

**May 16th - 5 minutes 20 seconds**

The girls leaving home starts with Patria wanting to be a nun. Papá says that this is a “waste of a pretty girl,” but Mamá finally convinces him to at least send her to a convent school. Minerva then asks Papá if she can “chaperone” her older sister at the school by attending as well. Minerva seems to be Papá’s favorite, though she is the one who argues the most with him. Papá jokingly mourns what will happen when all his “little chickens go.”

**May 17th - 5 minutes 38 seconds**

Mamá doesn’t know how to read, though she pretends her eyesight is just bad, and she convinces Papá to let the girls go to school so they will have a better education than their parents. The family has been making a lot of money lately, so they can afford a good school. Papá finally agrees, but says that one sister needs to stay home and help with the store. He clearly wants Minerva to volunteer, but she stays silent. Dedé volunteers.

Minerva says that this is how she finally “got free.” It wasn’t just the freedom of leaving home, but a freedom inside her head when she realized she had “just left a small cage to go into a bigger one, the size of our whole country.”

**May 18th - 5 minutes 50 seconds**

When Minerva first goes off to school she befriends a girl named Sinita, who looks poorer and angrier than the other children. She first arrives dressed in black for mourning. Minerva offers her a button. Sinita first rejects it as charity, but accepts it when Minerva calls it a “friendship button.”

Minerva notes how few possessions Sinita brings to school. The other girls start to make fun of Sinita as a “charity student,” but Minerva defends her. The girls are taken to their dormitory for the first night and assigned to their beds by Sor Milagros, one of the nuns. The mosquito nets around the beds make it like “a room of little bridal veils.”

Sinita says that her family used to be rich and important. Three of her uncles were friends with Trujillo, but then they turned against him when “they saw he was doing bad things.” Minerva is shocked at this idea, and compares Trujillo doing bad things to learning that “Jesus had slapped a baby.” She thinks about the portrait of Trujillo that hangs in her family’s house next to a picture of Jesus and a flock of cute lambs. Sinita continued that someone informed on her uncles, and then they were all shot.

#### **May 19th - 5 minutes 10 seconds**

María Teresa’s next series of diary entries opens with the funeral of Papá, a few years after Minerva’s story leaves off. She is distressed that Papá’s mistress and children came to the Mass and cemetery. María Teresa decides that she hates men. The family struggles with the loss of Papá. María Teresa and Mamá write a flowery

letter to Trujillo, informing him of Enrique Mirabal's death, and affirming their loyalty to him. They do this, though they all hate him.

**May 20th - 5 minutes 10 seconds**

María Teresa reports that Minerva has met someone special, Manolo, a fellow law student. María Teresa does not return to Inmaculada Concepción, but attends day school. Minerva, who has returned to the capital, comes for a visit, bringing Manolo with her. María Teresa, after having a troubling dream about Papá, worries that Manolo is like him, but decides he has good qualities. She confesses that she likes men and wants to marry one.

María Teresa graduates, and writes in her diary sporadically. She reports that Prieto, the yard boy, had been spying on the Minerva family, and that she goes to the capital and enrolls in the university. She writes that she needs a better hiding place for her diary, and that she continues to have recurring dreams about Papá.

**May 21st - 5 minutes 45 seconds**