

# MARIA + ANITA

## MARIA #1

**MARIA**

(Holding out scissors) Por favor, Anita. ¡Bájale el cuello!  
(Anita gives her a look and waits) Please make the neck lower.

**ANITA**

No.

**MARIA**

One inch. How much can one little inch do?

**ANITA**

Too much.

**MARIA**

(Exasperated)

Anita, it is now to be a dress for dancing, no longer for kneeling in front of an altar.

**ANITA**

With those boys you can start in dancing and end up kneeling.

**MARIA**

Querida, one little inch; un poquito --

**ANITA**

Stop it, Maria. Bernardo made me promise --

**MARIA**

¡Ai! ¡Bernardo! One month have I been in this country -- do I ever even touch excitement? I sew all day, I sit all night. For what did my fine brother bring me here?

**ANITA**

To marry Chino.

**MARIA**

When I look at Chino, nothing happens.

**ANITA**

What do you expect to happen?

**MARIA**

I dunno: something. What happens when you look at Bernardo?

**ANITA**

It's when I don't look that it happens.

**MARIA**

I think I will tell Mamma and Poppa about you and 'Nardo in the balcony of the movies.

**ANITA**

I'll rip this to shreds!

**MARIA**

No. But if you perhaps could manage to lower the neck --

**ANITA**

Next year.

ANITA

**MARIA**

Next year I will be married to Chino and no one will care if it is down to here! I hate this dress!

**ANITA**

Then don't wear it and don't come with us to the dance.

**MARIA**

(Shocked) Don't come!

(Grabs by the dress) Could we not dye it red, at least?

**ANITA**

No, we could not. (Starts to help MARIA into the dress)

**MARIA**

White is for babies. I will be the only one there in white --

**ANITA**

Well???

**MARIA**

iAhhhh -- sí! It is a beautiful dress: I love you!

END

**#2**

**TONY**

Maria, Maria...

**MARIA**

Ssh!

**TONY**

Maria!!

**MARIA**

Quiet!

**TONY**

Come down.

**MARIA**

No.

**TONY**

Maria...

**MARIA**

Please. If Bernardo --

**TONY**

He's at the dance. Come down.

**MARIA**

He will soon bring Anita home.

**TONY**

Just for a minute.

**MARIA** (smiles) A minute is not enough.

**TONY** For an hour, then.