



TRANSCRIPCIÓN ORIGINAL DE STUDIO OCHENTA

MIJA ON THE MIKE - ALO? MAMI?

00:15 MIJA

Hi I'm Mija. And welcome to Mija on the Mike. Thanks for tuning in.

00:24 MIJA

This week. We're gonna talk about familia family.

00:29 MIJA

Specifically, the very first person to make me... A Mija. A daughter

00:35 MIJA

I want to talk about the woman who inspired me to be a good person and to follow my dreams like she did once because she shaped so much of who I am today.

00:46 MIJA

So here we go. Ten minutes to tell a real story of Mija and Tatika.

00:56 MIJA

I'm six years old holding an ice cream cone.

00:59 MIJA

I'm eating it quickly so it doesn't melt.

01:02 MIJA

My hands are all sticky but I grab Tatika's hand anyway. I don't want to let her go.

01:11 MIJA

I love holding her hand.

01:13 MIJA

We're like best friends walking together.

01:16 MIJA

I count the gum stuck on the sidewalk and the seven train rumbles above us as we walk mother and daughter, madre e hija. Together, we walk down the street with sticky hands.

01:31 MIJA
I am not alone.

01:46 MIJA
I'm 12 years old and I can no longer hold Tatika's hand when we walk in the street.

01:51 MIJA
I cannot remember when it happened. We had an argument about it, I think.

01:56 MIJA
And the compromise was that we link arms. Instead I walk the streets of Jackson Heights to go window shopping with her.

02:04 MIJA
We call it Brujeando. And I want to feel grown up.

02:10 MIJA
I want to be alone.

02:18 MIJA
I think a lot about that feeling, wanting to get away, wanting to feel more my own person.

02:32 MIJA
I am 26 years old and I'm at a bus stop on a rainy day. I'm alone here in Paris.

02:41 MIJA
The streets are sticky from the summer rain. I see a little girl with her mom walking in rain boots.

02:47 MIJA
She's jumping in the puddles.

02:49 MIJA
Her mother is not happy.

02:51 MIJA
She keeps trying to hold her hand but she doesn't like it.

02:56 MIJA
I call Tatika.

03:00 MIJA PHONE
Alo? Mami.

03:02 MIJA
I stopped myself. I cannot tell her I'm sad or nostalgic or emotional. The distance is too much. The pain is too much. She will be sad if I tell her I'm sad. So we have a code.

03:16 MIJA

I said: "Mami tengo mimitis aguda".

03:21 MIJA

'Mimitis' is an illness we have invented since I moved away. It means the sad feeling that you get when you miss your mom, the only cure of course is to call her.

03:33 MIJA

She says me too.

03:37 MIJA

We laugh and talk about her day. She hears the rain and even though I forgot my umbrella, I tell her: yes, I have one.

03:48 MIJA

The truth is I cannot afford to go home this year. I haven't told her yet.

03:55 MIJA

We stand there together two women parallel holding a phone.

04:00 MIJA

Me looking at the streets of Paris and her looking outside her office window in New York, the bus arrives and I start whispering on the phone.

04:13 MIJA

I don't want to be the loud Spanish speaker on this bus.

04:17 MIJA

People stare anyway.

04:19 MIJA

So I continue our conversation about shows she watched about the weather and then I get off at my stop, I climb the stairs and she hears that I'm out of breath.

04:32 MIJA

She says, enjoy the workout.

04:35 MIJA

I laugh and enter my apartment soaking wet from the rain, but smiling things aren't ok, but they always work out in the end and even though she doesn't know why I need to hear it.

04:52 MIJA

She says: "Todo va a salir bien".

05:00 MIJA

And for this brief moment, neither one of us is alone.

05:10 MIJA

Thanks for listening. This is Mija on the mike, a season reflection on our shared experiences as daughters of immigrants. Over the next couple of weeks I'll be sharing stories like these, and inviting guests to share theirs.

05:22 MIJA

Follow us on Instagram at @Mijapodcasts and leave us a note if you like this story tune in every Wednesday for a new story.

05:31 MIJA

This is a production of Studio Ochenta, a Latina-owned multi-lingual podcast studio dedicated to raising voices across cultures. For more from Studio Ochenta, follow us at @ochentapodcasts on Instagram. That's O-C-H-E-N-T-A podcast with an S on Instagram.

05:46 MIJA

Next week, we're going to hear from another daughter of immigrants whose connection with her family sources a huge connection and inspiration to her work. Stay tuned and don't forget.

05:56 MIJA

PS Don't forget this season is also about you! if you have a story you'd like to share, I invite you to reach out on instagram @mijapodcast and leave us a message with a short story or memory of yours that warms your heart. We'll read it out loud on the show.

06:08 MIJA

Thanks for listening. Ciao.