



Wishes Come True

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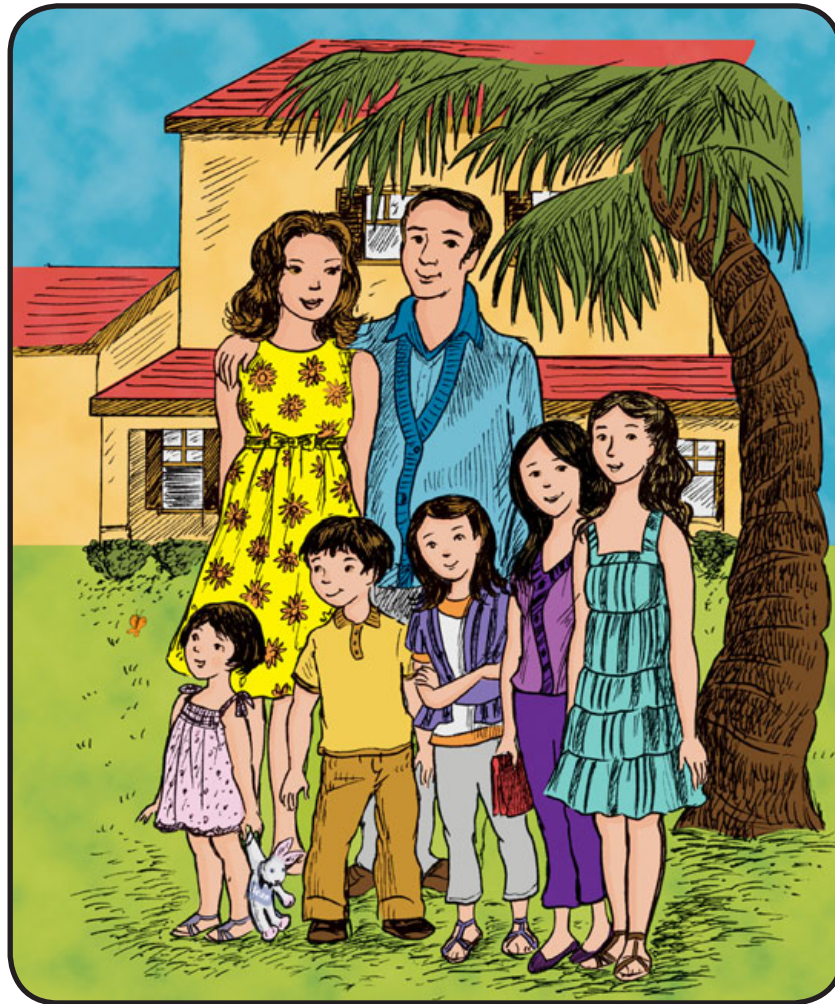
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Chapter One

Meet the Family

My name is Teresa, but everyone calls me Tay. That's the first thing to know about me. The other thing is that I'm not the oldest kid in this house. I'm not the youngest, either. I'm stuck in the middle.

There are four girls and one boy in the Suarez family. I am girl number three. This means I have to share a bedroom with my little sister Luisa. She's only five. I'm 10.



My two older sisters share another bedroom. Andrea is 15, and Cristy is 14. I wish I shared their room instead. They've got cool clothes and fun jewelry. I like trying out their pretty rings and necklaces.

Andrea, whom we call Andy, has blue eyes and curly brown hair. Cristy's hair is black and straight. Andy likes makeup and dresses, but Cristy likes wearing jeans and reading adventure books. The one thing they both love to do is talk. Whenever I get the chance, I like to sneak into their room to listen.

I also have a nine-year-old brother named Alejandro. We call him Alex. Alex has his own room. Sometimes I wish I had my own room, but our house is too small. Our parents bought it when Andy was born. They love living on Prado Street in Coral Gables. They have lived in this Miami suburb since they left Cuba as teenagers. We are friends with all the neighbors. My mom's best friend lives next door. My grandparents live nearby. It's small, but we like this packed house. I wish we never move from here!



Chapter Two Something to Celebrate

Last Friday, we knew something was up. Most days, Mom picks us up after school. This time, both of our parents were in the car. Then, instead of taking us home, they took us to Swensen's Ice Cream store.

Once each of us had a scoop of ice cream, they told us what was going on.

“We’re here to celebrate,” Mom said happily. She rubbed her belly and smiled.

Dad said, “You’re going to have a baby sister or brother!”

Cricket clapped and jumped up and down. Cricket is Luisa’s nickname. That’s because she’s tiny, her voice is chirpy, and she jumps a lot.

“Mom,” begged Alex, “can it be a boy? Please. There are too many girls in this house!”

“I bet it’s a girl,” I said. “I already have a name for her. It’s –”

“No,” said Cricket. “I have a name for her!”

Everybody started talking at the same time.

“Kids, put your ideas on paper. We can talk about this later,” said Mom.

“I wish I could have more ice cream,” said Cricket.

“You have had more than enough,” smiled Dad. “It’s time to head home.”

We still argued about baby names all the way home.





Chapter Three

Good News

On Sunday mornings, my grandparents would come over for breakfast. When I got up this Sunday, they were in the kitchen with my parents. They were whispering about something.

I know I shouldn't have, but I secretly listened in to see what was going on.

I couldn't believe my ears. Our parents were thinking of moving! Later that morning, they told all of us what was going on.

"We have good news. We're going to move," said Dad.

"Our family is growing, so we need more space," said Mom.
"We're looking for a new house."

"No! I love our house," Alex shouted.

"And I love our ice cream store," Cricket added.

I thought Coral Gables was a wonderful neighborhood, too.



“We don’t want to move,” said Andy. She stomped her foot and her eyes filled up with tears.

“There’s one more thing,” said Mom, carefully. “If we move, you will all have to change schools.”

“This is a disaster!” Cristy blurted out. Now Cristy was crying, too!

No one else said a word.

Chapter Four

Surprise, Surprise!

All week long, we saw a strange man come and go from our house. He was tapping on walls and measuring door frames and windows.



We felt very nervous. Why was he here? Was he about to buy our house? He made some notes on a clipboard he carried, and then he left.

That night, Dad came home carrying a huge roll of paper under his arm.

Mom called us to the dining room table. “Family meeting,” she said.

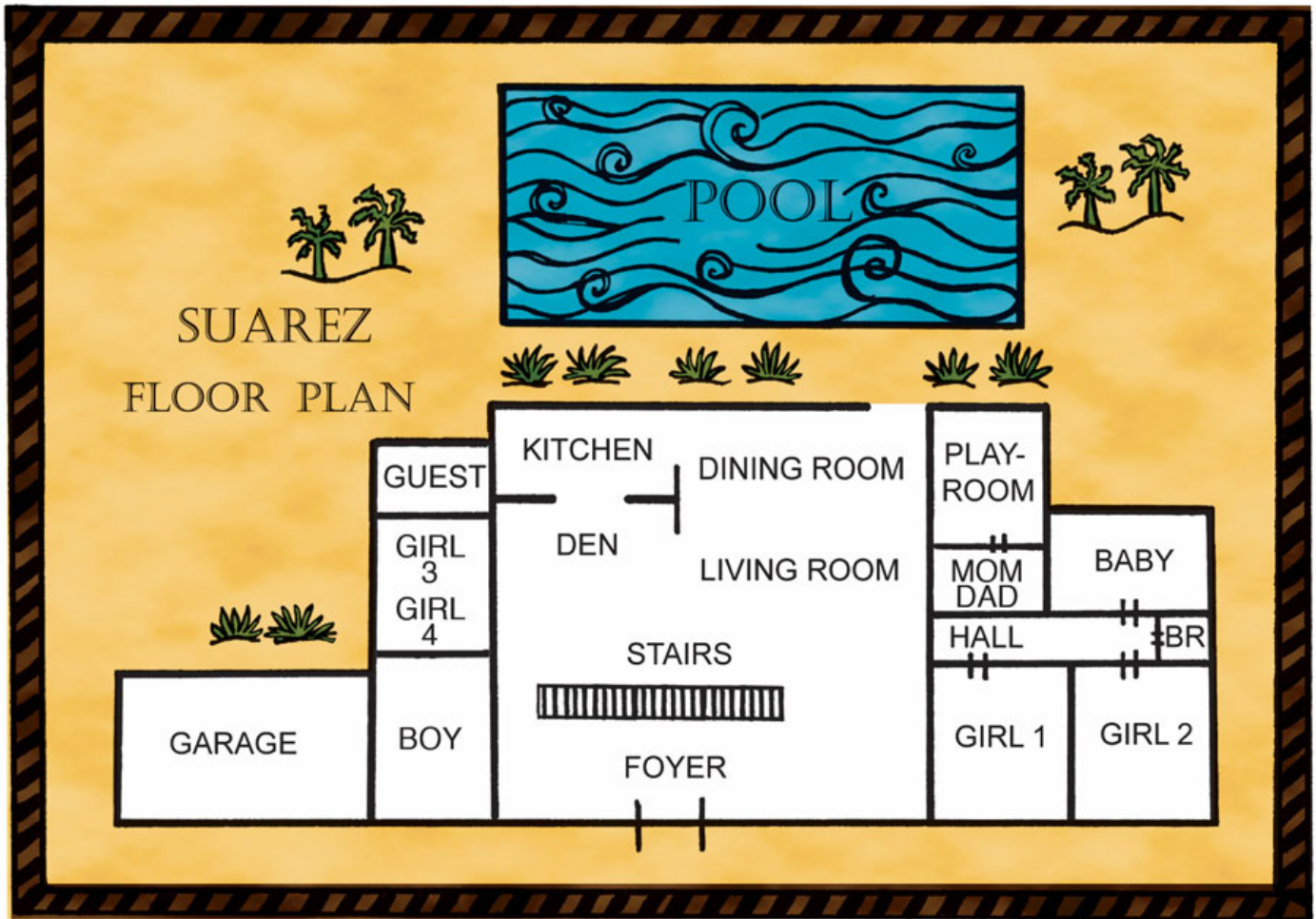
“We have a new idea,” Dad said. “We’re not moving.”

“But don’t we need more space?” I asked.

“Yes. That’s why we have decided to rebuild our house instead,” answered Dad.

“The man who was measuring the house today is an architect. Architects help design and build houses,” explained Mom.

“Here, take a look at what he has helped us plan,” said Dad, opening up the long roll of paper.



We crowded around to look at the plans. It was a drawing of our house, but it looked different. Our very large backyard was smaller in these plans, and our house was bigger. There were new rooms and new bathrooms. There was even a pool drawn in! We all started smiling and cheering at this wonderful surprise.

“We also have another surprise,” Dad said. “We can’t live here while they work on the house this summer.”

Everyone looked confused.

“That’s our surprise? We have nowhere to live?” whined Cristy.

“No, my silly sweet one,” Mom softly said. “We found a wonderful house to rent in Key Biscayne. It’s near the beach. You will be able to ride your bike to the beach all summer long. You won’t even need a pool.”

We all started jumping in our seats! We were so excited. There was so much to look forward to — a new house and a new baby. Life at the Suarez house had just become awesome and exciting.

“Let’s get some delicious ice cream to celebrate,” I giggled. “We’re not moving, so my wish came true!”

“Yum,” squeaked Cricket. “So did mine!”

