

Note: Another woman, Yessenia, is also present.

J: What are your children's names?

M: Okay, I have two children, one of them (laughs), the girl is names Marlene Johana and she's ten years old, and the boy is three years old, his name is Kevin Josue. Um, I've been with my husband for a long time, since I was a girl, I've always been with him.

J: You met each other when you were children?

M: Since we were kids, since we were students together in high school.

J: Wow. That's rare, isn't it?

M: Yes (laughs).

J: He was your first boyfriend?

M: My first boyfriend—everything was “the first.”

J: Uh-huh, everything?

M: Everything, everything, everything! (laughs)

J: I guess when you find the perfect person, you don't need to keep looking.

M: That's how it is. I feel “completa” (completed, fulfilled).

J: Have I met him?

M: No, you don't know him. He's been here for many years.

J: More than—

M: More than me, I've only been here for a short while. He came here...after I got together with him, because I didn't marry him back there.

J: You got married here, in the United States?

M: Mmm-hmm, here.

J: How long ago, Marisol, did you come here?

M: Two and a half years ago.

J: And you already love the United States, right?

M: Yes, already.

J: You don't want to go back.

M: No, sometimes I feel sad when I think that my kids are there, and I can't be with them, and my family too, that...I feel bad sometimes because I have my parents and sometimes I think they need my presence there, and my help, and I can't be there. Because of that I feel sad sometimes, but I've more or less gotten used to life here. And if some day I could bring them all here, I'd have them here with me.

J: Mmm-hmm. That would be better.

M: Right, because I'm used to being here. I feel like if I have to go back I won't get used to the other environment.

J: You'll miss New Orleans? And the United States?

Yessenia: And the dollars! (laughs)

M: Yes, the United States. Because you know the way of my country is "cordo," (WHAT DOES CORDO MEAN?) because "cordo" is how we earn and how we spend. So right, I feel a little homesick, but it's for my children and my parents.

J: But do you talk to them a lot?

M: Yes, everyday, sometimes two or three times.

J: Wow, so at least you know everything that's going on in their lives, what's happening at school, with their friends, etc. right?

M: Yes, everything, everything. The boy, I sent for him last year to celebrate his birthday in his little school, they have a little school there for children that are still taking breast milk. He's in the infants classroom, so I sent (money) for them to celebrate his birthday, I sent for them to make a video. And I have that video at home. I have it at home, it's very nice. Yes...sometimes it makes me very sad to think that there so far from me and I can't be with them. But, on the other hand, I feel happy because, I'm working and...

J: And that helps them too.

M: Yes and he (my husband) is "tranquilo" (nice, good, peaceful) with me, we argue sometimes but I think it's normal for couples.

J: Yeah, all couples do that sometimes.

M: Well, we argue a lot but, I think it's normal. I say it's normal.

J: Especially if you can resolve the problems.

M: Yes. They're passing problems, not serious ones. Not terrible things that I do, or that he does, they're little things.

J: I think that does happen with everyone.

