

Apa's Girl

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Exterior - Farmer's Market - Day:

MARI, 30s, and her MOM, 60s, Mexicana, feisty energetic super religious and superstitious mother to MARI. are shopping at the local farmer's market.

MOM:

I had a dream about your dad last night

MARI:

Oh yeah?

MOM:

How's he doing?

MARI:

Good

MOM:

So you talked to him?

MARI:

He's good, ma

MOM:

You would tell me if something was wrong?

MARI:

Ama, por favor. I talked to him last Sunday. Esta bien.

MOM:

You should go see him, I dreamt-

MARI:

Stop, Mom

MOM:

Porque te enojas whenever I bring up your dad.

MARI:

I just feel like your "feelings" bring the "negativity"- or like your calling for something bad to happen.

MOM:

You think I'm a bruja or something?

MARI:

Not something.

MOM:

Ay vas

MARI:

You don't have to worry about him. I got it, okay.

Kisses her on the head and starts to walk away

MOM:

We were married for 25 years- In the eyes of God we are still married.

MARI:

-and you have been divorced for 24.

MOM:

Ayy it almost our 50th anniversary this October?

MARI:

That's not what I am saying at all.

MOM:

I still love your dad.

MARI:

-then you should have stayed married. But you didn't.

MOM:

I forgave him a long time ago.

MARI:

Good for you

MOM:

Pos shouldn't we be friends by now? But you don't let me see him or saludarle- you leave the room when he calls. God wants us to be friends. Why don't you?

MARI:

Why can't you move on? He has. We have.

MOM:

Why do you defend him? He's the one that hurt us. But now all of a sudden your only daddy's little girl. Does he know you pushed me to divorce him?

MARI:

What?! I got accepted out of state and I was leaving. If it was up to me then you would have left him when I asked you at 7, 9, 11, 14.

MOM:

We loved each other very much?

MARI:

That was love? Every day I ran home from school, and wondered which one of you went over the edge. Will both parents be dead? in jail? Will I still be stuck in the middle of both of you. I still am-

MOM:

You're our daughter, where else would you be?

MARI:

I'm finally at a good place with him now, MOM. I forgave both of you and I moved on.

MOM:

I never said I was sorry because there is nothing I need to be forgiven for. By you or anyone else.

MARI:

But I forgave you anyway. For my own sanity.

MOM:

We're not together but I still care about him. I'll pray for him and you should too. Con ese carácter, I'll pray for the both of you.

MARI:

Why do you do that?

MOM:

Now, your getting mad because I'm telling you to pray? Quien te entiende.

MARI:

All I can think is that something bad is gonna happen. I can feel it like a heavy pit in my stomach.

MOM:

You felt that before we sat down to eat. I'm not the only bruja in this house?

Interior - Bedroom - Night

MARI and her husband ANTHONY are getting ready for bed.

Anthony:

Why do you let her get to you?

MARI:

Mexican mothers are born with the gift of dishing out guilt.

Anthony:

Mexican daughters are gifted with taking it

MARI:

It stays with you.

Anthony:

So have you?

MARI:

What?

Anthony:

Talked to your dad?

MARI:

Letty talked to him last week. And I sent him dinner the other night.

Anthony:

So that's a NO.

MARI:

Seriously, "Ma"!

Anthony:

You said you were going to check on him more often. You were going to call every day, remember?

MARI:

I have tried calling. Sometimes he picks up, most of the time it goes to voicemail.

Anthony:

And all the times that he calls and it always goes to your voicemail.

MARI:

Sometimes I get busy and when I remember it's late, so then I tell myself, I'll call first thing in the morning.

Anthony:

I just think you and your siblings have a lot of decisions to make...It's been three months since he checked himself out against doctor's orders-

MARI:

You don't think I've tried convincing him to move back to California every chance I get. We've tried everything. I've cried. I've begged. It kills me that he is out there on his own. But he is a strong, independent, terco-

Anthony:

-severe diabetic elderly man who is very sick.

MARI:

He's good.

Anthony:

You need him to be good.

MARI:

Because he is. I'll call him tomorrow morning.

Anthony:

Right

Walks out of the room, slamming the door behind her.

Interior - Livingroom - Night

Middle of the night, MARI is slumped in deep sleep in front of the TV. MARI is startled awake by her phone ringing. DAD, 70s, is in a dirty robe surrounded by paperwork and books, is in his home, calling his daughter.

Dad (WIDE AWAKE) :

Earth to MARI! Earth to MARI! Come in MARI!

MARI:

Earth to Father it's two in the morning.

Dad:

Mija!

MARI:

It's late dad, what are you doing awake?

Dad:

It's not too late. What time is it?

MARI:

It's 3 in the morning over there.

Dad:

It's early. Good morning. Mija, I have a project. We have a project!

MARI:

You have a project dad?

Dad:

No, we have a project. Can you say, "we have a project"?

MARI:

Okay, we have a project. What do you need help with apa?

Dad:

We're going to change the world!

MARI:

Okay?

Dad:

Do you know how we are going to change the world?

MARI:

No, how?

Dad:

By changing it.

MARI:

Did you take all your meds today, Apa?

Dad:

So we take this world and all its garbage and we change it. We change the world by changing it. We take it and we change it. And we change the world. Can we do that, mija?

MARI:

Ya, dad. Dad, did you eat today?

Dad:

Will you change the world with me?

MARI:

Apa, did you eat dinner? Did you eat the dinner I sent Monday night? Are you eating dad?

Dad:

There is food. I have food. There is shitty dinner on the table. You were supposed to call me. Someone was to call me and get me dinner.

MARI:

Dad, was Danny supposed to get you dinner tonight?

Dad:

I have tools. I had dinner. So do you think we can change the world by- by-

MARI:

Changing it? Ya, dad. But first, is there something close to you that you can eat dad. A piece of candy or something in your room.

Dad:

I have tools

MARI:

Did you take all your medication?

Dad:

I have candy

MARI:

Okay, dad. Eat the candy, and then go to the kitchen and eat your dinner, and call me when your done. Okay? Dad?

Dad:

Okay, mija

MARI:

I love you, Apa

Dad:

Aaaaaaaaa stop pulling my leg!

MARI:

Okay, go eat dad.

Dad:

Will you help me change it?

MARI:

I'll help you (*MARI hears phone drop*) Apa!

Fuck.

MARI:

Jesus, Jesus. Help us. Help us.

MARI Grabs keys and jacket and rushes out of the house. Camera follows her out the door.

FADE OUT