

# THE PROUD FAMILY



THE COMPLICATED \* RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
**PENNY PROUD** & **LACIENEGA BOULEVARDEZ**

## NOTICE

May 1, 2022

Commented [SF1]: PLEASE NOTE that this document is under construction but still accessible. New sections are being added gradually to coincide with The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder (Season 1).

This Document was originally posted in January 2021 and since then, *The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder* has been released on Disney+ on February 23, 2022 meaning new details have emerged regarding Penny and LaCienega as well as the rest of the cast.

As a result, circumstances have changed and now this document is currently being updated with new information regarding Louder and Prouder being added as well as new information from the original series that had not previously been included.

Maya Leibowitz-Jenkins has joined the friend group and therefore impacts the dynamic in the new series. Michael Collins also plays a bigger role in the new series as his best friend Sticky Webb has moved to Japan and is no longer on the show (for now) and therefore also has a bigger impact on the dynamic of the group than he has previously.

The return of the section ENTER: **Maya Leibowitz-Jenkins** is imminent but with significant changes which will appear in the next update.

Also, note that while Penny and LaCienega's relationship has seemingly regressed from the end of the original series to the start of the new, it actually has NOT! But there are a series of changes that have taken place. Some of which point to signs that Penny and LaCienega are heading towards more conflict in the future, meaning their relationship will continue to cross major development points, whether it be positive or negative.

Penny has done a lot of new things in the new series that she hadn't done in the old, and so has LaCienega! And some questions have been answered; but yet now there are new ones!  
And we will get to the bottom of it!

The Complicated Relationship Between

# Penny Proud and LaCienega Boulevard

v0.94.4



These two are a lot closer than you think! Perhaps they may even be best friends!



*Penny - "So, are we girls again?!"*

*LaCienega - We never were!*

*Penny - "\*\*\*... That works for me!"*





# THE PROUD FAMILY

## Episode List

OVR #	# In Season	<div>CODE</div>		Episode Title	Date Premiered	Prod. CODE	Attendance
		# In Season	OVR #				
0	PILOT	N/A		PILOT	09/30/1999**	0	
Season 1							
1	1	S1:E1	1	Bring It On	09/15/2001	105	
2	2	*S1:E3*	3	Strike	09/21/2001	106	
3	3	*S1:E2*	2	Rumors		101	
4	4	S1:E4	4	Tiger Whisperer	10/28/2001	104	
5	5	S1:E5	5	EZ Jackster	10/05/2001	103	
6	6	S1:E6	6	Spelling Bee	10/12/2001	111	
7	7	S1:E7	7	She's Got Game	10/19/2001	109	
8	8	S1:E8	8	Forbidden Date	11/02/2001	108	
9	9	S1:E9	9	Teacher's Pet	11/09/2001	107	
10	10	N/A		Don't Leave Home Without It	11/16/2001	121	



Commented [SF2]: Disney Plus Code



Numbers in **Blue** like this one, '[0]' stands for the Disney Plus episode number because the Disney Plus episode list slightly deviates from the original sequence the episodes aired in during its syndicated run, on Disney Channel.

For instance, "Love thy Neighbor" is the 14<sup>th</sup> episode to air on Disney Channel in January 2002 during its first season and was treated with high importance at the time.

However, on *Disney+* it is listed as the 21<sup>st</sup> Episode and the final of the season although "Romeo Must Wed" aired as the season finale in May 2002 in syndication. As a result, this creates possible discrepancies in the plot.

In this document we will be following the plot based on the order in which the episodes originally aired on Disney Channel.

To clarify which episode, it's currently listed as on *Disney+*, the **Disney Plus Code** has been implemented. Love Thy Neighbor will appear throughout the document as "Episode 14:[21]"

Episodes 2 and 3 and Episodes 42 and 43 are two pairs of episodes that were switched around as the two episodes in each pair happened to air on the same date.


Also, with the placement of Episode 14 being the Season 1 finale on *Disney+*, episodes 15-21 move up one spot. So, Episode 21 "Romeo Must Wed" becomes Episode 20 on *Disney+* and Episode 15 – "I Had A Dream" becomes *Disney Plus*'s Episode 14. This applies to episode in between.

Samples –













Episode 2[3]  
Episode 14[21]  
Episode 15[14]  
Episode 21[20]  
Episode 43[42]

11	11	S1:E11	11	Seven Days of Kwanzaa	12/07/2001	119	
12	12	S1:E12	12	Makeover	12/14/2001	113	
13	13	S1:E13	13	The Party	01/04/2002	114	
14	14	*S1:E21*	21	Love Thy Neighbor	01/18/2002	102	
15	15	*S1:E14*	14	I Had A Dream	02/01/2002	116	
16	16	*S1:E15*	15	I Love You Penny Proud	02/08/2002	117	
17	17	*S1:E16*	16	Puff's Magic Adventure	03/01/2002	110	
18	18	*S1:E17*	17	Enter The Bullies	03/15/2002	112	
19	19	*S1:E18*	18	The Altos	04/12/2002	120	
20	20	*S1:E19*	19	Hip Hop Helicopter	04/26/2002	118	
21	21	*S1:E20*	20	Romeo Must Wed	05/24/2002	115	
Season 2							
22	1	S2:E1	22	A Star is Scorned	09/27/2002	204	
23	2	S2:E2	23	A Hero for Halloween	10/18/2002	201	
24	3	S2:E3	24	Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thingy Baby	10/25/2002	202	
25	4	S2:E4	25	Poetic Justice	11/08/2002	205	



26	5	S2:E5	26	Behind Family Lines	12/13/2003	207	
27	6	S2:E6	27	Hooray for Iesha	01/03/2003	206	
28	7	S2:E7	28	Camping Trip	02/17/2003	209	
29	8	S2:E8	29	Crouching Trudy Hidden Penny	03/07/2003	215	
30	9	S2:E9	30	Pulp Boot Camp	03/28/2003	214	
31	10	S2:E10	31	Tween Town	04/11/2003	219	
32	11	S2:E11	32	One in A Million	04/18/2003	213	
33	12	S2:E12	33	"Hmmm... Tastes Like"	05/09/2003	212	
34	13	S2:E13	34	There's Something About Rene	05/23/2003	211	
35	14	S2:E14	35	Adventures in BeBe- Sitting	06/20/2003	210	
36	15	S2:E15	36	Surf and Turf	06/27/2003	208	
37	16	S2:E16	37	The Legend of Johnny Lovely	07/25/2003	217	
38	17	S2:E17	38	The Camp, The Counselor, The Mole, The Rock	08/01/2003	218	
39	18	S2:E18	39	It Takes A Thief	09/12/2003	221	
40	19	S2:E19	40	Wedding Bell Blues	09/19/2003	222	
41	20	S2:E20	41	Penny Potter	09/26/2003	220	



42	21	*S2:E22*	43	Monkey Bidness	10/10/2003	231	
43	22	*S2:E21*	42	Thelma & Luis	10/17/2003	223	
44	23	S2:E23	44	Culture Shock	10/24/2003	229	
45	24	S2:E24	45	Election	11/07/2003	225	
46	25	S2:E25	46	The Good, The Bad and The Ugly	12/05/2003	227	
47	26	S2:E26	47	Smackmania 6: Mongo Vs Mama's Boy	12/26/2003	228	
48	27	S2:E27	48	Suga Mama's Believers	02/16/2004	224	
49	28	S2:E28	49	From Twins to Tweens	04/24/2004	226	
50	29	S2:E29	50	She Drives Me Crazy	08/05/2005	230	
51	30	S2:E30	51	Who You Callin' a Sissy?!	08/12/2005	203	
52	31	S2:E31	52	Psycho Duck	08/19/2005	216	
53	N/A	MOVIE		The Proud Family Movie		MOV	





## Episode List

OVR #	# In Season	LOUder and PROuder CODE		Episode Title	Date Premiered	Prod. CODE	Attendance
		# In Season	OVR #				
54	1	S1:E1	<u>1</u>	New Kids on the Block	02/23/2022	<u>101</u>	
55	2	S1:E2	<u>2</u>	Bad Influencer	02/23/2022	<u>102</u>	
56	3	S1:E3	<u>3</u>	It All Started with an Orange Basketball	03/02/2022	<u>103</u>	
57	4	S1:E4	<u>4</u>	Father Figures	03/09/2022	<u>104</u>	
58	5	S1:E5	<u>5</u>	Snackland	03/16/2022	<u>105</u>	
59	6	S1:E6	<u>6</u>	Get In	03/23/2022	<u>106</u>	
60	7	S1:E7	<u>7</u>	When You Wish Upon a Roker	03/30/2022	<u>107</u>	
61	8	S1:E8	<u>8</u>	Home School	04/06/2022	<u>108</u>	
62	9	S1:E9	<u>9</u>	Raging Bully	04/13/2022	<u>109</u>	
63	10	S1:10	<u>10</u>	Old Towne Road	04/20/2022	<u>110</u>	

Commented [SF3]: [Louder and Prouder CODE](#)



Numbers in [Orchid Blue](#) like this one '0' stand for **The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder** episode number because Louder and Prouder continues our story in a brand-new series. Picking up where the original Proud Family left off. Therefore, while it does continue the previous storyline, it still has its own group of episodes, effectively resetting the episode count.

For instance, "New Kids on the Block" is the first episode of **The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder** to be listed on Disney Plus in February 2022 alongside "Bad Influencer" listed as the second while both were released the same day.

This effectively resets the episode number count to [1](#) and [2](#) respectively.

The [Louder and Prouder CODE](#) has been implemented to efficiently distinguish between the two shows while still keeping the timeline intact.





Since Louder and Prouder is a Disney+ original, it never aired on television like its predecessor, therefore eliminating the possibility of a listing order discrepancy that the original series suffers from. So there's no need for the Disney Plus code on Louder and Prouder Episodes.

Samples –

Episode [6](#)  
Episode [10](#)



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ENTER Maya Leibowitz-Jenkins  
(under construction)



Ω

THE COMPLICATED \* RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
**PENNY PROUD & LACIENEGA BOULEVARDEZ**



**The Relationship Between Penny Proud and LaCienega Boulevardez is Extremely Complicated - Why?**

Penny's intrinsic need for competition is satisfied by the presence of LaCienega Boulevardez. Though Penny dislikes a lot of the things LaCienega says and does, she likes LaCienega for who she is and would prefer no other iteration of her. To see LaCienega suffer is excruciating for even a competitive Penny Proud to handle. She may not like what LaCienega does, but she appreciates having LaCienega in her life once she realizes how similar she is to her. On the other hand, LaCienega admires Penny Proud but is mad because she believes that Penny dislikes her for no good reason at all. She's insecure and secretly thinks that Penny is prettier than her and won't accept her because she feels like she's too good for her; therefore, she is jealous. LaCienega Boulevardez is very sensitive and has not learned self-love, so she seeks validation from the people around her in order to keep her sanity. When LaCienega thinks someone doesn't like her, it bothers her to the core; especially if she admires that person. What's really peculiar is that they seemed destined to be in each other's lives. They meet at school, get off to an abysmal start and then hours later LaCienega's family moves right across the street from the Proud Family and both families instantly become best friends from top to bottom, but there stands one gap in the middle; *Penny and LaCienega*. It's crazy because the Prouds and the Boulevarders have so much in common. Oscar and Felix are very much alike. Trudy and Sunset have quite a bit in common and Penny and LaCienega are well... just alike! I know, sounds crazy right? Well, it is! You'd be surprised at just how much these two have in common. Penny and LaCienega have one of the oddest relationships of any duo on television. Their love-hate relationship falls on both ends of the spectrum. Sometimes they are sworn adversaries. Other times they're like the sisters each of them never had. One thing that is for sure, Penny and LaCienega love each other deep down and for some reason, they pretend not to acknowledge it.





THE COMPLICATED \* RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
PENNY PROUD & LACIENEGA BOULEVARDEZ

Who is the Best Friend to LaCienega Boulevardez? –

Easy! The answer is Penny Proud! Penny Proud, the person LaCienega supposedly hates the most in the Proud Family ends up becoming the person she likes the most by the end of the series. As mean as LaCienega can be to others, especially those she hates and those she is in competition with, it is amazing the 180-degree turn she takes towards Penny; and though the signs are there, she still won't admit it and pretends to not recognize it. From Episode One, it's clear that LaCienega learned to respect Penny from the time they met. LaCienega has a huge ego, and the first time she met Penny she tried to put her down by insulting her, but Penny was able to channel her natural confidence and immediately counter LaCienega's ego, catching her off guard. Penny didn't make it easy for her, so she knew she had to respect her. Both Penny and LaCienega have both hard and soft personality traits that they inherit from their parents.

Penny's soft personality traits are, respectful, loving, caring, compassionate, loyal, forgiving and empathetic, mostly (but not entirely) inherited from her mother Trudy. Her hard traits are confidence, leadership, grit, mental and physical toughness, stubbornness, competitiveness and the ability to negotiate, mostly inherited from her father Oscar and her grandmother, Suga Mama. Penny is essentially a tomboy while still retaining many feminine traits (unlike the Gross Sisters) and is very intelligent. LaCienega's traits aren't as easy to spot because she is insecure and often puts on a façade, but one can sense them when studying her closely. LaCienega actually has a bigger heart than she lets on and her soft side often leaks out from beneath her ego. LaCienega's hard traits are competitiveness, determination, arrogance, conceit and diligence. Whatever LaCienega does, she puts forth her best effort and is conscientious about it. She is far from lazy and she makes sure that whatever she does, she does it thoroughly and correctly, nearly a perfectionist, which explains why both she and Penny are 'A' students. Her softer traits in which are trickier to spot are conscientiousness, sensitivity, hyper-vigilance, empathy, and compassion. LaCienega is much more compassionate than she shows on the surface.

Aside from being smart like Penny, she also possesses the ability to read people and sense their feelings. LaCienega is very feminine, very emotional and frequently picks up the energy around her. If LaCienega cares about someone and he or she is feeling sad, she feels sad too. If they're upbeat, she's upbeat too. LaCienega can be inconsistent and has been selfish and stuck up many times on the show, but deep down she wishes the best for her friends and hates seeing bad things happen to Dijonay, Zoey, Sticky and later on Penny. Though she doesn't say it out loud, this can be seen in her intense facial expressions and body language. Speaking of body language, this is what tells us that LaCienega doesn't really hate Penny but actually likes her, A LOT! In fact, outside of her family members, **no one on the show likes Penny Proud more than LaCienega Boulevardez**; not even Penny's so-called best friend Dijonay Jones.

**Commented [SF4]:** Except maybe Myron Lewinski, Johnny McBride, or Peabo, who have each had a crush on her.



## THE COMPLICATED \* RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PENNY PROUD & LACIENEGA BOULEVARDEZ

First thing you can see is that LaCienega is deeply hurt when Penny doesn't invite her to parties on two separate occasions in [Episodes 3\[2\]](#) and [13](#). So much that both times, she went far out of her way to hurt Penny back. The first time around, she locked Penny in the closet with Myron, got her into trouble with her parents, started a rumor and then almost got into an actual fist fight with her in front of the entire school and if you notice her facial expression and her actions when Penny tries to fight her, you can clearly see she's just as angry if not angrier than Penny as she throws her earrings to the ground. LaCienega was evidently carrying some pent-up emotions, even after she had already made Penny's life miserable. There has to be a reason for this. If she really hated Penny so much, then why does she care this much whether Penny invites her to her parties or not? Truth be told, Penny probably would've won that fight because she's tough whereas LaCienega is *very* sensitive. Despite her sassy mouth, LaCienega isn't truly a violent or a roughneck person while Penny at least has a fighter's spirit her DNA, courtesy of Oscar and Suga Mama. Penny was tough enough to make the boys' football team and actually be the best player out there despite being a girl, whereas LaCienega often times acts like she's too cute to do a lot of things. It's fair to say LaCienega may have a little toughness in her own DNA too as her mother Sunset is a police officer and often bullies her father, Felix. However, Penny gets toughness from both sides as her mother, Trudy has also shown she can be tough herself, having a fiery temper that even a normally confident Oscar is afraid of, but that's off the subject.

The second time around, LaCienega reminded Penny that "It isn't a party unless [LaCienega Boulevardz] is there..." and so she decided to beg her dad to let her throw her own party just to get back at Penny. But when it all came crashing down, she swallowed her pride and came back to Penny politely asking Penny if she could come in and when Penny let her in, she was really happy, not just that she could get in but clearly happy just to be walking next to Penny. It showed on her face and change in posture. She could've easily run past Penny after she said "yes" and went for Dijonay, Sticky and Zoey but instead her jaws dropped, she put on a wide smile and stayed with Penny, enjoying the short-lived affection Penny showed her by putting her arm around her shoulders and enjoying the brief bonding moment with her. LaCienega, who is known to be an attention seeker remained quiet and walked next to Penny peacefully for the first time ever, one on one as "[friends](#)." She did not try to become the life of the party as one would expect. Instead, she was genuinely happy to be by Penny and that she forgave her and let her in. In this moment, LaCienega wanted to be accepted and included by Penny more than anything else.

Commented [SF5]: See: [DISNEY PLUS CODE](#)

Episode 3 – "Rumors" is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Episode to air on Disney Channel but is listed as #2 on [Disney+](#)

Hence: Episode 3[2]

Commented [SF6]: At least in that moment...lol



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The very next episode titled "Love Thy Neighbor" LaCienega was forced to live with Penny for a week because Oscar haphazardly set her parents' house on fire. When she and her family arrived, Penny was told by her mom to, "Show LaCienega where to put her things!" Still, Penny didn't like LaCienega and once again didn't want to be around her. LaCienega's facial expression (though devious) showed that she was looking forward to a fun time by her own definition, being in Penny's room. It got off to a rough start as most would expect at this point in the series. LaCienega was extremely rude and disrespectful urging Penny to throw her belongings out the window.

*LaCienega - "Oh...lighten up Proud! Let's call it truce! Friends?!"*



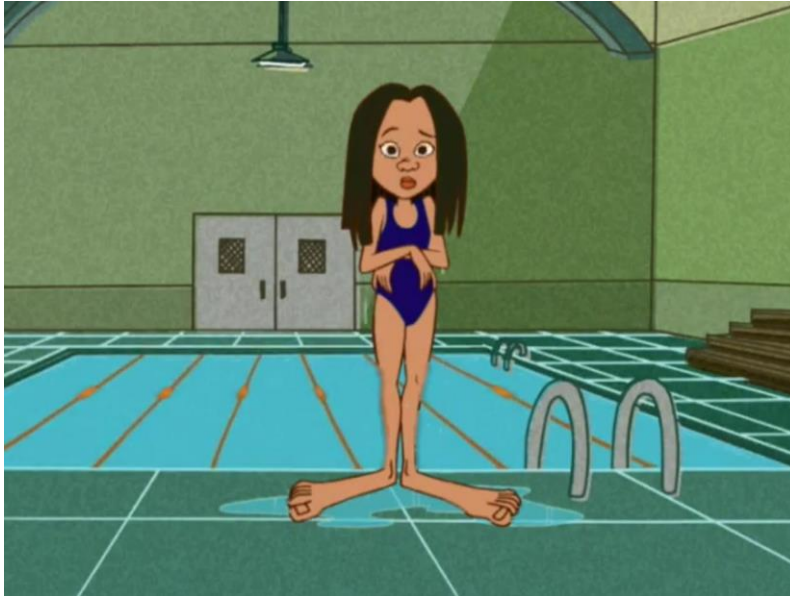
However, LaCienega was in dangerous territory herself as her biggest insecurity was at high risk of being exposed to her biggest rival. The next morning, it seemed as if LaCienega was being wicked again as she deactivated Penny's alarm clock and **locked her out of the bathroom**, but little did Penny know, it was for a reason. LaCienega felt bad about this and decided to prepare a nicely packed lunch containing a nicely prepared turkey sandwich with cookies and cake. Once gym class began, she panicked because she had to take a swim test and didn't realize it. Turns out this is where her biggest insecurity would be exposed. LaCienega was bullied for her oversized feet long before she met Penny and as a result was extremely insecure about them and didn't want Penny to find out and start teasing her. So, LaCienega tried hard to hide her feet and her anxiety grew. It turned out that LaCienega was a remarkably talented swimmer and she excelled at her swim test.

**Commented [SF7]:**  
But did LaCienega really lock Penny out of the bathroom? [See Page 110!](#)



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But upon exiting the pool, the secret was revealed to all of her classmates and she became the center of negative attention the moment her feet were exposed. This would go down as a major turning point in LaCienega's character development.



Everyone laughed at her (via Michael's remarks) and she and that ego of hers were absolutely crushed. This moment was a **nightmare** for LaCienega and so, she immediately spiraled into a deep depression. She no longer cared about anything and even decided to quit the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant which she had been obsessing over. LaCienega faced her biggest fear in this episode, and that fear was vulnerability. It took at least a day for Penny to determine something was severely wrong, but once she did, Penny couldn't help but be the compassionate person she is and love her enemy.

When LaCienega was down in the dumps, it seemed as if Penny was the only one who truly cared. Penny worked really hard and got help from her own father to help LaCienega recover and feel like her old self again. With the help of Penny and Oscar motivating and inspiring her, LaCienega competed in the pageant showcasing perhaps her greatest talent while also conquering her biggest insecurity. She won the pageant and then thanked her mom and dad onstage for *having* her and Mr. Proud for inspiring her and showing her how to wiggle her ears. But most of all she thanked her "*friend*" Penny Proud for *caring* about her and with a tear drop she passionately says, "I couldn't have done this without you Penny!" and she was absolutely right!

**Commented [SF8]:** Wow, LaCienega gave Penny nightmares in her sleep, but then experienced a nightmare in real life the next morning.



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Later on, LaCienega let her so called popularity get to her head and on the way out of Penny's house and as Penny thanked her for the shoutout at the pageant, LaCienega returned to her mean old ways and said she only did it for the cameras, but why? The act of giving Penny a shoutout befitted Penny more than it did anyone else including LaCienega herself and there wasn't any real pressure on her to give Penny a shout out or to thank her. She thanked her parents and Oscar and then Penny, who was the only one of her friends that was actually in attendance. Dijonay and Zoey weren't even there. It's possible they could've watched on TV but who knows? If they were her real friends, don't you think they would have been there or made an effort at least? Plus, even if they were watching on TV, they never put any pressure on her to give Penny such a standing ovation either. Not only that, she even placed higher importance on Penny during the speech and cried, saying it. LaCienega was in a vulnerable state, overwhelmed by emotions of joy as she won her award and got her mojo back. Maybe LaCienega wasn't yet comfortable allowing Penny to address her as a friend, but nonetheless, Penny liked the old LaCienega better than the depressed one, so it still looks to be somewhat of a win for Penny. It's quite confusing as are many of LaCienega's inconsistent actions. LaCienega seemed to be at odds with herself in the earlier part of the series and it's safe to say she doesn't quite know herself fully as for one, she doesn't follow her heart like Penny does but follows her ego and it was her ego that caused her to behave the way she did toward Penny after the pageant, instead of her heart. In other words, LaCienega has somewhat of a split personality; a soft side and an ugly side.

Speaking of which, LaCienega also gives us an ironic clue that she trusted Penny from the very beginning and that was by showing Penny her flaws right away. LaCienega showed more of her true self (or at least the ugly side) to Penny before anyone else on the show, but still wanted Penny to accept her for who she was and each time Penny showed signs of that, LaCienega was very pleased. It's also interesting to note that early on, LaCienega was only mean to Penny when no one else could see it much of the time. To be fair, this was probably so that she could make herself look nice in front of everyone else. Still, she did make an attempt to get along with Penny in Episode 2[3] and didn't actually try to humiliate Penny at all until Episode 3[2] when Penny didn't invite her to her party and she wanted to get revenge just because the girl she had been so rude to didn't invite her to her party which on Penny's part makes logical sense. Believe it or not, this is where the first seeds of love are actually planted in Penny and LaCienega's relationship because LaCienega was more genuine towards Penny right out of the gate than she was toward Penny's parents and the other kids.

It's no secret that LaCienega cares about what others think of her, but for some reason, she seems to care more about what Penny thinks. Her entire mood can change at times based on how Penny is feeling about her in the moment. In Episode 15[14], she and her classmates were given an assignment where they were each assigned a historical figure for Black History Month.



**Commented [SF9]:**

Penny – "You know what LaCienega, for all it's worth, I'm looking at you right now and I've never seen anyone uglier!" – Episode 46

**Commented [SF10]:** Penny didn't invite LaCienega over her house because LaCienega had been mean to her. Penny couldn't understand why because she hadn't done anything to LaCienega. Despite this, LaCienega was still mad that Penny chose not to invite her around. LaCienega was behaving irrationally because she had treated Penny so poorly but was hurt that the same Penny she had been so mean to didn't want to be bothered with her.



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LaCienega was assigned Shirley Chisholm and she specifically asked Penny if Chisholm would wear a miniskirt to which Penny looked down at LaCienega's legs and said, "Maybe if she's at the boogie down party!" LaCienega looked a bit anxious as Penny started to give her answer, possibly anticipating an insult. This is an indicator that LaCienega cared specifically whether or not Penny thought she was pretty or not. She didn't ask Dijonay, Zoey or even Sticky who was the only boy there or the group collectively, she walked closer to Penny and asked her directly. Things like this become more of a trend as the episodes go on. Insults from Penny also seem to affect her more deeply as well. Dijonay and Zoey both insulted LaCienega before but she usually didn't take it as seriously from them as she does when it comes from Penny. One time, all three girls laughed at LaCienega because she had to trade spots with the Gross Sisters for a school project and she didn't want to. But for some reason she frowned directly at Penny as if she only cared that Penny was laughing but not so much Dijonay or Zoey who appeared to be laughing louder and harder than Penny at the time.

Another interesting trend is that the more Penny tries to get away from LaCienega, the closer LaCienega wants to be to Penny. LaCienega absolutely loves being next to Penny. As mentioned earlier, LaCienega got upset when Penny didn't invite her to parties and in Episode 13 was serendipitous when Penny let her in. But in many Episodes, LaCienega is often sitting or standing next to Penny. Sometimes she won't be next to Penny initially but then ends up next to her in a later shot. In Episode 18<sup>[17]</sup>, when she, Dijonay and Zoey all went to Penny's house to pick her up for school, off camera, LaCienega was the only one who actually went upstairs to get Penny from her bedroom. This is evident because she and LaCienega are seen walking up to the dining room doorway together. Dijonay, her so-called best friend stayed downstairs and tried to eat Suga Mama's prune muffin instead. It does make a bit of sense since LaCienega did live there for a week and laid in Penny's bed under her sheets.

By the way, isn't there a possibility that Penny and LaCienega actually slept in bed together? Seriously! There was not one scene where LaCienega was shown to have a sleeping bag, an air mattress or anything else of the sort, and neither did Penny; so, where did LaCienega sleep? On the floor with no blanket? It is highly unlikely that a girl like LaCienega would've done that so easily without some sort of altercation with Penny. She is also seen crying in Penny's bed as well with her legs underneath Penny's blanket, suggesting that she may have been sleeping there and it's hard to believe that Penny allowed LaCienega to sleep in her bed while she slept on the floor after LaCienega disrespected her. However, it is plausible that Penny allowed LaCienega to sleep there during her depression as a nice gesture. We don't know for sure, but it's very possible that Penny and LaCienega shared the bed at least one of those nights. How much more intimate can you get? At the end of the day, this is only speculation since we don't actually see this take place.



#### Who Slept in Penny's



Commented [SF11]:

FUN FACT - Penny, LaCienega, Suga Mama, and Radhika are the four characters known to sleep in Penny's bed in at least one episode. Dijonay and Zoey are seen on screen sleeping next to Penny in an outdoor tent in Episode 2<sup>[3]</sup>.

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From Episodes 31-46 we see a trend where Penny and LaCienega have bonded and are actually behaving as if they were quite good friends. Penny and LaCienega are seen next to each other a lot. They are seen standing, sitting or walking next to each other often. LaCienega's body language is quite telling, often you see her knees and feet pointing toward Penny which are signs she likes her and also, she makes deep eye contact with her. However, in the aforementioned fifteen episodes, you see this a lot with LaCienega when she's sitting next to Penny. You'll also notice that Penny and LaCienega are often sitting and standing very close together. In fact, for much of Season 2 there's less net space between them than the other characters and often touch each other more. They are tight like glue during this period.



Episode 41 - Penny and LaCienega sit close by in excitement as they watch 'their' Aunt Spice put on a magical demonstration. This is one of the moments where LaCienega seems to be a part of the family. Penny of course is excited that her great-aunt is there and LaCienega feels connected to Spice herself through Penny and Suga Mama. Perhaps LaCienega feels like Spice is kind of like an aunt to her too due to Suga Mama's relationship with Papi.

LaCienega even snatched Penny by the hand once when they went to Happy Endings Retirement Resort to rescue Papi and yelled "I want to see my Papi now!" But apparently, she also wanted Penny there with her. Penny grabbed her and pulled her away moments later to save her from potential capture. We haven't even seen that much pulling and grabbing with the other girls and it's surprising to see that these two got comfortable enough to do this with each



Commented ISF121:



"I WANNA SEE MY PAPI NOW!"

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other after such a rough start.

LaCienega also invites Penny to go places with her consistently and hasn't once excluded her, though Penny has done it to her multiple times. Even when LaCienega threw her own party in response to Penny not inviting her, she never actually said Penny wasn't invited. In fact, she technically invited Penny when she played her invitation in front of her, Dijonay, Sticky and Zoey at school. It was only implied that Penny wouldn't go simply because she had already scheduled her own party. It also appears that LaCienega is actually quite attracted to Penny's confidence. Whenever she's next to Proud, it boosts her own confidence. She always listens to Penny whenever she is giving inspirational speeches and is more often than not on board with whatever Penny's got to say. She has no problems agreeing with Penny at times, and has helped Penny in numerous situations when needed, such as helping Penny clean her house after a wild party while all the adults had vanished in Episode **31** and helping to rescue her family when they were kidnapped by the evil Dr. Carver clone in *The Proud Family Movie*.

LaCienega is not always honest, but with Penny she's been brutally honest on a consistent basis, even to a fault. LaCienega may not be the nicest, but one thing's for sure, Penny can count on her more than her established best friend Dijonay Jones who often ditches her; and even Zoey who will sometimes be overly polite and tell a person what she thinks they want to hear. Penny's words however cut deep into LaCienega's ego and she always takes whatever Penny says to heart like in Episode **46** when Penny scolded her for being unfair to Agatha and then insulting her at the "Tween Idol" competition and said "I'm looking at you right now and I've never seen anyone uglier!" **That hurt coming from the person she admires most.**

Commented [SF13]:



This was only the second time since Episode **30** that LaCienega tried to insult Penny and judging by this frame, it did not go well for her this time.





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One of the earliest times we actually see Penny and LaCienega bonding is the start of Episode 12 where Penny and LaCienega are surrounding Zoey and giving her a "makeover" together. LaCienega is flattening Zoey's hair nice and carefully while Penny does Zoey's makeup; for some reason it's very rewarding to look at.

Penny and LaCienega also have quite a bit in common. They're both pretty, they're both smart, they're both competitive, they both have a single grandparent who's always around, they both have strict parents, they both get ditched by Dijonay all the time, and they both want to make their parents proud among other things. They also have a similar taste in boys much of the time which creates more conflict between them. They even have some slight similarities in their physical appearance as they both wear different shades of red. Though Penny has a baby brother and sister it's like she's an only child sometimes since they are just babies. LaCienega actually is an only child which means while Penny gets most of the attention at home, LaCienega gets all the attention, though it's not always ideal. Both of their families have flaws, but both girls love their families and their families love them respectively in their own ways. A pivotal moment in the development of friendship between the two took place in Episode 20[19] where LaCienega, Penny, Dijonay and Zoey formed the dance group LPDZ collectively and won the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest live on television. Penny and LaCienega worked as part of a team and for the first time accomplished a major goal together instead of against one another. While all four girls did celebrate, Penny and LaCienega celebrated the victory together by hugging each other tightly and jumping up and down giggling. They learned that if they come together, they can accomplish spectacular things.



**Commented [SF14]:** Penny and LaCienega can look a lot alike to a first-time viewer. In the early 2000s, the first time I ever watched the Proud Family, there were a few times I got LaCienega mixed up with Penny. Then, I thought she was Penny's bully big sister and then later her cousin. I don't know yet, but I believe LaCienega's character design was cloned straight from Penny and could've possibly been a design for Penny at one time that was scrapped and used for a new character instead. It makes sense that Penny and LaCi are just alike since their parents are so similar and click so well too.

**Commented [SF15]:**



LPDZ celebrate their victory in an upset at the 2002 "Hip Hop Helicopter" dance competition.

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### Penny and LaCienega **NOTES** –

Penny and LaCienega are close friends.

Penny and LaCienega are arch-rivals.

LaCienega secretly likes Penny a bit more than Penny likes her.

LaCienega fears but also respects and admires Penny's confidence.

LaCienega enjoys being around Penny most of the time.

Penny is typically annoyed by LaCienega but still does like her a bit.

After some growing pains, Penny learns to accept LaCienega for who she is.

Apparently, they have a bit of a sadistic relationship with each other similar to but on a lesser scale than Sunset and Felix.

LaCienega often starts conflict, Penny usually finishes it but sometimes it's the reverse.

LaCienega says it's "fun" tormenting Penny.

Penny says it's "fun" hating LaCienega.

But Penny and LaCienega actually love each other. They are more effective at getting beneath each other's skin than anyone else on the show besides their respective parents. No one triggers Penny more than LaCienega, **no one can break through LaCienega's ego better than Penny can.** They hold the keys to each other's vulnerabilities. They both care about each other's feelings. LaCienega cares about how Penny feels about her, and if she accepts her and often thinks about her at times others don't. Penny cares about LaCienega and wants her to be happy and healthy (mentally) even if it comes at a cost. She puts aside her issues to help LaCienega whenever she's in need. LaCienega's emotions toward Penny are intense as seen in episodes **3[2], 13, 14[21], 20[19], 22, 35, 39, 43[42], 44, 46** and The Proud Family Movie.

Penny hates watching LaCienega suffer. She would rather LaCienega be happy and upbeat instead of drained or depressed; even at the cost of having to deal with her snobbishness or trash talking meaning LaCienega's emotional well-being is more important to Penny than having the upper hand on her; this is quite interesting considering LaCi's parents often don't take this seriously enough.

**Commented [SF16]:** Sunset is very abusive and disrespectful of her husband and tends to dominate him. Their relationship is actually very different from Penny and their daughter's. Penny and LaCienega antagonize each other because they got off to a bad start but grew to care for each other. Sunset and Felix are in an extremely lopsided marriage that came to be because Sunset used her police powers to force Felix to marry her. She controls him while Penny and LaCienega simply antagonize each other while subconsciously showing how much they actually like each other during the happy times.

**Commented [SF17]:** Other than maybe Michael. He's proven it in Episode **14[21]** and even outdid Penny in that episode. To make things better, it was actually an accident for he had no idea how sensitive LaCienega was at the moment. LaCienega later develops a crush on him.



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LaCienega trash talks Penny all the time but if anyone else is really mean to her she doesn't seem to like it. She is also in her best moods when working with Penny; she in fact enjoys it more than competing against her. After a while, Penny showed she trusted LaCienega by coming to her for help; as seen in Episode 30. Penny has helped LaCienega and LaCienega has helped Penny. This is all evidence that they have each learned to "Love thy Neighbor."

LaCienega serves a purpose in Penny's life and that's to satisfy Penny's intrinsic need to compete with someone; a trait that she inherits from her father Oscar. Penny serves this same need in LaCienega's life as she inherits her own competitive traits from her father Felix.

LaCienega also inherits the trait of being a showoff from her father as his was on display in episodes 1 and 28.

LaCienega places a great deal of trust in Penny, asks her for opinions and advice often, and takes what Penny says very seriously.

Penny has put her ego to the side and has helped save LaCienega from bad situations on multiple occasions. Despite "hating" LaCienega, Penny has actually been a true friend to her. Penny has shown she cared about her when no one else did. She has remained respectful to LaCienega for the most part even after LaCienega had been blatantly disrespectful to her which is part of Penny's overly forgiving nature. She tells LaCienega the truth, in a way she knows LaCienega would best understand it. She corrects LaCienega where she's wrong, even when she doesn't wanna hear it and often gives her good advice that ends us bringing LaCienega good results. As a result, LaCienega has learned to put her trust in Penny and becomes more cooperative, accepts her leadership and even asks for her advice. She also allows LaCienega to be herself after getting to know her better in Episode 14[21]. LaCienega appreciates this because she doesn't get to be her complete self often at home, though there is another side of her there that she doesn't show in public either.

Penny and LaCienega connect subconsciously on a deep spiritual level; their eye contact is among the best on the show behind only Penny's eye contact with Trudy, and Trudy's eye contact with Oscar. Dijonay is Penny's best friend and they share many intimate moments but even their eye contact isn't as consistent as what we see from Penny and LaCienega.

Penny is very often on LaCienega's mind. She notices Penny and how she's feeling when everybody else seems oblivious to it.

Despite their rivalry, there is a surprising amount of affection between the two. Penny and Dijonay have hugged each other one on one the most times out of their group of friends, however there is more physical touch and togetherness between Penny and LaCienega. LaCienega snuggles Penny whenever they



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hug as seen in episodes [20\[19\]](#), [22](#) and the Movie.

Penny and LaCienega shared a living space for a week and Penny even shared her bed with LaCienega in Episode [14\[21\]](#).

Their moms are best friends, their dads are best friends, their grandparents are dating and they're both longtime friends of Dijonay's.

They are both 'A' students.

They share some of the warmest moments together on the show but one of them usually says or does something to spoil them.

Though Dijonay is Penny's best friend, she is usually the first one to ditch Penny; LaCienega is sometimes the last. An example is in Episode [52](#), the show's last episode, when Chester the Psycho Duck scared away all of Penny's friends, Dijonay was the first to run, but LaCienega was the last, and with much hesitation; chances are she actually would've stuck around if Chester had not have snapped at her after she cracked her final joke, a relatively harmless one. One can even tell by her facial expression that she actually wanted Penny to laugh with her and lighten the mood. She got a little nervous and took a couple steps back and then had a laugh before he started flapping as he wasn't amused at the joke. After LaCienega ran, Penny says to Chester, "Look what you did! You ran off all my friends!" Also, her parents, Felix and Sunset were still present in helping to try and get rid of Chester.

Despite their differences, Penny sees LaCienega as a friend and LaCienega sees Penny as a friend. They may deny it, but the energy is there and as the episodes wear on, they frequently forget that they're not supposed to be "friends" and at times it can get awkward. In Episode [14\[21\]](#), LaCienega tearfully thanked her "friend" Penny Proud for caring about her. But when Penny thanked her for the shout out and "call[ing] me your friend" she snapped back into her old mean girl persona and said to Penny, "That was just for the cameras Proud! I'm popular again and I have plenty of friends!" which we found out as time went by that those were all tall tales. After all, she actually didn't look hostile when saying those things and it looked more like she was putting on an act; one can speculate she did this just for the fun of pissing Penny off, though it was rather cruel. Though this pissed Penny off, she admitted that she "like[d] her better this way." In Episode [16\[15\]](#) when Penny said to the group including LaCienega, "So you guys really are my friends!" LaCienega took part in the group hug along with Dijonay and Zoey without denial or struggle. In Episode [22](#), Penny and LaCienega looked into each other's eyes and sang "We are... We are best friends!" Penny pointed at LaCienega's chest as she sang these lyrics. Earlier in that same episode, LaCienega wrapped her arms around Penny as Penny sang the words "because you are my best friends!" LaCienega was visibly the happiest in that moment, smiled widely with her eyes shut tight and her head leaning on Penny's head as if she were hugging a giant teddy bear; apparently, she actually believed those lyrics. When Penny transformed into Penné and Wizard Kelly dumped



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LaCienega and the other two girls from the record label, LaCienega frantically said, "Penny do something! I thought we were best friends!" to which Penny responded, "We have NEVER been best friends LaCienega!" That hurt LaCienega to the point where Zoey of all people had to step in for her saying, "Aren't you being a bit cold Penny?" LaCienega was frozen in denial as she was being dragged out of the studio with her friends. She was deeply hurt by Penny's actions and was the most upset with her for the remainder of the episode. She was shocked and appalled that Penny of all people who do something so selfish. LaCienega also showed she cared the most about Penny that day by actually purchasing her magazine and getting Dijonay and Zoey to gather round and read it before getting upset again and tossing it. Based on her moves in that moment, one could assume she probably cried afterwards and Dijonay and Zoey had to console her. She also led her friends to go and spray Penné at her red-carpet event before Papi apprehended them. LaCienega had the hardest time moving on without Penny; even more than her best friend Dijonay. In Episode 25 when Penny was mad at Dijonay for outperforming her at the poetry contest, "Penny said I know who my real friends are!" referring to Zoey, LaCienega and Sticky who were all present at the time. In Episode 31, Penny and LaCienega are seen holding hands and chanting "We're girls! We're bad! We're lookin' really rad!" while Dijonay and Zoey were present. Though the other two were also chanting, Penny and LaCienega were the only ones holding hands, directly in front of Dijonay. They let go only after the "We're girls!" part. In Episode 39, LaCienega scolded Wizard Kelly Jr. for getting her "friends" fired. This included Penny. In that same episode a short time after Penny asks LaCienega, 'Are we girls again?' to which LaCienega jokingly replies "We never were!" before bumping fists while sitting on LaCienega's front steps. LaCienega's knees and feet are pointed toward Penny and her head is leaning into her, this means she likes Penny and was happy to be *chillin'* on the front steps with her; keep in mind both of these girls are very intelligent. In Episode 41, when Suga Mama's sister Spice tried to perform a trick on Sticky, he jumped over the couch and ran away and it scared the girls and LaCienega leaned onto Penny during this time. Near the end of Episode 46, Alicia Keys sang her most popular song "Fallin'" The first line of the song "I keep on fall'n in and out, of love, with you!" sums up Penny and LaCienega's relationship pretty well. It's extremely inconsistent. But there certainly is love there, whether they realize it or not. When Keys sings the lyrics "of love, with you..." we get a shot of Penny pointing at LaCienega as LaCienega walks into the shot pointing back at Penny with one eye closed. LaCienega makes a small gesture with her pointer finger as Penny lowers her eye lids with her smile expressing something more intimate. They stand close together behind the curtain as they watch Abigail and Alicia sing "I've never loved someone [the] way that I love you!" And in a way that rings true for Penny and LaCienega. Penny and LaCienega may not like each other, but they love each other. As Dijonay said, "Friendship is Love, which I'll always put above!" and it is love that conquers the forces that initially divide Penny and LaCienega instead bringing them closer together as they were destined to be.

**Commented [SF18]:** Or perhaps she sat on the ground, folded her arms and pouted, trying not to cry.



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Penny is the best fighter in her group of friends as she's the only one who received true combat training (Episode 29) and survived boot camp - (Episode 30)

LaCienega typically takes what she does very seriously and does a thorough job, however there's an exception to the rule where in Episode 29 she wasn't too thrilled to go through the tedious training that Proctor Lee was putting her and her friends through. Lee told them that it was important to learn the fundamentals first. Duke asked if Lee could put the 'fun' in fundamentals. But then Zoey explained, "Sifu's right! The basics lay down the foundation for truly understanding the fundamental principles he's trying to teach us!" LaCienega was noticeably pissed off when Zoey said this but why? There are several reasons. One, LaCienega is already annoyed with Zoey at times because of her dorkiness and her scratchy voice. Two, she thinks that Zoey is only kissing Sifu's butt to try to win brownie points with him, something like a teacher's pet and LaCienega gets jealous easily when others around her receives special attention. In a way, it's like showing her up and showoffs don't like it when others showoff in front of them even though this wasn't really Zoey's intention. Three, LaCienega had already been in a bit of a bad mood this episode, so small stuff irritates her more easily. Four, she clearly doesn't like doing these repetitive workouts and Zoey taking the teacher's side doesn't help much. Lastly, LaCienega is not truly passionate about Karate like she is about school, cheer leading and beauty pageants; she only wanted to do Karate because she saw the Jack Stone movie and thought it was cool, plus all of her friends were doing it. In other words, she's not truly serious about Karate, she just wanted to do it for fun.

Penny and LaCienega are both athletic. Penny has played basketball in the past, been the best player on the football team despite being a girl, and also excelled at Karate. She can also pitch a fastball as she was the starting pitcher for Suga Mama's Believers! She's exceptionally strong and can carry more than three times her own weight. She carried Suga Mama up a hill on her back and balanced all three of her friends on her shoulders during a dance routine. LaCienega on the other hand is really fast, an excellent swimmer and gymnast. She's extremely flexible, can flip nonstop and has amazing hops as shown in her audition for the cheer team in Episode One. She can do front flips, back flips, twists and double aerals, inherited from Papi. She also has a strong throwing arm as she was able to crumble an entire magazine into a ball and pitch it like a baseball. She can even pitch just fine with a broken fingernail! Perhaps she probably should've been the pitcher for the baseball team herself. Both of these girls could be ninjas with Penny's combat skills she learned in Karate and LaCienega's ability to flip so well with ease.





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LaCienega is the only character outside of Penny's family to be featured on the cover art of the 2005 GBA release of their official video game and is actually placed in front of Penny's family members. While Penny is the only playable character, LaCienega is the most prominent NPC in the game meaning she appears more than all of the other characters including Penny's family members. She's considered to be the most significant character in this game besides Penny.

Though Penny and LaCienega love each other deep down, they still have their differences. Penny doesn't like LaCienega's stuck up attitude nor her smart mouth. LaCienega on the other hand admires Penny's confidence but also envies it. She often tends to project her own negative traits onto others and in Penny's case, she believes that Penny is a goodie two shoes and thinks she's better than the people around her because of this, so LaCienega wants to try and prove to Penny that she is not little miss perfect by catching her at times when she's vulnerable and being able to break through Penny's sturdy confidence that she struggled against in Episode One.

In Episode 25, LaCienega forced Penny to walk in her shoes and experience strong jealousy towards a friend and it knocked Penny out of character. In Episode 30, she did this on a much larger scale when Penny failed at something she worked hard on and was passionate about. That was the tryouts for being a reporter for the Checkerboard Times school newspaper. She was finally able to crush Penny's confidence with her words. Initially, this seemed like a win for LaCienega because this was something that she had been waiting a long time for, but this brought catastrophic consequences for Penny as her character slowly withered away and she went over to the dark side which affected everyone around her including LaCienega. Penny is not herself when her confidence is gone; it's like taking away the heart of her soul. Penny got to see LaCienega's vulnerabilities but LaCienega also wanted to see Penny's, so she pressed her buttons until she finally struck gold. It's a rugged way of finding out who Penny truly is, the good, the bad and the ugly. LaCienega knows she is much more fragile than Penny in the field of confidence and self-security, so it makes her feel more powerful to finally break through and discover Penny's soft spot. But after what took place, she learned never to mess with Penny's confidence again and from that point forward she didn't. In fact, she was actually much nicer to Penny after this and started becoming a better person herself. As bad as that was, maybe it was necessary for her to feel truly close to Penny, to get Penny to see that she too has flaws in her personality and that it's all a part of being human. In the past, Penny has been uninviting of LaCienega and has shown hostility towards her because of her personality flaws, but LaCienega was hurt by this and thought that Penny thought of herself as being too good for her and wants Penny to get off her high horse and accept her for who she is and LaCienega is more than willing to do the same thing back. Penny and LaCienega actually both see each other as stuck up but in different ways. Penny



Commented [SF19]: For Good Measure



And no, she's not the antagonist as one could easily assume.

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thinks LaCienega feels she's better because she's pretty and wealthy, LaCienega thinks Penny feels she's better because she's overconfident in her beliefs and is a goody two shoes who thinks she's a perfect person. Both just need to look beneath the surface. Despite all of this, they both like each other a lot and care for one another.

At times Penny can be arrogant and self-righteous, traits that LaCienega are usually called out for. It's a thing people notice from the outside looking in. She inherits the trait of stubbornness from her father and this stubbornness blinds her to the fact that she's wrong at times and that things might not go as she expects them to go. This shows in Episodes [2](#)[3](#), [20](#)[19](#), [22](#), [25](#), [30](#), [31](#) and [39](#).

Part of the reason LaCienega is hostile towards Penny is because she believes that Penny thinks she is 'too good' for her. But LaCienega doesn't want to say this out loud because she would be voluntarily exposing that she's insecure. Her actions do show she's insecure, but she doesn't in any way express that voluntarily, even at times when it's better for her to do so. She basically has some sort of inferiority complex and Penny (who is also competitive) understands this.

Apparently, Penny must be cooler with LaCienega than with Zoey. She rejected Zoey's dap in Episode [31](#) but she and LaCienega exchanged dap in Episode [39](#). Is it because Zoey's a nerd, or that she held her fist the wrong way or were Penny and LaCienega actually closer?

Something else that's interesting is that LaCienega is actually pretty good at following girl code. She actually respects Penny's privacy and has never cock-blocked or embarrassed her in front of boys. Dijonay has countless times interfered whenever a boy started talking to Penny. LaCienega doesn't even seem jealous during the times Penny is getting attention from boys (other than Episode [16](#)[15](#)) and closer to the end of the series she's actually happy for Penny whenever she meets a boy.

Contrary to popular belief, LaCienega is not a gossip girl; at least not on her own. She's actually good at respecting peoples' privacy and expects people to respect her privacy as well. Never do we see her go back and repeat what she's been told in confidence to someone else, but of course Dijonay does this all the time and then adds lies to it. Dijonay is the gossip girl of the group. LaCienega is sassy and stuck up but one thing she doesn't do is spread gossip. LaCienega is so secretive herself that she's become good at keeping secrets for others, but she's opened up to Penny more than anyone else during the span of the series. In fact, Penny and LaCienega share many secrets with each other that Dijonay and Zoey are unaware of. In Episode [3](#)[2](#), LaCienega is written as the main antagonist as she took credit for starting the Myron rumor after she locked Penny in the closet with him. Though she started the rumor through her actions, Dijonay was the one who spread it and made it juicier with lies so that it would

**Commented [SF20]:** How many? Well, one we know of is that Penny precisely knows about LaCienega's insecurities. She saw them unfold with her own eyes. LaCienega admitted this to Penny and Oscar in Episode [14](#)[21](#). People outside of her family and the Prouds know she's sensitive, but they don't actually know about her insecurities which she always hides from people.





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draw people in more. LaCienega did what she did as a means to an end. That end was to hurt Penny back after she didn't invite her to a sleepover with Dijonay and Zoey. Dijonay however was the real villain because she stirred up the entire situation by lying to LaCienega and then disrespecting Penny and her home by inviting boys and a bunch of other people that Penny didn't invite or approve of, knowing that this would get her in trouble with her parents. Seeing Penny get in trouble with her parents amuses her. Dijonay set up a situation that pitted Penny and LaCienega against each other to the point that they were going to fight and LaCienega was acting off of her emotions. Since then, LaCienega has never even thought about starting or spreading rumors about Penny ever again, even when Penny didn't invite her to her party the second time. She hasn't spread rumors about Dijonay or Zoey either. In fact, LaCienega has actually done things to make Penny look good in front of others instead of bad. Her onstage shout out in Episode 14<sup>[21]</sup>, "I couldn't have done this without you Penny!" when she was not under any pressure to do so is perhaps her strongest example. Her take in Episode One where she told Zoey that Penny's cheerleading performance was better than hers is another.

LaCienega was once voted most popular and most beautiful in the school yearbook in Episode 41. So, her claims of being the most popular girl at school finally becomes true, further enlarging her ego. Despite being the most popular girl at school however, she still remains loyal to her girls Penny, Dijonay and Zoey. In that same episode, Penny was voted most likely to succeed. Her confidence, leadership and excellent communication skills have caused others to respect her. She too is well known but for reasons that differ from LaCienega.

One thing that's good about LaCienega is that even though she does some bad things, like Penny, she always learns her lesson from it and never does the same thing again; as a result, she develops into a better character each time though this somehow flies under the radar and doesn't help her reputation amongst the show's fans. Dijonay however never seems to learn her lesson as she continues to be a terrible friend even after Penny confronts her in Episode 35. Maybe it's because LaCienega faces consequences for her actions more often than Dijonay does.



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Penelope Proud Character Analysis –



PENNY  
PROUD

Artwork by chipheoclt @IMGBIN.com

This is Penny Proud! And as you can see, she's the main protagonist of The Proud Family. Penny is a very well-designed character. As we all know Penny is 14 years old living at home with Mom (Trudy Proud), Dad (Oscar Proud), and the twins (BeBe & CeCe). Seems normal right? But Penny's life is actually quite stressful. She deals with many obstacles at home such as strict parenting and having to do chores such as baby sitting the twins which takes up her time to socialize, but with her best efforts, she handles it very well. Through trial, error, pain and experience, Penny gets wiser and wiser every episode. She is smart and responsible most of the time, yet her parents, especially her father are strict. Oscar never wants Penny hangin' around boys which creates a lot of conflict in her life since she and her friends are teenagers. This makes it especially difficult to hang out with her friends because most of the activities they want to take part in are things that involve boys. These are easy opportunities for Penny to get into trouble. Despite these trials and tribulations, it appears that Oscar and Trudy have raised Penny quite well.

Penny is very intelligent. She gets mostly A's in school and is an excellent writer, especially in the realm of poetry. Penny is very proud of how smart she is; however, she learns the hard way that things aren't always handed to her based on her strengths and perceived advantages which actually helps significantly with her character development. An example was in the first episode, Penny thought just because she was Dijonay's best friend that she would be handed the last spot on the cheerleading team only until Dijonay's other best friend LaCienega showed up and stole the show. This alone created bad blood between her and LaCienega. However, this is something Penny has to get used to as she learns throughout the series that she has to work for things and each time she does, Penny appreciates the experience a whole lot more.

**Commented [SF21]:** In her defense, Dijonay had also promised Penny that she would save the last spot for her as a guarantee but then broke her promise once LaCienega arrived.



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One of Penny's biggest strengths is her confidence. Penny is very confident in herself which is a healthy thing. Her confidence is totally different from arrogance which is something we often see from LaCienega. Penny is not afraid to say what's on her mind and stand up for what she believes in as taught by her father Oscar. She has developed excellent communication skills passed down from her mother Trudy and is able to have a conversation with pretty much anyone on the show no matter their looks, their background, or where they sit on the social totem pole and many of her peers respect her for it. Because of this, she often finds herself acting as a surrogate leader of her friend group. Dijonay, Zoey and even LaCienega trust Penny to guide them and provide ideas. This can be a double-edged sword however as Penny can sometimes be bossy and self-righteous which often ends up leading her into trouble until Dijonay, Zoey, LaCienega or Trudy point out what she's doing wrong. Sometimes, Penny can be stubborn, a trait she inherits from Oscar and she often has to suffer consequences before admitting she's wrong.

Once Penny does admit she's wrong, she takes responsibility for her actions and apologizes to the people she hurt. Penny learns from her mistakes and rarely do we ever see her making the same mistake twice which is why Penny grows and gets wiser with each episode. Each episode of The Proud Family, Penny gets better. She's either wiser, stronger or skilled at something she previously didn't know how to do. Penny is also mature enough to realize that people are people, nobody's perfect and that everybody does wrong and makes mistakes. She's usually very understanding and tries to work with the people around her. She forgives people when they wrong her, giving them chance after chance to do better; sometimes she does this too much for her own good and gets taken advantage of by the same people; mainly her proclaimed best friend, Dijonay Jones.

Penny does her best to be a good friend; but she often doesn't get that in return. Her closest friends are Dijonay Jones, LaCienega Boulevardez, Zoey Howzer and Sticky Webb. However, they've all failed Penny at times she needed them most. In LaCienega's defense, she and Penny got off to a rocky start and were enemies. LaCienega was honest enough to tell Penny that she wasn't her friend though so that Penny wouldn't expect much from her. Zoey is a decent friend to Penny the majority of the time, however she gets swayed by peer pressure and chooses to ditch Penny with the others just to fit in or look cool. Then there's Dijonay, who's ironically been the worst of them all. She's usually the ringleader when the group ditches Penny at times of crises. She spread a rumor about Penny that LaCienega technically started through her actions and let LaCienega take all the blame for it. She accepted money from the Gross Sisters to sell Penny out and also sold Penny out to her own father. Yet for some reason, Penny continues to keep Dijonay around even after Suga Mama told her, "...to ditch that Dijonay, long time ago!"



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Quick facts about Penny.

Penny has several jobs

She is a student first. Has an A- GPA.

She is a writer for the Checkerboard Times

She is a Singer/Dancer with LPDZ and had a solo singing career as Penné

She is a football player for Willie T Ribbs. She has played Wide Receiver, Cornerback and Kicker.

She sometimes works as a secretary at her mom's veterinary office answering phone calls and scheduling appointments.

Penny is tough both mentally and physically and has a fighters' spirit that she inherits from Suga Mama. She has nearly got into a fight with LaCienega in Episode [3\[2\]](#) and was ready to fight against Nubia and her sister Gina alongside Dijonay in Episode [12](#).

She is also very strong and can carry up to three times her weight. She balanced Dijonay, LaCienega and Zoey on her shoulders all by herself while practicing a dance routine for their first performance as LPDZ. She was able to pick Dijonay up and hold her for several seconds without getting tired despite Dijonay being heavier than her and she also carried Suga Mama up a hill on her back when paying a visit to Wizard Kelly's mansion. She was also able to grab LaCienega by the back of her jacket, lift her up with just one hand, and run full speed. She was also able to throw LaCienega backwards with just one arm in the movie.

She has had four boyfriends, Mega (EZ Jackster), Johnny McBride (Episode [16\[15\]](#)), Kwok Wong (Episodes [21-25](#)), and Fifteen Cent (Sticky's celebrity cousin in the movie). She had been on four additional dates with Omar, Carlos, Michael and Johnny Lovely. Out of the group, she has been involved with the most boys including Frankie and Tookie. She once had a crush on Tory, but the feelings weren't reciprocated. She also pretended to be Sticky's girlfriend to try and make Dijonay jealous and help him win her back from Duke.

Of all the boys Penny is only seen kissing Kwok (Episode [21\[20\]](#)) and Fifteen Cent (Movie).

She once shared her bed with LaCienega Boulevardez (Episode [14\[21\]](#)) and Suga Mama (Episode [17\[16\]](#)).



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Penny went nearly 72 hours without eating, climbed a billboard all by herself, survived boot camp and survived a fall from nearly 100 feet in the air which she recovered very quickly from.

She has earned a whopping 18 girl scout patches.

She has held a school-office since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade (1998-1999 school year).

She has a closet full of the same outfit as Trudy only wants her wearing the outfit we usually see her in. For some reason, Trudy becomes more lenient and allows Penny to buy new clothes the day before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Proud Family Movie.

She once wore "Brandy braids" at age 10 in 1997 and also seemed to have a different outfit.

She is currently learning Spanish at school and claims to be doing *muy-bien* though she's never heard speaking it again and refused to watch movies in Spanish at the Dollar Theater in Episode 2[3].

She is a "red-belt" in Karate, whatever that means. One thing's for sure, she is the same level in Karate as the Chang Triplets, who are way better than any of Penny's other friends because they received authentic training from Proctor Lee, while Penny's friends left Proctor Lee's School for Jack Stone's school where they just goofed off the whole time.

**Commented [SF22]:** Basically, the lowest beginner rank. Shows how much I know bout martial arts.

Penny's closer to her mother than she is with her father because her mother takes a democratic approach to raising her while Oscar takes mostly an authoritarian approach which Trudy often disregards.

In the Proud Household, Trudy is the breadwinner and typically makes the final decision. Trudy is a vet, while Oscar is an entrepreneur, though not a very successful one.

Penny loves her parents and does her best to make them proud, hence her last name. She typically does chores around the house and watches her baby brother and sister when her parents are gone.

Penny is responsible most of the time, however as a typical young teen, she falls for peer pressure and makes poor decisions as a result. One time, she was



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supposed to watch BeBe, CeCe and Puff; but got involved in a water gun fight that began outside of LaCienega's house (eventually moving to her house) because Dijonay and LaCienega told her they could use her help and then Omar hit her with a water balloon.

She is typically seen as a leader in her group as the girls trust her the most. LaCienega tries to be the group's leader, but the girls don't seem to respect her as much.

Penny typically seems to have good luck while Dijonay and LaCienega seem to have bad luck whenever Penny's not there and karma really seems to beat down on LaCienega whenever she opposes Penny, even at times Penny's the one in the wrong. Dijonay has only faced consequences once when opposing Penny on her own (Episode 35). LaCienega has led the girls into bad karma several times.

Despite LaCienega being from a wealthier household than and being more talented than Penny at certain things, she often finds herself having to work exponentially harder than Penny to compete with her for the same thing and often still loses.

In fact, LaCienega won against Penny in Episode One for the last spot on the cheer team because Penny actually sacrificed herself to save LaCienega from being caught up in the Gross Sisters' prank. LaCienega went 1-0 against Penny and lost every other match-up since. Even when LaCienega is dominating and has an upper hand, she often suffers a brutal meltdown as a result of bad karma.

Penny has never been arrested before despite a run in with the cops for vandalism, though Johnny McBride was the real culprit. Her friends LaCienega, Dijonay and Zoey were thrown in jail by Papi for trying to spray her with Super Soakers during a red-carpet event.

She is very skilled at poetry writing and reciting, though Dijonay learned that she was more talented than her.

She has a strong throwing arm as she was the starting pitcher for Suga Mama's believers, (Partially due to being Suga Mama's grandbaby).

She won the Hip Hop Helicopter dance contest with her friends as a girl group called LPDZ. She and LaCienega are the founding members and actually bonded over this.

She is the first in her friend group to get a driver's license causing many to assume she's the oldest in her friend group.



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She is the only girl in her group of friends who proved she can compete against boys at just about any sport. Penny is on the boys' football team and also showed that she can shoot a basketball really well too, most likely an ability inherited from her father as he used to be a really good basketball player in high school. Penny is also fast as she could outrun most of the boys on the football field.

Ginger Snaps (the Wife of Wizard Kelly) could've possibly been her mother as she was once Oscar's girlfriend. Of course, this would've changed the course of the entire series. If she were ever born, her name may not have been Penny as Trudy is the one who named her.

Penny's mother and father have both instilled a lot of wisdom in her. Two most notable things are her father telling her to always stand up for what she believes in, and her mother telling her not to lose her mind over a boy.

Penny inherits many traits from her parents too. From her mom she inherits, intelligence, conscientiousness, empathy, responsibility, respect, forgiveness, good communication skills, negotiability, loyalty, self-love, self-righteousness, jealousy, temper and possessiveness. From her father she inherits toughness, a fighters' spirit, athleticism, musical abilities (via Suga Mama) tendency to come up with ideas, confidence, stubbornness, leadership tendencies (Though she's actually better at it), and a competitive spirit.

Penny's roots can be traced to the state of Oklahoma where her Suga Mama is from and Alabama where Oscar's father Percy was a member of the Tuskegee airmen.



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**Short Bio -**

Penelope Marie Proud was born to Gertrude Alicia-Ann Parker and Oscar Jackson Proud on June 4, 1987 in Wizville, California. During this time, her mother; aged 21, was months from graduating college and would go on to earn a doctorate in veterinary medicine. Her father; aged 22, had dropped out of school to pursue his dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Her parents married shortly after and then went on to successfully achieve their career goals. In 1992, her family moved to their current address at 1433 Kelly Rd, in Wizardville, California just months before her fifth birthday. Shortly after, she would meet Dijonay Jones, whom she would develop a long-lasting friendship with from the age of 4, all the way up through high school. In 1998, she and Jones would start their 6th grade year at Willy T. Ribbs Middle School where they would meet Sticky Webb a neighborhood kid with a brilliant mind; and girl scout Zoey Howzer, a Jewish-American who was new to the area at the time and desperately looking for a place to fit in. A year later, she would be blessed with a brother, Benjamin Jackson Proud and sister, Celine Nicole Proud; twins better known as BeBe and CeCe. In 2001, upon beginning their final year at Ribbs Middle School, Penny and friends would welcome LaCienega Boulevardez; a long-time friend of Dijonay's that Penny and Zoey previously knew nothing about. Penny and LaCienega would get off on the wrong foot as they were set up to compete for the last spot on the Willie T. Ribbs Racer Cheerleader squad which Dijonay was captain of. Due to unfortunate circumstances, Penny and LaCienega would become enemies from the moment they laid eyes on one another, but then would also become neighbors the same night as the Boulevardez family would move into a historic mansion across the street from the Prouds that had previously stood vacant for decades before being renovated. Seemingly by destiny, the Proud and Boulevardez families would become deeply enmeshed as the mothers and fathers of Penny and LaCienega respectively would instantly become best friends and their grandparents Suga Mama (Oklahoma Native) and Caesar "Papi" Boulevardez (Non-U.S. Citizen) would even start dating with plans to possibly marry in the future, meaning that Penny and LaCienega would become deeply involved in each other's lives as if they were family. As a result, things get really complicated between the two.





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### Personality -

Penny Proud is a grounded individual despite being blessed with beauty. She is confident in who she is but also respectful to her parents and peers most of the time. She is also an extrovert, having excellent communication skills and has a knack for finding ways to relate to almost everyone she talks to. She enjoys shopping and hanging out with her friends, even though they haven't always been loyal to her. Despite this, Penny is extremely forgiving and understanding and does her best to try and see good in people. She is mature and thinks very logically for a girl her age, usually seeing and things for what they are.

Penny respects her parents and usually listens to them, but often caves into peer pressure. She can also be a bit stubborn and it leads her into undesirable situations from time to time; this is a trait that's inherited from her father, who once told her to always stand up for what she believes in. Ironically, Penny is often frustrated with her father who adopts an authoritarian parenting style which clashes with Penny's strong-willed personality. He is especially strict when it comes to Penny talking to boys which opens up a lot of opportunities for a teenage girl like her to get into trouble. She happens to be closer to her mom who adopts a democratic parenting style and seems to respect Penny's feelings more and allows her to have a voice.

She is also a natural born leader and she tends to act as a leader in her friend group much of the time. She also gives inspirational speeches that often get the people around her engaged and willing to help support her beliefs and causes. She proved herself to be a talented singer as a member of LPDZ and her talents eventually land her a brief career as a solo singer for Wizard Kelly Productions under the name Penné until she quits after falling out of character and then missing her old life.

Penny is extremely productive at school. She is a straight A student, plays on the football team and is a writer for the school newspaper 'The Checkerboard Times'. She has also held a school-office for four consecutive years. Penny tried out for cheerleading, but sacrificed her chances by saving her rival, LaCienega from a cruel prank involving the stage being converted into a giant CD. Penny got caught in the prank herself while forcing LaCienega offstage causing herself to get seriously injured and as a result, LaCienega got the last spot on the cheerleading squad by default.

Penny is also prolific at writing and reciting poetry but becomes jealous when she discovered that Dijonay was even better than her at it. When Penny reached her sweet-sixteen she began demanding independence but had to deal with her father's issues in allowing her to grow up. She then became a hero by saving the world with the help of her friends and makes up with her dad once he finally accepts the fact that Penny is her own person who can make her own



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decisions.

### **Penny's Friendships -**

Penny has made a myriad of friends on the show and even away from the show, but she spends most of her time hanging out with Dijonay, LaCienega, Zoey, and sometimes Sticky and is very loyal to them.



Dijonay -

Dijonay is considered to be Penny's best friend as the two have known each other since they were very little. However, her friendship is extremely questionable as she has proven time and time again that she is untrustworthy. She takes much pleasure in ditching Penny whenever she is in a difficult situation and encourages her other friends to do the same. She is also notorious for taking advantage of her and has even backstabbed her numerous times. In "Adventures in BeBe Sitting" Penny decides she can no longer trust Dijonay after she leaves her behind with her nine wild brothers and sisters while she sneaks to the 3rd Storee Concert where she would go on to lie to Zoey and LaCienega and tell them that Penny said she could go on ahead, bringing them (and the Chang Triplets) bad karma. However, Dijonay has shown at times that she does indeed care about Penny. In Poetic Justice, she discovered that she was even more talented at reciting poetry than Penny which made her extremely jealous and almost ruined their friendship for good. She then recited a poem dedicated to Penny that she thought of on the spot, thus saving their friendship.



Zoey -

Zoey is perhaps Penny's most reliable friend as she is usually the first to come to Penny's aid whenever she needs help. Zoey usually gives everything she's got to support Penny as seen in "Election". She'll even stick up for Penny whenever Dijonay or LaCienega are mean to her and often acts as a peacekeeper. However, since Zoey has a tendency to be a follower, she will ditch Penny at times just to fit in with the rest of the group. She'll also tell people whatever they want to hear which often annoys Penny because it doesn't always come off as genuine. However, Zoey also serves as a whistle blower and points out whenever Penny is making a mistake which often helps Penny to make better decisions and be a better friend herself. With Zoey being insecure and desperate to fit in, she often makes irrational decisions herself and Penny often has to drag her along and talk some sense into her. This is on



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display in “Hip-Hop Helicopter” when Penny had to drag her out of Gary’s house party when it started to become unsafe for them.



LaCienega -

Penny and LaCienega have a love-hate relationship that gets rather complicated. The two get off to an abysmal start when they are set up to compete for the last spot on the cheerleading team and LaCienega’s demeanor and actions leave a terrible first impression on Penny which sets the tone for everything that comes after. However, Penny discovers that she actually likes LaCienega a bit as she can be a lot of fun to be around and actually satisfies Penny’s innate need for competition. She also learns that a big reason why they clash so much is that she and LaCienega are perhaps the most similar to one another in comparison to everyone else in the group and pretty much want the same things in life. They gradually bond as the series moves forward, becoming almost like sisters. Despite LaCienega’s rudeness, she has perhaps been the most honest with Penny and the two reach the point where they can communicate telepathically through eye contact and body language which shows they understand each other quite well. It hurts Penny to see LaCienega suffer and she is usually quick to help cheer her up as seen in “Love Thy Neighbor”. Hence the episode title, it also helps that they are neighbors and their families are strongly associated with each other.



Sticky -

Sticky is Penny’s best male friend. He’s usually open to helping Penny at times of need, using his genius mind and his wacky technology. He once rescued Penny from The Gross Sisters after Dijonay accepted money from them to track her down. There are subtle clues that Sticky had a bit of a crush on Penny early on and she often bosses him around. It is later revealed that Sticky had strong feelings for Dijonay once she got into a relationship with Duke Anoi, and Penny pretended to be Sticky’s girlfriend for a day to try and make Dijonay jealous in order to help him win her back though it initially fails. Sticky seemed to enjoy flashing Penny off during this time while Penny didn’t take it as seriously.



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**Penny's Strengths and Flaws -**

\* - Shares trait with LaCienega

Strengths -

- ★ Intelligence - \*
- ★ Toughness
- ★ Determination - \*
- ★ Compassion - \*
- ★ Maturity (Usually)
- ★ Leadership
- ★ Good Verbal Communication Skills
- ★ Non-verbal Communication Skills - \*
- ★ Confidence (Usually)
- ★ Competitive (Constructive)
- ★ Responsible - (Usually)
- ★ Good Student - \*
- ★ Hard Working - \*
- ★ Respects Elders (Most of the time) - \*
- ★ Helpful - \*
- ★ Conscientious - \*
- ★ Genuine - (Most of the time)
- ★ Grounded/ "Down to Earth"



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Underlying Flaws -

- ★ Stubborn - \*
- ★ Self-Righteousness
- ★ Sense of Entitlement
- ★ Immaturity (Sometimes) - \*
- ★ Arrogance (Sometimes) - \*
- ★ Competitive (Toxic) - \*
- ★ Inconsiderate (Sometimes)
- ★ Thinks she's the smartest in the room (Often)
- ★ Bad Attitude (Sometimes) - \*
- ★ Bad Temper - \*
- ★ Insensitive (Sometimes)
- ★ Jealous - \*
- ★ Possessive
- ★ Bossy - \*



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### Can Penny be Toxic Too? -

Penny Proud, the main protagonist on the show is also seen by most as the show's best character and for good reason. She is a leader and a great role model often inspiring those around her to be better men and women, seeing things a lot deeper than what's on the surface. She's rather mature, empathetic and more often than not tries her best to do the right thing or make the best choices possible in whatever situation she is thrust into. Penny is also there to help her friends much of the time. Penny is the most relatable character to the other characters on the show as well as the audience (us). However, Penny Proud is a human being and she too was designed to have imperfections that often end up flying beneath the radar because the audience is usually rooting for her during every episode. She too brings problems into the dynamic that affects each of her friends negatively. First, let's start with Dijonay Jones...



#### Dijonay -

Dijonay Jones is often slammed for how she fails miserably at being Penny's best friend, but at this point repeating it would be like beating a dead horse. However, she too has been a victim of Penny's mishaps. Penny Proud is the leader of the group and as a result she tends to feel like she's superior to her group of friends in several ways, most notably Dijonay. Penny believes more than anything else that she is smarter than Dijonay. In some cases, this may be true, but what she doesn't realize is that in certain areas of life, Dijonay has the advantage, such as street smarts. Dijonay is usually out and about more often than Penny because her parents aren't as strict as Penny's parents. She is put into situations much of the time where she has to fend for not just herself, but her many brothers and sisters that she often has to babysit which of course is a tough task for a 14-year-old like her. Dijonay is also a good writer, especially in poetry where in Episode **25**, she discovered that she was even better than Penny. With a little help from LaCienega, Penny became extremely jealous and was rather cruel to Dijonay throughout a large portion of the episode until the very end. It was so bad that a usually stoic Dijonay was actually hurt by Penny's actions and began to slip into a depression, but at the last second Penny snapped out of it and apologized to Dijonay, saving their friendship. However, it doesn't stop here. A person can tell that over the years Dijonay has built up a deep-rooted resentment toward Penny and often gets an attitude with her. This is because Penny naturally likes to take charge, and this sometimes leads her to being bossy and barking orders at her. Dijonay has become accustomed to Penny talking down to her much of the time and we know that this can't be healthy for her self-esteem. Dijonay also has a tendency to underestimate her own abilities. Dijonay is very talented. Aside from being able to write, she somehow managed to take the time to learn fluent Italian on her own which is remarkable considering that she has so much on her plate at home. She can also cook like a professional chef as we saw her do this for Duke in Episode **36**.



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Dijonay of course is a great dancer, but whenever she does, she seems to be overshadowed by Penny (and LaCienega) as a member of LPDZ.



Zoey -

Zoey oftentimes is the first to notice Penny behaving in a toxic manner and often serves as a whistle blower to Penny in the group. While Dijonay and LaCienega notice Penny's flaws too, they often tend to respond in provocative ways, Dijonay would often get an attitude and do passive aggressive things in retaliation as her underlying resentment towards Penny continues to build and leak out. LaCienega on the other hand often doesn't hold back and will take pleasure in calling Penny out in an aggressive way, usually leading to an argument or a brief shouting match. However, Zoey is able to communicate her grievances in a more respectful way to where it's easier for Penny to digest the message and often Penny will internalize what Zoey says because it's usually logical. However, Penny tends to be stubborn and still won't listen to Zoey right away, especially if it's something she doesn't agree with. Penny also has a tendency to ignore Zoey at times as she seems to be in the background when Dijonay and LaCienega are present. Penny once rejected a fist bump from Zoey simply because of her dorkiness though she accepted it from LaCienega which is quite ironic considering the fact that they won't admit that they are friends, though it's clear they like each other.



LaCienega -

LaCienega is often pointed out for her toxic ways as she is often written to be the antagonist; but yes, Penny has been toxic towards LaCienega as well. Over time, Penny learns how sensitive LaCienega is and starts to use her own weaknesses against her to control her. Sometimes this is for the better, but other times it is not. Also, it's very clear that LaCienega does have plenty of flaws in her personality; but so does Penny. In fact, she and Penny actually share quite a few of the same flaws and Penny is quick to call out LaCienega to her and everyone else for these flaws, but then turns around and does the same things and expects not to be criticized because she seems to think she has a reason to justify her undesirable behaviors but LaCienega doesn't because supposedly she's evil. This is very hypocritical of Penny and certainly unfair. Penny is also a master of using social aggression against people she doesn't like or is even mad at. A good example of this is how she treated Dijonay in Episode 25 after becoming jealous that Dijonay was actually better than her at something. Well Penny has used this form of aggression against LaCienega a whole lot more. In fact, LaCienega actually used social aggression against Penny only twice in the series, Episodes One and 3[2], which happen to be the two episodes that made LaCienega infamous, but those characteristics are pinned more on LaCienega than on Penny, though Penny uses this tactic far more often. LaCienega has ironically been more inclusive of Penny than Penny has of her overall.





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Sticky -

Bossy! One of Penny's most glaring personality flaws is her bossiness and all of her friends have dealt with this; but not as badly as Sticky has. Penny is always bossing Sticky around and often threatens him or physically abuses him to get him to do what she wants. Sticky is actually a good friend to Penny 90% percent of the time but yet she doesn't seem to respect him as much as her girlfriends who are often disloyal to her. Sticky is extremely intelligent, but sometimes Penny talks to him as if she's the adult and he's the child. Perhaps it may be because he's shorter than her. Either way it goes, it's not very nice of her and yet somehow, Sticky seems to take the high road every time.

Penny has also been toxic towards others, such as trying to tell Michael and Olei what to do on separate occasions and actually trying to speak for Olei, because she was shy. She also didn't give Michael as much credit as he deserved when he choreographed the danced that helped her and LPDZ win the dance contest and seemed to have a reason to justify it.



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**Proud Family Dynamics -**



Episode 26 - The Parkers and The Prouds sit down at the table for a grand family dinner following BeBe and CeCe's baptism. The Parkers are Trudy's nuclear family and of course the Prouds are Oscar's family. Penelope, Benjamin and Celine sit directly in the middle of this family tree. Percy Proud is missing from this picture as he is deceased and Sista Spice (Suga Mama's sister) has not yet made her debut.

Penelope Marie Proud has a decent amount of family members on both her mother and her father's sides of the family; however, she mostly spends her time around her mother Gertrude Alicia-Ann Parker (Trudy), her father Oscar Jackson Proud, her grandmother Sugar (Suga Mama), and her younger siblings Benjamin Jackson and Celine Nicole (BeBe and CeCe). Sometimes her uncle Robert (Bobby) makes cameos as a comic relief and her aunt Diana Parker has made two appearances including the big family reunion in Episode 26. No matter if it's just the 6 base characters, or if the entire family is there, Penny still sits at the center of it all and she is the glue that holds it all together, hence why she is the star of the show. The Prouds are a bit of a chaotic family and many of their traits and actions tend to defy all logic. Bobby released a song called, "So Dysfunctional!" and that describes the family quite well at times, especially when the Parkers come around. The Parkers are quite the opposite, they are mostly wealthier and more on the conservative side, which clashes with the Proud's loud obnoxious traits, from the Silent generation (Suga Mama) and the Baby Boomers (Trudy and Oscar). However, the millennials, Penny and [her cousins] actually get along rather well and bond over the fact that their parents



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and grandparents are fighting over senseless stuff, though they do steal one of their parents' cars and get busted by Officer Sunset Boulevardez (LaCienega's mother) who chooses not to arrest them since she is very close to the Proud family herself (more on that later).

At home on a normal day, Penny, Oscar, the twins, Suga Mama and Puff are present. Though Oscar is the man of the house, Trudy seems to have the most power at the end of the day. For one, Trudy is the breadwinner as she is a veterinarian while Oscar is operating an extremely unsuccessful snack business that somehow against all logic is able to continue to run despite its terrible reputation. Though Oscar is strong willed and often attempts to take charge and put his foot down, Trudy still often ends up having the final say in things, often forcing Oscar to go places with her he doesn't want to go and overriding his authority over Penny. Oscar tends to raise Penny with an authoritarian parenting style that clashes with Penny's strong will, but more often than not Trudy will go against what Oscar says and give Penny more lenient boundaries. For the most part, Penny is allowed to have a voice and express her feelings at home, and this is mainly because of the presence of Trudy and Suga Mama, who both team up against Oscar and shut down his authoritarian approach. This is good because it helps Penny develop and maintain her confidence and a healthy self-image. Oscar has also trained Penny to always stand up for what she believes in and as a result, Penny has developed a tendency to advocate for what she believes is right and will even go way out of her way to stand for justice. Penny gets along a lot better with Trudy overall not only because of this, but also Trudy is actually respectful of Penny's feelings and allows her to have a voice. Trudy has excellent communication skills and as a result Penny is practicing being an excellent communicator each time she has a talk with her mom. After years and years of this, Penny has carried this pattern over into her other relationships. She also inherits her forgiving and understanding nature from her mother who also actively trains her to be this way. This is key in her being able to sustain her friendship with Dijonay for so long and her being able to adjust to LaCienega which believe me, was no easy task for Penny and be able to accept her for who she is which again, LaCienega deep down appreciates very much.

However, Oscar's authoritarian principles don't always get shut down and most notably, this shows up when it comes to Penny hanging out with boys. This drives Penny absolutely crazy because she is a teenage girl and naturally, she and all of her friends want to go out to parties and talk to boys. This creates an abundance of opportunities for Penny to get into trouble because most of the activities that she and her girlfriends take part in, involve boys. To make matters worse, even though Penny isn't always trying to date every single boy she sees, Oscar can be way over the top and not even allow her to be around them at all, even going as far as to spy on her. Dijonay often goes behind her back and makes fun of her because of how strict her parents are and sets her up to get in trouble on purpose because she thinks it's funny. LaCienega on the



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other hand sees first-hand how strict Penny's parents are because she's around them quite a lot. Also, LaCienega's parents can be just as strict sometimes and she shares this frustration, even though Penny's parents are even more strict than her own so sometimes, LaCienega has a bit more sympathy for her as she gets frustrated that Penny's parents won't let her do a lot of things. Though LaCienega doesn't say it out loud, she is often disappointed because she wants Penny to hang out with her more but often times is unable to because of her father's tight boundaries.

Another obstacle that stands in Penny's way whenever she is trying to go out with her friends are her baby brother and sister. Whenever Penny is simply trying to go out with her girls, her mom comes to her with news that she has to stay home and watch the twins. Now Penny does love her brother in sister very much, but she is often demoralized each time she finds out that she's stuck having to stay home while her parents and friends go out. Two notable times this takes place are in Episode 8, when LaCienega actually invites her along with Dijonay and Zoey to come with her to the amusement park and Episode 17[16], when the girls are having a water gun/balloon fight outside of her house. Penny actually brings BeBe and CeCe with her, but they prove to be a burden as LaCienega (who actually likes the babies very much) uses the babies as an advantage to steal Penny's date at the amusement park the first time around, and the second time around, Penny gets involved in the water fight after Omar throws a balloon at her and she takes her eyes off the babies who end up in serious danger. Then in Episode 35, Penny is unable to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Storee concert because she has to watch the babies again as her parents have to go to a couple's retreat and this time Dijonay is tied down to babysitting as well. This time Penny isn't alone, and she invites Dijonay to bring her many siblings over so that they could babysit together. But Dijonay proves to be the terrible friend that she is and ditches Penny and her brothers and sisters and sneaks to the concert and meets up with Zoey and LaCienega who were actually having a great day building their own friendship one on one and Dijonay comes in and spoils it for them. Of course, karma played out in Penny's favor that day. Then in Episode 49, we got to see a scenario where BeBe and CeCe grow up to be Penny's age for a day and it was not pretty at all. It got to the point where everybody in Penny's life seemed to forget about her and pay more attention to BeBe and CeCe instead, driving Penny into a deep depression. BeBe and CeCe took it in and began treating Penny poorly themselves. Penny's toxicity was also exposed to full capacity that episode and actually came down on her.



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Penny and Suga Mama have a special sort of relationship themselves. Suga Mama is ready to fight for Penny at the drop of a hat and doesn't like to see anyone mistreating her grandbaby. Aside from overriding Oscar's authoritarian parenting styles, she literally fought Penny's teacher when she gave her a bad grade; though it turned out they actually had a personal relationship from the past that went awry. She also marched up to Wizard Kelly's house after Penny got fired from Wizingdale's for a crime she didn't commit. Penny also pays her Suga Mama to do her favors that her parents otherwise won't do. "Suga Mama and I speak the same language..." Penny says in Episode 3[2] when she throws her first party. Suga Mama is also a power figure in the family too. Outside of being Oscar's mother, she gets a ton of respect due to her seniority and gives of a high level of positive energy that draws people towards her and like to be on her side. She is also the person who is solely responsible for bringing the Prouds and the Boulevardres together as she went and invited Felix and Sunset over for dinner after being mesmerized by Caesar Romero (I mean Papi), without notifying Penny or her parent's first. On the other hand, Suga Mama still had Penny's best interest at heart during the earliest days of LaCienega's feud with Penny saying that Penny, "should've kicked that girl's behind" after LaCienega had started that rumor about her, and then in Episode 13, Suga Mama actually sneakily ruined LaCienega's party by going over to her house and letting Puff go in eat all her food which was one of the biggest selling points of LaCienega's counter-party that she threw to try and punish Penny for not inviting her the second time. Despite Suga Mama not being a fan of Penny's fake friends, she has however developed a liking for LaCienega overtime and later gets to the point where she begins to treat LaCienega as if she too were one of her own. LaCienega has also grown to be close to Suga Mama as well as Suga Mama often spends time at LaCienega's house with Papi as the two are dating. (More on that Later). As you can see, even though Dijonay has been around way longer, Suga Mama has not warmed up to Dijonay in this same way which is quite telling.

Penny and Bobby have shared only a few moments together directly, but his most notable contribution to Penny's life was when he served as a musician for her girl group LPDZ and then her manager when Penny transitioned into a solo career as Penné. Penny credited her uncle as being a father-figure to her through the process, since Oscar maintained a negative attitude towards the entire ordeal. On the other hand, Bobby often makes his younger brother jealous because he appears to be Suga Mama's clear-cut favorite and she often treats him a lot better than she treats Oscar much of the time. Despite this, Oscar and Bobby still get along very well most of the time and do favors for each other and hang out with Felix and Papi.

Commented [SF23]: If anything, Suga Mama can be credited for starting the surrogate Proud-Boulevardres family and actually opened up the avenue for Penny and LaCienega to overcome their horrific start and actually learn to love each other.



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Despite their many flaws, Penny's family is very supportive of her at the end of the day and will come to her assistance as soon as the opportunity arises, even Oscar who has a shaky relationship with Penny because of his excessive strictness. However, he does remind Penny that he behaves the way he does because Penny is very special to him and perhaps the most valuable person to him in his life and will do everything in his power to protect her.

As one can see, Penny is a very balanced product of the Parker and Proud bloodline as she gets many traits from her mom's side of the family as well as her father's side as pointed out in the introduction and from both of those sides there are dominant and recessive traits. From the Parkers, Penny's dominant traits are intelligence, classiness and compassion. Some of those traits she gets specifically from her mother as Trudy happens to have some of her own unique traits that her other family members lack, such as acceptance forgiveness and understanding. Her family on the other hand is very snooty and judgmental and clash with the Prouds because they consider themselves too proper for them. Trudy stands out from the rest of them and actually likes Oscar for who he is. His loudness, goofiness and arrogance are actually what drew Trudy towards him. The Prouds on the other hand are loud, obnoxious, pugnacious and tough. Penny certainly has this in her blood as well as it shows up in her attitude much of the time. It's actually a good thing as these traits are the source of Penny's strength and confidence. Her father's traits on a good day protect her from bullies (except the Gross Sisters, who she still stands up to at times) and gives her the confidence and the strength to fight her own battles and exercise her will. Though it may get her into trouble at times, these traits serve as a phenomenal defense mechanism. This is key because it was the very weapon in her arsenal able to oppose LaCienega's aggression in Episodes One and 14[15] which taught LaCienega that she needed to respect Penny or else there would be consequences.



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## LaCienega Boulevardez Character Analysis - Taking a Deeper Look

  
**LACIENEGA**  
**BOULEVARDEZ**



Artwork by Kayla Relleve

This is LaCienega Boulevardez, Penny Proud's close friend/arch-rival. She is a much deeper character than what we as viewers often see on the surface. Many of us see her as just some snobby mean girl who hates Penny Proud and wants to see her fail, but that is actually far from the truth. LaCienega actually likes Penny - A LOT! Penny inspires LaCienega to be a better person and to be more confident in herself. She admires Penny's confidence and her ability to lead and stand up for what she believes in and LaCienega is usually on board with Penny's protests and causes. She enjoys being next to Penny the majority of the time and is usually more upbeat whenever she is. She cares a lot about what people think of her because she's deeply insecure; but she appears to value Penny's opinion over anyone else in the friend group like the time in Episode 15[14] where she asked Penny if 'Shirley Chisholm' would wear a miniskirt. What Penny says usually cuts deep and this is evident in many of her emotional reactions; watch closely. She's often in her best moods when she's actually working with Penny rather than against Penny. This is evident in episodes 12, 16[15], 20[19], 22 and 27 just to name a few.

In Episodes 31-46, LaCienega's liking of Penny is far more obvious as the two get along really well and are next to one another more often than anyone else. LaCienega's body language shows infatuation with Penny as her body, head, legs, knees and feet are often pointed towards Penny and they make direct eye contact. They also go these sixteen episodes insulting each other just once each which is an impressive span of time. LaCienega also thinks a lot about Penny at times no one else does. For example, in Episode 25 when



**Commented [SF24]:** Penny – "I don't think I like you anymore LaCienega!"

LaCienega – "Who cares what you like Proud?!"



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Dijonay did well at Juicy's Spoken Word Contest, instead of congratulating Dijonay who everyone else was focused on, she immediately made it about Penny having some competition sparking jealousy in Penny towards Dijonay. She also tends to look at Penny when no one else is, even when Penny is not looking at her.

Like everyone else, LaCienega has to wrestle with problems in her personal life. Though her family is relatively wealthy, they are also pretty toxic. Felix is very unsympathetic of his daughter and often doesn't show her the emotional support that a girl like her needs. Papi is a jerk who just sits back talks crap about everything and everyone (mostly Suga Mama), pretty sure LaCienega has been included in this at times; and Sunset is a **tiger b\*\*\*\*!** She's may be Trudy's best friend, but if you read between the lines you can see she's very abusive and controlling of her husband, often times worse than Trudy is towards Oscar and has no respect for him. Also, if you notice, LaCienega often doesn't act like herself around her mom, which is a sign that she's afraid of her, much like Felix. There must be a reason for that. We've also seen on multiple occasions where her own family often doesn't have her back, like the time Papi mercilessly threw his *nieta* and her friends in jail for trying to spray Penné with super soakers and laughed about it while Sunset was inside waiting for Penné to win a Grammy after Penné had selfishly screwed LaCienega and her other friends out of their chances to make it far and enjoy the success with her.

Despite all of this, LaCienega absolutely loves her family and does far more than what she needs to do to show it. She often cooks, cleans and does other chores around the house to please her parents. She even risked her safety and freedom to go and rescue her Papi from the evil retirement home when her parents once again failed to listen to her. She also puts forth her best efforts at whatever she does and takes it very seriously. There is no half-assing anything whenever LaCienega does it. She keeps herself and all of her things neat at all times and always does a thorough job, no matter what. She tries so hard to please her mom and dad because she wants them to be proud of her. She's an over achiever, gets straight A's in school much like Penny does (sometimes even better than Penny), and wins lots of contests. Her home is stacked with trophies and awards, yet she still feels like it's not good enough. She has all of this and yet somehow still envies Penny.

LaCienega is lonely inside. Her parents barely listen to her and she doesn't always open up and express what's in her heart like Penny does. Instead, she puts up this front of cockiness to feed her ego and mask her vulnerabilities that often find ways to leak through regardless. She claims to be the most popular girl at school, but you can tell this is not actually true as she often struggles to find a boyfriend for much of the show just like the other girls. In fact, Penny often gets more attention from boys than LaCienega. She does manage to get with Wizard Kelly Jr. for a very short time, but that's about it. She also has the smallest friend group. Penny, Dijonay and Zoey (and sometimes Sticky and

**Commented [SF25]:** Until she got too old to work the streets!



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Michael whenever they come around) are the only people she hangs out with. At least Penny has hung out with the Gross Sisters, the Chang Triplets (Sohas Dijonay) and a few other outside encounters. Even Zoey has a side group of geeky friends she spends time with off camera at the library and the bookstore away from Penny and those guys. Like Zoey, LaCienega is also an only child. Penny at least has BeBe & CeCe though they're babies and Dijonay's got BeBe's kids (lol).

LaCienega is the most emotional and the most empathetic (besides maybe Zoey) in the group. I am not kidding! Her reactions to everything are the most dramatic and she absolutely hates seeing bad or cringy things happening to her friends, even Penny. She'll insult Penny all the time but if anyone besides her or Dijonay roasts Penny, it (usually bothers her), like when Sunny Stevens was mean to Penny in Episode 27. LaCienega was horrified by her comments toward Penny when she botched her lines on "Iesha." LaCienega also excels at reading the body language of others and can pick up on what they are feeling or what a person's gonna say before they say it. She connects with Penny really well, as the two of them make the best eye contact on the show outside of Penny's eye contact with her mother Trudy. They stare rather deeply into each other's souls. She also tends to pick up on the energy that's around her. Her emotions and facial expressions often times adjust to coincide with those around her. If her friends are upbeat, she too is upbeat. If her friends are feeling sad, she usually gets worried or starts feeling sad too.

LaCienega loves being with Penny, though she tries to hide this. As you notice especially in Season 1, the more Penny tries to avoid LaCienega, the more LaCienega forces her way into being around Penny which is ironic for someone who supposedly doesn't like her. In Episode 3[2], LaCienega was absolutely furious that Penny didn't invite her to a sleepover (turned party) and in retaliation tried to ruin her social life by starting a rumor about her at school. In Episode 13, LaCienega was not invited again and threw a party of her own just to get back at her. It's like LaCienega doesn't want Penny to have a social life without her! It's crazy! She's essentially trying to force Penny to hang out with her. When her party crashes and burns, LaCienega swallows her pride and asks Penny may she come in. When Penny let her in, boy oh boy, you should've seen the look on her face! She looked ecstatic as if she had just won a \$1000 raffle! Not only was she happy that she was let in, she was happy to be with Penny in that moment. Notice she didn't run to Dijonay and the others or try to be the life of the party, but instead, she stayed next to Penny was energized by that. All she wanted at that time was for Penny Proud to accept her.

Commented [SF26]: Except for MakeUp Boy apparently!



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Penny and LaCienega were destined to be best friends and everything that happens around them pushes them closer and closer together. This includes things from both of them having a lot in common, to LaCienega's family moving across from the Prouds, to her parents instantly becoming best friends with Penny's parents, to their grandparents dating each other, to each of them being a longtime friend of Dijonay's and many other situations that they end up going through together due to factors that aren't even in their control. However, they each say and do things that sabotage this natural flow of things because neither of them is 100% ready to accept it.

As we already know, LaCienega is not a perfect person. She can be snobby and has made some selfish decisions. She's also has a tendency to talk trash to the people around her and it's obvious that she craves attention and likes to show off. LaCienega is very well responsible for her actions but in her defense, I think it makes sense that a girl who often doesn't get enough attention at home would seek attention elsewhere. I also think seeing Papi talk trash a lot over the years set an example for her to do the same thing. Her parents may spoil her with big allowances, but that doesn't make up for her emotional needs or for allowing her to have a voice and express herself. How can you expect her not to be selfish if her folks at home are often selfish too? Point is, I believe most of her negative traits were inherited and didn't necessarily start with her. The same could be said of her positive traits such as, inheriting intelligence from her mother or her exceptional ability to swim from her dad and Papi (though it's also linked to one of her biggest insecurities).

Despite many viewing her as neutral or even bad, I think LaCienega is fundamentally good despite her flaws. Naturally she's sensitive, empathetic and loving, and she's not actually out to harm anyone unless there's a reason. With the story being told from Penny's perspective and their relationship getting off to a rocky start, it's easy to view LaCienega as a villain. But if one were to look at the bigger picture, LaCienega is just as human as everyone else and she simply wants the best for herself, her family and her friends, even Penny Proud. The Disney Wiki has her listed as a "neutral" character, but if the Gross Sisters can be listed as "bad then neutral then good" then LaCienega can at least be listed as Good/Neutral if not just Good. By the way, the Gross Sisters are not as 'evil' as they appear either as they have it much rougher than anybody in Penny's group of friends.

**Commented [SF27]:** This is obsolete, but I'll leave it here anyway!



### Why LaCienega Boulevardez is Not Who We Thought She Was -

LaCienega is often mistaken to be this sassy loud-mouthed girl that is overly confident in herself and thinks that she is better than everyone else. But this is also false. Though LaCienega may say out loud that she's the bomb, it's actually-part of her façade. Many believe that LaCienega's negative traits are the ones that truly define who she is because this is what she shows most overtly. Also, with the Proud Family being told mostly from Penny's perspective, LaCienega oftentimes shows up as an antagonist. But LaCienega's loudness, cockiness and sassiness is actually, NOT the real her. It's a façade created to protect her fragile ego. LaCienega is arrogant instead of confident. So arrogant in fact that she overlooks many of her own best traits. LaCienega thinks the best thing about her is that she's pretty and dressed cute, but she's got many more valuable qualities than this. She's very intelligent, a hard-worker, neat and organized, sensitive and an excellent swimmer. Whenever she's not being toxic, she's actually really cool and a lot of fun to be around. She brings life to the party and makes others laugh. But instead, she thinks being pretty is the best thing which just shows how immature she is, and her ego is based around that. Without that, she doesn't seem to think a whole lot of herself. She's loud and obnoxious in order to make people think she's 'the bomb' instead of actually believing it herself. She still looks for external sources of approval from her friends, from boys and mostly from her supposed rival Penny who she's been trying very hard to get to accept her. She goes way over the top to please her parents who I think do love her but in a really strange way. She crumbles very easily if people laugh at her or talk about her in a negative way. Notice how much better Penny handles ridicule than LaCienega does. That's because Penny has real confidence while LaCienega simply has confidence in her looks and this is the main reason why LaCienega still manages to be jealous of Penny. LaCienega may have the upper hand on clothes and material things but Penny has what's inside and LaCienega is pretty aware of this. She even jokingly admits to Penny that she's pretty shallow. In Episode 39, after LaCienega's split from Wizard Kelly Jr. she admitted that she was dating him for all the wrong reasons, because he was rich and powerful instead of what truly mattered. When Penny asked, "Like, how you felt about him and how he felt about you?" LaCi replied, "No! How cute he was!" Sadly, LaCienega is holding herself back because she still thinks looks are the most important thing in life. Penny is actually pretty too, but she doesn't focus as heavily on it as LaCienega does because she realizes looks aren't the most important and that she has bigger things going for herself. LaCienega has bigger things going for herself too, but she just doesn't place as much value on them as she should. If LaCienega really thought so highly of herself, she wouldn't have to try so hard to please everyone or look good in the eyes of others by trying to make people think she's awesome. If she's really the most popular girl at school like she says, she wouldn't have to remind people because everyone would already know and always be talking



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about her. She would get all the attention she wants and more. She probably wouldn't hang out with the same group of friends over and over, especially if one's a geek, another is untrustworthy, and the other is her rival and doesn't like her, unless of course she's just that loyal and must really like her rival, but it looks to be a combination of all of the above. Truth is, LaCienega is actually pretty shy and she does a pretty good job of hiding it through her arrogance. She often doesn't express her what's really in her heart because she's afraid to make herself vulnerable. To be vulnerable is to be exposed and to be weak in LaCienega's eyes because she's insecure about herself beneath the surface. She's afraid of criticism and judgement. This is a learned behavior she picked up in her home life where she and Felix fear her mom. She's noticeably uptight around her Mom and her words and actions are oft inhibited. Holding so much of that energy in for so long likely frustrates her and she can't wait to get away from her Mom to release that energy. It also takes a while for LaCienega to get comfortable with people when she's in a new environment but once she tests the waters and it feels good, that's when she'll go all in. LaCienega was meek in Episode One towards everyone when she was new to Willie T. Ribbs Middle School, except of course Penny, who she was set up to compete against. She viewed Penny as a threat and as a result showed hostility to try and protect herself from perceived threat. Her act of aggression was really an act of defense to protect her fragile ego which in turn is to protect the soft sensitive tissues that cover her delicate spirit. She employs extra energy and extra effort to carry on like this. The real LaCienega is the one we saw in Episode 3[2] when right before she and Penny were about to throw down in the hallway at school, the rumors get reversed on her and she crumbled rapidly, to the point Penny had to show her mercy because she couldn't bear to watch LaCienega fall apart like that even after LaCienega used rumors to break her down to begin with leading up to their fight. We saw the real LaCienega when she was at her most vulnerable in Episode 14[21]. The real LaCienega was present in Episode 32 at the basketball game. The LaCienega we saw in Episode 15[14], asking Penny if Shirley Chisholm would wear a mini skirt was real. In fact, 1955 LaCienega from that same episode paints an excellent picture of the real LaCienega. We saw the real LaCienega when Penné selfishly screwed her and the other girls out of the music business. She got really emotional and couldn't stop thinking about Penny. We saw her when she went to go rescue Papi in Episode 43[42]. We saw her when she and her friends won the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance contest, arguably the happiest we had ever seen her in the entire series.



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In Episode 3[2], Penny stopped their fist fight at the height of their rivalry by taking the high road. A very noble move by Penny; she stopped everyone from gossiping after seeing how fragile LaCienega was and then sang to her afterwards. LaCienega felt somewhat guilty during Penny's lecture but this completely caught her off guard and she stood in disbelief as if what Penny did was unlike anything she had ever seen before. She learned that Penny was strong mentally and very resilient. She couldn't help but admire this and actually disappeared for the better part of two episodes after this. LaCienega still didn't get along with Penny yet, but she couldn't help but respect her from that point forward. Penny went from being beaten down psychologically by LaCienega's rumor, to getting ready to beat her ass, to witnessing karma beating LaCienega's ass for her, to showing her mercy and then singing to her "worst enemy" in front of everyone in a matter of seconds. Wow! LaCienega was shell shocked and she stood wide-eyed as not only Penny sang to her, but everyone else around her joined in. She was definitely touched by this. This is only the second time in the series where Penny gave an inspirational speech and LaCienega was mesmerized by the absolute power of Penny's confidence and how it affected everyone. Both times thus far, LaCienega was affected by it. She was inspired to follow Penny's cause in the previous episode where she made an attempt to hang with her and be her friend and in this episode, she was inspired by Penny for the first time to actually be a better person. LaCienega couldn't help but admire this herself, but she also learned that Penny's raw confidence (which LaCienega lacked and envied but also admired) was her source of power and if she were to ever win against Penny, she would have to somehow bust through this which she knew would be no easy task.

In this same episode, LaCienega actually proved that she admired Penny and wanted to be her friend but had a really odd way of showing it. She was deeply hurt that Penny didn't invite her to her sleepover (turned party) and started the rumors in order to punish her. LaCienega showed in her body language that she was really hurt and in fact furious that Penny didn't invite her but was trying to hold in those emotions in order to make it appear like she was the stronger one and had the upper hand. But you can see the stress lines above her eyes as she spoke and the fact that she put her hand on her chest when she said "Everyone knows it's not a party unless LaCienega Boulevardez is there!" which is an irrational statement considering the fact that people at the school didn't really know her that well yet as she was still pretty new to the area. Though her choice of words were conceited, she didn't look conceited, she looked hurt and upset. Her anger really came to the surface when Penny got frustrated and squared up to fight. LaCienega threw her expensive earrings to the ground and was ready to fight just as much as Penny all because Penny didn't invite her to a party even though she said in the previous episode, "We're not even friends!" So why did she care so much? That's what Penny should have really asked. It's pretty interesting she would do something like this because well, it's actually



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a trait inherited from her mom and that's being forceful. In Episode One when Sunset and Trudy first met, Sunset was explaining the crazy story of how she married Felix. She actually used a ton of force to get him to marry her. She says this to Trudy...

Sunset - "So after I pulled him over, I told Felix he had a choice of walking the line or walking down the aisle." - \*Laughs\*

Trudy - "And he went for that?!"

Sunset - "I'm a cop and I'm strapped!"

Yes! She used her police power to force her now husband, to marry her. Oh my God! This actually explains so much and at some point, I should go more in depth on this. But the main point right here is that in an eerily similar way that Sunset pressured Felix to get him to marry her, LaCienega tried to pressure Penny into accepting her and hanging out with her by taking drastic measures.

Also, is Sunset a *dominatrix*? More on that later!





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**Evidence LaCienega Boulevardez is NOT Evil -**

- ★ LaCienega is very sensitive and feels emotions deeply, even when they're coming from the people around her. Even Penny.
- ★ She loves her family very much, especially her *abuelo*. She risked her safety and freedom to check on him when her mom and dad appeared to not be all that concerned about his well-being.
- ★ LaCienega indeed has a conscience and often feels bad about the things she does, though she may not say it outright.
  - ✓ When she started a rumor about Penny, she originally enjoyed having the upper hand. Once Penny gave her speech about how rumors/lies create the chaos that they do, LaCienega never started another rumor again. The reason she started the rumor was because Penny didn't invite her to her party, and she wanted to get back at her. What LaCienega did was wrong, but in her defense, being excluded, ostracized or left out is a painful thing to experience, especially for someone as sensitive as her. So, she at least had a reason, though it wasn't justified.
  - ✓ In that same episode, LaCienega deliberately talked Penny into disobeying her parents so that she would get into trouble. This was the first and the last time LaCienega intentionally got Penny into trouble with her parents, and it was for the same reasons mentioned above.
  - ✓ Despite Penny refusing to invite LaCienega to her party a second time, LaCienega chose to fight back a different way that did not involve spreading rumors or getting her into trouble with her parents.
- ★ LaCienega showed she cared about the safety of Penny Proud
  - ✓ In Episode 20[19], the girls quickly realized they were in danger when they attended an after-party Bethany had invited Dijonay and her friends to after winning the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest. They were the youngest people there and the older high school boys made aggressive advances toward them, especially Penny. LaCienega along with Dijonay showed concern and kept an eye on Penny without being rude as Gary made his move.
- ★ A vulnerable LaCienega couldn't help but thank Penny Proud for caring about her when she was down, despite her arrogance to admit it afterwards.



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- ✓ In Episode 14[21], LaCienega competed in the Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant and won against all odds. Though LaCienega had plenty of experience winning pageants, she had to overcome a big burden and her arch nemesis turned out to be her greatest ally, using all of her resources to help LaCienega cheer up and become her old self again. LaCienega certainly appreciated what Penny had done and behaved differently towards her in every episode afterwards. Outside of a few jokes here and there, LaCienega no longer used any real aggression (besides Episode 30) towards Penny and even began trusting her enough to ask for advice.
- ★ In the same episode, LaCienega along with her family was forced to stay a week at the Proud House because Oscar accidentally set their house on fire. Penny protested and said she didn't want LaCienega to have to stay with her, going as far as to call LaCienega "EVIL!" Penny was justified to form such an opinion of LaCienega because of all the aggressive things LaCienega had done to her up to that point. However, we learned later in this episode that Penny barely knew her still and would get to know her much better by the end. There are a lot of things we learn about LaCienega and the Boulevardrez family throughout the episode.
- ✓ Just like Penny, LaCienega does chores around her house. She cooks breakfast for her whole family from time to time and she did this when she was at the Proud house. Despite her being spoiled with big allowances, LaCienega returns the favor by going above and beyond to impress her parents. She sets the bar very high for herself, getting straight A's at school, competing hard at whatever she does, being determined to win, keeping herself and her belongings neat and organized and doing her best to plan and prepare. LaCienega does a thorough job whenever she does something. This includes the lunch she prepared for Penny that morning.
- ✓ Speaking of that lunch, LaCienega prepared it because she knew she had done plenty of things to piss Penny off and didn't want Penny to stay mad at her. LaCienega realized that since she had to stay at Penny's for a week, it would be best in the long run to try and get along with her despite their differences. LaCienega also had a secret, and it was her oversized feet. She was so terrified of Penny seeing her feet that she made sure she got up early, disabled Penny's alarm clock and slowed down her morning routine to buy herself some time. Despite LaCienega's outer cockiness, she was surprisingly afraid of Penny's confrontation and worked hard to make things right in the best way she could think of. Though what she did wasn't right, again, she had a reason and she simply didn't want to share that reason. LaCienega did her homework and found out some of Penny's favorite foods to pack



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her for lunch. This took thoughtfulness and effort. (Most enemies wouldn't take the time to find out what their so-called "enemy" likes to eat.) In fact, she cared so much about Penny not being mad at her that she forgot to prepare her own self for her swim test leading to an extremely embarrassing day for her in PE class. LaCienega forgetting to prepare for something is quite an anomaly; that's how much she cared about Penny's feelings toward her that day. She not only embarrassed herself but also risked receiving a failing grade in gym which would've deemed her ineligible to participate in the pageant which she expressed was extremely important to her to the point it drove Penny crazy. LaCienega put a lot on the line just to try and cover up her insecurities in front of Penny. Which brings up the next point.

**Commented [SF28]:** Unless maybe they're trying to poison them.

- ★ LaCienega cares deeply how people feel about her, especially Penny Proud and many of her actions reflect this.
- ✓ Aside from LaCienega going above and beyond with what she did in Episode 14[21], she also showed she cared what Penny thought in two ways...
  - ◆ When Oscar asked why LaCienega was quitting the pageant, LaCienega cried, "Nobody likes me anymore! It's these stupid feet!" When she said, "Nobody likes me anymore" she looked over at Penny.
  - ◆ Oscar eventually made LaCienega laugh by making fun of himself. When Penny joined in and started laughing too, LaCienega stopped abruptly and looked up at Penny again.
- ✓ In Episode 15[14], LaCienega asked Penny if she thought Shirley Chisholm would wear a mini skirt. Why is this a big deal? Because earlier that day she and her classmates were assigned by their teacher Mr. Webb to dress up as a prominent person in Black History for a class project in honor of Black History month. LaCienega was assigned Shirley Chisholm. Despite Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky being there, she chose to walk closer to Penny and ask directly for her opinion. This says a lot especially because Sticky was present and since he was a boy, he would probably be better at judging female beauty. Either LaCienega cared if Penny thought she would look good in a miniskirt or not, or she trusted that Penny would give her the best advice on how to get a good grade on her assignment.
- ✓ In Episode 7, LaCienega was extremely offended when Penny called her "Senorita Snotty" even though she had just made fun of Penny



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because she knew her dad was taking her to the homecoming dance. You can see LaCienega's facial expressions change as she internalizes what Penny says.

- ✓ In Episode 51, LaCienega did something very mean to Michael. After he had made a dress for her, she turned him down in a brutal way. This is because Dijonay kept teasing her. Michael is a goofy kid but despite this, LaCienega had a crush on him. She announced proudly that he would be taking her to the school dance (separate from Episode 7). Dijonay kept teasing LaCienega until she felt embarrassed. LaCienega, who is sensitive and cares too much about how she looks in front of others then told Michael she was canceling her order citing that the dress was great, but that Michael was not, crushing his spirit. Despite LaCienega being known for being a sassy mean girl, she was clearly apprehensive about making this move and immediately felt guilty and remorseful. She sunk into a melancholy state as she did this and remained afterwards. She stared Michael down as he walked away because she knew she had hurt his feelings and felt bad about it. When Penny reprimanded LaCienega, LaCienega couldn't look Penny in the eye because she felt ashamed. Penny and LaCienega make the best eye contact on the show besides the eye contact they make with their parents but couldn't look Penny in the eye as she knew she had done wrong. LaCienega also felt sad inside because she no longer had anyone to go to the dance with while her friends did.

★ LaCienega is naturally empathetic

- ✓ She decided to team up with Penny and help give Zoey a makeover during a time she and Penny still weren't getting along because she knew Zoey was insecure about her looks and wanted to fit in. Instead of just sitting back and bullying Zoey every day, she decided to try and help her. LaCienega bonded with Zoey and actually made her feel the most comfortable by pressing her hair. LaCienega also likes the color red which means that she actually likes Zoey's hair. Though she doesn't say this out loud, she definitely enjoyed playing with it. LaCienega often times slides next to Zoey whenever she cracks a joke on Penny; this is because she wants Zoey to laugh with her. LaCienega does this to try and help boost Zoey's confidence, though this is kind of a dirty way to go about it. LaCienega also enjoys hanging out with Zoey despite her quirkiness and even made fun of Penny and Dijonay before saying, "Come on Zoey, we got places to go and things to buy!" Most popular kids don't want to be seen hanging out with nerds, but LaCienega apparently liked Zoey for who she was and happily spent quality time with her even without Penny or Dijonay.



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- ✓ LaCienega showed aggression towards BeBe and CeCe early on because she was jealous of Penny. What this means is that LaCienega and Zoey don't have any siblings which is another reason they bonded. LaCienega is a bit jealous of Penny and Dijonay because they have brothers and sisters. She goes on to say, "Watching your brothers and sisters is a noble thing to do, and you should be honored to watch them for your parents!" The twins however have always caught LaCienega's attention, even as early as Episode 3[2], when she called them "Happy and Nappy." Though she said this as a way of taking a jab at Penny, they caught her attention nonetheless while it seemed Dijonay and Zoey didn't pay them quite as much attention. In Episode 8, LaCienega was clearly dazzled by the twins' cuteness before using them as a weapon against Penny to get out of a date with a fat guy name Carlos. It can be heard in her voice as she walks over to their stroller before making her sinister face. She didn't actually do anything to harm the babies, but she did use them to create a distraction for Penny so that she would be stuck dating Carlos instead. It was her "get out of jail free card." Of course, this backfired. In Episode 27, LaCienega took it upon herself to help keep the twins company by making googly faces at them while everyone waited on Sunny Stevens to arrive, which Trudy was very pleased to see. Penny was focused on the set while Dijonay and Zoey were chitchatting. In Episode 31, BeBe and CeCe started crying because they missed their mommy and daddy. LaCienega rushed over to console them joining Zoey and then later being joined by Nubia. Apparently, LaCienega has a soft spot for BeBe and CeCe and likes seeing them happy.
- ✓ LaCienega felt bad for her friends after they got fired from Wizingdale's for a crime they did not commit. "Even you Proud!" More like "Especially you Proud!" as LaCienega stood by Penny's side as things got tense when Randi started questioning them about the missing watch.
- ✓ LaCienega looked very nervous when Gary was making his advances toward Penny in the Hip Hop Helicopter episode. She was clearly concerned for Penny's safety.
- ✓ In Episode 30, LaCienega said some really mean things that crushed Penny's confidence after Penny's paper was rejected by Mr. Moody for the Checkerboard Times school newspaper. For the first time, we see Penny actually internalizing LaCienega's insults. Penny went through a slow and agonizing meltdown where she turned bad like the Gross Sisters, so bad in fact that the Gross Sisters even found her to be too hardcore. Penny ended up in boot camp and nearly lost everything and everyone that was important to her. Watching Penny fall apart like this was so much for even LaCienega to handle that after this, LaCienega

Commented [SF29]: Is LaCienega truly racist or just ignorant?

Commented [SF30]: She definitely did...



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actually started being a lot nicer to Penny in the episodes that followed. In Episode 31, she celebrated with Penny as they went to Al Roker's party. She also ended up being the only one to actually help Penny clean up her house after it was ravaged by a wild house party. This is the same episode where she coddled the twins after they broke out crying, eventually breaking out crying herself alongside Zoey and Nubia. She made Penny laugh for the first time in Episode 32 at the basketball game and showed she was clearly happy to be on a girls' night out with Penny, even with their moms being there. In Episode 35, she was genuinely sad that Penny wasn't at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Storee concert with her and the girls. As Dijonay poured out her drink in honor of Penny, LaCienega's face grew visibly sad and her pupils wandered away from Dijonay's demonstration suggesting that she was actually thinking about Penny in that moment. In Episode 37, LaCienega cheered Penny on as she got to dance with the handsome Johnny Lovely instead of getting jealous or cock blocking. In Episode 38, Penny and the girls went on a church camping retreat along with the choir and Penny developed a crush on the pastor's son Tory. LaCienega was ironically the most supportive of all the girls. She offered Penny her breath mints and lip gloss so that if Penny got the chance to kiss Tory, her breath would smell fresh and her lips would be smooth and tasty, ensuring the kiss would be as great as it could be and that Penny wouldn't embarrass herself. Penny snatched all her breath mints and even ate LaCienega's lip gloss which caused LaCienega to say, "Ewww..." but LaCienega didn't get mad at Penny because she was more concerned about her and Tory having a great kiss. She put forth her best efforts to help Penny. She also covered for Penny as promised when her dad stormed in to pull Penny out of camp and ground her upon finding out she was planning to kiss a boy. LaCienega behaved like a true friend to Penny throughout the entire episode. The list goes on...

- ✓ In Episode 40, LaCienega told Suga Mama what she wanted to hear regarding Papi. LaCienega knew Papi was seeing other women but she simply told Suga Mama that Papi was holding up fine. Though LaCienega wasn't being honest here, she made the best move in this situation to avoid having Suga Mama's old heart being broken and to keep the peace between the Prouds and the Boulevardez' who's family-to-family relationship all started because of Suga Mama.
- ★ Speaking of peace, LaCienega was a brutal antagonist to Penny at the beginning of the series; however, she did her best to keep her drama with Penny between just the two of them. A girl like LaCienega who is presented to the audience as a toxic mean girl that loves drama actually proved she disliked it and tried to keep bystanders from getting involved.



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- ★ LaCienega hates drama. I repeat, LaCienega hates drama! Not only does she not like her own drama (as we saw she was actually afraid of confrontation in Episode 14[21]), she doesn't like seeing drama between others either. She regretted trash talking Penny after Dijonay outperformed her at the Poetry Slam in Episode 25 after seeing how Penny reacted. Though a part of her was glad to see Penny being the jealous one for a change, she grew increasingly uncomfortable along with Zoey as the feud between Penny and Dijonay intensified throughout the episode. LaCienega did not enjoy watching Penny and Dijonay go at it like that. Also, in Episode 24, Penny told her friends that she suspected that her dad might have been cheating on her mom with Deborah (aka Thingy). LaCienega asked, "Are you gonna drop a dime on your dad Proud?" LaCienega was a bit nervous for Penny and the state of her family hoping that Penny wouldn't out her father possibly leading to a divorce though it had nothing to do with her.
- ★ When LaCienega thought that her boyfriend Wizard Jr. stole the watch from Wizingdale's in Episode 39, LaCienega yelled at him and called him a thief, saying that he got her friends fired. Apparently, LaCienega doesn't condone thievery and was upset that his thievery cost her friends their jobs. Only problem was Wiz Jr. didn't actually steal it. Penny falsely accused him and LaCienega agreed causing him to dump her. Though LaCienega had anticipated it, Penny never thought to accuse LaCienega which surprised her. Even Penny knew that LaCienega wasn't the type to steal.
- ★ When Penny found out she was wrong about the watch, she went over to apologize to LaCienega who was actually touched by Penny's apology. She was happy that Penny actually came to talk to her and even more happy that Penny apologized. They had a brief heart to heart and shared their biggest bonding moment on the show, though still refusing to call each other friends. LaCienega got along well with Penny and poked fun at their love hate relationship while they exchanged a fist bump, something many viewers would've never imagined was possible at the beginning of the series.
- ★ Jumping back to Episode 13, LaCienega had thrown a party of her own just to get back at Penny for not inviting her for a second time. When it fell apart, LaCienega swallowed her pride and asked Penny, "May I come in?" to which Penny forgave her and let her in. It seemed as though LaCienega was being cruel to Penny early on but again, LaCienega was acting based on her emotions and decided that she would not start a rumor, get Penny in trouble with her parents or come over uninvited like she did in Episode 3[2]. LaCienega learned her lesson from Episode 3[2] and was much more respectful despite her aggressive retaliation. Also, remember when LaCienega pranked Penny with the shock watch in Episode 14[21]? That was in retaliation to a prank Penny pulled on her at the end of Episode 13





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after they had just bonded. The same prank Penny pulled on Myron and the Gross Sisters earlier in the episode involving her taking a strand of hair and splashing water in their faces, she used on LaCienega off screen. Since we only get to see LaCienega's prank on screen, she looks like a villain once again when in reality, it was a revenge prank. Also, the shock watch LaCienega used on Penny had an underlying message as well.

- ★ In The Proud Family Movie, LaCienega went along to help rescue Penny's family. One could say this was her way of returning the favor for Penny helping to rescue Papi in Episode 43[42]. By the way, LaCienega wanted Penny to be there with her that day more than anyone else for whatever reason.
- ★ LaCienega has done some selfish things from time to time; however, we see that she also enjoys helping her friends at other times. Zoey's makeover, helping Penny clean up, and Suga Mama's wedding just to name a few.
- ★ In Episode One, we saw some of the worst of LaCienega Boulevardez. However, one moment that stands out is that despite competing against Penny for the last spot on the cheer team and ultimately coming out on top, she decided to approach Penny and thank her for, "Taking that little spin for me." Penny had saved LaCienega from serious injury by forcing her offstage as Sticky and the Gross Sisters had set up a prank to sabotage her. Penny however got caught in the trap and got injured herself thus sacrificing her own chances of defeating LaCienega. However, Penny wasn't accepting of LaCienega's thanks because LaCienega had been rude to her all episode long and actually acted phony several times causing Penny not to trust it as genuine. When Penny got snarky and said, "It's the least you can do." LaCienega withdraws and says, "Sorry can't do it!" To the viewer, LaCienega looks like she's simply being callous, rude and unappreciative; but really, she was simply responding to Penny's attitude in that moment. But who can blame Penny though? At the end of the day, Penny was in the right here, but for whatever reason, LaCienega still couldn't handle accepting Penny's frustration though she caused it, it's because she's sensitive and often lets her emotions overrule her logic. It explains why she was actually going to fight Penny in Episode 3[2].
- ★ Like everyone else, LaCienega has to wrestle with problems in her personal life. Her parents barely listen to her which causes her to work extra hard to please and impress them. As a result, she craves attention from her peers. Penny and Dijonay become well aware of this by Episode 51 and use this weakness against her. Her mom has taught her well to respect authority. This may have much to do with her being a cop. Sunset often abuses Felix and LaCienega witnesses this. It's pretty obvious she fears her mom and



**Commented [SF31]:** Myth: Girls feel a spark when they touch a person they love.

The energy between Penny and LaCienega is intense and so is their relationship moving forward and LaCienega is inviting Penny to come along for the ride.

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often doesn't speak her mind in front of her. It's not because she's phony, it's because of fear. Speaking of phoniness, it's actually a skill she picked up from her mom. Felix and Sunset apparently have trouble communicating effectively with their daughter and it negatively affects her confidence. Her dad is often unsympathetic when she's dealing with hardships. Also, Papi is often a jerk who talks trash about everyone and everything and even threw his own granddaughter in jail along with her friends just for trying to spray Penné with super soakers. Keep in mind this was in retaliation for Penny selfishly casting them off as LPDZ and going solo, becoming a narcissistic diva. "Pero, Papi, it's me! Your *nieta*!" LaCienega pleaded. But Papi just laughed and went on with it while Sunset was waiting inside for Penné to receive her Grammy award without her daughter. When LaCienega competed in the Teen Idol in Episode 46, her own parents voted Agatha over her. Despite Agatha truly being the better singer, LaCienega was still good herself and it's still expected that her own family would support her first, but that just wasn't the case. Despite all of that, LaCienega still loves her family with all her heart and gives her all for them and will even put her health, safety and freedom on the line for them. An evil person would never do this.

- ★ Lastly, Dijonay once said, "The LaCienega I knew was a very nice person, someone you could depend on." Hearing this in Episode One seemed way farfetched, but LaCienega gradually showed more and more of those qualities not just to Penny but to her other friends and especially her family as the series progressed.

**Commented [SF32]:** In Episode 43[42], Sunset asks "Ooh, what's that great smell?!" when it smelled bad at Happy Endings Retirement Resort in the exact same way LaCienega did when she smelled chitterlings at Penny's house and LaCienega pinched her nose as her mom said this. Naturally, LaCienega is actually a brutally honest person to a fault. Penny, Dijonay and Zoey have all had to nudge LaCienega at least once to prevent her from saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. LaCienega is innately an honest person, not a phony one. She was trained to act that way by Sunset and Dijonay.

**Commented [SF33]:** When LaCienega slumped into a depression in Episode 14[21], Penny seemed to care the most out of everyone. Sunset literally had to force Felix to try and talk to LaCienega and when they did, they proved inept. It also seems like they failed to notice anything was wrong with LaCienega for two whole days until Penny finally complained to her own parents about the situation.



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**LaCienega's Strengths and Flaws -**



- Shares trait with Penny

**Strengths -**

★ Intelligence - 


★ Compassion - 


★ Sensitivity


★ Empathy - 

★ Good Team Player (Sometimes)


★ Artistic (Fashion)

★ Determination - 


★ Non-verbal Communication Skills - 

★ Good Student - 

★ Hard Working - 

★ Respects Elders (Most of the time) - 

★ Helpful - 

★ Conscientious - 

★ Organized

★ Thorough/Perfectionist

★ Honesty (Mainly towards Penny)

★ Charismatic



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Underlying Flaws -

- ★ Hypersensitive
- ★ Dramatic
- ★ Selfish
- ★ Fearful
- ★ Conceit
- ★ Egotistical
- ★ Disingenuous (Sometimes as defense mechanism)
- ★ Stubborn - 🧒
- ★ Arrogance (Often) - 🧒
- ★ Immaturity (Sometimes) - 🧒
- ★ Competitive (Toxic) - 🧒
- ★ Bossy - 🧒
- ★ Moody
- ★ Sneaky
- ★ Bad Attitude - 🧒
- ★ Bad Temper - 🧒
- ★ Jealous - 🧒
- ★ Inconsistent
- ★ Lack of Intrinsic Confidence (Relies on External Validation)



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**Boulevardrez Family Dynamics -**



Episode 43 - The Boulevardrez family [Felix (Top), LaCienega (Left), Papi (Center), Sunset (Right)] all share a group hug. LaCienega and her parents are reunited with Papi after his stay at the Happy Endings Retirement Resort turned out to be a nightmare leading to him being broken out of what was virtually a prison and to a high-speed chase from Nevada to Arizona.

This is the Boulevardrez Family, consisting of Felix, Sunset, LaCienega and Papi. The show provides us with far less information about this family as it does the Prouds because this is *The Proud Family*, not *Meet the Boulevardres*. We do get a few clues that this group keeps a lot of things in house. They are best friends with the Prouds, but yet are very secretive. For some reason, it seems Penny has never entered LaCienega's house. We haven't seen her go in or ever hear about it despite LaCienega constantly coming to hers. Even we (the audience) get to see the inside of their home for a brief moment, but we never get to see LaCienega's bedroom because Penny has never been in there; but yet Zoey, Dijonay and Sticky all have at least once. We've seen Penny go over Dijonay's house before but not LaCienega's even though she lives right across the street and they see each other every day. Also, the dynamics are very strange here. Sunset is the tallest in the family as Felix is short and portly. Papi is the oldest, yet the shortest. This leaves LaCienega, in third place. Unlike Penny, LaCienega is an only child and has no brothers or sisters. This is both good and bad for LaCienega because she doesn't have to deal with the responsibility of baby-sitting like Penny does, but she feels lonely as a result and is shown to be jealous of Penny and Dijonay because they have siblings. LaCienega seems to have an affinity for BeBe and CeCe and gushes over them every time she sees them. Good news is, they seem to like her too, much like the rest of Penny's family.



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Sunset, who is a police officer, is the breadwinner and the most powerful figure in this dynamic. She appears nice in public but seems to be very domineering of her husband Felix. LaCienega is exposed to this on a regular basis at home and appears to be disturbed by it. What's also eerie is that Sunset cannot necessarily be trusted. She is a master at being disingenuous and teaches her daughter LaCienega to be the same way. In Episode One, they went to visit the Prouds for the first time after moving on the block and we noticed LaCienega deliberately behaving this way when talking to Penny's mom. With this being the first episode, this helps us to develop our distasteful first impressions of LaCienega that the show wants us to have. But if you look closer, you'll see that while LaCienega is suggesting that she and Penny hang out she is actually being coached by her mother.



At this point in the series, Penny and LaCienega did not like each other at all and we know that in the very next scene LaCienega rudely rejected Penny's request to sit with her even after she apologized about how badly last night went for them before acting phony when Dijonay, Sticky and Zoey walk up. As you can see, Sunset is leaning over her daughter and looking at her with lowered eyelids. LaCienega is under her control while Trudy and Penny are functioning naturally. LaCienega left a good impression on Trudy thanks to Sunset's micromanagement of her behavior. Perhaps LaCienega may have gone home and threw a tirade about her bad experiences meeting Penny and Sunset demanded that she'd be on her best behavior. Penny's mother told her the same thing when she complained about LaCienega, but it appears somehow Sunset did a better job of enforcing this with LaCienega than Trudy did with Penny. This is because, unlike Trudy, Sunset adopts an authoritarian parenting style and since she is the breadwinner, she is the most dominant force in the



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household and tends to keep things under her control; she is a cop after all. Trudy on the other hand practices a democratic parenting style with Penny and she allows Penny to have a voice and be herself. This is why Penny is more confident in herself than LaCienega is. It's because Penny was raised to always stand up for what she believes in and was trained to be herself and to be an excellent communicator at home while LaCienega's mother appears to be controlling her daughter's behaviors in certain settings. LaCienega has unfortunately developed a reputation by fans for being fake and pretending to be a good girl in front of adults. This is because Sunset forces her to be. While Sunset may have good intentions by making her daughter be polite to her neighbors, it's quite detrimental to LaCienega's development, especially with her being a teenager. She is training LaCienega to be in the habit of being disingenuous like herself which causes LaCienega to become more and more afraid of being judged.

**Commented [SF34]:** Though Trudy does still pick out her clothes early on and as a result, Penny is stuck wearing her iconic outfit.



Episode 43 - The Boulevarders tour Happy Endings Retirement Resort. We see Sunset behaving phony in the exact same way LaCienega did in Episode One. Sunset asks, "Oh! What is that great smell?" with a huge fake smile on her face, while LaCienega pinches her nose instead. This shows that LaCienega is not instinctually a faker. It's a skill she learned from her mother.

What's worse is that LaCienega isn't naturally this way. She is loud, obnoxious and likes to speak her mind. Sometimes she can be brutally honest and has a tendency to blurt out things that are considered by most, better left unsaid. She's been especially honest with Penny; showing Penny her ugly side while





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showing everybody else only her good side among many other things. How can LaCienega learn self-love if she's constantly practicing habits that show that she's not fully comfortable being her whole and true self to everyone? She's been conditioned to alter her behaviors to impress others rather than simply satisfying herself.



An anxious LaCienega attempts to stop her parents from leaving Papi at Happy Endings Retirement Resort in Episode 43. Like many times before, LaCienega's parents fail to listen to her. She's afraid her Papi will be alone around people he can't trust. She has her Papi's health and safety in mind, but her parents choose what's in their own best interest instead.

In this scene, LaCienega is acting as a voice of reason in her family. This is perhaps the last thing that we as viewers expect based on the role we usually see her play in her friend group. This is a key scene where LaCienega's empathetic spirit really comes into play. She apparently cared the most about Papi in the household and even dragged her friends (especially Penny) with her just to go and check on him.

This household is an enigma. Despite the financial stability, this household is a lot less stable on the inside than it looks from the outside and there are many reasons why. First off, we learned in Episode One that Sunset used her police powers to force Felix Bouvardez to marry her after she caught him engaging in illegal activity. This is RAPE! Keep that in mind. Secondly, Papi is an illegal alien and has implied that he's actually opened to marrying Suga Mama in order to attain U.S. Citizenship. Papi apparently has caused so many problems there that Sunset had him jettisoned and the moments leading up to





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this put a heavy strain on Felix and Sunset's marriage. Sunset is bisexual, LaCienega is bi-curious and this is problematic for this family because Sunset gets easily turned on by both sexes which open up greater possibilities for infidelity and LaCienega is still a developing teenager who is still learning about herself has enough to wrestle with when it comes to developing a truly healthy self-concept. Also, if LaCienega does end up leaning closer to being a lesbian in the future, this could put an end to her blood line since she's an only child. It's enough that she's female meaning that she's less likely to carry the Boulevardez Family name onward, but if she's lesbian, she won't be able to reproduce. Luckily, LaCienega likes boys way more than she likes girls and Penny seems to be the only female so far, she's ever been so obsessed with.

Also, there are subtle clues that LaCienega's home life can be toxic at times. Though she is spoiled, her father doesn't seem to be as caring as he should be toward his daughter and Sunset is an undercover b\*\*\*\*! It's apparent that there's a good chance she and her husband might be practicing BDSM at home and that Sunset is the dominant force in the relationship. She seems to punish Felix as if he's a child at times like taking the keys to the home theater away from him though it's his house too. Felix has also done some crazy things himself such as putting one of LaCienega's outfits in a paper shredder because he didn't approve of it. Though there was a good reason not to allow her to wear it, it was still unreasonable for him to do this. Also, her *abuelo*, Papi talks crap about everything in *Español* and I'm sure she's fallen victim to it herself at times. Seeing that he took no issues throwing his *nieta* and her friends in jail once makes this easier to assume. Growing up in an environment with an abusive, controlling mother, who's a cop, a dad who lacks empathy much of the time and a grandfather who talks shit all the time can be toxic for a developing young lady like LaCienega who a person could also tell, tries very hard to please her parents. This was on display when she cooked breakfast for the whole family at Penny's house though it wasn't her job to do so. Early on, she behaved differently around her parents as well which shows she fears how her parents might react if she acts like her full self.

### Family Origins -

It is unknown whether or not LaCienega was actually born in Wizardville, but she was there from a very young age as she and Dijonay knew each other as toddlers. It's clear Papi wasn't born in the United States, but we don't know if he's Mexican, Spaniard, Puerto Rican or whichever other Latin nationality. Felix is Papi's son so whatever is in Papi's blood is in his as well. It's not officially spoken on the show, but Sunset shows all signs of being of Puerto Rican descent. It's not clear though because none of her family members are introduced in the series. This leaves LaCienega who is a mixed raced Latina. Papi is white and Sunset is black. It is possible Felix may have some black in him too, but we would only know if we were to see his mother. As you can see, Sunset is slightly darker than LaCienega who in turn is darker than Felix. There still is so much more to be discovered.

**Commented [SF35]:** Unless she finds herself a sperm donor... good luck!

**Commented [SF36]:** 3-18-2022 – We will finally get to meet her sister and her niece in Episode 9 of the new series per report.

4-13-2022 - Sunset's sister Melrose and her niece LaBrea are introduced in "Raging Bully"



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### Is Sunset Really a Dominatrix -

Not much is revealed to us about Sunset in the series. What we do know is...

- ★ She is extremely attractive, especially considering she is 50 years old.
- ★ She is a police officer and is the breadwinner of the house (like Trudy).
- ★ She is taller than her husband.
- ★ She used her police powers to force her husband to marry her.
- ★ She's the dominant force in the relationship.
- ★ She's often fake in public and inspires her daughter LaCienega to do the same.
- ★ Both her husband and her daughter fear her.
- ★ Sunset is bisexual and has shown herself to be turned on by both men and women on the show. Unlike LaCienega, we've seen concrete evidence that Sunset is turned on by women.
- ★ Like LaCienega, Sunset cares about her appearance when she's not on police duty and chooses to look sexy much of the time. She has her hair done nicely, wears tight clothes and makeup.
- ★ She's coquettish and has a tendency to flirt with both males and females.
- ★ Sunset is an extrovert, LaCienega is an introvert. It seems ironic to classify LaCienega as an introvert, especially since she craves attention and loves to party. The thing here though is that LaCienega is actually quite stand-off-ish and has a small group of friends. She's insecure, tries to bury her feelings much of the time, though she sucks at it, and only acts like her complete self around the people that she feels most comfortable doing so (Penny, Dijonay, Zoey, Michael and later on, the Proud Family). She was also very shy around the other kids when she was first introduced in Episode One, until Zoey stroked her ego. LaCienega often feels alone inside despite being in the company of Penny, Zoey and Dijonay. It takes her a long time to open up to people, but once she does get comfortable, she brings life to the party. The key here is, LaCienega enjoys receiving positive attention for self-validation. However, a true extrovert also hands out a lot of attention too, both to people they know and don't know and are always looking for a conversation. LaCienega has shown to be quite reserved at times even in her own friend group and will sometimes, stand in the corner or off to the side with her arms folded and then jump into the conversation with some sort of snarky comment or just to throw shade at Penny. Also notice in the movie during battle dance, LaCienega danced by herself while Penny, Dijonay and Sticky danced as a group. She also told Penny she was cool by herself when Penny offered to sit at the table with her in Episode One. This isn't the only time LaCienega has shown she's okay being by herself as she sat alone in Episode 12 as she jealously

Commented [SF37]: Says who??



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watched Zoey get attention from boys and Episode 14[21], during her depression, but yet she tells Penny, "It isn't a party unless LaCienega Boulevardez is there!"

- ★ Sunset is very affectionate and tends to communicate a lot using physical touch which makes people feel warm and close to her. LaCienega inherits this trait directly from Sunset as she is very touchy with Penny, Zoey and even Agatha Ordinario throughout the series. She also enjoys being touched.
- ★ Sunset is very emotional and has a tendency to be forceful when she doesn't get her way and it can often be very extreme. LaCienega also inherits this trait from her mom. While LaCienega's emotions appear somewhat more intense, her actions are nowhere near as extreme.
- ★ LaCienega also inherits a strong feminine energy from her mom and it carries over into her own relationships.
- ★ Despite her flaws, Sunset has actually been a good friend to Trudy except for maybe Episode 34 where she bonded with René and pretended not to recognize Trudy sparking jealousy in her.
- ★ Sunset has also been very supportive of Penny and is on her side more often than not; even at the expense of LaCienega. On the flip side, LaCienega relates very well to the Proud Family and Trudy, Oscar and even Suga Mama take LaCienega under their wings as if she were indeed a part of the family. LaCienega is more well accepted by Oscar and Suga Mama than Dijonay and Zoey are even despite Dijonay being around much longer.
- ★ Despite the situation going on in LaCienega's family, LaCienega loves her mom, dad and Papi very much, works hard to please and impress them and will even risk her life for them. Family is perhaps the only thing LaCienega places higher value on than good looks and social status and it shows.
- ★ Sunset and Felix are far from being perfect parents, however we are provided with enough information and evidence that they do in fact love their daughter.
- ★ Sunset cares a lot about her daughter but she has trouble keeping an open line of communication with her the way Trudy is able to with Penny. This explains a lot as to why Penny is more confident in herself and why LaCienega is much more heavily influenced by the ego.
- ★ Sunset appears to be a dominatrix. The forceful and abusive tactics she employs to keep control over her household, mainly her husband can be awkward and disturbing to say the least. One can only imagine what really happens behind closed doors. It's hard to know since Penny refuses to allow LaCienega to have home field advantage. Penny never goes inside of LaCienega's house though her entire family and her friends have all been there and LaCienega always comes to her house.

Commented [SF38]: 4-18-2022 - Thank God for "Raging Bully"

Commented [SF39]: Thanks Ralph 😊 (Father Figures)



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The Prouds and/y Los Boulevardes -



LaCienega has spent more time around Penny's family than anyone else of her group of friends which is impressive considering how long Penny and Dijonay have been friends for. In Episode One, the Boulevard family moved into their house across the street from Penny's house and as we all know, Penny wasn't thrilled after their first encounter went ever so poorly. Suga Mama was actually the first member of The Proud Family to mingle with the Boulevardes, of course besides Penny meeting LaCienega at school. She takes it upon herself to invite the new neighbors over to Oscar's house for dinner after being mesmerized by "Caesar Romero" who of course is actually Papi meaning it was ultimately Suga Mama who brought the Prouds and the Boulevardes together. Strangely enough, Oscar and Felix perfectly complimented each other and became best friends immediately! The two are so much alike. It's also ironic that their names happen to be Oscar and Felix which make up the names of another famous duo known as "The Odd Couple!" Odd indeed. Then, Trudy and Sunset hit it off immediately in the kitchen as Sunset reveals to us how she and her husband got married and as we know, the details she provided are a bit disturbing to say the least. Then there's Penny and LaCienega who formally meet again and boy this first day is rough. Using the phoniness LaCienega picked up from her mom, she ends up winning over the Prouds with flying colors, pretending to be nice, saying that the chitterlings smelled good and even bringing Penny and Trudy gifts.

**Commented [SF40]:** Dijonay has however met more of Penny's family members as she was the only friend who was present in Episode 26 when Trudy's family came to town for BeBe & CeCe's baptismal ceremony.



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Apparently, LaCienega was aware that she and her family were moving across the street from Penny just as early, if not earlier than Penny. It's possible she may have found out once Suga Mama introduced herself to them off screen and therefore prepared gifts once they learned they would be coming to visit later that night. I'm sure LaCienega brought the gifts mainly because her mother told her it would be polite to do so. Despite the roller coaster ride LaCienega takes Penny on, Suga Mama and Papi have the wackiest relationship. Papi degrades and disrespects Suga Mama in Spanish every chance he gets but yet he still chooses to spend quality time with her. Since Suga Mama doesn't know what he's saying, she's mesmerized by him regardless. In Penny and LaCienega's relationship we see traits from their mothers' relationship, their fathers' relationship and even their grandparents' relationship. LaCienega talks crap about Penny all of the time yet still chooses to be around her and in fact enjoys it very much. We already know how much LaCienega enjoys being seen with Penny. Penny and LaCienega have a lot in common, just like their fathers do. Penny typically leads LaCienega much like Trudy usually leads Sunset and the two can be very affectionate. But Penny and LaCienega have a ton of differences in their relationship from their parents' and grandparents and this is mainly because they first met on bad terms while the rest of their families met on good terms. It begs the question, what would have happened between Penny and LaCienega had they not been competing for the last spot on the cheer squad? In Episode One, Penny reveals to Trudy and Suga Mama that she didn't like LaCienega after their first encounter because they were competing for the last spot on the cheer team and LaCienega was mean to her. Penny was also jealous because she misread the situation and thought that



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LaCienega was trying to steal her best friend Dijonay from her. It's also worth noting that LaCienega also misread the situation because she's overly sensitive and thought Penny was a bad sport and didn't like her because she frowned at Zoey while Zoey was complimenting LaCienega's stellar performance. This wouldn't have been so bad had Zoey not just told Penny she was a "shoo-in." Dijonay was torn between who she should pick because she didn't want to choose one at the expense of the other, so she perpetuated the rivalry by deciding the two would compete in a cheer-off. Dijonay has been a bad friend to Penny throughout the series, but in this case, she truly was in a difficult situation and wasn't ready to make her decision. What's interesting is that LaCienega had actually put on a flashier performance than Penny and yet Dijonay still decided to have the cheer-off which actually left the door open for Penny for at least an extra day. This means LaCienega actually had to try harder than Penny in order to win, but this flew completely under the radar. Suga Mama tells Penny "I told you to ditch that Dijonay a long time ago!" Trudy follows up with, "Maybe if you get to know her better, you two just might become good friends!" in a scene that would set the tone for the rest of the series. Penny of course doubts this and tries to avoid meeting her and her family later that night. Remember how I said Penny and LaCienega were similar? Well one of their biggest similarities is competitiveness, a trait they both inherit from their fathers. Strangely enough though, Oscar and Felix get along well, while this competition is what serves as a roadblock for Penny and LaCi. Penny competes hard and LaCienega competes dirty which is why this dynamic gets off to such an ugly start. As viewers we're trained to hate LaCienega because the story is told from Penny's perspective as the show is called "The Proud Family" not "Meet the Boulevardes" and LaCienega is playing the role of the antagonist, while in LaCienega's eyes, Penny is her antagonist. She actually gets along with everybody except for Penny in the beginning. This is because she doesn't have a reason to compete with anybody else, including Dijonay, Zoey, Sticky or even Penny's family members but with Penny she's competing for the last spot on the cheer team as well as social status. LaCienega was hostile towards Penny surely, but if she were really a bad person all around it wouldn't have taken long for everyone else notice and be turned off by her even despite her sneaky tactics. Her attacks on Penny were merely personal because the two were thrust into competition due to factors that weren't in their control and it became an emotionally charged situation. Despite this feud, Penny and LaCienega would actually end up becoming closer than ever and learn internally that they both like each other a lot, one, because they're very similar and two, they have separate traits that they like about one another regardless. They both satisfy each other's intrinsic need for competition which they learn later that their competitive spirits actually make them a serious threat when they end up working as a team which is why they bonded so much over winning the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest in Episode 20[19]. That victory was especially satisfying since they competed against each other so much in the past and for the first time, they both got to win together. But also, LaCienega admired Penny's strength, leadership and maturity. She tried to ignore it early on, until Episode 14[21] rolled around, and she was directly affected by it. Also, in that same episode, Penny got a clearer understanding as to why LaCienega behaved the way that she did and learned to appreciate her for who she truly





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was, soft, sensitive and passionate. They even got/(had) to share a bed together. Since everything in their world kept pushing them closer and closer together and they figured out that they want pretty much the same things life, the learned to love one another despite initially not liking each other. Plus, the Prouds and Boulevardes' had gotten so close over time that their families often go on joint-ventures functioning as one big unit. This happens so much that the first time I saw the Proud Family, I actually believed that Penny and LaCienega were either sisters or cousins before finding out later that they were not related at all. Suga Mama and Papi contemplating marriage could actually make this a reality for them. It's gotten to the point where LaCienega has gotten comfortable enough with the family that the Prouds sometimes treat her as if she's actually a part of the family. Oscar and Trudy have both done big things for LaCienega and often take her under their wing. Even Suga Mama, who frequently dogs out Penny's friends, especially Dijonay clearly likes LaCienega a whole lot more and treats her like she too is her granddaughter as she has been around LaCienega a lot without Penny or Oscar being around and Papi has been over to the Proud house without Felix or LaCienega in many episodes. The same cannot be said for Dijonay, Zoey or even Sticky who have known Penny much longer. Though we only get to see so much from Sunset, we do see enough to know that she too likes Penny a lot. She chose not to arrest Penny and her cousins after she caught them stealing her uncle's self-driving vehicle though she really should have. She also supported Penné when she won her music award even after LaCienega had been dropped from their label. LaCienega even had a rough start with Penny's baby brother and sister in the beginning but even they eventually warmed up to one another by Episode 27. The babies are more familiar with LaCienega's face now than they are with Dijonay or Zoey though they've been around the babies quite a bit themselves. It's pretty clear now that LaCienega has a soft spot for BeBe & CeCe and is even a bit envious of Penny (and Dijonay) because she (like Zoey) is an only child.



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Episode 27 - LaCienega takes it upon herself to keep the twins (BeBe & CeCe) entertained while waiting for "lesha" star, Sunny Stevens to arrive at the studio and meet Penny. Trudy breaks open a smile when she notices LaCienega hovering over her babies as she strokes their stroller back and forth. One of the few episodes where LaCienega was truly a great friend to Penny all throughout.

LaCienega also joined Zoey in comforting BeBe and CeCe in Episode 31 when they were crying because they missed their Mommy, Daddy and Suga Mama. This is another key moment where we see LaCienega's empathy come into play as well as showing the thing that she and Zoey have most in common. We even saw that Nubia even had a soft side as she joined Zoey and LaCienega before they all broke down into tears.





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Oscar and Felix -



Episode 27 - The Prouds and Boulevardres go on a joint camping trip and Penny and LaCienega invite all their friends to come along. After being lost in the wilderness for a night, Oscar and Felix make it back and reunite with their daughters and wives.

Unlike what Penny would say about LaCienega, Oscar says this in Episode One, "Felix Boulevardrez is the best thing that ever happened to me!" In no time flat, the Boulevardres and the Prouds became intertwined from top to bottom. One morning in September, Penny woke up, brushed her teeth, ate breakfast and went to school like she would on a typical day. But this day wasn't typical. Today was the day that she would join her best friend Dijonay on the cheer squad, or at least she thought. But a lot more happened in one day than she expected. She would run into this strange girl named LaCienega Boulevardrez who seems to just come in and tries to steal Penny's life from her. They have a rough day at the cheer tryouts to say the least. Penny comes home relieved that she's away from that situation just to find out she'll be seeing a lot more of this girl as she and her family were suddenly moving into a house across the street that once stood empty for decades and to make things better, they'll reunite again that very night. Suga Mama invited the new neighbors to come over to her son's house for dinner without asking him first. Penny is outraged because now she knows that she will not only have to deal with the drama at school, but also in her personal life too. It's all coming at her so fast and she doesn't know what to do. LaCienega on the other hand seems to be having a lot of fun antagonizing Penny.



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Penny and LaCienega's relationship is the oldest in this cross-family dynamic and it is developing rapidly. Meanwhile, the security blanket that surrounds them, (their parents and grandparents) are all coming together too and by some miracle they all hit it off so well. Oscar and Felix bond immediately as they engaged in activity that involved sneaking away from their bossy wives while Sunset comes in and tells the craziest story of how she actually forced her husband to marry him. Trudy does tend to boss Oscar around because he's a SIMP, but Sunset actually uses a lot of force at times to get her husband to comply. Trudy has a temper and as bizarre as this is, Sunset is in great shape and has combat and martial arts skills that Felix doesn't have. She's also a cop and keeps guns with her, all of which makes her the dominant one in the family. Trudy is simply dominant because she makes more money than Oscar and he doesn't want Trudy to leave him. He cracks jokes all the time about other women but deep down, he doesn't want Trudy to actually leave him. Felix on the other hand is questionable as it seems he often wants to get away from his wife and her controlling ways. However, he does still seem to appreciate the fact that he does have a family and loves his wife and his daughter.

One thing that's different is that Oscar is tall and skinny while Felix is short and fat. Oscar is taller than his wife and, in his household, he still has power that Trudy doesn't get to override, and he still does get to exercise his jurisdiction over Penny much of the time. Felix on the other hand is in a tougher situation. He's shorter than his wife but also his wife possesses the ability to kick his ass. Sunset doesn't seem to respect Felix at all at times. While Trudy usually has the final say, she still does allow Oscar to have opportunities to be the man of the house like he's supposed to whereas Sunset uses fear to control her husband and her daughter which is part of the reason why despite the fact that LaCienega is blunt and brutally honest much of the time, she has also showed a tendency not to behave the same around everyone and can be disingenuous as a result which is something LaCienega doesn't actually take pleasure in. Though LaCienega is an undercover introvert and enjoys time alone, she still does like to express herself whenever she is around people and she's especially honest to Penny.

Also, one thing that's also interesting is that Penny and LaCienega's dads' physical appearance have implications in what men Penny and LaCienega seem to be attracted to. Oscar is taller than his wife Trudy and so far, we've seen a trend where Penny has mostly been attracted to boys that are taller than her. Kwok, Fifteen Cent, Tory, Johnny Lovely, and Omar are all taller than Penny. Even Johnny McBride would be taller than Penny if he stood up. LaCienega on the other hand seems to like tall guys too as she has dated Wizard Kelly Jr. and once went out on a date with Omar. However, the boy she really seems to be attracted to of all people is Michael Collins, the goofy kid who gets bullied because of how weird he is so much that his own father is so embarrassed about him that he makes him call him Coach in public. This same kid is also, the one who said the words to actually make LaCienega cry when she was in "fight or flight" response when her oversized feet were exposed but yet LaCienega is so dazzled by him and thinks he's special. There



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is so much irony there. One thing that's for sure is that LaCienega is much taller than Michael like her mother is in comparison to her father. Michael is also a big trash talker, much like both Oscar and Felix.

Oscar and Felix are competitive like their daughters and like to outdo others and showoff. Only in this case, their competitiveness and their knack for showing off somehow doesn't affect their friendship negatively. In fact, on the contrary to their daughters, this is actually a trait they end up bonding over. Sometimes Oscar tries to outdo Felix by buying expensive things but is usually unable to get on his level. Nevertheless, Oscar still ends up enjoying his time with Felix because one thing that's good about Felix is that even though he likes to show off and brag, he also likes to share. Felix certainly isn't the most selfish person on the show; however, he does seem selfish when it comes to listening to his daughter and providing her with the attention and social support she needs. In Episode 14[21], LaCienega's insecurity was exposed and it shattered her ego and handicapped her character to a brutal state of depression that no one on the show seemed to take seriously besides Penny Proud, who's supposed to be her enemy. His ineptitude to connect with his daughter was so bad that Penny had to beg her own daddy to talk to LaCienega because Felix and Sunset failed miserably. Even after Sunset actually showed that she cared and forced him to go talk to LaCienega, their efforts actually worsened things and unlike us viewers, Penny actually sat through the whole thing. How could Penny not feel sorry for her then?

Oscar's relationship with Penny has a ton of problems as well, but somehow, they manage to accomplish just enough to be able to have a somewhat of a functioning relationship at all because Oscar still manages to show Penny how much he loves and cares about her despite the fact that he gets on her nerves so much. Now this is key because, this is where Penny gets her training when it comes to navigating and managing rocky relationships with people that she loves. Her dad may piss her off, but she understands her dad's intentions, knows he loves her, and she loves him back. It is this that helps her to be able to deal with all of the things that LaCienega has thrown at her but still show her love, which in turn catches LaCienega off guard and she is absolutely amazed by it because she's not quite as accustomed to it. LaCienega loves her family very much and it's one of the few things in life that she actually places higher value on than good looks and popularity. However, in her mind, she thinks she has to try harder to make them proud simply because she doesn't get as much attention at home or at the very least doesn't seem to be taken as seriously as she would like to be. This is not to say Felix doesn't love or care about his daughter, however, his communication with her needs to improve a lot. The fact that Oscar was able to get through to LaCienega a lot easier than her own parents could says a lot. Speaking of which, as much as Oscar gets shitted on in The Proud Family, it's impressive that he was able to talk to LaCienega Boulevardez when no one else could; because LaCienega has a difficult personality; more difficult than his own daughter's personality but yet he was able to establish a rapport with her. Notice LaCienega seems to be more a little more comfortable with Oscar than Penny is with Felix, (not that there are any issues between them). Though LaCienega won't admit it



### Commented [SF41]:

Felix and Penny get along, but her relationship with Felix is a simple youth to elder relationship. Felix is simply "Mr. Boulevardez" to Penny and she shows him respect just as she does all other adults. Penny seems to be a bit closer to Sunset who usually accompanies Trudy whenever their daughters are participating in school related events and have even had a girls' night out once with both moms and both daughters included. Felix on the other hand has established a rapport with BeBe & CeCe, such a good one that it actually made Oscar jealous for the first time.



Episode 14[21] – Oscar comes home to BeBe and CeCe bouncing on Felix's belly and calling him Dada! (Uh-Oh)

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she actually likes Oscar and thinks he's funny and she'll be more vocal with him than her own parents and this is even more impressive considering the fact that Oscar is the authoritarian parent in Penny's house but yet she's more polite with Trudy despite Trudy being easier and more gentle than Oscar. This is largely because in LaCienega's household, Sunset is the disciplinarian and her authoritarian tactics are far more intimidating than Oscar's. Trudy actually likes LaCienega a lot, but this isn't enough for LaCienega to loosen up as much around her since she's used to the woman being more of the stickler and also Trudy is her mom's best friend so oftentimes when Trudy and LaCienega are in the same room, so is Sunset. Sunset is actually shown to have a strong liking for Penny too, especially after what Penny had done for LaCienega in Episode 14[21] and ever since, Sunset has been really supportive of Penny, even more so than of her own daughter! She let Penny and her cousins go without arresting them after they stole her uncle's car, she was there for Penny's Penné experiment while LaCienega got arrested with her friends outside by her own grandfather for trying to spray Penné with water guns after Penné had cast them off so brutally but then didn't even vote for LaCienega when she was competing on Teen Idol.

It makes me wonder if Felix did try harder to support LaCienega if it would even be worth it. As we saw during LaCienega's performance. Sunset was hypocritical, told Felix to stop cheering LaCienega on because 'he was embarrassing her' but then turned around and cheered her on herself leaving Felix puzzled and eating away at his self-esteem. Perhaps she probably doesn't allow him to make a lot of decisions regarding LaCienega similar to Oscar and Trudy but perhaps worse because at least Trudy does show Oscar a certain level of respect and even agrees with him at times when she thinks it's logical. Sunset on the other hand just dominates Felix the whole time and he is afraid of her. As physically attractive as Sunset is, many men would sit back and be envious of the fact that Felix is her husband; but as you can see, that's not even worth it to him because he often finds himself sneaking and trying to get around and past her much like a young teenage boy tries to sneak around his parents. He tries to get away from his wife every chance he gets it seems. Oscar often doesn't want to go places Trudy drags him to but we at least know why and we also see more often times where Oscar wants to be with his wife.

That said, Felix does still love his wife and cares about her apparently. We see in Episode 51 Felix is the first to suspect that he and Oscar's wives have found better men and they along with Papi went to spy on them showing that they actually got jealous. He and Sunset were affectionate at the end of Episode 28 after he and Oscar made it back to camp safe. Also, like Oscar, his wife and daughter seem to be very important to him as he is often heard calling their names. Oscar calls Trudy and Penny's names while Felix calls Sunset and LaCienega's names in the same way. It's obvious those are the two most important people in his life, and they stay on his mind all day, every day. Despite their stark differences in appearance. Felix and Oscar are similar. As mentioned before, they're both competitive, they're both showoffs, they are afraid of their wives, they care a lot about their daughters like most fathers do,



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they are hard-headed and end up putting themselves and their families in bad situations as a result often frustrating the hell out of their wives. They both struggle to communicate well and relate with their daughters, though Felix is far worse when it comes to communication often failing to connect with LaCienega on an emotional level, whereas Oscar is overly strict and his authoritarian ways simply clash with Penny's strong-willed personality which she actually inherited from him and her teenage lifestyle creating a lot of back and forth, which we also see a lot between Oscar and his own mother.

Despite her attitude, LaCienega is a very feminine and emotional being. She is affected heavily by her environment and tends to pick up on the energy around her. On the outside she appears snobbish and full of herself. On the inside she is naturally empathetic and can't help but feel what others are feeling. This trait is so dominant in her she has to actively work to hide this about herself. She is naturally affectionate like her mother and is often seen touching, hugging and holding people's hands which is a stark contrast to the attitude she puts on. LaCienega may be too cool to admit it, but she's the type of spirit that needs love and affection, perhaps even more than the average person in order to thrive. Felix loves his daughter, but he needs to do a better job of showing it and if he did, chances are we'd see a big difference in LaCienega's behavior. Penny's relationship with her dad is far from perfect, but at least he still managed to communicate with Penny in a way at some point that reassures her that her daddy loves her no matter what, and that she doesn't need to work so hard just for him to be proud of her. Penny hates how unreasonably strict Oscar can be when it comes to her social life, but she still understands good and well that her father is only behaving this way because he's trying to protect her. LaCienega on the other hand gets spoiled with bigger allowances than Penny that she mostly uses on beautification and new clothes, but her emotional needs are still being unmet and as a result, she lacks the true self confidence that Penny possesses. Even with all the arguments that go on between Penny and Oscar, Oscar still allows Penny Proud to be Penny Proud. LaCienega on the other hand finds herself readjusting her personality over and over again to try and suit the environment she's in because she's worried about how she'll be judged or even disciplined. She'll do whatever she can to try to make herself look good in the eyes of others, even if she ends up missing out on what her heart truly desires. In fact, at home, LaCienega is often not allowed to say what she truly desires because she's afraid she'll get shot down or get into trouble. Sunset is mostly to blame when it comes to LaCienega's fears, but LaCienega often doesn't get enough attention as it seems that both her parents don't take what she says seriously much of the time. This could be because of how emotional LaCienega is much of the time in combination with her high-pitched voice, which makes her come off as a drama queen much of the time so they may pass her off as being overly dramatic.



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We already know Penny's parents are very strict much of the time, especially her dad; but how strict are LaCienega's parents. Well, it's hard to tell because LaCienega's parents can be quite inconsistent. Overall, LaCienega's parents aren't as strict as Penny's, but LaCienega doesn't have it as easy as the show makes it seem at times. Penny has a voice at home, but LaCienega barely does and is often forced to be polite by her mom which keeps her from acting naturally and hampers her ability to express herself. There are also clues that her parents forbid her from talking to boys at times or going out to certain places. While Penny got grounded for wearing her skimpy outfit to Gary's party, LaCienega told her friends that her dad put her dress in a paper-shredder. Though the girls deserved to be punished for disobeying, burning their outfits like Dijonay's mother did or putting them in paper shredders are totally uncalled for. Who knows? Perhaps this isn't the first time Felix destroyed property of LaCienega's as a punishment and I'm sure it has made her cry, knowing how sensitive she is and how much she cares about her stuff. We've already seen how neat and organized she is and how protective of her belongings she is when she came to stay with Penny. As strict and as unreasonable as Oscar can be, we've never seen him be violent towards his daughter or destructive of her belongings. We haven't seen Felix be violent towards LaCienega fortunately, but we do know he can serve up some brutal punishments that probably leave his daughter a bit traumatized. On the contrary, LaCienega has more freedom than Penny the majority of time as she is given bigger allowances and is also an only child, meaning she doesn't have any twins to babysit, though she's jealous of Penny because of her cute baby siblings. She's also had a boyfriend in Wizard Kelly Jr. We don't know whether or not her parents approved of this or even knew. Michael and LaCienega hang out one on one a lot as they like each other, and Michael has even had the opportunity to be around LaCienega's parents. This is iffy though because of Michael's feminine demeanor lets him pass as gay though he's actually not. Speaking of Michael, in Episode 51, Penny asked her dad if her friend, (Michael) could go up to her room. Like many other oddities in that episode, Oscar had no problem with it, despite him being a boy, in fact he almost encouraged it. What's interesting is that he and Felix looked at each other briefly before Oscar said yes. So, Felix, like Oscar looked at Michael and decided that they didn't have to worry about a guy like him possibly sleeping with his daughter. He and Sunset somehow don't notice that his daughter has a crush on him either, but it took no time for Oscar and Trudy to figure out that Penny had a crush on Mega in Episode 5; all they had to do was look at her and listen to her talk about him. Yet, Michael has been around for a while and somehow it completely flies under the radar for them even though we knew as early as Episode 31, that LaCienega had a thing for him.

LaCienega also seems to be attracted to confidence. Penny's confidence draws LaCienega close to her and has caused LaCienega to trust and admire Penny a lot more despite their horrific start. She has a crush on Michael who despite his quirkiness is very confident and isn't afraid to speak his mind (except for when his feelings are hurt). She likes Oscar Proud because, despite his hard headedness and clumsiness, he's always confident in himself and embraces all of the goofy things about himself which was actually on

Commented [SF42]: Well he is now...





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display in Episode 14[21] as he was able to make her laugh, ultimately lifting her up out of her depression which for whatever reason, her own parents couldn't accomplish. Felix doesn't have that same level of confidence as Oscar, so why is LaCienega so attracted to confident people? Could it be Papi perhaps, who has a big thing for beautiful women and also has a tendency to talk shit every day? He does seem to be full of himself at times and much like LaCienega, he talks shit to Suga Mama all the time, yet chooses to still spend most of his time with her and even showed that he realizes he needs her a lot more than he lets on which is eerily similar to how LaCienega antagonizes Penny but deep down likes her a lot and wants her to always be there. She too realizes that there are a lot of things that she wouldn't have been able to accomplish without Penny and has no problem swallowing her pride at times, asking Proud for advice and actually listening to her and following her lead. In fact, she does it with much pleasure.

If Felix were more confident would LaCienega be more of a Daddy's girl? If Sunset wasn't so controlling, would Felix be more confident and therefore relate to his daughter better? How would that affect LaCienega and how she behaves and relates to her peers? What does suck is that we've seen how Oscar relates to LaCienega but not so much how Penny relates to Mr. Boulevardez, though we do see BeBe and CeCe actually like Felix a lot because they could bounce on Felix's fat belly which made Oscar jealous.

For the most part, Felix is actually a good friend to Oscar. Felix likes to share and he's always there to help Oscar with whatever he needs, whenever he needs it seems. They've teamed up together on a lot of occasions and they either succeed or fail together but still remain buddies. They bond over all their similarities while Penny and LaCienega's similarities cause them to clash. Felix is always the first to cheer for Oscar, even when it seems the odds are stacked against him and whenever he does, Oscar succeeds where he would normally fail. This happened in Episode 32, with the million-dollar shot and also the movie, when clone Oscar defeated the wrestler that was supposed to demolish him. Both times Felix led off a chant for Oscar that spread to the entire audience and as a result, Oscar succeeded.

They both also have a single parent that can both be burdens on their sons. Oscar has Suga Mama, who disrespects him in front of his wife and daughter every day while Felix has to look after Papi and make sure he's not doing anything crazy or destructive around the house as he's known to make some really poor decisions that are not based well in logic. They both have close relationships with their granddaughters and serve as a security blanket when things don't work out between them and their parents. One big difference is that Felix gets along pretty well with his Papi while Oscar and Suga Mama are always antagonizing each other.

Oscar and Felix seem to be the perfect fit for each other, why couldn't it have been the same way for their daughters who share just as many similarities as they do, if not more? Trudy and Sunset are different, yet so similar too.



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Trudy and Sunset -



Dr. Gertrude Alicia-Ann Parker and Officer Sunset Boulevard, the mothers of Penny and LaCienega respectively have a relationship of their own. In contrast to Penny and LaCi, Trudy and Sunset are undeniably best friends. The two are very close, however there are imperfections in their friendship as well. Similar to Dijonay, Sunset has at times been untrustworthy. She can be phony much of the time and actually influenced her daughter to do the same at one point. Whenever she's not around her mother, LaCienega is a brutally honest person at heart. Of course, with these two being the mothers, it goes without saying that Penny and LaCienega inherited traits from them and these traits show up in Trudy-Sunset pairings and provide clues on the dynamic that exists between Penny and LaCienega. For example, Penny is usually leading LaCienega and we see this in Trudy and Sunset's relationship where it appears that Trudy is the one who leads Sunset despite Sunset's domineering personality toward her husband. Trudy isn't quite as domineering towards Oscar as Sunset is toward Felix. However, Trudy who is a master communicator (or manipulator) studied Sunset long enough to trigger her to act in ways that serve her and that is, to be more aggressive with her. Strangely enough, this actually turns Sunset on and it brings her sexuality into question. In a similar way though, we've seen some clues that LaCienega may be attracted to Penny as well. Sunset and LaCienega both appear to be bi-curious at times during the show's run to their respective Prouds. As you know LaCienega has shown herself to be attracted to Penny's confidence and leadership while Sunset is turned on by Trudy's dominance (at times). Sunset has a tendency to force her will onto others, mainly her husband and will use force to get what she wants. LaCienega gets this from her mother but

Commented [SF43]: It's a small chance though...





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on a much lesser scale. Oftentimes, it appears LaCienega is not used to not getting her way and often regresses to a bratty little girl. Trudy excels at communicating with people. She knows how to talk to each person in her life a certain way. Penny excels at communicating as well and as a result there is a great deal of honesty between Penny and her mom most of the time. This however isn't the case so much between Sunset and LaCienega who LaCienega often inhibits herself around out of fear. Despite Sunset being phony, she's surprisingly reliable, not once has she actually let Trudy down. The same could be said for LaCienega when it comes to her friends including Penny. LaCienega can be quite cruel at times but riddle me this, when has LaCienega ever actually broken a promise to Penny, Dijonay or Zoey throughout the series? Never! LaCienega has shown she likes to help, and one can count on her to be there when she says she'll be there. And if LaCienega doesn't want to help you, she'll tell you up front so that you're not guessing or wasting a bunch of time unlike Dijonay. Sunset (and the Boulevardz family) in general is very supportive of Penny, somewhat to a fault. Sometimes the family will be so supportive of Penny that it compromises LaCienega.



Despite Sunset's disingenuous nature, she's actually a great help to Trudy. Sunset mostly shares her knowledge with Trudy regarding things that simply make her life easier as a woman. The two are very close, like a lot of the same things and see eye to eye on almost everything. Having Sunset as a family friend is extremely beneficial to the family and actually gives them access to quite a bit of power. As a police officer, Sunset used her police powers to force her husband to marry her, and to intimidate him in order to maintain control; but then she uses these same powers to assist the Prouds and is lenient towards



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them when she catches them breaking the law. In Episode 26, Penny and her cousins stole her uncle's self-driving SUV and they were caught by Sunset. Sunset wasn't initially looking to stop them, but once she saw this happen, she knew she had no choice.



Obviously by law, Sunset should've arrested Penny and her cousins. Instead, Sunset broke the law herself and simply brought the kids back to Penny's house and told their parents. The kids still got in trouble, but it's better than them getting arrested for a grand theft auto, joyriding and operating a vehicle underage without licenses despite the car being self-drivable. She also, drove Suga Mama safely back to her son's house after she and nearly all the cops in Wizville had been chasing her and Papi for hours. Suga Mama had been driving on an expired license for years and was driving recklessly and yet somehow, Sunset managed to get Suga Mama out of being arrested and thrown in jail. This also goes to show that Sunset must have some sort high ranks in the police force in her city. After all, she is 50 years old, still working the streets so likely her seniority comes into play. She's even gotten Oscar out of trouble on a number of occasions. Despite Sunset helping the Prouds stay out of trouble being good for the Prouds, it still brings her integrity into question as is leaves open the possibility that she may also be letting others off the hook for serious crimes and could be involved in corruption herself. There has even been speculation that the Boulevardez family may be participating in illegal activities themselves.

Commented [SF44]: Says who?



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Episode 14 - Sunset embraces Penny for helping LaCienega recover and win the Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant. Since this moment Sunset has been a great “aunt” to Penny, BeBe and CeCe. She later refers to herself as “Aunt Sunset” once when mingling with the babies. Sunset has been really fond of Penny ever since and becomes supportive of her.

Besides the stolen car incident, Sunset has developed a liking for Penny Proud and supports her rather strongly, even more than her own daughter. In Episode 14, Penny officially gained Sunset's respect when she saw how Penny had gone to great lengths to help LaCienega even though she knew how much LaCienega didn't get along with her. Early on, we see signs through body language that Sunset is well aware of her feud between Penny and her daughter and demanded that LaCienega would be polite to Penny and her family in the process and coached her on being disingenuous. However, Penny not only proved that she was a great friend to LaCienega but also managed to accomplish what LaCienega's mom and dad couldn't accomplish and that was to help LaCienega cope with one of her biggest insecurities and show her the emotional support that LaCienega had been craving for, for much of her life. In turn, Sunset let Penny off the hook once as mentioned earlier and continued to support Penny in Episode 22 even after LaCienega had been dropped from her label. Like Trudy, Sunset sees her best friend's daughter as a fine young lady. Only difference is that Penny genuinely is one, while LaCienega, though good-hearted has that questionable personality she's become so (in)famous for.



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**Suga Mama and Papi -**



Suga Mama and Papi have a strange relationship. Suga Mama finds Papi very charming because of his smooth voice when he speaks. Only problem is *se habla español*. She has no idea what he is saying when he speaks and it is not pretty at all. Papi talks about Suga Mama like a dog in Spanish because he knows he can get away with it. It's strange because despite being repulsed by her looks, he still chooses to spend most of his time with her. In Episode One, he took her by the hand and smooth-talked her in Spanish, but really, he insulted how prickly her hand felt. He also said something along the lines of, "at my age, I can't be too picky!" He does all sorts of things and they continue to go on and nobody seems to notice ever! Except his family of course. You see they all understand Spanish too, yet they do nothing about it. Not Felix, Sunset or even LaCienega. Papi seems to understand English but doesn't speak it, so he has the advantage in that situation. Papi clearly has no respect for Suga Mama whatsoever. Even after she rescued him from "Happy Endings". Seven Episodes later, Suga Mama had slipped into a depression because she failed her driver's test due to poor eyesight. Papi deliberately drove past her house on a rainy night and splashed through a puddle while she was on the sidewalk. Then he joked, "Sorry, I don't brake for hags!" Little did he know, Suga Mama would have a dream that she had died right after that. There are certainly similarities in Sugar and Papi's and Penny and LaCienega's relationship and this is one of them. Papi doesn't seem to like Suga Mama, yet he still chooses to spend time with her. There must be a reason, but it will need deeper evaluation. The difference from their grandchildren is that Penny and LaCienega both speak English and understand each other so their



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relationship gets heated more often and it actually gets the chance to grow while Suga Mama and Papi's relationship mostly remains stagnant because since they Suga Mama doesn't understand Papi and just chooses to be blindly dazzled by him, they get stuck in the same cycle and Papi doesn't get any better, he actually gets worse. What's crazy is that Suga Mama is the one who brought the Proud and Boulevarder families together by inviting them over to Oscar's house in the first episode, so it's like her relationship with Papi is the foundation of this whole thing. She even stated once that they plan to get married and Papi says, "I'm just waiting for the hereafter." So, he agreed, but suggested by himself, that he was planning to marry Sugar, but had some ulterior motives to go with it. In spite of this, Suga Mama has spent a lot of time around the Boulevarder family and they've become quite used to her.

LaCienega has eventually grown to respect Suga Mama and the feelings seem to be mutual. Suga Mama doesn't like everything about LaCienega and is aware of the times she antagonized Penny. Suga Mama went and wrecked LaCienega's party on a sneak in Episode 13 when she and Puff went in and ate up all the food, which was one of the biggest selling-points for LaCienega's boogie-down. She also told Penny that she should've went ahead and "Kicked that girl's behind!" After LaCienega had started the rumor about her. However, Suga Mama always points out how Dijonay is "fakier than her fake friends" and has stuck up for LaCienega at least twice. In Episode 39, Penny accused LaCienega's boyfriend of stealing a watch from his father's store; once they found out Penny was wrong, they were all kicked out of Wizard Kelly's mansion and LaCienega was dumped by her boyfriend because Penny had falsely accused him of stealing and threw LaCienega under the bus in the process. Suga Mama said to Penny, "You know what Penny, you starting to remind me remind me more of yo daddy every day." If she's comparing Penny to Oscar, it's usually not for a good reason. In Episode 46, Penny was mad that LaCienega won the Tween Idol contest unfairly and decided she needed to take control of the situation and make things right. Penny was suspicious because she knew something wasn't right as the crowd clearly cheered loudly for Agatha Ordinario but LaCienega, not so much. Suga Mama told Penny, "Oh, stop hatin' you just don't like that Boulevarder girl!" Suga Mama is ultimately the one who brought the Prouds and Boulevarders together when she invited the Boulevarders over for dinner and it seems even she does things behind the scenes to help promote solidarity between Penny and LaCienega while still staying loyal to her grandbaby first and foremost. On the other hand, LaCienega is willing to help Suga Mama without hesitation despite her differences with Penny and is usually the one Suga Mama is most comfortable approaching when she needs to ask the girls (Dijonay and Zoey) for a favor. It's clear that Suga Mama and LaCienega have developed a relationship amongst themselves as Suga Mama got LaCienega to round up all of Penny's friends to rescue Papi in Episode 43[42] before even letting Penny know anything. LaCienega also, helped briefly with Suga Mama's "Get Up and Go" bars in Episode 33 and even participated in Suga Mama's wedding in Episode 40.





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### Penny and LaCienega -



Episode 39 - One of my favorite scenes in all of The Proud Family shows Penny and LaCienega have come a really long way since the show's first episode. It also shows they know and understand each other significantly better and appreciate their relationship as is. LaCienega's words completely defy her body language and actions in this scene. It's also very rewarding to see this when you think of all the hardships these two went through before getting to this point. Penny's knees are pointed forward, but LaCienega's knees are pointed towards Penny and her head is leaning into her as they exchange 'dap.' Her torso is turned inward as well. If one were to watch this scene in full, one would notice that LaCienega actually began leaning in after Proud apologized for getting her into trouble with Wizard Jr, indicating a positive emotional response from LaCienega upon accepting Penny's apology through body language.

LaCienega is happy now that Penny finally accepts her, but she's still too arrogant to admit it. Penny understands that this is who LaCienega is and not only accepts her, but likes her for who she is, even with her flaws. LaCienega appreciates this very much and knows she can be comfortable in her own skin around Penny no matter what. They both get what they want in this situation and are surprisingly similar which is the main reason why they clash. Penny thinks LaCienega is stuck up because she's pretty, wealthy and thinks she's too good for everyone and LaCienega thinks Penny is stuck up because she's confident, self-righteous and thinks she's too good for LaCienega. LaCienega is basically just an over exaggerated version of Penny whose undesirable qualities stick out more, comparable to **Mario** and **Wario**. They are the perfect fit for each other and were destined to be in each other's' lives. So even though they won't admit it, they truly are friends, and so here's why!



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**Penny and LaCienega's Rivalry is an Unfortunate Accident –**



In Episode One, Penny and LaCienega were thrust into a situation where they had to compete for the last spot on the Willie T. Ribbs Racer Cheerleader Squad in which Dijonay Jones was captain of. From the looks of things, Penny was going to win the spot by default through nepotism, as she was Dijonay's best friend and pretty much everyone around school knew this. However, on the other side of the football field, LaCienega, who was new to the area was walking up as Penny was auditioning. This was LaCienega's first day at Ribbs middle school and as far as she knew, everybody there was a complete stranger to her. At this point, she is still in the phase where she is scouting out her new environment and this is the first time ever that she would see Penny Proud. Penny would catch her attention from nearly 100 yards away as she is doing her cheer routine. Instantly, LaCienega is impressed by her. She noticed right away that Penny was very pretty, even while wearing a "tasteless" outfit. In her eyes, Penny had a such a natural beauty to her that she didn't have to try at all to show. But then as she got closer, the first words she hears Penny speak are, "I'm cute, I'm loud and I got it goin' on!" Now, LaCienega was walking over to this area to try out for the cheer team and the first person she notices is Penny Proud, so she knows that this is someone she would have to compete against. She sees Penny is pretty and admires her good looks as LaCienega happens to place high value on good looks. Then these are the first words she hears Penny say. So, at first sight, LaCienega has the impression that Penny is a competitor, she's perhaps prettier than her and Penny is also arrogant. Though this isn't necessarily accurate, this is what LaCienega sees because this is the first time that she ever sees Penny or hears her speak. LaCienega



**Commented [SF45]:**  
Penny auditioning seconds before LaCienega makes her debut. As for LaCienega, this is her first sighting of Penny.

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admired Penny's natural beauty, and was nervous to have to go up against her, but once she spoke those words, that admiration morphed into jealousy because she now thinks that Penny is full of herself and now, LaCienega, who is naturally competitive was ready to take her down! LaCienega knew that she had to go in and outdo Penny and she would enjoy every moment of it. This is only the beginning.

Toward the end of Episode One, LaCienega actually felt she needed to do the right thing and thank Penny for "taking that little spin for me." When Penny replied, "It's the least you can do!" with an attitude, this pissed LaCienega off and she says, "Sorry can't do it!" However, LaCienega was being irrational here. She antagonized Penny first because she read Penny's facial expression and saw that she was getting jealous as Zoey was praising her for her performance.



Episode One - The moment Penny made this face was the very moment that LaCienega determined that Penny was a foe and not a friend.

What LaCienega didn't know was that Penny made this face because she learned quickly that Zoey's words of encouragement "You're a shoo-in!" weren't as genuine as she thought as she caught her in the act of getting ready to tell LaCienega that there's no way going to lose to her. We also learned in that moment Zoey's tendency to tell people what they want to hear. Remember, this is a point in time where LaCienega is operating outside her comfort zone because she's in a brand-new environment where she knows no one besides Dijonay and is relatively shy. LaCienega wants to leave a good impression on people including Penny by being a good sport and complimenting her despite the fact that she put on a flashier performance.





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However, LaCienega is very sensitive and insecure, looking for her first trace of validation at her new school. Two things happened here. One, she got the validation she was looking for from Zoey which helped her gain a sense of security. Meanwhile, Penny wasn't pleased with Zoey because Zoey was being two-faced, so she frowned. All this was poorly timed because Penny and LaCienega had already been thrust into a situation where they had to compete with each other before they even got the chance to know each another. Not to mention, Penny was already disappointed because Dijonay had promised her that she was guaranteed to win the last spot on the team before LaCienega showed up unexpectedly, urging Dijonay to renege on her promise. Also, LaCienega is sensitive and vulnerable in this moment where she's trying to leave a good first impression and when Penny frowned, she panicked and assumed right off the bat that Penny didn't like her and was frowning simply because Zoey was praising her.

Not only that, but LaCienega also praised Penny's performance in agreeance to Zoey after she told Penny "You're a shoo-in!" LaCienega thought she was being nice by employing good sportsmanship by not only praising Penny, but also degrading her own performance. But once Zoey gave LaCienega the validation she was seeking and Penny frowned at Zoey's two-faced actions, LaCienega interpreted Penny as a jealous *bitch* who couldn't handle someone outperforming her at something (This is key as Episode 25 rolls around). Penny was frowning at Zoey's actions, but LaCienega who was feeling the energy from Zoey's flattery, saw Penny frown as she was receiving this much desired validation and as a result, she took Penny's facial expression out of context and thought it was directed at her instead, therefore she viewed Penny as the enemy and began antagonizing her. Remember, LaCienega reads body language and Penny's body language in that moment was undesirable to her. This is how LaCienega learned so quickly that Penny was the competitive (Oscar), jealous (Trudy) type. Not only that, LaCienega actually saw a bit of herself in Penny and was able to recognize it much quicker as a result. Only problem was, LaCienega didn't realize how confident Penny actually was and was caught off guard by it. She knew that Penny was going to be one of her toughest adversaries yet because of this exceptional amount of confidence Penny had in herself. Penny and LaCienega's rivalry began as a result of bad luck, poor timing and a mismanagement of the situation on the part of both Dijonay and Zoey.

As a result, both Penny and LaCienega got bad first impressions of one another. Penny tried to make things right with LaCienega at lunch the next day, but LaCienega was rude to Penny and as a result left an extremely bitter taste in Penny's mouth which would become much harder to get rid of. By the end of the episode, LaCienega was set up by the Gross Sisters to be seriously injured in favor of Penny, but following some pleading from Sticky and learning just how much danger LaCienega was about to be in, Penny put aside her differences, did the right thing and rescued LaCienega. LaCienega noticed this and showed for the first time that she had a soft spot and actually went over to thank Penny. However, Penny still had that bitter taste of LaCi-vinegar on her tongue and got an attitude with her. The argument on the stage beforehand didn't help the two



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get any closer and after all the things LaCienega had put her through, Penny wasn't fond of her. Now, Penny truly did dislike LaCienega and LaCienega gets butt-hurt when people don't like her. So, when Penny got the attitude with her after she said, "Well Proud, I guess I owe you a big thank you for taking that little spin for me." Once again, LaCienega was disgusted by Penny's attitude after she tried to make a nice gesture for the second time in the same episode. The timing was again unfortunate. Each time one tries to be friendly toward the other, the other is in a bad mood and is nasty in return. This vicious cycle has stood in the way of Penny and LaCienega developing a peaceful, healthy, and potentially special friendship. Thing is, Penny and LaCienega have the tools and the environment to be best friends. But bad luck and poor timing for the both of them spoiled their relationship before there was ever even a chance for them to have one and it actually becomes a theme throughout the show. However, as time passes, Penny and LaCienega's spirits overtake their flesh and they begin to fall gradually in (platonic) love with other. They're both aware but don't want to accept or admit it. They want to be friends with one another, but they simply aren't on the same page because of the debacle that took place within the first three episodes. Though LaCienega is antagonistic, one can tell the difference between the time she truly didn't like Penny and the time they grew together later in the series because LaCienega was quite cruel (pretty evil in fact) to Penny in ways we haven't seen her be towards anyone else in the series and also LaCienega didn't behave the same again after Episode 14[21]. Episode 14[21] changed LaCienega dramatically. She almost seems like a completely different person from the beginning to the end of the series. We already know that Penny wanted to be a friend to LaCienega early on as we see the story from her perspective, but we see as early as Episode 2[3] that LaCienega wanted the same.

**Commented [SF46]:**

The difference of course is that her first "nice gesture" wasn't genuine. But this second one was. However, Penny didn't trust or appreciate it as much after seeing how the first one was not.



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What if Penny and LaCienega Would've Never Had to Compete for the Last Spot on the Cheer Squad?

The main reason Penny and LaCienega became enemies in the beginning was because they were set up to compete for the final spot on the cheer team. The situation escalated because of how Dijonay handled the situation and how the Boulevarders' first visit to the Proud House turned out so poorly for Penny and LaCienega. If Penny and LaCienega didn't have to compete against each other the first time they met, it could have significantly changed the course of the entire show. We just don't know exactly how as this could've gone a myriad of ways. Penny sacrificing herself for LaCienega to win in Episode One was extremely vital to the way the show has gone and that was for the greater good as, if Penny did beat LaCienega we would've gotten an even more bitter perhaps evil version of LaCienega who would have perhaps stayed a one-dimensional antagonist with no real shot at redemption or character development, at least not positive character development and she certainly wouldn't have gotten a chance to appreciate Penny's presence in her life the way that she does now and we as an audience would've never got to see the good in LaCienega that inspires us to give her a second look and treat her as much like a human. If it weren't for that sacrifice, Penny and LaCienega would've never been friends unless Penny did something nice for her further down the road which could've been possible.

But what if they never even competed at all? Good Question!

It's 100 percent plausible that LaCienega could've still been jealous when she first met Penny regardless. LaCienega wants to be the prettiest girl in the building and the moment she saw Proud, she knew she was up against some real competition. But from Penny's perspective, she would have no motive whatsoever to compete with LaCienega. So, it could go better as Penny and LaCienega don't have any real pressure on each other to outdo each other and Dijonay being a mutual friend could've naturally brought them together as well as their families moving across from each other and having much of the same interests, which brought them together regardless but perhaps they wouldn't have gotten off to such a rough start unless, LaCienega still ends up being jealous of Proud because she thinks that Proud is prettier than her. In that situation, things actually could've been worse because Penny would be even more puzzled as to why this girl is showing aggression towards her. She wouldn't have the excuse of the cheer competition or Dijonay to fall back on. In Penny's eyes, this would actually make her look worse and perhaps make Penny even less understanding. Also, if they were to recover from that, there would have to be some other event that took place because if there were no cheer competition, then the opportunity for Penny to make that noble sacrifice would've never existed. That last sacrifice Penny made actually impressed LaCienega and even prompted her to go against her arrogant, self-absorbed,



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competitive tendencies and actually tell Proud “thanks” without anyone forcing her to do so. That gave LaCienega the smallest of avenues to go home and reevaluate her thoughts about Proud which probably played a big role in Dijonay being able to talk her into hanging out with her and Penny in the next episode.

It’s interesting how things could’ve gone if Penny and LaCienega never had to compete for the last spot on the cheer team. We gain confirmation by Episode 46 that LaCienega tends to be mean towards people she’s competing against because she’s a competitive person and also insecure, so she does it to get a psychological edge over the other person while also boosting her own confidence. She may even like the person a little bit deep down, but LaCienega wants to be the best and most of the competitions she participates in are extremely important to her. Winning the last spot on the cheer team was a huge deal to her, far more than we realized the first time we saw her in Episode One, and the Tween Idol competition was arguably even more important. So, in both situations, she was nasty to Penny and Agatha respectively. The second time around, Penny and LaCienega had spent time together, got to know each other and became friends. Penny now having experienced what Agatha was experiencing, understood LaCienega better and was able to help influence LaCienega to become a classier opponent and LaCienega reaped the benefits of her good deeds, much like Penny did when she sacrificed for LaCienega and in turn, LaCienega understood better why Penny took the high road with her so much; another reason why watching Penny and LaCi’s relationship develop is so rewarding.

Here are several theories as to what might have happened if Penny and LaCienega had never competed for the last spot on the Willie T. Ribbs Racer Cheerleaders.

Would Episode 3[2] have ever happened?

It’s possible, but it could’ve been a lot different.



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Episode 3 - Rumors –



Episode 3[2] - LaCienega - "Two Reasons; You didn't invite me to your party; and Everyone knows it isn't a party unless LaCienega Boulevardez is there!"

Two episodes later, Penny and LaCienega's feud had rapidly reached a boiling point to where the two were very close to engaging in a fist fight in front of the entire school. They were both extremely angry at each other and simultaneously reached a point of frustration with each other to the point where they were actually going to engage in violence. Since we see the story from Penny's perspective, we know that she was frustrated with LaCienega's constant aggression and disrespect and now that she tried to make her life a living hell by starting a rumor, Penny was sick of it and knowing that there's a fighter's spirit in the Proud blood line, she was ready to release it on LaCienega Boulevardez, her greatest adversary yet. But as for LaCienega, there is a lot that flies beneath the radar since the show doesn't center around her and her family the same way it does Penny, so in the eyes of the viewer, she simply looks like the sole villain, who's just there to make life hard for Penny just because she's evil and it's fun. However, one must look deep to notice that LaCienega is actually behaving ever so strangely.

The first thing that sticks out here is that LaCienega is extremely angry as well. You'd think that while in this particular moment she seems to have the upper hand on Penny and that she would be celebrating Penny's mental breakdown. But instead, as she talks to Penny, she noticeably has a ton of stress lines in her face. She is trying her best to hold back emotions. She's not

**Commented [SF47]:**

Penny is furious because LaCienega had been extremely rude and disrespectful to her for the past three episodes and seems to be intentionally trying to ruin her life for no good reason at all. LaCienega is furious because she is new to the area and she thinks Penny is purposely trying to make her feel excluded. There is less logic behind LaCienega's actions rather she's sensitive and simply acting on her feelings which run much deeper than the viewer realizes at this time.

LaCienega was so deeply upset that Penny didn't invite her over her house that she tried to ruin her social life and LaCienega did it because she thought Penny was trying to ruin hers when Penny simply didn't want to be bothered with her because of course she had been very mean to her since the time they met.



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laughing at all. In fact, her eyes are actually frowning as she explains to Penny that when she started the rumor, she had no idea it would work so well. By the way, what's also interesting is that LaCienega took it upon herself to approach Penny when she saw Penny breaking down in tears. Penny didn't really have to play detective to find out LaCienega started the rumor. Instead, LaCienega approached Penny on her own and confronted her. When Penny asks why LaCienega did this, LaCienega gave two reasons. "You didn't invite me to your party, and everyone knows it isn't a party unless LaCienega Boulevardez is there! Two, it was fun!"

Now if you look at LaCienega, you can tell she is expressing in her body language that the simple fact that Penny didn't invite her to her party, deeply hurt her feelings, and it is evident that this was the case considering the fact that she did all of this just to get back at her for something as trivial as this. It's especially interesting considering that she had been so aggressive towards Penny all this time and that from a logical perspective, Penny of course wouldn't want to invite her over after she had treated her so poorly. LaCienega's stress lines intensified and her fake smile melted away as she said, "You didn't invite me to your party." She also placed her hand over her chest, representing a broken heart also while leaning forward into Penny. Also, at this point in the show, LaCienega is still very new to her school, so when she says, "Everyone knows it isn't a party unless [I'm] there!" That's clearly not true because "everybody" didn't know her yet. The truth is that being excluded by Penny hurt her feelings. Also, when she says, "It was fun!" she turns around and instead of laughing, she is frowning. Maybe it wasn't as fun as she says it was because, even though she had broken Penny down, she clearly wasn't satisfied or celebrating the fact that she had the upper hand. In fact, seeing how hurt Penny was caught her attention and made her decide to go and talk to her. LaCienega simply wanted to hurt Penny back for not inviting her to her party, not just for fun and she turned her back to Penny to try and hide the anger in that was in her face.

Once Penny decided to fight her, LaCienega was no longer able to hold back her emotions. She turned around quickly, slammed her expensive earrings to the ground and squared up. Now we don't know this right away, but this is not typical behavior for LaCienega Boulevardez. She's not truly a fighter like Penny is and in later episodes we see how sensitive she is and how she acts as if she's too cute for a lot of things. She's also a neat person and cares deeply about her material possessions, especially clothing items, which we later learn in Episode 14[21]. But here in this moment, she's going against all that and throws her precious earrings to the ground, ready to fight Penny. LaCienega, who places high values on cuteness and femininity let all of that go and was ready to get down and dirty with Penny Proud. Her emotions were just as intense as Penny's, if not more. LaCienega is so furious that she is behaving out of character.





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Episode 14 - Love (Thy Neighbor) –



Episode 14 – Penny expresses gratitude after LaCienega had given her a big shoutout after winning the Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant. Penny and LaCienega shared a bedroom for an entire week and got a chance to get to know each other really well. Episode 14 is perhaps the most important episode in the development of the relationship between the Prouds and their neighbors, the Boulevardes, as a real test awaits them.

In Episode 14, Penny has no choice but to master the difficult skill of loving her neighbor as LaCienega's family is forced to stay at Penny's house for two weeks because Oscar set Felix's house on fire! Penny is outraged that she would be forced to be crammed into a room with a person she's spent the better part of four months trying to avoid; and of course, it's a nightmare! LaCienega tries to bully Penny in her own room, sabotages her morning routine and literally drives her crazy. But LaCienega was so fixated on Penny that she forgot to prepare for her swim test which was a rare but crucial mistake for LaCienega. The stakes were astronomically high for LaCienega as she has to prepare for a big pageant at the end of the week, it's crucial that she keeps her grades high in order for her to participate and as luck would have it, LaCienega would face her worst nightmare, leaving her mentally handicapped! LaCienega descends into a deep depression and seemingly gives up on life and no one seems to realize how desperate LaCienega is for help! So, Penny takes it upon herself to save LaCienega again, but this time taking an emotional beating rather than a physical beating in the process.

**Commented [SF48]:**

Episode 14[21] titled Love thy Neighbor is a masterpiece. It is perhaps the most important in terms of the development of Penny and LaCienega's relationship and it is one that ends up changing LaCienega forever. This is where Penny and LaCienega face a tough test. They are forced to have to share a room for an entire week. No... actually, TWO WEEKS! What better way is there to get to know somebody besides living together. Not only do they have to stay in the same house, but in the same room!



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The Boulevardes' invite their friends into their back yard to watch LaCienega practice her ballet routine for the upcoming Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant. LaCienega is abundantly gifted and has won many different competitions against the best and has a collection of trophies. We already saw her athleticism in Episode One and her speed in Episode 3.

It all began with a barbecue in LaCienega's back yard, and all of Penny's family and friends are there. This is the first time Penny actually comes over to LaCienega's house even though she still hasn't been inside. She's clearly the only one not having fun as it appears that LaCienega is finally getting her chance to be the star of the show. All eyes are on LaCi as she dances for the crowd. LaCienega has shown she's exceptionally gifted in the past. She's fast, athletic and now she's a skilled ballerina and everyone enjoys the show. Except of course Penny Proud who is only even at LaCienega's house because her family dragged her there. Though LaCienega comes to Penny's house on a regular basis, even uninvited, Penny has never been seen inside of LaCienega's house. Now she's in her back yard and she certainly looks like she'd rather be anywhere else on the planet other than LaCienega's house. Meanwhile, all of the Prouds spend quality time next to their Boulevardez counterparts. Trudy is sitting next to her girl Sunset giggling, Suga Mama is chilling out with Papi and Oscar and Felix are both grilling burgers before their wives throw fish on the grill against their wishes demonstrating an ongoing trend in The Proud Family where the females are portrayed as more powerful than the males (Excluding Wizard Kelly). Dijonay and Zoey accompany Penny as they watch LaCienega dance neutralizing the bad vibes Penny is bringing with her negative attitude. Sticky being the only boy there, decides to hang out with Penny and LaCienega's dads. We are finally given the opportunity to see the Prouds and the Boulevardes hang out as they had promised in Episode One. One thing that stands out about LaCienega compared to the rest of Penny's friends is that she is brutally honest with Penny on a consistent basis even at times that one would least expect.



**Commented [SF49]:**

Everyone else in the family has been inside of LaCienega's house at least once. Dijonay, Zoey, Sticky, Michael and even the Gross Sisters have all been there. We, the audience get to see the inside for a few seconds, yet Penny has never set foot in there once. The reason for this remains a mystery. It's interesting considering the fact that the Boulevardes' are a family that enjoys showing off and LaCienega has never actually banned Penny from her house. We do see twice Penny go over to LaCienega's house. Once in Episode 30, Penny went to LaCienega for help after breaking out of boot camp. However, like all of Penny's other friends, she slammed the door in Penny's face because Penny had robbed them all earlier in the episode. In Episode 39, Penny went over to LaCienega's to apologize for sabotaging her relationship with Wizard Kelly Jr. Though LaCienega seemed visibly happy that Penny stopped by and they shared an intimate moment, they only stayed on the porch and Penny still didn't enter the house. It's possible that Penny chooses not to go inside of LaCienega's house on her own. LaCienega said Penny's house stunk in Episode One, but yet she keeps coming back willingly. Twice, Penny didn't invite her over and her feelings were hurt. So why doesn't Penny come over? It can't be because LaCienega banned her, because if she did, her mother would step in and welcome Penny in and demand for LaCienega to be more polite to her. Penny doesn't go into LaCienega's house because she knows that she'll be on LaCienega's turf. LaCienega in Episode 14[21] aggressively tries to take over and assert authority over Penny in her own room. So just imagine what LaCienega may do if she has homefield advantage. Not to mention, LaCienega has probably been itching to show off her 80-inch TV and her other fancy items just to put Penny down. But how bad could it really be? Even after they lived together for a week, shared a bed, and even shared lip gloss. Penny refuses to go inside her house. By now she should be over any fears as she's already seen the best and worst of LaCienega time and time again.



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At the end of the Boulevardes' first visit to Penny's, LaCienega says' "So, Penny, now that we're neighbors, I guess we'll be hanging out." LaCienega had a devious smirk on her face and it appeared that she was being coached by her mother while she was speaking. However, it seems more and more that LaCienega wasn't kidding around as much as it seemed on the surface. This is because in the long-term LaCienega stayed true to her word and actually made efforts to hang out with Proud, even though she didn't really like her, but why? We know the reason Penny spends time with LaCienega up to this point in the series is that her mother and father are forcing her to be nice to LaCienega. She is dragged by her family to come around LaCienega's even though she doesn't want to have anything to do with her. To make matters worse, she and LaCienega are both Dijonay's best friends so they hang out together at school and elsewhere now. Penny and LaCienega's lives are simply running parallel at this point and Dijonay is the entity that's currently holding them together outside of family activities. So basically, Penny and LaCienega see each other almost 24/7. LaCienega never truly goes away but Penny tries to stay away and enjoy as much time away from LaCienega as she can get because it really is truly precious now; meeting LaCienega was an unorthodox affair.

Penny is enjoying her life as usual and one day she wakes up and ironically, she has a big day ahead of her. She just knew for sure that she would become a Willie T. Ribbs Racer Cheerleader; but then she goes through her whole school day, goes to the try outs after school, gets through the tryouts and bam LaCienega appears out of nowhere and all of a sudden Penny's whole universe is turned upside down. LaCienega is moving in and she's moving in fast! There was nothing that could have possibly prepared Penny for any of this. The tryouts were an extremely stressful experience and she's relieved to finally be safe at home with her family, where she could let off some steam and she could relax her mind; just to find out that "the Boulevardez Family" is moving into the old mansion across the street. Keep in mind, the Prouds had lived on this block for nine years already and that house was vacant for decades, before Felix purchased it and had it renovated; and suddenly on this fateful day Penny knew her life would be changing forever effective immediately. As we know, they move in and Penny is livid not only to learn that her drama with LaCienega isn't over but now it's encroaching on her. LaCienega has put Penny under duress at school; she tries to retreat to the safest place she knows just to find out that now, LaCienega isn't just some mean girl at school, she's actually coming into her life and there's nothing she can do to stop it. We don't get to see as much from Boulevardes' side when they're away from the Prouds because again, this is not their show, this is The Proud Family!



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However, it seems that LaCienega knows she doesn't like Penny, but it also seems that LaCienega is embracing the fact that Penny is becoming a part of her life. We don't get to see LaCienega's initial reaction when she first finds out that Penny is going to be her neighbor. From what we know, LaCienega may have found out just minutes before Penny, as Suga Mama had just spoken with them and invited them over to her son's house without even asking him, but at least it turned out good for him. Suga Mama had already come back from talking to them before Penny came in the door from school. So, by the time we see this in Episode One, LaCienega had already realized that her family was moving across from the Prouds and judging by this, she embraced it immediately!



Episode One – LaCienega poses as she gets moved in atop a piece of furniture making the movers' jobs harder in the process. LaCienega knows that Penny and others in the neighborhood are likely looking out their windows because the Boulevardez family are a bunch of show-offs and chose to move in in the middle of the afternoon on a weekday.

LaCienega knew that Proud was in her life to stay whether she liked it or not so her approach was to make the best of it and in her mind that was to have as much 'fun' with Proud as she could possibly have. But at that time, LaCienega's idea of fun was not good, clean fun. Penny on the other hand was trying to avoid LaCienega with just about every chance she got, especially in the first three episodes. So, Penny wants to avoid LaCienega as much as possible and LaCienega wants to have as much "fun" with Penny as possible and sure enough LaCienega is about to get her opportunity to do that.

Oscar and Felix are grilling burgers and Sticky chooses to step away from the girls to socialize with Oscar and Felix perhaps because there were no other guys his age there. While Oscar is giving Sticky a lecture, he carelessly tossed a match into a can of oil without paying attention and severely burnt the back of Felix's house. Despite Sticky and Suga Mama both trying to warn Oscar about what he had done, his superior hard-headedness kicked in and neither he nor Felix acknowledged the problem until it was too late. Now despite this, Felix didn't get upset at Oscar for his big mistake and took the fall with him.



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Oscar felt bad for what he had did and invited them to stay at his house until their house was repaired. Now here's where we learn a little about the Boulevardez family and how they impact Felix and Sunset's relationship. Apparently, LaCienega has a grandmother on her mother's side of the family who we've never had the chance to see and probably for a good reason. Felix and Sunset were originally going to stay in a motel, because according to Felix, Sunset's mother label's him a 'BUM!' and they don't get along, therefore, she doesn't come around. It is unknown exactly how this impacts LaCienega directly as we never hear LaCienega speak of her, but we do know that similarly to Penny's family, LaCienega's parents' in-laws seem to be clashing, but perhaps on a more intense level. Bottom line is that, the Boulevardezes had nowhere else to go and Oscar felt the least, he could do was provide them with shelter since he was responsible for ruining theirs.

As materialistic as the Boulevardez family seems to be, they deserve credit for remaining calm and taking it easy on Oscar, especially Sunset who is especially irritated by men doing dumb things. She was nothing but appreciative even despite the fact that Oscar kind of owed it to them. But of course, Penny once again doesn't like any of this at all; as if having to sit through LaCienega's performance while she flaunts herself intentionally as she takes in all the attention that she loves so much wasn't enough. LaCienega was in already in a euphoric state as all eyes were on her as she showed off more of her talents, but also with Proud being there, it motivated her to show off even more which actually made her perform even better. "That was wonderful, LaCienega!" Zoey says as the crowd claps. Meanwhile, Zoey still has no idea just how much those words mean to LaCienega and what it does to her ego each time. Now, Penny has to deal with a LaCienega that's seemingly at the peak of her arrogance and she knows by now how quickly LaCienega can become haughty after receiving a simple compliment.

Penny is livid now because she's tried really hard to get away from LaCienega and the more she's repulsed by LaCienega, the closer LaCienega gets to her and this trend seems to be continuing with no signs of slowing down whatsoever. Just imagine what could be going through Penny's head right now as the person she's been running away from is now going to literally be in her face every day. The hurricane has finally arrived! She begs and pleads with her mom to please not let LaCienega stay in her house. She even goes as far as to say that LaCienega hates her and that she's EVIL! LaCienega on the other hand hears this and tells Mrs. Proud, "Thank you for helping my family at a time of need, we are eternally grateful!" continuing to charm Mrs. Proud into thinking she's sweet and innocent and that her daughter's a b\*\*\*\*. But so far much like the previous episode, LaCienega really seems to be having her way.

Commented [SF50]: LaCienega is trying to impress Penny.



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Despite the gravely unfortunate situation she and her family are in, she seems quite optimistic and doesn't seem to have much of a problem having to stay over the Prouds' house at all; a stark contrast to how she said so profusely to Penny, "Your house, STINKS!" in Episode One. She even bows her head to Trudy as she expressed gratitude. If anything, all signs point to LaCienega actually being glad for the opportunity to stay at Penny's house. She finally gets her chance to be as close to Penny as she wants. She knows she has Penny backed into a corner and this feeds LaCienega's sadistic nature; another wacky trait that she inherits from her mom. LaCienega finally gets to have the fun she's always wanted to have with Penny and this time, she has nowhere to run. Upon entering; Trudy instructs Penny to, "Show LaCienega where to put her things!"

Commented [SF51]: Or her mom's side at least...



Penny – "Okay follow me..."



Episode 14 - LaCienega puts on a sinister smirk as Penny reluctantly invites LaCienega into her room. LaCienega finally has Penny cornered and knows that Penny can no longer run from her. She's finally getting her wish of spending quality time Penny. She's looking forward to a "fun" time staying in Penny's room. But she learns very quickly, it won't be so easy for her either as her weakness are primed to be exposed.

LaCienega's facial expression here is rather sinister, but one of gratification. She's excited to be staying over Penny's house and she can't wait to get upstairs just to torment her, because this time Penny has nowhere to retreat to. LaCienega's sadistic qualities are beginning to surface at this point, because despite the fact that she and Penny have somewhat adjusted to one another,



Commented [SF52]:



It's clear that while Penny is not looking forward to having to share a room with LaCienega, LaCienega can't wait to get upstairs to spend time alone with Penny. It's something she's wanted since Episode One. On the surface, LaCienega hates Penny and is jealous of her. But subconsciously she really admires Penny and wants to get closer to her. Despite it being for negative reasons, the bottom line is that LaCienega is obsessed with Penny, wants to get claustrophobically close to her, gets offended when Penny avoids her, and gets excited when she has Penny cornered. The happiest we've seen LaCienega so far to this point of the series is when Penny finally let LaCienega into her party at the end of Episode 13. Either LaCienega doesn't realize it or she's refusing to acknowledge it but she showing a lot of signs that she really likes Penny Proud and wants to be her best friend, but her admiration for Penny has been spoiled by a jealous spirit.

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they still don't get along. They've had plenty of opportunities to reconcile and have already shown subconscious signals that they've at least grown to enjoy each other's company in social settings but they still have almost no experience spending one on one time together. This can be mainly attributed to LaCienega's inconsistency. LaCienega took the audience by storm in Episode One when she was being noticeably fake to everyone in order to manipulate the social environment to function in her favor. Penny's mother ordered her to go and apologize to LaCienega for being unfriendly when her family came to visit because LaCienega left a really good impression on the Prouds, and it took some coaching from her mother and some acting to be able to pull it off. Penny listened to her mother and apologized and offered LaCienega friendship, LaCienega rudely rejected...



Episode One – LaCienega rudely rejects Penny's offer to sit with her at the lunch table. Penny offered LaCienega companionship and LaCienega was nasty in return. It's safe to say LaCienega instantly regretted this move as she left a permanent stain on a potentially special friendship as she had yet to learn how special Penny truly was.

This very moment is what left a sour taste in Penny's mouth that LaCienega has since not been able to recover from. Penny made a direct attempt to mend things between herself and LaCienega and LaCienega was shamelessly rude to her. Then when Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky arrive, then she suddenly invites Penny to sit with her. This is because LaCienega realizes that Penny still has leverage since Penny is already a part of the friend group that she's trying to get into. So, it would work in her favor if she pretended to be inclusive of Penny too. But she also, extracted Penny's anger which once again caused her to





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behave aggressively in front of an audience, making Penny look like she's the aggressor in front of her friends. This is a vicious manipulation tactic known as "gaslighting." Strangely enough however, one thing that's remained consistent is that LaCienega has shown that she enjoys being around Penny, even if it is just to antagonize her. The more Penny tries to get away from her, the closer she seems to get and the closer she seems to get the happier she seems to be. She's manipulated her environment well enough for people to act in ways that serve her agenda and not Penny's and now she's finally got Penny right where she wants her.



LaCienega steps into Penny's room and takes a look around. This is actually her second time on record being in Penny's room. Nevertheless, LaCienega wastes no time showing Penny blatant disrespect. – "I guess this is a decent sized closet, it'll be just big enough for the two of us my wardrobe!" – LaCienega Boulevardez – January 11, 2002

LaCienega finally gets her wish and gets close to Penny where no one else can get in the way and Penny has to deal with her head-on. She complains about how small Penny's room is even though she's been in there before. I guess this is because LaCienega is rich and extremely materialistic so she has a lot more stuff in her room including an 80-inch television set we saw in Episode One when they moved in. Despite this, she seemed to have no problems setting up her wardrobe which took up all the space remaining in Penny's room alone making them even more squished together. Also, what LaCienega seemed to forget is that she's on Penny's playing field and tries to establish dominance. She halts Penny from touching the huge boulder that's taking up her space or any of the clothes on it, citing, "You might ruin it; and we both know you can't afford to replace it!"



**Commented [SF53]:**

LaCienega is very intelligent, but unfortunately, she didn't initially use her smarts for good but rather to manipulate.

Gaslighting is a manipulation tactic that involves drastic measures that are to make what's false appear real and what's real to appear false. It distorts reality to a point where the victim's sanity gets called into question by onlookers or even by the victim him or herself.

In Episode One, LaCienega behaved well enough for Trudy not to tell LaCienega was faking it, but also enough for Penny to know she was being disingenuous. LaCienega had done this deliberately to get under Penny's skin while also charming her family, in the event that Penny complains about her, no one would listen to her allowing LaCienega to wear Penny down and get away with it. She knew it would drive Penny crazy, causing her to behave undesirably, make her look like she had a bad attitude and is being a jerk to her for no reason and possibly get her into trouble. At the time, this was to break Penny down mentally so that she could gain an edge over her in winning the cheer contest, but LaCienega was so nasty to Penny that entire time that she left a permanent stain on Penny's impressions of her. LaCienega's gaslighting comes into play even more in Episode 14.

**Commented [SF54]:**

Is LaCienega being racist for saying her black friend Penny can't afford to replace her expensive dress? No, it's true Penny can't afford to replace the dress because she is 14 years old and doesn't have a job. Penny's parents most likely had enough money to replace the dress if something did happen to it, but it's also true that LaCienega's family is wealthier than Penny's family, so it's easy for LaCienega to look down on Penny for this reason, though it isn't right at all. It's also true that LaCienega can't afford to replace the dress herself because it was her parents who bought it for her in the first place.

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Episode 14 – LaCienega instantly clashes with Penny as she makes herself at home in Penny's room by setting up her gigantic wardrobe which fills in the remainder of the space of the floor.

Penny is already starting to lose patience with LaCienega and LaCienega is already feeling the heat and says they should divide the room. Though Penny has home field advantage, LaCienega tries to establish authority over Penny by taking up her space and then telling her what she can and can't touch. If a person saw this scene for the first time, it wouldn't be hard for them to get the impression that they were in LaCienega's room. Essentially LaCienega tried to bully Penny in her own room, but she still hasn't learned that Penny is supremely confident and it is a genuine confidence. She didn't allow LaCienega to bully her on the football field in Episode One and she's certainly not going to allow it now and has already threatened to kick her out. LaCienega starts feeling the heat as she is once again feeling uncomfortable because she has to try break through Penny's confidence and once again, she struggles as she is unable to gain leverage. Off balance, LaCienega gets uncomfortable and decides quickly that she and Penny need to divide the room in order to get along better. So, she draws a circle around Penny and basically tells her that everything in the room belongs to her now, which then leads to this ↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓





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7:12 – “Everything in the room is mine! And everything outside the window is yours!” Penny shuts down LaCienega’s wardrobe and tosses it outside to show LaCienega that she was not intimidated by her. LaCienega panicked as she wasn’t prepared for this response. Penny’s confidence and the principles her father taught her wouldn’t allow her to let anyone run all over her, especially in her own house. LaCienega was fortunately able to make an athletic dive to catch it before it fell out of reach.



LaCienega - “Oh Lighten Up Proud! Let’s Call it Truce! Friends?”

Penny – “Okay, Friends!”



**Commented [SF55]:**

LaCienega was somehow able to save her bags although it was pretty far out of window by the time she reacted. It must have taken a lot of speed and flexibility to make it over before the bag descended out of her reach, especially considering the fact that the contents in the bag were very dense.



LaCienega is materialistic and places high value on her personal belongings, especially her clothing and beauty products as her good looks are the things she cherishes most about herself.

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**Penny and LaCienega's Prank War - (Episodes 13 - 14) –**



Penny is pranked by LaCienega as she gets electrocuted while accepting LaCienega's offer! Wow! After, Penny almost threw her belongings out the window, she still continues to torment her and you know what? LaCienega is enjoying every bit of it! What a b\*\*\*\* she is right?! – NOT SO FAST!

Penny and LaCienega had a brief prank war take place between the previous episode and this one. Penny performed a magic trick where she took a strand of LaCienega's hair, put it on the table, made LaCienega stare at it and then splashed water in her face. This took place off screen at the very end of the episode. Penny did this to get back at LaCienega for trying to ruin her party earlier in the episode. The following episode, LaCienega got revenge on Penny by zapping her with a shock-watch during a handshake. To the viewer, it looked like just another day and another opportunity for LaCienega to be wicked towards Penny for no good reason. This is because we didn't get to see Penny do the prank in action against LaCienega. We saw her do it earlier in that episode against Myron and the Gross Sisters, so we as viewers could infer that she did this to LaCienega after she plucked LaCienega's hair. This one hurt LaCienega too because Penny had just let her into the party, and she was in a state of euphoria at the time since it seemed Penny had finally accepted her. Penny even put her arm around LaCienega's shoulders which made her feel special, just to lead her into the dining room and splash her in the face. She thought Penny was finally being a friend to her, but she thought wrong. So, LaCienega did the same thing back to her in the next episode by calling a truce; but instead gives her a handshock.

**Commented [SF56]:** Get it? Handshock?! –

This handshake has much deeper meaning. LaCienega has accepted the fact that she and Penny are in each other's lives and knows that she's better off trying to get along with her but it won't be easy because they still do not like each other. She is at a disadvantage being in Penny's room so she surrenders asks Proud if they could be friends. If you notice, LaCienega's body language, she feels extremely awkward making the request.

But LaCienega likes to joke like her jokester grandpa that she loves very much. A friendship with LaCienega means you have to be able to handle her and her jokes. We see a pattern develop after Episode 14, where LaCienega has a tendency to tease the people she's closest to, most often. Her neighbor Penny, her best friend Zoey and her crush, Michael. Penny learns later that this trait is an important part of who LaCienega is. LaCienega simply plays too much and she can take it too far.

Also, the energy between Penny and LaCienega is intense, so when they connect there's a spark. LaCienega's handshake is supposed to represent a spark of chemistry and at this particular point, that chemistry is not good; though it certainly exists. This represents tension.



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LaCienega has put Penny through so much in such a short period of time, she came in, was blatantly disrespectful, tried to take over Penny's room and you know what? She's enjoying every bit of it. LaCienega is having fun with Penny but Penny is clearly not. So, she tries to lighten Penny up with a joke! She offers finally offers Penny her friendship but then zaps her, which should normally add more grease to the fire and it looks like attempting to get along with LaCienega at least civilly is a lost cause at this point, viewers of this show are about as angry as they'll ever be with LaCienega watching this scene for the first time. But there's much more to this scene than meets the eye at first glance. After zapping Penny, LaCienega says, "GOTCHA!" and starts laughing. Sounds familiar?

Well in the previous episode, Penny and LaCienega were in cahoots again when Penny hurt LaCienega's feelings by failing to invite her to a party at her house for a second time, so she thought she'd get back at Penny by throwing a bigger party and luring away her potential guests. The main people Penny didn't want to come over arrived, those were Myron, Gina, Nubia and Olei. The party began as a nightmare for Penny and she wasn't enjoying it. Long story short, she decided to play a practical joke on them. It involved a strand of hair from each of them (really just Myron).

Commented [SF57]:

- "GOTCHA!" Ahahahaha!

- Dang, I can't stand you!



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Penny's Magic Trick - Episode 13 –



Episode 13 - Penny pulls a prank on Myron and the Gross Sisters after Trudy begs her to participate in the festivities. She lures them in by telling them she wants to show them a magic trick, stating that she would need "a strand of human hair."

**Commented [SF58]:**

Penny invites her guests into the kitchen to show them a "magic trick." Turns out it was a prank, Penny did this to her guests because she simply didn't like them and the reasons are simple. Myron's the nerdy kid that LaCienega shoved into the closet and The Gross Sisters take everybody's money, but yet they're the only people who showed up to her party at the time. Penny does this same prank to LaCienega, but we don't get to see it in action.





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Penny was immediately reprimanded by her mother for treating her guests poorly and rightfully so. From Penny's perspective though, it's understandable why she's in a bad mood. Her best friend betrayed her again, and this time it was deliberate, but instead of her best friends coming to her party, her bullies and the guy who took advantage of LaCienega's rumor from the previous party are the only ones who showed up, uninvited of course. However, things probably would've been much easier had she taken the high road and invited LaCienega in the first place, because apparently, she was destined to be there despite everything that had happened in between. Or on the contrary, perhaps it may have all been a necessary evil to bring Penny and LaCienega together peacefully for the moment.



Episode 13 – A desperate LaCienega rejoices as Penny finally lets her into her party, LaCienega's strong desire for acceptance is exposed and brings her back down to earth as Penny takes the high road after already experiencing the pain of being ditched by her best friends in yet another crucial moment.

Penny let LaCienega into her party at the end of the episode after her own counterparty melted down and LaCienega's jaws dropped in sheer excitement. She wasn't just happy that Penny let her into the party, she was happy that Penny seems to finally be learning to accept and embrace her. LaCienega is known to be rather persistent, but instead she's swallowed her pride and humbles herself in the face of defeat. Penny feels a little sorry for her, realizing she has nothing else to do and would surely be left alone if she didn't let her in.



Commented [SF59]:



Penny and LaCienega walk together like good "friends" after Penny finally let her into her house willingly for the first time. They finally have something legitimate to bond over in this moment because they both threw house parties and they both got ditched by their "best friend" Dijonay for each other's parties based on who she thought was better in the moment. Realizing this, it felt easier for Penny to show LaCienega some sympathy. This coincides with her tendency not to want to see LaCienega suffer, especially if it's something she's already suffered through herself.

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Also, LaCienega could've chosen to run towards Dijonay, Sticky and Zoey or even stuck to her attention seeking tendencies and tried to take over Penny's party, much like she tried to take over her bedroom; but instead, she and Penny actually bond because they've both gotten ditched by the aforementioned three. LaCienega was simply happy being with Penny and didn't seem to care about anything else but hanging out and getting along with Proud. As arrogant as she can be, LaCienega swallowed her pride and asked Penny, "May I come in?" to which Penny says, "Why not."

**Commented [SF60]:** Though LaCienega no longer had homefield advantage and Penny's parents were supervising.

But despite Penny allowing LaCienega into her house, she still knew she couldn't let LaCienega off the hook so easily after all the misery she had just put her all throughout the episode without even being on screen for much of it.

**Commented [SF61]:** Message to readers and editors. Never start with a sentence with the word "but." – lol my grammar is just bad. – Just kidding -



Episode 13 – Penny guides LaCienega into the kitchen and tells her she will need a strand of human hair. She tells LaCienega, she wants to show her a trick, just like she did Myron and the Gross Sisters. It's safe to assume what comes next.

Earlier in the episode LaCi had thrown a counter party to sabotage Penny's party because Penny didn't invite her and her feelings were hurt because Penny once again made her feel excluded. This instance is much different from Episode 3[2] because Penny and LaCienega had spent quality time hanging out together and actually having fun. Despite Dijonay and Zoey being present the majority of the time, it was clear they had already began warming up to one another. LaCienega had also invited her out with the group in Episode 8 for a trip to the amusement park, helped her pick out clothes during a shopping spree



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in Episode 10 and helped give Zoey and Olei makeovers in Episode 12; they even had an opportunity to dance with each other at the end of the episode but spoiled it. LaCienega never says it out loud but she's starting to enjoy hanging with Proud more than she thought she would and her mood increasingly got better over the previous twelve episodes. It's safe to say LaCienega had actually started getting comfortable with Penny as she had already embraced the fact that she would be in her life. Penny on the contrary not so much, she had gotten used to LaCienega being around but still didn't like her and therefore chose not to invite her. Therefore, LaCienega's feelings were hurt and she decided to hurt Penny back, but choose a different method that didn't involve slandering her name or getting her into trouble with her parents. Though it was a rather aggressive move, LaCienega fought a clean fight against Penny but still lost seemingly due to bad karma as she threw her party based on a negative premise which was not to just have fun and celebrate, but rather to inflict pain on Penny for excluding her. So as a result, Penny saved a special moment, just for her and LaCienega.



Episode 13 – Penny and LaCienega head into the kitchen for some one-on-one time away from the crowd as more guests from LaCienega's party come over to Penny's for what is now essentially an afterparty. LaCienega appears to be comfortable socializing with Penny and looks genuinely interested in what Penny is getting ready to "show" her.





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Penny would lead LaCienega into the kitchen where she would chastise her for trying to ruin her party and that was by pulling the exact same prank on her that she pulled on Myron and the Gross Sisters. Only this time, Penny would show LaCienega mercy by taking a page out of her book, antagonizing LaCienega where no one else would see it, after all Penny has grown to have fun with her feud with LaCienega and also discovered it's a bit more fun to antagonize LaCienega in secret, it's what makes their wacky relationship special and right here Penny starts to slowly see that she and LaCienega actually have some things in common! They both have a best friend who is disloyal to them. We don't get to see the actual prank in action this time as Penny walks LaCienega into the kitchen after plucking her hair. LaCienega is smitten and despite Penny pulling her hair and hurting her a little bit, LaCienega was still enjoying herself and seemed to be in a much more relaxed state as she had clearly let her guard down and was actually interested in what Penny was going to show her. Not to mention, it was only she and Penny who went into the kitchen, so in her mind Penny must've had something that she wanted to show just her and no one else, which made LaCienega feel rather important. Also, this was her time to finally be with Penny one on one without social interference and actually establish a direct relationship with her, but all of that was ruined when she splashed LaCienega in the face with the water, possibly messing up her hair and makeup. We don't know what happened after that, but it's safe to say LaCienega did not like it at all. It's possible she may have even run out of the house screaming or Trudy may have seen what Penny did and ended the party as a punishment for being mean to LaCienega again, or LaCienega may have eaten the prank and vowed to get Penny yet back again and here in Episode 14 she did. She got her revenge by shocking her hand rather than shaking it and even uttering off Penny's trademark catchphrase at the end of such pranks!

**Commented [SF62]:** Penny realized at the end of Episode 13 that Dijonay wasn't betraying her for LaCienega or that LaCienega was trying to steal Dijonay away from her after all, Dijonay's disloyalty comes solely from within herself and it perhaps isn't anything personal. She is also competitive and actually gets gratification from antagonizing her enemies and it started with her prank against Myron and the Gross Sisters.

**Commented [SF63]:**



LaCienega – "Oh... Lighten up Proud!"



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LaCienega – "GOTCHA! A-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!"



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Penny – “Dang, I can’t stand you!”

It turns out that LaCienega’s cruel prank at the peak of Penny’s frustration with her was a revenge prank, it flies completely beneath the radar because we don’t get to see Penny’s prank in action due to Episode 13’s end credits appearing before Penny and LaCienega even make it into the kitchen making LaCienega looking like a sole aggressor adding to her abysmal reputation at this point in the series. You see, LaCienega mistakenly assumed Penny was finally calling a truce with her after their party fiasco went the way that it did and that Penny was actually interested in being friends with her, got comfortable with her and let her guard down. So, she wanted to inflict those same feelings back onto Penny by making her think she was calling a truce. She even capped it off by saying “GOTCHA!” just like Penny did when she did her “magic trick.”



Penny looks disheveled as LaCienega sabotaged her morning routine causing her to panic. She stands dumbfounded in the bathroom doorway after falsely accusing LaCienega of locking her out. LaCienega appears to be giving Penny nightmares in her own home.

The next morning, Penny wakes up late and comes down the stairs looking messy. Furiously, she asks, “Where’s LaCienega!?” Apparently, LaCienega’s theatrics have continued into the next morning. She sabotaged Penny’s routine and ran out of the door before Penny could wake up by turning off her alarm. This is rather strange, why would LaCienega slow Penny down? What exactly does LaCienega get from this? She also says LaCienega locked her out of the



### Commented [SF64]:

LaCienega offers Penny a truce over a handshake after disrespecting and attempting to bully her in her own room. But the whole time LaCienega was setting the stage for this moment. LaCienega is the type of person who is known for being extremely organized and prepared and this is no different. As LaCienega was packing her belongings to move into Penny’s room, she had to figure out what to bring with her for a week or more. She had no choice but to plan and prepare for being displaced from home and having to share a room with her enemy. On the surface, LaCienega doesn’t like Penny and is jealous of her, but LaCienega really likes Penny because in order for LaCienega to be jealous of Penny, there has to be something about Penny or something that she possesses that LaCienega admires. But LaCienega wants that for herself. She’d rather be with Penny in private picking on her rather than just avoid her, not invite her to things or talk to her. (Is it possible Sunset may be pushing LaCienega get along with Penny behind the scenes? More on that later.) She knew this would be the perfect opportunity to get back at Penny for what she had done. LaCienega is also introduced as a jokester. Though she finds it funny, Penny of course doesn’t at all. We learn just because LaCienega plays these types of jokes on someone doesn’t really mean she hates him or her. This is a trait she inherits directly from Papi. Papi says horrible things about Suga Mama in Spanish all the time and thinks it’s funny because he knows she can’t understand him; but yet he still chooses to spend a large portion of his time with her. Also notice he looks like The Joker himself!



Commented [SF65]: Notice how a trend seems to be forming where, LaCienega seems to be in a position of getting revenge on Penny a lot, but yet is presented to be the aggressor nearly 100 percent of the time? Yet many of the things she has done since Episode 3 were done in order to try and inflict the same pain back onto Penny that Penny inflicts on her. Penny on the other hand seems to bail LaCienega out when she sees karma has flipped on her and is about to suffer in the exact same way as Penny, however LaCienega has always appeared to crack under pressure far easier meaning that Penny is mentally the stronger character by far and soon, LaCienega will acknowledge this and begin to admire Penny even more in later episodes. LaCienega seems to be rather vindictive.

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bathroom and that she actually saw her do it!

But Did LaCienega Really Lock Penny Out of the Bathroom?

...or was Penny not telling the truth? Think about it! First off, when did LaCienega go to the bathroom? She was up early, before everyone else and cooked breakfast for everyone, except of course Penny and she was in the kitchen before anyone else in the house. Penny also says that LaCienega deactivated her alarm clock. This is more likely to be true as Penny woke up late and discovered her alarm was turned off. However, locking her out of the bathroom simply doesn't add up. Oscar, Trudy and Sunset went upstairs and discovered that the bathroom door was unlocked after Penny says, "She locked me out of the bathroom; I saw her do it!" How could you have seen her do it? If she went inside to washup or use the toilet, then it would make sense for her to lock the door for privacy. I'm sure the door locks from the inside and LaCienega doesn't have any keys to the house since she doesn't actually live there so there's no way to unlock from the outside unless there is a knob lock. If there is a knob lock, then LaCienega would be effectively locking herself and everybody else out too and they would have to call a locksmith. Perhaps they could've gotten Suga Mama to use her crusty toenail like she did when she broke Papi out of prison. That's unless LaCienega is secretly a skilled locksmith herself and found time to sneak and unlock the bathroom before Penny got the chance to tell on her. But where could she have found this time? After she cooked pancakes, she went straight out the door and didn't bother to wait on Penny; which still shows she did something suspicious and was trying to avoid her. However, there's no way she could've snuck back upstairs and unlocked the door before or after leaving out without being noticed. She even made Penny's lunch, beforehand and took it with her. Apparently, whatever she did, she didn't want Penny to stay mad at her for it.

Yes, it makes sense LaCienega woke up early, but in order for Penny to see LaCienega lock her out of the bathroom, Penny would've had to have been up as early as her which would then invalidate her alarm clock story. Also, if she "saw" LaCienega do it, why didn't she try to stop her right then and there? Apparently, she must've been dreaming or something because if all of that actually happened, I'm sure Penny would've been banging on the door or there would've been a shouting match that would've disturbed everyone else in the house. Apparently, regardless of Penny's false accusation, LaCienega must've managed to stress her out pretty badly in a short period of time if she's popping up in her dreams wreaking havoc while also causing her to sleep longer and eventually have that dream by cutting her alarm clock. Living with LaCienega has literally become a nightmare for her! At this point, she's literally driving Penny insane and Penny knows it.



**Commented [SF66]:**

LaCienega packed Penny a lunch and took it to school with her before Penny woke up. Apparently, LaCienega had made Penny's lunch before she cooked the family breakfast because it was already made before she was seen serving Oscar, Felix, Suga Mama and Papi their pancakes. She informed Trudy and Sunset that she made Penny's lunch while serving them their bacon, eggs and sausage. She then grabbed Penny's lunch before telling everyone goodbye, "I LOVE YOU!" she says to the collective group; Prouds included and then walks out the door.





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Episode 14 – Penny is stressed out after just one night with her new *best friend* as she is having a difficult time adjusting to LaCienega's unorthodox personality and lifestyle. She complains to Zoey and Dijonay about the absolute nightmare, LaCienega has been for her.

Later that day, Penny finally makes it to school and meets up with Di and Zoey who she can finally vent to about what she had been through in the last 24 hours! She tells them she doesn't know how much she can take, because LaCienega has been really hard on her and doesn't seem to be letting up or giving Penny any breaks, aside from LaCienega being mean and rude, it's also being revealed to us that she's extremely obsessive. Penny labels her, "A selfish, spoiled neat freak!" because LaCienega has been spoiled with a ton of material items by her parents and she cares deeply about them. She keeps them very organized and as we saw earlier, she wouldn't even let Penny touch her dress and appeared to be genuinely on edge when Penny reached for it. She also repeatedly talked about her upcoming pageant to the point where it annoyed Penny half to death and knowing LaCienega, it's safe to assume that she was rubbing it in Penny's face that she was competing. Either way LaCienega was extremely excited to be participating and couldn't stop talking about it, effectively draining Penny's energy in the process. LaCienega Boulevardez apparently has an **OCD!!** And Penny is still convinced this girl is EVIL!



Commented [SF67]:



LaCienega looks visibly anxious as she handles her "Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant" dress. "You might ruin it!" she shouts. "and we both know you can't afford to replace it!" Stress lines appear over her eyes as she gives Penny the "show and tell." LaCienega cares deeply about all her belongings. Especially, this dress at the moment because she plans to wear it for the pageant that she's so obsessed with. LaCienega usually gets small wrinkles above her eyes whenever she's holding back intense emotions. An earlier example of this is Episode 3, when LaCienega confronted Penny in front of the lockers at school after starting the rumor about her nearly leading to a fist fight between the two. Emotions between the two at the time were highly intense.

**Commented [SF68]:** OCD = Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder is a mental illness that causes repeated unwanted thoughts or sensations (obsessions) or the urge to do something over and over again (compulsions). Some people can have both obsessions and compulsions. OCD isn't about habits like biting your nails or thinking negative thoughts. – WebMd.com

**Commented [SF69]:** Never start a sentence with "And." It's probably the worst thing you can do besides ending a sentence with "And." And it looks like I just did. And what a vicious cycle of bad grammar this can lead to throughout your paper. I promise this is the only time you will see this here in mine. Keep Reading! =>

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LaCienega – “Hey Roomie!”



Penny – “Hey LaCienega!”



LaCienega arrives to PE class after Penny despite leaving home before she did and she still has Penny lunch in her hand. She greets Penny with a big smile but Penny finds it disingenuous.

LaCienega arrives to school and reports to the swimming pool where Penny, Dijonay, Zoey, Sticky, Michael and others are preparing for a swim test with PE teacher, Coach Collins, who happens to be Michael's dad. LaCienega then delivers Penny her lunch and Penny was actually shocked. She had just gotten done telling all her friends that LaCienega was a selfish, spoiled neat freak! Then LaCienega comes strolling in and gives her a gift. LaCienega remains steps ahead of Penny and seems to know everything Penny is going to do before she does it and seems to have a counter attack for it. It is quite amazing how LaCienega was able to read Penny and predict her moves. Keep in mind Penny is very intelligent and LaCienega is now outsmarting her which is actually a difficult task! On the other hand, LaCienega has clearly been obsessed with Penny this whole time! Her entire focus has been, “Proud, Pageant, Pageant, Proud!” In fact, her mind has been so caught up in those things that she forgot something very important.

Commented [SF70]:



- “She So Fake!!”



- “She's not the only one!”

Commented [SF71]:



Michael's dad only wants him to call him Coach in public. Clearly hurts his self-esteem.

Commented [SF72]:



LaCienega – “Oh Penny! You left this morning without your lunch; a turkey sandwich! I made it especially for you! I put cookies and cake in there!”



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Notice everyone around her is dressed in swim gear and she's not? That's right, her swim test is today and she forgot all about it! She didn't bring her swimsuit to class because she was busy preparing to stay ahead of Penny and take control of the situation so before Penny brought their drama to school with them. It's actually quite amazing, LaCienega created all this drama at home with Penny and seemingly enjoyed it, yet she's so terrified of there being drama at school that she actually gets up in the morning and the first thing she does is pack Penny a lunch; and not just a quick lunch she threw together. She made it with thought and care and gave her some desert. It certainly contained a lot of sugar but LaCienega wanted her "gift" to be especially sweet for Proud. She clearly didn't want Penny going to school and ruining her reputation as well. Despite LaCienega's shenanigans, she still doesn't want people at school to view her as a mean girl which seems to play into the suspicion that she's trying to essentially "replace" Penny. But yet LaCienega took the time to figure out what Penny likes to eat for lunch. At some point, LaCienega paid enough attention to Penny to know what some of her favorite snacks are. Obviously, cookies and cake are sweet treats that pretty much anybody likes; however, she made Penny a delicious Turkey sandwich that's healthier and has fewer calories than perhaps bologna. Despite her racially insensitive behaviors in the first three episodes, LaCienega didn't go after the black stereotype and feed her pork. It's a shame we never actually get to see the lunch be eaten.

Now the tables are turning, as LaCienega is entering dangerous territory. Coach Collins asks LaCienega to share with the class why she didn't bring her swim





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gear; to which she says, "I didn't know Coach Collins!" But then as he tells her to grab the extra suit in the back she replies, "I can't" and then pouts.



Coach Collins then asks, "What's the excuse this time?" as if he had been through this with her before. However, with LaCienega being without excuses Coach Collins threatens to give her a failing grade if she doesn't comply and at this moment, LaCienega panics. This is because there is so much at stake for her and she could lose it all. All the while, LaCienega is the center of attention right now. Why is that a big deal? LaCienega is known for being an attention junkie and showed that throughout this episode, however this is not the kind of attention she loves and cherishes. Now she is under tremendous pressure, as she is receiving negative attention and at risk of receiving a failing grade in what is known to be one of the easiest classes at school which would also deem her ineligible to participate in the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen pageant. After begging Coach Collins not to fail her, he then rushes her to get dressed and not waste anymore class time. So, she rushes to the locker room and changes. Suddenly, the loud and obnoxious LaCienega Bouvardez is vulnerable and she looks very shy.

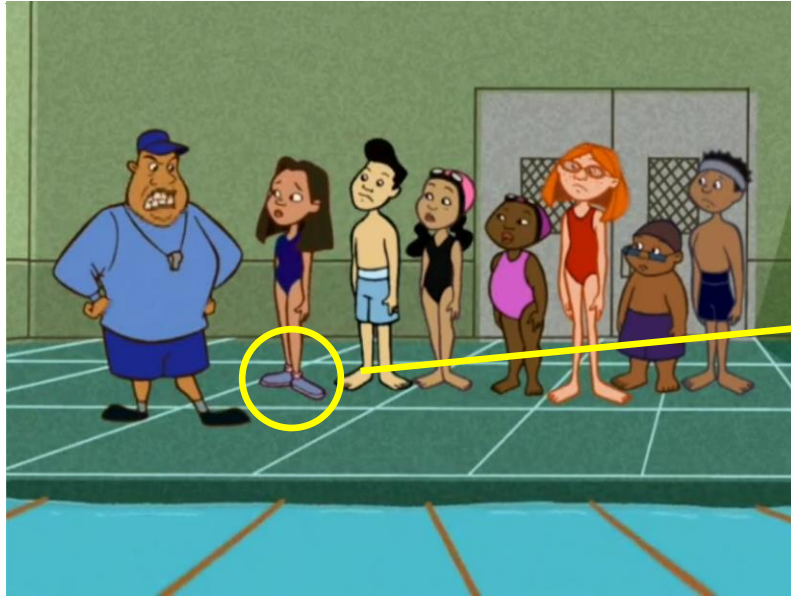
Commented [SF731]:



LaCienega Bouvardez is a shy individual who relies on external validation and a façade in order to cover up her weaknesses. Unfortunately, she is hiding her true self behind her good looks and self-proclaimed popularity. She's actually covering up the things that truly make her unique in the process and this scene shows it. Despite her arrogant disposition, LaCienega is actually afraid to fully express herself which explains her shifty behaviors in front of different groups of people, she is terrified of being judged in a negative light. "La flora rojo" is missing from her head.



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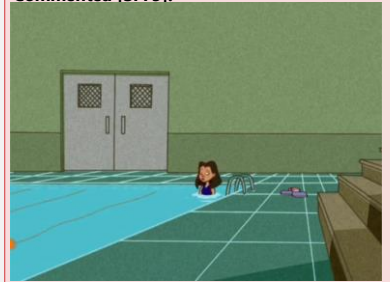
Commented [SF74]:



LaCienega changed into the swimsuit, but came out with her shoes still on. There's no way she could've expected to try and swim with her shoes on. LaCienega is trying to hide her feet from the class.

Coach Collins gets irritated as he looks down and sees LaCienega trying to swim with shoes on. He tells her "Rule #1 – Now shoes allowed in the pool!" and again she gets laughed at. LaCienega's heart sinks in despair as she appears to have become a laughing stock already. Worse, her biggest insecurity still has yet to be exposed. She's ducked and dodged this moment for a long time, but now comes the moment of truth. LaCienega walks down to the opposite end of the pool and slides into the pool, still keeping her *pies* out of sight. After a slight pause, LaCienega goes to work! LaCienega absolutely dominates at her swim test, shocking everyone! Once again, LaCienega proves she's exceptionally gifted, and perhaps this may be her best talent yet! Even Penny was amazed and looked on in complete awe! The best part is that, she wasn't even trying hard, she barely even wanted to do it. But strangely enough, LaCienega Boulevardrez, a girl who craves attention, who loves to show up and is proud of her many talents did everything she could to avoid this, so even to the viewer it's shocking. It's easy to think that this would've finally been our chance to see LaCienega actually suck at something and embarrass herself; but instead, she's still riding high and she seems surprisingly humble about her greatest talent all of a sudden why? It's because she is shy. She is too shy to show her feet, especially with Proud being there, which probably means she probably slept with her shoes on last night. It's interesting that Penny didn't notice something odd beforehand since LaCienega never took her shoes off. Despite the immense stress she was going through at the time, Penny perhaps went to sleep before LaCienega, that's the only way LaCienega could've had the opportunity to take off her shoes without Proud noticing. Or perhaps she

Commented [SF75]:



LaCienega pauses and pouts before beginning her demonstration. She covers her feet as she is terrified of anyone seeing them. Her behavior has been extremely strange up to this point but still, no one around her knows why.



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went to sleep early with her shoes on deliberately so that she could wake up early and get a head start on Penny. LaCienega needed time to bathe or shower, brush her teeth, fix her hair and get dressed without Penny noticing and a couple of those things require her to be barefoot. If Penny somehow did see LaCienega lock her out of the bathroom, perhaps while even being half wake briefly, then LaCienega did have a reason as to why she slowed down Penny's morning routine after all. It was because she was so terrified of Penny seeing her feet and that Penny would torment her and then tell everyone at school it appears; so, she did everything she could to make sure Penny would not see her feet, but still be able to get clean in the morning. Despite antagonizing Penny for fun, the day before, LaCienega's intentions were different this time and this time she actually felt bad for what she did and didn't want there to be any drama at school because of it, so she did all of those nice things for everyone to not only keep herself out of trouble but also to try and keep Penny from staying mad at her, because she knew that in order to live with Proud, they would have to start getting along.



Episode 14 – LaCienega prepares to exit the pool following a phenomenal swimming demonstration shocking her classmates because of her odd behavior. LaCienega continues to be shy and awkward as she receives staunch praise from Coach Collins for her wonderful performance and even offers her a spot on the swim team. But instead of LaCienega rubbing it in, she behaves more like her “true self.” We see the little girl in LaCienega shine through her eyes as she is now completely vulnerable as her biggest secret is about to be revealed and there is no escape for her!

**Commented [SF76]:**

LaCienega is a really shy and tender little girl who grew to distrust the people around her due to bullying in her early youth and a questionable family (More on that coming up). She wants to prove she can be a strong woman like her mom but she is simply different, she is soft. LaCienega also wears a chip on her shoulder because she doesn't get to fully express herself at home, so she channels this energy away from home by being sassy around her friends. She also wants to distance herself from her dark past as she is still in her first year at Willie T. Ribbs Middle School.



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Episode 14 - LaCienega's BIG FEET are revealed to the class, shocking everyone further! LaCienega appears to be a *beautiful mermaid*, but mermaids don't belong in school, so now once again, LaCienega feels out of place and she is finally confronted by her biggest fear.

LaCienega's biggest secret is finally revealed; her oversized feet! LaCienega's mermaid like feet allow her to swim as fast as a professional swimmer at (or before) the tender age of 14. However, LaCienega was so terrified of anybody outside of her family seeing them, especially Penny Proud. Everyone looked down in a state of shock as not only were LaCienega's feet were huge. They were wet and perhaps wrinkly which cartoon graphics don't allow us to see very well at times. They were certainly quite the spectacle. Even Penny was surprised despite the fact that LaCienega spent the night in her bedroom the night before. Even Dijonay appeared just as amazed as everyone too which is even more amazing considering the fact that she knew LaCienega for just about as long as she's known Penny for. It makes one question how close Dijonay and LaCienega are truly? It's possible that maybe when LaCienega was little, her father's traits hadn't fully kicked in yet, but there's no real way to tell. LaCienega was bullied mercilessly for her oversized feet long before she met Penny, Sticky or Zoey. Apparently, it must've gotten so bad that LaCienega grew to hate them. She's also transferred schools more than once, partly as a result of her parents moving around for their own reasons as well, even despite the fact that they automatically make her a phenomenal swimmer. The bullying LaCienega suffered as a little girl has apparently left her traumatized and extremely



Commented [SF77]:



Penny is just as surprised to see LaCienega's feet as everyone else despite spending the night with her. "Oh my god, her feet are..." -"



Penny displays a look of concern. She looks LaCienega in the eye and LaCienega looks back into hers. "Were you hiding this the whole time?!" Penny asks with her eyes.

Commented [SF78]:

Though it appeared Dijonay was selling Penny out for LaCienega in Episode One during the cheer tryouts, Penny still seemed to have a relational advantage over LaCienega. Penny seemed to be guaranteed the spot until LaCienega arrived unexpectedly and Dijonay simply did not want to let her other friend down. However, even though LaCienega had already proven that she was far more skilled than Penny, it still didn't guarantee her the spot because Dijonay didn't want to let Penny down. To be fair LaCienega also had an advantage of her own because Dijonay opened up an extra spot for her even though the tryouts were supposed to be done, thus breaking her promise to Penny that her spot on the team was reserved just for her. So, who is Dijonay closer to? I'm sure if Penny's feet were this big, Dijonay surely would've been the first to know.



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insecure about them and didn't want Penny to find out and start teasing her. So, LaCienega tried hard to hide her feet and her anxiety grew and grew until karma came back to bite her for being a BITCH! Or did it really? This was actually a situation LaCienega had control over and she dropped the ball by forgetting about what was truly important. This wasn't bad karma; this is simply a crucial fumble by LaCienega. She knew the pageant was important to her, but she was so obsessed with Penny for some reason, she got distracted knowing there was so much at stake. What is unfortunate is that she certainly picked a bad time to drop the ball like this considering the fact that she is living on a limited basis since she is displaced from her own bedroom. Making a mistake like this is especially a trip for LaCienega because she's extremely organized, responsible and plans things out intricately in short periods of time so, whenever she forgets something important, it really gets under her skin because she's a micromanager and she's not used to things falling through the cracks. On top of that, LaCienega is under enormous pressure because the pageant is still ahead and if she doesn't go out there and potentially humiliate herself, she could fail and not be able to participate. The pageant however is a beauty/popularity contest, both of which are important to LaCienega being able to maintain her ego and hide who she really is.



LaCienega is very tense as one of her biggest insecurities was on display for everyone to see. She is anticipating the moment that everyone starts laughing at her, ruining her shot at popularity and continuing her cycle of bullying that left her traumatized. She is reliving the times where she was bullied ruthlessly because of her feet, the very thing she was trying to escape from came back and haunted her, she is standing in a living nightmare.



Commented [SF79]:



LaCienega looks right into Penny's eyes looking helpless anticipating Penny to blast her way. Despite Penny's kind acts towards LaCienega in the past, it's clear she still doesn't understand that Penny is simply a kind-hearted individual. She doesn't get the reaction she expects from Penny which only exacerbates her anxiety even more. Also, it's clear she cares more about what Penny thought than everyone else. She still cared what everyone else thought as well, but especially Penny as she was laser focused on her, only until Coach Collins spoke. LaCienega looks extremely sorry and seems to be pleading with Penny not to judge her. At the very least it looked like she wanted to tell her something but was simply too anxious to even move.

Commented [SF80]:



LaCienega stressed Penny out so bad one day that she gave Penny nightmares. Now LaCienega is living out her worst nightmare and Penny is right there to witness it. She's facing her biggest fears which are vulnerability, being ill-prepared, not looking pretty as well as becoming a laughing stock again. Now, karma actually seems to be at play.

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Then enter Michael, who burst's LaCienega's ego wide open with this one!



Michael – "Hey Everybody, it's flipper!"



Michael tries to break the awkward silence by lightening the mood with a joke. But LaCienega is in panic mode and he doesn't understand the pressure she's feeling right now or how sensitive she is. What's worse is that Michael is an awkward guy himself and in LaCienega's mind, she just got dissed by a dork. In fact, LaCienega's mind is in complete disarray now.

Everyone laughed at LaCienega after Michael's joke, and what normally wouldn't be a big deal was a huge deal for LaCienega because she couldn't handle being bullied in even the slightest form anymore and though Michael is not necessarily a bully, he does tend to be a trash talker. In fact, he's an even better trash talker than LaCienega herself. He outdid her at her own game, without even trying and now she's officially the center of negative attention. Her spirit melts as she looks around at everyone laughing at her. At this point, she's not even thinking about Proud anymore! She still got clowned, just not in the way she expected, by the person she expected. Penny laughed right along with the everyone else, but at least she's not the one who made LaCienega cry. It was the perfect chance and LaCienega was waiting for her to take the wide-open shot and blast her into oblivion once and for all! Penny on the other hand felt a bit embarrassed for LaCienega instead, though it didn't stop her from laughing.



**Commented [SF81]:**

Michael inadvertently popped the bubble holding LaCienega's ego intact by telling a relatively harmless joke at a critical time. This ends up becoming yet another traumatic experience for LaCienega as he caught her at her most delicate state.

What's interesting is that she ends up developing a crush on Michael in Season 2 despite him being a guy that usually gets bullied at school.

Michael eventually becomes LaCienega's best male friend and she starts dragging him along much like Penny and Dijonay do with Sticky, but ironically with far less aggression.

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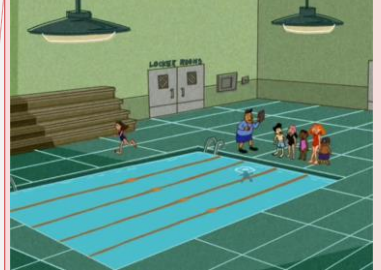


Penny, Dijonay, Zoey, Sticky, Michael and even his dad laugh at Michael's joke exposing her greatest weakness, her ego and absolutely crushing it. LaCienega is still frozen as she suffers through a case of PTSD.

LaCienega and her ego are absolutely crushed. This moment is a living nightmare for her as the laughter rings in her head. She cries "Noooooooooooooooo!" to herself before she breaks down and retreats. LaCienega is certainly overreacting but it's for a reason. She is still new to Willie T. Ribbs middle school and people are still getting to know her including Penny herself. They don't know that at one time LaCienega was a laughing stock and got bullied mercilessly for years which helped shape her attitude. They don't know just how sensitive she is, even though Penny saw several signs and even saved her from this same thing in [Episode 3\[2\]](#). Now, the very thing she was trying to get away from has caught up with her; there's no escape now, the damage has already been done. For several months, Penny had been trying to get away from LaCienega and the more she tried to run away, the closer LaCienega got to her until it eventually became a nightmare for Penny. Now LaCienega is experiencing her "worst nightmare" while awake and the very thing she didn't want to bring with her to her new school is the lifestyle she had to deal with at her old school. This is especially painful considering the fact that LaCienega works so hard, competes and accomplishes so much just for her to simply feel, good enough and she sets the bar oh so high. LaCienega doesn't even accept mediocrity, but now she's fallen to the bottom yet again and now it's back to the same old thing, or at least that's what she thinks.



Commented [SF82]:



LaCienega cannot handle the pressure of negative attention after years of exuberant bullying hindered proper, healthy development of her emotional brain. This moment is a living NIGHTMARE for LaCienega Boulevardrez. She retreats from the laughter as she believes she is once again a laughing stock.

Commented [SF83]:



Episode 3[2] – LaCienega rapidly begins to have a panic attack and nearly cries as she lost control of her rumor and people began to gossip about her. Penny witnessing this disturbing reaction from LaCienega made her feel sorry enough for her to stop the crowd from continuing to spread rumors on her instead of beating her up. She then sang to her instead. LaCienega who is stunned and mesmerized suddenly feels bad for what she did now that she understands the destructive evil power of a rumor. LaCienega then retreats, goes home and thinks about what she did. Never again does she ever start a rumor about anyone and for the first time in the series, LaCienega experiences growth as a character, though she still has a long way to go.



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LaCienega spirals into a deep, deep depression and stops caring about everything she previously cared about, even the things she was obsessed with. She no longer cared about her good looks, or her reputation, or Penny Proud (or being insulted by her), or even the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant that she kept driving down Penny's throat. Off camera Penny notices LaCienega acting really strange. She no longer has the unlimited amounts of energy she had the night before. Her confidence has vanished and she's not talking at all, instead she's crying all of the time. She is no longer acting like herself and it's starting to make Penny uncomfortable. What's also peculiar is that LaCienega has gone two days without talking to any of her friends, including Dijonay or Zoey and to them things seemed normal, so Penny takes it upon herself to point out that something was severely wrong.



Penny tries to tell her friends that something is wrong with LaCienega. However, none of them seem to take it as seriously. In this moment, LaCienega's biggest rival is behaving like her best friend.

Penny's empathetic spirit kicks in and takes full control. Despite everything LaCienega had put her through, even giving her nightmares, it still bothers her to see LaCienega suffer. This is where Penny discovers that she truly does care about LaCienega and finally comes to terms with it. However, once again, the group isn't listening to Penny, just like when Penny told them LaCienega had been bullying her and LaCienega tried to cover it up. They aren't taking Penny seriously this time not because they don't care about LaCienega, they simply just don't believe Penny.



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Besides LaCienega gaslighting them for so long, they actually don't believe Penny because they don't realize how serious the situation was to LaCienega. Yes, they laughed but it was only after Michael told his joke and they weren't necessarily laughing at her feet, they were laughing at Michael's joke; but see, LaCienega does not know this because she comes from an extremely toxic environment and suffers from PTSD because of it, so she assumed that they were laughing at her feet. If we go back and reexamine the last scene, notice the crowd didn't laugh at LaCienega until only after Michael said what he said. It turns out that the kids at Willie T. Ribbs aren't as mean as the kids at her previous schools were because, Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky weren't even thinking about her feet anymore, they all still liked and accepted LaCienega for who she was and remembered her phenomenal performance over how big her feet were; but unfortunately, LaCienega doesn't realize this at all. When Penny tells them that something isn't right with LaCienega, Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky brought up the fact that she got the best grade in the class and that she even broke the Olympic 100-meter swimming record; so, the fact that she had big feet or that Michael cracked a joke about them wasn't a big deal at all and they had already moved past it.



Episode 14 – A morbidly depressed LaCienega walks past her friends and ignores them as Penelope shouts a token insult just to demonstrate that LaCienega isn't being herself.

Penny makes fun of LaCienega's outfit as a demonstration, but she just takes it and moves along, LaCienega's spirit has been reduced to rubble and she's seemingly lost respect for herself overnight. Her friends finally see that Penny



**Commented [SF84]:**

But LaCienega actually is being herself. For the first time in the series, LaCienega is actually vulnerable and showing her true self to the group.

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hasn't been making it all up after all. Once they finally see her, they are disturbed by how horrible she looks. Sticky then says, "The old LaCienega would've straight jacked you up!" Penny then responds by saying, "I can't believe I'm saying this, but I like the old LaCienega better." before putting her head down in despair. Seeing LaCienega suffer like this is beginning to drain Penny's energy and make her sad and instantly it seems to rub off on Dijonay who immediately looks concerned as she sees how it's starting to affect Penny.



Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky are all shocked to hear Penny admit that she actually "like[d] the old LaCienega better!" Dijonay looks concerned and wonders if Penny is doing okay herself for this is the first time Penny has expressed positive feelings towards LaCienega.

LaCienega's depression has been so dark, it's making her appreciate time times that LaCienega is happy and acknowledges that deep down she's always liked her a bit despite the fact that she drives her crazy and still cares about her regardless. Penny Proud has just discovered that she loves LaCienega Boulevardez and apparently, it's not even in her control. LaCienega has been awful all of this time and Penny has complained over and over again about her, but after spending so much time around her against her will, she seems to care about LaCienega more than anyone else does; perhaps even her own parents!

**Commented [SF85]:**

Well at least we know now that LaCienega is obsessed with Penny and cannot seem to get her off of her mind whereas Penny cares about LaCienega more than anyone else seems to be. LaCienega treats things involving Penny with high importance and cares about what Penny thinks of her more than anyone else. This whole time they already loved each other and didn't even know it yet, let alone do they not know the reason why; it's really inexplicable. What's also strange is that Penny says LaCienega has "[taken] the fun out of hating her!" Wait so it's fun hating LaCienega? Sounds like even Penny Proud likes a little drama in her life once in a while. She now realizes that having LaCienega around fulfils her need to compete with somebody; a trait she gets from her father and LaCienega has given her a run for her money like no other.



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Eventually they return home from school and LaCienega's meltdown is bothering Penny to the point where now she can't get her mind off of LaCienega and cannot focus. She then decides it's time to do something. She walks all of the way home with LaCienega one on one and still cannot get her to even say a word. Penny Proud, who has tried everything in her power to get away from LaCienega is now begging her to talk to her!



Penny – “Come on LaCienega, let's talk about it!”



Episode 14 – Penny and LaCienega return home from school on LaCienega's third day suffering undiagnosed clinical depression, despite the fact that so much time has passed, Trudy, Felix and Sunset seem to notice for the first time as the girls make such a spectacular entrance.

But LaCienega doesn't want to talk at all and heads straight for the bed. Trudy asks what's wrong and Penny tells them what's been going on at school and then tells them that LaCi is deciding to pull out of the pageant. Sunset realizes it's serious now that LaCienega is giving up on something she's been so passionate about. What's amazing is that LaCienega has been depressed and crying for the past two days and yet no one in the house noticed at all except Penny and that's mainly because Penny has been stuck in the room with her. It's unbelievable that Felix and Sunset have seen their daughter for two days and couldn't read her and tell she wasn't feeling well. If that's the case then, LaCienega is much stronger than we realized. She's been depressed for two





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days, has shut down emotionally and still mustered up the strength to still make it to school and get through the day. Also, has she been to cheerleading practice? I bet not, in fact she's not there now! Yet Dijonay hasn't even asked where she's been? Ouch! Not only should she be doing that as a friend, she's the captain of the team! It's part of her title and yet she still didn't check in on her and this time, something really was wrong! Sunset then asks, "It's the foot thing again, isn't it?" When Penny inquires, Felix gets up in frustration. He says "Every year it's the same thing!" He then explains to the Prouds that the Boulevardes have a long running trait in the family where they have really large feet and those large feet allow them to be able to swim at superhuman speeds. His father has them, yes that means Papi, Papi's father and Papi's grandfather as well, and you know what?



Felix – "Quack, Quack! I got'em too!"

LaCienega's big feet are simply a family trait that was passed down to her and because of that, should really be proud. This is exactly what Felix said; however, this is also the reason he's being insensitive. Felix is frustrated that his daughter is so repulsed by a family trait. He's explained to her over and over again that her feet are a natural trait, not a deformity as LaCienega seems to think. Felix is actually being quite logical here but, it seems that he has trouble connecting with his little girl on an emotional level and is often annoyed by her intense emotional reactions. He simply doesn't respond to them well. While describing her feet, he even compared them to those of a duck and then that of a hook-billed platypus. Penelope then says, he sounds like the kids at school.



Commented [SF86]:

Who does Dijonay care about more?



In Episode 5, Penny had stayed in her house for a whole weekend and Dijonay stopped by just to see where she had been. Thankfully, she was just staying up all night downloading loads of music from EZ Jackster. Penny thinks Dijonay has been selling her out for LaCienega, but this is one of many instances that shows that Dijonay still puts Penny first. Which begs the question,

"How close are Dijonay and LaCienega?"

Commented [SF87]:



Suga Mama – "Ooh Wee! I'm in Love!"



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Those aren't exactly the type of words that would help build a young girl's confidence, especially coming from her father. We can only hope that these aren't the types of things Felix says on a regular basis at home, and if so, one can only imagine at what age did LaCienega become subject to such treatment. Sunset then tells Felix to come along and talk to LaCienega. Felix refuses as he is clearly frustrated having to repeat this process. To make things even more bizarre... this happens!



Is Sunset really a Dominatrix? – In a bizarre turn of events, Sunset suddenly snaps in to her police officer persona and physically forces Felix upstairs to go talk to LaCienega. Felix then obeys as Penny and Trudy look on. Penny is clearly confused, but Trudy knows what's up.

Sunset forces Felix upstairs to go talk to their daughter and it appears she's arresting him. Sunset has already used her police power to marry this man and now she's using it to force him to do just about anything! This family dynamic is really strange and we are getting a taste of the chaotic home environment LaCienega is growing up in. Despite them being wealthier than the Prouds, things are far from stable in the Boulevardrez household and there are so many questions that need to be answered. Meanwhile, Trudy tells her daughter that she is proud of her because even though she knew she didn't get along with LaCienega, Penny took the high road and still showed concern. In Trudy's eyes, that's a sign of maturity. Trudy and Penny's line of communication still remains excellent and helps Penny maintain a healthy level of self-esteem. LaCienega on the other hand...



Commented [SF88]:



Remember, Sunset used her police powers to force Felix to marry him after catching him engaging in illegal activity. She gives him the option to marry him or go to prison. It's obvious which one he chose. This means LaCienega Boulevardez was born as the result of a police officer apprehending a criminal and essentially enslaving him. It's clear she's the dominant force in the house hold as she has taken the keys to the home theater from Felix in Episode 8 and often drags Felix to do things he otherwise doesn't want to do. At times, it seems like Felix is afraid of Sunset. If so, this is perhaps not the best relationship to be modeling for LaCienega. LaCienega also seems to fear her mom too as she is often well behaved in front of her. This is not because LaCienega is sneaky, this is out of fear. LaCienega's mom has shown herself to be demanding and controlling and has been seen micromanaging LaCienega's behavior. In Episode One, Sunset coached LaCienega's behavior on the way out of the Proud house and Penny knew right away LaCienega was being disingenuous as LaCienega purposely dropped hints actually allowing her to keep a line of transparency between her and Penny. LaCienega feels small when she's next to her mom and is very obedient to her. Also, seeing her mom treat her dad like this is training LaCienega to disrespect men which will not work well for her in the long term if she wishes to have relationships in the future.



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Her parents screwed the pooch! They went up there and accomplished absolutely nothing. Perhaps it's a blessing that we don't get to witness this failure on camera because, it probably would've been really hard to watch, even for a LaCienega scene. Story goes that LaCienega's parents talked to her, but they made it worse. Perhaps Felix wasn't very soft on her and expressed his frustration again only making LaCienega feel worse about herself and Sunset getting pissed off and possibly giving Felix an earful! Either way it goes, the Boulevardrez family as a unit went backwards instead of forward. Penny has no choice but to feel sorry for LaCienega now, her parents couldn't even talk to her. If LaCienega's parents can't talk to her at times like these then who can? It's no wonder LaCienega feels so lonely! She's super sensitive and has nobody to cry to, and when she does, she's met with negative responses, undesirable consequences and even drama between her parents. Though it's not really her fault, it can be easy for her to blame herself when her parents argue, especially if they argue over things regarding her. Apparently, it's so bad that Oscar Proud of all people, had to come and save the day.



Episode 14 – Penny lends LaCienega her bed to cry in while she tries to concentrate on completing her homework. Penny has tried everything she could to help and is now trying to allow LaCienega to recover naturally but it seems hopeless.



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Penny – “Please daddy do it for me, I gotta get some sleep tonight!”



After asking Penny why LaCienega is crying, Penny begs her daddy to talk to LaCienega because she's tried everything else. Penny is actually beginning to grow frustrated herself because LaCienega's not only bringing her down but now her constant crying has become redundant and Penny is having a hard time concentrating on her homework. So, she gets her dad to take a shot as a last-ditch effort. At this point, he is her only hope. Penny brings up the phenomenon where kids often think the things their parents tell them are stupid unless they hear it from someone else and in this situation, it applies because LaCienega seems to have a much easier time opening up to Mr. Proud as she responds to him promptly. He was able to smooth his way around her attitude after she tells him, "Leave me alone!"

The next thing he tries to do, is talk her out of withdrawing from the pageant. LaCienega then says "It's no use I won't win." This doesn't sound much like the LaCienega Oscar knows. But then LaCienega shouts....



LaCienega – “Nobody likes me anymore, It's these STUPID FEET!”



**Commented [SF89]:**

Taking a few steps back, LaCienega told Penny that she was quitting pageant, the first day after her feet were exposed. Penny knew something was wrong because she knew just how excited LaCienega was to participate; TOO EXCITED! Then all of a sudden, she wants to give it all up. Now, finds herself desperately scrambling to try and talk LaCienega out of quitting. It is amazing how the tables have turned! Everything has been turned upside down.

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Despite LaCienega's facial expression, Oscar is actually making progress. LaCienega seems to have at the very least regained her "spunk" Dijonay said she lost earlier as she is giving Oscar the high-energy responses that are typical of her. However, as LaCienega utters the words, "Nobody likes me anymore", she looks right over at Penny. Apparently now, LaCienega seems to care whether or not Penny even likes her! This is ironic considering how LaCienega has behaved towards her up to this point. It's clear LaCienega is hiding something, and it's much bigger than her two feet. He replies to LaCienega, "Aww.... It can't be that bad." Strangely enough, LaCienega feels comfortable enough to show Mr. Proud her feet with little hesitation. Naturally, his reaction is priceless!

Commented [SF90]:



Once again, LaCienega shows through her body language that she cares deeply what Penny thinks of her. She's deeply upset because she thinks that nobody at school likes her anymore because of her feet. However, much of her turmoil is actually inside her head, because her friends actually remembered her excellent swimming performance more than how big her feet were. LaCienega doesn't know this however because she suffered PTSD from being bullied so much in the past, she automatically assumed the same thing was happening again. She looks over at Penny when she says, "Nobody likes me anymore!" But why? It's clear that LaCienega cares whether Penny likes her or not, but many of her actions before this moment would say otherwise. If LaCienega cared this much whether or not Penny liked her or not, then why has she been so rude to her? At the very least LaCienega was trying to get Penny's attention as she was explaining herself to Oscar. She wanted Penny to know what was wrong all along, but was apparently too scared to have such a deep conversation with her because she's been trying to leave a certain impression on her this whole time, that she's of high social value. LaCienega figures that if she's of high social value, that Penny would actually desire her more. But since Penny has a healthy self-esteem, she doesn't allow someone else's popularity or ego determine her own social value and isn't attracted to people who treat her poorly, unlike maybe Zoey who LaCienega ends up becoming very close with.



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Commented [SF91]:



Penny frowns at her father's ineptitude as it looks like he's now failing to get through to LaCienega.





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Long story short, Oscar finds the formula to cheer LaCienega up, and that's by making fun of himself. In a matter of seconds, he's got LaCienega chuckling and the little girl inside her comes to the surface again and this time she's happy. LaCienega is basically a baby in a teenager's body at this point and for the first time, we see LaCienega vulnerable and happy at the same time and for the remainder of this scene we perhaps get the most complete and genuine iteration of LaCienega the show will ever present to us. LaCienega is an extremely sensitive and delicate little girl who feels all of her emotions intensely. Unfortunately for her, she was badly bullied and with her being as delicate as she is, it had a significant impact on her emotional development and her attitude toward life. Her father's laque of sensitivity during her dramatic outbursts don't help much at all causing her to feel alienated and alone. She has learned early that her emotions can get her into trouble, so she's learned to survive by masking her deepest feelings. The sassiness is only an agent to protect LaCienega's delicate spirit and it serves to intimidate those who serve as a potential threat. Her arrogance is only a façade that covers up the fact that deep down, LaCienega feels like she simply doesn't measure up. She works so hard to win and be better than everyone else not only to make her parents proud and impress Penny Proud, but also just to fill an empty void within herself. Much like Zoey, LaCienega suffers from low self-esteem herself and instead of confronting the problem, she chooses to try and run from it because she simply feels it's the safest thing to do. LaCienega isn't having fun antagonizing Penny because she's a bitch, the truth is, she really admires Penny and wishes she could be more like her! That's why she wants to be so close to her. She wants what Penny's got despite the fact that Penny and her family don't even have as much money as she and her family do, or as big of a house. But does Proud realize any of this yet? **LaCienega certainly doesn't want her to.** Oscar then teaches LaCienega a valuable lesson; that every person is unique in some way shape or form and that she should love the things about herself that make her different from everyone else and the message certainly hits home. LaCienega even goes as far as to saying something along the lines of, if she weren't unique, that she wouldn't be the most popular girl at school. Almost immediately, LaCienega's attitude towards her own feet changed and she began to embrace them and even starts wiggling them beneath Penny's bedsheets while **giggling.** In the meantime, Penny comes up with the genius idea that LaCienega switches to a swim routine for her pageant demonstration. That way, LaCienega conquers her biggest insecurity once and for all while putting on a great show and winning the pageant all in one act. With the help of Mr. Proud spending a good chunk of his own money, LaCienega gets all of the things she needs and is finally ready to compete in the pageant.



Commented [SF92]:



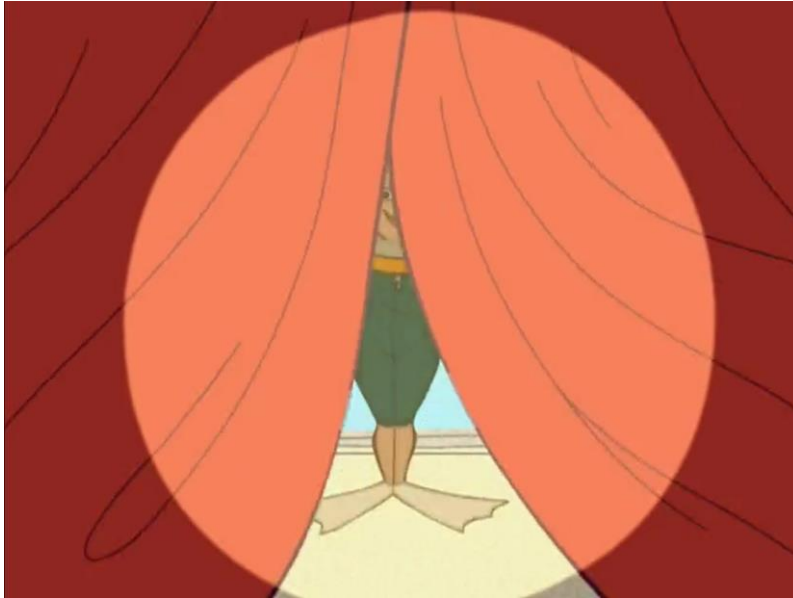
Penny begins laughing with Oscar and LaCienega. As soon as Penny starts to laugh, LaCienega halts and looks up at Penny again. This entire time she's been watching to see how Penny would react, fortunately for her it's positive.

Commented [SF93]:



LaCienega has fully recovered to her base form, she has been lifted from her 3-day depression singlehandedly by Penny's dad and is set to participate in the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant.

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Episode 14 – LaCienega peeks through the crack of the curtains as her show is finally beginning.

The day has finally arrived and LaCienega is finally competing in the pageant. Her parents are expecting her to do ballet, like she did at the start of the episode, but they are in for a big surprise! LaCienega is not wearing her precious Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant dress that she wouldn't let Penny touch. Nor is she wearing the ballerina suit we saw her wearing in the back yard. Instead, she's wearing none other than...



Commented [SF94]:



All of Penny and LaCienega's family are in attendance as one cohesive unit. For some reason, Zoey and Dijonay are not present despite other students from their school being in attendance. This means that Penny is the only one of her closest friends to actually attend the pageant. A far cry from the beginning of the episode where she was the only person who didn't want to be at LaCienega's house watching her ballet routine.

Commented [SF95]:



Sunset blatantly disrespects her husband again by being a hypocrite. Felix shouts, "That's my girl!" Sunset tells Felix to stop and that he was embarrassing her, just for her to get up and do the same thing. Ouch, well I'm sure that hurts his self-esteem. It was one thing for him to be brutally honest with her about her feet. But now he actually shows his daughter some love and according to Sunset, this embarrasses her. So, this begs the question, "How, close is LaCienega with her own dad?" Thing is, we know he certainly cares about LaCi but is it possible that Sunset isn't even allowing him to deal with his daughter naturally in the way that he wants? This has to be yet another thing that adds to the ongoing turmoil in LaCienega's mind.



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An ugly duckling costume!



LaCienega come out in an ugly duckling costume. It is a nod to her being told she was ugly as a little girl by her peers and that she had feet like a duck by her own father. LaCienega is feeling happy and confident but is still operating in her base form. She has it all back now except her ego. LaCienega is in her purest form, she is riding high with no trace of dark energy in her whatsoever which is an extreme rarity for her in this show. She is excited and ready to go to work! Her father is caught off guard however because he had been expecting her to go out there and do her ballet. Instead, she is doing the unthinkable!

Commented [SF96]:



Felix is appalled, expecting LaCienega to be in ballet gear, instead she's dressed like any ugly duckling. Perhaps he's feeling like his daughter is trolling him for saying she has feet like a duck. No worries though because things are about to get a whole lot better.



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LaCienega then breaks free from the burden of the ugly duckling costume with a huge smile on her face. This is a symbolic transition. LaCienega has broken free! No longer does she see herself as an ugly duckling, but a beautiful swan and she is proud of all the things the Lord has given her and she's here to finally show it. She dives into a gigantic jacuzzi surrounded by a group of male background swimmers, half of them recognizable as Willie T Ribbs. Students. In fact, one of them was in her PE class!



Commented [SF97]:



Jon, the tall Asian kid was the only character outside the main cast to be in her PE class that day. He seemed annoyed with her forgetting her swimsuit and then laughed at her along with the rest of the group. It turns out he's a good guy though as he helped be a part of her show.

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\* – La Flora Roja

The red flower on LaCienega's hair is a big part of her identity. She keeps hundreds of these as part of her wardrobe. LaCienega's favorite color is by far is red. The flower on her head represents none other than femininity. Despite LaCienega's funky attitude, she is certainly a girly, girl, the most feminine in her group of friends, despite being the only one in the group that chooses to wear pants regularly instead of a skirt. It is like her good luck charm as she feels like she's prettier with it, therefore it boosts her confidence and her ego. If you see this flower lying anywhere, you know LaCi's been there. The group forms a 6-points-clover around her as she represents the pistil; the dot in the center that holds the flower together. All eyes are on LaCienega as she finally gets her true chance to be the star of the show.

Commented [SF98]:



Felix and Sunset are overtaken by this pleasant surprise. They are certainly proud, though Sunset is showing her domineering tendencies again. Apparently, she likes having more control over LaCienega's affairs. Never the less they are both enjoying it.



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At some point, it appears LaCienega has removed her fins between the time she dove from her ugly duckling costume and into the pool and it seems she's now comfortable showing off her feet. LaCienega is now getting her chance to be a leader and it appears she's already overcome her fear of her feet being shown. LaCienega no longer sees herself as a platypus in water but rather a beautiful mermaid. She has already conquered her insecurity at this point which is actually a big win for Oscar Proud. He managed to do what no one else seemed to be able to do for years and help LaCienega get over her biggest insecurity which ultimately landed her here.

Commented [SF99]:



Good Job Oscar! Oscar, who is usually the show's punching bag actually ends up being the hero! It was ultimately him who was able to talk to LaCienega. Nobody, not even Penny or even LaCienega's own parents could get through to her. He inspired her, defeated a near lifelong demon within her without using too much effort and even made a sacrifice by paying for the pieces for her show. This included the pool, her costumes, and even the boys; and you know how Oscar feels about boys! Then they had to pay for time to rent space and rehearse. Most likely all this costs somewhere in the thousands and Oscar paid for it all himself. This should more than make up for the damages he did to Felix's house, considering the fact that they had homeowner's insurance and Oscar let them spend an entire week at his house to save them loads of time and money. Oscar Proud was the true hero this episode as Penny could only do so much on her own.





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LaCienega makes one last pose for the crowd as she is lifted up out of the water. She's regained confidence in herself and she is now refreshed and renewed, she is a happier and healthier LaCienega now than she was the first fourteen episodes.

This moment where LaCienega poses caps of a major position in her character. Spiritually, LaCienega Boulevardez died and was born again. She died as an ugly duckling and was born again as a beautiful swan. Much of her artificial confidence has been flushed out in the waters and been replaced with authentic confidence. She hated her feet but now she's learned to love them. LaCienega certainly has plenty of work to do but at least it's safe to say she loves every part of her body now and now she feels a lot less empty and it is in large part due to the heroics of Penny Proud, who once again put aside her differences to help her save biggest adversary from self-destruction in the name of love. Outside of her family, LaCienega has never experienced a love like this before; and it is this love that makes the Prouds awesome. You see the Proud family is far from perfect but their love is exceptionally strong and despite their differences, they always stick together and now they're sharing this love with the Boulevarders; Penny and LaCienega included. Now there's only one thing left!

Commented [SF100]:



Sunset sheds a tear as not only did her daughter win yet another contest. This particular one was very special and it did not go the way she or Felix expected it.



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What would LaCienega Boulevard be without her trademark sassiness, her spunk, her spice that we all know and love (to hate). Well, LaCienega is still the type that loves attention. She was certainly the center of attention earlier however it was negative attention. This time she's receiving positive attention and this time a big chunk of it. LaCienega relies heavily on validation to keep her ego up and running and this is more than enough fuel to restore it to even higher levels than where it was at the beginning of the show and beyond. How could this have been any better? Her family is there, Proud's family is there, they're all getting along, she participates in the pageant after deciding to drop out, puts on a much better show than the one that she had originally planned, conquered her greatest insecurity and last but not least...

Commented [SF101]:



The crowd applauds nice and loud as LaCienega apparently dominates the show with flying colors. We did not see any of the other girls she was competing against, but apparently there was no need.





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She won the damn thing!



The Wiz himself crowns LaCienega queen of his beauty pageant. LaCienega's eyes sparkle as she is in a state of euphoria. This was nearly a perfect night for her [and a wholesome one too.] She's happy just to see all the people cheering her again and this time they're cheering her while her mermaid feet are out for everyone to see. Also, it appears LaCienega has changed her outfit again between the time of her performance and her receiving the award. She took off her swan costume and is now wearing a plain yellow swimsuit. She didn't feel the need to have to put her shoes back on a and stood proudly.

**Commented [SF102]:**

One element that seems to be missing is the presence of Dijonay and Zoey. Where are they? I'm sure LaCienega would've wanted them to be there as well. They certainly could've been as other kids from their school were scattered throughout the audience. Penny Proud was there too and this time it wasn't because she was dragged there, this time the show is actually her idea. So, she's essentially watching her brainchild come to fruition. The program was broadcast live on television, so it's possible they may have watched it on TV, but we'll never know. It's possible they didn't even know she was competing since the last we knew they heard, LaCienega was quitting the pageant according to Penny and hasn't talked to her friends since PE class. For the past three days it's been just her and Penny.



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LaCienega is a gracious victor. Instead of winning the award and rubbing it in people's faces, she was genuinely grateful because this particular moment was special. She first shouts, "You like me! You really, really like me!" joyfully in a high-pitched tone of voice. She proceeds to give her shoutouts. She starts out by thanking her mother and father for having her and then Mr. Proud for inspiring her and showing her how to wiggle her ears. But most of all...



LaCienega – I'd like to [thank] my friend, Penny Proud for caring about me!  
I couldn't have done this without you Penny!

LaCienega chooses to give Penny her biggest shout out on the big stage. Despite the fact that LaCienega butchered the word "thank.", she got up on stage and told the world that Penny Proud was her friend. She literally saved this moment just for her. LaCienega sees Penny as one of the most important people in her life whether Penny realizes it or not. It was like this pretty much from the time that they met and this time she shows it. LaCienega cries tears of joy as she locates Penny in the stands and says, "I couldn't have done this without you" and despite what happens later, there is nothing fake about it. LaCienega was telling the truth when she said she couldn't have done it without Penny because Penny refused to give up on LaCienega, even when LaCienega had given up on herself. Wrinkles appear above her eyes which usually means she's feeling something deep. Also, there wasn't any real pressure on LaCi to



### Commented [SF103]:

LaCienega is happy because the crowd likes her. The applause seems to massage her mind and it is a big relief to her. LaCienega simply wants people to "like" her. If she thinks people don't like her, she feels bad. If people do like her, she feels good. Even though she's no longer insecure about her feet, she's still got a lot of work to do as she still relies on other people's approval to stay happy. Without realizing, LaCienega is giving up a lot of her power to other people by relying this heavily on external validation; it's out of her control.

### Commented [SF104]:



LaCienega draws tears as she says, "I couldn't have done this without you Penny." So, Penny finally did it. She actually made LaCienega cry after all, but who knew they would be tears of joy. No one else in *The Proud Family* has been able to make LaCienega cry tears of joy other than Penny Proud. LaCienega had actually regained her ego at this point, but despite this was still vulnerable because she was at perhaps her highest point of happiness. She finally acknowledges what Penny had done for her and the fact that Penny showed she cared about her when literally nobody else did; it touched LaCienega in a special way. It's even more special considering the fact that Proud was the one who ultimately cared about her. LaCienega has never had a friend like Penny before. Even her family members haven't always been as caring as they should be. LaCienega now knows she has nothing to hide from Penny or anything she needs to prove to her. This pageant was very important to her and she almost lost it, yet despite running Penny halfway into the ground just talking about it, Penny took the high road because she knew ultimately that this was important to LaCienega and didn't want to see her quit on herself. LaCienega couldn't hold her emotions back this time and her feelings towards Proud remain intense.

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give Penny the shoutout, she just chose to on her own because she was the happiest, she had been in years and she couldn't help but pass that positive energy along. Up to this point it is also a rarity for LaCienega to spread such positive energy because she had been filled with dark energy for so much time and she placed high importance on it, because she knew that Penny had to put up with the worst parts of herself and even though Penny had the perfect opportunity to bury LaCienega for good, she instead saves her again! She knew on her own that she couldn't leave the stage without acknowledging her. Also, LaCienega is still shy. A person may ask, how is LaCienega shy if she is able to get on stage and swim in front of everyone showing off her feet? Well, this is because Oscar did a good job of convincing LaCienega that she shouldn't be ashamed of her feet or anything else that makes her different and then she got her ego back after she received validation from the crowd. However, LaCienega really likes Penny and has for a long time. Even during the earlier episodes when LaCienega was mean to her. LaCienega was jealous of Penny and wanted to be more like her but her ego wouldn't allow her to admit this because her ego wants her and everyone to think she is "the bomb!" and admitting this would be almost like her kissing up to Penny. She got really upset because Penny wouldn't invite her over her house and Penny couldn't understand why. In order for LaCienega to be jealous of Penny, she has to admire her or something about her first and she absolutely did. In Episode One, LaCienega said, "I'm honored to be mentioned in the same breath as Penny." At first, it looked like LaCienega was simply faking it to win over Trudy, but she was actually throwing in a hint that deep down, she actually admired Penny even during the worst parts of their feud.

When LaCienega was down in the dumps, it seemed as if Penny was the only one who truly cared about her. Penny worked really hard and got help from her own father to help LaCienega recover and feel like her old self again. With the help of Penny and Oscar motivating and inspiring her, LaCienega competed in the pageant showcasing perhaps her greatest talent while also conquering her biggest insecurity. Penny Proud has proven that she is LaCienega's Boulevardrez's best friend and it's not even close. Dijonay and Zoey weren't even there and even if they were, they still haven't made the sacrifices that Penny has made for LaCienega. In fact, Penny so far hasn't made such sacrifices for anyone one else other than LaCienega. Penny had to deal with the worst parts of LaCienega and had to be stuck with her on top of it but ultimately chooses to make such huge sacrifices for her. The least LaCienega could do was give her the shoutout; it is perhaps the most unselfish thing LaCienega has done up to this point. Her mom nor dad forced her to do it, Dijonay or Zoey weren't there to nudge her, LaCienega gave Penny a chance to shine and cast a good light on her to the world by giving her due credit and also thanking her, "Most of All." This action benefitted Penny more than it benefitted LaCienega because LaCienega was already the star of the show and was being showered in applause, she had nothing else to prove. The only other



Commented [SF105]:



LaCienega tells Trudy, "I know I'm not gonna make it, Penny's much better than I am. I'm honored to be mentioned in the same breath as Penny." It's easy to assume she's faking it because just a second before, she was faking it when she said the chitterlings, "Smells so good!" The difference there is that LaCienega purposely gave Penny signals she was faking it by leaning into her. This time wrinkles appear above her eyes because she knows there's still a chance she may lose and the stakes are very high for LaCienega. Despite LaCienega knowing she outperformed Penny at the tryouts, she still was insecure about making the squad as she didn't win the job right away. She was also just as nervous as Penny when Dijonay was preparing to announce the winner. She thought there was something Penny had that she was lacking. Penny didn't see this at all and could only recognize that this "new girl" came in and tried to take her place and was mean to her for no good reason. We have come a long way since this point.

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reason there could've been was because she wanted Penny to be able to enjoy the victory with her. She won something because of Penny instead of winning against her and it looked for the moment like LaCienega would rather have it no other way, but then this happens.



They return home and Penny tells LaCienega that she was ultimately glad that she and LaCi finally got the chance to spend some quality time together and get to know each other. Penny and LaCienega learned so much about each other in their time together and are now connected on a higher level. As a matter of fact, Penny and LaCienega's relationship so far stands as the most intimate as they got the chance to live together and see the good, the bad and the ugly. Penny also told her how much she appreciated the shout out and LaCienega calling her, "your friend." But LaCienega seemed let her so called new found popularity get to her head and began acting snooty again.

LaCienega – That was just for the camera's Proud! I'm popular again, and I have plenty of friends. If I need an extra one, I'll let you know... And by the way, IT WON'T BE YOU!

Commented [SF106]:



LaCienega's ego has returned and she's back to being her old snooty self and seems to rudely decline Penny's advances, but there's more to it than meets the eye.





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Penny and LaCienega both discovered deep down that they love and care about each other and are certainly much closer. However, the two keep up a sadistic relationship because they're competitive and actually have fun competing with each other, but this time it's a more friendly, playful competition. LaCienega smiles as she's going out the door because this time the perceived hostility towards Proud is no longer genuine. She just thinks it's fun pissing Penny off; and you know what, it's all good because right afterwards Penny smiles and says, "I like her better this way" and LaCienega seems well aware. She knows she can be her full self and not pieces of herself when she is around Proud and as a result LaCienega experiences a level of comfort with Penny from this point forward, the likes of which she's never seen before. She now knows Penny is her best friend not by words, but by actions. LaCienega is the type of person who likes to be in control of the relationship still and she still didn't want Penny getting too comfortable calling her, a friend. Her ego still pushes her to still want to try and outdo Penny because she simply wants to be the best, and Penny gives her the biggest run for her money. So, at this point, their relationship has been upgraded from sworn adversaries, to frenemies at this point, but they still have a long way to go. Though LaCienega's actions hurt Penny's feelings, it was all good because Penny was happy that she got the old LaCienega back and she could have fun "Hating her!" again. They say you can't hate a person without loving them first. Penny admits she likes LaCienega for who she is and would have her no other way! That my friends, is love and Penny and LaCienega have each successfully learned to Love Thy Neighbor!



Commented [SF107]:  
Another victory for Penny Proud!



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### Why Penny is LaCienega's Best Friend -

Penny certainly dislikes a lot of things about LaCienega and is barely comfortable calling her a friend despite evidence from the both of them that they like each other deep down and do in fact consider each other friends even though they still antagonize each other occasionally for fun just to suit their competitive natures. However, Penny has actually been a phenomenal friend to LaCienega and it's obvious that LaCienega is indeed well aware. We've already talked about how much LaCienega has helped Penny however, despite Penny doing less things in total, the things she did for LaCienega have been of much greater significance. Over time, LaCienega has gotten to the point where she trusts Penny a lot and this is because ever since Episode One when LaCienega was still at her worst, time and time again Penny was the bigger person, put aside her differences and has not only helped LaCienega, but also made sacrifices for her and inspired her to be a better person all while dealing with her many personality flaws that get under her skin and allow LaCienega to be who she truly is; something LaCienega hasn't really gotten much of a chance to experience since Penny is kind of a special person. In fact, Penny overall has been a much better friend to LaCienega in particular than she has to anyone on the show, even her girl Dijonay. Dijonay gets a lot of criticism for how bad of a friend she is and rightfully so, but Penny hasn't been completely innocent either as she seems to see herself as better (or smarter) than Dijonay, while she bosses Sticky around and sometimes doesn't take Zoey seriously enough. But enter LaCienega who has served as Penny's most formidable opponent and yet Penny has done more for her in a year and a half that she's done for Dijonay it seems in 11 years. LaCienega may be too arrogant to admit it but she loves having Penny around because Penny satisfies her need for competition, but also Penny has been a greater help to her than anyone else has, even her own family at times. LaCienega already had intense feelings for Proud, but the two get closer and closer as they continue to help each other develop over the course of the series which is why by the time the movie came along, LaCienega had seemingly replaced Dijonay, as Penny's closest friend despite the fact that LaCienega still had her snootiness and antagonized Penny. The first 52 episodes were just a work of progress for Penny and LaCienega, but it was all cut short by a laque of episodes and a proper conclusion.

**Commented [SF108]:** Though she did forget a few times that she and LaCi aren't supposed to be friends.





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Episode 46 – LaCienega's closest friends Zoey and Michael celebrate her "Tween Idol" win. Penny on the other hand doesn't celebrate because she believes the win is illegitimate since Agatha clearly put on the much better show. Even LaCienega humbled herself after realizing she could no longer ignore how amazing a singer Agatha was and even proceeded to congratulate her before the moment was interrupted by her 'controversial' victory announcement.

In Episode 46, Penny seemed to be standing up for what was right by being the whistleblower once she found out the contest was rigged. But chances are that Penny deep down may have been somewhat jealous of LaCienega's success. Penny is known to be jealous and LaCienega is still her rival. She does have a motive because Penny tried to enter the contest herself and she wasn't chosen despite her already proving she's a talented singer during the LPDZ days. She also seemed to be the only one at school who supported Agatha despite Agatha being much more talented than LaCienega, who proved to be a really good singer in her own right during this contest. Whether she was or not, does it matter? It does matter because chances are if she wasn't, Penny might not have made as much of an effort to do anything. Penny stands up for what's right most of the time, but not always. Also, LaCienega being mean to Agatha in the beginning didn't help much. What's also interesting is that despite all the talk about Agatha not looking good didn't really mean much because LaCienega was well aware that Agatha was the better singer and was even ready to congratulate her before being announced the winner herself, against everyone's expectations, even her own. LaCienega recognizes talent when she sees it and it is in her natural instinct to recognize it and actually give credit



**Commented [SF109]:**

Where is Dijonay by the way? –



Yeah, talking to Mr. Rumors himself, she's so busy gossiping and chasing boys she's completely tuned out of the situation! Perhaps she didn't care at all whether LaCienega had won or lost. Despite Penny not being happy about the win, she's simply standing up for what's right and actually inspired LaCienega to do the same, bring her good karma and helping to boost LaCienega's self-esteem. Zoey and Michael at least congratulated her and celebrated with her when they thought she won. But Dijonay is supposed to be her closest friend and has known her longer than anyone outside her family, but just like she does with Penny she continues to fail LaCienega as a friend and fails to show genuine support which is not only what a true friend would do, but also something LaCienega needs more than the average person. LaCienega's closest friends are Zoey and Michael and her best friend is Penny Proud and it showed in Episode 46.

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where credit is due. As bad as LaCienega can be at times, one must give her credit for actually trying to be fair much of the time. She thanked Penny for taking that little spin for her in Episode One, gave her a big shout out for helping her recover from depression and win the Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant in "Love Thy Neighbor" and even tried to compromise with her friends on splitting up their dates in Episode 8, back when she was still at her worst. But in Episode 46, once again, LaCienega learned a valuable life lesson with the help of her best friend Penny Proud (Who she even called her best friend in Episode 22), and also made a new friend in Agatha. Now, despite LaCienega recognizing and respecting Agatha's talent, singing with Alicia Keys was a very big deal for her and that is something that isn't easy for LaCienega just to hand over, even with the circumstances that came into play because for LaCienega, this could've been a once in a lifetime opportunity. Despite her being in the wrong, it's understandable why LaCienega didn't want to hand over the victory so easily until after Penny threatened her. But once she did, she definitely felt good about what she did. LaCienega even showed some interesting signs. Agatha apparently admired LaCienega and was respectful towards her throughout the entire episode, even when LaCienega was mean at the lunch table. Agatha gave LaCienega a hug as LaCienega's sacrifice was a big deal for her. After the show, Agatha holds both of LaCienega's wrists as she thanks her for what she did. LaCienega remained honest and told the girl not to thank her and credited Proud for "Put[ting] a hex on me." LaCienega actually was fair again and didn't take credit for her good deed, even though part of it did come from her own spirit as we saw she was ready to congratulate her opponent prematurely even before the argument ensued between her and Penny.

LaCienega then breaks Agatha's hug and grabs Agatha's hands. Despite her sassy demeanor, she still showed Agatha a high level of affection and even grabbed Agatha's hands. Agatha wasn't comfortable enough to grab LaCienega's hands but LaCienega grabbed hers which was a nonverbal clue that LaCienega wanted Agatha to feel a bit more comfortable than she did earlier. LaCienega seemed accepting of Agatha's new friendship and also didn't want to take credit for her great sacrifice. In the end, it turned about to be another win for Penny as her speech about Karma, turned out to be right and once again, Penny and LaCienega bond even further and LaCienega makes a new friend in the process while also becoming less shallow and respecting people for their talents rather than just their looks; an ability she already possessed as we saw she had a crush on Michael despite his social awkwardness and the fact that she and Zoey ended up becoming so close.



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### Penny and LaCienega's Special Connection -

Another major thing that flies beneath the radar is that Penny and LaCienega have developed a special connection that enabled them to communicate telepathically. LaCienega has always been good at reading nonverbal cues and actually trained Penny to make more of a habit of it. Contrary to popular belief, LaCienega doesn't necessarily enjoy drama despite being a competitive spirit. Early on, she tried to keep her drama between just herself and Penny. In Episode One, Penny and LaCienega's rivalry had just begun and LaCienega came over to Penny's house the first time and noticed the stench of chitterlings. She felt the need to point out to Penny that it smelled bad without disrespecting Mrs. Proud. She used body language cues and leaned into Penny to send her a message that only she would understand. She intentionally let Penny know that she was faking it when she said, "It smells sooo good!" This early in the series, LaCienega was training Penny on a very important communication skill, reading body language.



LaCienega - "Mrs. Proud! It smells sooo good! What is it?" Penny - "It's chitlins!" Even during this hostile exchange, there are some subtle clues that, LaCienega already had a bit of a liking for Penny as she leans into Penny while making this remark. She made sure that only Penny knew she was faking it. It's quite ironic how LaCienega seems to go the extra mile to keep her conflict with Penny between just the two of them and even has some fun with it. - Episode One



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What LaCienega was really saying was, "Proud! Your house stinks! But we both know I can't say that out loud because our moms are here, so why don't we keep it between us, shall we??" Ironically, LaCienega was conscientious enough to share her thoughts with Penny in a way that didn't put herself or her family at odds with Penny's family. Surprisingly enough, Penny actually played along initially, though it wasn't easy. This is because her mother demanded that Penny be on her best behavior when the neighbors arrived. They both understood that they needed to conduct themselves a certain way in front of their mothers and worked in tandem to do so. Though LaCienega had already been more skilled at reading people overall than Penny, she figured that Penny was intelligent enough to start doing it as well. However, it would take Penny 16[15] episodes to start catching on. LaCienega showed signs early on that she admired Penny, but Penny would either be confused, surprised, suspicious or simply miss them altogether. In Episode 6, LaCienega said, "Look Proud! As much as we'd like to, we can't hang here! We gotta start shopping for the school beach retreat!" Penny's eyes grew wide and she unfolded her arms as soon as LaCienega politely says "As much as we'd like to..." In Episode 7, LaCienega followed Penny's instructions despite a hostile exchange between them during a pick-up football game. Her feelings were deeply hurt when Penny called her Senorita Snotty and then hastily agreed with Penny about Sticky not being interested in Dijonay.

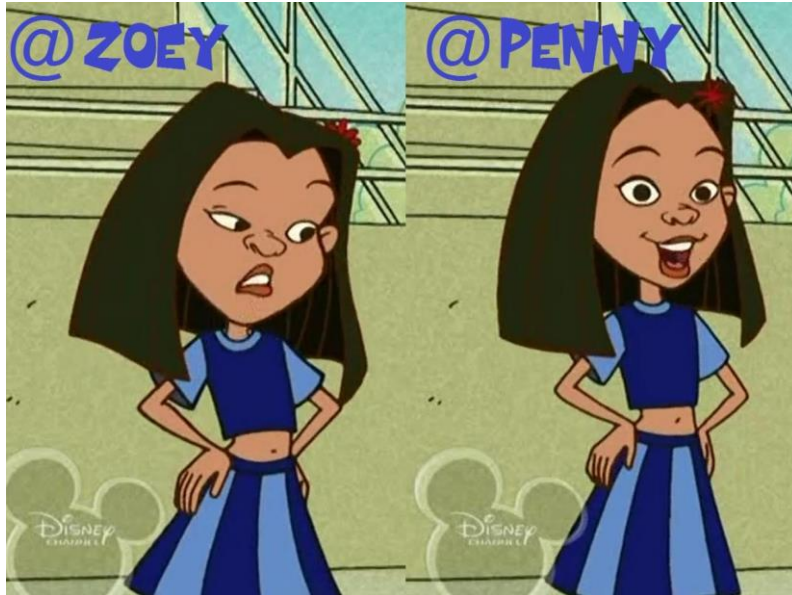


She did with so much haste that it seemed as if she was trying to win back some respect from Penny. One thing that's interesting is that before this, LaCienega had insulted Zoey. Her facial expression was considerably different when she



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insulted Zoey versus when she insulted Penny.



She also ended up being the first to greet Penny at the homecoming dance. In Episode 10 Penny and the girls went on their first major shopping spree after Trudy and Oscar agree against all odds, to give her a credit card. This is where they actually acknowledge that they share mutual interests. As LaCienega places high value on good looks and social status, Penny simply enjoys shopping much like her mother did when she was young and happens to have good taste. This would be the first time Penny and LaCienega would have good clean fun together. Plus, LaCienega starts to see that Proud is pretty cool after all, if only her parents weren't so strict all the time they could have a lot more fun together. Then, in Episode 12, LaCienega worked comfortably with Penny while giving Zoey a makeover. Then in Episode 13, Penny and LaCienega bonded for the first time as Penny forgave her and allowed her into her party. LaCienega wanted Penny to invite her all along and was upset that she didn't, so she threw her own party just to get back at Penny. Once LaCienega's party fell apart, she stared into Penny's eyes with a genuine look of desperation and milliseconds before Penny said, "Why not?" LaCienega smiled in utter joy as Penny moved her arm to put around her shoulder before actually speaking. She knew Penny said yes in her mind before she spoke it, showcasing her innate ability to read people. Then in Episode 14[21], we see LaCienega attempting to communicate telepathically with Penny for the first time. The first morning after LaCienega spent the night at Penny's, she sabotaged Penny's morning routine and snuck out the house pissing Penny off. What Penny didn't know was that

**Commented [SF110]:** Deep down LaCienega has always wanted to "have fun" with Penny. Whether it be by fighting with her or going out to party or do other things she thinks "cool girls" do and she seems to be more excited to do these things with Proud than without.





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LaCienega was severely insecure about her oversized feet and was terrified of Penny seeing them. LaCienega didn't realize how big of a heart Penny had or how understanding she would be. She thought that if Penny found out, she would tell everyone at school and then torment her for it. So, she woke up early, disabled Penny's alarm clock and *locked her out of the bathroom* to buy herself some time to get ready without Penny seeing her feet. She knew Penny was going to be mad at what she did and tell her friends, so she brought her a nicely packed lunch in order to avoid the confrontation and protect her reputation. LaCienega is very intelligent and understands the importance of preparation. However, she's also afraid of confrontation. A girl that a lot of people think enjoys drama is so afraid of confrontation with her arch-rival that she formed an elaborate scheme just to try and hide her feet and clean up the mess she knew she'd create. By the way, she's shows again that she's trying to keep her drama with Penny between just them. But then her feet end up being exposed anyway because there was a swim test in PE class that day that she unfortunately forgot about. As mentioned before, this may have had to do with the stress of her house catching fire and her family being displaced; or that she put so much energy into hiding her feet from Penny, she forgot to think about the fact that there was a swim test that day. LaCienega stepped out of the pool and her biggest weakness was exposed. She locked into the 'fight or flight freeze' response as she stood in front of everyone.

Commented [SF111]: Or at least Penny thought....



As she stood there dripping like a deer in headlights, she stared into Penny's eyes even as Coach Collins broke the silence until Michael came up and said "Hey everybody, it's flipper!" causing her to run off and cry while everyone





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laughed at her. In that moment, she hoped Penny would understand that this was the reason she did what she had done, but it still didn't satisfy her because she never wanted her or anyone else to know in the first place.

She was still worried that Penny would be the first to make fun of her, but it didn't turn out that way. Penny was just as shocked as all of her classmates even though LaCienega had just spent the night at her house. LaCienega wanted to send Penny a message but was too anxious to. She didn't feel comfortable enough explaining it to her because she still thought Penny didn't like her and the fact that they were in front of their classmates made it more awkward. Penny simply stared at LaCienega just like the other kids, but LaCienega ultimately focused on Penny and cared mostly what she thought about her feet than everyone else; including Dijonay, who was supposed to be her best friend. Even more than the boys that were there, and that says a lot considering how much value LaCienega places on the attention she gets from boys. Later in the episode when Oscar came to talk to LaCienega, she looked over at Penny twice, again showing through her body language how much she cared Penny felt about her. The first was when she said to Oscar "Nobody likes me anymore!" her pupils veered Penny's direction before yelling in frustration, "It's these stupid feet!" The second was when Oscar made LaCienega laugh by making fun of himself. When Penny joined in, LaCienega stopped abruptly and looked up at her. At the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant, LaCienega tearfully thanked Penny for caring about her which ultimately gave her the energy to compete after she had already decided to quit. LaCienega also said some pretty nasty words to Penny on the way out of her house, but as hostile as they were, her body language told a different story. She embraced her rivalry with Penny but liked her much better than she did when she first came over. Though this pissed Penny off, she did state twice that she liked the old LaCienega better than the sad and depressed one. Maybe LaCienega understood this or maybe she didn't; who knows? Based on LaCienega's ability to read people, my guess would be the former. LaCienega also behaved noticeably different in every episode that followed. In the following episode, LaCienega tries to train Penny to read between the lines again as she asks Penny "Do you think [Shirley Chisholm] would wear a miniskirt?" She and her friends just got out of history class and their teacher Mr. Webb had assigned each of them a prominent person in Black History to dress up as for a class project. LaCienega was assigned Shirley Chisholm. Despite Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky all being there, she decided to walk up to Penny and exclusively ask her opinion. Either she had developed a new-found trust in Penny after she helped her win the pageant, or she again cared about whether or not Penny of all people thought she would look pretty in a miniskirt despite Sticky probably being a better judge of female beauty than any of the girls assuming LaCienega is heterosexual. In her defense, Penny did earn credibility by giving Zoey and Olei successful makeovers three episodes prior, but Dijonay and LaCienega assisted with those. In Episode 16[15], much like Episode 7, LaCienega was quick to agree with something Penny said, except this time she genuinely agreed and didn't just do it for attention. Earlier



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in that episode, LaCienega made fun of Penny because she didn't have a valentine saying, "Someone's bitter!" But her body language showed that she felt a little bad for Penny as she leaned toward her and stood by smiling as Zoey gave Penny some words of encouragement. LaCienega who by this point is becoming known for her backhanded insults wanted Penny to cheer up after she says with an attitude, "I don't need cheap trinkets from a boy who knows nothing about love to validate me as a woman!" This comes after LaCienega asks Penny what she got for Valentine's Day in response to Penny insulting Dijonay for receiving a rock that Sticky had thrown in her window with a note saying, "Leave me alone!" LaCienega was actually sticking up for Dijonay in that moment but she still felt sorry for Penny when she thought Penny hadn't gotten anything. It appears this is the first time Penny starts catching on to LaCienega's body language. For once, she didn't get upset or fire back at her. In fact, Penny leaned into her a bit and sensed positive energy from LaCienega which certainly didn't match her words.



LaCienega – "Someone's Bitter...!"



LaCienega goes from having a sly, antagonistic look on her face to leaning into Proud and looking slightly embarrassed for her. Her right eye and eyebrow point upward showing somewhat of a look of sadness. It's easier to notice when the rest of her face is cropped out. "Oh, Poor Proud!"

Commented [SF112]:



LaCienega's right eye shows a bit of sadness as she thinks Penny doesn't have a valentine despite saying, "Someone's bitter!" LaCienega is all too familiar with this feeling and attempts to empathize with Proud while at the same time trying to hide it.



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Penny is finally learning to read LaCienega. This is the first time we witness Penny placing LaCienega's body language over her words and as LaCienega hoped, Penny is finally starting to "catch her drift"; Just like that, they connect, and their hearts are warm. There's also a good chance LaCienega didn't have a valentine either as Zoey called her out for wearing a watch that came out of a gumball machine LaCienega claimed was given to her by her "honey." She also showed signs of jealousy when she saw that some guy spray painted murals expressing his so-called "love" for Penny. LaCienega's behavior is strange in this episode. She seemingly felt bad for Penny, bonded with her when she thought Penny didn't have a valentine, showed in her expressions that she was happy for Penny when Sticky showed her the first mural, but then showed jealousy later on for the same reason. There's still a lot more to LaCienega than what's meeting the eye. In Episode 18[17], when the girls came to pick up Penny so they could all walk to school, LaCienega was the only one of Penny's friends to actually go upstairs to Penny's room to get her. They are seen walking into the kitchen together as Dijonay and Zoey waited there the whole time. This shows that a level of comfort has been built up. In Episode 20[19], when LPDZ won the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest, all four girls celebrated, but Penny and LaCienega hugged each other while jumping up and down. This was apparently a big moment for them in particular as they chose to celebrate together while in such a euphoric state of mind. This is the first time they accomplished something big together and the victory meant a lot more to them since they won it together. This says a lot considering the fact that LaCienega was already well accustomed to winning contests. Apparently, she always



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wanted to win something with Penny and Penny was just as happy to win with LaCienega. Two episodes later, LPDZ performed as a group again and Penny and LaCienega had reached a high point in their relationship as LaCienega seemed genuinely happy that Penny had called her a best friend during their song. She wrapped her arms around Penny and leaned on her as a part of their dance routine but LaCienega's facial expression seemed the most genuine and emotional while everyone else smiled as part of the routine.



Penny's eyes are closed like LaCienega's as all of her friends move in. Penny absolutely values all her friendships and she briefly felt that in the moment. As Penny leans back into LaCienega she reopens her eyes. However, LaCienega's eyes remain shut as she latches onto Penny like she's a giant teddy bear and her smile gets a bit more intense. She clearly loves Penny Proud at this point and doesn't have to say it out loud. In fact, she would rather not say it.



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We then see Penny grab on to LaCienega's hand when Wizzard Kelly pays a visit and offers LPDZ a record deal y'all!





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In that same episode, Penny looks LaCienega directly in her eyes and smiles as they sing as a group "We are, we are best friends!" Penny points at the L on LaCienega's chest as she sings. LaCienega looks inquisitive, flattered and points to herself as they sing. LaCienega appears to believe the lyrics of the song.



Apparently, LaCienega is happy to see Proud actually calling her a friend. Speaking of which, in Episode 14[21] when LaCienega got on stage and tearfully thanked Penny, she called Penny her friend herself, in front of a large crowd on live television when there wasn't any pressure for her to do so. But when Penny went up to her to thanked her for the shout out and for "calling me your friend" LaCienega snapped back into her old self. But now the tables have turned. Once the success gets to Penny's head, she transforms into the Diva that is Penné, and LaCienega is crushed. Of the entire group she feels it the hardest. While the viewer could easily mistake LaCienega for being her usual jealous self, this is actually not the case as LaCienega had a myriad of reasons to feel hurt. She believed that when Penny called her best friend while singing, she truly meant it. She frantically yells "Penny do something! I thought we were best friends!" First off, it's rare for LaCienega to call Proud by her first name. Secondly, you could hear the disappointment in her voice as it lowers and crumbles while saying "I thought we were best friends!" Penny then says, "We have NEVER been best friends, LaCienega!" Zoey then intervenes and says, "Aren't you being a bit cold Penny?!" Apparently, Zoey sensed LaCienega's feelings in regard to Penny. If we take a few steps back, we see Zoey is actually





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observing the connection between Penny and LaCienega as they sing on stage.  
Just look at her eyes.



LaCienega looks over at Penny while she and Zoey briefly make eye contact as they sing. Zoey sees the connection developing between Penny and LaCienega and she's enjoying every bit of it from the other side. Peace and Love is Zoey's thing after all! As the girls are being dragged out of Wizard Tower, LaCienega is once again in the freeze response. She is shocked, confused and can't believe what she's witnessing. She never could've imagined Penny transforming into such a narcissistic diva so quickly, just as she had started warming up to her. LaCienega was absolutely devastated and she had the hardest time moving on without Penny. She missed Penny so much that she actually purchased her magazine and gathered Dijonay and Zoey around to read it with her. Apparently, she saw something in there that hurt her even more as she crumbled the magazine, squeezing her eyes shut screaming, "Oooh I can't stand her!" As Dijonay and Zoey look on. Then she led her friends to try and spray Penny with super soakers on red carpet night. But then to make matters worse LaCienega is arrested along with her friends and thrown into adult jail by her own abuelo as he laughs while she tries to tell him "[But] Papi, it's me, your *nieta*." LaCienega then watches Penny win her award on the jail TV screen after being comforted by the adult inmates who apparently felt sorry for her and the girls despite them being in a much worse situation than LaCienega and her friends. Two of the inmates seem to have just got done crying. Zoey is uncomfortable, Dijonay is angry and LaCienega looks extremely sad and a bit afraid as she seems to be



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the only one who's actually looking up at the screen as Penny wins her Grammy. Two of the inmates are holding LaCienega while only one hold Dijonay and Zoey respectively. To make matters even worse, Penny doesn't give any credit to the girls at all as they watch from jail, not that Penny realized they are watching. This had to hurt since LaCienega gave her that big shout out when she won the pageant back in January at a time they still weren't getting along. LaCienega who is usually full of herself tearfully gave Penny a shoutout on stage and on camera when she didn't really have to; while even saying, "Most of all..." That means she placed the highest level of importance on thanking Penny; even higher than Oscar who paid hundreds of dollars to set up her act and even her own Mom and Dad. But yet she thanked Penny the most and showed her vulnerable self which is extremely rare for LaCienega to do. But Penny or Penné rather didn't even have the decency to do that. Penny didn't even thank her own Dad, though in her defense he was apprehensive the whole episode and perhaps didn't support her as much as he should have due to his jealousy towards Bobby.



There's no doubt in my mind LaCienega was crying inside as she witnessed this. So, it's understandable why she would have such a hard time forgiving Penny at the end of the episode, because for LaCienega, when it rained, it poured. Not to mention, her mother also attended Penny's award ceremony as she was getting arrested outside and she's a cop. I couldn't help but feel truly sorry for LaCienega during this episode. LaCienega has certainly done some bad things in the past, but we could agree she didn't deserve this; especially



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since she and Penny were finally starting to get along. Dijonay and Zoey had it rough this episode too, but LaCienega was clearly hit the hardest and to be honest I respect her a lot more because despite her sensitivity, she actually stayed strong as she managed to get through all of that. Even after Penny had been so selfish to her and her friends, she still supported her deep down by buying her magazine and watching her on TV from jail, even though it hurt ever so badly.

In Episode 25, LaCienega and Penny communicated telepathically for the first time successfully as LaCienega tapped her shoulder. They stared into each other's eyes as they both gave each other the same smirk. LaCienega openly showed admiration for Penny for the first time and it was for her poetry talents. Apparently, she was excited for Penny to go up on stage and recite. This can be taken with a grain of salt though as there are subtle clues that Zoey and LaCienega had set things up between Penny and Dijonay as an experiment. However, LaCienega looked into Penny's eyes and telepathically communicated, "Well Proud, you're up! Are you ready?!" as Penny responds back to her "Ready!" The message was clear and neither of them had to open their mouths.



In Episode 27, Penny and LaCienega bond as they stand together protesting the cancellation of Iesha. [NEXT PAGE]



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Once again, LaCienega is visibly enthusiastic to be teaming up with Penny for a big cause under Penny's leadership. It's clear at this point she's gotten over the debacle that occurred in Episode 22. At one point in this episode, Penny was shocked to see how quickly LaCienega jumped to her assistance when she was too anxious to talk to Sunny Stevens. In Episode 28, Penny and LaCienega's families went on a joint-camping trip. The girls decided to invite all of their friends because apparently, they didn't want to be stuck on a camping trip together. But ironically, they bonded even more and for the first time we actually see Penny show a liking for LaCienega. Just take a look at the photos below.



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Penny and her friends are all bored to death at camp. She looks at LaCienega who is noticeably drained, and it prompts her to go and complain to her dad. Penny knew she and everyone was bored but looking up and seeing LaCienega's boredom is what prompts her to move. Seeing LaCienega bored, sad or depressed apparently bothers Penny more. She wants LaCienega to be happy and all Penny needed to do was look at her face to see that she needed to act fast. It is here we learn Penny is now in the habit of reading LaCienega. LaCienega has trained her well.





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Next, Penny and LaCienega are pretty cozy as they chill silently by the river in the company of Zoey. They are so comfortable in fact that when Duke invites them to come swim, they decline.



Penny - "I'm not goin' in there!"

LaCienega - "Yeah, they're probably bugs and fish in there!"





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They both blink a lot which shows that's just some lame excuse. Also, Duke just said the water was great. He had just earned credibility when he advised Oscar not to camp on a riverbed and Oscar laughed at him before facing the consequences. By this point they should've known it was safe to trust Duke. I'm sure if the water was unsafe Duke would've stayed out and advised everyone else to do the same. Instead, Penny and LaCienega were peacefully enjoying their trip and wanted to continue to chill together. Even Sticky and Dijonay knew their excuse was bullshit. As you can see, they look at each other in the background, just before Sticky ruins their bonding moment by shouting, "Look a snake!" scaring the girls into jumping into the water. Penny, LaCienega and Zoey are all pissed after Sticky says "Sike!" and starts laughing. Maybe Penny and LaCienega didn't need their friends there to enjoy each other's company after all, however, there's no doubt that they did have more fun with them being there. They were definitely connected this whole time and actually felt great being on a camping trip together. They've certainly come a long way from preparing to fight each other in the hallway in front of the entire school in Episode 3[2].



Penny and LaCienega bond again as their dads make it back to camp safely. The girls are clearly having fun and as Felix asks Oscar if they should stay, LaCienega looks into Penny's eyes, hoping Oscar says yes. This is clearly gonna be a weekend for Penny and LaCi to remember. Penny was worried about her dad the whole time he was gone and it's safe to say the same regarding LaCienega and her dad.



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In Episode 30, LaCienega finally says the right words to break Penny's confidence which had been really tough for her to pull off in past episodes. After 30 episodes, Penny finally cares enough about what LaCienega says that it actually affects her deeply. Penny's paper got rejected when she submitted it to the Checkerboard Times and LaCienega said something very mean, scoffing at Penny's failure. One can see the exact moment Penny's confidence is shattered. Afterward, Penny keeps trying and failing until she goes "undercover". Penny slowly and agonizingly fell apart as a character and became a really bad girl; so bad that even Nubia said Penny had become too hardcore for her and her sisters who are known to be the thugs of the school. Penny got sent to boot camp and seemingly everyone turned their backs on her. When Penny had lost everything and everyone that was important to her, she felt desperate enough to even come to LaCienega for help who like everyone else shut the door on Penny since she had robbed them earlier in the episode while hanging out with the Gross Sisters. LaCienega apparently felt partly responsible for Penny's major meltdown and from that point forward she was never mean to Penny again. She threw some jokes Penny's way a few times, but never did we see her be truly mean to Penny again for the remainder of the series. In fact, this is the beginning of us seeing her actually start being nicer to Penny on a consistent basis. Watching Penny fall apart like that was too much for even LaCienega to handle.



Episode 30 – Penny escapes boot camp and visits all of her friends, looking for help. On the way, she visited Nubia, Dijonay, Michael, Zoey and Sticky. LaCienega was her last stop.



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In Episode 31, Penny and the girls snuck out to Al Roker's teen night club. When Penny brought out her party outfit, she and LaCienega joined hands in front of Dijonay while chanting, "We're girls, we're bad, we're looking, really rad!" LaCienega apparently likes to party with Penny. She knows better than anyone else how strict her parents are and is the happiest of the group that Penny was actually able to go out for once, though they had to sneak and do it. Once they entered the club and approached the boys, Penny and LaCienega stood next to each other like twin sisters, both feeling really confident. Being next to each other dressed fly boosted both of their confidences. They realized that when they're together, they feel cool and powerful, a discovery that dates back as early as Episode 20<sup>[19]</sup>.



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As Gretchen Grundler said, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and as you can see, all of the girls are imitating Penny a bit as she is the group's leader much of the time. All but Dijonay are wearing their own version of Penny's signature pigtails. But LaCienega's outfit is the most similar to Penny's. After all Penny and LaCienega are very, very similar; and Zoey follows behind and copies everything she sees LaCienega do.



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Boy they sure look like best buds in this portrait and they are very proud to be standing next to each other. It almost looks as if they planned the whole thing together and dragged Dijonay and Zoey along. Later that episode, LaCienega ends up being the only person to actually help Penny clean up after a wild party ravaged her house. Dijonay pretended to clean by rubbing a Pizza box across the carpet and Zoey watched TV the whole time. LaCienega actually picked up all the trash while Penny swept.



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Then comes Episode 32 which is an important one. Penny and LaCienega bond mightily as they end up going to a basketball game with Trudy and Sunset who actually are best friends. Penny and LaCienega end up having a ball. The series of pictures below explain a lot.





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Penny and LaCienega are initially well behaved in front of their parents. However, it's apparent that LaCienega likes Penny a bit more than Penny likes her. Everybody is looking at Trudy as she calls for the usher from her seat. While everyone else is sitting facing forward, LaCienega's body is turned towards Penny. Her right foot points at Penny, as well as her head, torso and knees. Her legs are leaning sharply in Penny's direction. Studies have shown that when a girl is sitting with her legs and feet pointed towards a person, that means she likes that person. LaCienega's entire body is pointed at Penny and her legs are leaned into her. She's pointing away from her own mom as she's doing this by the way. Her body language blatantly tells us that she wants to be closer to Penny.



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Penny and LaCienega look at each other smiling as Trudy beckons the usher. They both seem to be in a great mood. They seem to be communicating again as they look at each other. We know by this point, LaCienega is partially inhibited in front of her mom and doesn't speak her mind as much. She also does her best to be respectful around adults in general. They are working together to be on their best behavior in front of their moms like in Episode One and use non-verbal communication to get thru to each other. Penny has gotten the hang of reading LaCienega and now they can communicate just by looking into each other's eyes. They're so close now it's like they can read each other's minds. Neither one of them have this kind of rapport with Dijonay despite them both knowing her way longer. Their minds are now on the same wavelength and they're finally starting to realize it as it really comes into play in this situation. It almost looks as if they both pondered the same idea. "You thinkin' what I'm thinkin'?" If so, this is really impressive considering the history of these two.



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LaCienega isn't too thrilled about the usher correcting Trudy so harshly when she mistakenly calls him 'waiter', so she does what she usually does and makes a joke of him. And guess what.... Penny laughs out loud. That's right! For the first time ever LaCienega Bouvardez makes Penny Proud laugh, and it's exactly what LaCi wanted to do. As she tells the joke, she lowers her eye lids and leans into Penny. She figures, if she's going to be there with Penny she might as well make it a good time.



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Penny and LaCienega share a good giggle. LaCienega gets in Penny's face and makes absolute sure she shares this laugh with her as she almost never gets this opportunity. In the past, most of LaCienega's jokes were aimed at Penny and Penny would often tell LaCienega she wasn't funny. Can't blame Penny if the jokes are on her, but even when they aren't Penny still doesn't laugh usually. It's easy to tell LaCienega likes making her friends laugh and after 32 episodes, she was finally able to do so with Penny. She knows their minds are connected and now she's starting to get through Penny's hard shell a lot more. First, she broke through Penny's confidence in Episode 30, but it's easy to tell she didn't like the results, so she tries doing something positive instead and it works well. For a change, LaCienega is showing Proud her good side that everyone else has been able to see but Penny.



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The energy was strong between Penny and LaCienega during that laugh and once again, they bonded. Penny is impressed that LaCienega finally told a joke that made her laugh and LaCienega was happy that Penny finally laughed at one of her jokes and they noticed this rarity at the same time. Penny now knows that LaCienega can be funny after all and now LaCienega feels a lot more comfortable being with Penny without Zoey or Dijonay. As they look into each other's eyes LaCienega can read Penny saying to her "Hey that was actually really funny." Penny can see in LaCienega's eyes that making Penny laugh actually made herself happy and that she had been wanting the opportunity to for a while now. These two are really starting to get into sync now. It's pretty clear to Penny now that LaCienega was trying to show her that she could have a good time with her too and that her other friends (Particularly Zoey) didn't necessarily have to be there like in Episode 28.





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Penny gets chosen for Wizard Kelly's Million Dollar Shot Sweepstakes and LaCienega is about as happy as can be that her friend Penny was chosen. In the past, LaCienega would get jealous if Penny wins something over her. But this time she's genuinely happy for Penny. One could argue that she's only acting that way because their moms are there, but LaCienega has insulted Penny in the presence of their parents before this episode and also, LaCienega did have the option to insult Penny in passive underhanded ways like in Episode One, but Penny and LaCienega are actually having a good time together and LaCienega has shown in her body language that she enjoyed hanging out with Penny without the other girls. LaCienega places her hand on Penny's shoulder as she points up to the jumbo-tron. Penny and LaCienega have been touching each other a lot more as physical contact is usually a sign that a person likes and feels comfortable with another person.



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After the game, Penny and LaCienega walk next to each other feeling cool and confident again. They had a great time and are now behaving like friends. There's a sort of energy that Penny and LaCienega feel when they are next to each other that boosts their confidence and once again, it's happening here. They both had a great time at the game and are excited for the possibility to meet some NBA players. Penny gets so comfortable that she asks which one of them is single. Of course, Trudy doesn't like this and says, "Excuse me?!"



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Though Penny was the one that said it, LaCienega feels Penny's energy and is just as nervous and embarrassed as she is. LaCienega is in no trouble at all and even her own Mom is cool with it, but LaCienega feels the same tension from Trudy that Penny feels and makes the same facial expression even though Trudy is not even looking at her. LaCienega feels for Penny and doesn't want to see her get in trouble with her mom after they had such a great evening together. Plus, Trudy doesn't really have the power to punish LaCienega since they're not in her house, only Sunset has that power and it looks like Sunset sees no reason to reprimand her daughter so LaCi doesn't really have a reason to feel scared or embarrassed. This is a far cry from Episode 3[2], where LaCienega deliberately got Penny into trouble. And for the first time on display, LaCienega had adapted to feeling Penny's energy. She has finally achieved the spiritual connection she wanted with Penny and it doesn't stop here.



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The energy from the weekend carries over into Monday, where Penny and LaCienega sit next to each other at the lunch table. In Episode One, they refused to even sit at the same table as LaCienega was hostile to Penny when she tried to patch wounds from their first night. They're sitting rather close to each other as well. The chemistry so far has reached a high point and they're taking in every bit of it.



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As Dijonay speaks to Kobe Bryant in Italian asking him, “How about me and you getting together...” Penny, LaCienega and Zoey are all shocked and puzzled. Penny and LaCienega communicate telepathically yet again. Penny’s eyes read “Did you know anything about this?” LaCienega replies “Beat’s me! I was wondering the same!” In under a second Penny asked LaCienega a question and she answered just by them looking into each other’s eyes without having to say a word. Not only has their eye-to-eye communication gotten much faster but this actually helps them bond more and puts another sizable dent in their rivalry. Remember, in Episode One, Penny got mad at LaCienega because she thought LaCienega was trying to act like she was Dijonay’s best friend and steal her away, but now they’re learning that perhaps they were in the same boat the entire time. They realized one of the main reasons they were fighting was over who was closer to Dijonay, but now they see neither one of them knew Dijonay as well as they thought to begin with. They both feel that same feeling of surprise they felt in Episode One toward Dijonay when they found out she had another best friend, only this time they’re feeling it together, not against each other. This opens their eyes to start looking at Dijonay differently and question, whether they should’ve even been butting heads in the first place. They have a better connection with one another than each of them have to Dijonay as they can read each other’s minds, something that neither of them can do as well with Dijonay despite them both knowing her for well over 10 years and this is exactly why; because Dijonay is not trustworthy and this starts to show itself more in the upcoming episodes.





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In Episode 33 when Suga Mama asked, “How my babies doing?” Penny and LaCienega were the only ones to speak.” We already know how Suga Mama feels about Dijonay, so I don't think she referred to Dijonay as her baby. I don't think Suga Mama really has as much of a problem with Zoey but we do know Penny is her granddaughter and that she's pretty close to LaCienega because she's dating Papi and has spent time around LaCienega as a result, without Penny being around. Likewise, Papi has been over to the Proud house with Suga Mama while LaCienega, Felix or Sunset weren't with him. Apparently, Suga Mama has developed some love for LaCienega that the other girls haven't had access to overtime. Then there's Episode 35, where Dijonay proved to all the girls that she wasn't trustworthy. She left the girls sitting outside two nights in a row waiting on tickets for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Storee concert while she took their money and used most of it to buy a new outfit. They originally sent her to bring back food, but she came back with a half-eaten burger. For the first time we see LaCienega starting to catch on to Dijonay's dishonest ways as she starts yelling at Dijonay, before she is interrupted. Then of course we see she did Penny bogus by leaving her with her nine wild brothers and sisters while she goes to the concert and then lies to LaCienega and Zoey, telling them that Penny said she could go without her. We learn as an audience that Dijonay has probably been lying to the other girls about Penny like this the whole time.



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When Dijonay starts feeling guilty for what she did, she pours her drink for Penny because she wasn't at the concert with them. LaCienega looks genuinely sad that Penny wasn't there. As Dijonay's drink runs out and closes her eyes, LaCienega takes her focus off Dijonay and her eyes wander a bit which is a sign she's actually thinking about Penny in that moment. By the end of the episode, LaCienega figured out that Dijonay lied to them and nicely asks Penny to get her, Zoey and the Chang Triplets back into the concert which Penny actually does with no problem. Penny too is beginning to warm up to LaCienega a lot more as they both learn Dijonay is the one who can't be trusted.

In Episode **37**, Johnny Lovely makes his debut and asks to dance with Penny. All the girls are mesmerized by him, but Dijonay is the only one who tries to get in the way while Zoey and LaCienega cheer Penny on the whole time. Dijonay was the one who was jealous and tried to cock block Penny instead of LaCienega. In Episode **38**, Penny and the girls were all at a church camp and Penny has a huge crush on the pastor's son Tory. LaCienega was supportive and did everything she could to help Penny like a true friend would, while Dijonay instead sold Penny out to her dad for her own amusement which pissed off both LaCienega and Zoey to the point that they wouldn't even to look at her. LaCienega offered Penny breath mints and lip gloss to make sure that if Penny were to kiss Tory, her breath wouldn't smell bad and her lips would be nice and smooth. Penny recklessly ate all of LaCienega's breath mints and her lip gloss. Though LaCienega was grossed out, she didn't get mad at Penny for it because she was more concerned about things going well, and that Penny didn't



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embarrass herself. This says a lot considering how much LaCienega cares about her personal belongings. In Episode 14, she didn't want Penny to touch her clothes when though they were in Penny's bedroom, yet in Episode 38 she's willing to share her lip gloss with Penny which is a personal item and doesn't get mad when Penny takes it all. LaCienega's teen pageant dress is definitely more expensive than Altoids and a tube of lip gloss, but it's still a big deal that LaCienega would share these items with Penny considering their past history, especially with LaCienega being the neat freak that she is. In Episode 40, LaCienega serves as the spokesperson for Penny's friend group when Suga Mama invites them to be in her wedding. They also have a brief conversation about Papi where LaCienega uses good judgement and tells Suga Mama what she wants to hear.

In Episode 41, Sticky jumps over the couch to run away from Suga Mama's sister Spice, and this happens....



LaCienega leans on her "best friend" Penny off reflexes. She didn't have to think about it at all, it was automatic. If they were truly in a dangerous situation, LaCienega would most likely cling to Penny before anyone else because she trusts Penny the most. That's where Episode 43[42] comes into play.



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This is Episode 43[42], and in this episode there's a lot that takes place. We see evidence that Penny is perhaps LaCienega's best friend as she is the one who does the most to help LaCienega rescue Papi from Happy Endings Retirement Home. Their strong connection is well on display throughout this entire episode. At the very beginning we see Suga Mama walking with LaCienega's family just as if she were one of them as Papi gets dropped off. None of the other Prouds are there. LaCienega is apprehensive and tries to get her parents not to leave Papi there because she's afraid he'll be all alone. Shortly after, LaCienega rounds up the girls to go with her to the retirement home to check on Papi. Penny is apprehensive about going because she remembers that Helga told them they are only allowed to visit on certain days, but LaCienega misses her Papi and decides to disregard that rule. Once they reach the door, Penny is afraid to go in because she's afraid they'll get into trouble. But LaCienega snatches her by the hand and screams "I WANNA SEE MY PAPI NOW!!!!" which catches Penny off guard. Here's the sequence below.



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What's interesting is that LaCienega didn't grab Penny by the arm, but actually by the hand. Also, LaCienega has shown in the past that she's willing to go on and do things without Penny because Penny either slows them down by not wanting to do it or fear that she's going to get in trouble. But this time, she gets emotional and forces Penny to be there with her. Keep in mind this the most vulnerable we've seen LaCienega since Episode 14 and all of her actions are 100% genuine. LaCienega absolutely wanted Penny to be by her side this time. What's even more interesting is that Dijonay got her head stuck in a bucket a few minutes later and LaCienega didn't stop to get her out. More than anybody else, she wanted Penny to be there with her. Maybe she felt safer if Penny was there, or perhaps she simply wanted Penny there just because. All we know is that she was emotional, and she didn't want to go into Happy Endings without Penny. She also took Penny by her hand which gives us a clue on how she really feels about Penny.





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When Penny, LaCienega and Zoey went in and saw that Papi was suffering, Penny felt her pain and placed her hand on LaCienega's shoulder.



Unfortunately, their cover would get blown and the girls are now in a position to have to run. LaCienega is in the freeze response again and doesn't move. Naturally, she doesn't want to leave her Papi behind, so Penny has to grab her and pull her away to keep her from being apprehended by Helga.



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Penny tells her that it would be safer to come back with their parents and that, they did. Penny and LaCienega not only returned with Felix and Sunset, but Penny also brought her mom and dad as well as Suga Mama. Penny and LaCienega furiously confronted Helga for what they were putting Papi through and even though it's LaCienega's grandfather, Penny is just as furious as LaCienega is and stands up for her. They're like a powerful force once again being next to one another.



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As Helga covers her own ass with illusions and paid actors. LaCienega tries to explain to Trudy and Penny tries to explain to Sunset what they witnessed but to no avail.



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When Penny and LaCienega realize they're doomed, they look at each other and feel each other's energy. Even though Papi is not her grandfather, Penny feels every bit of pain and tension as LaCienega does. They stare into each other's eyes asking, "What are we gonna do?" as Sunset basically blows it off as 'not that serious.'



Despite their differences, Penny rode with LaCienega the whole way and maybe this is why LaCienega specifically wanted Penny to be there; because she knew she could count on her more than anyone else. In Episode 46, Penny and friends were trying out to be on Teen Idol. Despite the debacle that took place back in their LPDZ days, Penny and LaCienega stuck together for much of the episode. This time, LaCienega's singing talents out-shined Penny's as she ended up being chosen. Penny and LaCienega get into a heated argument backstage because Penny found out that the contest was rigged and tried to persuade LaCi to do the right thing. But here, LaCienega doesn't budge, so Penny has to use LaCienega's biggest insecurity against her. Unfortunately, LaCienega places high value on her looks and at this point, Penny understands her well enough to where she is able to tap into this to influence LaCienega's behavior and Penny uses this for a greater good.





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At this point Penny and LaCienega are so close that they've figured out how to manipulate each other's emotions. They know what makes each other tick. This is exactly what LaCienega wanted but of course it came with a downside. She understands later that it turns out to be a good thing as Penny inspires her to be a better person and when she does listen to Penny, not only do they bond yet again, but LaCienega actually feels better about her own self now that she did the right thing and she has no one else to thank for that but Penny.



She now knows that Penny knows her well and you know what? That's a beautiful thing because if there's anyone LaCienega can trust, it's Penny Proud and she knows nine times out of ten that Penny is going to be a good friend and use what she knows for LaCienega's best interest. They look into each other's eyes and use their fingers to tell each other they love each other through Alicia Keys' song pretty similar to Episode 22 where Penny pointed to LaCi and sang "We are Best Friends", but this time it is 100% genuine and they both know it. Penny and LaCienega are now officially friends and are comfortable with each other despite their flaws and differences. They still embrace their rivalry as it satisfies their innate need for competition. They understand that they are very similar in the fact that they are both competitive individuals. They competed against each other but also worked together and learned that they both enjoy working as a team over opposing one another. They feel stronger, more confident and accomplish great things when they work together. In the process they discovered that they feel strongly about each other and got close enough to be able to read each other's minds and it was all destined to happen.



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They both learned a lot from each other too. LaCienega learned from Penny about karma and doing the right thing. She learned how being a grounded individual benefits her in the long run and improves her self-esteem. Penny learned from LaCienega not to judge a book by its cover and to read deeper into things and people. She also learned from LaCienega the power of empathy and how it can strengthen even the toughest of friendships. Their relationship went from extremely toxic to empowering over the course of 46 episodes and this still isn't the end. Most of all, they learned to accept each other for who they were. This is the definition of love. Against all odds, Penny and LaCienega have learned to love each other. Something neither of them were able to accomplish with Dijonay over the course of a decade plus, though Penny is doing her best with Dijonay.

Another pattern I start to see is often when there's a Penny, LaCienega, Zoey combination without Dijonay, Penny and LaCienega get along so much better and are a lot more affectionate with one another. It's like Dijonay's presence helps perpetuate their rivalry while Zoey balances that negative energy out by influencing them to come together. In Episode One, Dijonay pitted Penny and LaCienega against each other by forcing them to compete for the last spot on the cheerleading team. Zoey on the other hand provided Penny and LaCienega with a reason to work together for the first time in Episode 12 by giving her a makeover. This set the tone for what was to come in later episodes.



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What was the most intimate moment between Penny and LaCienega?

Episode 3[2] - Penny singing "Stop Spreading Those Rumors Around" after they almost fought in front of a huge crowd at school

Episode 10 - LaCienega having a great time helping Penny try out clothes on their first big shopping spree.

Episode 12 - Penny and LaCienega both working on Zoey's makeover together.

Episode 12 - Penny and LaCienega standing on the dance floor with each other as LaCienega complained, "There no more boys left" even though there actually were plenty of boys out there. Maybe they just weren't cool enough for her or there was more to it ;)

Episode 14[21] - LaCienega bringing Penny a bagged lunch and saying, "Oh Penny, you left this morning without your lunch, a turkey sandwich, I made it especially for you!"

Episode 14[21] - Penny and LaCienega sleeping together? - well that's only speculation

Episode 14[21] - LaCienega giving Penny a tearful shoutout in front of a crowd on National TV after being crowned Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Queen

Episode 16[15] - LaCienega leaning towards Penny after saying, "Someone's bitter" which was more of a token insult.

Episode 18[17] - LaCienega goes up to get Penny from her bedroom while Dijonay and Zoey wait downstairs

Episode 20[19] - Penny and LaCienega standing in the middle of LPDZ while holding hands with Zoey and Dijonay being on the outside

Episode 20[19] - Penny and LaCienega celebrate together after winning the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest as LPDZ

Episode 22 - LaCienega and Penny leaning on each other during their onstage performance.

Episode 22 - Penny pointing to LaCienega and singing "We are Best Friends" and LaCienega believing it.



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Episode **25** - LaCienega being Penny's biggest fan during her poetry recitals.

Episode **28** - Penny and LaCienega sitting close together by the river during camp.

Episode **31** - Penny and LaCienega holding hands briefly before going to Al Roker's teen night club and then standing next to each other upon approaching the guys there.

Episode **32** - LaCienega and Penny sharing a good laugh together at the basketball game; (In fact all of Episode 32 from the basketball game up till they sat next to each other at the lunch table at school.)

Episode **38** - LaCienega sharing her breath mints and Altoids with Penny before she went to meet Tory at kissing rock.

Episode **39** - Penny and LaCienega's heart to heart conversation on LaCienega's front steps after Penny apologized for causing Wiz Jr. to dump her.

Episode **41** - Penny and LaCienega sitting really close together while Sista Spice was putting on a demonstration in Penny's living room.

Episode **41** - LaCienega leaning onto Penny as Sticky jumped over the couch to escape from Sista Spice.

Episode **43[42]** - LaCienega grabbing Penny by the hand and screaming, "I WANNA SEE MY PAPI NOW!" and then Penny snatching LaCienega away from the courtyard to save her from being apprehended by Helga after being noticed.

Episode **43[42]** - Penny and LaCienega confronting Helga after bringing both their families to the retirement home to try and show them what was happening to Papi.

Episode **43[42]** - Penny and LaCienega staring into each other's eyes as their parents didn't believe them when they were trying to explain to them what they saw.

Episode **46** - Penny and LaCienega sitting on the bench together while waiting for "Teen Idol" auditions.

Episode **46** - Penny and LaCienega's heated argument backstage.



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Episode **46** - Penny and LaCienega standing behind the curtain off stage as they watch Agatha and Alicia Keys sing "Fallin'" and then staring into each other's eyes pointing to each other over the lyrics, "I keep fallin' in and out of love with you."

Episode **52** - LaCienega attempting to crack a joke to lighten the mood while all her other friends were scared off by Chester the Psycho Duck.

Episode **53** - LaCienega hugging Penny after telling off the Spare Chance Dancers' choreographer after she was extremely hostile to everyone.

Episode **53** - Penny and LaCienega standing next to each other in front of the clones as LaCienega tries to crack a joke about Penny's forehead. "What the hell Penny?! She looks nothing like you! I mean, your forehead is way bigger than hers!"





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What was the best thing Penny did for LaCienega?

Episode 1 - Sacrificing herself causing LaCienega to win the last spot on the cheer team

Episode 3 – Teaching her a lesson about the destructive power of Rumors and Lies and how she can lose control of her lies.

Episode 13 – Showing LaCienega the power of forgiveness by finally allowing her to come to her party.

**Episode 14[21] - Help her recover from a depressive episode when her own parents didn't take it seriously enough and getting her own dad involved which helped her to be motivated enough to compete and win the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant while also conquering her biggest insecurity while also showcasing perhaps her greatest talent. ✓**

Episode 27 - Complaining to her dad when she saw LaCienega in particular bored to death at camp.

Episode 39 - Teaching LaCienega an important lesson on being loyal to her friends, rather than some boy who could easily dump her. Penny had already been through experiences like this and decided to pass the wisdom on to LaCienega when she saw that she was getting ready to make the same mistake. Time proved that Penny was right. Also, part of this wisdom came directly from her own mother in Episode 5, when Trudy told Penny not to lose her mind over a boy, that it wasn't worth it when Penny was involved with Mega. (aka Mr. EZ Jackster). Seems like Trudy had experienced something like this in her past and passed this knowledge on to her daughter who then in turn passed this on to LaCienega. If this isn't love, I don't know what is.

Episode 39 - Penny going and apologizing to LaCienega after finding out she was wrong for accusing Little Wiz of stealing the watch after she caused him to dump her which LaCienega greatly appreciated. Both of these points from this episode played an extraordinary role in strengthening Penny and LaCienega's friendship. LaCienega learned the importance of loyalty and substance from Penny, while Penny learned the importance of making sure she got all the facts before accusing someone of something and then accepting responsibility when she does wrong. Both characters helped each other develop in this episode and they bonded over it.

Episode 43[42] - Help rescue her Papi from Happy Endings Retirement Home and getting her own family involved.



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Episode **46** - Teaching her the importance of doing the right thing after finding out that Tween Idol was rigged.

Episode **51** - Allowing LaCienega to take back Michael as her date.



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What was the worst thing Penny did to LaCienega?

Episode 1 - Telling LaCienega, "You were good if you were trying out for the circus freak show!" Hurting her sensitive feelings.

Episode 3[2] - Not inviting LaCienega to her party which deeply hurt her feelings.

Episode 7 - Penny calling her "Senorita Snotty"

Episode 10 - Automatically assuming LaCienega "dropped a dime" on her after she spent too much money on her parents' credit card even though she had no proof at all. In fact, LaCienega may have actually tried to help her, but that part is just speculation.

Episode 13 - Not inviting LaCienega to her party a second time which hurt her feelings again after Penny knew better

Episode 13 - Penny pulling a prank on her off screen at the end of the episode

Episode 14[21] - Telling her mom that LaCienega was "evil" just because LaCienega didn't like her and only her.

Episode 14[21] - Throwing LaCienega's belongings out the window.

**Episode 22 - Screwing her and the other girls out of their record deal with Wizard Kelly and going solo causing LaCienega to cry and go through some unfairly brutal experiences afterwards. ✓**

Episode 39 - Falsely accusing Little Wiz of stealing a watch from Wizingdale's and telling him that LaCienega said he did it; though she actually didn't, causing him to dump her.

Episode 42[43] - Penny lying to LaCienega and pretending she didn't see Mariah Carey enter the office. In her defense, she was only trying to protect Mariah's privacy and her mom's veterinary office from being bombarded by a bunch of thirsty teenage fans while she was trying to do her job.

Episode 46 - Penny placing a karma "hex" on her after refusing to blow the whistle on the contest being rigged.

Episode 51 - Taunting LaCienega when she jumped in the trash can after a traumatic incident with Michael.



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Episode **53** - Penny showing off to LaCienega after bragging about her dad letting do whatever she wants supposedly just to make her jealous.

Episode **53** - Penny throwing LaCienega backwards after she cracked a joke about her forehead.



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What was the best thing LaCienega did for Penny?

Episode 1 - Bring her a gift the first time she and her family visited

Episode 1 - Telling Trudy, "I'm honored to be mentioned in the same breath as Penny"

Episode 1 - Thanking Penny for taking that little spin for her.

Episode 2[3] - Attempting to hang out with Penny peacefully for the bulk of the episode after Episode One went so poorly.

Episode 8 - Inviting Penny out to the amusement park with her and the girls even though Penny didn't invite her to her parties

Episode 10 - Helping Penny shop and pick out clothes that looked good on her.

Episode 10 - Providing Penny with shrink technology to help her bring all the clothes she bought into the house in a tiny shopping bag to try and help her stay out of trouble with her parents.

Episode 13 - Inviting Penny to her party even though Penny didn't invite her (Technically)

Episode 14[21] - Making Penny's lunch containing some of her favorite foods and bringing it to her at school

Episode 14[21] - Giving Penny a big shout out on live television after winning the Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant though she didn't have to.

Episode 15[14] - Being there along with all of Penny's other friends when she was in a coma, waiting for her to wake up and part-taking in the group hug once she did wake up.

Episode 16[15] - Helping Penny catch the guy who got them all suspended and part-taking in another group hug that centered around Penny.

Episode 18[17] - Running upstairs to get Penny from her bedroom for school

Episode 20[19] - Boosting Penny's confidence by saying, "Good? Proud we're the Bomb!" practicing a dance routine.



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Episode **20**[19] - Watching Penny's back along with Dijonay while Gary was talking to her at the house party to make sure she was safe.

Episode **22** - Continuing to support and keep up with Penné even after she screwed her and her friends over by buying her magazine.

Episode **24** - Trying to calm Penny's anxiety over her dad possibly cheating by saying "Please, who would want your dad?!"

Episode **25** - Being Penny's number one fan during the Spoken Word Contest

Episode **27** - Coming to Penny's rescue after seeing she was too anxious to talk to Sunny Stevens

Episode **29** - Complimenting Penny's red belt after Penny didn't feel confident, she was going to win because she wasn't a black belt to help her feel better.

Episode **31** - Being the only person to actually help Penny clean up her house after it was ravaged by a wild house party.

Episode **32** - Making Penny laugh during the basketball game. Showing empathy when her mom yelled at her after the game.

Episode **35** - Telling Penny and Dijonay, "Come on, cheer up! Watching your brothers and sisters in a noble thing to do! And you should be honored to watch them for your parents!" when they were bummed out that they had to babysit.

Episode **37** - Cheering Penny on during her date with Johnny Lovely and not cock-blocking like Dijonay tried to.

Episode **38** - Offering Penny her breath mints and lip gloss to ensure that she wouldn't have bad breath and that she would have smooth tasty lips her kiss with Tory would be as great as it could possibly be.

Episode **38** - Covering for Penny as promised when her dad stormed in to pull Penny out of camp and ground her after finding out through Peabo that she was planning to kiss a boy.

Episode **39** - Helping Penny and her friends get jobs through her relationship with Little Wiz; and then showing empathy after they got fired, saying, "I'm gonna miss each and every one of you. Even you Proud!" If I were a betting





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man, I would bet she meant to say, "Especially you Proud!" Note: LaCienega didn't get fired since she was Wizzy's girlfriend.

Episode **39** - Forgiving Penny for ruining her relationship with Wizzy.

Episode **43**<sup>[42]</sup> - Showing Penny she was most important to her by grabbing her by the hand and screaming "I WANNA SEE MY PAPI NOW!" but then walking off on Dijonay when she got her head stuck in an empty mop bucket

Episode **52** - Being hesitant to ditch Penny and instead attempting to lighten the mood by telling a lighthearted joke after her duck went crazy on everyone, scaring them away. She only ran when the duck snapped at her.

Episode **53** - Going along with Penny and friends to a dangerous island to help her rescue her family.

Episode **53** - Trying to lighten the mood by telling a joke while they were in a standoff with Dr. Carver's clones. It is possible she did this to get Penny riled up on purpose so that she would have higher adrenaline, thus increasing her chances of taking down her clone.



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What was worst thing LaCienega did to Penny?

Episode 1 - "Miss I'm cute, I'm loud, I'm Penny, Pathetic"

Episode 1 - LaCienega being fake on her family's first visit to the Proud house

Episode 1 - LaCienega being rude to Penny after Penny made the effort to try and patch things up with LaCienega in the middle of the episode and then when Penny got mad, her friends arrived at the wrong time and LaCienega lied and said she was trying to be nice, after offering for Penny to come join her. Very Sneaky

Episode 1 - LaCienega - Thanking Penny for taking that little spin for her but then withdrawing her thanks because Penny got an attitude with her. In Penny's defense, LaCienega had been rude to her and fake, so how could Penny accept her thanks as genuine.

Episode 2[3] - Leaving Penny's protest after a spider crawled on her.

Episode 3[2] - LaCienega showing up to Penny's house uninvited

Episode 3[2] - LaCienega being fake to Penny's parents again

Episode 3[2] - LaCienega being disrespectful to Penny, her siblings, her grandmother and her parents' furniture.

Episode 3[2] - LaCienega influencing Penny to disobey her parents and invite boys after they had just said not to. (Though it was originally Dijonay's idea)

Episode 3[2] - LaCienega locking Penny into the closet with Myron against her will. Also, it was extremely dangerous for Myron as he was an asthmatic and claustrophobic which could've potentially been life-threatening for him.

Episode 3[2] - LaCienega starting a rumor that she kissed him afterwards in an attempt to destroy Penny's social life and break her down mentally simply because she didn't invite her over to her house after she had been rude towards her since the start of the series.

Episode 4 - LaCienega getting jealous upon learning about Penny's special ability to communicate with animals... "Please she's not Dr. Do Little!"

Episode 6 - Leaving Penny behind at the so-called "dork store" and influencing Zoey to do the same when she actually tried to show Penny some humility, thus being a bad influence on Zoey in the process.



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Episode 7 - Trying to embarrass Penny by making fun of the fact that her dad was taking her to the homecoming dance even though it wasn't her fault.

Episode 7 - LaCienega refusing to support Penny's journey to the football team, performing extremely well by pretending she didn't notice even though Dijonay, Zoey and even the cheerleaders who didn't even know Penny supported her and even going as far as to not attend the game with the rest of the cheer team because she refused to cheer for Penny which was selfish to the other cheerleaders and the rest of the football team.

Episode 7 - Being the only one to make fun of Penny after they ultimately lost the game despite her outstanding performance otherwise.

Episode 8 - LaCienega telling Carlos that Penny liked big guys because she didn't want to be stuck with Carlos after she was the one who said, "The first boy that talks to you, is the one you're with!" and it backfired on her. Then using Penny's brothers and sisters against her so that she could steal Penny's date and leave her stuck with Carlos instead. She was also mean to Carlos in the process and he didn't deserve it at all.

Episode 10 - Demanding Penny to buy her and the girls some ice cream! "You know what we mean Proud, buy us some ice cream now!"

Episode 12 - Complaining there no more boys left, despite the fact that there were plenty of boys there and then turning her back to Penny when she could've just danced with Penny (and no it wouldn't have meant anything romantic. They simply could've still had a good time, but she chose to complain instead and act like it was Penny's fault somehow when the problem didn't even exist in the first place).

Episode 13 - LaCienega attempting to make Penny miserable again because she chose not to invite her to her party; this time by throwing her own party. What's crazy is that she carefully planned everything out and spent perhaps thousands of dollars of her parents' money just to get back at Penny for something so petty. She did way too much here, and it backfired. LaCienega by the way proved here that she was extremely organized and intelligent but used these gifts just to try and take down Penny.

Episode 14[21] - LaCienega trying to take over Penny's room and being disrespectful after Penny's father allowed her family to stay at their house after accidentally setting it on fire. Though Oscar screwed up, Penny shouldn't be punished for it.



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Episode 14[21] - LaCienega shocking Penny with the shock-watch after calling a truce.

Episode 14[21] - LaCienega sabotaging Penny's morning routine and then covering her tracks, making Penny look bad in front of everybody; only because she was trying to cover up her insecurity (big feet) so that she could always have an upper hand on Penny.

Episode 14[21] - Being mean to Penny on her way out of the door after all that Penny and her father did for her.

Episode 16[15] - "Someone's bitter...!"

Episode 16[15] - Being jealous of Penny because a boy had a crush on her.

Episode 16[15] - Blaming Penny for getting everyone suspended even though she wasn't the one who did the spray painting.

Episode 19[18] - Trying to put blame on Proud because Sticky and the Altos cheated during Oscar's Proud Snacks scavenger hunt though Penny had nothing to do with it at all and actually forced Sticky to admit he cheated.

Episode 21[20] - LaCienega being conceited and saying that she knew that she would win the role of Juliet when she and Penny were the last two having to compete for it which backfired immediately.

Episode 22 - Leading the girls to spray Penné with super soakers at her red-carpet event which ended up getting them all thrown in jail by her own grandfather.

Episode 22 - Refusing to forgive Proud after she learned her lesson and decided to give up the life of luxury and return to her friends.

Episode 23 - The "Pumpkin-head" joke

Episode 24 - "Please, who would want your dad?" I guess this is supposed to mean he's ugly.

Episode 25 - Instead of praising Dijonay for her outstanding performance at the spoken word contest, she fuels Penny's jealousy by saying something along the lines of, "Look out Proud, you've got some competition" and then later saying, "Looks like someone's jelly!!!"



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Episode **28** - The “trailer park” joke which actually turned out to be hypocritical after we learn her father grew up in trailer parks.

Episode **29** - “Well Proud, looking the way you do you don't have to fight, you can just scare the bad guys away!”

Episode **30** - LaCienega saying some soul crushing words to Penny after seeing she received a failing grade on her essay which slowly and painfully eroded her confidence which eventually led her to delinquent behavior that lead her to act nothing like herself, land her in boot camp and cause her to nearly lose everyone and everything that was dear to her.

Episode **31** - LaCienega yelling “Yeah! This is your fault Proud!” after BeBe & CeCe started crying because they missed their parents which set of a chain reaction causing all the kids at her house to cry after Penny had wished them away because she got tired of them not letting her party. - Well this time LaCienega was right, though still toxic. I would mostly blame Al Roker, who actually set the whole thing up rather than Penny.

Episode **35** - LaCienega making fun of Penny and Dijonay's parents' marriage being on the rocks which was once again hypocritical because her parents were attending the same couple's retreat as Penny and Dijonay's parents. It also showed she was jealous of the fact that Penny and Dijonay had brothers and sisters while she didn't.

Episode **39** - LaCienega demanding that Penny and the girls find out what happened to the watch or else she wouldn't help them get their jobs back even though she knew that none of them stole it.

Episode **39** - Eagerly anticipating that Penny would accuse her of taking it and being absolutely shocked when she didn't (Toxic)

Episode **39** - LaCienega choosing to walk off on her friends including Penny after Penny gave her an ultimatum.

Episode **39** - Replying to Penny, “We never were” when she asked, “Are we girls again.” Well at least her body language and actions proved her words to be ‘token’

Episode **42[43]** - “LaCienega demanding, “Look Proud! We wanna see Mariah Carey!” In her defense, Tabasco charged her and Zoey \$5, to see her while charging Michael \$10, which is technically illegal. So, I put this one on Tabasco.



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Episode 43[43] - "I WANNA SEE MY PAPI NOW!!!" Though LaCienega's intentions were good and she wanted Penny to be there with her more than anyone else, she still dragged Penny in against her will because Penny was simply trying to follow the rules and she was afraid to get into trouble for trespassing.

Episode 46 - LaCienega insults Penny when she tries to influence her to do the right thing by telling her that she has bad timing and bad taste in clothes.

Episode 49 - LaCienega along with everybody else on the show casts Penny off and treat her as if she doesn't exist when Al Roker uses his powers to turn BeBe and CeCe into teenagers, sending Penny into a deep depression. She even started dating the new teenage BeBe who along with his twin sister basically stole Penny's life from her.

Episode 51 - "Sit down before I slam you Proud!" says LaCienega as Penny cheers on Tookie in a basketball game because she's excited that he would be taking her to the dance. This episode was extremely backwards as the girls actually chose to follow LaCienega's lead over Penny's which never usually happens.

Episode 53 - LaCienega makes an extremely hypocritical joke about Penny's forehead and it's almost like she's well aware of it.





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**Episode 46 - The Good, The Bad and the Ugly –**



Episode 46 – Penny (the Good), LaCienega (the Bad), and Agatha (the Ugly). Penny and LaCienega hold hands as they watch Agatha sing with guest star Alicia Keys. Much like what Penny did for LaCienega in Episode One, LaCienega sacrifices a guaranteed victory in order to do what's right following a heated argument backstage between her and Penny. LaCienega Boulevardez really comes to life in this episode as she competes against Agatha Ordinario for the Tween Idol title.

This episode marks the climax of LaCienega's story arc, which also means we get a good look at Penny and LaCienega's wacky relationship. This episode sums it up rather well. LaCienega is once again set up to compete against a fellow school mate. This time it's Agatha Ordinario for the Wizard Kelly Teen Idol Title. Since this episode serves as the climax of LaCienega's story arc, she comes to life more than ever. We are reminded of how Boulevardez places way too much value on good looks and actually thinks that Agatha couldn't be as talented as her because she wasn't as pretty as her. Even this late in the series, we see LaCienega Boulevardez still has a lot of maturing to do and she gets help from none other than her best friend, Penny Proud. A lot takes place in this episode, so it must be broken down. Penny now gets the chance to see LaCienega compete against someone from third person point of view and this time she knows LaCienega a whole lot better. Agatha happens to be a dork, but she is an extremely talented singer. LaCienega is well-aware, however, this competition is extremely important to her because the winner is awarded a chance to sing onstage with Alicia Keys and she is LaCienega's idol. To be able



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to sing onstage with Alicia would be a dream come true. Much like she did when she met Penny, LaCienega was hostile towards Agatha for much of the episode. LaCienega was afraid of losing to Agatha the entire time so she did whatever she could to try and break her down in order to gain a psychological advantage. LaCienega is very intelligent and understands the importance of the mental game. She knows she has the tools to win but Agatha has even better tools so her best chance would be to try and handicap her. Despite LaCienega's hostility Agatha continued to be friendly with LaCienega. She was surprisingly confident despite her extreme dorkiness which suggests that she possesses some of the self-love that LaCienega seems to be lacking.



In the episode, as LaCienega is announced by Mrs. Hightower that she is competing in the contest, her two favorite people are next to her. Her right-hand girl, Proud is on her right and her best guy friend, Michael is on her left. We'll go more in depth on this in "Positioning and Formations", but this seating arrangement symbolizes quite a bit. By this point we've been given clues that LaCienega quietly has a crush on Michael and he is on her left. Usually, the man stands to the left of his lady. On her right side is Penny symbolizing that she's her partner or her best girl. Michael is her love interest and Penny is really the best friend she's had given all the things she's done for LaCienega. LaCienega trusts Penny and feels more confident and secure when she's next to her. Somehow, being in close proximity to Proud makes her more energetic. Penny also serves as a guide to LaCienega by inspiring her to do the right things. Penny actually helped LaCienega find some self-love this episode.



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She encouraged LaCienega to do the right thing and explained to her why she seems to have bad luck all the time. "It's called karma!" Penny was able to get through to LaCienega the best way she could and that was by attacking LaCienega's biggest insecurity, her looks.



Penny – "Your show goes on because you're prettier than Agatha. But you know what LaCienega, for all it's worth, I'm looking at you right now and I have NEVER seen anyone uglier!"

Penny Proud just exposed to us that LaCienega Boulevardez is actually insecure about her own looks. This is LaCienega's worst kept secret. Back in Episode 14[21], we saw LaCienega slip into a deep depression simply because her big feet got exposed and the guy she ended up having a crush on further down the line, ended up making her cry. This all occurred during the week LaCienega lived in Penny's bedroom and that was a good opportunity for them to get to know each other well and what better way is there to do it besides living with the person. LaCienega revealed to Penny way back then that she was insecure about her looks and for the first time, LaCienega shared a secret with Penny, though at that point she didn't really have much of a choice. Hence this is why LaCienega wore an ugly duckling suit before breaking out into a beautiful swan suit during her pageant performance. It was actually Penny's idea. LaCienega admitted to Oscar and Penny that she was insecure about her looks when she was crying on the bed complaining about her feet, so Penny took it upon herself to help dig LaCienega out of that hole so that she could function again.



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Agatha got laughed at, at school, but every time she sang, her voice was extremely powerful, and she captured the crowd in an amazing way. The writing was on the wall for LaCienega and seeing how the crowd loved Agatha made LaCienega feel awful for all the things she said about her, not to mention being sad that she'll lose the competition. LaCienega's soft spot began to float to the surface. She gets ready to congratulate Agatha but then somehow wins against everyone's expectations. The contest was rigged. Penny of course had to stand up for what was right and went to Wizard Kelly dragging Sticky with her, once again showing her bossy nature. Suga Mama exposes Penny saying that she was doing all of that just because she, "just don't like that Boulevardez girl."

Penny's bossy ways were well on display too. She was angry for the majority of the second half of the episode and was once again physically abusive towards Sticky. She gained control of the whole situation by forcing Sticky to help her and then threatened LaCienega in order to behave in a way that she herself would by sacrificing her guaranteed victory over her opponent in the name of what's right. LaCienega's stubbornness showed itself too as she wasn't willing to go along with Proud's demands to which Penny had to threaten her to get through to her. As a result, LaCienega did a similar thing for Agatha that Penny had done for her back when they first met and LaCienega felt good about herself for doing it, made a new friend in the talented Agatha and still got the opportunity to live out her dream but in an even better way by being able to join Agatha in a video shoot with her idol, Alicia Keys. This is why LaCienega likes having Penny around, because she inspires her to do the right thing, be a better person, therefore becoming more confident in herself and also create positive energy in her life.

What's sad is that when Penny and Sticky hacked the voting results, it showed that LaCienega had actually been outvoted 1,960 to 1 in the audience polls. This means that LaCienega's parents didn't even vote for her despite attending the show. The one vote she did receive actually came from Penny's dad Oscar, and that was only because he was only trying to use her to help promote Proud Snax. This is why LaCienega feels so alone deep down. It is because her family fails to be loyal and support their daughter. This time however, she wasn't even aware since they still threw her a victory celebration that only Penny and Sticky didn't attend. Penny even felt bad for LaCienega despite the fact that she was in the process of trying to prove that the contest had been rigged in LaCienega's favor because she was pretty, and pretty sells. What seemed to be a secret for so long was actually addressed by Penny. Once again, this is why Penny is LaCienega's best friend. Even though that's her rival, Penny has actually shown more support and helped solve more of LaCienega's emotional needs than her own parents manage to.



### Quotes and External Research –

Mark Kulka - Former Social Worker for 30 Years - Quora.com

People often become enemies because they are rivals who are competing for the same thing and then see each other as the main obstacle to getting what they want. They keep the rivalry up until either one or both of them discover other ways to get what they want without constantly butting heads. Then they realize that the reason why they tangled in the first place was because they had some of the same interests and cared about the same things. Once they stop seeing each other as “the enemy” they realize that they understand and can empathize with each other.

Antagonists usually come to know quite a bit about each other after a while in order to be able to anticipate each other's moves, and if their mutual enmity continues long enough, the image of each one stands out to the other and they come to occupy prominent positions in each other's lives.

Once they find ways to get around and past each other they sometimes realize that their rivalry has caused them to be more familiar with each other than they were with their own friends, and they come to see some of themselves in each other. If they manage to get past the anger (or the memories of it) that each felt when they openly fought, they may realize that they did actually care at times about what the other one thought about things, including what their rival thought about them. It is no big jump to go from there to actual friendship.

Now let's break this down in relationship to Penny and LaCienega -

**People often become enemies because they are rivals who are competing for the same thing and then see each other as the main obstacle to getting what they want.**

- ★ To join the Cheer Leading Squad in Episode One.
- ★ Proving who's really Dijonay's best friend.
- ★ Competing for attention from boys and social hierarchy at school.

**They keep the rivalry up until either one or both of them discover other ways to get what they want without constantly butting heads.**

- ★ Penny placing LaCienega's safety first by sacrificing her chance to beat her out for the last spot on the cheer leading team by taking the fall to the Gross Sisters' dangerous stage prank aimed at LaCienega in Episode One.



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- ★ Penny and LaCienega hanging out together for the first time in the company of Dijonay trying to solve their first problem together; finding a way to get into the movie theater while being short on money in Episode 2[3].
- ★ LaCienega taking part in Penny's strike against their parents for a bigger allowance in Episode 2[3].
- ★ Penny putting a stop to a fist fight between herself and LaCienega after seeing LaCienega crumble rapidly under the pressure of "Rumors" despite LaCienega using rumors against her in Episode 3[2].
- ★ LaCienega inviting all her friends (including Penny) to the amusement park to go and pick-up guys as a group.
- ★ Going on a shopping spree with LaCienega helping Penny pick out clothes in Episode 10.
- ★ Penny and LaCienega coming together in peace in order to give Zoey a successful makeover despite the two of them still not getting along in Episode 12.
- ★ Penny finally accepting LaCienega into her house in Episode 13 after they had both experienced being ditched by Dijonay, Zoey and Sticky.
- ★ Penny helping LaCienega recover from depression and win the Ms. Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant in Episode 14[21].
- ★ LaCienega being involved in helping Penny catch Johnny McBride after he got them suspended from school in Episode 16[15].
- ★ Working together to win the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest in thus forming LPDZ Episode 20[19].
- ★ Working together to sneak to and from the high school party and then going down together when they are caught in Episode 20[19].
- ★ LPDZ performing and going on tour in Episode 22.
- ★ LaCienega being Penny's biggest supporter at the beginning of the Juicy's Spoken Word Contest in Episode 25.
- ★ Protesting together to get Iesha back on the air in Episode 27.
- ★ LaCienega having Penny's back by stepping in for Penny when she was too anxious to speak to Sunny Stevens in Episode 27.
- ★ Plotting on how to sneak in the night club in Episode 31. LaCienega helping Penny clean up in Episode 31.
- ★ LaCienega helping Penny choose the right NBA All-Star to take the million-dollar shot for her in Episode 32.





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- ★ Penny helping get LaCienega (Zoey and the Chang Triplets) back into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Storee Concert after being thrown out with Dijonay for being in possession of fake tickets they purchased from the Gross Sisters in Episode 35.
- ★ LaCienega providing Penny with breath mints and lip gloss when she thought Penny was getting ready to kiss a boy that she had a crush on in Episode 38.
- ★ Penny apologizing to LaCienega after causing Wizard Kelly Jr. to break up with her and the two reconciling on LaCienega's doorstep bringing them closer together in Episode 39.
- ★ Penny helping LaCienega rescue Papi from the evil retirement home in Episode 43[42].
- ★ Penny reminding LaCienega that it's what's on the inside that counts Episode 46.
- ★ LaCienega deciding not to follow the crowd ditch Penny when her duck was going crazy on everyone only until the duck tried to attack her directly in Episode 52.

**Then they realize that the reason why they tangled in the first place was because they had some of the same interests and cared about the same things.**

- ★ Penny and LaCienega are surprisingly similar and share almost all of the same interests. Like typical teens, they both enjoy shopping, partying and talking to guys. They're both highly intelligent and get A's in school and are excellent writers. They both like the color red. LaCienega actually complimented Penny's red belt at the karate tournament in Episode 39. They both have crazy Dads who let their crazy wives control them. Their grandparents spend a great deal of time at their respective homes. Papi actually lives with LaCienega while Suga Mama just comes over every day. They're both long-time friends of Dijonay who often get ditched by her. Dijonay actually pitted the two against one another when they first met by forcing them to have to compete for the last spot on the cheerleading team instead of letting them both on which was possible. They're both extremely loyal though LaCienega tries to hide it; but her actions tell the bigger story. Both Penny and LaCienega have strayed away but they always come back to their core group of friends. They're both stubborn a lot of the time.



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Once they stop seeing each other as “the enemy” they realize that they understand and can empathize with each other.

- ★ Penny and LaCienega have so much in common. Their families are intertwined, their friend group is the same, they often have a lot of the same goals which cause them to find themselves in many situations together that they often have to work as a team to solve. Their immediate family structures are quite similar as well. For example, Penny's got her Suga Mama and LaCienega's got her Papi. They both witnessed each other's astronomical collapses when their confidence was broken. LaCienega fell into depression and apathy and became timid and quiet. Penny turned cold and evil and hurt everybody around her. Both of these are far cries from the cores of their respective characters. Their eye contact was always optimal, even during the early days. They subconsciously learned that they care strongly for one another, each other's thoughts and feelings. Their feelings began to leak out over time, through actions, body language and then finally words. They went from pushing each other away at the beginning of the series to sticking together like glue. They were basically like sisters by the end of the series.

**Antagonists usually come to know quite a bit about each other after a while in order to be able to anticipate each other's moves, and if their mutual enmity continues long enough, the image of each one stands out to the other and they come to occupy prominent positions in each other's lives.**

- ★ This is slightly stronger on LaCienega's side, but both do experience this. LaCienega is blessed with the ability to read people and by Episode 13 she was pretty much able to read Penny like a book. She knew how Penny felt most of the time even without her actually speaking. They antagonize each other and learned how to push each other's buttons, finding out what makes each other tick. The two connected on such a deep level that they could communicate telepathically through facial expressions and body language cues. They could do this better with each other than each of them could with Dijonay who they both knew long before they met each other. They knew how each other really felt without them having to outright say it. LaCienega was able to read Penny before Penny spoke and Penny was able to read LaCienega's body language to tell how she was truly feeling even when LaCienega's words were not matching her actions such as the time they were camping and Penny took a look at LaCienega who looked de-energized before complaining to her dad that it was “Boring” in Episode 28 and then in the same episode getting ‘cozy’ by the river and not wanting to get up when Duke invited them to come swim. The famous fist dap scene in Episode 39 where Penny asked, “So are we girls again?” To which LaCienega joked “We never were!” to them bumping fists as Penny says,



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"That works for me!" LaCienega was clearly welcoming to Penny the entire time and even leaned her head into her when she apologized showing she really appreciated Penny's apology more than she let on with her simple choice of words. Penny is now an important piece to the puzzle in LaCienega's life as LaCienega tends to miss Penny a lot when she's not around and LaCienega is an important piece to Penny's puzzle as she is basically a part of the family now.

**Once they find ways to get around and past each other they sometimes realize that their rivalry has caused them to be more familiar with each other than they were with their own friends, and they come to see some of themselves in each other.**

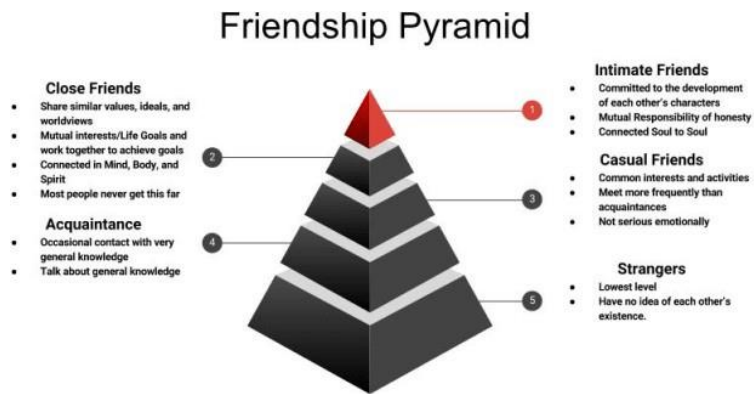
- ★ In many ways, Penny and LaCienega grew closer to one another than they were to Dijonay. During their rivalry they exchanged a lot of energy by focusing heavily on one another. They spent a lot of time antagonizing each other and figuring out what made each other tick. They both got the chance to tap into each other's insecurities and found out the consequences of doing so. By spending so much time together and relating to each other, it didn't take long for them to find out that despite their personalities being different, they want many of the same things out of life and often times find themselves in the same boat to where they have to work together instead of against each other. They were often more upbeat and happier working together more so than when they were clashing; especially LaCienega. Also, Dijonay's disloyalty and dishonesty caused both Penny and LaCienega to trust her less and each other more.

**If they manage to get past the anger (or the memories of it) that each felt when they openly fought, they may realize that they did actually care at times about what the other one thought about things, including what their rival thought about them. It is no big jump to go from there to actual friendship.**

- ★ Though the foundation is laid, and all things are set in place, this remains a work in progress. The energy between the two is very potent but much of their love still remains on a subconscious level. Eventually they will accept it and once they do, they will realize that they were truly best friends all along and were destined to be as such. Even Dijonay knows it and initially pit Penny and LaCienega against one another so that those two didn't get too close and they possibly replace her with each other. Good news though is that she eventually realized that neither of them would actually do this to her.



## The Friendship Pyramid - 5 Stages of Friendship



— Jermaine Tucker

### 1. Intimate Friends

- Committed to the development of each other's characters
- Mutual Responsibility of Honesty
- Connected Soul to Soul

### 2. Close Friends

- Share Similar values, beliefs, and worldviews
- Mutual interests/Life Goals and work together to achieve goals
- Connected in Mind, Body, and Spirit
- Most people never get this far

### 3. Casual Friends

- Common interest and activities
- Meet more frequently than acquaintances
- Not serious emotionally



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4. Acquaintance

- a) Occasional contact with very general knowledge
- b) Talk about general knowledge

5. Stranger

- a) Lowest Level
- b) Have no idea of each other's existence

Penny and LaCienega would land roughly between stages 2 & 3 on this pyramid graph which means the range somewhere in between close friends and casual friends. The following bullet points on this chart qualify in Penny and LaCienega's relationship. In fact, the qualifications in stage 3 are complimentary to what is in Stage 2 because it simply lays the foundation so in actuality, they are Stage 2 friends. Only thing they lack is that they certainly have different worldviews. But what actually makes this more impressive is the fact that they manage to connect so well despite their differences, it is pretty rare for two people to still be able to connect this well with such differences.

Stage 2 - Close Friends

- ★ Mutual Interests/Life Goals and Work Together to Achieve Goals
- ★ Connected in Mind, Body, and Spirit
- ★ Common Interests and Activities
- ★ Meet More Frequently Than Acquaintances



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### Empathy Comparison –

Most people would probably guess Penny is more empathetic than LaCienega on the surface but if you look closely, you'll see that this illusion is created because Penny's the main character and truly is a good person who is empathetic. But Penny is often stubborn and can be self-righteous, forgetting to consider how her actions affect other people until afterwards. Penny however does go through the consequences, learn from her mistakes and apologizes once she realizes that she's wrong. Penny is also strong willed and stoic when she's really trying to accomplish something. She can get so wrapped up in what's she's trying to accomplish that she forgets about the other people around her. LaCienega on the other hand is very sensitive and feels all of her emotions very strongly, a trait she inherited from her mother. She also picks up on the energy around her and often feels whatever her friends are feeling in a moment. In Episode 32, Penny was nervous and embarrassed after Trudy scolded her for asking which NBA All-Star is "single." Though LaCienega hadn't done anything and wasn't in any trouble at all with her mother or Trudy, she still felt what Penny felt and made the same facial expression. She also felt sad for Penny when she first found out that she couldn't go to the concert in Episode 35. She's shows in her facial expressions that seeing bad things happening to the people she cares about really upsets her. She cringed when Sunny Stevens was mean to Penny on the set of Iesha and in that same episode kept BeBe & CeCe entertained when she saw they were bored by making goofy faces at them. The problem with LaCienega is that she tries to hide her soft and sensitive side by acting stuck up and sassy, but her sensitivity always seeps through the cracks. Also, even back in Episode 13, LaCienega technically invited Penny to her party when she played her audio invitation in front of her and the others, but that's questionable. Don't get it confused, Penny too is very empathetic and showed this empathy toward LaCienega during her depression in Episode 14 and helped her recover when no one else, not even her parents would. Earlier in that same episode LaCienega did wrong by sabotaging Penny's morning routine. This pissed Penny off. However, what no one knew at the time was that LaCienega was extremely insecure about her oversized feet and didn't want Penny to see them. She felt bad for doing this and made her a well-prepared lunch in hopes of making it up to her. LaCienega has to try hard to bury her sensitivity while Penny has to actively show sensitivity.





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↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓Here's an excerpt from Episode 39↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓



Zoey - "Well, this day certainly turned out to be a bummer!"

LaCienega - "Yeah, I can't believe Randy fired us!"

Penny/Dijonay/Zoey - "Us!?!"

LaCienega - "Okay, you guys! But I feel your pain! I'm gonna miss each and every one of you! Even you Proud!"

This is perhaps the biggest piece of proof that LaCienega is empathetic and feels whatever her friends are feeling even when she's not the one experiencing it. She automatically puts herself in other peoples' shoes and tries to feel what they're feeling so that she can have a good understanding of them. This is perhaps the nicest thing about LaCienega. She also says, "Even you Proud!" But why is this? It almost feels like she meant "Especially you Proud!" It's like she was looking to make 'Proud' feel left out but also included at the same time which doesn't make any sense. All she really did was place Penny in her own separate category and draw extra attention to her. The camera cuts to a shot of Penny which means that high importance is being placed on her in that moment. There was really no need for her to say this at all; Penny already viewed her as a friend by this time, it's not like she was sitting there wondering if LaCienega was gonna include her. Was LaCienega trying to make a point here? And if so, what? That they still aren't friends? Penny rolled her eyes too because even she thought it didn't make sense. It was like "Yeah whatever."



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But if that's the case then why did LaCienega make an extra effort to make sure Penny knew that she would miss her. This one sentence comes with so many contradictions. It wasn't really necessary and all it did was focus everyone's attention on Penny and capture Penny's attention toward LaCienega. It looks to us like LaCienega was putting in extra effort to get Penny's attention in particular by saying, "I'm gonna miss you too." Just another hint that LaCienega has grown fond of Penny but doesn't want to come out and say it.

LaCienega is the most affectionate girl in the group, another trait she inherits from her mother Sunset. She voluntarily makes the most physical contact with her friends on the show, mostly with Penny and Zoey. Perhaps this is because Dijonay is the least affectionate with the other girls, she simply gives less hugs or touches people, except Sticky of course who she goes overboard with. More than either of the other girls, Dijonay exchanges affection with Penny, but Penny is usually the one who initiates it.

LaCienega likes Zoey a lot too and the two actually get quite close. LaCienega's chemistry with Zoey is perhaps the most positive when compared with her chemistry with Penny and Dijonay separately.

Also, it seems the people LaCienega talks the most trash to or antagonizes the most are the people she likes the most. She talks a lot of crap to Penny and Zoey but through her body language and actions, these are the two characters outside of her family she has the best chemistry with. Dijonay seems to be the least close to LaCienega ironically. The two make physical contact less often without either Penny or Zoey being in the mix. It's also quite rare that LaCienega trash talks Dijonay and has antagonized her only twice (Episode 22 and 35). On the surface, this is a good thing because LaCienega's smack talk tends to piss other people off. But remember, LaCienega is covertly shy and tends to open up mostly to the people she trusts and feels most comfortable around. For example, Myron Lewinsky is a fucking dork and LaCienega doesn't speak to him at all. He's an easy target to go after but instead, LaCienega pays him no mind, it's usually Dijonay or Penny that interact with him, of course not in a good way. The only time she interacted with him was when she threw Penny in the closet with him during a game of spin the bottle. LaCienega and Sticky interact and are on good terms but aren't really that close. LaCienega only insulted him twice when he was present (Episodes 36 and 44) and never tried to antagonize him. LaCienega is cool with Sticky but she's not as attracted to him as she is to Omar, Michael or perhaps even Penny. Michael might be the only person LaCienega likes that she doesn't insult very often but maybe that's because he cut her deep in Episode 14[21] by saying the very words that triggered her depression. But also, the one time that she did insult him, she actually broke his heart and in response, he tuned into the Hulk and trashed her. Some people are polite to those they aren't comfortable with but then they'll talk trash to those that they are close to simply because they feel more comfortable with that person and I believe that's why LaCienega talks so much crap to Penny. As toxic as it can be, LaCienega likes to mess with Penny a lot like a big sister or cousin would

Commented [SF113]: Or Kareem



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antagonize the younger sibling. LaCienega is like a Gemini at best and she manages the many sides of her personality regularly. With Penny, she showed her true self from the very beginning and was more honest towards her than to anyone else on the show. She likes to play jokes on Penny because it's her own idea of fun. She likes Penny and Penny matters to her, that's why she targets Penny so much. To people who don't matter to her as much, she's usually quiet, polite, shy or just pays them no attention at all. But with Penny, she went from thinking Penny was self-proclaimed "too good for her" to being her true self around her. LaCienega loves Penny because despite her flaws and all the things LaCienega did, Penny was mature enough to accept the fact that she's human and like her for who she is, something that LaCienega has desperately longed for in her life.



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BeBe, CeCe & LaCienega -

LaCienega loves, BeBe & CeCe, I repeat. LaCienega Boulevardez absolutely loves BeBe and CeCe Proud. She loves, BeBe more than Dijonay does. She loves CeCe more than Zoey does, and this says a lot considering how compassionate Zoey is. It's perhaps the show's worst kept secret! The babies catch no one else's attention outside the family more than LaCienega's. Even back during the days LaCienega was written to be the villain of the show, she couldn't help but be adored by the babies. In Episode 3[2], when she came in the walked right over to "the Proud Twins, happy and nappy!" She called them names just to piss off Penny, but out of Penny's friends, she was the only one to even pay them the most attention.



Both Zoey and LaCienega walk over to the babies and smile at them. Interestingly enough, both Zoey and LaCienega don't have any siblings of their own. Penny and Dijonay on the other hand are accustomed to having siblings and are around babies all the time. Even in her worst form, LaCienega thinks the babies are cute and she can't help but show it. LaCienega seems to like the babies even more than Zoey as she stands closer to them than Zoey. Also, despite her kicking over one of their blocks, they don't seem to view her as any sort of threat. CeCe smiles while her brother just sucks on his bottle as usual. BeBe & CeCe are very intelligent babies (perhaps even smarter than Penny for their age) and like many other babies can sense when a person is good or bad. If someone is bad or they perceive them as a threat, they'll usually cry and throw things at that person, but they don't do this with LaCienega. This is

**Commented [SF114]:** If the babies throw objects at someone it doesn't always mean that person is bad as sometimes the babies can be mischievous themselves and may simply do it if they're just irritated in the moment such as the time in Episode 8 when BeBe smacked LaCienega in the face with ice cream cones for trying to "clown" Penny after her date with Carlos, which at the time she very well deserved. They also threw things at their own dad.



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especially a big deal in Episode 3[2] because this is episode shows the absolute worst LaCienega we see throughout the entire show. The babies seem to like her, even though Penny doesn't.



Yes, the feelings are mutual. Here in Episode 8 CeCe waves at LaCienega after Penny walked away from their stroller to go talk to some boys with her friends. LaCienega was standing closest by the twins at this time and they had no problem recognizing her from behind.



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And what do you know?! As LaCienega looks back at them upon hearing their giggling, her jaw actually drops upon seeing them being left unattended. LaCienega who is still written as a villain is actually horrified to see the twins all by themselves with nobody watching them. Even she knows it's not safe for babies to be left in an amusement park with nobody watching them closely. Penny was clearly being irresponsible here and LaCienega was instantly worried without even having to think about it. Things aren't all fine and dandy though as LaCienega is actually in a bit of a pickle herself. Moments ago, she and the girls walked up on the group of guys. One of those guys was exceptionally large and none of the girls wanted to talk to him. That guy was named Carlos. As Penny, Dijonay and Zoey got to arguing about who wasn't going to be paired up with Carlos, LaCienega who was the leader of the group that day actually tries to be fair and says, "How about this, the first boy who talks to you, is the boy you're with!" in her long-lost thick Latina accent. But Penny and the girls denounce her leadership saying things such as "Why do we always have to do what you say?!" and "Yeah! Who made you queen B?!" Apparently, the girls trusted Penny more as a leader overall than LaCienega, even though she's the one who hosted this trip. Anyways, LaCienega's plan backfired as Carlos ended up talking to LaCienega first because he had recognized her from being a former classmate back in the fifth grade. Of course, LaCienega didn't want to be stuck with Carlos so she needed to think of a plan quick. "They are drivin' down the wrong street if they think they can put one over on LaCienega Boulevardez!" and there were the twins, at the right place, at the right time.





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But come to think of it, LaCienega was also at the right place at the right time; otherwise, who knows what may have happened with the twins. Penny certainly wasn't focused on them. At least they had someone they recognized nearby to make sure they weren't completely unattended. So LaCienega saw this and decided to take advantage of Penny's mishap. Better her than some stranger right?



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LaCienega walks up to the stroller smiling and in her cute baby voice she said, "Well what do ya know, here's two [l]ittle speed bumps!" Dazzled by their cuteness once again, LaCienega couldn't help but try and talk to them. Only this time, the babies technically called her over. But this still didn't stop her from executing her plan.



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Episode 8 - This is perhaps the most sinister face LaCienega makes in the entire series and it worries me. That is until we find out that she actually doesn't do anything to harm the babies. As a matter of fact, her actions were technically in the babies' best interest.

She goes over to Penny and says, "Oh Penny? You didn't forget about your precious Proud pumpkin heads, did you?" Though her motives were self-serving, her actions technically save the twins from greater danger and reminded Penny to be more responsible with her brothers and sisters. But even then, you could tell she still thought they were precious and was concerned for their safety. This is amazing considering this was still at a time when LaCienega was still at her worst and she and Penny were still sworn enemies (despite the fact that she still included Penny when she decided to invite the girls to the amusement park to begin with; more on that later.)

Then fast forward to Episode **24** where Penny tells her friends that her father managed to get "Thingy" for the twins' birthday party. LaCienega is the first one to get excited as she says, "Girl I can't believe your dad actually got Thingy for the party!" If only this were a happy moment for Penny, because at this time, she suspected her father was cheating with the woman under the costume. Good news is that this is at a point in the series where Penny and LaCienega were a lot more used to each other and were actually getting along much better.



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Three episodes later, the girls went to Hollywood to visit Wizard Kelly Studios where their favorite show Iesha was being taped. Penny's entire family came along including the twins. As they were waiting for Iesha actress, Sunny Stevens to arrive, everyone stood idly by. Penny checked out the set, Oscar took pictures, Dijonay and Zoey talked amongst each other, Suga Mama had went and chased some midget down that she thought was cute, and Trudy stroked the babies stroller back and forth, but guess who actually gave them face time...



That's right, good old LaCienega! Instead of talking to the girls, she saw the babies were bored and took it upon herself to keep them entertained. This was a pleasant surprise for Trudy who began to smile when she turned her head around and saw LaCienega standing in front of the stroller making cute faces at them. One can assume, the babies certainly enjoyed it. This has certainly become a pattern for LaCienega more than anyone else by this point and it doesn't stop here! In Episode 31, BeBe and CeCe started crying because they missed their mommy and daddy and as expected LaCienega was one of the ones who ran over and comforted them. A bit less surprising, Zoey was there with her. What's more surprising, Nubia came over to join them, before they broke down crying themselves.



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To give credit where credit is due, Zoey actually beat LaCienega to the punch this time around.





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But the babies gave off this magical energy that touched the soft spots of even the show's roughest characters; which made this scene especially sad; even for those of us in the real world.



Sad, indeed. Of course, everyone else at Penny's ended up crying afterwards, that's how powerful these babies are! No wonder why when they got to be Penny's age for a few days, everybody was so drawn to them without even trying; though it was very difficult to watch as Penny was driven so far into obscurity that she was nearly on suicide watch. Penny is an awesome character and didn't deserve the treatment she received from her family, friends and pretty much everyone else on the show that day. Hopefully when the twins actually do grow up, their relationship with their big sister will be a whole lot better and they will appreciate Penny a whole lot more, because despite the few mistakes Penny made with them, she made a lot of sacrifices for them and took good care of them for her parents.

**Commented [SF115]:** Add info about LaCienega dating Teen BB in Episode 49





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### The Problem with Dijonay Jones - Character Analysis



Artwork by Kayla Relleve

# DIJONAY JONES

Dijonay seems to be the most toxic force in the friend group. On the surface she looks like Penny's best friend who simply ditches her at bad times, but if you actually watch her closely, she is MUCH WORSE... than you think! She's very sneaky, conniving and disloyal. She lies a lot and keeps secrets from both her best friends Penny and LaCienega. She was the one who pitted Penny and LaCienega against each other in the first place by having them compete for the last spot on the cheer team. She saw them getting ready to fight at school and didn't even try to stop it. Both of these girls are supposed to be her friends, but she was going to sit back and let them fight each other, pull each other's hair out, scratch each other's faces up, seriously injure one another and then get suspended afterwards. To make matters worse, they live across the street from each other and they would have to see each other every day even outside of school and their family members are all friends with each other. This could be good but also bad at the same time. Their parents may try to force them to get along, and either they mature and make up or they hold a grudge and cause never-ending drama for both of their households. Dijonay also cannot keep a secret for Penny to save her life. Remember the rumors in namesake Episode 3[2]? Yeah, LaCienega started the rumor by locking Penny in the closet with Myron, but Dijonay was actually the one who spread it. Remember, LaCienega started it, Dijonay spread it. LaCienega planted the seeds, Dijonay made the seeds grow. Also, Dijonay brought LaCienega over to Penny's house uninvited. Not only did she disrespect Penny and her household, she also played on LaCienega's emotions by telling her in the first place knowing LaCienega was gonna get upset and feel left out. If I were LaCienega I would be hurt too. Yes, LaCienega's not entitled to be invited to Penny's house but learning that everyone was invited somewhere except you can really hurt a person, especially a sensitive girl like LaCienega. Speaking of which, Dijonay actually invited everybody over to Penny's house without even telling her or asking her

**Commented [SF116]:** Though this is true, let's be a little nicer to Dijonay and not make this is first sentence here though the title already casts a negative light on her. Dijonay is problematic but deep down she is still a good-hearted person with serious character flaws. Try and be as fair as possible and find out more about how she's beneficial to Penny and the rest of the group as well.



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first; extremely disrespectful, and it got her in huge trouble with her parents all while setting the stage for LaCienega to start her rumor as a way of getting back at Penny. Also, Penny planned on having a small sleep over but Dijonay talked Penny into disobeying her parents and inviting boys over, escalating it to a party. She also recruited LaCienega and Zoey to pressure Penny into doing the wrong thing as you can see her using eye contact to signal LaCienega and Zoey to play along. Dijonay showed she was a bad influence not just on Penny, but on everyone around her. Then in Episode 13, it was the same thing again. Penny still didn't like LaCienega and chose not to invite her again, and the first thing Dijonay did was run and tell LaCienega, upsetting her again. Dijonay has done a good job of making LaCienega think that Penny's a *bitch* at this point and so LaCienega decides to try and get back her in a different way, one that actually doesn't get Penny into trouble or involve rumors. She throws a bigger party and tries to pull everyone away from Penny and initially it worked! Dijonay made a false promise to stick with Penny but instead took advantage of Penny by asking if her mom can park in her driveway and then ran off to LaCienega's. Then Dijonay told Myron, who was involved in the rumors from Episode 3[2] to go to Penny's house because he wasn't allowed into LaCienega's and that "Penny was desperate and would accept anyone." which ended up making Penny cry. That is pure wickedness! Then, when LaCienega's party fell apart as a result of it being built upon a negative foundation and her dad screwing up by hiring the wrong celebrity, Dijonay led the group (Sticky and Zoey) to ditch LaCienega and then run back to Penny's. Inadvertently, her actions actually gave Penny and LaCienega something to bond over. Her actions were so bad that good ended up coming out of it. By the way, we do see the girls ditching Penny a lot but it's always Dijonay who leads the charge when it comes to the ditching. She's always the first one to ditch Penny at bad times and inspires LaCienega, Zoey and Sticky to do the same whenever they're around. Ditching Penny is Dijonay's idea of fun. Also, Dijonay doesn't want Penny and LaCienega to get too close to one another because she knows that the two have a lot in common and would actually make really good friends and Dijonay's so insecure about herself that she fears that if the two get too close with one other, they'll both ditch her even though Penny and LaCienega have both been very loyal to her most of the time, especially Penny who she actually screws over more often. We already know this about Penny but it's more surprising for LaCienega who we as the viewers see as an antagonist. Remember at the end of Episode One, Dijonay admitted that, "The LaCienega I knew was a very nice person, someone you can depend on!" and we've slowly seen this to be true more and more as the show progressed. Here's a good example, In Episode 31, Penny's house was ravaged by a house-party where we see Dijonay and LaCienega disrespecting Penny's house again as they danced on the couch with their dirty shoes. When Penny ordered them to clean up, LaCienega Boulevardez ended up being the only person who helped. LaCienega actually cooperated despite not exactly being too excited to clean while Dijonay copped an attitude and pretended like she was cleaning, and Zoey just watched TV.



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LaCienega has shown that she actually likes working with Penny and has helped her many times. Although it was usually along with the rest of the group, she was enthusiastic each time she did work by Penny's side. This issue really hits a climax in Episode **35** where Dijonay ditched Penny, left her with her 9 brothers and sisters and BeBe & CeCe (a total of 11) all by herself, paid her brothers and sisters to misbehave on purpose, told a lie so that she could have an excuse to leave, then met up with Zoey and LaCienega at the concert who by the way were hanging out together one on one for the first time ever outside of school, which is also impressive considering that LaCienega is popular (not as much as she seems to think though) and Zoey is a geek. LaCienega, as arrogant, and as stuck-up as she supposedly is, came down to earth enough to hang out with Zoey as a friend and actually go do something fun with her without Penny or Dijonay being in the mix. This was their chance to bond and actually get to know each other; but Dijonay had to come and spoil that too all in the same moment. Then she lied to them, telling them that Penny said she could go to the concert without her, which Penny didn't say at all. This means she's now lied to everyone! So, if Dijonay lied to Zoey and LaCienega about this, we know she lied to both of them in the past about other things regarding Penny. It's starting to look like a lot of the hostility LaCienega showed towards Penny early in the series was likely influenced heavily by lies that Dijonay fed her. LaCienega isn't perfect, but it didn't take long to learn that there was way more to her than just her conceited façade. Despite the façades being employed to try and cover up her insecurities, LaCienega has actually been remarkably honest with Penny in particular. She didn't try to pretend to be good in front of Penny from the start. She's been brutally honest with Penny at times, definitely to a fault. And then by the time we get to Episode **39**, LaCienega feels so close to Penny she actually starts to admit her mistakes and her flaws which is extremely rare for LaCienega. She knew by that time that Penny would accept her for who she was, and she loved Penny for it because LaCienega had been longing for someone to love her unconditionally and accept her truly for who she was. Though she still won't admit this, her actions and body language tell the story. LaCienega often doesn't express how she really feels about things, but she has more often with Penny than anyone else. But as for Dijonay, Penny finally accepted that she couldn't trust her which even before this point they had trust issues, like in Episode **25** where Dijonay happened to be good at poetry and Penny thought she had been pretending not to be good the whole time. It didn't seem like Dijonay was pretending that time but how could anyone tell? This girl acts like she's stupid a lot yet can speak and understand fluent Italian without learning it at school or anyone in her family knowing how to speak it which means she must have learned on her own, some kind of way despite living in a home with so many brothers and sisters distracting her all of the time. Then when Zoey said, "I didn't know you could speak Italian!" she tried to pretend she didn't know she was speaking Italian. By the way, she's known both Penny and LaCienega all her life and neither of the two of them knew this. They were shocked and looked at each other to see if one another knew anything about it. Again, Dijonay inadvertently pushed Penny and LaCienega closer together through shared experience. Remember in Episode One where Penny said, "She's actin' like she's Dijonay's best friend and everybody knows Dijonay and I are best friends!" Yeah, she's got Penny and LaCienega



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competing to be her best friend and she enjoys that because this makes her feel important! Did I forget to mention the time Penny was so terrified of the Gross Sisters that she ditched school and hid in a museum all day and Dijonay accepted money from Nubia to track her down and then ran off. Yeah, she came back supposedly to save her but really it was Sticky who saved her with his hover board that she happened to be riding on. As Suga Mama says, "I told you to stop messin' with that [damn] Dijonay a long time ago!" "She's faker than your fake friends!" It's true. Dijonay can put on a really good act, she faked tears while she was lying to Zoey and LaCienega about Penny. She knows how to play dumb to get what she wants and she can flip the script in mere seconds. Dijonay is actually very smart. Maybe not book smart but smart in a different way. She's constantly playing chess with the people around her in order to maintain control of her social environment and Penny and LaCienega are her pawns. She is a sociopath and Sticky is smart for not wanting to date her. Dijonay Jones is a toxic individual and needs to be eliminated. Notice how much better Penny and LaCienega actually get along when Dijonay is not there (post Episode 14[21]). When it's just Penny, LaCienega and Zoey, Penny and LaCienega actually cling to each other more. Dijonay's just acting as a boulder standing between them. She is a waste of space and the movie even illustrated this by making her the most insignificant girl in the group. Even Zoey who was usually always in the background got more attention than Dijonay in the movie. LaCienega grew all throughout the show while Dijonay barely grew at all but in maybe 3 episodes in the entire series with Episode 25 being her peak. There were times when Dijonay did have Penny's back, but the bad really outshines the good and it's a shame. Dijonay has arguably the lowest self-esteem of all the girls in the friend group, doubts herself and her abilities, likes to show-off in backhanded passive aggressive ways, is a back stabber, a pathological liar and a user. Again, Dijonay Jones is a sociopath and the other girls would be much better off without her, and you know what? She's actually quite aware of this. In Episode 22 when Penny retired from her Penné career, Dijonay said that if she were in Penny's shoes, she would've never given up the money or the fame. Yeah, she knows she's not loyal. Lastly, in Episode 28 during camp, Penny and LaCienega were actually sitting by the river quite cozily with one another, so cozy that they didn't even want to get up when Duke invited them to come swim; they made excuses instead. Sticky and Dijonay noticed this in the background, looked at each other and then next thing you know Sticky shouted, "Look a Snake!" causing them to frantically jump in the water, effectively ruining their moment. Don't know this for sure, but I have a strong feeling Dijonay was somewhat behind that. Dijonay has been a bad friend to LaCienega and an even worse friend to Penny and without her around, the energy between the girls (Zoey included) is far more positive. LaCienega is made to look like just a stuck-up mean girl that just wants to destroy Penny and wreak havoc because she's evil (to us viewers) and Penny is also made to look stuck-up because she thinks she's too good for LaCienega and won't accept her (in LaCienega's eyes) and Dijonay set it all up just for her own entertainment, and I guess ours too. Her name was once Delinquenetta before the show's producers changed it to Dijonay. But the spirit of Delinquenetta continues to live on inside of Dijonay Jones.



### Good Things About Dijonay Jones -

- ★ Dijonay is a well experienced multitasker.
- ★ She is great at poetry writing and reciting.
- ★ Dijonay is a phenomenal cook.
- ★ She has experience caring for her 10 brothers and sisters.
- ★ Despite her laque of loyalty toward her friends, she proved she could actually be a good girlfriend in Episode 36.
- ★ She can speak fluent Italian.
- ★ In fact, she and LaCienega are the only two that know multiple languages.
- ★ Dijonay works hard every day as she has a lot on her plate, from watching her siblings, to doing chores, to school, and being captain of the cheerleading team. She manages to pull off all of this and still able to make time to write poetry, learn foreign languages and hang out with Penny, LaCienega, Zoey and Sticky.
- ★ She can be a good team player, if only she did this more consistently.
- ★ She puts her friends onto opportunities such as the time they got to be on Hip Hop Helicopter (though she was involved as well) but ironically enough, Dijonay was actually the one who introduced Penny to Omar.
- ★ Dijonay has actually been there for Penny a few times. One notable example was when Penny was too anxious to talk to Sunny Stevens so she (followed by LaCienega) stepped in for her and introduced her. She and LaCienega also covered for Penny when she was talking to Gary in Episode 20[19] when he tried to solicit sex from her. They kept an eye on her without actually interrupting. This is quite rare for Dijonay.
- ★ Dijonay showed once that she actually cared about her friendship with Penny in Episode 25 when she outperformed Penny in the Spoken Word contest and Penny became enraged. She actually fixed the situation by reciting a poem dedicated to Penny off the top of her head which won her the contest.
- ★ Dijonay is the most “street-smart” of all the girls in the group.
- ★ Dijonay’s back is very strong and can support a great deal of weight. She supported the weight of the entire cheer team (6 girls, including LaCienega) on her back in Episode 7 without struggle. Even crazier, when Penny and Zoey approached, Dijonay stood up as if she didn’t have any weight on her back at all, sending the girls flying off.



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**Penny and Dijonay -**



Penny and Dijonay are best friends. Dijonay has known Penny longer than anyone else in the group has and was the one who introduced Penny to LaCienega. Penny and Dijonay are very tight; however, there are a myriad of crippling problems in their relationship that make it a toxic one. One, Dijonay is not trustworthy and often stabs Penny in the back and ditches her. Dijonay is also the main one who gets Penny into trouble, not just with her parents but also other people and seemingly takes pleasure in doing so at times. She's also an extreme gossip and creates a lot of drama as a result. Dijonay is quite a bad influence on Penny as she is the one who inspires her to do things such as lie to her parents. She's talked Penny into sneaking out to parties, brought boys into Penny's house even right after her parents had told them several times, "NO BOYS!" She often brings out the bad side that often causes her to do things that alienate herself from her parents' trust. Sadly, it eventually piles up to the point where in Episode 52, we learn that Penny's relationship with her mom isn't so stable after all once we learn that Trudy doesn't trust her.





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She also leads the way every time the group ditches Penny in action and Penny becomes well aware throughout the show. Dijonay often seems to have a negative attitude towards Penny as she often has her arms folded and she is frowning at her. Despite this, Penny is not clean here either. Penny is a competitive spirit, a trait she inherits from her father and as a result she has a tendency to compare herself to others which is why she clashes so much with LaCienega. Penny subconsciously sees herself as superior to Dijonay in certain ways. For one, Penny thinks she's much smarter than Dijonay. We see evidence of this in both episodes **25** and **30**. Penny was furious when she learned how talented Dijonay was at poetry. Penny often talks down to Dijonay in subtle ways and it could be taking a toll on Dijonay's self-confidence. It is possible Dijonay has carried a bit of resentment toward Penny because of this and has talked about it with the other girls. Penny also has a tendency to be self-righteous and not listen to others. In Dijonay's case though it's harder to defend her because she has gossiped and told lies in the past. Dijonay is shown to be a fake friend and the show actually starts to poke fun at this like in Episode **35** when Dijonay, got busted with Zoey and LaCienega for having fake tickets.



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Despite these problems, their friendship somehow manages to survive. Dijonay has done some terrible things, however we see she does genuinely care about her friendship with Penny and did what she could to keep from losing it in Episode 25 despite Penny actually being the one in the wrong. Dijonay looks up to Penny and is usually the first to cheer for Penny whenever she faces any challenge, unless that challenge is LaCienega. Penny is also an extremely forgiving person and gives Dijonay chance after chance after chance. Penny and Dijonay have certainly helped each other a lot, though Penny has helped her way more. Penny loves Dijonay despite her many flaws and makes the best of their friendship. Penny inspires Dijonay and Dijonay makes Penny laugh, it's a fair exchange but also a dirty one because Penny hangs around Dijonay who makes her feel superior in comparison but Dijonay often takes advantage of Penny. This is because they are both smart in different ways. Penny is book smart and Dijonay is street smart so they both have an advantage over one another in some way. This is also good because in certain situations Penny is better at adapting and in others Dijonay is better and they help each other navigate through different scenarios. They would be a stronger duo if Dijonay didn't use her street smarts to take advantage of Penny. There are certainly trust issues between the two and they both withhold information from one another. Penny has withheld information from Dijonay partly for the sake of staying above her in certain areas, but also Penny has learned not to tell Dijonay too much regardless because Dijonay can't keep her mouth shut. Dijonay also withholds information because she wants to control the flow of information and use it to her advantage, hence gossiping.



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Penny Proud & Dijonay "Delinquenetta" Jones in 1999. A 12-year-old Delinquenetta steals her parents' vehicle and takes Penny for a ride after sneaking out of the house 2 years before Penny met LaCienega. This clip is taken from the un-aired pilot episode for Nickelodeon. Dijonay is the only existing character outside of Penny's immediate family created before the year 2000. She was Penny's original best friend and the two go way back to early childhood. Outside the family, no one knows Penny Proud, better than Dijonay Jones.

Dijonay is also Penny's **oldest** friend and was once created to be Penny's only friend. She was the only one in the friend group to appear in the 1999 pilot episode before LaCienega or Zoey even existed. Penny and Dijonay's friendship was once the most important aspect of this friend group but after a while, LaCienega and Zoey got closer to Penny and each other to the point where they can function well together even without Dijonay. However, it would be a bit duller without Dijonay being there adding comic relief and also bringing her street smarts. However, Dijonay's street smarts eventually become obsolete as Penny and LaCienega also have some street smarts of their own and Dijonay barely uses her street smarts to help the group but rather take advantage of them. They do play an important role however in Episode **20**<sup>[19]</sup> when they were at the high school party and the teenagers there tried to solicit sex from them. Dijonay is quite inconsistent as well, she has introduced Penny to guys but also jumped in Penny's way more than once when a guy began approaching her.

**Commented [SF117]:** Not by age, but longevity of friendship and time of creation.



### In Defense of Dijonay Jones – She Does Deserve Some Redemption



# DIJONAY JONES

As you see, I've kind of torn Dijonay a new one throughout this document; however, Dijonay isn't all bad despite the fact that her ineptitude for being a good friend like she was designed to be is quite frustrating, especially once we reach Episode 35. But to be as fair as possible, it is only right to give Dijonay the credit she deserves for all the situations where she has done the right thing as she does have a ton of amazing qualities that still make her a likeable character. Despite what was written earlier, Dijonay shouldn't necessarily be eliminated entirely as things certainly wouldn't be the same if she were not there. She in fact does bring positive energy with her and here are some of the reasons why. Though we know that Dijonay Jones has her issues, there's also more to her than what meets the eye. Penny Proud can be quite problematic herself, especially towards Dijonay believe it or not. One can tell she saw herself as far more superior and I think Dijonay resents her for it. Penny can be bossy and self-righteous towards her friends much of the time and it often took something bad to happen in order for her to see her own faults and even then, her stubbornness still sometimes got in the way. Dijonay wasn't always loyal but she still came through for Penny in key situations such as in "Hip Hop Helicopter" when she and LaCienega stood by and watched her back as Gary aggressively made a move on her at the after-party. Dijonay is also the main person who shows concern for Penny's well-being. In the "EZ Jackster" episode, Penny did not come out of her room for several days and Dijonay thought about Penny enough to come over to check on her when no one else did. She panicked in Episode 52, "Psycho Duck" when she thought Penny had drowned trying to save Chester because he was injured. She went with Penny (or rather encouraged her) to go and spy on Kwok, risking her safety and freedom just to help Penny get answers regarding her love interest. In Episode 18, it appeared that Dijonay had sold Penny out to the Gross Sisters for money at a museum, but really, she ultimately finessed Nubia out of \$5 because she and Sticky came right back to rescue her. Oh, by the way Penny stated she was hiding in the museum because she figured that Dijonay wouldn't find her there either because a girl



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like her (I guess isn't preppy enough) to visit the museum. In Episode 2[3], Penny's flaws were purposely showcased by the writers and Dijonay actually served as a voice of reason and even managed to help get the group pumped up after she had gotten them put out by their parents when Penny was unable to do so. But yet Penny thinks she's smarter than Dijonay (and prettier). That's why Penny was so jealous when Dijonay discovered that she was more talented at poetry than her. Watch what Penny says at the beginning of Episode 30 regarding their writing assignment; she thought Dijonay was "easy competition" and this was after "Poetic Justice". Apparently, Dijonay is smart in her own right as she knows fluent Italian despite not being Italian much to the shock of Penny who looks over at LaCienega as they witness her talk to guest star Kobe Bryant. She also gets B's which aren't quite as good as A's but it still proves she's not dumb. As a matter of fact, Dijonay has bigger responsibilities than Penny as she has even more siblings to look after and she still manages to get decent grades, write poetry on her free time and apparently learn foreign languages despite all the distractions around her and being relatively poor compared to her friends. Dijonay underestimates her abilities partly due to being around Penny who feels insecure about Dijonay simply being better than her at just one thing (poetry)! Also, Dijonay picked up some valuable life skills looking after her younger siblings, such as cooking. Dijonay can cook a full meal on a surfboard as we saw she did for Duke in Episode 36 when she dated him to make Sticky jealous. Oh, and by the way guess whose idea it was for her to do that? Penny's of course! Talk about toxic... Dijonay has a big mouth, gossips, is extremely impulsive when she really wants something in the moment and has done some selfish things and didn't face enough consequences; but deep down she does care about Penny and was deeply afraid of losing her as a friend and even through death. She also made an attempt to bring Penny and LaCienega together early on as their feud tore her apart because she saw both of them as her friends. This put her in difficult situations where Penny simply wanted her to take her side over LaCienega's. LaCienega didn't like Penny early on but was accepting of the fact that Proud was inevitably becoming a part of her life and was willing to hang out with Penny in support of 'her' friend Dijonay and her own family. Penny on the other hand wasn't so welcoming and to be honest, understandably so, because LaCienega was nasty towards her and Penny didn't want to be around someone who treated her so poorly, despite the fact that it seemed like everyone was trying to force her to be. She even encouraged LaCienega to act in support of Penny such as in "Hooray for Ilesha" where Penny was to anxious to talk to the actress so she got LaCienega to jump in with her and introduce Penny while she froze up in order to save her some embarrassment. Point is all three of these girls are problematic in some way shape or form but since Penny is the main character, we often give her a pass. On the flip side, all the girls have good things about themselves including Dijonay, whose good qualities are often overlooked.



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**Pros and Cons of Dijonay's Presence to the Social Dynamic -**

Pros -

She brings street smarts  
Serves as a comic relief  
Talks LaCienega into hanging out with Penny in the beginning  
Sometimes Loyal  
Has never made fun of Zoey  
Introduced Penny and LaCienega to boys  
Helped get them on Hip-Hop Helicopter through her cousin Bethany  
Feels bad usually when Penny isn't around to have fun with her  
Often steps in to help Penny when she see's Penny struggling  
Influences LaCienega to help Penny sometimes

Cons -

Gossips  
Two-Faced  
Instigates drama between Penny and LaCienega

Pitting Penny and LaCienega against each other by forcing them to compete in a cheer-off further intensifying their rivalry.

Intentionally told LaCienega about Penny's parties in Episodes [3\[2\]](#) and [13](#) when Penny tried not to invite her, knowing that this would hurt LaCienega's feelings and make her want to retaliate.

Invited LaCienega over to Penny's house uninvited creating a toxic atmosphere at Penny's house.

Spread LaCienega's rumor in Episode [3\[2\]](#) and then letting LaCienega take all the blame which lead to their frustration boiling over into violence and made no effort to try and prevent them from fighting.





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Often ditches Penny and LaCienega

Ditched Penny in Episode 13 and ran off to LaCienega's party after promising Penny that she would stay loyal to her and dragging Sticky and Zoey along with her while also being bold enough to ask Penny if her mom could park in their driveway.

They then ditched LaCienega when her party crashed and burned after Suga Mama and Puff took all the food for themselves and Felix somehow got J-Lo mixed up with Filo

Set Penny up to get jumped by the Gross Sisters by accepting money from them to help track Penny down in Episode 18[17].

Ditched Penny in Episode 20[19] and dragged LaCienega and Zoey with her when they saw Oscar starting to yell at Penny for wearing her skimpy outfit on TV even though they did as well.

Tried to do this same thing in Episode 31 after influencing the girls to lie to their parents even though both Penny and LaCienega were apprehensive about going to the night club, knowing that their parents wouldn't allow them to; but this time they get apprehended by Trudy.

Ditched Penny to go to the 3rd Storee Concert and left her stuck with Bebe's Kids all by herself.

Bad Influence

Influences the girls and Sticky to ditch Penny along with her

Influences Penny to do things that get her in trouble with her parents

Influence the girls to sneak, lie and disobey their parents

Interferes whenever she sees the other girls bonding without her

Episode 28 - She and Sticky ruin the moment where Penny, LaCienega and Zoey are sitting by the river at camp and Penny and LaCienega are so cozy that they don't want to get up because they were enjoying the moment, relaxing together in peace for once.

Episode 35 - Zoey and LaCienega enjoy a girl's day out without Penny or Dijonay because they have to babysit and the two actually get along well despite LaCienega being considered cool and popular, and Zoey being considered a geek. They actually hang out together for two straight days and get to know each other better, learning they actually have quite a bit in common, but Dijonay spoils it for them by ditching Penny and her own brothers and sisters and then lying to the girls, saying Penny gave her permission to go to the concert without her.

Lies to everyone and withholds key information causing confusion and drama.

Big Mouth

Passive Aggressive



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Shows Off

Cock Blocking

LaCienega only stole Penny's date once and only did it because she didn't want to be stuck with Carlos. Zoey only tried to step in and talk to Fifteen Cent in the movie when he was trying to approach Penny. However, Dijonay has tried to cock-block Penny on multiple occasions including Fifteen Cent. LaCienega however has ironically showed the most support for Penny whenever a guy was talking to her despite her jealous nature and actually tried to help her in Episode 38, when Penny had a crush on Tory.

Helps bring out the worst in her friends, especially Penny and LaCienega

Making Penny jealous at the poetry contest by showing her up

Making Penny angry by calling her "Sticky and Icky"

Tells LaCienega that Penny wouldn't invite her to her parties just to trigger LaCienega's sensitivity, while also making Penny look like she's behaving more aggressively than she actually is.

Influences people to lie to their parents and abandon each other.

Mercilessly teased LaCienega for taking Michael Collins to a school dance until her insecurities got the best of her and she cruelly dumped Michael which actually made her feel guilty because she knew she hurt his feelings and she knew deep down that she liked him and may have ruined her chances with him. Also, she no longer had anyone to take to the dance with her, while all her other friends did.

Early on, encouraging LaCienega to be disrespectful to Penny and trying to get Penny to accept it from her. Also, inspiring Zoey and LaCienega to practice taking advantage of Penny's generosity like she does by talking her into buying them ice cream with her credit card in Episode 10.

**Commented [SF118]:** Dijonay is leaving LaCienega with the impression that Penny is purposely showing LaCienega aggression, making Penny look like more of a mean girl herself which fuels their conflict.



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**Episode 38 - Dijonay Rats Penny Out... Again –**



Episode 38 – Penny and the girls are on a church camping trip. Penny has a crush on the pastor's son Tory and all her friends know it, so they spend the episode trying to help hook Penny up with him until Dijonay rats her out. LaCienega was exceptionally well behaved and was extremely supportive throughout the show.

Well, it certainly seems like LaCienega does have Penny's back after all, so does Zoey too, but once again Dijonay doesn't. Dijonay proved two things to us in Episode 38. One, Dijonay actually enjoys watching Penny get in trouble with her parents. She sells her out and then ditches her. She's sold Penny out to the Gross Sisters before, and now she sells Penny out to her dad. Not only that, she exaggerated the story, telling it in the way that would make him as stressed out and as angry as possible. LaCienega is supposed to be her enemy, but she kept her word and covered for Penny like a real friend would. So did Zoey. In fact, Zoey lead it off and LaCienega followed. The craziest part about this is that Dijonay was actually the one who said, "Don't worry Penny, we'll cover for you!" She deliberately told this lie and the other girls in the group believed her lie to be true and actually did their part to cover for Penny, but Dijonay did the exact opposite and did it so fast and energetically that it looked as if she was eager for the opportunity to do so.

By this point it's very clear that LaCienega is a better friend to Penny than Dijonay and LaCienega is shown to be closer to Penny in this episode and has out-gained Dijonay in significance and relevance on the show. Penny and LaCienega are getting along really well in this episode much like Episode 32 and have gotten way more comfortable with each other and it starts to become



**Commented [SF119]:**

Perhaps LaCienega behaved better than usual because she was at a church event and found it in her conscience to be good; although she and Zoey said some mean things about poor little Peabo who was actually bribed by Oscar to go and spy on his daughter to make sure she wasn't talking to any boys.



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quite goofy. Penny proved to us that she too deeply cares what LaCienega says. In recent episodes, Penny's wall of stoicism and confidence as gotten softer and LaCienega has been able to poke through a bit more. Episode 30 was when we saw this at its full potential. Here in Episode 38 though, LaCienega basically says to Penny her breath smells. This sounds like a typical LaCienega insult, but this played out a lot differently. First off, although LaCienega pointed out this problem, she offered Penny a remedy to try and help solve it. Penny had bad breath, LaCienega offered her Altoids so that she wouldn't try and kiss Tory while having bad breath. Penny was initially defensive and said that she might not kiss him; but she snatched all of LaCienega's Altoids and gobbled them down. LaCienega was put off by this but she wasn't combative at all. When Penny asked, "You got anything else?" She offered Penny her lip gloss! Wow! Lip gloss is quite a personal item and she was willing to share it with Penny even after she ate all her Altoids. Penny then ate LaCienega's lip gloss which grossed LaCienega out, but LaCienega didn't even fuss at her. LaCienega really wanted to help Penny and did everything she could in that moment to support her, even though Penny wronged her. But when Dijonay saw Oscar, you could see in the sinister look in her face that she was ready to drop the bomb on Penny. Then after she did it, she played dumb and said "Uh, did I just sell Penny out?!" like it was some sort of accident. Just like she played the nut role when she spoke Italian to Kobe in an attempt to showoff to her friends and then acted like she didn't know what she was saying. LaCienega and Zoey knew they were fucked because of Dijonay and chose not to even look at her. Zoey and especially LaCienega haven't been perfect friends to Penny throughout the show but at least they actually put forth the effort here.

Dijonay is supposed to be her best friend and once again, she fails horribly at it! We are at the point now where we see a pattern of Dijonay's character gradually deteriorating with each episode since Episode 35. Both Zoey and LaCienega's characters are growing while Dijonay is going backwards which explains why by the time the movie and the Game Boy Advance game came out, LaCienega had surpassed her in the ranks. Meanwhile, Penny and LaCienega's actions start to become more intimate and personal.



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**Dijonay and LaCienega -**



Dijonay and LaCienega have been friends for a very long time. It is perhaps the single oldest pairing among the friend group. When LaCienega first made her debut at Willie T. Ribbs middle school, we all saw that she was surprised to run into an old friend in Dijonay Jones. This of course did not sit very well with Penelope who in contrast had built up the longest history with Dijonay and believed that Di was not only her best friend but also that she was also Di's best friend in return. But Penny is the jealous-possessive type much like her mom, and seeing this stranger interact with her best friend in such an intimate way threatened her sense of security, without much effort or awareness, LaCienega was already stepping on Penny's toes; or at least that's the way Penny saw it. It was at that moment; the spirit of jealousy came over Penny and just like that there was negative energy between her and LaCienega. Dijonay was the first entity that Penny and LaCienega clashed over before they even spoke to each other. Unfortunately, LaCienega picked up on this energy, determined that Penny was an enemy and began antagonizing her. Early on, when Penny and LaCienega didn't get along, Dijonay functioned as a mediator between the two. She realized that she was heavily (though not entirely) responsible for the feud that developed between them and actually tried bringing them together. But the problem was that well, Dijonay was the problem. Remember the panorama where Dijonay stood between Penny and LaCienega? Well, that's exactly what she's doing. Her presence actually represents the drama that stands between Penny and LaCienega. Her tendency to gossip played a key role early on in Penny and LaCienega's relationship. She initially tried to bring the two together but instead the more she opened her mouth, the more she pitted the two



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against each other. Dijonay already knew Penny well but she also knew LaCienega really well, at least before LaCieneguita grew up to be a teenager. She knew LaCienega before the two got separated for years, before she got bullied for her big feet, before LaCienega dated her first boyfriend, before she went out and won so many contests to try and impress her parents. She was well aware of LaCienega's innate traits long before Penny could see them. She knew how soft and sensitive LaCienega was and how she liked to help others. Dijonay learned at a young age having someone reliable like LaCienega in her life can be quite beneficial.



Despite Dijonay's tendency to talk behind Penny's back, she deserves credit for at least attempting to fix the situation. In Episode 2[3], she convinces LaCienega to hang out with her and Penny for the first time and it actually went rather well. LaCienega actually went the entire episode without antagonizing Penny, though Penny did insult her early on. From the looks of things, a still fresh LaCienega places her trust in Dijonay to help her become more familiar with Penny and helping her to become comfortable around her new neighbor at the very least. The problem though is that Dijonay isn't as reliable as LaCienega is, so naturally Dijonay couldn't go long enough not to mess up things. In the very next episode, Dijonay disrespected Penny and brought LaCienega over to Penny's house after telling her that she wasn't invited. Dijonay Jones loves drama, or actually Dijonay is drama. She knows how sensitive and emotional LaCienega is; so, the first thing she does tell LaCienega that Penny was having a party and that she wasn't invited. Of course, LaCienega's blood boils as once again Penny does something to make her feel uncomfortable in her still new environment. This time it's attacking one of her greatest insecurities and that's





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LaCienega's fear of missing out – FOMO; or at least that what she was led to believe. Penny didn't invite LaCienega simply because LaCienega had left her a bad impression by being rude the first time that she had ever spoken to her and then again when Penny apologized and made a legitimate attempt to try and reconcile with her during the first episode which was very reasonable. But since Dijonay likes drama, I highly doubt that she actually told LaCienega this part. But even if she did, would it have made a difference? Telling LaCienega she wasn't invited was enough. To be honest, this is still a tough situation for Dijonay as she is in the midst of this situation and she can't figure out whose side to take. Apparently, it was LaCienega's. Perhaps she felt sorry for LaCienega and didn't want to leave her hanging because LaCienega was still new to area and hadn't established a friend-base yet, or it was just another good old-fashioned opportunity to stab Penny in the back because of her own resentment towards her and the ensuing drama was exciting for her.

In spite of all of that, Dijonay and LaCienega have a relationship that doesn't involve Penny and from the looks of it, it's not as rosy as Penny thought. First of all, much like to Penny, Dijonay has been a bad friend to LaCienega as well. For starters, Dijonay lies to LaCienega a lot and it's actually quite sad because LaCienega had shown her the value of having a friend you could depend on and she returns the favor by playing on her emotions and feeding her bullshit so that she'll continue to be hostile towards Penny. Strangely enough, Penny has been even more dependable than LaCienega and Dijonay actually treats her even worse. We see Dijonay ditching Penny all the time, but she also ditched LaCienega as well when she was down. In Episode 13, LaCienega's revenge party against Penny crumbled in the blink of an eye and Dijonay lead Sticky and Zoey to ditch her and run back to Penny. This was so bad that it actually gave Penny and LaCienega something to bond over.

It's established that LaCienega is Dijonay's gossip buddy as we learn early on that Dijonay talks shit about Penny to LaCienega behind Penny's back. Only problem is LaCienega isn't really a gossip. When Penny and LaCienega first got into it, LaCienega actually did her best to keep it between just her and Penny, but with Dijonay being in the middle of it, that didn't work out. Oddly enough, LaCienega actually says and does things to shine a positive light on Penny in front of others. She's doing it partially to make herself appear nice, but her actions often benefit Penny more than her own self. It actually paints a bigger picture as to how she really feels about Penny overall. But Dijonay often times embarrasses Penny and makes her look like she's being a jerk in front of her friends which brings us to our next point.

Dijonay Jones is a bad influence on LaCienega Boulevardez much like she is on Penny, Zoey and even Sticky. Dijonay inspires LaCienega to behave in undesirable ways and works to fuel her jealousy toward Penny. Dijonay is jealous of Penny herself because unfortunately, Penny puts her down a lot, so if LaCienega is jealous of Penny too, they can relate to one another more. She inspires LaCienega to ditch Penny when she's in trouble just like she does with



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Sticky and Zoey. It seems logical for LaCienega to ditch Penny because she and Penny have their own personal issues, however the innately “dependable” LaCienega doesn’t just go and ditch people for fun on her own. In fact, LaCienega is empathetic, has a tendency to feel sorry for people and has helped Penny and Zoey multiple times when Dijonay was absent. Dijonay also encourages LaCienega along with the other girls to lie to their parents causing them to get into trouble and their parents to not trust them. Long story short she inspires LaCienega to be more like her; gossipy, dishonest and unreliable. Before long, LaCienega starts to see through this and develops animosity toward Dijonay as the show progresses while slowly becoming more and more infatuated with Penny.

LaCienega eventually starts to call Dijonay out on her bullshit which then causes Dijonay to start becoming hostile towards her and that’s by using LaCienega’s weaknesses against her. We saw this reach its climax in Episode 51 when she teased LaCienega so much that she rudely decided to not take Michael to the dance which hurt his feelings as well as her own. Speaking of Michael, when Dijonay was bragging about her rich cousin Bethany, LaCienega pointed out that Bethany was, “From the side [of Dijonay’s family] with the money.” Dijonay replied, “So, I’m from the side with the looks!” Then Michael buries her, “Yeah, looks like you ain’t got no money!” Making the crowd laugh. I’m sure LaCienega was a bit turned on by this one.

On a positive note, Dijonay and LaCienega work together a lot as well. Dijonay helped LaCienega get on the cheer team after Penny decided to take the fall for her. They’ve also teamed up in Penny’s best interest as well most notably in episodes 20[19] and 27. They’ve obviously worked together as members of LPDZ, but they also came to Penny’s aid at critical moments. Gary aggressively tried to solicit sex from Penny at the Hip Hop Helicopter after party. Originally, Gary started talking to Penny and they followed girl code by not interfering, which is extremely rare for Dijonay who regularly attempts to cock block Penny (with the exception of Omar). When Gary tried to make his move, they stayed near Penny and kept a watchful eye over her to make sure nothing would happen to her while remaining discreet. Dijonay and LaCienega also gave each other hi- fives when they thought they had successfully got Penny back home safely without getting into trouble.



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Episode 27 - Dijonay and LaCienega swoop in to Penny's rescue to introduce her to Sunny Stevens when they see Penny is too anxious to speak to her normally. Penny is a bit surprised to see LaCienega actually stepping in for her, but not so much Dijonay.

Ironically, Dijonay has influenced Boulevardez support Penny against her own will. Dijonay often nudges LaCienega to pretend to agree with things she doesn't necessarily agree with as LaCienega can be brutally honest much of the time. Most of the time Dijonay does this because she believes it's the best way to prevent conflict between her and Penny at times it could be detrimental to the group as a whole. To be fair, Penny and Zoey have nudged LaCienega into shape as well on separate occasions to keep her from saying something that would get the group into trouble.

But How Close are Dijonay and LaCienega Truly?

Penny and LaCienega are very similar and their lives run parallel in many ways. It's funny how Penny and LaCienega were jealous of each other for the same reasons when they first met. They were fighting over the last spot on the cheerleading team as well as who was Dijonay's best friend.

What's even more strange is that Dijonay claimed that the LaCienega she knew was a "very nice [girl], someone that you could depend on." Early on, that statement was extremely hard to believe; but as the show progressed, it turned out to be true for the most part. Dijonay however seemed to be unaware of LaCienega's sassiness and her competitive tendencies. It must have been a



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number of years since Dijonay and LaCienega had been around each other. As Penny said, "Someone who was 4..." when Dijonay brought up LaCienega's good qualities. This means that Dijonay knew LaCienega when she was really young and back in those days, LaCienega was much purer and hadn't yet developed the sassiness and the cynicism that came with being a teenager. Over the years, LaCienega picked up and developed these behaviors and Dijonay was surprised to see it. The LaCienega that Penny met was not the LaCienega that Dijonay had previously known. Apparently, LaCienega was once a sweet little girl who was very happy and wanted to help others. Somewhere between the time she last saw Dijonay and the first time she met Penny, LaCienega had gone through some rough experiences that affected her personality and worldview. It could've been a heartbreak, or the fact that she got bullied really bad at school for having big feet, or her parents failing to listen to her for so many years, or her being spoiled by her parents over those years, or even growing up and witnessing the strange dynamics of her parents' relationship among many other things.



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**Episode 51 - Dijonay VS LaCienega and Michael's Catastrophe –**



Episode 51 – Michael's negative feelings he kept inside for so long after accepting abuse has blown over and he transforms into this Hulk-like being exacting his revenge on each of those who hurt him, including his closest friends LaCienega and Sticky while also trashing the Gross Sisters as well.

Episode **51** is the second-to-last episode in the original series and it is a key entry. It is full of ironies and also levels the playing field between all of the characters, not just Penny and her friends but also between Penny and LaCienega's parents as well. There are also some eye openers that take place. We see for the first time, Dijonay and LaCienega get into a serious conflict and find out who's more toxic and who is stronger than the other. Whose toxicity has the greater impact on who and what ends up being the consequences? For once, Penny is not the target and we get an idea of what the dynamic would be like if perhaps Penny wasn't there. We get a closer look at just how much of a bad influence Dijonay can be on her friends. The things she says and does inspires them to behave in undesirable ways. Dijonay has already been known to lead LaCienega, Zoey and Sticky to ditch Penny like she does. We also know that she influences Penny to disobey her parents much of the time then sets her up to get into trouble with them, ditches Penny once she is in trouble and then laughs about it. She even influenced the girls to lie to their parents in Episode **31** in order to sneak to Al Roker's night club and tried to get the girls to ditch Penny yet again. But this time, Trudy apprehended them and that was the last time Zoey or LaCienega ever ditched Penny in the series until Episode **49** when BeBe and CeCe became tweens and replaced Penny for an episode.



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That situation was different however, because the group was operating under a spell placed on them by Al Roker and the twins (mainly CeCe) were influencing the situation rather than Dijonay or LaCienega. However, Dijonay also knows LaCienega's biggest weakness and that's her soft inner core. LaCienega is sensitive and insecure and Dijonay uses this to her advantage much of the time. In Episode 51, LaCienega had agreed to let Michael take her to the dance because Michael had designed a dress and a matching pair of shoes in her favorite color red, just for her; made of high-quality material. The other girls in the group were shocked to learn this for a number of reasons. First off, Michael is the person who ultimately made LaCienega cry in Episode 14[21] when her enormous feet were exposed during a swim test. Also, Michael is a pretty weird kid who happens to be notably shorter than LaCienega. This matters because LaCienega has teased Sticky for short he is, and Michael is just as short once again exposing LaCienega's hypocrisy. However, Michael does have his fair share of talent. He's very artistic, has great taste in fashion and actually choreographed LPDZ's first dance which ultimately won them the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest in Episode 20[19]. He appears quite confident too as he is loud, talks fast and tends to be an even bigger trash talker than LaCienega herself. Also, similar to LaCienega he tends to bury his feelings, but much deeper to the point where it's unhealthy for him. For many of the reasons above, Michael tends to stick out from the rest of the guys and many view him as an effeminate male. There's even speculation that he may be gay or bisexual. So, it is highly unexpected that LaCienega would choose a guy like this considering her personality type. It makes a lot of sense though when you look closer. Michael in many ways could be a rather good fit for LaCienega because of his outer confidence and his ability to trash talk. Not only is LaCienega attracted to confidence (as we already know is what draws her towards Penny), but this also means that he and LaCi share a trait in common. He has the power to neutralize LaCienega's arrogance as his own cockiness outdoes hers. Also, LaCienega stated from her own lips that she admires Michael's ability to design clothing as well as he does and we all know that LaCienega places high value on being fashionable, making Michael the perfect guy to satisfy this need. Also, Michael was able to cut deep into LaCienega's shell very early in the series with little effort as he caught her at the right time (Episode 14[21]). What's also ironic is that even though LaCienega is sensitive and doesn't like to be ridiculed, she ends up becoming attracted to those who gain access to her vulnerable self. This happened with both Penny and Michael in the same episode. So, here's where the problem with Dijonay Jones comes in. Though it isn't entirely Dijonay's fault, there was a moment here in Episode 51 where LaCienega was very cruel to Michael. At the beginning, LaCienega was really feeling herself and was excited to be taking Michael to the dance and Dijonay began to tease her for it. Now one could say LaCi somewhat deserved it because she teased Zoey about her date Herbert York, calling him "York the Dork!" prompting Zoey to ask who LaCienega was taking believing LaCienega likely didn't have a date at all. At this point in the series, Zoey knows how to stand up to LaCienega because she understands LaCienega a whole lot better than she did at the beginning of the series and the two became very close. Not to mention, LaCienega has shown admiration for Zoey many times by this point in the series as well. This is when she revealed she would be taking Michael which surprised Penny. While Zoey

Commented [SF120]: In the Proud Family: Louder and Prouder, it is confirmed that Michael is indeed gay.





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too was surprised, Dijonay had a look of annoyance on her face. For some reason, she was annoyed by this and decided to say something negative, "He may be able to sew, but he's not royalty!" while folding her arms with an attitude. Apparently, she was jealous that Michael was designing a dress for her. If we back up a couple of steps, LaCienega had just called York, "King of the Dorks" because Zoey had just told her that he was captain of the debate team while trying to defend him and Dijonay piggybacked on that by joking that Zoey was "dating royalty." It appeared as if she supported LaCienega in insulting Zoey in an attempt to ruin her excitement and hurt her self-esteem. But then she turned around and got jealous of LaCienega and used her insult on Zoey to try and put down LaCienega while instead complimenting Zoey. For the first time, we actually see on camera, Dijonay and LaCienega get into an argument. A visibly irritated LaCienega fires back saying, "At least he isn't imaginary like your date Sticky!" folding her own arms. Zoey who's sitting between the two of them can't believe that Dijonay and LaCienega are actually getting into it for once. Dijonay is even more pissed and then tries to get Sticky to tell everyone he's taking her to the dance, distracting him during his pickup basketball game causing him to get hurt and quit. Later in the episode, things get ugly in the cafeteria. LaCienega is still in a good mood sitting with the girls as Michael presents the finished dress to her. Michael did an excellent job and is clearly proud of his finished product. He is acting kind of goofy as usual and they all notice. Dijonay isn't done with LaCienega yet. She ruins the moment again by saying this, "Oooh y'all gon' be the most fashionable couple at the dance!" nudging LaCienega as Michael's quirks are well on display. Now here's where the problem comes in. One of LaCienega's biggest weaknesses is that she places way too much value on optics and Dijonay knows this. LaCienega rolls her eyes while sipping her drink but doesn't give Michael a hard time initially. Once she sees that Dijonay has taken notice, it breaks her. LaCienega then felt like Michael was making her look bad and decided to change her mind about going with him. It's actually a bit sad. At this point in the series, we know LaCienega is an emotional person and many of her actions are based on how she's feeling in the moment. Body language is key when reading and understanding what's truly going on in LaCienega's mind. LaCienega lost confidence in this moment and she was feeling it hard and fast. As she informs Michael that she's decided to cancel her order, she puts on somewhat of a melancholy demeanor. She points her head downward and looks over at Dijonay struggling to process the social pressure that Dijonay had just put on her. LaCienega's softness is slowly rising to the surface. When she says she's canceling her order, you can hear the distraught in her voice. It almost seems like she didn't really want to but felt like she had to. She was resigned, in a state of surrender. When Michael asked "How come? You don't like the dress?" she says "Well, the dress is great, it's just well, you're not!" It's hard to look at because we see an unusually happy go lucky LaCienega melt away back into bitchiness over the course of speaking those words. Her pupils briefly veer over to Dijonay right before she says, "You're not!" We can see the moment where Michael's heart splits in two as his jaw and shoulders slowly drop. He is clearly devastated. After all the hard work he put in, this is the thanks he gets in return. Immediately afterwards, Zoey and Penny promptly scold LaCienega, telling her how mean she was. Now once again, LaCienega looks like a bitch in front of everyone, but if you really look at



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her, LaCienega is in pain herself and is trying her best to keep it buried within. LaCienega cares enough about Michael that she stares him down as he walks off. Her eyes are dim as she sips away at her drink. She is no longer in a happy mood and feels bad for what she has done but is trying not to show it. She's barely able to even look Penny in the eye as she is tightening up, wrestling with the shame and dismay that's inside. Considering how spot-on Penny and LaCi's eye contact usually is, this says a lot. Eventually, her eyes shut completely. Luckily for her, Michael starts yelping in the bathroom loud enough to be heard through the vents, bailing her out of her sorrows and providing her with a reason to give for her actions. She says in a low toned yet annoyed voice, "That's why." To make matters worse, his supposed friends Sticky, Omar and Tookie lock him in the girls' bathroom immediately after he had just gotten his heart broken. As, Penny, Dijonay and Zoey go to rescue him, LaCienega stays back, leaving her alone and sad as she no longer has anyone to take her to the dance. To pile it on, the Gross Sisters then spray paint the word "Sissy" on Michael's locker which then awakens a demon in him. This is clearly not Michael's day. Moments later, LaCienega, who is now outside of the security of her friends yells as the "monster" comes for her. Now what LaCienega did was indeed very mean, but as we saw, it was influenced by Dijonay who used LaCienega's weakness against her all because she was jealous that Michael designed an outfit just for her and she was in a happy mood because of it. Seeing LaCienega this happy pissed Dijonay off and she was determined to ruin it for her all while making LaCienega look like a villain casting all of the negative attention on her in the process. LaCienega was sad, ashamed, embarrassed, demoralized and de-energized all at the same time while struggling to bury all of these intense emotions. Meanwhile, Michael too was burying even more intense emotions before running into more bad luck. It's actually quite sad to look at because it's really a lose-lose situation and on top of it all LaCienega looks awful yet again while Dijonay faces no consequences whatsoever. Then to add to it, Tookie picked a really bad time to do what he did to Michael because it pissed Penny off causing her to cast him off as well, so now he has no one to take to the dance and his friends start laughing at him. Not everything that happened was Dijonay's fault, but she made a key play to set the whole thing off and she faced no consequences for it. Instead, everyone else around her suffered for it, including Sticky. Think about it, if we go back to the very beginning, Penny was really excited that Tookie was taking her to the dance and cheered during the basketball game, "Yeah, holla! When I say Tookie, you say slam... Tookie, Slam, Tookie, Slam! Hah!" Initially, Dijonay wasn't being supportive as she ignored Penny's cheers and twiddled her thumbs with an attitude. Yes, Penny was probably being a bit obnoxious so initially it's understandable. LaCienega then says to Penny, "Sit down before I slam you Proud!" which is quite hilarious. LaCienega was actually acting like Penny towards Penny as we've seen Penny threaten LaCienega like this in the past. Though it was aggressive on LaCienega's part, she did have a bit of a reason to be annoyed as she was trying to focus on painting her nails while Penny was making a bunch of noise. Dijonay on the other hand just sat there and twiddled her thumbs. Plus, it's pretty clear LaCienega wasn't actually going to get up and "slam" Penny. It was just her typical token trash talk that she's become known for. Not to mention LaCienega was actually feeling herself in that moment which gave her the



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audacity to even say that. It also shows how late we are in the series and how comfortable LaCienega has gotten with Penny by this point. Penny didn't fire back with anything or feel any type of way when LaCienega said this either showing that Penny understood where LaCi was coming from. This is where Dijonay began the conversation regarding who everyone was meeting at the Willie T. Ribbs Checkered Flag Dance. When Penny began cheering again, Dijonay appeared irritated but then her mood lightened showing that a part of her was happy for Penny. Either that, or she was smirking at how ridiculous Penny was making herself look but I'll be positive and assume it's the former. Then, Zoey mentioned York, which LaCienega of course called a "dork." So, Dijonay actually started the conversation which lead to these toxic exchanges. What we don't know is why Dijonay asked the question. It could've been because she was simply bored and needed something to talk about or it could've been that she thought LaCienega didn't have a date. Why do I say this? Well Dijonay's eyes were dim and she was smirking. She looked to have somewhat of a passive aggressive look on her face as she asked the question. Her pupils seemed to be pointed at LaCienega as well. She only asked the question after LaCienega told Penny to sit down, so it could've been in retaliation towards her aggressive statement towards Penny. Initially, I thought she may have already known Penny was taking Tookie to the dance, but if that were the case, then there would've been no reason for Penny to place her hand on Di's shoulder and answer the question. When Penny did answer, Dijonay's mood lightened. It's likely Dijonay became less annoyed and understood why Penny was cheering him on so loudly. Also, Tookie was playing against Sticky who Dijonay was rooting for in her mind by default which may be the reason why she wasn't too thrilled with Penny cheering for him at first. Also, when Dijonay piggybacks on LaCienega's insult, it's hard to tell what her true motive was. It's possible that she may have actually tried to turn LaCienega's insult into something positive as she smiled while saying Zoey was "dating royalty." Only problem was Dijonay was the only one who visibly laughed (though it sounded like multiple girls were laughing due to a production error). Zoey was confused as to whether to take Dijonay's comment as an insult or a compliment, so it's hard to tell really. Based on Dijonay's exchange with LaCienega, it seems like her "royalty" comments were more of a compliment and maybe she meant them to be. But the problem is, LaCienega said that York was "King of the Dorks" and "dork" is a derogatory term; so, the royalty Dijonay was referring to wasn't a positive kind of royalty. This is what makes it so confusing. LaCienega clearly isn't without fault here either as she took it upon herself to put Zoey down despite the fact that she found a date. This behavior probably left Dijonay disgusted as Michael is an awkward individual himself and LaCienega was being a showoff as usual. Luckily for Zoey, she was able to hold her own against LaCienega and York actually did turn out to be a cool guy like she said. After all, being a showoff does aim to make others jealous. However, Dijonay and LaCienega's argument lead to Sticky getting injured, which lead to Michael having to step in for Sticky. Turns out Michael could hoop! He came in, took over the game and dominated Tookie and Olei leading to Tookie getting mad and call Michael a sissy, setting off a chain of events that ultimately lead to an unmitigated disaster for everyone involved. Once again, everyone had to rely on Penny's heroics in order to restore order. As for LaCienega, this showed



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weakness and that she was so concerned about how she looks and what her peers think about her, that she would give up the things her heart truly desires just for the sake of looking cool while hurting herself and others in the process. Poor, poor LaCienega! As for Dijonay, she hangs on to conflict much longer than the other girls in the group and uses whatever means necessary to gain the upper hand. This could explain why she does the things she does to Penny. Deep down, Penny thinks she's superior to Dijonay which we've seen evidence of in episodes **25** and **30**, and Dijonay can sense this, causing her to have a deep seeded resentment toward her. This unfortunately takes a toll on Dijonay's self-esteem as she often underestimates her own abilities, exposing the fact that even our beloved Penny Proud can be toxic herself.



### Zoey Howzer Character Analysis - Why Is She Important?

# ZOEY HOWZER



Zoey as we know is the tall skinny geeky white girl in the group that mostly seems to be in the background or just tagging along with the other three. The show doesn't treat her quite as well as it does Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega but Zoey does serve a purpose and it is just as important to the group dynamic as everyone else's. Believe it or not, Zoey is actually the glue that holds this group together. She is the most lighthearted of the girls and strongly believes in peace and happiness and she carries this energy with her wherever she goes. Zoey is cheerful, charming and very likeable. She manages to touch the soft spots of people. Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega all like Zoey and are usually there to stick up for her and encourage her to be more confident in herself. Remember, none of the girls in this group are perfect but Zoey does try and bring out the good in everyone she comes in contact with but isn't always successful. She tried to give flowers to the Gross Sisters in Episode 18<sup>[17]</sup> when they were trying to rob her and her friends, stating that "All they need[ed was] a little love." Of course, that didn't work. But what does work is Zoey actually helping to keep the peace in her otherwise toxic friend group. Zoey's energy is relatively powerful. In Episode 12, her presence alone brought Penny and LaCienega together during a time when they were still enemies. Penny and LaCienega were simultaneously doing cosmetic work on Zoey in an attempt to give her a makeover. In a rewarding scene, Penny did Zoey's makeup while LaCienega did her hair marking the first time on the show we actually see Penny and LaCienega working together and even at this point in their relationship, they were very much enjoying it. Zoey provided Penny and LaCienega with a purpose of working together while Dijonay provided them with reasons to work against each other and this becomes an ongoing theme throughout the show. There is a glaring difference between the way Penny and LaCienega behave when they're around Dijonay versus when they're around Zoey. When they're around Zoey, they are very close most of the time. When they're around Dijonay, they're often



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arguing or exchanging insults. Zoey is often the voice of reason in the group whenever Penny is not and is quick to call out anyone whenever one person is hurting another. Zoey however has problems of her own. She is naive and her beliefs often land her in trouble. She falls into traps and gets taken advantage of by others. She's socially awkward and her awkwardness leads to poor behaviors such as people pleasing, being a follower and mimicking her peers just to try to be cool and fit in. She'll often tell people the things that she thinks they would want to hear because she thinks it will make them happy which is not only dishonest but also creates problems further down the line. Zoey seemingly admires LaCienega the most in the group. She mostly follows behind LaCienega because she is the best looking out of the group and claims to be "the most popular girl in school." Zoey wants to be like LaCienega but doesn't necessarily say this out loud. Similarly to Penny, LaCienega pokes fun of Zoey's dorkiness a lot but still likes her deep down. LaCienega admires Zoey's sweetness and thinks she's really a nice girl. There have even been times when LaCienega followed Zoey's lead. One was the ironic situation in Episode 25, where she and Zoey ditched Dijonay because they didn't want to go over to her house and deal with her rowdy brothers and sisters; Zoey was actually the one who left first. Another was in Episode 31 where BeBe & CeCe started crying and Zoey was the first to go and try and comfort them, followed by LaCienega and then surprisingly, Nubia. As a matter of fact, Zoey is the most empathetic girl in the group, followed closely by LaCienega and then in turn very closely by Penny and then Dijonay the sociopath in a faraway last place. Without Zoey, this friend group wouldn't have stood a chance. Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega's personalities clash hard, especially so in the first 14 episodes. Penny's stubbornness and competitiveness mixed with LaCienega's competitiveness, sassiness and conceit and Dijonay's dishonesty and tendency to keep drama going was a recipe for disaster and Zoey's presence helped neutralize all that and gave them an avenue to actually overcome their differences and grow together as friends. Plus, she actually enjoys sitting back and watching Penny and LaCienega get along; for her, it's a win!





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The 'Secret Life' of Zoey Howzer -



Much of Zoey's life takes place off camera. She hangs out with Penny and LaCienega one on one off camera. We've only seen her mom twice during the shows entire run. She has an entirely separate group of geeky associates she spends time with away from Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega as well and invited them to ride in the limo with them in Episode 32. Zoey also associates with the Chang Triplets on days Zoey goes to study. Despite Zoey being a geek, she's perhaps the most popular of the geeks since her best friends are Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega who are three of the most popular girls at their school. Zoey also got to experience what it was like to be popular after she won the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest with LPDZ in Episode 20<sup>[19]</sup>. Zoey is a nerd, but she is really well socialized as she is best friends with the cool girls but still makes time to return to her roots and do the things, she loves with the people who are the most like her. That means despite her awkwardness, she's able to fit in on both ends of the social spectrum. She's a dork but yet LaCienega Boulevarderz is her best friend and likes her a lot deep down.



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### The Ugly Side of Zoey -

There's more to Zoey than what meets the eye. Zoey seems helpless a lot of the time because of her awkward demeanors, but Zoey also brings a toxic trait of her own into the dynamic and that is sneakiness. Zoey has an attitude of her own that she tries to keep buried, but leaks out. Zoey gossips behind people's backs when they aren't there, just to fit in with the group. Talking about others helps boost Zoey's self-esteem because it takes some of the weight of the insecurities off her shoulders. She does this on a regular basis with Dijonay and LaCienega when Penny isn't around and it starts as early as Episode 3[2] where she's seen coming into Penny's house with Dijonay and LaCienega.

Zoey has ditched Penny in the name of fitting in and has even shown hypocrisy while doing it. In Episode 6, Penny dragged her friends to Wizard Kids Learning Center where her father told her to go in preparation for the spelling bee. Dijonay referred to it as the "nerd store" and LaCienega said, "this place reeks of dorkdom!" Zoey tries to hide the fact that she hangs out there but the cashier opens his mouth and the girls find out. Here we see one of the earliest instances of Zoey being sneaky and insecure simultaneously. LaCienega then politely tells Penny that she can't hang there because she needs to prepare for the school beach retreat. Dijonay on the other hand rubs it deeply in Penny's face just to purposely make her feel left out. Zoey then feels bad and then stops and tries to tell Penny she's not like them, but then when LaCienega shouts for Zoey to come on. She then throws out everything she just said and says, "later dork!" which naturally pisses Penny off.

Commented [SF121]: Ironically

Another thing about Zoey is that she lacks the confidence to properly express herself; but whenever she's on top, her attitude changes and she rubs it all in. When the girls gave her a makeover, she became conceited after getting attention from boys at school. She doesn't exactly know how to handle success as it has nearly gotten her into trouble multiple times. Zoey also seems to be jealous-competitive deep down. Whenever she has something good going for herself, she has the tendency to show off and attempt to put her on-lookers down. She even tried to coerce jealousy from Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega once. In Episode 51, she landed a date with a guy named Herbert York, who LaCienega called 'York the Dork.' When York showed up and proved not to be so dorky after all, Zoey rubbed it in their faces. "Don't be jelly!" she says. Her attempt failed, because the girls were instead just impressed. This is a sign that deep down Zoey is jealous of Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega because she thinks that they have something that she doesn't and that is good looks. The worst part about this is that all of this is taking place inside Zoey's head. It is clear Zoey is suffering from a severe lack of self-esteem.



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At some point during her early youth, Zoey was made to feel that she wasn't good enough to fit in and she's carried this on her shoulders for years. We don't know for sure, but it's likely due to excessive bullying or social exclusion. In Episode 41, we also know that she feels ignored much of the time because she often finds herself in the background mainly because she is a follower. With a bit of over-the-top bad luck, she finally reaches a breaking point. She is depressed because she feels insignificant compared to everybody else and it's a fact that she could no longer ignore. Penny's Aunt Spice took advantage of Zoey's vulnerability to scam the people of Wizardville. When her plan got foiled Zoey was badly humiliated on the big stage unfortunately and it wasn't her fault. However, she was happy in the end simply because the whole ordeal landed her name in the newspaper. That's how desperate Zoey Howzer is for attention. Why does Zoey crave attention this much? Is she getting it at home? Who knows, because we don't get to see much of her family, or her household. But one thing that's interesting is that this is this thing she has in common with LaCienega, they are both just as desperate for attention as one another and so they share the same mentality when it comes to many things despite looking so different on the outside. More throughout the series, we see a pattern of Zoey following mostly behind LaCienega. This is because Zoey thinks of LaCienega as 'popular' and hanging around her raises her social rank. Zoey seems to mostly want to be like LaCienega. It doesn't take long for LaCienega to notice and LaCienega eventually takes Zoey under wing. They bond and become quite good friends.

Zoey also showed how dangerous she could actually be in Episode 45 when she was Penny's campaign manager for the student election at school. Zoey proved she was a good friend to Penny by going all out to try and win it for her, and I mean "ALL OUT!" Zoey's character fully came out when she did the unthinkable. Penny was losing badly in the ratings all throughout the campaigning period mainly because she simply was no match for Wizard Kelly Jr. y'all! That's right Lil' Wiz came in and stole the show, giving out candy and gifts with his father's seemingly unlimited wealth. Also, the reason Penny suffered is because the Wizard, the big Wizard, you know the WIZARD HIMSELF y'all broadcasted a campaign that also smeared Penny and the Proud name, by showing a clip of Oscar missing a key shot and losing the State Championship back in high school. So, Zoey went undercover against Penny's wishes and smeared Wizard Jr. She sent the Gross Sisters to go in and spy on Wizard Jr while he was sleep and got footage of him sucking his thumb like a baby and sleeping with a teddy bear. Zoey then showed the footage to the entire school under the alias "Scratchy Throat" which smashed Wizard Jr.'s reputation in an instant. It was so bad that Myron Lewinski ended up winning the election. Zoey's sneakiness created a great deal of chaos and nearly destroyed the reputation of the most popular kid at school. This shows just how dangerous Zoey can actually be. Good thing is that in this case she did what she did for Penny and not against her. However, once Myron won, she ditched Penny and called her a loser, showing that Zoey often places more value on popularity than friendship.



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**Zoey and LaCienega -**



Episode 40 - Penny and friends are in Penny's back yard during a family barbecue. Penny stands in the middle of her two closest friends Dijonay and LaCienega. Zoey who appears to be in the background clings onto LaCienega as the two wear matching swimsuits. It has already been established that LaCienega's favorite color is red. Zoey seems to admire LaCienega the most in the group. She mostly follows behind her because she is the best looking out of the group and was voted the most popular girl in school. Zoey wants to be more like LaCienega, but she doesn't necessarily say this out loud.

Zoey and LaCienega have a rather close-knit relationship on and off screen. In the group it looks like Zoey is in the background and Penny ignores her much of the time. Dijonay doesn't seem to pay close attention to Zoey much either. LaCienega seems to be the one in the group Zoey is actually closest to. Remember when LaCienega used the flat irons on Zoey's hair? Well, that was a subconscious bonding moment. But how did the two get so tight beneath the radar? Well, the seeds were planted in the very first episode just as LaCienega had just made her debut. When LaCienega first arrived at Willie T. Ribbs Middle School, she was new, did not know anyone and was very shy. LaCienega was not confident in her own performance until Zoey stroked her ego. The moment after Zoey stroked LaCienega's ego in front of Penny is the first time we see LaCienega's conceit and the first time she ever insults Penny. It's like Zoey gave LaCienega the assurance she needed to feel confident enough to display arrogance.



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It's possible that LaCienega and Zoey actually began bonding psychologically from the moment LaCienega stood over her using the hot iron on her hair with thought and care while seemingly enjoying it, even while Penny worked on Zoey's makeup. This already showed that the girls all liked Zoey, but her connection to LaCienega was particularly special because LaCienega was "playing" in her hair. Having your hair combed, brushed, cut or pressed massages the scalp. In turn, this relaxes the brain, usually causing the person to feel relaxed during the procedure. Though this wasn't the main focus of what they were trying to do, LaCienega, a girl with a personality type that a girl like Zoey would normally feel awkward around essentially made Zoey feel relaxed and cared for. As a bonus, Zoey tends to be anxious and LaCienega of all people was the first in the group during the show's run to help ease this anxiety. Also remember, Zoey's a red-head and LaCienega's favorite color is red. As a result, LaCienega likes Zoey's hair. In this scene though, LaCienega responds to Zoey's comment, telling her she's "...more of the corn dog type!" LaCienega's head is leaning toward Zoey with a bit of a smirk. LaCienega thinks Zoey is a dork but she's still adorable. She's her dork. Zoey's connection with LaCienega is quite crucial to the stability of the social group.



**Commented [SF122]:**

Episode 2[3] – "Your hair is so brown; it matches the dirt... under your fingernails!" LaCienega compliments Zoey's hair but passes it off as an insult. You see LaCienega is truly mesmerized by Zoey's hair by her body language. However, she describes Zoey's hair as being brown and matching the color of dirt that's trapped beneath a person's fingernails. Strangely enough, that color brown is the exact color of what LaCienega's hair is. LaCienega likes Zoey's bright red hair and may even be jealous of it, but doesn't want to say this out loud so she describes the color of her own hair to use as an insult instead once again showing LaCienega's insecurities about her own body.



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LaCienega and Zoey spend a lot of time together one on one off screen. They spent an entire day hanging out without Penny or Dijonay in Episode **35** and evidently, they got along well and got closer in the process. LaCienega also flaunted Zoey in that episode when she taunted Penny and Dijonay after finding out they had to babysit and couldn't go to the concert. "Let's go Zoey... We got places to go and things to buy!" she said. Off screen they went shopping at the mall in the hours before the concert. Also, neither of them has siblings and probably feel lonely at times because of it. LaCienega did say that it was an "honor" to watch their brothers and sisters for their parents. As you know, she was telling the truth. This is where we also learned that LaCienega has a tendency to deflect and taunt people out of jealousy. Surely, Zoey and LaCienega bonded over this similarity. As stated before, Zoey and LaCienega are also the most empathetic in the group. Or at least it appears this way. This is because Zoey and LaCienega are the two most emotionally intelligent in the group. Their Emotional IQ's are both very high. We've seen Zoey and LaCienega avoid Penny and Dijonay when the Gross Sisters were after them in Episode **18**<sup>[17]</sup>. Also, in Episode **25**, it almost looked as if she and LaCienega set up the Feud between Penny and Dijonay behind the scenes, here are some clues. Keep in mind the following is only speculation...





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- ★ LaCienega stroked Penny's ego as she got ready to perform her first poem
- ★ Zoey and LaCienega were next to one another several times during the episode
- ★ Zoey and LaCienega ditched Dijonay at the same time. LaCienega however came up with the lamest excuse ever
- ★ When Penny and Dijonay split off at the lunch table in a feud. Zoey and LaCienega did not follow when they both said, "Come on Girls!" When they repeated, Zoey said "Okay, you follow Dijonay, I'll follow Penny." There's some collaboration there.

It seemed as though they were trying some sort of experiment. They also give each other a bit of something that each of them wants. Zoey helps boost LaCienega's confidence as Zoey doesn't measure up in looks and style. Her presence makes LaCienega look even prettier. Zoey is also great company for LaCienega because LaCienega is extremely sensitive and Zoey has the tools to say the things to make LaCienega feel good when she's feeling insecure or sad. Zoey also sticks up for LaCienega when Penny is mean to her as seen in Episode 22. I believe off screen Zoey and LaCienega confide in each other and that Zoey is the only one in the group who truly knows how LaCienega feels about Penny and even Dijonay. Zoey and LaCienega are both highly intelligent and perhaps even study together. In the early days, I think LaCienega really wanted to be able to get along with Penny and Zoey agreed to give her advice on how to get along with Penny as well as influence them to get along. You see LaCienega was upset that Penny wouldn't accept her and Zoey has a lot of experience not feeling accepted, so she was able to empathize.



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It seems LaCienega tends to tell her mean jokes to Penny and others while standing next to Zoey. LaCienega doesn't just crack her jokes solely for the sake of putting others down, but also to make others laugh. In the photo above, LaCienega is laughing in the company of Zoey as she cracks a joke at Penny. Everyone else there hears it and laughs. Notice LaCienega who had been in a bad mood all day, stepped over from her position to move next to Zoey before telling the joke and then leaning toward her as she laughs at her own joke. Though this is a toxic way doing it, LaCienega seems to be trying to pick Zoey up, who often finds herself as the butt of jokes. LaCienega is maintaining balance in the group in her own way by reminding Zoey that she's not the only one who gets made fun of for her looks. It almost seems as if LaCienega isn't only deflecting her own undesirables onto others but Zoey's as well. LaCienega is trying to help Zoey feel more confident about herself while not saying this out loud. Even though LaCienega's intentions are good here, her actions are still toxic because she's actually encouraging Zoey to behave like this and in the process is making herself a bad influence. Also, Penny didn't really take the time often enough to do this for Zoey early on, but somebody had to and it seems LaCienega took it upon herself to hook Zoey up. Interestingly enough, Penny is already an inspiration to LaCienega and now LaCienega in turn is taking a page out of Penny's book and trying to inspire Zoey but in a different way.

Commented [SF123]: Remember she's only trying.



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**LaCienega: Is it an Insult or a Compliment? -**

Sometimes it's hard to tell when LaCienega is giving a compliment or an insult and it seems LaCienega gets pleasure out of keeping people guessing. She's done this with Oscar, Trudy, Dijonay and Zoey. With Penny however, she's been far more direct. Either she's straight up insulting her or complimenting her. Once again, LaCienega is more honest with Penny than she is with anyone else and the exact reason for this still has yet to be determined. Sometimes though, LaCienega will crack a joke at Penny when really, she's supposed to be complimenting her. Ever heard of a back-handed compliment? Well, LaCienega gives back-handed insults as well and it can be quite confusing. We saw LaCienega compliment Zoey on her sneakiness in one of the strangest ways possible in Episode 45 after she sabotaged Wizard Jr.'s campaign.

LaCienega - "Zoey! I never knew you were so sneaky, I always thought you were just geeky!"



Zoey - "Thanks! ...I think."

Without saying it, LaCienega expressed admiration for Zoey's power move to try and help Penny win the election. In other words, LaCienega was simply saying she didn't know Zoey had it in her! After all, we did end up learning quite a bit about Zoey in this episode. As you can see by LaCienega's facial expression, she wasn't insulting Zoey. However, since she brought up Zoey's biggest insecurity, her "geekiness", Zoey was confused on whether or not LaCienega meant good or bad. But LaCienega was certainly proud of Zoey in



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this moment. Unfortunately, LaCienega was also praising one of Zoey's most dangerous traits, sneakiness.

### **Pros and Cons of Zoey's Presence to the Social Dynamic -**

Pros -

Is a peacemaker

Whenever Dijonay isn't around, Penny, LaCienega and Zoey all seem to get along much better. This is partly due to the fact that Dijonay is extremely toxic and loves drama, but Zoey strongly believes in world peace and tries to influence Penny and LaCienega to be nicer to each other.

Is a whistle blower

Though Penny is often the leader of the group, Penny is only human, and she can sometimes be unreasonable and make mistakes. She is also stubborn and strong-willed and doesn't always listen or accept the message without an argument even when the other person is right. However, Zoey is one of the few people besides Trudy who is able to get through to Penny when she's stepping over the line. Dijonay and LaCienega aren't quite as successful at this because they usually get an attitude with Penny while Zoey speaks to her more respectfully. Also, Penny thinks she's smarter than Dijonay while she's also quick to judge LaCienega's comments as insults since LaCienega does insult her a lot anyways.

She can bring out the soft sides of even the show's toughest characters

Zoey tries to handle all her conflicts in the most peaceful way possible, though this doesn't always work out (e.g., Gross Sisters in Episode 18[17]). However, Zoey finds good in everyone and is slowly able to extract this, most notably with LaCienega who was very mean at the beginning of the show, but eventually found Zoey adorable despite her geekiness and tries in subtle ways to boost Zoey's confidence by giving her a makeover and sliding next to her just to crack jokes about Penny so she can make Zoey laugh. Her presence also helps LaCienega feel more comfortable showing her softer side which she tries so hard to bury.

She encourages others

Zoey is a little too nice for her own good and does her best to encourage others, especially Penny. However, since she likes to encourage everybody, it can come off as less genuine, like in Episode One she encouraged both Penny and LaCienega that they would win the last spot on the cheer team which was impossible. But hey, she was only trying to be nice. She also told Penny that she admires her tendency to take charge in a time of crisis which subconsciously influenced Dijonay and LaCienega to trust Penny's



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leadership more, especially when it is solidified after Penny leads them to success like in Episode 7, when they beat the boys at football.

She's very helpful most of the time

Zoey instinctively likes to help people. She'll be the first to help Penny much of the time and often the last to ditch her, even though unfortunately she does succumb to peer pressure very easily and follows behind Dijonay and LaCienega when they walk off on Penny; which brings us to our cons. One great example is Episode 45 where Zoey fought hard to help Penny win the election and even played dirty when she felt she had to. However, when Myron won, Zoey was rude to Penny and began flirting with Myron, although it really meant nothing in the end.

Cons -

Is a people pleaser

Her tendency to tell people what she thinks they want to hear doesn't come across as genuine and causes people not to trust her as much because they don't know whose side she's truly on during a conflict.

Is a follower

Though she tries to do what's right, she will sometimes ditch her own morals to do what she thinks is cool and will follow the crowd and do things she knows is wrong just to keep from looking like a nerd. This explains why she ditches Penny with the other girls.

Sneaky

Zoey has a sneaky side. Though fortunately she hasn't used this against Penny, Dijonay or LaCienega, it shows she's capable of doing some real damage if they piss her off enough. She should probably be watched closely. She used this as a weapon to help Penny once but could also use it as a weapon against her at any time. By the way, Penny actually didn't approve of Zoey using these tactics to try and help her win the election.

Crippling Insecurities

Zoey's insecurities often hold her back from fully expressing herself and often serves as an Achilles' heel for the group as a whole. Penny and LaCienega are often seen dragging her along because they both care about Zoey and want her to be more confident in herself. This especially shows up in the Proud Family Movie where Zoey is afraid to dance. Penny tells her, "You can do it! Just be a butterfly!" When that isn't enough, LaCienega gets frustrated and pushed Zoey into the deep end telling her, "Oh... just be a stupid butterfly already!" I guess



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some good came out of this because it just shows again how things involving Zoey actually tend to bring Penny and LaCienega together.

#### Poor Judgement

Zoey's strong desires of fitting in, being cool and pleasing others can lead her to bad judgement to where her friends have to drag her along, talk some sense into her and rescue her. In Episode 18<sup>[17]</sup>, she thought that handing flowers to the Gross Sisters would make them behave nicer, but instead she got humiliated by Gina. Penny also had to drag Zoey out of Gary's party because her popularity and the attention from boys had gotten to her head and she failed to realize that she and her friends were actually in a dangerous situation.





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Penny and Zoey -



Episode 15[14] - "No sir!" - Penny and Zoey join hands in solidarity to protest against racial segregation in the classroom on February 8, 1955 during a Black History sketch. Penny dreamed she traveled back in time after slipping on the wet floor and hitting her head while she and her friends were running from the custodian on February 6, 2002, nearly losing her life.

Penny and Zoey are pretty good friends. Though Dijonay and LaCienega are slightly closer to Penny, there too exists a relationship between Penny and Zoey and it serves an important purpose. Like LaCienega, Penny inspires Zoey to be more confident in herself, but in more of a wholesome way. Amongst the group, Zoey is Penny's most reliable friend. Despite Penny and Zoey being the two most conscientious and mature, this pairing still has its ups and downs. Again, like LaCienega, Zoey admires Penny's confidence and leadership but in contrast does not fear it because Zoey has never truly had to compete against Penny. As more of the Beta-Delta personality type, Zoey follows Penny's lead with much enthusiasm and puts a great deal of trust in her. Penny has picked her up at times she was down, saved her from possibly being date raped at a party, and of course provided her with a social circle where she could feel like she belonged despite her awkwardness. Zoey almost always cheers for Penny and supports her at whatever she does. Her biggest contribution was helping Penny with her presidential campaign, even when Dijonay and LaCienega weren't around. Zoey often throws words of encouragement Penny's way and does her best to inspire Penny and the other girls to keep a positive attitude.

**Commented [SF124]:** Unless you wanna count the cheer tryouts which she knew she had no chance at or the Karate competition she also knew she had no chance at.



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Zoey is also important because she serves as a voice of reason whenever Penny is being unreasonable. Penny is human and she too has flaws and makes mistakes and Zoey is usually the one who keeps her in check while still remaining humble. She often makes suggestions and points out things that Penny is unaware of in the moment and it's very helpful. She warned Penny about overstepping her boundaries when speaking up for Olei in Episode 12 after an argument between Penny, Dijonay and Nubia. She also blew the whistle in Episode 22 when Penny transformed into Penné and was uncharacteristically cruel to LaCienega during a meeting at Wizard Tower. "Success is nothing without friends to share it with!" she tells Penné. Zoey has stood up for Penny on numerous occasions as well. She is a driving force that neutralizes the rivalry between Penny and LaCienega and helps them to get along by encouraging them to work together. Penny and LaCienega tend to get along much better in the presence of Zoey whenever Dijonay is absent. In fact, they seem to bond over Zoey a little. However, like every other relationship, there are problems.

Penny sometimes forgets about Zoey since Dijonay and LaCienega are usually in the forefront. She is also aware of Zoey's dorkiness and responds undesirably at times. An example is when Zoey offered to give her some dap and Penny walked off on her. Zoey surely felt rejected. Penny can also be bossy as well. Zoey isn't off the hook either. Zoey is a people pleaser and tends to tell people what they want to hear much of the time because she thinks it will keep the peace. However, it is a dishonest practice and often gets herself and others into trouble. We see this as early as Episode One when Penny and LaCienega were competing for the last spot on the cheer team. She told Penny she was a "shoo-in" to win and then turned around and gushed over LaCienega's performance and got ready to tell her that there's no way she would lose to Penny, causing Penny to frown at the fact that Zoey's words of encouragement no longer seemed genuine. Even worse, this is actually the thing that gave birth to the rivalry between Penny and LaCienega. LaCienega saw Penny's frown and thought it was directed at her causing her to think that Penny had poor sportsmanship and didn't like her. Zoey is also a follower and follows behind the crowd (usually lead by Dijonay) when they ditch Penny, making her look just as bad. Then she betrayed Penny in Episode 12 when she told the Gross Sisters with pleasure that they could "smash Penny" if their makeover on Olei wasn't successful. She was also rude when Myron attempted to ask Penny out on a date after he had won the election by jumping in front of her saying "Out of the way loser!" and joining Myron's team basically undoing all the hard work she had put in to support Penny during her campaign which included sabotaging Wiz Jr. with the recording of him sucking his thumb in bed obtained by the Gross Sisters and their pet dog. Though Penny probably didn't mind because she didn't like Myron anyway, it was still rude regardless.



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Zoey also played an important role in Episode 15[14] when she and Penny lead a protest against racial segregation in the classroom when Penny had a dream, she traveled back to the year 1955. Penny and Zoey have spent one on one time together; quite a bit of it off screen which is ironic considering the fact that Penny is the main character. Zoey is able to see the Penny-LaCienega feud from both sides better than anyone else can and has been able to see the good and the bad in both of them. If she plays her cards right, she might successfully accomplish her goal of bringing peace between two sworn adversaries and getting them to become good friends; after all, a ton of progress has been made. Despite the hiccups, Penny is grateful to have Zoey as a friend. Otherwise, she would end up in a lot more trouble if Zoey wasn't there to hold her accountable. LaCienega tends to hold Penny accountable too, but LaCienega is often loud and rude when she does it making it harder for Penny to cooperate much of the time. Penny and Zoey have a few things in common as well. They both enjoy writing and are conscientious and mature. They both tend to look at the deeper meaning of things instead of settling for what's on the surface like Dijonay and especially LaCienega tend to do much of the time. Penny and Zoey are also the only girls that Peabo is shown to have a crush on in the series. LOL

**Commented [SF125]:** In Louder and Prouder Episode 6, Peabo tried "shooting his shot" at both LaCienega and then Dijonay in the same scene. Of course, the rejected him simply because he was way younger than them.



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**LPDZ - How Teamwork Strengthened Penny and LaCienega's Friendship –**



Episode 22 - Girl group LPDZ performs "We are Best Friends" on stage at school. They put on such a phenomenal performance that it captured the attention of Wizard Kelly himself who signed the girls to a lucrative record deal y'all! A cheerful LaCienega clings onto Penny during their onstage dance routine as Penny utters the word "best friends" as the group's lead singer. LaCienega's smile appears to be the most genuine out of the entire group.

**LPDZ** is a girl group made up of LaCienega, Penny, Dijonay and Zoey who sing and dance much like many of the girl groups and boy bands of the late 1990s and early 2000s. They made their debut in Episode 20<sup>[19]</sup>, when the girls were practicing dance moves on the football field being coached by Michael in preparation for competing in the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest. The LPDZ episodes are extremely significant as they both mark pivotal moments in the development of the girls' friend group, especially Penny and LaCienega. Penny and LaCienega had worked as a team several times before. In Episode 2<sup>[3]</sup>, they along with Dijonay were hanging out together for the first time and were looking to go see a movie but were all broke. As a result, Penny led a protest against all their parents in order to get bigger allowances. For the first time, we saw LaCienega respect Penny's leadership with enthusiasm as they both had a mutual need to solve. In Episode 7, they worked together to beat the boys in a pickup football game where LaCienega followed Penny's instructions as told despite a hostile exchange which led them to victory. In Episode 12, Penny and LaCienega came together peacefully for the first time to do cosmetic work on Zoey while Dijonay was off to the side preparing an outfit for her. They both seemed to be really enjoying it and Penny and LaCienega actually got along quite well throughout the course of the episode. In Episode 14<sup>[21]</sup> of course,



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Penny and LaCienega were thrust into a situation where they had to share a room for an entire week, and they got to know each other on a much deeper level. For the first time, they learned to love one another. LaCienega's greatest passions and biggest insecurities were all exposed in the episode and Penny learned to understand and appreciate her a whole lot more despite her flaws. LaCienega also learned to appreciate Penny a whole lot more after Penny went out of her way to help LaCienega recover from a depressive episode and win the Ms. Wizard Kelly teen pageant while also conquering her biggest insecurity. LaCienega tearfully thanked Penny and admitted she couldn't have accomplished the feat without her on live television and in front of a huge crowd. Though LaCienega was rude to Penny on her way out, she couldn't deny what Penny had done for her and one could tell by her body language that she liked Penny a whole lot more on the way out than she did coming in. LaCienega changed significantly as a character after that episode. In Episode 16[15], Penny and her friends all got suspended from school for something that they didn't do and LaCienega went along with the other girls and Sticky to help Penny catch the real perpetrator. Penny and LaCienega stuck close together for much of the episode. In Episode 18[17], it was apparent that LaCienega got comfortable with Penny as she was the one who went up to get her from her bedroom for school while Dijonay and Zoey waited downstairs. Then finally comes Episode 20[19]. After finishing their routine on the football field, the girls are laying out on the grass as Penny says, "I think we're pretty good!" LaCienega piggybacks on that saying, "Good?! Proud we're the bomb!" For the first time, LaCienega is genuinely saying something to boost Penny's ego although herself was included in that. Along with Dijonay and Zoey, the two were striving to accomplish something big together and while Penny was enthusiastic about it as one would expect, LaCienega was even more enthusiastic. Once they got their chance to perform, LPDZ got on stage and rocked the show. They won the contest with flying colors and once they got the news, we see Penny and LaCienega hugging each other while jumping up and down in celebration. While Dijonay and Zoey were just as excited about the victory, they did not make physical contact. From the looks of it, it seemed as if the victory had personal implications for Penny and LaCienega. All four of them got the victory as a group, but this moment was particularly special for Penny and LaCienega and they came together to share the excitement. The question is why?



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It was no accident that Penny and LaCienega held each other while in this state of ecstasy as this victory was personal for the two of them. For the first time, they accomplished something big together and they couldn't be happier winning this with anyone else besides each other. What does this all mean and why was this such a big moment for these two? Well first, we should investigate whose idea was it to form LPDZ in the first place and enter this dance contest. Keep in mind LaCienega has the most experience competing in contests and winning, while Penny did help LaCienega win one while being mentally handicapped. Penny is also the leader of the group most of the time and the girls often follow her ideas. Dijonay had the connection that allowed the girls to get on the show (via Bethany) and Zoey contributed by having her aunt design their outfits. Then enter Michael, who choreographed the girls' dance routine. There is no definitive evidence on who exactly came up with the idea, when or why as the episodes before don't have and precursors and Episode 20[19] begins showing the girls practicing with Michael. So, here's my theory...





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One day, LaCienega was reading a magazine and she saw that Hip Hop Helicopter was hosting a dance contest for young talented dance groups. LaCienega is usually the one who's always reading magazines, so in this case it started with her. One of two things had to take place next.

1. She brought it to the attention of all three friends simultaneously and suggested that they should enter as a group. Penny and Dijonay get excited as expected but Zoey brings up the fact that they would need a choreographer. After some brainstorming, Penny decides that Michael would be the right man for the job and LaCienega ends up being the one to get Michael on board. (When and where did Michael and LaCienega start getting so close? We'll find out as we go back and dissect Episode 14[21], where he said the exact words that shattered LaCienega's ego for the first time ever in the series. Episode 14[21] in fact, can be its own video analysis). But it's highly likely that Penny might have gotten him involved as well as she's usually the first to take initiative. Penny is also directly associated with Michael through Penny being a member of the football team while Michael's father is the coach. While this was going on, Dijonay went behind the scenes and hit up her cousin Bethany to try and help her and the girls get a spot on the show. After Dijonay secured the spot, that's when Zoey went to her aunt to have the dresses tailored; apparently, none of them knew Michael had skills in fashion design yet at the time. But yet this still doesn't explain why this particular moment was so intimate between Penny and LaCienega. So, here's the other theory...

2. We know that the chances are still high that Boulevardez was the first to learn about the dance contest via magazine as she is the one who keeps up with the latest fashion, parties and mainstream news (which by the way also tells us that LaCienega enjoys reading. After all, she has an 80-inch TV in her bedroom but doesn't seem to use it much). So, when she found out about this, it's possible that she may have actually gone to Proud first before the other girls. This could be because either their families were hanging out together which meant they happened to be in close proximity to one another, or she may have thought working with Penny would give her the best chance to win in this case because she saw all of what Penny accomplished in Episode 7 with football and then how Penny helped her overcome huge obstacles to come back and win the teen pageant in Episode 14[21]. Off camera, LaCienega actually comes to Penny for help.

If you notice, the group is called LPDZ. It starts with L, followed by P. Despite Penny being the main character of the show, LaCienega's L is at the beginning and Penny is the Number 2 which suggests that it may have started with LaCienega before going to Penny and then to Dijonay and then to Zoey. Even though L is the first letter, Penny still eventually became the star of the group and the fame got to her head really fast.



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Also, when Penny lost her mind, transformed to Penné and selfishly discarded the girls, LaCienega was hit the hardest emotionally. Given her past history, it's easy to say that LaCienega was just being mean again and wanted to tear Penny down because she's jealous of her but this really isn't the case. First off, Penny clearly was the one in the wrong this time around and for her to behave so selfishly is way out of character for her, hence why she became Penné. Penny and Penné are the same person but not the same character. LaCienega felt closer to Penny than ever when they won the Hip Hop Helicopter Dance Contest in Episode 20[19] and in Episode 22 actually believed for the first time that she and Proud were best friends. But Penny; I mean Penné did to LaCienega what LaCienega did to her in Episode 14[21] after all Penny had gone through for her. Penny put up with LaCienega and her intense personality for an entire week, lost sleep as a result of her crying at night while taking up space in her bed, helping LaCienega to recover from depression while fighting to keep herself from spiraling downward right along with her and even getting her Dad involved and of course coming up with the idea that eventually won LaCienega the contest while getting Oscar to spend hundreds, possibly even thousands of dollars to pay for setting up a pool on stage, an ugly duckling costume, a beautiful swan swimsuit and getting background swimmers and possibly a professional choreographer of some sort as well as rehearsal time. This is the type of thing the Boulevardez family is able to afford more-so than the Prouds, but Oscar went through with it just for LaCienega to turn around and do this...



"That was just for the cameras Proud! I'm popular again! And I have plenty of friends, but if I need an extra one, I'll let you know! ... And by the way, it won't be YOU!" - LaCienega



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Ouch! That's cold. Just then we saw some of the absolute worst of LaCienega and this is perhaps the scene above all others that made me (among millions of others) dislike her as a kid. Though there's more to LaCienega's actions here than what meets the eye, what she did was still foul and in Episode 22, she would pay the price for it, dearly! In the meantime, Penny actually handled this well. She said she liked the old LaCienega better and felt like she succeeded in healing her and bringing her back to her old self. I'm pretty sure LaCienega went home, thought about this and was pleased that Proud was willing to accept her for who she truly was, something she desperately longed for. Her personality toward Penny changed for good in later episodes immediately following this brutal encounter. This is why it's important to read LaCienega's body language and her actions before listening to what she says because LaCienega tends to act on her strong emotions and many of her actions contradict her words; because eight episodes later, this happens...



LaCienega - "Penny, do something! I thought we were best friends!"

Penny - "We have never been best friends LaCienega!"

Zoey - "Aren't you being a bit cold Penny?"

Wizard Kelly - "Actually it's pronounced Penné, like the spaghetti y'all! It's all a part of that goin' solo thang!"



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Boy, karma is a bitch as it all goes downhill from this point forward. To be honest, this was still unfair because Dijonay and Zoey suffered just as much as a result of this and perhaps didn't deserve it as much as LaCienega. What's also interesting to take note of is that in this scene, the darker side of Penny's emotions toward her friends actually rise to the surface as her ego reaches its highest point ever in the series. Penné is now the new LaCienega of the group and it appears that when Penny's ego gets to be too high, she has the potential to be much worse than LaCienega. Also, her exchanges with Dijonay and LaCienega happened to be harsher than her exchanges with Zoey in particular. Zoey seemed to be the only one out of the group who was still able to get through to Penny with her words. As the girls were being dragged out, Zoey made a last-ditch effort to save Penny; "Penny, just remember, success means nothing if you don't have friends to share it with!" These words plant a seed as Penné internalizes this before Wizard Kelly begins distracting her with enormous amounts of cash and riches in order to try and help her to forget about her friends.



In spite of all of this LaCienega has the most difficult time moving on without Penny. She was frozen in a state of shock as security dragged her and the others out of Wizard Tower. She was unable to process what was taking place as quickly as Dijonay and Zoey did. Dijonay was clearly furious, Zoey was clearly in dismay, but LaCienega looks like a soulless puppet as she stares aimlessly. For her, it's all happening so fast and she doesn't even know what to think. Perhaps maybe Penny of all people would set things straight and stand up for her friends, right?



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Wrong! This is not the first time we've seen the flight or fight response from LaCienega as we saw in Episode 14[21] what happened when Michael spoke the words that made everyone laugh at her, only this time it's a bit less intense as she is not alone in this situation. When LaCienega gets quiet and stiff like this, it means something is seriously wrong and a possible meltdown is on the way. Even after all the dirt LaCienega had done in the past, she never could've imagined seeing Penny behave like this. She expects better from Penny, even more than from her own self, but of course, she'll never say this out loud. As LaCienega struggles to move on, she's the one who actually purchases Penné's magazine and has Dijonay and Zoey gather around to read it with her. She gets to the fifth page before crumbling the entire thing and launching it with all of her strength. Seeing Proud become an even greater narcissist than her? Well, it sickens her!



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LaCienega - "Ooooh.... I can't stand her!"



There is no doubt in my mind that LaCienega was crying inside at this moment.





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Much like Episode 3[2], we see once again that LaCienega has strong feelings towards Penny and she has her reasons. With the way the show is written, the viewer is supposed to look at LaCi as an aggressor who's just simply there antagonize Penny. We're made to see things through Penny's eyes and root for her at every turn. We get the impression that LaCienega is evil and does the things she does because she just takes pleasure in making Penny miserable and that's all. Since the show isn't really about LaCienega, it's easy to forget that she's human just like everyone else around her. She's far from perfect, but she too has a soul. Penny hurt her in Episode One by making her feel uncomfortable in her new environment, though this was unintentional, and it happened more-so because LaCienega's hypersensitivity clouded her judgement causing her to misread the situation. Then in Episode 3[2], LaCienega was hurt because she felt like Penny was trying to exclude her by not inviting her to her sleepover; but Penny was being reasonable because LaCienega had been rude to her and Penny couldn't understand why. This time however, Penny is actually in the wrong and LaCienega once again is hurt. Penny took everything they built together and just threw it away like it was nothing, much like LaCienega does with this magazine which by the way she had just spent her own money on. By buying it, she still supported Penny and clearly, LaCienega missed Penny even more than Dijonay and Zoey did at this time. This is impressive considering the fact that Dijonay had been Penny's best friend the longest and LaCienega was designed to be Penny's adversary. It shows us that LaCienega cares deeply about Penny and that she has reasons for the things that she does. Though these reasons are not always justified, she's not the psychopath that so many viewers of The Proud Family were led to believe. LaCienega was so disappointed because also, she looked up to Penny. Penny was inspiring her to be a better person all this time and in a matter of seconds the Penny she knew had disappeared right in front of her. To make matters worse, Sunset and Papi continued to support Penné. As LaCienega lead the charge to spray Penné with super soakers, Papi mercilessly arrested her and laughed while doing it!



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LaCienega - "Pero Papi, it's me! Your nieta!"

I mean how much more egregious can this be?! Was it right for the girls to try and do this? No, of course not. But Penny did them bogus and this is his precious granddaughter! His only granddaughter in fact, and yet this was a joke to him. Well now, LaCienega and her friends all have arrest records which will probably affect each of their chances of getting into college or university or getting a job. Fortunately, they're minors, and could probably get this expunged, especially since Sunset is a cop. But how can you tell? While this is going on, Sunset is here...



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Way to go Mom! Your daughter just got an arrest record outside the building you're in and you're watching her biggest rival win a Grammy Award after she completely screwed her over and discarded her like a piece of shit and you're in here celebrating. Not to mention you're a cop and your only daughter just got arrested by her own grandfather who is your father-in-law! Absolutely embarrassing; but yet there's no shame, no guilt, no nothing!



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I mean LaCienega is just getting shat on right now. This episode just shits all over LaCienega despite the fact that she was actually a pretty good person here. It's hard not to feel bad for her. As you can see the girls are in jail with adult prisoners. They are now in serious danger! But then again, they're not, as the prisoners actually feel sorry for the girls. This situation is so fucked up that even the prisoners feel sorry for them! And if that weren't bad enough, they still get to see Penné on TV receiving the award without them as now it's her turn to give thanks to those that helped her get there!



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Wow! So, Penny thanked everyone but the girls! I mean seriously this is starting to become hard to watch. Remember, in Episode [14\[21\]](#) when LaCienega got up on stage and thanked her friend, Penny for caring about her on live television while in front of the audience? And she thanked Penny with utmost importance.



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LaCienega - "And most of all I'd like to thank my friend Penny Proud for caring about me. I couldn't have done this without you Penny!"

She even did it with tears falling from her eyes! So, despite the snotty remarks on the way out the door at the end of the episode, apparently, she didn't do it just for the cameras after all because what LaCienega did actually benefited Penny more than it benefited herself. This was clearly genuine as this pageant was very important to LaCienega and she almost gave up. But with the help of Penny, she accomplished the impossible and won while battling depression and conquering her biggest insecurity, there's no way she could've faked that, unless she's an Oscar-worthy actress, which is ironic considering that a guy named Oscar played a huge role in her victory as well. But Penny didn't mention them at all, or even her own father! Instead, she thanked Bobby in his place. Bobby did deserve credit, but she even went as far as to say Bobby was like a father to her. Wow, Penny was a had evolved into a full-borne Jezebel to so many people and wasn't suffering any real consequences for it. Dijonay is just furious and, in this case, she has every right to be. But LaCienega clearly had it the worst and it doesn't seem to be letting up. Boy, how the tables have turned! If Penny had the same ego LaCienega had, she certainly has the potential to be far worse. LaCienega showed more class and decency when winning her award than Penny when she won hers. LaCienega didn't even have any real pressure on her to thank Penny, she chose to do it. Penny on the other hand chose not to.





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This is why at the end of the episode, when Penny finally came to her senses, LaCienega was the most reluctant to forgive her, because she was hit brutally hard by the whole experience, even compared to Dijonay and Zoey. Don't mess with Penny Proud's ego or you will pay the price! Thanks to Zoey, Penny was able to rise back to the surface and put an end to the Jezebel demon that was Penné once and for all and become her old self again.



Episode 22 – The girls give Penny a group hug after they received confirmation that Penny had quit her music career because she missed being with her friends. Penny proved once again that she had a heart of gold.

**Commented [SF126]:** Zoey planted the seeds and those seeds sprouted and gave Penny a fighting chance to regain control and return to normalcy. LaCienega was hesitant to welcome Penny back as expected, she experienced the most pain and suffering during Penné's short career. But with Zoey's nudging she embraced the moment and co-signed to Zoey's ice-cream invite. LaCienega and the other girls are glad to have Penny back in the fold but there has certainly been some damage done between Penny and LaCienega as a result of this ordeal and LaCienega certainly needs some time to recover. But Penny's noble efforts once again gives them a chance to overcome yet another horrible experience.



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**Episode 7 – Penny’s Leadership**



In Episode 7, Penny, Dijonay, LaCienega, Zoey and the Gross Sisters were all playing a pickup football game against Sticky, Omar, and Franklin. 7 Girls VS 3 Guys, there had to be a reason for that. Anyways when the girls got in the huddle, Penny took charge and called the play. Zoey says - “Penny, I really admire the way you take charge in a time of crisis!” Nubia gets jealous and says, “Who died and made Proud the boss?!” Zoey suggests that Nubia calls the play, but she is unable to so Penny retains the reigns. Penny tells LaCienega to run a fly pattern...

Penny - “Alright LaCienega, you line up on the left and run a fly pattern.”

LaCienega - “I’m not running anywhere in these expensive shoes jughead! And what is a fly pattern anyway?”

Penny - “Look just walk about ten yards, stop and look fly. While Omar is dazzled by your phoniness, I’ll cut behind you!”

Penny was clearly irritated with LaCienega and insulted both her intelligence her character while giving her instructions on how to run a ‘fly’ pattern.



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LaCienega flirts with Omar in order to distract him as Penny runs deep to catch a pass from Nubia to win the game. Penny told her to run a fly route. Since LaCienega doesn't know what a fly route is, Penny just told her to walk about 10 yards, stop and look fly and she did just that, dazzling Omar with her phoniness.

Despite LaCienega's snarky attitude and Penny's ensuing insult, LaCienega still followed Penny's instructions, literally! She actually went down there and distracted Omar with her good looks and flirted with him causing Penny's plan to succeed. It shows how she still allowed Penny to lead her even after the debacle that took place at the end of Episode 2[3] where she followed Penny's lead the first time. Also, it seemed like LaCienega listened to Zoey's words regarding Penny's leadership and actually took it to heart despite having an attitude. Despite LaCienega being at odds with Penny still at this point in the series, she still trusted Penny and respected her leadership.



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In this same episode, LaCienega tries to make fun of Penny because she knows her Dad is taking her to the school dance. When Penny makes a comeback, LaCienega is pissed off and it actually takes her an extended period of time just to process Penny's insult. It appears she was internalizing what Penny said. Her very next line was a swift agreeance with Penny when she tells Dijonay, "Sticky doesn't like you!" LaCienega made sure she was quick to agree with Penny after their hostile exchange. This was intentional by LaCienega and there are several possible reasons why...

1. LaCienega was caught off guard by Penny's swift comeback and wasn't fully accustomed to Penny's confidence though she was learning about it all through this episode. It took her some time to process it as she is sensitive. LaCienega has deep, intense feelings that she keeps stuffed down.
2. She wanted to deflect the negative energy and attention off herself and she saw an opening once the focus was on Dijonay.
3. She gained a little respect for Penny in that moment (which brings us to 4)
4. She passive aggressively wanted to win back cool points with Penny by agreeing with something she said (which brings us to 5)
5. Penny just called LaCienega snotty, LaCienega is self-aware and knew what Penny was saying was true. LaCienega was acting snotty and as a result, Penny's words cut deep. She internalized her comment and it hurt her feelings. This is one of the hardest pieces of evidence that LaCienega secretly placed high value on Penny's opinion of her. She wanted to try and appear less snotty



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in the best way she could in the moment which she believed would be more desirable to Penny.



At the homecoming dance, LaCienega waited by the door alone just to greet Penny and find out who her date was. She is wearing blue which is highly unusual for her as red is her favorite color. It actually shows LaCienega has some school spirit as the Ribbs Racers' school colors are light blue, royal blue and white. She also commented on the bandage on Penny's face which shows she was well aware of Penny's amazing performance on the football field, though she didn't say this aloud. Penny tells LaCienega to "Leave me alone." We see here that LaCienega actually enjoys interacting with Penny, even if it does mean to mess with her for fun. Nevertheless, LaCienega was happy to see that Penny had made it to the dance. Also, who was LaCienega's date? She didn't appear to have one at all despite her making fun of Penny being stuck with her Dad. Dijonay at least had Sticky to dance with and we ended up not seeing Zoey at all, though she claimed to be taking a guy named Marcus (stat nerd).





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Are Penny or any of her Friends THOTs? -

When you realize she was the original disney thot



In a poorly designed Facebook meme, Dijonay Jones was labeled a THOT. Dijonay has a lot of problems with her character, but one thing's for sure, she is NOT a THOT.

If anything, I think out of the four girls, Zoey is probably closest to being a THOT. Probably the last thing a person would think, but there are some things to take into consideration.



Dijonay -

Though she looks the part, Dijonay is not a THOT. She only wanted Sticky and was loyal to him until Penelope gave her the idea to date Duke to make him jealous after Sticky dissed her in front of everyone during a game of Kiss or Diss hosted by Hip Hop Helicopter's Big Boi! Surprisingly, Dijonay was actually a great girlfriend to Duke and treated him very well, supporting him, and even cooking him an entire meal while on a surfboard which is amazing. Dijonay chased Sticky around and often overwhelmed and embarrassed him which often caused him to run away. So, she's more of a stalker than a THOT. Dijonay however has flirted with other guys but always comes back to Sticky.





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LaCienega -

Though LaCienega is my favorite, she's actually much closer to being a THOT than Dijonay. She likes to have all the boys to herself much of the time and dated Wizard Kelly Jr. because he was rich, and his dad of course is the most powerful person on the show. This certainly qualifies her as a gold-digger which is a THOT-like tendency. The thing that saves LaCienega from being a THOT, however, is that she DOES NOT give her body up easily. Remember, LaCienega places abnormally high value on herself. She simply wants attention so that she has the power to pick and choose from a large number of options. Being desired by all of the boys makes her feel powerful. She'd get a kick out of making guys work exceptionally hard to get inside because it would make her feel special and puts high value on her body and self. In fact, LaCienega knows more than anyone else that playing 'hard to get' will make the boys desire her even more. She even said to Zoey after her makeover, "You're gonna be turning down boys like, mad at the school dance!" Yes, turning down boys is LaCienega's idea of fun!



Penny -

Penny is not too far off either. She's been involved with the most boys, has the highest libido of the four girls and actually came the closest to having sex with both Gary in Episode 20[19] and Fifteen Cent in the Movie. Penny however is very responsible and the best out of her group of friends at exercising self-control which helps her to make the best decisions when it comes to dealing with guys among other things. Also, you could probably thank Oscar too! Even when presented with the opportunity, Penny will choose to protect her body.



Zoey -

If anything, Zoey actually would be most likely to be the THOT. If she had the same level of social power as Penny or LaCienega, she wouldn't be able to handle it as well. We kinda got a glimpse of this in the Episode 12 where Penny, LaCienega and Dijonay teamed up to give Zoey a makeover and it completely changed her. She became shallow and was even ready to sell Penny out to the Gross Sisters. Luckily for her, she did become aware of how the makeover pulled her away from her true self and decided it was best to get rid of it after Sergi (the guy she was chasing at the time) said it made her less desirable. Also, in Episode 20[19], Penny literally had to drag Zoey out of Gary's party even though those shady high school kids were just trying to fuck. Penny, Dijonay and LaCienega knew what the guys were up to. None of them were down for it, but Zoey didn't care. She refused to leave because she "love[d] the power!!!"



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**Positioning and Formations –**



This is the scene in the movie where the evil Dr. Carver clone releases the Proud Family clones on Penny and her allies. The arrangement in this scene is powerful and symbolic. Let's break it down. There is a total of 13 characters on Penny's side, 9 are base characters and 4 are sidekicks. The sidekicks would be BeBe (Trudy), CeCe (Oscar), Puff (Suga Mama) and Cashew (Dr. Carver). BeBe & CeCe are being held by Mommy and Daddy respectively. Puff is Suga Mama's pet and sidekick and Cashew is Carver's true sidekick. The Proud Family members are all grouped together. Penny is the main protagonist of The Proud Family. She is placed front and center and appears to be the leader of the group as expected. Around Penny are several arrangement patterns. Oscar is the adult protagonist of the Proud Family. He is standing directly behind Penny for he is Penny's father. He is the one who protects Penny from all of the things she cannot see, hence why he is strict on her and doesn't let her hang out with boys. He is the backbone that supports and takes care of her. If Penny has a problem, the first person she can always fall back on is her Daddy. Oscar on the other hand, is holding one of his baby girls while standing behind the other. Like most fathers, Oscar places high value on his daughters. They are the love of his life. Next, we see Trudy who stands to the left of Penny (from their POV) for she is Penny's mother. She is the one who comes before Penny and passes love and wisdom down to her. Penny looks up to her mom who gives her advice and is always by her side whenever Penny needs her. Suga Mama is directly to the left of her son Oscar much like Trudy is to the left of her daughter Penny. Trudy is located diagonally to her husband to the front and left. Oscar is the man in Trudy's life and despite Trudy having a higher paying job, Oscar is still her man and he's there to give her strength and support both physically and emotionally. Oscar vows to protect his wife (who is holding his baby son as well) from the dangers that creepeth about. They are located in a crossing position representing the tying of the knot of love. Suga Mama is located diagonally to the back and left of Penny. She is the mother of her father and she too came before Penny and also her dad. Love is what holds these two together. To the right of Penny is LaCienega Boulevardez, Penny's closest friend who is not her best friend. LaCienega is the one who's closest to Penny in proximity and relations as their families are very close to one another and often get together as if they are one family.



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LaCienega is like the sister Penny never had as they are very similar to one another, have similar families and their lives run quite parallel. No one in the friend group admires Penny as much as LaCienega does, and despite them being in denial, Penny and LaCienega are spiritually connected and were destined to be in each other's lives. Mr. and Mrs. Proud will go to bat and be there for LaCienega just as if she were their own. LaCienega is Suga Mama's "other grand-baby" courtesy of her wacky relationship with LaCienega's *abuelo* Caesar Boulevardez who everyone calls Papi. LaCienega serves as the gatekeeper (where Dijonay once stood) to Penny's social life and she is Penny's right-hand girl. Penny and LaCienega are usually next to one another during big moments and dire situations and this is perhaps the most dire situation they've ever been in together. Of course, LaCienega picks a bad time to crack a joke in the moment. She thinks her jokes will "lighten the mood" much of the time but instead they antagonize people. Well, gatekeeper is certainly an appropriate term as LaCienega showed that she didn't want Penny to have a social life without her. Next is Dijonay, the girl who was created to be Penny's best friend but failed to live up to this on many occasions. While Dijonay broke trust and became gradually distant from Penny, LaCienega gradually got closer. Nonetheless, Dijonay was the first to bring Penny and LaCienega together despite it being over negative implications. It's fair to say in that moment Dijonay was a bit torn when her two closest friends had to compete for a spot on the cheer team which she was the captain, because the school only had one uniform left. Dijonay is still arguably the most important piece in Penny's social life as she is Penny's longest tenured friend. She still knows Penny a bit better than LaCienega does and did introduce Penny to a lot of people. Penny, LaCienega and Dijonay are all lined up in the front row together. LaCienega is front and center in relation to the social group. LaCienega is the most recognizable at school because of her good looks and her knack for dressing fly combined. She was voted the most popular girl at school but notice Penny (who is realistically more popular) is to her left. This is because LaCienega looks up to Penny, who is down to earth and inspires her to be more confident and mature. She humbles herself and asks for Penny's advice and opinions often. This is because LaCienega trusts Penny the most. Behind LaCienega and Dijonay is Zoey. Zoey is the glue that holds the group together. Penny's temper, stubbornness and competitive traits; LaCienega's emotionality, arrogance and her own competitive traits; and Dijonay's tendency to gossip and be untrustworthy are a recipe for disaster over the long term. However, Zoey's presence adds charm and positive energy to help neutralize those negative traits and often give the girls reasons to cooperate and stick together. She is often a voice of reason whenever Penny is not. Zoey even keeps Penny in check. Penny can be overly confident and think she's right at times when she's not. However, Zoey is a follower and usually copies what she sees Dijonay and/or LaCienega says and does. She often appears to be in the background. Notice that LaCienega isn't directly next to Penny but a bit behind her. In fact, one could draw a straight line from Penny to Zoey through LaCienega. To Dijonay's right is her man Sticky. Sticky is certainly cool with all the girls in the group and perhaps Penny's closest male friend. However, he's not as close with her as the girls are and Dijonay is the girl in the group he's actually closest to. It also fits that he's positioned diagonally in front of Zoey as they both carry



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the “nerd gene” to a degree. They are both intellectuals. Penny’s friends are basically lined up in a bunch formation to the right keeping the four of them balanced and at an even distance from one another. And for Dr. Carver, it’s his island and he is positioned to the far left next to Suga Mama who apparently is obsessed with him in the moment. The positioning is perfect in this scene.

[TO BE CONTINUED]



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Additional **NOTES** –

Episode One is very revealing of the characters and the roles they play further down the line. Trudy is the first to mention that she believed that LaCienega liked Penny. However, Penny said LaCienega was just playing them. Turns out, they were both right.

In Episode One, LaCienega brought Penny a present when she and her family visited the Proud House for the first time. However, we never get to find out what's inside because Puff intercepted the box. We then see Puff eating the contents of the box in a later scene meaning she gave Penny some sort of food item. It wasn't dog food because Puff prefers table food. It's possible she may have baked Penny cookies or cupcakes, but we'll never truly know.

LaCienega is a brutally honest person but has been seen acting phony before. This is because her mother Sunset is fake, and she trains her daughter to be that way. LaCienega is especially honest with Penny and Zoey, her two closest friends.

Penny dislikes a lot of things about LaCienega; however, she grows to accept LaCienega and sees her as an important part of her life. LaCienega is pleased when Penny finally begins to accept her. Deep down they have strong feelings towards one another and are really close when they accomplish something together.

LaCienega has had Penny's back more than Dijonay despite their rivalry. Their rivalry even forced the two into situation where they had to work together to bury their rivalry in front of their parents to avoid getting into trouble (Episode 32) and in the process, they actually bonded and saw each other's good sides. LaCienega also made Penny laugh for the first time, much to her own enjoyment.

LaCienega never tried to crush Penny's confidence again after seeing what had happened to Penny in Episode 30.

LaCienega was the only person to actually help Penny clean up after a big house party in Episode 31.

Both Penny and LaCienega called each other "friends" on multiple occasions but then also refuted this claim.

Penny and LaCienega show each other a lot of affection subconsciously.

**Commented [SF127]:** Yes, LaCienega was being disingenuous the first, mainly because her mother told her to be on her best behavior and she obeyed her mother so to speak. She and Penny got off to a horrible start and did not get along. However, Trudy was able to see early that LaCienega did like Penny a bit underneath all the crudeness.

**Commented [SF128]:** Yes, she's known Dijonay longer but their communication seemed to break down a little towards the second half of season two and eventually began having their own small moments of conflict. Meanwhile, Penny and LaCienega were getting closer every episode on a subconscious level and LaCienega and Zoey had been close for a while outside of LaCienega taunting Zoey's geekiness from time to time.



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LaCienega loves being next to Penny, especially in public.

In Episode One, LaCienega was the last one of Penny's friend group to be introduced. She was "the Grand Finale" of all introductions and actually got more screen time than Dijonay, Sticky and Zoey.

LaCienega is the closest to Penny's family and is considered by Oscar, Trudy and Suga Mama to be a part of the family. Sunset also strongly supports Penny as well; a lot of times even more than her own daughter.

Penny proved she was LaCienega's best friend when LaCienega assembled the girls to go and rescue Papi in Episode 43[42]. When Penny got scared and became hesitant, LaCienega grabbed Penny by the hand and yanked her in yelling, "I WANNA SEE MY PAPI NOW!" Apparently, LaCienega either knew she needed Penny in that moment or just wanted her to be there with her. A few minutes later, when Dijonay got her head stuck in a bucket, LaCienega didn't stop to pull Dijonay along. Dijonay remained off screen for a considerable amount of time and missed an important part of the action. Penny also held LaCienega by the shoulder when she saw her Papi suffering to comfort her. When they got bumped off, Penny and Zoey made a break for it; but LaCienega loved her Papi so much she was frozen and couldn't run. Penny turned around and grabbed LaCienega so that she wouldn't get into trouble. Penny also stood by LaCienega's side when confronting Helga. Penny's parents and Suga Mama were in attendance too as they are closely associated with Papi as well. Penny was just as furious as LaCienega and the two stood together like a dangerous duo.

LaCienega responds well to Suga Mama as if Suga Mama is her grandmother too. In Episode 33, when Suga Mama asked, "How my babies doing?" Penny and LaCienega were the only ones to speak. Suga Mama also agreed with LaCienega after Penny botched the investigation into the stolen watch by wrongfully accusing Wizard Jr. of stealing it leading to him dump LaCienega. When Penny came to apologize the very same night, LaCienega was happy to see Penny despite what had happened earlier. She was also very appreciative of Penny's apology as shown in her body language. Penny asked, "So are we girls again?" LaCienega responded, "We never were!" Penny responded, "That works for me!" They were both smiling and in a happy mood and bumped fists. It seemed at that point that they grew together so much that were taking their rivalry as a joke.

Dijonay and LaCienega both did an excellent job of following girl code in Episode 20[19] when Penny was talking to Gary at the high school party. Gary was aggressive and was clearly trying to have sex with Penny. They covered her back and when Gary tried to make the move, Dijonay was clearly pissed at him and LaCienega was visibly worried and concerned about Penny's safety. LaCienega did not want Penny to get into trouble that night. She was next to Penny the majority of the night as well. This is also one of the few times Dijonay





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was actually a good friend to Penny as well. Dijonay and LaCienega also gave each other high fives when they got Penny back home before her parents. Though Dijonay had purposely gotten Penny in trouble before, she actually felt a sense of accomplishment when she got Penny to go to the party and avoided getting her caught by her parents initially. LaCienega on the other hand actually doesn't necessarily like getting Penny into trouble and has even tried her best not to at times. The only time LaCienega intentionally got Penny into trouble was Episode 3[2], when she locked her in the closet with Myron because she was mad that Penny didn't invite her to her "sleepover."

Speaking of which, LaCienega usually learns her lesson when she does something to antagonize Penny and it brings adverse results. Even when Penny is the one negatively affected, LaCienega usually doesn't do the same thing again.

Despite LaCienega's conceited ways which Penny absolutely despises, Penny hates to see LaCienega bored, sad, or drained and is willing to put up with LaCienega's undesirable traits in order for her to stay happy and upbeat. Penny wants LaCienega to be happy and it is painful for her to see LaCienega cry or have an emotional break down. In Episode 3[2], Penny was about to fight LaCienega. She went from getting ready to beat the shit out of her to singing to her in under 2 minutes. This is because Penny suffered a brief emotional breakdown after LaCienega started a rumor about her and it made her life miserable. Then when those same rumors got turned around on LaCienega, LaCienega began to deteriorate much faster than Penny and Penny couldn't bear to watch so she shouted "STOP!" before giving a speech about how rumors (lies) tear people apart much to LaCienega's surprise. LaCienega felt guilty and virtually disappeared for the next two episodes. On thing's for sure, she gained a lot of respect for Penny in that moment. Episode 14[21] is self-explanatory and in Episode 28, Penny and LaCienega actually bonded quite a bit, mostly on Penny's part. They sat close to each other by the river and also when Penny saw LaCienega was bored and drained she complained to her dad about how boring it was.

Penny took a fall for LaCienega in Episode One when the Gross Sisters tried to sabotage LaCienega's cheer routine and got seriously injured in the process. LaCienega actually came over thank Penny for "Taking that little spin for me!" and was genuine. However, Penny was in a bad mood and was still pissed at LaCienega for all the other times LaCienega was rude to her before that. So, Penny said, "It's the least you can do!" with an attitude pissing LaCienega off to the point where she withdrew her "Thank you."

Dijonay pit Penny and LaCienega against each other in Episode One, but she did at least make an attempt in Episode 2[3] to make it right by bringing them together for a girls' day out at the movies. LaCienega actually made an effort to get along with Penny in that episode by agreeing with her and joining Penny's protest against their parents. It all fell apart however when the kids became demoralized after going several days without food and LaCienega got scared



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after a spider crawled on her, causing her to quit. Penny tried to get her to stay and LaCienega angrily fired back, "Why should I? We're not even friends!" They did exchange insults early in the episode; however, Penny was actually the aggressor.

Despite LaCienega thinking so highly of herself, she's been humble enough to admit that they're a lot of things she can't do without Penny's help, like the scene in Episode 43[42] mentioned earlier. Also, Episode 20[19] when the girls talked her into going to the party because "Come on Penny, we can't do this without you!" Also, when LaCienega won the Miss Wizard Kelly Teen Pageant in Episode 14[21], regaining her confidence, she tearfully admitted in front of a huge crowd on live television that she couldn't have done it without Penny when she didn't really have to. That clearly befitted Penny more than it befitted herself.

In Episode 18[17], Dijonay, LaCienega and Zoey arrived at Penny's house to pick her up for school. LaCienega was the only one to actually go upstairs to get Penny from her bedroom off camera.

When it comes to poetry, it's apparent that LaCienega admires Penny's poetry writing talents and is Penny's biggest fan, even more so than Dijonay. That is until Dijonay discovers she's even more talented than Penny at poetry. Even when the spotlight was on Dijonay, LaCienega still made it about Penny (though with negative implications). She also enjoyed watching Penny be the jealous one for once.

Penny and LaCienega actually get along much better when Dijonay is not around most of the time.

Interestingly, LaCienega always seems to root for Penny whenever Penny is talking to a guy he likes (besides Episode 16[15]) and usually supports her in any way possible. The only time LaCienega actively competed with Penny over boys was in Episode 8 when LaCienega invited her, Dijonay and Zoey to the amusement park with her to pick up guys. A fat guy named Carlos started trying to talk to LaCienega, so LaCienega created a distraction by pushing BeBe & CeCe's stroller away so that Penny would be stuck with Carlos. This situation is not as straight forward as it seems. First off, Penny's parents forced her to take BeBe & CeCe with her in the first place. As a result, this made Penny an easy target for LaCienega to do what she did. I don't think this was a personal attack on Penny but rather a get out of jail free card to get away from talking to Carlos. Penny did win in the end though. She did lock Penny in the closet with Myron the dork, but this was simply to humiliate Penny and get back at her for not inviting her to her so-called "party." However, LaCienega helped Penny find her secret lover in Episode 16[15] despite being jealous, cheered for Penny when Gary first asked to dance with her, watched as she got her opportunity to talk to Omar, cheered Penny on as she got approached by Johnny Lovely, and offered Penny an Altoid when trying to kiss Tory in Episode 37 so that her breath wouldn't smell bad and embarrass herself. After Penny snatched and ate all her



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Altoids, LaCienega didn't get mad, she instead offered Penny her lip gloss which is a personal item. Penny ate that too and LaCienega said "Ewwwww..." She didn't try to force Penny to replace it or anything. Also, when Oscar came to get Penny, LaCienega along with Zoey covered for her while Dijonay eagerly ratted her out instead. Speaking of which Dijonay has jumped in front of Penny and interfered several times when a guy approached Penny and tried to talk to her which pissed Penny off time and time again. LaCienega has never done this even though she knows she has more potential to compete with Penny than Dijonay does when it comes to picking up guys. In the movie, rapper Fifteen Cent went to go talk to Penny and Dijonay interrupted yet again. Even Zoey tried to get his attention, but LaCienega never got in the way, she only cheered Penny on. LaCienega is perhaps the best wingman (or in this case wing girl) for Penny in the series.

LaCienega insults people a lot, but one pattern we notice is that LaCienega has a tendency to deflect. Bad things that are true about herself are often the things LaCienega points out about other people. She talks about how big Penny's forehead is, even though her own forehead is way bigger. She says in Episode 35, "I can't help it if your parents' marriage is on the rocks!" even though she knows her own parents' marriage is in the same condition. I think she's also a bit jealous of Penny and Dijonay because they have siblings and she doesn't. LaCienega insults people all of the time, yet she is hypersensitive to criticism herself.

LaCienega was the last person to ditch Penny in Episode 52 when Chester the duck went berserk on everyone. She nearly stuck around and attempted to lighten the mood by telling a lighthearted joke, but then the angry duck ran her off too.

Penny and LaCienega were briefly in a prank war with one another. In Episode 13, Penny did the hair strand prank on LaCienega, the one in which she splashed water in Myron and the Gross Sisters' face at the start of the episode. LaCienega got her back in the following episode by using the shocker ring when shaking her hand.

Penny and LaCienega stood next to one another like a duo when meeting the boys at Al Roker's night club.

LaCienega has an exceptional ability to read people and predict what a person is going to say right before they actually say it. It turns out she inherits this special ability from her mother Sunset, just like many other traits.



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Here's a list –

Penny allowed LaCienega to sleep in her bed

LaCienega has prepared food for Penny

Penny cares deeply about LaCienega's happiness

LaCienega cares deeply about Penny's feelings towards her

Penny saved LaCienega from serious injury

LaCienega saved Penny from embarrassing herself in front of a guy she likes  
(Keep in mind the value LaCienega places on good looks and dating guys)

Penny refused to leave LaCienega behind when rescuing Papi from the retirement home

LaCienega refused to leave Penny behind when rescuing Papi from the retirement home

LaCienega brought Penny a present

Penny helped LaCienega recover from depression and regain her confidence

Penny showed she trusted LaCienega by coming to her for help after being thrown into boot camp

LaCienega showed she trusted Penny by exclusively asking her if Shirley Chisholm would wear a miniskirt

Penny once sang to directly to LaCienega.

LaCienega leans on or toward Penny often

LaCienega made Penny laugh and they were both happy when it happened.

LaCienega purchased Penné's magazine after Penné had ditched her, showing that she missed her.



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### Interesting Facts -



Dijonay - "It's between my girl Penny Proud, and my other girl, LaCienega Boulevardez!"  
Dijonay is also between Penny and LaCienega right now, so what does she represent here?

Ironically, Penny was the first to feel jealousy toward LaCienega before LaCienega ever got jealous of her. Penny was jealous of LaCienega when she saw her and her best friend Dijonay having a reunion-based bonding moment in Episode One. She felt like this girl was stealing her best friend away. For years and years Penny believed Dijonay was her best friend and that she was Dijonay's best friend until LaCienega crashed the party. Competing for the last spot on the cheer team didn't help this conflict either.

Strangely enough, Trudy (Penny's mom) was jealous in the same way when she saw her best friend Sunset (LaCienega's mom) bonding with housekeeper René in Episode 34. Penny and Trudy are both possessive of their best friends and tend to get jealous easily. Trudy was extremely jealous of René because she did such a fantastic job around the house that Trudy felt like she was being replaced. Penny's insecurity was well on display as soon as LaCienega stepped onto the screen. Funny thing is, once LaCienega actually began trying to make Penny feel insecure on purpose, Penny's confidence overrode her insecurity and she was able to defend herself against LaCienega's aggression.

In the next episode, Dijonay who looked as if she had pitted Penny and LaCienega against each other intentionally actually did not. There was only one spot left on the cheer team and both Penny and LaCienega were two of her closest friends. Because of this, Dijonay was torn between this conflict and didn't want to leave Penny or LaCienega hanging for the other, so she delayed the inevitable by forcing them to have a cheer off. Dijonay attempted to patch the early wounds between Penny and LaCienega by persuading LaCienega to hang out with her and Penny. LaCienega agreed and actually tried to get along with Penny for the majority of the episode. This was also where LaCienega first began to find out what she liked about Penny and that was her ability to lead and capture the attention of an audience with a powerful voice. Penny, like her mother Trudy is an excellent communicator which is why she relates to her peers (and the audience) a whole lot better than LaCienega whose social value is mostly based on good looks and dressing stylish.



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Zoey and LaCienega obviously got very close throughout the series and are actually good for each other. They balance each other out really well. Zoey and LaCienega agree on a lot of things. However, Zoey is polite, humble and smitten and tries to keep the peace as much as possible. LaCienega on the other hand is often rude, cocky and antagonistic. On the flip side Zoey is really awkward and can be really naive and lack confidence and LaCienega tries to build Zoey up in many subtle ways though she often finds herself frustrated and ends up lashing out which defeats her initial purpose. Despite their differences, they both admire each other. Zoey wishes she was pretty and popular like LaCienega. LaCienega doesn't necessarily want to be like Zoey however she thinks Zoey is adorable, likes her red hair and admires the fact that Zoey has such a big heart and is mature. They are both also highly intelligent. Also, Zoey is the first to actually help LaCienega feel comfortable and self-assured enough to show her true colors by stroking her ego.

We learn in Episode 43[42] that ironically, LaCienega actually tends to be a voice of reason in her family but her parents almost never listen to her. Based on the role she plays in her social group, no one would expect her to be a voice of reason. But if you look closer, LaCienega is definitely a voice of reason. Many of the things LaCienega says are often true and logical, except for when she strokes her own ego. The problem though is that LaCienega often has an attitude when she speaks and may either speak in an aggressive tone, fold her arms or throw in an insult behind what she says, often making the important part of the message harder to digest. One can compare it to Vegeta scolding Goku. Goku may say or do something that doesn't make sense and Vegeta doesn't hesitate to correct him. However, whenever he does, he usually not nice. Often, he yells, "You moron!" and throws in many other insults. LaCienega is similar in this way around her friends.





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## New Penny and LaCienega NoTES

LaCienega showcases her own bossy nature in Episodes 4 and 9 of **Louder and Prouder**, making her more similar to Penny Proud but in a negative way. She earned the nickname "Bossy LaCi" from Michael who also called her stubborn in the episode Raging Bully; another trait Penny shares with her.

LaCienega breaks girl code for the first time and makes multiple attempts to steal Penny's boyfriend Kareem

Sunset's sister and LaCienega's cousin are introduced in Episode 9. LaCienega seems to share a lot of traits with her aunt who tends to be conceited. She also purposely tries to make her baby sister jealous causing her to make poor financial decisions as she is jealous of the fact that she and her family are wealthy.

LaBrea has been jealous of LaCienega for years and essentially tried to "get rid of her" and take her place much like LaCienega appeared to do with Penny in the beginning of the original series.

LaCienega is proven to be sensitive and still tries very hard to stuff down her deepest feelings

Deep down LaCienega still likes Penny; however, their relationship has regressed since the first series as LaCienega continues to be rude to Proud and has tried to steal her **boyfriend**.

When Penny says, "Everybody likes me!" in the first episode, she meant everybody! LaCienega was present at the time and did not **deny this**. In her defense, LaCienega was looking ugly that day because of puberty, however this didn't stop her from insulting Penny later in the episode. Apparently LaCienega didn't disagree with this statement suggesting she knows she likes Penny too which is why she chooses to hang out with her and continue to invite her to things. Note, LaCienega was quick to shoot Penny down when Penny first read the lyrics "I'm Cuter Than You!" which LaCienega responded, "In your wildest dreams Proud!" She also says, "No we don't Proud!" on more than one occasion when Penny tried dragging her friends to help Maya and Ms. Hill respectively, however she didn't deny that "everybody likes" Penny.

Sunset and Felix seem to have a healthier relationship than in years past. Felix is still insecure and worries often that his wife might leave him. He clearly doesn't want that to happen. Though he showed signs in the original series, Felix also wanted to get away from Sunset quite often.

Though LaCienega is spoiled at home and has no problem asking her mom for money, she genuinely shows love for her family and we learn that she is actually very close with her mom as she refers to her as **"mommy!"** Felix states that he wants his little girl to be happy and is willing to make sacrifices to keep her happy. However, he takes his finances very seriously and tries to encourage his

**Commented [SF129]:** Notes from Louder and Prouder Season 1 (Episodes 1-10 so far)

**Commented [SF130]:** This is the first use of **Louder and Prouder Code** in this document. **Lavender Numbers** will appear more often to be differentiated from the **Black Numbers** of the of the **Original Series**.

**Commented [SF131]:** But is Kareem really Penny's boyfriend? More on that later!

**Commented [SF132]:** However, Penny says this again later in the episode why saying, "Except for LaCienega and the Gross Sisters" – LaCienega didn't deny this either but it got her attention and she didn't necessarily look thrilled when Penny says this. Also, as far as the Gross Sisters. They don't really dislike Penny; the Gross Sisters simply take money from whoever they can. Btw I wonder if Olei still has her friendship bracelet Penny gave her in Episode 12.

**Commented [SF133]:** We get a glimpse of this bonding between Sunset and LaCi at the end of Episode 31 "Tween Town" when the adults return from Roker's sweat shop.



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wife to save money. He was also unwilling to cosign a loan for Oscar, a decision that has been proven to be wise as Oscar is often irresponsible.

Sunset is no longer a street cop but now a detective partnered with Maya's white dad Barry.

Sunset's femininity shines more as she's dropped many of her roughneck ways since her promotion to detective. However, she still has a temper and tends to lash out but does not resort to violence. Felix points out that she's changed and that she's happier. Though this is a good thing Felix is worried that she might be seeing another man (such as Barry) until he finds out that Barry is actually gay.

LaCienega shows she still has a soft spot for Zoey and is the first to come to her rescue.

LaCienega soft heart still rises to the surface as she was able to forgive her cousin for her abuse even after all of the things she's done and even found it in her heart to learn to share, something she struggled to do as a child which possibly made it difficult for her to make friends growing up.

She actually felt sorry for her teacher after finding out she was homeless even despite being rich and spoiled for so long. This is even after the teacher had been mean to her and her classmates. Once she found out the reason, LaCienega became more understanding.

She blatantly shows that she loves to keep secrets, even with Proud as she was the first to eagerly jump up and join Penny's pinky promise. She also kept it going as she made the gesture to Zoey. It suggests that Penny and LaCienega have shared secrets this way in the past that the rest of the group don't even know about. LaCienega also kept her promise and did not air the secret to which of course Dijonay did shortly after. She also lied to cover up what her cousin did to her because she didn't want her cousin to go to jail and the night to be ruined. Penny did not make her do this at all. LaCienega has been to jail before for something extremely petty despite her mom being a cop, but saved her cousin from going despite nearly being killed by her more than once.

She took part in volunteering to help "feed the hungry" along with Penny, the rest of the girls and KG and Michael.

LaCienega still clings mostly to Penny and Zoey when she feels she's in danger as seen in Episode [6](#).

When Bobby agreed to give the kids a ride home, Penny and LaCienega bonded as they both felt tension together as they were stranded outside in the dangerous neighborhood that they were in. While pretty much everyone outside of Maya and KG were scared to a degree; LaCienega seemed to be the most scared and nudged Penny to get her to ask her uncle for a ride as she showed



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she desperately wanted to get out of there more than anyone else. When they did get in the car, Penny and LaCienega deliberately chose to sit squished together in Bobby's back seat. There were 5 people in the back seat and they were obviously pressed for room. LaCienega sat in the middle squished between Michael who she has a close relationship with (perhaps her best friend) and Penny. We know they purposely decided to sit together because LaCienega was actually the first to the car but yet she still sat in the middle. She made it to the car before Michael and Maya but still ended up next to Penny. LaCienega got to the car first with Michael to her left. Maya and Penny ran towards the car simultaneously with Maya slightly in front of Penny. Yet Michael still got in first, leaving space open for Penny and LaCienega to sit together. Maya got in on the other side of Michael despite initially being close to Penny while Zoey remained in the back and got in last being on the other side of Penny. This means LaCienega waited for Penny before actually getting in and sitting down. They purposely chose to sit in this order. Not to mention Penny and LaCienega still show off their ability to communicate well nonverbally and it still causes them to bond subconsciously, especially when LaCi initiates it. They still make good eye contact.

She is brutally honest to Proud and tells it how it is. She doesn't sneak around Proud much

She called out Penny when she saw Penny's influencer powers had corrupted her and felt that Penny may have ruined Makeup Boy's life by cancelling him.

After LaCienega pointed out that cancelling people ruins lives Penny deliberately chose to do the same thing to LaCienega knowing it would "ruin her life" simply because LaCienega pointed out she was in the wrong.

LaCienega suffered a mental breakdown and locked herself inside a locker after Penny told her she didn't like her anymore and then cancelled her. She claims no not care what Proud likes but shows she still and care as when she was in the locker she obsessively thought about her conversation with Proud and began talking to herself about pizza and ice cream...

LaCienega immediately became close to Maya after she rescued her and forced karma to turn on Penny and Maya becomes her wingman when LaCienega makes her first move on Kareem.

LaCienega did her homework and found out Kareem is smart and likes to read. Not only that, she happened to know what his 'favorite book' was before even talking to him which shows how attentive she is.

LaCienega does like reading a bit as she has books in her room and used to be the person who read magazines; however, she's not a true book person like Maya is.

She also seems to be slightly less intelligent than she was in the original series. Same with Dijonay.

**Commented [SF134]:** "Who cares what you like, Proud?!!!"

**Commented [SF135]:** Perhaps this is where she expected the conversation to go....

**Commented [SF136]:** Or "girl" better yet...

**Commented [SF137]:** This is questionable. Though LaCienega did know Kareem likes to read it's possible that her holding Kareem's favorite book could've been a result of some dumb luck as Maya happened to be reading it on that day. However, it still shows LaCienega has been paying attention.

**Commented [SF138]:** I think this applies to every character actually including Penny herself.



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Penny has actually grown to be slightly taller than LaCienega, however LaCienega still appears to be taller because she now wears shoes with heels.

LaCienega's favorite color may actually be purple as she has a purple doll growing up, her pajamas are purple, her LPMDZ outfit in Episode [5](#) was purple and the color purple was seen a lot in her quinceañera

LaCienega seems to have learned from Penny and covers up for her cousin much like they covered for the Gross Sisters in Episode [4](#).

She seems hypocritical as she says Barry and Randall's relationship is weird, yet Michael is gay and actually cross-dresses and yet she's still close with him.

Dijonay danced with a girl in the first episode. The girl she danced with looked like a boy but was revealed to be a girl once she spoke in Episodes [3](#) and [8](#) bringing Dijonay's sexuality into question.

Michael danced with background character TJ, who was once Omar's best friend.

LaCienega claimed to be "following her heart" when trying to seduce Kareem away from Penny in Episode [3](#).

LaCienega seems to use her butt as a weapon against both Penny and Dijonay.

LaCienega still knows Penny cares about her and appreciates the fact that she has a true friend in Penny but yet she still won't admit it.

This is because LaCienega is still afraid to make herself vulnerable. Penny is still able to touch her "soft spot" as seen twice in Raging Bully. LaBrea hurt LaCienega's feelings and ruined her sleepover. Penny tried to talk to her but LaCienega didn't want to talk about what was going on when Penny asked because she did not feel comfortable having the conversation with her cousin standing there, but also LaCienega was filled with intense sadness as her cousin had been bullying her for years and she wasn't comfortable sharing that with Penny with LaBrea being there. LaCienega also needed time to cry, and this time she didn't want Penny to have to be subjected to it again like she was in Episode [14](#) as she knew her crying made Penny uncomfortable and brought her down. LaCienega was dismissive and simply wanted to be alone as her natural introverted tendencies began to rise again. This could explain why her parents struggled to talk to her when she was sad about her feet being exposed.

It is confirmed that LaCienega regress to a "bratty little girl" when she doesn't get her way and also has an OCD as she behaved exactly as such in Episode [9](#) "Raging Bully" and even demanded that she wanted her choreography done exactly how she wanted it and even picked out a certain hairstyle for everyone to wear.



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Apparently, LaCienega has a bit of an old soul in her as she had her friends wear a 1960s style beehive for the event as she wore her own version as such.

LaCienega still craves attention and likes to be out in front.

**Commented [SF139]:** LaCienega - "I love being up front! But of course, I'm cute!" to Zoey in Episode [8](#).

She still says and does things to make Zoey feel insecure about her looks more like in Episode [41](#) (Sista Spice episode) rather than Episode [12](#) or the **MOVIE** when she tried to help boost her confidence. However, she's still a big supporter of Zoey as she gladly congratulated Zoey for being voted drum major just like everyone else and showed utmost excitement when Zoey went out there and performed well, even more so than she did in the movie.

LaCienega seems to be well aware of Dijonay's big mouth and is annoyed by it like the rest of the group and actively prevents Dijonay from snitching on her cousin.

Dijonay on the other hand has done a slightly better job of sticking up for Penny and calling LaCienega out on some of her wrongdoings such as trying to steal Penny's relationship.

Penny seems to have grown far more attached to LaCienega than she has in the past while it seems LaCienega has become a bit more aggressive towards Penny while also showcasing her rudeness to the group more often than to just Penny.

LaCienega has been less affectionate towards all characters in the series. Most notably Penny. However, she still enjoys it whenever she and Penny sit together as she stuck close to Penny when they were stranded in Episode [6](#) and also behaved noticeably different in Episode [8](#) when they sat together at lunch.

LaCienega let Penny know she wants to be there to help Penny one day with a serious issue as she said in the college Episode [7](#) "You are going to need me one day Proud!"

LaCienega truly does love and hate Penny at the same time. On the surface she hates Penny but deep down she has a place in her heart just for Penny.

She and Penny have a similar taste in boys as we see LaCienega wants Kareem for herself.

However, she seems to like Kareem for his looks rather than for his personality as she was on her phone the whole time during his concert that he invited her to. He doesn't seem to be as interested in her as she is in him and his heart so far seems to remain with Penny. However, Kareem will veer off if he feels he can't count on Penny, opening up opportunities for LaCienega.

Strangely enough, LaCienega seems to be attracted to the Prouds as she did not hesitate to latch on to Teen BeBe when she first saw him in Episode [49](#).



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She was clearly attracted to him and behaved like a cool, fun girl the whole time she was with him showing a complete opposite version of herself than what she shows Penny.

LaCienega has had a rough childhood despite growing up wealthy, however she loves living as she screamed "I don't wanna die!!!" in "Raging Bully".

Penny has broken the curse and entered LaCienega's house twice in the new series now. Both times LaCienega invited her there and the first time, she even forcefully got Penny to engage almost as if she had dragged Penny and her friends to be there to support her video for Wizard Kelly's lip-sync contest. She especially wanted Penny to be there as she nudged both her and Zoey to look at the screen, but especially Penny.

LaCienega appointed Proud to be in her quinceañera along with the other girls and Michael. There was no reluctance or pushback. LaCienega purposely wanted Penny to be included and contacted her along with the other girls without even thinking to leave her out. LaCienega stated repeatedly how her special her quinceañera was to her. She said she wouldn't skip her quinceañera to go to college early. She talked much about how HER quinceañera was HER special day and yet to her, it wouldn't have been complete if Proud wasn't included. She openly expressed how she didn't want LaBrea there and even screamed in terror when she arrived at her house and despite the things LaBrea had done, she was her blood cousin but yet she didn't have these same feelings about Penny being there. In fact, she wanted Penny to be a part of her special day. Chances are, Penny would've excluded her based on her not inviting LaCienega over to two parties in the original. Penny was just as happy to be a part of LaCienega's quinceañera and despite LaCienega's bratty attitude, Penny cooperated and allowed LaCienega to have the spotlight the entire (Episode 9).

LaCienega still seemed to place high importance on Penny as she came out and placed her hands on Penny's shoulders when the girls first came out in their dresses. It must have felt good for Penny to be her #2 for once.

LaCienega claims to be popular, but she still has poor social skills.

Zoey apparently knows how to sew and designed her own dress in "Raging Bully".

Zoey also showed she's no pushover as Bobby seemed to make her into a flunky before she snatched "her" nachos away from him for not teaching her how to dance like he was supposed to.

LaCienega still seems to have learned her "fakeness" from her mom as both she and her Aunt Melrose were behaving as such towards each other. LaCienega could tell by their body language that her mom and her auntie weren't getting along. LaCienega was confused as to why and their strained relationship clearly bothered her, though it didn't really have anything to do with

Commented [SF140]: And Aunt!





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her. Again, it shows that LaCienega still dislikes discord and drama between others though she's still starting drama with Penny by trying to steal her man...

