

# *Pequeña María* *Little María*

ANIMATION, APPAREL, BOOKS, AND  
INSTAGRAM FILTER

BY LUZ MARIA MACK

**MEDIA KIT**



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# LITTLE MARÍA

When my daughters began grade school and started learning about their friend's families, they came home wanting to learn more about their parents. Our daily conversations turned into a kind of storytelling. My children wanted to know if my husband and I were anything like them when we were little and had similar experiences, primarily since I had grown up in a different country.

Little María was born out of their curiosity. I wanted my daughters to know more about what their mommy was like as a child and what I did for fun growing up in the Dominican Republic. As I shared some of my fondest childhood memories, I was inspired to make it into a book with beautiful illustrations that eventually turned into an animation. I believe kids need to see themselves in books, content, and stories--this natural urge to better understand ourselves inspires learning.

There are too few books, media, and content that speak to our communities. While the Latino student population is rising, they don't see themselves in their curriculum materials and other classroom resources.

I wanted to do something for my daughters to see themselves! Storytelling helps keep our culture alive, and I'm grateful to be part of a broader community of creators developing content for children to be seen and inspire future generations.

Little María is reminiscent of my childhood. It is a one-of-a-kind, but I've come to learn that it has an international reach because so many children in immigrant families can relate to my experiences. It inspires children to learn from each other and even motivates them to learn about their own families' upbringing/culture.

María is not just a foreigner, and she's a child that enjoys spending quality time with her family, friends, and community.





## ABOUT LUZ

Luz was born in Villa Mella, Dominican Republic, and grew up with her parents, younger sister Nathaly, grandmother, aunts, uncle, and cousins in Santiago, Dominican Republic. One of her earliest memories is of her running around with all the kids playing on the lawn in front of her grandmother's house while aunts and uncle chatted on the porch swaying on wooden rocking chairs in the cool breeze.

At six years old, she migrated to New York City with her family. She says, "we traded Santiago's beautiful countryside for a small two-bedroom apartment full of family. Loud music replaced the birdsong

that used to wake us up. Our new home was unlike the Dominican Republic in every way, and it would take us forever to feel welcome in our new neighborhood. "This is the core of Luz: a little girl from two different worlds.

She is happily married to Tony A. Mack and the proud mother of three beautiful children. She is a healthcare professional with 10+ years' operational experience. When she isn't immersed in her career, Luz enjoys writing poetry and children's book.



## Little María Read-Aloud Animations-Based on Bilingual Books

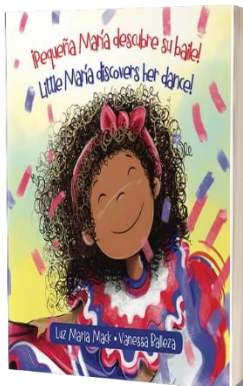
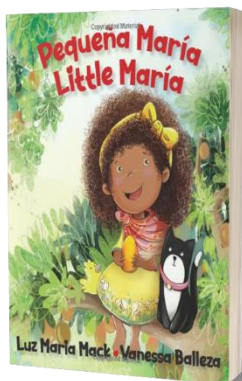
Pequeña María/ Little María is reminiscent of my childhood growing up in the Dominican Republic. In the first episode, María shares with viewers all the fun things she likes to do!

In the second animation, you find María and her siblings discover fun ways to work together as a family. At the same time, they help out with housework and small backyard farming chores.

In the final episode ¡Pequeña María Descubre su baile! Little María discovers her dance! In this loving story, our María learns various cultural dances and finds her favorite dance genre in the midst of that.

I am delighted to share a fun, engaging way that books and bilingual animation highlight Latino communities in such an entertaining way.

[Click here to view animation](#)





CLICK TO VIEW



- ✓ Luz Mack apparel at Harlem Fashion Week Children's Show September 2019
- ✓ Luz Mack apparel at New Jersey Kids Fashion Week Sept. 2019
- ✓ Instagram filter



## Nathaly the Brave

Who was your hero growing up? I don't know about you but when I was little, I was really scared of the monsters under the bed and really believe they were going to snatch me away if I didn't have someone protecting me at night. Luckily, I did have someone to protect me and God blessed me with a brave little sister Nathaly Agosto Filión.



The end pages recap some of the words the kids learned throughout the story, and they can try it at home.

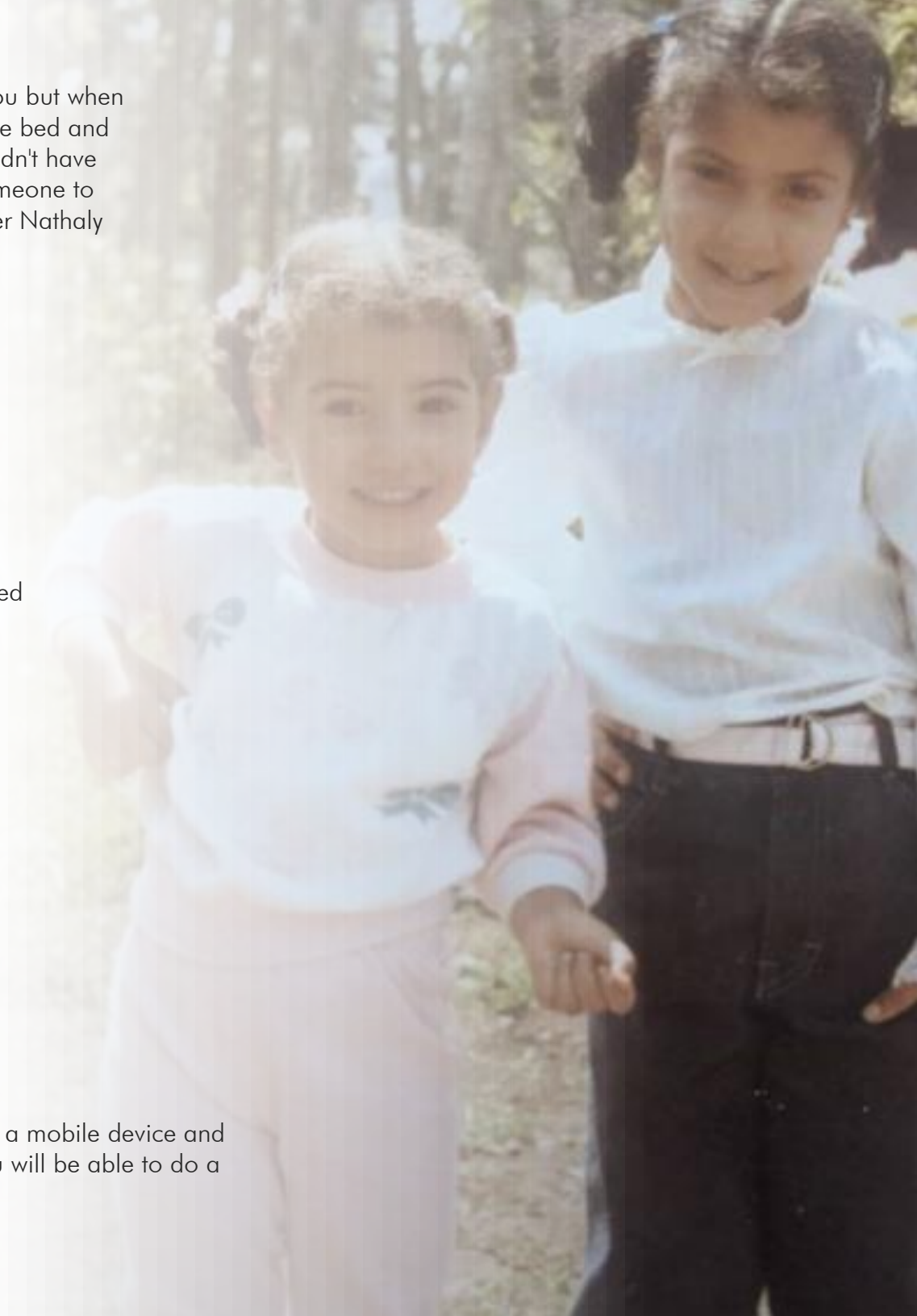


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- ✓ [APPAREL](#)
- ✓ [Nathaly the Brave IG Filter](#)

If you want to try becoming Nathaly, you need a mobile device and click on the link (if you hold the icon down you will be able to do a Video signing the word Brave)

- ✓ [Nathaly the Brave Book Animation](#)





## It Starts with You

When young children are taught and encouraged that their voice matters, that they have the tools to succeed, to be positive, and self-confident it can have an impact on their entire lives. Delivering this uplifting message to young kids in a creative illustrated children's book.

This book is a song that was created into a children's book because of the positive and powerful message: you matter, and being you is phenomenal! 'It starts with you' is going to help open a lot of young minds to new perspectives."

CLICK TO VIEW

✓ APPAREL

✓ It Starts with You IG Filter

You need a mobile device and click on the link (if you hold the icon down you will be able to do a Video)

✓ It Starts with You Book Animation



## Let's bush, brush our teeth together!

When my son was little, he used to run away when it was time to brush his teeth, and he loved getting chase around the house!

Imagine me chasing this little boy who will dip, and swerve all around the house. While I had, on the one hand, his little toothbrush with paste, and one hand trying to catch him.

I found this process exhausting and thought a creative way to get him to want to learn.

I made up a tune about brushing his teeth and that kind of helped him stop to hear the rest of the song. Then my Chloe, who was around 6, told me, "mom, you should make your brushing teeth song into a book for him."

I remember making the book and one day sharing it with colleagues at work who made me laugh that during the day I was drafting up policies & guide and at night creating a brush your teeth policy!

I made a book just for him, and when I read him the book, he wanted to learn to brush his teeth independently.

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

✓ [Let's bush, brush our teeth together! Animated book](#)





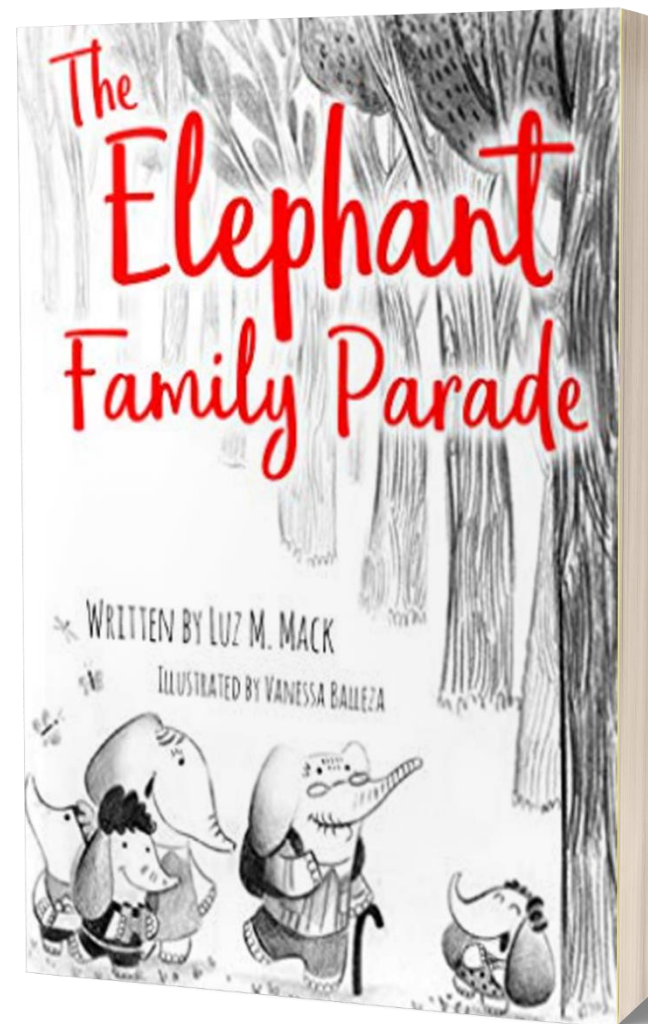
## The Elephant Family Parade

So, let me tell you what happened two years ago. I was an utter mess. Yep, nothing was going right, and I felt so low. I remember during that time, the people that help me get through such a trying time was my father, mother, husband, uncle, Sisters, and illustrator friend Vanessa.

They echoed the same message of being happy and not giving up. I remember during that period; my dad would always try to make me laugh so that I wouldn't focus on any of my problems. My uncle would often laugh at me when he saw me sad, and naturally seeing him so happy; it made me laugh. When we would laugh together, my uncle will shout, "Pobre! Pero, Feliz!" My husband would spoil me with love. The affection, kind words, and spoiling me was precisely what I needed at that time.

In one of my conversations with my illustrator friend Vanessa, we discuss some of the challenges our communities face but, our families keep us going! Our families are really the key to who we are and our successes in life. Somehow we started talking about a children's book, and it was based on overcoming challenges together as a family.

I knew I wanted my main character to be an elderly male figure, and I thought lovingly of my father, husband, and uncle and all the obstacles they have overcome. Life is not perfect in no shape or form for them, but they still radiate joy.





# CONTACT INFORMATION

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