



Maricela

New Mom Five Years Later

Seedfolks: The Sequel

By: Melissa

When you are the mother of a five-year old baby boy, who loves to explore, observe and touch anything that he has never seen before, things can become pretty . . . interesting, overwhelming, and sometimes a challenge.

“ Mommy, look at this, look what I found in the sand.” Said my five-year old son Dimitri, trying to get my attention while holding what looked like a tiny crab. I jumped at the sight of it. “ Wow, look at my little explorer. I’m so proud of you, keep discovering new things okay?”. Dimitri on the other hand, didn’t seem frightened at all. That was the special thing that I really liked about

him, normally most five-year olds would scream so loud that their echos could be heard all the way to the Himalayas (and we lived in Florida). "Okay, Mommy." He said. Then he shouted "I WILL JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN!!!" I just laughed and he smiled at me. Dimitri loved to make me smile. In the entire five years of my son's life, I've come to realize that he was the best thing that ever happened to me.

Five years ago I was 16 years old, not only was I a young Mexican girl, who was judged based on her racial background, but I was also pregnant, and I absolutely hated every single moment of it. I was taken out of high school and was put into this program for pregnant teens and one of the activities we had to do was plant a garden in a vacant lot, which as you can already tell, I hated that too. I met a few people in the "garden" as they would call it. People came and they went, but someone that really stood out to me was this older woman named Leona. She was the only true person that could tell that I didn't want to be pregnant, and I was very grateful that she came and helped me through one of my hard times. Soon I stopped praying for a miscarriage, and started to finally love my baby who was on the way.

I am now 21 years old, and I eventually moved from that small town Cleveland, Ohio to Miami last year

with Dimitri. Before I got pregnant, I had a big interest in photography, so now I am a photographer for Zara, a well known clothing store here in Miami.

I of course, still keep in touch with Leona, we talk frequently, and she always tells me how things are going in the garden and in Cleveland, she also gives me advice for Dimitri. She hopes for me to come visit soon and I always promise I will.

Dimitri and I are living our lives happily together, and I would not trade a second of it for the world.

