

Episode 13: Young Adulthood – Conclusion

Settings: Grocery store; Chávez home

Characters: Announcer, Ana, Lourdes, Sandra Ruiz, Mario, Store clerk

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

Announcer: You are listening to the final edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*. We have traveled with the Chávez family each week through the ups and downs of raising a child with a disability in a sometimes unfriendly world. Twenty years have passed in the life of little Ana Chávez. After her diagnosis of cerebral palsy as a baby, her struggles to survive, her family's lessons in advocating for her, no one would have predicted that today she'd have a job and be independent in so many things. But in the life of a person with a disability, we have all learned, anything is possible. Let's listen one last time to see how our friends, the Chávez family, end their story.

(Music transitions up and out)

Lourdes

Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* Well...I began telling you our story just a few short weeks ago...and now, I bet you are eager to hear how it ends. We are still living a life I never imagined. Of course, it's not a fairy tale. We still struggle. Ana will always need supports...and as her mother...I will always be part of helping her. We still do our share of worrying about her. But we've learned a big lesson...that a disability is more about ability...is more about the having the same things in life that everyone wants...health...friends...happiness...and family.

(Music fades up and out again)

(Sound effect - grocery store scanning/checkout in background)

Ana: Hi Sandra!

Sandra: *(surprised)* Ana, how great to see you here today! You've worked at this store for how long now – can it be four years?

Clerk: *(proudly)* And she's gotta be one of our best workers! Aren't you, Ana? I swear people from the neighborhood come in just to say hi and make sure they get in Ana's checkout lane!

Sandra: That's fantastic! Well, say hello to your mom and dad for me, would you, Ana? *(pauses)* You know, Ana, Sophia is living near here in an apartment...She's looking for a roommate...Do you know what you're going to do after graduation?

Ana: *(shakes head)* Uh-uh. Not yet!

Sandra: Well, I'm going to talk to your mom about that...Tell her I'll give her a call...See you soon! Bye!

(Music transitions to next scene in Chávez kitchen)

Lourdes: Oh, we don't know, Sandra. It's such a big step...

Sandra: I just think you two should consider it. Sophia is on her own and she's so happy. She has the support she needs...she's just a block away from me – there are people who check on her and help her with cooking and managing her check book...But she has her privacy...her independence. It's the best of both worlds for her...Adding Ana as a roommate would make it ideal.

Lourdes: *(worried)* But...she's always lived with family...she is happy...she is my baby...

Sandra: Is she really a baby, Lourdes? Do you know what she wants? Let her fly, Lourdes. Mario...trust...together we can show the world...our girls have come so far! Why would they stop now? *(pause)* I didn't want to let Sophia go either, but she convinced me...I'll let you two think about it. The offer to share the apartment with Sophia is yours for the taking....

Lourdes: We'll think about it. Promise. Goodbye, Sandra. And thank you.

(Sound effect – door closes)

Mario: She has a point. We've talked all these years about how we want Ana to be independent...how we want others to see her abilities...if she lives here with us her whole life...aren't we doing her a disservice?

Lourdes: I don't know. I always thought she'd live with us forever. Then Julia would take her in when we got too old.

Mario: But is that fair to Julia? Is that fair to Ana? I don't know. If Ana has a chance to live more independently...

Lourdes: Yes, but is this what's best? What's best for her?

Mario: I think there's only one person who can answer that question.

Lourdes: *(resigned)* Yes. *(pause)* *(shouts to next room)* Ana? Would you come here, please?

(Ana wheels in)

Ana: Yes?

Lourdes: Ana, your father and I have something to ask you...Would you?...Would you like to move away from your parents, from this house? Would you like to live in an apartment...with Sophia?

Ana: I'm *(struggles for word)* independent, Daddy. Most of my friends have their own place.

Lourdes: Yes, I know. So...that means...you want to move?

Ana: No, not right now. I want to stay home with you for a while mom and dad. Maybe a sleepover?

Lourdes: *(relieved)* Yes, that sounds perfect. How about we try a sleepover.

Ana: Yes. *(rushes)* But, don't be sad...I won't stay at Sophia's long.

Lourdes: *(laughs)* Oh, you'll hear from us. We'll call you on the phone when you're at Sophia's to see how you're doing. We are very happy to have you live at home as long as you want Ana. It will be hard, but we'll try to be understanding when you want to move out on your own....Give me a hug! *(pause for hug)* Now, how about we celebrate with some ice cream?

(Sound effect – doorbell)

Lourdes: Who can that be?

Ana: Oh, that's Miguel.

Lourdes: *(confused)* Miguel? Who's Miguel?

Mario: Oh, I forgot to tell you. Miguel, he's taking Ana on a date.

Lourdes: *(mock anger/surprise)* A date? You didn't tell me? When did this happen?

Mario: *(reassuring with a chuckle)* Don't worry, I've got it covered....It was supposed to be a surprise....Come on kids, my treat! Lourdes, are you coming? It's our first double date!

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

Announcer: Thank you for listening each week to *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*. We hope you've enjoyed this disability awareness series. If you would like more information about supporting families and people with disabilities, call the Waisman Resource Center at 800-532-3321.

(Music fades up and out)