

Name: Sheyla Sabio
Date of Birth: 1998
Place of Birth: Spain
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Interviewed by: Louise Roche
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00:00:03

It's Louise Roche doing the interview and the date is the 19th April, 2018.

I'm Sheyla Sabio and I was born in 1998.

Right, tell me about the...where you were born, what that was like. The place you...

I was born in Spain, in a city just up north. It's a really small city.

Is it an old city, a new city? Is it..?

It's a quite old city; it's quite an old city, yeah. It's on the coast so there is a lot of beaches there.

So actually, it couldn't be more different than Milton Keynes?

Yeah, exactly, it's really, really different. It's literally the opposite of Milton Keynes.

So tell me what the differences are between the two.

I think Milton Keynes is quite new and it seems like it's been planned. Everything is so... – I don't know how to explain it, just...don't know how to explain it.

Planned is fine.

Yeah, it's just really planned and my city's more like, it's been always there and it's just been changing with the years and by the different people that's been living there.

So tell me how you ended up coming here.

My best friend Maria, we've been friends since we were kids, since...like, she's always been there. Her parents decided to move to England after her dad lost his job and they just looked for other cities in England that they had more jobs, in that moment, and that's how they moved here and then, three years after they did, they ask me if I wanted to come and learn the language and I said yes.

Was there anything else that made you want to leave Spain at all? 'Cause it's quite unusual, isn't it?

I think I was just kind of tired of my city 'cause it's really...it's a really, really small city, everyone knows everyone, and I just wanted something else. I wanted to see the world, I wanted to learn another language, I wanted to see more and when they asked me if I wanted to come I didn't think about it, I said yes.

Very, very young to do that kind of thing.

Yeah, I was seventeen when I moved here.

Very brave.

Thank you... *[Laughs]*.

Was it scary at all, or..?

No, I think I was so excited to...I was so excited to learn new things and to meet new people that I wasn't scared at all. I was so excited to come. I took the decision to come a year before I came 'cause I wanted to finish my education there. For that year I just couldn't stop thinking about what was it going to be like when I moved to England. It was the first time I was going to be out of the country as well. Before I came here I'd never been to any other countries so, for me, it was all new and I was just so excited to come and see all these new things and how people were and all this stuff.

Did the fact that your mother had died have anything to do with your decision?

Yeah. When my mum died I moved with my sister. She was just twenty years old; I was sixteen. So I think maybe that's what...Maria's parents decided...like, that's why Maria's parents decided to ask me to move here 'cause I was the...a little girl with a twenty year old...like, twenty year old girl, is just a bit, I don't know, scary for my sister. I think there was a lot of pressure on my sister and that's why this...what made me decide to move here as well. But I just didn't want my sister to have that pressure.

What...can you remember arriving, what that was like?

I was so excited, everything was so different. Before I moved here, I came for a week – the first time I was alone in a plane. It was...I was so...I was scared then when I was completely alone, I didn't know where I was going. I didn't speak the language. I think that's the hardest, that I just didn't know how to ask for things. I remember getting to the airport, I had to get a coach, I didn't know where I was going, I was in Stansted and I was like: "What am I going to do now?" I didn't have my phone because internet wasn't working, like, I think now, you can go to another country and you've got your...your data but three years ago that didn't happen so I didn't have any way to contact Maria or Maria's parents. I remember going to the National Express counter and just asking where the stop was. I didn't actually know how you said it 'cause I didn't speak any English at all and I just went there and I speak to them and to this day I don't know how I said it. [Unclear 00:05:12]...They told me where it was and I did understand them. I was so surprised I think.

00:05:16

So you got to the Coachway...

Yeah.

...I mean, do you remember your first impressions of this place that you were going to live?

I thought...when I was on the coach, going from Stansted to Milton Keynes, I just thought, 'Oh my God, everything is so green; there is a lot of green fields.' And then, when I got to Milton Keynes, the first thought was, 'All the houses are the same. They all look the same. How am I going to know which house it is?' like, 'How am I going to remember which house is mine?' [Laughs] Because in Spain all houses are different: they're all different colours; I think there is a different way of building houses in Spain – you buy your land and you build your own house; here, they are already built and you just buy a house. I thought that, and I think that's about it.

And... So what's it been like, the last three years?

Really good, really different. I love learning, I love new things, I love new times, first times. It's been exciting, I think. I like it, I think it's the best decision I could ever take.

So you're now nineteen?

Twenty.

Twenty. You're twenty, living on your own, supporting yourself.

Yeah.

You must feel very proud of yourself.

Yeah. Yeah, I think it's good.

Tell me why you feel proud of yourself.

Because I took the decision to come to another country; I think I learn the language really quick; and I just never even looked back. I never even thought like, 'What could my life be if I was in Spain right now?' I just kind of kept going, see where I'm going to end.

And do you see your future being in Milton Keynes?

Probably, for a few years, definitely. I don't know if I'm going to...

Can you say, 'I see my future...'?

Oh yeah. I do see my future in Milton Keynes, at least for a few years. I don't know what I'm going to think in five, ten years but for now I think I do want to stay here. It's a really nice place.

And we always ask people this question: is there anything that you'd like to see happen to the city, or be different about the city in another fifty years' time?

I think maybe it could be good if it grows a little bit more even, like, I don't know...I'm not sure... *[Laughs]*

You see, it's in your hands, you see, you're the generation that's going to be my age in... – Well, not quite my age but... – in another fifty years.

Yeah. I'm not sure. I think maybe more places like the city centre but somewhere else. I think the only place you can go if you want to do something with your friends is literally the city centre, so maybe something like that somewhere else, or bigger... More nightclubs – there's just one nightclub. I think that's crazy for a city with that many young people. Yeah, I think that's about it.

Yeah, that was lovely. Thank you.

Thank you very much.

00:08:59

END OF INTERVIEW

