

ALICIA. Well, not much really. I mean we aren't religious or anything.

JAXTON. Of course not.

ALICIA. We just ate food and watched games. We didn't talk about it much.

LOGAN. Maybe we could do something with that? Use play as a universal way to connect with the kids instead of those tired children's songs we make them sing every year.

JAXTON. What kinds of games?

ALICIA. Just the ones that everyone watches.

LOGAN. Right. Is there any chance we could learn about these games with you, as a cast?

ALICIA. I guess. I think the Chiefs are playing Monday, right?

JAXTON. There's a whole game just for chiefs? That's amazing. How many are there?

ALICIA. The same number as any team I guess. I don't really know football that well. It was just on in the background.

JAXTON. Wait, football?

ALICIA. Sure. What do you watch?

(They laugh uneasily.)

LOGAN. NFL football. Well, not anymore, but...

JAXTON. This is a perfect example of the exotification of your people. We assumed that you were watching Native American lacrosse or something instead of allowing you to just be contemporary people. Of course your family watched football. Whose didn't?

CADEN. Mine didn't.

LOGAN. I can't believe we did that. Sorry Alicia.

ALICIA. We did do one different thing on Thanksgiving. It came from my mom's people.

LOGAN. Do you mind sharing it with us?

JAXTON. Maybe we could get permission to incorporate it into the play? Respectfully.

ALICIA. First we'd buy an extra frozen turkey, a small one, and leave it in the freezer. Then before dinner all the kids would go out to the driveway and set up these wood blocks like bowling pins. Then we'd take turns rolling the frozen turkey at the pins and see who could knock down the most.

JAXTON. Like bowling?

LOGAN. With a frozen turkey?

ALICIA. Yeah that's what they called it, Frozen Turkey Bowling. It was hilarious. Your hands would be freezing so you'd just chuck the thing and it would go all over the driveway. They call them Butter Balls, but really, they're not shaped like balls.

LOGAN. This is your family tradition?

ALICIA. My mom grew up in Iowa, so it probably worked better there because it was cold. In LA it would start melting and get all mushy and runny.

(LOGAN looks like she is going to puke.)

LOGAN. Oh my God.

JAXTON. Deep breaths.

LOGAN. We really want to honor your voice and your people's. I just realized that I never asked who your people are.

ALICIA. Um...you mean my family?

LOGAN. What are they called?

ALICIA. Well my dad's side is the Longs and my mom's is Hogan. But I use my middle name as my last name for acting. It makes it so I can play all kinds of people.

JAXTON. Can I ask something in all respect?

ALICIA. I guess.

JAXTON. Isn't that problematic? I mean we're all becoming aware of redface. Doesn't it worry you to be playing other races?

ALICIA. My agent had me take headshots as six different ethnic people, which got me many roles such as Jasmine.

JAXTON. How do you even take headshots as ethnicities? What does that look like?

ALICIA. Different hair, accessories. My Native American shot has me in braids and a turquoise necklace.

JAXTON. Native Americans need to take "Native American" headshots? That seems wrong.

ALICIA. Every actress in LA has different types of shots. My agent told me to.

LOGAN. I wouldn't do everything your agent says.

ALICIA. He's my former agent now so I don't do anything he says. Besides Native Americans like invented turquoise so I don't see why wearing it in a shot would piss them off. It's paying them respect.

LOGAN. Them who?

ALICIA. The Native Americans.

LOGAN. But you're them.

ALICIA. Who?

LOGAN. Native American.

ALICIA. I *play* Native American.

JAXTON. You're not Native American?

ALICIA. I'm English and French and a little Spanish we think.

LOGAN. But I hired you to be the Native American.

ALICIA. Yeah.

LOGAN. But you aren't?

ALICIA. No.

LOGAN. But you were my cultural compass.

ALICIA. You hired me to be an actress. Don't worry, I'm gonna act my ass off.

LOGAN. But that's why your voice was so important.

ALICIA. My voice is the most important. You said so.

LOGAN. Because I thought you were Native American.

ALICIA. So non-Native American voices aren't important?

JAXTON. Didn't you wonder why we were asking your advice on all of this stuff?

ALICIA. Because it's *devised*.

LOGAN. But we need a Native American person to do this play. I got a grant.

ALICIA. Look, you hired me off my Native American headshot, so that's on you. You can't fire me because of this. It's a law.

LOGAN. So we're four white people making a culturally sensitive First Thanksgiving play for Native American Heritage Month? Oh my Goddess.

(JAXTON reaches out to comfort her, she pulls away.)

ALICIA. Whatever, it's theater. We don't need actual Native Americans to tell a Native American story. I mean, none of us are actual Pilgrims are we?

CADEN. Interestingly they didn't call themselves Pilgrims at all. That's a name given to them -

ALICIA. The point is, we're actors. We act. That's the job. Is Lumière a real candlestick?

JAXTON. Actually he kind of was.

ALICIA. Was Grandmother Willow a real willow?

CADEN. She's animated so -

ALICIA. In the Disneyland show?

CADEN. No?

ALICIA. Exactly. And that whole Pocahontas cast was Filipino. We shared a green room.

JAXTON. Do you have any non-Disney references in your life?

LOGAN. I could lose my job over this.

CADEN. I don't think that Alicia playing Native will be a problem with the school district. There are schools that are nearly all black, all Hispanic. If they tried to find ethnic-specific roles for everyone to play, they wouldn't be able to produce anything.

LOGAN. I know about color-blind casting, Caden, I'm the drama teacher. There are grants at stake! A lot of them. And the petition! If I'm not a director or an educator I'm...nothing.
I'm -

JAXTON. Lo, stay in *this* moment.

LOGAN. But this moment sucks. Take five!
(*Everyone disperses.*)

X-ND

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