

**Flor's Journey to Independence**  
Modified Version  
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**Chapter 9**

My Journal, Monday, May 6

On Sunday I and Betina went Fort Collins and see cousins. It was one special day. Betina's father no take her for Saturday night so she can came with me. We ate good food and we walked outside in the beautiful sunshine. We talked very much. They are sad Ricardo left Betina and me, but I said them I am happy now.

Karen:

It is embarrassing to tell family and friends when something happens like your husband leaving. Was this the first time you told your cousins about Ricardo leaving you? I know this has been a very hard year for you, but I am proud of how you have persevered (kept working). Things will get better and better!

Flor was amazed at how quickly the school year had passed. She had learned a lot of English, but she had much more to learn. At work that night, she said to David and Linda, "No more Spanish during work. Only during break. You have to help me with my English."

Linda and David both agreed that they would try to remember. Flor thanked them and got to work.

One Sunday Flor decided to take Betina shopping for clothes. She took the bus to Lena's house to pick up Betina. "*You just wanted to see me twice in one weekend, didn't*

*you?*” Ricardo joked. Betina and Flor went in the house to say hello to Lena. Maria was there, too.

*“Hello, Betina. Hello Flor,”* said Maria. She sounded friendly.

*“What are you doing today, Aunt Maria?”* asked Betina.

*“Nothing. I don’t have anything to do.”*

*“Well, you can come shopping with Mama and me,”* said Betina.

*“That would be very nice,”* said Maria. *“Can I come, Flor? We can go in my car.”*

Flor was surprised. Maria was being very friendly. They decided to go to one of the discount chain stores, because they had the best prices on clothing. They bought Betina a pair of cute white sandals, a sleeveless flowered dress, a pair of jeans, and an embroidered t-shirt. Then they had lunch at the hot dog stand, and finally, they got in Maria’s car to go home.

She dropped them off at their apartment and waved as she left. Carmen was sitting outside in the sunshine.

*“Was that Maria?”* she asked

*“Yes,”* said Flor.

*“When did she become your friend again?”*

*“Today,”* said Flor.

Carmen stood up. *“That’s nice, isn’t it?”*

*“Yes, it is. She’s Betina’s aunt, and I want to be friends with her.”*