

New Life New Destiny

Scene 1. Confusion

I don't understand what's happening. I'm just watching Mom and Dad pack their suitcases. I see the calendar with today circled in red. Just a few weeks ago, I was graduating from Pre-K, and today I'm all dressed up with suitcases.

-I ask Mom, "Mom, where are we going? What's happening?"

-She replies, "Nothing's happening, son. We're just moving."

- "Okay," I respond.

-At the airport, a new place for me, I just saw the airplanes and how big it was. I was with Mom and my siblings. Suddenly, I didn't see Dad anymore. When I turned around, I saw him waving, and I waved back, even though he was actually saying goodbye. I still remember his eyes welling up with tears. I didn't understand anything; I just followed Mom.

-I ask Mom, "Mom, why didn't Dad come with us?"

-She replies, "He's going to keep working here, son."

- "Okay," I respond.

-I spent more than five hours on the plane, and when I woke up it was night and I didn't know where I was, and that's when I understood that I was no longer at home and that a new adventure in my life, being in Mexico, would begin

Scene 2. A new beginning

Arriving in Mexico was difficult; I didn't know anything about the place. However, I gradually adapted, meeting people and enrolling in elementary school. I graduated as one of the top students in my class, and I also attended middle school there. Throughout those years, I missed my dad. He wanted to come back to live with us, but the lack of opportunities in Mexico meant he was far away again, unable to share all these achievements with me. It was truly painful to miss every graduation and every birthday. He was always with me, even from a distance, but I still carry that feeling and the thought, "Dad, why weren't you here? I understand you work hard for us, but I miss you by my side." Despite everything, I persevered and entered high school in Mexico. There, I experienced many good and bad moments, and my life took an unexpected turn.

Scene 3. Joy and Sadness

While in high school in Mexico, the most important event was the school's big soccer tournament, which my friends and classmates won. It was a special moment for me. I played goalkeeper in every game, and my **goalkeeper gloves** are and always will be one of my most treasured possessions. I cherish them, and it was a joy to win with them because they were a

gift from my dad, who sent them to me to play with. Sometimes I took on the role of captain and gave instructions like, "Hey Ramón, attack!"

"Bernal and Saúl, cover the wall well!"

"Come on, team, don't give up!"

The second year of high school, there was another tournament, and we were going to compete. Unfortunately, during one of the games, while making a save, my left shoulder hit the goalpost, injuring me. To make matters worse, a player from the other team stepped on my left shoulder right where I hurt myself, and I really saw that it wasn't an accident. I still remember the words that He told me,

"Take this."

While I was yelling to my friends, "Ramón, Bernal, Saúl, help me!" They quickly came to my aid, and others went to confront the player. A fight broke out, and I just watched them fight while I was on the ground. It was sad because I couldn't do anything. Then they took me to the doctor, where it was confirmed that I had a fracture in my left shoulder and that the recovery would be slow. For a while, I fell into a depression and felt sad about the injury. However, seeing my goalkeeper gloves gave me the confidence that I would recover and continue playing, and that I wouldn't give up.

Scene 4. A new beginning

A decision that completely changed the course of my plans, beginning something new in my life. I woke up and, surprise, I was back in New York after many years, but I wasn't here for a visit. I was here to continue on the path of my life. When did this happen? When did I decide to make this decision? Well, it started on a normal day at home in Mexico, talking with my dad, who convinced me to come study in New York, to return to where I was born. My mom supported me every step of the way. It was a conversation with both of us that marked the beginning of something new for me. This decision was very difficult, leaving my mom, my siblings, my friends, but I know that this decision I made has been giving me signs of why I came back, and every day I strive even harder to achieve my goals and, best of all, to see my dad again after years apart. This is just the beginning of what I have experienced and what I have yet to experience.

Scene 5. Achieving my goals

Well, the day has finally arrived. I'm in high school, but in New York. Many challenges lie ahead, but I'm here now. Throughout my time in high school, I met many people I got along with very well. I made new friends and met my current partner, and I'm very happy with her. Studying was difficult, mainly because of English; I didn't understand anything. But little by little, I understood more and more. Regents' Day was the worst. I felt a lot of pressure, thinking I wouldn't pass, but in the end, I did, and time went by. At first, I wished the days would end quickly, but in the last few months of 12th grade, I wished time would slow down. I was terrified of what the future might hold, but that was something I could control. And

suddenly, I'm in the auditorium where graduation is taking place. I can't believe it; I've achieved everything I've worked so hard for. When they call my name to receive my diploma, and I finally hold it in my hands, that's when I realized... It's all been worth it, but this was only the beginning of more goals for the future. I still see my friends, but for others it was a "see you later," and I'll always wish them the best. Now I'm in college. The first day I was scared of what was to come, but here I am, striving every day and giving my best in every class. Definitely, one decision changes the course of life.

Scene 6. The visit home is coming soon

Everything has been going wonderfully. The first semester was difficult, but I managed to pass. Now I'm finishing this second semester, and so far I'm on track to pass my classes, which is what brings me peace of mind. I'm also very excited because after three years I'm going to Mexico and will see my mom, my siblings, and my pets again. I miss them a lot, although sadly one of my dogs died last year. But with the joy of reuniting with my family after all these years, I'm just counting down the days until I see them again.