

Cinco de mayo

MAY 2021



Franziska was a German girl enamoured with Latin America. Being from a cold, central European country she had always found its people and culture very exotic and fascinating. However, she had few chances of meeting Latin Americans in her country so as soon as she had saved enough money thanks to her boring office job, she decided to go on a long trip to Mexico.

The more she saw of the country, the more she loved it. The people seemed so warm and friendly, the climate was amazing, she felt like she would have been a lot happier had she been born in that country. She felt such a strong connection she wished she had actually been born there. Too bad that her Spanish wasn't that good, which made communication a lot harder, and that her time and money was running out.

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During a field trip to a Maya cultural heritage, she was surprised by a local girl who sensed something special with her and started to casually chat with her in fluent English.

The two quickly became friends and Franziska told her about her deep passion for the country.

Finding out how deeply interested was Franziska in the local culture, the girl thought she could help her with that.

She asked her if she really wished with all of her heart to belong there, to which Franziska replied convincingly. Then the local girl invited her at her place, where she prepared some herbal tea whose recipe had been preserved since the long forgotten Maya times. The potion was able to hold anyone into a person of full Mexican stock. As Franziska began to drink it, her host told her she was going to feel a bit dizzy but there was nothing to worry about and that her wish was going to be granted.



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Franziska felt indeed quite dizzy as soon as she finished the herbal tea and immediately regretted drinking it. She was probably going to be drugged to be sold as a sexual slave, she thought. A tingling feeling began in her scalp. The girl worried she was going to lose her hair or something so she ran to the closest mirror, where to her shock she noticed her hair darkening in front of her eyes. Freaking out even more, she noticed her skin taking on a tan she could never achieve even with the longest sunbaths until it reached a light brown colour. Lastly, her bright green eyes darkened to a warm dark brown hue. Her face also morphed into that of a complete stranger, which was scary to see for her.

As soon as the transformation, which only took half a minute, terminated, the brunette turned angrily to her host, demanding an explanation. She explained she had simply fulfilled her request and didn't understand her reaction.

She told her that she was meant to be a Mexican girl and she should settle down and make the most of her life. The spell couldn't be reversed anyway, so she might as well adapt to her new life and identity.

Franziska almost fainted at the sudden realisation her deepest dreams actually became true, but at the same time she felt fear and remorse for the huge leap she had just made. There was no way back to her old life and friends, even her family wasn't going to have any news about her, she pondered heavily while observing her new exotic features in the mirror.

The local girl then joked that she should take a local name and suggested to go with Cristina. Staring into the mirror, Franziska agreed that her old name had to go. Cristina had a nice sound to it.



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Cristina began to settle down into her life as a Mexican young woman. To her dismay, she quickly realised life wasn't that easy for Mexicans. The economy wasn't in a great shape and without any family connections getting any job was hard. Corruption and sexism were also so widely spread in society, it made her feel sick. She also missed the attention her looks got her when she was a white girl, all the local boys were over her. Now, instead she became almost invisible as a classic Latina girl.

Instead of her old boring but well-paid office job she had to settle down with being a waitress. Her CV didn't count anymore as she had no way to prove she was actually the German girl mentioned there so she could only use her language skills to convince her employer that she'd do a fine job with foreign tourists. There was a lot of sexism in her job as well, as loud appreciations of her figure were happening on a daily basis, but she has little choice now.



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However, it soon was May 5th, Cinco de Mayo, the national holiday, so she felt like it was time to put aside her internal reflections and to simply enjoy the day!

She joined her new friends, drank and danced the whole day. Her dancing skills got a lot better after the transformation, she noticed. Toward the end of the day, she reflected on her situation with a new perspective.

Sure, no country was ideal but nevertheless she could live with the shortcomings she encountered here. On the other hand, the warmth of the people was something that did wonders to her and could compensate for anything. Feeling part of the nation brought it to a whole new level of fulfilment. She was meant for this life!

