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## 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  
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!

CAMILA  
USNAVI, COME OVER FOR DINNER.

KEVIN/CAMILA  
*(Enters with 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!*

Miranda

In the Heights

opening song

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?

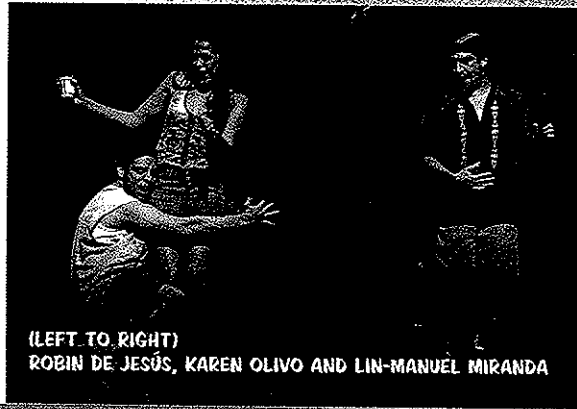
USNAVI  
SHUT UP!

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 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



(LEFT TO RIGHT)  
ROBIN DE JESÚS, KAREN OLIVO AND LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

STATEMENT  
BUT I'VE BEEN SAVIN' TO MAKE A  
DOWN PAYMENT AND PAY RENT  
NO, NO, I WON'T LET YOU DOWN

BENNY (To USNAVI)  
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 (To USNAVI)  
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  
TO 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  
IN THE HEIGHTS  
OOH,  
OOH,  
OOH.

ABUELA CLAUDIA  
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.

COMMUNITY  
IN THE HEIGHTS  
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.

ALL  
EN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS!

\* \* \* \* \*

*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!"