Isabel's Birthday Surprise

by Debbie Zapata

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Too excited to sleep, Isabel tiptoes past her sisters,
imagining a big birthday party with cake and a giant piñata.

Every morning, Isabel's mom says, "¡Buenos días, mija!"

But today, she hugs her and says, "Feliz cumpleaños!"

Isabel squeezes her mom, closes her eyes, and makes a birthday wish.

She butters her warm tortilla, saying,
“I want a big party with all my friends!”

“This year, we’ll have a small family fiesta,” her mom tells her.

“¡Ay, Mamá!”
Isabel grumbles.

She grabs her grandpa’s coffee mug and heads outside.