

COLD OPEN

GIGI

Sc 1

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY (D1)

(Gigi, Shani, Arabella, Rowena, Students BG, Teachers BG)

GIGI (PLUS-SIZED, GREAT OUTFITS, GREAT ATTITUDE) AND SHANI (SHY, WITH VITILIGO SHE HIDES BEHIND HER HAIR) HOLD TRAYS AND WAIT FOR CAFETERIA BREAKFAST AS THE LINE INCHES FORWARD.

→
Start

GIGI

*REVISED
10/28/20

Another beautiful day at Fashion High.

The sun is shining, the first-year competition is right around the corner, and (DEEP BREATH) aah. The sweet scent of style.

SHANI

All I smell is bacon.

GIGI TURNS TO SHANI AND STARTLES. SHANI'S PUSHED HER HAIR SO FAR FORWARD SHE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE.

GIGI

(GASP) Please don't do that with your hair. I feel like I'm being haunted. Tie it back, c'mon.

GIGI PASSES OVER A HAIR TIE, AND SHANI RELUCTANTLY PULLS HER HAIR BACK INTO A HALF-PONYTAIL.

GIGI (CONT'D)

You're in the accessories track. How can you not want to show off the amazing earrings you make?

SHANI

If people can see my ears, they can see the rest of my face.

1/14

SHANI HOLDS HER TRAY UP LIKE A SHIELD AS SHE SPEAKS.

GIGI

It's a great face! Put it on display!

SHANI SHAKES HER HEAD VIGOROUSLY AND PULLS A PAIR OF EARRINGS FROM HER POCKET.

~~SHANI~~

~~I'll let you show off my earrings. Try these - since your hair is up, you should try something with dangle.~~

ROWENA (O.S.)

I vote you lose the scarf.

NOW AT THE START OF THE FOOD LINE, GIGI AND SHANI TURN TO SEE ROWENA, THE LUNCH LADY.

~~GIGI~~

~~What's wrong with my scarf?~~

ROWENA STARES INTO THE DISTANCE AS SHE ILLUSTRATES THE FOLLOWING WITH HELP FROM HER BACON TONGS AND EGG SPOON.

~~ROWENA~~

~~The year was 2005, the airport was JFK, my seat was A25 - the window seat. I asked the flight attendant for orange juice, but we hit turbulence! The orange juice splattered all over me, and I smelled like breakfast at my culinary school internship.~~

GIGI AND SHANI TRADE LOOKS.

~~GIGI~~

~~What's this have to do with my scarf?~~

(cont)

2/14

ROWENA

~~(SNAPPING OUT OF IT) Hold~~ Oh, you look
like a flight attendant. Took me back!

~~SHANI~~

~~Wow, you're so right. I almost asked
for some water and popcorn.~~

GIGI

Hey!

← Stop

BUT SHE TAKES THE SCARF OFF AND STICKS IT IN HER BACKPACK.
ROWENA PUTS AN EXTRA SLICE OF BACON ON EACH GIRL'S PLATE.

GIGI / SHANI

Thanks, Ms. Rowena.

ROWENA

I love the morning fashion touch-up. I
did a little touch-up myself.

ROWENA SHOWS OFF HER FANCILY-TIED APRON AND HER HAIR NET.

ROWENA (CONT'D)

I added some pearl accents. You like?

SHANI

(AWED) I love.

GIGI

Bringing fashion from the high street
to the lunch meat.

ROWENA PUTS A JUICE BOX ON EACH GIRL'S TRAY.

ROWENA

For that, free juice boxes for you.

3/14

GIGI AND SHANI CHEERS THEIR JUICE BOXES, AS WE:

GIGI Sc 2

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (D1)

(Gigi, Shani, Arabella, Madame Bisset, Students BG)

GIGI AND SHANI ENTER HOMEROOM. ALL OF THE STUDENTS WEAR FASHIONABLE CLOTHES ACROSS A RANGE OF STYLES. ONE GIRL EMBROIDERS A DENIM JACKET. A BOY SNAPS A PIC OF HIS SHOES FOR INSTAGRAM.

GIGI SPOTS ARABELLA (STYLISH, TONGUE SHARPER THAN SEWING SCISSORS) AND APPROACHES HER AS SHANI HEADS TO HER SEAT.

GIGI

Arabella.

ARABELLA

Gigi. Nice earrings.

GIGI

They're bespoke. Nice bangles. I bought mine off the same rack.

ARABELLA

Touché. Nice blazer.

GIGI

Thanks, I made it myself--

ARABELLA

I really feel prepared for takeoff.

GIGI

Ouch, you, too?

ARABELLA

Gotta call it like I see it. (THEN)

Your boots are cool, though.

→
Start

4/14

GIGI

MooLaLa's Bella collection.

ARABELLA

I know. Dad named them after me.

GIGI

(ADMIRINGLY) One day I'm going to out-fashion you.

ARABELLA

You're a worthy opponent, but don't hold your breath. (BEAT) And if you do, make sure to put on your own oxygen mask before assisting others.

GIGI

I get it already.

MADAME BISSET (FRENCH ACCENT, BUT SHE'S FRENCH-CANADIAN) RAPS ON THE PODIUM AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM AND GIGI HEADS TO HER SEAT. SHANI PUTS HER HAIR BACK IN FRONT OF HER FACE.

SHANI

(OFF GIGI'S LOOK) Madame Bisset is intimidating.

GIGI

It's the French accent. Last week she complimented me and I still said sorry.

SHANI

Isn't she French-Canadian?

GIGI

Yes, but the French part is winning.

5/14

MADAME BISSET

Ahem.

GIGI / SHANI

Sorry.

MADAME BISSET

The First-Year Fashion competition is upon us. (OFF EXCITED REACTIONS) ~~Over the school year, your three person teams will face challenges that touch each aspect of running a fashion line, from design to packaging to marketing.~~

The winners will have their line funded by the Martinique School. (OFF THE KIDS' FACES) "Fashion High," as you insist on calling it.

THE WHOLE CLASS MURMURS "SORRY." MADAME BISSET SURVEYS THEM AS THE BELL RINGS.

MADAME BISSET (CONT'D)

You may panic now.

THE CLASSROOM ERUPTS INTO CHAOS. GIGI QUICKLY STANDS AND DIRECTS FRENZIED STUDENTS DOWN THE AISLES TOWARD THE DOOR.

GIGI

Everyone follow the line of the desks to the rear exit! (BEAT) Yeah, I've gotta rethink this blazer.

AS GIGI DIRECTS MORE KIDS TO THE EXIT, WE:

END COLD OPEN

← stop

6/14

INT. GIGI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (N3)
(Gigi, Granny Day)

GIGI

Sc 3

GIGI STORMS INTO HER ROOM AND HEADS TO HER CLOSET, MUTTERING.

GIGI

Inside the system. Forget it.

(MERRIWEATHER VOICE/POSE) "the model."

GIGI PUTS HER CLOTHES IN RAINBOW ORDER. THERE'S A SLIGHT KNOCK ON THE DOOR AS IT OPENS TO REVEAL GRANNY DAY.

GRANNY DAY

My, my, my. Reorganizing your closet?

Something must be heavy on your mind.

GIGI

I made a plus-sized design, but my model got disqualified. I went up against the system and I lost.

GRANNY DAY

(SHOCKED) No! (OFF GIGI'S NOD) You mean to tell me. You walked up into that school. Tried to buck the system. And it didn't work on the first try?

GIGI

(SUSPICIOUS) Hey, wait a minute.

GRANNY DAY TAPS GIGI ON THE HEAD WITH HER SOAP OPERA DIGEST.

GRANNY DAY

I can't believe a grandchild of mine is so knuckleheaded. So change didn't come on the first try. Try again!

→
Start

7/14

GIGI

But this is so much harder than I
thought it would be.

GRANNY DAY

Do you know how you get change, Gigi?

GIGI

If I knew, I wouldn't be sorting my
closet in a rage-ROY G BIV.

GRANNY DAY

You get change by spending something.
Making change costs. But I know what
you have to give is worth it.

GIGI

You do?

GRANNY DAY

I know I'm tough on you. I can't lie--
I think the world would be kinder to
you if you were more... what do you
call it, regular degular?

GIGI

... I don't call it that.

GRANNY DAY

(IGNORING HER) But every day, you make
me change my mind a little bit more.
If your brand of stubborn works on me,
it'll work on your fancy school.

8/14

