

SISTER ANGELA'S GIRLS
(Che Dio ci aiuti 8)

EPISODE SYNOPSES

Episode 1 – *A New Beginning*

It's a breath of fresh air for **Sister Azzurra**, who in this new season of *Sister Angela's Girls (Che Dio ci Aiuti)* will be catapulted into a new city on a new mission! Now that she has learned to get by without Sister Angela, Azzurra is ready to test her faith outside the convent walls... and more precisely in Rome, in a foster home that is going through a bad patch. It was Sister Angela who entrusted her with the task of becoming the new House of Smiles (*Casa del Sorriso*) resident operator and supporting its rigid director, **Lorenzo Riva**. Lorenzo, a hyper-rational and esteemed psychiatrist, lives in the facility with his two children, and since Serena, his wife, died the year before, he has been struggling to juggle his family's needs along with those of the House of Smiles girls. The director immediately tries to set the ground rules with Sister Azzurra: he can manage very well on his own and doesn't want her to get in his way. But it is immediately also obvious that he cannot keep up with it all...and so where he fails to show up, his son **Pietro** takes over. While the boy is also preparing for the police entrance exam, he divides the rest of his time between the foster home and his little sister **Giulia** (nicknamed **GiuliaBoom** because, as we will see, she is a tiny human earthquake).

In addition to the Riva family, the foster home also houses **Olly**, a girl with a fluent and very (very!) precise way of speaking and who has lived there for years now. At first, given the girl's self-possessed maturity, Azzurra takes her for a social worker and only later discovers that Olly is a resident there and that she will soon begin a new foster family assignment...only to then return, as usual, because once again, it did not work out with the new family.

Azzurra does her best to win acceptance but encounters a lot of resistance. Feeling dejected, she confides in Sister Angela, who explains that there is no person better suited than her to help the girls, the foster home, and Lorenzo. In fact, since Serena died, the psychiatrist has found it truly challenging to keep the facility afloat, and it is now under observation by the Juvenile Court.

In the meantime, a new guest enters the foster home: **Cristina**, a tough, wary girl, whom life has taught not to trust anyone. Lorenzo has seen many like her and is sure that the girl will flee the facility at her first opportunity. Azzurra, on the other hand, seeks to get close and wants to trust her. Despite that, Cristina - who turns out to be pregnant - deceives her. She secretly meets with **Matteo**, her boyfriend, who's wanted for drug dealing. He promises to come back for her and go abroad together. Azzurra tries to have Matteo arrested; but Cristina - having discovered the nun's intentions - steals the van and runs away to meet the boy. When she gets there, however, not only have the police already nabbed him, but Matteo also reveals that he was set to leave alone, without her. In the meantime, Azzurra, who caused Lorenzo to lose his license in chasing after the girl, fears that she has undermined the foster home even more. She feels she should leave, but then Sister Angela shows up. She explains to Azzurra that the foster home had been founded by a group of nuns, including her, before passing into the hands of Serena, who had also previously been one of the girls hosted. Above all, she reminds her that she is never alone... because Jesus is with her! So, Azzurra takes heart and tracks down Cristina, finally persuading her to return to the foster home. She then offers to be Lorenzo's driver in exchange for a dining table so that everyone can eat together, like a real family...

Episode 2 – *Free Will*

Gathering everyone around a table, however, will prove to be a more of a challenge than Sister Azzurra expected. For the nun, the gesture of having everyone together is a way of feeling part of a family, but she will have to understand that for those who have never had a family (or have lost one), a set table is just not what it takes for them to feel at home. As if that were not enough, living with Lorenzo is also proving far from easy. Azzurra is used to the “snooping around” with Sister Angela, and Lorenzo is certainly not the best ally for such an activity. Then, despite Lorenzo’s initial reluctance, the nun will manage to involve him in the case of a young girl, **Alisia**, whom Azzurra meets in the Sant’Elena Church as she is praying to the Madonna. Sister Azzurra is perturbed when she sees a knife sticking out of the girl’s bag... does she want to hurt someone? It turns out that Alisia is scared of her violent boyfriend, **Sandrino**, but refuses to report him for fear of future repercussions, and so with the knife she merely hopes to protect herself! As Azzurra finding it impossible to let it go and trying whatever she can think of to help the girl, back at the foster home **Cristina** is avoiding at all costs writing a short report about herself, as requested by Lorenzo. She asks **Olly** (whose complicated foster care history we begin to learn) to write it for her, but the pair are found out by Sister Azzurra. **Pietro** will then offer to help her in secret. Although there is bad blood between the two (Cristina is angry with him for not telling her he is the director’s son), Pietro has understood that Cristina is ashamed of not being able to write very well - because she attended school only sporadically - and that she is afraid of being judged. The two are also linked by another secret: Cristina has discovered that Pietro has not taken the entrance exam to the police, for which he had been preparing for some time. Pietro lied to his father, claiming that he had not passed the test...

In the meantime, **GiuliaBoom** would like to recite for Lorenzo a poem she learned at school, but he never finds the time to listen, so the little girl ends up turning to her mother in heaven. Azzurra overhears her and explains that if she wants, she can speak not only to her mother, but also to her Guardian Angel. In the meantime, the nun has repeated clashes with Lorenzo and with the girls, especially with Alisia, who has not yet been convinced to drop her abusive boyfriend. Azzurra prays that the girl will find the strength to report him, but she also prays for herself, because she has now realized that she cannot force others to do anything, that she must respect everyone’s personal freedom, even for making mistakes. She understands that it is not up to her to decide what is best for others and that she must take the first step: leaving others free to act and placing herself on the same level. And so, with a certain pain and sense of sacrifice, Azzurra takes off her veil. In the end, everyone welcomes Sister Azzurra’s change, and all sit down at the table together...

...even Alisia, to whom Azzurra has demonstrated that she knows how to be present without pressuring her. The girl will not report Sandrino - at the moment that is not what she wants - but she agrees to sever all ties and seek refuge at the House of Smiles. When they arrive at the foster home, Azzurra begs Lorenzo to allow her to host her in her own room, and the strict director, against all expectations, agrees.

To keep her safe, they suggest she change her identity, and since she loves singing so much, from now on she will call herself **Melody**.

Episode 3 – *I'll Protect You*

Sister Azzurra has discovered that **Cristina** loves drawing, so she wants her to take an online drawing course, but the girl doesn't seem to want even to consider it. To persuade her, Azzurra gives her "domestic" chores to do as an alternative to the course, but Cristina seems to accomplish them in her stride... The truth is the girl has blackmailed **Pietro**: if he doesn't want her to reveal his secret to Lorenzo - that is, that he didn't take the exam for the police academy - he will have to do in her place all the household work Azzurra assigns. **Lorenzo**, oblivious to what's going on, pressures Pietro to find a job and in the meantime gets involved, along with Azzurra, in the case of **Rodolfo**, an elderly man from the neighborhood. Rodolfo is looking for a lawyer because his son **Marco** wants to have him declared *compos mentis* and placed under his guardianship - because he fears that his father is being tricked by a woman who wants to steal his money. Lorenzo, at Azzurra's suggestion, asks for help from **Corrado**, a former patient of the psychiatrist's and a charming lawyer specializing in corporate mergers, who will offer to take the case *pro bono*. In the meantime, Azzurra, in her efforts to help **Melody**, finds her a job in a cafe. But for the girl it is too soon: the nun does not realize that Melody is still traumatized by her dangerous partner. She fears being recognized by one of the customers and that Sandrino might find her. It is through her experience with Melody that Azzurra realizes that she pushed the girls too hard in wanting to protect them, and that she did not understand what they really wanted. It's then discovered that Rodolfo is in the early stages of Alzheimer's and that the woman is the caregiver he hired to keep his son from finding out about his illness, in hopes of shielding him. The thing is, Marco has received a promotion that would take him far away, and Rodolfo does not want him to give it up to stay close to him. Corrado, who did not have the chance to be with his brother in the last months before he died of an illness kept secret from the lawyer (so as not to interrupt his studies abroad), recognizes himself as having been in the position of this man's son and decides to drop the case. He puts his personal ethics before his professional ones, and from now on he will offer to help the foster home *pro bono*. At the same time, Rodolfo, moved by Azzurra's words, reveals the truth to Marco, and thus father and son are reconciled. In the meantime, in the foster home, Cristina finally agrees after a sincere discussion with Pietro to take the online drawing course Azzurra proposed. The boy, on the other hand, will work in the cafe, replacing Melody, who will find herself more comfortable doing the cleaning in the foster home... because, for her, everything is more beautiful when clean!

Episode 4 – *Found Out*

Azzurra secretly makes a quite expensive online purchase using the foster home's credit card, and when she realizes that **Lorenzo** is particularly worried about the lack of funds, she hides it from him. The director finds out anyway, and to see how far Azzurra will go, he pretends to want to fire the thief, once the person has been identified.

Meanwhile, Lorenzo is invited to dinner by **Alessia**, the foster home's social worker, while the nun meets **Flora**, a Roma girl who a shopkeeper has accused of theft. Flora says she has been an orphan for years, and that she stole to eat. So, the nun finds her temporary accommodation in the foster home, but Lorenzo is dubious about her staying. For Roma girls, he explains, it is very difficult to stay put in a foster home, and he fears that Flora will run away. Instead, she turns out to be very happy there and makes friends with the others, especially with **Olly**, from whom she asks to borrow some books of literature. Olly meanwhile has agreed to babysit **Giulia Boom**. The assignment, however, turns out to be more challenging than expected because the little girl regularly breaks Olly's strict rules.

In the meantime, **Cristina** begins her first online drawing course lesson and finds that the teacher, **Fabio**, is young, cultured and charming - which is why the girl lies about herself and omits mentioning her pregnancy. **Pietro** witnesses her lies and mocks her, eventually admitting a tinge of jealousy. **Melody**, meanwhile, suggests to the girls "the campout", an improvised tent in which they share secrets and concerns. It is here that we discover Azzurra's secret purchase: some rather frumpy pajama sets for the girls! The nun nostalgically remembers the pajama parties in the convent and hopes that the girls will do the same. But things at first are tougher than expected. During one of these "campouts", Cristina mentions that she considers her baby a burden, and Melody goes berserk, much to the surprise of the other two. Only after speaking with Azzurra and **Corrado** (in this episode he introduces his girlfriend **Priscilla**, who hires Melody as a cleaning lady), does Melody understand that she must also reveal her own suffering to her friends: she explains that she lost a child some time ago, because of her boyfriend's physical violence.

It will then be discovered that Flora is not actually an orphan but is trying to free herself from her family because she does not share their life choices. Her parents own a traveling carnival, whereas Flora would like to be able to stay in one place and go to school. So, Lorenzo and Azzurra track down her parents, who prove to be understanding, and they promise Flora to allow her to study.

Finally, Azzurra reveals the truth to Lorenzo, who surprises her by saying that he approves of that gift for the girls but admonishes that he expects forthrightness from her. From now on, mutual trust!

Episode 5 – *The Life I'd Like*

Sister Costanza, in Rome to meet the Pope, arrives at the House of Smiles and brings **Azzurra** important news: she has been called for a mission in Peru, one she has wanted for a long time. Azzurra, however, now feeling settled into the foster home and fond of the girls, is torn. In the meantime, the younger nun discovers that the Pope's invitation was not for Sister Costanza, but for a namesake. However, seeing her former Mother Superior's joy at the idea of meeting the Pope, she tries to prevent her from seeing His Holiness without telling her the truth. Lorenzo, meanwhile, is joined by **Claudio**, a former colleague of his, who reminds him of the eminent psychiatrist he used to be and asks him for help for his son **Nicolò**'s panic attacks, which he has been suffering since he was acclaimed at school as a "hero" for rescuing a lady from an assault. So, to prove once again that he is the psychiatrist he once was, he decides to help.

In the foster home, meanwhile, **Cristina**'s drawing teacher, **Fabio**, says he wants to meet her, but the girl is afraid that the lies she told will come out. So, she hesitates, until **Pietro** gets her to understand that she must feel free to like herself for who she really is, without hiding anything. **Oly**, on the other hand, is on the verge of giving up the job of babysitting **GiuliaBoom**, who seems like an unmanageable "hurricane" - until she realizes that the two of them have much more in common than she knew because they both lost a parent at a young age. Meanwhile, **Melody**, while cleaning Priscilla's house, accidentally lets her cat out. She spends the day looking for it with **Corrado**, who seems to start seeing the girl differently.

Meanwhile, Azzurra and Lorenzo discover the truth about Nicolò's panic attacks: it wasn't him who saved that woman, but a muscular athlete, **Luca**. Nicolò happened to be passing by, and the victim, in the extremity of the moment, had mistaken him for her savior. Luca, however, had threatened Nicolò to reveal the truth if the boy did not provide him with the doping drugs needed for his training. Even though it causes him to have anxiety attacks, Nicolò does not want to give up the popularity he has gained. Thanks to Azzurra's intervention, however, Nicolò realizes that you must not hide behind lies and try to live someone else's life. Lorenzo will also realize that he is no longer the psychiatrist he once was and that for him it is fine that way. He is happy with his life as the House of Smiles director.

In the end, Azzurra declines Sister Costanza's mission in Peru, and the latter, having discovered the truth about the invitation from the Pope, admires how far Azzurra has come and realizes that her life is fulfilling just the way it is.

Episode 6 – Mothers

In our House of Smiles, **Lorenzo**, while putting Azzurra's things in order, finds the summons for the mission in Peru and supposes that the nun does not want to accept because she feels obliged to stay in the foster home. So, to let her off the hook, the director asks **Alessia** to recommend a new operator. Alessia, in the meantime, has just arrived at the house with a new guest: **Emilia** (12). The girl had been in temporary foster care with a woman, **Alessandra**, for a long time, and she was supposed to return to her natural mother **Giada**, who had lost custody of her daughter due to drug addiction. But then the judge revoked the decision to return the girl, because an opioid drug had been found in Giada's bag.

While taking care of Emilia, **Azzurra** eavesdrops on the chat between Lorenzo and Alessia, and, misunderstanding, thinks that he wants to replace her with a new operator because of the trouble she has caused. Adding to this misunderstanding is **GiuliaBoom**, who thinks that her father wants to replace her mother with Alessia, the social worker having invited Lorenzo out to dinner. In this episode, **Cristina** also has a "secret" to deal with. **Fabio**, the drawing teacher, is passing through Rome and would like to meet her: he doesn't know, however, that the girl is pregnant. **Pietro**, aware of everything, first thinks of dissuading her, but then, seeing her happy at last, plays along.

In the meantime, Giada arrives at the foster home to see Emilia. The woman reveals to Azzurra that the medicine in the bag wasn't hers, that someone tried to frame her. To confirm that, blood tests prove her right: she is clean. Azzurra tries to figure things out, and, after discovering that Alessandra is a pharmacist, she hypothesizes that she might have been the one to put the stuff in Giada's bag, so she could keep Emilia with her.

Alessandra, however, has nothing to do with it, and Azzurra discovers, by following Giada, that the woman lied: in fact, she admits to having had a relapse and to having bought the drug but never using it. Azzurra, however, must reveal the truth for Emilia's sake: Giada, it's true, is trying hard, but she can't rule out a future relapse. In the end, Giada picks up Emilia at dawn without telling anyone. Azzurra, alarmed, assumes she has kidnapped her, but then the woman informs her that she has taken her daughter to Alessandra. The little girl will stay with her foster mother for a while longer; it's the best thing. Alessandra, however, understands Giada and promises she can see her daughter whenever she wants.

In the meantime, Azzurra and Lorenzo finally clear the air: the nun declares that she doesn't want to leave, and the psychiatrist that he doesn't want to lose her. The time for Lorenzo and Alessia's date also arrives: before leaving, he reassures GiuliaBoom by telling her that no one will ever replace her mother. Then, at dinner, he makes it clear to Alessia that he is not ready for a new relationship.

Cristina and Fabio, in the meantime, have gone out together biking in a park, but the girl falls and suffers acute pain in her abdomen: consequently, it comes out that she is pregnant. In the hospital, Fabio confesses his feelings, saying she can leave the past behind her. Cristina, however, remembers Pietro's words about how she deserves someone who likes her for who she is, not for who she could be. Cristina realizes she has feelings for Pietro and says no to the drawing teacher.

There is also romantic news for **Olly**: in this episode she meets the young House of Smiles gardener, **Edoardo**, who in the episode finale asks her out.

Episode 7 – *For You*

Alessia arrives at the House of Smiles with **Nino** (13), who, since their parents died, has grown up under the care of his sister **Silvia** (24). The two are very close, but for some time now, Silvia seems to have stopped looking after her brother, and the boy's numerous absences from school have attracted our social worker's attention.

Meanwhile, life at the House of Smiles goes on for our other guests. **Olly**, after promising **Edoardo** a date, panics and hides. It will take a lot of convincing from the other girls to make her change her mind.

Pietro has not yet told Lorenzo that he has not taken the exam to join the police, and his secret is at risk when **Paola**, a childhood friend of Pietro's, knocks on the House of Smiles door. It turns out she has been admitted to the police academy. Pietro asks her to keep the secret, but this creates a misunderstanding with Lorenzo, who thinks that the secret they are hiding is that they are expecting a child. Otherwise, Lorenzo has not noticed something that is now clear to everyone: **Cristina** likes Pietro.

Azzurra, while she and the director are shadowing Silvia as part of this episode's investigation, tries to figure out - without making them suspicious - whether a relationship between the two young people might be possible. Lorenzo, however, is categorical: if such a situation were to arise, the girl from the foster home would be transferred. In the meantime, tracking Silvia, they see her meeting with **Luca**, her alleged boyfriend. Eavesdropping on their conversation, they become convinced that Silvia wants to move somewhere with the boy, giving up Nino's custody so as not to have to take him with her.

Back in the foster home, Azzurra, following the conversation with Lorenzo, tries to dissuade Cristina from her interest in Pietro, but things get out of hand, and Cristina misunderstands, thinking that Pietro is not only with Paola, but that he is even cheating on her with others. Cristina, now very jealous, gets angry with Pietro and confronts him. After a clarification, the two make up, becoming even closer.

In all this, Nino overhears Lorenzo when he talks with Azzurra concerning their suspicion about his sister's departure: he is very upset, and the nun understands that it is time to get things sorted out. On some pretext, she calls the girl into the foster home, and Nino - who feels betrayed - rejects her in a rage of hurt. Silvia, crushed, confesses to Azzurra that she wants to have Nino's guardianship revoked, but not in order to leave, rather to set him free to make his dreams come true. Nino has the chance to study at a ski college in the Alps, given his talent in that sport. The boy, however, intends to refuse so as not to be separated from his sister. So, Silvia devised a plan to have custody taken away, preferring to end up with Nino hating her rather than see him give up his dream. In the end, Lorenzo and Alessia, understanding the situation, manage to obtain semi-custody of her brother for Silvia, so that they can remain united. Silvia's story finds easy assonance with Pietro's choice to sacrifice himself for his sister by giving up the academy. In the end, Lorenzo discovers the truth about Pietro's exam, and the two clash: Pietro admits that he did not take the exam so as not to leave Giulia alone, because, since Serena died, Lorenzo has stopped being there for them. Lorenzo responds by essentially calling Pietro ungrateful, and a deep wound opens between father and son.

Episode 8 – *Back to the Future*

The atmosphere in our House of Smiles has become quite tense: **Pietro** and **Lorenzo** still aren't speaking and, to complicate things further, the first anniversary of Serena's death is approaching. Azzurra suggests to Lorenzo, Pietro and Giulia the idea of doing something together, to commemorate their mother's memory, but father and son refuse.

Cristina, who now has definite feelings for Pietro, decides to gather the courage and declare herself to the boy, with disastrous results: every time she tries to confess her feelings, she panics and backtracks. It's also the day of **Olly's** first date. **Edoardo** proves to be an outgoing boy and continually touches Olly as he talks: the girl - who can't stand physical contact - flees.

In the meantime, a man arrives at the cafe in the square looking for Alisia (our **Melody's** real name): it's **Sandrino**, the violent boyfriend from whom Melody ran away. He appears calm and repentant, says he has changed and has started an anger management program. He's brought a document for Melody to sign to cancel their apartment: he will soon be moving to another city for work, and she will have nothing more to fear. Azzurra is worried, she doesn't know whether to trust Sandrino, and she realizes that Melody is still under this man's thumb, no matter how much she tries to resist him. So, she goes with Lorenzo to the anger management center to verify Sandrino's version: here they discover that Sandrino is actually undergoing psychotherapy, and while Azzurra wonders if she is the one who is prejudiced and doesn't want to believe that this man can change, Melody asks her ex-boyfriend to meet up. **Corrado**, who in the meantime has done some research on behalf of Azzurra, has discovered that Sandrino has lied about something: he doesn't have a new job, and there is no transfer in progress. Sandrino admits that it's true, that he told a lie because he can't live without Melody: he knows he was wrong, but now he's a new man. Melody wants to believe him and quarrels with Azzurra, who tries to make her see how the man is still manipulating her.

In the meantime, Cristina finally finds the right moment to talk to Pietro about her feelings, but at the emotional peak, she realizes that just then at it is more important for Pietro to forgive his father: she persuades him to give Lorenzo a second chance. Pietro thanks her for being a true friend, unaware that he is thereby destroying the girl's romantic aspirations.

Lorenzo and Pietro make up and, together with Giulia, go on a hot air balloon ride, finally united in mourning Serena's loss.

A second chance is also given to Edoardo: the boy, sure of having been dropped due to a lack of mutual feeling, feels relieved when he learns of Olly's physical contact issue. They will go out together again, but without touching. And a second chance is also granted to Sandrino: Melody decides to try again. Lorenzo, without telling anyone, provokes him as a test, paying Melody a compliment in front of him. Sandrino, consumed by jealousy, reveals his true nature: he attacks Melody, accusing her of having been with Lorenzo, and becomes violent. At that moment Corrado intervenes, having planned with the psychiatrist to lie in wait, and throws Sandrino out. Melody is shaken, but she thanks Corrado, who promises her legal help to be rid of that menace once and for all.

Episode 9 – *Fairy Tales Don't Come True*

The atmosphere at the House of Smiles is bad. **Lorenzo**, at the end of the previous episode, found Serena's diary showing various appointments with a certain "Dario". **Azzurra** tries to dissuade him from any negative assumptions, but the situation gets worse when Lorenzo tries to turn on his wife's old cell phone and discovers that she had changed the opener pin before dying. In the meantime, **Beatrice**, the daughter of one of Lorenzo's oldest - and unfortunately deceased - friends, bursts into the foster home. Beatrice has brought her boyfriend **Giacomo** with her and announces their imminent wedding. Azzurra and Lorenzo are not onboard - the two have only known each other for six months - and they fear that behind the fairy tale the pair harbor secrets... Just as there was a secret between Serena and Lorenzo, who has confirmation of it during dinner with **Alessia**. Serena had asked the latter to be cover for her one evening, in case Lorenzo asked her if his wife was with her. At this point, Lorenzo has no more doubts: Serena was cheating on him.

As for the other inhabitants of the house, in this episode, Cristina often has visions of **Pietro** with children in his arms. Her friends suggest that they could be projections of her subconscious and that, in some way, she would like Pietro to be "the father of the child". Cristina denies it, but it is probably the truth. The visions disappear when Cristina discovers that the child she is carrying is a girl. **Corrado** looks for Melody everywhere, in an attempt to get her to give a statement for the complaint against Sandrino, but the girl avoids him every time, with the excuse of having to do housework. Corrado then decides to help her, and little by little Melody opens up and tells him her story. Finally, **Oly** and **Edoardo** begin to hang out regularly; on every date they do "touch training". But the attempts yield little results, and Edoardo is discouraged: so, Oly steals her nerves and presses a very light kiss on his lips.

Regarding Beatrice, Azzurra convinces Lorenzo to investigate Giacomo: our team see him coming out of a council house, together with **Gigliola**, a girl in her 30s, who is carrying a child in her arms. Everything suggests that Giacomo has a second family... Before they can get things clear and maybe talk to Beatrice, the situation changes drastically: Giacomo drops the girl without giving her a valid explanation. Azzurra goes directly to confront Giacomo: we thus discover that Gigliola is not his secret lover, but his sister, who is co-owner of a house he would like to sell. Because Giacomo is not at all the great entrepreneur he had Bea believe; in fact, he is just a simple sandwich seller. Giacomo is overwhelmed with desperation: in order to maintain Bea's accustomed standard of living, he had to go into debt, and now he can no longer pay back the loans. But Azzurra helps him understand that for Bea he is not his job, but the person who makes her feel loved, listened to, wanted. Okay, what he told her is not true, but if he doesn't tell her the truth now, it will have been his love for her that was false. Azzurra's words convince Giacomo to talk to Bea, who will decide to take some time to get to know the "new" Giacomo better: and then they will decide together whether to give their love another chance.

Episode 10 – *Full Steam Ahead*

Lorenzo receives a special invitation to a gala evening to receive an award for his research work. His family is invited to the event, and **Alessia** offers to accompany him, since sadly Serena is no longer with us. Lorenzo accepts, but as soon as he says “yes”, a pain in his neck muscles makes him freeze. During breakfast, Lorenzo tells **Pietro** and **Giulia** the news (without mentioning Alessia): Pietro, however, does not have an appropriate suit and asks Cristina to go shopping with him. Cristina agrees, having now resigned herself to just being Pietro’s friend. The two kids go to an elegant tailoring shop. Pietro tries on a wonderful tuxedo, which for most would be perfect, but not for Cristina. So, Pietro opts for a much more casual vintage suit and, since he has some money left over, decides to buy a necklace for Cristina to wear to the award ceremony, if she wants to accompany him.

Meanwhile, at the foster home, **Antonio**, a dear friend of **Lorenzo’s**, as well as the father of **Edoardo** the gardener, shows up. Antonio tells Lorenzo and **Azzurra** that he is very worried about his son, because even though he doesn’t need money, 300 euros in cash have disappeared from a place that only Edo knew about. The nun and the director talk to **Olly** about it, but she tells them that she hasn’t heard from the boy for a while: he works a lot at a pizzeria owned by a certain **Livio Remuzzi**.

In the meantime, Lorenzo tells Azzurra that Antonio, three years earlier, lost his daughter **Martina** to an overdose. Our people tail Edoardo and see him exchanging money with a suspicious individual. Azzurra and Lorenzo first hypothesize that it was a loan repayment; but what if Edo wanted to buy drugs with that money? Lorenzo’s neck pain gets worse and worse, and the nun is forced to continue the investigation alone.

Azzurra goes back to the pizzeria to talk to Edo, but when she arrives, she finds the police taking Livio away for drug possession. A waiter explains to Azzurra that Remuzzi had been released from prison a few months earlier, after serving two years for drug possession and dealing. There is no sign of Edo, and no one knows where he is. But when, after speaking with Antonio, Azzurra discovers that Livio was Martina’s drug dealer, our nun puts two and two together and goes straight to Edo, who’s at his sister’s grave, absorbed in his thoughts. He was the one who set up Livio. Edoardo explains to her how it seemed so unfair to him that Remuzzi could make a life for himself, after not even two years, while his sister was no longer there. Azzurra helps him understand that taking revenge on Livio will not give him Martina back... and this story will keep him chained to the past, making him only feel more pain. After a prayerful night, Edo turns himself in to the police, hand-in-hand with Olly.

Lorenzo has heard Azzurra’s entire speech and understands that the reason he is stuck is that he can’t move on after Serena’s death. So, he decides to do it abruptly, kissing Alessia on the awards ceremony night. On that same occasion, Pietro introduces Cristina to an acquaintance of his, as one of the girls in the house. Cristina realizes that she suffers too much being stuck in that limbo of the friendzone: if she can’t have more, then she prefers to give up any kind of relationship with Pietro. In all this, **Melody** tries to move on from her past with Sandrino: **Corrado**, having discovered that Melody’s ex wouldn’t let her drive, decides to give her driving lessons, to help her gain her independence. Might they be falling in love?

Episode 11 – *Help!*

The new day at the House of Smiles begins with a phone call from **Alessia** regarding a suspected case of child abuse. Azzurra and Lorenzo show up at the hospital: **Filippo** is hospitalized for injuries – and it's not the first time it's happened. There **Azzurra** meets **Federica**, his mother, and notices a bruise on her arm, as she detects aggressive behavior from her husband **Simone** - after silencing his wife, he leaves the room dragging with him **Fiore**, their eldest daughter, who is deaf. But before she has time to form a clearer idea, from the ward corridor, Azzurra recognizes Dario the man Lorenzo believes to have been Serena's lover. She starts to follow him, but he's soon lost from sight.

Meanwhile, the mood in the foster home is not the best: Edoardo's touching and kisses put **Olly** off, Priscilla bombards **Melody** with messages ordering her to do the jobs she has to do, and, finally, **Cristina** is furious because **Pietro** introduced her as "a girl from the foster home", and so she tries in every way to avoid him. The boy, who was clueless that he had hurt Cristina's feelings, is worried because he overheard a conversation between Cristina and an older man, in which they talked shadily about earning money in a hotel room. Pietro becomes suspicious and fears that Cristina is prostituting herself, but soon discovers that the girl only had to prepare some drawings for a hotelier who wanted to renovate the guestrooms. Cristina loses that job and angrily blames Pietro, though his behavior indicates to Azzurra that what Pietro feels is not simple friendship, but something more... Pietro, however, feels held in check: Serena had established that the girls there are off limits. Azzurra explains to him that love transcends the rules, but he can't 'disobey' and so denies his feelings: for him, Cristina can only be a friend.

Later, to get to the bottom of Filippo's injuries, Azzurra and Lorenzo knock on Simone's door, and - pretending to be a priest and a nun visiting to confer a blessing - they enter the house. There, Fiore invites Lorenzo to play and, once in the little girl's room, the psychologist notices broken toys and scratched furniture. Meanwhile, Azzurra listens to Simone: he comes across as anything but a violent father and husband. The next day, Alessia informs Lorenzo that, in a very short time, the decision will be made to put Filippo in foster care, separating him from his parents. Lorenzo and Azzurra then decide to up the pressure on the couple, and at last, Simone and Federica give in: the bruises, scratches and lesions on Filippo are Fiore's doing. The little girl suffers from intermittent explosive disorder and during her violent outbursts, she is unable to control herself. The only solution would be to admit her to a social-health residence for minors, but her parents don't like the idea because in some way it would be as if they were abandoning her. Azzurra empathizes with their dilemma, but the most important thing now is Fiore and Filippo's health; sometimes love isn't enough, you have to have the courage to accept help. And in the end, all's well that ends well: Simone and Federica assure themselves that relying on specialists is best, for them and for their children.

It doesn't end so well for Olly: she understands that, after all, maybe she's simply not ready for a relationship and breaks it off with Edoardo. And Melody is not having a great time either: Priscilla accuses her of stealing a pair of earrings from her house. **Corrado** offers to help her look for them and discovers that it was Priscilla's ploy to get her fired. So, Corrado comes to a decision: he doesn't want to be with such a nasty person, and he leaves her.

Last but not least: Azzurra discovers that Dario was never Serena's lover, but her oncologist: when she died, Serena was suffering from cancer, and nobody knew it.

Episode 12 – *Rewind*

The new day promises to be difficult at the House of Smiles. **Sister Azzurra** has recently discovered that Serena was not hiding a secret relationship with a lover, but instead a tumor she never spoke about with her family. After reflecting at length, she decides not to tell Lorenzo her discovery - not for the time being. But Azzurra is not the only one who is not telling the whole truth... In the foster home cellar, Cristina is hiding her ex-boyfriend **Matteo**, the father of the child she is carrying. He told her he was released from prison for good behavior. In reality, Matteo escaped, but when Cristina confronts him, it is too late, because Matteo has already fled. Azzurra, who has also discovered the truth, urges Cristina to talk to Lorenzo, who is understanding but asks Cristina to help them find Matteo. Cristina does find him, but... he asks her to run away with him. He has false documents, and, if they want, they can run away together to build a life from scratch - him, Cristina and the child. In the meantime, Lorenzo has realized that Azzurra is hiding something from him. The nun, feeling on the spot, tells him about Serena's illness. Lorenzo is stunned, as is Pietro, who has overheard everything. Pietro is in shock; he leaves the house and... encounters Cristina, who assumes that the boy is upset because he has just found out about her and Matteo. When Cristina tells him that she hid Matteo in the house, Pietro, overcome by anger, tells her that she is a liar, that she has been making fun of him the whole time; she has chosen to side with a criminal. Cristina feels that she has lost the respect of the person she most cares about, but above all she knows that he is right. Convinced that she is again the social outcast she once was, she prepares to run away with Matteo, but on her way, she crosses paths with Azzurra, who helps her grasp that she is no longer the girl she was on the first day. The past cannot be erased, but you can always decide to change your path. And so, Cristina decides to stay on in the foster home. During those same days, the House of Smiles welcomes another temporary guest: **Corrado Melody**, hoping to learn what happened with Priscilla (his ex-girlfriend), eavesdrops on a conversation with Lorenzo, from which she hears (or rather, thinks she hears) that the lawyer has several lovers and that he frequents escorts. Seeing her now cold and distant, Corrado decides he must clarify, and he explains that the conversation she overheard was about a pro-bono case involving some girls in a prostitution ring. Melody feels very embarrassed, but she can't understand why things ended between him and Priscilla. Corrado simply tells her that she wasn't the right person, thus opening up (for us) the prospect that maybe Melody is. Finally, in this episode, **Olly** begins building a wooden house for **GiuliaBoom**.

Episode 13 – *Hold Each Other Close*

The news that a prison escapee was hiding in the House of Smiles has spread, and the people who live around the foster home no longer feel completely safe: Cristina has also scorched the earth around her, and neither Pietro - who is now very rude to her - nor the girls want to have anything to do with her. In the meantime, **Lorenzo** announces that for the next few days Alessia will be staying with them at the House of Smiles: the foster home is at risk of being shut down, and Alessia has been charged with drawing up a report on the facility. Alessia, to get an idea of the real situation, interviews with girls who are guests, from which, however, she only deduces suspicions about Azzurra's good behavior... Meanwhile, **GiuliaBoom** is all smiles because she is expecting some friends from school to arrive. Unfortunately, however, of all the guests, only one shows up, little **Francesco**. Azzurra tries to liven up the party, but she fails because Francesco is out of sorts. In fact, his parents, **Fabiana** and **Alex**, are going through a bad time and argue often. The nun begins to investigate the couple and hypothesizes that Fabiana wants to ask for a divorce. Going deeper, however, the nun discovers that she is pregnant. At this point, Lorenzo also joins the investigation, and speaking with Alex, our friends learn that Fabiana has totally excluded her husband from the pregnancy (she doesn't keep him informed about the checkups, she acts vague), so much so that Alex even thinks that the child is not his. The reality, however, is very different: Fabiana is suffering from cancer, but she doesn't want to get treatment because otherwise she would lose the baby. She behaves in a detached way just so as not to let Alex know the terrible truth. Lorenzo, who feels this story resonate in his personal life, confides in her that - although he understands her terrible predicament - after having found himself in Alex's shoes, he would have preferred so much to share in his wife's pain, to be close to her... but he couldn't because Serena, too, kept him in the dark about her condition. After a night of reflection, Fabiana is ready to tell Alex the whole truth: it won't be easy, but they will face the stress together. At the House of Smiles, however, the situation becomes even more complicated when Cristina, after hearing a conversation between Melody and Olly, realizes that the only real problem for the foster home is herself. So, the girl sends a voice message to Alessia in which she explains that it is not right that so many people lose their home because of her mistake... And she decides to leave. Lorenzo then decides to go and get her because, he tells Alessia, in times of difficulty families do not break up; they stick together. And that is just what Serena would have done... So, our director goes straight to the council house where Cristina lived. Shortly after, Azzurra and Pietro also join him, and they find themselves faced with a completely new sight: Lorenzo, since he was unable to get Cristina to open the door, decided to go via the neighbor's balcony. The girl then left the building and found the director hanging from the balcony, asking her to come back home. It is true, she made a mistake, but she has the right to make mistakes even a thousand times, and, in any case, she will always find everyone ready to be there for her. Cristina, Azzurra and Pietro smile happily, deeply moved. Before returning home, Pietro and Cristina go aside for a moment: he apologizes, perhaps he was jealous of Matteo. But then, seeing his father on the ledge, he understood that sometimes the rules are made to be broken and... he kisses her! Things don't go as well for Lorenzo, however. Alessia ends it: he still has Serena in his heart, and for now there is no room for another woman.

Episode 14 – *Strait is the Gate*

This morning in the House of Smiles, smiles abound, especially between **Cristina** and **Pietro**, who got engaged in great secrecy, but... **Sister Azzurra** catches them kissing almost immediately and urges Pietro to tell his father. Pietro, however, is worried: rules are rules, and he fears that his father will have something to say about their relationship... Azzurra offers to help him, to prepare the way for him with **Lorenzo**: I'll butter him up for you, she tells him, so you can face him when he's ready. In the meantime, **Melody** is nervous because Corrado went away on work and isn't answering her messages, and Lorenzo is worried about **Olly** because of the sudden flashbacks the girl is having regarding moments spent with her father, who died when she was little. He suggests that she start therapy. That same morning, **Nicola**, a young plumber, arrives at the House of Smiles, accompanied by his grandmother **Anita**, worried about being left home alone after two burglars broke in. Grandmother and grandson have been living together since his parents tragically died. They seem very close, but to our nun's surprise, Nicola is delaying reporting the theft to the police. Why?

A little later, Cristina corners Pietro: she accuses him of not having the guts to face his father because he is ashamed of her.

Meanwhile, during the first therapy session, Olly and Lorenzo discuss how to set up their process so as to avoid doctor/patient transference, that is, the possibility that the patient might fall in love with the doctor. That theory, combined with the unexpected and special kindness Cristina exhibits towards him, gives Lorenzo the idea that Cristina has fallen in love with him. It's a supposition supported by a further misunderstanding with Azzurra, who points out how peaceful the situation in the home now is and how Cristina's progress is typical of someone being in love. Lorenzo then confronts Cristina, but the girl, as soon as she figures out the misunderstanding, walks out, nonplussed and incredulous: could he really have thought she was in love with him?! Azzurra, meanwhile, has overheard a shifty phone call from Nicola, and after involving Lorenzo, she discovers that the boy has a connection with the criminals who robbed his grandmother. They are about to report him, but to everyone's surprise, Nicola returns all the stolen goods to Anita - recovered by the police, he says. The nun is not so sure and corners Nicola. The boy is in pain, and Azzurra discovers that he has been beaten. In the end, the nun puts the elements together and sees that he is not an "accomplice", but a "victim". The theft was a warning: Nicola had broken off from his criminal gang, thinking he could turn the page, but that underworld forced him to return. Azzurra tells Nicola that there is always a choice. Nicola, however, does not want his grandmother to suffer any more, because the only alternative is to report the gang and end up in prison like them. The nun's words, however, convince Nicola to confess the hard truth to his grandmother... Together they will face the consequences that await him.

The next morning, love triumphs in the foster home: Melody finally receives a message from Corrado - while he was traveling he hadn't answered her not because he wasn't interested, but because his cell phone was broken - and Pietro, seeing Cristina still angry, plucks up his courage and assures her that he will never be ashamed of her... and to show her that he loves her, he kisses her in front of everyone, in the middle of the common room. Everything seems to be going well, until... Lorenzo faints!

Episode 15 – *Out of This World*

It's a new day at the House of Smiles, and **Lorenzo** is recovering from the fainting spell the day before... When he comes to, he doesn't remember anything about what just happened and comments that if he felt faint, he certainly must have seen something that displeased him. An icy silence falls, immediately interrupted by an ambulance siren that stops just outside the house. Lorenzo assumes they called it for him, but instead, when **Azzurra** goes to open the door, there is **Sister Costanza**, who was hit shortly before. Despite the paramedic's advice to the contrary, Sister Costanza asked to be taken to the House of Smiles. Azzurra feels deeply anxious; Sister Costanza is an elderly woman, now retired. What is she doing in Rome? And so, she obliges Lorenzo to sit with her on the sofa, so they can keep an eye on each other, given that they are both convalescing. Lorenzo is hesitant at first, but as soon as they start chatting and playing cards, he becomes fond of the elderly consecrated woman. Among other things, Sister Costanza sets herself the goal of restoring Lorenzo's memory, something Cristina and Pietro don't like at all. Cristina, moreover, feels the weight of Pietro's "I love you"; it's too early for such expressions, and she decides to confide in **Olly** and **Melody**. Meanwhile, the latter finally goes on her first date with **Corrado** - but, poor things, it all seems to go wrong. In the end, they just laugh about their misadventures and enjoy a sandwich in the House of Smiles garden, happy and content. Meanwhile, Azzurra eavesdrops on a phone call from Sister Costanza to a certain **Isabella**, a novice in Rome and the real reason why Sister Costanza travelled to the capital. Having ruled out the hypothetical problem of the elderly nun being a runaway, Azzurra investigates and discovers that Isabella, before shutting herself away in a convent, was engaged to **Claudio Saporiti**, a notorious gangster. After serving his sentence, he returned to persistently search for his ex-girlfriend, who, after hearing of the man's crimes, no longer wanted anything to do with him. Saporiti's pressure evolved into stalking, and the young novice feels safe only in the convent. Sister Costanza knows the whole story, but she also knows that Saporiti can track the novice down; she had come to Rome to take her away and save her. Azzurra advises her to report the man again. Isabella, however, does not want to: she prefers to give her life to God. Azzurra, at this point, understands that the girl's vocation might be a little forced, given the rather dire situation. Isabella does not reply but thinks about it for a long time. Yes, she is afraid. Back home that evening, Azzurra finds herself in the chapel with Sister Costanza; she tells her that she has met Isabella and has shared her doubts with her. Sister Costanza agrees with her on everything, except on the novice's real vocation. The Lord works in inscrutable ways. Just think of Azzurra herself, what she experienced before arriving there...

That same evening, Pietro pressures Cristina, who tells him that she has pulled back a bit because of that "I love you". Pietro doesn't take it badly; his kind heart accepts that Cristina's "maximum" is a bit less than his.

In the morning, when Azzurra arrives in the common room, Isabella is there with Sister Costanza. She has thought about it and has decided to report Saporiti. As for her vocation, she will suspend her novitiate for now, but who knows about the future. The time has come to say goodbye to Sister Costanza too; Lorenzo, after all, has had a good time and will miss our elderly mother superior. Pietro and Cristina try again to tell him that they are together, and he faints again but... this time he was joking! Lorenzo saw them talking the night before and remembered everything. Now he hugs them, but his expression remains worried.

In all this, flashbacks that come to her during the night are tormenting Olly. At the end of the episode, she sees herself as a child, wandering around a dark house looking for her dad, when someone rings the doorbell. Olly opens and finds a nun, who has come to give her some sad news...

Episode 16 – *Never Enough*

The sun shines on the rooftops of the Roman suburbs, the streets are slowly starting to come to life, the city getting ready to welcome a new day. **Azzurra** is preparing breakfast when there is a knock at the door... it's **Rosa**, our nun's sister! With her is **Caterina**, a beautiful little girl who hides behind her legs. Rosa explains that she is trying to obtain her permanent adoption together with her boyfriend, **Federico**. Knowing that her sister now works in a foster home, who better than she to help? Azzurra is surprised: she knew nothing about the engagement... but she assures Rosa that she and **Lorenzo** will try to help her, even though the director seems to be so busy with other things. A bad dream about **Cristina** and **Pietro**'s future life (in which his son, in a rundown house with his girlfriend, turns to drug dealing and ends up in prison) throws him and calls the couple into question... but with Azzurra, who refutes such a notion, he pretends to be calm: everything is fine! However, he is actually so panicked that he keeps seeing signs all around that make him think that it could be a premonitory dream! Lorenzo is so focused on his son and Cristina that he doesn't notice that **Olly** is avoiding him and making excuses for not coming to therapy. She is also behaving strangely with Giulia Boom, and as much as she can avoids the little house they just finished building. But with Azzurra she can't pretend nothing is happening, and she finally confesses that the little house reminds her of the day her father died, and she doesn't want to go to therapy anymore because she prefers not to remember, rather than uncover other painful memories. Azzurra listens to Olly and reminds her that she will never be alone. Azzurra also wants to get to know her future brother-in-law Federico better but ends up eavesdropping on a conversation and becomes convinced that the man is cheating on her sister. With Lorenzo's complicity, she follows him, leaving Pietro and Cristina (closer than ever) to see to Caterina together. Pietro is very good with the little girl, while Cristina feels a little uncomfortable. Azzurra is also disconcerted: she saw Federico kissing someone else, and when she confesses it to her sister, Rosa unexpectedly takes it out on her and asks her not to interfere in her life. Azzurra feels guilty, blaming herself for not having been there for her sister as much as she should have... and to help Azzurra find the strength to mend that relationship, Lorenzo offers her his hand and promises to help. Together, they discover that Rosa and Federico faked the engagement so that her sister could obtain Caterina's permanent adoption. Rosa, in fact, has been told she can't have children and doesn't want to give Caterina up just because she doesn't have a stable relationship. And so, she offered Federico money to pretend to be her partner. The nun tries to make her see reason, but Rosa attacks her: Azzurra has had everything in life: a daughter, a man who loved her... what's left for her? Once again, Azzurra doubts herself, feeling guilty about her sister, and prays that Rosa makes the right choice. The night brings counsel, and the next day Rosa understands that Azzurra was right. Also, sometimes it happens that the judge, for an adoption, decides to privilege the emotional bond above all else. So, she doesn't need to lie. The nun, feeling moved, makes her a promise: she will never again not be there for her, and she can always count on her.

Meanwhile, as Lorenzo stealthily eavesdrops on a conversation between Pietro and Cristina, feeling certain that for her Pietro will give up the competition to join the police, Cristina consoles Caterina and begins to think that maybe she is not so bad as a mother... and **Melody**, finally back after a romantic weekend with **Corrado**, happily gives her the baby's onesie - bought for the child she never had with Sandrino.

Episode 17 – *Amor Vincit Omnia*

After figuring in the last episode that **Pietro** wants to give up the police competition for **Cristina**, **Lorenzo** is worried. Under **Azzurra**'s perplexed gaze, he decides to challenge their relationship with a fake test on couple affinity. In the foster home, meanwhile, **Giordano**, a young successful lawyer, leaves a child, **Orlando**, son of the woman he was with, but who has now returned to her former partner in prison, **Danilo**, leaving him the child. Giordano is sorry, but a work emergency abroad does not allow him to take care of the child. So, while **Giulia Boom** plays with the new guest, Azzurra goes in search of the woman, Livia, helped by Lorenzo - whom we will see particularly taken by the case because Giordano and Livia remind him of Pietro and Cristina: he is a good boy, she is a single mother with a sketchy past. In the meantime, in the foster home, while Lorenzo's couple test has highlighted too many differences between the two young people, the relationship between **Melody** and **Corrado** seems to be going swimmingly. However, Azzurra doesn't fail to notice Melody's overly compliant attitude and warns her: she must not erase herself every time for a man. Meanwhile, the nun and Lorenzo discover that Giordano had defended Livia's partner pro bono in prison, and in the meantime had fallen in love with the woman. But now, out of prison, Danilo, seeking revenge, threatens to tell the truth, with the risk of having the lawyer suspended or even struck off the register. And he threatens Livia, too: if she had not returned to him, he would have revealed that the story between her and Giordano had begun before the conviction, ruining the lawyer's career forever. For the woman, abandoning her son and the man she loves is the hardest thing she has ever done...

Meanwhile, **Olly** - encouraged by Azzurra to become more aware of her past - resumes therapy. Digging into her memories, she remembers a particular phrase ("I will always love you, no matter what happens") and becomes convinced that her father had decided to "abandon" her in the first foster home even before dying. Night falls, and the nun begins her prayers: she prays for Olly, for her not to stop at these first memories, and she prays for Livia that she won't let herself be deceived and guided by fear...

Livia will, it turns out, make the right choice and choose love, reuniting with her son and the man she loves, convinced that despite their differences, they will be able to overcome the difficulties. Lorenzo is still not convinced that differences in a couple are a strong point, and he speaks to Cristina with his heart in his hand. She has made a journey, and the director is proud of her...but Pietro has just started to walk alone, and she must let him go, otherwise he will never have the courage to do so. For Cristina, these are hard words to hear, and so she goes away in silence, leaving Lorenzo without an answer. The director assumes that the girl will not listen to him and that she will not leave Pietro, and so, secretly, he writes an evaluation of Cristina's path in the foster home, asking for her to be moved to a different facility... Then he changes his mind and does not send it, leaving it in 'drafts'. In the meantime, Lorenzo's words have had an effect on Cristina: maybe he is right, maybe she should let Pietro go. And so, she leaves him.

Episode 18 – “Not All Black or White”

After **Cristina**'s dumping him for no apparent reason, **Pietro** just can't believe it and throws himself headlong into studying. **Paola** comes to his rescue, with the excuse of helping him with the competition and with **GiuliaBoom**. The girl is still secretly in love with him, but Pietro doesn't seem to reciprocate and confesses that despite everything, he still loves Cristina... **Lorenzo**, meanwhile, after the end of the relationship between the two young people, is on the one hand relieved and on the other hand guilty since it was because of him that his son was abandoned. He is tormented by two versions of himself: one 'good', causing the sense of guilt, the other 'bad', assuring him that he made the right decision. And while **Azzurra** regards him in perplexity, a man, **Francesco**, is caught in the director's office, sticking his nose into the foster home archives. Francesco explains that he is looking for his son, **Andrea**, who years before he had left at the House of Smiles to give him a better future. **Olly**, meanwhile, still shaken because she was convinced that her father had decided to “abandon” her even before dying, has listened to the conversation and sees her own story in that father and son. Azzurra thoughtfully once again reminds her of how much her father loved her, and to reassure her even more, she promises to accompany her to her former foster home in search of answers. Accompanied by the nun in the foster home, she finds confirmation of what she suspected: her father had decided to entrust her to foster care even before dying but because he suffered from mental health problems and had realized that he could no longer take care of her. Olly is shocked, but thanks to Azzurra she understands that her father did not really want to abandon her, but instead tried to ensure her future while waiting to get better himself... and moved by her own story, Olly helps reunite Francesco and his son Andrea. In the meantime, **Melody** pretends to be calm but is nervous about the **Sandrino**'s trial: she would like to turn the page without having to see him again in court. The nun bolsters her courage and reminds her that the new Melody, the one everyone got to know in the foster home, has what it takes to face him. So, when Sandrino tries to get her attention in court by calling her Alisia, our girl informs him that she is now Melody and has decided to go her own way, without him. At the House of Smiles, in the meantime, as Azzurra is pressing Cristina to tell her the real reason why she left Pietro (not knowing that the director had a hand in it), Lorenzo is still tormented by the two versions of himself. Until finally, after a heart-to-heart with Pietro, in which the boy shows his father how much he cares for Cristina, Lorenzo is convinced that he was wrong to push them apart. In an attempt to make amends, he tries to talk to the girl, but she now avoids him: she has happened to come across, in his office, the report on her in which he requests her transfer to another facility. She now understands that Lorenzo's advice from the previous episode was not for their own good, but because he doesn't think she's good enough for his son, and she now feels sure that the House of Smiles is no longer the place for her. She decides to call **Matteo**: she wants to leave there. In the meantime, Corrado and Melody have returned to the foster home and Corrado receives a phone call: he has finally gotten his dream job... but it's in Boston! The lawyer looks at Melody, feeling torn: and so now what to do?

Episode 19 – *Second on the List*

Due to a medical mix-up, **Azzurra** becomes convinced that **Cristina** may have complications with her pregnancy and obliges her to rest. The nun, busy with Lorenzo working on this episode's case, asks **Pietro** to look after the girl... and as much as he tries to hide it, the boy is worried about Cristina; and so, despite the girl's initial reticence, he stays as close as he can and takes care of her. Pietro doesn't know, however, that Cristina in the meantime is trying to regain **Matteo's** trust and get him to take her away from the House of Smiles. In any case, the girl, increasingly close to Pietro due to the forced rest, will begin to reevaluate her decision... will she perhaps want to stay and be with him?

Olly, on the other hand, while trying to help **GiuliaBoom** overcome her fear of the 'Dark Witch' who torments the little girl at night in her dreams, will also face her own blocks, and they will end up sleeping together, hugging all night.

In the foster home, Azzurra and **Lorenzo** are investigating the case of young **Flavia**, an acquaintance of Cristina's being blackmailed by an older man. With the help of **Sister Angela**, they discover a child prostitution ring that involves, in addition to Flavia, several girls in trouble, including **Martina**, whom the director already knows. He explains to Azzurra that the girl was on the list to enter the House of Smiles but that then her place got assigned to Cristina. And when Martina ends up in a coma after an attack, guilt overwhelms Azzurra, who's convinced that if she hadn't tried so hard to bring Cristina back to the foster home, perhaps Martina would have come in her place, and she wouldn't be in that condition now. The nun prays for the girl to recover, but she also prays for herself and for all those whose actions, despite good intentions, can translate into pain for others... like Lorenzo, who, regretting what he did to interfere with the relationship between his son and Cristina, would like to be able to make amends. But Cristina, aware of Lorenzo's plan (in the report to have her removed from the foster home), continues to elude him and once and for all tells Matteo she has made up her mind: she wants to leave. The boy, still wary of Cristina's sudden change of mind, demands one last proof of trust...

Corrado, in the meantime, tells **Melody** about the transfer to Boston, but their initial enthusiasm soon gives way to doubts, especially on Corrado's part. If Melody, as it seems, were ready to leave everything and go with him, Corrado reflects for a moment... would he, for love of Melody, be willing to give up everything? His answer is no. And so perhaps it is not right for her to leave everything she has built to follow him... He puts an end to their relationship.

Instead, Azzurra, while she is looking for Martina's file in Lorenzo's office, which is necessary for reporting the attack to the police, discovers the reason for the director's evasive behavior in the last few days... Disappointed, incredulous, she reads the report he wrote in which he requests Cristina's transfer to another facility.

Episode 20 – *In Heart and Mind*

Our House of Smiles is not doing so well. In a week, in fact, its fate will be decided by the Court, on whether to reconfirm qualification for the foster home or to close it permanently. The girls are on edge: **Melody**, still down after the breakup with Corrado in the previous episode, is fearful about finding another place to live; for **Olly**, the House of Smiles has now become her real family, and it will be really terrible to have to start all over again... **Cristina**, on the other hand, seems indifferent, having now decided to leave that place forever and run away with **Matteo**. While **Pietro**, on the other hand, is busy studying for the upcoming police competition, Azzurra is still disappointed after finding **Lorenzo's** report in which Cristina's transfer is requested, and she finally confronts him. The director feels guilty and, cornered by Azzurra, he admits the truth: he was worried that **Pietro** would give up his future for the girl, and so he wrote that report. But he swears he didn't send it! It's a hard blow for Azzurra; she feels betrayed.

In the meantime, as if that wasn't enough, **Sister Angela** is in trouble! During some routine checks in prison, drugs were found in the nun's habit... could someone be trying to frame her? Suspicions fall on **Luisella**, an inmate who had given birth in prison years before but whose child was taken away from her after Sister Angela discovered that the woman had started taking drugs again. And while Azzurra tries to find out more, Matteo asks Cristina for one last 'proof of love' before they run away together: he wants her to frame Sister Angela. The boy explains that the nun has caused trouble for some tough people, who now want to be rid of her. They tried to frame her with the drugs ploy in prison, using Luisella as a pawn, but that didn't work... Cristina is plunged in crisis, with no idea what to do... but finally she agrees and runs away with Matteo, because she is still feeling crushed about what happened with Lorenzo. Pietro, in hopes of finding her, is willing to give up the exam, but his father forbids him: finding Cristina is his responsibility. And so, Lorenzo and Azzurra set out on the girl's trail and discover her and Matteo's involvement in the drug affair with Sister Angela. Azzurra tries to make Cristina see reason, reminding her how much she is loved, but the girl puts up a wall and refuses to return to the House of Smiles, where, in the meantime, everyone is feeling so down. To cheer up the director there is little **Giulia Boom**, who reminds her father of the importance of what Lorenzo has always done for his family and for the girls. Taking Azzurra's speech to heart, Cristina secretly returns to the foster home for a last farewell to Olly and Melody, but just then her water breaks... her daughter is about to be born! Rushing to the hospital, everyone at her side, Cristina will give birth to a beautiful baby girl. Matteo will also show up there, and, after having confronted Pietro and ordering him to step aside, he reminds Cristina that their plan against Sister Angela has yet to be pulled off. Cristina hesitates, but filled with the love of Azzurra, Pietro, her friends Olly and Melody, Lorenzo, and her little girl, she will make the right decision at last, reporting Matteo to the police and deciding to keep her daughter, whom she names Serena.

All's well that ends well, once again... for the House of Smiles, too, which has its license confirmed for another year... May God help us!