



"An entertaining narrative on an important contemporary topic. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

—Teresa de la Rosa
Immigration Rights Advocate

As they work in the orange groves, Elena Hernandez's parents are suddenly taken away by uniformed men. Elena believes that Immigration has deported them back to Mexico.

Only seventeen, she is left to care for her younger brother, Miguel and sister, Lupe. When she doesn't hear from her parents, she is afraid something terrible has happened. Elena dreams of graduating but may have to leave school to support her family.

When a mysterious caller demands money for her parents' return, Elena is afraid that Rodriguez, the labor contractor who hired her parents, is behind their disappearance. Should she go to the police and risk deportation or stay in the shadows and spend the rest of her life working in the fields?

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Shirley Skufca Hickman's grandparents were immigrants from Croatia so she grew up influenced by two cultures. This perspective helped her understand her many Latino students in her English classes.

She prepared for her teaching career at Western State University and later moved to California where she taught high school and college English. She has held leadership positions on the state, regional and local levels. One of her many teaching awards is *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Her award-winning nonfiction books are: *Don't Be Give Up*, the story of a young girl growing up in a coal mining town during World War II and *School Success: 500 Ways Busy Parents Can Help Their Children Succeed in School*. She recently won first prize for her romance novel *Sarah Darlin'*.

Currently, she tutors students in Porterville, California where she lives with her husband, Joe.