



How would you feel if your story became a book? Last summer, *The Most Costly Journey* was released in English with 19 stories. The Spanish version is planned for this coming fall. We talked to three of the storytellers about how it felt for them.

## Jesús

Story: *In Your Hands*  
Art by John Carvajal

**Question: What was it like for you to share your story?**

Answer: The story was about an experience that I had inside me, that I could not relate or talk about. Sharing it was a good experience, I felt good.

**Q: How was it afterwards? Did you know what was going to happen with the story?**

A: No, I had no idea they were going to put it that way.

**Q: What did you feel when you saw the story in comics?**

A: On the one hand, I felt a little uncertain. But on the other hand, I felt good, because as the story doesn't tell the true names of the people involved, I thought: "someone is going to read the experiences that one lives and it is going to be good." Maybe someone just like me went through the same thing, or something similar, they will identify with it and think "that happened to me too", and they won't feel so alone.

**Q: When you saw your comics, did it seem like it was with someone else, or did you identify it as your story?**

A: I thought: "it's me!" But I also



started to analyze it and I have already tried to read it as if it had happened to another person.

**Q: Was it a good thing?**

A: It made a lot of difference, because now I was looking at what I had experienced from a different perspective.

**Q: Did you like how the artist has put his story?**

A: Oh yes!

**Q: Do you think the story helped you somehow get over what happened, or was it bad to remember it?**

A: It was good, it lifted some weight off of me. In recounting the story, it felt like a pending matter was resolved.

**Q: Would you be interested in participating once more with another story?**

A: Well, I would if it's for the benefit of someone. Not financial benefit, but if it brings benefits to the people who read it so that they can analyze their own story, I would like that.

## Guadalupe



Story: *The Most Important Love of Every Woman Should Be Herself*

Art by Iona Fox

**Question: What was it like for you to share your story?**

A: Well, it was sad to dig the feelings, but it was also like getting it out of my body and feeling relieved and better. Both feelings at the same time.

**Q: What was it like when you saw the comics for the first time? How did you feel?**

A: Happy, I liked it.

**Q: When you saw your comics, were you able to identify yourself with the drawing, did it seem like it was your story, or did it seem like it was from someone else?**

A: Yes, it seemed like my story. I would have liked drawings in color more (laughs)..., but yes, it was my story.

**Q: Have you been able or wanted to show that story to friends or family? And how was the reaction?**

A: I've only shared it with my family: my husband and my children. I also sent it to my family in Mexico, they didn't know everything that I had gone through until I sent the story, but we haven't talked about it since.

**Q: Is it something you would like to talk about with your family?**

A: Yes, but it's too late. I think it's been too long and I don't know if I want to remember that

again... no, I don't think so.

**Q: If there were other projects to share more stories, would you be interested?**

A: Well, I don't know. The same, again? Same idea? Or tell about my life now? I would like to talk about my life as an immigrant, how Guadalupe is living now, after having made that trip. What life looks like now is what I'd like to talk about.

**Q: How is life now?**

A: Better! Much Better than those years.

**Q: Did you read other people's stories?**

A: Yes, I read several of them. I get sad, because many people had difficulties too, more difficulties than me. Some lost family members, or saw people dying in the desert... I didn't experience that.

**Q: What was it like seeing your story in the book?**

A: It was nice and exciting. My children are reading it, they are teenagers.

**Q: Do your children know that Guadalupe's story is your story? Have they asked more?**

A: Yes, we have talked about it, I have explained everything and they understand. My family who is in Mexico, no, I haven't talked to them about it, but my husband and my children, yes. And it's fine with me and with them.

## The Migrant of Hidalgo

Story: *Something Inside*  
Art by Marek Bennett

**Question: How did you feel after sharing your story?**

Answer: It was exciting that they took me into account to talk about my story, something that I never expected, as an immigrant.

**Q: Do you remember your reaction the first time you saw your comic story?**

A: It was moving to be able to share how my journey was, what I lived and suffered to get here.

**Q: Did you like the pictures?**

A: Oh, of course. They are very good.

**Q: When you saw your comic, did you feel represented, or did it somehow feel like it wasn't you?**

A: My work with the machines and the tractors is very well represented. And my other work - in my free time, I dedicate myself to art - is well represented too.

**Q: How was it to see your art inserted in the comic?**

A: I can hardly believe it. When I arrived here in Vermont, I didn't have that restlessness, that wish to bring out something that I had inside, of practicing art. It is something that also motivates and excites me. Maybe many of the people who come to Vermont know how to do something, and they haven't been able to do it



here, as one must work, and work, and head back home. So, everyone tells me that it is very good that I have been able to get something out, do something.

**Q: Do you have plans to return to Mexico soon?**

A: I would like to wait a little longer. What makes me want to return soon because of her age, is my mother, who is now 98 years old. She wants to see me. I have waited because of the pandemic. Here at least we have the vaccine, there in Mexico it is very scarce. All this has stopped me, but I would like to return to visit my family.

**Q: How long have you been here?**

A: Seventeen years. If God gives me the privilege of being able to return, I will have a lot to thank America and Vermont for giving me work. And many thanks to the Open Door Clinic, because in the first place it made me a great invitation, and in the second, it has given me quite good support for my health.