

SCENE: A few minutes later. In front of Monica's and Magdalena's home on the outskirts of Meri. Misty air on a moonlit night. Magdalena, sitting on a chair on the front porch, is looking at the holy water pendant hanging from a chain around her neck. Her crutches are beside her on the porch.

MAGDALENA becomes drowsy and falls asleep. A MAN, dressed elegantly, enters, pausing just after entering. He then moves up to a still sleeping Magdalena, and pauses again. Magdalena opens her eyes and sees the man offering her his hand to dance. She rises easily, smiling at the man, and takes his hand. They begin to dance freely and gracefully.

Magdalena

Still dancing.

What's your name?

Man

Johnnie.

Magdalena

Johnnie?

Johnnie

Yes, Johnnie. It's not a bad name.

Magdalena

No, it's not. I like it.

Johnnie

He stops dancing.

It was in your head Magdalena – only in your head.

Magdalena

You know my name?

Man

Johnnie.

Magdalena

Johnnie?

Johnnie

Yes, Johnnie. It's not a bad name.

Magdalena

No, it's not. I like it.

Johnnie

He stops dancing.

It was in your head Magdalena – only in your head.

Magdalena

You know my name?

Johnnie

Yes, I do.

Magdalena

Am I dreaming?

Johnnie

Yes.

Magdalena

In my head? It was only in my head?

Johnnie

Yes. You can walk.

MAGDALENA looks at her feet, and then takes a few steps.

Magdalena

I can! I can walk!

Johnnie

You can dance. Have you forgotten our little dance together?

Magdalena

Oh no, I haven't. It was lovely.

They resume dancing together a little while, until, on a turn, JOHNNIE gracefully lets go of MAGDALENA and glides off into the darkness, leaving Magdalena dancing alone freely. until:

Magdalena

Stopping in front of her chair

OH HOW LONG I'VE STRUGGLED,
NIGHT AND DAY I'VE PRAYED,
OH HOW LONG I'VE STRUGGLED
AND LOOKED FOR THE LIGHT OF DAY.

FEARS AND SORROWS GRIPPED MY HEART,
TENSION TORE MY SOUL.
CLOUDS CONFUSED MY TIRED MIND,
DARKNESS HOVERED JUST BEHIND.
DARKNESS HOVERED JUST BEHIND.

BUT, ON THIS NIGHT,
THIS GLORIOUS NIGHT,
MY FEARS AND SORROWS GONE.

SOME HOW, SOME WAY
IT'S HAPPENED TO ME,
Becoming drowsy she sits back down.

MY FEARS AND SORROWS GONE,
MY FEARS AND SORROWS...
She dozes off.

Monica

Arriving and seeing Magdalena asleep on the chair.

Magdalena, what are you doing here?
Realizing Magdalena is asleep, she nudges her shoulder.

Magdalena!

MAGDALENA wakes with a start, rises, and steps away from her mother – all without the aid of her crutches.

Magdalena

Mother?!

Monica

Magdalena!! Hold on! Don't move!

MONICA rushes up to try to support Magdalena.

Magdalena

Fending off her mother, and taking a few steps back.

MOTHER, MOTHER DON'T YOU SEE?
MOTHER, MOTHER LOOK AT ME!
MOTHER, MOTHER LOOK IT'S TRUE—

Monica

OH MY GOD WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

Magdalena

I CAN WALK NOW, I AM FREE!
MOTHER, MOTHER DON'T YOU SEE?
I CAN WALK RIGHT UP TO YOU!

Monica

OH MY GOD YOU CAN, IT'S TRUE!

Magdalena

YES MA-MA, IT IS QUITE TRUE.

Monica

BUT HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
HOW IN THE WORLD DID THIS HAPPEN?
MIRACLES DON'T HAPPEN ANYMORE,
NO MIRACLES CAN'T HAPPEN ANYMORE.

Magdalena

BUT ONE DID, YES ONE DID,
BUT YOU DON'T SEEM HAPPY AT ALL,
NO YOU ARE NOT HAPPY FOR ME.

Monica

THAT'S NOT TRUE.
NO-NO—NO-NO-NO
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YOUR MOTHER IS—SURPRISED!
SHE CAN'T BELIEVE—HER EYES!
YOU'VE HIT HER WITH—A ROCK!
SHE'S IN A STATE—OF SHOCK!

A STATE OF—SHOCK!!

NOW TELL ME MY DEAR EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

Magdalena

I WISH I KNEW MA-MA,
I WISH I KNEW.
I WAS LOOKING AT THE PENDANT,
AND LOOKING AT THE MOON.

Monica

The moon?

Magdalena

AND THEN IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.
NO.
IT WAS.
IT WAS A DREAM,
AND I WAS DANCING WITH JOHNNIE
IN MY DREAM!

Monica

Johnnie? Who's Johnnie?

Magdalena

I don't know. But he was a good dancer – in my dream.

Magdalena begins dancing gracefully.

Monica

You were dreaming about dancing, and now you can?

Magdalena

Still dancing.

Yes. Yes, I can! Do you see? I'm awake, and I'm dancing. My father's pendant has set me free!
I'm going to dance in the moonlight – be back soon!

She dances away from her mother, carefree and happy.

Monica

To herself.

IT'S NOT FAIR, IT'S NOT FAIR!
HOW CAN HE BE THE ONE?!
ALL HER LIFE I HAVE WORKED,

DONE IT ALL, HE'S DONE NONE!

IT'S NOT FAIR, IT'S NOT FAIR,

Looking up.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL?

SACRIFICE, SACRIFICE,

WHAT AM I BUT A FOOL!

WELL HE WON'T GET THE CREDIT FOR THIS!

NO HE WON'T GET THE CREDIT FOR THIS!

Changing her tone, and calling.

Magdalena...

Magdalena stops dancing and comes up to her mother.

So much has happened tonight. It's been almost too much. And it's late. I think it's time to go in – time for bed.

But one more thing: no one must think that holy water had anything to do with this!

Magdalena

But everything happened after I got it.

Monica

If they think that pendant contains miraculous water, you cannot trust what the people would do. They would rip it from you!

Magdalena

Well... Johnnie, in my dream, he told me it was all in my head. It was after daddy died when it started – when I couldn't walk anymore, so maybe Johnnie's right. Wait, what am I saying? It was a dream – I think. I don't know what to think.

Monica

Well I'm sure it had nothing to do with your father, or that water.

Magdalena

But I can walk. How do I explain that?

Monica

Musing for a few seconds.

VITAMIN C!

VITAMIN C!

MASSIVE DOSES OF VITAMIN C!

Magdalena

What?! I don't take Vitamin C.

Monica

You do now.

Magdalena

Mother...

Monica

Interrupting.

No more talk. The fiesta is tomorrow. You need to rest.

Magdalena

The fiesta!

The fiesta!

I'm going to the fiesta!

I'll be dancing at the fiesta!

THEY exit.