

Settings: Store

Characters: Announcer, Timmy's Mom, Timmy, Jose, Ana, Customer #1, Customer #2

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. Several years have passed in the Chávez family. Ana, who has a developmental disability called cerebral palsy, is now attending school. She uses a wheelchair and, despite a doctor's grim predictions, is learning to speak. The Chávez family has learned about school inclusion – how children with disabilities can and should be included in the classroom and learn alongside their peers. But the story is sometimes different out in the community when their family attracts stares. What will the Chávez family do when it appears Ana may not be welcomed everywhere she goes? Let's find out...

(Music transitions up and out)

Jose Narrates: *(speaking directly to the radio audience)* I have always been ashamed of my own disability. A man who cannot work...a man with a crippled leg is not valued in Mexico, where I come from. But I see now that in this country there are opportunities for people like me – people like my granddaughter, Ana. She has proven me wrong...She is a special girl, you know? I've always known that, but that day in the store...that might have been the first day I knew she was a real fighter...

(Music fades up and out again)

Timmy: Mommy, I want the movie, Dumbo II...*(escalating, making a scene)* I want it! I want it!

Mom: *(embarrassed)* Son, they don't have it...Now, let's just go.

Timmy: *(very loud now)* I want Dumbo III! Dumbo III!

Ana: *(thicker speech, a bit difficult to understand)* Grandpa, what happening? Needs help. Needs help.

(Shouting in background)

Jose: *(almost whispered)* Ana, let's just stay out of it. I'm sure it'll be o.k.

Timmy: *(making a real scene)* Mama, Mama! I want the movie! I want Dumbo III!

Mom: Timmy, let me help you. Calm...You're going to hurt yourself. Calm...Here, let me give you a hug.

Timmy: *(shouting)* NO! NO!

Customer #1: *(deeply annoyed – speaking to friend, but audible by others)* What's going on over there? Get that naughty brat out of here already!

Customer #2: *(judgmental – to friend, but audible to others)* People don't know how to raise kids these days...*(under her breath)* Naughty child...

Ana: *(thicker speech)* Grandpa, do something...Timmy...He not naughty...He not naughty!

Jose: *(concerned)* But...what can we do, Ana?

Ana: *(insistent)* Do something!

(Timmy shouting in background)

Customer #1: Get that kid out of here!

Jose: *(clears throat)* Excuse me...it may be none of my business...but my granddaughter says she knows your son?

Mom: *(close to tears)* Oh...Ana...yes...From school...This is Timmy. *(exasperated)* He's having a bit of a hard time right now.

(Timmy continues to shout/whine in background)

Customer #2: *(disgusted)* I'll say. And we all have to listen to it!

Ana: Grandpa!? Timmy needs hug!

Jose: *(to Timmy's mother)* How can I help?

Mom: *(rushing, exasperated)* Timmy has autism...he sometimes fixates on things...like this video...and gets very upset. Sometimes the lights in the store bother him...sometimes it's the noise...I thought we could just run in today...

(Timmy yelling loudly)

Customer #1: That's it. I'm getting the store manager!

Jose: Ma'am, is there something I can do?

Mom: If I can just hold him in a tight hug for a minute he will calm. I know it...his autism therapist taught me how to hold him to calm him down...Can you...try to explain to these people for me? *(pleading)* Please?

Jose: *(to a gathering crowd)* Everyone...please step aside...It's going to be o.k...Give this boy some space.

Customer #2: What is she doing to him?...Isn't she hurting him?

Customer #1: That doesn't look like a hug to me!

Ana: *(defiant)* Not naughty!

Jose: *(angry now)* Please. Have you ever had anyone judge you without knowing your circumstances? I want you to think about that.

Ana: *(defiant)* Not naughty!

Jose: Yes, Ana...My granddaughter wants you to know that Timmy here is not naughty. He has autism...His mother knows what she's doing. Sometimes even a short trip to the store can be hard for someone with a disability and their family.

Ana: *(interrupting)* My chair.

Jose: Yes, Ana...sometimes we can't even get your wheelchair in the door or down the aisle...And when people stare at us instead of offer to help, it doesn't feel very good, does it?

Ana: No.

Customer #1: *(ashamed)* Oh...I didn't know...I mean...I'm sorry.

Jose: Ana, it looks like Timmy is feeling better now, should we go?

Ana: OK. Bye, Timmy.

Mom: Goodbye Ana. Thank you so much Senior...Say goodbye, Timmy.

Timmy: Bye.

Jose: *(to mother)* Adios...*(pause as they walk away – then to Ana)* Ana, you really are a good friend, you know?

Ana: I know, Grandpa.

Jose: You taught me something today, little girl. I am so proud of you.

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

Announcer: It seems the Chávez family has overcome so many challenges – Ana's health, Mario's inability to read English, financial stress...What will they face next? Join us next week – same time – for the next edition of *Un Nuevo Amanecer Para Ana Y Su Familia*.

(Music fades up and out)