

ANNA

Guillermo Arriaga & Humberto Ramos

Delgado / Negrete / Olea



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

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Comic book produced as part of the program “Humanitarian Response for the vulnerable migrant population and refugee seekers on the northern and southern border of Mexico”, a project funded by EU Humanitarian Aid and implemented by Save the Children and HIAS in Mexico.

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The story presented in this comic book may coincide with the reality of thousands of migrant girls, boys and adolescents and asylum seekers in Mexico and in the world.

The title 'MMA' is rendered in large, bold, white, distressed letters. The letter 'M' contains a silhouette of a man, and the letter 'A' contains a silhouette of a child. The background is a dark green, textured illustration of a building facade with windows and balconies.

MMA

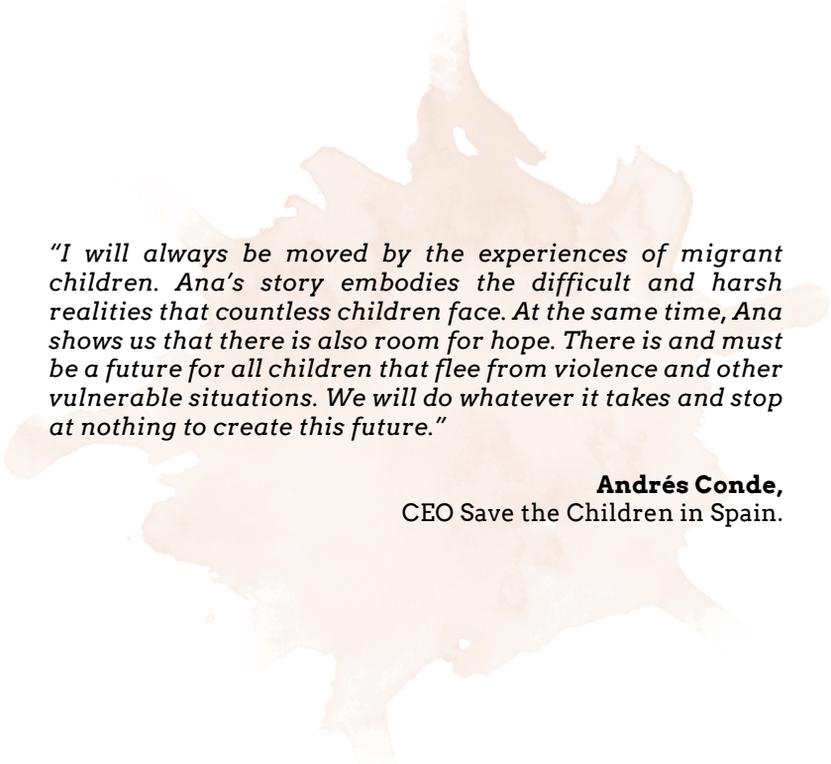
Recommended for 15 years of age and older, if someone younger reads it, we suggest to do it accompanied by an adult in order to explain the facts reflected in this story.

This comic has been produced in order to raise awareness about the situation of migrant and refugee children in Mexico.



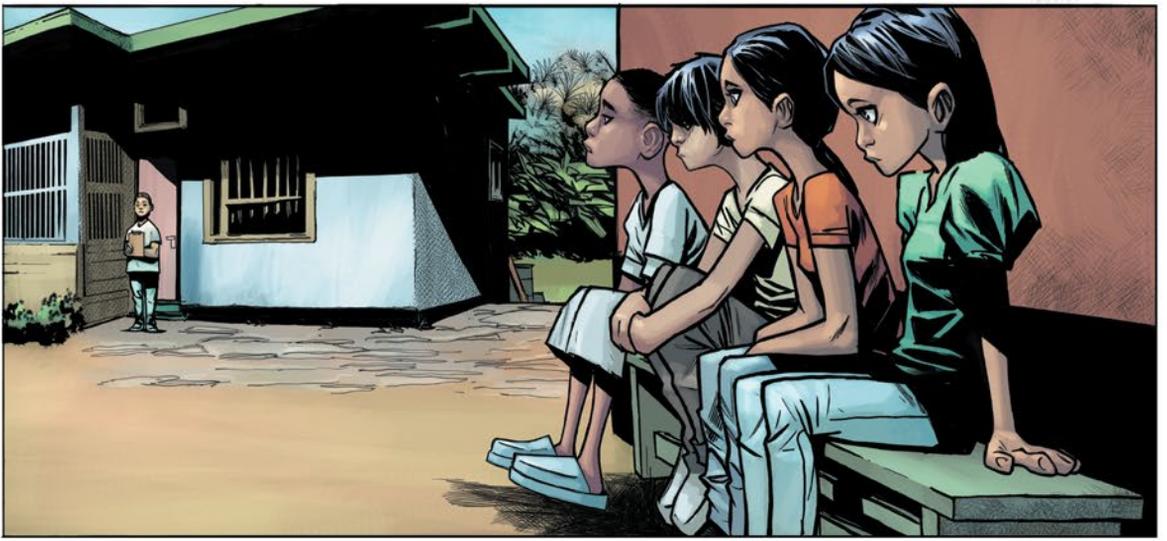
“A sad, touching story that gives us the hope and strength to fight for justice for all children, especially those forced to migrate. All children deserve the best beginning in life, always.”

Maripina Menéndez,
CEO Save the Children in Mexico.



“I will always be moved by the experiences of migrant children. Ana’s story embodies the difficult and harsh realities that countless children face. At the same time, Ana shows us that there is also room for hope. There is and must be a future for all children that flee from violence and other vulnerable situations. We will do whatever it takes and stop at nothing to create this future.”

Andrés Conde,
CEO Save the Children in Spain.





ANA?



HI ANA, HOW ARE YOU?

HELLO.

YOU'RE AFRAID, AREN'T YOU?

UH-HUH.



I WAS SCARED TOO AT YOUR AGE.

YOU KNOW? I WAS ALSO BORN IN SAN PEDRO SULA.



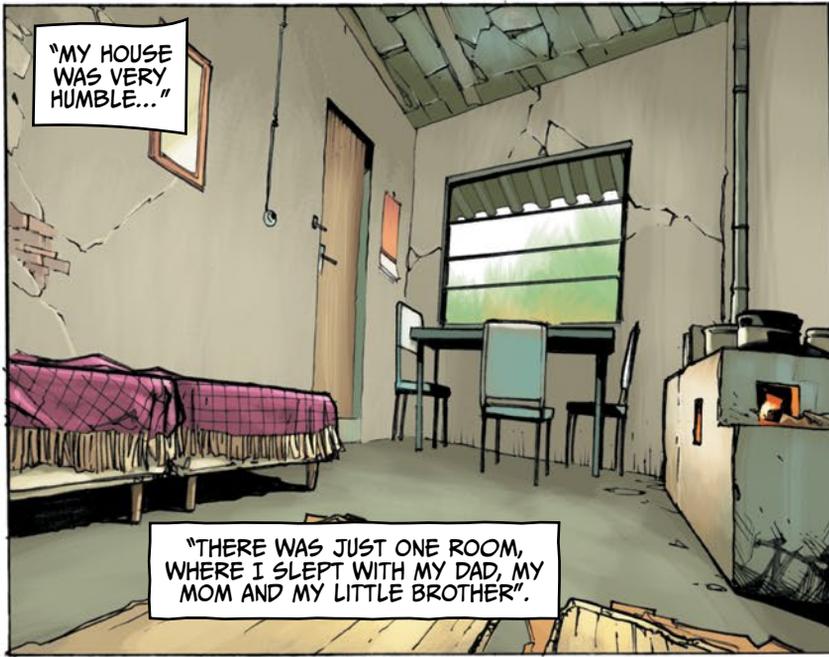
REALLY?



YES, REALLY! AND MY FAMILY HAD TO MIGRATE TOO, LIKE YOURS.

YOU, DOCTOR?

YES, I AM A MIGRANT, LIKE YOU. WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL...



"MY HOUSE WAS VERY HUMBLE..."

"THERE WAS JUST ONE ROOM, WHERE I SLEPT WITH MY DAD, MY MOM AND MY LITTLE BROTHER".



MY HOUSE WAS JUST THE SAME!

YES, HOUSES IN CERTAIN NEIGHBORHOODS OF SAN PEDRO ARE VERY SIMILAR.



"MY DAD REALLY LOVED ME, BUT HE WAS INVOLVED IN SOME STRANGE STUFF..."

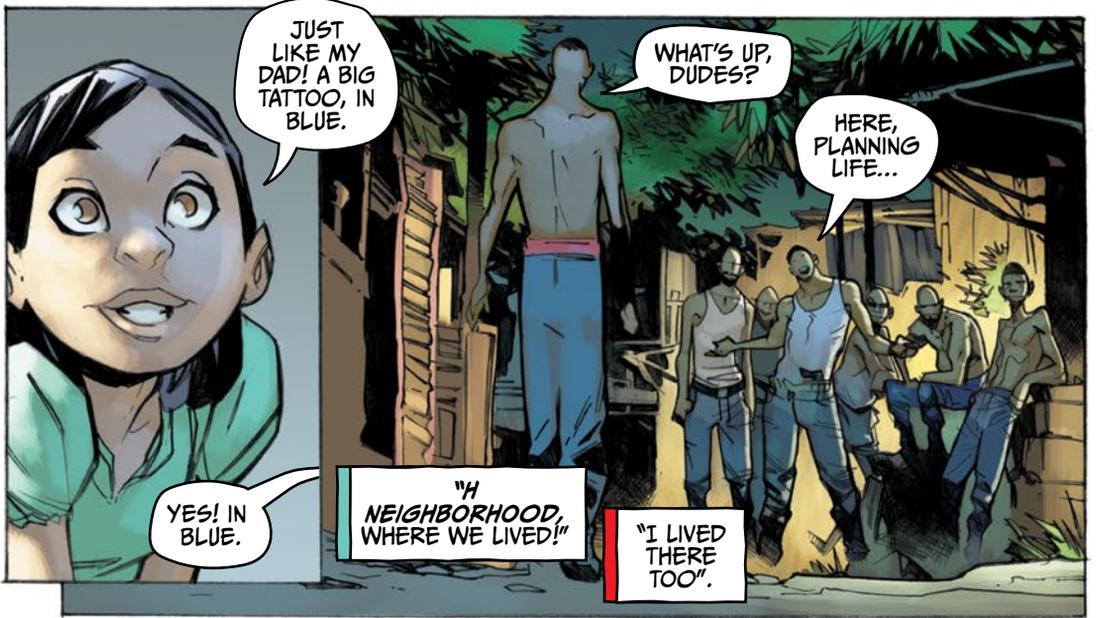
I'M HUNGRY, IS DINNER READY?

IT'S NEARLY DONE.



HOW'S MY SWEET PEA?

"MY DAD WAS COVERED IN TATTOOS. HE HAD A HUGE ONE, WITH AN 'H' REPRESENTING THE H NEIGHBORHOOD ON HIS CHEST".



JUST LIKE MY DAD! A BIG TATTOO, IN BLUE.

WHAT'S UP, DUDES?

HERE, PLANNING LIFE...

YES! IN BLUE.

"H NEIGHBORHOOD, WHERE WE LIVED!"

"I LIVED THERE TOO".



IS THAT PIECE NEW?

YEAH BRO, WE GOT YOU ONE TOO.



TODAY WE'RE GOING TO KICK SOME ASS IN THE OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD.





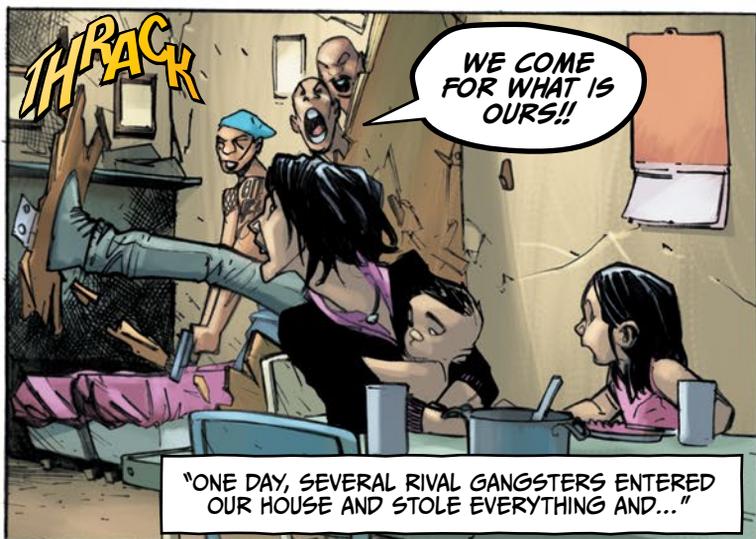
"I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT MY DAD TOLD ME BEFORE HE DIED..."



"I JUST KNOW THAT I MISS HIM EVERY MOMENT SINCE THEN..."



"WITHOUT ANYONE TO PROTECT US".



"ONE DAY, SEVERAL RIVAL GANGSTERS ENTERED OUR HOUSE AND STOLE EVERYTHING AND..."



THEY ALL RAPED MY MOM, IN FRONT OF OUR EYES.



THIS HOUSE IS NOW OURS!

IF YOU'RE NOT OUT OF HERE BY TOMORROW...



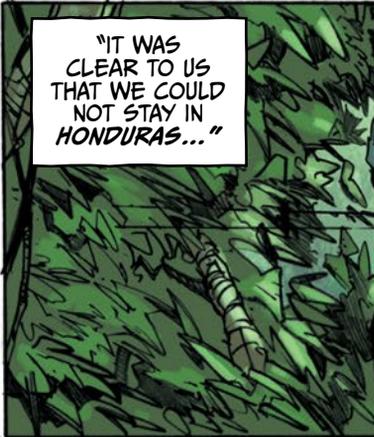
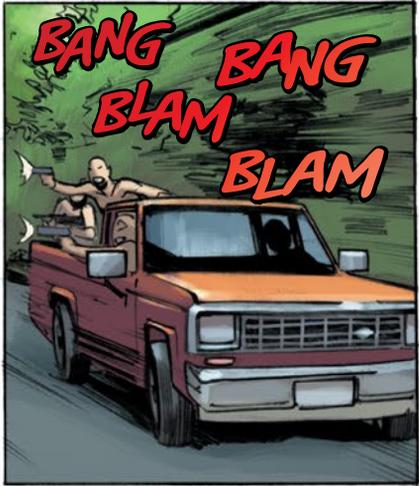
...I'LL KILL THIS LITTLE RUNT!



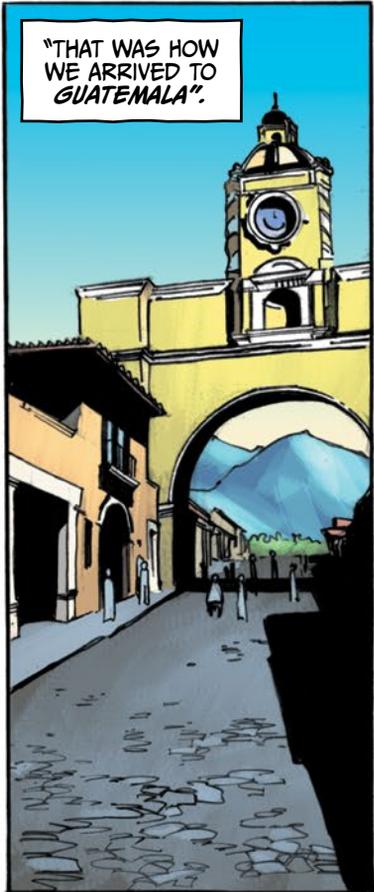
"WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FLEE".



"WE WERE SO AFRAID..."



"IT WAS CLEAR TO US THAT WE COULD NOT STAY IN HONDURAS..."



"THAT WAS HOW WE ARRIVED TO GUATEMALA".



"AND MY MUM STARTED SELLING TORTILLAS TO SAVE SOME MONEY TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES".





"WE LEFT FOR THE MEXICAN BORDER".

HEY, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN HELP US GET TO THE UNITED STATES?



YOU JUST GOT THE RIGHT PERSON, FOLLOW ME!



WAIT FOR ME HERE, I WON'T BE LONG.



RUN!



"THEY TRIED TO MUG US".



"AND STEAL WHAT LITTLE WE HAD".



"MY MOTHER REALIZED THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REACH THE UNITED STATES ALONE SO WE JOINED A CARAVAN..."



LET US THROUGH, WE'RE GOOD PEOPLE!

YES, PLEASE!

WE MUST PUSH...!

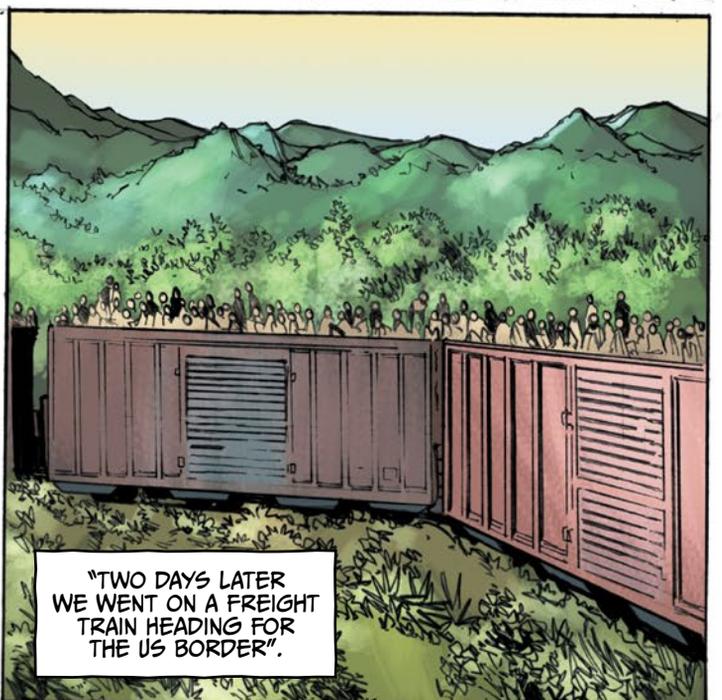


"PEOPLE WENT CRAZY AND BEGAN PUSHING".

"I THOUGHT WE'D BE CRUSHED".



"THEY BROKE THROUGH THE FENCE AND MY MOTHER TOLD US TO RUN".



"TWO DAYS LATER WE WENT ON A FREIGHT TRAIN HEADING FOR THE US BORDER".





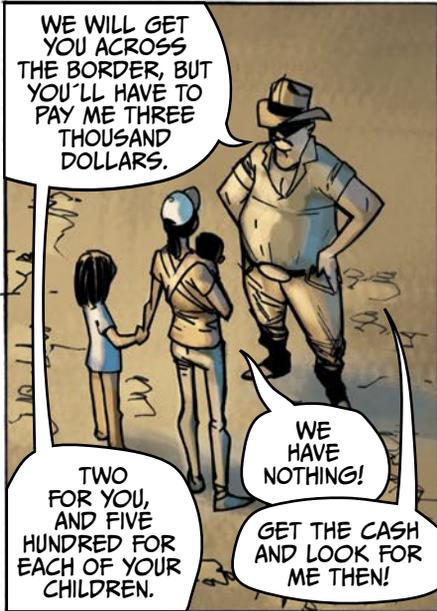
"I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY MUGGED US".

TIJUANA

"WE WERE POOR, THEY TOOK ALL WE HAD".

"BASTARDS!"

"AFTER A LOT OF GOING FROM PLACE TO PLACE, SOME PEOPLE TOOK US TO TIJUANA".



WE WILL GET YOU ACROSS THE BORDER, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

WE HAVE NOTHING!

TWO FOR YOU, AND FIVE HUNDRED FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN.

GET THE CASH AND LOOK FOR ME THEN!



"WE ALL WORKED TO GET THE MONEY..."

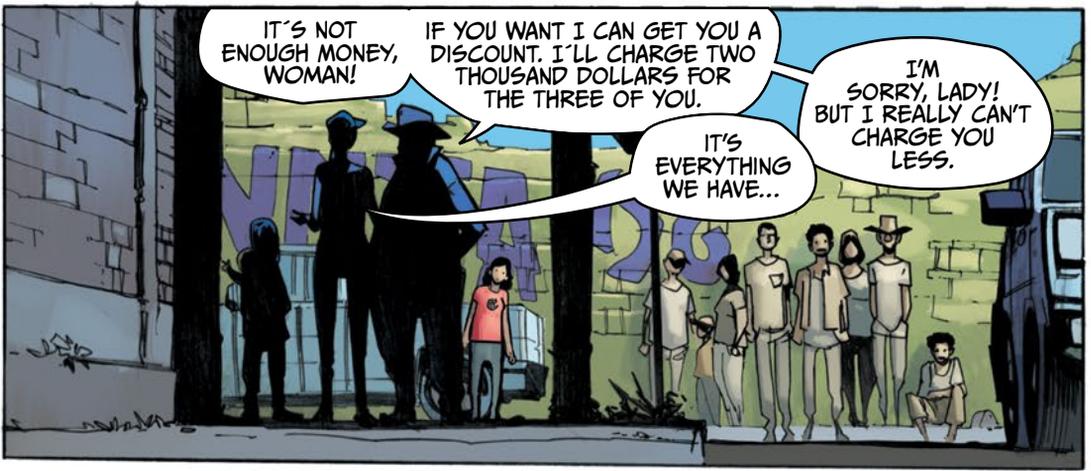


"BUT WE COULDN'T GET THE MONEY EVEN AFTER WORKING A FULL YEAR..."



WE HAVE SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH!



IT'S NOT ENOUGH MONEY, WOMAN!

IF YOU WANT I CAN GET YOU A DISCOUNT. I'LL CHARGE TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE THREE OF YOU.

I'M SORRY, LADY! BUT I REALLY CAN'T CHARGE YOU LESS.

IT'S EVERYTHING WE HAVE...



HEY MA'AM!



I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID TO THE COYOTE.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE OF SAVE THE CHILDREN IN THE MIGRANT SHELTER?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, AND I DON'T CARE!

I KNOW YOU DON'T TRUST ME. NONE OF US TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE!



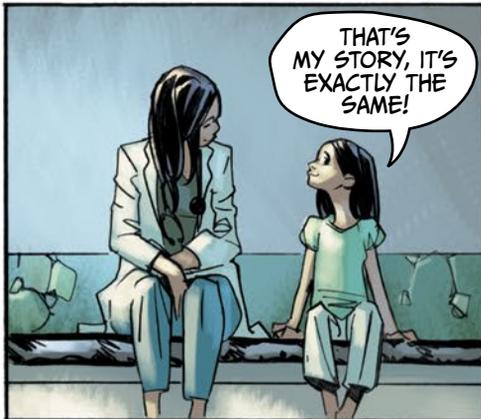
MY HUSBAND WAS KILLED WHILE GETTING MUGGED.

I'M SORRY!

IF WE DON'T HELP EACH OTHER, NO ONE'S GOING TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE.



"THE LADY DID REALLY HELP US AND BROUGHT US TO THIS SAME SHELTER WHERE YOU ARE NOW".



THAT'S MY STORY, IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME!



THAT WAS YOUR STORY, ANA! THIS IS NOW YOUR STORY.

KNOCK KNOCK

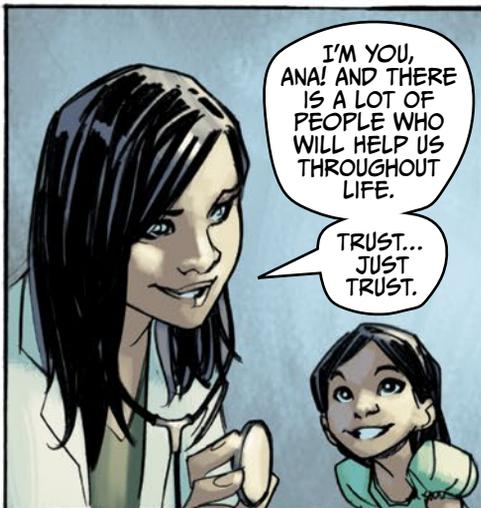


DR. ANA, THIS IS PACO.

HI PACO. COME IN!



SIT DOWN, I'LL CHECK YOU IN A BIT.



I'M YOU, ANA! AND THERE IS A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP US THROUGHOUT LIFE.

TRUST... JUST TRUST.



OK PACO, OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

THE END

Portraits ANA

Yo soy.

Yesica se vuelve ha

Suertes (CONT'D)

Se dirige hacia l y junta dispensario.

Entran y alrededor

La enf

Guillermo is a renowned writer, screenwriter, producer, and film director. He has written four novels: "The Guillotine Squad", "A Sweet Scene of Death", "The Night Buffalo", "The Untameable" and more recently, "Salvar el Fuego", as well as a book of stories: "Return 201", titles with which he has become one of the most influential writers in contemporary literature and in Spanish language. In 2020 he was the winner of the **Alfaguara Prize** for "Salvar el Fuego".

He is also the writer of the films: "Amores Perros", "21 Grams", "Los Tres Entierros de Melquiades Estrada", with which he won **The Palme d'Or** for Best Script at the 2005 **Cannes International Film Festival**, "Babel", with which he received an **Oscar** nomination for Best Screenplay in 2007, as well as "The Buffalo of the Night" and "The Burning Plain". In 2010 he wrote and directed the short film "El Pozo" to commemorate the **Centennial of the Mexican Revolution**. He has also been the recipient of awards such as the **Golden Lion of Venice** for the film "Desde Allá", written and directed by **Venezuelan Lorenzo Vigas** and the **Star Award** given by the **Dallas Film Festival**.

ANA is his first foray into the world of comics.

Guillermo Arriaga

Humberto is the most successful Mexican comic book artist in the world, and since 1992 has worked in some of the most important publishing companies worldwide. His beginning in **Milestone** opened the doors of **DC Comics**, where he gave life to characters like "Impulse". His passage through publishing houses such as **Event Comics** and **Wildstorm** allowed him to make his debut feature "Crimson" together with **Oscar Pinto** and **Francisco Haghenbeck**, which enabled him to further develop his authorial streak with titles such as "Out There" and "Revelations". His talent opened the doors to **Marvel Comics**, where he remains to this day giving life to the most emblematic characters of that publishing house, being mostly recognized for his work on "Spiderman".

His work has been published in more than 20 languages, with his merits leading him to win the prestigious **Prix Saint-Michel** award given in **Belgium**, the cradle of comics in Europe, and the **Inkpot Award**, given by **San Diego Comic-Con International** in recognition of his career and work. His art reached the big screen in 2011 when he developed the concept art for the French film "The Prodigies" by Director **Antoine Charreyron**.

Always ready to help and give his best in his work, ANA is his first collaboration for a social cause in **Mexico**.



Humberto Ramos



Edgar Delgado

Artist, writer, colorist, born in Monterrey. Creator of "Ultraduck" and "Los Valiants", two of the most popular Mexican comics of recent times, published in the **United States, France and Mexico** under the imprint of the **Fixión Narradores** publishing house. In addition to being the exclusive colorist for **Marvel Comics**, he has worked on the most important titles of the famous publishing house, such as "The Amazing Spider-Man", "Champions", "Darth Vader", "Star Wars", among many others.

Héctor Negrete



With extensive editorial experience and knowledge about the universe of comics, Héctor is a specialist in lettering comics, mainly with the **Marvel Comics** and **DC Comics** magazines published in **Mexico**. He has also worked with North American publications such as **Antarctic Press Books** in the following titles: "Exciting Comics", "Horror Comics" and "Leave on the Light". Also he has collaborated with the prestigious science fiction magazine **Heavy Metal Magazine**.



Leonardo Olea

Multifaceted creative, combining design, editing and production, he has worked with the mainly entertainment brands, publishers and artists around the world. His work can be seen in comics such as "Superman", "Run Love Kill", "Fairy Quest" and "Revelations". He has produced style and identity guides for companies such as **Disney, Warner Consumer Products, Nike** and more. Also he designed the titles of the **Oscar-nominated** short film "Pear Cider and Cigarettes" by **Robert Valley**. With more than 60 books designed, his tireless search for new challenges has led him to be part of the limited edition brand, **Mafufo**.

The Road for ANA

ANA is the story of a young girl fleeing **Honduras**, along with her family, to save their lives: Together, they set out on the painful journey of forced migration to the **United States**. Like Ana, every year, thousands of undocumented girls, boys, and teenagers cross the Mexican territory in search of a safer and more prosperous future.

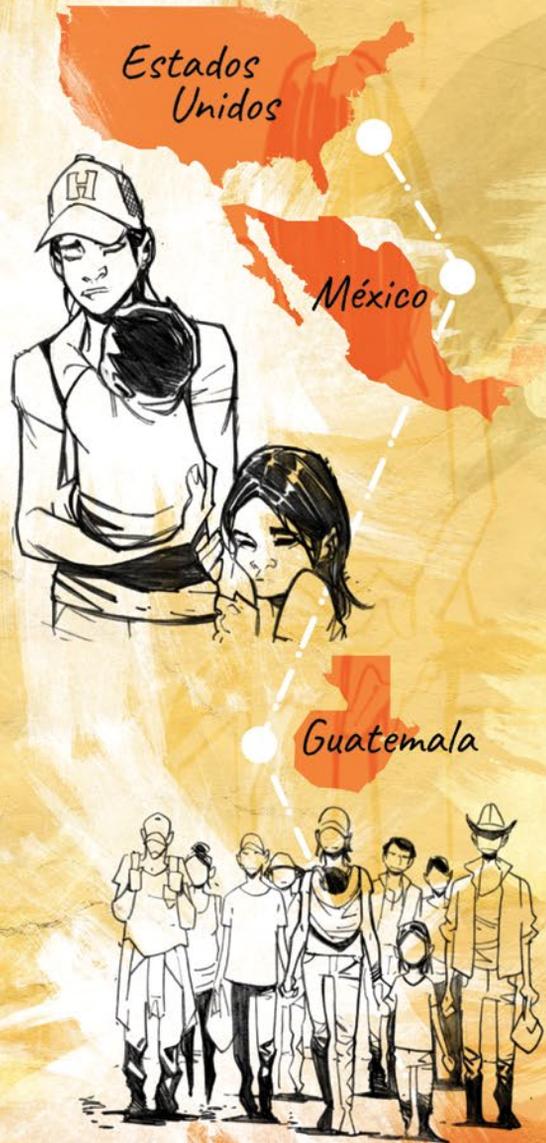
ANA reflects the lives of many girls, boys, teenagers, and women who have received help from the "Humanitarian Response for vulnerable migrants and people seeking refuge on the northern and southern border of Mexico" Program operated by the consortium between **Save the Children** and **HIAS Mexico** organizations and funded by **EU Humanitarian Aid**.

This comic has been made possible thanks to the generous support of **Guillermo Arriaga** and **Humberto Ramos**, who, through the creation of this story, bring readers through the arduous experiences faced by migrant girls, boys, and teenagers on the American continent.

Almost 1 out of 3 migrants entering **Mexico** are girls, boys, and teenagers, most of them from **Guatemala**, **El Salvador**, and **Honduras**. Poverty, violence, climate change, as well as social and political conflicts are the main causes of forced migration of children and teenagers in the region. Accompanied and unaccompanied, they walk treacherous roads to avoid migratory controls and achieve their goal.

Most of the time, the journey to the north is dangerous and traumatic. Many flee their homes amid the worst possible conditions. They become victims of violence along the way: they are forced to sleep on the streets, they go hungry, become ill, experience assaults, abuses and some even get killed.

Due to the mass exodus of migrants and asylum seekers who entered **Mexico** in 2018, the **Migrant Protection Protocols** (MPPs) implemented by the **U.S. Government** between 2019 and 2020, as well as the **COVID-19** pandemic, a significant number of migrants have become stranded in Mexican territory, without the possibility of continuing their journey.





This is where the program implemented by **Save the Children** and **HIAS Mexico** operates.

In the cities of **Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, Mexicali** and **Monterrey** (northern border), the two organizations provide care to girls, boys, teenagers, and victims of gender-based violence through legal assistance, psychosocial, and mental health support, as well as management and referral of cases of gender-based violence.

In the city of **Tapachula** (southern border), shelters for migrants have improved through the strengthening of disaster risk reduction and protection mechanisms in compliance with the **Civil Protection Standards in Mexico**. Similarly, **Save The Children** and **HIAS** work with shelter residents, including girls, boys, and teenagers, to develop plans for risk reduction and man-made crises, integrating the different needs, ages and genders of the migrant and refugee-seeking population.

On Mexico's northern and southern borders, the consortium carries out hygiene and cleanliness campaigns and delivers hygiene kits to prevent infection from the **COVID-19** pandemic. Likewise, they deliver fresh food to tackle hunger amid the global pandemic. Similarly, actions are implemented to keep participants safe during direct program operations.



ANA is an effort to raise awareness in society about the situation of migrant children and to promote the work of civil society organisations. It is also a call to protect and defend the human rights of migrant girls, boys, and teenagers, as well as asylum seekers and refugees.

Regardless of the origin, skin color, language or who their parents are, girls and boys deserve to live their life fully, free of all danger.





The European Union and its **Member States** are the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid.

Through its *Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations* department (ECHO), the European Union helps millions of victims of conflict and disasters every year. With headquarters in **Brussels** and a global network of field offices, the EU provides assistance to the most vulnerable people on the basis of humanitarian needs.

ESTACION
MUSICA, Y...

Rincón
de la
calma

Save the Children
ESPACIO AMIGABLE
Save the Children trabaja con niñas, niños y adolescentes en acciones de Protección Infantil y Educación en Emergencias.



El proyecto es financiado
humanitaria de la U...
que se vacu...
antes



Find out more.



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