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Close to the sea

by
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translated by
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(excerpt in English)

IRENE

Never again is a long time, father. I'm not answering back. Yes, for a few months now. He wanted to come to ask your permission. But first I wanted to tell you about him. And I didn't know how. You're right: that's not the way to do things. We met right here, in the square. It was by chance. Juan wasn't out to see who he could catch! Yes, I know he wasn't going to find a girlfriend in his neighbourhood. He's told me everything. I'm not arguing with you, father, but not everything they say is true. That's true: his brother Mario did kill his wife. He's serving time in a prison in the north. He'll be out very soon. The lie people are saying ain't about what happened but about how it did. They treat him like a murderer. Him and everyone in his family! Juan ain't killed anyone. Does he deserve to be treated badly? What he and his mother told me... He took me to meet her. He's serious about me. What they told me is that Mario and his wife didn't have any money and rowed all the time, and the railing gave way when they were having a barney on the balcony and she fell. It could have been him who fell. You haven't taught me to think the worst of people just because. I've always been treated right when I've been to his house. I love him and he loves me. Nothing to say about that?