

"EL VIAJE MAS CARO" / "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY" presents:

THE BEST THING



The Story of the Cruz Family
Art by Angela Boyle

In Mexico,
It's Not
Possible
To Live

by Angela Boyle

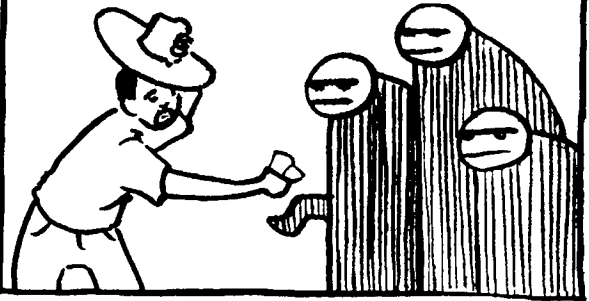
The best thing is that here
there is always work.



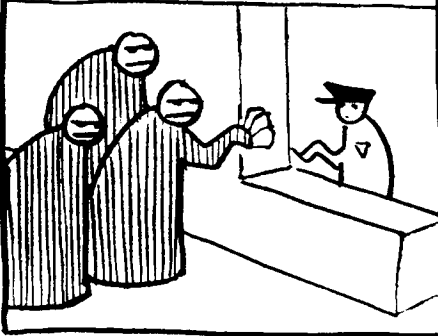
There, you work a
day, rest a month.



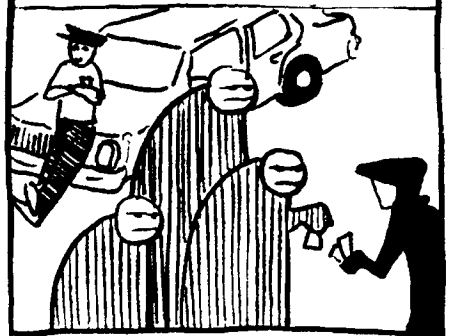
To work, you have to pay the criminals to
keep them from stealing from you.



There's a lot of corruption.



And selling of drugs.





Neither the police nor the government do anything to protect us.

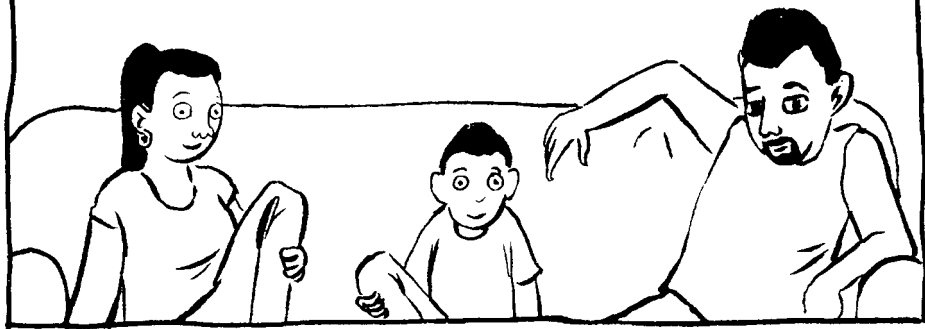


These things, like the uprising in Michoacán, never appear in the news, but everyone knows what is happening in the streets.

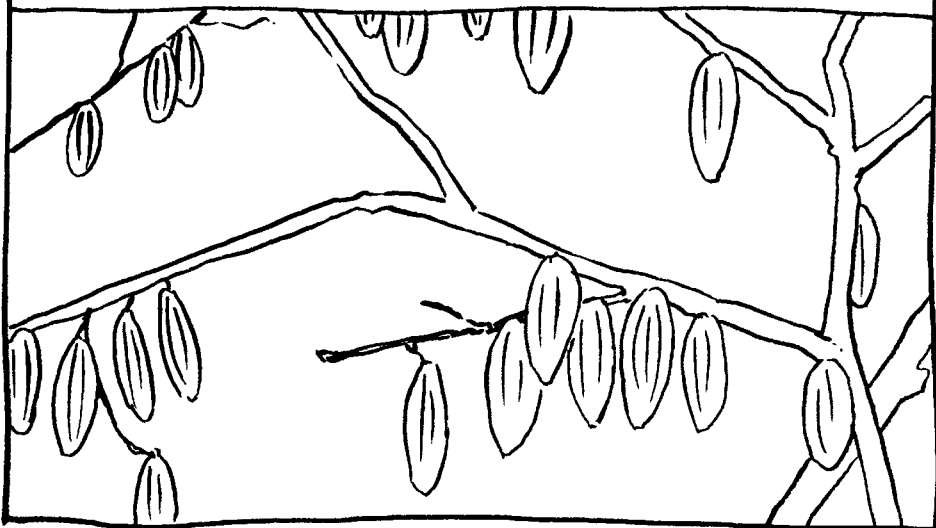
If we see something bad happen, we can't report it because the criminals will come after us and kill our family.



We still have family there, and they say it's even worse now.



Our families still have land. They harvest cacao outside the city and sell the harvest.



But criminals also take part of the harvest. You have to pay them with either money or cacao.



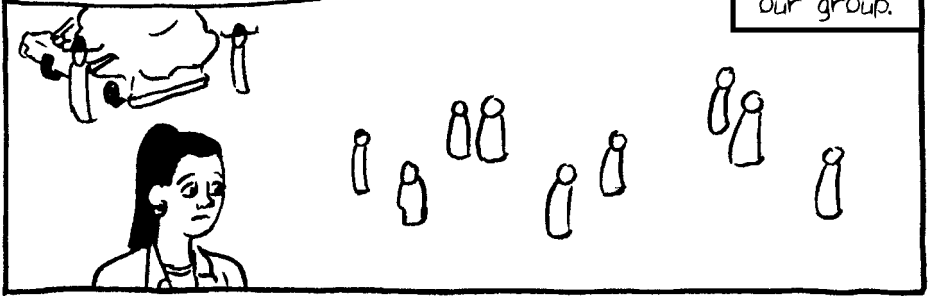
It's because the police and the criminals are the same thing.



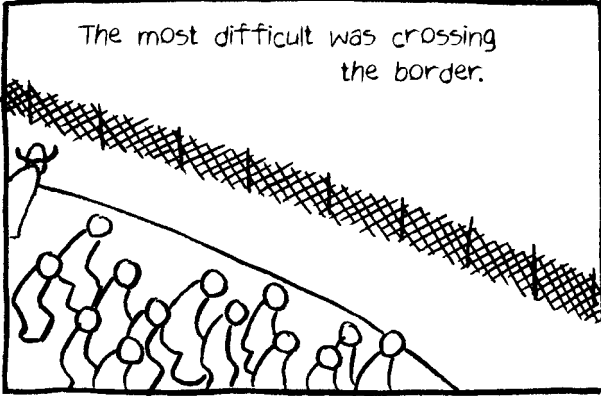
They extort us in exchange for "protection."



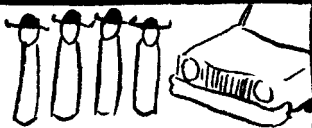
When I finally left Mexico, I left Alexis behind with my sister. I travelled with a group of nine from Tabasco. Then five others joined our group.



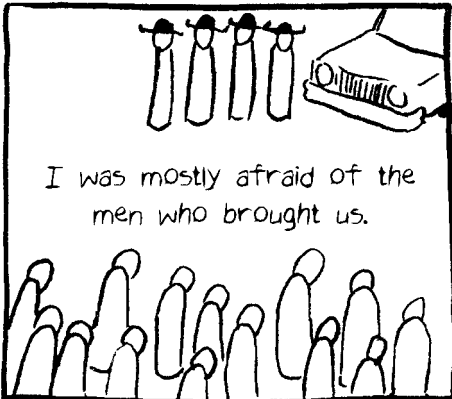
The most difficult was crossing the border.



Because of the fear.



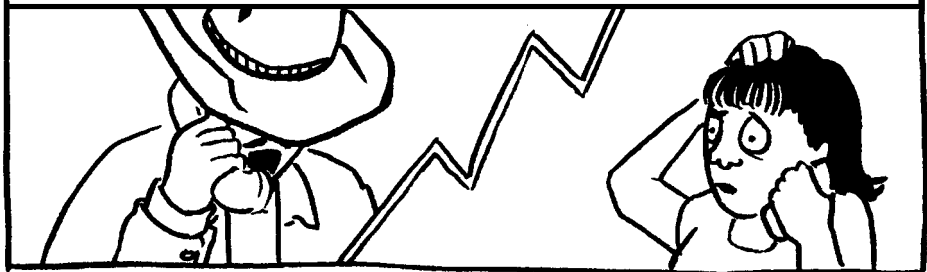
I was mostly afraid of the men who brought us.



We brought things with us, and I was afraid they would take them.



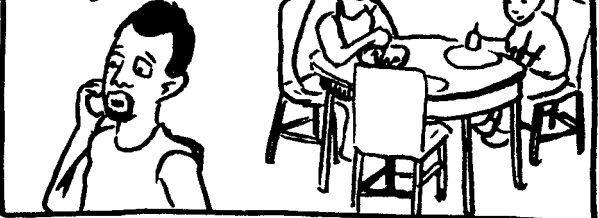
The same criminals that extort money from us try to contact our families. They lie to them and say we've been kidnapped and won't be freed unless they are paid.



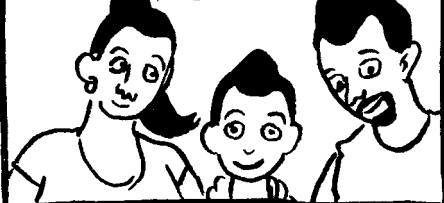
So we tell our families that if they get a call like that they need to call us here. And likewise, we'll call them.



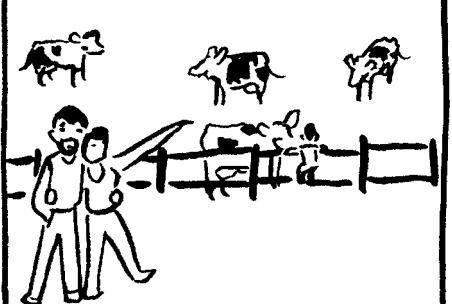
We try to protect ourselves by never putting names in our cell phones. That way, if someone steals them, they won't have any information to use against us.



I'm very happy here in Vermont. Because I have my family. And Vermont is the best. I'm not looking for any other place to live.



If I stay in the US all my life, I'll stay here in Vermont.



"EL VIAJE MÁS CARO"

Una colaboración entre narradores migrantes y caricaturistas Nuevainglaterras.



"THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY"

A collaboration between migrant storytellers & New England cartoonists.

Farm artwork from "A New Type of Work" by Delmar & Tillie Walden.

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