

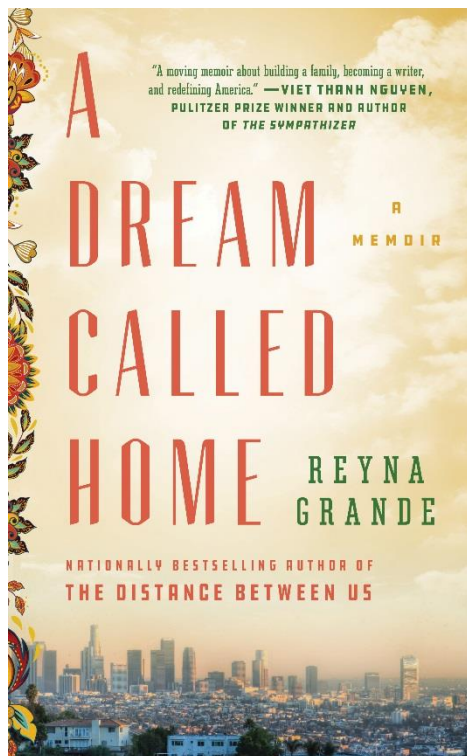


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An inspiring new memoir from Reyna Grande, the
National Book Critics Circle Award finalist and
bestselling author of *The Distance Between Us*

A DREAM CALLED HOME

A Memoir

by Reyna Grande

“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 as they “fight to remain” and make their voices heard in a changing America. A heartfelt, inspiring, and relevant memoir.”

-Kirkus Reviews

“Reyna Grande’s march towards her brilliant career astonishes me. She makes seemingly-disastrous choices, but bobs and floats through as buoyant as cork. Her mistakes are familiar, but her recovery is unique. Here is a life story so unbelievable, it could only be true.”

—Sandra Cisneros, bestselling author of *The House on Mango Street*

“A moving memoir about building a family, becoming a writer, and redefining America.”

—Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author of *The Sympathizer*

“When the spark of a fierce intelligence touches a soul deep and true, an entire world is born. Writers like Reyna Grande give us more than a story, more than a book, more than just a slice of their experience or their imagination; they give us a world in which to dwell, a place we can always return to when we need to make sense of the chaos that surrounds us. *A Dream Called Home* is such a place.”

—Valeria Luiselli, award-winning author of *Tell Me How It Ends*



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“A Dream Called Home is a deeply moving, beautifully written portrait of a young woman's journey to her own best life against the odds. 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*

“Reyna Grande is a fearless writer and a tireless warrior for the unrepresented and silenced. Her power is growing with every book.”

—Luis Alberto Urrea, Pulitzer Prize finalist and bestselling author of *The Devil's Highway*

“Reyna Grande is a fierce, smart, shimmering light of a writer with an important story to tell.”

—Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild* on *The Distance Between Us*

Poignant yet triumphant, deeply personal, powerful and harrowing, are just a few of the words that critics have called award-winning author **Reyna Grande's** 2012 memoir, *The Distance Between Us* (Atria; 2012), a firsthand account of the hardships and heartbreak of the children who are left behind when parents immigrate to the United States in search of a better life for their families. A finalist for the National Critics Book Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* called it, “A brutally honest book... akin to being the *Angela's Ashes* of the modern Mexican immigrant experience.”

Six years after its publication, *The Distance Between Us* has become a landmark resource for those who share Grande's experience or want to learn from it, and Grande is a sought-after speaker and educator. With deft skill and candidness, Grande recounts the pain and poverty she experienced growing up in Mexico without her parents. When she was nine years old, Grande made her own journey across the border in search of a home. What she found instead was an indifferent mother, an abusive, alcoholic father, and a school system that didn't honor her heritage. Against all obstacles, Grande's love of reading and writing propelled her to rise above all challenges and ultimately be accepted to the University of California, Santa Cruz.

A DREAM CALLED HOME (Atria Books; \$26.00; on-sale: October 2, 2018) is Reyna Grande's lyrical and moving follow-up to *The Distance Between Us*. The memoir tells the story of her pursuit to become the first in her family to earn a college degree and to find her place in her adoptive country. At UC, Santa Cruz, on her own for the first time, Grande faced new struggles and was forced to forge ahead toward her dreams in spite of the estrangement from her family and alienation from her new community. She vividly describes her initial feeling of foreignness among her largely white classmates and how she found the beginning of a sense of connection to UCSC upon joining an on-campus rally protesting Prop 209, abolishing affirmative action. She expresses her frustration over the difficulty in getting some of her professors to take her writing seriously, as well as her gratitude to others who encouraged her to write about the country of her birth. She discovered that writing about the people she knew—describing their plight—was how she could honor their difficult experiences and keep them in her heart. She also delves into the important life lessons she learned by taking in her challenging younger sister and from the group of friends who helped her embrace both her Mexican and American heritage.



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Back in Los Angeles after graduation, Grande describes her attempts to parlay her creative writing degree into a full-time job only to discover she knew nothing about the publishing business. Jobless, broke, and with student loans to repay, she found herself drifting further and further away from her writing as she struggled with loneliness and feelings of inadequacy. She persevered, however, and made the impossible possible—she went from being an undocumented immigrant to an award-winning and bestselling author. Her dreams of being the first in her family to graduate from college and to break the cycle of poverty that had trapped her family for generations took her along a difficult path, but led her to finding the one thing she had desperately longed for ever since her parents left her behind in Mexico—a home.

A DREAM CALLED HOME is the inspiring account of one young woman's journey to find her place in America as a first-generation university graduate, a Latina, and a writer determined to change the course of her family forever. Reyna Grande is a powerful and skillful storyteller, and her latest memoir is a vital narrative that gives voice to the millions of immigrants who have come to the U.S. to find a better future. It should not be missed.

Reyna Grande is the recipient of the 2015 Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature. Her first novel, *Across a Hundred Mountains* (Atria, 2006), received a 2006 El Premio Aztlan Literary Award, a 2007 American Book Award, and a 2010 Latino Books Into Movies Award. Her second novel, *Dancing with Butterflies* (Washington Square Press, 2009) was critically acclaimed and was the recipient of a 2010 International Latino Book Award, Best Women's Issues, and a 2010 Las Comadres & Friends National Latino Book Club Selection. She was also a 2003 PEN Center USA Emerging Voices Fellow. *The Distance Between Us* was a 2012 National Book Critics Circle Awards Finalist and has been selected by numerous city-wide read programs, including Rochester Reads 2018, MacReads 2018, One Book/One Michiana 2018, All Henrico Reads 2018, Timberland Reads Together 2017, Telluride One Book/One Canyon 2017, Estes Park One Book/One Valley 2017, Saginaw One Book/One Community 2016, Camarillo Reads 2016, Roswell Reads 2015, and One Maryland/One Book 2014, among others. To learn more about Reyna Grande and her work, visit www.reynagrande.com.

A DREAM CALLED HOME: A Memoir

By Reyna Grande

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