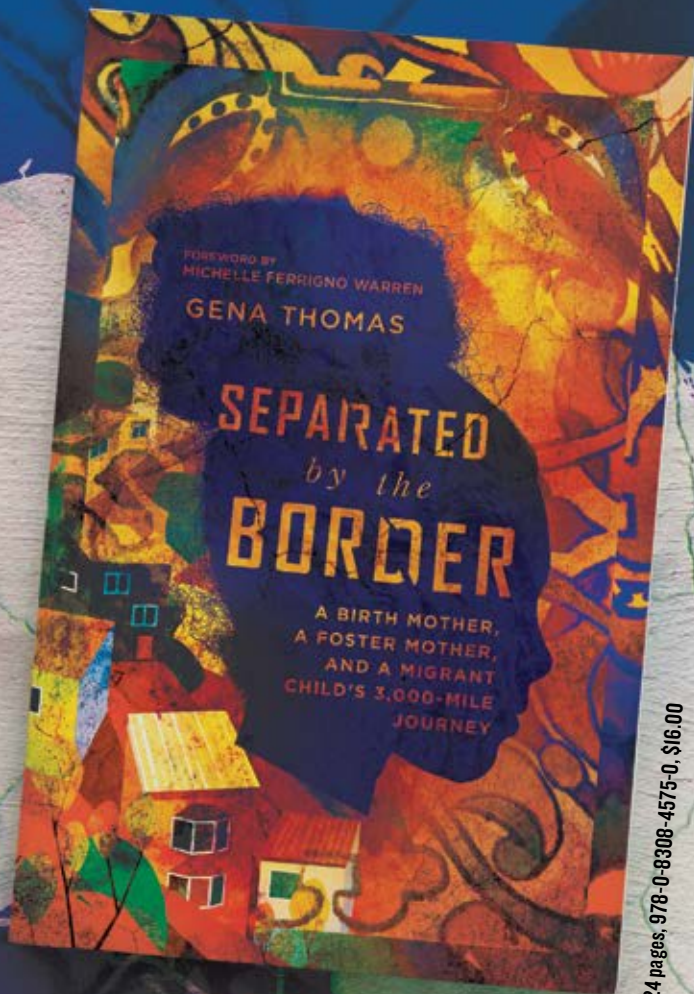


*"In **Separated by the Border**, Gena weaves together her own story with the story of this precious girl and the brave mother from whom she was separated in the course of a perilous journey to the United States. In the process, she puts human faces on the complex but often politicized issues of immigration, asylum seekers, and foster care."*

MATTHEW SDERENS

US director of church
mobilization, World Relief

I imagine this story will pull at your heartstrings. But I want to be clear: I'm not telling it merely to evoke your emotion, your pity, or even your altruism. I tell you because I want my fellow Americans—especially my fellow white, middle-class Americans—to understand this is the reality of immigration.



224 pages, 978-0-8308-4575-0, \$16.00

UNITED STATES

McAllen, Texas

Mexico City

MEXICO

GUATEMALA

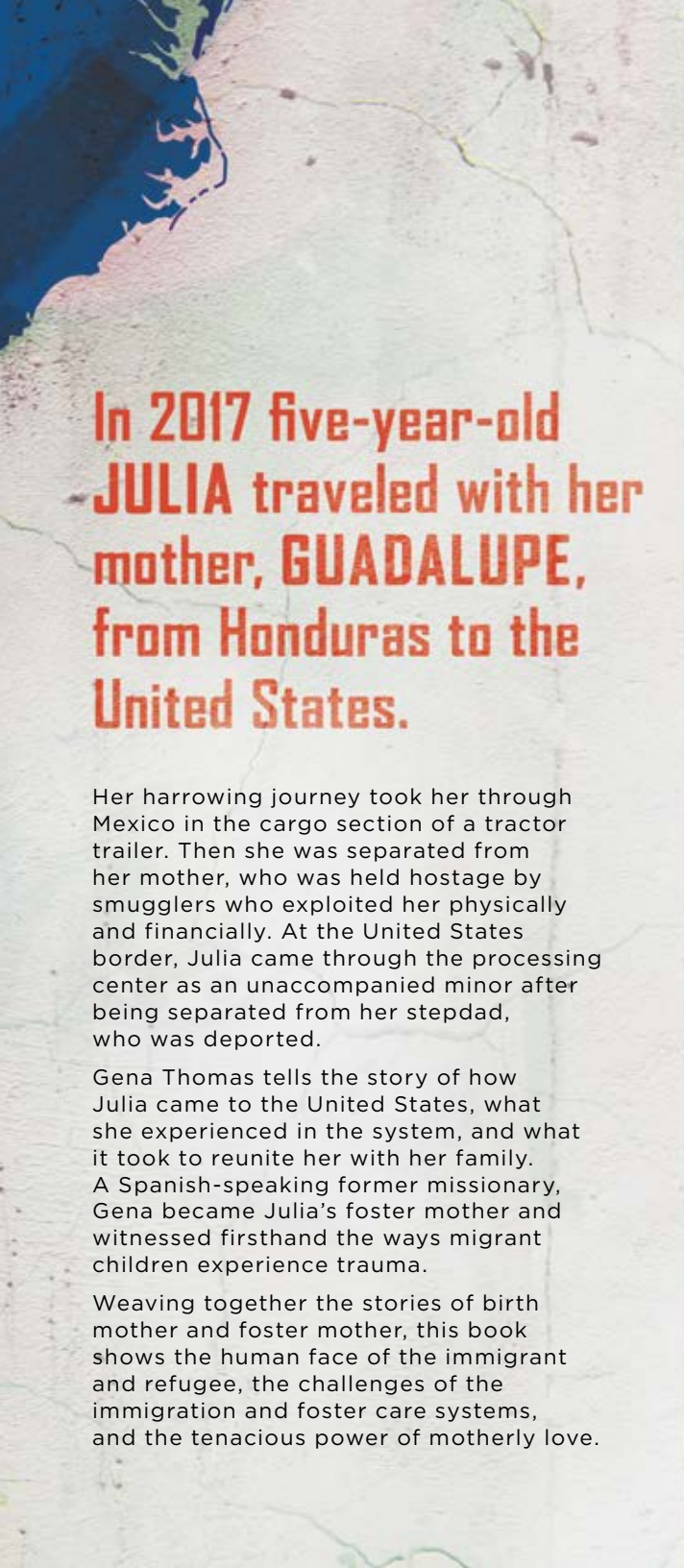
Tela

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 29, 2019

Learn more at ivpress.com/separated-by-the-border



In 2017 five-year-old JULIA traveled with her mother, GUADALUPE, from Honduras to the United States.

Her harrowing journey took her through Mexico in the cargo section of a tractor trailer. Then she was separated from her mother, who was held hostage by smugglers who exploited her physically and financially. At the United States border, Julia came through the processing center as an unaccompanied minor after being separated from her stepdad, who was deported.

Gena Thomas tells the story of how Julia came to the United States, what she experienced in the system, and what it took to reunite her with her family. A Spanish-speaking former missionary, Gena became Julia's foster mother and witnessed firsthand the ways migrant children experience trauma.

Weaving together the stories of birth mother and foster mother, this book shows the human face of the immigrant and refugee, the challenges of the immigration and foster care systems, and the tenacious power of motherly love.

BY THE END OF 2019, THERE ARE EXPECTED TO BE **539,500 PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM CENTRAL AMERICA**, WHERE CURRENT HOMICIDE RATES ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST EVER RECORDED IN THE REGION.

(The UN Refugee Agency, refugee statistics)

The number of people fleeing FOR THEIR LIVES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA HAS GROWN BY TEN TIMES IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

(The UN Refugee Agency, refugee statistics)

11,333 IMMIGRANTS WERE ABDUCTED IN THE SIX MONTHS BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER 2010.

(National Human Rights Commission in Mexico, 2011 special report)

AN ESTIMATED 120,000 MIGRANTS HAVE DIED OR DISAPPEARED IN THEIR TRANSIT THROUGH MEXICO SINCE 2006.

(Mesoamerican Migrant Movement, International Human Rights Clinic forthcoming report)

PRAISE FOR *Separated by the Border*

"Separated by the Border is an essential book as our country has been failing at opportunities for compassion, morality, and wisdom on our southern border. Thomas illuminates the complexities and the human suffering. The stories she shares makes the issues deeply personal. Our hearts are broken—but we're also inspired by the incredible love in these pages that isn't restricted by borders."

KENT ANNAN

director of humanitarian and disaster leadership at Wheaton College

"Separated by the Border puts human faces to an issue that has been politicized, and it is gritty like the issue. At the same time, it shows the love, compassion, and caring of two mothers for a vulnerable child.

I was so happy to see the story told in a way that helps people understand why we have this crisis and even more importantly that we are talking about real people, all created in the image of God."

CHRIS PALUSKY

president/CEO, Bethany Christian Services



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

GENA THOMAS

is a writer and speaker who works at a nonprofit that empowers others through holistic development. She served as a missionary in northern Mexico for four years, holds a master's degree in international development, and is the author of *A Smoldering Wick: Igniting Missions Work with Sustainable Practices*. She lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with her husband, Andrew, and their two children.



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