

Chapter 1



“How much longer?” Lilia asked.

“About a hundred miles. We’ll be there in two hours,” Ana said.

“Let’s hurry up,” Antonio added.
“Two days in the car is too long! I can’t wait to get to *Tía* Rose’s!”

Ana had three sisters. Sara was the oldest. She lived in Kansas. Julia was the baby. She lived near the Silvas in the Heights. Ana and

Rose were in the middle. They were twins.

Ana and her two kids were going to Rose's house. It was by the beach in Florida. Rose was on a cruise with her family. She let Ana and the kids use the house while she was gone.

Ana thought a family vacation was a great idea. But Rafael had to work. And Franco had college football camp. So only Antonio and Lilia came with her.

So far, the drive wasn't bad. Antonio brought his iPad. They talked, played games, and watched movies the whole way.

It was now eleven thirty at night. "Not much farther," Ana thought. "That's good because the rain is

coming down. I don't like to drive in bad weather."

The streets were quiet this late at night. Around midnight Antonio spotted the sign.

WELCOME TO
STONE PALM ESTATES

Then they passed an old stone church. It looked funny next to all the new houses. But *Tía* Rose had told them the church was historical.

If only the Silvas had gotten there earlier. They would have seen the roads full of cars. Everyone was leaving the beach. The storm was really a hurricane. It was all over the radio. *Hurricane Bill will reach land by noon tomorrow. Flooding is expected. High winds likely.*

The rain was heavier now. Ana found her sister's house. She pulled into the driveway. Antonio suggested that they park in the garage. "Good idea, honey," said Ana. "We can unload the car and stay dry. I'll go in and open it."

They unloaded the car. Then they explored Aunt Rose and Uncle Rob's huge house. By the time they went to bed, it was two o'clock in the morning.

At four the police drove through the streets. They wanted to make sure people were safe. Stone Palm Estates looked empty. And it was. Except for the Silvas. As the rain and wind got worse, Ana and her kids slept. They didn't know about the danger outside.