

BIG BROTHER places gift on table.

MAMÍ

You could at least give it to her.

CARMELA opens the card on top and reads.

CARMELA

"Feliz Birthday, Carmela. May all your wishes come true. Love Mamí, Papí and Miguel."
Papí really signed this?

BIG BROTHER

How could he?

MAMÍ

(To BIG BROTHER)

Ya! [Enough] That is enough from you.

(To CARMELA)

He wanted to, mija. [my daughter] He really did.

CARMELA

Do you think Papí will call today?

BIG BROTHER "hmmphs."

MAMÍ

Why don't you open your gift, mijita?

CARMELA

Yes, Mamí.

CARMELA opens gift.

CARMELA

Bracelets!

CARMELA puts them on and jingles them.

CARMELA

I love how they sound.

CARMELA runs around the house jingling the bracelets.

BIG BROTHER

So annoying. Please, stop doing that.

CARMELA

It's my birthday. I can do whatever I want.

MAMÍ

That's right, mijita. You tell him. Today is your special day. You can do whatever you want.

CARMELA continues jingling her bracelets again and again.

BIG BROTHER

I'm going to my room.

MAMÍ

Hug your sister, first.

BIG BROTHER

Do I have to?

MAMÍ

All my life I wished for a little sister. Someone I could tell stories to. Sing songs with. Share some candy. Hold their hand. And you have one and look how you treat her.

BIG BROTHER gives CARMELA the quickest hug possible.

MAMÍ

And don't forget what you have to—

BIG BROTHER

I won't.

MAMÍ

Please, don't speak to me that way. You wouldn't do that if your father was here.

BIG BROTHER

I'm sorry, Mom. I know what I have to do today.

As BIG BROTHER exits...

CARMELA

Mamá? Can I go outside and ride my scooter?

MAMÍ

Can you?

CARMELA

May I ride my scooter outside?

MAMÍ

Don't go to Freedom street. There are too many cars.

CARMELA

(Hugging MAMÍ)

I won't.

MAMÍ
Happy birthday, mi amor. [my love] Now, go play.

MAMÍ exits.

CARMELA
If I could,
I would hug Mamí forever
because her hugs are so warm
and amazing.

*CARMELA grabs her scooter and
scoots around while jingling her
bracelets.*

*Moments later, she looks left and
right.*

CARMELA
I have to look both ways
because I have to make sure there are no cars
and
because I know
Mamá is watching from the window...

MAMÍ appears.

MAMÍ
It's true.

MAMÍ leaves.

CARMELA
All clear.
Now,
I can zooooooooom down the road.
Whooooooooosh!
It's so smooth
I go really fast
Like a rocketship.
Now,
I take a quick turn here
on this dirt path.
BumpBumpBump.
BumpBumpBump.
It's like riding down the back
of an alligator.
BumpBumpBump.
BumpBumpBump.
I keep going until I see
a really big field.

*SEÑOR LOPEZ and FARMWORKERS
appear picking marigolds.*