Together (excerpt)
By Peter Howard

SONIA
My mouth is dry, my heart is pounding.

    ECO SONIA
    Esta reseca mi boca, mi corazón.....pum pum pum pum.

RAFAEL
It's been a while for me, I know.

    ECO RAFAEL
    Lo sé, ha pasado mucho tiempo.

SONIA
I'm always telling my patients: “Are you going to group? Groups are good.”

    ECO SONIA
    Siempre les pregunto a mis pacientes: “¿Van a un grupo? Los grupos de apoyo son bien importantes.”

RAFAEL
Good to see everyone again. I'm Rafael.

    ECO RAFAEL
    Qué bueno de verlos otra vez. Yo soy Rafael.

SONIA
Now here I am. Groups are hard.

RAFAEL
Life has been OK over the past few months—work, school.

SONIA
My name is Sonia. I'm a single, working mom. My daughter Carla is 14.
ECO SONIA
Me llamo Sonia. Soy madre soltera y trabajo. Mi hija Carla tiene 14.

RAFAEL
The HIV part of my life? That's another story.

ECO RAFAEL
¿Mi vida con el VIH? Eso es otra historia.

SONIA
I never thought I'd need a parenting support group. I'm sure my mother never went to one. But it's been tough lately.

RAFAEL
It's been tough lately.

ECO RAFAEL Y SONIA
Ha sido difícil.

RAFAEL and SONIA
That's why I'm here.

SONIA turns to RAFAEL and welcomes him into her office. RAFAEL's manner is polite, but reserved. He clearly has something on his mind.

SONIA
Rafael? Welcome back.

RAFAEL
Thanks.

SONIA
How have things been going for you?

RAFAEL
I'm here.