

La Vida Mia

A Photo Novella Developed by the Migrant Clinicians Network

Una Fotonovela Desarrollada por Migrant Clinicians Network



Introduction of Characters

ESMERALDA

Met Tito when they were high school sweethearts in the Valley. They married after graduation and bought a little house down the street from his family. She and Tito began migrating five years ago to save money to start a family. Things between Esmeralda and Tito began to change shortly after they were married. She hoped that moving away from his family would make things better.

Conoció a Tito en la preparatoria en el Valle y desde entonces eran novios. Se casaron cuando se graduaron y compraron una casita cerca de la familia de él. Ella y Tito empezaron a emigrar hace cinco años para ahorrar dinero para poder empezar una familia. Las cosas empezaron a cambiar entre Tito y Esmeralda poco después de casarse. Ella esperaba que viviendo lejos de la familia de él ayudaría a mejorar su relación.



TITO

The third of five children, Tito migrated with his family to Wisconsin and Michigan the whole time he was in grade school. When he married Esmeralda he swore that they would never have to leave their home in the Valley the way his family did.

El tercero de cinco hijos, Tito emigró con su familia entre Wisconsin y Michigan cuando estaba en primaria. Cuando se casó con Esmeralda juró que nunca tendrían que dejar su casita en el Valle como tuvo que hacerlo su familia.



MARTA

Recently moved to the area and joined a support group for farmworker women. She and her husband are newly married and had some trouble early in their marriage. Marta is very interested in helping women be safe.

Se acaba de mudar hace poco a esta area y se asoció con un grupo de apoyo para mujeres campesinas. Ella está recién casada y tuvo problemas al principio de su matrimonio. Marta esta muy interesada en ayudar en pro de la seguridad de las mujeres.



ROSA

Has been working as a migrant most of her life. She and her husband are active in farmworker organizations in their community. Rosa has been working to stop violence in farmworker families for many years.

Ha sido trabajadora migrante la mayor parte de su vida. Ella y su marido estan involucrados en organizaciones para campesinos en su comunidad. Rosa ha estado trabajando por años en contra de la violencia doméstica en las familias campesinas.





Late For Work

TITO:

Vamos tarde por tu culpa.

Ya no te voy a esperar. If you're late tomorrow, you're walking.



At Work - The Milo Field

MARTA:

Aquí viene. Mirale el ojo.

ROSA:

Hey Esmeralda, we were wondering if you were coming to work.

MARTA:

Pensamos que ya no ibas a trabajar porque ganaste la lotería.

ESMERALDA:

No, no. Todavía no.

ROSA:

Don't forget us when you do. Necesito coche.



MARTA:

¿Qué te pasa? ¿Cómo te lastimaste?

ESMERALDA:

Me tropecé. I tripped and bumped my head. It's nothing.

ROSA:

Nothing? It looks like more than that.



After Work

ROSA:

Marta and I are going to get groceries. Do you want to go?

MARTA:

Sí, te dejamos en la casa después.

ESMERALDA:

Well, we do need a few things...

TITO:

Don't worry about us. La voy a llevar a la tienda más tarde.

MARTA:

Ven con nosotros.





ROSA:

It will save you the trip. I know how much you guys like to shop.

TITO:

Bueno. Vete.



TITO:

¡Ay! Esta mujer.



At the Store

MARTA:

Dime otra vez. ¿Cómo te lastimaste el ojo?

ESMERALDA:

Me caí. I'm so clumsy.

MARTA:

No te tienes que dejar.

ESMERALDA:

What?

ROSA:

Tito, you don't have to let him hit you.

ESMERALDA:

Hit me? I told you, I fell.

MARTA:

Por favor, Esmeralda. Podemos ver que está pasando.



ROSA:

You don't have to pretend with us. Te queremos ayudar.

ESMERALDA:

Ni se de lo que estan hablando.

ROSA:

All right. But if you want to talk...

MARTA:

Sí, estamos aqui.



Later, at Home in the Kitchen

TITO:

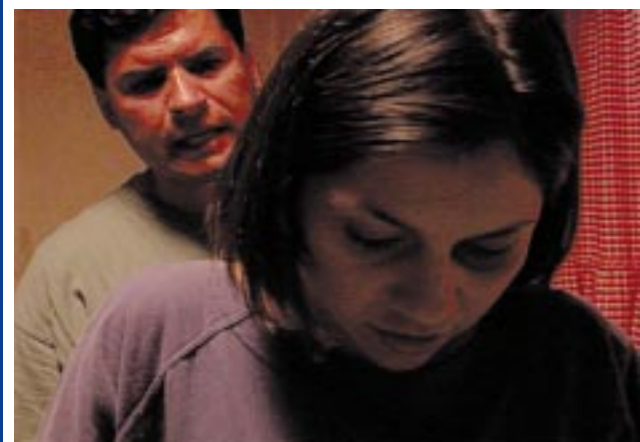
¿Dónde has estado?

ESMERALDA:

Comprando groceries. With Rosa y...

TITO:

It doesn't take that long to get groceries. Y yo te iba llevar. Pero no quisiste ir conmigo.



ESMERALDA:

No, no. Te viste muy cansado. I didn't want to make you go. Mira...I got some nopales for dinner. Your favorite...



ESMERALDA:

Tito, por favor. I just wanted to save you the trouble. No me quiero pelear. I'm sorry.

TITO:

I'll bet!

ESMERALDA:

¿Porqué te enojas? Don't be mad.





TITO:
Shut up!



Next Day at Work

MARTA:
¿Y Esmeralda?

TITO:
No, Esmeralda no va a trabajar hoy.

MARTA:
¿Porqué no? Is she O.K?

TITO:
Nos divertimos un poco demasiado anoche. You know how it is.



ROSA:
¿She partied too much last night?
¿Can that be true?



MARTA:
Party nada. ¡La golpeó!

That Evening, at Home on the Porch

ESMERALDA:

Tito is taking a shower but you better get out of here.



MARTA:

Tito dijo que no veniste al trabajo porque habías tomado demasiado anoche. ¿Es cierto?

ROSA:

He's been hitting you, huh?

ESMERALDA:

Sí, pero antes no me pegaba. Ahora el trabajo...the work has been very hard. El dinero...he's worried about money. I try not to do anything to make him angry...se enoja tan fácil.

MARTA:

Tú no puedes ser culpable por el maltrato.

ROSA:

That's right. You're not the cause of his beating you. The abuse is about power and control.

MARTA:

¿Está peor que nunca?

ROSA:

I've learned from my group that the hitting just gets worse.





ROSA:

Enseñale el modelo del ciclo de violencia:

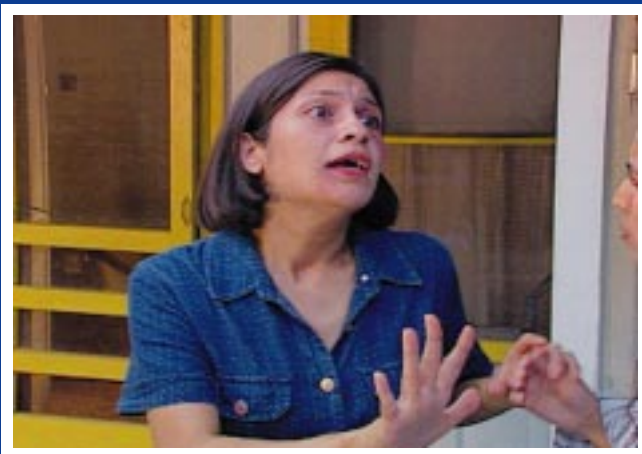
Aumenta la violencia, y luego el hombre se siente vergonzoso, pide perdón, pero comienza de nuevo y se pone peor.

MARTA:

Ya, sometimes after it has been very bad, the man stops and he says he's sorry, but it always starts again and it gets worse.

ESMERALDA:

I have to get Tito to listen. Then maybe we can work this out...



ESMERALDA:

Yo sé que me quieren ayudar. Pero si las ve Tito...



MARTA:

Y acuérdate si nos necesitas te podemos ayudar...

Later, in the Bedroom

ESMERALDA:

I want you to go talk to a counselor about the problems you've been having...



TITO:

You're crazy. What problems? I'm not going to talk to some stranger about "problems" I don't have.



ESMERALDA:

Tito, por favor. Necesitas hablar con alguien que te pueda ayudar.

TITO:

¡No!





Next Day at Work

TITO:

¡Ya no te puedo aguantar!

ESMERALDA:

I just want...



TITO:

Shut up!

I'm tired of your wanting!



ESMERALDA:

No please... help...



TITO:

Sueltenme. Estoy hablando con mi esposa.

MARTA:

Esmeralda ya no te puedes dejar.



ROSA:

Let us take you to the center to talk to someone about Tito.



ESMERALDA:

I'm afraid sometimes that he's going to kill me. Le tengo tanto miedo. I just want it to stop. I'm tired of all the hitting and anger.



At the Counseling Center

COUNSELOR:

The abuse is not your fault. La violencia doméstica es un crimen. Every nine seconds a woman is beaten, pero nadie merece ser abusada.





At the Police Station

Esmeralda files charges against Tito.

Esmeralda levanta cargos en contra de Tito.



AT Home, on the Porch

OFFICER 1:

Are you Martin Sanchez?

TITO:

Yes.

OFFICER 2:

We have a warrant for your arrest.
Please step outside.



Tito's Trial

JUDGE:

Martin Sanchez, I find you guilty as charged and sentence you to one year in jail. I'm going to suspend that sentence under the provision that you undergo domestic violence counseling.



Tito in Counseling



At Home

ESMERALDA:

I'm so glad that you told me about everything that you have learned from your group.

MARTA:

Yo he aprendido tanto de mi trabajo con las Líderes.

ESMERALDA:

¿Piensas que yo puedo ser parte de las Líderes?

ROSA:

Of course, the group is open to everyone. Lots of women still need to learn that it's not O.K. for their men to beat them and hurt them.

MARTA:

Sí, hay mucho trabajo que hacer. Tú nos puedes ayudar mucho con tu experiencia.



National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

Does your boyfriend or husband hurt you by hitting, slapping, kicking, or pushing you?

Do you have to hide bruises from friends or family?

If so, you are a victim of domestic violence.

There is help.

Please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) to talk to a counselor.

The call is free and confidential.

¿Tú esposo o novio te golpea, bofetea, pateo, ó te empuja?

¿Tienes que esconder los moretones para que tú familia y amigos no los vean?

Si esto te ocurre, tú eres víctima de la violencia doméstica.

Existen personas que quieren ayudarte.

Por favor llama al 1-800-799-7233.

La llamada es gratuita y confidencial.



There is help.



Thanks to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
Family and Intimate Violence Prevention Team

Líderes Campesinas de California

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