A Journey Over the Fence

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Prologue

( Scene opens in a small town in mexico. The sun has just gone down. The children are tucked into their beds, with a wool blanket drawn over their tired bodies. A fire crackling in the background, and a cool breeze blowing through the fractured wood door. Juan the father packs and kisses the children on the forehead. Clara the mother watches Juan as she worries for the safety for her and the children while Juan is gone.)

Clara: Juan please be safe, I don't want you hurt.

(Juan gives her a comforting grin and tells her everything will be ok.)

Juan: Honey, keep my girls safe. I promise I will return, and we will come back with money and everything will be ok. God is here for you, he will protect you and the girls.

(Scene fades out as Juan shuts the door quietly, the fire cracks and Clara grabs a blanket and curls up on the couch.)

***Scene One***

(The girls wake up, tired, forgetting what happened the night before. The smell of fresh baked bread and a crisp cold morning surrounds the air. Frost is dripping on the window and Clara is in the kitchen humming quiet tunes.)

Clara: Girls please wake up, breakfast is almost ready.

Julia: Where's papa?

Clara: We will discuss this over breakfast.

(The girls and their mothers sit at the table in silence. One of the girls butters her bread and starts to eat.)

Anida: Mommy I'm cold.

Clara: (Doesn't reply to Anida.) Girls, your papa has left to the states to earn money so we can support the family. He will come back in a while with money and food and we can pay off the horses and goat.

Girls: Silent

Clara: I will need your help around the house cleaning and caring for the animals while papa is gone. I need your girls to get along and be nice to each other. Agree?

Girls: Agree

(The phone rings and Clara hurries to get the call.)

Clara: Hello?

Juan: Hey honey. How are the girls?

Clara: Where are you are you ok?

Juan: Im in the states everything is fine. I have gotten a job picking strawberries in a field. I get 3 dollars per carton and i plan to stay for three months.

Clara: The girls are good. Be safe, and may god be with you.

(Clara heres beeping the phone has hung up on the other side.)

Clara: Girls, I talked to papa. He has gotten a job picking fruit to make money for us.

Girls: OK.

Clara: OK girls lets get in bed and read some books.

(Mother puts the girls to bed and sits in the window sill staring out the window thinking about the days ahead of her.)

Chorus:

Life is hard, and troubles live,

you must stay strong and stay positive.

Money is coming, and life will be ok.

Just live life strong day by day.

Papa is working hard for you,

You and the girls must work and try to.

To be ok you need to be positive,

love and pray you will live,

for now you are alone, with no help or love,

but jesus is watching you and the girls from above.

***Scene Two***

(Papa is out in the field working and picking strawberries. The sun is hot, and papa is thinking about money, and stressing for the girls and their mother.)

Boss: I need Everyone over here. It's come to my attention that you guys are not picking fast enough, and we already have a lot of leftover berries. Im sorry to say the price we are paying you per carton has gone down 2 dollars. its now a dollar per carton. Everyone get back to work.

(papa go's inside for a break and started writing a letter to his family.)

Letter: (in spanish) Dear mama and girls. Work is hard out here the rate has gone down and i am working from day to night. I must return home soon for it isn't worth my time. I plan to be home in the next week, i'm sorry i have done this.

-Keep the girls safe,

Juan.

Juan: (looks around to make sure no one is watching, and sneaks off the field to the back road.)

Man: (Get off my property boy, go back to where you came from you alien.)

Juan: Lo siente (runs off the back road to the Dumpster behind the building.)

Juan. (meets miguel, in an alley behind a tiny restaurant the man who brought him to america.)

(3 hours later they are driving almost to the border.)

(A loud honk is heard and the yelling of a man. "Stop".)

Miguel. (doesn't stop the car)

Juan: What's happening?

Miguel. It's the americans the american police. We have been caught. I need you to hide the money you have made and dont be suspicious.

Officer: (Walks up to the vehicle.) Where are you men going so late at night?

MIguel: We just got done with a nice family vacation and we are heading back to our home in mexico. Now please we must get back before dark sir.

Officer: I need both of you to step out of the car and put your hands on my vehicle. The more you cooperate, the easier this will all be.

Both: (step out and put their hands on the car not trying to start a fight.)

Officer: Come into my car and you both will be detained for 29 days.

Juan: Nods

(gets to police station)

Officer: (hands them clothes and tells them to sit in a small waiting area where they will be asked questions.)

(officer comes back and asks them both a list of questions he has provided.)

Questions:

Where are you from?

Why are you here?

what where you doing?

Age, sex, gender?

etc.

Chorus: You have been caught, that is bad,

you have left you family lonely and sad.

you broke your promise on returning on time,

You have passed the clocks ticking chime,

now it is over there's no use to try,

your girls are going to be torn apart and cry,

you should be sorry, for theres nothing to say,

maybe you will return home another day.

***Scene Three:***

(Mama received a letter telling her and the girls that their father is in jail and won't return home for a long time, the girls are on the couch, and their mother is crying, and worrying.)

Clara: Finds the gun thats held captive in the closet

Girls: Mama no. Mama please. You cant.

(A shot is heard and the village is silent, a neighbor runs into their house and grabs the girls and covers their eyes as their mother lies dead on the cold cement floor.)

Neighbor: Girls im sorry. Come with me.

Girls: We want our daddy

Neighbor: Girls im sorry.

Chorus:

A tragic scene, a day not to remember,

daddy won't be home before december.

Memories are lost and mommy is gone for long,

her whispers remain like a little faint song,

No money is here to buy stuff in our cart,

immigration is sad, and tears families apart,

immigration is full of risk,

and father deserves a tisk tisk.

stay strong and bold,

soon you will forget all of this and grow old.