

Y: I DIDN'T HAVE A QUINCEANERA.

[BED 1: IN]

Y: AND I JUST- EVERYONE HAD ONE BUT I CAME HERE JUST WHEN I TURNED FOURTEEN AND I MISSED EVERYONE'S QUINCEANERA AND THAT FOR ME THAT WAS MY DREAM EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. I MEAN, I'M OKAY WITH IT NOW BUT IT JUST- IT COULD'VE BEEN NICE TO HAVE ONE.

T: THAT WAS YARA BATISTA.

I'M THEA.

C: AND I'M CAROLINE.

T: YOU'RE LISTENING TO *I AM*. IN THIS EPISODE WE DISCUSS PEOPLE WHO MOVED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

C: WITH THE HOLIDAYS COMING UP WE WANTED TO TALK TO PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT CELEBRATE THE TRADITIONAL WAY OR HAVE FAMILY TO CELEBRATE WITH.

Y: I MOVED TO- FROM- BRAZIL FOUR YEARS AGO. MY MOM WAS IN HER THIRD YEAR OF HER PHD AND SO THE PROGRAM THAT SHE WAS AT SHE HAD TO SPEND A YEAR ABROAD. AND SO WE CAME HER TO IUPUI, THAT'S WHERE HER EDUCATOR WAS AT. AND SO WE WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO STAY HERE FOR A YEAR AND THEY REALLY LIKED HER AND SO SHE STARTED GIVING CLASSES AND THEY CHANGED OUR VISA, ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND LIKE NOW SHE HAS A JOB AT NKU AND WE'RE HERE FOREVER NOW.

THEY ACTUALLY TOLD ME IN FIFTH GRADE THEY WERE LIKE 'OH THERE MIGHT BE A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY WE'RE GONNA GO TO LIKE, THE US.' AND I WAS LIKE 'YEAH BET. THAT'S NEVER GONNA HAPPEN LIKE, C'MON.' BUT THEN AS SIXTH GRADE APPROACHED AND A LITTLE BIT OF SEVENTH GRADE THEY'RE LIKE 'THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING' AND I WAS LIKE 'OMIGOD I GET TO LEARN ENGLISH AND LIKE GO TO AMERICA' I DON'T KNOW. I FEEL LIKE MY EXPECTATIONS WERE A LOT HIGHER THEN IT ACTUALLY WAS, I FEEL LIKE EVERYONE WHEN THEY COME HERE IS LIKE 'OH IT'S GONNA BE JUST LIKE THE MOVIES, WE'RE GONNA HAVE OUR LOCKERS, PEOPLE ARE GONNA BE LIKE SO NICE' AND STUFF LIKE THAT. BUT IN REALITY, LIKE, IT DOESN'T REALLY HAPPEN LIKE THAT, Y'KNOW?

[BED 2: FADE]

C: SOME OF YARA'S EXPERIENCE SHOW THAT NOT EVERYONE WAS SUPER WELCOMING.

Y: THEY FIRST LOOK AT ME AND THEY'RE LIKE 'YOU'RE NOT FROM HERE, ARE YOU?' AND I'M LIKE 'NO' AND THEY'RE LIKE 'WHERE FROM?' AND I'M LIKE 'BRAZIL' AND THEY'RE LIKE 'OH, SO DO YOU LIKE, SPEAK SPEANISH?' AND I'M LIKE 'UH NO, I SPEAK PORTUGUESE.' AND THEY'RE LIKE 'OH, BLAH BLAH BLAH' AND THEY LIKE TALK. AND I'M JUST LIKE: WAIT, THAT'S MEXICO THAT'S NOT WERE I LIVE.

I DON'T KNOW I FEEL LIKE THEY KIND OF DIMINISH ME A LITTLE BIT TOO. AND IT'S LIKE 'OH YOU'RE FOREIGN ARE YOU ILLEGAL?', BECAUSE I'M NOT A

CITIZEN, SO THEY THINK I'M ILLEGAL. AND I'M LIKE 'NO YOU KNOW YOU CAN BE HERE LEGALLY AND NOT BE A CITIZEN' AND THEY LIKE LOOK SHOCKED AND I'M LIKE 'YEAH IT'S CALLED A VISA I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE EVER HEARD ABOUT THAT'. I JUST FEEL LIKE MOST AMERICANS ARE NOT AWARE OF THAT AND IF YOU'RE NOT A CITIZEN IT'S LIKE 'YOU'RE ILLEGAL YOU PROBABLY LIKE CROSSED THE BORDER'. I FEEL LIKE IT'S SUCH A STEREOTYPE, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? I THINK I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT NOW BUT IN THE FIRST TIMES IT WAS KIND OF LIKE, OFFENSIVE, Y'KNOW? LIKE OMIGOD I'M *NOT* ILLEGAL. I HAD TO PROVE MYSELF THAT I WAS LIKE WORTHY TO BE HERE? Y'KNOW? I FEEL LIKE YOUR OPINION IS YOURS AND MINE IS MINE IT'S LIKE IF YOU THINK THAT I DON'T DESERVE TO BE THERE, Y'KNOW, I RESPECT THAT I REALLY DO. I'VE GOTTEN THAT A LOT. ESPECIALLY WITH LIKE, TRUMP, AND LIKE TRYING TO BAN ILLEGAL PEOPLE. I FEEL FOR LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE, YKNOW? LIKE, THAT COULD'VE BEEN ME. PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE ILLEGALLY LIKE THEY HONESTLY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE BESIDES MAKING A POINT OUT OF IT. THEY'RE LITERALLY, LIKE, TRYING THEIR BEST IT'S JUST THE WAY THAT THEY'RE MAKING THEIR LIVING. Y'KNOW, THEY'RE NOT HURTING ANYONE.

T: EVEN THOUGH SHE MISSES BRAZIL, SHE STILL ENJOYS LIFE IN THE US.

[BED 3: IN]

THE EDUCATION IN AMERICA IS LIKE A WHOLE LOT BETTER, YOU HAVE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY, BUT I FEEL LIKE FAMILY WISE AND SOCIALLY, LIKE, BRAZIL IS A LOT BETTER. SINCE LIKE, PEOPLE JUST ACT MORE FRIENDLY. FAMILY AND FRIENDS, THEY CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN, Y'KNOW?

THERE ARE THINGS WE DID THERE THAT WE DEFINITELY DON'T DO HERE ANYMORE. BUT IT'S LIKE, I TRY TO SPEAK PORTUGUESE WHENEVER I CAN BECAUSE I DON'T WANNA FORGET, AND WRITING. BECAUSE LIKE, YOU FORGET IT HAPPENS. ESPECIALLY THE HOLIDAYS, I MEAN I GUESS EVERYTHING I DO HERE HAS A LITTLE BRAZILEAN TOUCH TO IT, BUT IT'S LIKE NEVER THE SAME. CHRISTMAS THERE WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM HERE AND I JUST LOST A LITTLE BIT OF WHO I WAS BACK THEN. AND THAT'S NOT IN A BAD WAY, Y'KNOW? YOU DEVELOP. THERE ARE LIKE, NEGATIVE POINTS OF MOVING. BUT I FEEL LIKE THE POSITIVES COMPLETELY OUTWEIGH THE NEGATIVE ONES. I MEAN, BAD THINGS HAPPEN EVERYWHERE, Y'KNOW? AND IT COULD'VE BEEN THERE, IT COULD'VE BEEN HERE. BUT I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING THAT LIKE, ACTUALLY PUSHED ME DOWN AND MADE ME WANNA GO BACK THERE FOR SURE. I MEAN, AMERICA'S GREAT I LOVE AMERICA BUT IT'S JUST DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT BAD AT ALL. LIKE, AT ALL. I LOVE IT.

C: DESPITE LOVING AMERICA, AROUND THE HOLIDAYS THERE'S DEFINITELY MORE HOMESICKNESS.

Y: WE USED TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH MY GREAT GRANDMA. THE WHOLE FAMILY USED TO COME TO OUR HOUSE. LIKE, 200 PEOPLE OR SOMETHING, AND CHRISTMAS WAS LIKE A REALLY BIG HOLIDAY. NOW, AT LEAST I HAVE MY AUNT AND MY UNCLE AND THEIR KIDS THAT'S LIKE OUR LITTLE FAMILY HERE. I GUESS THE PART I MISS MOST IS THE FAMILY PART. AROUND THE HOLIDAYS AND STUFF IT'S LIKE IF I WAS IN BRAZIL IT'D BE MORE FUN AND BETTER WITH THE FAMILY WE WOULD'VE HAD.

[BED OUT]

T: EVEN THOUGH SHE SPENT MORE OF HER LIFE IN BRAZIL, BOTH COUNTRIES ARE HOME TO HER.

Y: MY FRIENDS, THEY'RE LIKE 'OMIGOD YOU'RE SO AMERICAN NOW' AND I'M LIKE 'I'VE LIVED THEIR FOR FOUR YEARS NOW I GOTTA ADAPT TO WHERE I AM.' AT LEAST FOR NOW I FEEL LIKE THERE IS SIXTY PERCENT MY HOME AND HERE IS FORTY. BUT IT'LL DEFINITELY GROW MORE.

C: THIS HAS BEEN *I AM* FOR MORE CONTENT LIKE THIS YOU CAN VISIT WHJE.COM.