

Episode 3: Family Receives More Information

Settings: Chávez home - kitchen; Specialist's office
Characters: Announcer, Lourdes, Marta, (Ana), Dr. Lopez

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. Last week Lourdes and Mario revealed to Lourdes' parents that baby Ana has a disability and may never walk. Lourdes' father, Jose, blames his daughter – he insists the family must keep to themselves. Mario knows the family needs help, but will he be brave enough to defy his father-in-law and overcome his secrets? Let's find out what happens next.

(Music transitions up and out)

Marta Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* Looking back now I can see that what I did was foolish. But, we were all so desperate. Ana really was a miracle, you know. After Lourdes lost those two babies and then Ana was born! *(smiles)* How we celebrated! *(pauses – remembering a happy time)* *(sad tone again)* To hear that she might not walk, that she'd be different...well...I had to do something. Wouldn't you?

(Music fades up and out again)

(Sound effect – brief door knock and then door opens)

Marta: *(humming as she comes in the door)* *(cheerfully)* Hello, Lourdes? I'm here!
(continues humming)

(sound effect – someone shuffles into room)

Lourdes: *(teasingly suspicious)* You sure look happy, mother... What's going on?

Marta: *(overly cheerful)* Oh, nothing.

Lourdes: What's in all the bags? *(teasing)* More garage sale treasures?

Marta: Oh, these? I went garage saling with Mrs. Sanchez.

Lourdes: *(accusingly)* Not Mrs. Sanchez! Did you tell her about Ana's doctor appointment today? It will be all over the neighborhood by dinnertime!

Marta: No, no...But I've been thinking...*(sounding confident)* I don't think we need that doctor.

Lourdes: *(exasperated)* Mother, we've been over this...

Marta: *(interrupts)* Now, just hear me out...I saw the curandero today and he says...

Lourdes: *(interrupts, irritated)* What? You went to the curandero?

Marta: Yes, and he gave me these herbs *(sound effect – opens bag)*...and *(cautiously)* I found these at the garage sales.

- Lourdes: What? (*looking through bags*) Is this the Santo Nino de Atocha? Why so many? The Blessed Virgin? The Christ child? How many statues did you buy?
- Marta: (*mumbles, can hardly understand her*) Oh, about 50...
- Lourdes: How many?
- Marta: (*louder, but sheepishly*) Just 50 ...or so...and these candles...
- Lourdes: Mother, you're going to burn the house down!
- Marta: (*reassuring with confidence*) It will work, Lourdes, you'll see! The virgin will bring us a miracle! Ana is a miracle, remember?...You lost the babies and now...she is your miracle! Our miracle (*matter of factly*) All we have to do now is go to Chalma Mexico...next week...to pray.
- Lourdes: (*incredulous*) Chalma Mexico? Next week? (*sighs, then sad but firm*) Mother...we need to keep today's appointment...I need you to come with me...I need you to convince Mario. (*waits, pleading*) Please, mother...
- Marta: (*resigned*) Oh, alright. But I am keeping these...(*sound effect – bags crunching*)
- (*Music fades up and out for scene change*)
- Doctor Lopez: Mrs. Chávez, Mrs. Velazquez...I am glad you could come today. I'm Doctor Lopez.
- Marta: (*whispers to Lourdes*) He is Mexican, see, that is a good sign...
- Doctor Lopez: I've finished examining Ana and I've read the reports. (*pauses*) I'm afraid I don't have good news. (*pauses*) Dr. Edmunds was right. Ana has cerebral palsy – that means she has lack of control over her muscles. When she was born, because it was a difficult birth, the blood did not circulate as it should. Parts of her brain were damaged. I am sorry, but there is no cure.
- Marta: (*panicked and firm*) That cannot be! There must be a medicine that can restore the brain! Everyone at our church is praying that this is so...
- Doctor Lopez: I wish we had that medicine, Mrs. Velazquez, and someday, we may. Today, we do not. Cerebral palsy is what we call a developmental disability. Other disabilities you may have heard of are autism, epilepsy, Down Syndrome... Each of these is very different. They are not contagious. But they are all lifelong. Ana will need more care, help learning to talk, to walk, to live independently. I have to tell you, there may be some things she may not do like your other children. I don't know for sure, but she may not walk or speak. But she will manage, with your help.
- Lourdes: (*speaks quietly, through weeping*) Dr. Edmunds said it wasn't my fault. Are you sure? Did I do something wrong?
- Doctor Lopez: No, you didn't do anything wrong. Sometimes this just happens. About three percent of the population – everywhere in the world – Mexico, Argentina, France – it doesn't matter – three percent have a developmental disability of some sort. The good news is there is a lot of help for you in this country.
- Lourdes: But, my husband ...my father...they say we don't need help. They say our family can take care of Ana.

Dr. Lopez: All I can say is that I've met many families over the years who have gone through this and will talk to you. Ana can have a wonderful future. Kids with cerebral palsy go to school with other kids. When she grows up she can get a job, she may get married. Other families will tell you what type of help they've needed to make this happen. I think you'll find asking for a little help can make a big difference.

Lourdes: *(slow to respond)* You have a name? Of another mother?

Dr. Lopez: Yes, in fact, I think you'll really like talking with Sandra Ruiz. She has a daughter, Sophia, a bit older than Ana. She has cerebral palsy too. Sandra is doing what she can to make sure Sophia has a great life...She gave me permission to share her name with families...

(Sound effect – scratching sound of writing on paper)

Dr. Lopez: Here you go...and...may I share one more thing?

Lourdes: Yes.

Dr. Lopez: I have seen many families who seem to have it all – money, education – and they are not happy. I see other families – very much like yours – who have children with challenges – and they embrace this challenge. The disability actually brings more love into their families. They are to be admired. Ana can lead a very full and happy life...

Marta: *(interrupts, shouting/panicked)* Help! What is happening? Look, look at Ana! She is shaking! Make it stop – doctor, make it stop!

Dr. Lopez: *(urgent – calling outside the room)* Nurse! We need to get this baby to the hospital, now!

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

Announcer: Will Ana be o.k.? Will Marta support her daughter in asking for help outside the family and the curandero? Join us next week – same time – for the next edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*.

(Music fades up and out)