

Scene 4

ALEX

have a picture of my Mom. She was holding me as a small child. Happy as can be. As any mother and child should be. For whatever reasons, we were pulled apart. 35 years later, Enchiladas de Mole brought her back to me. "Mijo, ven a comer. Hice enchiladas de mole." Wherever I was, whatever I was doing, I drove as fast as I could to Mom's house. The mole was good but the conversations with Ma were even better. Although we could never make up for lost time, mmmm, our time together, just you and I, was delicious. I was't ready to let you go. Miss you Ma.

Pause.

NEIZA

My Father makes pescado al mojo, hmm it's like traveling back to the island. Fries el pescado, preparas las cebollas en salsa, lo pones con el pescado. Oh! Perfecto. It brings everyone together.

NEYDA

But not all food brings the people together. If you eat pana de pepitas, everyone run away! (*wave hand*) You know what I'm talking about. (*They laugh.*)

LETI

The best Sopa de Borracho, I ever had was made by Doña Carmella. To make Sopa de Borracho, Drunken Soup, you need a lot of ingredients. This is what you make when you have to feed A LOT of people. First you start with chopped ham, tomato, tomato sauce.

PABLO

Olives, Celery, Black Pepper.

ERNESTO

Yucca, Red Pepper, Green Pepper....

PABLO

Don't forget the wine and the beer! It's Sopa de Borracho, Tu sabes!

ERNESTO

Pimento morones, papas y mucha sal

Others have joined them and they are all talking about what can go into the soup and how great it is. They surround an imaginary pot DSC. They all get quiet looking at the amazing pot of sopa de Borracho

LETI

Esta la historia of Doña Carmella and the Sopa de Borracho.

They all look up. An actress, OLGA, becomes Doña Carmella.

Doña Carmella was the grandmother of the whole neighborhood.

Le encantaba cocinar she loved to cook

And she cooked HUGE quantities of food and shared it with all the neighbors. Everyone loved her food because it tasted so good. She was such a generous woman but one day she stopped sharing.

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Everyone was wondering, "que es lo que esta pasando? Que esta sucediendo?"

We know she's in there cooking, but for who?

So that's when us kids...

got curious and decided to spy on her.

We watched her leave her house carrying a big pot.

She walked into the forest. La mirabamos caminar mas lejos, por todo el camino all the way to the beach shore. Luego regresaba a su casa. And did this again.

She was an old woman, so this was tough work. Durante su ultimo viaja, cargaba agua -- gallons of water and she placed this on the beach as well.

One Niña tries to go look, but the others hold her back.

We could hear the ocean. Esperabamos en la oscuridad of the night.

SONG:

Yo se lo que son los encantos
de mi borinquen hermosa
por eso la quiero yo tanto

Sing softly

Lugo los oimos... Then we saw them--men, came out on the ocean, viniendo a la orilla del mar. on a small raft.

SONG soft:

por siempre la llamare Preciosa
Isla del caribe

LOUD add pablo

Isla del caribe
Borinquen
Continue softly

Starving! Thirsty.

They came up on the shore, nearly dead. We didn't know where they had come from. We didn't know they had crossed the water for a better life in Puerto Rico.

Song soft:

yo se de sus hembras triguenas
se del olor de sus rosas
por eso a mi tierra riquena
por siempre la llamare Preciosa

(Hold if needed)LOUD add pablo:

Isla Del Caribe, Isla Del Caribe
Borinquen

Then soft...

Dona Carmello's amazing soup saved their life. Somehow she knew they were going to be there. La sopa salvo sus vidas. As they ate and drank, they became strong again. Y finalmente se fueron a las montanas.

Softly until text ends, with Pablo FADE OUT>

Preciosa te llaman las olas
del mar que te bana
Preciosa por ser un encanto
por ser un Eden
Y tienes la noble hidalguia
de la Madre Espana
y el fiero cantio del indio bravio
lo tienes también

Children run up to where the pot was.

DANTE

They didn't leave anything for us

MONICA

Traidora!

NEIZA

Traitors!

LINEY

I'm gonna go tell my mom.

MONICA

Vamos!

Doña Carmella re-enters. The children march DSL and then slowly shift into the parent.

LETI

And when the villagers heard the children's story? Cuando se dieron cuenta de que Dona Carmell estaba ayudando a esta gente, when they, learned that Dona Carmella was assisting these immigrants, they gathered together and went to confront her. No sabia que iba a pasar. She was scared..And they said,

Dona Carmella, you are too old to be doing this.
We are worried for you.

Dona Carmella, ya tienes muchos anos para andar hacienda esto.
We are worried for you.

Dona Carmella, we will help you with the cutting, and chopping and cooking.

Dona Carmella, we will help you with the cutting, and chopping and cooking.

DANTE

We will help you carry the food to the beach.

LETI

We will help you carry the food to the beach.

SONG Aida Pablo:

Yo se lo que son los encantos
de mi borinquen hermosa
por eso la quiero yo tanto

SONG softly.

The village agreed: "We will help our Dominican neighbors!"
It became a community effort that has been passed down for by generations.

Softly Aida:

por siempre la llamare Preciosa
Isla del caribe
Isla del caribe
Borinquen

All group sings:

yo se de sus hembras triguenas
se del olor de sus rosas

Enter immigrant men as singers and Leti join group

por eso a mi tierra riquena
por siempre la llamare Preciosa

Full cast enters and joins.

Isla del caribe
Isla del caribe
Borinquen

Blackout.