

INT. MARIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Maria sits upright in her bed, reading from a MAGIC BOOK.

Shelves of colorful books BRIM the small unpainted room with color.

Maria LEAPS up onto her bed in a dramatic pose and holds her palm out.

She places a penny into her hand, closes it, then opens her hand to reveal the coin is gone!

She BOWS to an imaginary crowd.

LEONARDO (O.S.)

That's one thing you and your
mother have in common.

Leonardo stands at the door, ending Maria's imaginary show.

LEONARDO

You both can make money disappear.

Elena walks by and hears this. She playfully slaps his shoulder.

ELENA

Stop it, Leonardo.

Leonardo and Elena enter the room. Leonardo takes the magic book out of Maria's hands.

LEONARDO

It's true. When we first arrived in
America, she bought everything in
sight.

ELENA

Can you blame me?

LEONARDO

And she made me drive her to the
beach every day.

ELENA

I love the beach. I want my ashes
scattered in the Pacific Ocean when
I die.

LEONARDO

Over my dead body!

Elena hits him again. He gives up.

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LEONARDO
Maria. Time for bed.

MARIA
Can I show you a magic trick?

LEONARDO
Go to bed.

Leonardo heads out.

MARIA
Will you tell me a story?

He stops and sighs. His daughter has won again. He turns around.

LEONARDO
Very quickly.

Maria pulls out another magic book.

LEONARDO
No.

He goes to the top shelf of her bookcase and picks out a book.

LEONARDO
Durango. A Brief History, by José
De la Cruz Pacheco.

Both Maria and Elena GROAN and dramatically fall over. Maria closes her eyes.

MARIA
I'm asleep, goodnight!

LEONARDO
Little girls can't talk when they
sleep.

MARIA
Yes they can.

Leonardo sighs and puts the book away. He walks again towards the door.

MARIA
Papá, aren't you forgetting
something?

He walks back to her and kisses her forehead.

LEONARDO
Goodnight. Vámonos, Elena.

ELENA
I'll be there in a minute.

He exits.

Maria YANKS the covers off and JUMPS out of bed.

MARIA
(in a hushed voice)
Ladies and young ladies,
presenting... Maria's Magical Magic
Show!

Maria bows. Elena claps and quietly cheers.

MARIA
For my first trick, I will make
this card levitate!

She holds a QUEEN OF HEARTS between her hands and it appears to float between them.

MARIA
And the crowd goes wild!

Elena whisper-yells **oohs** and **wows**, imitating the sound of a crowd.

MARIA
Next, I will make this ring defy
gravity!

She takes a RING and places it on a RUBBER BAND, then turns it vertically. Pulling on the rubber, the ring seems to move **up** the band.

MARIA
Amaaaaazing! How does she do it?

Maria bows. Elena smiles and claps.

MARIA
Thank you, thank you! For my next
trick-

Elena COUGHS.

ELENA
Sorry, mija, keep going.

MARIA

For my next trick, I will make this
pencil -

Elena erupts into a full on COUGHING ATTACK.

Maria pats her mother's back.

MARIA

Papá!

Leonardo comes in in a glass of water. Elena's coughing
settles. She waves away the water.

ELENA

I'm fine.

Maria and Leonardo are visibly worried.

ELENA

I'm fine! Maria and I were just
having too much fun at the magic
show. Right, Maria?

LEONARDO

That's enough magic shows for one
night. Time for bed, both of you.

Leonardo helps Elena up.

ELENA

I can do it myself.

FADE TO:

INT. ELENA AND LEONARDO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Elena and Leonardo kneel at a small SHRINE, making the sign
of the cross.

The simple shrine has a CROSS, a portrait of the VIRGEN DE
GUADALUPE, and CANDLES of SAINTS.

Leonardo pours a drop of HOLY WATER on his forehead and
Elena's forehead.

Their dialogue is in Spanish.

LEONARDO

Bless my wife. Make her well. End
our suffering. Please. We have gone
through so much-

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