

Floating Girls Go To The Moon

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Prologue - The Neighbors

(Whispered conversations going on simultaneously, a cacophony of sound. The audience hears the conversations, but cannot see who is speaking. The stage is in darkness).

Have you seen?	NEIGHBOR #1
Who?	NEIGHBOR #3
Hipólito's daughter, look out your window.	NEIGHBOR #2
She looks so fat, she used to be thin.	NEIGHBOR #3
She's pregnant.	NEIGHBOR #2
She's pregnant?!	NEIGHBOR #3
Mi hija saw her going to an abortion clinic.	NEIGHBOR #4
What was your daughter doing at an abortion clinic?	NEIGHBOR #1
What are you insinuating?	NEIGHBOR #4
Who's the father?	NEIGHBOR #3
Who knows? Probably an older man, my son says she wasn't dating any of his classmates.	NEIGHBOR #4
It's all been very secretive. The girl's mom has been keeping her hidden, not even letting her out for church.	NEIGHBOR #2
	NEIGHBOR #4

I asked her about it after mass one day and she told me that the girl was sick, unable to get out of bed.

NEIGHBOR #1

That's probably when she had the man over.

NEIGHBOR #5

Image, Hipólito's wife kneeling down on the church pew, unaware that her daughter is also on her knees.

(The neighbors laugh).

Scene 1

(Two sisters, Amparo, 9, and Irma, 14, sit on the couch pretending to watch television. They playfully push each other until Amparo almost topples off the couch. Their amá stands to the side ironing clothes. Their neighbor, Teresa, enters).

TERESA

(leaning against the window)

¡No van a creer lo que ha pasado! La hija de Hipólito, la que se embarazo, está flotando como un balloon. Le puedes ver hasta los calzoncillos.

[You're not going to believe what happened! Hipolito's youngest daughter, the one who got pregnant, is floating like a balloon. You can even see her underwear from here.]

AMÁ

No seas grosera, Teresita. Que las niñas te oyen.

[Don't be crude, Teresa that the girls are listening].

TERESA

Ni entienden el español las pobres.

[They don't even understand Spanish, the poor dears.]

IRMA

Will the pregnant girl be okay, mami?

AMPARO

What pregnant girl?

AMÁ

(to Amparo)

Esto no te corresponde.

[This doesn't concern you].

TERESA

(motioning for them to join her)

She's still out there, vengan a ver.

(Irma gets up from the couch and rushes to the window, she sticks her hand out as if reaching for the girl. Amparo follows a few seconds later. The sisters stand side-by-side with their mother and neighbor standing behind them. There is no floating girl on stage but the performers pretend to see her).

AMÁ

(Pointing to the floating girl)

That's what happens to girls who disobey their parents, to Mexican girls who think they can act like the girls here. That is their punishment for sinning.

(AMA looks directly at Irma.)

If only she had listened to her mother.

AMPARO

How will she get down?

TERESA

They never do, just float away.

AMPARO

But where do they go?

TERESA

No one knows... De verdad, nadie sabe.

IRMA

How do we know that where they go isn't better than here?

TERESA

(turning towards amá)

Estas niñas son raras.

[These girls are very strange].

AMPARO

(in awe)

Maybe they go to the moon.

AMPARO/IRMA

(in unison, louder)

Maybe they go to the moon.

(Amá grabs her coat).

AMÁ

No hagan travesuras que ahorita regreso.
[Don't you dare misbehave, I'll be right back].

TERESA

Listen to your mother.

AMÁ

I'll be right back.

(Amá and Teresa leave the apartment, speaking in hushed tones. Irma and Amparo remain at the window. The floating girl is no longer visible and Amparo and Irma return to the couch, slowly, glancing over their shoulders back at the window).

AMPARO

Tell me the story about the floating girl.

IRMA

It's not your bedtime yet. A story has its time and place. In this house, stories told before noon are no good.

AMPARO

Who told you that?

IRMA

I heard it in a dream.

AMPARO

What were you dreaming about? Was I in your dream?

IRMA

The floating girl asked me to join her. I wanted to go, but I couldn't, my blankets were too heavy. And then mom woke me up.

AMPARO

But who was the floating girl before? She hasn't always been floating, has she?

(Irma looks around as if revealing a secret.)

IRMA

It's a long story of epic proportions. Are you sure you're ready? You don't look ready.

AMPARO

I'm ready!

IRMA

You don't seem ready.

AMPARO

I am, I promise!

IRMA

If you say so... Mmm where should I start?

(beat)

The floating girl wasn't always called the floating girl. She has a name, a beautiful name, but no one can quite remember it anymore. She has a mom and a dad. Her parents don't like her because she cares little for their rules and cares even less about what they think. She doesn't fear her father's anger nor her mother's disappointment. They, however, fear the gossip following the floating girl and one day they lock her up in a tower. They tell her it's what's best for her but they don't bother asking if that's what she wants. The girl is unhappy in the tower, she can't see her friends or her favorite cousin. So the girl decides to escape through her window, but the window is so high up in the air. Only by flying would she be able to escape. The floating girl practices floating every day, day after day. Until one day it comes naturally. With her newfound ability, she escapes through the window and never looks back. The floating girl is able to escape her parent's expectations, the expectations of her teachers, the expectations of all the adults around her. She doesn't care what anyone thinks of her. She is free to do as she likes.

AMPARO

And the moon?

IRMA

Of course, the floating girl eventually ends up in space. She always did like astronomy, always thought she would become an astronaut when she grew up. She visits Mars and Jupiter, and settles down on one of Jupiter's moons.

AMPARO

Jupiter has a moon?

IRMA

Many, many moons and they're all very beautiful.

AMPARO

Isn't she lonely?

IRMA

Why would she be? There are other floating girls there and they understand her and she understands them.

AMPARO

What about her family? Doesn't she miss her mom?

IRMA

The other floating girls are now her family and they love her unconditionally.

AMPARO

But what about the girl's mom? Is she sad?

IRMA

I don't know. The story isn't about the girl's mom. The floating girl's mom shouldn't have locked her in a tower in the first place.

AMPARO

Maybe she was scared that someone would steal the floating girl. Maybe she just wants to keep her family together.

IRMA

(raising her voice)

That's not the point!

(Amparo draws back as if struck, Irma notices this and changes her tone, drawing Amparo in for a hug).

IRMA

(softening)

One day you'll understand.

(The sisters sit in an uncomfortable silence, until Irma perks up again).

IRMA

If you could go to the moon, would you?

AMPARO

Not by myself.

IRMA

What if you and I went together, the two of us?

AMPARO

Only us?

IRMA

Together.