

Journey to a Land Farfaraway/
Viaje a un país Muymuylejos
(A Work in Progress)

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Cast Breakdown

Cast List (In order of appearance):

Teacher
Ethan
Caroline
Eliza
Santiago
Helena
Dad
Mamá
Princess/Rapunzel
 Rapunzel's Parents/Las Águilas
 El Cartero/Witch
 Prince/El Príncipe
Book
Apple Tree #1
Apple Tree #2
Troll
Jack
Witch
Weeping Willow

(A classroom. The bell rings; students enter and take their seats. Teacher enters.)

TEACHER

Good morning, everyone.

STUDENTS

Buenos días.

TEACHER

Today we are starting a new unit in language arts- we'll be reading folk tales and fairy tales from around the world.

ETHAN

¡Eso es para los niños! No quiero leer los cuentos para los bebés.

TEACHER

Well, Ethan, fairy tales aren't just for kids- de hecho, los primeros estaban escritos para los adultos.

CAROLINE

Grown-ups read fairy tales? Didn't they know they weren't real?

TEACHER

Yes, but even though they weren't real, they could still teach us something about the world. Y eso es por qué vamos a leerlos: para aprender algo nuevo sobre nuestro mundo.

ELIZA

This will be easy- I already know lots of fairy tales from my dad reading them to me.

SANTIAGO

Yo también- mi mamá siempre me lee cuentos.

TEACHER

¡Excelente! Eso es exactamente su tarea. Your homework is to ask someone in your family to read you a bedtime story. Tomorrow we'll talk about the stories, so listen carefully.

HELENA

Do we have to take notes?

TEACHER

No, Helena. Esta noche, simplemente disfruten de los cuentos.

(Scene is split between Eliza's bedroom and Santiago's bedroom.)

DAD

Alright, Eliza, are you ready for bed?

ELIZA

Yes. Dad, could you read me a bedtime story?

DAD

A bedtime story? Sure. We haven't done that in a while.

ELIZA

We're learning about different fairy tales from around the world in school, and our homework was to have someone read us a bedtime story.

DAD

Well, sure. Let's see- how about "Rapunzel"?

ELIZA

Sounds good.

MAMÁ

Santiago, ¿estás listo para acostarse?

SANTIAGO

Sí, mamá. Pero antes de dormir, ¿me puede leer un cuento?

MAMÁ

Por supuesto, Santi. Hace mucho tiempo que lo hemos hecho.

SANTIAGO

Sí, lo sé. Hablamos en clase sobre los cuentos del mundo, y es nuestra tarea leer uno.

MAMÁ

A ver... ¿recuerdas el cuento de "Las águilas que criaron a una niña"?

SANTIAGO

Ah, sí, es uno de mis favoritos.

MAMÁ

Entonces, así empieza...

(The Princess enters. While Dad and Mamá read the stories, she pantomimes them in the middle of the stage. When appropriate, other characters enter to play Rapunzel's parents/las Águilas, el Cartero/Witch, and the Prince/el Príncipe.)

DAD

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there were a man and a woman who were about to have a baby. They lived next door to an evil witch who had a beautiful garden full of rampion. The woman could see the rampion from their house, so she begged her husband to climb over the garden wall to get her some to eat, because it looked so delicious that she thought she would die without it.

MAMÁ

Había un cartero caminando en la calle, y la pantorrilla comenzó a pesarle. Crecía y crecía y él no sabía qué fue, y cuando se cortó con su cuchillo, se dio cuenta de que había una niña al dentro. Se le sacó y se le tiró en un matorral al lado de la calle, y salió. El bebé lloraba y lloraba hasta que dos águilas lo encontraron. Decidieron llevarlo a un nicho en un barranco para criar a ella, porque era muy bonita.

DAD

However, when the man climbed over the wall, the witch was there waiting for him. "Thief!" she cried. "I will have your head for this!" The man begged and pleaded with her and finally the witch told him that he could take all the rampion he wanted, but that he must give her the baby that would be born soon. He agreed, for what else could he do, and when the baby was born, the man and the woman gave their little baby girl to the witch, who named her Rapunzel.

MAMÁ

La criaron en el nicho, y trabajaban muy duro para traerle todo tipo de comida y todo lo que necesitó. La trajeron animalitos para jugar, y construyeron una reja para que ella no se cayera en el río. Siempre peinaban el cabello con sus picos y contaban todos los pelos.

La niña era muy feliz, pero no tenía ninguna manera de bajarse. Había un príncipe que siempre andaba cerca del río, y se bañaba en el río, y un día, él vio la reflexión de la cara de la niña en el río. Miraba hacia arriba y se dio cuenta de que había una niña arriba. Quería hablar con ella, y entonces el próximo día, regresó con una

escalera para alcanzar a ella. Subió, y ellos hablaban y jugaban, y él le sacó un pelito por la ventana. De pronto, ella le dijo que sus padres, las águilas, regresarían pronto, y el salió. Cuando las águilas vinieron, se dieron cuenta de que faltaba un pelo, y cuando le preguntaron sobre el pelo, ella les contestó que uno de sus animalitos se lo había sacado.

DAD

When she grew up, the witch became jealous of Rapunzel's beauty, so she locked her up in a tall tower with no doors and one small window. Rapunzel had long, beautiful hair, so whenever the witch wanted to visit her, she would go to the tower and call, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair." Rapunzel would let her hair down and the witch would climb up.

MAMÁ

Cuando el príncipe regresó al palacio, empezó a arreglar todo con sus padres para el día de casarse con la niña. Estaban muy emocionadas para conocerla, y todo el pueblo había oído de su belleza. El próximo día, el príncipe regresó al barranco, y la niña salió de su nicho y caminaba con él hacia el palacio. Cuando estaban caminando, las águilas los vieron y volaron hacia la niña. "Ayy, ¿te hemos criado para esto?" Le dieron una bofetada a los dos lados de su cara, y un lado se volvió de burro y el otro lado de caballo.

DAD

Now, one day a prince was walking in the woods nearby when he saw Rapunzel sitting at her window. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen, so he waited by the tower, since he could see no door to enter. Then he saw the witch come and watched her climb up Rapunzel's hair. When the witch left, the prince went up to the tower and called, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair." When he reached the top, at first Rapunzel was frightened, but the prince was so kind to her that soon they were talking and laughing. Suddenly, a small bird appeared at the window and chirped a warning. They looked out and saw the witch coming, so the prince hurried down before he was caught.

MAMÁ

Cuando el príncipe y la niña llegaron al palacio, todos rieron porque ella fue tan fea. Los padres los botaron, y tenía que vivir en una casita, y no sabían cocinar. Eran muy pobres. Pronto, sería el cumpleaños del rey, y todas las cuñadas decidieron a coser camisas grandes y bonitas para su suegro. Preguntaron a la niña qué haría, y les contestó que cosería una camisa simple para el rey. En el día de la fiesta, la camisa de la niña fue la mejor de todas las camisas.

DAD

The next day, the prince brought a ladder to the tower so Rapunzel could come down. She was able to leave the tower for the first time in her life, and she went with the prince to his castle, where they fell in love, got married, and lived happily ever after. The End.

MAMÁ

La niña y el príncipe decidieron ir a pedir perdón de las águilas. Cuando las águilas los vieron, les dieron el perdón y le dieron una bofetada a la niña, y de nuevo era hermosa. Después, iban al palacio, y los reyes los aceptaron, y se casaron con una gran fiesta, y vivieron felices para siempre. Fin.

DAD

Good night, Eliza.

ELIZA

Good night, Dad.

MAMÁ

Buenas noches, Santi.

SANTIAGO

Buenas noches, Mamá.

(The classroom. As before, the bell rings; students enter and take their seats. Teacher enters.)

TEACHER

¡Buenos días!

STUDENTS

Good morning.

TEACHER

Did you all complete your assignment last night? Wonderful. Caroline, what story did you read?

CAROLINE

Mi madre me leyó Cinderella.

TEACHER

Ah, a classic French tale from the 17th century.

CAROLINE

I thought it was from Disney.

TEACHER

Realmente, la mayoría de las películas de Disney son cuentos muy antiguos. Ethan, ¿qué leíste?

ETHAN

Return of the Jedi!

TEACHER

Well, I don't know if that's really considered a fairy tale...

ETHAN

But it happened a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away! There are magical creatures, a princess, a villain...

TEACHER

¿Leíste el libro o viste la película?

ETHAN

I watched the movie. It would make a pretty boring book.

TEACHER

Bueno, Ethan, esta noche, lee un libro. Santi, what was your story?

SANTIAGO

Mi madre me leyó “Las águilas que criaron a una niña,” un cuento de Perú.

TEACHER

Very good, Santiago. I appreciate that you chose a story different from the traditional European ones we usually hear. Es importante que estudiemos y aprendamos de otras culturas para obtener perspectivas diferentes, y leer cuentos es una de las maneras más fáciles y divertidas de hacerlo. Muy bien. Eliza, ¿cuál cuento escogiste?

ELIZA

I picked one of my favorites, “Rapunzel,” because it has a happy ending.

ETHAN

Some happy ending. A stupid prince saves a stupid girl and they go get married.

HELENA

What’s wrong with a prince saving the girl he loves? Me parece tan romántico.

ETHAN

Please. Rapunzel and all those other fairy tales are just about helpless girls who need a prince to come save them. At least Princess Leia can fight.

TEACHER

Cálmate, Ethan. Necesitamos recordar que esos tiempos antiguos estaban muy diferentes. Things are much different now. And now, I want you to take out your notebooks and answer the questions on the board.

The class writes in their notebooks while the Teacher sits at her/his desk.

ELIZA

(Whispering) Santi, ¿qué crees? Do you think they’re really just helpless girls?

SANTIAGO

No sé. Quizás tiene razón. Maybe it's like that all over the world.

ELIZA

Maybe.

SANTIAGO

I don't think it means that all girls need a prince to save them. Sólo las chicas de los cuentos.

ELIZA

Well, then I want to read some other stories.

(As before, scene is split between Eliza's bedroom and Santiago's bedroom.)

DAD

(Holding the book he read from last night)

Eliza, are you ready for bed? Do you need me to read you another story?

MAMÁ

(Holding the book she read from last night)

Santiago, ¿estás listo para acostarse? ¿Quieres que te lea otro cuento?

ELIZA

I'm ready for bed, but I don't need another story tonight.

SANTIAGO

Sí, estoy listo, pero no quiero otro cuento.

DAD

Are you sure? I know you love those stories, and I thought it was fun to read to you again.

MAMÁ

¿Estás seguro? Sé que te gustan los cuentos, y me gustó leer contigo anoche.

ELIZA

I'm sure. Good night, Dad.

SANTIAGO

Estoy seguro. Buenas noches, Mamá.

DAD/MAMÁ

Good night./Buenas noches.

(They put the books back on their respective shelves and exit. Eliza and Santiago get out of bed, retrieve the books, sits on their beds and open them, re-reading the stories.)

ELIZA

"...the prince brought a ladder to the tower so Rapunzel could come down. She was able to leave the tower for the first time in her life, and she went with the prince to his castle, where they fell in love, got married, and lived happily ever after." Why couldn't she leave the castle before?

SANTIAGO

“Después, iban al palacio, y los reyes los aceptaron, y se casaron con una gran fiesta, y vivieron felices para siempre.” ¿Por qué tuvieron que casarse para ser felices?

(Eliza puts the book down on her bed, goes to her window and somehow signals to Santiago that she wants to talk. She might shine a flashlight through his window, or tug on a string they have rigged up to a bell. Santiago comes to his window and they talk across the space between their houses.)

ELIZA

Santi, I've been thinking about this fairy tale thing.

SANTIAGO

Yo también he pensado en los cuentos. You go first.

(As Eliza talks, he climbs out the window and comes over to her room and climbs in. Eliza picks up the book and starts flipping through it.)

ELIZA

I just don't get it- I used to love these stories when I was little. But now they just seem dumb- Rapunzel never even does anything in her story besides sit around in the tower.

SANTIAGO

It's the same with my story. Lo mismo: la chica sienta en el nicho todo el día, y al fin, solo están felices después de casarse. What's so great about being married?

ELIZA

Ethan tiene razón. It's just a stupid story in a stupid book.

BOOK

Who are you calling stupid?

ELIZA

(Looking around) ¿Quién lo dijo?

BOOK

Who do you think?

(Eliza shrieks and drops the book behind the bed. From the same spot she dropped the book, Book jumps up.)

BOOK (cont'd)

Ouch! That wasn't very nice. You could have broken my binding!

ELIZA

Lo siento, tendré cuidado.

BOOK

Well, I should think so! Now, what are you complaining about? Estaba dormiendo.

SANTIAGO

Discutamos sus cuentos.

ELIZA

They're kind of lame.

BOOK

Excuse me?! My stories are not *lame*. I get the highest quality stories, straight from the source.

ELIZA

¿Y qué es la fuente de los cuentos?

BOOK

Farfaraway.

SANTIAGO

Por supuesto es muy lejos, pero ¿cómo se llama?

BOOK

No, the land is called Farfaraway. You know how all fairy tales start, "Once upon a time in a land far, far away?" Well, Farfaraway is a real place, y ese lugar es dónde todos los cuentos ocurren, y es de dónde que los obtengo.

ELIZA

Well, if I were you, I would get some new stories. This is the twenty-first century! ¡Los tiempos son muy diferentes ahora! Girls don't always need a boy to save them.

BOOK

Be that as it may, it's not up to me. No es mi elección. I only have room for so many stories between these covers.

ELIZA

Then why don't you just rewrite the stories? ¿No pueden cambiar los cuentos?

BOOK

What's written in the books is what happens in Farfaraway. Para cambiar lo que está escrito, tendría que ir a Farfaraway y cambiar el cuento cuando ocurre. Changing the story there would change the way it's written, and then that's the story I would have.

SANTIAGO

Let's just do that! ¿Cómo podemos hacerlo?

BOOK

You can't just *go*, otherwise humans would always be going and changing the stories to suit their own needs. Es muy complicado, y no quiero decirles. Especially not after you called my stories lame.

ELIZA

Look, I'm sorry about that. No quería insultarle. What can we do to make it up to you?

BOOK

Well... I've been really stumped by this riddle. Esta adivinanza es muy difícil. If you can figure it out, I'll *think* about helping you.

SANTIAGO

Okay, what is it? ¡Díganos!

BOOK

"Sin ser árbol, tengo hojas; sin ser bestia, un buen lomo; y mi nombre en cada tomo."

SANTIAGO

Sin ser árbol, tengo hojas...

ELIZA

I have leaves, but I'm not a tree...

SANTIAGO

Sin ser bestia, un buen lomo...

ELIZA

I have a spine, but I'm not an animal...

SANTIAGO

...y mi nombre en cada tomo.

ELIZA

...and my name is in every volume. What has leaves and a spine?

SANTIAGO

Leaves... hojas... that's it! In Spanish, "hojas" means "leaves," but it also means pages! What has pages and a spine- a book! The answer is a book!

ELIZA

¡Un libro! ¡Tiene razón! Is he right?

BOOK

A book... the answer is a book! Un libro! Ay Dios mío, I should have known. Bueno, les ayudaré. I'll tell you how to get to Farfaraway. All you have to do is click your heels together three times and think happy thoughts.

ELIZA

¿Está seguro?

SANTIAGO

I thought you said it was really complicated.

BOOK

Trust me, there's a lot more. Hay mucho más. I'll take care of the rest- just close your eyes.

(Eliza and Santiago close their eyes and click their heels together three times. While their eyes are closed, the Book orchestrates an enormous scene change involving all the other characters and the set whirling around them. When the scene is set, the Book whispers “Good luck” and disappears. Eliza and Santiago open their eyes.)

ELIZA

Aquí estamos. Now what?

SANTIAGO

I guess we look for a tower. No veo una torre.

ELIZA

Maybe we should ask someone.

SANTIAGO

There's no one here- ¿a quién vas a preguntar, a un árbol? A tree?

APPLE TREE #1

Not in that tone of voice, you're not, young man.

SANTIAGO

Cut it out, Eliza.

ELIZA

Santi...

APPLE TREE #2

Ay, ¡qué grosero es! Y es de tipo raro, mira sus ramas- he only has two branches and they just hang there at his sides.

SANTIAGO

No, no soy un-

APPLE TREE #1

Saplings these days just don't seem to have any manners at all.

APPLE TREE #2

Ay, ¡este mundo!

SANTIAGO

I'm not a tree! I'm a boy, un chico, y buscamos la torre de Rapunzel.

ELIZA

We'd probably be able to find the tower if we climbed to the top of a tree.

(Santiago tries to climb Apple Tree #1)

APPLE TREE #1

¿Qué haces? Get off!

SANTIAGO

¿Y ahora? Now what are we supposed to do?

ELIZA

Maybe you should have asked first. Perdona, ¿puedo trepar a sus ramas? We're trying to find a girl named Rapunzel.

APPLE TREE #1

No sé, ese chico fue muy grosero. I don't see why I should bother.

ELIZA

Si nos ayudan, podemos ayudarles. Is there anything you need help with?

APPLE TREE #2

Now that you mention it, my branches are feeling really heavy with all this fruit. Me duele el tronco.

SANTIAGO

Podríamos recoger algunas de sus manzanas.

APPLE TREE #1

Yes, that sounds nice... alright. If you pick our apples and lighten our load, you can climb up to try to find your tower.

(Santiago and Eliza pick a bunch of apples off of the trees, which visibly lightens the stress on their arms.)

APPLE TREE #2

Ahh... mucho major.

APPLE TREE #1

What a relief! Alright, you can climb up. ¡Ten cuidado!

(Eliza climbs to the top of the tree.)

SANTIAGO

Do you see it? ¿Qué ves?

ELIZA

Almost- there- yes! I see a tower in the middle of the woods- una torre muy grande con una ventana. That has to be it! And I can see a path through the woods leading toward it- this should be easy! *(She climbs down.)*

SANTIAGO

¡Fantástico! Gracias por ayudarnos.

APPLE TREE #1

Thank you for helping us with our apples.

APPLE TREE #2

Good luck finding Rapunzel. If you ever need help, just ask a tree- we're usually more helpful than we look.

SANTIAGO

¡Gracias!

ELIZA

¡Adiós!

(Santiago and Eliza walk through the woods, taking the apples with them.)

SANTIAGO

Entonces, ¿qué hacemos cuando encontramos a Rapunzel?

ELIZA

Well, if she can get herself down from the tower without the prince's help, then she would be free to do whatever she wants- she doesn't have to go marry the prince. Simplemente tenemos que detener al príncipe para que ella pueda bajar sola.

SANTIAGO

¿Y cómo vamos a hacer eso?

ELIZA

I guess we'll figure it out when we get there.

(They come to a bridge and start to cross it, when they hear a voice from below.)

TROLL

Who's that stomping over my bridge?

ELIZA

I'm Eliza.

SANTIAGO

Soy Santiago.

ELIZA

Vamos a la torre de Rapunzel.

(The troll jumps out from under the bridge.)

TROLL

Oh no, you're not. I'm going to eat you for breakfast! ¡Nadie cruza mi puente sin mi permiso!

SANTIAGO

May we have your permission to cross?

TROLL

No! ¡No le doy el permiso a nadie!

ELIZA

Maybe you could make an exception, just this once.

TROLL

Una excepción, hmm, quizás... but I would only make an exception for someone very powerful. ¿Qué tipo de poderes tienen?

SANTIAGO

We have a riddle that no one can solve. Si no puede resolver la adivinanza, ¿podemos cruzar?

TROLL

Hmm... sí, sí... that seems fair. Dime la adivinanza. And tell me quick or I'll eat you up!

SANTIAGO

Okay, here is the riddle: Why is a raven like a writing desk?

TROLL

A raven... a writing desk... un cuervo... un escritorio... ah ha! I've got it. Because they both- no, that's not right. Ah, yo no sé! I give up! You've stumped me!

ELIZA

¡Y ahora podemos cruzar!

TROLL

Oh, all right. There will probably be some bigger and juicier people walking by later anyway. Esperaré los chicos más grandes y más deliciosos...

(Santiago and Eliza cross the bridge.)

TROLL

(Calling after them) But wait! Why IS a raven like a writing desk?

SANTIAGO

I don't know. It hasn't got an answer. No hay nada respuesta.

TROLL

Ahhh!! You tricked me! ¡Una trampa! Get back here! *(He starts to chase them.)*

ELIZA

Run!

(Eliza and Santiago run off, followed by the Troll. They reenter in a different part of the woods next to Rapunzel's tower, with no Troll in sight.)

ELIZA

I can't believe that worked.

SANTIAGO

Do you think we're getting close?

ELIZA

Creo que estamos aquí. And there's the prince!

(Prince enters and gets down on one knee.)

PRINCE

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your—

ELIZA

She's not home. No está aquí.

PRINCE

What?

SANTIAGO

¿Qué?

ELIZA

(Elbowing Santiago) Rapunzel just left, but... she asked us to tell you that she'd be back later.

PRINCE

¿Rapunzel salió? Creía que no podía salir de la torre...

SANTIAGO

She'll be back soon- you should take a walk around the forest; debe dar una vuelta para disfrutar de los árboles...

PRINCE

Wonderful, just wonderful. *(He wanders off muttering. As he walks offstage, he bumps into Jack, who falls down and promptly gets back up.)*

ELIZA

That was close. Y ahora, ¿qué?

(Jack, still walking with his head down, walks into Santiago and falls down again.)

JACK

Ouch! Lo siento.

SANTIAGO

No hay problema. ¿Qué pasa? Pareces muy triste.

JACK

I am sad. I just lost my best friend.

ELIZA

What happened?

JACK

I was taking Bessie to the market to be sold...

SANTIAGO

¿Vendiste su amigo?

JACK

She's a cow- una vaca. My mother said we couldn't afford to keep her anymore. But on the way to the market, a stranger offered to trade me some magic beans for her, and he seemed nice enough. Por lo menos, el forastero me dijo que los frijoles fueron mágicos, pero ahora no sé. I just wish I could have Bessie back! These beans probably won't even feed us- son muy pequeños estos frijoles.

ELIZA

Do you like apples?

JACK

Las manzanas? Sí.

SANTIAGO

We'll trade you these apples for your beans!

JACK

Vale.

(They make the trade, and Eliza and Santiago plant the beans at the base of the tower. The beanstalk begins to grow.)

ELIZA

Wow! Okay, we don't have a lot of time. Vámonos. *(She and Santiago begin to climb the beanstalk.)*

JACK

¿Puedo venir también? I just don't want to be alone right now.

SANTIAGO

Sure, but hurry up.

(They climb into Rapunzel's tower room. The scene changes to inside the tower and Eliza, Santiago and Jack tumble into the room through the window.)

RAPUNZEL

Ahh! Who are you?

ELIZA

I'm Eliza.

SANTIAGO

Yo soy Santiago.

JACK

And I'm Jack.

RAPUNZEL

¿Qué quieren?

ELIZA

We're here to help you!

RAPUNZEL

¿Para ayudarme? ¿Con que?

SANTIAGO

We want to help you get down from the tower so you can live your life!

ELIZA

You don't need that prince to save you! ¡Puedes hacerlo sin el príncipe!

RAPUNZEL

What are you talking about?

SANTIAGO

Look, there's this giant beanstalk outside your window. ¡Puedes bajar por el tallo de frijoles!

RAPUNZEL

No, no puedo hacer eso. The witch who keeps me locked up here would be really, really, mad.

ELIZA

¿No quieres bajar de la torre? There's a whole big world out there.

RAPUNZEL

I know, I can see it out my window. Pero, creo que debo esperar el príncipe. Eso sería más fácil.

SANTIAGO

Sometimes the easiest thing isn't always the best thing.

ELIZA

You should talk to the witch and tell her how you feel. ¡Dile que quieres salir y que ella no te puede guardar aquí para siempre!

JACK

You are your own woman!

RAPUNZEL

Yeah, maybe you're right! Voy a hacerlo!

(The Witch's voice comes from offstage.)

WITCH

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!

SANTIAGO

She's here! We have to hide!

ELIZA

Ahora, ¡sí se puede!

(Eliza, Santiago, and Jack hide. The Witch climbs through the window.)

WITCH

Rapunzel, what is that beanstalk doing outside the tower?

RAPUNZEL

Ah, no sé, no lo hice, no-

WITCH

I'll have to get someone out here to cut it down right away. No quiero que te fugas, ¿no?

RAPUNZEL

I guess so... I mean, no! No quiero que lo corta. I'm going to use it to climb down and leave.

WITCH

What? What's gotten into your head, girl? ¿Qué dices?

RAPUNZEL

I'm tired of being stuck in this tower and never getting to go anywhere. Y no quiero que me trata como un bebé. I'm leaving and you can't stop me!

(Eliza, Santiago and Jack burst into applause.)

WITCH

What is going on here?

RAPUNZEL

Estos son mis amigos y me han ayudado a ver lo que es lo mejor para mí. So I'm leaving now. And I'm going to marry my prince!

(She climbs out the window and exits.)

ELIZA

¿Todavía va a casarse con el príncipe?

SANTIAGO

I guess you can't win them all.

ELIZA

(She sighs.) Princesses. Ah well, let's go.

(Eliza and Santiago climb out the window and exit.)

WITCH

(Crying) Now I'm all alone- Rapunzel me ha dejado, y no tengo a nadie en todo el mundo.

JACK

You can come with me if you want. I just lost my friend, too. Podemos ir juntos.

WITCH

Well, aren't you a sweet little boy. I could just eat you right up...

JACK

Oh, no you don't. Vámonos.

(They climb out the window and exit.)

(The forest. Santiago and Eliza are alone.)

ELIZA

Well, I guess we did what we came here to do.

SANTIAGO

Sí, hicimos lo que quisimos hacer. At least Rapunzel did something in the story, instead of sitting around waiting. I think that's more important than a happy ending.

ELIZA

Creo que tienes razón. I'm ready to go home now.

SANTIAGO

Yo también estoy listo para ir a casa.

(Beat.)

SANTIAGO (Cont'd)

So, how do we get home?

ELIZA

Yo no sé. *(She sighs and sits with her back against the tree.)* Necesitamos ayuda.

WEEPING WILLOW

Help, did you say? Well, I've got help right for you my dear. Just say the word.

SANTIAGO

(Remembering) Right... ask the trees for help! ¡Los árboles!

ELIZA

Can you help us get home? Queremos dormir en nuestras camas.

WEEPING WILLOW

Certainly. Just come closer- come under my branches...

(The Weeping Willow envelops Santiago and Eliza in its branches and holds them tightly. Around them, the world swirls as before, and the scene shifts back to the classroom.)

TEACHER

¡Buenos días, clase!

STUDENTS

(With notably less enthusiasm) Good morning.

TEACHER

Today we'll be continuing our discussion on fairy tales...

(The class groans.)

TEACHER (Cont'd)

¿Qué pasa? Creía que les gustaban los cuentos.

SANTIAGO

I just don't think the stories are relevant to our lives.

ELIZA

I think Ethan was right the first time- they really are just for little kids. Cuando creces, los cuentos no son tan especiales como antes.

CAROLINE

It seems like the magic's gone.

TEACHER

¿Y todo el mundo siente así?

(Murmured assent.)

HELENA

I like reading the fairy tales because back when they were written, people still believed in magic. La magia fue algo real. It was a part of everyday life for them, with fairies, and witches, and dragons. But those don't exist anymore, so it also makes me kind of sad to read them. Me siento triste cuando me doy cuenta de que ya no existen.

TEACHER

Well, I have news for you all: magic is still here. Todavía hay magia.

ETHAN

Whatever.

TEACHER

No, really. I'm not talking about magical creatures or even magic spells, but those didn't really exist at the time these stories were written, either. La magia se expresa en diferentes maneras en diferentes culturas- the reason we've been reading stories from around the world is to see that magic. Magic is in people- en cada persona. It's in the exploration of what's different from what you know- todas las exploraciones- a land far, far away, in meeting new people, in getting excited by learning that people can see the world differently.

CAROLINE

Pero estamos jóvenes. We can't go around travelling the world.

TEACHER

And that's where the stories come in. Every time you read a story, you go on an adventure to another place. Cada cuento es una aventura nueva.

ELIZA

What if we don't like the stories?

TEACHER

Si no nos gustan los cuentos que tenemos- then we'll write our own.

SANTIAGO

¿Escribir nuestros propios cuentos? ¿Cómo vamos a hacer eso?

TEACHER

We'll do it together. Let's get started.

(The lights fade out as the class starts their new project.)

FIN