

1978

Los Hermanos: The Streets of Gold

New England Farm Workers' Council

Center for International Education

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LOS HERMANOS

THE STREETS OF GOLD

LOS HERMANOS:

THE STREETS OF GOLD



UN PINCHITO NO MÁS Y YA ESTÁ...



Si usted vive en una casa de más de veinte años, sus niños estan en peligro de haber comido pintura que contiene una substancia peligrosa que es el plomo. El plomo tiene un sabor dulce, que es atractivo a los niños. Un examen para detectar intoxicación por plomo toma sólo un minuto.

Si usted tiene niños llame al Consejo de Trabajadores de Fincas de Nueva Inglaterra:

Springfield: 736-4525

Holyoke: 533-8227

Northampton: 584-4059

o en Northampton al Centro Hispano.

LOS HERMANOS

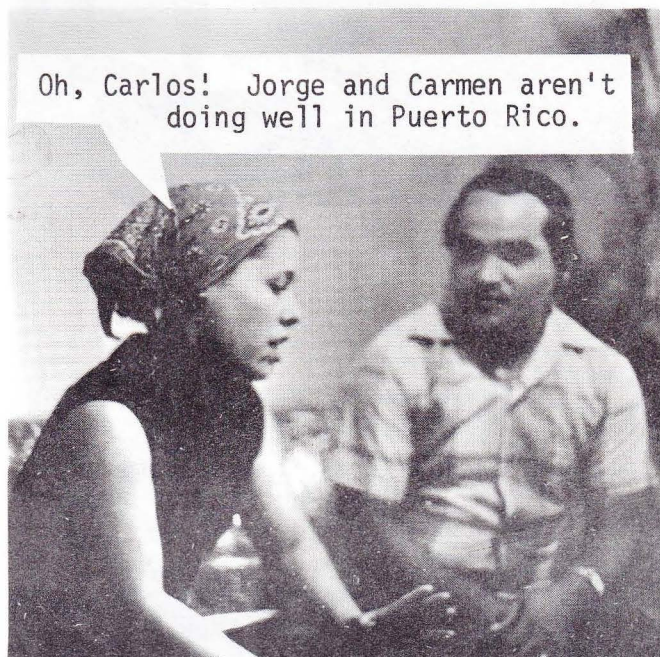
THE STREETS OF GOLD

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT THE HERNANDEZ FAMILY. ROSA, THE OLDEST CHILD, LIVES IN NORTHAMPTON WITH HER HUSBAND, CARLOS. HER MOTHER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE IN PUERTO RICO.

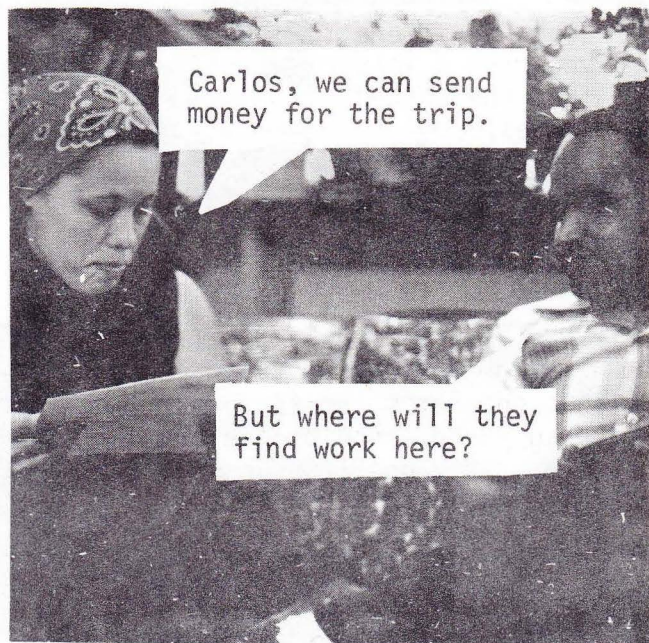
TODAY, ROSA RECEIVED THIS LETTER FROM HER FAMILY.....



Oh, Carlos! Jorge and Carmen aren't doing well in Puerto Rico.



Carlos, we can send money for the trip.



But where will they find work here?

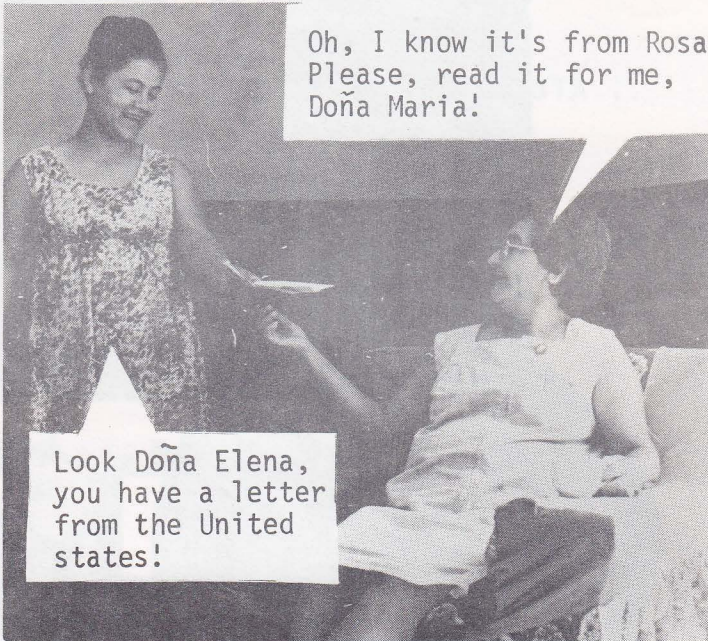
Carmen - Margarita González
Rosa - Aida Rodríguez
Carlos - Domingo Díaz
Jorge - Nestor Méndez
Patrón - Wally Velásquez
Jorge's friend - Juan Marrero
Marisol - Sonia Díaz
Marisol's friend - Madeline L. de Jesús
Dona Elena - Margarita de Jesús
American children - Maureen, Felix
and Michael McGowan
Carmen's friend - Rosa Rivera
Policeman - Douglas Wilson
Doña Lolita - Nilsa Alicea
Doña María - Antonia Díaz
Carmen's baby - Lisette Alicea
Airport stranger - Ed Spillert

Maybe they'll be hiring at Pro-Brush!



Good! I'll write to them this week!

IN PUERTO RICO,
ROSA'S MOTHER RECEIVES THE LETTER . . .



Oh, I know it's from Rosa -
Please, read it for me,
Doña Maria!

Look Doña Elena,
you have a letter
from the United
states!



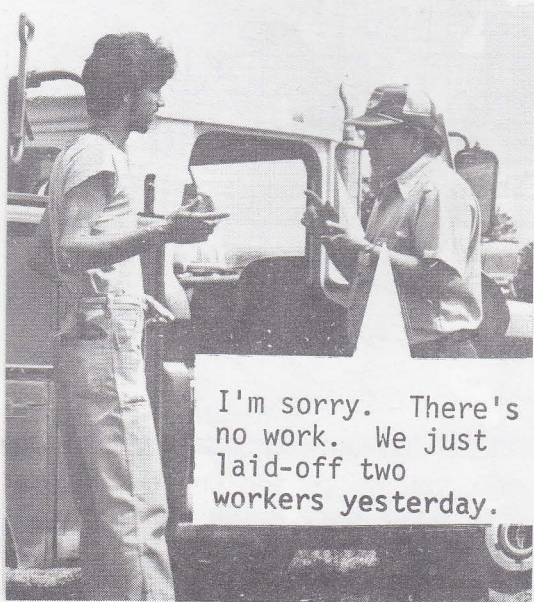
Look, she sent you a
check! Rosa thinks
that there is work over
there for Jorge and
Carmen. They can use
this money for the trip.

Oh, I don't know. My poor babies
can't go! It's too far away. They
are so young. And people are crazy
there. They don't speak English.
And Carmen can't take
la nenita!



Doña Maria, I need time
to think about this. Please,
don't say anything to Jorge
and Carmen.

JORGE IS LOOKING FOR WORK EVERYWHERE...



I'm sorry. There's no work. We just laid-off two workers yesterday.

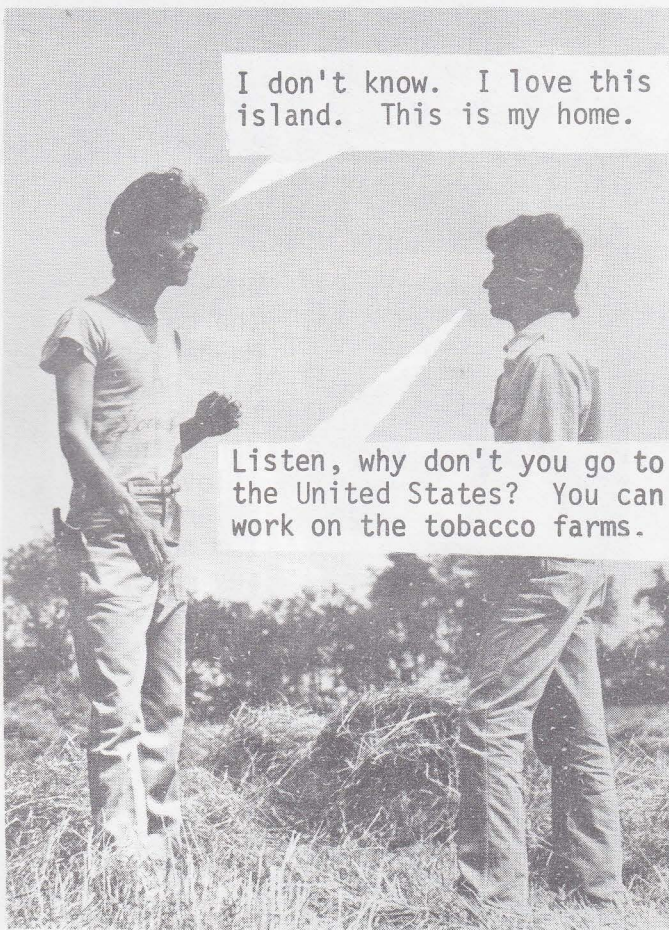


Hey Jorge, did he hire you?

No, and I can't find work anywhere.

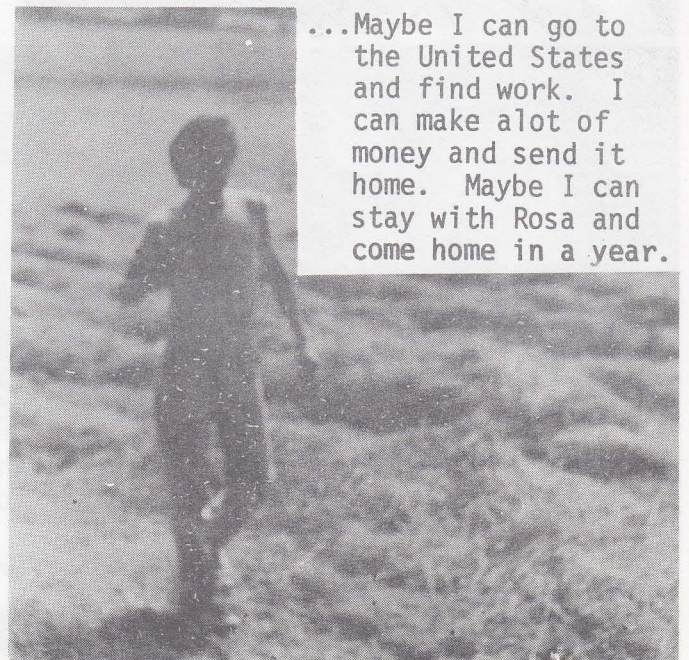


Since my Father died, Carmen and I have to work. We have to take care of our family.



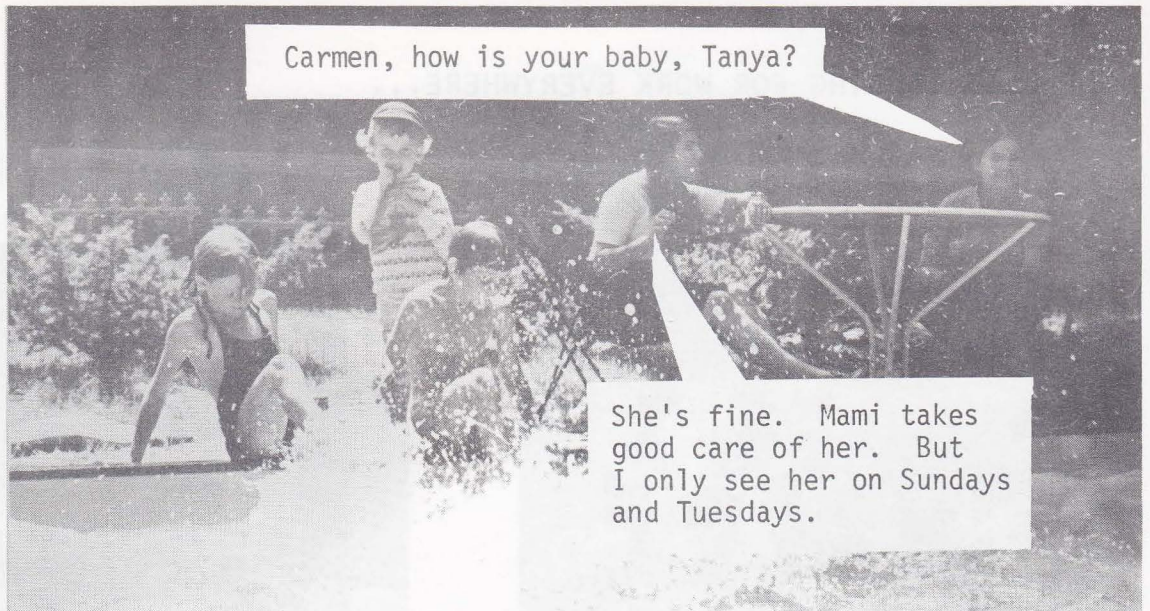
I don't know. I love this island. This is my home.

Listen, why don't you go to the United States? You can work on the tobacco farms.



...Maybe I can go to the United States and find work. I can make alot of money and send it home. Maybe I can stay with Rosa and come home in a year.

CARMEN IS A MAID FOR RICH AMERICANS WHO LIVE FIVE MILES FROM HER TOWN IN RIO PIEDRAS.



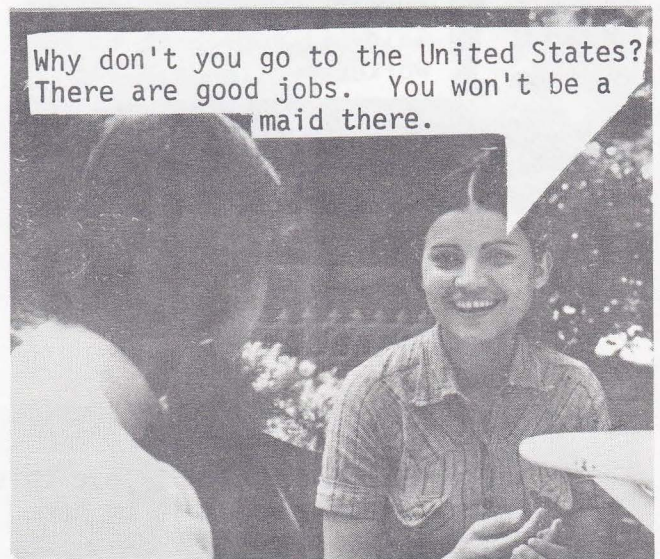
Carmen, how is your baby, Tanya?

She's fine. Mami takes good care of her. But I only see her on Sundays and Tuesdays.

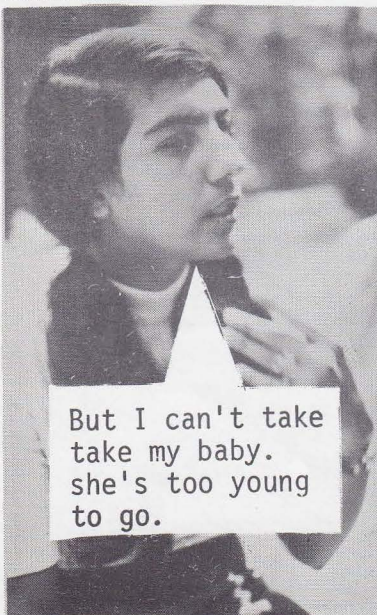


It isn't fair! I have to take care of other people's children.

But we don't make enough money. We can't take care of our own children.



Why don't you go to the United States? There are good jobs. You won't be a maid there.



But I can't take my baby. she's too young to go.

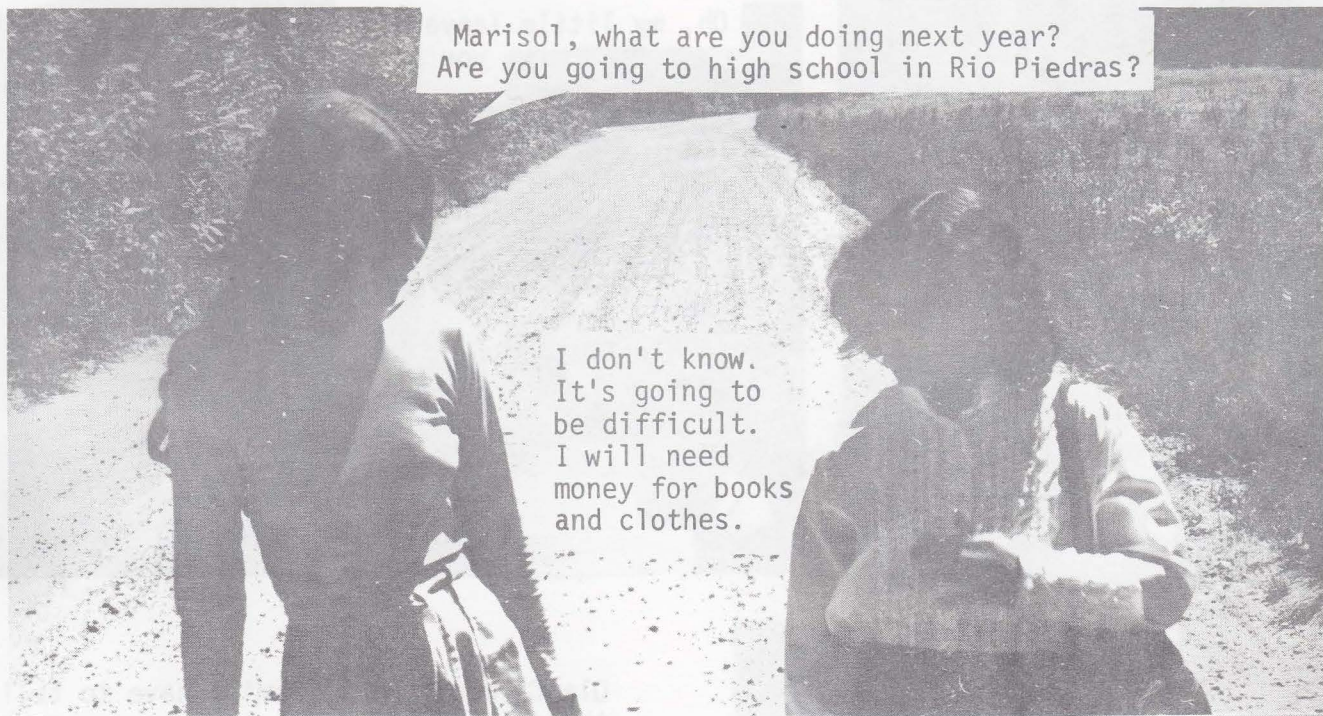


Leave her with your mother for now. She loves her very much.



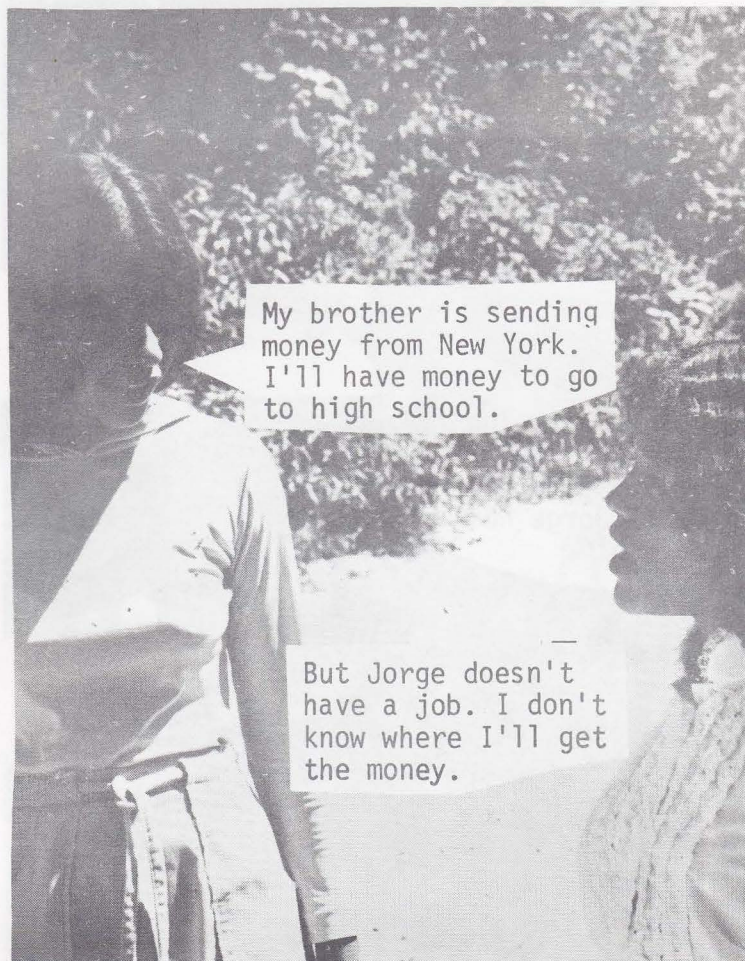
Where can I get the money? Maybe I can stay with Rosa and Carlos. Oh, I don't know... I love this island! But I'm not making any money here.

CARMEN'S AND JORGE'S LITTLE SISTER, MARISOL, IS WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH HER FRIEND....



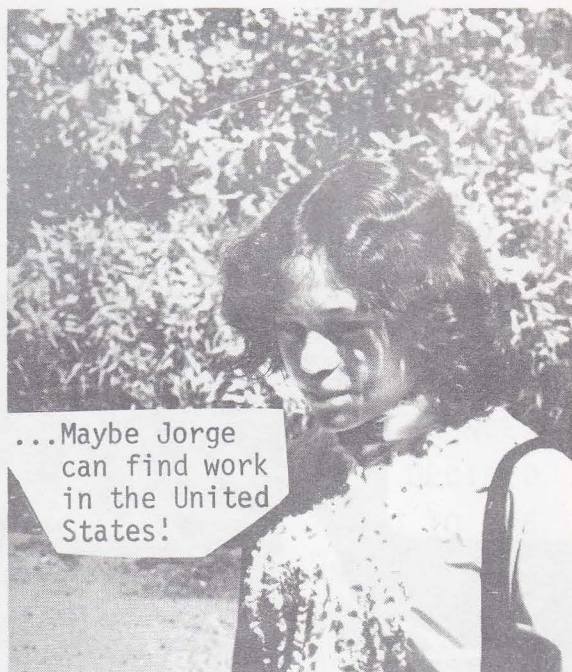
Marisol, what are you doing next year?
Are you going to high school in Rio Piedras?

I don't know.
It's going to
be difficult.
I will need
money for books
and clothes.



My brother is sending
money from New York.
I'll have money to go
to high school.

But Jorge doesn't
have a job. I don't
know where I'll get
the money.



...Maybe Jorge
can find work
in the United
States!

MARISOL RUNS
HOME BECAUSE
TODAY IS
TUESDAY AND
CARMEN COMES
HOME....



Don't cry Tanya. Here comes your Mami now. Ola, Carmen!



Oh, my little Tanya! I miss you so much!



... Maybe someday we'll be together all the time.

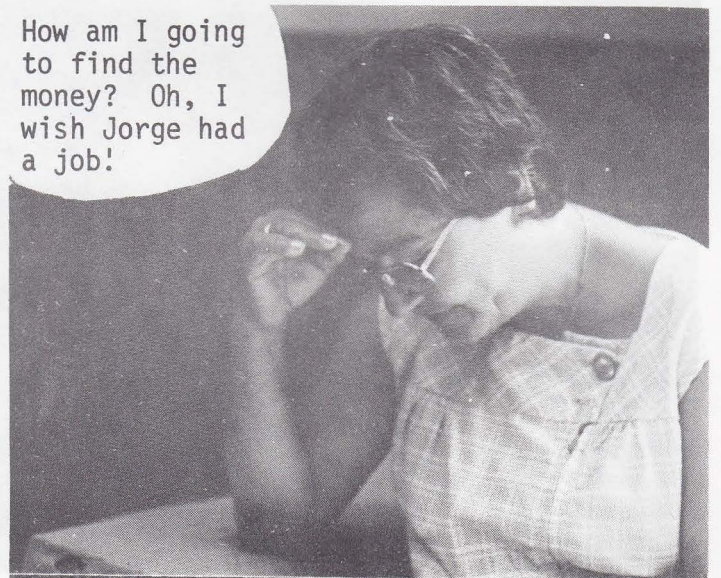
Mami, I heard there are lots of jobs in the United States. I know I can make more money there. And I can take good care of Tanya.



Ola Carmen! Mami, Mami I have to tell the teacher tomorrow if I'm going to high school.

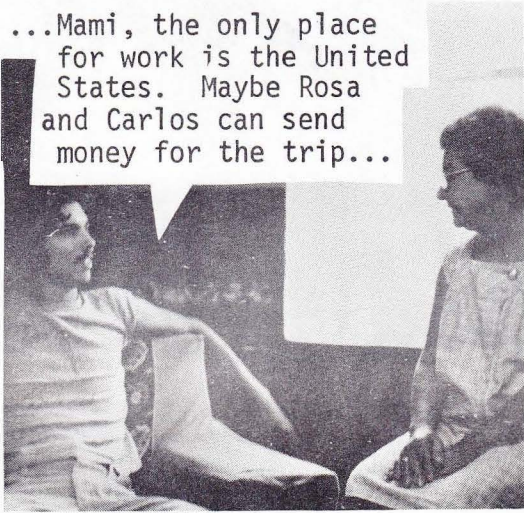


How am I going to find the money? Oh, I wish Jorge had a job!

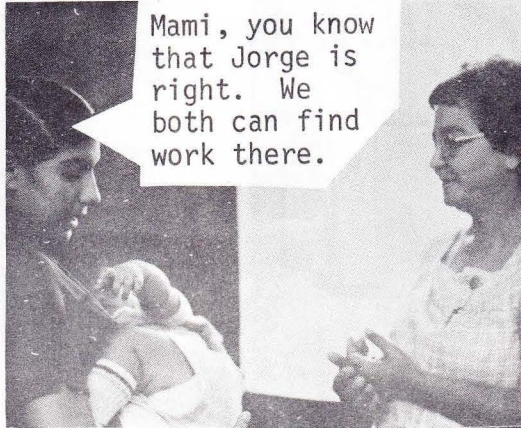


JORGE ARRIVES HOME AND TALKS ABOUT HIS BAD DAY...

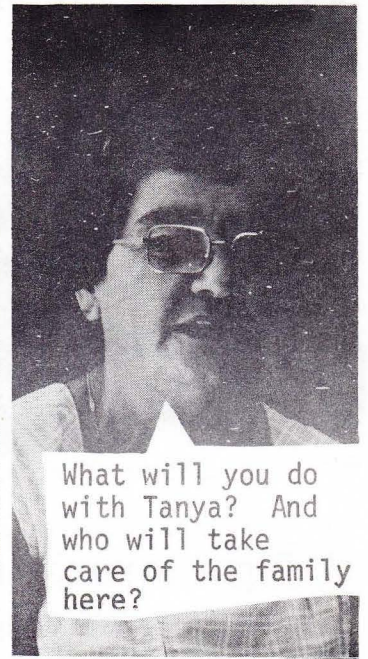
...Mami, the only place for work is the United States. Maybe Rosa and Carlos can send money for the trip...



Mami, you know that Jorge is right. We both can find work there.



What will you do with Tanya? And who will take care of the family here?

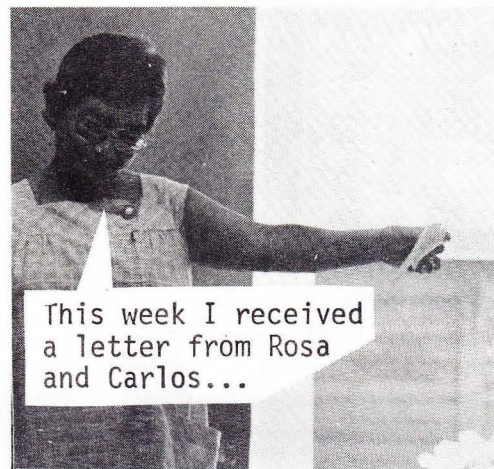


I can send money home for Marisol's education.

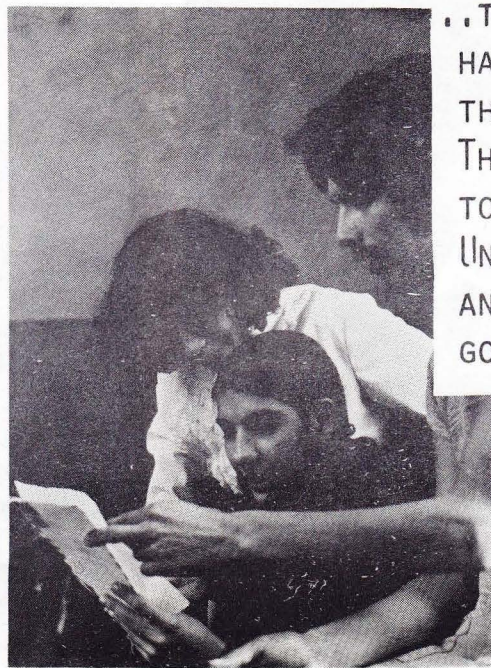


And you can take care of Tanya. I'll make money and come home soon.

This week I received a letter from Rosa and Carlos...



...THEY WERE HAPPY FOR THIS CHANCE. THEY DECIDED TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES AND FIND THOSE GOOD JOBS...



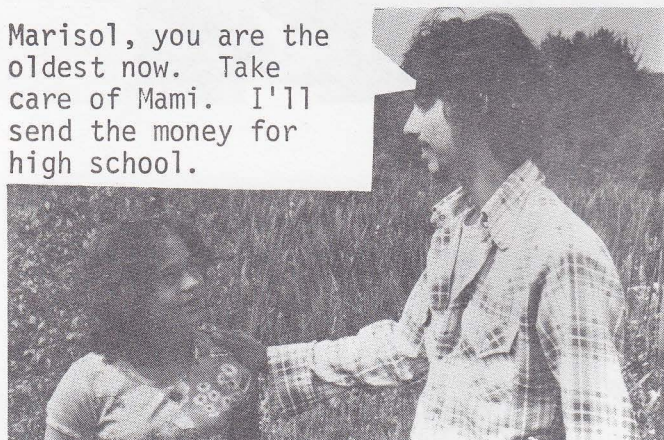


Oh, Carmen and Jorge! My babies! Don't forget us.

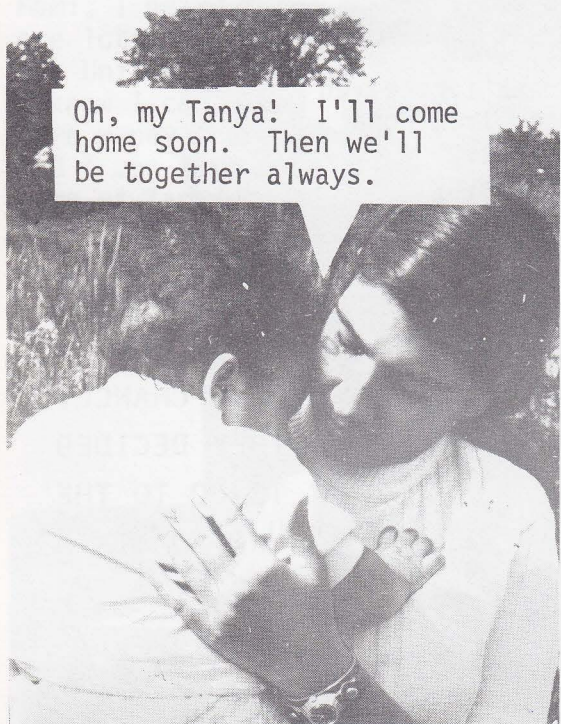


THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.

Marisol, you are the
oldest now. Take
care of Mami. I'll
send the money for
high school.



Oh, my Tanya! I'll come
home soon. Then we'll
be together always.

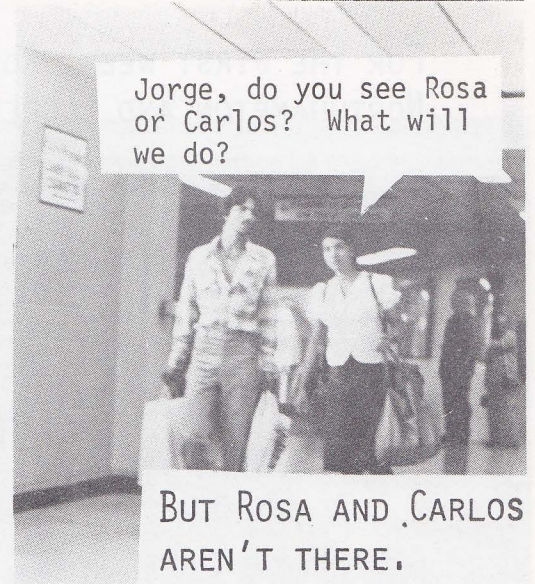


...SO THEY
WENT TO
FIND THE
STREETS
OF GOLD
IN THE
UNITED
STATES.

JORGE AND CARMEN ARRIVE
AT BRADLEY AIRPORT.



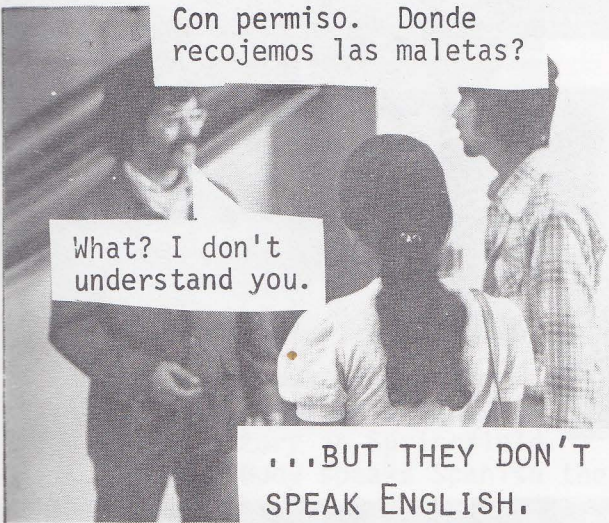
Jorge, do you see Rosa
or Carlos? What will
we do?



BUT ROSA AND CARLOS
AREN'T THERE.

Con permiso. Donde
recojemos las maletas?

What? I don't
understand you.



...BUT THEY DON'T
SPEAK ENGLISH.

First we'll try to find
our suitcases.



...THEY WERE NERVOUS,
BUT THEY FOLLOWED THE PEOPLE

Oh, I'm so happy to see you!

...FINALLY
ROSA AND
CARLOS
ARRIVE.



Carmen! Jorge! Oh, we're sorry
we're late! How are you?



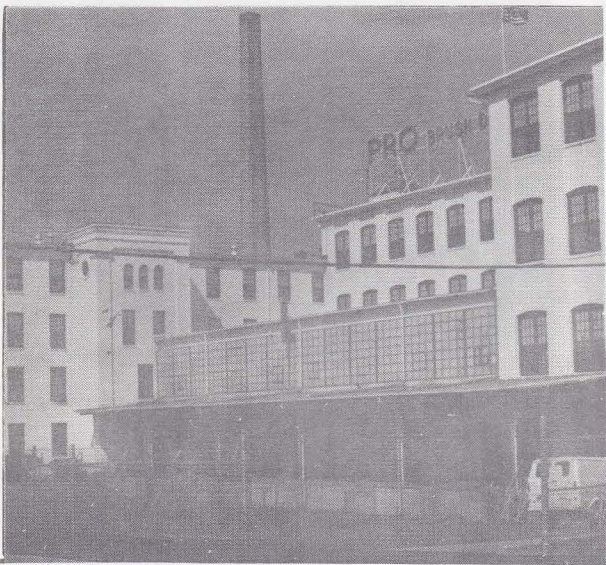
FOR THE FIRST WEEK, ROSA AND CARLOS SHOW CARMEN AND JORGE AROUND
NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE...



...THE HOUSING PROJECT OF FLORENCE
HEIGHTS WHERE THEY LIVE...



...THE STORES WHERE THEY BUY THINGS...

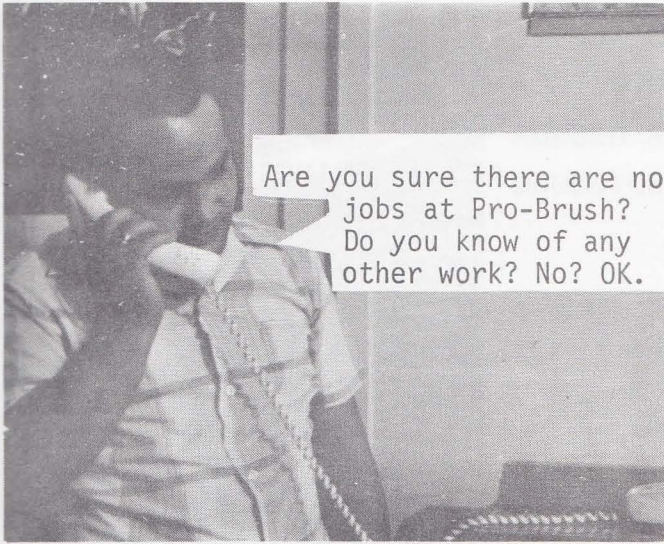


.. THE FACTORY WHERE CARLOS WORKS...

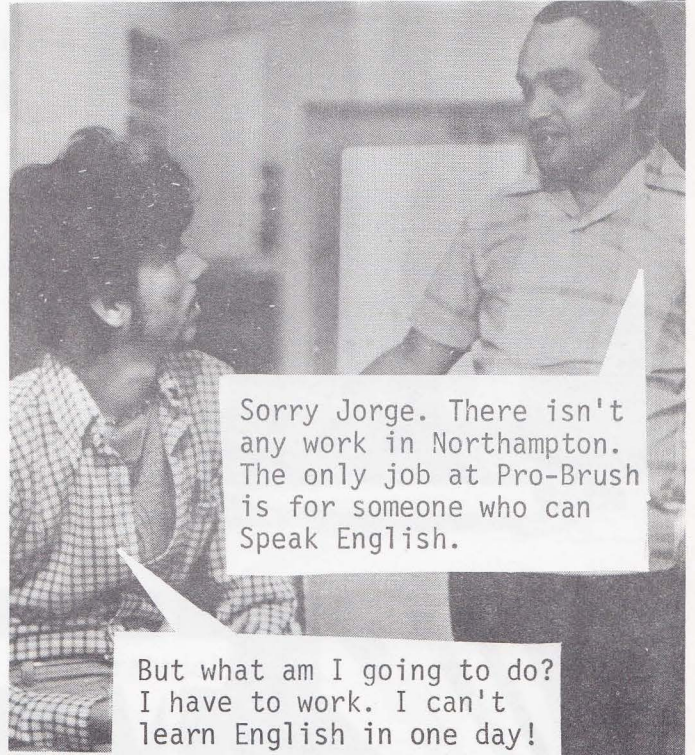


..AND THE DOWNTOWN OF
NORTHAMPTON...

AFTER A FEW DAYS...

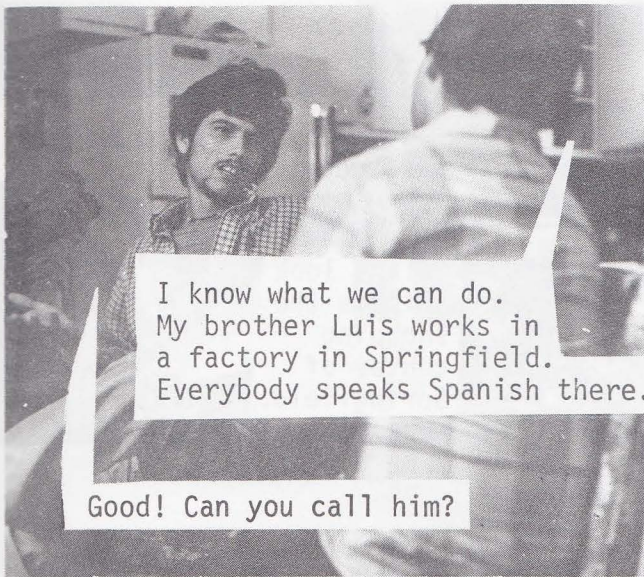


Are you sure there are no jobs at Pro-Brush? Do you know of any other work? No? OK.



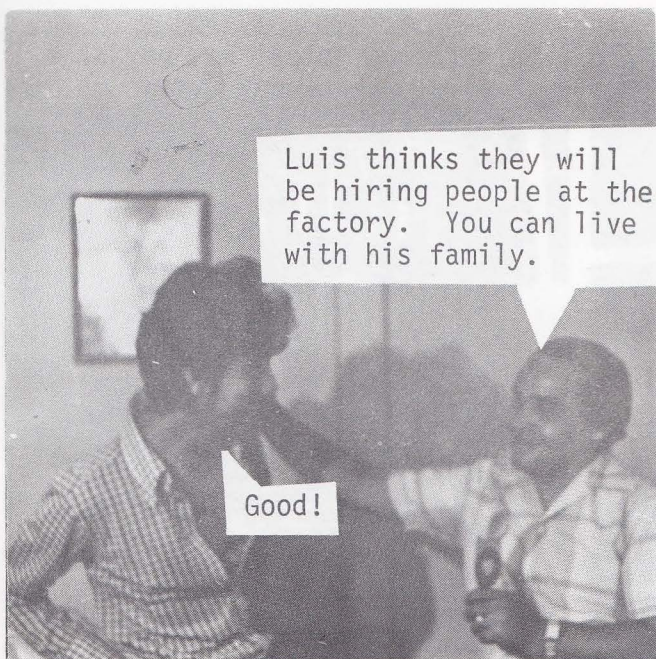
Sorry Jorge. There isn't any work in Northampton. The only job at Pro-Brush is for someone who can Speak English.

But what am I going to do? I have to work. I can't learn English in one day!



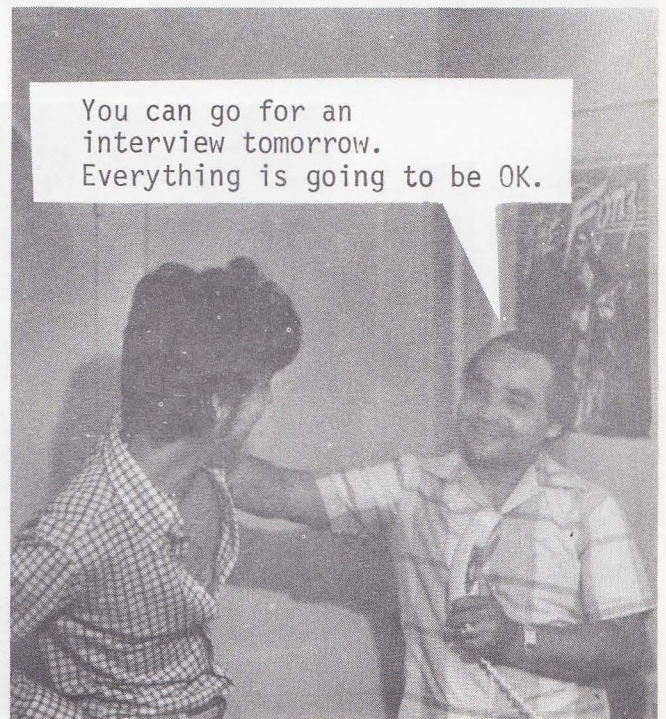
I know what we can do. My brother Luis works in a factory in Springfield. Everybody speaks Spanish there.

Good! Can you call him?

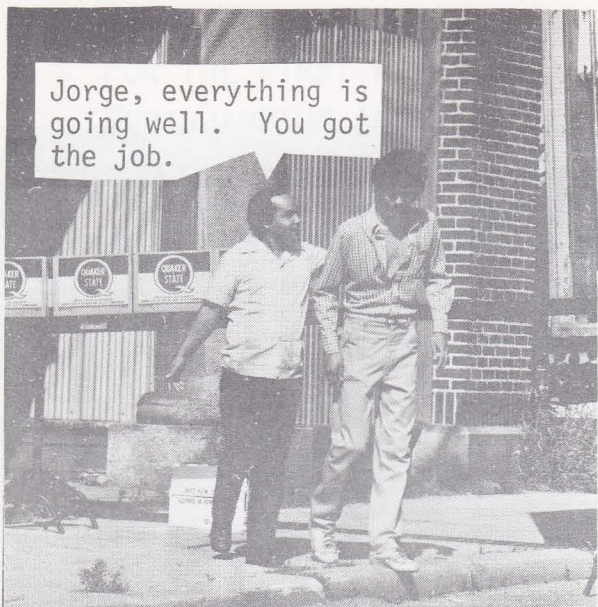


Luis thinks they will be hiring people at the factory. You can live with his family.

Good!



You can go for an interview tomorrow. Everything is going to be OK.



Jorge, everything is going well. You got the job.

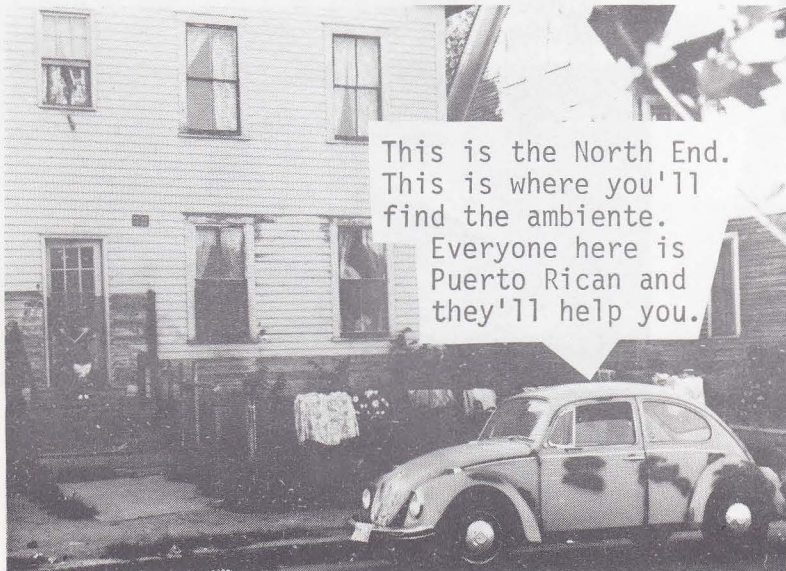


This is a big, clean city!

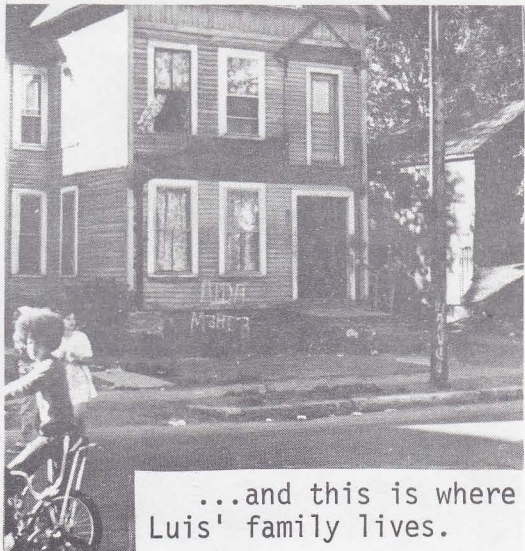


Springfield is really modern and rich! I can make more money here.

...and look this is the shopping center of Springfield.



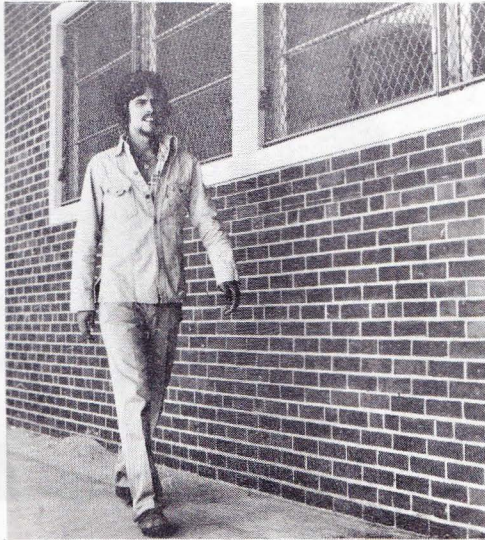
This is the North End. This is where you'll find the ambiente. Everyone here is Puerto Rican and they'll help you.



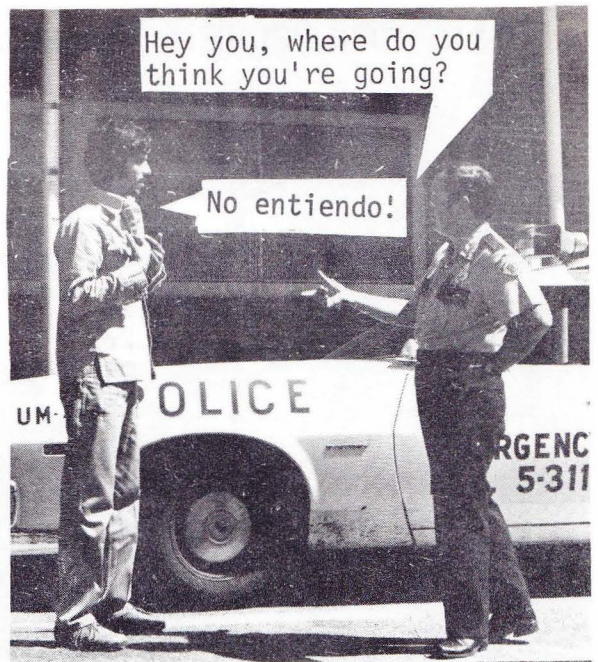
...and this is where Luis' family lives.

CARLOS TAKES JORGE AROUND SPRINGFIELD, AND HE BRINGS HIM TO MEET LUIS' FAMILY...

NEXT MORNING, JORGE IS
HAPPY TO GO TO WORK...



...BUT ONE BLOCK
AWAY SOMEONE
ROBBED A
DRUGSTORE...



..AND ALTHOUGH
JORGE DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
ENGLISH, THE
POLICEMAN IS
SUPPOSED TO
TELL HIM HIS
RIGHTS...

AT FLORENCE HEIGHTS, CARMEN AND ROSA ARE TALKING...



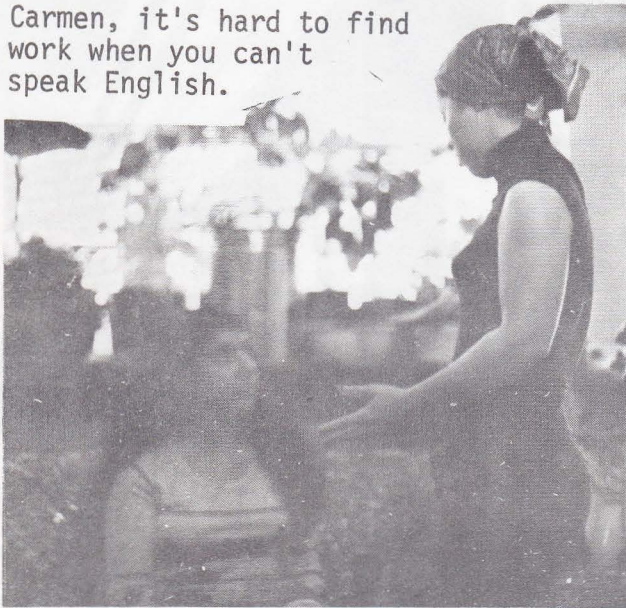
Oh, Rosa and Carlos are so nice to me, but I miss Tanya and Mami.

Rosa, I need a job. I have to find work soon or go to Puerto Rico.

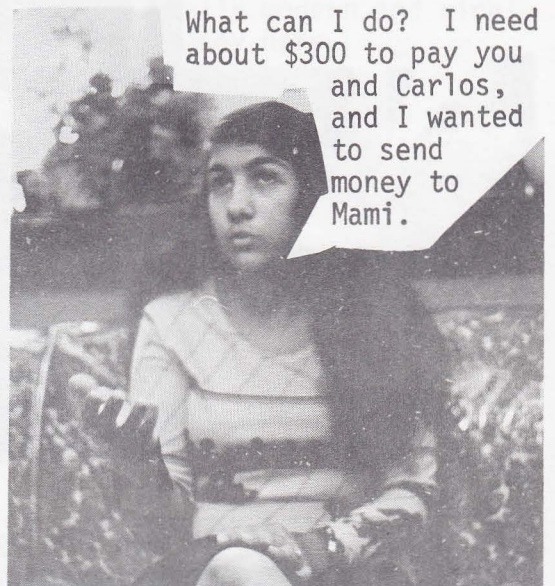


No, no. Things will be OK when you have a job.

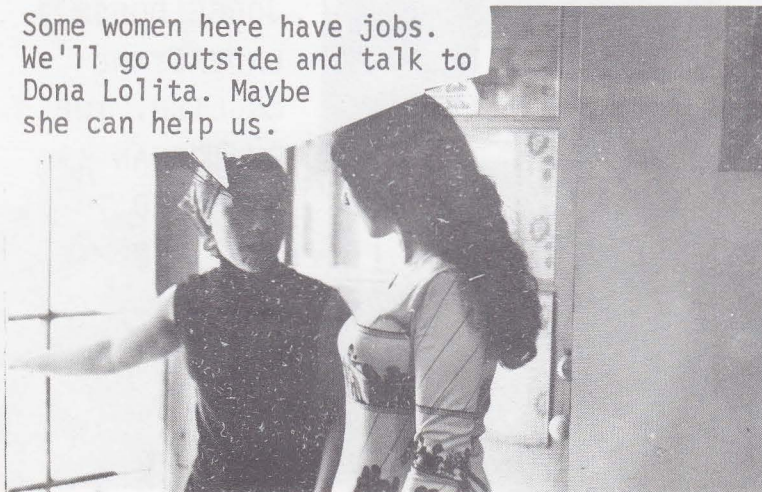
Carmen, it's hard to find work when you can't speak English.



What can I do? I need about \$300 to pay you and Carlos, and I wanted to send money to Mami.



Some women here have jobs. We'll go outside and talk to Dona Lolita. Maybe she can help us.

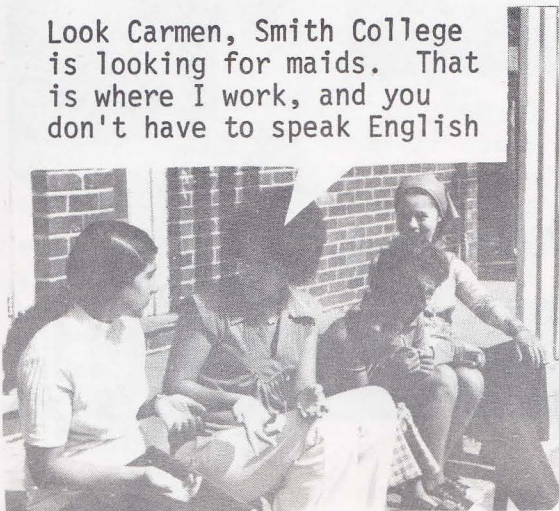


SO THEY GO OUTSIDE TO TALK WITH THE WORKING WOMEN...

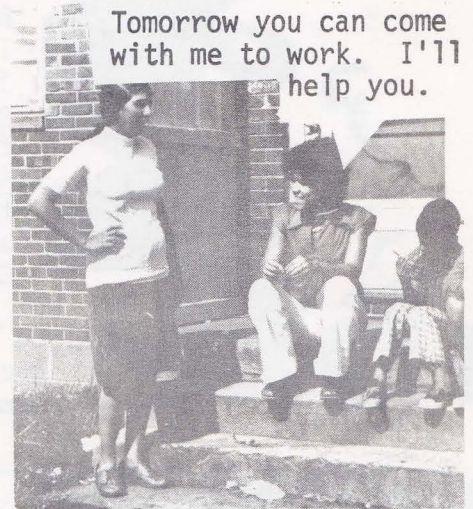


CARMEN AND ROSA TALK TO THE NEIGHBORS ABOUT WORK...AND CARMEN MEETS DONA LOLITA.

Look Carmen, Smith College is looking for maids. That is where I work, and you don't have to speak English



Tomorrow you can come with me to work. I'll help you.

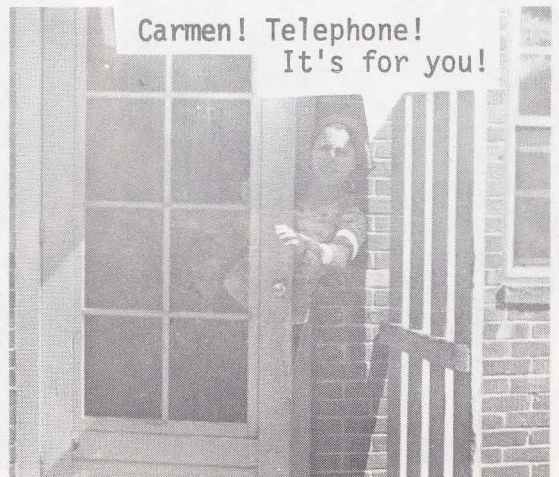


But I left Puerto Rico as a maid. I thought there weren't any maid jobs in this country.



Carmen, you don't have a choice.

Carmen! Telephone! It's for you!

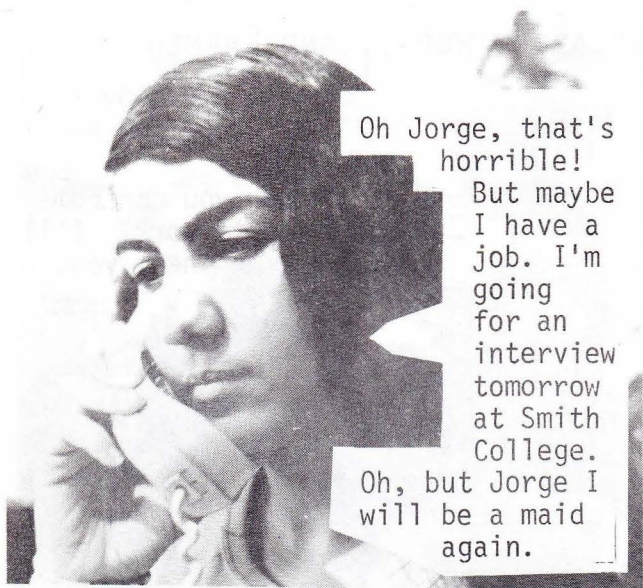
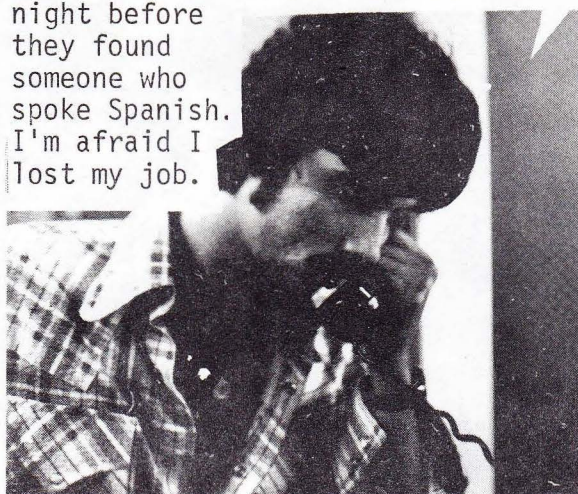


IT WAS JORGE CALLING
FROM SPRINGFIELD...



Jorge, how is
your new job?

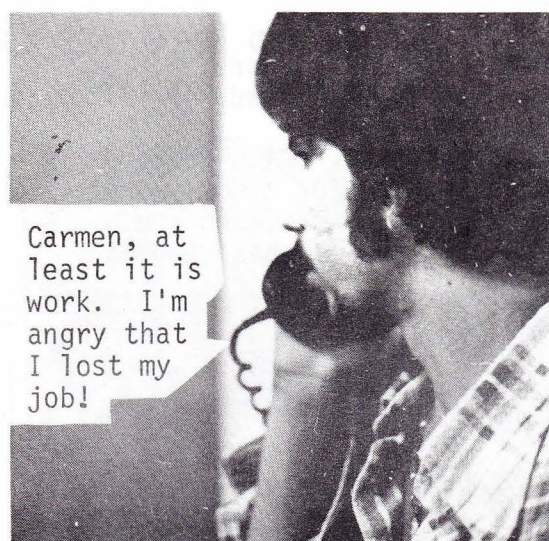
Carmen, I have bad news. Yesterday morning, the police took me to jail. They thought I robbed a drugstore. It was horrible! It was 11:30 at night before they found someone who spoke Spanish. I'm afraid I lost my job.



Oh Jorge, that's
horrible!

But maybe
I have a
job. I'm
going
for an
interview
tomorrow
at Smith
College.

Oh, but Jorge I
will be a maid
again.



Carmen, at
least it is
work. I'm
angry that
I lost my
job!



Jorge, things
aren't very
good. They
arrest you.
You lose your
job. I'll be
a maid....



Don't worry, Carmen.
Everything will
be OK.

...AND SO FAR FROM
THEIR HOME,
BORINGUEN,
LOS HERMANOS
HERNANDEZ
CONTINUE THE
STRUGGLE TO
SURVIVE...



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DE FINCA
DE NUEVA INGLATERRA**

3502 MAIN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01107
TEL. (413) 736-4525

This fotonovella was conceived with and produced by the New England Farm Workers' Council. The following staff and clients of the Council helped in developing the plot, writing the dialogue and taking the pictures:

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John Comings
Dave McDermid

Be Careful Pesticides Can be Dangerous

Check with the Boss
before You Work in Fields
Treated with Pesticides

Wear Proper Clothing

Wash after Work

Tenga Cuidado Pesticidas Pueden Ser Peligrosos

Informese Antes
de Entrar a Labores que Recientemente
Se Han Fumigado con Pesticidas

Use Ropa Apropiada

Lavese Bien Al Terminer Su Trabajo

