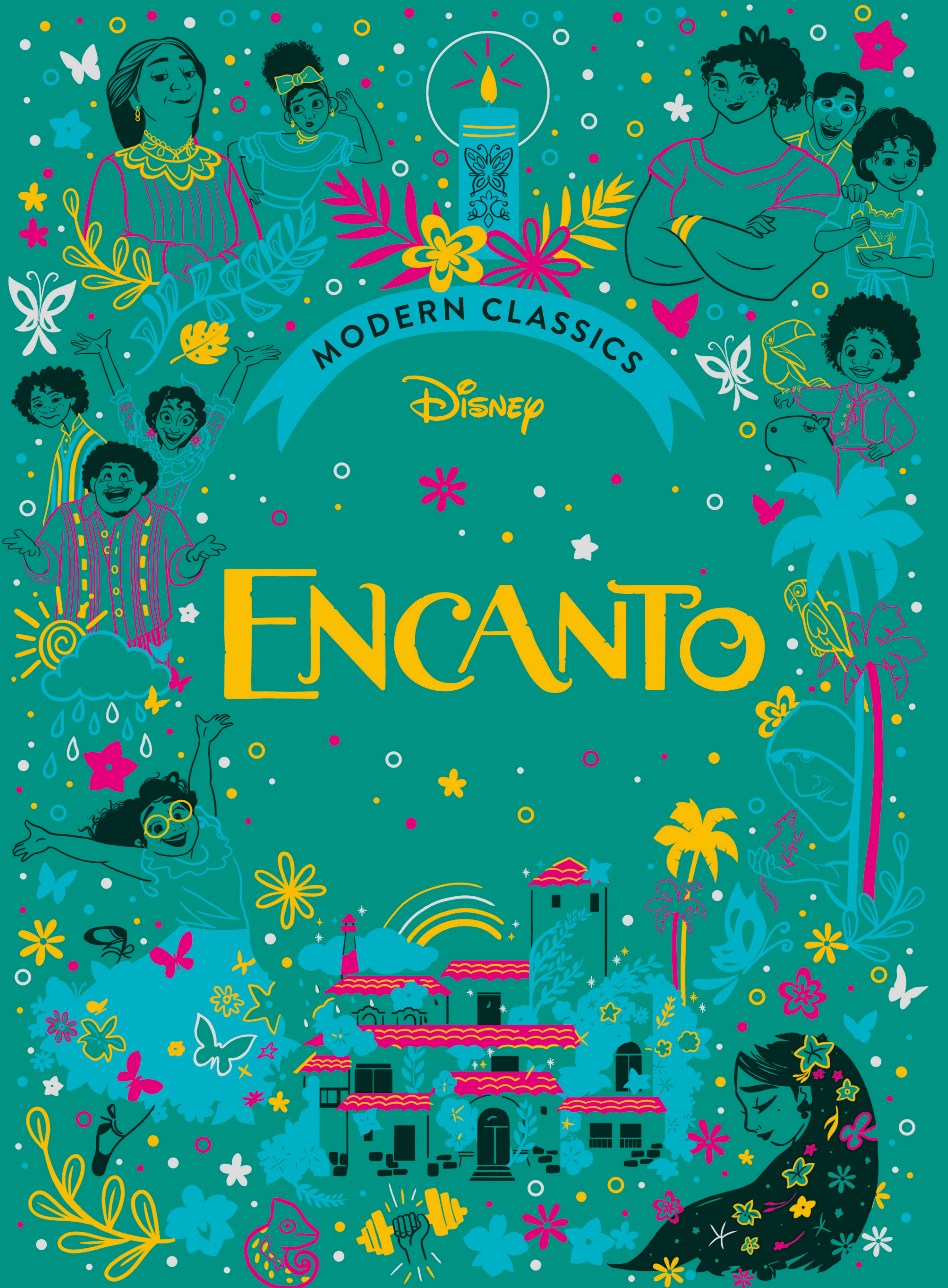


MODERN CLASSICS

Disney

ENCANTO



On the evening of her fifth birthday, a Colombian girl named Mirabel sat in the nursery of her home with her eyes closed, waiting to receive a very special gift.

‘Open your eyes,’ Mirabel’s grandmother, Alma, said, revealing a magical candle.

Mirabel gasped as beams of golden light reflected off her large, round spectacles and danced about the room.



Abuela Alma’s magical candle is an important part of the story of *Encanto*, offering light in the darkness. DAVID VANTUYLE / DIGITAL



The animation sequence for the prologue is laid out, highlighting key moments in the story. DAN COOPER / DIGITAL

Mirabel snuggled in close as Abuela Alma began to tell the story of the candle and the magic it had brought into their lives. ‘This candle holds the miracle given to our family,’ she said, and the story began.

Alma told her granddaughter that the candle had been with her for many years. Light from the candle shone on her and Mirabel’s grandfather, Pedro Madrigal, when they welcomed triplets into the world. The same candle lit their way through the darkness when they were forced to flee their home because it was no longer safe. Others travelled with them, guided by the candle’s light, hoping it would lead them to refuge.

But not all who followed the Madrigals were friends. The violent men who had forced them from their homes were close behind. Mirabel’s grandfather, Pedro, turned to face the danger and died in the fight.

Cradling her three infants in her arms, Alma fell to her knees, lost in the darkness of her grief.



The design of the Madrigal's family home needed to incorporate its own magic and personality. Production designer Ian Gooding created a visual of the casita, imagining it changing and growing over the years. **IAN GOODING / DIGITAL**

But in that darkness, Alma was given a miracle. The candle, which had guided them from their homes, became a magical flame that could never be extinguished. Alma watched as the light from the candle transformed the land on which she stood.

Mountains rose and an abundant forest grew to shield Alma and the travellers from danger. From the bare earth at Alma's feet, a beautiful house emerged and came to life. It was a casita, a home filled with joy and magic – an *Encanto*.

As years passed, the magic of the candle stayed with Alma, protecting her children and the town it had built, but it had more in store.

When Alma's three babies turned five years old, the magic of the candle guided each of them to a door inside their house. Beyond these doors, each child discovered a unique magical gift, and when their children came of age the magic had gifts for them, too. Alma's children and grandchildren used these gifts to make the family strong, and turn their home into a paradise.

Tonight was Mirabel's fifth birthday, which meant soon she would discover her own unique gift. Mirabel's grandmother told her that whatever her gift might be she was sure it would be as special as Mirabel herself.

As the ceremony was about to begin, Abuela Alma showed Mirabel the candle. Mirabel left the nursery excited to discover what her gift would be and determined to make her family proud.



The story of *Encanto* is filled with magical realism. The movement of the house brings it to life, making it a character in its own right alongside the family. **CAMILLE ANDRE / DIGITAL**

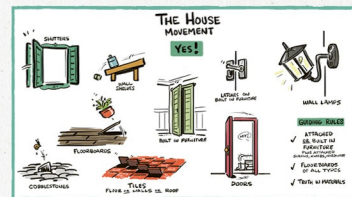


Mirabel is the only member of her family without a magical gift. This feeling of isolation was a key part of her character development. **BILL SCHWAB / DIGITAL**

'Make your family proud,' Mirabel said to herself as she left her room. To hasten her on her way, the tiled stairs of Casita transformed into a slide. Mirabel skidded down expertly, bidding good morning to a portrait of her grandfather Pedro as she passed.

Mirabel and Casita got to work. Mirabel set the table for breakfast, as Casita threw wide its green shutters to let in the light of the day.

Ten years later, the very same Mirabel Madrigal awoke in the very same nursery on the morning of her cousin Antonio's gifting ceremony. It was a busy day with lots to do, and Mirabel needed to get ready fast. Thankfully Casita, the magical house, was happy to help. The floorboards nudged Mirabel's shoes towards her feet, and as she got dressed, tossing clothes about the room, the laundry basket moved to meet them.



Authentic movements for the house were set out in the design process. **JASON HAND / DIGITAL**

Outside, children from the town were excited about their friend Antonio's birthday ceremony. They called to Mirabel, asking her what Antonio's gift would be.

Mirabel told them that they would have to wait to find out, but that only made the children more curious. They wanted to know more about the magic, the ceremony and about Mirabel's own gift.

But Mirabel did not like to talk about herself. Today wasn't about her, it was about Antonio and the family, so instead she told them all about the amazing Madrigals.



The costumes in *Encanto* were inspired by outfits found in the Andean region of Colombia, where the film is set. **NEYSA BOVÉ / DIGITAL**

As the Madrigals got ready for the day, Mirabel explained that she came from a family of stars. At their centre, Abuela Alma made sure everyone knew their place.

When the family left for work, Mirabel introduced them to the children, explaining each of their gifts.

First was her Tía Pepa who controlled the weather with her emotions. Mirabel also had a Tío Bruno who could see the future, but Bruno disappeared and nobody talked about him. Mirabel's mother, Julieta, could heal people with the food that she cooked.

Mirabel said that the family grew larger when her Tía Pepa married a man named Félix and had children, and when her mother married her father, Agustín and had Mirabel and her two sisters. The children were confused. They didn't know who were Mirabel's sisters and who were her cousins.

Mirabel explained that her cousins were Dolores, Camilo and Antonio. Dolores had the gift of being able to hear the quietest sounds and Camilo could shapeshift to look like other people. Mirabel said Antonio would find out his gift that evening.

Mirabel's sisters were Luisa and Isabela. Luisa was incredibly strong, Isabela could make flowers bloom wherever she walked.

Mirabel told the children everything she could but when she tried to leave, the children had one more question.

'What is your gift?' asked a little girl.



The extended Madrigal family, and the relationships between them, form the basis for the movie.
LORELAY BOVE / DIGITAL