

Talking Points: Caramelo

Lazy Workers

Lala's father and his brothers are described as being master's of their fates, considering that they decide their own working hours and when they want to quit. They are "fine" upholsters, and this may be the reason why they feel to have so much power over their work. What caught me off guard is that this is not stereotypical of Mexican workers. Usually they are described as hard-working, gullible, and as taking in the roughness of American authority. I was surprised that they would live so guiltless and proud.

Losing Her Hair

Lala clearly remembers the time from Queretaro when they first chopped off her hair, showing how dramatic this episode was in her life. Being made fun of continuously, even after years of an event occurring can have a huge effect on a person, especially if it happens as a child. I can relate to her because when I was younger, my older sister would constantly make fun of me and I could never defend myself. Even until this day I hold some resentment, because that's just how bad it made me feel. She may have described this part of her life as a suggestion that later it would affect her personality, and why she may be similar to her angry grandmother.

Trip to Mexico

I have only recently heard of the stories of people who travel to Mexico by car; and so far there hasn't been a single pleasant experience. The way that Lala described it made the stories I've heard more vivid, and it seems that a lot of Mexicans take this trip, but all the way from Chicago!?! (I wouldn't even bother.) I was reminded of how awkward it is to be really young and in the country of your parents' birth. The shyness and English-speaking that she describes is exactly how I, and probably many people, felt. I was struck by the fact that the brother was left to live with his grandmother for a year, in order for him to change his ways and "fix" himself up. This is something that I've seen many times as well, and while it bothers me to abandon your child with an awful grandmother must be very traumatizing, and that fact may be the factor of change, not actually living the year, but having been left there.

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WGS.S10 Special Topics in Women & Gender Studies Seminar: Latina Women's Voices
Spring 2010

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