

MY SINGING NANA



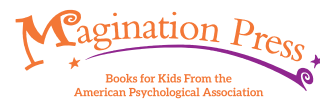
WRITTEN BY
PAT MORA

ILLUSTRATED BY
ALYSSA BERMUDEZ



*For my treasured sister, Stella Mora Henry,
who wisely assisted thousands of families
with the challenges of aging—PM*

*For all of the forgotten memories
and cherished ones yet to come—AB*



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**"Can I roll the pie dough, Nana?"
I ask. I'm Nana's helper.
We're making cherry empanadas,
Dad's favorite.
Nana hums when she cooks.**

**She likes to sing too.
She winks and sings,**

"Can she bake an empanada, Billy Boy, Billy Boy?"

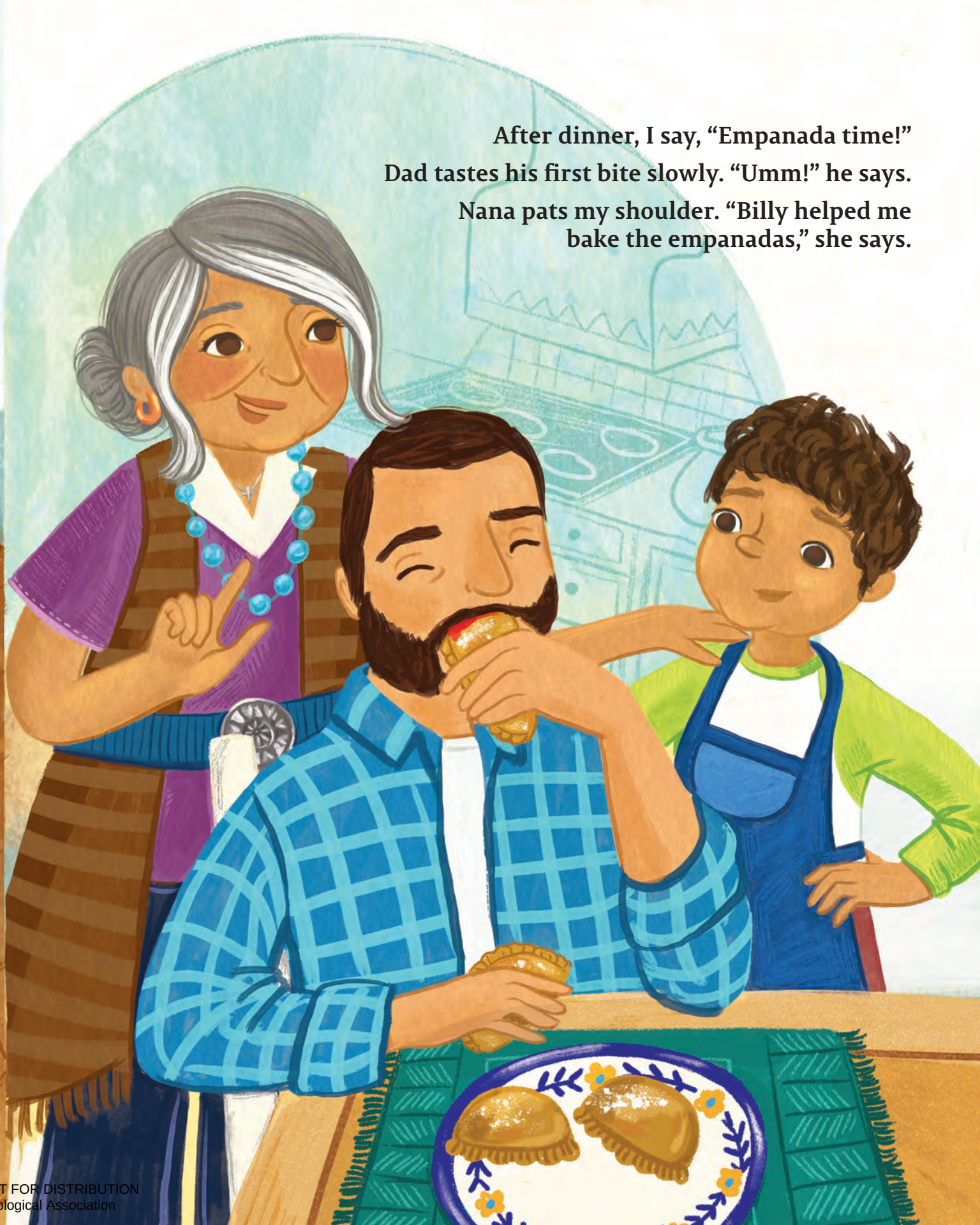
**Nana's wink makes me smile.
She says that's my song because my name is Billy.**

Becky and Chris, my little
sister and brother, dance
around the kitchen singing,
“Billy Boy, Billy Boy.”



Becky asks, “Nana, can I sprinkle the sugar on the empanadas?”
“Can I eat an empanada?” asks Chris.
Soon the kitchen smells delicious, a red cherry smell.

After dinner, I say, “Empanada time!”
Dad tastes his first bite slowly. “Umm!” he says.
Nana pats my shoulder. “Billy helped me
bake the empanadas,” she says.



Nana and I like putting on shows for our family and friends. We started when I was three. Nana is the director. Tomorrow is our summer show, and Dad and I have the patio ready with balloons and surprises. We even have a little stage.

"Tomorrow will be our best show ever, right Nana?" I ask. "Tonight's our last chance to practice."

"Remind me, Billy, what are we doing this year?" asks Nana.

I look at Mom. "Remember, Nana," I say. "I'm going to read the story I wrote about a boy giant who saves animals."

"I'm going to play my drums," says Chris, drumming on the table.

"And I'm going to sing," says Becky.





Nana gives Becky a big abrazo. “What song are you singing, querida?”
“I’m singing the song you wrote for me, ‘La Señorita Bonita,’” says Becky.



Becky and Chris jump up
and salsa around the room.

Nana sings “La Señorita Bonita” with Becky. We practice our show, and Nana, Mom, and Dad clap. Nana takes my hand. “Billy, sometimes your Nana forgets things, but we help each other, don’t we? I ask you your spelling words, and you help me remember things.”



Nana and I smack our palms together and say,
“Always amigos!”

“Always amigos!”



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