

**"EL VIAJE MAS CARO" / "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY" presents:**

# **"THE MOST IMPORTANT LOVE OF EVERY WOMAN SHOULD BE HERSELF"**



*The Story of Guadalupe*  
*Art by Iona Fox*

# **Sobre “EL VIAJE MÁS CARO”**

## **About “THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY”**



Aproximadamente 1,000-1,200  
**TRABAJADORES MIGRANTES**  
originarios de Latino América ayudan  
a sostener la industria láctea en Vermont.

Approximately 1,000-1,200 **MIGRANT  
LABORERS** from Latin America help to  
sustain the dairy industry in Vermont.



**Este proyecto representa una COLABORACIÓN CREATIVA entre:**

*This project represents a CREATIVE COLLABORATION between:*

**NARRADORES**  
de la comunidad migrante

*STORYTELLERS from the  
migrant community*



**CARICATURISTAS locales**  
de New England

*New England  
CARTOONISTS*

resultando en una serie de  
**RECURSOS HISTORIETAS** enfocada  
en los distintos aspectos de la  
**EXPERIENCIA MIGRANTE...**

*resulting in a series of COMICS  
RESOURCES focusing on  
distinct aspects of the  
MIGRANT EXPERIENCE...*



**PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN e HISTORIETAS, VISITA:**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & COMICS, VISIT:**

**[www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro)**

**[www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro](https://www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro)**

Arte por / Art by: Marek Bennett ©2016 [www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com)

## **“The Most Important Love of Every Woman Should Be Herself”: the Story of Guadalupe**

### **Edition 1 / December 2016**

**Historia © por / Story © by: “Guadalupe”**

**Arte © por / Art © by: Iona Fox [ [IonaFoxComics.com](http://IonaFoxComics.com) ]**

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**Traducida por / Translated by: Cooper Couch**

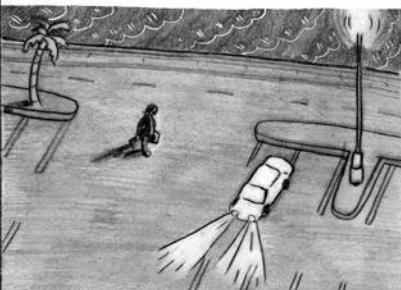
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I WAS 26 WHEN I LEFT VERACRUZ. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS GOING TO GO THROUGH.



UNLIKE MANY OTHERS, I DIDN'T WALK THROUGH THE DESERT TO CROSS THE BORDER.



MY FATHER, WHO WAS IN NORTH CAROLINA, PAID \$4,000 SO THAT I COULD CROSS IN A CAR

EVERY 10-15 HOURS THEY MADE US CHANGE CARS. THERE WAS NO TIME TO EAT OR USE THE RESTROOM.



AT LAST I ARRIVED IN NORTH CAROLINA AND WAS REUNITED WITH MY DAD.

I WAS HAPPY TO SEE MY FATHER, BUT VERY SAD FOR BEING IN A PLACE WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CULTURE, WITHOUT KNOWING THE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH OR THE FOOD.

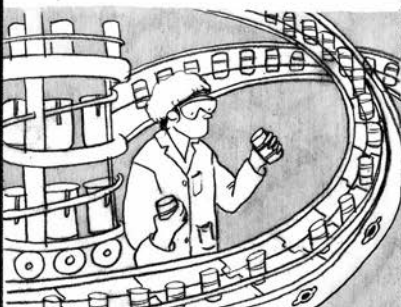


THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY AMERICAN DREAM.

I HAD TO WORK, AND THIS WAS A NEW CHALLENGE. WITHOUT THE LANGUAGE OR PAPERS, EVERY STEP WAS A HARD ONE,



BUT ONE FIGURES IT OUT, AS DOES ANY IMMIGRANT,



I WAS MAKING VERY LITTLE MONEY; THERE WAS NO MONEY LEFT TO SEND TO MEXICO, OR TO SAVE. EVENTUALLY, MY FATHER WENT BACK TO MEXICO AND I WAS LEFT ALONE.



I WAS 29 WHEN I GOT PREGNANT WITH MY SON. CONSIDERING MY CONDITIONS, BEING PREGNANT WAS A JOY BUT ALSO SCARY.



THE BABY'S FATHER DIDN'T TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY AND NOW LIVED FAR AWAY,



AFTER MY SON WAS BORN, I DECIDED TO COME TO VERMONT BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE HIS FATHER WAS. I ARRIVED WITHOUT HAVING A PLACE TO LIVE.



I MOVED IN WITH MY SON'S FATHER. HE DRANK; WHEN DRUNK HE WAS MEAN. WHEN WE FOUGHT, HE WOULD HIT ME OR STRANGLE ME. HE LEFT BRUISES ON MY FACE + BODY.



ONE DAY, WE HAD A BIG FIGHT + MY HAND GOT CUT, I STILL HAVE THE SCAR. I LEFT THE HOUSE BLEEDING, WITH MY SON UNDER MY ARM



IT WAS WINTER AND THE SNOW CAME UP TO MY KNEES. A NEIGHBOR SAW ME STRUGGLING AND CALLED THE POLICE.



THE POLICE OFFICERS ARRIVED + BROUGHT ME TO THE HOSPITAL.



THEY TOLD ME I COULD PRESS CHARGES BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY DOCUMENTATION + WAS AFRAID OF GETTING IN TROUBLE.



NOW, I REALIZE THAT PRESSING CHARGES COULD HAVE HELPED ME BECOME A CITIZEN; I COULD HAVE GOTTEN MY PAPERS AS AN ASYLUM SEEKER.



A MEXICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN I KNEW HELPED ME OUT. SHE HELPED ME BUY A CAR. SHE SCOLDED ME FOR STAYING WITH HIM, FOR NOT LEAVING.



SHE FOUND AN ORGANIZATION THAT HELPED WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN HURT. THAT ORGANIZATION REALLY HELPED ME.



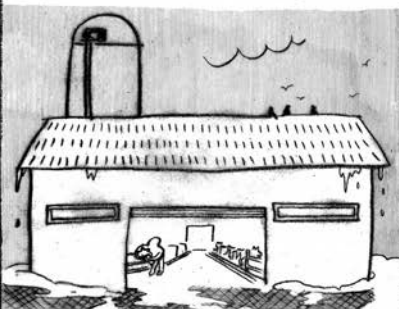
BUT THEN I HAD NOWHERE TO GO. DURING THE DAY I TRIED TO FIND A JOB



DURING THE NIGHT I SLEPT WITH MY SON IN MY CAR BY LAKE CHAMPLAIN.



I FINALLY GOT A JOB AT A FARM TAKING CARE OF NEWBORN CALVES.

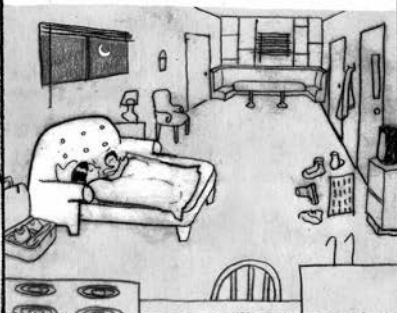


UNFORTUNATELY SEVERAL DIED AND THE BOSS WAS UPSET.





NEXT I LIVED IN A TRAILER WITH TWO OTHER MEN.



I PAID RENT TO THE FARMOWNER. THE GUYS I LIVED WITH PAID ME TO COOK + CLEAN.



THEN I FOUND AN APARTMENT IN AN ATTIC OF AN OLD FARMHOUSE IN SHOREHAM.



THEY NEVER PAID ME FOR THE WORK I DID



FOR THREE MONTHS I PAID RENT TO THE COUPLE —

THEY DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO SEE ME.

ONE DAY, I WANTED TO GO TO CHURCH. THEY WOULDN'T LET ME LEAVE UNTIL I FINISHED MOWING THEIR WHOLE LAWN,

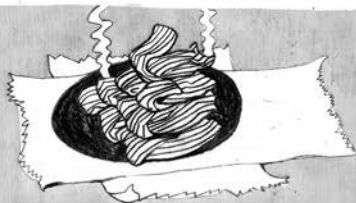
THE NEXT TIME I WENT TO CHURCH, I TOLD A FRIEND WHAT HAD HAPPENED:



ANOTHER FRIEND, THE ONE WHO HELPED ME GET AWAY FROM MY BOYFRIEND, HAD SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR WORK:



SO I DID. I GOT MY DRIVER'S LICENSE, SOLD THE CAR + BOUGHT A TRUCK, RENTED A ROOM ON A FARM, + STARTED TO SELL FOOD.



THINGS STARTED TO GET BETTER.

I BEGAN TO GIVE RIDES TO OTHER FARM WORKERS AS A WAY OF MAKING EXTRA MONEY. SOME OF THE MEN WERE DISRESPECTFUL + INAPPROPRIATE



I KNOW THEY'RE LONELY AND NEED A WOMAN, BUT I WASN'T INTERESTED.

I FOUND A JOB COOKING + CLEANING ON ANOTHER FARM AND THAT IS HOW I MET MY HUSBAND.



PEOPLE THINK THAT CROSSING THE BORDER IS THE HARDEST PART, BUT THE WORST PART IS FINDING A WAY TO SURVIVE AFTER YOU ARRIVE.



THE MEN THAT WORK HERE WORK LONG HOURS EVERY DAY, WHEN THEY GET HOME THEY DON'T WANT TO COOK, ONLY TO FALL ASLEEP.



WE GOT MARRIED. HE ADOPTED MY SON + WE HAD A SECOND BABY TOGETHER, A GIRL. WE SOON MOVED INTO OUR OWN TRAILER.





I STILL SELL TACOS + TAMALES, TO THREE DIFFERENT FARMS. PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK ME TO COOK.



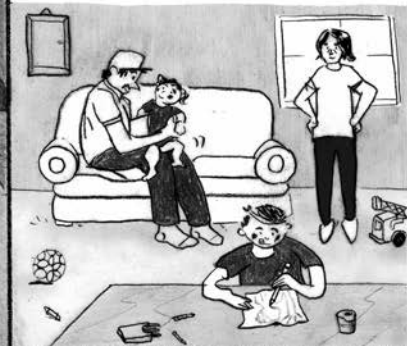
WE ARE DOING WELL NOW.



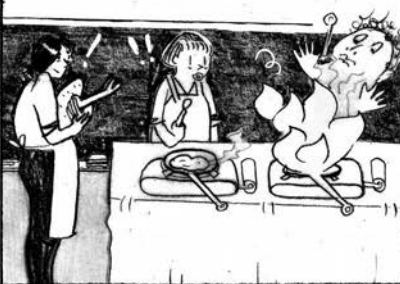
I AM VERY THANKFUL TO MY HUSBAND, WHO WORKS A LOT.



I AM HAPPY BECAUSE I AM NOW STABLE, MARRIED, MY CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY. HE'S A GOOD DAD.



I TEACH SOME COOKING CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND I FEEL FULFILLED.



I AM LEARNING TO SPEAK ENGLISH NOW AND AM STUDYING FOR MY GED.



VERMONT IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER STATES, THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE, NOR TRAFFIC.



I LOVE THE NATURE, I EVEN LIKE THE COLD.



THE ONLY THING I MISS IS HAVING MORE FEMALE FRIENDS. MOST OF THE MEXICANS HERE ARE MEN, AND IT'S HARD TO SEE THE FEW WOMEN WHO ARE AROUND.



TWO YEARS AGO, MY MOM CAME TO VISIT FOR THE FIRST TIME



SHE CAME TO MEET HER GRANDCHILDREN, I CAN'T GO TO MEXICO, BUT MY MOTHER HAS A VISA, SHE CAN COME TO VISIT US.



WE WANT TO GO BACK ONE DAY, MAYBE IN A COUPLE OF YEARS.



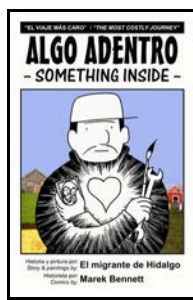


I THANK GOD FOR ALL THE CHALLENGES HE  
PUT IN MY WAY. WITHOUT THEM, I WOULDN'T  
HAVE GOTTEN TO WHERE I AM TODAY.

I WOULD LIKE MY STORY TO HELP OTHER WOMEN.  
IT DOESN'T MATTER ALL THE OBSTACLES THAT ONE  
FACES IN LIFE. THERE IS ALWAYS LIGHT AT  
THE END OF THE TUNNEL.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING HURT,  
WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE DOCUMENTED,  
PLEASE CALL WOMEN SAFE AT 1-800-388-4205.  
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.

**Otras historietas de la serie "El Viaje Más Caro":**  
*Other comics in the "El Viaje Más Caro" series:*



# "EL VIAJE MÁS CARO"

Una colaboración entre narradores migrantes y caricaturistas Nuevainglaterra.



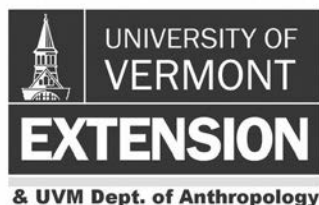
# "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY"

A collaboration between migrant storytellers & New England cartoonists.

Farm artwork from "A New Type of Work" by Delmar & Tillie Walden.

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## **SOCIOS DEL PROYECTO / PROJECT PARTNERS:**



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VT Farm Health Task Force / VT Community Foundation's "Innovations and Collaborations" Grant / UVM Humanities Center