

"SMALL VICTORIES"
EPISODE 5: RESUME BLUES
WRITTEN BY JADE MADISON SCOTT

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Scene One Introduction

HOST

WGC Productions presents Small Victories.

MARISOL

Hey, it's Marisol, as if anyone else does this part. So, for this go around you should look out for strong language and mentions of drug abuse. So, a typical Wednesday for little old me. God, just play my music, man.

(Small Victories Theme)

Scene Two Nina's Kitchen/Dining Room: Morning

(Marisol is cooking a vegan stir fry as she jams to "Rhapsody in Blue". The ambient noise of D.C. can be faintly heard. Marisol hums along to the music. Nina closes her door and walks down the short hallway to the kitchen.)

NINA

Marisol?

MARISOL

Hey, beautiful.

NINA

You made breakfast?

MARISOL

Sure did. Got some potatoes, seasoned just how you like them, and got some tofu in there and some chickpeas. You know, you don't got too much in your fridge. I had to get creative.

NINA

Yeah, since you left I've mostly been eating out.

MARISOL

Right.

NINA

You didn't have to do all this.

MARISOL

I want to do all this. Besides, you've got class in a little bit anyway. I'm right, right? You still teach 9ams on Wednesdays?

NINA

Yeah—

MARISOL

Then you gotta eat. Go on, sit down. It's almost done.

NINA

Okay.

(Nina walks to, and sits at, their dining room table.)

MARISOL

Great.

NINA

You seem like you're in a good mood.

MARISOL

Yeah. Yesterday, after you went to sleep, Mickey—

NINA

Oh, Mickey! How are he and Donna doing?

MARISOL

I mean, they're good. They're fine. But a few weeks ago I had him ask around to see if anyone was looking to hire a kick ass chef and he came through as always. Which is great 'cause I really need the money.

(Marisol plates their breakfast and joins Nina at the table.)

Yeah. So, after you leave, I'm gonna leave and see if I can actually get a job. Here you go.

(Marisol places both plates on the table.)

NINA

Thanks.

MARISOL

Welcome.

NINA

You'll do fine.

MARISOL

Don't think I've burned too many bridges to get hired again?

NINA

Maybe, but all they have to do is look at the material. This smells delicious.

MARISOL

I know. Cheers.

(They eat their food. A quiet and peaceful moment.)

NINA

How'd you sleep?

MARISOL

Fine. The couch is nice, you know? It's like back when I was a kid and me and Sam would make pillow forts in our room, except it's not like that at all.

(Nina laughs)

But it's fine.

NINA

That's good.

MARISOL

Yeah. You?

NINA

I was thinking.

MARISOL

Instead of sleeping?

NINA

No, what? I mean, I slept fine, but I was thinking about yesterday.

MARISOL

What exactly about yesterday? I mean, a lot happened.

NINA

Yeah. Marisol, so, like, you clearly went through some pretty heavy shit the night you left—

MARISOL

Nina, come on—

NINA

No, I mean, you did, and I've been thinking that maybe you should really look into getting real professional help.

MARISOL

Look—

NINA

Just for a couple months or something—

MARISOL

Come on. Look at me. Twenty-two days clean. That's such a huge fucking deal. I'm doing it. I'm doing it. I've got this. Nina, I've got this.

NINA

Yeah, but for how long?

(Pause. Marisol laughs).

MARISOL

As long as I want, baby, damn. As long as I want. You know one of these days we're gonna have to talk about your problems so I don't feel like such an emotional burden.

NINA

I don't have problems. I'm perfect.

MARISOL

Then what does that make me?

NINA

Lovable.

MARISOL

Hmmm.

(Transition Music)

Scene Three

Chico's Dining Room: Late Morning

(The restaurant isn't open yet. The street traffic can be heard through the thick windows that muffle it.)

GIOVANNI

So, Mickey said you're one of the most promising chefs he's ever seen. High praise from him.

MARISOL

Yeah, he's seen me grow a lot. He was the first person who took a chance on me back when I was still just a 17-year-old porter who asked way too many questions.

GIOVANNI

Huh.

(Giovanni flips Marisol's resume.)

You've got quite a bit of experience. Tell me about that?

MARISOL

Tell you about...

GIOVANNI

If you're such a good chef, why have you worked at two, three...six restaurants in the past three years?

MARISOL

Oh, that.

GIOVANNI

Yes, that.

MARISOL

That's nothing—

GIOVANNI

I'd like to hear it anyway. Call me curious.

MARISOL

Right. Well, my brother died and I didn't take it well.

GIOVANNI

Ahh. I'm sorry.

MARISOL

Well, you know.

GIOVANNI

Mhmm. And now?

MARISOL

I'm great.

GIOVANNI

You're great?

MARISOL

Broke but great.

GIOVANNI

Uh-huh.

MARISOL

Yep.

GIOVANNI

Okay, what kind of springtime meal would you prepare for me?

MARISOL

For you or for the restaurant?

GIOVANNI

What's the difference?

MARISOL

Well, Chico's is a fancy Italian joint. Lots of diplomats. Lots of business people. They would probably want something that looks and feels expensive to make them feel special. You, Giovanni, you're a chef, you're not really gonna be impressed with a lamb shank and fresh mint jelly, you'd want something nice, something that reminds you of the early years, maybe something a little simple.

GIOVANNI

A lamb shank with mint jelly? Is that what you'd serve at the restaurant then?

MARISOL

That wouldn't be very Italian would it? No, I'd go with a...I'd go with a veal scaloppini with an artichoke and pea confit. Paired with a nice Zinfandel or a Shiraz. With a Rhubarb tiramisu for dessert. They'd love it.

GIOVANNI

Hmm....and for me?

MARISOL

For you? For you....you'd like a nice Ratatouille. Warm and inviting. Rich and simple. Paired with aged Argentinian Shiraz? You'd like that just fine.

(Beat)

Well?

GIOVANNI

Okay.

MARISOL

Just okay? Am I right? Would you like that?

GIOVANNI

Depends on who cooks it.

MARISOL

That's great then. Since I'd be cooking it you'd love it.

GIOVANNI

Huh.

(Beat)

MARISOL

So, do you have another question or—

GIOVANNI

No, I think we're done here.

MARISOL

Already? You only asked two questions.

GIOVANNI

Yes. I know everything I want to know.

(Giovanni scoots his chair back and stands.
Marisol does the same.)

MARISOL

Do you know when you'll be getting back—

GIOVANNI

No. I have quite a few other people lined up for the relief cook position. It could be a matter of days. It could be a matter of weeks. Don't call us. We'll call you.

MARISOL

Oh.

(Giovanni walks to the back kitchen without
looking back.)

MARISOL

But how are my chances?

GIOVANNI

What do you think?

MARISOL

I....you...um, do you have a bathroom I could use?

GIOVANNI

Down the hall to the left. You can let yourself out when you're done.

(Giovanni leaves through the kitchen's swinging double doors.)

MARISOL

Thanks.

(Marisol begins walking to the bathroom. Her heart is speeding. Internal) Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. You stupid motherfucker! Stupid. Stupid, son of a bitch. I fucked it up. I fucked it up. I know I fucked it up. Veal scaloppini?! That's so fucking stupid. I should have asked how many courses he wanted. I fucking forgot to ask how many courses he wanted. He probably thinks I'm an idiot. And that bullshit—

(Marisol opens the bathroom door.)

That bullshit about the "oh, I'll make a different meal for you," I was showing off. He probably thinks I was showing off, and he's old and white and he probably thinks I'm too uppity to be in his kitchen. Oh, fuck.

(Marisol's breathing grows irregular.)

You guys don't understand. I need this job. I need this fucking job. I gotta pay Aaron back. I gotta make sure that I don't keep being a drain on Nina. She's gonna leave me. If I don't get my shit together she's gonna leave me, and then it'll be me and Ollie and then Ollie will leave me and then I won't have anyone and then I'll be homeless and I'll freeze to death on the street. I'll fucking—

(Marisol turns on the faucet and splashes her face.)

Goddamnit.

(Marisol takes a deep breath.)

Fuck.

(She takes another deep breath.)

I never felt like this when I was high. You know how hard it is to be anxious when you're high? It's so hard.

(She huffs in a futile attempt to regulate her breathing.)

You think they have cameras in this bathroom? Like if I did a line, you think they'd know or....I don't have the fucking job anyway, why would they even care?

(She gives a short primal scream, while still trying to be quiet. Her text notification dings.)

MARISOL

Christ.

NINA

How'd it go?

(Text notification dings)

Class is so boring.

(Text notification dings)

After I was thinking we'd get Chinese. Maybe we can walk around after. Feed the pigeons?

MARISOL

(internal)

Chinese? Walk? Pigeons. Pigeons. I'd like that. I'd like...yo, what the fuck am I gonna do with this coke?

(Small Victories Theme)

Scene Four

Closing

HOST

You have just listened to *Small Victories*. Starring Morgen McKynzie as Marisol

MORGEN

As long as I want, baby. Damn. As long as I want.

HOST

Yodeet Nymberg as Nina

NINA

I don't have problems. I'm perfect.

HOST

Carl Granieri as Giovanni

CARL

What do you think?

HOST

Composer, Sterlyn Termine. Script Supervisor, Virginia Wilson. Director and Sound Designer, Nathan Gabriel. Writer, Creator and Producer, Jade Madison Scott. And Akanimo Effang as The Host. Small Victories is supported by listeners like you. You can support us by subscribing to our Patreon and purchasing our merchandise from our store. Links to both can be found at www.wgcproductions.com. Please follow us @withgoodco on Instagram and Twitter to stay up-to-date.