

BIG BROTHER appears with a cart.

CARMELA

Are you going to la lavandería? [laundromat]

BIG BROTHER

No. I'm going to school to wash our clothes.

CARMELA

That's not true. You're going to la lavandería. Wait for me. Let me tell Mamí I'm going with you.

BIG BROTHER

You can't come.

CARMELA

But I'm old enough.

BIG BROTHER

Why do you want to go anyway? It's just a boring laundromat.

CARMELA

I just want to go. I want to go with you.

BIG BROTHER

Well, I don't want you coming.

CARMELA

But...but..I made a wish.

BIG BROTHER

Not all wishes come true.

CARMELA

Mamí!

MAMÍ appears.

MAMÍ

¿Qué quieres, hija? What's wrong?

CARMELA

Miguel...He won't...He...

CARMELA continues speaking but because she is so upset it is really hard for anyone(except MAMÍ) to understand.

MAMÍ

How many times do I need to tell you? You are her big brother. You need to act like one. Apologize. Ahorita!
[Now]

I'm sorry, Carmela.

BIG BROTHER

Now, give her a hug.

MAMÍ

But—

BIG BROTHER

MAMÍ gives BIG BROTHER "the look." The one all mothers give to say "Do what I say."

BIG BROTHER "hugs" CARMELA.

I don't know what that is but that is not a hug.

MAMÍ

BIG BROTHER hugs CARMELA.

Now ask her. Don't tell her. Ask her.

MAMÍ

BIG BROTHER

Would. You. Like to come with me to the laundromat?

CARMELA

Mamá calls it la lavandería.

BIG BROTHER

Would you like to come to la lavandería with me?

CARMELA

YES!!!

BIG BROTHER

Let's go.

CARMELA

We'll be back, Mamí. Te quiero. [I love you]

CARMELA hugs MAMÍ.

MAMÍ

Te quiero mucho mucho mucho. [I love you a lot a lot a lot]
 (To BIG BROTHER)
 And you. Keep an eye on her. Don't leave her. If she tells me you made her cry, you'll be in big trouble. ¿Me oíste?
 [You hear me?]

BIG BROTHER

Yes, Mom.

*BIG BROTHER and CARMELA attempt
to leave but CARMELA runs back to
MAMÍ.*

MAMÍ

What's wrong, mijita?

CARMELA

Do you...do you think Papí will call when I'm gone?

MAMÍ

Your Papí knows today is your birthday. He will not call
while you're gone.

CARMELA

OK. Bye, Mamí.

MAMÍ

Bye, mi vida. [my life]

CARMELA

We leave
but Mamí's still standing on the porch
so I wave.
"Bye, Mamí. Bye."
The moment we can't see her anymore,
my big brother takes off
and leaves me behind.
Thankfully,
I'm on my scooter
so I zoom after him.
Up ahead,
He turns the corner.
Wait!
I go as fast I can
ZoomZoomZoom
and when I reach the corner
I see him
Wait!

BIG BROTHER

C'mon, slow poke.

CARMELA

Mamí said you have to keep an eye on me.

BIG BROTHER

I know what Mom said. C'mon. Let's go.

CARMELA

As we go down the street,
we pass the bakery
The one that Mamí buys pan dulce [sweet bread] from
And that's the elotera [corn seller]