**Episode 11: The Quinceanera Party**

**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)