

# Chapter 1



Rafael Silva sat in his home office. He thought about the e-mail he just got.

Plains, Kansas, needed a watering system. Plains had a lot of farms that needed water. Rafael had been asked to design the system.

It sounded like a hard project. He talked to Ana. They decided that Rafael should do the project.

He called the mayor of Plains. And he took the job. Then he asked about housing. He decided to rent a farmhouse.

Rafael went to talk to Ana. He wanted Antonio to come with him. It was summer break.

“He’d love that,” Ana said. “Isn’t that tornado country? You know how Antonio loves tornadoes!”

“I know,” said Rafael. “I think he’ll love it.”

“Plains is near my older sister’s house. Maybe Lilia could fly with you guys. She can visit Sara,” said Ana.

“That’s a great idea,” Rafael told Ana. “I’ll get plane tickets for Monday. We’ll let the kids know tonight.”

The kids were excited about the trip. Antonio had always wanted to go to tornado country! Lilia couldn't wait to see her aunt. *Tía* Sara always asked her to visit. But Lilia never wanted to fly alone. This was perfect.

Franco had football practice. So he couldn't go to Plains.

"Have a great time," said Franco. "Stay out of danger! You know how Dad's trips turn out!"

Antonio smiled. "I wish you were coming, Franco."

"Not a chance!" Franco said. "Not after everything you've told me about tornadoes!"

"He doesn't know *everything* about tornadoes," Lilia said.

On Monday Ana kissed Lilia on the cheek.

“Have fun!” said Ana. “And don’t worry about tornadoes.”

“I’ll call you,” Rafael said. “When we get to the rental. Promise.”

They got snacks for the plane. Everyone said good-bye. Three of the Silvas were off to Kansas.