

**Settings:** Chávez home  
**Characters:** Announcer, Lourdes, Mario, Marta, Jose, Ana

*Intro music (same for each episode) fades up and under narration*

Announcer: You are listening to the latest edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*. Join us each week as we travel with the Chávez family through the ups and downs of raising a child with a disability in a sometimes unfriendly world. It is hard to believe that our little Ana is becoming a young woman! In this episode, Ana celebrates her 15th birthday and the family must decide whether to host a huge quinceanera celebration. Will everyone believe a young girl with a disability – soon to become a woman – should be celebrated?

*(Music transitions up and out)*

Mario Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* I think it's hard on any father when his little girl grows up. For me, it was especially worrisome with Ana. Yesterday she was just a baby – and I could hold her...protect her. When she turned 15...it was a whole other ballgame. She was interested in boys. She wanted to be apart from her parents. Typical teenager things. You cannot imagine how this might feel for a father when his daughter is vulnerable...And yet, she just kept on growing up in front of my eyes...

*(Music fades up and out again)*

Lourdes: Mario, what are we going to do? Ana turns 15 next month. It would be wrong not to have a party...Like we had for Julia.

Mario: But Lourdes...Ana is different...her disability...should we be celebrating? I mean...I'm just glad she's healthy...I must admit...I'm not very excited about things like dating and boys...Face it, Lourdes. What will people think?

Lourdes: *(angry)* I am not concerned with what people think! Whether you like it or not, she is a young woman, Mario! And don't you want her to enjoy life? Can we deny her that? Wouldn't you want her to have a first dance? A first date? *(softens, flirting)* Don't you remember what that was like?

Mario: Yeah...well, it's different when it's your own daughter. When she can't protect herself. When we can't protect her...*(stumbles)* and besides...a big party? She'd have to dance in front of everyone in her wheelchair. Do you really want to subject her to that...humiliation?

Lourdes: *(quieter, convincing him)* Mario, I'm scared, too. But I know we can't hold her back. She wants a party like her sister...Just like with Julia...and Esteban. She needs to spread her wings...

Mario: But...a big quinceanera party? Lourdes, can we afford it?

Lourdes: Mario, that's just an excuse and you know it. We will ask my parents. They've been saving money for Ana's future...I think now is the time...

*(Music fades up and out in scene transition)*

Jose: Lourdes, are you sure? A party? Is it really the right thing to do?

Lourdes: Yes, father. I believe it is. She wants it. She is a young woman. We need to celebrate that.

Jose: I don't know...

Marta: Jose, she should not be treated any differently. What 15-year-old girl in our family has not had a quinceanera party? It is tradition! Aren't you always harping on these kids about tradition? You're always saying (*mocking*) "in Mexico this and in Mexico that." I think you, of all people, would understand...

Jose: Well...you do have a point...

Marta: It's settled...my Ana will have the quinceanera party of her dreams! She might even wear my own quinceanera dress if I have my way!

Lourdes: (*teasing*) Mother! That old thing? Don't make me sorry I asked for your help!

(*Music fades up and out in scene transition*)

(*Sound effect - party sounds*)

Mario: (*interrupts party with announcement – clinking of glass*) Excuse me...Excuse me everyone! (*party sounds quiet down*) Could I have your attention? Friends...family...thank you for coming. Before we introduce our guest of honor, I'd like to say a few words...It was 15 years ago when my life changed – when my family's life changed. When Ana was born...well...we were confused. We loved her from the minute we held her...but it was a difficult time...That little girl almost died so many times...and she faced so much adversity...(*pause*) and now she's grown. She's a young woman...(*choking; holding back tears*) (*continues, choked up*) She has taught us so many things... She is so strong...And she has such a great life ahead of her. I am proud to be her father. Thank you all for helping us raise this remarkable young woman. (*announcing in a bigger voice*) And now, to all of you, I introduce my daughter...Ana!

(*Applause*)

Crowd: (*chanting*) Ana! Ana! Ana! (*fades out*)

(*Music fades in and up – same music in each episode*)

Announcer: Ana Chávez has come such a long way...and independent adulthood is just around the corner. But what does that look like for someone with a disability? Can she really make it on her own? Will she leave the nest and fly? Join us next week – same time – for the next edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*.

(*Music fades up and out*)