

A MATTER OF FAITH  
A Family and Faith-based  
TV Series

Miracles?  
Episode 1 of 7  
Running time: 42 minutes

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FADE IN: This is the final casting for the musical The Miracle of Fatima in which the leads are three children. Three lines of children (5 in each line) stand waiting to hear if they have been cast as the leads in a new musical. One line of girls ages 9 - 13., the next is a line of boys ages 9-12 and lastly a line of girls ages 7 - 10. Joshua - The Stage Manger steps forward.

JOSHUA

Okay, here we go. And we know this is the hardest part but please no screaming, no hitting and

He turns and points to the left and then to right and looks at people we cannot see.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

...parents stay back.

He looks at his clipboard, clears his throat and calls out the names.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

For the role Lucia dos Santos will Megan Garcia and Lilly Santos, please step forward. The rest in that line, thank you very much.

Megan Garcia and Lilly Santos step forward and hold hands. They smile broadly at each other.

He motions for the others to leave the stage. One young lady throws herself down on the floor, wailing.

GIRL ON FLOOR

No.....it's mine - the part is mine.

He motions to a stagehand to assist her off the stage. Several of the other girls begin whimpering but leave the stage.

JOSHUA

Next, for the role of Francisco Marto will Johnny Reyes and Matthew Costuna come downstage please. Thank you very much to everyone else.

A mother of one of the boys not chosen runs on stage and pulls her boy to the downstage and begin shouting to the audience of made up of the casting team.

MOTHER

He can dance watch.... go on son,  
dance for them.

She pushes her son forward, but the boy doesn't make any dancing motions. She picks up his arms and begins to flail them around.

Joshua motions to his assistants to get the two off the stage and they rush to comply.

JOSHUA

And last but not least, for the  
role of Jacinta Marto - will  
Maribeth Rios and Zoe Costuna come  
forward. And thanks to the rest of  
all you lovely young ladies.

Maribeth and Zoe join the other children downstage as the line of little girls are led off by the stagehands. One in the front the other pushing gently from the back.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Now before our director does the  
final casting, remember rehearsals  
start in two weeks. Mothers check  
your emails and our WhatsApp  
Announcements Group Chat. Be early,  
be prepared and stayed focused. And  
now, our lovely Director Aleta  
Gomes.

From the dimly lit audience section Aleta Gomes, the Director walks to the edge of the proscenium. She looks directly at each child and smiles warmly.

ALETA

Well, congratulations to all of you  
for a great job. Our three leads  
will be Megan Garcia as Lucia dos  
Santos and brother and sister  
Matthew and Zoe Costuna will play  
brother and sister Francisco and  
Jacinta Marto. The characters you  
are bringing to life are three  
young children who experience a  
series of miracles over a six-  
month period in 1917 in a remote,  
and small region of Portugal, known  
as Fatima. And if you don't know or  
believe in miracle now, you will  
when you relieve their story. Okay,  
get you libretto and rehearsal  
schedule from Joshua. See you soon.

There is a round of applause and the children are surrounded by parents and other cast members.

CUT TO BALCONY

Up in the balcony we see an older man wearing a hat sitting in the first row - he is leaning forward on the railing watching closely.

Standing a few rows behind him, we see three translucent young ghosts, smiling ear to ear. They are three young ghosts, two girls one 10 the other around 6 or 7 and a boy around 9 they are dressed in peasant clothing from circa

**END OF PROLOGUE**

FADE OUT

2

SCENE 2 INT: BALCONY

2

One week later.

RANDOLPH SWOOPS is 65 years old, wears a perpetual frown, slightly balding, with graying eyebrows, he is seated in the first row of the balcony. He is wearing an expensive suit and sporting a hat. He's tapping fingers on the wooden armrests of his seat. Standing in front but to the side is his son - 40-year-old MURRAY SWOOPS who is leaning forward on the railing.

WE HAVE A VIEW OF THE STAGE WHERE ACTORS ARE MULLING ABOUT

WAITING FOR THINGS TO BEGIN. THE GROUP GROWS LARGER AND

LARGER.

RANDOLPH

Good lord man, how many people are  
there in this one?

Murray turns and looks at the stage, does a quick finger count.

MURRAY

Not many more. It's a big show Dad.  
A big, beautiful musical. And I  
know you're going to love it.

RANDOLPH

All I see is my money going down  
the drain - just like the millions  
I've invested in the others that  
you assured me of their great  
success.

Murray sits down next to his father and nervously rubs his hands together.

MURRAY

Dad, that's not completely true.  
Some of them made a bit of money.  
We just didn't pitch it to the  
right market. That's all.

RANDOLPH

Right market. Well, this is it.  
This is the last hurrah for this  
Miracle Theater.

MURRAY

What do you mean?

RANDOLPH

Just that. If this Miracle musical is a flop, the Miracle theater dies with it.

Suddenly in the very last row of the balcony the ghosts of the Fatima of children from 1917 who are the subject of the musical appear. THE GHOST LUCIA DOS SANTOS (10 years old) FRANCISCO MARTO (9) and JACINTA (7) become visible. They speak in whispers.

GHOST OF LUCIA

We can't let him do that.

The Jacinta turns to Francisco.

GHOST OF JACINTA

What are you going to do?

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

What am I going to do?

GHOST OF JACINTA

Well, make him change his mind.

GHOST OF LUCIA

Be quiet you two.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Let's listen to what the father says.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Yes, but he's kind of mean don't you think Lucia?

GHOST OF LUCIA

Yes, almost as mean as the Mayor.

GHOST OF JACINTA

No, the mayor was really mean.

Meanwhile the Swoops men continue to argue about the fate of the theater.

RANDOLPH

Murray, I've supported this hobby of yours for fifteen years. Enough is enough. Why should I let this go on?

MURRAY

Pops, come on, they haven't even started rehearsing. I can't tell them all to go home.

RANDOLPH

Don't you Pops me. Why shouldn't I shut the doors? What's so special about this show? The Miracle of Fatima. Miracle - hah! Just the name alone will start people laughing. Nobody believes in miracles Murray. Nobody with any brains that is.

The three children look at one another. Jacinta raises her voice.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Is he talking about us?

Francisco clasps his hand over her mouth. Lucia laughs at him.

GHOST OF LUCIA

They can't hear us silly. And yes they are talking about us. Be quiet and listen.

MURRAY

Well, I don't agree. I think at this moment in time people need a miracle to believe in. And we can give it them.

He stands and points to the stage and then turns back to his father.

MURRAY (CONT'D)

We can give people a bit of hope Dad. And a really great show.

Randolph stands and faces his son wagging his finger in his face.

RANDOLPH

Listen to me. I'm going to sit here for every single rehearsal and if I don't like what I'm hearing or seeing - I am pulling the plug. Do you understand?

Murray throws his arms around his father.

MURRAY

I knew you'd see it my way. I love  
you Pops.

He plants a loud kiss on his father's cheek, turns and exits  
the balcony. Randolph is taken aback, wipes his cheek with  
his hand and sits down muttering to himself.

RANDOLPH

Miracles, what kind of nincompoop  
believes in miracles. It's like  
believing that paying taxes is a  
good thing.

The three children huddle together.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Okay, I know what we have to do.

The other two look at him.

GHOST OF JACINTA

What?

GHOST OF LUCIA

You're right.

GHOST OF JACINTA

What?

GHOST OF LUCIA

We have to get him to believe...

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

In miracles!

GHOST OF JACINTA

But we're not .....

She puts her hands through her brother and her cousin.

GHOST OF JACINTA (CONT'D)

Real.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Yes, that is a problem.

Lucia looks at her cousins and smiles broadly waving her hand  
gesturing them to follow her as she walks down the aisle and  
stands behind Randolph. She flicks her fingers on the brim of  
his hat but gets no reaction from the man. She motions  
Francisco to do the same -but still nothing. She nods to  
Jacinta, and when the three of them each flick their fingers  
on the brim of Randolph's hat it moves ever so slightly.



Randolph spins around and sees nothing. However, the three little ghosts are giggling heartily.

RANDOLPH

What the heck?

Meanwhile, on-stage brother and sister Matthew and Zoe Costuna are standing waiting for things to begin. Zoe looks up at the balcony and sees Mr. Swoops but she also sees ever so faintly the three Fatima Ghosts. She tugs at Matthew's arm and discreetly points to them. And suddenly the ghosts vanish. Both of their eyes widen in disbelief.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

3

SCENE 3 INT. MEGAN'S BEDROOM NIGHT

3

A modern-day home, 10-year-old Megan's bedroom is filled with lot of pink things but it's neat. A small desk, big purple beanbag chair in the corner. On her wall are posters of various people who have made an impact on the world such as Nelson Mandela, Greta Thunberg and Mahatma Ghandi. She is dressed in a plain tee shirt and shorts sitting at a desk. Her mother yells to her from downstairs.

MRS. GARCIA (O.S.)  
Let me hear the First Visit scene  
again.

Megan is reading a book. She sighs when she hears her mother's voice

MEGAN  
Mom, please, I know the lines.

She puts her earbuds in and turns up the volume on her phone and we hear what she's hearing but she continues to read. Her mother's voice is faint in the background but is drowned out by the music.

MRS. GARCIA (O.S.)  
You've got to be ready.

Megan closes her eyes, smiles, stands and begins to dance to the music. She's really in to it when her mother opens the door, attempts to get her attention unsuccessfully and then pulls out the ear buds. The music stops.

MRS. GARCIA (CONT'D)  
Did you hear me? Study your lines.  
Sing, sing, sing. They'll replace  
you if you don't show them you're  
the best.

She slips the ear buds into her pocket and scrolls through the phone until we hear a full orchestration of a song from the show.

MRS. GARCIA (CONT'D)  
Now sing!

The woman turns and leaves the room. Megan is shaking her head and flops face down on her bed. Within minutes her grandmother MARIA GARCIA (pretty, in comfortable attire, 65 years old) enters the room and sits on the bed and rubs Megan's back, takes the phone and turns the volume down.

MARIA GARCIA

Oh, my little mama, she means well.

Megan lifts her head a bit before speaking.

MEGAN

I know. But she's driving me crazy  
Nana. I love acting and singing but  
there are more important things.

She flops over and sits up and her grandmother opens her arms  
and gathers her in.

MARIA GARCIA

And what is it that you want, my  
love?

Megan whispers into her grandmothers ear.

MEGAN

I want to do something big in the  
world. Something to make it better.

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

4

SCENE 4 INT. DINING ROOM COSTUNA HOME NIGHT

4

A modest home in a typical neighborhood. The very large Costuna family is gathering for the evening meal. Mother and father and two sets of grandparents and 6 children of including Pedro the eldest son who is twenty, Alina who is seventeen and the two youngest children 10-year-old Matthew and 8-year-old Zoe. The table that is filled with an assortment of native food is long and narrow but all of the family is seated closely on either side.

GRANDFATHER COSTUNA

Let us give thanks for all here and  
for this food we are about to eat.  
Father, we thank you for this food  
and for the joy you have given us  
this day. May we serve you always  
as ever you see fit. Amen.

Everyone exclaims Amen and they begin to share the bowls of food in the center of the table. No one takes their portion first but always offers it to the person on either side.

When everyone has food, they begin to eat.

FATHER COSTUNA

How are things going with your  
studies, Pedro?

PEDRO

Fine father. Soon I'll be hearing  
about medical school.

His grandmother smiles at him.

GRANDMOTHER COSTUNA

You will make a fine doctor and  
heal many, I'm sure.

Not to be outdone Alina offers news of her success.

ALINA

I'm waiting to hear from the three  
Universities that I've applied to.  
They all have really good pre-law  
programs.

MRS. COSTUNA

Let's hope you both get nice big  
scholarships!

MR. COSTUNA

Yes, that will help a great deal.  
Then we have the rest of them to  
plan for!

They all laugh. The grandfather sits back in his chair and  
looks at his two youngest grandchildren.

GRANDFATHER COSTUNA

And you two? How are things going  
with the miracle rehearsals?

The two children look at one another and shrug their  
shoulders slightly but say nothing.

MR. COSTUNA

Matthew, Zoe, your grandfather is  
asking a question.

Matthew looks at Zoe and she stares back at him, giving short  
quick shakes no as her eyes widened. Matthew speaks with  
hesitation.

MATTHEW

Well, things are going (beat)  
pretty well. Not much to share.

Mrs. Costuna stands up and quickly stands behind her two  
youngest children and puts her hands on their shoulders.

MRS. COSTUNA

The rehearsals are going  
beautifully Father.

She leans down between the two and whispers through a smile.

MRS. COSTUNA (CONT'D)

Not a word about any ghosts!

She stands up, smiles at everyone and returns to her chair.

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

5

SCENE 5 INT. GREEN ROOM

5

Second read through is with children understudies. Megan, Matthew and Zoe are in a green room running lines with the assistant stage manager. His phone buzzes, he looks down at a text message. He holds up his finger before speaking to the kids.

JOSHUA

Gotta go. Keep running your lines.  
I'll be back in ten minutes.

With that he leaves. As soon as the door closes Matt and Zoe look carefully around the room.

MATTHEW

Hey, ah Megan...have you seen  
anything unusual in the theater?

Zoe looks beyond Megan and her eyes widen as the Fatima children from 1917 appear.

Zoe takes Megan's face in her hands and turns her head around dramatically.

ZOE

Like, them?

Megan stands up and steps backward.

MEGAN

Oh my goodness. Who are they?

MATTHEW

Don't you mean what they are?

GHOST OF LUCIA

We're friendly.

Zoe stands behind Megan who now stands behind Matthew.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Yes, like the beautiful lady in our  
story.

MATTHEW

Your story?

Francisco walks closer to him.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Haven't you read the whole story  
yet?

Zoe sticks her head out but the Ghost of Jacinta who is now standing right next to her. And her eyes get even bigger.

ZOE

I read it with my mom but I thought  
it was just a story. Like make-  
believe.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Oh, no, it really happened to us.

The Ghost of Jacinta points to Zoe and then to herself.

GHOST OF JACINTA (CONT'D)

You (beat) are playing me.

Zoe, starts to fan herself, and begins to freak out.

ZOE

I'm going to faint.

Matthew goes to her as does the ghost of Francisco. They both shake their heads.

MATTHEW

Girls.

Matthew reaches to help his sister, and his hand goes right through the arm of Francisco. He steps back.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Wow. That's kind of cool. Can you  
feel it.

How about this?

He sticks his hand right through Francisco's stomach. Ghost of Francisco giggles.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

No...it kind of tickles.

MEGAN

What do you want from us?

GHOST OF LUCIA

Well, we heard something about  
something. Something big. But we  
can't say anything.

MEGAN

Well, that's no help at all.

Meanwhile Zoe and the ghost of Jacinta are chatting away.  
When they pause for a moment Zoe can't hold back the news.

ZOE

This one says Mr. Swoops, Murray's  
father wants to close the theater.  
And the musical is his last chance  
and he's pulling the plug and  
sending everyone home. And that he  
doesn't believe in miracles.

Francisco shakes his finger at his little sister.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Oh, Jacinta for goodness sakes.  
You've done it again.

GHOST OF LUCIA

You never listen to me. Now we have  
a problem.

Megan steps closer to the ghost of Lucia and tries to touch  
her.

MEGAN

How come we can see and hear you  
but we can't touch you.

GHOST OF LUCIA

I don't know that just how it is.  
We've never appeared to anyone like  
this so it must mean something.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Yes, something really special.

Matthew is still moving his hand in and out of Francisco's  
body. Finally, the young ghost has had enough of it.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO (CONT'D)

Okay, that's enough of that. We  
have to figure out why you can see  
and hear us but nobody else can.

MATTHEW

Yeah, and we won't talk to anyone  
else about it...again. Our mom  
thinks we made it all up to scare  
her. (beat) She hates ghosts.  
(beat) Sorry.



ZOE

And you have to help us save the  
theater. And make sure the musical  
opens.

GHOST OF JACINTA

What about helping Murray's father  
believe in miracles?

All the children shake their head in agreement.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

6

SCENE 6 INT: BALCONY

6

The following week.

The three young Ghosts are alone in the dimly lit balcony when an older attractive woman enters and sits in the darker portion of the middle row. It's Maria Garcia, Megan's grandmother. She's holding rosary beads.

Randolph Swoops enters and takes his usual seat in the front row and does not notice Maria.

The cast is working on a group musical number from the show called Something to Believe. We hear them faintly in the background.

Randolph mutters to himself.

RANDOLPH

Such nonsense. None of this will  
make sense to an audience.

MARIA GARCIA

I don't agree.

Randolph is startled and turns around in his seat. He cannot see who is speaking.

RANDOLPH

Who's there? Hello? Come out now!

Maria Garcia, wanting to have a bit of fun continues.

MARIA GARCIA

What is so nonsensical about  
believing in something?

Randolph stands and raps his hand on the back of the seat.

RANDOLPH

I said make yourself known before I  
call security! This is private  
property.

Maria Garcia laughs aloud.

MARIA GARCIA

You silly old man. You can't see me  
how will they?

Meanwhile the young ghosts are really enjoying the scene.

GHOST OF JACINTA

She's pretending to be like us!

GHOST OF LUCIA  
It's kind of funny.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO  
Why doesn't she want to show  
herself.

GHOST OF JACINTA  
She's trying to trick him I think.

GHOST OF LUCIA  
Not trick. Something better.

MARIA GARCIA  
You can't see but you know I'm  
here. But am I really here?

She laughs only making Randolph even madder. He stays where  
he is.

MARIA GARCIA (CONT'D)  
Why don't you come look for me?

Randolph stomps his foot.

RANDOLPH  
This is my theater! Come out and  
get out - now!

The Ghost of Lucia suddenly is standing right next to  
Randolph. She taps him on the arm but nothing happens. She  
waves to her cousins and they suddenly appear. The three of  
them struggle and then use all their might to touch Randolph,  
and they succeed. He jumps.

Maria Garcia suddenly stops laughing when she sees that he is  
really afraid.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Cut that out! Leave me alone.

The children giggle.

Maria Garcia stands and walks towards Randolph. He looks at  
her and all around.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
What? (beat) Who? (beat) How did  
you do that?

MARIA GARCIA  
Do what?

RANDOLPH  
Somebody just touched me.

MARIA GARCIA  
Well it wasn't me.

RANDOLPH  
It had to be. Look around do you  
see anyone else up here?

Now he's getting mad.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
You should not be up here, this is  
private property.

MARIA GARCIA  
I'm waiting for my granddaughter.

Maria Garcia points to the stage.

MARIA GARCIA (CONT'D)  
She's the lead in your show.

RANDOLPH  
It's not my show! I'm merely the  
money. Go wait somewhere else.

Maria Garcia attempts to appease him.

MARIA GARCIA  
I'm sitting quietly and praying.  
How can that bother you?

She holds up her beads.

RANDOLPH  
Well go pray somewhere else. This  
is my theater and I like being up  
here alone.

Maria Garcia is offended and abruptly leaves.

Randolph sits back down and begins tapping his fingers.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
The nerve of that woman.

The three ghosts sit behind him.

GHOST OF LUCIA  
I know how we can get him to  
believe.

She smiles at the other two who look bewildered at her statement.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

7

SCENE 7 INT. MEGAN'S BEDROOM NIGHT

7

Megan is laying on her bed when her grandmother knocks on the door.

MARIA GARCIA  
Are you busy?

MEGAN  
No, nana, just reading. Come on in.

Maria Garcia enters the bedroom and sits on the bed.

MARIA GARCIA  
What are you reading?

She holds up a book with the image of a nun on the cover.

MEGAN  
It's the book written by Sister  
Maria Lucia, the nun who was  
actually the real person that I am  
playing in the show.

MARIA GARCIA  
I know that book. I read it a long,  
long time ago.

MEGAN  
Really? Wow. It's unbelievable how  
close the script is to what really  
happened to her and cousins.

Maria Garcia takes the book from Megan and looks at the photo on the cover of the old nun.

MARIA GARCIA  
I remember clearly, learning about  
their story. It's why I pray.

She takes out her rosary beads from her apron pocket.

MARIA GARCIA (CONT'D)  
I met an interesting man while  
waiting for you at rehearsal the  
other day. He was sitting up in the  
balcony all alone.

Megan sat up.

MEGAN  
That's Mr. Swoops. Be careful Nana.

MARIA GARCIA

He has a bit of a temper, but I'm  
not worried about him.

MEGAN

He wants to close the show and the  
theater.

He's really mean.

MARIA GARCIA

I think there's more to it than  
that.

What do I always say?

MEGAN

You mustn't judge a book by its  
cover.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

8

SCENE 8 INT: GREEN ROOM

8

Megan, Matthew and Zoe are joined by the three Ghosts.

MEGAN

My nana said Mr. Swoops isn't  
someone to be afraid of but I'm not  
so sure about that.

GHOST OF LUCIA

He acts like he's a big shot.

They all giggle.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

And he yells.

ZOE

I'm scared of him.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Me too.

MATTHEW

How does your nana know him?

MEGAN

She met him accidentally - he was  
going to call security to throw her  
out of the theater!

GHOST OF LUCIA

Well, she's going to see him (beat)  
a lot. That's part of my plan.

MEGAN

My nana read your book. Did all  
those things really happen to you  
guys?

She gestures to ghosts of Francisco and Jacinta.

GHOST OF LUCIA

Yes. We can take you back there and  
show you.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Can we do that?

GHOST OF JACINTA

Sure. I'll take Zoe's hand and you  
take Matthew's and Lucia can hold  
on to Megan. We can show them where  
it all began.



GHOST OF FRANCISCO  
You mean with the angel?

MATTHEW  
You saw an angel?

GHOST OF FRANCISCO  
Yep.

ZOE  
A REAL ANGEL???

DISSOLVE TO:

9

SCENE 9 EXT. FATIMA, PORTUGAL 1916 DAY

9

The group reappears a good distance from the opening of a small cave on the family land. The six stand and watch the scene unfold. It's raining lightly, the church bells toll and the children remove their rosary beads and begin praying. Francisco is playing his wooden flute as Jacinta dances about. Lucia is resting her head against the stone wall.

Zoe looks at the scene and then at the Ghosts.

ZOE

How come you're there and here?

GHOST OF LUCIA

I don't know.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Umm...that's interesting. I wonder if I can ...

She starts to walk toward the scene and the Ghost of Lucia pulls her back.

GHOST OF LUCIA

Will you just stand still and just watch.

It's raining lightly, the church bells toll and the children remove their rosary beads and begin praying. While praying an ANGEL takes form in front of them and began speaking (WE DO NOT HEAR ANYTHING IN THIS PART OF SCENE.)

GHOST OF LUCIA (CONT'D)

He just appeared out of nowhere. He began speaking to us.

GHOST OF JACINTA

And he came to us three times.

ZOE

Were you afraid? Was he like....like you?

GHOST OF JACINTA

No, he was the most beautiful thing ever.

GHOST OF LUCIA

His presence was peaceful and loving. We didn't have to be afraid.

MATTHEW

Why did he visit you?

GHOST OF LUCIA

He said he came to prepare our  
hearts for a visit from someone. We  
didn't know who or when but when he  
left us for the last time we all  
felt different.

We watch as the 1917 children look upon the Angel in awe of  
his presence. They listen closely to what he is saying to  
them. (We do not hear his voice merely watch the exchange)  
The Angel disappears and the children sit quietly in the  
mouth of the cave.

The six travelers vanish.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

10

SCENE 10 INT: GREEN ROOM

10

IMMEDIATELY AFTER The six travelers reappear in the Green Room.

MATTHEW

Wow!

He's touching his face and arms and then his legs. He looks at Zoe.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Am I all here?

Zoe sinks to the floor, fanning herself. She's breathless as she speaks.

ZOE

I'm going to faint!

The Ghost of Francisco goes over to Zoe.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Oh no you're not. But have you any idea how we feel? I've been dead for 120 years! Think about that.

ZOE

I know..... Ahhh!

The Ghost of Jacinta kneels at Zoe's side.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Does it help that I'm two years younger?

Meanwhile Megan sits on the couch with the Ghost of Lucia on one side and the Ghost of Jacinta on the other

MEGAN

Why do you think the Angel appeared to you? And three times!

GHOST OF LUCIA

Well, like he said, he came to prepare our hearts. You must have read the whole script right? And how far did you get in my book?

MEGAN

Yes of course, I read the script but I really thought it was just based on your story...but not real.

(MORE)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

But my nana says she knows the your  
story...You were still...alive...when  
she was younger. She even went to  
Fatima on a pilgrimage

She points to the Ghosts of Francisco and Jacinta.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

She saw their....where they're  
buried.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Really? Did she go to our house?  
Did she see our sheep?

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Jacinta! Our sheep have been dead  
for a long time!

GHOST OF JACINTA

No, not Bobo!

Zoe attempts to comfort her and pats her arm but her hand  
goes right through. They both giggle a bit.

ZOE

It's okay. I felt the same way when  
Matthew ran over my hamster with  
his bike.

MATTHEW

It was an accident and you know it.

Megan stands up and the Ghost of Lucia is right next to her.

MEGAN

How long was it before you met the  
....person? The one that the Angel  
prepared your heart for.

GHOST OF LUCIA

Nearly year went by. You should be  
working on that scene in the  
musical soon, right?

MEGAN

Do you watch every rehearsal?

GHOST OF JACINTA

There's not much else to do.

MATTHEW

Have any of you figured out why  
you're here?

(MORE)

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

I mean you've come a long, long way  
and your still wearing the same  
clothes from 1917.

Zoe looks at the offended Ghost of Jacinta

ZOE

Yeah... you look cute but it's just  
a little old fashion.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

We didn't plan this. Just like we  
didn't plan anything that happen in  
1917. We just found ourselves up in  
the balcony.

GHOST OF LUCIA

There must be a very important  
reason that we are here.

MEGAN

Yes, that's for sure. And I think  
saving the musical is only a part  
of it.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

11 SCENE 11 INT. BALCONY DAY

11

Several days later. Mr. Swoops is seated in his usual spot when Maria Garcia enters he glares at her. But she does not hesitate when approaching him. She stands right in front of him. He attempts to look around her ...keeping his eyes on the stage.

RANDOLPH  
You're blocking my view.

Marica Garcia doesn't move.

MARIA GARCIA  
Mr. Swoops. I think we got off on  
the wrong foot the other day.

She extends her hand to him. He rolls his eyes and leans forward and shakes it reluctantly. Then waves his hand, motioning her to move to the side. She takes one step to the side.

MARIA GARCIA (CONT'D)  
I am Maria Garcia, Megan's  
grandmother. And I hope that if I  
am as quiet as a church mouse that  
I might sit up here and wait for  
her.

Randolph shrugs his shoulders.

RANDOLPH  
You may sit as long as you do not  
expect me to converse. I do not  
make small talk. I must keep my  
eyes on the ball.

He gestures to the stage.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
I have a great deal of money  
invested in this and if I don't  
like it....

He gestures with his finger with slice across his throat.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
It's toast. Burnt toast.

She glares at him but Randolph grunts and waves her away. Maria Garcia sits six seats down from him. She discreetly pulls out her rosary beads and begins to pray...to herself.

The three Fatima Ghosts sit in the last row watching them.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Are they going to just sit there  
and not talk? I couldn't do that.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

We know.

Ghost of Lucia stands and the other two follow her to the row  
behind Maria Garcia and Randolph.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Are we going to try and touch him  
again.

That was kind of fun.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

It was fun huh?

GHOST OF LUCIA

No, we have to do more than that.  
But I think we need Megan's help. I  
wonder how long she's going to be  
on stage.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

It looks like they're doing the  
part when the mayor's soldiers  
break the statue.

GHOST OF LUCIA

Yes. But they're just saying lines  
we need to show them what it was  
really like.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Well, we can't take them all back  
in time.

GHOST OF LUCIA

No, but we can take back three of  
them. Right?

The other two nodded in agreement.

GHOST OF JACINTA

But we're going have to wait until  
they finish down there. I'm bored.

The stage manager who is seated in the first row walks to the  
edge of the stage.

JOSHUA

Okay everybody take 10 and I mean



The actors leave the stage. Megan, Matthew and Zoe stand together looking up at the balcony where the three Fatima ghost are standing at the rail waving their arms frantically. The other three on stage shake their heads ever so slightly. But the Fatima three are insistent and within seconds they standing next to their live counter parts on stage who quickly turn inward so no one can see them talking to the ghosts. The ghost of Jacinta is walking about looking all around, taking it all in.

GHOST OF JACINTA

I love it on the stage. Watch...I  
can dance.

She starts to sway and move about but stops suddenly.

GHOST OF JACINTA (CONT'D)

Well, I used too.... before I made  
a promise.

Zoe is intrigued by this but keeps herself turn inward.

ZOE

You made a promise not to dance? I  
couldn't do that.

GHOST OF JACINTA

You'll see, once you get to that  
part in our story.

GHOST OF LUCIA

I think we have a couple things  
we're supposed to do.

She points up to the balcony where we see Randolph and Maria sitting...still not speaking.

GHOST OF LUCIA (CONT'D)

We have to get them to speak to one  
another. Megan... is your  
nana...available?

GHOST OF JACINTA

Available for what?

MEGAN

Well, my grandfather died five  
years ago.

ZOE

So?

MEGAN

Oh....

The ghost of Francisco and Matthew both are confused.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO  
What are you two cooking up?

MATTHEW  
This isn't going to be good.

Megan and the Ghost of Lucia are smiling ear to ear knowing exactly what that means.

GHOST OF LUCIA  
Does she bake?

MEGAN  
Yep and she is a great cook! She makes the best chicken and rice and white beans.

GHOST OF LUCIA  
Perfect. Talk to her tonight. We have to put a plan into action.

ZOE  
What are you two talking about?

GHOST OF JACINTA  
Yeah, I wish I could eat something, but it probably will go right through.

She sticks her hand through her belly.

ZOE  
Oh my. You must be starving if you haven't eaten in over 100 years!

GHOST OF JACINTA  
I can't really feel it.

They giggle.

GHOST OF LUCIA  
That's the first part of the plan. The next part involves getting Mr. Swoops to understand how important this musical is.

MEGAN  
Can you ...can we take him back in time like you did with us?

GHOST OF LUCIA

I don't think so. We have to come up with another way. But first we have to soften his heart.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Yeah. It's like a stone.

MATTHEW

It might take a stick of dynamite to make a crack in it.

They all laugh.

MEGAN

Well, Nana's chicken and beans might only give him a bit of gas...

They all laugh.

The stage manager returns to the stage.

JOSHUA

Okay everyone we're doing the first scene. And we're going to run the song.

Actor portraying the character of Manuel and the remaining ensemble get into position on the stage. Portuguese folk music is playing and dancing begins suddenly the Ghosts of the Fatima children, look at their present-day selves and extend their hand to them. We are transported back to 1917.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

12

SCENE 12 INT. MARTO BARN FATIMA 1917 #2 BALCONY DAY

12

March 19, 1917, is the feast of Saint Joseph. We are in the Marto barn and it's alive with many festivities. Men are seated on bales of hay playing handmade instruments a traditional folk song while men, women and children are dancing. Present in the group are MARIA ROSA and ANTONIO DOS SANTOS the parents of Lucia and Maria's brother MANUEL MARTO and his wife OLIMPIA who are the parents of Francisco and Jacinta. Also present is FATHER FERREIRA, the parish priest.

Maria Rosa keeps a watchful eye on Antonio as he sips from the jug of wine and she shakes a finger at him.

Everyone is having a great time when suddenly a gunshot is heard in the distance.

BACK TO THE  
BALCONY

Quickly we are thrust back into present day and the gun shot is heard by Randolph and Maria Garcia who gets up quickly moving one seat closer to him.

CUT TO

MANUEL

What was that?

He jumps onto a bale of hay.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

Men, be ready. It might be Arturo's men. We must stand our ground.

FATHER FERREIRA

I told you Manuel. I told you this wasn't a good idea. We must not bring attention to ourselves.

ANTONIO

They might arrest us.

MARIA ROSA

What have we done that is so wrong?

Father Ferreira is pacing back and forth.

FATHER FERREIRA

We all know of the Law forbidding public display of faith. He could arrest us all. And it will be far worse for me...a man of God.

Another gun shot.

BACK TO THE  
BALCONY

Randolph and Maria are startled again, she moves another seat closer.

BACK TO MARTO  
BARN 1917

Everyone cowers in fear but Manuel who runs to the barn door as it is thrown open. Mrs. Perez and her two young children ANNA and JOAO run in. The little girl who is weeping runs to Manuel. The other women gather around Mrs. Perez and her son.

ANNA PEREZ  
They took my papa and my brothers  
away.

JOAO  
They broke the statue of Saint  
Joseph that papa made to bring  
here.

Manuel comforts the child and then sends her to her mother.

MANUEL  
This is the work of Arturo dos  
Santos.

ANTONIO  
But he's the mayor... he really can  
put us in jail.

MANUEL  
Yes, but they cannot take away our  
faith.

Song. My Country My Heart. 2.26 min. Man cannot take what God has created and do whatever he wants. Man cannot take what God gives and use it against His will. My country was born from the breath of God, our people made from His love. Mountains of tall trees, full of colored leaves. Sweet scent of flowers fills me when I breathe. Waters from the rivers, lessening my thirst. Breezes from the west winds, whispering at first. All of this my country. All of this our land. Home of my heart, part of God's plan. Windmills are whirring through the still of night. Sheep gently grazing in the morning light. Little children praying on beads old and worn. Traditions of our heritage from the day we are born. No one will suppress it. Nothing can subdue. The loving of our God I promise this to you. All of this our country. All of this our land. Home of my heart Part of God's plan. This is His plan

Another gun shot.

CUT TO BALCONY

Randolph and Maria are startled again and she reaches for his hand, which he starts to take but then stops putting his hand back into his lap.

CUT TO STAGE

On stage present day the three Fatima ghosts are remembering the day. The Ghost of Jacinta is crying and holding fast to the Ghost of Lucia who has her arm around the shoulders of the Ghost of Francisco. Megan, Matthew and Zoe stare at them. They are only beginning to understand what their new friends went through.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

13 SCENE 13 INT. MEGAN'S BEDROOM DAY

13

Megan is on her bed reading "In My Own Words", written by Lucia dos Santos much later in life when she was a Carmelite nun. Nana comes into the room and sits next to her.

MARIA GARCIA  
May I borrow it when you're  
finished?

Megan looks at her. She starts to speak and then stops unsure if she should finish.

MEGAN  
Nana.

Were you in the theater yesterday? Did you see....

MARIA GARCIA  
Yes, in the balcony with our grumpy  
friend.

MEGAN  
Did you see anything (beat)  
unusual?

MARIA GARCIA  
Well, not really see, but when we  
heard several gun shots, we both  
jumped!

Megan sits up quickly.

MEGAN  
Gun shots? You heard them?

MARIA GARCIA  
Well, yes. It was a sound effect,  
right?

Megan rolls her eyes.

MEGAN  
Umm

MARIA GARCIA  
We both heard them.

MEGAN  
Mr. Swoops heard them too?

MARIA GARCIA  
Yes! He nearly grabbed my hand, he  
was so startled.  
(MORE)

MARIA GARCIA (CONT'D)  
It took us by surprise. But it was  
so real and very effective. Didn't  
you hear them?

Megan slowly gets off her bed.

MEGAN  
Umm, yeah and you're right very  
effective.

Megan stands and reaches for her bookbag.

MEGAN (CONT'D)  
We're going to be late for  
rehearsal. Come on Nana. We've got  
go.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:



14

SCENE 14 INT. BALCONY DAY

14

Randolph sits in his front row seat and Murray stands, listening to his father's rant.

RANDOLPH

Why do you need so many people? You can do this ...this show with half as many no?

MURRAY

No, Dad we can't. And just to warn you the crowds grow larger.

RANDOLPH

What? Payroll will be double.

MURRAY

Pops, you saw the reading. Remember?

Randolph waves him off wanting to change the subject.

RANDOLPH

Whatever.... How much are special effects costing me?

Murray looks confused.

MURRAY

Special effect? What are you talking about? We don't bring anything in until tech week.

Randolph stares at him, then slaps his hand soundly on the arm of the chair.

RANDOLPH

Don't try gaslighting me boy! I heard gun shots loud and clear, three to be exact.

Murray sits next to him and pats his arm.

MURRAY

Dad...are you okay? I mean, is everything okay.

Randolph pulls his arm away.

RANDOLPH

Don't you patronize me! I know what I heard. Gunshots. How much are they costing me?

Murray stands, lets out big sigh.

MURRAY

Dad, I don't know what you think  
you heard. But we didn't use sound  
effects. There were no gun shots.  
So, it's not costing you anything.  
I've got to go. Listen maybe you  
should give you doctor a call. Get  
something for stress.

With that he leaves. Randolph sits there, looking worried  
muttering to himself.

RANDOLPH

But we both heard them.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

15

SCENE 15 INT. GREEN ROOM

15

Immediately after in the Green Room Megan, Matthew and Zoe sit on the couch waiting to be called to the stage.

MEGAN

I'm telling you they heard the gun shots!

MATTHEW

But did they see anything?

Zoe jumps up.

ZOE

Oh, my gosh, oh my gosh. That's good right. It's not just us.

MATTHEW

I'm not sure if that's good or bad. If Mr. Swoops gets spooked he might just close everything down -now!

Megan sit looking around the room.

ZOE

You're looking for them, right?

Zoe runs to the closet and opens the door quickly.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Hello???

MEGAN

They were really upset yesterday. Do you think they're gone for good.

Suddenly the three ghosts from Fatima appear.

GHOST OF LUCIA

No, we're here. I had to really push Jacinta to come back.

Zoe walks over to her counterpart and tries to hug her. Naturally her arms go around herself but Jacinta smiles at the gesture.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Thank you.

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

It was really scary being back there. But at least you guys got to see what it was like.

Megan joins the group.

MEGAN

Well, we weren't the only ones.

All the others stare at her.

GHOST OF LUCIA

What do you mean?

MEGAN

My Nana told me this morning that she and Mr. Swoops heard the gun shots. They thought it was just sound effects.

Ghost of Lucia begins to pace.

GHOST OF LUCIA

Oh, no. I didn't think this would happen. (beat) But I think it's good.

MEGAN

Good?

MATTHEW

But what if he says something to Murray?

He'll tell him it didn't happen.

MEGAN

I don't think so. I think if he sees that his father is even a little bit excited about the show, he'll go along with it.

GHOST OF LUCIA

You're right. But we need to act faster to a...a you know with you know who and your Nana.

Megan slaps her forehead.

MEGAN

I forgot the chicken and beans! Not a problem. I'll take care of it at break.

Over the loud speaker Joshua announces places.

JOSHUA

We start in 5. Act 1 Scene 2 The  
First Visit.

GHOST OF JACINTA

Oh....this is my favorite.

She turns to Zoe.

GHOST OF JACINTA (CONT'D)

You're going to love it.

She continues talking as they leave the Green Room with the  
others except Zoe shaking their heads. Matthew turns to  
Francisco.

MATTHEW

Does she ever stop talking?

GHOST OF FRANCISCO

Not as long as I've know her.

MATTHEW

Yeah, her neither.

The Ghost of Jacinta and Zoe stick their tongues out at them.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

16

SCENE 16 INT. STAGE

16

Megan, Matthew and Zoe are on stage and all others are seated in the audience. Up in the balcony sit Mr. Swoops and Maria Garcia. The Director steps forward and she speaks to children.

ALETA

Everyone's off-book on this?

The children nod.

ALETA (CONT'D)

So, this is the very first time you experience a supernatural event.

ZOE

No, it's not. They saw an angel three times.

Megan grabs Zoe's hand and squeezes it. Zoe winces.

MEGAN

She's just making things up.

Matthew takes Zoe's other hand and squeezes it. She reacts.

MATTHEW

Yeah, my sister. She's always making things up. Just forget it.

ALETA

Okay. Let's focus. Your faces have to reflect what you're seeing. You're telling the audience what is happening so let's really help them believe every minute.

Aleta takes a seat in the audience and nods to the Stage Manager.

JOSHUA

Act I Scene 2 the First Visit. Go.

The scene on stage comes to life for only Megan, Matthew and Zoe who are transported back in time to May 13, 1917.

FADE OUT

**END OF EPISODE 1**