

Little Fires Everywhere

Episode 1 Guide



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Episode 1 - The Spark



1.32 - "The fire didn't just happen. It was **set**, 'cause there were little fires everywhere." The fireman is looking for Izzy, who is a **minor**. *Is Izzy a **minor** 'cause she is a minor problem, or is she under a certain age?*

3.38 - 4 months earlier - Elena wakes the kids with the words, "**Rise and shine**. Common, **up and at 'em**." She says to Moody, "Get a little sun on your legs. You're looking a little **pale**."



5.45 - Elena walks into the office and says, "Marci, any day now," to the pregnant co-worker.

Why does Elena's boss say, "Take it from the woman who knows. She took six weeks of paid vacation times four?"

6.20 - Mia gives the officer the **stink eye** as she drives away with her daughter. They're looking through newspaper **ads** for an apartment to rent.



What is the difference between an advertisement and commercial?



8.42 - The house was designed for two families but looks as though it is for one family to avoid any **stigma** of renting instead of owning. Elena is willing to **knock a little off** the rent if Mia can **mow the lawn**, 'cause the downstairs **tenant** lets it get a little **patchy**. He has **arthritis**.

The grass in Shaker can't be over six inches tall. What do you think it says about the type of city that Mia and her daughter have moved into?

What does Elena mean by "private school education at public school prices?"

The lease is a year to start and then month to month after that. Can you explain how that type of a lease works?

*Mia says to her daughter, "There is always another place," despite leaving that incredible **bargain** behind. What does that say about her character?*

Why do you think Elena ends up renting the apartment month to month?

12.03 - Elena's daughter is a **sophomore**. *Does that mean she's about to graduate school?*
What does Elena's conversation with her daughter say about different generations in America during the 90's and their attitudes toward racism?

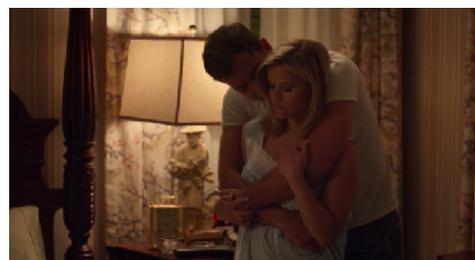


Elena doesn't even bother to check Mia's **references** when she rents the apartment.
What do they mean by references?



13.36 - Here we find out that the city of Shaker was the first planned community in the US. It's the perfect city, especially for those who want to avoid uncertainty and disaster.

14.41 - Youth orchestra is apparently expensive. Elena thinks they could've gone to Nantucket for a week for what it costs. She is all **worked up** about the fact that her daughter **takes everything for granted**. Her husband wants to know why, among other things, but it's not Wednesday or Saturday.





15.41 - Mia promises to get/find her daughter a bed, but her daughter says, "Trash **bins** and **discarded** items have to stay behind your house to avoid the **unsightly spectacle of clutter.**"

Mia says, "No, you are **making this up**, so that we have to **splurge** and go to **Goodwill.**"

*Why does Mia think that her daughter is **making things up**? What is the last time you **splurged** money on something?*

17.44 - Pearl meets Moody. Mia is a true artist. Love the way she takes spontaneous photos of her only daughter. Moody and Pearl **befriend** each other. Moody says that having three **siblings** is like a **litter** or a group of animals that are born at the same time from the same mother.



Why does Pearl just paint one side of the wall?



21.54 - Elena tells her daughter that she **fit in** when she was in school. Tells her to wear her hair down to **fit in**, because it's her best **feature.**

22.49 - Elena says to her friend, "With everything that you **have on your plate**, you do not need to be buying this off-Broadway **smut**." *What does it mean when someone says, "I got a lot on my plate"?*



"The baby is **totally out** and finished a whole bottle of **formula**, too."
"You are a **godsend**."

Does Izzy burn her hair on purpose? If so, why do you think she does that?

24.44 - Elena's husband says, "Because she's trying to **push your buttons**, hon, so don't give her the satisfaction. Right, I mean, why do you keep on **taking the bait**?"



We know what "pushing buttons" means, but what do you think about "taking the bait"?

Should Izzy go to therapy? Why does Elena's husband ask if Elena needed therapy?

25.55 - At the hair salon, Elena says, "I'm just gonna pop out for an **errand**. I'll be right back." She meets Mia outside and when she finds out that Mia works nights, offers her a job.

Why do you think Mia turns down both offers made by Elena?

Elena doesn't know that her son Moody and Pearl have been hanging out every day. *What does it say about Elena as a mother? Is she close to her children?*





28.51 - "Offering a job of a housekeeper is loaded or racist," says Elena's husband. Elena is feeling guilty. Her husband loves her for it, but it's Thursday.

Do you think offering the job to Elena was a bit racist?

30.05 - Pearl visits the Richardsons with Moody. She is **stunned**. Elena asks Pearl to stay for dinner but doesn't want to **step on Mia's toes** by asking her to join them for dinner. "Working nights is bad, but you have to take the good with the bad," says Elena when she hears that she is not **stepping on Mia's toes** by asking her to stay. Pearl gets to meet Lexie and Trip.



32.10 - Elena asks Mia if it's ok for Pearl to stay for dinner, and says that it would be no trouble at all. After all, she's got six mouths to feed, and hardly notices one more. Mia doesn't usually plan her dinner arrangement. She usually "**swings it with**

leftovers."

32.51 - Elena brags about her article during dinner. Has Pearl been looking for colleges yet? Lexie tells Pearl that she has a **leg up** just by going to Shaker, because Shaker High **graduates** statistically go to the best colleges. She herself is going to Yale. "With all the **affirmative action** stuff Pearl will **shoe-in** practically anywhere," Lexie adds.





34.15 - Pearl is given a ride home and tells Elena that she writes poetry. Elena says, "Journalism can be so **prescribed**." *What do you think she means by that?*

37.00 - Moody gets Pearl a bike and finally takes her to the promised spot, a **junkyard**. Pearl is amazed. She cites her poem to Moody about stolen horses. She says, *"Can something be stolen if it was always meant for you?"*



39.02 - Elena **scolds** Izzy for wearing the wrong clothes. Izzy says that "it's not her." She is a rebel—not Elena's **puppet**.

44.02 - When Bruce, the man in the uniform, drops Pearl off at home, he says that it wasn't a **hassle** at all. The kids could've been arrested for **trespassing**. Mia is furious and says, "We are not the Richardsons. The last thing we need is **to be on somebody's radar**." Pearl thinks that her mother doesn't care about her, whereas Mrs. Richardson **puts her children first**. She wants to have a home—more than just one wall.



50.03 - Pearl comes to return the bike to Moody and hangs out with his siblings before Moody gets home. When her mom comes to pick her up, she overhears Pearl's joyful conversation with the other kids and makes a decision to talk to Elena about the job offer. "I should've **graciously taken up** the job offer," she says humbly.

*Why do you think Mia agrees to take up the job offer and paints all of Pearl's bedroom walls in **cerulean** blue?*



[Click here for the Quizlet vocabulary set for episode 1](#)

Hope you've benefited from this guide.

Much love.