

#1-1. “IN THE HEIGHTS”

USNAVI

**Lights up on Washington Heights, up at the break of day
I wake up and I got this little punk I gotta chase away
Pop the grate at the crack of dawn, sing
While I wipe down the awning. Hey y’all, good morning.**

PIRAGUA GUY

(Scraping from his ice block.) Ice cold piragua! Parcha. China.
Cherry. Strawberry. Just for today, I got mamey!

USNAVI

Yo, piragüero, como estas?

PIRAGUA GUY

Como siempre, Señor Usnavi.

USNAVI

**I am Usnavi and you prob’ly never heard my name
Reports of my fame are greatly exaggerated
Exacerbated by the fact
That my syntax
Is highly complicated cuz I emigrated from the single greatest
little place in the Caribbean
Dominican Republic
I love it
Jesus, I’m jealous of it
And beyond that,
Ever since my folks passed on,
I haven’t gone back
Goddamn, I gotta get on that**

(He sniffs the milk carton.) Fo!

**The milk has gone bad, hold up just a second
Why is everything in this fridge warm and tepid?
I better step it up and fight the heat.
Cuz I’m not makin any profit
If the coffee isn’t light and sweet!**

ABUELA CLAUDIA

(Enters.) Ooo-oo!

USNAVI

Abuela, my fridge broke. I got cafe but no “con leche.”

ABUELA CLAUDIA

Try my mother’s old recipe: one can of condensed milk.

USNAVI

Nice.

ABUELA CLAUDIA

Ay! Paciencia y fe... (Exits.)

USNAVI

**That was Abuela, she’s not really my “abuela,”
But she practically raised me, this corner is her *escuela!*
Now, you’re prob’ly thinkin, “I’m up shit’s creek
I never been north of Ninety-Sixth Street”
Well you must take the A train
Even farther than Harlem to Northern Manhattan and maintain
Get off at 181st, and take the escalator
I hope you’re writing this down, I’m gonna test ya later
I’m getting tested times are tough on this bodega,
Two months ago somebody’s bought Ortega’s
Our neighbors started packin’ up and pickin’ up
And ever since the rents went up
It’s gotten mad expensive
But we live with just enough**

COMMUNITY

In the Heights

I flip the lights and start my day

There are fights

WOMEN

And endless debts

MEN

And bills to pay

COMMUNITY

In the Heights

I can’t survive without café

USNAVI

I serve café

COMMUNITY

**Cuz tonight seems like a million years away!
En Washington—**

USNAVI

**Next up to bat, the Rosarios
They run the cab company, they struggle in the barrio
See, their daughter Nina's off at college, tuition is mad steep
So they can't sleep, everything they get is mad cheap!**

KEVIN

(Enters with CAMILA.) **Good morning, Usnavi!**

USNAVI

Pan caliente, café con leche!

KEVIN

Put twenty dollars on today's lottery.

CAMILA

One ticket, that's it!

KEVIN

Hey! A man's gotta dream.

CAMILA

**Don't mind him, he's all excited
'Cuz Nina flew in at 3 a.m. last night!**

KEVIN

Don't look at me, this one's been cooking all week!

CAMILLA

Usnavi, come over for dinner.

KEVIN/CAMILA

There's plenty to eat! (They exit.)

DANIELA

(Enters with CARLA.) **So then Yesenia walks in the room—**

CARLA

Aha....

DANIELA

She smells sex and cheap perfume!

CARLA

Uh oh...

DANIELA

It smells like one of those trees that you hang from the rear view!

CARLA

Ah, no!

DANIELA

**It's true! She screams "Who's in there with you, Julio?"
Grabs a bat and kicks in the door!
He's in bed with José from the liquor store!**

CARLA, USNAVI

No me diga!

USNAVI

Daniela and Carla, from the salon.

DANIELA, CARLA

Thanks, Usnavi! (They exit. SONNY enters.)

USNAVI

Sonny, you're late.

SONNY

Chillax, you know you love me.

USNAVI

**Me and my cousin runnin' just another dime-a-dozen
Mom-and-Pop stop-and-shop
And, Oh my God, it's gotten
Too darn hot like my man Cole Porter said
People come through for a few cold waters and
A lottery ticket, just a part of the routine
Everybody's got a job; everybody's got a dream
They gossip, as I sip my coffee and smirk
The first stop as people hop to work,**

Bust it— I’m like -

(People come through his store.)

One dollar, two dollars, one fifty, one sixty-nine

I got it. You want a box of condoms what kind?

That’s two quarters.

Two quarter waters. The New York Times

You need a bag for that? The tax is added

Once you get some practice at it

You do rapid mathematics automatically

Sellin’ maxipads and fuzzy dice for taxicabs and practically

Everybody’s stressed, yes, but they press through the mess

Bounce checks and wonder what’s next

COMMUNITY

In the Heights

I buy my coffee and I go

Set my sights

On only what I need to know.

In the Heights

Money is tight

But even so

When the lights go down I blast my radio!

BENNY

(Enters.) **You ain’t got no skills!**

USNAVI

Benny!

BENNY

Lemme get a—

USNAVI

Milky way.

BENNY

Yeah, lemme also get a—

USNAVI

Daily News—

BENNY

and a-

USNAVI

Post—

BENNY

and most important, my—

USNAVI

Boss' second coffee, one cream—

BOTH

Five sugars—

BENNY

I'm the number one earner—

USNAVI/SONNY

What!

BENNY

The fastest learner—

USNAVI/SONNY

What!

BENNY

My boss can't keep me on the damn back burner!

USNAVI

Yes he can.

BENNY
I'm makin' moves, I'm makin' deals, but guess what?

USNAVI
What?

BENNY/SONNY
You still ain't got no skills!

USNAVI
Hardee-har.

BENNY
Vanessa show up yet?

USNAVI
Shut up!

BENNY
**Hey little homie don't get so upset.
Tell Vanessa how you feel, buy the girl a meal,
On the real, or you ain't got no skills.**

(VANESSA walks by on the phone.)

VANESSA
**Nooo!
No no nooo!
No no nooo, no no no!
Nooo, no no no!
No no no no no no no no no no no!
Mr. Johnson, I got the security deposit
It's locked in a box in the bottom of my closet
It's not reflected in my bank statement
But I've been savin' to make a down payment and pay rent
No, no, I won't let you down**

BENNY
Yo, here's your chance, ask her out right now!

VANESSA
I'll see you later we can look at that lease! (She hangs up.)

BENNY
Do somethin', make your move, don't freeze—

USNAVI

Hey!

VANESSA

You owe me a bottle of cold champagne.

USNAVI

Are you moving?

VANESSA

Just a little credit check and I'm on that downtown train!

USNAVI

Well, your coffee's on the house.

VANESSA

Okay!

BENNY (under his breath, to SONNY)

Usnavi, ask her out.

SONNY

No way!

VANESSA

I'll see you later, so . . .

(VANESSA waits a moment, before exiting. USNAVI misses the moment.)

BENNY

Ooh, smooth operator, aw damn, there she go!

Yo, bro, take five, take a walk outside!

You look exhausted, lost, don't let life slide!

The whole hood is struggling, times are tight,

And you're stuck to this corner like a streetlight! (Exits.)

USNAVI

Yeah, I'm a streetlight,

Choking on the heat

The world spins around

While I'm frozen to my seat

The people that I know

All keep on rolling down the street

**But every day is different
So I'm switchin' up the beat
Cuz my parents came with nothing
They got a little more
And sure, we're poor, but yo,
At least we got the store
And it's all about the legacy
They left with me, it's destiny
And one day I'll be on a beach
With Sonny writing checks t
o me**

COMMUNITY

In the Heights I hang my flag up on display

USNAVI

We came to work and to live and we got a lot in common.

COMMUNITY

It reminds me that I came from miles away.

USNAVI

D.R., P.R., we are not stoppin'.

COMMUNITY

ABUELA CLAUDIA

**In the Heights
Ooh,
Ooh,

Ooh.**

Every day, *paciencia y fe.*

USNAVI

Until the day we go from poverty to stock options.

COMMUNITY

**In the Heights,
I've got today.**

USNAVI

**And today's all we got, so we cannot stop,
This is our block**

COMMUNITY

**In the Heights,
I hang my flag upon display**

PIRAGUA GUY
Lo le lo le lo lai lai lo le!

COMMUNITY
It reminds me that I came from miles away!

USNAVI/PIRAGUA GUY/NEIGHBORS
My family came from miles away -

COMMUNITY
**In the Heights
It gets more expensive every day**

And tonight is so far away—

USNAVI
But as for *mañana, mi pana*, ya gotta just keep watchin',

USNAVI
**You'll see the
late nights,
You'll taste
beans and rice
The syrups and
shaved ice,
I ain't gonna**

Say it twice.

In the Heights

COMMUNITY
In the Heights

In the Heights

USNAVI
**So turn up the
stage lights,
We're takin' a flight
To a couple of days
In the life of what it's like.**

COMMUNITY

**Ah
Ah
Ah**

ALL
En Washington Heights!

#1-2. "BREATHE"

PIRAGUA GUY

Sigue andando el camino por toda su vida. Respira

NINA

Breathe.

COMMUNITY

***Y si pierdes mis huellas que Dios
te bendiga.
Respira.***

NINA

**This is my street.
I smile at the faces
I've known all my life. They regard me with pride.
And everyone's sweet,
They say, "You're going places!"
So how can I say that while I was away, I had so much to hide!
Hey guys, it's me!
The biggest disappointment you know
The kid couldn't hack it, she's back and she's walkin' real slow
Welcome home.
Just breathe . . .**

COMMUNITY

***Sigue andando el camino por toda su vida.
Respira—***

NINA

Just breathe—

COMMUNITY

***Y si pierdes mis huellas que dios
te bendiga.
Respira—***

NINA

**As the radio plays old forgotten *boleros*
I think of the days when this city was mine
I remember the praise**

NINA
Ay, te adoro, te quiero
The neighborhood waved, and
said
Nina, be brave and
You're gonna be fine,
And maybe it's me,
But it all seems like lifetimes

ago

COMMUNITY

Te adoro,
Te quiero
Respira!

Respira!

NINA
So what do I say to these faces that I used to know?
"Hey, I'm home?"

NEIGHBOR LADY
Mira Nina

NINA
Hey . . .

COMMUNITY
No me preocupo por ella

NINA
They're not worried about me

COMMUNITY
Mira, allí esta nuestra estrella

NINA
They are all counting on me
To succeed
I am the one who made it out!
The one who always
Made the grade
But maybe I should have just

Stayed home . . .

COMMUNITY
Ella si da la talla . . .
Ah! Ah, aah

Mira Nina

NINA
When I was a child I stayed wide awake, climbed to the highest place,
on every fire escape, Restless to climb

COMMUNITY
Respira . . .

NINA

**I got every scholarship,
Saved every dollar,
The first to go to college,
How do I tell them why
I'm coming back home,
With my eyes on the horizon**

COMMUNITY

Respira . . .

Ahh

NINA

Just me and the GWB, asking, Gee Nina, what'll you be?

**Straighten the spine.
Smile for the neighbors.
Everything's fine.
Everything's cool.
The standard reply,
"Lots of tests, lots of papers."
Smile, wave goodbye,
And pray to the sky, oh God...
And what will my parents say?**

COMMUNITY

Nina . . .

NINA

Can I go in there and say,

COMMUNITY

Nina . . .

NINA

"I know that I'm letting you down . . ."

ABUELA CLAUDIA

Nina . . .

NINA

Just breathe . . .

#1-3. "BENNY'S DISPATCH"

BENNY

**Check one two three. Check one two three.
This is Benny on the dispatch. Yo.
Atención, yo, attention,
It's Benny, and I'd like to mention
I'm on the microphone this mornin'
Honk ya horn if you want it.**

**Okay, we got traffic on the West Side
Get off at 79th, and take the left side
Of Riverside Drive, and ya might slide
West End's ya best friend if you catch the lights
And don't take the Deegan
Manny Ramirez is in town this weekend
Sorry Dominicans, take Route Eighty -Seven, you ain't getting back in
again . . .
Hold up a minute . . .**

NINA

Benny, hey—

BENNY

Nina, you're home today!

NINA

Any sign—

BENNY

Of your folks, they're on their way!

NINA

Anyway—

BENNY

It's good to see your face—

NINA

Anytime—

BENNY

**Hold up a minute, wait!
You used to run this dispatch, right?**

NINA

Once or twice—

BENNY

**Well check the technique! Yo!
There's a traffic accident I have to mention
At the intersection of 10th Ave and the Jacob Javitz Convention Center
And check it, don't get stuck in the rubber-neckin'
On a hundred-ninety-second,
There's a double-decker bus wreck
Now listen up, we got a special guest!**

BENNY

**Live and direct from a year out
west!**

Benny...

NINA

**Welcome her back,
Cause she looks mad stressed!
Nina Rosario, the barrio's best!
Honk your horns**

Benny...

She's smiling . . . Say hello!

NINA

(Into the radio.) **Hello . . .**

Good morning! (She hands back the radio.)

**I better find my folks.
Thanks for the welcome wagon.**

BENNY

Anytime. Anytime, Nina.

**Wait here with me.
It's getting hot outside, turn up the A.C.**

Stay here with me.

#1-5. "IT WON'T BE LONG NOW"

VANESSA

**The elevated train by my window doesn't faze me anymore
The rattling screams don't disrupt my dreams
It's a lullaby, in its way
The elevated train drives everyone insane but I don't mind, oh no
When I bring back boys they can't tolerate the noise
And that's ok, cuz I never let them stay
And one day, I'm hoppin' in an elevated train and I'm riding away!
It won't be long now!**

(Men whistle at VANESSA on the sidewalk.)

**The boys around the way holler at me when I'm walking down the street
Their machismo pride doesn't break my stride—
It's a compliment, so they say
The boys around the way holler at me every day but I don't mind,
oh no
If I'm in the mood, it will not be with some dude
Who is whistling cuz he has nothing to say
Or who's honking at me from his Chevrolet
And one day... I'm hoppin' in a limousine and I'm driving away!
It won't be long now!**

Ay, Usnavi, help! SOS!

USNAVI

**Good morning, Vanessa!
If it isn't the loveliest girl in the place.**

VANESSA

You got some schmutz on your face.

SONNY

Good morning!

SONNY, USNAVI

Good morning!

USNAVI

Vanessa...

SONNY

Vanessa...

USNAVI/SONNY

Vanessa...

DANIELA

(Screaming from the salon.) VANESSSSSSAAAAAA! I'm thirsty, coño!

VANESSA

Can I get a Pepsi and some packing tape?

SONNY

Uh, my cousin over there with his tongue hanging out, has been meaning to ask you...

VANESSA

Yes?

SONNY

What a lady such as yourself might be doing tonight?

VANESSA

Does your cousin dance?

SONNY

Like a drunk Chita Rivera.

VANESSA

Okay... After Nina's dinner, we can hit a few clubs and check out the fireworks...

USNAVI

Oh snap! Who's that? Don't touch me, I'm too hot! Yes!

Que pasó? Here I go! So dope! Y tu lo sabes!
No pare

SONNY, USNAVI
Sigue sigue!

USNAVI
Did you see me?

SONNY, USNAVI
Freaky freakit!

USNAVI
**What a way to begin the weekend, Sonny anything you want is
free, man!**
**And my dearly beloved Dominican Republic
I haven't forgotten**

SONNY, USNAVI
You!

USNAVI
**Gonna see this honey, make a little money
And one day I'll hop Jet**

SONNY, USNAVI
Blue!

USNAVI
**But until that fateful day, I'm grateful
I got a destination.**
**I'm runnin' to make it home and home's what Vanessa's runnin'
away from!**
**I'm runnin' to make it home and home's what Vanessa's runnin'
away from . . .**

VANESSA
**The neighborhood salon is the place I am working for the moment
As I cut their hair, ladies talk and share—
Every day, who's doing who and why.**
**The neighborhood salon doesn't pay me what I wanna be making
but I don't mind**
**As I sweep the curb I can hear those turbo e
ngines**
Blazing a trail through the sky
I look up and think about the years gone by

**But one day—I'm walkin' to JFK and I'm gonna fly!
It won't be long now!
Any day.**

#1-5. "INÚTIL"

KEVIN

This isn't happening.

***Inútil.* Useless.**

Just like my father was before me.

***Inútil.* Useless.**

And every day.

He cut the cane.

He came home late and prayed for rain. Prayed for rain.

And on the days

When nothing came

My father's face was lined with shame.

He'd sit me down beside him and he'd say,

"My father was a farmer.

His father was a farmer,

And you will be a farmer."

But I told him, "Papi, I'm sorry, I'm going farther.

I'm getting on a plane.

And I am gonna change the world someday."

And he slapped my face.

He stood there, staring at me, useless.

Today my daughter's home and I am useless.

And as a baby she amazed me with

The things she learned each day.

She used to stay on the fire escape

While all the other kids would play.

And I would stand beside her and I'd say:

"I'm proud to be your father,

Cuz you work so much harder

And you are so much smarter

Than I was at your age."

And I always knew that she would fly away.

That she was gonna change the world someday.

I will not be the reason

That my family can't succeed

I will do what it takes,

They'll have everything they need

Or all my work, all my life

Everything I've sacrificed will have been useless.

#1-6. "NO ME DIGA"

DANIELA
Gorgeous!

CARLA
Linda!

CARLA/DANIELA
Tell me something I don't know!

VANESSA
Vieja!

DANIELA
Sucia!

CARLA
Cabrona!

CARLA/VANESSA/DANIELA
Tell me something I don't know!

CARLA
A little off the top -

DANIELA
A little on the side -

NINA
A little bit of news you've heard around the barrio!

ALL
Tell me something I don't know!

DANIELA
Bueno.
You didn't hear this from me!
But some little birdie told me
Usnavi had sex with Yolanda!

NINA/CARLA
No me diga!

VANESSA

**Ay, no! He'd never go out with a skank like that!
Please tell me you're joking!**

DANIELA

**Okay!
Just wanted to see what you'd say!**

CARLA/NINA/DANIELA (at Vanessa)

**Woooooooooooo!
Tell me something I don't know!**

Mmm-hmm-mmm . . .

VANESSA

What? I don't care!

ALL

Ay, *bendito!*

DANIELA

So, Nina, I hear you been talking to Benny.

NINA

And what do you hear?

DANIELA

**I hear plenty.
They say he's got quite a big . . . Taxi!**

CARLA/VANESSA

No me diga!

NINA

Okay! I don't wanna know where you heard all that!

CARLA

I don't think I know what you mean . . .

DANIELA

Carla! He's packing a stretch limousine!

(They all laugh.)

VANESSA/DANIELA/NINA

Tell me something I don't know!

CARLA

Long as he keeps it clean!

NINA/VANESSA/DANIELA

Ay dios mio . . .

DANIELA

Nina, seriously, we knew you'd be the one to make it out!

VANESSA

I'll bet you impressed them all out west; you were always the best, no doubt!

CARLA

We want front row seats to your graduation—

DANIELA

They'll call your name—

DANIELA, CARLA, VANESSA

And we'll scream and shout!

NINA

You guys, I dropped out.

DANIELA/CARLA/VANESSA

No me diga?!

NINA

I should go.

DANIELA

That's a shitty piece of news.

CARLA

That girl never quit anything.

VANESSA

What the hell happened?

DANIELA

I don't know...

DANIELA & CARLA

I don't know.

DANIELA

I don't know!

CARLA/VANESSA

Tell me something I don't know!

ALL

Que sé yo?

#1-7. "96,000"

USNAVI
Ninety six thousand...

SONNY/BENNY
Damn...

USNAVI
Ninety six thousand...

SONNY
Dollars? Holler.

USNAVI
Ninety six thousand . . .

BENNY
Somebody won?

USNAVI
Ninety six thousand . . .

BENNY
Yo.
If I won the lotto tomorrow
Well I know I wouldn't bother goin' on no
Spendin' spree
I'd pick a business school and pay the entrance fee!
Then maybe if you're lucky, you'll stay friends with me!
I'll be a businessman, richer than Nina's daddy!
Donald Trump and I on the links and he's my caddy!
My money's makin' money, I'm goin' from po' to mo' dough!
F- the bling, I want the brass ring, like frodo!

USNAVI
Oh no, here goes Mr. Braggadocio
Next thing you know, he's lying like Pinocchio-

BENNY
Well if you're scared of the bull, stay out the rodeo!

GRAFFITI PETE
Yo, I got more hoes than a phone book in Tokyo!

USNAVI

**Ooh, you better stop rappin' you're not ready
It's gonna get hot and heavy, and you're already sweaty—**

GRAFFITI PETE

Y-y-yo-yo-

USNAVI

**Yo, I'm sorry was that an answer?
Shut up, go home and pull ya damn pants up!
As for you, Mr. Frodo of the shire-
96 G's ain't enough to retire**

BENNY

I'll have enough to knock your ass off its axis!

USNAVI

You'll have a knapsack full of jack after taxes!

SONNY

Ninety six thousand!

ABUELA CLAUDIA

Ay, alabanza!

SONNY

Ninety six thousand!

DANIELA/CARLA

No me diga!

SONNY

Ninety six thousand!

VANESSA

I never win shit!

SONNY

Ninety six thousand!

BENNY

**For real, though, imagine how it would feel goin' real slow
Down the highway of life with no regrets
And no breakin' your neck for respect or a paycheck
For real though, I'll take a break from the wheel and we'll t**

hrow
The biggest block party, everybody here
A weekend when we can breathe, take it easy. . .

NEIGHBORS
Yo! Ma it's me, check my tickets!

CARLA
Check one two three
What would you do with ninety-six G's—

DANIELA
Who me?

CARLA
I mean if it's just between you and me—

DANIELA
Esa pregunta es tricky!

CARLA
I know

DANIELA
With ninety-six G's
I'd start my life with a brand new lease
Atlantic city with a Malibu breeze

CARLA
And a brand new weave—

DANIELA
Or maybe just bleach.

VANESSA
Y'all are freaks.

USNAVI
It's silly when we get into these crazy hypotheticals
You really want some bread then go ahead create a set of goals
And cross them off the list as you pursue 'em,
And with those ninety-six I know precisely what I'm doin'.

VANESSA/BENNY
What you doin'?

USNAVI

What'm I doin? What'm I doin?

It takes most of that cash just to save my ass from financial ruin

Sonny can keep the coffee brewin', and I'll spend a few on you

'Cuz the only room with a view's a room with you in it.

And I could give Abuela Claudia the rest of it

Just fly me down to Puerta Plata, I'll make the best of it

You really love this business?

SONNY

No.

USNAVI

Tough, merry Christmas.

You're now the youngest tycoon in Washington Hiznits.

SONNY

Yo!

With ninety six thousand, I'd finally fix housin',

Give the barrio computers and wireless web browsin',

Your kids are livin' without a good edumacation,

Change the station, teach 'em about gentrification.

The rent is escalatin'

GRAFFITI PETE

What?

SONNY

The rich are penetratin'

GRAFFITI PETE

What?

SONNY

We pay our corporations when we should be demonstratin'

GRAFFITI PETE

What?!

SONNY

What about immigration?

GRAFFITI PETE

What?

SONNY
Politicians be hatin'

GRAFFITI PETE
What?

SONNY
Racism in this nation's gone from latent to blatant!

GRAFFITI PETE/GUYS
Ooooooh!

SONNY
**I'll cash my ticket and picket, invest in protest,
Never lose my focus till the city takes notice
And you know this man! I'll never sleep
Because the ghetto has a million promises for me to keep!**

VANESSA
You are so cute!

SONNY
I was just thinking off the top of my head.

USNAVI
96k. Go.

VANESSA
If I win the lottery, you'll never see me again.

USNAVI
Damn, we're only jokin', stay broke then

VANESSA
**I'll be downtown,
Get a nice studio, get out of the barrio**

VANESSA
**If I win the lottery,
You'll wonder where
I've been**

**For real, though,
Imagine how it would feel**

BENNY

**G
D
W
^**

**I'll be
Downtown,**

VANESSA

96,000

No me

See you around

Novem

No me

Why-o

**For real though, I'll take a break From the wheel And we'll throw
The biggest
Block party,
Everybody here,
A weekend when We can breathe, Take it easy.**

BENNY

**It's silly when we get into these crazy hypotheticals,
you really want some bread then go ahead, create a set of goals and cross them
off the list as you pursue em', and with those ninety six I know precisely what
I'm doin'.**

USNAVI

96,000

COMMUNITY

No me diga!

CARLA

VANESSA
If I win the
lottery,
You won't see a
lot of me!

See you around!

Around!

I'll be downtown,

BENNY
For real though,
imagine how it
would feel goin'
real slow, down
the highway of
life with no
regrets, and no
breakin'
Your neck for
respect or a
paycheck

For real though,

I'll take a break
from the wheel

And we'll throw,

The biggest
block party,
every-body here,

A weekend when
we can breathe,

Take it easy.
Ooh, whoa, ho!

USNAVI
It's silly when we
get into these
crazy
hypotheticals,
you really want
some bread then
go ahead, create
a set of goals,
and cross them
off the list as you
pursue em', and
with those

Ninety six I
Know precisely
What I'm doing!

It's silly when we
get into these
crazy

hypotheticals,

**You really want
some bread
Then go ahead,
create a set of
goals,**

**And cross them
off the list as you
pursue em',**

**And with those
Ninety six**

**I know precisely
what I'm doin'!**

**And with those
ninety six I know
precisely what
I'm doin'!**

WOMEN
**Check
One two three**

MEN
**And with the
dollah dollah**

WOMEN
With 96 g's

MEN
**We get to hollah
hollah**

WOMEN
**Between you and
Me**

MEN
**We rock the hot
impala**

COMMUNITY
Why-oooh

With 96 G's

MEN
**We movin' on
tomorra**

WOMEN
**A brand new
lease**

MEN
**We rock beyond
mañana,**

WOMEN
A Malibu breeze

MEN
**We drop the
mama drama,
We stop at the
Bahamas!**

WOMEN
Why-oh!

MEN
**We drink piña
coladas**

**Shop until we
bumba clot**

WOMEN
Who-oh!

MEN
**Drop it like
it's hot!**

COMMUNITY
**Who-aaa!
Who-aaa!**

VANESSA
I'll be downtown!

USNAVI/BENNY/SONNY

Who-ooa!

**We could pay off the debts
we owe**

Who-ooa!

VANESSA/CARLA/DANIELA
**We could tell everyone
We know**

Who-ooa!

USNAVI
I could get on a plane and go

USNAVI/BENNY/SONNY
**We be swimmin' in dough,
Yo!**

Who-ooa!

NEIGHBORS
**No tip-toein'
We'll get the dough 'n'**

Who-ooa!

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

**Once we get goin'
We never gonna
Stop tip-toein'
We'll get the dough an'
Once we get goin',
We're never gonna -**

NEIGHBORS

USNAVI/SONNY/
GRAFFITI PETE

**Ninety six thousand
We'll get the dough 'n'
Ninety six thousand
Once we get goin'
Ninety six thousand**

What?!

What?!

What?!

What?!

COMMUNITY

We'll get the dough 'n'

**Once we get goin'
We're never gonna stop!**

#1-8. "PACIENCIA Y FE"

ABUELA CLAUDIA

Calor . . . Calor . . . Calor . . .

Calor . . . Calor . . . Calor . . .

Ay mama!

The summer's hottest day!

Paciencia y fe! Paciencia y fe!

Ay, carajo, it's hot!

But that's okay!

Mama would say, "*Paciencia y fe!*"

It was hotter at home in La Vibora

The Washington Heights of Havana!

A crowded city of faces the same as mine!

Back as a child in La Vibora

I chased the birds in the plaza

Praying, mama, you would find work.

Combing the stars in the sky for some sort of sign!

Ay mama, so many stars in Cuba . . .

En Nueva York we can't see beyond our streetlights . . .

To reach the roof you gotta bribe the supa . . .

Ain't no Cassiopea in Washington Heights . . .

But ain't no food in La Vibora . . .

I remember nights, anger in the streets, hunger at the windows

Women folding clothes, playing with my friends in the summer

Rain . . .

Mama needs a job, mama says we're poor, one day you say

"Vamos a Nueva York . . ."

And Nueva York was far, but Nueva York had work and so we

Came . . .

And now, I'm wide awake

A million years too late

I talk to you, imagining what you'd do

Remembering what we went through

Nueva York! Ay mamá!

It wasn't like today,

You'd say

"Paciencia y fe,

NEW YORKERS

Paciencia y fe,

ABUELA CLAUDIA
Paciencia y fe."

NEW YORKERS
Paciencia y -

ABUELA CLAUDIA
**Fresh off the boat in America
Freezing in early December
A crowded city in nineteen-forty-three!
Learning the ropes in America
In *español*, I remember
Dancing with mayor LaGuardia
All of society welcoming Mami and me!
Ha!**

EMPLOYERS
You better clean this mess!

ABUELA CLAUDIA
Paciencia y fe . . .

EMPLOYERS
You better learn *inglés!*

ABUELA CLAUDIA
Paciencia y fe . . .

EMPLOYERS
**You better not be late . . .
You better pull your weight . . .
Are you better off than you were with the birds of La Vibora?**

ABUELA CLAUDIA
**Sharing double beds, trying to catch a break, struggling with
English
Listening to friends, finally got a job working as a maid
So we cleaned some homes, polishing with pride, scrubbing the
Whole of the Upper East Side
The days into weeks, the weeks into years, and here I stayed.**

NEW YORKERS
***Paciencia y fe . . .
Paciencia y fe . . .
Paciencia y fe . . .***

ABUELA CLAUDIA

**And as I feed these birds
My hands begin to shake
And as I say these words
My heart's about to break
And *ay mamá*,
What do you do when your
dreams come True?
I've spent my life
Inheriting
Dreams from you.**

NEW YORKERS

**Ooh,
Ooh, ooh,
And ay mama!
And ay mama
Aah, aah!**

ABUELA CLAUDIA

**What do I do with this winning ticket?
What can I do but pray?
I buy my loaf of bread
Continue with my day.
And see you in my head
Imagining what you'd say
The birds, they fly away
Do they fly to La Vibora?**

Alright, Mama. Okay.

Paciencia y fe.

NEIGHBORS

Calor, calor, calor!

#1-9. "WHEN YOU'RE HOME"

NINA

**I used to think we lived at the top of the world
When the world was just a subway map
And the One-slash-Nine climbed a dotted line to my place.**

BENNY

There's no Nine train now.

NINA

**Right.
I used to think the Bronx was a place in the sky
When the world was just a subway map.
And my thoughts took shape**

NINA/BENNY

On that fire escape . . .

NINA

**Can you remind me of what it was like
At the top of the world?**

BENNY

**Come with me.
We begin July
With a stop at my corner fire hydrant.**

NINA

You would open it every summer!

BENNY

**I would bust it with a wrench
Till my face got drenched
Till I heard the sirens
Then I ran like hell!**

NINA

You ran like hell!

BENNY
Yeah I ran like hell!

NINA
I remember well!

BENNY
**To your father's dispatch window,
"Hey, let me in, yo!
They're coming to get me!"**

NINA
You were always in constant trouble—

BENNY
**Then your dad would act all snide, but he let me hide
You'd be there inside—**

NINA
Life was easier then

BENNY
**Nina, everything is easier
When you're home . . .**

BENNY
**The street's a little kinder when you're home
Can't you see
That the day seems clearer
Now that you are here or
Is it me . . .
Maybe it's just me . . .**

**We gotta go I wanna show you all I know
The sun is setting and the light is getting low**

NINA
Are we going to Castle Garden?

BENNY
**Maybe, maybe not, but way to take a shot, when the day is hot
I got a perfect shady spot a little ways away that oughta
Cool us down.**

NINA
Cool us down—

BENNY

Welcome back to town . . .

NINA

**Now, back in high school when it darkened
You'd hang out in Bennett Park and**

BENNY

Usnavi would bring his radio . . .

NINA

**As I walked home from senior studies
I'd see you rapping with your buddies**

BENNY

With the volume high

NINA

I walked on by

BENNY

You walked on by—

RAPPERS

***No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue, sigue!
No pare sigue!***

NEIGHBORS

**Whoaa
Oh!
Whoaa
Oh!
Whoaa
Oh!
Whoaa
Oh!**

BENNY+COMMUNITY

When you're home

BENNY

Oh, the summer nights are cooler

BENNY+COMMUNITY

When you're home

NINA

Now that you're here with me . . .

BENNY
And that song you're
Hearing is the
Neighborhood just cheering you
along—

COMMUNITY
Ooh
Ooh
Ooh
Ooh.

NINA
Don't say that.

BENNY
What's wrong?

NINA
Don't say that!
When I was younger, I'd imagine what would happen
If my parents had stayed in Puerto Rico
Who would I be if I had never seen Manhattan,
If I lived in Puerto Rico with my people?
My people . . .
I feel like all my life I've tried to find the answer
Working harder, learning Spanish, learning all I can
I thought I might find the answers out at Stanford
But I'd stare out at the sea
Thinking, where'm I supposed to be?
So please don't say you're proud of me, when I've lost my way . . .

BENNY
Then can I say:
I couldn't get my mind off you all day.
Now listen to me!
That may be how you perceive it
But Nina please believe
That when you find your way again
You're gonna change the world and then
We're all gonna brag and say we knew you when . . .
This was your home.

NINA
I'm home -

BENNY
Welcome home—

NINA
When you're here with me—

BENNY

Welcome home—

NINA

I used to think we lived at the top of the world.

BENNY

Welcome home—

NINA

I'm home -

BENNY

**You're finally home.
You're home!**

NINA

**I'm home -
I'm home**

#1-10. "PIRAGUA"

PIRAGUA GUY

Ay, que calor, que calor, que calor, que calo-o-or!

Piragua, piragua
New block of ice, *piragua*
Piragua, piragua
So sweet and nice, *piragua*

Tengo de mango, tengo de parcha,
De piña y de fresa!
Tengo de china, de limón,
De peso y de peseta, ay!

Piragua, piragua
New block of ice, *piragua*
Piragua, piragua
So sweet and nice, *piragua*

It's hotter than the islands are tonight.
And Mister Softee's trying to shut me down.
But I keep scraping by the fading light.
Mi 'pana, this is my town.

Piragua, piragua
keep scraping by, *piragua*

Piragua, piragua
Keep scraping by, *piragua*

Keep scraping by, keep scraping by...
Lai lo le lo lai, lai lo le lo lai

Keep scraping by, keep scraping by...
Lai lo le lo lai!

Keep scraping by...

Que calor, que calor, que calor, que calo-o-or!

#1-12. "CLUB NUMBER"

CLUBBERS

Vanessa!

USNAVI

**Damn, this is nice.
I really like what they've done with the lights.
So, the hot club in Washington Heights.
You might be right, this music's tight,
Yo, did I mention that you look great tonight.
Because you do you really -**

VANESSA

Usnavi, relax!

USNAVI

Relax. *Que* relaxed? I'm relaxed.

HOT COUPLE

***Wepa!* Vanessa!**

USNAVI

**So you've been here before.
I don't go out I get so busy with the store.
Y cada dia it's a brand new chore
My arms are sore, no time for the dance floor
But maybe you and me should hang out some more.
I'm such a dork, but I—**

VANESSA

Let's go get a drink.

USNAVI

Something sweet.

VANESSA

You know me. A little bit of cinnamon.

CLUBBERS

Wepa, Vanessa!

BENNY
Here's to getting fired!

USNAVI
To killing the mood!

BOTH
Salud!

BENNY
Without so much as a thank you!

USNAVI
After 5 long years.

BOTH
Cheers!

BENNY
**To finally getting Vanessa,
Man, fix your collar—**

USNAVI
Holler!

BENNY
To doing shots on a weekend!

USNAVI
As long as you buy 'em, I'chaim!

JOSE
Hey you!

VANESSA
Who?

JOSE
You!

VANESSA
Who, me?

JOSE
You wanna dance?

VANESSA
Naw man . . .

JOSE
Okay, I took my chance . . .

USNAVI
It's cool, it's cool, hey, if you want to . . .

VANESSA
You don't mind?

USNAVI
I'm fine! I'm fine!

BENNY
Yo!

USNAVI
Yo!

BENNY
Who's Vanessa talkin' to?

USNAVI
Some dude!

BENNY
**Some dude?!
That's messed up, she's tryin' to make you jealous!**

USNAVI
Jealous, I ain't jealous, I can take all these fellas whatever!

NINA
Benny, can we take a walk outside?

BENNY

And there she is.

NINA

I'm so sorry, I didn't know.

BENNY

Who let you in? This is the girl who cost us our jobs today!

NINA

I'm gonna make it right!

BENNY

A toast to the end of all I know!

NINA

You've had enough.

BENNY

Says the girl who has it all

NINA

That's not fair.

BENNY

**Well why don't you run home to daddy?
He loves to remind me that I'll never be good enough for your
Family . . . For you . . .**

NINA

You don't know me.

BENNY

Poor you.

NINA

I thought you were different.

BENNY

Salud.

Come on.

MEN

**Vanessa let me get the next one
Vanessa let me interject some
The way you sweat, the way you flex on the floor
It makes me want you more!**

**Vanessa let me get the next one
Vanessa let me interject some
The way you sweat, the way you flex on the floor
It makes me want you more!**

**Vanessa let me get the next one
Vanessa let me interject some
The way you sweat, the way you flex on the floor
It makes me want you more!**

(USNAVI approaches YOLANDA at the bar.)

USNAVI

**Bartender!
Let me get an amaretto sour for this ghetto flower
How are you so pretty?
You complete me
You had me at hello, you know you need me
Truly, madly, deeply, let's get freaky.
Oh I get it you're the strong and silent type
Well, I'm the Caribbean island type
And I can drive you wild all night
But I digress
Say something so I don't stress**

YOLANDA

No hablo ingles.

USNAVI

Yes!

(Everyone is dancing. VANESSA and JOSE. USNAVI and YOLANDA. USNAVI swoops in and takes VANESSA out of JOSE'S hands. JOSE takes VANESSA back, mid-turn. He grabs YOLANDA and is now dipping and spinning them both. JOSE then pulls NINA close to him when BENNY punches him across the face. A fight erupts in the club when suddenly:

THE POWER GOES OUT IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS.)

#1-13. "BLACKOUT"

PIRAGUA GUY
Oye, ¿qué pasó?

USNAVI
Blackout, blackout!

PIRAGUA GUY
Vino el apagón, ¡ay dios!

Oh, no!

MEN

MEN
Oye, ¿qué pasó?

USNAVI
**Blackout,
Blackout!**

NEIGHBORS
Oh, no!

MEN
*Vino el apagón,
¡ay dios!*

BENNY
**Hold up, wait,
Hold up, wait!**

NEIGHBORS
Oh, no!

USNAVI
**Yo! I! Can't see!
Quit shovin
motherfucker
It's an oven
And we gotta
Back out
This is a black out!
Chill, for real,
Or we're gonna get
killed!**

BENNY
**Nina where'd you
go,
I can't find you—

Nina take it slow,
I'm behind you—**

NEIGHBORS
**Oh, no!

Oh, no!

Oh, no!

Oh, no!**

KEVIN
Calling all taxis!

KEV/USN
Everyone relax
please.

KEVIN
Calling all taxis!

KEV/USN
Everyone relax
please.

BENNY
Somebody better
open these Goddamn
doors!

VANESSA
Somebody better
open these Goddamn
doors!

BENNY
Somebody better
open these Goddamn
doors!

VANESSA
And I can't find
Usnavi...

BENNY
Nina where'd
you go,
Nina where'd
you go,
Nina where'd
you go,
I can't find
you!

SONNY
What's going on?
What's going on?
Suddenly I find
The electricity is
What's going on?
What's going on?

I gotta guard the
store make sure
that nothing's

SONNY
What's going on?
What's going on?

Gotta find Usnavi tell
him What is going
on

Nothing is on!
Nothing is on!

And I can't find
Usnavi . .

USNAVI
Vanessa,
Vanessa,
Vanessa,
I gotta go . . .

NINA
Has anyone
seen Benny?
Benny . . .

gone.
MEN
Oh, no!
Oh, no!
going wrong!
Oh, no!
Oh, no!

NEIGHBORS
Oh, no!

Oh, no!

Oh, no!

No! No!
No!

VANESSA
Usnavi
Help me!

BENNY
**Nina where'd
you go,
Nina where'd
you go,
Nina where'd
you go,
I can't find
you!**

USNAVI
**Vanessa,
Vanessa,
Vanessa,
I gotta go . . .**

NINA
**Has anyone
seen Benny?

Benny . . .**

VANESSA

**Usnavi
Help me!**

KEVIN
**Please find Nina!
Find Camila!
If you see my family bring
them home!**

VANESSA

**Find my way home

Usnavi, help me**

SONNY
**We are powerless
We are powerless**

You left me alone!

SONNY+NEIGHBORS
**We are powerless
We are powerless!**

GRAFFITI PETE
**Yo! Yo! They throwin' bottles in the street!
People lootin' and shootin'.
Sonny, they wanna see a robbery
We gotta keep movin'!**

SONNY
Naw, man, I can't leave, we gotta guard the store!

GRAFFITI PETE
**They gonna bombard the store until you ain't got a store no
more!**

SONNY
I got a baseball bat on a rack in the back.

GRAFFITI PETE
(Opening a book bag.) I got a couple roman candles, we can

distract the vandals!

SONNY

Hey yo I see some thugs comin', man, we gonna get jacked up!

GRAFFITI PETE

Gimme a light, I'll be right back. Back up—

GRAFFITI PETE/SONNY

Back up back up!

(We hear an explosion.)

COMMUNITY

**Look at the fireworks...
Look at the fireworks fly!
Light up the night sky...
Light up the night sky!
Look at the fireworks...
Look at the fireworks fly!
Light up the night sky...
Light up the night sky!**

SONNY

**It's late and this grate won't come down!
Come down!**

SONNY

**It's late and
this grate won't
come down!**

**We are
powerless,
We are
powerless.**

**We are
powerless,**

**We are
powerless!
Powerless!**

**happening with
you?**

**We are
powerless!**

**We are
powerless!**

*Mira, mi amor
Házme un favor
Despiértale
abuela
Y a lo mejor
ella tiene una
vela*

*Estuve
bailando
cuando vino el
apagón
Aquí hay gente
pero no se
quienes son!*

CARLA

**Oh god so
much panic
The crowd was
manic with
everybody
Screaming and
shoving
And shouting
and slapping
And everyone's
frantic what's**

DANIELA

NEIGHBORS

**We are
powerless!
We are
powerless!**

**We are
powerless!**

**We are
powerless!
Powerless!**

COMMUNITY
Look at the fireworks...

USNAVI
Abuela are you alright?

COMMUNITY
Light up the night sky . . .

ABUELA CLAUDIA
The stars are out tonight!

COMMUNITY
Look at the fireworks . . .

USNAVI
You're not alone tonight...

COMMUNITY
Light up the night sky . . .

USNAVI/ABUELA CLAUDIA
You're/I'm not alone tonight . . .

ABUELA CLAUDIA
Usnavi, please promise me you'll guard this with your life.

USNAVI
Abuela, I've never seen—

USNAVI/ABUELA CLAUDIA
This much money in my life!

BENNY
Nina there you are!

NINA
I've gotta go!

BENNY
I'll get you out of here tonight!

NINA
**I don't need anything!
Tonight, I can find my way home—**

BENNY
Then find your way home!

NINA
Without you—

NINA/BENNY
Without you—

COMMUNITY
Look at the fireworks . . .

Look at the fireworks . . .

Look at the fireworks . . .

Look at the fireworks . . .

Light up the night sky . . .

Light up the night sky . . .

En Washington . . .

Look at the fireworks . . .

Look at the fireworks . . .

Light up the night sky . . .

Light up the night sky . . .

(BENNY finds NINA, grabs her. They kiss, illuminated by fireworks.)

COMMUNITY
En Washington Heights!

#2-14. "SUNRISE"

NINA
Are you ready to try again?

BENNY
I think I'm ready.

NINA
Okay. Here we go.
Pollito.

BENNY
Chicken.

NINA
Gallina.

BENNY
Hen.

NINA
Lapiz.

BENNY
Something—

NINA
Pluma.

BENNY
Pen.

NINA
Good.
Ventana.

BENNY
Window.

NINA
Puerta.

BENNY
Door.

NINA
Maestra,

BENNY
Uh, something—

NINA
Y piso.

BENNY
Floor. Three out of four!

NINA
You did all right.

BENNY
Teach me a little more . . .

NINA
Calor.

BENNY
Heat.

NINA
Anoche.

BENNY
Last night.

NINA
Dolor.

BENNY
Pain.

NINA
**That's right.
*Llamame.***

BENNY
Call me.

NINA
Azul.

BENNY
Blue.

NINA
Amame.

BENNY
Love me.

NINA
Perhaps I do—

BENNY
Well, how do you say kiss me?

NINA
Bésame.

BENNY
And how do you say hold me?

NINA
Abrázame.
Al amanecer. At sunrise.

NINA/BENNY
Anything at all can happen just before the sunrise.

NINA
Al amanecer.

BENNY
Al amanecer.

SONNY
Sunrise.

CARLA
Sunrise.

VANESSA
Sunrise.

DANIELA
Sunrise.

MEN
***Sigue andando el camino
Por toda su vida***

CARLA
Sunrise.

VANESSA
Sunrise.

DANIELA
Sunrise.

Respira. DANI/CARLA/VANESS/SONNY
Sunrise.

KEVIN
Nina—

BENNY
I don't know.

NINA
Yo no sé.

BENNY
What to do.

NINA
Que hacer.

BENNY
Now that I've found you.

NINA
Ahora que te encontré.

BENNY
What will he say?

NINA

Que dirá?

BENNY

**When he sees me around you?
So how do you say help me?**

NINA

Ayúdame.

BENNY

And how do you say promise me?

NINA

Prométeme.

NINA/BENNY

**Promise me you'll stay beyond the sunrise.
I don't care at all what people say beyond the sunrise.**

NINA

Promise me you'll stay.

BENNY

I'll stay.

COMMUNITY

Sunrise...

Sunrise...

Sunrise...

Sunrise...

BENNY

And how do you say kiss me?

NINA

Bésame...

BENNY

Bésame...

Sunrise...

Sunrise...

Sunrise...

COMMUNITY
Sunrise...

BENNY
Oh, and how do you say always?

NINA
Para siempre...

BENNY
Para siempre...

COMMUNITY
Al amanecer

NINA
Al amanecer

BENNY
Al amanecer

COMMUNITY
Al amanecer

NINA/BENNY
I will be there...
Al amanecer.

#2-15. "HUNDREDS OF STORIES"

USNAVI

Abuela.

ABUELA CLAUDIA

Are you ok?

ABUELA CLAUDIA/USNAVI

Paciencia y fe!

Paciencia y fe!

USNAVI

Let me see it again!

ABUELA CLAUDIA

We kept it safe.

USNAVI

So we survived the night,

What happens today?

ABUELA CLAUDIA

A third for you.

USNAVI

Uh huh uh huh. Uh huh uh huh.

ABUELA CLAUDIA

A third for me!

USNAVI

No pare sigue sigue!

ABUELA CLAUDIA

The rest for Sonny—

And with our share of the money

And with our share of the money—

Dream of the seaside air!

See me beside you there!

Think of the hundreds of stories we will share!

ABUELA CLAUDIA

You and I!

USNAVI/ABUELA CLAUDIA

Ayy . . .

ABUELA CLAUDIA

**Now you can sell your store!
Open a bar by the shore!
I've told you hundreds of stories
About home. Make some more.**

USNAVI/ABUELA CLAUDIA

More . . .

USNAVI

**Yo! I know just where to go!
There's a little beach named Playa Rincon
With no roads, you need a rowboat or motorbike
To reach this beach and it's just a stone's throw
From home.
My folks' home.
Before I was born.
Before they passed on.
And left me on my own, in New York, with the grocery store.
They would talk about home, I listened closely for
The way they whispered to each other
'Bout the warmer winter weather
Inseparable, they even got sick together
But they never got better . . . Passed away that December
And left me with these memories like dyin' embers
From a dream I can't remember . . .
Ever since then it's like
Another day deeper in debt with different dilemmas
The bodega's a mess, I'll be seeing less of Vanessa
Abuela I don't know how I can keep it together . . .**

ABUELA CLAUDIA

**Remember the story of your name.
It was engraved on a passing ship on the day your family came.
Your father said "Usnavi",
"That's what we'll name the baby."**

USNAVI

**It really said "U.S. Navy", but hey . . .
I worked with what they gave me okay . . .**

ABUELA CLAUDIA

They'd be so proud of you today . . .

USNAVI

Then by the end of July,

ABUELA CLAUDIA
Uh huh uh huh. Uh huh.

USNAVI
Out where the sea meets the sky,

ABUELA CLAUDIA
No pare, sigue, sigue

USNAVI/ABUELA CLAUDIA
**Think of the hundreds of stories
We'll create.
You and I!**

ABUELA CLAUDIA
**Ay...
We'll find your island—**

USNAVI
My island sky

ABUELA CLAUDIA
Ay, find your island—

USNAVI
And whatever we do it's—

USNAVI/ABUELA CLAUDIA
You and I!

#2-16. "ENOUGH"

CAMILA
Oh my God ENOUGH!
Now you listen to me . . .

NINA
Mom . . .

CAMILA
Carajo, I said enough!
I'm sick of all this fighting!

KEVIN
Cami . . .

CAMILA
Yapapapapa!
I think you've said enough.
Now listen to what I say.
What I say goes.

Papi, you've pushed us all away!

KEVIN
I'm trying to . . .

CAMILA
I don't wanna hear it! We make decisions as a family.
And throwing Benny out like that?
You sound just like your father!
We both know what a sonofabitch he was!
You think it all comes down to you . . .

KEVIN
Cami, let's talk about it . . .

CAMILA
No no no no no!
No no no no no! No you don't!
When you have a problem you come home.
You don't go off and make matters worse on your own.
One day you're gonna come back home
And you're not gonna find me waiting any more.

KEVIN

I'm sorry . . .

CAMILA

Huh.

Damn right you're sorry.

(CAMILA turns her attention to NINA.)

So you stayed out all night.

NINA

Mom . . .

CAMILA

I'm talking now.

You scared us half to death. You know that right?

NINA

I'm sorry—

CAMILA

Don't apologize to me. You save it for your father.

NINA

What?

CAMILA

Look at your father.

He doesn't sleep when you're gone.

He's worked his whole life to help you go farther.

And he can't admit when he's wrong.

Now who does that remind you of?

You two deserve each other!

For months you've lied to us.

What did we do . . .

To make you think we wouldn't do anything and everything for you?

When you have a problem you come home.

You don't run off and hide from your family all alone!

You hear me?

When you have a problem you come home.

As long as we're alive, you're never on your own.

Leave Benny.

Take Benny.

It doesn't make any difference, as long as you come home!

KEVIN

Camila—

CAMILA

No no no no no!
Enough lying
Enough screaming
I'm done trying
And I am leaving it up to you.
It's up to you.
I'll see you both back home.
Enough.

#2-17. "CARNAVAL DEL BARRIO"

DANIELA

Hey... hey...

What's this *tontería* that I'm seeing on the street?

I never thought I'd see the day...

Since when are Latin people scared of heat?

When I was a little girl

Growing up in the hills of Vega Alta

My favorite time of year was Christmas time!

Ask me why!

CARLA

Why?

DANIELA

There wasn't an ounce of snow

But oh, the coquito would flow

DANIELA

As we sang the *aguinaldo*,

The *carnaval* would begin to grow!

Business is closed, and we're about to go...

Let's have a *carnaval del barrio*!

PIRAGUA GUY

Wepa!

DANIELA

Carnaval del barrio!

Carnaval del barrio!

Carnaval...

PIRAGUA GUY

Carnaval!

DANIELA

Del barrio...

PIRAGUA GUY

Barrio!

DANIELA
Carnaval...

SONNY & PIRAGUA GUY
Carnaval!

DANIELA
Del barrio...

SONNY & PIRAGUA GUY
Barrio!

DANIELA
We don't need *electricidad!*
Get off your butt, *avanza!*
Saca la maraca, bring your tambourine
Come and join the parranda!

PIRAGUA GUY
Wepa!

DANIELA+COMMUNITY

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval!

Barrio!

Carnaval!

Barrio!

Carnaval!

Barrio!

Carnaval!

Del barrio!

CARLA

**Ooh, me me me, Dani I have a question.
I don't know what you're *cantando*.**

DANIELA

**Just make it up as you go
We are *improvisando*:
Lai le lo lai lo le lo lai
You can sing anything
Carla, whatever pops into your head
Just so long as you sing**

CARLA

**My mom is Dominican-Cuban, my dad is from Chile and P. R.,
which means:
I'm Chile-domini-curican... but I always say I'm from Queens!**

PIRAGUA GUY

Wepaaa!

DANIELA+COMMUNITY

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval...

Barrio...

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

VANESSA

**Yo! Why is everyone so happy?
We're sweating and we have no power!
I've gotta get out of here soon,
This block's getting worse by the hour!
You can't even go to a club with a friend
Without having somebody shove you!**

DANIELA

**Ay, por favor,
Vanessa, don't pretend that Usnavi's your friend, we all know
That he love you!**

COMMUNITY

Ohhhh!!

CARLA

**Wow, now that you mention that sexual tension it's easy to
See!**

VANESSA

Yo, this is bogus . . .

DANIELA

Haven't you noticed you get all your coffee for free?

DANIELA+COMMUNITY

Carnaval...

Del barrio...

Carnaval...

Del barrio!

Carnaval...

Barrio...

Carnaval...

del barrio...

NEIGHBOR

Here comes Usnavi!

USNAVI

**Yo, yo, yo y-y-yo-yo
Now, now, everyone gather 'round, sit
Down, listen, I got an announcement**

**Wow, it involves large amounts, it's
Somewhere in the range of ninety six thousand!
Atención, I'm closin' shop!
Sonny, grab everybody a soda-pop!
Yo, grab a bottle, kiss it up to God,
Cuz Abuela Claudia just won the lotto!
Yeah, Abuela Claudia won the lotto
We're bookin' a flight for D.R. tomorrow!**

COMMUNITY

Oh my gah!

COMMUNITY

***Alza la bandera
La bandera Dominicana
Alza la bandera
La bandera Puertorriqueña
Alza la bandera
La bandera Mejicana
Alza la bandera
La bandera Cubana***

PIRAGUA GUY

***Pa'ribba esa bandera!
Alzalo donde quiera!
Recuerdo de mi tierra!***

COMMUNITY

**Hey!
Hey!**

PIRAGUA GUY/USNAVI

***Me acuerdo de mi tierra...
Esa bonita bandera!
Contiene mi alma entera!
Y cuando yo me muera,***

Entiérrame en mi tierra!

COMMUNITY

**Hey!
Hey!**

DANIELA

Everything changes today

COMMUNITY

Hey!

DANIELA, CARLA

Usnavi's on his way

COMMUNITY

Hey!

DANIELA, CARLA
Off to a better place

COMMUNITY
Hey!

DANIELA, CARLA
Look at Vanessa's face!

BENNY
Everything changes today...

USNAVI
Hey!

BENNY
Goodbye, Mr. Rosario...

USNAVI
Okay!

BENNY
I'm taking over the barrio!

USNAVI/DANIELA/CARLA
We're getting out of the barrio!

DANIELA
Hey, Mr. Benny, have you seen any horses today?

COMMUNITY
Hey!

BENNY
What do you mean?

DANIELA
I heard you and Nina went for a roll in the...

COMMUNITY
Hay! Hey! Ohhhhhh!

WOMEN
Benny and Nina

Sitting in a tree

K-i-s-s-i-n-g!

Qué bochinche!

Nina and Benny!

K-i-s-s-i-n-g!

MEN

Benny and Nina

Sitting in a tree

K-i-s-s-i-n-g!

Qué bochinche!

SONNY
**Hold up, wait a minute!
Usnavi's leavin' us for the
Dominican Republic?
And Benny went and stole
the girl
That I'm in love with?
She was my babysitter first!
Listen up, is this
What ya'll want?
We close this bodega,
The neighborhood is gone!
They selling the dispatch,
They closing the salon
And they'll never turn the**

**lights back On 'cuz—
GUYS
Wait a minute!**

Whoo!

SONNY/VANESSA
We are powerless, we are powerless!

SONNY
**But y'all keep dancin' and singin' and celebratin'
But it's gettin' late and this place is disintegratin' and—**

SONNY/VANESSA
We are powerless, we are powerless!

USNAVI
**Alright, we're powerless, so light up a candle!
There's nothing going on here that we can't handle!**

SONNY
You don't understand, I'm not trying to be funny!

USNAVI
We're gonna give a third of the money to you Sonny!

SONNY
What?

USNAVI
Yeah, yeah . . .

SONNY

For real?

USNAVI

Yes!

**Maybe you're right, Sonny. Call in the coroners!
Maybe we're powerless, a corner full of foreigners.
Maybe this neighborhood's changing forever
Maybe tonight is our last night together, however!
How do you wanna face it?
Do you wanna waste it, when the end is so close you can taste
it?
Y'all could cry with your head in the sand
I'm a fly this flag that I got in my hand!**

PIRAGUA GUY

Pa'rriba esa bandera!

COMMUNITY

Hey!

PIRAGUA GUY/DANIELA

Alzala donde quiera!

Hey!

USNAVI

**Can we raise our voice tonight?
Can we make a little noise tonight?**

COMMUNITY

Hey!

PIRAGUA

GUY/DANIELA/CARLA

***Esa bonita bandera!
Contiene mi alma entera!***

COMMUNITY

Hey!

Hey!

USNAVI

**In fact, can we sing so loud and raucous
They can hear us across the bridge in East Secaucus?**

COMMUNITY

***Pa'rriba esa bandera!
Alzala donde quiera!***

Carnaval del barrio . . .

USNAVI
**From Puerto Rico to Santo Domingo,
Wherever we go, we rep our people and the beat go . . .**

COMMUNITY

***Esa bonita bandera!
Contiene mi alma entera! Carnaval del barrio . . .***

USNAVI
**Vanessa, forget about what coulda been.
Dance with me, one last night, in the hood again.**

DANIELA/CARLA
Wepa!

COMMUNITY
Carnaval del barrio!

Carnaval del barrio!

Carnaval del barrio!

Carnaval del barrio!

Del barrio!

***Alza la bandera
La bandera Dominicana
Alza la bandera
La bandera Puertorriquena
Alza la bandera
La bandera Mejicana***

DANIELA
***P'arriba esa bandera!
Oye!
Y cuando yo me muera
Entierrame en mi tierra!
Del barrio!***

Alza la bandera!

Adiós, adiós, adiós...

COMMUNITY

***Alza la bandera
La bandera
La bandera
La bandera***

La bandera

Alza la bandera!

(ALL CHEER)

#2-17A. "ALZA LA BANDERA"

COMMUNITY

*Carnaval...
Del barrio...*

Carnaval...

Del barrio!

Carnaval...

Del barrio!

Carnaval...

Del barrio!

*Carnaval...
Del barrio!
Carnaval...
Del barrio!*

Barrio...

Carnaval...

Barrio...

Carnaval...

Barrio...

Carnaval...

Barrio...

*Alza la bandera
La bandera Dominicana
Alza la bandera
La bandera Puertoriquena
Alza la bandera
La bandera Cubana...*

#2-18. "ATENCIÓN"

KEVIN

Atención. Atención.
Roll down your windows.
Turn up your radios.
Un momento, por favor.

Atención. Atención.
Please drive slow
Let everybody know
Abuela Claudia passed away at noon today.

#2-19. "ALABANZA"

USNAVI

**She was found and pronounced . . . at the scene.
She was already lying in bed.
The paramedics said
That her heart gave out . . .
I mean, that's basically what they said. They said
A combination of the stress and the heat
Why she never took her medicine I'll never understand.
I'd like to think she went out in peace
With pieces of bread crumbs in her hand.
Abuela Claudia had simple pleasures.
She sang the praises of things we ignore.
Glass Coke bottles, bread crumbs, a sky full of stars
She cherished these things, she'd say; *Alabanza*.
Alabanza means to raise this
Thing to God's face
And to sing, quite literally "Praise to this"
When she was here, the path was clear.
And she was just here, she was just here . . .**

NINA

***Alabanza
Alabanza a Doña Claudia, señor
Alabanza, alabanza***

***Alabanza
Alabanza a Doña Claudia, señor
Alabanza, alabanza***

NINA, DANIELA, CARLA

***Alabanza
Alabanza a Doña Claudia, señor***

+SONNY

Alabanza, alabanza

+CAMILA, BENNY

***Alabanza
Alabanza a Doña Claudia, señor***

+VANESSA, KEVIN

Alabanza, alabanza

NINA/DANIELA/CARLA
Alabanza

Alabanza

NEIGHBORS
Alabanza
Alabanza a Doña Claudia,
señor

Alabanza

Alabanza

NINA
Alabanza

Paciencia y fe

Doña Claudia,
Alabanza,
Alabanza

Alabanza

Alabanza a Doña

COMMUNITY
Claudia, señor

Alabanza,

Alabanza

Paciencia y fe

Paciencia y fe

Alabanza
Doña Claudia,
Alabanza,
alabanza

COMMUNITY
Alabanza,
Alabanza
Alabanza

USNAVI
Alabanza.

#2-20. "EVERYTHING I KNOW"

NINA

**In this album there's a picture
Of the ladies at Daniela's
You can tell it's from the eighties
By the volume of their hair**

**There's Usnavi, just a baby
'Eighty-seven, Halloween.
If it happened on this block, Abuela was there.
Every afternoon I came
She'd make sure I did my homework
She could barely write her name,
But even so . . .
She would stare at the paper and tell me,**

"Buena, let's review,

Why don't you tell me everything you know."

**In this album there's a picture
Of Abuela in Havana
She is holding a rag doll,
Unsmiling,
black and white.
I wonder what she's thinking
Does she know that she'll be leaving
For the city on a cold dark night?
And on the day they ran, did she dream of endless summer?
Did her mother have a plan?
Or did they just go?
Did somebody sit her down and say,
"Claudia, get ready, to leave behind everything you know."
Everything I know
What do I know?**

**In this folder there's a picture
Of my high school graduation
With the program, mint condition
And a star beside my name.**

**Here's a picture of my parents
As I left for California.
She saved everything we gave her,
Every little scrap of paper.
And our lives are in these boxes
While the woman who held us is gone
But we go on, we grow, so...
Hold tight, Abuela, if you're up there
I'll make you proud of everything I know!
Thank you, for everything I know.**

#2-21. "PIRAGUA REPRISE"

PIRAGUA GUY

It's hotter than the islands are today
And Mister Softee's truck has broken down
And here come all his customers my way
I told you, I run this town!

Piragua, piragua
One-twenty-five, piragua!
Piragua, piragua
Two-twenty-five, piragua!

New block of ice, hike up the price
Lai lo le lo lai, lai lo le lo lai
Blackouts are nice, blackouts are nice
Lo le lo lai
Keep scraping by
Piragua!

#2-22. "CHAMPAGNE"

VANESSA

**So I got you a present.
I went downtown to get it.
Doing anything tonight?**

USNAVI

Cleaning.

VANESSA

You're done for the day.

USNAVI

No way.

VANESSA

'Cuz we got a date.

USNAVI

Okay—

VANESSA

**Before you board that plane.
I owe you a bottle of cold champagne.**

(She hands him a plastic bag with a bottle inside.)

USNAVI

No . . .

VANESSA

Yeah, cold champagne.

USNAVI

**Damn, the bottle's all sweaty and everything.
You went and got this—**

VANESSA

Pop the champagne.

USNAVI

**I don't know if we have coffee cups
Or plastic cups, I think Sonny has the cups—**

VANESSA

**Tonight we're drinking straight from the bottle.
Usnavi?**

USNAVI

Yeah?

VANESSA

**Daniela told me what you did for me.
And it's honestly the sweetest thing anyone ever did for me.
Now, what can I say or do to possibly repay you for your
kindness?**

USNAVI

How do you get this gold shit off?

VANESSA

Usnavi!

USNAVI

Yeah!

VANESSA

**Before we both leave town!
Before the corner changes and the signs are taken down
Let's walk around the neighborhood and say our goodbyes**

Usnavi, are you alright?

USNAVI

**I'm fine, I'm tryn'a open this champagne.
See the twisty thing is broken,
But I'm gonna open this damn champagne!**

VANESSA

Lemme see it.

USNAVI

No, I got it!

VANESSA

Yo, Usnavi, drop the champagne!

USNAVI

I mean you went to all this trouble to get us a little bubbly—

VANESSA

And it's gonna be okay.

USNAVI

I'm sorry, it's been a long day.

VANESSA

You oughta stay.

USNAVI

What?

VANESSA

You can use that money to fix this place.

USNAVI

Ha ha, very funny.

VANESSA

And it's not like Sonny's got role models—

USNAVI

Role models?

VANESSA

Stepping up to the plate—

USNAVI

Yo, what are you talking about?

VANESSA

I'm just saying, I think your vacation can wait—

USNAVI

Vacation? Vanessa, you're leaving too—

VANESSA

I'm going down to west Fourth Street; you can take the A—

USNAVI

What are you trying to say?

VANESSA

You're leaving the country, and we're never gonna see you again—

USNAVI

What are you trying to say?

VANESSA

You get everyone addicted to your coffee and off you go.

USNAVI

Vanessa, I don't know why you're mad at me.

VANESSA

I wish I was mad—

(She kisses him.)

I'm just too late.

#2-23. "WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN"

BENNY

**When the sun goes down.
You're gonna need a flashlight.
You're gonna need a candle—**

NINA

I think I can manage that.

BENNY

**When you leave town.
I'm gonna buy you a calling card.**

BENNY/NINA

'Cuz I am falling hard for you.

NINA

I go back on Labor Day.

BENNY

And I will try to make my way

BENNY/NINA

Out west to California.

BENNY

So we've got this summer.

NINA

**And we've got each other.
Perhaps even longer.**

BENNY

**When you're on your own.
And suddenly without me.
Will you forget about me?**

NINA

I couldn't if I tried.

BENNY

**When I'm all alone,
And I close my eyes.**

BENNY/NINA

That's when I'll see your face again.

BENNY

**And when you're gone.
You know that I'll be waiting when you're gone.**

NINA

But you're here with me right now . . .

BENNY

**We'll be working hard, but
If we should drift apart**

NINA

Benny—

BENNY

Lemme take this moment just to say—

NINA

No, no—

BENNY

You are gonna change the world some day—

NINA

I'll be thinking of home—

BENNY/NINA

**And I'll think of you every night
At the same time—**

BENNY

When the sun goes down.

NINA

When the sun goes down.

BENNY

When the sun goes down.

#2-24. "FINALE"

BOLERO SINGER

No te vayas...

Si me dejas . . .

Si te alejas de mi . . .

Seguirás en mis recuerdos para siempre . . .

Para siempre . . . Para siempre . . .

Para siempre . . . (Continues under next rap)

USNAVI

Lights out on Washington Heights, and now the crack of dawn

The blackout goes on and on and on . . .

Sonny's out back, sortin' the trash

As I think about the past, with a sack full of cash

Abuela really wanted me up on a beach

With margaritas in my reach, and

Soon that's how it's gonna be . . .

Imagine me, leaving today

On a seven-forty-seven boardin' JFK . . .

CARLA

The hydrants are open.

Cool breezes blow.

CARLA/DANIELA

The hydrants are open.

Cool breezes blow.

DANIELA/CARLA

The hydrants are

Open.

Cool breezes

blow.

KEVIN

Good morning.

PIRAGUA GUY

Piragua. Piragua.

New block of ice.

Piragua.

So sweet and

nice.

Piragua.

Piragua. Piragua.

DANIELA/CARLA
The hydrants

are open.
Cool breezes

Blow.

KEVIN
Good morning.

PIRAGUA GUY
Piragua.
Piragua.
New block of

DANIELA/
CARLA
The hydrants
are open.
Cool breezes
Blow.

KEVIN
Good
morning.

PIRAGUA GUY
Piragua.
Piragua.
New block of
ice. Piragua.
So sweet and
nice.
Piragua.
Piragua.

Piragua.

CAMILA

Siempre...

*Seguiras en
Mis
recuerdos
Para
siempre...*

CAMILA
Siempre...

*Seguiras en
Mis recuerdos
Para siempre...*

VANESSA

I'll be
downtown...

It won't be
long now...

USNAVI

**There's a breeze off the Hudson
And just when
You think you're sick of living here the memory floods in
The morning light, off the fire escapes
The nights in Bennett Park blasting Big Pun tapes
I'm a miss this place, to tell you the truth
Kevin, dispensin' wisdom from his dispatch booth
And at dawn, Vanessa at the salon, we gotta move on.
And who's gonna notice we're gone?
When our job's done, as the evening winds
Down to a crawl, son, can I ease my mind
When we're all done, when we've resigned
In the long run, what do we leave behind?
Most of all, I'll miss Abuela's whispers,
Doin' the Lotto Pick Six every Christmas
In 5 years, when this whole city's rich folks and hipsters,
Who's gonna miss this raggedy little business?**

GRAFFITI PETE

What it do? Great sunlight this morning.

SONNY

Yo cuz! We fixed the grate!

USNAVI

(To SONNY.) What did I tell you about this punk?

SONNY

You have to commission an artist while his rate is still good.

GRAFFITI PETE

The first work in my new series.

(GRAFFITI PETE rolls down the gate. There is a huge graffiti mural of ABUELA CLAUDIA that says PACIENCIA Y FE. Silence.)

GRAFFITI PETE

He hates it.

SONNY

Shh. He's forming an artistic opinion.

USNAVI

You did this last night?

GRAFFITI PETE

Yeah.

USNAVI

There goes my flight.

SONNY

What?

USNAVI

**Graffiti Pete you're gonna need some new cans.
Here's some money, finish up, there's been a slight change of plans.**

GRAFFITI PETE

Nice!

USNAVI

**Listen up guys, you got a job, I'm not playin'.
You gotta go now, tell the whole block I'm stayin',
Y'all go ahead, tell everyone we know!
Sonny . . .**

(USNAVI starts to say something, but gets choked up, motions to his own heart.)

USNAVI

Alright, go!

**Yeah, I'm a streetlight!
Chillin' in the heat!
I illuminate the stories of the people in the street.
Some have happy endings.
Some are bittersweet.
But I know them all and that's what makes my life complete.**

NINA

We're home—

USNAVI

**And if not me, who keeps our legacies?
Who's gonna keep the coffee sweet with secret recipes?
Abuela, rest in peace, you live in my memories,
Sonny's gotta eat, and this corner is my destiny.**

SONNY/NINA/CARLA/DANIELA

We're home—

USNAVI

**Brings out the best in me, we pass a test and we
Keep pressin' and yes indeed, you know I'll never leave.
If you close your eyes that hydrant is a beach.
That siren is a breeze, that fire escape's a leaf on a palm tree.**

COMMUNITY

We're home—

USNAVI

**Abuela I'm sorry,
But I ain't goin back because I'm telling your story!
And I can say goodbye to you smilin', I found my island
I've been on it this whole time
I'm home!**

COMMUNITY

We're home -

**The hydrants are open,
Cool breezes blow -**

USNAVI

**It's a wonderful life that I've known—
"Merry Christmas you ole' building and loan!"
I'm home!**

COMMUNITY

We're home -

**The hydrants are open,
Cool breezes blow -**

USNAVI

**Abuela that ain't a stoop, that's your throne—
Long after ya birds have all flown,**

COMMUNITY

USNAVI

**I'm home!
Where the coffee's non-stop
And I drop this hip-hop in
my
Mom and pop shop I'm
home!
Where people come,
People go
Let me show all of these
people what I Know, there's
no place like home!
And let me set the record
straight!
I'm steppin' to Vanessa,
I'm gettin' a second date!
I'm home!
Where it's a hundred in the
shade,
But with patience and faith,
We remain unafraid,
I'm home
You hear that music in the
air?**

We're home!

We're home!

We're home!

We're home!

Home!

Home!

**Take the train to the top of
the world, And I'm there,
I'm home!**

Home!

Home!

THE END!