

Our adventure in the Riviera Maya





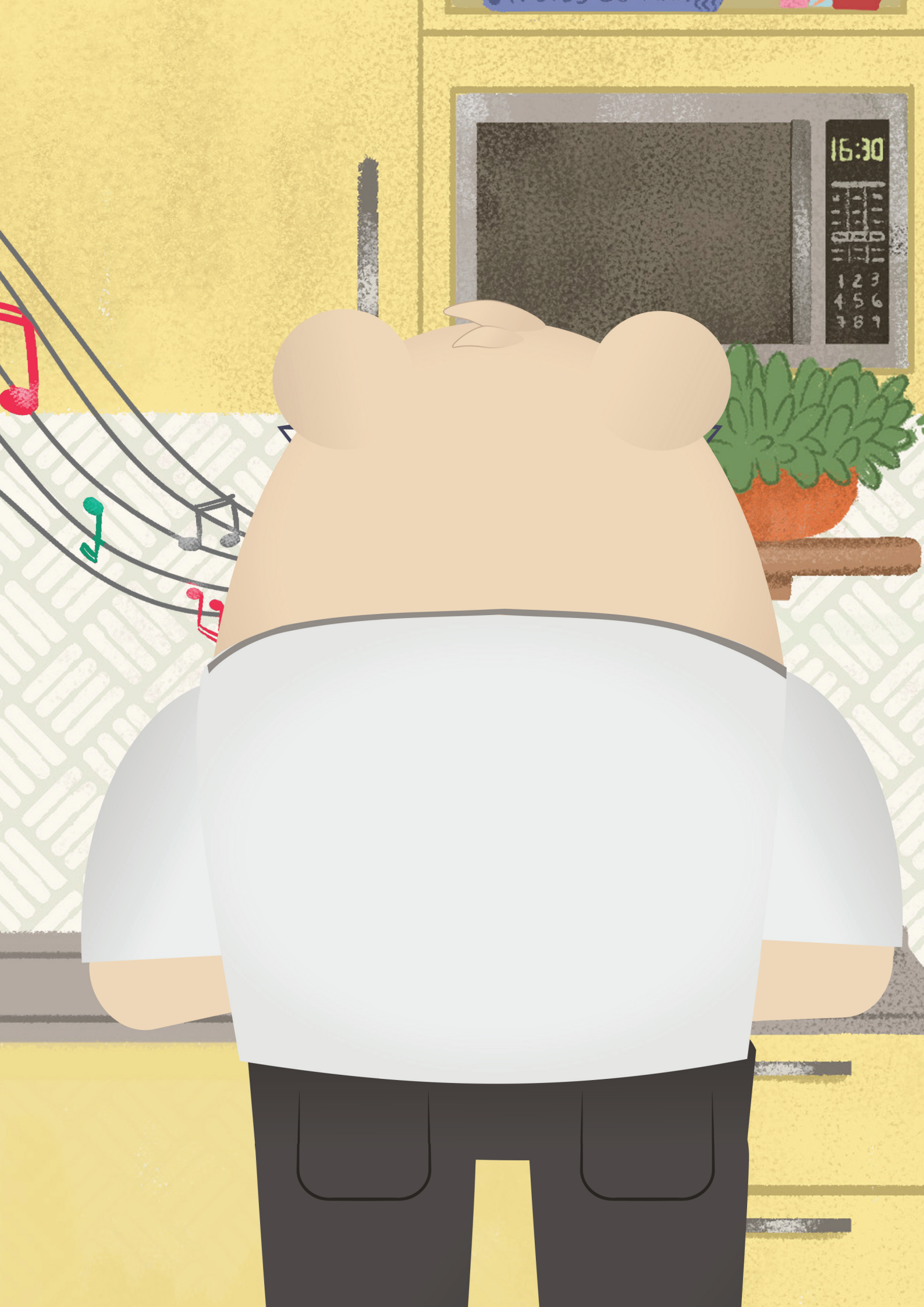
Gate woke up early and is in the kitchen, whistling and making coffee for the family, when Fly enters and asks, still yawning:

- What's all this excitement on a Sunday, dad?

- "I want to have an early coffee to start preparing a special lunch for our guest!" - Gate responds, placing the cups on the table.

- "Is today the day that Vida is coming to visit us?" - Fly asks, excited.

- "Yes, it is! Now go wake up your mother and brother. Breakfast is on the table!"




16:30

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The whole family is around the table, chatting excitedly about Vida's visit. Whenever she appears at this traveling family's house, it's a sign that another adventure will be planned.







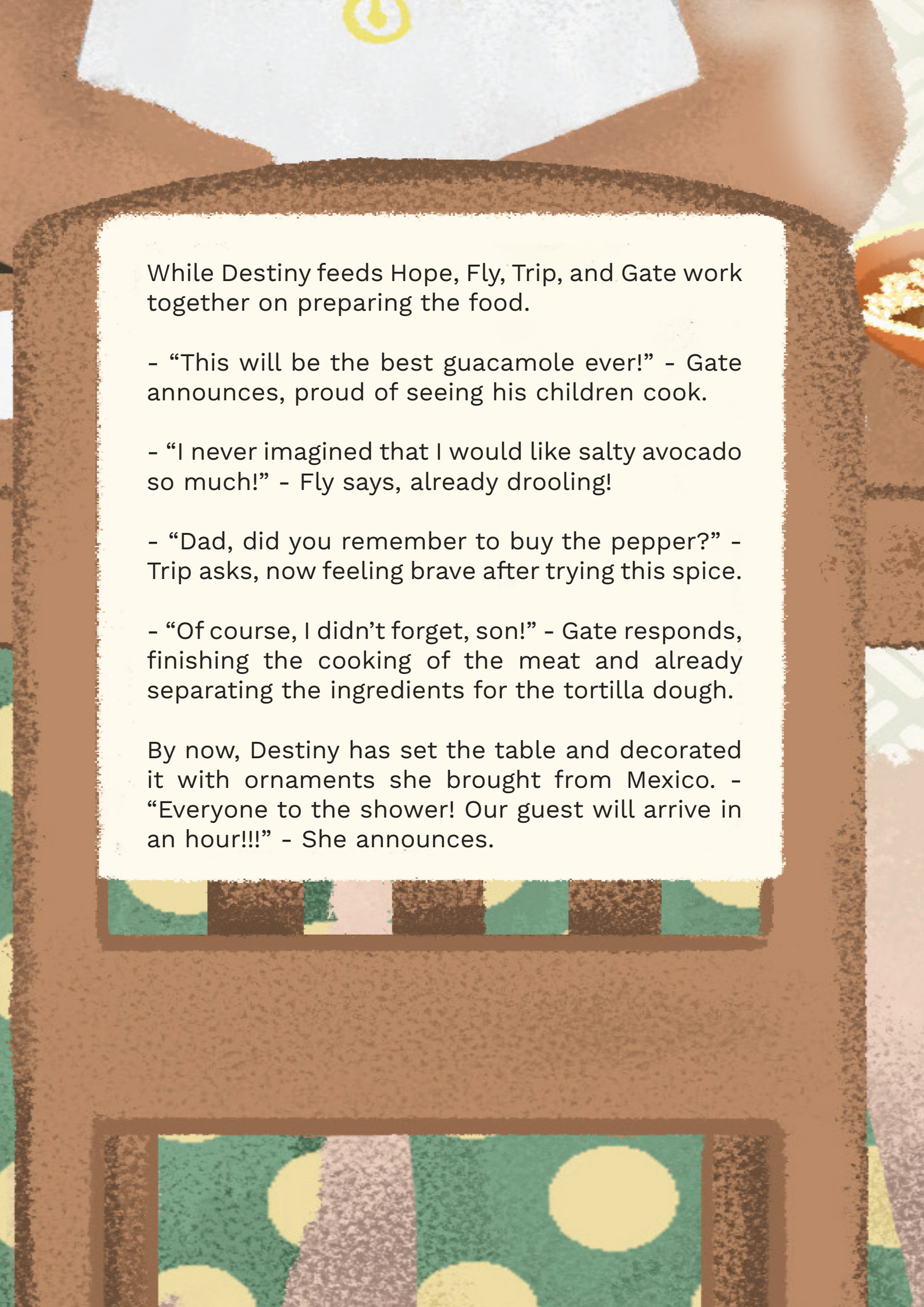
- “Will Vida introduce us to a new destination today?” - Trip asks, already anxious.

- “Who knows?” - Destiny responds. And she continues: - “And now, I want to know who will help dad prepare a delicious Mexican lunch for Vida?”

- “Meee!” - Fly and Trip scream. And Hope wakes up to the commotion.

- “I think there’s someone else who wants to help in the kitchen.” - Destiny comments, getting up to fetch Hope from the crib.





While Destiny feeds Hope, Fly, Trip, and Gate work together on preparing the food.

- “This will be the best guacamole ever!” - Gate announces, proud of seeing his children cook.

- “I never imagined that I would like salty avocado so much!” - Fly says, already drooling!

- “Dad, did you remember to buy the pepper?” - Trip asks, now feeling brave after trying this spice.

- “Of course, I didn’t forget, son!” - Gate responds, finishing the cooking of the meat and already separating the ingredients for the tortilla dough.

By now, Destiny has set the table and decorated it with ornaments she brought from Mexico. - “Everyone to the shower! Our guest will arrive in an hour!!!” - She announces.



When Vida arrived at the house, Fly made sure to hand over the souvenir they brought from the trip especially for her. And between each delicious appetizer she tried, they talked about what each one liked most about Mexico!







- “Vida, after walking through all the ruins of Tulum, I went into the sea to refresh myself and just imagined the Spaniards arriving by ship and having the same view I was seeing from the water. Did you know that this city is one of the newest in the entire Mayan world? Did you know that its first name was Zamá?” - Fly asked, eager to continue sharing her discoveries about this civilization.

- “And what does Zamá mean, Fly?” - Vida asked, already very interested.

- “That’s easy. It means ‘sunrise’, because it’s the first place where the sun’s rays hit at dawn. Look at this map, Vida.”

Fly explains all his discoveries to Vida, who takes notes because she knows that Fly’s tips are precious for other teenagers.




- “I also want to tell you about my adventures, Vida!”

- Trip approaches in swimwear and is equipped with a life jacket, flippers, and a snorkel.








Vida is amazed by the excitement of these children and is delighted to see Trip's bright eyes as he tells of his adventures in the transparent waters of the cenotes, his admiration for the immensity and beauty of the caves, and his encounter with the whale shark, which he saw on the day he sailed around Cozumel.






- “And what about you, little one?” - Vida asks Hope, picking her up from the stroller and putting her on her lap.

This time, it is Destiny’s eyes that shine as she remembers her daughter. “Vida, you can’t imagine the joy this girl felt while swimming with us and splashing around in the crystal-clear waters of the cenotes.”

- “It’s true. Vida, has Destiny told you about the day of the party?” - asks Gate.

- “Ooh...here comes a story.” - comments Trip, walking towards his room.

- “Yes, my love. Xoximilco was the highlight of the trip for us, wasn’t it, Gate? Tell Vida what rhythms we danced to at this incredible party aboard a trajinera.”
- asks Destiny.





- “We danced to the sound of a mariachi, and then to a marimba and jarana, and also to a norteño.” - replies Gate, already standing in the position of a Mexican dancer.

- “In fact, the dishes served that day inspired us to create this lunch for...”





But before Destiny finishes her sentence, Trip appears in the living room in new clothes. This time, Trip is a Mayan warrior!

Everyone bursts out laughing, and Fly has to explain the joke. “I created this outfit with my fashion skills. It was a study I did in Chichén Itzá, the great Mayan city on the Yucatán Peninsula! After Trip passed in front of the Temple of the Warriors, he couldn’t stop asking the guide everything about the Mayan warriors and only needed his clothes to embody one of them!” - Fly speaks, laughing at his brother’s imagination! And everyone laughs too!

And with a warrior’s voice, Trip tells everyone about his sister’s adventure. “And this true investigator, who is now before you, spent hours observing Kukulcán’s Castillo, the great serpent god! And with her drawings and notes, she was able to return to her home and complete her Tzolkin calendar. With the 52 panels carved into its walls, she was able to understand the 52 years of the cycle of destruction and reconstruction of the world according to the Mayans.”

- “And with the world reconstructed, we were able to enjoy the adventures of each park in Xcaret.” - says Gate, taking over. - “It was wonderful to play with the children in each attraction. Vida, can you believe that I even went zip-lining to encourage Trip?”

- “And I was amazed at the care taken to preserve this paradise in the middle of the Riviera Maya. The care for the transformation of organic waste, the water treatment management project, the environmental education projects! And what moved me the most was that project of welcoming the women who work at Xcaret and the respect and encouragement for the maintenance of traditional cultures: I made a point of showing all this to the children. After all, it’s not just the Mayans who are in the cycle of reconstruction!” - comments Destiny.

And Hope rocks and screams as if agreeing with everything!

- “The best part is realizing how each trip away from home brings us even closer as a family,” Gate states, admiring her united family.

Vida smiles with a sense of accomplishment.

Fly sits next to her and asks, “What’s your suggestion for the next vacation?”

And you? Where do you imagine this adventurous family will go on vacation?







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Cecília Schucman

Writer, educator and actress, Cecília loves to learn about other cultures, whether traveling or listening to stories! She enjoys explaining everything that she knows to children in schools or on adventures to the most diverse

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