

Training:

Day 1

Written by Retta Bodhaine

Cast of Characters

- Muñeca (Moon yeck ahh) – very young girl
- Ita (Ee-ta) - Grandma
- Abuelo (Ah -bway- low) – Grandpa
- Mama (emphasis on second syllable)
- Primo (Pree Moe)

1 *(SFX: LOTS of people loading into two vans and a Pickup truck. Vehicles start. Front*
 2 *porch door opens and screen door opens and slams shut. Little*
 3 *footsteps run down the driveway.)*

4 MUÑECA Mama! Mama! Wait for me! Mama!

5 *(SFX: Footsteps stop abruptly)*

6 ITA Ay, Muñeca. Where do you think you're going?

7 *(SFX: Cars drive off)*

8 MUÑECA Put me down Ita! Mama! Wait!

9 ITA Hija (ee-ha), you are too young to go with your mother. Come back
 10 inside. Abuelo will make you some hot cocoa.

11 MUÑECA No Ita! I'm not too young, and I don't want cocoa!

12 ABUELO *(Approaching mic and over dramatic)* What's this I hear? My
 13 Muñeca no longer wants my cocoa? I can't believe it! How can this
 14 be?

15 *(SFX: Palm hits chest)*

16 ABUELO Oh my heart! You've wounded me!

17 ITA See what you've done? You've wounded your grandpa's heart.

18 ABUELO *(solemnly)* Si, it hurts Muñeca, it hurts. *(In dad joke voice)* I don't
 19 think I can stand it.

20 *(SFX: Grandpa sits hard on the steps)*

21 ITA Oh no! Now what are we going to do? Once your grandpa sits, there's
 22 no getting him back up, and you know he's too heavy for me to carry.

23 MUÑECA *(giggles)*

24 ABUELO I'm not heavy. The tostadas are heavy! I just carry them *(quieter)*
 25 inside me.

26 MUÑECA *(Grunts with effort)* Get up Abuelo.

27 ABUELO I can't. My heart hurts too much, and you know there's only one cure
 28 for the hurting of the heart.

29 MUÑECA My kisses!

30 ABUELO *(Singing)* Besame. Besame mucho (Beh-sah-may moo-cho)

31 MUÑECA *(giggles and gives him many small kisses)*

32 (*SFX: Grandpa groans as he stands*)

33 ABUELO Ah, my sweet Muñeca's kisses. No matter what hurts me, they always
34 heal my heart. Come, let's go back inside. If you –

35 MUÑECA No! Abuelo, I need you to take me to Mama.

36 ITA (*warningly*) Muñeca, I told you. You are too young.

37 MUÑECA But

38 ITA The only butt I want to see is yours going into the house.

39 MUÑECA (*Whining*) Ita

40 ITA Do you want to go with your mother?

41 MUÑECA Yes!

42 ITA Then you need to be ready. Have you trained?

43 MUÑECA Trained?

44 ITA (*gasp*) Oh my goodness. You haven't trained. Memo (May Moe), do
45 you hear this? She hasn't trained!

46 ABUELO (*Tsks*) This is no good.

47 ITA Come, we better start right away!

48 MUÑECA And then you'll take me to Mama?

49 ITA Mija (Me Ha), once you're fully trained your mother will never leave
50 you behind on a mission again.

51 MUÑECA Let's do this!

52 (*SFX: Little marching footsteps. Screen door opens. Front door opens. Two adult*
53 *footsteps follow. Screen door shuts. Main door shuts.*)

54 ITA There are many challenges your mother will face when she arrives at
55 battle today. The first step will be infiltration.

56 MUÑECA Infant what?

57 ITA In-fill-tra-tion. It means finding a weak spot, filling it, and making it
58 your own. So we'll start with hide-and-go-seek.

59 MUÑECA That's not training!

60 ITA Of course it is! Before today, it was a game, but we're not playing
61 anymore. You have to hide so well that both Abuelo and I can't find

62 you. You will not get there today, but with practice you will be there
 63 soon. Ready? Begin!

64 *(SFX: Blows ref whistle)*

65 ABUELO *(quietly)* Where did you get the whistle?

66 ITA Almost fifty years of marriage and you still have to ask?

67 ABUELO I know. I know. You're Magic.

68 ITA Claro. (Klah row)

69 MUÑECA You're not counting!

70 ITA One, two, three *(fades out)*

71 ABUELO Where could she be? I think I know! I. Think. She. Is. Here!

72 MUÑECA *(Screams and giggles)*

73 ITA *(fades in)* Your time was 138 seconds that time. You're getting better!
 74 Now, it is time for your next exercise. Memo, go get the pillows
 75 please.

76 *(SFX: retreating footsteps on carpet and carpeted stairs)*

77 MUÑECA What are the pillows for?

78 *(SFX: (under Ita's words) soft thuds as about 10 pillows are thrown down the stairs.*
 79 *Then approaching footsteps)*

80 ITA The next challenge your mother will overcome today will be making
 81 her way quickly through crowds of people. She can't allow the people
 82 to slow her down. Now go to the end of the hallway.

83 MUÑECA (off mic) Here Ita?

84 ITA All the way to the end Muñeca. (to Abuelo) We also need the big
 85 tape. It's in the kitchen drawer closest to the laundry room.

86 *(SFX: retreating adult footsteps on carpet and then vinyl. Retreating child footsteps*
 87 *down a carpeted hallway)*

88 MUÑECA (further off mic) Here?

89 *(SFX: (under Ita's words) kitchen drawer opening, approaching footsteps)*

90 ITA Bueno (Bwen oh). When I say go, walk from one end of the hallway
 91 to the other. Read? Set? Go.

92 *(SFX: stop watch beeps. Approaching child feet down a hallway. Stop watch beeps)*

93 ITA (to Abuelo) Thank you Memo. (To Muñeca) It takes you 4.3 seconds
 94 to walk down the hallway on your own. That is your goal time. Here
 95 help tape these pillows to me and Abuelo.

96 MUÑECA How?

97 *(SFX: (under Ita's words and a little after) duct taping of pillows to bodies)*

98 ITA Here. Tape this one around the top and the bottom so it covers the
 99 front of his arm. And this one on his leg. And this one around his
 100 chest. Now do the other arm and leg, then come do mine.

101 MUÑECA (giggles) You look like marshmallows!

102 ABUELO No, I feel too strong to be a marshmallow. I feel like a bull!

103 MUÑECA Bulls aren't white!

104 ABUELO Of course they are! What are they teaching kids in this country? Soon
 105 I'll take you to your Primo's ranch in Mexico (Meh -he -coe), and
 106 you'll see all the different colors of bulls.

107 MUÑECA Really?!

108 ITA One training at a time. Now go. To the end of the hallway.

109 *(SFX: running kids feet. Encumbered adults following after)*

110 ITA Now, get around us and back to the other side in the same time that
 111 you walked there.

112 *(SFX: stop watch beeps, running kids feet, struggling)*

113 MUÑECA *(exertion noises)* Abuelo move! You can't block me! That's not fair!

114 ITA We are not training you for fair. We're training you for life. Now get
 115 through the obstacles!

116 MUÑECA How?

117 ITA Use your legs and shoulders to push us out of the way. Throw your
 118 elbows.

119 *(SFX: effort increase, child falls, whistle blows, stop watch beeps)*

120 ITA STOP!

121 *(SFX: footsteps, pillows rubbing)*

122 ITA Get up Muñeca.

123 *(SFX: child stands, and snuffles)*

124 ITA Push against me.

125 *(SFX: light flesh strike)*

126 *(SFX: (under Ita's words) adjustment movements)*

127 ITA Not like that. Put one leg in front of the other. Move your legs a little

128 further apart. Bend your knees. Now when you push use your legs,

129 but keep your balance. If I move you can't fall. You can never fall. If

130 you fall when you're with your mother, you will be hurt very badly.

131 We don't fall. Say it.

132 MUÑECA *(quiet)* We don't fall.

133 ITA Louder

134 MUÑECA We don't fall!

135 ITA Again.

136 MUÑECA WE DON'T FALL!

137 ITA That's my girl. Now go get through those pillows.

138 ABUELO Let's go Muñeca! We can do this! Si se puede! (See say pway day)

139 MUÑECA Si se puede!

140 ITA One, two, three,

141 *(SFX: stop watch beeps)*

142 ITA GO!

143 MUÑECA *(Yells)*

144 *(SFX: running kids feet, struggling, fade out)*

145 *(SFX: fade in. Grandparent's panting)*

146 ITA *(Out of breath)* Ok. I think it's time for the next part of your training.

147 MUÑECA But I'm not even close to my time!

148 ABUELO Yes, but I'm getting close to mine.

149 ITA The third drill is a scavenger hunt. Abuelo is going to make a list of

150 ten items that are in the house.

151 *(SFX: pen scribbling on paper, then the paper being passed)*

152 ITA You must go find them and bring them back to me before the timer
 153 goes off. You have 8 minutes. There is your list. Do you have
 154 questions?

155 MUÑECA What is a (sounding out) Pilsner?

156 ITA What? Memo, what did you write for her?

157 ABUELO It's my adult medicine drink, remember?

158 MUÑECA Oh your beer!

159 ABUELO Si, my beer. Not that stuff your dad drinks, ok?

160 ITA Ay, Memo! (*tsks*)

161 (*SFX: paper being grabbed, pen scribbling on paper, then the paper being passed back*)

162 ITA There, an appropriate list. Memo, what am I going to do with you?

163 ABUELO What you always do?

164 ITA (laughs and kisses him) Here. You work the timer. I'll go get your
 165 medicine.

166 (*SFX: footsteps, and man sitting in a leather recliner*)

167 ABUELO Dios, I love that woman.

168 ITA (off mic) You'd better!

169 ABUELO (Sigh) You ready Muñeca?

170 MUÑECA Yes Abuelo!

171 ABUELO Then. Let's. Go!

172 (*SFX: stopwatch beeps, running kids feet, fade out*)

173 (*SFX: fade in*)

174 MUÑECA I did it Ita! I did it!

175 ITA Congratulations Mija! You're doing great! Next time we'll try for 7
 176 minutes. Now are you ready for your last task?

177 MUÑECA I'm ready Ita! I can do it!

178 ITA This is the hardest task you must master before you can go with your
 179 mother. Are you sure you're ready?

180 MUÑECA I'm sure!

181 ITA Ok. You must wait.

182 MUÑECA What?

183 ITA Waiting is a big part of what your mother is doing tonight. If you
184 really want to go with her. You have to learn how to do it.

185 MUÑECA How?

186 ITA Go to the end of the hall again.

187 MUÑECA (off mic) Ok Ita. Now what?

188 ITA When the timer goes off, take one step. Then wait for the timer to go
189 off again and take another step. You will keep doing that until you get
190 back to me and Abuelo.

191 MUÑECA (off mic) How long until the timer goes off?

192 ITA You won't know.

193 MUÑECA (off mic) (Whining) Ita!

194 ITA Well, if you're not ready...

195 MUÑECA (off mic) No! I can do it! Start the timer Ita.

196 *(SFX: stopwatch beeps)*

197 ITA That's my girl.

198 ABUELO That's our girl.

199 *(SFX: a small pause, then the vehicles pull up outside. Everyone unloads from the cars*
200 *and comes in the house. Lots of crowd noise.)*

201 MAMA Hi guys! We're back!

202 MUÑECA (off mic) Hi Mama!

203 MAMA Hi baby! What are you doing?

204 *(SFX: stopwatch beeps)*

205 ITA We're training. How was Christmas shopping?

206 MAMA Crazy as always. Thanks again for watching her.

207 *(SFX: push and someone falls to their butt on the floor)*

208 PRIMO (off mic) Ow! Tia! Muñeca pushed me.

209 MUÑECA (off mic) What are you doing?! WE DON'T FALL! Ita! Primo needs
210 more training.

211 MAMA Ma, what exactly did you teach her?

212 ITA Consumer Battle Tactics.

213 MUÑECA (off mic) Don't worry Mama. Next year, I'll be ready!

214 ABUELO Feliz Navidad Mija!