

1 ENTERING THE TIANGUIS (STREET MARKET)

Katia, 12, and Mónica, 12, enter the street market, chatting with each other. Xochi, 12, sees them from the other side of the street. She has a large pink bag. She crosses the street and approaches Katia and Mónica.

XOCHI

Hi!

MÓNICA

(unenthusiastic)

Hi.

Katia ignores Xochi.

XOCHI

What are you up to?

KATIA

Shopping.

XOCHI

Can I join you?

Katia laughs sarcastically. Mónica snatches Xochi's bag, and Katia and Mónica head off. Xochi follows them.

2 BOOTH #1 - STEALING THE DOLPHIN

Katia and Mónica go into a booth with cheap, low-quality items for sale. Among the items is a small statue of a dolphin. Katia places herself between the seller and the statue, blocking the seller's view. Mónica grabs the dolphin and puts it in Xochi's bag.

Katia and Mónica leave the booth. Xochi follows them, worried, but also intrigued.

3 MAIN STREET OF THE STREET MARKET

The three girls walk through the street market.

XOCHI (cont'd)

Can I hang out with you two?

MÓNICA

No.

KATIA  
 (to Monica)  
 Wait a sec.  
 (to Xochi)  
 Are you willing to be bold?

MÓNICA  
 Her? No way.

XOCHI  
 Yes I can.

Katia and Mónica laugh.

KATIA  
 I don't think so.

XOCHI  
 I *can*.

KATIA  
 We'll see.

#### 4 BOOTH #2 - STEALING THE BUTTERFLY

They come to a booth filled with jeweled necklaces, pendants, and bracelets.

XOCHI  
 How pretty!

KATIA  
 I like the butterfly.

XOCHI  
 I like the turtle.

MÓNICA  
 Pfft.

KATIA  
 (to Xochi)  
 Get me the butterfly.

XOCHI  
 But I don't have any money.

KATIA  
 You don't need money. Haven't you been watching?

Mónica steps forward, and cuts in front of Xochi.

MÓNICA  
I'll handle it.

Katia smiles and moves to another section of the booth to distract the saleslady.

KATIA  
Good afternoon, señora.

SALESLADY  
Hello, chica.

KATIA  
What's the price of the pretty little turtle?

SALESLADY  
The turtles are 120 pesos.

KATIA  
Do you have any others, in different colors?

SALESLADY  
No, just those you see here.

MONICA STEALS THE BUTTERFLY, and puts it in the bag.

KATIA  
Thank you, señora.

SALESLADY  
Have a good day, chicas.

5 MAIN STREET OF THE STREET MARKET

The three girls turn onto a side street.

6 SIDE STREET

Mónica opens the bag proudly so that Katia can take a look at their trophies.

KATIA  
I wanted the red one.

MÓNICA  
But I thought--

KATIA  
(disdainfully)  
Pfft!

MÓNICA  
 Sorry, Katia. But this one is pretty  
 too, right?

KATIA  
 Kinda.

XOCHI  
 Yeah, it's really pretty.

KATIA  
 Did someone ask your opinion?

Xochi looks down at her shoes.

MÓNICA  
 Go home, you baby.

XOCHI  
 But I wanna hang out with you guys.

KATIA  
 Oh, really?

Xochi nods her head.

KATIA (cont'd)  
 Alright, I'll give you *one* chance.

XOCHI  
 How?

KATIA  
 Come on. We're going to find out our  
 future.

7 BOOTH OF THE FORTUNE TELLER, MONTSERRAT

Montserrat is talking with her son, DANILO, 25. She wears a  
 turban with a red jewel in it.

MONTSERRAT  
 It's so hot.

DANILO  
 Would you like me to get you some  
 water?

MONTSERRAT  
 Yes, my son. Please bring me a water.

DANILO  
 Sure, mother. I'll be right back.

Danilo leaves as the girls enter the booth.

KATIA  
Good afternoon, Señora.

MONTSERRAT  
Good afternoon. Would you like me to read your cards?

KATIA  
(pointing to Mónica)  
*She would.*

MONTSERRAT  
Very well. Have a seat. What's your name?

Mónica sits down.

MÓNICA  
Mónica.

MONTSERRAT  
Mónica. Let's begin.

KATIA  
I like the jewel.

MONTSERRAT  
Ahh, this? This is a very special jewel.

Xochi wavers, then suddenly lurches for the jewel, but Montserrat grabs her arm. Mónica gets up, grabs the turban, and runs. Montserrat falls from her chair, losing her grip on Xochi. Katia runs after Mónica, and Xochi runs after the other two girls.

MONTSERRAT (cont'd)  
Damned girls!

At this instant, Danilo arrives back at the booth, with a bottle of water.

DANILO  
What happened, mother?!

Danilo helps his mother up.

MONTSERRAT  
Catch them! They stole the jewel in my turban!

Danilo runs after the girls.

11 EXT. MAIN STREET OF THE STREET MARKET

The girls run, and Danilo runs after them. They run around a corner.

12 SIDE STREET

Danilo turns the corner, but he can't see the girls, who are hiding behind a low wall. He takes off in another direction. The girls get up and run.

13 SIDE STREET - THE CAPTURE OF THE GIRLS

The girls dash into a doorway. As Katia starts to open the bag, Danilo finds them and corners them.

DANILO  
I caught you, you little brats!  
Stealing stuff, eh?

Furious, Danilo takes the bag and grabs Katia by the hair. He takes the turban out.

DANILO (cont'd)  
This is the last time I want to see  
you here! Is that clear, all of you?

Katia smirks defiantly as Danilo gives her back the bag.

DANILO (cont'd)  
You think it's funny? Last time!

Danilo walks away.

Katia takes the butterfly out of the bag. Mónica takes out the dolphin. Katia slaps the empty bag against Xochi's chest.

Xochi stands there, dejected, holding the empty bag, as Katia and Mónica walk away laughing and celebrating.

12 EXT. XOCHI'S HOUSE - EVENING

Xochi walks slowly up an exterior stairway to the entrance.

13 INT. HOUSE OF MONTSERRAT AND DANILO - EVENING

MONTSERRAT  
Why did they do it? For what reason?

14 EXT. XOCHI'S HOUSE

Xochi enters the apartment.

15 INT. HOUSE OF MONTSERRAT AND DANILO - EVENING

They sit down on the sofa, and Danilo gives Montserrat the turban.

DANILO  
Mother, here's your turban.

MONTSERRAT  
Finally. Thank you, son. I'm so glad  
you caught them.

She looks it over, and sees that the jewel is no longer attached.

MONTSERRAT (cont'd)  
Where's the jewel? What happened to  
the jewel? Idiot!

16 INT. XOCHI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dejected, Xochi goes into her bedroom and drops the bag on the floor. She hears a CLINK as it hits, and OUT ROLLS THE JEWEL! She picks it up, examines it a moment, then puts it on her dresser. She goes to her bed and begins her nighttime prayer as moonlight shines through the window.

XOCHI  
My guardian angel, watch over me...

17 INT. HOUSE OF MONTSERRAT AND DANILO - NIGHT

DANILO  
Mother, I swear, I can get it back.

MONTSERRAT  
They are going to pay for this.

18 INT. XOCHI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

XOCHI  
Don't forsake me, neither in the  
daytime nor during the night...

19 INT. HOUSE OF MONTSERRAT AND DANILO - NIGHT

DANILO  
Mother, don't go back to using the  
magic.

(MORE)

DANILO (cont'd)  
 You know what happened last time.  
 Magic can bounce back on you, and I  
 don't want you to get hurt.

MONTSERRAT  
 Yeah, I know, I got hurt. So what?  
 What happened to my enemies, eh?

DANILO  
 They died.

MONTSERRAT  
 Every last one of them.

20 INT. XOCHI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

XOCHI  
 Amen.

Xochi crosses herself, and gets under the covers. She doesn't see it, but suddenly a light begins to shine within the jewel.

1 INT. XOCHI'S HOUSE - MORNING

XOCHI sits on her sofa petting her cat, which is missing half of its tail.

XOCHI (cont'd)  
 Poor thing. But you're lucky to be  
 alive after your accident.

Holding the jewel, Xochi raises her hand and looks at her cat through it.

XOCHI (cont'd)  
 How I wish you had your whole tail.

She blinks, and a second later she can't believe what she sees: her cat now has a whole tail!

2 EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Outside, on the playground, with other students present:

ALICIA is flirting with ERNESTO. KATIA (wearing the butterfly bracelet Mónica stole at the street market), talking with Mónica, notices the flirting and gets jealous.

Xochi is talking with some girls, including GUEDA. KATIA y MÓNICA move closer and listen in.

XOCHI (cont'd)  
 ...and with the jewel, like this, in  
 my hand,  
 (she demonstrates)  
 I said: "I wish you had your whole  
 tail," and pow! The rest of his tail  
 appeared!

GUEDA  
 Liar.

KATIA jumps in, tries to grab the jewel from XOCHI, and they  
 fight over it. In the struggle, the jewel comes apart,  
 revealing a grayish dust inside, as well as some dust of the  
 supposed original color: white. Astonished, the two girls  
 stop their fight for a second. MÓNICA grabs the jewel, and  
 KATIA quickly snatches it from her. She holds up the jewel  
 and looks toward Andrés.

KATIA  
 Andrés! You're a fart!

As everyone laughs, Andrés suddenly starts farting  
 repeatedly, unable to control it. With a mixture of surprise  
 and amusement, the kids laugh even more.

MONICA  
 Let me use the jewel.

KATIA  
 Sure. When it's your turn. Right now,  
 it's my turn.

XOCHI  
 We should use the jewel for good, not  
 for evil.

MONICA  
 Look at you, Miss Goody Two-Shoes...  
 now.

XOCHI  
 The jewel doesn't belong to you.

KATIA  
 Now it does.

3 EXT. TOOLSHED - DAY

Danilo and Montserrat walk toward an old tool shed. She goes  
 in front.

MONTSERRAT  
Open it, son.

DANILO  
Mother, no.

MONTSERRAT  
If you hadn't screwed up, I wouldn't  
have to resort to magic. Open it.

Danilo takes out a key and opens up the tool shed. There is a creaking sound, and he hesitates before entering. A large axe of obsidian falls and sticks into the floorboards.

DANILO  
Whoa! What the hell!

MONTSERRAT  
Oh, yeah, my little trap. I forgot  
about that.

Danilo is angry, but she just laughs lightly.

DANILO  
Mother, it's not funny!

MONTSERRAT  
You should have seen the look on your  
face. C'mon.

DANILO  
You first.

MONTSERRAT  
Help me.

He helps her enter, and follows her carefully.

4 EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

ESTEBAN, a big kid, is bullying ALICIA, shoving her. KATIA sees them, aims the jewel at him, and says:

KATIA  
Bully yourself, Esteban.

Esteban stops shoving Alicia, a look of confusion comes over his face, and he begins to hit himself in the face. The girls laugh, except Alicia, who is relieved. Katia's expression is serious, as she takes in her new-found power.

Alicia comes up to Katia.

ALICIA  
Thanks so much, Katia. You saved me.

KATIA  
Hmf.

KATIA turns her back on Alicia, and moves to another part of the playground. MÓNICA follows her.

5 INT. TOOLSHED - DAY

The shed is filled with magical items. Montserrat sits on a chair, examining a crystal ball on a table.

The crystal ball shows a school, with its coat of arms.

MONTSERRAT  
Ay! What good is this damned crystal if I don't recognize the place? Son, come help me.

DANILO  
Mother, the girls may be thieves, but they're just girls. I'm not going to help you hurt them.

MONTSERRAT  
Don't worry, son. I've reconsidered since last night, but you know that the jewel belonged to my mother, that she gave it to me when I was young. Will you help me?

DANILO  
Alright, what do you need?

MONTSERRAT  
The crystal shows me a school, but I don't know which one it is.

Danilo approaches the crystal and looks at the image.

MONTSERRAT (cont'd)  
Do you know it?

DANILO  
You promise you're not going to hurt the girls?

MONTSERRAT  
Of course, my love.

DANILO  
It's the Hermila Galindo school.

MONTSERRAT  
Very good, thank you, son.

She smiles, with a twinkle in her eye.

6 EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

ALICIA, seated, chats with ERNESTO, who is interested in her. XOCHI sees them from a distance.

KATIA, passing, sees the couple, and is obviously jealous. She raises the jewel in her hand.

KATIA  
You, Alicia! You have to pee!

ALICIA  
(suddenly perturbed)  
Listen, Ernesto, I have to go.

ERNESTO  
Uh, okay.

KATIA  
But, Alicia, you can't move. You're going to pee right where you are.

ALICIA, extremely flustered, almost in pain from holding her bladder, manages to speak to Ernesto.

ALICIA  
Um, I mean, you have to go. Um... someone is calling you, over there, in the corner.

ERNESTO  
I don't hear anyone.

ALICIA  
(fighting not to pee)  
Yes, the teacher is calling you. Go!

ERNESTO  
I don't see--

ALICIA  
Go! Now!

Ernesto, thinking she's nuts, walks away.

ALICIA pees herself, and sits down, humiliated.

7 EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL - DAY

KATIA and MÓNICA are leaving the school, as MONTSERRAT and DANILO arrive in their car. They get out of the car.

MONTSERRAT  
Hello girls. Nice to see you.

MÓNICA is startled, but KATIA stays calm.

MONTSERRAT (cont'd)  
I believe you have something that  
belongs to me.

KATIA  
We don't have your jewel.

MONTSERRAT starts to get angry.

KATIA (cont'd)  
What are you going to do? Tell your  
son to hit me?

MONTSERRAT raises her fist as if to hit Katia herself.

MÓNICA  
The other girl has it.

MONTSERRAT  
You had better not be lying. What's  
the other girl's name?

KATIA remains silent.

MONTSERRAT (cont'd)  
The jewel is just a toy compared with  
the other powers I possess.

MÓNICA  
Xochi. Her name is Xochi.

MONTSERRAT  
Hmm. Xochi.

MONTSERRAT turns and leaves.

DANILO  
Girls, my mother may be old, but she  
is not weak, nor stupid. You had  
better not mess with her.

He leaves.

MONICA  
How the hell did she find us?

KATIA  
Who cares? She can't hurt us. We have  
the jewel.

MONICA isn't so sure.

KATIA takes the jewel from her purse, points it at  
Montserrat walking away, and...

KATIA (cont'd)  
Poof!

MONICA  
(grabbing Katia's  
hand)  
Are you crazy? Stop it. Don't let her  
see you.

8 EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

XOCHI and ALICIA approach a teacher, SRA. INEZ YÑIQUEZ.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
Girls, how are you?

ALICIA  
Hello, teacher.

XOCHI  
Señora Yñiquez, we have something  
very important to tell you.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
What is it?

ALICIA steps back, leaving Xochi on her own.

XOCHI  
Señora, there's something...um, some  
girls are hurting some of the other  
students.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
How? Are they hitting them?

XOCHI  
Um, no.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
Some sort of physical hurt?

XOCHI  
Yes.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
What exactly are they doing?

XOCHI looks at ALICIA, who turns away.

XOCHI  
They're hurting them with...with a  
jewel...a magic jewel.

SRA. YÑIQUEZ tries in vain to hide her smile.

XOCHI (cont'd)  
It's true! They made Alicia pee  
herself.

Sra. Yñiquez sniffs, and smells the pee.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
Alicia? Did someone do something to you?

ALICIA  
No, Señora. I just couldn't help it.

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
Xochi, honey, I have some training in  
psychology. I can help you. Come with  
me, honey.

XOCHI  
I'm not crazy! My cat has a whole  
tail!

SRA YÑIQUEZ  
No one said you were crazy. But let's  
just talk about it.

XOCHI  
No, Señora, thanks. Forget it. I...I  
was joking. There isn't any jewel.  
Um...let's go, Alicia.

CAMERA reveals that KATIA (and MÓNICA) saw that XOCHI was  
talking to SRA. YÑIQUEZ.

9 EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

KATIA conspires with MÓNICA. In the background, XOCHI is walking slowly, alone.

KATIA  
Watch this.

MONICA  
What are you going to do? Make her  
pee herself?

KATIA  
No. Something much worse.

MONICA  
What could be worse than--?  
(suddenly she gets it)  
Noooo.

KATIA  
Yes.

MÓNICA  
Oh God, I can't look.

KATIA raises the jewel in her hand. The CAMERA changes to a wide angle.

XOCHI, walking, stops suddenly. She puts her hands on her stomach. She feels her bowels need to move. A look of terror comes over her face, which transforms grotesquely as she struggles not to poop right there on the playground. Involuntarily, she stoops, still fighting it. She looks around, sees KATIA and MÓNICA in the distance. A groan escapes her mouth.

XOCHI  
Oooong. Nooo!

Suddenly Xochi relaxes, then slowly straightens up. She's okay. The powerful urge to defecate is gone.

XOCHI (cont'd)  
Oh thank you, God, for not letting  
that happen!

Katia and Mónica are surprised, and Katia is also angry.

KATIA  
Ay!, What happened? The magic  
stopped.

MÓNICA  
Doesn't the jewel work anymore?

Mónica grabs the jewel to look at it, Katia grabs it back, and it comes apart again, revealing that the formerly white and gray powder is not completely black.

MONICA

Hmm, it seems that some of the magic is in the powder, and now that it's all black, the magic is gone.

KATIA

Then all we have to do is get more white powder.

Katia starts to walk, and Mónica follows. We see XOCHI in the background, some distance away.

MONICA

And how? Go to the pharmacy and ask for it? "Good afternoon, señor. We need 100 grams of magic powder, please,...and make sure it's white."

KATIA

No. We go to the fortune teller's house.

MONICA

Are you crazy? You're going alone, then, because I'm not going.

KATIA

Alright. I'll go alone, and I won't share the power with you.

MONICA

But, it's dangerous.

KATIA

Do what you want. Lead a boring life, like all the rest. I...I choose an exciting life.

MONICA

How could we even find out where she lives?

KATIA

What do you care? You're not involved.

MONICA considers her choice.