



Angela Cervantes

Readers' Script for Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring

Three Readers

Paloma

Gael

Narrator

NARRATOR

Paloma and Gael are at Casa Azul, the former home of artist Frida Kahlo.

Paloma has agreed to help Gael find the missing peacock ring that once belonged to the artist. They are standing in front of the room that was once sealed off by Frida's artist-husband, Diego Rivera. They are looking for clues.

GAEL

Here it is. The secret room that was locked up for 50 years!

PALOMA

It's. A. Bathroom.

GAEL

It's a secret room, Paloma. Once the room was unlocked in 2004, they found over 300 pieces of Frida's clothes, love letters, jewelry. Important things.

PALOMA

Seriously? This is no secret room. No one even cares that it's here. Do you see any of the tourists stopping to take photos of it?

GAEL

The reason none of these tourists care is because they have NO IDEA what this room contained, but we do.

NARRATOR

Paloma shook her head. She simply didn't see how this locked room was helpful to their search for the peacock ring.

PALOMA

If they discovered so many things here, what did they do with all of it?

NARRATOR

Just then a noisy group of tourist rushed by.

PALOMA

They seem excited. Where are they going? Let's follow them.

NARRATOR

Paloma and Gael follow the noisy tourists past two small bedrooms. They stop in the second bedroom.

PALOMA

Wait a minute why did Frida have two bedrooms? I want two bedrooms.

GAEL

Careful what you ask for Paloma. Frida needed two bedrooms.

PALOMA

Why?

GAEL

Frida was in a bus accident when she was a teenager. Many times, she wasn't able to leave her bed because she was in so much pain. She had to paint from one bed during the day and she slept in the other room. She died in her sleep right here.

PALOMA

She died here?

NARRATOR

Gael gestured toward a frog-shaped urn atop a wood dresser.

GAEL

Her ashes are in that urn.

PALOMA

Are you telling me that Frida's ashes are inside that ugly headless frog sculpture.

GAEL

Um, excuse me. That so-called ugly frog sculpture is pre-Hispanic art. Our ancestors created it. Diego and Frida were great collectors. They worked hard to keep these items in Mexico where they belong. So a little respect, please?

PALOMA

Sorry, I didn't know.

NARRATOR

Paloma took a long look around the room. Soon a few tourists stepped in front of her and snapped a few shots of Frida's urn.

PALOMA

Are they seriously taking pictures of her urn?

NARRATOR

Paloma couldn't help but think of her father. He'd died when she was three years old. According to her mom, Frida Kahlo was one of his favorite artist. She wondered if her father had ever been to this museum. Did he come here and also snap a photo?

GAEL

¿Que tienes, Paloma? You look sad? What's wrong?

PALOMA

This is Frida's final resting place. Her ashes are inside that sculpture and everyone is just taking photos like it's nothing. I just feel...it's stupid, but I feel like I should say some words to pay respect to her or something.

GAEL

What do you say when you visit your dad's grave?

NARRATOR

Paloma was stunned by Gael's question, but he was right. The urn was like a gravestone.

PALOMA

I tell him about school. Sometimes I even tell him about the mystery novel I'm reading. I just talk to him. Tell him how much I miss him too.

GAEL

You should do that then. Talk to her.

NARRATOR

Paloma waited a few seconds for the tourists to leave. When she and Gael were alone in the room, she stepped closer to the urn.

PALOMA (looking at the urn)

Hola Frida. I really like your home. It means a lot to me to be here because my mom said that you were one of my dad's favorite artist. He was from Mexico too. I'm not, but so far I like Mexico. Anyway, I hope you know how popular you are. People even take pictures of your urn. Crazy, right?

I want you to know that Gael and I are going to find your peacock ring.

We will find it even if it KILLS us.

GAEL

Hey, hey! "Kill" is a little strong, I mean, c'mon.

PALOMA

Rest in peace, Frida.

GAEL

I knew you were the right person to help us find the peacock ring.

PALOMA

Frida's ring belongs in her museum and with the people of Mexico. I won't stop until we find it. I promise.

NARRATOR

End of scene