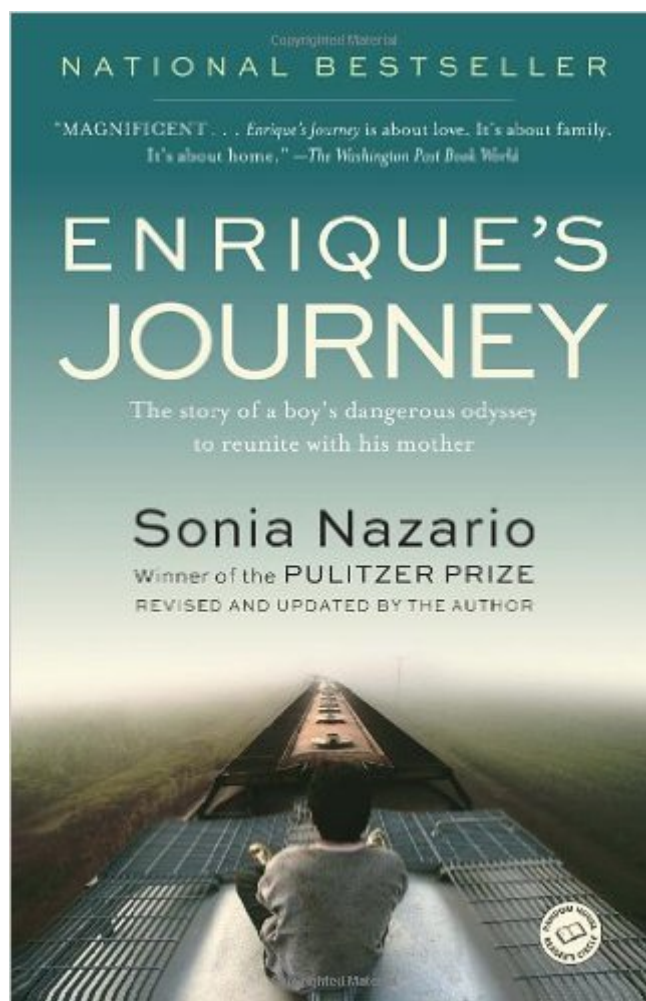


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# Enrique's Journey: The Story Of A Boy's Dangerous Odyssey To Reunite With His Mother



## Synopsis

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) [A] 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 [A] Gripping and harrowing . . . a story begging to be told." "The Christian Science Monitor [A] [A] prodigious feat of reporting . . . [Sonia Nazario is] amazingly thorough and intrepid." "Newsday

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating book concerning the flood of young Central Americans coming to America and the treacherous journey they must undertake. But it looks at the influx of illegal aliens into America in a new light. These youths who travel by train up to 1,600 miles north through Mexico are coming to find their Mother's who have left them years ago to have money to support their kids back in Nicaragua, Honduras or Guatemala. Years before these mothers faced raising kids as a single mother as the tight Catholic families in these countries are pulling apart. With limited jobs, these women smuggle to America and send money back. But the emotional toll on these kids is traumatic and many choose to journey to America, many at an age much too young. The Pulitzer Prize winning author rode the trains and researched completely the significant danger in the first state of Chiapas where the risk of being robbed, raped or killed is the greatest. The next state shows the true spirit of the Mexican people as many bring food and clothing to this rag-tag group of refugees. Great detail is spent describing areas to avoid and relationships with smugglers, police and "la migra", the immigration police. The final part of the journey across the river to America is also traumatic and great detail is spent on different ways of crossing, many involving paying "coyotes" significant money to cross with no guarantees they will not be robbed. But this book does not end there as finally Enrique finds his mother in North Carolina. But is she really a "Mother" since she hasn't seen her son in about 10 years? Obviously their relationship is unique and the book delves in to the difficulty. You will be educated on a significant human rights issue effecting America.

The U.S. is experiencing the largest wave of immigration in its history, transforming it in the process. Each year an estimated 700,000 enter illegally and another million legally. A growing number are single mothers, leaving their children with relatives or neighbors. Women in Honduras earn \$40-120 per month in factories, cleaning houses, or providing child care. A hut with no bathroom or kitchen rents for almost \$30/month. Many of their children are so malnourished they can't stand for long, and often they are taken out of school at a very early age to care for siblings or sell tortillas. Every woman Nazario interviewed in the U.S. who had left children behind thought the separation would be brief. Reality is it takes years and years to reunite, and by the time it happens the children are usually very angry - feeling abandoned. Too often the boys seek out gangs to try and find the love

they sought from their mothers; too often the girls get pregnant and form their own families. Most children who set out to rejoining their mothers don't make it. Nazario spent over six months traveling in Honduras, Mexico, and the U.S. tracing and re-tracing Enrique's steps; in addition, she spent time with Enrique and interviewed him and his family. Enrique's mother left him (with her estranged husband - his father) and his sister (with her own sister) when he was five. Unfortunately, Enrique is soon kicked out of his father's home by a new potential step-mother, and an uncle's after his new father-figure is murdered in a robbery. After about eleven years without her and an increasing glue-sniffing habit, he decides to join his mother in America. Seven times Enrique is caught and returned to Honduras.

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