

9TH UNPLUGGED

LINA MORALES-SILVA

LEAD JURY SERVICES ASSISTANT

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: And I'm Lina Morales-Silva.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're listening to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Before we unplugged from work and dive into life outside of the court, tell us your title and which department you work in.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: So my official title is lead jury services assistant and I am at the jury service department in the Orange County Courthouse.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And how long have you been with us?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I've been with the 9th Circuit for two-and-a-half years now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so let's get unplugged. What is your favorite hobby?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: My favorite hobby would be baking.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you bake?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Mostly cupcakes, pastries, cakes actually. I got that from my mom. She really – she used to work at the bakery in Publix and Winn-Dixie when I was younger and she got me into actually learning how to decorate cupcakes and cakes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, so you decorate as well.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you ever done wedding cakes?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I haven't done wedding cakes. I've actually thought about doing that more frequently, but dealing with the fondant, it's too much of a headache and coloring it, so – but I would love to do that eventually, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So what do you do for fun?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: For fun, I like to go to the theme parks. I'm a big Marvel fan so you'll mostly catch me at Universal versus Disney, but I go to the theme parks with my son and during the summertime I enjoy going to the beach and riding Jet Ski with the family.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, if you had a super power, what would it be?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: It would be to read people's minds.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's a good one.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I would always be a step ahead if that happened.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, yeah, you might be but you might hear some scary things too, you know.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: That too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Can you run fast?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: A little bit.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. What did you want to be when you grow up?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I wanted to be a homicide detective and work my way up to FBI.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, how did you become interested in that?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Well, my dad was always in military and when we lived in Puerto Rico, I was born on the base in Puerto Rico and he was a police officer in the military as well so that kind of like triggered down to me and I enjoyed stories about it. And it kind of made me get an admiration to it, but I mean, I always loved everything about military and law and police work, so it's an admiration that I have.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what is one of your favorite TV shows?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Law and Order, Special Victims Unit.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I had a feeling you were going to say that.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So do you ever watch any of those shows like Snapped or ID Channel?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: All the time.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, those are good, aren't they?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, Olivia Benson and Detective Stabler, those are my people.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you know their names. Good gracious.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, I do. They're my favorite.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's the most recent show you've binged on?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Currently 90 day fiancé, just to get out of my true crime network, but I kind of stopped that and went right back to Snapped and Oxygen.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So tell me, what are some of the places you grew up being military? I mean, where did you live?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: So I was born on the base in Puerto Rico and at two years old, my family moved to Jacksonville, Florida, and I was raised there. So my brother and my sister were able to travel to California and Puerto Rico when they were younger. I fortunately was able to just stay in one place after I was born, which is Jacksonville. And then during my pre-teen years is when we moved here to Central Florida.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Duval County?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, ma'am. Jacksonville Jaguars.

JUDGE LATIMORE: My mom is originally from Jacksonville so we have a connection with that.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, we do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. If you had – if you win, should win the lotto, and I mean, like lotto, power ball, lots of money.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Like max.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's like the big – the big pot, okay. What's the first thing you would buy?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Pay off my parents' house. Or, probably even buy them a new one.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Aw, yeah, you have big money, you can do that.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I would be generous, yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you speak any other languages?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I do. I speak Spanish.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And was there any other language other than Spanish that you – and English that you wanted to speak?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: German, French or Russian.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I feel like I have a distinct kind of – I mean, listening to it, it's different.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's the most memorable gift you've received?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Well, honestly, recently this year, I would have to say it was my grandmother's rosary. She passed unfortunately earlier this year.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's beautiful.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: My dad was able to save like a little picture of her that he brought back from New York and her rosary so I have that hanging in my room.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that's beautiful.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's beautiful. What do you have doubts about?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Currently, the way – will COVID ever go away. Will we ever go back to normal? I'm pretty sure that's everybody's concern and everybody's doubt now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Um-hum, okay. And what inspires you to be better?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: My son.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, tell us a little bit about your son.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: He is – his name is Christian. He just turned six years old two weeks ago and that's my pride and joy. Like he motivates me to be a better person, to be super mom, to be a super hero since he loves Spiderman and Black Panther. And whenever I have those moments like any other person, to give up, he's my motivation.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. What's the hardest lesson you've ever learned?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: The hardest lesson that I have ever learned was not everybody thinks like you do, not everybody sees the world like you do. Every mind is a different world. And you have to adapt to it. You have to respect it. And then move forward from there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you could choose the city that you would want to live in, other than Orlando, what city would that be?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I actually have two.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Two.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: So it would be Austin, Texas or Washington, D.C.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And tell us why.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: And that is because when I had dreams of becoming FBI, they have bases out there for FBI and those are the two states that I've actually visited of the few because I haven't really traveled much and I enjoyed it. It's so beautiful, both states.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Um-hum.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you ever had a chance to visit the bureau?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I have not. I would love to.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm sure.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: But I have not.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm sure. May be what's on your bucket list then.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, visiting the bureau.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Anything else?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I want – I would like to go skydiving and travel more, you know, just visit the world with my son.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right, do you have a dream car?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I – you know, funny thing, you're probably going to look at me, yeah, like I'm a little bit of crazy but my dream car growing up was actually Cadillac Escalade truck or Chevy, what is it, it's like the SUV. That was like my dream car whenever I became FBI. Now things have changed and I would actually like a Tesla.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: You know, they're like energy efficient cars. I would love that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm sure. Where do you go for a quick weekend getaway?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Jacksonville. I actually just got back from Jacksonville on Monday.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you still have family in Jacksonville?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: I have childhood friends so we had like a little girl's weekend in Jacksonville.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All righty. And if you were a food, what would it be?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Oh, pizza.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Pizza.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Pizza, yes. That is like the best comfort – that or a juicy burger, it is the best comfort food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Would the pizza have anything on top of it or is it just cheese pizza?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Extra cheese.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Extra cheese. All right. That sounds good. If your salary was doubled, you remember we were talking about the big pay. If your salary was doubled, and you could make a contribution or donation to someone, what would you do? Who would that be or what would that be?

MS. MORALES-SILVA: The contribution, it would be to finding the cure for cancer. There are so many people that I know that have been affected with that. We still have not been able to find an exact cure for certain types of cancer. It would be for that. Research and medicine.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right now, we're in the middle of October celebrating awareness about breast cancer.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Breast cancer and my grandmother actually has been affected by that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. All right. So that would be a wonderful contribution –

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, ma'am.

JUDGE LATIMORE: -- to help with the research to find the cure for that. What is the routine of your average weekend day, Saturday and Sunday, or Sunday? Tell me, what is it that you're usually doing when you're unplugged.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: So when I'm unplugged, I usually like start – you know, I wake up early because of work and it kind of kicks into the weekend as well. So sleeping in does not exist for me. I don't like sleeping in. I feel like if I wake up at 8:00 my day is ruined. Like it just has me but I usually take my son for his haircut appointment. We go to the lakefront, which is where they have like fields and stuff, and you can play at the park, you can ride bikes, fly kites there. I try to go a little bit of shopping but my son is just like two stores and we're out, like we got to go and I'm like okay. But other than that usually barbecuing with the family and hanging out with them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's sounds wonderful. So now that you're unplugged, enjoy, have a good weekend and do all of that I hope.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Yes, thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much for being here with me.

MS. MORALES-SILVA: Thank you for having me.

(Music)