CAN'T WE STEP INTO THE NOW	
DON'T ASK TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE DON'T ASK HOW I CAN STILL LOVE YOU DON'T ASK IF IT'S THE THING TO DO PLEASE STOP AND THINK EACH BREATH CREATES A LIFETIME	MY DREAMS ARE MINE THIS CAN'T BE LOVE
ALL WE HAVE IS THE NOW OUR TODAY WAS YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW TIME KEEPS SLIPPING THROUGH OUR HANDS	WHY CAN'T WE WAIT A LITTLE WHILE IT'S ALL TOO FAST THE PRESSURE'S MORE THAN I