

From Migdalia Cruz's MIRIAM'S FLOWERS

SCENE 6

MIRIAM and DELFINA at the funeral. DELFINA rocks back and forth. MIRIAM talks to the corpse of her brother, PULI. THEY kneel by the coffin. NANDO stands still, behind them.

MIRIAM

I wanna be a singer. I listen to the radio all the time and I tell people's fortune. I mean, I sing wif the radio and it's like telling a fortune cause I can look into somebody's face and know exactly what song to sing at them and like it helps them... I can do that for you too. Gimme your hand.

(SHE takes his hand and holds it against her cheek. SHE sings "I'll Be There" by the Jackson Five.)

"I'll be there... I'll be there. Just call my name, and I'll be there... Look over your shoulder, honey. Oooh, ooh. I'll be there. I'll be there. Just call my name... and I'll be there..." I'll be wif you soon, Puli. Don' be scared of God or nuffin. He's old, but he's okay. You like that song? You liked those Jackson Five, din't you? Yeah...

(She puts his hand back in the casket.)

I'll keep listening to 'em for you. I'll tell you all about'em. Yeah. As long as one of us is listening... Ain't I a good singer though?! That's one thing my Papi give me. When he cut me that time when he was having that nightmare and he thought my bobo was chokin' me and he cut it in the dark, but it was my neck? You remember? I tole you this story before. He made my voice better anyway. He cut it just right. Did me a favor. Only good thing he ever give me.

(DELFINA faints. Blackout.)

(We hear a verse of "I'll Be There")