



Learn English  
for free.

# My Name is María



Short story based on “Asthma: The Soap Opera”

We Speak NYC • Season 1

# Watch • Read • Learn



All **We Speak NYC** short stories and episodes are available on the website:

[www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC)

---

## SEASON 1

### Short Stories

### Corresponding Episodes

*My Name Is Anya*

No Smoking

*My Name Is Fatima*

Welcome Parents

*My Name Is Lupe*

Stay in School

*My Name Is Sue*

Love and Money

*My Name Is Eddie*

New Life Café

*My Name Is María*

Asthma: The Soap Opera

*My Name Is Lucía*

The Wedding

*My Name Is Yumi*

Respond to Domestic Violence

*My Name Is Daniel*

The Hospital

*My Name Is Aku*

The Storm

---

## SEASON 2

### Short Stories

### Corresponding Episodes

*My Name Is Umme*

Shumi's Pantry

*My Name Is Gabriela*

The Seed for a Good Life

*My Name Is Silvia*

Rolando's Rights

*My Name Is Irina*

Making New Friends

*My Name Is Giddel*

Sonam's Mom

*My Name Is Martin*

Crossing the Street

*My Name Is Alicia*

Rafaela's Test

# My Name is María



**My name is María.**

**I am an actress in a soap opera.**



**This is Mario.**  
**I am in love with Mario.**  
**But, I have a problem.**



**Mario is in love with another woman!**

**Her name is Angela.**



**Fortunately, Angela is leaving Mario.**

**Her father doesn't like Mario.**

**He thinks Mario is not a good man.**



**Mario has another problem.**

**His baby son is sick.**

**His baby son has asthma.**



**I have an idea.**

**I will help Mario.**

**I will help Mario take care of his baby son.**



**But, Mario is worried.**

**He is poor.**

**He thinks he can't afford  
to take his son to the doctor.**



**I tell Mario,**

**“Call 311.**

**You can get health insurance for your child.**

**And, there are special clinics just for kids.**

**Everybody has a right to health care.”**



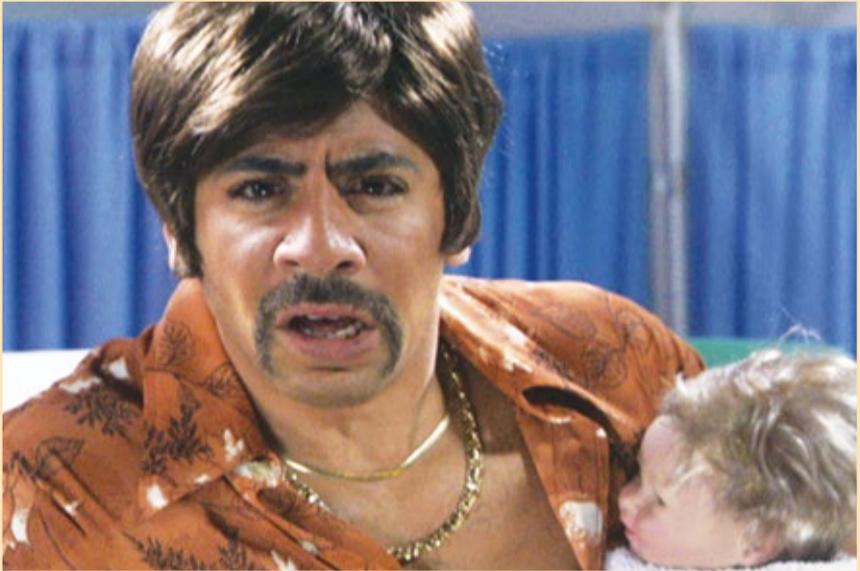
**We call 311.**

**We find a special clinic for his child.**

**I go with Mario and his baby to see the doctor.**



**The doctor tells Mario,  
“You must take care of your son.  
You must give your son medicine every day  
to control the asthma.  
You must make a plan to manage  
your son’s asthma.”**



**Mario is confused.**  
**He doesn't know what *manage* means.**

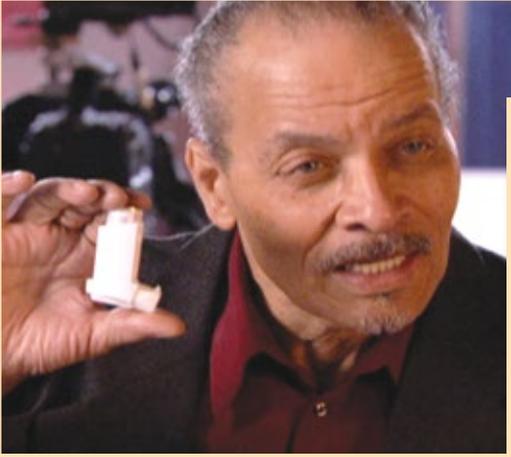


**The nurse explains.**

**She says,**

***“Manage means to control the asthma.”***

**Mario decides to learn more.**



**Mario talks to experts—people with asthma.  
He learns about medicine for asthma, like inhalers.  
And, he learns about asthma triggers.**



**Triggers are things that make asthma get worse.**

**Feather pillows, dust and smoking  
are asthma triggers.**

**Feather pillows, dust and smoking  
make asthma get worse.**

**Mario hangs a “No Smoking” sign in his house.**



**I go home with Mario.**

**I help Mario clean his apartment.**

**We want to get rid of the dust.**

**I am cleaning Mario's bedroom when  
the doorbell rings.**



**It's Angela!  
She's back!  
She thinks Mario and I are together.  
She is jealous.**



**I try to explain.**

**I say,**

**“Mario’s son has asthma.**

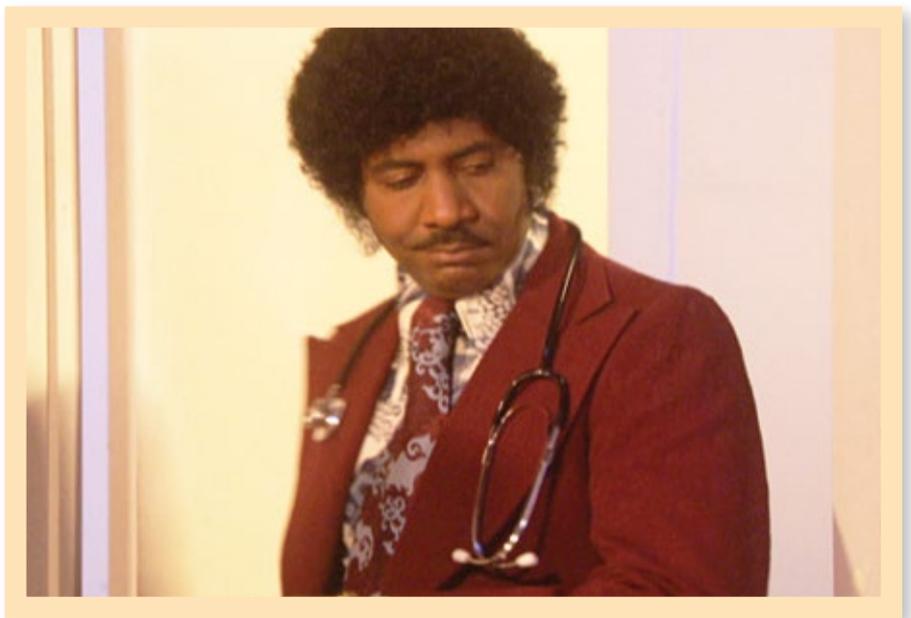
**Mario’s house must be clean.**

**I am cleaning the bedroom.”**

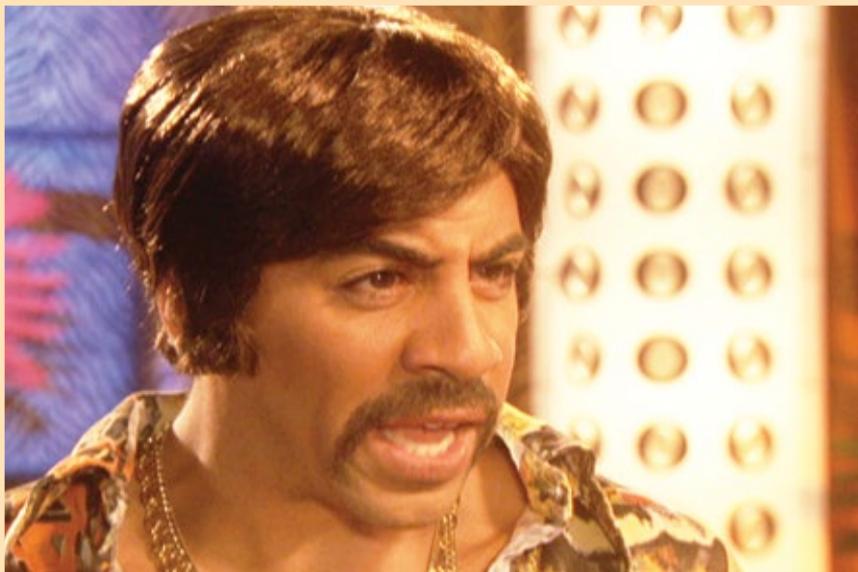


**Then, the doorbell rings again.**

**Angela answers the door.**



**It's the doctor!**



**Mario is confused.  
He asks the doctor,  
“You came all the way here to see my son?”**



**“No!” says the doctor.  
“I came here to see María.  
María and I have a date!”**



**Mario and Angela are happy.  
They live happily every after.  
And, Mario manages his son's asthma!  
Mario is a good man.**



***“Cut!”***

**That is the end of our soap opera.**

**If you need information about asthma,**

**call 311 or visit:**

**[www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNY](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNY)**

## Words used in this story

- actress
- afford
- answer
- apartment
- ask
- asthma
- baby
- be
- bedroom
- call
- come
- child
- clean
- clinic
- control
- date
- decide
- doctor
- door
- doorbell
- dust
- end
- everybody
- expert
- explain
- father
- feather pillow
- find
- get
- get rid of
- give
- go
- hang
- have
- health care
- health insurance
- help
- house
- idea
- information
- inhaler
- kid
- know
- learn
- leave
- like
- live
- make
- man
- manage
- mean
- medicine
- must
- name
- need
- nurse
- people
- plan
- problem
- right
- ring
- say
- see
- sign
- smoking
- soap opera
- son
- take
- take care of
- talk
- tell
- thing
- think
- trigger
- try
- visit
- want
- woman



**Watch  
Read  
Learn**



[www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC)

