

Topic: Crossing the Border

Abstract: Growing up in Jalisco was a great time period in my life, but at a certain point we all must leave that perfect place. When one moves it's usually to another town or city, but I had to move to another state far away from my home in Jalisco. To get to my new home I had to cross la frontera and this crossing became my first adventure in life.

Key Words: Separation, Scary, frightening, emotions and new feelings towards new people.

Cruzando La Frontera

From what I can remember growing up in Jalisco, Mexico was great. Although I don't remember much Jalisco will be my hometown. When I lived in Jalisco everyday was an exciting day there where different things one could do as a child, from chasing the horses, to playing trompos and canicas. As a little kid we were a very poor family my mother had to support the family my brother and sister by her self for almost five years. When I was at the age of four almost five every one from my mothers side told me I was adopted that my dad was el Señor Malaquis specially my tio Enrique because I was always with him. I don't remember much from el señor Malaquis but what I do remember was that he treated me like a son. I don't remember exactly when but my mother told me that my real dad was not el señor Malaquis that my real dad was Roque Cruz. I don't remember my dad because he was at el otro lado de la Frontera (Maria Raquel) I didn't know him, he wasn't there when I was born, he didn't come into my life until I was five. By the age of five my mom had another child which is now my little sister. When my little sister was born four months later my dad came back to Mexico to take all of us to the United States.

As every one was getting ready to go the next day I remember a lot of people crying, I didn't understand why we were packing everything and why so many people

where crying. As we were on our way to the airport in Guadalajara I still didn't know what was going on until we got on a plane that took us to Baja California, Tijuana. On the airplane I was scared as hell my brother and older sister I think knew what was going on. In the plane I was holding on to my mom and crying and my dad well I didn't care who he was. When we got off the plane my mother I remember her telling Te tenemos que comprar ropa, Roque and my sister and brother went some other way. When my mom was getting me clothes the weirdest thing to me was that my mom instead of getting me boys clothing she was getting me girl clothing, I was crying because I didn't want to wear it I wanted the red shirt with the power rangers and the red shorts (Maria Raquel). After my mother finished dressing me like a little girl with fake earrings and everything we met up with my so called father and my brother and sister. My mother was crying because I guess my older brother and sister were not going to be able to come with us (Roque Cruz) my mother was devastated. Because we were in a hurry my dad had to get my brother and sister a flight back before we left. As we waited for some people to pick us up late at night my mother was telling me that she was going to leave me with some people for a couple of days, I was Scared.

As it was getting later I remember my mom telling te vas hir con el coyote en este carro y nosotros en aquel, as she passed me off to el coyote and some other people their was a lady who was telling me that she was my mother now; until we see your parents again tu eres mi niña because I was dressed as a girl. Early in the morning we were getting ready to cross the border, because I didn't know what was going on and I'm sure I wanted my mother, I was crying. When we got to the border the lady that claimed to be my mother took me by the hand and we started walking towards the border, I remember her being asked by some people witch I now know is the border patrol some documentation

about me and her and why we were walking. I don't remember what happened because I was placed in a room by myself waiting for that lady. After a long time later on that same day we caught a taxi that took us to a motel, and in that motel we met up with the coyote. Because I was yelling and making a scene the coyote placed me in the closet room for hours. I remember falling asleep waiting for my parents. The next day for the first time I saw my first English cartoon SpongeBob Square Pants. Later on that day we were on our way to some where, I wasn't sure but in two days I met up with my parents. When I met up with my parents it was in a way a happy moment because I wanted to see my mother but in a way it was upsetting because she brought to my life a strange man, my father Roque Cruz. My mother told me that as soon as I met my dad I rejected him, that I said ese señor no es mi papa, mi papa es el señor Malaquis. As much as I tried to avoid my dad to get away from me he wouldn't let me go and I'm sure glad he didn't.

While I was getting imported to the United States with no problem my mother had it going hard because of my newborn little sister. When we were separated my mother had to go through el cerro with my little sister in hand. When they had to get ready to cross they had to leave everything behind just in case they had to run (Maria Raquel). She described their walk as it would never be because she didn't know how far they were going, most of the time we had to be on our knees and trying to hide, we had to make sure no one should see us and with Yajaira in hands it was hard (Maria Raquel). While on her long walk my father did not want to help my mom with my little sister, why who knew but till this day I have not asked him. I think he didn't help her because of orgullo; pride towards being a good father. While we were walking we were told to get down a lot, el hombre de verde was thought to be near (Maria Raquel).

When crossing the border with a different person it was hard, difficult because at some times I thought my mother didn't want me any more. When I talked to my parents about what had happen to them while crossing the border they said it was hard for them specially my mother, because my dad had cross the border a couple times he knew what to expect from when we started crossing the border. While I crossed the border at the moment I wasn't sure what was going on but while waiting in the room I was frightened, nervous because I thought I never see my family again. After we met up again it with my family it was great and after we settled in Gilroy CA it was now a knew adventure.