

Episode 12: Working and Becoming a Young Adult

Settings: Chávez home
Characters: Announcer, Lourdes, Ana, Julia

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. We join the Chávez family today as their oldest daughter, Julia, is leaving for college. The family, especially Ana who has a disability, is mourning as Julia moves so far away from home. Could this be the most difficult transition for Ana thus far? Let's listen and see.

(Music transitions up and out)

Julia Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* When I got my scholarship to Hope University I don't think anyone knew what it meant at first. No one in my family had gone on to college before – much less moved that far away from home...Perhaps my Ana had the hardest time...or maybe mother...*(reflecting)* I think they both worried what it would be like for Ana without me close by...But my move was so good for everyone...I think it made Mama see what independence for Ana was really about...

(Music fades up and out again)
(Ana weeping in background)

Julia: Ana...don't cry, Ana. I will be back before you know it...there's Thanksgiving...and then Christmas!...And I promise I'll write you...

Ana: *(stubborn)* Don't go! No!

Julia: *(comforting with a hug)* Ana...Oh, Ana...it will be o.k....you will see...Just think...maybe after you work and make some money you can visit me at school...Would you like that?

Ana: *(very excited, clapping)* Yes! Yes! Yes!

Lourdes: *(calling from across room)* Julia, can I talk to you over here? I need some help with your heavy boxes.

Julia: Be right there, Mom! *(pause as she walks over)* O.K., what's next?

Lourdes: *(in hushed voice)* Julia, what are you telling her? You are filling her head with fantasy!

Julia: *(disbelieving)* What? What are you talking about?

Lourdes: You know we will not have the money for all of us to go visit you.

Julia: Mom, Ana can come by herself on the bus...It won't cost that much if she gets the job at the grocery store...I've already talked to my boss. There are a lot of kids leaving for school. He needs workers, Mom. Ana can do it.

Lourdes: *(incredulous)* Come by herself? Child, you are making me worry already. She is just a girl! You are getting her excited about something we cannot let her do.

Julia: Mama, she is 16! She can get a job. She has learned to do a lot of things by herself...You're the one who is always talking about how you want her to be more independent...

Lourdes: Yes, but...

Julia: But what? You let me work! There is no reason Ana can't. I've had other co-workers with disabilities at the store...My boss says they are some of the best workers – they love their jobs. And they're good at them! They show up every day with a smile...That's more than I can say for a lot of my own friends!

Lourdes: *(worried, sighs)* Oh, Julia...I have to talk with your Dad.

(Music transitions between scenes)

(Sound effect - phone rings)

Lourdes: Hello? *(pause)* *(overjoyed)* Julia! How are you? How is school? We miss you!

(Pause as Julia talks on other end)

Lourdes: *(put off)* Yes...yes...I did get a call from your boss at the grocery store...Mr. Fielding, is it? *(pause as Julia talks)* *(answers Julia's question)* Yes! Yes! You don't have to bug me about it anymore! We are going to let Ana try the job *(rushes)* Now, it's just a test...to see if she really likes working there...*(pause as Julia talks)* ...No, we haven't told her yet *(Lourdes is interrupted by Ana)*

Ana: *(squeals loudly for joy)*

Lourdes: *(chuckles)* Well, I take that back...I guess your sister just heard me. The news is out...Ana is getting a job. Julia, can I call you right back? *(pause)* O.K. *(pause)* I love you too.

(Hang up phone)

Lourdes: Ana? Ana? Where did you go? *(pause as she sees what's going on)* What on earth? Why do you have all these clothes out?

Ana: *(thicker speech)* My job. *(mounting excitement)* My job! I need clothes!

Lourdes: *(laughs)* Yes, my dear! We can get you a new outfit for work.

Ana: Mama?

Lourdes: Yes, dear?

Ana: I love you! You're the best mom!

Lourdes: I love you too, darling. *(quietly)* More than you know...

(Sound effect – phone rings)

Lourdes: Just a minute, Ana. *(pause as phone continues to ring – she runs to get it)* Hello, Julia? *(pause as listens)* Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you were my daughter...well...yes, Ana's here...Can she ...can she what? *(pause)* *(disbelieving)* Did you say...can she go on a date? *(pause)* Well...I don't know... Her father's not home...I'll have him call you back...Yes, good bye. *(sound effect – phone hung up)* *(yelling to other room)* *(accusingly)* Ana! Is there something you haven't been telling me?

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

Announcer: It seems that Ana's growing up is harder on those around her than it is on Ana herself. What will happen as she leaves school and ultimately leaves her home? Or will she ever leave home? Will she have a first date? Join us next week – same time – for the next edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*.

(Music fades up and out)