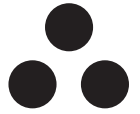


Sol, ella y yo (Sol, her and I)  
By Isabella Cruz-Chong



**Grandmother**

A child is part of oneself,  
physically, morally,  
spiritually. In all senses.

We were the only ones left of  
ten babies that my mom had.

That's the only thing I  
remember. That my mom said "the  
greatest pain of a mother is to  
lose a child"

If my daughters are well, if my  
daughters are okay, I am okay.

Like feelings, like you sense  
something and it happens.

If my daughters are well, if my  
daughters are okay, I am okay.

**Mother**

Being a mother, for me, is tied  
to my own life's experience.

Cannot be any other way.

And so sometimes it gets  
complicated and it is difficult  
to keep separate one's own  
emotions and the emotions of  
the relationship.

Isabella and Ricardo keep  
growing and their necessities  
and circumstances are very  
different. So a mother's role  
is always changing, it is never  
the same.

It's the hardest also. For  
me it has been the hardest  
relationship, at the same  
time that it has been the  
most pleasurable, and the  
most consoling, and the most  
joyful. It has also been the  
one that has given me the most  
challenges. Because I as a  
mother, I give everything I am,  
I give everything I am and all  
my past baggage and my past  
experiences and my fears  
and joys.

The love of a mother, and my  
love to Isabella and Ricardo  
are infinite.

**Daughter**

Thanks mom.

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**Grandmother**

He would say "My mom is from that little island and she's a small indigenous woman." And he couldn't remember her. His mom. I thought that was hard to believe, that he couldn't remember his mom.

I saw him as a responsible man, very hard working. I saw the good qualities, along with the defects.

I even told him "I don't know. How have you taken all my guy friends away. Why did you do that?  
Ah! That was his response, Ah! Nothing more.

He didn't want me to work, he wanted me to raise my daughters.

I used to tell your grandfather "I only have one month left," of the time that they gave for maternity leave. "There's fifteen days left" "Did you hear me? No, right? because you weren't here" That's how your grandfather was, as if he couldn't hear me!  
"I have to see"

He wouldn't say no or yes.

**Mother**

So then he told me, "I was offered a job" and so I let go and started crying and I said "You're leaving."

I was in a cafe in a plaza and I start crying, and your dad was very worried because everyone was looking at us. So he said "No, no, don't worry. We can get married and leave." So I said "Ah okay."

And I wasn't going to leave just like that. In that time it wasn't like you could just leave without marrying. I had to leave married or else your grandfather would have wanted to let me go even less.

**Daughter**

He helped me and he still does, to relax, to enjoy and to see life in a simpler way.

Loving, funny

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**Grandmother**

My mom, before telling my husband, I told her:  
"guess what linda?" (because we called her linda).  
"Guess what linda?"  
"What is it daughter?"  
"Another baby is coming"  
"Ah, how wonderful! Ah there's a reason why"  
"I was thinking that with two already..."  
"No, daughter, there's a reason why"

My mom was, she wasn't a pamperer, but she had a way of being that with her own face and her own eyes, she would tell you that she liked you.

There was always the understanding that we needed to adapt to what our parents could give us.

I used to feel and I remember myself very, very happy.

**Mother**

I remember my mom, Sol, since I was a girl, she took care of us, she was attentive.

What I loved about my mom, the best memory I have, was how she liked to sing and dance and the music. So it was with her that I learned to dance.

And well, a lot of times I didn't agree with her because she was very strict with the homework. Everything had to be good.

My memories, they're beautiful memories of Sol.

**Daughter**

Knowing that you have someone, that

loves you very much.

Sometimes it wouldn't work for me, or I didn't agree; but I never doubted her love, I always knew.