

26 pgs.

MY NAME IS MARÍA



A short story by Hillary Gardner

Based on “Asthma: The Soap Opera”
From the TV series “We Are New York”

WE ARE NEW YORK

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CREDITS

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My name is María.

I am an actress in a soap opera.



This is Mario.
I am in love with Mario.
But, I have a problem.



Mario is in love with another woman!
Her name is Angela.



Fortunately, Angela is leaving Mario.
Her father doesn't like Mario.
He thinks Mario is not a good man.



Mario has another problem.
His baby son is sick.
His baby son has asthma.



I have an idea.

I will help Mario.

I will help Mario take care of his baby son.



But, Mario is worried.

He is poor.

**He thinks he can't afford
to take his son to the doctor.**



I tell Mario,

“Call 311.

You can get health insurance for your child.

And, there are special clinics just for kids.

Everybody has a right to health care.”



We call 311.

We find a special clinic for his child.

I go with Mario and his baby to see the doctor.

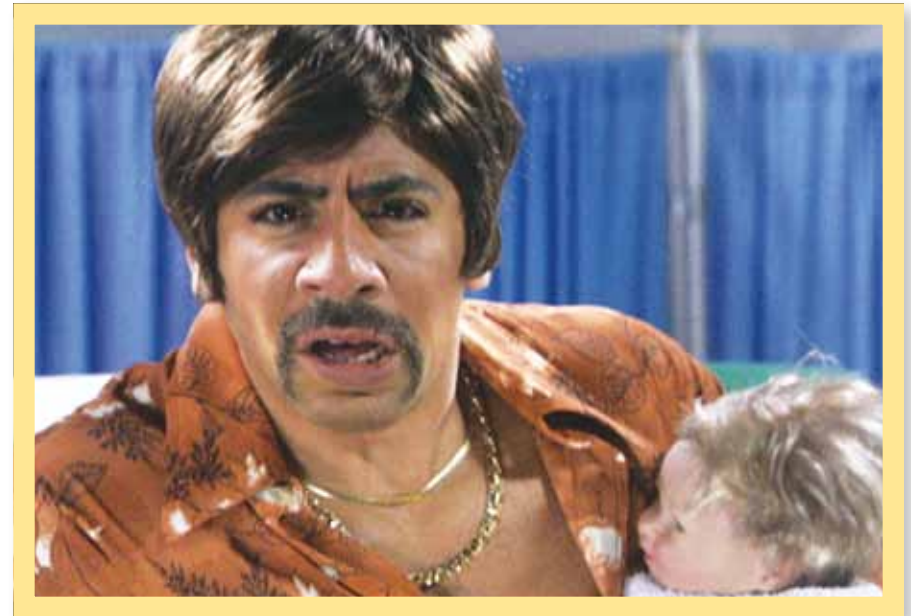


The doctor tells Mario,

“You must take care of your son.

**You must give your son medicine every day
to control the asthma.**

**You must make a plan to manage
your son’s asthma.”**



Mario is confused.

He doesn’t know what *manage* means.



The nurse explains.

She says,

“Manage means to control the asthma.”

Mario decides to learn more.



Mario talks to experts—people with asthma.

He learns about medicine for asthma, like inhalers.

And, he learns about asthma triggers.



Triggers are things that make asthma get worse.

**Feather pillows, dust and smoking
are asthma triggers.**

**Feather pillows, dust and smoking
make asthma get worse.**

Mario hangs a “No Smoking” sign in his house.



I go home with Mario.

I help Mario clean his apartment.

We want to get rid of the dust.

**I am cleaning Mario’s bedroom when
the doorbell rings.**



It's Angela!
She's back!
She thinks Mario and I are together.
She is jealous.



I try to explain.
I say,
“Mario's son has asthma.
Mario's house must be clean.
I am cleaning the bedroom.”



**Then, the doorbell rings again.
Angela answers the door.**



It's the doctor!



**Mario is confused.
He asks the doctor,
“You came all the way here to see my son?”**



**“No!” says the doctor.
“I came here to see María.
María and I have a date!”**



**Mario and Angela are happy.
They live happily every after.
And, Mario manages his son's asthma!
Mario is a good man.**



**“Cut!”
That is the end of our soap opera.
If you need information about asthma,
call 311 or visit:
www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish**

Words used in this story

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> actress | <input type="checkbox"/> feather pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> must |
| <input type="checkbox"/> afford | <input type="checkbox"/> find | <input type="checkbox"/> name |
| <input type="checkbox"/> am, is, are | <input type="checkbox"/> get | <input type="checkbox"/> need |
| <input type="checkbox"/> answer | <input type="checkbox"/> get rid of | <input type="checkbox"/> nurse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> give | <input type="checkbox"/> people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ask | <input type="checkbox"/> go | <input type="checkbox"/> plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> hang | <input type="checkbox"/> problem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baby | <input type="checkbox"/> have, has | <input type="checkbox"/> right |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> ring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> call | <input type="checkbox"/> health insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> came (come) | <input type="checkbox"/> help | <input type="checkbox"/> see |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child | <input type="checkbox"/> house | <input type="checkbox"/> sign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean, cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> idea | <input type="checkbox"/> smoking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> information | <input type="checkbox"/> soap opera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> control | <input type="checkbox"/> inhaler | <input type="checkbox"/> son |
| <input type="checkbox"/> date | <input type="checkbox"/> kid | <input type="checkbox"/> take |
| <input type="checkbox"/> decide | <input type="checkbox"/> know | <input type="checkbox"/> take care of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doctor | <input type="checkbox"/> learn | <input type="checkbox"/> talk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> door | <input type="checkbox"/> leave, leaving | <input type="checkbox"/> tell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doorbell | <input type="checkbox"/> like | <input type="checkbox"/> thing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dust | <input type="checkbox"/> live | <input type="checkbox"/> think |
| <input type="checkbox"/> end | <input type="checkbox"/> make | <input type="checkbox"/> trigger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> everybody | <input type="checkbox"/> man | <input type="checkbox"/> try |
| <input type="checkbox"/> expert | <input type="checkbox"/> manage | <input type="checkbox"/> visit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> explain | <input type="checkbox"/> mean | <input type="checkbox"/> want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> father | <input type="checkbox"/> medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> woman |

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