

*Mojada*

Given Circumstances Blueprint

<b>Setting</b>	<p><i>Mojada</i> is set in the backyard of an old house in Queens, New York City. “Old world in a new city.” The banana tree in the center of the yard is important, because it reminds Medea of where they came from in Mexico.</p> <p>The flashback sequences take place in the deserts of northern Mexico and Arizona, right along the US border. Over the course of the play’s series of flashbacks we are brought to NYC along with them.</p>
<b>Time</b>	<p>We aren’t given much specific information about the time period the show is set in. However, Jason uses his smartphone numerous times throughout the show, so it can be inferred that it is happening in modern day.</p>
<b>Class Structure</b>	<p>As an illegal immigrant they are at the bottom rung of the social hierarchy. This becomes especially important in the later half of the story, when Pilar is exercising her power over them. As a white American citizen she has all of the control over the situation.</p>
<b>Government and Laws</b>	<p>Immigration laws are especially important to the story. Medea, Jason, Tita, and Acan all snuck across the border illegally, so they are under constant fear of being deported back to Mexico. There is also a reference to Acan being put in a cage for being an illegal immigrant, so this is another sign of a modern time period.</p> <p>Medea can not return because she murdered her brother and knows she will go to jail if she is sent back to Zamora. She also murdered Pilar and Acan, so she is in serious danger of being sent to jail in America as well.</p>
<b>Social Circles</b>	<p>The most important social circle in the show is family and friends. Without Tita and Acan when Jason leaves her Medea has nobody, and the same goes the other way. The power of the employer/employee dynamic is also important.</p>
<b>Religion</b>	<p>Religion did not feel like an important piece of the story, but it is mentioned a few times. At the beginning of the play Medea teaches Acan a recitation to remember Mexico and where they came from. This scene was important to the plot because it introduced Medea as somebody who cares greatly about her history.</p>

<b>Previous action</b>	This is a world in which illegal immigrants are treated harshly for being in the country.
<b>Previous action</b>	This is a world in which Medea and Jason chose to cross the border illegally to escape the crime ridden town they lived in for a new future
<b>Previous action</b>	This is a world in which Luisa has worked incredibly hard to get everything that she has after working up from nothing
<b>Previous action</b>	This is a world in which people need to leave their families and homes to have any hope at a good life for themselves, but more importantly their children.

### Character Blueprint: Medea

<b>Physical</b>	“A beautiful young woman, MEDEA, indigenous and barefoot.” Medea is in her 30s, and visibly Latina.
<b>Psychological</b>	Being raped by Mexican soldiers absolutely destroyed her. She was left without the ability to get intimate with Jason, or even being comfortable leaving her house and this leads to a lot of her internal problems.
<b>Intellectual</b>	Medea is a lot smarter than her social status allows her to reach. She seems to think quickly through problems, and has obvious abilities. Unfortunately her lack of money and trauma doesn’t allow her to reach her full potential.
<b>Social class and job</b>	Medea is of the lowest social class. Her job is working as a talented seamstress, but since she is an illegal immigrant her clients all take advantage of her since they know there’s nothing she can do about it.
<b>Family and friends</b>	Her biological family is pretty much completely out of her life. She killed her brother because he was an obnoxious and controlling jerk to her, so she does not have the ability to go home to any of her family. Although they frequently bicker, I think Tita is her only confidant. They have been together forever, so they consider each other family.

### Relationship Blueprint

*Generic Relationship: Medea and Luisa*

#### **What is the type of relationship?**

They are simply friends. This is especially important because Medea had not had any friends since leaving Mexico. Jason even exclaims “you have friends?” the first time she mentions Lulu.

**What are the character's social positions?**

For most of the show it seems as though they are on the same social step. Both of them are very poor, but work hard and have partners who work incredible hours to try and overcome their situation. In scene 12 Luisa is in a better position than Medea, who is desperate for somebody to help her. This is when she does not help her, and leaves.

**How does the location of the scene affect their relationship?**

It is important that all of their interactions take place in Medea's backyard. The house "past its prime" is always looming over them. It's also important that Luisa always comes to Medea for their visits, because that also means she's the one who leaves. Especially in scene 12, had Medea come to her cart or to her home they would have very different conversations.

*Specific Relationship***What is the relationship between the characters at the start of the scene? (Scene 3)**

At the start of the scene, Luisa and Medea have never met. Naturally Medea is apprehensive of her, as she is of all new people in her life.

**What is the primary subject matter of the scene, and how does that affect the relationship?**

The main subject matter is just Luisa introducing herself to Medea, and asking her to alter a dress as a favor. The scene is very casual, and Luisa carries most of the dialogue in her rambling and telling various stories. This makes Medea get comfortable with her much faster than most other people. Later in the scene Luisa gets emotional talking about how hard her family works, which Medea can empathize with.

**What is the relationship between the characters at the start of the scene? (Scene 7)**

They start the scene as casual friends. Medea has done a couple favors for Lulu, so they are on good terms with each other.

**What is the primary subject matter of the scene, and how does that affect the relationship?**

After some casual conversation they end up discussing Jason and Luisa keeps alluding to something about him that Medea doesn't seem to really understand. Between this and the comment that they need a marriage certificate in America, this scene seems to strain their relationship. Medea wonders what exactly she is trying to say, but Lulu is not using her words and explaining the situation. She then leaves suddenly which leaves their relationship in a weird place at the end of the scene.

**What is the relationship between the characters at the start of the scene? (Scene 12)**

At the start of the scene they are very close friends

**What is the primary subject matter of the scene, and how does that affect the relationship?**

The primary subject matter is that Medea wants to move in with Luisa to hide from Pilar and Jason. However, Luisa says that she lives in a small apartment and doesn't think that there is enough room for all of them to live there. Medea confesses that she murdered her brother, and Luisa continues to insist that she can't allow her to move in because "it's just the way things are

in this country.” This is unacceptable to Medea, and she tells Lulu to just go and get out of there. This is potentially the breaking point of their friendship, as Luisa wasn’t able to help her when she needed it the most. We don’t see Luisa again for the remainder of the show.

### Structure Blueprint

<b>S#</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medea</b>	<b>Jason</b>	<b>Acan</b>	<b>Tita</b>	<b>Louisa</b>	<b>Pilar</b>
<b>Pro</b>	Introductions	x		x	x		
<b>1</b>	The Businessman	x	x	x	x		
<b>2</b>	American		x	x			
<b>3</b>	New Friends	x		x	x	x	
<b>4</b>	Making Love	x	x				
<b>5</b>	Journey to Hell	x					
<b>5a</b>	Preparing		x	x	x		
<b>6</b>	Partying	x	x	x	x		x
<b>7</b>	Suspicion	x			x	x	
<b>8</b>	Bad Memories	x	x		x		
<b>9</b>	American Son	x		x	x		
<b>10</b>	Marriage?	x	x		x		
<b>11</b>	Nothing.	x			x		x
<b>12</b>	Desperation	x			x	x	
<b>13</b>	Planning Something	x			x		
<b>14</b>	Flan	x			x		
<b>15</b>	For Acan	x	x				
<b>16</b>	Death. Murdered.	x	x	x	x		
<b>17</b>	Insanity	x	x	x	x		
<b>Epi</b>	Starts Again	x			x		

## Environment Blueprint

<b>Whose space is it?</b>	The house that the play takes place in literally belongs to Pilar. This is important at numerous points in the story, especially when she wants to kick them out
<b>How does the environment affect relationships?</b>	The obvious relationship here is between Medea and Pilar. Since Pilar owns the house, she has all the control over the family living there. In general, the other characters' shared experience over moving between Mexico and the USA is important for the way they look at one another.
<b>How does the environment define the pattern created by the structure of the scenes?</b>	The passage of time is marked by different scenes. Since there are no set changes, only flashbacks, without scene markers it would be difficult to tell if the entire story is taking place over the course of an afternoon, or on different days.
<b>How does the environment raise the stakes of the action?</b>	Medea is not legally allowed to be in the United States, so she has absolutely no control over Pilar when she tries to fight her. Since Pilar owns the house then she truly has all of the power in their relationship.