



Immokalee's Fields of Hope

Carlene A. Thissen

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Immokalee's Fields of Hope is a story of Mexican, Haitian, and Guatemalan immigrants, told by an ex-hippie turned businesswoman who regained her soul through volunteering with children. With compassion and understanding, the author leads the reader through the personal stories the immigrants told her, framed with the political and social histories of their countries. Beginning with family memories of her own German and Irish grandparents, she captures the struggles, hopes, and dreams of people who just want to work and make a better life. The book gives the reader's imagination the opportunity to stretch out and truly visualize the plights of the people being described and their motivation for coming here. They left horrible poverty, violence, and persecution and risked everything they had to come to Southwest Florida as word spread across our borders: There is work in Immokalee. More than just the vivid story of the immigrants, this book also explains the frustrations and fears of the rural community that struggled to absorb them and the dedicated people who came to help. The immigrants' dreams of a better life and the author's own journey back to the garden all began in Immokalee's Fields of Hope.

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