

CARMELA

Papí.  
It smells like a sweet, blue ocean.  
All of Papí's shirts smell exactly like this.  
And the scent from it  
would always stay in a room  
for a long time after he left it.

*CARMELA smells the deodorant  
again.*

CARMELA

Papí's scent isn't in our house anymore.  
It's been awhile.  
Maybe Miguel is right.  
Maybe Papí won't call.

*Beat as CARMELA has an idea.*

CARMELA

(To Dandelion)

I know what I want to wish for. Papí's papers to get fixed.  
Yes, I'm sure. Why should I wait? Oh! Right. The bodega  
lady might be really mad if I blow on this in here.  
But, I can still pretend.

*CARMELA jingles her bracelets and  
PAPÍ appears.*

PAPÍ

(Singing.)

CARME CAMELA  
HIJA DE MIEL

[My sweet daughter]

CARMELA

Papí?

PAPÍ

Hola, hija. [Hello, my daughter] It's been a long time. I  
know. But I'm home.

CARMELA

Can I smell your shirt?

PAPÍ

Por supuesto, hija. [Of course]

*CARMELA smells shirt and we hear  
sounds of the ocean and seagulls  
and wind.*

CARMELA

Papí!

*They hug.*

CARMELA

Papí! Guess what? Today is my birthday.

PAPÍ

I know. Seven years old, right? I still remember when you were born. Hacía mucho frío. [It was very cold] I thought I was going to turn into a popsicle.

CARMELA

(To AUDIENCE)

He always says that.

(To PAPÍ)

Mamá made me delicious pancakes today.

PAPÍ

Con chocolate? [with chocolate?]

CARMELA

With lots of chocolate. And I got these bracelets. Look.

PAPÍ

Ay, qué bonita. [how pretty]

CARMELA

Listen to this.

*CARMELA jingles the bracelets.*

CARMELA

Miguel doesn't like how they sound. But I do.

PAPÍ

Yo también. [Me too]

CARMELA

I gave one to my friend Natalia because I haven't seen her in a while and I wanted her to have one. Now that you're back, will you teach me how to play chess? I want to be as good as you are.

PAPÍ

Your brother hasn't taught you?

CARMELA

I ask him to but... Since you left, he hasn't been very nice. Will you sing for me?

PAPÍ

Which song would you like for me to sing?

CARMELA  
(To AUDIENCE)

He always does this.

(To PAPÍ)

You know which one. The one you said was an old, old song  
but you changed the words for me.

PAPÍ

OH! I remember now. Lista? [Ready]

CARMELA

Lista lista! [Ready ready]

*PAPÍ sings to the tune of "Carmen  
Carmela."*

PAPÍ

ASI CUAL NACEN EN EL ORIENTE  
LOS BELLOS TINTES DE AURORA SON  
ASI NACIERON ALEGRES CHISPAS  
LAS SEMILLITAS DE TU CANCIÓN  
CARME CARMELA  
LUZ DE MIS OJOS  
LINDOS DESEOS  
HAS DE TENER  
HERMOSA MAGIA  
BRILLA EN TU PECHO  
ASÍ A TUS BRAZOS  
YO LLEGARÉ

*A beautiful cat appears. This is  
ANATOLI.*

*ANATOLI mews.*

CARMELA

Mira! Hi. Are you Anatoli? Can I pet you?

*ANATOLI mews.*

CARMELA

Hey, Papí. Loo— Papí?

*Beat as CARMELA returns to where  
PAPÍ was standing. She closes  
her eyes and sniffs the air. The  
scent is gone. Sadness.*

*ANATOLI rubs against CARMELA.*

CARMELA

Can I pet you?

*ANATOLI mews.*