

MARIA (CONT'D)

Wait... what...

Maria knocks over a bottle of makeup. She stares into the mirror. She lowers the phone from her ear. Maria throws her phone across the room. She starts to throw other items. She struggles to breathe, and then lets out a scream. She stares back into the mirror in front of her.

BACK TO:

10

INT. ROMANELLI HOUSE, SKYE'S BEDROOM - DAY

10

START

Maria stares in front of her.

SKYE

Aunt Maria?

MARIA

Sorry... I miss your parents.

A beat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

But you know what? Your mom would be so happy if she could see us right now. Just look at this room!

She gestures to the room around her.

MARIA (CONT'D)

She would totally freak out!

SKYE

She really would.

MARIA

And guess what?

Maria puts the picture back on the bed side table, and sits down on the bed.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I'm an honorary member now, but my goal is to get out on the field by the end of the season. What would she think about that?

SKYE

She always said you sucked.

MARIA

Well, I'll show her.

SKYE

I still wanna be at every game.

MARIA

Of course! We found a special way
of holding on to her. Me and you.
Birdies for life.

Maria holds out her fist.

SKYE

Birdies for life. END

They fist-pound. Maria stands, helps Skye off her bed. Skye
heads out of the room. Maria pauses, takes one more look back
at the photo, turns off the light and leaves.

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EXT. BIRDIES SOFTBALL FIELD - DAY

11

Maria arrives to find JESSICA LYNCH (40s) doing a plank
across the bleachers. Holding the plank one-armed, she waves.
The rest of the Jersey Birdies begin to trickle in to warm up
on the field. A motley crew united only by matching light-
blue uniforms and cartoon goldfinch caps, they're more
attitude than athleticism.

As the team warms up, Maria's voice is heard.

MARIA (V.O.)

Welcome to The Chirp, your Jersey
Birdies podcast. Maria Romanelli
here. Tonight, the Birdies take on
the Philadelphia Belles. Let's go
over the lineup.

KIM OWENS (40s), intense and concentrating, throws fast
pitches to SUE LEE (30s), who's in full catcher's gear.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We've got Kim Owens on the mound,
with Sue Lee behind the plate, the
dynamic duo who refer to themselves
as Bert and Ernie... for reasons
nobody else can seem to figure out.

Jessica does sit-ups and push-ups over by First Base.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We've got bodybuilder Jessica Lynch
aka "the Punisher," as our First
Base... woman. That's right.