

Amelie Gonzales

By Amanda Gutierrez

It was Amelie, Amelie Lopez. A child born in New York that went through some pretty rough times. Her Parents Gloria Gonzales and Victor Lopez, were born in Cancun, Mexico and had her older brother Alexander at the ages of 19 and 21 in 1999. They lived with their parents in a small town in Cancun. Gloria was used and treated as a slave by the woman who adopted her, and Victor was a young boy who worked in a bakery, baking cakes, making bread, and earning money for himself. In January 2002, they immigrated to the United States for a better life, they wanted a better lifestyle financially and psychologically, leaving Alexander with his aunt in Mexico. In 2005 they were waiting for a baby girl, Amelie. This is how her life begins.

Amelie was raised by her mom and dad in New York until she was nine years old. She received her education in a public school in her town.

Alexander got sent from Mexico to his mother and sister in 2015 because Amelie moved to Cuenca, Ecuador with her mom. Alexander grew up a lot different than Amelie. It was a poor family in Cancun, where the economy wasn't as good. Alexander never looked forward to having a sister because she had all the attention. With his titi in Mexico, he was the only child at home.

It was really hard for him to get used to his new life with his mother when he was raised by his aunt. Alexander knew it was going to be difficult because he most likely saw his mother and sister as strangers.

It has been time that past after all of them moved together, he was 16, he did everything that he wanted, had a car, had a lot of friends, and got money from his mother, and although she was very strict about him going out, she let him. Alexander didn't grow up with Gloria, so she wanted to be known as an excellent mother at home. Gloria worked in a library, although she had a secret affair with Steve, her boss, Gloria got paid \$80 a month, which had to be enough to feed her two children and herself. The economy in Ecuador was really bad, there were no jobs available for anybody that was a minor or unless you had a major in college to get paid better. Gloria only got paid \$1.50 an hour, nobody in that job got paid more. She thought that while Victor was in the United States, her relationship with Steve was going to be successful. The father, Victor, kept working in New York for a better future, for a better lifestyle. In March 2018 he goes to Ecuador to see his family. He arrives and week after gets sent screenshots of conversations with Gloria and Steve. They have romantically been texting for the last three years revealing Gloria's affair. Amelie was 13 at the time and couldn't really do much about it, but she knew how disloyal her mother was to her father.

It was a long process for them to divorce, but finally June 2019 they did. Alexander decided to go live with Victor while the judge sent Amelie living with Gloria. April 2020 Amelie was left alone at home by her mother because she had to work. As normally, Amelie did school on her computer, and after, she made lunch for when Gloria came back from work. She received a knock on the door, she wasn't expecting anyone so it was very odd. It was her 38 year old cousin, her dad's nephew. His name is Bruce, Bruce Lopez. He had a family himself, a wife, three sons, and a newborn daughter. He used to work near Amelie's house, so they saw each other everyday, but never greeted themselves because they weren't as close. He came up to

her he asked her if she could help him with some English homework for his children, Amelie agreed and let him in her house. What Amelie didn't notice, is that when he closed the door to enter the house, Bruce locked it. While Amelie was helping with his homework, He gently started touching her chest, at first but Amelie only thought it was accidental, so she tried to move back. After a while it got worse and there was no way Amelie could discretely get away from him, he made her believe she looked pale and was going to faint. Bruce carried her to the couch and hugged her around the waist. Amelie felt fine, but didn't say anything because she was nervous and scared. He nervously asked her if she was okay, Amelie didn't answer because she was in fear. Amelie did not want to get raped so she told Bruce politely to get away from her, and Bruce said it's a "friendly cousins hug" so she didn't say anything else. About 5 minutes after, Bruce started touching Amelie.

One thing he said was "Take off your pants now. It doesn't matter if you have something underneath just take them off!"

Amelie just froze. She couldn't believe that this was happening to her.

Since that day, Amelie wore shorts underneath any piece of pants she wore, even if it were shorts themselves. He couldn't let go of her bare thighs while touching her chest, choking her with his hands and kissing her on every part he wanted to. Amelie pushed him back, and ran out of her house, there is where she had realized that the door was locked, and knew what his intentions were with her. After she got out she ran to her titi's house.

She told her all about it while she just laughed.

"Amelie, you are a liar, just like all young girls today," she scoffed. "You know he was drunk and he didn't know what he was doing."

“But titi,” Amelie began. Titi just held up her hand for her to be silent.

“Stop the false accusations.” Her aunt said while Amelie cried and left her house.

Amelie told her mom, they hugged but Gloria didn't do much about it.

“Go tell your dad about it”, she said while she gave her some water to drink.

“I'll call my father right now and I will tell him to come immediately. We will go sue that bastard and he will burn in hell” Amelie said with anger and fear.

When Victor arrived at Amelie's house, she told him everything that had happened during the past few hours. He didn't believe what he was hearing.

“This must be a confusion, our family is well behaved and christian! I refuse to believe this.”

“Father, he came to me in peace asking for help, then he had come to rape me.”

“Stop the nonsense Amelie! How dare you talk about your own cousin, your own blood like that! Her father said in an angry voice while Alexander was in the corner of the room listening.

Amelie rushed to her room crying and Victor left. After a few hours Victor called Amelie and asked her to get outside that he was waiting for her in the car. Amelie rushed. They went out for pizza.

Amelie never got her justice and she was the one that had to say sorry to Bruce for lying, for false accusing him, and putting his name in danger. That was the moment Amelia stopped using her dad's last name. She thought it was very disrespectful because it was her own family that didn't believe her, it's Amelie Gonzalez now.

Amelie felt like nobody was there for her, her brother didn't like her and her parents were fighting with each other so much. She was never with nobody, and thought that she didn't have the enough strength to keep going.

There was one particular time that Gloria let her go out with friends, there was this one friend named Connor, they didn't know each other as much but they have talked in the past. Amelie only knew him because it was one of her friends cousins, they rarely saw each other in person. Connor mentioned that he liked Amelie and wanted to be "more than friends". Amelie refused to be anything with him, but he still managed to convince her to go watch a movie in his room with him. Slowly they started kissing, Amelie thought about the traumas she had in her past about these situations and knew she she wasn't ready to start her sexual life yet, also because of consequences. When Connor was getting a bit more touchy Amelie refused, but Connor kept going.

He left Amelie alone in tears to get dressed. She terrified rushed as fast as she could out of the house and went home. Her friends thought that her mom got mad and that's why she left quick, so they didn't worry. She didn't want to say what really happened because it was gong to be a big deal, and she already had enough problems at home. If she told her mother, she would've said that it was her fault, and he didn't commit rape because she consented it.

When Gloria wasn't around, and Amelie stressed, or overthought any situation she blasted music on the speakers and danced.

Amelie was doing really good in school but didn't have a lot of friends, everybody looked at her like she was different because her Spanish wasn't as fluent for the fact that she lived in the United States for nine years.

Amelie decided moved on and understood why she couldn't make any friends although she still cried about it. With another of her good friend Juliana, they had some very funny experiences too. They tried peeing like a guy in the boys school bathroom. It was a private school which meant they had to use uniforms, but that day they wore pants instead of skirts, and they actually tried doing it, although it didn't end well. They didn't get in that much trouble because it wasn't in school hours, but they did get a sent to the office because they weren't allowed in the boys bathroom in the first place.

For 10th grade Amelie finally decided to change schools, leaving back the small amount of friends she had, but also leaving back all the bad memories he went through there. She was really happy at the new school, she had a lot of friends and everybody liked her for who she was.

Amelie always thought about how life is short and how she didn't care how anybody saw her In society, if she did the thing she like, and people judged her, that was not her problem. Anyone could make up the smallest thing about her and everyone would believe it. She didn't care, she did anything she wanted but she knew her limits. She knew she liked only guys, but she kissed a girl. It was the game of truth or dare, Amelie had to kiss Juliana. A week after, Alexander knew about it and told Gloria, she got so angry that right before she went to work, she pulled Amelie by her hair and hit her until she couldn't feel anything. Alexander stood by her bedroom door while watching Amelie suffer with an evil smile on his face. Amelie sobbing rushed went to her titi's house and confessed everything, the Lopez's were always Christian and didn't like the fact that Amelie kissed someone that wasn't a boy. That same day when Gloria arrived home, she told Amelie that she was nasty, that shes embarrassed of having

a daughter like her, “why aren’t you a normal kid?”, and that she never wanted to get near her again.

Gloria ignored Amelie for weeks as she would usually do, she didn’t care if Amelie ate or not but that was her punishment for all the wrong that she has done. Amelie finished her teenager life living with her mother.