

Something Happened to My Dad

A Story About Immigration and Family Separation



**by Ann Hazzard and
Vivianne Aponte Rivera**

**illustrated by
Gloria Félix**

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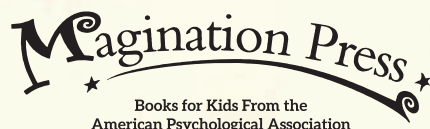
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Family Separation



To my daughter Amalia Isabelle, who inspires me every day to do
and be better. And to all of the immigrant families who have had to
endure such difficult separations.—VAR

In solidarity with families living in fear as they strive for a better
future. With hope that Carmen's story may inspire compassionate
immigration solutions that benefit us all.—AH

To my papá and mamá for always supporting me and my dreams.
And to all the parents in the world who are trying their best to give
their children a better life.—GF



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Carmen's father was a magician.
He made sarapes fly. He made
rabbits vanish!



But one day, Carmen's father vanished.

Her mother said he was arrested because he didn't have papers.

"We have plenty of paper!" Carmen said.

"Not the kind Papi needs," Mamá replied.

"People who weren't born in the U.S.
need government papers to
live or work here."

"Do you have papers,
Mamá?"





“Yes, you and I were born here,” said Carmen’s mom.
“Papi was born in Mexico.”
“Can we give him ours?” Carmen asked.
Her mother wiped away a tear and shook her head.

Carmen lay awake, her mind racing. She tried to picture Papi in a detention center. Her mother said that's where they take immigrants without papers. Carmen worried that her dad would get sent back to Mexico.





Before school, Carmen's mom said, "Don't tell anyone what's going on. I don't want people to look down on us."