

Musical Ancestries™: Mexico Script

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Nita: Maya Sosa

Rica: Alora Marguerite

Fedo: Ray Sherrock

Abuela: Carmen Garcia

NARR: Reading...perfect for a drizzly April afternoon. Eleven-year old Federica stretched, then returned to her book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. She liked the idea of being a kid who could make other people's lives better.

NITA: Rica! Hey, Rica!! You in your room?

RICA: Yeah. What's up?

NITA: Are you busy?

RICA: Just reading – why?

NITA: Would you come here for a sec, please?

RICA: Comin'...

NARR: She put the book down, wondering what her mom wanted. She'd done all her homework, washed the lunch dishes and put them away. It had been hard on her mom since dad passed away, so Rica did her best to help out. Dad would've liked that.

RICA: Hi, Mom - what's up? Mmmmm! Dinner smells good!

NITA: Thanks – **carnitas**. Remember when your grandparents came to visit us a few years ago?

RICA: (Perking up) Abuela and Papa Fedo? Sure! I love them sooo much! Are they coming back to visit again? It'd be great to see them!

NITA: Well, we're gonna' see them...but they're not coming here...we're *visiting THEM!*

RICA: In Mexico City?! *REALLY?! WHEN??*

NITA: In October. We'll take a few extra days over your fall break. It's a great time to go, because that's when the dry season starts and it's cooler. We also thought *that* time would be fun because of ***Día de los Muertos – The Day of the Dead***. It's a huge celebration there,

much bigger than our Halloween. Since this is your first trip to Mexico, we thought it would be something you'd enjoy along with all the other things we'll do.

RICA: Wow – **Mexico City!** Where you grew up!

NITA: Yes! It's the **capital of the country** – and huge! Then we'll head over to the **Yucatán Peninsula**. There are some amazing ancient ruins, fascinating towns and gorgeous beaches. It would be a nice getaway for Abuela and Papa Fedo, too. What do you think?

RICA: Yyyesss! Can I bring my guitar from Papa Fedo?

NITA: That might be too much to travel with. Maybe he'll let you borrow one of his.

RICA: (*Giggle*) Yeah, he does have a few doesn't he?

NITA: He sure does! That's what happens when you're a performer *and* a teacher...you wind up with lots of instruments. (*Both laugh.*)

We'll call them later. Meanwhile, those carnitas *do* smell good. Hungry?

RICA: Starving. Let's eat!

NARR: Over the next six months, Rica learned about Mexico. Her mom had been raised there - but Rica realized she knew very little about the country.

Geographically, Mexico is in the southern part of the North American continent. But culturally and historically, it's part of Latin America, which is not a continent, but a group of several countries. At one time or another, all of them had been ruled by Spain, Portugal or both, so most of the people now speak either Spanish or Portuguese. Both languages come from Latin – that's how "Latin America" got its name.

RICA: Mom! Listen to this: "*Mexico has it all - high mountains and deep canyons in the center of the country, deserts in the north, and rain forests in the south. The Yucatán Peninsula is located to the southeast, and forms a tip in the Gulf of Mexico. It was once the home of the ancient and very advanced Maya civilization. Mayan buildings and ruins can still be seen in the Yucatán Peninsula today.*" Are those the ones we're gonna see?

NITA: Uh-huh. Some of them, anyhow... there are a lot. I haven't seen them since before I came to the States and met your dad. They probably haven't changed much...but I sure have!

RICA: *(Laughing)* Yeah, you had ME! Check this out: “*The Mexican people are friendly and have many customs and traditions, along with abundant choices of delicious food!*”

NITA: Absolutely! On both counts. Now tell me something we *don't* know!

RICA: Well, I've been doing lots of studying about music, both instrumental and vocal. I can hardly wait to learn more from Papa Fedo.

NITA: He's a wealth of information, for sure. You'll have a blast exploring it together.

NARR: The big day came when the two of them were on their way to Mexico City. Besides being excited about her first airplane ride, Rica could hardly wait to see Abuela Eva and Papa Fedo (short for Federico). Rica was named after him, her full name being Frederica.

When they arrived, the four of them made a happy, noisy scene as they all hugged!

ABUELA: *(Spanish greeting)* ...And so beautiful, too! I see a lot of your daddy in you – and a little of Papa Fedo as well! Juanita, aren't we lucky to share our lives with such fine *familia*?

FEDO: Hola, Rica! You're so tall! Just look at you, young lady!

NITA: *(smiling)* Oh, Mama, I think you're embarrassing her.

RICA: That's OK, Abuela. I'm so happy to see you both. I've really been looking forward to this!

FEDO: We have a lot of plans for these next few days, so let's get your luggage and go home. Give me a hand, muchacha.

RICA: Si, Papa Fedo. Let's go! Vamonos! *(laughter from all)*

NARR: That evening the family reunited with fun and laughter. The conversation turned to Mexico City.

NITA: Gosh! I'd forgotten just how huge this city is!

ABUELA: About half the people in Mexico live here in Mexico City...around 65 million! With 130 million people in Mexico, we're considered the 10th most populated country in the world. Most of us speak Spanish, but about 5% speak an indigenous language...Mayan, Nahuatl or another regional language *in addition* to Spanish. Rica, did you know that indigenous Mexican words are now common in other languages, including English?

RICA: No ma'am! Really?

ABUELA: Yes – and I'd bet some of them are words you probably really like, such as: chocolate, tomato, avocado, and coyote! Those all originated in Nahuatl.

RICA: No way! I had no idea!

ABUELA: Mexico has a diverse ancestry, even in its indigenous peoples, like the Mayans and Aztecs. Then came the foreign occupations and visitors, including the Spanish, African, German and others. The biggest ethnic groups are **Amerindian** (the indigenous people of Mexico) and **mestizos** (Amerindian-Spanish).

NITA: Is the main religion still Roman Catholic?

ABUELA: Yes, with a sprinkling of Protestant Presbyterian and other faiths.

NARR: They didn't talk long, because Papa Fedo had planned a big day for them at the university and the school where he now taught.

The next morning, after a light breakfast of hot chocolate and *pan dulce* (like a sweet bun), they were off to the **Central Library of UNAM...the National Autonomous University of Mexico**. It was designed by architect and artist Juan O'Gorman and built in the 1950's. The outside of the library is covered in **murals** that tell the cultural history of Mexico. It is stunning.

FEDO: Look at [these](#) natural **stone mosaics**, Rica. Each of the four walls represents periods and influences in Mexico's history. *[As if pointing to the different walls]* Here you see the **Mesoamerican cultures** of the Olmec, Maya, Toltec and Aztec peoples... next, we have the arrival of the **Spaniards** and their **conquest**... the third wall is **modern Mexico**, the **Revolution**, and **atomic energy**... and the fourth wall represents the **university** itself, with the studies it offers. The ground level of the building is made of **volcanic rock**, where you see **Aztec** gods, and the face and hands of the rain god, Tlaloc, fashioned into a fountain.

RICA: Gosh, Papa Fedo! Everywhere you look there's something important!

FEDO: Exactly, **nieta**...my granddaughter. That's what the architect had in mind... and it's why this building is so famous all over the world.

There's also a world-class cultural center that's part of this university. It's called **Casa del Lago** and it's in Chapultepec Park. The park has been a landmark for centuries – since **pre-Columbian times**. (That means since before Columbus came to the Americas.)

RICA: Oh! *THAT's* what that means! Gosh – I've always wondered!

FEDO: Well, NOW you *know*!! At one time this park was a retreat for Aztec leaders. Nowadays, even though it's off the main campus, this fine arts museum houses visual arts, cinema, dance, theatre and music.

ABUELA: That's where Papa taught for many years, Rica. But if you really want to get into the heart and soul of Mexico, it's the music! Just open up your ears – it's all around us!

FEDO: So true! And we're going to go listen to some right now! Some of my students play in bands, and we're going to two rehearsals today.

RICA: *COOL!!*

FEDO: There are four main types of *instrumental* music, Rica. There's **Mariachi**, **Norteño**, **Tejano** and **Banda**. We'll hear the first three today.

NARR: Rica was familiar with **mariachi** bands. They're popular in the US, and probably *the* most popular type of band in Mexico. They wear colorful, elaborate costumes, and play a variety of guitars, violins, and trumpets.

Mariachi music grew out of a folk music genre called **son**. It gained popularity in the 1800s and then changed in the 1930s, when trumpets were added. In some cases, mariachi "orchestras" were formed because the trumpets covered the sound of the violins. Others simply used louder, more contemporary guitars.

At the rehearsal, Papa Fedo introduced Rica to his students. As they warmed up, he explained:

FEDO: The typical mariachi band instruments are: violin, acoustic guitar, trumpet, **vihuela** and **guitarrón**. See that instrument that looks like a miniature guitar? That's a vihuela. But notice it has *five* strings. Now that big bass instrument is a guitarrón. It looks like a giant guitar, but it's really quite different, and it came from Spain in the 1700s.

Mariachis play mostly ballads, polkas, and marches. When singers perform with the mariachi, the themes center around love, death, politics, and the challenges of hard-working rural life. They often reflect a **machismo** quality - that means, having pride in one's masculinity.

ABUELA: Most often the players themselves sing, either trading off verses or singing in harmony.

NITA: They're really good, Papa. Do you like that sound, Rica?

RICA: Yes!! Especially the guitarrón! Wow! That bass really holds it all together, doesn't it? I'd love to learn to play one of those!

FEDO: We could probably make that happen...

NARR: The next rehearsal was a **norteño** band, a style from the Mexican states near the Texas-Mexico border.

The norteño style grew out of several sources...including the Mexican and Spanish oral and musical traditions. German immigrants brought in the waltz and polka dances. They also used accordions, which immediately became part of the sound. They're often joined by a 12-string guitar called a *bajo sexto* – or sixth bass. About this same time, brass instruments were improving, making *military bands* more popular, so trumpets were added. All these things merged with the mariachi and ranchera traditions to create a distinctive sound called “norteño” – from the north.

FEDO: Norteño came from more rural areas, but now it's very well-known in cities, too. Numerous norteño musicians have gained popularity among the Mexican-American population because radio stations would broadcast regional Mexican music. Catchy, isn't it?

RICA: Yeah... I really like the sound of this band, Papa Fedo.

FEDO: They do a great job, don't they? I'm proud of them. They also play a very similar style, called **tejano**. Tejano is also known as *Tex-Mex* music. It developed in both the Mexican community and in South & Central Texas in the United States. It feels more modern, because it's mixed with elements of country, rock & blues, and now, even hip-hop. The most famous tejano singer was **Selena Quintanilla Pérez**. She was known simply as “Selena” and was considered the Queen of Tejano music. She sang iconic songs like “*Baila Esta Cumbia*,” and “*Bidi Bidi Bom Bom*.” She was loved in both the US and Mexico, and Selena paved the way for other female Latin singers to achieve success.

NITA: I've always loved Selena's music!

ABUELA: Me, too.

NITA: Rica, you've heard several of her songs, because I play them pretty often.

RICA: Yeah, I know...and I'm glad you do! I like her singing.

NARR: After rehearsal, Rica chatted with some of the students, then headed home.

It used to be that after a midday meal, towns all over Mexico would close down a few hours for an afternoon siesta, or nap...a very practical way to avoid the heat of the day. It sure felt good!

About 4 PM, Abuela woke them up.

ABUELA: OK, you two! Time to get up! We're going out for some more music and maybe dancing, too! Want to go?

NITA: Oh yes!

RICA: You bet!

NARR: They went to a place nearby that served food and presented musical groups, including **Banda bands** and ensembles featuring vocalists. As they walked, Papa Fedo shared some background.

FEDO: Banda bands are big, brass bands that place a focus on percussion. It also has roots in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa just like norteño and tejano music. It combines many well-known Mexican musical genres, like cumbia, corrido, and bolero – but we don't need to make this into a college music lesson here, do we? (*He laughs and the others join in with "uh-uh" or "no..."*)

NARR: The word "banda" can mean the style or the band itself. Bandas are fairly large – 10 to 20 members. They're known for their strong *brass* section of trumpets, trombones, horns, and sousaphones. Other wind instruments, like clarinets, are used as well.

One special instrument in a banda is the **tambora**... that's a type of double-headed drum. IT gives a distinctive bass note and rhythmic undertone. Along with the tambora they also use cymbals, which help make the duple beat strong and forceful... perfect for dancing or marching!

FEDO: Banda music is a mix of many dances and rhythms, such as the polka, cumbia, son and waltz. It has expanded into all of Mexico and in many parts of South America. It is one of the best-known types of regional music worldwide.

Ah! But here we are at the dance club! Ready for some fun?

NARR: The place was electric! The music was full of life – and folk traditions. They found a table, ordered, and listened for a while.

NITA: Hey, Rica! They're playing a polka! Want to dance?

RICA: Sure, Mom! Let's go!

NARR: They jumped right in, and came back to the table laughing. Then the banda started a waltz. Rica gallantly reached out her hand to Abuela.

RICA: Abuela, may I have the pleasure of this dance?

ABUELA: Oh my, Rica! How could I ever turn down such a gracious invitation? Yes, indeed you may!

FEDO: Well, Nita, we don't want to be left sitting here in the corner, do we? Shall we dance, too?

NITA: Of course, Papa. It's been way too long since we've waltzed together.

NARR: The evening was memorable one. Walking back home, they noticed people preparing for the upcoming holiday, **Día de los Muertos** – The Day of the Dead. Even though the name sounds scary, it's actually a joyful celebration. The belief is that those who have died come back to visit the party that's being held in their honor!

The ritual is deeply significant to Mexico's indigenous communities, like the Aztec and the Mayan. Ancient rites blended with religious observances and Catholic feasts. (In the Catholic tradition, November 1st is All Saints Day, so October 31st is the evening *before* All Saints Day, or... "All Hallows Eve"...or...Hallow-eeen.)

ABUELA: *Día de los Muertos* is usually a two-day festival, which takes place on the 1st of November, and often on the 2nd as well, depending on the local tradition. In some places, *Día de los Muertos* takes over entirely. Bright orange marigold flowers blanket the streets, colorful papel picado (craft paper) is hung across streets, and comparsas (parades or processions) simply take over the streets.

FEDO: Let me share a funny back-story about our parade! In 2015, a James Bond film, *Spectre*, featured "007" at a huge Day of the Dead parade here in Mexico City. But the truth was, we'd never really *had* a parade here! The next November, so many people showed up for the huge parade, that the government had no choice but to create one! So the very next year, 2017, they created the first parade...and now it's one of the biggest events in all of Mexico!

RICA: That really is funny, Papa Fedo!

NITA: And true! I remember hearing about it when it happened.

RICA: Is today Dia de los Muertos?

FEDO: You mean, you don't remember what day it is?! It HAS been a big day! That siesta threw you! Today's October 30th! So tomorrow we'll learn about Mexican folk and vocal music and maybe even play a little guitar together. THEN the *next day's Dia de los Muertos*.

RICA: AIII-right!

NARR: The next morning, Abuela and Nita went out, leaving Rica and her grandfather together to explore music. They played some guitar and then they began learning about Mexico's vocal music.

FEDO: Just like the instrumental music, Mexico's vocal music is always growing and changing, and the styles or **genres** that used to be only in one region are becoming much more widely known. (Each region also tends to add its own twist to other styles.) There are a number of vocal folk music genres in Mexico, but we'll focus on the main three, the **son**, **corrido**, and **ranchera**.

NARR: **Son** is a blend of African, European, and Amerindian melodies and rhythms. Many sons use complex meters like 6/8 time. Back in the 1700s, Mexicans wanted to express their culture musically, and so the son was born. By the 1800s, it developed into its own musical genre. The Spanish word "son" means "sound." The musical genre was simply the sound of an instrument that could be danced to easily, and the melody was sung. It began with one or two instruments for a small gathering of dancers, but is now usually played by one or two violins, one or more guitars, and a harp.

FEDO: One famous group of musicians who perform son music are the *Sones de Mexico Ensemble*. Here, Rica – watch this group and see what you think.

RICA: That's neat! They also have a violin and a cajón.

FEDO: Yes, they do – good catch! Remember we were talking about flexibility?

RICA: Oh, yeah. So they might add on then, right?

FEDO: Exactly.

NARR: The second vocal genre, the **corrido**, is a ballad – a song that tells a story. Created to honor the heroes of the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s, corridos are usually waltzes – sometimes polkas. The lyrics focus on heroes’ great deeds, life and love, and society. Initially, a single performer would play the guitar while singing corrido tunes, then later, as it gained popularity, groups formed around the vocalist, adding extra guitars, a violin, and a harp. Some popular corrido performers include *Cancioneros de Sonora*, and *Los Cenzontles auf Aida Cuevas*. Corridos are often performed by mariachi bands and also by banda groups.

FEDO: The most popular folk music style in Mexico is **ranchera**. This, too, originated in northern Mexico and the southwestern U.S., and it honors the rural life of the cowboys on the ranch. Although each group had its own lifestyle, they still had similar ways of living their lives. So naturally, ranchera developed into other musical styles in their own regions – and two of those are norteño and tejano.

Ranchera music usually features violins, acoustic guitars, and accordions. Ranchera has been influenced greatly by traditional Mexican folk music, and it has become an icon for Mexican identity. Its style is quite adaptable, with its polkas, waltzes, or boleros finding their way into groups of all kinds, including small mariachi bands, big bands, and solo guitar singers.

NARR: The following day was November 1st, so they went to Mexico City’s huge Day of the Dead parade. It begins Downtown at the Zocalo, or Main Square, in the Historic Center of Downtown.

RICA: Why are so many “skeleton face” ladies dressed all in white?

NITA: They’re dressed as “Catrina” – she is the character who represents death, and is the central symbol of this festival. Did you know, in 2003, UNESCO added this festival to its “Intangible Cultural Heritage list”? ...That means it’s a unique festival in all the world. It is particularly special because it centers around the belief that the living and the dead can communicate during the brief period.

RICA: You think Dad’s here?

NITA: It wouldn’t surprise me a bit! This is the kind of thing he’d have LOVED!

RICA: Yeah, he would’ve. If you’re here, Dad! I love you! Hi! WOW! Look at THOSE things! What ARE they?!

ABUELA: Those are known as Alebrijes – colorful imaginary creatures made by the people. They look like combinations of two or three or more animals. Volunteers wear colorful costumes of traditional Day of the Dead characters, and walk these giant alebrijes through the streets in “The Parade of **Alebrijes**”. It ends at the statue of the Angel de la Independencia (the Angel of Independence). Then, for about a week afterwards, the alebrijes are left for display along the parade route.

RICA: They’re really wild looking, but kinda’ interesting, too. I feel like I should design one! I also love the giant skeletons... and the floats and all the dancers and the costumes. But do you know what I’m really enjoying the most about this parade?

NITA: What?

RICA: The music! Especially the mariachi music! And now that I’ve learned more about the different styles and types of music and dances, I feel like I can really pick out some of them! Thanks, Papa Fedo.

FEDO: You’re welcome, Rica! You’ll be hearing even more music and learning more Mexican history tomorrow when we go to the Yucatán Peninsula. Say, nieta, let’s keep an eye out for a street vendor – I’m getting hungry.

RICA: I’m always hungry.

NITA: (laughing) True THAT! (They all laugh.)

NARR: The following day, they flew to Mérida, the capital of the Yucatán State, in the northwestern tip of the Yucatán Peninsula. They rented a car and drove through the historic city to their hotel...it was beautiful! Along the way, Abuela and Papa Fedo were their tour guides, while Rica and Nita “ooo-ed and aah-ed” at everything.

ABUELA: Rica, as you can see, Mérida’s rich culture is all around us. It dates back to the time of the Mayan civilization, and was known as T’ho (Tihoo). It was captured by the Spanish and renamed Mérida in 1542, and served as an administrative and commercial center for the Yucatán region. Right now we’re on the city’s main street, Paseo de Montejo, where all these white stone mansions were built and are still standing.

RICA: They’re along the whole street! They’re beautiful.

ABUELA: Yes they are, Rica. Mérida is also famous for its “Sunday markets” where they have the freshest foods of every kind. And there are handcrafted items that you can buy as unique mementos of your trip.

FEDO: And the food stalls! Don’t forget the food stalls!

ABUELA: Oh! Yes! There’s one place that has tacos that are known as the best in the state! Each stand has its own flair, and mariachi bands usually roam around, making a good time even better! There are also marvelous museums, art galleries and local murals here, as well as **The Autonomous University of Yucatán**, too. On your next visit, we’ll make extra time for Mérida.

RICA: Isn’t **Chichén Itzá** near here?

FEDO: I’m impressed, Rica! Yes - only 75 miles away. We’re going there tomorrow. Then we’ll spend the night there and drive to Tulum the next day. Sound like fun?

RICA: Yes sir!

NARR: Chichén Itzá is an ancient site known around the world. The ruined city is about 4 square miles in Yucatán state, Mexico. The city is thought to have been a religious, military, political, and commercial center, and once home to 35,000 people. Originally founded by the Maya, the city changed hands, but some of its oldest structures remain. Because of the complexity of its original buildings, like the observatory, the Maya are admired to this day for their construction skills and the accuracy of their astronomy. At some point in time (scholars aren’t certain when), the Mayan city of Chichén was invaded. It might have been at the direction of the Toltec people of Central Mexico or the Itzá for whom the city is named...no one knows for sure. But it was the *invaders* who were responsible for building the pyramid (actually known as the castle), the ball court, and more.

The family arrived early so they could avoid the heat of midday.

RICA: WOW!! There it is - El Castillo - the castle! It still looks like a pyramid to me. I’ve seen so many pictures of it, but I never knew how BIG it was! I want to climb to the top!

NITA: I know you do, but I’m sorry to tell you that no one is allowed to climb the steps anymore, Rica. When I was your age, I would climb it every time we came here. At least I tried to! [*the adults chuckle*] It IS huge, 79 feet tall! And there are 91 BIG steps to the top!

FEDO: I love seeing your love for history. What a fine young lady you are, Rica – and Nita, you're a wonderful mother. We are so very proud of you both. You know that, don't you?

NARR: Nita nodded and they all hugged, teary-eyed. As Rica admired El Castillo, Abuela shared some fascinating information with her.

ABUELA: We mentioned that these ancient peoples were gifted astronomers, right? Do you know what the equinox is?

RICA: Yes, we learned that in school. It's the time of the year when the daytime is equal to the night time, and it happens in the spring and in the fall.

ABUELA: Excellent, Rica. Well, this pyramid is placed in just the absolutely perfect position so that when the equinox happens, the setting sun casts a shadow on the steps that looks like a snake. In the ancient religions, the snake was the god of fertility. And at the spring equinox, the shadow appears to be the snake slithering down the pyramid to fertilize the land [and make things grow](#). Then, in the fall, it moves back up from the land, because winter's coming.

RICA: REALLY?! That is so amazing! How did they know to do that?

ABUELA: We don't really know – it's a mystery. But it IS amazing, isn't it?

FEDO: One of the earliest structures built by the Maya is the observatory. (It's also called the snail, because it resembles one.) You can walk up and see where a shaft of light shines through a small hole in the building's stone roof into a chamber below. It is STILL an absolutely accurate timepiece. So, when people speak with wonder about the Mayan calendar's accuracy, this backs it up, doesn't it?

RICA: Gosh – yes. I had no idea.

NITA: Well, that's the value of traveling! You learn sooo much!

RICA: Is *this* the ball court that I read about? It's huge!

FEDO: Yes. The ball court is 545 feet long and 223 feet wide, the largest in the Americas. The Mayans played a game they called "*pok-ta-pok*"... they were pretty serious about it, too! Sculpted reliefs on its walls show the winners of the game holding the severed head of a member of the losing team.

RICA: Yikes! That's serious, alright!

NARR: The four walked through the ancient ruins, letting their imaginations run wild, wondering what life must have been like during those ancient times.

The next morning, they drove to Tulum, another city with ancient ruins and fascinating history. It was on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and their rooms were right on the beach! For two days, as Papa Fedo said, they “played *tourista*”, exploring everything they could, including the ancient archeological sites of Tulum. It was gorgeous and music was everywhere.

During their last dinner together, they laughed and sang, and Rica even played maracas with the mariachi band that went from table to table.

RICA: Papa Fedo and Abuela, I don’t have the right words to tell you – and Mom - how incredible this trip has been! And you all were the BEST part of it! I will never, EVER forget it! Thank you for everything, especially for being such great grandparents. I’m so lucky!

ABUELA: *WE’RE* the lucky ones, Rica. You and your mother mean the absolute world to both of us.

FEDO: You certainly do. And *we’re* planning on coming to visit *you* in about a year! Now, Rica, I want you to keep your ears open and continue to practice and play...lots! Because when we come, I’m bringing you a not-so-little gift. Your own guitarrón!

RICA: OH PAPA FEDO! *REALLY?* THANK YOU!!

FEDO: Really. Hand-carried all the way from Mexico by your grandfather! *Desde el fondo de mi corazón* – from the bottom of my heart, I love you both...*we both* do!

ABUELA: Yes, we do! *Por supuesto... Te querema mucho, mucho!*

NITA and RICA: Love you both, too! Thank you!

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