



Sofia Batista

Translated from Portuguese/English Mix

I got here, liked it, and things went very well. I came to live in my sister's house. At the end of three weeks, I went to my house—rented. After I looked for a job, went to Social Security, they gave me a number, and at the end of two days I went to work, went to work. I worked until the age of 62, no, 72 years of age. Until age 72 and it wasn't earlier because my husband had died and after I have only one daughter. She didn't want to leave me by myself—I went to her house. But I want to say that, I like to be here, very much, I like this country, even though I don't have my American papers, it's because my head does not help. My brain does not allow me. Six siblings that came to this country, I don't have it. The other four, all have their American papers. Six siblings that came. I came with a sister, on the same day. We were the last two that stayed there. What want to say, I had a job for ten years that job I did. After it closed. I went to Quaker, another factory, was there for 9 years, there at Quaker. After Quaker shut down. I went to work another job at the Casino. There in the Casino. I want to say that I had a good life there, thanks to God. But my husband was very tough, very tough. He didn't drink, but ... [inaudible]... it was his death. He didn't drink, he bought his house, we lived in his house, was always there. Now I am living with my daughter in Dartmouth. I am from Fall River. I came to Fall River. I want to say, that all is very good. My daughter has only one daughter and one son. I have only that daughter. It was God that gave me that daughter to take care of me, that now I am in need of that, now deeding assistance. And everyday I am here with her it's been 6 years. Everyday that daughter brings my coffee to me in bed. Every day. And even today she went and knocked at the door, said: "Momma, today it's earlier because you are going to the doctor." And she went with me to Fall River. As you can see. What I want to say, what do I do. I do nothing. Only wash the dishes, wash the clothes. It's like that. And I also have, she also has chickens. I am delighted to see the chickens. And so she has a very large garden. Has a yard, and has a portion of the garden where she has the chickens and stuff she plants. It was like that, everything nice, thanks to God. Everything very well. And after she discovered that I came here two years ago, or three years. And I am here some—it's been about two years. But all very good, thanks to God.

Interviewer: Sure.

I am here very well. I feel very well. I went last year to spend some time in my country with her and her husband. Her husband is American. The children speak all American. They were born here and she also speaks to them—only with me that she speaks Portuguese. I don't speak. But I am very well. My son-in-law is a gift of a guy, holy smoke ...[inaudible]... a great son. He's the one that bought me my ticket, and even everything. He paid for everything for me. Everything, everything, everything. Everything I need, whatever I need, my daughter gets for me! Everything, everything, everthing. I want to say that I am very well, thanks to God. ...[inaudible]... I don't have anyone else, everyone has died. My Family is to large and everyone is now dead. I only have two cousins over there ...[inaudible]... I went to our country. But here? Only in America. And who am I going to find? Two cousins and nothing else. Such a large family, so large. And even my mother, good grief, Jesus, what a great woman. It's all here. ... [inaudible]...

It's good, it's good to be here. May God grant much health to these people that work in these things. Thank you very much for everything. I am very well, thanks to God. I come here. My daughter said like this to me: "Mom ...[inaudible]...the chickens lay eggs and you bring a dozen for the older ladies. But to take them today, don't. Then you can take them next week. That's all, that's all" ...[inaudible]... My mind is reminding me that I did not take care of the chickens today. When I get home, I will take care of that. There's always ration for them, because I forgot to go inside their coop and I always leave some in case they want it...[inaudible]... I love to see all



those little creatures, it's a way of ...[inaudible]... it's pretty for real. ...[inaudible]... My daughter buys me books with crossword puzzles, like that is. I play with that. Many times I read church books, I am always busy. I am always occupied. It's like today, if I were afraid to come here, no. My daughter will take care of her things, goes to work. The husband works from home. He's a computer guy. But when they go out, they go out. I stay alone, I am not afraid. I am not afraid to be at home. ...[inaudible]...

Interviewer: Just a little more, for the rest.

It's like that, you see. Our Lord gives to everyone. I only have two sisters in the old folks home, in nursing homes. My sister is already there. She's a lot sick in the head, does not recognize us. Even yesterday I went there with my daughter. I said like this: "Maria, do you recognize me?" She said: "That one of Pilar's." And I said: "The one of Pilar's?" And she said like this: "I don't know who you are!" "There's my daughter," I really cried much when she was who she was ...[inaudible]... Now she is another person, only cries to go home. She cries a lot. I told my daughter: "I am not going ...[inaudible] ... All she knows to say is that she wants to go home, wants to go to her home. And she was always falling. Always falls at home, always falls. Even the last time she fell, she was down the entire night, all bruised. Had to wait, after was in the old folks home, went back to the hospital. Tha tis really suffering. But, that is what I said. I said like this to Anita: "Don't put your mother in a home. I am also tired of staying home. But I have a daughter that treats me very well. And takes care of me, and cares about me. She is a beautiful daughter. Everything that I asked, she goes and buys right away. Even yesterday, I said: "I would like a pair of long pants, but elastic." She left and went to buy the pants for me. She gave me four pairs. Four for me to wear. And the one here, Maria, said like this: "Oh, how Much I like those shoes—that my daughter gave me—ai, where did you buy them?" But she was always buying, always buying because she wanted the same thing. And she said: "Ai, I am going to ask my man to give me money so I can buy" ...[inaudible]... He also died. A nice ...[inaudible]... in a nursing home. He died, about three years ago—it's about three years. It was one of those Covid things ...[inaudible]... She didn't remember nothing, nothing, nothing. The other one is there now, she remembers more that she wants to go to her house. To her house. I also left my house. I decided to come here. But I went to my daughter. And if I need to come here, I will come here. If someday Our Lord gives me an illness, that I cannot live with my daughter, I will come here like you all are here. And she said: "But you are coming?" "Sure, I am coming." If I don't have another choice, I will have to go ...[inaudible]... but my daughter will never leave me. Absolutely never. It's clear that she will never. Only a big illness. She takes care of me very well. Ai, goodness. If you could see. Only if you could see. The things that daughter does for me. My Darling daughter. I have a granddaughter of 21, and a grandson who is 27. Every one is home still. Hey, it's life. It's to be here, at Our Lord's will. May Our Lord give health to everyone. Only these governments that are going to help us. Gonna help us, that will help us. I have help. I have my retirement. I have my little retirement; it is enough for me to eat. Thanks to God. Thanks to God. I put it in, but my daughter is the one that decides everything. She does everything for me. Everything, everything, everything. The stuff she puts in the drawers. She doesn't say that she is going to buy. I never went to the store to but anything. I go at times to the closet. I didn't have this clothing here. I didn't have these clothes here. It's her. Everything hanging. She said: "After you wear it, you can give it to someone." And I do give. Even yesterday I took a pretty blanket. I said: "Mariana, this is so warm. Put it over your legs when you are sitting on the chair." She said: "Hey woman, get it to the girl that she ...[inaudible]... And now mine is going to buy the shoes for the Other one, because she wants them. Remind me because I will tell my man after, but it was my man. But my daughter does not charge any money for them. Nothing, nothing. She does everything, she does much for the poor, that daughter of mine. She has her home. May Our Lord give her much health. She said the other day, some time ago: "Mom, you know what value I have in this house?" No. A thousand and I don't know how much more. A million, that is. You folks say a million. It's a million and don't know how much more, and they already had to rehab it, they were there yesterday. In March, isn't it March they are going to fix the house. She already started on the inside. Gosh, but on the outside there are so many things she has fixed. But now she wants. That house is not new, it was owned 100 years by a person. But it's wood. It's wood, not vinyl. Wood is already starting to go bad. That's why they already had it vinyl ...[inaudible]... Only in March is when they are going to fix it. A very large house. Four



bedrooms, three in the back. The husband has a room only for computers. It's only computers. What that man has in that room, gosh. The value that's in that room. You can bless yourself. He likes guitars. He has I don't know if it's fourteen or if its fifteen in the house. And now he is on vacation. Boy can he play the guitar. He doesn't go anywhere without her. Never, never. They get along so well. They speak English, but very slow—calm, right? They don't act important, right? The children are the same. Just like that. Just like that. I even laugh with her. "Hey woman, speak so I can understand." I am speaking Portuguese, but you are talking so softly. I don't understand you. Comes here, comes here, but Every week that I come and she buys always a little something so they can put it here. Some pastries that she buys so I can bring them. At times she goes like this: "My mother you are not going to take eggs." I bring it to an elderly lady. She didn't come. One that is about ninety-one years old. I brought it last week for her, but she didn't come. I gave it to another friend. I said: "Today I am going to give it to that one." I have given in the past. This way they all get some. The stores have eggs ...[inaudible]... Because those are fresher. I don't know, because I don't care. It's life. It's life. Is it good? When you have health. I went to the doctor already. I was sad because it was the last day that I had that doctor. He is going to retire. He said that he wishes I end up with a Portugese one—he's from Brasil that came here. It's been four years that I am with him.

Interviewer: Finished. All set?