

Scene 1A

Lola, Rey, Hiya, Sal

Plot Summary:

LaLa is a rambunctious adoptee from the Philippines living overseas on an American military base. Rey is quiet and obedient, and likes to help at his family's Filipino food restaurant, Miraflor Bistro. They meet one summer in Virginia Beach and become close friends. LaLa struggles with feeling like she doesn't belong anywhere, and Rey, inspired by mythological tales from the Philippines told by his Lola, dreams of bringing his vibrant inner world to life. As they grow older, friendship, food, and perhaps a spirit guide or two help them figure out who they are and how to stay connected.

Scene 1A:1

Lola, Rey

[Lola setting the tone by telling a mysterious mythical tale of the crocodile twins. She likes to tell all of her stories dramatically, like a tale of horror around a campfire, or a narrator of a teleserye (filipino telenovela). She's telling this story to her grandson, Rey, who is seven years old]

Lola

(whispering with a thick filipino accent)

In the jungle, along the river bank, we swam with the buwayas, we bathed and fed them...

SFX: water splash and dive into water. Soft wind and laughter; busy village/jungle sounds

Rey

(interrupting SFX and fantasy)

Lola, what's a Buwaya?

Lola

Ay, ReyRey naman (again)!? Alam mo ito (you know this)...crocodile. Let me finish my story, ha?

Rey

Ok, ok...

Lola

We bathed and fed the buwayas,
SFX: return to previous SFX. begin with same water splash and then add soft wind and laughter; busy village/jungle sounds

and they protected our communities. Their spirits were so connected with ours that when it was time for the two Most Honorable Guides of the realm to give birth, they birthed one human, and one buwaya. Kambal. Twins.

SFX: crowd gasping, praising, and celebrating

They grew up together, preparing to steward the land. But one of the Most Honorable Guides began to grow fearful of the land's survival if ruled by a crocodile. So one day, that Guide acted out of fear and cut off the buwaya tail and chased her into the jungle.

SFX: crocodile hissing and forceful rainfall (ominous music)

Ay! This guide lost their honor. The crocodiles became so angry naman and no longer wanted to live among the humans. The remaining Honorable Guide and the human sibling missed the crocodile twin, and the community still needed the protection of the crocodiles. They would take food and offerings to the river bank

SFX: rushing water and kulintang

and look for the crocodile twin but sadly they never found her.

SFX: water and gongs fade out over next sentence, perhaps ending in a final gong sound when she roars)

So now, because of the Guide who acted out of fear, the buwayas think we are always coming for their tails and if you get too close ... Raaaawr!!

(Lola makes her arms big as if to attack.)

Rey screams, and then giggles

Hiya

Ma! Stop that, you'll scare Rey.

Lola

Ayy, never mind, a little fear don't hurt nobody...

Hiya

Ma, we have to get ready for the festival...

Lola

ok, ok, ok...but don't forget what I tell you. Be honorable, ha? Or a buwaya will come up from the ocean and eat you!

Lola roars and Rey screams with delight

Scene 1A:2

Hiya, Rey, Sal

Hiya

sighs and chuckles

SFX: Transition music: R&B from 2010's. Food sizzling and steaming. Pot lids closing.

Hiya:

Time to load up!

(family is loading supplies into a van for the festival)

SFX: footsteps, people carrying boxes, clanging metal containers

Ok, plates, silverware, lumpia, chicken adobo...pancit...

Rey:

I got the cups, Mama.

Hiya:

Thank you, anak! What else do we need? Containers...

Do you have the cashbox?

Rey:

Yep. Spoons and forks?

Hiya:

Got those...

SFX: hard shoes on pavement and wheels of a cart loaded with big metal pots on pavement

Sal:

Hoy! Big pots coming through!

Hiya:

The rice! Oh my gad, ok yes, that's everything. Thank you, Mahal (love). Did you lock up the restaurant?

SFX: Metal pots with lids being set down into the van, van door closing

Sal:

Oo (yup), everything is closed at Miraflor Bistro. Andito na ba lahat? (everybody here?)

Rey:

Here, Papa. How many plates do you think we'll sell at the festival this year?

Hiya:

Hopefully, thousands! Ok, ready? Let's go!

Rey:

You're funny, Mama. We don't even *have* a thousand plates.

SFX: van engine starts

Sal:

(in a low voice; foreshadowing)

Inay (mom) said to keep a close eye on Rey Rey today, to make sure nothing happens to him.

Hiya:

Always predicting, ha...

Rey:

Lola says that almost everyday! I'm gonna be fine; I'm not going to be eaten by a buwaya. I got my sketch pad and pencils; can't wait to see all the people eating our food. It smells really good today!

SFX: Van drives away

Scene 1B

LaLa, Betty, Hiya, Rey

Scene 1B:1

Betty, LaLa, Hiya

Meeting Betty and Lauren (LaLa)

SFX: a boardwalk festival - people laughing and walking, food sizzling, waves crashing, seagulls kept low and in the background throughout the scene

LaLa

Mommy! Mommy! I want lumpia!

Betty

(sternly)

OKAY, LaLa. We're almost to the front of the line.

LaLa

I wanna see! I wanna see!

(Exasperated, Betty picks her up)

SFX: clothes rustling, purse and belt jostling

Betty

okayy, LaLa.

(LaLa wraps her legs around Betty's waist, and they both hug and settle down.)

Betty

Oooh, look, they have pancit and chicken adobo...

LaLa

(gasps and grins from ear to ear)

mmm mmm mmm mmm. I love it! I love it all so much. And it smells sooo good! What is it, mommy?! Why do I feel like sunshine?? I could just eat *all* of it, all day!

(LaLa starts to wriggle in Betty's arms with excitement)

Betty

(laughing)

hold on, be careful LaLa. I'm gonna drop you.

SFX: clothes and belts rustling

LaLa

(delighted and playful)
Don't drop me, mommy!

SFX: heavy sneakers on the wooden boardwalk
(Betty's footsteps as they reach the front of the line still holding LaLa)

Hiya

Hi there, what can we get you?

Betty

Hello, could we have an order of lumpia, pancit, and chicken adobo, please?

Hiya

Of course! And who's this?
(Noticing the cute brown baby in this white woman's arms)

LaLa

I'm LaLa! I'm going to eat ALLL the lumpia! Raawwwr!

Hiya

Woww, nice to meet you LaLa! How old are you?

LaLa

Seven!

Hiya

Oh wow, my son is seven. Would you like to meet him?

LaLa

(gasps) Yeah!

Hiya

Rey Rey! Come here, ha. He's a little shy...

LaLa

Hi! Do you want to play?!

Scene 1B:2

Hiya, Betty, LaLa, Rey

Rey

(intrigued)

um, ok

SFX: Kids running around and giggling.

LaLa

You'll never catch me!

SFX: kids running around and giggling fades into the background (the van carrying all the food is nearby, the kids are running around the van, slightly out of eyesight)

Betty

Are they ok to do that? I'm so sorry, LaLa is ... very energetic.

Hiya

(hesitantly) I'm sure it'll be fine.

And that'll be \$23. Is your husband filipino?

Betty

Oh, no, it's just me. LaLa is adopted

Hiya

Ahh

SFX: transition sounds - fade out of crowd, fade in of crowd at a distance

Rey

Heyy, where'd you go? I'm gonna find you, you can't hide forever. You are really good at hiding though. (to himself) Where did she go...

LaLa

Boo!

Rey

Haha, gotcha!

LaLa

Gasps, giggles, gives a playful rawr and then bites Rey

Rey

Ah! Ow!

Hiya

(gasps)Rey?!

SFX: footsteps running toward the children on the wooden boardwalk
(not far)

Rey Rey, why are you on the ground?! What happened to your arm?

LaLa

(confused) I..

Rey

(quietly)

She bit me

Betty

LaLa!

LaLa

(eyes filling with tears)

I didn't mean it!

Hiya

Are you ok, Rey Rey?

Rey

Yeah.

Betty

I'm so, so sorry. LaLa, come here. Why did you do that?

LaLa

(from distance)

I don't know...

SFX: Betty walks toward LaLa

Betty

What do you mean you don't know?

LaLa

I don't know!!

(Lala starts crying loudly)

SFX: boardwalk and festival sounds fade out

Scene 1C

Betty, LaLa, Hiya, Lola, Rey

Scene 1C:1

Betty, LaLa, Hiya

The next day at the restaurant

SFX: the sounds of the customers and food cooking in the background.

The restaurant door opens. The door makes a soft metal chime sound when opened

Betty

Hii, I don't know if you remember me, from yesterday, and my daughter, LaLa...

Hiya

Ahh, yess, of course, the biter (jokingly).

Betty

(embarrassed) Hi again. I'm Betty. I'm so sorry, we're only here in the summers so I just wanted to come back and apologize. And LaLa, I think you have something to say too?

LaLa

I'm sorry.

(distracted, insincere)

Mmm, it smells so good in here...

Betty

LaLa...

LaLa

I'm sorry. Can I go play now?

Betty

Well, I think we need to tell ... I'm sorry, what's your son's name again?

Hiya

Reynaldo

Betty

Ronaldo

Hiya

RAY-naldo

Betty

(giving her best effort) Rain-ahldo

Hiya

We call him Rey

Betty

Rey. Thank you. Is it ok if we apologize to Rey too?

LaLa

(Throughout Hiya and Betty talking, LaLa is oftly humming and singing in the background)

Rey Rey Rey Rey, LaLa LaLa LaLa, hmm hmm hmm...

Hiya

Aww, it's ok. Are you leaving today?

Betty

Here for a few more days.

Hiya

Where are you visiting from?

Betty

Overseas. My parents live here.

Hiya

Oh, like overseas, like a military base?

Betty

Yes, Heidelberg, Germany. I'm a teacher there.

Hiya

Get out, talaga! I went to high school over there!

Betty

Oh really! In Heidelberg?

Hiya

Oh no, we were in Ramstein. Heidelberg is beautiful though.

Betty

Yes, we're really lucky. Really good doctors.

Hiya

Oh...

Betty

Oh, yes, when I got LaLa she needed surgery

LaLa

(interjecting) I had a tail!

Betty

(chuckling) Yep. (lowering her voice) She had an elongated tail bone.

LaLa

(moving her hips back and forth) swish swish swish swish

Hiya

Wow. That is... so much... poor little LaLa! She's been through so much

Betty

(chuckling again) yes, we all have...

LaLa

I'm a superhero!!

Hiya

(laughs) well, do you all want some food?
I can see if I can find Rey Rey, maybe have some lumpia?

LaLa

(gasps loudly and begins to jump up and down) yes yes yes yes! Gimme gimme.

Betty

Say please.

LaLa

Gimme please!

Hiya

Come on to the back, I'll go find Rey Rey.
SFX: a curtain opening into a back room

Scene 1C:2

Betty, LaLa, Hiya, Lola

Meeting Lola

SFX: low tv with teleserye playing

Hiya

This is my mother in law Lola Charmaine

Betty

(greeting Lola)

Hellooo, I'm Betty and this is LaLa

Lola

(at the sight of them jumps up) Ah! Susmariosep! Get out! Who sent you? (begins chanting in tagalog and running around to find her ritual items) "Ay dios ko. Espiritu Santo. Ina ng dios"

Hiya

Lola, calm down! What are you doing? This is a child.
This is LaLa who came to play with Rey Rey.

Lola

Ay naku! Not child! Who are you? Lumabas ka, hindi ako handa. Huwag pumunta para
sa aking pamilya
(in english) not our time, ha ...

LaLa

(overlapping, in the background)
What are you even saying...

Hiya

Lolaa, you'll scare her. I'm sorry, Lola is very...eccentric

LaLa

(LaLa steps forward in awe and curiosity)
Ooh, I like your necklace...can I see it...

Betty

LaLa, no, stay with me!

Lola

Hey, hey! (throws water on LaLa)

SFX: water being thrown from a jar and splashing

LaLa

Screams and runs away

SFX: curtain opening and tennis shoes on a hard floor running away

Hiya

I'm so sorry! Please just wait outside, I'll come out...
Ma! Ano ginagawa mo bakit yan ang ginagawa mo bata siya

Lola

That is no child. (in tagalog)Tricky anito. She comes to take one of us away.

Hiya

No, ma. She's adopted. She's been through a hard time.
We can help her, ha?

Lola

hmm. (thinks for a moment) I need to cover my head. I have tourmaline and selenite in my pocket. Have these guava leaves on standby.

Hiya

(sighs)
Ok, Lola.

Lola

Ok. Sige. Let's go.
(Hiya and Lola walk to the front of the restaurant)
SFX: curtain opening

Hiya

I'm so sorry.

Lola

I'm not sorry. You, come here. Why you come here?
(LaLa shyly steps forward)

LaLa

Um, I came to say sorry.

Lola

Ahh, what you do?

LaLa

I bit Rey...

Lola

Ahhh, why you do that? What did Rey Rey do?

LaLa

Um, I don't know. Rey Rey didn't do anything, we were having fun. I just wanted to play and I got confused. I'm sorry.

Lola

Hm, but you like Rey Rey?

LaLa

um...yeah, I wanna be friends

Lola

hmm, and who else?

LaLa

I don't know. I just met you. But I like your necklace.

Lola

Aha ... What you like?

LaLa

It's really shiny like it should be in a treasure chest.

Lola

Ay, tama iyan. so you know...

LaLa

Um, I'm sorry I scared you. I didn't mean to.

Lola

It's ok ... you not trying to take anyone away?

LaLa

What?? I'm only seven years old. Where would we go?

Lola

hahaha, okayy. You are ok. You can play with my grandson, ok. But no biting. You ok, ha? (takes LaLa's hands) Look at me. You've come a long way, and have a long way to go. But you're ok. Write us before next summer.

LaLa

Ok, I'll write.

Betty

(whispering to Hiya)

How did she know we'll be back next summer?

Hiya

She just knows these things...

Scene 1D

Lala, Rey

Beginning letter exchanges between LaLa and Rey Rey

LaLa

Hi Rey Rey!

I really liked meeting you over the summer.

Today at school I drew a picture of my family. It's me and mom and my grandparents.

They all look kinda different from me but that's ok. Kids in my school think that's weird

but I think that's mean and I don't care what they think.

I can't wait to visit your family's restaurant again. In my drawing I'm holding my favorite

food: lumpia!

What did you do in school today?

Ps. Will you be my friend?

Rey

Hi LaLa. I drew some pictures today too. I like drawing.

This is Bakunawa, a snake with wings who likes to eat moons.

If I could fly, I'd have a long flowy cape, kinda like a dress. I think it'd look really cool!

I think being weird is kinda cool, too. But yeah, what those kids said was mean. Maybe

you should bite them. Hahahaha.

Lola likes to tell me all about mythology from the philippines.

Do you like mythology?

P.S. I want to be your friend!