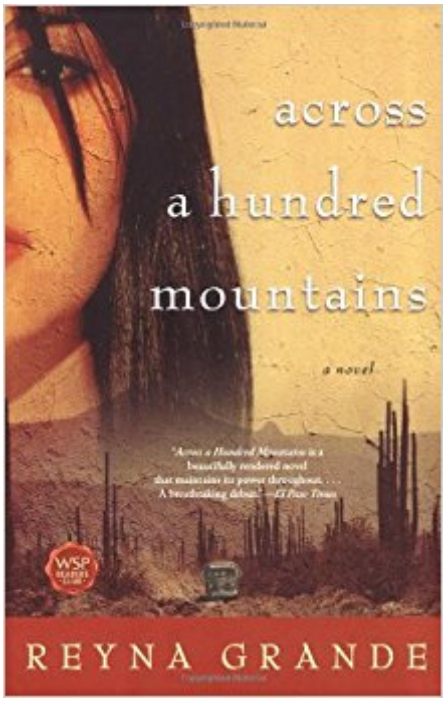
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Across A Hundred Mountains: A Novel



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Synopsis

Winner of the American Book Award, Across a Hundred Mountains is a stunning and poignant novel about a young girl who leaves her small town in Mexico to find her father, who left his family to find work in AmericaÃ¢â ¬â •a story of migration, loss, and discovery.After a tragedy separates her from her mother, Juana GarcÃƒÂ- a leaves in search of her father, who left them two years earlier. Out of money and in need of someone to help her across the border, Juana meets Adelina Vasquez, a young woman who left her family in California to follow her lover to Mexico. Finding themselvesÃ¢â ¬â •in a Tijuana jailÃ¢â ¬â •in desperate circumstances, they offer each other much needed material and spiritual support and ultimately become linked forever in the most unexpected of ways. In Across a Hundred Mountains, Reyna Grande puts a human face on the controversial issue of immigration, helping readers to better understand those who risk life and limb every day in pursuit of a better life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grande, a 2003 PEN Emerging Voices Fellow, turns in a topical and heartbreaking border story for her debut. Juana, 11, loses her baby sister in a flood, and the death sets off a chain of tragic events: her money-strapped father heads north from their small Mexican town for el otro lado; Juana’s newborn baby brother is claimed by the town money lender; and Juana’s mother descends into alcoholism and violence. At 14, Juana leaves to look for her father, from whom they have heard nothing. On her painstaking journey, she meets Adelina Vasquez, an American runaway

working as a prostitute in Tijuana, who takes Juana in. The narrative switches off between young Juana’s viewpoint, and that of Andelina, now 31 and a Los Angeles social worker, who returns to Mexico to find her own father and reunite with her mother. Grande’s deft portraiture endows even the smallest characters with grace, and the two stories cross and re-cross in unexpected ways, driving toward a powerful conclusion. (June) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Across a Hundred Mountains is a beautifully rendered novel that maintains its power throughout....A breathtaking debut." -- El Paso Times"Elegantly written...a timely and riveting read." -- People"Grande’s heartfelt [novel] addresses a worthy subject -- the desperation of illegal immigrants and the families they leave behind." -- Entertainment Weekly"Reyna Grande beguiles with the spare, unadorned prose of a fabulist, then stuns with emotional truths of shattering complexity....A tale full of memorable characters and even more memorable truths." -- Javier Grillo-Marxuach, writer/producer of Lost and Boomtown"Grande’s deft portraiture endows even the smallest characters with grace." -- Publishers Weekly (starred review)

I was disappointed in this book. It was hard to keep the two main characters and the time periods straight. The story went back and forth between the two and there were no markers about what year it was that was being described. Sometimes, one already knows the outcome of an issue because it’s been described in an earlier chapter. The writing was not great, nothing noteworthy about the descriptions or the characters. The only reason that I gave the book two stars instead of one is that it does pertain to a very important issue and gives some insight about how the world looks to people who come into our country without documentation.

Glad I read it. Though clearly fiction, the read offered me a glimpse of what life can be like for destitute Mexican families left behind when a loved one illegally swims the Rio Grande, walks arid lands (some die there), and/or otherwise enters the United States illegally. The writing felt uneven, almost as though it was written by someone not yet having full grasp of English as second language. Perhaps that was author’s intent. It is a story of merit for those of us who cannot have known such desperation. Am grateful for its telling.

I’ve never tried to review a book before, for fear of revealing any portion of the story. I hate spoiling

any part of a good book. Yes, this is a good book to read. I read other reviews about the pace of the story, but I felt it could have been a little faster. The story was well written, but I do not speak Spanish well enough to understand some of the comments. The author will define some of the Spanish, but not most. Sadly for me I felt a little left out. Like the author was sharing a deeper meaning amongst her friends and I was not invited. That may be, but overall the book was a great read and I would recommend it.

The story will grip you. If you want to get familiar with some things that thousands of immigrants experience, this is a great read. If you want to understand why people immigrate, read this book. It won't give your all the answers, but it will give you some.

Reyna Grande is an amazing writer -- and a gifted public speaker! She is young, but so very wise - and unusually personable.She is all about "giving back!" She raises money each Christmas to buy toys for the children who make their homes in the sameimpoverished village in which she grew up. She is brave and she is hopeful, even afrter surviving a childhood that could have easilydestroyed her. Her novels are well worth reading also.

Always looking for new writers and Grande fits the bill. Great writing. Will look for more of her boojs

Bought used. Nice and clean hardcover. The jacket was in great condition as well.

Sometimes the pain of human circumstances are almost beyond be as ring, but somehow the strong survive. But not without enormous cost. It can break the self, until your identity is nearly erased. It can rob you of hope until what is left is apparently a delusion.This is a story of the southern border and the risks and benefits of immigration. But it isn't really about that. It is a story about poverty and oppression, but also of liberation. It is about the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. But it is most of all the story of recovering the true self and beginning to mend the broken places. And hope emerges.

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