

# Magic PDF (Limited Copy)

Mirelle Ortega



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# **Magic Summary**

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## About the book

In "Magic," Mirelle Ortega invites readers into a mesmerizing world where the lines between reality and fantasy blur, as young protagonist Elara discovers her family's hidden legacy of enchantment and sorcery. Set against a backdrop of rich folklore and vibrant cultures, this captivating narrative explores themes of identity, belonging, and the transformative power of self-discovery, urging readers to embrace their own inner magic. As Elara navigates her newfound abilities and confronts the trials of both the ordinary and extraordinary, her journey becomes a heartfelt quest not only for mastery of her gifts, but also for the acceptance of her true self. Readers who indulge in this spellbinding tale will find themselves enchanted, with each turn of the page revealing the profound connections between love, magic, and destiny.

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## About the author

Mirelle Ortega is an innovative author and illustrator known for her captivating storytelling and striking visual art. With a background in graphic design and a passion for narrative, Ortega seamlessly blends her artistic talents to create immersive worlds that resonate with readers of all ages. Drawing inspiration from her diverse cultural heritage, she weaves intricate themes of identity, magic, and self-discovery into her works. Her debut novel, "Magic," not only showcases her unique voice as a writer but also highlights her ability to enchant audiences through rich imagery and compelling characters, establishing her as a rising star in contemporary children's literature.

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## Chapter 1 Summary: Welcome Back

In the opening chapter of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, we are introduced to Leonora Elena Logroño, affectionately known as Leo, a sixteen-year-old girl who is both eager and a bit mischievous. The story unfolds in her family's bakery, Amor y Azúcar Panadería, where the scent of sweet baked goods fills the air, and preparations for the upcoming Día de los Reyes are underway. Leo's day begins with the arrival of her mother, Mamá, who has just returned from a regional convention for witches, bringing with her a treasure trove of magical supplies. There's an immediate warmth as the family exchanges hugs, highlighting their close-knit bond.

While Mamá and her sisters, Tía Paloma and Isabel, busy themselves with the ingredients and preparations, Leo reveals her independence by taking on significant duties at the bakery during her school break. She glows with pride over her ability to manage things well in their absence, though she simultaneously grapples with her impatience to dive deeper into her family's magical heritage, which includes charms and spells deeply rooted in their baking tradition.

Amidst this joyful reunion, Leo secretly conducts magical experiments of her own. She attempts to create a prosperity charm using honey and plastic figurines meant for the rosca de reyes cakes. Her exploration into magic, however, draws the scrutiny of her older sister Marisol, who quickly alerts

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their family to Leo's clandestine activities. Although Leo feels embarrassed, her family's response is warm and encouraging rather than punitive. Mamá tells her that being part of their magical lineage means she can explore without fear of punishment.

As the chapter progresses, the theme of familial support shines through, particularly in the light of Leo's experimentation. Both her mother and Tía Paloma engage thoughtfully with her ideas, guiding her on improving her spell instead of scolding her for the mess she's created. Even in the face of interruption—like Leo's best friend Caroline calling in with news from her trip—Leo is pulled between her desire to maintain family connections and her own growing sense of identity as a budding bruja.

The chapter encapsulates Leo's world—one filled with love, family ties, traditions, and a budding magical identity, setting the stage for her journey in learning and embracing her powers while navigating the challenges of adolescence. The bakery serves not just as a place of work, but as a nurturing environment where traditions, magic, and love are interwoven, preparing readers for the enchanting adventures that lie ahead.

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## Chapter 2 Summary: Candle Magic

In Chapter 2 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the story unfolds on a drizzly day as Leo and her sisters, Alma and Belén, visit their Tía Paloma at Abuela's old house. The house, filled with mysterious artifacts from generations of women in their family who practiced magic, captures Leo's imagination. Unlike her sisters, who have had formal lessons, Leo learns magic informally while helping at the family bakery, giving her a different perspective on their traditions.

Tía Paloma guides the girls through a cluttered home, leading them to a special room filled with candles and tools for spellcasting. This candle room is a magical space where Leo feels the presence of warmth and potential, marked by flickering blue flames and jars of herbs, hinting at the powerful magic yet to be explored. The chapter reveals an emotional connection as Tía Paloma reminisces about her deceased sister Isabel while showcasing a special candle lit for their mother, reinforcing the theme of family bonds and heritage.

As they begin to learn about the properties of different candles and herbs, Tía Paloma explains the distinction between magical aptitudes, like their family's baking skills, and relics, such as candles that channel power. Leo finds herself eager to master her magical abilities and learn how to incorporate these relics into her spells.

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The lesson culminates in a captivating moment where Tía Paloma demonstrates the interplay between aptitude and relics, stirring excitement within Leo to delve deeper into her magical journey. This chapter beautifully intertwines themes of family legacy, the discovery of personal identity, and the blending of tradition with personal growth, as Leo embraces the path ahead, full of magic and learning.

Key Element	Summary
Setting	Leo and her sisters visit Tía Paloma in Abuela's old house on a drizzly day.
House Description	The house is filled with mysterious artifacts from the family's magical past, capturing Leo's imagination.
Family Dynamics	Leo learns magic informally through helping at the bakery, unlike her sisters who have had formal lessons.
Candle Room	Tía Paloma takes the girls to a special room filled with candles and spellcasting tools, providing a magical experience for Leo.
Emotional Connection	Tía Paloma shares memories of her deceased sister Isabel and lights a special candle for their mother, highlighting family heritage.
Magical Education	Tía Paloma teaches about the properties of candles and herbs, explaining the difference between magical aptitudes and relics.
Leo's Aspiration	Leo is eager to master her magical abilities and learn to incorporate relics into her spells.
Conclusion	The chapter reflects themes of family legacy, personal identity, and the blend of tradition with personal growth as Leo embraces her magical journey.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Embracing Personal Growth Through Heritage

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine stepping into a world rich with history and endless possibilities, where the lessons of the past meld seamlessly with your journey of self-discovery. Just like Leo, who finds her unique approach to magic amidst her family's legacy, you too can draw strength from your roots to shape your own identity. Embracing your heritage can ignite your passion and inspire you to explore new paths, blending tradition with personal growth. The flickering flames of those who came before you serve as a reminder that your potential is limitless, waiting to be unleashed.

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## Chapter 3: Caroline Crashes

In Chapter 3 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo is thriving during her vacation at the family bakery, where the early morning greets her with the scent of baking conchas and the hustle of her family. She's eager to learn about magic, particularly from Tía Paloma's candle lessons, which introduce her to the nuances of using different colored candles for various spells. As she begins her day, the atmosphere is filled with the warmth and chaos of family routines, but it is also marked by Leo's internal conflict regarding her missing friend, Caroline.

Caroline surprises Leo with a visit after Leo neglects to call her, which leads to a joyful reunion. However, Leo's guilt intensifies upon realizing she hasn't kept her friend in the loop. As Caroline shares a glimpse of her life, including her father's attempts to remodel their home after the loss of her mother, Leo becomes acutely aware of the emotional complexities they both face. While Caroline represents a connection to the normal world, the awkwardness with Leo's sisters, particularly Isabel, creates a rift, showcasing themes of friendship, misunderstanding, and the burdens of

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## Chapter 4 Summary: Choices

In Chapter 4 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, titled "Choices," the tension at the family bakery thickens as Leo grapples with the complicated dynamics of friendship and family. The chapter kicks off with Belén and Alma helping Leo clean up after a mishap involving Caroline, a friend who has recently become a point of contention. Mamá tries to smooth things over, but the urgency of running the bakery and its magical business adds pressure. Isabel, Leo's sister, emphasizes the importance of discretion regarding their magical practices, insisting that while some locals know about their spells, they cannot let too many people in on their secret.

Leo feels torn as she longs to apologize to Caroline but also wants to prove herself as a capable helper in the bakery. The sisters argue about the balance between keeping magical knowledge limited and the necessity of having supportive friends. Isabel's caution seems to overshadow Leo's feelings, leading to frustration and a longing for clarity. When Marisol enters the scene, she urges Leo to make a choice between magic and friendship, presenting the dilemma starkly.

As the chapter progresses, Leo feels the weight of the expectations placed upon her as the youngest—not quite old enough to fully grasp the intricacies of their family magic or to claim her space within it. She contemplates her mother's friendships and wonders if they ever had to choose like she does.

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Ultimately, Leo comes to a heart-wrenching realization: while she misses Caroline and acknowledges her pain, her family demands her loyalty.

The chapter concludes with Leo opting to stay and help at the bakery rather than chase after her friend. Despite feeling the sting of loss, she recognizes the value of family and responsibility. The theme of choice looms large, highlighting the complexity of defining relationships against the backdrop of magic, loyalty, and personal growth, ultimately leading Leo to reaffirm her commitment to her family.

Key Element	Description
Chapter Title	Choices
Main Conflict	Leo struggles with balancing friendships and family loyalty.
Setting	The family bakery, which has a magical business aspect.
Characters Involved	Leo, Belén, Alma, Caroline, Mamá, Isabel, Marisol
Inciting Incident	Mishap involving Caroline causes tension among the characters.
Leo's Dilemma	Wants to apologize to Caroline but feels the need to prove her worth in the bakery.
Isabel's Role	Emphasizes the importance of keeping magical practices secret.
Marisol's Advice	Pressures Leo to choose between magic and friendship.
Thematic Elements	Choice, family loyalty, friendship, magic, personal growth.



Key Element	Description
Conclusion	Leo chooses to stay with her family, valuing responsibility over friendship.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The power of choice shapes our identity and relationships

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 4 of 'Magic,' you witness Leo's internal struggle as she confronts the painful decision between her friendship with Caroline and her loyalty to her family. This moment resonates deeply in your own life, reminding you that choices are not just about preferences but are foundational in shaping who you are. Just like Leo, you may find yourself at a crossroads where responsibilities may demand your time and affection, but it's in these choices that you define your values, strengthen your commitments, and ultimately carve your path. Embracing the weight of your decisions empowers you to grow, teaching you to balance personal desires with the bonds that hold you grounded.

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## Chapter 5 Summary: Surprise

In Chapter 5 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo wakes up to find her deceased grandmother, Abuela, sitting at the edge of her bed—alive in a way that defies logic. Confused and overwhelmed, Leo initially believes her newfound ability to see ghosts is part of her birth-order power, a rite of passage she'd been eagerly anticipating as the first fifth-born girl in her family. However, the excitement quickly turns to confusion when Abuela reveals that she isn't a ghost anymore but has been pulled back into the physical world, manifesting into a solid form amidst a flurry of soft orange marigold petals.

Contrary to Leo's initial thrill, Abuela emphasizes the seriousness of her situation, stressing the importance of quickly finding a way to reverse whatever has caused her to appear in the living realm. The chapter captures a humorous yet tense dynamic between Leo, her now-solid Abuela, and her skeptical older sister, Marisol, who wakes up startled and grapples with the reality of having their grandmother back in a physically present form.

As they share breakfast and engage in banter, the chapter highlights Leo's admiration for Abuela, revealing bits of family history and the grandmother's strong personality. Despite Leo's excitement to have Abuela back, Marisol's apprehension reflects a deeper theme of the chapter—fear of magic and the unknown. Marisol's cautious nature contrasts with Leo's



naivety as she excitedly begins to ponder the possibilities of her power, and they discuss the potential consequences of Abuela's unexpected return.

Amid the laughter and the chaos of petals filling their home, the atmosphere shifts when a strange old woman knocks at their door, indicating another layer of supernatural trouble. This moment hints at the complexities and dangers that accompany magic, leaving Leo to wonder about the implications of her emerging powers and the increasingly chaotic world around her. The chapter culminates in a sense of foreboding as more spirits intrude into their lives, setting the stage for the unfolding mystery and hinting at Leo's pivotal role in navigating these magical challenges.

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## Chapter 6: Del Otro Lado

In Chapter 6 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the tension begins to rise as Leo and Marisol confront the unexpected appearance of a spirit at their kitchen table. Abuela is enjoying a lively chat with her spirit friend, Leticia Morales, while Marisol's anxiety grows about the magical predicament they find themselves in. They realize that the spirits are not just passing through; they are somehow linked to Leo's mysterious birth-order power, which has begun to manifest in uncontrollable ways.

Marisol's determination to fix the situation prompts a discussion about the potential dangers of spirits appearing in public. They learn that the boundary between the living world and "el Otro Lado" (the other side) is thinner during certain occasions, like Día de los Muertos, allowing for the unusual crossing of spirits into their realm. Abuela explains that this sort of breach is something the family has never experienced, heightening Leo's anxiety about whether she has unwittingly caused it.

As they navigate the chaos, Leticia reminisces about her granddaughter,

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## Chapter 7 Summary: The Heist

In Chapter 7 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the tension builds as Leo navigates a risky situation involving her friend Tricia and the spirits that have been causing chaos. The chapter kicks off with Leo eagerly anticipating a visit to Tricia's home, a place she usually enjoys, but today is different as she must keep two spirits hidden. Her anxiety grows, compounded by the absence of her sister Caroline, whom she wishes was there to help hatch a clever plan to retrieve a note left for Tricia.

As they arrive, the girls and their elders, Leti Morales and Abuela, share lighthearted memories, but Marisol's stern demeanor reminds them of the seriousness of their mission. Anticipation fills the air as Leo stands outside Tricia's house, grappling with the possibility that she may find herself caught if she's not careful. Ultimately, she summons her courage, knocks on Tricia's door, and is greeted, albeit awkwardly, as she struggles to concoct an excuse for her visit.

After a brief exchange, Leo finds herself in Tricia's kitchen, trying to work her way towards the note's location. The atmosphere is tense as Leo desperately seeks a way to sneak past Tricia in order to grab the note. However, the situation becomes increasingly complicated with the interruptions of spirits and her growing guilt over deceiving her friend. Leo's self-doubt and tensions between her loyalty to her family and her friendship



come to a head as she hears Tricia discuss her father's health issues, revealing deep-seated fears and vulnerabilities.

In a moment of clarity, Leo realizes that both she and Tricia are dealing with significant pressures and that hiding the note may not be the solution to their problems. Inspired by Tricia's determination to confront her father about his health, Leo feels the weight of her own responsibilities and shares a spark of friendship. Just as the chapter reaches a crescendo of emotional truth and bravery, Leo grabs the note, deciding to take it with her.

She bids farewell to Tricia, who has shown resilience, and races back to her sister's van, where she finds the spirited Mrs. Morales, bound but joyful. The chapter closes on the note's significance, underscoring themes of friendship, the pressure of expectations, and the difficult choices between honesty and loyalty. Leo's journey highlights personal growth and the struggle between familial obligations and true self-expression, setting the stage for further developments in their magical world.

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## Chapter 8 Summary: Detour

In Chapter 8 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the mood starts on a high note as Mrs. Morales expresses her pride in her granddaughter, Tricia, for taking charge of a situation involving Freddy. As they drive toward the bakery, Mrs. Morales and Abuela share lighthearted banter that cheers up both Leo and her grandmother. However, Leo's anxiety creeps back in as she worries about the appearance of spirits and how her actions may have distressed her friends.

Unexpectedly, Leo notices that Abuela and Mrs. Morales are transforming, their hair growing darker and their laughter youthful, which leads to a moment of joy amid the tension. They spot a trail of orange petals leading to a hardware store and, sensing a possible spirit connection, Leo decides to investigate, despite Marisol's concerns about getting caught.

Inside the store, Leo encounters a teenage employee and cleverly concocts a story to distract him while she seeks out the spirit, ultimately identifying an old man, whom she nicknames Old Jack. In a frantic effort to persuade him to leave the store, Leo resorts to deception, promising him a deal at a fictional nursery. However, when Marisol arrives to pick them up, Old Jack realizes they've misled him, leading to a tangle of guilt as they race back to safety.

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The chapter emphasizes Leo's inner conflict between wanting to help the spirits and the fear of the repercussions of her actions. She grapples with her insecurities over possibly being a bad friend and the chaos she may have unleashed. As tensions build, Abuela and Mrs. Morales comfort Old Jack, emphasizing the importance of returning the spirits to where they belong.

When Leo learns from Old Jack that another spirit is loose in town, her sense of dread deepens. The chapter concludes with Mamá knocking on the window, which brings an overwhelming wave of relief and emotion to Leo, marking a moment of potential resolution as she confronts the mess she feels responsible for. This installment captures themes of family, responsibility, and the struggle between helping others while navigating the challenges of growing up and accepting one's power.

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## Chapter 9: Questions and Answers

In Chapter 9 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the bakery is bustling with customers during the Día de Reyes rush, as Mamá juggles orders and spirits that need addressing. Leo, sitting on a stool, munches on a spellbound payaso cookie that brings her fleeting joy despite the chaos surrounding her. With three spirits having recently materialized, tensions rise as Marisol insists they need to catch one before he causes trouble, especially since he's headed for the nearby elementary school.

Mamá tries to maintain the bakery's operation while also prioritizing her family's safety and understanding the situation, but Abuela, Tía Paloma, and others argue over what to do. Amid this, Leo grapples with feelings of being overlooked by her family, who are consumed by the bakery's demands and the spirit crisis. The atmosphere is charged and frantic as Mamá contends with her family's differing opinions on how to approach the emerging problem.

As the chapter progresses, they discover that they don't know the full extent

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## Chapter 10 Summary: Caroline's House

In Chapter 10 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo and her family, including Tía Paloma, Isabel, Abuela, and Mrs. Morales, pile into Mamá's van, now overflowing with spirits and brujas on a mission to help their friend Caroline. Tía Paloma drives erratically while discussing a revealing spell to uncover the origins of the spirits, hinting at some tension between the characters. Isabel expresses doubt about Leo's involvement in the spirit issues, and Leo, feeling unfairly blamed, distances herself from their magical discussions.

Arriving at Caroline's house, they find it eerily still, amplifying Leo's nervousness. Abuela senses a deep connection to the place, hinting at its importance. When Caroline appears to greet them, it becomes clear that she's overwhelmed with fear about recent events, and an awkward tension arises between her and Isabel. The group steps into Caroline's home, where the atmosphere shifts drastically. Familiar spirits mingle with the living, bringing a chaotic yet comforting vibe. Among them is Mr. Pérez, a nostalgic figure from Leo's past.

As the spirits converse, Leo is reminded of festive family gatherings, though she feels a bit isolated. Isabel introduces a listening oreja—a magical pastry meant to enhance communication—aiming to dampen the clamor of spirits and allow for a more focused discussion about their predicament. The scene



transforms as noise fades, and everyone can finally concentrate.

In a heartfelt moment, Isabel apologizes to Caroline for her past behavior, leading to an emotional conversation where Caroline reveals her desire for connection and belonging, particularly after losing her mother. The chapter culminates in a newly forged bond between Isabel and Caroline, bringing a warm, soothing energy as they collectively prepare to unravel the mystery of the spirits' presence.

Overall, themes of friendship, understanding, and the complexities of family dynamics resonate throughout the chapter, depicting the challenges and strengths of connection amidst chaos. The chapter ends on a note of potential resolution as Caroline prepares to explain the events that led to the spirits' arrival, setting the stage for deeper exploration of their magical world and shared experiences.

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## Chapter 11 Summary: Stories

In Chapter 11 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Caroline opens up to Leo about her feelings of loss. Having traveled to Costa Rica without her mother, she feels disconnected and out of place, a sentiment that resonates deeply with Leo, who has also been coping with changes at the bakery since her mom's absence. Their conversation takes a serious turn when Caroline admits to stealing a candle from the bakery—Belén's candle—which she lit in hopes of keeping her mother's spirit close. This act may have inadvertently summoned spirits from the dead, a phenomenon that Tía Paloma, their mentor, realizes could complicate their situation.

As the group discusses Caroline's actions, Leo, tasked with keeping the spirits entertained, struggles with her emotions and the responsibility placed upon her. She distracts the spirits through coffee and breakfast, yet her mind is preoccupied with the chaos Caroline has brought into their lives. When Caroline finds mysterious game pieces on her bedside table, it hints at the unexpected power she may possess, leading to further intrigue.

Leo becomes engrossed in a book about summoning the deceased, which warns of the dangers of keeping spirits in the living world for too long. This knowledge weighs heavily on her, especially as she observes her grandmother, Abuela, becoming increasingly youthful and lively, hinting at the toll the spirits may be taking on them all. Though Caroline discovers her

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great-grandmother's diary, which contains stories of their family's magical past, it remains unclear how it will help them navigate the situation with the spirits.

As Tía Paloma and Isabel work on devising a spell to send the spirits back, Leo feels a growing urgency to share her findings from the book about the potential dire consequences of their current situation. The chapter culminates in tension when a door slams, signaling a possible breach of their delicate balance and highlighting the escalating crisis as they confront the question: can they send the spirits back before it's too late?

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The importance of confronting loss and hardship to find empowerment

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 11 of 'Magic,' Caroline's struggle with the feelings of loss and her desperate attempt to connect with her mother through a stolen candle serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience necessary for healing. This chapter inspires us to face our own losses head-on, acknowledging the emotions that come with them rather than avoiding or suppressing them. By understanding that seeking connections, even in unconventional ways, can lead to unexpected journeys of self-discovery and empowerment, we learn that confronting our challenges not only honors our past but also paves the way for personal growth and transformation.

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## Chapter 12: Cry for Help

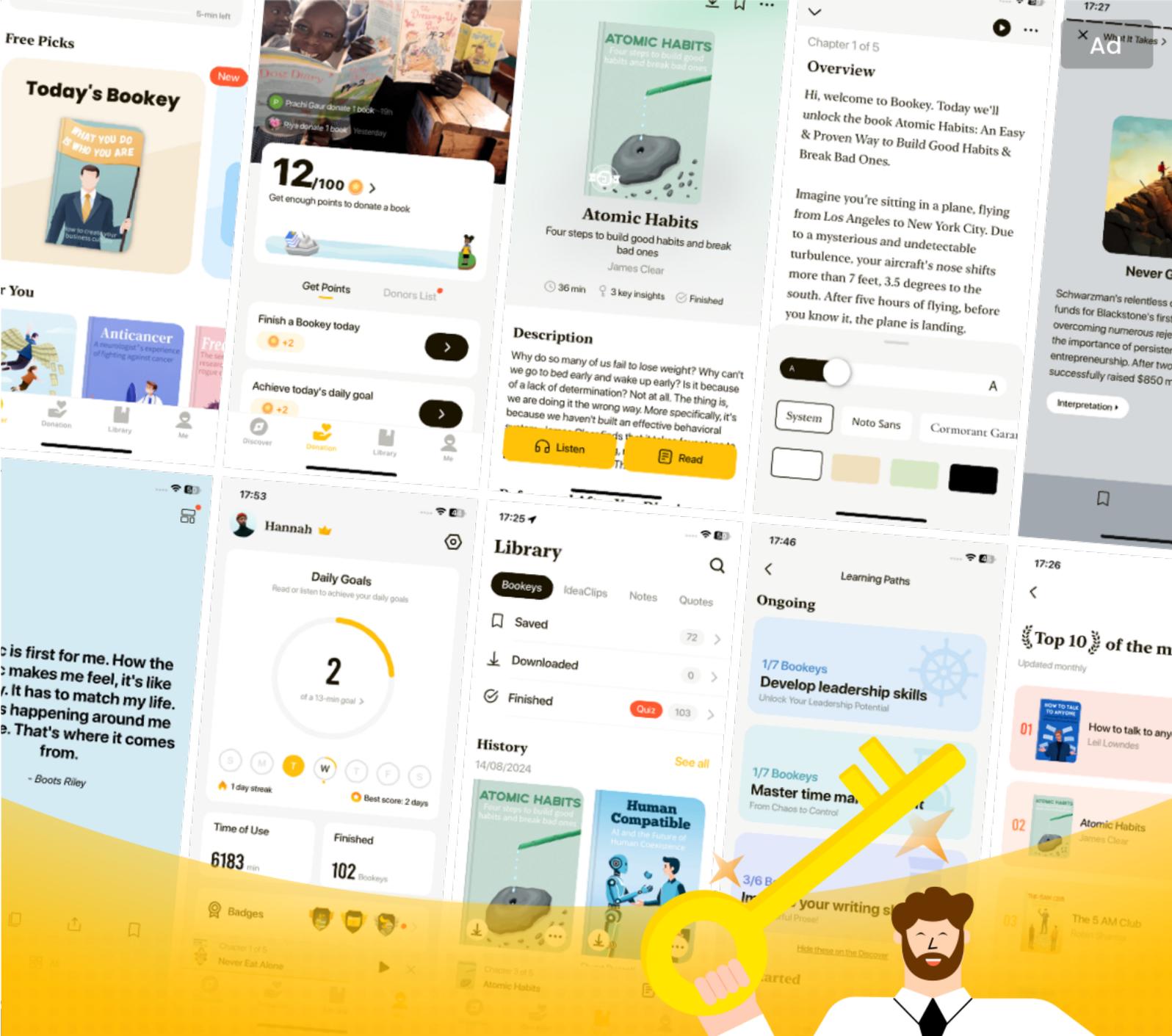
In Chapter 12 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the tension escalates as Caroline dashes into the kitchen, closely followed by Leo, to discover that the spirits they've been hosting have vanished. The chaotic scene reveals the weight of their responsibility; the spirits could be in danger of disintegrating if not brought back. Leo feels an immense guilt for letting them escape, especially as the threat of losing their very essence intensifies. Caroline struggles to comprehend the ramifications, while Tía Paloma provides rational guidance, urging caution to prevent attracting unnecessary attention.

Leo reveals her fears about the spirits' wellbeing, and Abuela enters, sharing her concern that the spirits are drawn away by their unfinished business in the living world. This sparks a deeper understanding about the spirits' motivations and the possibility of their disintegration, pressing Leo to take action. She is determined to find them, firmly asserting her capability despite her youth and the doubts of others around her.

Caroline suggests they need to delve into her diary for understanding, while

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## Chapter 13 Summary: Calling All Spirit Hunters

In Chapter 13 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo is faced with the challenging task of helping her friend Brent find a spirit named Mr. Nguyen, who has lost his way amidst chaos caused by a spell gone wrong. Leo gives Brent some orange petals as a guide to track down the spirit and encourages him to simply communicate with Mr. Nguyen about returning to their world. Despite his humorous complaints about being the only non-magical one, Brent is eager to help, demonstrating a trust in Leo despite their past magical mishaps.

After Brent departs on his bicycle, Leo grapples with the more complicated task of contacting her friend Tricia. She knows that revealing the truth about her family's magical identity and the existence of spirits will upset Tricia, but she needs her help to restore order. When Leo finally reaches Tricia using Caroline's phone, she reveals that their families are brujas and that they need assistance catching the escaped spirits. The revelation is met with surprise but Tricia agrees to help, bringing her friend Mai into the fold.

While Leo waits in the parking lot of city hall with Abuela, she feels a mix of nervousness and guilt for revealing the family's secret to her friends, especially knowing the consequences. Abuela provides support and comic relief, implying that she's always wanted to be a getaway driver in a humorous way.

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Inside city hall, Leo encounters an old church lady who mistakes her for a troublemaker involved in recent vandalism. Leo navigates this conversation cleverly, deflecting attention while seeking information about Mayor Rose, who has gone missing. She discovers the upcoming mayoral election is close and that it's too late for Mayor Rose to enter the race, implying he may have fled the town.

Returning to Abuela, Leo learns from Tricia that they failed to find Mr. Pérez's sister, as she moved away years ago. Discouraged, Leo feels the weight of failure pressing down. However, Abuela refuses to accept defeat, reminding Leo that their family doesn't give up on problems. With renewed determination, she insists they regroup at the bakery to brainstorm a new strategy.

The chapter encapsulates themes of friendship, loyalty, and persistence in the face of adversity. Leo's journey is marked by her growth as she learns to utilize her family's magical legacy while fostering connections with her friends, balancing the weight of responsibility with the warmth of familial support. As they face this magical crisis, the stakes grow higher, and the urgency of finding solutions becomes palpable, setting the stage for the unfolding adventure ahead.

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## Chapter 14 Summary: Ojos de Buey

In Chapter 14 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo checks in with her friend Caroline, who has just uncovered intriguing details about her family's magical history. Caroline learns from her grandmother that their lineage once served as curanderos, helping both the living and, eventually, the spirits of the deceased. This revelation opens up the notion that Caroline may be able to send back the spirits she accidentally summoned, which excites Leo but also makes her anxious about the challenge ahead.

As Leo relays this information to her family, they ponder the unexpected presence of so many restless spirits in their town of Rose Hill. Abuela suggests that this might be connected to their bakery's magic, implying that the community itself has absorbed some of their family's powerful energy. This further emphasizes the importance of the bakery in their lives and in the local culture.

Meanwhile, the chapter transitions into the bakery, where Leo's family is busy with customers. Abuela and Leo decide to concoct a spell using a family recipe—ojos de buey—to help them locate the spirits. The recipe blends cooking with magic, requiring them to incorporate personal touch and intention into the baking process. Amidst the baking, Leo's friends Tricia and Mai arrive, intrigued yet overwhelmed by the supernatural happenings, while Brent, an acquaintance of Leo, unexpectedly brings a spirit, Mr.

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Nguyen, into the fold.

Their efforts produce the ojos de buey, and after a suspenseful moment of tasting, the spell activates. Leo experiences a burst of magical vision, revealing ethereal golden lines that highlight pathways to the spirits, affirming that their magic is present and can be tracked. With a mix of excitement and urgency, Abuela and Leo gather everyone to devise a plan to locate the lost spirits, setting the stage for further adventures.

This chapter is rich with themes of family legacy, the intertwining of community with magic, and the significance of collaboration and friendship as Leo and her team prepare for the challenges ahead. It beautifully marries the ordinary with the extraordinary, as they navigate their responsibilities in both the living world and the realm of spirits.

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## Chapter 15: On the Hunt

In Chapter 15 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the characters embark on a spirited adventure to track down their lost spirits, implementing a plan that divides them into teams. Tricia and Mai take a steady light walking, while Leo and Brent ride a bike to follow a glowing thread that symbolizes the presence of spirits. Abuela and Mr. Nguyen, in a van, pursue the faintest path. Leo expresses concerns about safety and the status of the spirits, leading to anxious banter with Brent, who feels left out of the magical world but is eager to contribute. Throughout their bike ride, Leo and Brent share their frustrations and fears about magic and friendship, deepening their bond.

Arriving at Rose Hill Park, they find Mayor Rose, who reveals his melancholy about the town's growth and his perceived obsolescence. Leo reassures him about the community's future, suggesting that there are people who care about local governance. This conversation highlights themes of legacy, community, and the weight of responsibility. Mayor Rose acknowledges Leo's leadership potential, giving her a sense of purpose and

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## Chapter 16 Summary: A Secret Promise

In Chapter 16 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo explores her home, drawn by the comforting smell of food and the mystical atmosphere around her. She first encounters her sister Isabel and friend Caroline, who are deep in research about opening a portal to "el Otro Lado," the spirit world. They express their frustrations over the difficulty of the task, which is complicated and potentially dangerous. Leo's curiosity leads her to seek out her aunt, Tía Paloma, who seems off in character and requests a promise from Leo to keep a secret from Caroline.

As the conversation unfolds, Leo struggles with Tía Paloma's odd behavior and the weight of the promise. Eventually, Tía Paloma reveals that she is channeling the spirit of Mrs. Campbell, Caroline's deceased mother, who has unexpectedly returned from the spirit realm. Leo is confused and distraught, torn between her loyalty to Caroline and the need to understand what's happening. Mrs. Campbell explains that she has been hiding to protect her daughter from the consequences of trying to connect with her spirit, fearing that Caroline would revert to grief and lose progress she has made in healing.

Despite Mrs. Campbell's hesitations, Leo empathizes with her intention and agrees to help her by acting as a distraction when it's time to open the portal. Mrs. Campbell reassures her that her actions aren't meant to harm anyone

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and expresses her pride in Caroline's ability to handle the magic they've all been grappling with.

After this intense revelation, Leo hurries to gather her friends and family to aid with the portal-opening spell. Tía Paloma, feeling drained from the channeling experience, regains her strength with comfort food while the characters discuss the urgency of starting the preparations. Leo stands firm in her belief that involving her friends is crucial, revealing her growth and the bonds of friendship that have been developing throughout the story.

The chapter is rich with themes of friendship, familial bonds, the struggle between life and death, and the complexities of keeping secrets for protective reasons. As they unite to face the impending spell, the combined energy and support among the characters promise an exciting and heartfelt culmination of their magical journey.

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## Chapter 17 Summary: Spellcraft

In Chapter 17 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the focus is on the intense preparation for a magical spell intended to create a gateway—a process requiring teamwork and intention. The scene unfolds in the Campbell household, where Isabel leads a group of friends—Caroline, Brent, Mai, and Tricia—through the detailed steps needed to set up for the spell. Each character plays a unique role: Isabel explains the preparations for candles, Brent offers comic relief but learns to take things seriously when prompted, and Mai expresses her willingness to help in a way that aligns with her comfort level.

As they gather herbs and craft candles, a lively dynamic emerges, filled with playful banter and familial connections, especially with the spirits in the room, including Abuela, who adds humorous yet insightful comments on the magic being performed. The team navigates minor chaos, juggling multiple tasks while maintaining focus on their shared goal. Leo, in particular, struggles with the mounting pressure but gradually taps into her centering energy, realizing her own strength as a "bruja" and her vital role in the spell.

With tensions rising, Leo encourages her friends to get organized, outlining a clear plan to divide responsibilities among the group, showing growth in her leadership skills. When they finally assemble the candles in a spiral pattern and light them, the unexpected outcome—a glowing veil of

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colors—leaves everyone astonished and slightly apprehensive. Instead of the anticipated portal, the spell erupts in a dazzling display, raising questions about its success and what lies beyond the shimmering barrier.

Leo, captivated by the vibrant veil, feels an undeniable urge to reach out, defying the group's hesitance as she plunges her arm into the magical light. This bold action represents her courage and curiosity, setting the stage for the next chapter. Themes of collaboration, the power of intention, and the fine line between excitement and danger are woven throughout, making this moment a pivotal point in their magical journey.

Aspect	Details
Chapter	17
Title	Magic
Author	Mirelle Ortega
Main Focus	Preparation for a magical spell to create a gateway
Setting	Campbell household
Key Characters	Isabel, Caroline, Brent, Mai, Tricia, Leo, Abuela
Isabel's Role	Leads the group in preparation for the spell
Brent's Contribution	Offers comic relief, learns to take situation seriously
Main Themes	Collaboration, intention, excitement vs. danger



Aspect	Details
Dynamic	Filled with playful banter, familial connections, and spirits' involvement
Leo's Development	Struggles with pressure, grows as a leader, taps into strength as a "bruja"
Outcome of the Spell	Results in a glowing veil instead of a portal, causing astonishment
Leo's Action	Reaches into the magical light, representing courage and curiosity
Pivotal Moment	Sets the stage for future developments in their magical journey

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The power of teamwork in achieving a common goal

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 17 of 'Magic,' the collaborative efforts of Isabel, Brent, Mai, and Tricia demonstrate how vital teamwork is in bringing a shared vision to life. Imagine standing alongside your friends, each contributing their unique skills, laughter, and support as you work harmoniously towards a goal. This chapter inspires you to embrace the strength found in unity, encouraging you to seek collaboration in your own life. Whether it's a project at school, a challenge at work, or a personal dream, remember that with mutual support and combined intentions, you can elevate not just the outcome, but also the relationships and bonds you forge along the way.

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## Chapter 18: The Gate

In Chapter 18 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the group of characters led by Leo confronts a glowing gate that appears to be a portal to el Otro Lado, the afterlife. As they discuss whether or not to proceed, skepticism and fear arise, especially from Tricia, Brent, and Mai, who point out the dangers of entering a realm associated with death. Leo, however, is determined to help the spirits transition through the gate and believes it's safe, noting that spirits have successfully passed before.

As discussions unfold, Mayor Rose bravely volunteers to be the first to cross, and he steps through the veil, disappearing without incident. This ignites a flurry of questions about the nature of the portal and why only Leo can see it. Tía Paloma, the matriarch, warns that they may need a guide to navigate the portal safely, acknowledging the dangers of summoning supernatural creatures who possess such power.

Tension escalates when Abuela reveals a family tragedy associated with reckless magic that led to the loss of Isabel's aunt. This moment serves as a

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## Chapter 19 Summary: Goodbyes

In Chapter 19 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, titled "Goodbyes," the emotional farewells begin as Leo helps spirits cross over the veil to the afterlife. The chapter opens with the fleeting yet poignant images of old Jack and Mr. Pérez fading into light, each leaving behind a small piece of their essence. Mrs. Morales takes a moment to remind her daughter Tricia to behave, emphasizing the theme of parental care in the face of loss.

As Leo prepares to follow her beloved Abuela through the gate, she discovers her own birth-order power, which allows her to pass into el Otro Lado. Abuela explains that these powers vary by birth order within their family, instilling a sense of growing responsibility in Leo as she recognizes her unique capabilities among her sisters. Tía Paloma assures her that as she matures, her power will only grow stronger.

After saying a bittersweet goodbye to Abuela, Leo feels a mix of pride and heartache—but it's not over yet. Her friends jump into action, wanting to help clean up the magical mess left behind, revealing their supportive nature and friendship. However, Leo has her own secret mission: she wants to help Caroline's mother, Mrs. Campbell, cross over. When the time comes, Mrs. Campbell expresses her need to show Caroline that she isn't alone, with or without her—a beautiful sentiment that showcases the enduring bonds of family and heritage, even beyond death.

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Once the spirits are gone, Leo faces Caroline's concerned questions about her experience. Despite the looming sadness of the goodbyes, there's an undercurrent of excitement about sharing magical learning with Caroline, who also insists on exploring her own family traditions. This moment subtly highlights themes of cultural identity and friendship, emphasizing that both girls have unique heritages to celebrate.

As they clean, they discover a beautiful silver ring belonging to Caroline, symbolizing her connection to her past. When Caroline asks if her mother could have been watching over them, Leo reassures her that the magic of el Otro Lado allows for eternal presence and connection. The chapter ends with a sense of hope tinged with grief, as Leo and Caroline find solace in their new roles as brujas, united by the shared experience of love, loss, and the magic of family.

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## Chapter 20 Summary: Everywhere

In Chapter 20 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, Leo wakes up early on Día de los Reyes, the Day of the Kings, feeling an unusual surge of energy and excitement. She quietly tiptoes into the kitchen, where she begins preparing candied orange slices, a cherished holiday treat. Her sisters Alma, Belén, Isabel, and later Marisol join her, each contributing to the festive atmosphere with their own involvement in the cooking process.

The scene is a warm and lively depiction of family bonding as they share memories related to their grandmother's traditions. Mamá enters the kitchen, surprised but delighted to see her daughters engaged in this sweet endeavor. The story highlights the theme of family unity and the intertwining of past traditions with present moments. As they discuss their plans for a last-minute party to celebrate, the conversation flows with playful banter, showcasing their close-knit relationships.

Mamá expresses a nostalgic longing for how things used to be, while softening her stance on hosting, showing her love for her family even amidst the chaos of the last-minute preparations. Throughout the dialogue, there's also a sense of humor, especially when Marisol mentions her interest in inviting her "friend." The family dynamic reveals the balance between traditional roots and contemporary relationships.

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As breakfast unfolds, feelings of enchantment linger, especially when Mamá conjures a small marigold flower out of nowhere. This moment sparks a philosophical discussion about the nature of magic and trust between magical and non-magical individuals, suggesting that everyone carries some form of magic, regardless of its visibility. Leo reflects on her Abuela's wisdom about embracing one's multifaceted identity and experiences.

The chapter closes with Leo reaching for the marigold flower, hinting at her growing connection to her magical heritage as she senses an otherworldly chill against her fingertips. It's a vivid blend of family love, holiday spirit, tradition, and the exploration of magic that thoroughly encapsulates the essence of their shared life.

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## Chapter 21: Epilogue: April Visitor

In the final chapter of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, we find Leo in a moment of vulnerability, awakening from a dream filled with the comforting scent of marigolds yet met with an unsettling feeling. As she navigates through her dimly lit room, her heart racing, she realizes something is not quite right. An unsettling presence looms, prompting a tense blend of fear and curiosity within her.

When a dark figure emerges, her initial instinct is to scream for her parents, but a flicker of recognition halts her. The figure introduces himself as her abuelo Logroño, a new character with a welcoming demeanor yet cloaked in mystery. He wishes to talk, but Leo's apprehension keeps her on guard. Despite her instinct to remain cautious and the mantra of “don't talk to strangers” echoing in her mind, there's an underlying connection tied to family that starts to seep through her fear.

This scene encapsulates central themes of the story, such as the exploration of familial bonds, the complexity of emotions tied to heritage, and the

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## Chapter 22 Summary: Leoñora's Lucky Recipe Book #2

In Chapter 22 of "Magic" by Mirelle Ortega, the celebration of Rosca de Reyes, or Three Kings' Day, takes center stage, highlighting the joyous and vibrant traditions surrounding this special occasion. The chapter kicks off with a detailed recipe for Rosca de Reyes, a special cake that comes with the fun surprise of tiny ceramic baby Jesus figures hidden within. The careful preparation steps invite readers into the kitchen, where love and magic blend together through the flour, sugar, and warmth of a family gathering.

As the protagonist embarks on making the cake, there's a palpable sense of anticipation. The process is not just about baking; it's about creating meaningful connections, honoring heritage, and sharing joyful moments. The ingredients come to life under the protagonist's hands, with the meticulous mixing and rising of the dough echoing themes of growth and community. The hidden babies symbolize hope and fortune, adding an element of surprise and excitement to the festivities.

In parallel, the chapter introduces a recipe for rich, homemade hot chocolate, evoking cozy feelings and the pleasures of indulging in sweet treats during festive occasions. Whispers of cinnamon and the rich chocolate warm both the heart and the spirit, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. The invitation to sprinkle a little cayenne adds a playful twist, much like the surprises found in the cake itself.

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Through vibrant descriptions and engaging dialogue, Ortega explores themes of tradition, family bonds, and the magic found in simple moments spent together. The act of sharing food becomes a metaphor for sharing love, culture, and memories, making this chapter not just a culinary guide but also a heartfelt celebration of life and togetherness. The vivid imagery and sensory details encourage readers to savor not only the recipes but the sense of joy that accompanies them.

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