

(ANA, CECILIA, and ROSITA appear washing clothes and sheets in the river. The sheets billow in the wind. MIGUEL rushes to ANA.)

MIGUEL. Mira, Mamá— (But the women are busy talking.)

CECILIA (waving an envelope). Mira, Miguel, we got a letter from my daughter—

ANA. ¡En Los Angeles!

ROSITA. The City of Angels! (Incredulous.) She's got two jobs! And she eats everyday!

MIGUEL. Sí, pos— (Tries to show them the feather.)  
mira—

ROSITA. She said all the kids there got BIG MOUTHS—just like you. Everybody in Los Angeles makes a lot of noise!

CECILIA. They got radios in their cars, and they ride around all day in their villages playing music—

ROSITA. LOUD—so the angels can hear them in the sky! And they got radios on their heads—and telephones right in their pockets!

MIGUEL (laughs; to audience). What a nut, eh? (Tries to show ANA the feather.) Mira—Papá said—

CECILIA. Ay, you could hear your papá laughing all the way to the river. He better be careful—

ANA. He's a brave man, Cecilia.

CECILIA. Brave like Kiki El Loco. Y bocón, Ana, como you know who—

MIGUEL. ¡Sí! Mamá, mira— (To audience.) But I never got to show her, porque...

(ANA hears something in the distance and turns U, frightened.)

MIGUEL. My mother wasn't listening, porque... (Fainted; frightened.) My mother—she can hear a baby cry in the next village—

(We hear THE BOOT, and LUIS is propelled onto the stage by the unseen soldier. His hands are pulled behind him and tied.)

ANA (running to LUIS). No! ¡Déjelo por el amor de Dios! NO, YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM! NO! (We hear THE BOOT. One of ANA's arms is lifted, then the other. Then both are pulled down behind her by the invisible soldier. We should feel that a bird is being taken. The capture is the same as MIGUEL's in Scene One.)

MIGUEL (to audience, with great difficulty). And the soldiers took my mother for talking loud, too. And I wanted to scream at them, I wanted to yell— (He tries to yell—but his voice flies away in terror. We hear his "NOO OOI" on tape, flying away, echoing, fading. MIGUEL mouths silently, wildly.) No! No!

ROSITA (to CECILIA). His voice, Mamá—IT FLEW AWAY!

(She runs off scared. ANA and LUIS are taken off. THE BOOT sound dragging them. They recede U, facing the audience.)

ANA. Rum, M'hijo, rum I love you...!  
MIGUEL (mounts). No!