

EXVIDA

SANTIAGO COHEN

END



PART SEVEN

JUGGLING LIFE

For the last six and a half years Santiago has been painting an ex-voto style project . He's already done more than 1150 oil paintings from different stories of his life.

Here they are...











THE TEACHER IN THE DAY CARE CENTER
CLAIMS THAT DIEGO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
AND WE SHOULD SPEAK
ENGLISH AT HOME
I DOWN RIGHT REFUSE...



I FEEL BAD FOR HIM
AND
TRY
TO TEACH
HIM
ENGLISH
ON THE
TV WITH
FILMS
AND
KIDS'
PROGRAMS



DIEGO LOVES THE WIZARD OF OZ, AND
OTHER MUSICAL PROGRAMS.
I SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH HIM.
EVEN AFTER
THE DAYCARE



I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE
MY "ABSENT" FATHER. I WANT HIM
TO SEE ME AS A FRIEND

WHEN I WAS A KID MY FATHER TRAVELED
A LOT ON "SALES TRIPS". I BET HE USED
THOSE TRIPS TO ESCAPE THE FAMILY...



EVEN MY MOM HAD MAIDS
TO TAKE CARE OF US, AND WE
WERE ALMOST WITHOUT PARENT
SUPERVISION..



WE ARE DOING EXACTLY A REVERSE
EXPERIENCE WITH DIEGO BY HAVING
TOTAL HANDS IN PARENTING...



IN A TRIP
TO DISNEY
WORLD
WE HAVE
A PICTURE
TAKEN
LIKE A
FAKE
MAGAZINE
LOVER



WE THINK THIS IS
FUNNY BECAUSE
DIEGO IS BRUISED
AFTER AN
ACCIDENT
AND WE
JOKE THAT
FATHERS
DON'T KNOW
HOW
TO TAKE
CARE
OF KIDS
VERY WELL.



I HOPE I WILL NOT
"BRUISE" HIM FOR LIFE
WITH ME BEING A
BAD MOM

(FORTUNATELY
HE ALSO HAS
ETHEL).



AFTER DISNEY WORLD WE GO TO MIAMI
TO VISIT ETHEL'S GRANDPARENTS.



PRESIDENT BUSH DECLARES
WAR ON IRAQ AND
WE SEE SOME ATTACKS
ON CNN.







NEW LIFE



WE CAN ADD SOME CHALLENGE
TO OUR LIFE...WE DECIDE
TO HAVE A SECOND CHILD...

WE CAN'T
HAVE
ONLY
ONE
KID

BY DECEMBER OF 1991
ETHEL GETS PREGNANT

SOON
WE FIND
OUT THAT
"IT'S A GIRL"



WE LOVE THE IDEA OF HAVING A BOY
AND A GIRL







ISABEL



LATER ON IN THE DAY I BRING DIEGO
TO THE HOSPITAL TO MEET HIS SISTER
(HE LOOKS
A LOT
BIGGER
NOW)



DIEGO IS CONFUSED, HAPPY AND JEALOUS



LATER ON IN THE
DAY WE GET A VISIT
BY A RABBI...



IT'S A GIRL!

A GIRL!

THE RABBI ANSWERS LAUGHING,
"YOU THINK YOU ARE
SAVING MONEY
FROM
DOING A
BRIS, BUT
YOU'LL SPEND
MORE ON
HER WEDDING."



WE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE EXPENSE
WE ARE HAPPY SHE
NEED A BRIS.



LIFE WITH
TWO KIDS
IS MUCH
HARDER



THAN WITH
JUST ONE.

THE FIRST MONTHS WITH
ETHEL AT HOME IS FINE,
SPLITTING THE TASKS
AND ENJOYING MOMENTS



DIEGO SOMETIMES FEELS
LEFT OUT, WE CAN'T FOCUS ON HIM
AS MUCH AS HE WANTS.





JUANITA





BEFORE WE BLINK JUANITA SETTLES
DOWN AND BECOMES PART OF THE
FAMILY



(WE'RE ALL REALLY HAPPY)





WHEN ISABEL IS 8 MONTHS OLD I
ASK JUANITA ABOUT WHEN DO KIDS
IN MEXICO START TO EAT CHILE?

"NENA YA
LOME
CHILE"



I FIND OUT THAT JUANITA STARTED
FEEDING HOT SPICES TO ISABEL
SINCE SHE WAS 6 MONTHS OLD

AND I
LOVE IT!



ONE DAY JUANITA TELL US
THAT SHE HAS TO LEAVE

NENA WALKS TOO FAST
FOR ME..



SHE FEELS
TOO OLD TO
RUN AFTER A
BABY, AND SHE IS
AFRAID ISABEL MIGHT
GET INSURED IF
SHE STAYS.





A REAL FATHER



PLAY, PAINT, READ, KONEX,
LEGOs, VIDEOS
TOGETHER



ETHEL SPENDS
QUALITY TIME
WITH
THEM

IN THE EVENINGS...



DIEGA IS
JELOUS OF
ISABEL

ISABEL
STARTS
CRYING
WHILE
WE ARE
ON VACATION

IN THE
LAKE
HOUSE





SOME CLASSES





AND ISABEL TAKES A BALLET CLASS
IN THE SAME PLACE.



I THINK ISABEL HATES "GIRLY" STUFF
BECAUSE SHE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME WITH
DIEGO AND ME.



THE DAY OF THE BIG BALLET SHOW WE BUY
THE COSTUME EVEN THOUGH ISABEL
REFUSES TO DANCE AND SING.



"NO BAILE, NI CANTE NI HICE NADA DE
NADA"

I FEEL BAD FOR HER BUT I ADMIRE HER
CHARACTER



VAMP

AFTER ONE OF OUR TRIPS TO MEXICO
HEADING BACK TO NEW YORK
DIEGO STARTS CRYING...







**AND IN A
BLINK...**





























**...EVERYTHING
ELSE GOES**







AND WE DID
MANAGE TO
RAISE BOTH
VERY WELL

(WE'RE STILL HERE)