

# El plato especial

by [Lisa Marie Sandoval](#) in the [July 27, 2004](#) issue

*Chisme*, oh that succulent dish sold  
and served with a side of snide  
words wrapped in caring concern  
for your health. People urge you to unpackage  
your heart. They slop it, boiled or roasted,  
on a plate of I-told-you-so's, sumptuous  
and steaming. They plunge their teeth into *chile  
picante* comments, those juicy and spicy words.  
They wound and scrape, sticking to forks,  
pitching tongues. People munch their meal,  
this food. You, too, relish it. Each morsel  
you savor. Until the flavor floats and reaches  
your stomach. You chew and wonder  
why the special of the day tastes so familiar.