

1

HOOK

SFX COMES IN UNDERNEATH THE NARRATOR.

001 NARRATOR

Tijuana, Mexico. 1927. After days of travel across Mexico by train, Mother Luisita and her two Carmelite daughters have finally reached the California border. The three nuns have managed to escape Mexico's religious persecution, but Mother Luisita is about to discover that the United States may not be the idealistic refuge she'd envisioned.

2

INT. UNITED STATES BORDER - DAY

MOTHER LUISITA, SISTER TERESA, AND SISTER MARGARITA MARIA WAIT IN LINE TO GET PROCESSED INTO THE UNITED STATES. WALLA (ADDENDUM 1): A CHAOTIC BUSTLE OF PEOPLE CAN BE HEARD ALL AROUND THEM.

START >>>

002 BORDER AGENT

American citizens to the right!
Everyone else line up to the left!

003 MOTHER LUISITA

What did he say, Sister Margarita Maria?

004 SISTER MARGARITA MARIA

I'm not sure, Mother. Everyone is speaking English so fast!

005 BORDER AGENT

Keep it moving, folks!

A GROUP OF PEOPLE BUMP INTO THE SISTERS WITH A LOUD THUMP.

006 SISTER TERESA

Oww! Such chaos -- it is truly every man for himself here.

007 MOTHER LUISITA

It is a stressful experience for everyone, Sister Teresa. We must remember the pain of those leaving behind their entire lives.

008 BORDER AGENT
Passport?

009 MOTHER LUISITA
Si, señor. Aquí esta mi pasaporte.

010 BORDER AGENT
What?

011 SISTER MARGARITA MARIA
Her passport is right here, sir. I
have the documents for all three of
us.

012 BORDER AGENT
I see you are Mexican nationals.

013 SISTER MARGARITA MARIA
Yes.

014 BORDER AGENT
Please step aside for your medical
examinations.

015 SISTER MARGARITA MARIA
What examinations?

016 BORDER AGENT
All Mexicans entering the country
are required to bathe in kerosene
and be examined for lice. We cannot
afford to allow your diseases to
enter this country.

017 SISTER MARGARITA MARIA
But, sir -- kerosene is flammable!
Isn't that dangerous?

018 BORDER AGENT
NEXT!

<<< END

3 EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - DAY

A TRAIN WHISTLES IN THE DISTANCE. WALLA
(ADDENDUM 2): A NEW CROWD WAITS ON THE TRAIN
PLATFORM.

019 SISTER TERESA
That medical examination was
humiliating! They should not make
all the women bathe together in
such a large group. We all deserve
some privacy.