

Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother

By Sonia Nazario

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An astonishing story that puts a human face on the ongoing debate about immigration reform in the United States, now updated with a new Epilogue and Afterword, photos of Enrique and his family, an author interview, and more—the definitive edition of a classic of contemporary America

Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for feature writing and another for feature photography, this page-turner about the power of family is a popular text in classrooms and a touchstone for communities across the country to engage in meaningful discussions about this essential American subject.

Enrique's Journey recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers. As Isabel Allende writes: "This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one."

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

"Magnificent . . . *Enrique's Journey* is about love. It's about family. It's about home."***—The Washington Post Book World***

"[A] searing report from the immigration frontlines . . . as harrowing as it is heartbreaking."***—People*** **(four stars)**

"Stunning . . . As an adventure narrative alone, *Enrique's Journey* is a worthy read. . . . Nazario's impressive piece of reporting [turns] the current immigration controversy from a political story into a personal one."***—Entertainment Weekly***

"Gripping and harrowing . . . a story begging to be told."***—The Christian***

Science Monitor

“[A] prodigious feat of reporting . . . [Sonia Nazario is] amazingly thorough and intrepid.”***—Newsday***

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Starred Review. Soon to be turned into an HBO dramatic series, Nazario's account of a 17-year-old boy's harrowing attempt to find his mother in America won two Pulitzer Prizes when it first came out in the *Los Angeles Times*. Greatly expanded with fresh research, the story also makes a gripping book, one that viscerally conveys the experience of illegal immigration from Central America. Enrique's mother, Lourdes, left him in Honduras when he was five years old because she could barely afford to feed him and his sister, much less send them to school. Her plan was to sneak into the United States for a few years, work hard, send and save money, then move back to Honduras to be with her children. But 12 years later, she was still living in the U.S. and wiring money home. That's when Enrique became one of the thousands of children and teens who try to enter the U.S. illegally each year. Riding on the tops of freight trains through Mexico, these young migrants are preyed upon by gangsters and corrupt government officials. Many of them are mutilated by the journey; some go crazy. The breadth and depth of Nazario's research into this phenomenon is astounding, and she has crafted her findings into a story that is at once moving and polemical. Photos not seen by *PW*. *(Feb. 28)*
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From School Library Journal
Adult/High School Seeking to understand why Latina single mothers leave their children to come to the U.S., and why many children undertake the hazardous journey to reunite with them, Nazario traced one family's story. Enrique was determined to find his mother, who left him in Honduras when he was five. At 16, after seven attempts to make it to Texas, robbed by bandits or police, beaten, jailed, and deported again and again, he finally reached the Rio Grande and earned enough to call her. She sent him money to pay a coyote to smuggle him across the border and the two were reunited, but they are strangers now, their relationship strained. Meanwhile, Enrique's girlfriend in Honduras bore his child. Ultimately, she joined him, leaving their three-year-old daughter behind. Mothers leave their children to send back money for better food, clothing, and schooling, yet years of separation strain family ties. The author retraced Enrique's journey by traveling on top of trains, hitchhiking, taking buses, facing the dangers the teen faced. Photographs and interviews with him, family members, other children, and those who provide aid along the way document the hazards of migration. Descriptions of rapes, beatings, and jailing of immigrant children and accounts of those who suffered loss of limbs falling from freight trains are graphic and disturbing. But no one can doubt the authenticity of this reporting. *Molly Connally, Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA*
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From Booklist
An estimated 48,000 children illegally enter the U.S. each year from Mexico and Central America in search of mothers who left them behind for economic opportunities to help lift them out of poverty. Journalist Nazario, who has written about immigration issues for two decades, puts a human face on that statistic by following Enrique's journey to find his mother. Enrique was five years old when his mother, Lourdes, came to L.A., where a series of low-paying jobs defeated her plan of returning to her children. At 17, Enrique sets out to find her. Nazario traveled more than 1,600 miles, half of it atop trains, to experience some of the danger and fright suffered by these children and adolescents. She also details other perils, including gangsters, rapists, hunger, loneliness, and border patrols. This is a harrowing odyssey that depicts one young man's attempts to reunite with his mother and the social and economic issues involved in illegal immigration. *Vanessa Bush*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gayle Oconnell:

Book is written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can know everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A book Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that will open or reading a book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

Michael Turner:

The book untitled Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was published by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. You can read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice go through.

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Christine Emmons:

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