

How I became a midwife (Adelaida Espinoza, June 2006, English translation)

Well I, when I was 20 years old,
well I saw a woman about to give birth, the woman was crying
She was wanting someone to help with the birth (to grab her)
and I went there.
When I got there, the woman says, come and grab!
I can't, I said, because I'm pregnant myself.
No, quickly, get in here!
Alright, I told her.
Where I, here, I put my hands here on her abdomen.
I squeezed her abdomen,
and with that small pressure on the woman, because I was standing (above her),
out came the child.
Just like that she gave birth to her baby.
It arrived by itself.
The child was born, a little boy.
I received the baby,
I spread out its little blanket,
and I lay it there.
Once I had lain the baby down,
I really started thinking about it.
I said to myself, so that's how women do it, giving birth.
Because I didn't know.
I myself was pregnant, five months along.
So then I was about to leave,
and I saw the midwife arriving.
Oh, says the midwife, here's the woman now.
The midwife is here, and yet you sent for me.
No sir, I said to him,
I'm not a midwife, sir.
I just came to visit the woman.
And then I just took off, I went home.