

"Nina Wants It New"

Nina's World

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LOGLINE: Nina wants to wear something special for the big Grandparents' Day celebration. Abuelita offers to help by giving Nina an old dress of hers that has special meaning, but Nina doesn't appreciate the gesture and wants to wear something new instead. With the help of the Star Amigos, Nina realizes that even old items can be special through the memories they share.

E/I: Nina learns that special doesn't always have to mean new.

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INT. FLORES FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY

1

ABUELITA is sitting on the couch going through a box of old childhood items.

NINA enters excitedly holding an invitation.

NINA

Abuelita! Guess what?!

ABUELITA

Hola, Nina. Sounds like big news!
Tell me all about it.

NINA

Today is Grandparents' Day, and the community centre is having a big party for all of our abuelos. Will you please be my special guest?

ABUELITA

Of course, I would love to!

Nina hugs abuela.

NINA

Gracias, Abuelita! Le quiero mucho.
I can't wait!

Nina's expression suddenly changes from excitement to worry.

ABUELITA

What's wrong, Nina?

Nina sighs.

NINA

Oh, it's just that I don't have anything special to wear for the party like all of my friends.

Abuelita pulls out an old dress from her box.

ABUELITA

We're in luck! Look what I found while cleaning out the attic today. These are some of my most special things from when I was your age. This dress was my favourite, and I want you to have it. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

Nina takes the dress. She holds it up to her face and sniffs. It smells funny and the fabric is itchy. She scratches her arms, then holds her nose shut and pulls the dress away at a distance.

ABUELITA

Que pasa? Is everything okay?

Nina gives a faint smile.

NINA

Yes. Thank you, Abuelita. It's ...it's very umm... blue! Do you have anything new in your box for me?

ABUELITA

(chuckling) Only as new as I am! Why don't you go try on the dress and see how it feels?

NINA

I'll be right back!

Nina runs out and the door slams behind her.

ABUELITA

Slow down, Nina!

2 INT. CARLOS'S ROOM / CHELSEA'S ROOM - DAY - SPLIT SCREEN 2

CARLOS is trying to teach MAX THE DOG to jump through a hoop.

CARLOS

C'mon Max, through here. This is as low as it goes.

Max yawns, wanders off in the opposite direction and takes a nap.

CHELSEA waves her arms side to side in a hula dance.

CHELSEA

Aloha means hello and goodbye. Wave your arms low and high.

3 EXT. CLUBHOUSE - SAME 3

Nina rings the clubhouse bell and calls on the Star Amigos.

NINA
Star Amigos! I need you!

4 INT. CARLOS'S ROOM / CHELSEA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - SPLIT SCREEN 4

Chelsea stops dancing.

CHELSEA
The Star Amigos Bell!

Carlos drops his hoop.

CARLOS
My friends are calling! Enjoy your
nap, Max.

As Carlos and Chelsea exit, Max opens one eye and walks over to the hoop lying on the floor. He walks over the edge of the hoop into the centre and falls back asleep.

5 EXT. CLUBHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 5

NINA (O.S)
Ready Amigos?

6 INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS 6

Nina puts Star on the table. Carlos and Chelsea place their hands in.

CARLOS/CHELSEA
Ready!

NINA/CARLOS/CHELSEA
Sparkle, sparkle twinkle shine!
Wake up Star, it's Amigos Time

Star sparkles with SFX and magically springs to life. He flies around the room, leaving a trail of sparkles.

STAR
Hey there, hi there, and hello!
Star is here, and ready to GOOO!

NINA/CARLOS/CHELSEA
Hola, Star./Hello!/Hi!

Star does a twirl and throws one fist in the air.

(CONTINUED)

STAR

Happy Grandparents Day! Are you ready for the big celebration tonight? I know I am!

Nina, wearing Abuelita's dress, takes a bow.

NINA

I think so! Look at this special dress Abuelita gave me. I bet I can really stand out on stage in this. Right?

Carlos and Chelsea hold their noses and make faces.

CARLOS

You'll stand out alright!
Peee-yeewww! What's that smell?

STAR

Moth balls! They're used when storing away old clothes.

CHELSEA

It does look a little bit worn out, Nina. But maybe no one will notice when you're ...on stage ...in the middle of the spotlight ...with all eyeballs on you.

Nina's eyes widen. Suddenly Abuelita's dress looks much worse than before.

NINA

I can't wear this! Everyone will make fun of me. Now what?

Nina sulks.

NINA

Star Amigos, today's mission is to find something new for me to wear tonight!

CHELSEA

Maybe we can buy a new dress at the Everything Store.

Nina pulls out her piggy bank. Carlos and Chelsea empty out their pockets. They pull out random objects and some loose change and put them on the table. Nina counts how much money they all have.

(CONTINUED)

NINA

Okay, together we have seven dollars, thirty-two cents and a leftover cookie. (Sighs) That's not enough for a new dress.

Carlos takes a bite of the cookie.

CARLOS

Mmmm...deee-licious, even with lint!

Chelsea gives a look of disgust.

CHELSEA

Gross! I wish we had real jobs like our parents do.

CARLOS

It's too bad money doesn't grow on trees, at least that's what my dad keeps saying.

NINA

Trees, that's it! Carlos, that's a great idea!

Carlos stuffs the rest of the cookie in his mouth and gives a nod.

CARLOS

I agree, we can grow money trees!

NINA

No, Carlos. Apples grow on trees, and Mrs. Goldstein is looking for helpers to stack apples and do other chores around her market.

CHELSEA

We could all help you earn enough money to buy a new dress!

STAR

That sounds like a shining plan! I'm in!

CARLOS

Me too!

NINA

Let's go get permission from our parents, Star Amigos!

(CONTINUED)

Star returns to Nina's bag as the three kids slide down the slide with a...

NINA/CARLOS/CHELSEA
Go, go, go!!!

ACT TWO

7 MONTAGE - INT. MRS. GOLDSTEIN'S MARKET - DAY 7

The kids help bag groceries, collect shopping carts and stack fruit.

8 INT. MRS. GOLDSTEIN'S MARKET - DAY 8

Carlos concentrates on putting the final apple on top of a fruit pyramid, almost tumbling it over.

CARLOS
(beads of sweat on his face)
S-o-o-o cl-o-o-se.. There. All done!

NINA
(breathing a sigh of relief) Good work, Carlos! That's the last of our chores for today. I'm all pooped out!

Nina lies down on the ground. Chelsea and Star enter with a checklist of things to do.

CHELSEA/STAR
Ours too!

CHELSEA
Check, check and check.

MRS. GOLDSTEIN joins them. Nina gets up.

MRS. GOLDSTEIN
All of you have been such fantastic helpers today. Thank you for your hard work. Here is your allowance - you've certainly earned it.

Mrs. Goldstein distributes five dollars each to Nina, Carlos and Chelsea.

NINA/CARLOS/CHELSEA
Thank you, Mrs. Goldstein!/Thanks/Appreciate it!

9

INT. FLORES FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY

9

MAMI is doing some accounting for the bakery with a printing calculator. As she goes through receipts, Nina enters.

NINA

Hola, Mami.

MAMI

Hola, Nina. You seem tired.

NINA

Who knew earning money was such hard work! And I still don't have enough for a new dress.

MAMI

Hmmm...I'll tell you what, how about we head to the mall after I finish up here? It will be my treat for Abuelita's big night..and yours too.

Nina hugs Mami.

NINA

Thanks, Mami! You're the best! Now we can really give Abuelita a special night.

Star secretly nudges Nina.

NINA

Oh and can Star come with us?

MAMI

Yes, of course!

10

INT. NINA'S ROOM - DAY

10

Nina looks at herself in the mirror in her new dress while Carlos and Chelsea flip through Mami's old fashion magazines. Nina keeps turning to different angles.

NINA

It's nice, but something's missing.

Carlos holds up a page from his magazine.

CARLOS

Maybe it needs more bows!

Chelsea holds up a page from her magazine, from which glitter falls all over her. It causes her to sneeze.

(CONTINUED)

CHELSEA

Achoo! Maybe it needs more
sparkles!

Abuelita enters with snacks. Nina does a twirl to show her
the new dress.

ABUELITA

Bless you! I think you designers
could use a snack break.

NINA

Abuelita, what do you think of my
new dress? Look at all of the
sparkles and bows.

Abuelita smiles.

ABUELITA

Mi amor, if you like it, I like it.
What matters is how it makes you
feel.

Abuelita leaves.

NINA

Abuelita doesn't seem very excited
about this dress. But, I don't get
it! This one is brand new, not old
like the other one.

Carlos and Chelsea shrug.

11 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

11

Nina is trying to practice her speech for the big event in
her new dress.

NINA

..And this is why. No, that's not
it. My Abuelita is the best
because... No, no let me start
over.

CARLOS

What's wrong, Nina?

NINA

My speech for Grandparents' Day
just doesn't feel right.

(CONTINUED)

CHELSEA

Why not?

NINA

I think maybe I hurt Abuelita's feelings.

CARLOS

We should bake her some cookies.

CHELSEA

Carlos, do you always have to think with your tummy?

Carlos rubs his belly.

CARLOS

Is it lunch time yet?

Chelsea rolls her eyes at him and pulls out a book from her backpack.

CHELSEA

Nina, I'm sure it's just nerves. I feel the same way before a big game. Here, try these tips from my library book on beating stage fright.

Carlos takes a look in Chelsea's book and reads from it.

CARLOS

Step 1. "Balance this book on your head"

CHELSEA

Step 2. "Walk on an imaginary tightrope"

NINA

Are you guys sure that this will help me feel better?

STAR

It's worth a try!

Nina tries to walk on an imaginary tightrope while balancing the book on her head.

NINA

How am I doing?

(CONTINUED)

CHELSEA

That's grea-

Nina trips over a rock and rips her dress. Her friends gasp.

CARLOS/CHELSEA/STAR

Watch out!/Oh no!/Yikes!

NINA

My dress! It's ruined! Now I'm really in serious trouble for tonight.

12

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

12

Nina and her friends enter sulking. PAPI breaks a pie crust that he has been fussing with for a long time.

PAPI

Oh no, not again! This pie crust might as well be jello. It keeps slipping out of my fingers.

Mami helps Papi mend the edges of the crust with a fork.

MAMI

(Laughing) Almost anything can be fixed with a little creativity and attention. There, good to go in the oven!

NINA

Mami! It looks just like new.

PAPI

Yes, your Mami does have a magic touch.

Nina shows Mami her dress.

NINA

Can you please fix my dress with your magic too? I'm sorry, it was an accident!

Mami takes a closer look.

MAMI

Mija, this is much worse than Papi's pie crust. I can try, but I won't promise anything. Let me take it to my sewing room.

(CONTINUED)

Mami leaves and Papi returns to his desserts while Nina consults with her friends.

NINA

Now what do we do, Star Amigos?
What if Mami can't fix my new
dress?

CARLOS

Oh no, we're doomed!

Carlos raises his hands in panic and paces around them in circles.

CHELSEA

We have to stay calm and put our
heads together!

The kids bump their heads in a huddle.

NINA/CARLOS/CHELSEA

Ow!/I should have worn my
helmet!/Ouch!

NINA

I know! We just need to use our
imagination! Star?

Star flies out of Nina's satchel.

STAR

Shine on!

NINA/CARLOS/CHELSEA

Let's explore, see what we find...

STAR

Let your imagination shine!!!!

Star spins around, showering sprinkles, as they are whisked away to...

ACT THREE

13

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

13

Nina and the Star Amigos are inside a European antique shop with everyday items from the Victorian Era. Nina puts her hands on her hips, disappointed.

NINA

Star, where are we?

(CONTINUED)

Carlos tries on a funny wig backwards and sneezes when it tickles his nose.

STAR

This is an antique shop, Nina.

NINA

But there's nothing but a bunch of old junk in here. How will we ever find something special?

A stout aardvark shopkeeper with bushy eyebrows and a moustache enters, offended.

SHOPKEEPER

Junk! These are my most prized treasures, young lady.

NINA

(embarrassed) Oh, who are you?

SHOPKEEPER

I'm a collector of old things that have special value.

NINA

I'm sorry for hurting your feelings, Mr. Shopkeeper, but what is so special about them?

The shopkeeper gives Nina a cracked porcelain doll to take a closer look.

NINA

It's glowing!

Chelsea notices that unlike the doll, some of the other objects around the shop are getting dimmer.

CHELSEA

Why are some objects glowing and not others? They almost seem -

SHOPKEEPER

Sad, yes, that's right. The glow comes from an object's memories, which fade when they are no longer loved by someone. Each of these things has a special story to tell.

The grand piano behind them comes alive to play a popular old tune, startling Carlos.

(CONTINUED)

CARLOS

Whoa, you're alive!

PIANO

Of course, I am, what did you expect? (Coughing) But, I'm afraid it's been a while since these eighty-eight's have taken the stage.

CHELSEA

You mean you were a performer?

PIANO

I was part of a duet with a young cub named Frédéric Chopin before he became famous and went onto bigger and brighter things.

CARLOS

You performed with 'THE' Chopin?

Nina and Chelsea give each other confused looks.

SHOPKEEPER

They were pretty good too!

PIANO

Yes, I've never felt more special than when I was up on that stage.

NINA

It's all about how you feel!
Abuelita said that when I showed her my new dress!

A Kangaroo and his son enter the shop.

SHOPKEEPER

If you'll excuse me, I have to attend to my customers.

NINA

Thank you so much for showing us around, Mr. Shopkeeper!

CARLOS/CHELSEA/STAR

Thank you!

NINA

Star, I think I know just what to do about the dress.

STAR

Then it's time to return to the runway!

14 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

14

Nina comes back to reality with a new appreciation for Abuelita's old items.

NINA

Thanks for your help, Star! I never thought that old junk..I mean treasures, could be so special.

Mami enters with Nina's dress, sewn back together.

MAMI

You're in luck, Nina. I was able to fix it after all.

CHELSEA

Wow, it looks brand new again!

CARLOS

Now you have something special to wear for Grandparents' Day.

MAMI

Okay, kids, we better hurry if we want to make it on time.

NINA

Muchas Gracias, Mami! You really do have a magic touch. I will meet you guys there, but first there's something I have to do.

15 INT. NINA'S ROOM - DAY

15

Nina tries on Abuelita's old dress again and looks in the mirror.

NINA

It *feels* perfect now.

Abuelita enters and opens her mouth wide, surprised at seeing Nina wearing her old childhood dress.

ABUELITA

C'mon Nina. it's time to go. Aww, and what do have we here?

(CONTINUED)

NINA

I finally decided on the perfect dress. Turns out I had it all along!

ABUELITA

You remind me of another little girl I knew a long time ago.

NINA

The little girl was you, wasn't it, Abuelita?

ABUELITA

(chuckling) Si, it was.

NINA

I'm sorry I didn't understand how special this dress was before, but now I know that it's all your memories that make it so special.

ABUELITA

And now, this dress will have even more stories to share with you!

Abuelita winks. Nina hugs her.

16

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE STAGE - EVENING

16

Nina is on stage giving her speech in Abuelita's dress. Her friends and family are in the audience cheering for her.

NINA

...And my Abuelita tells the best stories and reminds me to appreciate the past. Happy Grandparents' Day to all of the abuelos that make us feel so special everyday!

The audience claps. Abuelita wipes away a tear and gives Nina two thumbs up from her seat.

END.