

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

MARA (35) Afro Puerto Rican, an unassuming beauty, clenches a searing straightener and feeble rat tail comb as she observes herself in front of the bathroom mirror.

EXTREME CLOSEUP:EXTREME CLOSEUP: She drags the comb through her hair. Wispy smoke and thin strands follow the heated iron. Her hair SIZZLES.

Mara's daughter, ILIANA, (6), a spitting image of her mother, peers over the edge of the sink, watching her mother in awe.

ILIANA

I wanna do it.

MARA

Qué te dije?

Iliana lunges over to grab the hair tool from her mother.

MARA

Ili, en serio. No empieces.

She pouts and turns away. Mara put her hand on Ili's shoulder.

MARA

Mi amor, agarra tus zapatos y tu chaqueta para que podamos irnos.

Iliana dashes out of the bathroom.

As Mara finishes, the straightener skims her finger. She winces, and loosens her grip.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

A 2005 Accord whines to a halt on a quiet street. To Iliana and Mara's right lies a small house in a knockoff suburban neighborhood. It's drizzling.

Mara inspects her lipstick with the visor mirror. She reaches into an overfilled glove compartment and pulls out a new plastic grocery bag.

MARA

Vámonos.

Iliana takes off her seatbelt and bolts out. Mara adjusts the plastic bag over her hair as she attempts to keep up.

EXT. MARA'S SISTER'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Mara steps out of the car, holding the plastic bag on top of her head. She watches Iliana rush to the door.

MARA

Ili, ponte la sudadera.

Ili bangs on the door. Mara's sister TITI (30's) opens the door. Iliana hurries inside.

TITI

Ili, qué pasa. ¿Te olvidaste de mí?

Mara and Titi kiss each other's cheek.

MARA

Ili, dale un beso a Titi.

Iliana goes back to kiss Titi.

ILIANA

Bendiciones Titi.

They hug, and Ili runs inside.

INT. COUSIN'S HOME LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Iliana laughs alongside her three female cousins, YAMI (8), ELENA (12), and NITZA (11), as they play with dolls.

ILIANA

Do you want to go to the mall?

YAMI

Yes, let's go in my pink car.

Yami takes a pink Barbie car and places her doll in it. Iliana follows. They laugh. Elena jumps in front of them.

ELENA

Guys, I wanna play something else.
Who wants to play house?

The rest of the cousins' squeal and circle around Elena.

ELENA

Who's going to be the mom?

They raise their hands.

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