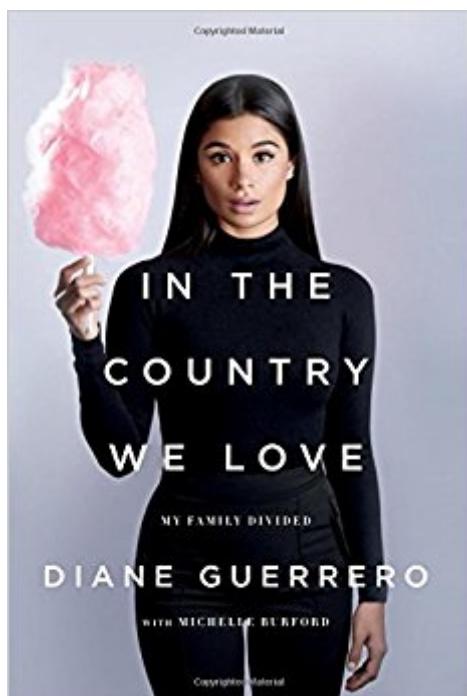


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# In The Country We Love: My Family Divided (Updated With New Material)



## **Synopsis**

The star of Orange is the New Black and Jane the Virgin presents her personal story of the real plight of undocumented immigrants in this country. Diane Guerrero, the television actress from the megahit Orange is the New Black and Jane the Virgin, was just fourteen years old on the day her parents were detained and deported while she was at school. Born in the U.S., Guerrero was able to remain in the country and continue her education, depending on the kindness of family friends who took her in and helped her build a life and a successful acting career for herself, without the support system of her family. In the Country We Love is a moving, heartbreakingly story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of the nightmarish struggles of undocumented residents in this country. There are over 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the US, many of whom have citizen children, whose lives here are just as precarious, and whose stories haven't been told. Written with bestselling author Michelle Burford, this memoir is a tale of personal triumph that also casts a much-needed light on the fears that haunt the daily existence of families like the author's and on a system that fails them over and over.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Teens may recognize Guerrero from Orange Is the New Black, where she plays Maritza ("If you want more pizza, vote for Maritza!"), or Jane the Virgin, where she plays the title character's BFF Lina. In recent months, Guerrero has been speaking out about immigration reform, and this book explains why: when she was 14, she came home from school one day to find that her parents had

been arrested; they were ultimately deported to Colombia. Guerrero, born in the United States, was more fortunate than most young people in this situation, in that her family had a strong contingent of friends who lived nearby and who took her in, allowing her to continue her schooling. But she describes how she never truly felt at home once her parents were gone: she tried to minimize the space she took up; she always asked permission, even to eat a snack; she did household chores whenever she could; and she spent her free time worrying about how to achieve financial independence. Guerrero hid her story from others for years but eventually realized it was time to start dealing with her past and sharing her experience, in the hopes of helping others in the same situation. Her acting career has given her the platform to do just that. VERDICT This touching memoir will resonate with teens who love acting as well as those who want to know more about of the lives of immigrants and refugees, or have experienced a similar situation to Guerrero's. *•Sarah Flowers, formerly with Santa Clara County Library, CA* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

One of Chicago Public Library's and BookRiot's Best Books of 2016"Guerrero, 14 at the time, was left on her own with no government oversight whatsoever, a harrowing situation that she recounts with honesty, pathos, and bravery...Guerrero transforms a truly terrible situation into something meaningful, using her story and her role as an Ambassador for Citizenship and Naturalization by the White House to try to help other immigrant families left in this terrible position." *•Publishers Weekly* "Orange Is the New Black actress Guerrero delivers an affecting tale of a childhood lived in the margins. . . . lovingly detailed in colloquial and well-paced prose . . . The author's candor in chronicling the lowest moments of her life reads like an urgent confessional. . . . The author's greatest strength lies in her ability to advocate for undocumented immigrants and others affected by immigration status: 'I've written the book that I wish I could have read when I was that girl.' A moving, humanizing portrait of the collateral damage caused by America's immigration policy." *•Kirkus Reviews* "Guerrero relates her struggle to hold her life together, get through high school and college, and find her feet in the world--challenges that will resonate with many readers...[She] writes with humor and heartbreaking honesty. Offering readers the story she needed to hear as a child, Guerrero shines a light on this country's flawed immigration system, eloquently calling for reform without diminishing her appreciation for the opportunities US citizenship has afforded her. A timely and enlightening read." *•Booklist* "In the Country We Love is the poignant, candid, and often shocking account of the challenges Guerrero faced as a citizen child of undocumented parents" *•Kirkus Reviews* [special cover feature] "I think putting your

life down on paper as honest and raw as Diane Guerrero has done is brave. Guerrero bares her life showing her faults, her heart, her humor, that the saying kids are resilient is not so, and most importantly her fight to thrive and succeed. I could not recommend this book enough, especially if you liked The Book of Unknown Americans. [Book Riot \[best books of April 2016\]](#) "In the Country We Love is a necessary story for our times...It is a heartrending memoir that humanizes the story of America's immigration policies and helps us all find a way to understand the challenging questions and ineffective strategies of current policies and practices." [San Antonio News-Express](#) "Advocating on behalf of the undocumented immigrants in our country, Guerrero's memoir is a well-written tell-all of a woman who traveled a difficult path to stardom." [ReadItForward.com](#)

In a country that is facing mass deportations, this book is very relevant. All of us are familiar with the term "deportation," but few us realize the ramifications, not only to the deportees, but their families. This is a story of true courage, the saga of a fourteen year old child who deals first hand with the devastating effects of deportation. This should be a must read for everyone, especially the incoming members of our federal government who will be shaping future immigration policy. This story is real, riveting, and not sappy. Ms. Guerrero has succeeded in giving us a snapshot into a reality in this country that many don't realize or choose to ignore. An eye-opening read, to say the least.

I saw Diane on a panel on Face the Nation and bought the book. I also got the audible version so I listened to the author read most of the book. I did not know until nearly the end that she was on Orange is the new Black and Jane the Virgin. When she was 14 years old, living in Boston, both parents were deported to Columbia. Diane was born in the US so she was a citizen. Friends took her in. She was able to attend a good high school. She is beautiful and talented and so she made it as an actress. Her family problems did not start that day, however. Her parents were extremely anxious all of the time. Her older brother was also deported. I recommend reading this book to better understand what our undocumented population live with. If the US had better control over visas, some of these situations would be avoided. But how to respond to the millions already here, people who have lived lawfully for a decade, that is the question. We also need to realize that these people are a part of the economy. There is a reason why the Congress, responsible for establishing a naturalization process in the Constitution, have failed to do their job. That reason needs to be brought to light and made known to the public. The consequences of continuing the current situation. Also needs a full debate.

One of my favorite books, Guerrero is brutally honest, 100 percent down to earth, and the books content will punch you right in the gut. Everybody who is a product of immigrants needs to pick this book up and anyone who isn't might find it knowledgable.

I absolutely love this book. Given today's political climate, this is a great read showing the plight of immigrant families. I am moderate in my political views so if you're really strong on either side, you might not enjoy this as much as I did. I would encourage people to read with an open mind...it is really respectfully written & gives a great glimpse into this uncertain world.

This compelling and powerful autobiography highlights how broken the American immigration system is. Guerrero's and her family's arduous journey and it's effects because of the flawed system is an example why people must take action to prevent millions of families from being torn apart. This book has resonated with me since I read chapter one. As a Latina with similar (almost identical) experiences, I highly recommend and encourage people of all colors to read this. Be prepared to laugh, smile, and even cry.

This is a powerful autobiography that describes the immigrants' side of the immigration issue in the United States. It was heartbreaking to read how our system separates parents from children, putting the children at great risk. It was inspiring to find out how the author overcame the separation from her parents, her depression and her poverty to eventually succeed and strive to change immigration laws in her beloved country, the U.S.

As an american born citizen, with American born citizens for parents, what Diane experienced was never on my radar. Reading her story gave much perspective to my own privilege and inspiration for how I can get involved in immigration reform. People's stories are powerful and important.

This was an inspiring read! It is very eye opening. Her childhood story needs to be told. Many children have gone through this in our country, yet they are too afraid to speak up! I was fortunate enough to hear Diane speak at the University of California, Riverside. She spoke about her book and the issues she and her parents faced. She also spoke briefly about her career. I had my book signed by her. Needless, to say I couldn't wait to read it. I was not disappointed! It was a worthy read! Diane bravely tells her story and gives children going through what she did in our country a

voice! While many people may know her from Orange is the New Black or Jane the Virgin, there is much more to Diane than that! She is courageously using her platform to send an important message. Everyone needs to read this!

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