REYNA GRANDE
FROM UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT TO AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR


Reyna has received an American Book Award, the El Premio Aztlán Literary Award, and the International Latino Book Award. In 2012, she was a finalist for the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Awards, and in 2015 she was honored with a Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature. The young reader’s version of *The Distance Between Us* received a 2017 Honor Book Award for the Américas Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature and a 2016 Eureka! Honor Awards from the California Reading Association, and an International Literacy Association Children’s Book Award 2017.

Born in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, Reyna was two years old when her father left for the U.S. to find work. Her mother followed her father north two years later, leaving Reyna and her siblings behind in Mexico. In 1985, when Reyna was going on ten, she entered the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant to live with her father. She went on to become the first person in her family to graduate from college. Reyna holds a B.A. in creative writing and film & video from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She received her M.F.A. in creative writing from Antioch University.

Reyna is currently working on her sixth book, travels across the country to give presentations about her work, and teaches writing workshops at conferences such as the Macondo Writer’s Workshop, Bread Loaf, and VONA.

ReynaGrande.Com
"Reyna Grande's march towards her brilliant career astonishes me. Here is a life story so unbelievable, it could only be true." —**Sandra Cisneros, bestselling author of The House on Mango Street**

"Reyna Grande is a fearless writer and a tireless warrior for the unrepresented and silenced." —**Luis Alberto Urrea, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of The Devil's Highway**

“This uplifting story of fortitude and resilience looks deeply into the complexities of immigration and one woman’s struggle to adapt and thrive in America.” —**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

"Candid and emotionally complex, Grande’s book celebrates one woman’s tenacity in the face of hardship and heartbreak while offering hope to other immigrants. A heartfelt, inspiring, and relevant memoir.” —**Kirkus Reviews**

"Reyna Grande is a national treasure; her vision is not only singular, but essential to our contemporary culture. This is a beacon of a book.” —**Carolina De Robertis, award-winning author of The Gods of Tango**

“The news cycle tends to reduce immigration stories to political talking points, but Grande’s keen insight and scrupulous prose remind us just how layered and inspiring those stories actually are.” —**Dallas Morning News**

"Writers like Reyna Grande give us more than a story, they give us a world in which to dwell.” —**Valeria Luiselli, award-winning author of Lost Children Archive**
In exquisite, heartfelt prose, the bestselling author of The Distance Between Us brings us this moving account of her experience as a first-generation Latina university student and aspiring writer determined to build a new life for herself one fearless word at a time.

At age 9, Reyna Grande braves the dangers of the U.S.-Mexico border, eager to reunite with her parents in Los Angeles. What she finds on the other side is a broken family and a society where she feels invisible and voiceless. She seeks solace in reading and writing as she struggles to please an abusive father, who, despite his flaws, pushes his children to realize the promise of the American dream. Struggling to find her place in her new country and the adult world, Reyna encounters seemingly insurmountable obstacles, yet through her love of writing, she transforms herself from an undocumented immigrant to the first university graduate in her family, and ultimately, an award-winning author who “speaks for millions of immigrants whose voices have gone unheard” (Sandra Cisneros, author of The House on Mango Street).

A Dream Called Home demonstrates how, by daring to pursue her dreams, Reyna was able to build the one thing she had always longed for—a home that would endure.

A Dream Called Home
By Reyna Grande
Published by: Atria
ISBN: 978-1501171420
Price: $26.00 US
Pub Date: October 2, 2018

LA BÚSQUEDA DE UN SUEÑO
Por Reyna Grande
Atria Books
978-1501172076
$17.00 US
October 30, 2018
The Distance Between Us

International Literacy Association Children’s Book Award 2017
2016 Eureka! Honor Awards from the California Reading Association
2017 Honor Book Award for the Américas Award for Children’s Literature
National Book Critics Circle Awards Finalist 2012
One of the Best Adult Books 4 Teens 2012 (School Library Journal)
One of the 15 Best Books of 2012 (The Christian Science Monitor)

“A brutally honest book... the “Angela’s Ashes” of the modern Mexican immigrant experience.” –LA Times

“I’ve been waiting for this book for decades.” –Sandra Cisneros, author of The House on Mango Street

“Grande captivates and inspires.”—Publishers Weekly, STARRED Review

“Grande is a fierce, smart, shimmering light of a writer with an important story to tell.” –Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US (Atria Books; August 28, 2012) is Reyna Grande’s personal, heart-wrenching, and ultimately triumphant memoir about her journey from Mexico to the United States as an undocumented child immigrant, where she learned that the separation between a parent and child can be measured as much in emotional distance and abandonment as it can be in miles. An engaging writer with a talent for infusing her narrative with personal and affecting characterizations and stories, Grande truly offers an unprecedented look into the immigration experience and the reality that millions of people are facing each day.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US: A Memoir
By Reyna Grande
Published by: Washington Square Press
ISBN: 978-1451661781
Price: $15.00 US
Pub Date: March 12, 2013

LA DISTANCIA ENTRE NOSOTROS
Por Reyna Grande
Published by: Atria Books
ISBN: 978-1476710402
Price: $15.00 US
Pub Date: April 16, 2013

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US, Young Readers
By Reyna Grande
Published by: Aladdin
ISBN: 978-1481463706
Price: $9.00 US
Pub Date: September 5, 2017

LA DISTANCIA ENTRE NOSOTROS
Por Reyna Grande
Published by: V & R YA
ISBN: 978-9877473445
Price: $16.99 US
Pub Date: February 15, 2018
Across a Hundred Mountains

2010 Latino Books Into Movies Award
2007 American Book Award
2006 El Premio Aztlán Literary Award


"Grande's spare, elegantly written tale...is a timely and riveting read." --People Magazine

“Grande's deft portraiture endows even the smallest characters with grace.” — Publisher's Weekly, starred review

"An affecting debut on Mexican poverty, illegal immigration and cosmic injustice." --Kirkus Reviews

"A breathtaking debut." --El Paso Times

ACROSS A HUNDRED MOUNTAINS is a stunning and poignant story of migration, loss, and discovery. After a tragedy that separates her from her mother, Juana Garcia leaves her small town in Mexico to find her father who left his home and family two years before to find work in America, El Otro Lado, and rise above the oppressive poverty so many of his countrymen endure. 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 each other--in a Tijuana city jail--they offer each other much needed material and spiritual support and ultimately become linked in the most unexpected way. Using a non-linear narrative style, where the pieces don't fall into place until the very end, Grande takes readers inside the lives of the people of Mexico who are left behind in the phenomenon of migration to the United States.
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ReynaGrande.Com
Dancing With Butterflies

2010 International Latino Book Award
2009 Las Comadres National Book Club Selection

“Grande's lyrical and sensual follow-up to her stunning Across a Hundred Mountains (2006) is well worth the wait.” —Publisher’s Weekly, starred review

"Just when you think you know all about friends, Grande comes along to teach you something else about love and its mysteries, about good conversation over beers, sacrifices one makes for family, and about the joys and sins of shoe-stomping pride." — Helena María Viramontes, author of Their Dogs Came with Them

DANCING WITH BUTTERFLIES uses the alternating voices of four very different women in a Los Angeles dance company called Alegría to weave a story of friendship and love. Yesenia, who founded Alegría, finds herself unable to dance and seeks a miracle from a plastic surgeon in Tijuana. Elena, grief stricken by the death of her child and the end of her marriage, falls dangerously in love with one of her underage students. Elena’s sister Adriana, wears the wounds of abandonment by a dysfunctional family and becomes unable to discern love from abuse. Soledad, the sweet-tempered undocumented immigrant who designs costumes for Alegría, must make the dangerous journey north after she returns to Mexico to see her dying grandmother. Reyna Grande has succeeded in bringing the world of Folklórico dance to life, with characters whose stories are so gripping, the reader cannot help but cry along with their travails and cheer their triumphs. Ajúa!!

DANCING WITH BUTTERFLIES
By Reyna Grande
Published by: Washington Square Press
Price: $16.00 US
Pub Date: October 09, 2009
KEYNOTES, PANELS & RESIDENCIES

2019

Writer-in-Residence, California State University Bakersfield, CA
Keynote Speaker, SDSU Dual Language and English Learner Conference, San Diego, CA
Keynote Speaker @ California Association of Teachers of English (CATE), Burlingame, CA

2018

Presenter, Keeping the Dream Alive Conference at Cal State University Sacramento, CA
Presenter, Amplify: Storytelling Conference for Writers of Color, Berkeley, CA
Keynote Speaker, 9th Annual Transnational Latino Conference, DePaul University, Lincoln Park Campus, IL
Panelist, Day of Dialogue, Book Expo America, NY
Fiction workshop faculty, Macondo Writer's Conference, TX
Featured Speaker, Santa Barbara Women’s Festival Literary Salon, CA
Panelist, NonFiction Now Conference, Phoenix, AZ
K-12 Plenary speaker, CATESOL, Anaheim, CA

2017

Panelist, National Council for the Social Studies Conference 2017, San Francisco, CA
Keynote Speaker, TYCA-SW (Two-Year College English Association) Conference, CO
Panelist, AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs), Washington DC
Keynote Speaker, Voice Your Language Forum 2017, San Diego, CA
Keynote Speaker, Woman of the Year Awards, CA State Assembly, Sacramento, CA
Keynote Speaker, 7th annual Día de Los Niños/Día de Los Libros Literacy Celebration, Tempe, AZ
Faculty, VONA (Voices of Our Nations Arts), Philadelphia, PA
Keynote Speaker, GEAR UP New Mexico Student Leadership Conference, Albuquerque, NM
Featured Speaker, Symposium Days, Augustana College, IL
Keynote Speaker, The Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lectures Series, Avila University, MO
Featured Speaker, UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation Speaker Series, Madison, WI
Keynote Speaker, J-Term Book Club Lecture, University of St. Thomas, MN

2016

Keynote Speaker, Reclassification Celebration, Santa Maria JUSD
Panelist, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Atlanta, GA
Panelist, AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs), Los Angeles, CA
Keynote Speaker, Raza Unida Youth Conference, Eugene, OR
Keynote Speaker, 5th annual CSWS Northwest Women Writers Symposium, “Crossing Borders: Women’s Stories of Immigration, Migration, and Transition”
Panelist, School of Public Policy Annual Conference, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
Keynote Speaker, X Congreso de Literatura Chicana y Estudios Latinos, Instituto Franklin, Madrid, Spain

2015
Keynote Speaker, National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators, Washington DC
Featured Speaker, 2015 OC Wraparound Institute
Featured Speaker, Ethics of Immigration Conference, Roger Mudd Center for Ethics, Lexington, VA

2014
Author-in-Residence, Park City High School, UT
Keynote Speaker, Borders of Diversity Conference, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA
Keynote Speaker, With Different Eyes Conference, UCLA
Featured Speaker, 2014 Conference on Rudolfo Anaya, Cal State University, Los Angeles
Keynote Speaker, Massachusetts Educators of English Language Learners (MATSOL), Boston MA

2013
Keynote Speaker, CATESOL, (San Diego, CA)
Keynote Speaker, Puente Motivational Conference, (San Francisco & Riverside, CA)
Keynote Speaker, Comadres & Compadres Latino Writers Conference, (Brooklyn, NY)
Keynote Speaker, Latino Recognition Ceremony, Pasadena City College, (Pasadena, CA)
Cerro Visiting Author, Bakersfield College, Delano Campus, (Delano, CA)
Keynote Speaker, Goostree Women’s Symposium (Fort Worth, TX)
Keynote Speaker, Latina History Day Conference, HOPE (Los Angeles, CA)
Featured Speaker, California Association of Bilingual Education, (Long Beach, CA)
Featured Speaker, Border Writers Conference, UT-San Marcos, TX

2012
Author-in-Residence, Pasadena City College, CA
Keynote Speaker, Texas Association of Bilingual Education (San Antonio, TX)
Keynote Speaker, Leonardo Dorantes Lecture Series, Santa Barbara City College
Writer-in-Residence, Pasadena City College (Pasadena, CA)
Keynote Speaker, Latino Youth Summit (Kearney, Nebraska)
Keynote Speaker, American Association of University Women (AAUW) Author’s Luncheon, Seal Beach, CA

2010
Keynote Speaker: CMAA Scholarship Breakfast (Council of Mexican-American Administrators)
Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar: Central Oregon Community College (Bend, OR)
Keynote Speaker: PVUSD 4th Annual Parent Conference (Watsonville, CA)
Featured author, City of Watsonville’s “One the Same Page” program, Watsonville, CA
Keynote Speaker, California Association of Bilingual Education (CABE), San Jose, CA
Keynote Speaker, With Different Eyes Conference (UCLA), Westwood, CA
Featured Author, 6th Annual Author’s Brunch, Soroptimist of Brea/La Habra
Featured Author, American Association of University Women (AAUW) Author’s Luncheon, Ventura, CA
Featured Author, Hispanic Women’s Corporation, Phoenix, AZ
Panelist, Associated Writing Program (AWP), Denver, CO
Keynote Speaker, Latinas Juntas, CSUDH, Carson, CA

2009
Keynote Speaker, Regional Family Conference, Migrant Education Region XVIII (Santa Maria, CA)
Cerro Visiting Author, Bakersfield College (Bakersfield, CA)
Keynote Speaker, Adelante Mujer Latina Youth Conference (Laramie County, WY)
Commencement Speaker, CSUDH Dolores Huerta Graduation (Carson, CA)
Featured author, Women’s Literary Festival, Santa Barbara, CA
Featured author, 4th Annual Conference, Puente Project, Santa Cruz, CA
Presenter, 7th Annual National Latinos Writers Conference, Albuquerque, NM

2008
Commencement Speaker: Pasadena City College (Pasadena, CA)
Keynote Speaker: SCTE Fall Conference (Southland Council of Teachers of English)
Featured Author, California Association of Teachers of English (CATE), Long Beach, California
Panelist, California Association of Bilingual Education (CABE), San Jose, CA

2007
Keynote Speaker: Conference of the Living Tree, Ventura, CA
Highlighted author for LEAP (Learn, Experience, Achieve, and Persevere): Butte College (Chico, CA)
Keynote Speaker, The English Council of California Two-Year Colleges Conference (ECCTYC), San Jose, CA
Keynote Speaker, Southern California Teachers of English Conference (SCTE), Whittier, CA
Speaker, Mexican-American Symposium, New York, CA
Panelist, Santa Barbara Writers Conference, Santa Barbara, CA
Featured Author, 10th Annual Literary Conference, San Benito, TX
A Conversation with Reyna Grande about *The Distance Between Us*

**Q: When did you decide to write a memoir, and why?**

A: I started to write the memoir in 1997, when I was a junior at UC Santa Cruz. By then, I had discovered that writing could be very healing. I wanted to exorcise the demons that haunted me. I wanted to unload the burden I carried—the memories that left me scarred. But I couldn’t do it. The pain was too raw. And I couldn’t bear the thought of having to go back there and live everything all over again. So I turned my story into a novel, and that is how *Across a Hundred Mountains* was born. By fictionalizing my story, I was able to put some distance between myself and my emotions. But I never gave up the idea of someday writing the real story.

When I graduated from UC Santa Cruz I became a middle school teacher. I taught ESL to immigrant children. Most of them had gone through a similar experience as I had. Before, I hadn’t given much thought to my experience of being left behind in a larger context. Then I realized that it was an experience that was all too common, yet it wasn’t part of the conversation about immigration.

Once I became a published author, and I began to do presentations at middle schools, high schools, and colleges, I found myself becoming an advocate for higher education. In my talks I always made sure to encourage those young kids to never give up on their dreams, and I would share with them my personal story—a story that ultimately ends in triumph, despite all the odds against me. So in 2009, when I finished my second novel and was thinking about my next project, I finally decided to go back to the memoir. I wanted people to know that there is another side to the immigrant experience—of those who get left behind. I also wanted to give all those young people I have met at my presentations a story that would inspire them to pursue higher education and to fight for their own dreams.

**Q: You write about your experience in being left behind by your parents in Mexico and how it affected you during your formative years. Do you believe this experience helped or hindered you to become the person you are today?**

A: It did both. My experience of being left behind helped me because it made me strong. I learned to be independent and self-reliant. It taught me to be a survivor. But it also hindered me because it left me...
emotionally scarred. My childhood was dominated by my parents’ absence. As a child I felt unloved. I felt abandoned. That, coupled by the abuse I suffered at the hands of my father later in life, gave me a very low self-esteem. For a long time I didn’t have a sense of self-worth, and it took me a long time to finally start to love myself and stop worrying about whether my parents loved me or not. But this experience also affected my ability to love.

I loved my parents unconditionally, and yet the way they constantly failed me affected my relationships with others.

Q: As you wrote your memoir, did your thoughts about your parents change? Did your feelings toward them become more positive or negative?

A: Writing the memoir helped me to understand my parents better. For a long time, I only saw my experience through my eyes. But I hardly ever thought about their own experiences, and the circumstances they found themselves in. The first draft of the memoir was very angry in tone, accusatory even. Both my parents came across as one-dimensional. I gave this first draft to a former teacher, and what he said to me was this. “Reyna, this memoir is one big grudge against your parents.” And he was right.

The challenge for me was to remove all of the negative emotions that were coming across. I had to take a step back, look at my parents as “characters” in my book, and get to know them from the inside out. Just as I handled my fictional characters, where I knew everything about them—their fears, their aspirations, their past, their goals, etc.—that is how I needed to know my parents. I needed to give them their humanity. When I finished the memoir, I felt that at some level, I could finally understand my parents—and forgive them—and that was very healing for me.

Q: Were you concerned about what your family would say or react to you writing this memoir?

A: I knew my siblings would be okay with it. But I was actually terrified about what my parents would think, especially my father. There were many moments when I felt that I couldn’t publish it. That I shouldn’t publish it. Sometimes I felt like calling my agent and telling her to pull the plug. But then I would remind myself of why I was writing this story—I was doing it for those young people I wanted to inspire—and I would keep writing. Then my father passed away halfway through my writing of the memoir, and in his death I tried harder to make sure that the reader understood my father. That they knew, as I did, that he wasn’t a bad man. He was a man with good intentions, but with too many demons haunting him.

Q: Writing a memoir is considered difficult in that it’s a balance between getting your own personal experience on paper, yet ensuring that essential writing techniques and skill are used. How did you manage to turn your life into a book?

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A: My former writing teacher, whom I mentioned earlier, told me that even though I was writing about my life, I was still writing a book—which is a work of art. I was making art. I found that idea to be daunting. But I was lucky to have two published novels under my belt. It took me at least three drafts before I was able to move past my emotions and break away from my “personal” self to start looking at the memoir through a writer’s eyes. I began to look at the “material” and thought about the narrative arc for each chapter and for the overall book. At first, the memoir felt like a bunch of memories that didn’t connect, so I worked hard to imbue each memory with meaning. I looked at my family as “characters” and worked on their development and making them three dimensional, the way I would have done if I were writing a novel. I interviewed my sisters, my brother, my parents the way I would have ‘interviewed’ my fictional characters to get to know them. As I got closer to finishing the book, I began to look at the themes in the book, the symbolisms, the metaphors, and I gave them more weight. At first, it was extremely difficult to write the memoir. It was too personal. Too raw. But when I put on my writer’s hat, I was able to move beyond the emotions and focus on what I was creating—literature. Art.

Q: How is the storytelling process different in writing one’s memoir versus writing a work of fiction?

A: At first it was difficult for me to get a “handle” on writing nonfiction. I felt limited by the fact that I had to tell the truth and restrain my imagination. But then I discovered that it really isn’t that much different to write a memoir than to write a novel. Both novels and memoirs need the same thing—developed characters, a narrative arc, conflict, themes, setting, dialogue, etc. The only difference is that one is a product of your imagination and the other is a rendering of real events.

Then the challenge for me was how to look at the material (my life) and select the events that would tell a concise story with a narrative arc. I was covering about sixteen years of my life in 350 pages, so I had to work very hard on what to keep and what to leave out. It isn’t like that when I write novels. For the most part I create the plot points that are absolutely necessary for the story. But because I was writing about my own life, sixteen years of it to be exact, that was a lot of “footage” I had to look at and select.

Q: What did you enjoy the most about writing The Distance Between Us?

A: What I loved about writing this memoir is that I got to spend time with my older sister, Mago. It allowed me the opportunity to return to my childhood and to once again be her “Nena,” her baby. My sister and I aren’t as close as we used to be. We grew up. When I left for Santa Cruz to study, that was the point when our lives took different paths. I love my sister very much, and as I wrote the memoir, I was able to reconnect with her once again. At remembering everything that she did for me, how she nurtured me, took care of me, stood by me for all those years, I was able to look at our lives now and realize that even though we aren’t as close as we used to be, there will always be a special bond that connects us.
Q: How do you see the relative role of poverty in the lives of immigrants? Do you see it as a motivation for advancing oneself and reaching for opportunities, or as a limitation to success? Or both?

A: I think it’s both. Living in poverty is a great test of endurance. For some people it is a motivating factor to look for opportunities to better oneself. But there are costs, too. My father left Mexico to pursue a better life for himself and his family, and look what it did to us--it broke up my family. But something good came of it, too. I wouldn’t be where I am today if he hadn’t made that choice. We paid the price, but I think I was able to make those sacrifices worthwhile. To me, all of my accomplishments give meaning to all that we lost.

Q: How did discovering literature and writing give you a direction and a sense of identity in your new life in America?

A: When I discovered books, I felt that I had been saved. My childhood was full of things that were beyond my control. Books gave me an escape. I was able to hide in the pages of those books and for a moment get away from all the chaos around me. Once I discovered Latino Literature when I was in college, the books I read helped me to define myself. I was Mexican and American. I could celebrate my Mexican culture while at the same time also feel at ease in the American culture. They helped me not to feel torn between the two.

Q: Your memoir is very topical, especially given the political climate surrounding issues of immigration and the undocumented, in particular the young people in this country today facing the same issues you did as an undocumented immigrant. How do you see your role in relation to them?

A: I do particularly feel a connection to the DREAMers, those young undocumented people who were brought to the U.S. by their parents when they were children. That was my own experience. I was brought here by my father when I was nine years old. Like me, many of the DREAMers were left behind by their parents in their native countries. Studies show that 80% of Latin American children in U.S. schools have been separated from a parent during the process of migration.

Just like the DREAMers, by coming to this country as a child, I speak English better than I speak my native tongue. All of my writing is done in English. I know my way in this American society more than I will ever know how to navigate myself in Mexico.

The only difference between me and the DREAMers is that I was able to legalize my status when I was 13 years old, whereas they have not been given that chance. If their story is anything like my story, I believe they have
suffered enough to also continue to struggle because of their lack of legal status. I deeply believe it is time to end their suffering and for them to be allowed the chance that I was given—to give back to society and repay everything it has done for me.

Q: Many would say that you are in a sense living the American Dream and that your story is, at its heart, an American story. Do you see it this way?

A: I do see it that way. The American story is a story of triumph against all odds. I was born in a shack made of bamboo sticks and cardboard, on a dirt floor, delivered by a midwife. I was born into extreme poverty. The odds were not in my favor. Yet I have come a long way from my humble beginnings. The beauty of this country is that dreams can come true here. The journey is not all easy. But through hard work and dedication, and yes, also with luck and help from others, one can accomplish one’s dreams. This is what America stands for—the land of opportunity. To some it is a cliché. But I deeply believe in what one can accomplish in this country with a lot of work and plenty of ‘ganas.’
Praise for *The Distance Between Us*

“I’ve been waiting for this book for decades. The American story of the new millennium is the story of the Latino immigrant, yet how often has the story been told by the immigrant herself? What makes Grande’s beautiful memoir all the more extraordinary is that, through this hero’s journey, she speaks for millions of immigrants whose voices have gone unheard.” — Sandra Cisneros, author of *The House of Mango Street*

“Reyna Grande is a shimmering light of a writer with an important story to tell.” - Cheryl Strayed, author of the New York Times bestseller *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*

“A brutally honest book... the *Angela’s Ashes* of the modern Mexican immigrant experience.” — *The L.A. Times*

“Grande grabs your heart and strums music on it.” — *The Dallas Morning News*

“Grande captivates and inspires...” — *Publisher’s Weekly*

“A standout immigrant coming-of-age story.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“Puts a human face on issues that stir vehement debate...” — *Booklist*

“A visceral experience of poverty.” — *The Christian Science Monitor*

“Makes palpable a human dilemma and dares us to dismiss it.” — *The California Report*

“Grande is the kind of unsparing witness whose voice we don’t hear enough.” — *Slate Magazine*

“Readers of *The Distance Between Us* will gain a deeper insight into immigration and also enjoy Grande’s eloquent, honest storytelling. This book would be fabulous required reading for college...”
freshmen or, even better, for freshman members of Congress.” –The Washington Independent Review of Books

“Her compelling story, told in unvarnished, resonant prose, is an important piece of America’s immigrant history.” --BookPage

"Reyna Grande's extraordinary journey toward the American dream will be an inspiration for anyone who has ever dreamed of a better life."—Ligiah Villalobos, writer/executive producer of Under the Same Moon/La Misma Luna

“In this poignant memoir about her childhood in Mexico, Reyna Grande skillfully depicts another side of the immigrant experience—the hardships and heartbreaks of the children who are left behind. Through her brutally honest firsthand account of growing up in Mexico without her parents, Grande sheds light on the often overlooked consequence of immigration—the disintegration of a family.”—Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize winner, and author of Enrique’s Journey