

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

The Two of Us Together



The Story of Alejandro + Felix
Art by Greg Giordano

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

www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro

Arte por / Art by: Marek Bennett ©2016 www.MarekBennett.com

The Two of Us Together: the Story of Alejandro & Felix

Edition 1 / December 2017

Historia © por / Story © by: “Alejandro” + “Felix”

Arte © por / Art © by: Greg Giordano [www.flameape.org]

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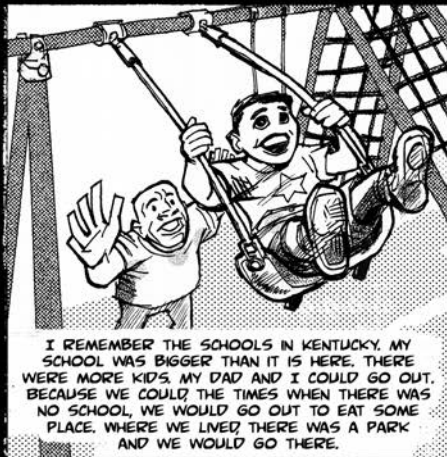
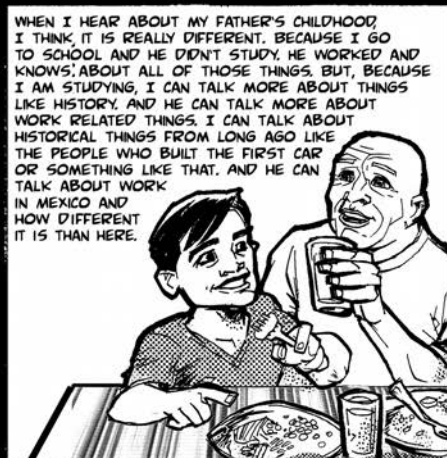
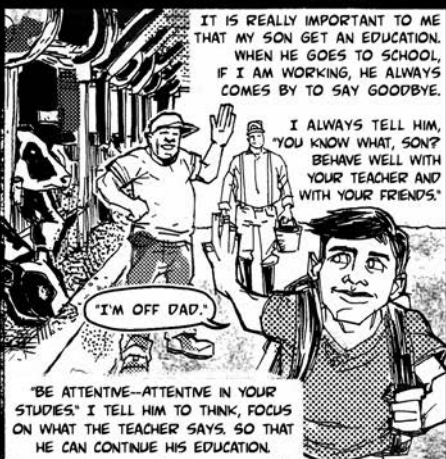
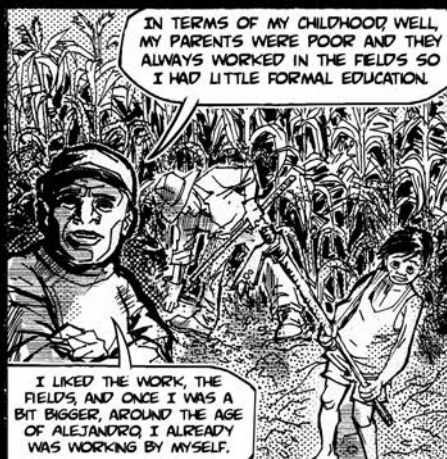
Librito por / Booklet by: Marek Bennett [www.MarekBennett.com]

El Viaje Mas Caro: Felix & Alejandro

Art Gregory C Giordano - Script William Woodcock Jr.









NOW IN VERMONT I PLAY BASKETBALL, AND OTHER SPORTS. SOMETIMES I WANT MY DAD TO SEE ALL OF MY GAMES BUT HE CANT. SOMETIMES IT IS DURING WORK HOURS. SOMETIMES HE CANT GO BECAUSE THEY ARE AWAY GAMES. THE ONLY PLACE HE CAN WATCH MY GAMES IS AT MY SCHOOL. THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE HE CAN GO.

HE CANT GO TO SOCCER GAMES SO MUCH BECAUSE THE GAMES ARE AWAY...



HE HAS TO BE CAREFUL. THERE ARE POLICEMEN NEARBY AND WE THINK SOMETHING BAD COULD HAPPEN.

SOMETIMES I GO TO PLAY AND AFTERWARDS ALL OF THE KIDS GO TO THEIR PARENTS AND I'M JUST THERE. I'LL GO TO THE BOSS'S WIFE OR SOMETHING BUT I WANT MY DAD TO BE THERE.



I FEEL THE SAME WAY HE DOES. I WANT TO BE THERE WITH HIM. BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY DAD IS DIFFERENT THAN WHAT I SEE WITH MY FRIENDS IN TERMS OF SPORTS, THAT'S THE BIGGEST THING.



THE MOMS AND DADS ARE THERE WHILE WE PLAY, SAYING "GOOD JOB" TO THEIR KID. AFTER THE GAME THEIR DAD OR MOM HUGS THEM OR THE DAD SAYS "VERY GOOD, YOU CAN DO MORE THAN THE LAST TIME," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



THEN I'LL COME OUT AND I AM BY MYSELF. I JUST GO HOME, TO SEE MY DAD. HELL ASK ME HOW IT WENT.

WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WAS PICKED UP.



HE HAS ALWAYS TOLD ME, THE DAY THAT I GO TO COURT, HE'S GOING WITH ME TO SAY SOMETHING ON MY BEHALF.

TO SAY HE IS MY FATHER AND AT THE SAME TIME IS LIKE MY MOTHER ALSO I WAS RAISED BY HIM.

I THINK ABOUT MY DAD GETTING DETAINED, SOMETIMES BUT NOT AS MUCH HERE. SINCE MY DAD IS ONLY ON THE FARM, NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN HERE.



IF HE WENT TO MY GAMES, THAT IS WHERE I AM AFRAID BECAUSE EVERY TIME I GO I SEE FOUR OR FIVE POLICE. IN, JUST ONE GAME, I SEE FIVE POLICE.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER THE ONLY THING I KNEW WAS THEY WOULD SEND HIM TO JAIL.



NOW THAT I'M OLDER, I UNDERSTAND IF HE GOES TO JAIL OR COURT AND SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS, THEY ARE GOING TO SEND HIM TO MEXICO.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH ME, IF I WOULD STAY HERE OR GO WITH HIM.

IN SCHOOL, WHEN WE GO TO MEETINGS, THEY TELL ME THAT HE IS A GOOD STUDENT AND THAT HE'S ALWAYS IMPROVING.



HE PAYS ATTENTION AND IS A GOOD KID. I FEEL HAPPY. I FEEL GOOD.

I HARDLY SPEAK ANY ENGLISH.



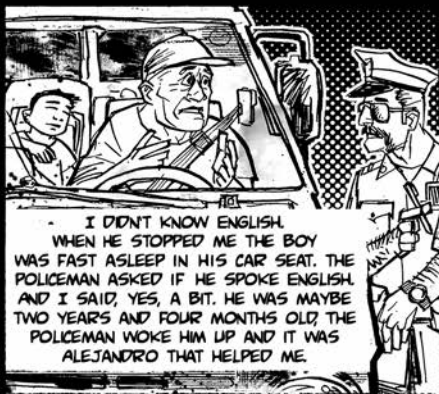
BUT WHEN IT'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO MY BOSS ABOUT, THEN I CALL ALEJANDRO AND HE HELPS.

HE INTERPRETS AT SCHOOL MEETINGS SOMETIMES. I GENERALLY TRUST HIM. BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME THINGS THAT THE TEACHER SAYS THAT AREN'T SO POSITIVE. SO EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS THE LANGUAGE, IT'S GOOD SOMETIMES THAT THERE IS A SEPARATE INTERPRETER SO THAT PERSON CAN TALK TO ME. IF HE IS DEFICIENT IN SOMETHING, THEN ONCE WE GET HOME WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT.

I WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE FIRST TIME THAT ALEJANDRO WAS A HELP TO ME. HE WAS REALLY LITTLE, BUT HE WAS IN DAYCARE.



ONE TIME WE WERE COMING FROM CHURCH AROUND 10 AT NIGHT WHEN THE POLICE STOPPED ME.



I DIDN'T KNOW ENGLISH. WHEN HE STOPPED ME THE BOY WAS FAST ASLEEP IN HIS CAR SEAT. THE POLICEMAN ASKED IF HE SPOKE ENGLISH. AND I SAID, YES, A BIT. HE WAS MAYBE TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS OLD. THE POLICEMAN WOKE HIM UP AND IT WAS ALEJANDRO THAT HELPED ME.



"DAD, THE POLICEMAN SAYS TO TAKE OUT EVERYTHING YOU HAVE IN YOUR POCKET AND YOUR WALLET."



"YOU KNOW, I STOPPED HIM BECAUSE THE BACK TIRE DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF AIR. THAT IS WHY I STOPPED HIM AND WHEN I ASKED FOR HIS LICENSE HE DIDN'T HAVE IT. THE POLICEMAN SAID, 'BUT HE HAD HIS KID IN THE CAR AND IT WAS THE KID WHO HELPED US A LOT.'"



I FELT GOOD. I SAID TO MYSELF "MY KID HAS ALREADY STARTED HELPING ME AND HE'S STILL LITTLE."

"WHEN HE'S BIGGER HE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO HELP ME MORE."

IT IS HARD WHEN HE NEEDS HELP WITH HOMEWORK, BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS IN ENGLISH. I CAN'T TELL HIM "SON, THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT." I CAN'T DO IT LIKE WE WOULD IN MEXICO. WHAT I CAN HELP HIM WITH IS TO TELL HIM TO FOCUS IN SCHOOL AND BEHAVE WELL. THAT IS THE MOST THAT I CAN DO TO HELP.



I CAN GO DOWNSTAIRS BECAUSE THE EMPLOYER'S MOM WAS A TEACHER. SHE IS THE OTHER PERSON WHO HELPS ME.

I DON'T HAVE TRANSPORTATION. SO, SOMETIMES WHEN THEY SEND A NOTE AND ASK WHO I WANT TO PUT AS A GUARDIAN, I PUT THE NAME OF MY EMPLOYER. BECAUSE IF THEY CALL ME FROM SCHOOL TO SAY "FELIX, COME QUICKLY, ALEJANDRO NEEDS YOU-- SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO HIM, HE'S SICK." I CAN'T GO.



I FEEL GOOD WITH THE EMPLOYER'S WIFE BECAUSE I KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS THERE IF I GET HURT OR SOMETHING. IF I HAVE A BAD FEVER, SHE CAN BRING ME TO THE DOCTOR QUICKLY. THAT'S THE GOOD THING. I GET ALONG WELL WITH HER. THEY TREAT ME LIKE ONE OF THEIR SONS.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT VERMONT, IS THE WORK. THE WORK AND ALEJANDRO'S SCHOOLING. THAT IS THE BEST.



THE BEST FUTURE FOR HIM WILL ALWAYS BE THE BEST OPTION.

WHEN I HAVE MY LICENSE I THINK THAT WE'LL GO OUT TOGETHER TO DIFFERENT PLACES.

LIKE GO TO SARASOTA AND ALL AROUND THERE. WE CAN GO TO A STORE AND HE'LL BE ABLE TO BUY SOME SHOES.



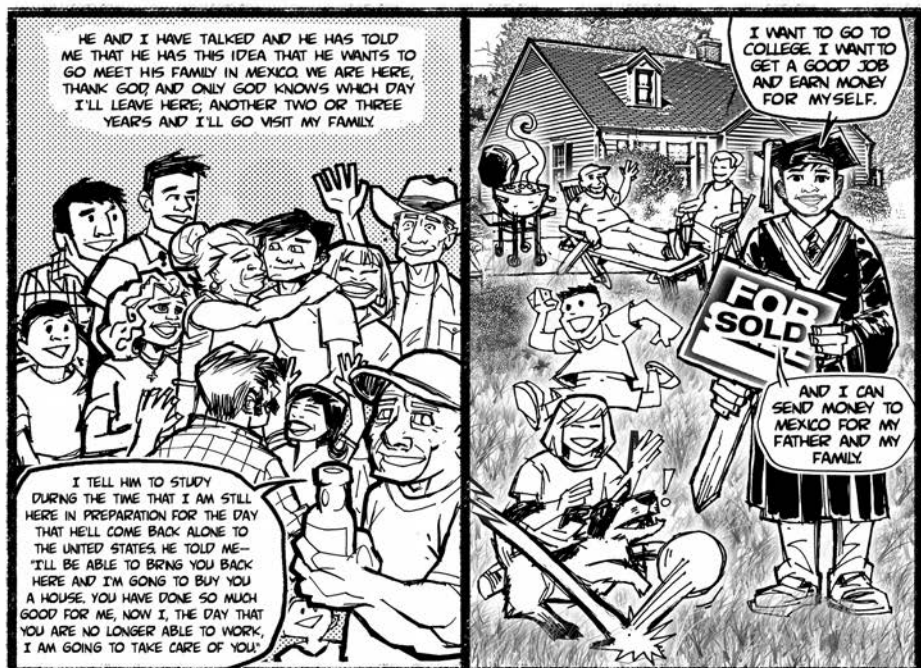
OR GO TO A RESTAURANT AND HE CAN ORDER THE FOOD THAT HE WANTS.



HERE IN VERMONT, WE HAVE NEVER GONE OUT TOGETHER. JUST THE TWO OF US-- TO A STORE OR A RESTAURANT. NEVER.



I CAN'T THINK OF ONE TIME THAT HE AND I WENT TO TOWN IN THE FIVE YEARS WE'VE BEEN HERE.



THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF HAVING FAMILY FAR AWAY IS WHEN IT'S THE HOLIDAYS HERE AND WE WANT TO ENJOY SOMETHING GOOD AND IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US. IN MEXICO, THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING BIG AND WE WANT TO BE THERE BUT WE CANT. AND SOMETIMES WE WISH THEY WERE HERE AND WE COULD SHARE A BIG MEAL AND KNOW THEM BETTER.

IN MEXICO, FOR CHRISTMAS, SOMETIMES WE CELEBRATE IN THE HOUSE, FAMILY STYLE, SOMETIMES WE DO IT IN THE CHURCH. A MEAL OR TAMALES. I HAVE A SISTER NAMED CARMELA. SHE NMITS ALL THE SIBLINGS. WE ALL GO. ALL THE SIBLINGS AND OUR CHILDREN GO. WE COME TOGETHER, MAYBE ABOUT FORTY PEOPLE, ALL FAMILY. AND WE PARTY. HAPPY.

AT CHRISTMAS, WE TALK BY PHONE. "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THERE?" THEY ASK ME. "WELL, NOTHING" I TELL THEM. HERE THERE IS WORK ALL THE TIME.

AND THEY ASK ME AGAIN "AND YOU?" I'M ALONE HERE IN THE HOUSE WITH MY SON.

SOMETIMES I'VE BEEN HERE ALL ALONE BECAUSE THE BOSS HAS INVITED HIM.

THEN, BECAUSE OF THAT, MY SIBLINGS SAY "WE WANT TO MEET OUR NEPHEW. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO COME?"



"EL VIAJE MÁS CARO"

Una colaboración entre narradores migrantes y caricaturistas Nuevainglaterra.



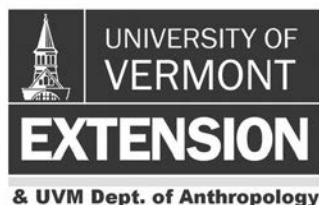
"THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY"

A collaboration between migrant storytellers & New England cartoonists.

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

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