

CALLI AND COMPANY

Episode 1: Pilot

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Fade In:

INT. LENA'S ROOM - NIGHT

CALLI, the Muse of Storytelling, looks to be about 21, ethereal, sits on a chair next to a window. Moonlight illuminates the slight frown on her face.

She's looking at LENA, 10, small and kind, who sits hunched over a notebook. She's illuminated by a desk lamp. She has a deep frown on her face as she angrily scribbles out her writing again.

LENA

Ugh...

Her head BANGS on her desk. Her head shoots up from the noise.

She waits...

She listens...

She lets out a SIGH when she hears nothing.

Calli, her frown deepening, stands, dusting off her perfectly clean and unwrinkled dress.

She places her hand on Lena's shoulder. Her eyes unfocus for a second.

CALLI

What does that mean...?

INT. STRANGE HOUSE - UNKNOWN

Calli walks through a long hallway in a strange house. There's a window to her left, but all that's outside is swirling colors.

There are many doors along the hall, and she knocks on each door as she passes.

There's a loud CRASH as she knocks on one. A SHOUT follows.

CALLI

Sorry, Thalia!

(cups her hands around her
mouth)

MEETING! MEETING!

The door BURSTS open. THALIA, the Muse of Comedy, appears 21, golden hair and a comedy mask around her neck, stands in the door.

THALIA
(whining)

Calli! You scared me!

The door next to hers opens and MEL, Thalia's twin and the Muse of Tragedy, appearing 21, dark hair and a tragedy mask around her neck, emerges.

MEL

Not like it's hard to scare you.

Thalia places her hand on her chest dramatically. Calli shakes her head and continues on her way as more MUSES exit their rooms.

At the end of the hall is a living room. She takes a seat on a high back chair.

Four Muses trickle in.

Behind Thalia and Mel is RANI, the Muse of Astronomy and Space, 21, short hair and tall, and CORY, the Muse of Dance, 21, long hair, loose dress. She HUMS and moves to an unheard beat.

They all take seats around the room.

CALLI

Where is everyone?

CORY

They're all out inspiring kids
right now.

Calli huffs, but nods.

CALLI

That's ok. I can talk to them when
they get back.

RANI
(wringing her hands)

Is everything ok?

CALLI

Honestly, Rani, I'm not sure.
Something strange happened when I
was with Lena today.

THALIA

She's the child you're inspiring,
yeah?

Calli nods.

CALLI

That's the thing, though. No
matter what I try, she can't seem
to finish her story for the talent
show!

There's TITTERS across the room. Mel raises her chin.

MEL

I noticed something with a child I
entered the dreams of a couple
days ago. A dark cloud.

CALLI

I saw that too, but I thought I
was seeing things!

THALIA

I saw it too!

CORY

So did I.

RANI

I haven't seen anything... But the
stars have been weird lately.

Calli raises her hand and the CHATTER stops.

CALLI

Mel, you didn't mention having any
trouble with your children lately.

MEL

It went away as I inspired the
child.

CALLI

It went away by itself?

Mel thought for a moment.

MEL

No. I approached the shadow and it left.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Calli stands beside Lena's bed. On her desk, there's crumpled up pieces of paper everywhere.

Lena turns in her bed aggressively. There's a deep frown on her face and she WHIMPERS.

When Calli hears the noise she panics for a second before nodding to herself.

She takes a step forward and places her hand on Lena's head.

Her eyes unfocus.

INT. LENA'S SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY - IN DREAM

Calli looks around as she materializes inside a school auditorium. She stands in the wing of the stage. In front of her, Lena is center stage, a spotlight on her. There's a dark cloud around her.

Lena holds the microphone tightly in her hand, her entire body trembling.

The AUDIENCE, their faces blank, all LAUGH LOUDLY at Lena.

Tears begin falling down her face.

LENA

Please... Stop...

CALLI

Lena!

Calli hurries to her side, but Lena doesn't react.

LENA

Lena, listen to me!

Lena continues to just stare at the audience. Tears begin to fall down her face.

Calli grabs her shoulders. The LAUGHING stops.

All color leaves the room. Everything but Calli and Lena fades to black and white.

Lena looks at Calli.

LENA

I can't do it. They're all gonna laugh at me.

CALLI

No! They won't. You're talented.

LENA

Not as talented as Jenny.

Calli blinks a few times before shaking her head.

CALLI

Jenny is good at writing, but that doesn't take away from your skill.

Lena doesn't seem to hear her as she looks forward once more. The cloud grows larger.

LENA

I can't do it.

The shadow over takes Calli.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Calli's eyes refocus as her hand flies to her chest. Lena, still in her nightmare, GROANS.

CALLI

Oh, Lena...

INT. STRANGE HOUSE - UNKNOWN

Calli, looking frazzled, POUNDS on Mel's door in the long hallway.

The long hallway looks slightly different from the last time.

The door swings open with a CREEEAK mid knock. Mel stands in the doorway, an eyebrow raised as Calli hurriedly drops her hand.

CALLI

Mel, I need to speak to you!

MEL

I can tell.

Calli ignores the quip as she grabs Mel's hand and drags her into her room.

The room is dark, the curtains drawn. The decorations are bare-bones.

Mel sits on a large, high back chair in the corner of the room. She picks at a loose string as Calli paces in the center of the room.

CALLI

The shadow kicked me out of Lena's dream!

Mel pauses.

MEL

How?

CALLI

(throwing up her hands)

I don't know! It rushed at me and then I was back in her room!

Mel rests her head on her chin, deep in thought.

MEL

What was Lena doing? Was she responding to you?

CALLI

She just started talking about how someone she saw online was a better writer than her.

MEL

Hmmm... Is she?

Calli stops pacing and looks at Mel.

CALLI

Yes. But what does that matter? That doesn't make Lena *bad* at writing.

MEL

She's 10. She just sees someone
better and nothing else.

Calli looks shocked for a moment before flying to the door.

CALLI

Thanks, Mel! You're the best.

She SLAMS the door shut.

It's only closed for a few seconds before Thalia appears, a
grin on her face.

THALIA

Yeah, Mel! You're the best!

MEL

No.

THALIA

I didn't even--

MEL

Whatever it is, the answer is no.

Thalia deflates.

THALIA

Fine. I'll go prank Polly on my
own.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Calli stands by Lena's bed. She's once again having a
nightmare.

Calli pumps herself up.

CALLI

(to herself)

You got this, Calli.

She places her hand on Lena's head. Her eyes unfocus.

INT. LENA'S SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY - IN DREAM

The scene is exactly the same as the last dream. Calli is
once more in the wings while Lena stands center stage, the
dark cloud around her. The audience LAUGHS in O.S.

Determined, Calli marches straight to Lena and grabs her
shoulders.

She focuses on Calli and all color drains from the room.

CALLI

Lena, listen to me. You're so talented.

LENA

No! I'm bad compared to Jenny.

The shadow grows, but Calli ignores it, kneeling down to be on Lena's level.

CALLI

There *will* always be someone who is better at writing than you, but that doesn't mean you aren't good.

Lena seems to calm down a little. The shadow shrinks slightly.

Calli sees this and becomes even more determined.

CALLI

Something that's hard to learn is that someone else's talent doesn't take away from yours.

LENA

What if they laugh at me?

CALLI

No one who genuinely sees your love for writing will laugh. And those who might are just mean and aren't worth your time.

Lena takes a SHUDDERING BREATH. The shadow shrinks even more.

LENA

Will you be there for me?

CALLI

Every step of the way, even if you can't see me.

The shadow detaches from Lena and dissipates.

INT. LENA'S SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Calli stands in the wings of the stage, watching Lena nervously grip the mic. She speaks M.O.S.

The REAL AUDIENCE, sit in the dim room, waiting quietly.

She slowly lowers the mic and takes a slight bow.

There's a pause.

CALLI
(worried)

C'mon...

The real audience CLAPS. Lena grins widely and takes a more confident bow.

She hurries off stage toward Calli, a huge grin on her face.

LENA

I did it!

She holds her arms out for a hug, but goes right through Calli and into HER TEACHER'S, mid-40s, embrace.

LENA'S TEACHER

You did! I'm glad you found your courage.

Calli smiles. She takes a step toward Lena and places a strand of hair behind her ear.

Lena does not react.

MOVEMENT catches Calli's eye, though. Behind the ropes for the curtains, Calli sees a dark shadow, shaped like a tall man, slink away.

Calli looks confused.

INT. STRANGE HOUSE - UNKNOWN

Calli has gathered the other Muses into the living room, which now looks completely different from the last time. The only constant are the chairs and the window with strange colors shining through.

The new muses are:

POLLY, the Muse of Religion, appearing 21, straight backed and serious. Her light hair shines like a halo.

CLIO, the Muse of History, appearing 21, doe-eyed with short red hair.

TERRY, the Muse of Music, appearing 21, appears to radiate a smile.

And Eri, the Muse of Romance, appearing 21, rosy-cheeked and angelic.

They all TALK AMONGST THEMSELVES until Calli stands and clapped her hands.

CALLI

I've spoken with all of you and it seems like this shadow is affecting all of our children.

TERRY

What does it all mean? My kids are terrified of dancing all of a sudden!

CALLI

Honestly, Terry, I don't know. Clio wasn't able to find anything in the archives.

There's MURMURS.

Calli raises her hand to SILENCE them.

CALLI (CONT'D)

But that doesn't change what we're here to do. We're here to inspire.

TERRY

How? Nothing seems to be working!

Calli is about to answer, but Mel gets there first.

MEL

By showing them that they are worthy of their talent.

Calli nods enthusiastically.

CALLI

Exactly! Lena was so worried that others were better that she didn't even see her own skills!

THALIA
(clapping)

Mel and Calli saved the day.

CALLI

Well, I don't think the shadow is gone. But at least we know how to deal with it.

The Muses continue to speak M.O.S.

At the window, a dark cloud peeks through the colors into the room.

Mel glances over, but it's gone before she sees it.

FADE OUT:

End Episode 1