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Un cuento de María con mucha suerte

En película *María llena eres de gracia*, María era una chica de estatura media, delgada, con pelo negro y ~~lun~~gros, y con ojos cafés. Ella vivía en una casa pequeña con las tres generaciones de mujeres: su abuela, su mamá, y su hermana con su propio bebé. No hubo ningún hombre en la familia, y a María se le esperaba el mismo destino. Su amiga se llamaba Blanca, se parecía a María en pelo y ojos, pero era menos alta y menos lista que su amiga. Tan como María, Blanca soñaba con cambiar su vida y ganar el dinero para su familia. Lucy, la otra joven, se parecía a María pero era un poco mayor y tenía más experiencia con el “trabajo”. Al principio, no tenía miedo porque lo ha hecho dos veces ya y creía que podía controlar todo.

Carla, la hermana mayor de Lucy, vivía en New York en un apartamento pequeño con su esposo y su primo (de su esposo). Clara se parecía a María y a Blanca en el pelo y en la estatura. Y ~~era~~ embarazada, en las últimas semanas. Tenía un buen corazón y les trataba de ayudar a las chicas pero no sabía lo que pasó con Lucy, su hermana menor, porque María y Blanca tenían miedo de molestarla.

María trabajaba en una plantación de flores en ~~las~~ condiciones terribles, y su mamá y su hermana tomaron todo el dinero que ella ganaba, pero un día María renunció. No le gustaba este trabajo por mucho tiempo, pero la última gota fue cuando su jefe no le dio permiso para ir al baño y le humilló frente a todos. Ella ~~fue~~ bajo mucha presión por encontrar ~~encontrar~~ un nuevo trabajo. Por esto, ~~donde~~ su nuevo conocido le propuso trabajar como una mula (es decir, llevar narcóticos tragados en cápsulas) de Bogotá a Nueva York, lo aceptó. Blanca también quiso hacer

mucho dinero y ella también decidió servir como mula. Lucy y la otra mujer ~~fue~~ con María y Blanca por el mismo vuelo y por la misma cosa. Cuando las cuatro llegaron al destino, la policía detuvo a una de ellas. Quisieron detener a María también por sospecha de narcotráfico. Afortunadamente por ella, María ~~era~~ embarazada, y por esto no le sacaron una radiografía para ver las drogas en su estómago, y la dejaron ir. Mientras los traficantes guardaron^a las tres mujeres en un motel, a Lucy se le rompió una capsula de cocaína adentro de ella y se murió.

María y Blanca se escaparon de los banditos pero no ~~supieron~~ adónde ir. Entonces, María recordó que Lucy le ~~dió~~ la dirección de su hermana que vivía en Nueva York, y las dos chicas se fueron allí. Resultó que Carla ~~era~~ embarazada en las últimas semanas, y al principio María no le dijo lo que pasó con Lucy. Al final, Blanca regresó a Colombia, ~~sino~~ María en el ultimo momento decidió quedarse en los Estados Unidos.

This film could as be as well positioned as a documentary because narcotraffic between Latin America and the United States is thriving. There are two sides of this market, North Americans create demand, and South Americans provide supply; in other words, business as usual, and lives do not matter. Even more developed countries, where people got used to higher level of financial safety and comfort, like Russia and countries of Europe, still have problems with drugs, but for poor countries like Colombia, where jobs are scarce, and people are often desperate, the drug trade is a huge market with opportunities, and some people are ready to do anything to survive. Sadly, this is true :(

This movie has the idea to demonstrate what happens to drugs on their way from the supplier to the consumer, including the physiological pathway. As for the carriers, according to the movie, the probability of success is fifty-fifty: one got arrested, another one got killed, and the two barely made it out alive. In this plot, Maria is like a cat with nine lives, as she got

unbelievably lucky to avoid arrest in the airport, to save all sixty two capsules she swallowed from ~~living~~ her body naturally, to avoid death from any of those capsules, to avoid getting herself killed by drug dealers, and – no way – discovering her baby safe and sound after all those “adventures”. In real life, however, she would hardly be so lucky. After seeing all the details of this organization, hopefully, less people will get involved, and more lives could be saved.

The movie cannot boast a traditional American happy end; Maria decided not to go back to Colombia and try to raise a baby in a foreign and unwelcoming States, while living and working there illegally. Most likely, she would find a low-paying job, similar to the one she had back home; maybe she would manage to get legalized or end up being arrested or deported, but at least, for now, she would not face her family and she might help them by sending them money (if anything left after paying the bills.) Moreover, after all she went through, she still could not guarantee herself that she would not do the same thing again and end up like Lucy. Finally, as Maria probably realized, the baby born in the States should have same rights as any American citizen, so the decision to stay made sense. **These are all good points!**

The film does not have a goal to make viewers feel sorry for the drug mules nor does it show them as bad and hopeless people, but it shows why regular people become drug carriers and what awaits them as a result. These girls hoped they found a way to solve their financial problems and to be respected. It is hard judging them without being in their shoes. When the ongoing economic devastation pushes people to do illegal and immoral things, the line between the right and wrong is blurred. **Great observation!** Something similar but to much less extent was happening in Russia and Ukraine in the early nineties: some girls with master’s degrees used their bodies to make the ends meet, often in addition to the full-time jobs. Similarly, bootlegging and prostitution were illegal but popular black-market activities in the United States in thirties. There

are also plenty of examples of double moral issues during wars and occupations, when surviving and taking care of the family involved doing illegal or immoral things. In short, the “right” and “wrong” is relative, depending on conditions, and sometimes committing a crime can seem like a right thing to do, so we cannot judge those girls from a single perspective. exactly

Meanwhile, the drug scheme is going on, and new desperate girls, call them either victims or criminals, swallow cocaine capsules, board the plane, and deliver drugs to criminals and ultimately consumers living among us. Just because somebody ordered the product, there will always be somebody to deliver it. To sum up, next time one is making a decision about getting involved, hopefully he or she chooses a better alternative. Great analysis!