

## **Journal 3 Real Women Have Curves**

### **Old Customs: Going to College or Cooking and Cleaning**

The family has very strong beliefs about staying together. They use it as an excuse for Ana to remain in her home, instead of going to Columbia University. While this strong essence of family is highly respected and admired, with so many opportunities it shouldn't hold someone back from being and doing something better. The Hispanic culture has it very strongly embedded that women should remain at home, cook, care for their children, and tend to their husbands. While little by little I feel that these customs are withering away, some people, like Carmen, are extremely arrogant. It gets me extremely angry when I meet this type of people because these women do not understand that they have more control over themselves than they think.

### **Creida**

At the beginning, I noticed how the ladies in the factory mentioned that Ana was "creida". This is something so so so so so so common; it's something that I've experienced so many times, and only because I'm American. While she showed that she was a bit conceited because she was doing "bitch work" (excuse my French) that she shouldn't be doing, after time they realized that she wasn't so "creida" after all. On my first trip to El Salvador, I was extremely disappointed to find out that my cousins didn't talk to me because they thought of me that way. Now that they've come to the United States and had the chance of getting to know me better, look who calls me. ☺

## **Mother-Daughter Relationship**

This relationship varies extremely, even within cultures. In this case, Carmen didn't treat her daughter as well as she could've/should've. It mostly bothered me that she would consider her daughter a "puta" just because she lost her virginity. The insults and criticism were incredibly unnecessary and rude, and that's no way to make a daughter trust you. Still, it won't work if things are left unsaid; the resentment is there when too much or too little is said. It's not as if she runs around and sleeps with numerous men. It's her body and she does respect it, so she can do what she wants, and she's being safe about it. Personally, I did not have "the talk" with my mother, and she never really intruded in my intimate life ever. I'm not a "puta" because I know better, but it would've been nice to be taught and warned about sex and other relevant things.

## **Body Image**

I am so proud of my body image. I was shocked that the mother was so unsupportive in this case with Ana, because this can be a delicate subject that can't be treated so heavily. Although I know for a fact that women will not spontaneously take off their clothes in a factory because it's hot (although I wouldn't have minded to join them if it ever did happen), it's really uplifting and encouraging to see them do so. I was so angry at Carmen!

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