

## The Trapped Ride

Carlos felt like a prisoner in the back seat of the car. His older sister, Sofia, was driving and had her favorite pop music blasting at full volume. But the worst part wasn't the music—it was her attempts to sing along, off-key and shouting the lyrics.

"Please, **set me free**," Carlos whispered to the window, as if the wind could carry his plea away.

Sofia didn't even hear him. She hit a particularly high and false note, which made Carlos shrink further into his seat. "Help! **Set me free**, please!" he now yelled, full of desperation.

When the car finally stopped in front of the school, Carlos lunged for the door.

Seeing his mom on the sidewalk, he ran to her and hugged her.

"Mom," he begged, his voice cracking. "Please don't make my sister take me to school again."