



Video Story Transcript

Spring

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Link to YouTube Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua5arNgXUbg>

Note : The following is a transcription of a spoken story performance and may not reflect textbook perfect English. It will guide you as you listen (or read) along.

Hi, my name is Jim Stowell. And the story, “Spring,” is from an evening of stories I did entitled, “Joe,” that was produced by the great American history theater.

Spring. See a woman's face. See her face. Hmm, late 30's early 40's, dark skin. At one point in her life, she was an immigrant. At one point in her life, she was an illegal immigrant. Oh, illegal immigrants much maligned these days.

See her face as she looks at her first house. She's never owned a house before. She's never owned anything like this before. See her face as she looks at her first house and you will see joy. A joy that's so intense it makes her cry. Now watch, as she walks up to the front door of her house and the door opens and we see the empty rooms of the house. See her face as she sees her first home.

See her face and you will see pride. But this is not the kind of pride that goes before the fall. This is the kind of pride she has earned and has every right to. When she crossed the Rio Grande, she was carrying the baby and her husband helped with the two younger children. And they crossed from Mexico into Texas, and, somehow, they ended up in Minnesota. And then, alas, as too often happens, the husband was the one that had the most trouble making the adjustments and he started to drink. He became a drunk. This was **not** him in Mexico. And then, he started to hit her. And he beat her, and he threatened her, and he threatened the lives of her children.

She made another decision and she left. And she went from house to house, to keep her children safe. And she was desperately poor, living in an apartment with friends, selling tortillas. And one of her friends came to her and said, “You know, there's this place in Minneapolis called, “Project for Pride and Living,” PPL, maybe

you should go there because they have a job training program. She went. She took the program. And when it was over, the people at PPL said, "Well, you know, we don't just train you how to work. We help you get a job. How can we help you?"

And she said, "I'm going to work here."

And the people at PPL said, "We love that, we do. We like you. But we feel there's no jobs there. So, how can we help you?"

And she said, "I'm going to work here. If you're putting me out the front door, I'm coming in the back. If you put me out the back door, I'm coming in the front. I'm going to keep coming in the door until you finally hire me. Because I have to work here. Because I want to help other people the way you helped me." **They hired her as the receptionist.**

Now I see her face as she sees her first home. Her first home as an American citizen. See her face and you will see pride.

Now hear the voices of her children as they run past her into the empty rooms of the house, filling the rooms with life. See the face of that little boy or that little girl as they look in their own room, now no longer sleeping three to a bed. They not only have their own bed, they have their own room. See that child's face. You'll see joy all right. Their own room, oh, you'll see joy all right. **But...You'll see pride there as well.**

Now see that woman's face as she sees the look on her child's face and, oh, you'll see joy. A joy so intense...it makes her cry again. See her face as she sees the look on her child's face.

See her face...and you'll know what dignity looks like.