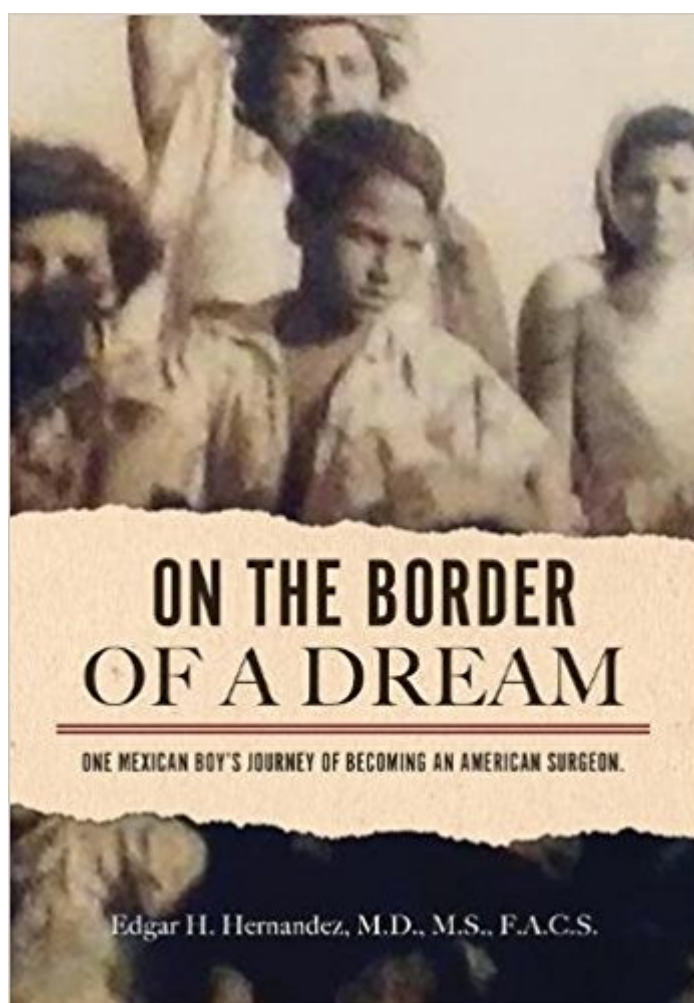


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# On The Border Of A Dream: One Mexican Boy's Journey Of Becoming An American Surgeon



## Synopsis

"On the Border of a Dream" is an eye-opening and uplifting memoir that tells the true story of a boy from rural Mexico who, at a young age, sets his mind to becoming a pioneering surgeon in the USA. The memoir follows Edgar Hernandez, first with his tight-knit family as an adolescent in Mexico and then as he journeys to the USA to pursue his dream. In today's hotly contested political environment this book is poignant and pertinent as it offers a different view of the immigration debate. This book is written through the eyes of an "innocent child" which is a group we forget about when we choose to close our borders. Its descriptive writing makes the reader feel the tension that young Edgar endured as a child being chased by La Migra while illegally in the U.S. and mesmerizes the reader keeping you engaged and eager to understand why at age 10 he went back to Mexico and returned to the US legally a second time at age 11 because even at a young age he wanted to become an American Citizen the legal way. The author captures the universal experience of every migrant establishing to the reader that hope is not easily extinguishable and that with unrelenting perseverance one can overcome tremendous odds. "On the Border of a Dream" is a true testament to the goodness of humanity and the integrity of immigrants who seek lives in the USA, not simply to better themselves but to better the American communities that they join as well. ã

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"On The Border Of A Dream" tells of the incredible struggles that Dr Hernandez, as well as many

others, went through to immigrate to the United States. In today's hotly contested political environment this book is poignant and pertinent. I could feel the tension that young Edgar endured being chased by La Migra while illegally in the U.S. and I see the influence that all the people in his life have had on him. Edgar is the ultimate professional, and one I strive to emulate.

Thanks Dr Hernandez, for sharing your story, it's truly a Must Read! Merle Turner, D.O.

Former Chief of Staff at Tempe St Lukes Hospital Dr Hernandez is the genuine article, a highly talented, caring, dedicated person, loved by his patients and respected by his colleagues. I was mesmerized by "On The Border Of A Dream" and finished it in one sitting-I could not put it down.

Its straightforward, honest style keeps the reader engaged and eager for the next events.

It highlights, especially in these times, the struggles of immigrants and the great value immigrants provide to this beautiful country of ours, the USA. I encourage you to read this book and open your mind to the struggles and rewards this immigrant faced.

Parvinderjit Khanuja, M.D., F.A.C.P., Hematology/Oncology Ironwood Cancer Center Most of the stories that are shared only with the kids over dinner never enter the public sphere, and in time, are lost to eternity. I am so very grateful to Dr Hernandez for sharing this extraordinary biography. It is beautifully written with a rhythm of the past and the present that draws the reader into following each step of an exceptional life's journey. It is his story, a unique story, but it captures the experience of every migrant.

Alfredo Gutierrez Former Minority/Majority Leader AZ State Senate

Edgar H Hernandez, MD, MS, FACS. For over 20 years Dr Hernandez has practiced general surgery. In the last ten years Dr. Hernandez has dedicated himself to the field of breast surgery. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a practicing oncoplastic breast surgeon. Over the course of his career, Dr Hernandez has worked with charitable groups and various foundations. Dr Hernandez was named "Man of the Year" a humanitarian distinction, by Fresh Start Women's Foundation of Arizona for his treatment of uninsured women. The Desert Cancer Foundation of Arizona also honored Dr. Hernandez with a humanitarian award. Dr Hernandez graduated from Arizona State University with a dual Bachelor & Masters Degree and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Utah College of Medicine. In addition to being a proud husband and father, he is now a happy grandfather to six granddaughters. For more information about Dr Hernandez, please visit [www.dredgarhernandez.com](http://www.dredgarhernandez.com)

Just finished the book "On the Border of a Dream" One Mexican Boy's Journey of Becoming an American Surgeon by Dr. Edgar Hernandez. From start to finish, this incredible story details the power of inspiration, hard-work, and determination with the support of an amazing family. Willing to risk it all at such a young age, Dr. Hernandez exemplified the true meaning of the American spirit by utilizing every resource available to reach his goal. Those who've had the luxury of being born in America often forget the human aspect of immigration, which is amazing people doing whatever they can to secure a piece of the American Dream. This story exemplifies what we should all strive for in life, pushing forward to reach our goals regardless of the situation. In today's politically partisan environment, Dr. Hernandez's story was a refreshing account of what matters in America -- Safety for our family and the opportunity to be great. I'm thankful Dr. Hernandez shared his story, as his vivid recollection of determination and grit was truly a Joy to read!

"On the Border of a Dream" begins as a charming, light-hearted, and enjoyable account of young Edgar's life in rural Mexico upon his journey (with older half-brother, Miguel) to the U.S.-Mexican border in 1959. And then it quickly becomes much more than that. The plot unfolds over young Edgar's constant, and often-defeating, struggle to legally cross the physical border of two very different countries. Gripping. Yet, at a deeper level, I found this book to be about the transcending of many borders, from social and economic, to even the psychological-type borders we all find within ourselves. ~ I also appreciated the author's rich storytelling, detailing the impeccable values of those in his life -- to name a few, his grandfather, a moon-gazing watermelon farmer; his godfather, the prolific German engineer; his own late father, the (only) village doctor; Dr. Hale, the surgeon he trained under during residency at Maricopa County Hospital in Phoenix; and his older-half brother, a Navajo-trained silversmith and expert jeweler, who would ultimately become a father-figure and grandfather to Edgar's own children. Each of these characters equipped young Edgar with a powerful belief system, allowing this nine-year-old kid (alone, by himself, in the border town of Nogales, Mexico!) to see that long border fence in '59 -- and every obstacle thereafter -- as nothing more than just another imaginary line to rightfully cross, again and again.

I absolutely LOVED reading this book. The author intertwines his adulthood experiences as a surgeon into his childhood, and the result is a beautiful story of a TRUE Dreamer. This is a story of what America is really about -- daring to dream and then working day and night to make those

dreams come true, regardless of your immigrant status. I had to put the book down a few times because I was crying - boy, I hate when that happens. Great read for middle-schoolers, high-schoolers, and adults of any age!

What were you doing when you were nine years old? Young Edgar Hernandez was an endearing, curious Mexican boy who discovered at this very young age that in order to create a better life for himself and the family he so dearly loved, he had to leave his home in rural Mexico and begin the challenging journey to obtaining US citizenship in pursuit of becoming an American surgeon. Edgar's story begins in La Mira, Mexico and through his impressionable and optimistic eyes we meet a spectrum of characters from his beloved grandfather, to his immediate family - his father and mother and 7 siblings, a German Engineer, a dedicated elementary school teacher and finally his older half-brother, Miguel, an American citizen who resides in Phoenix, Arizona. It is Miguel who commits to bringing Edgar on the journey of a lifetime. In 1959, when Edgar was just nine years of age, he and Miguel leave the life Edgar has known and so dearly loves to permanently join Miguel in Phoenix. With faith and bravery and Miguel's life savings, he and Edgar set out to make this young boy's dream come true. The path to citizenship did not come without many obstacles for Edgar and Miguel, and this is where so much more beauty of the story unfolds. The same endearing characteristics that made Edgar such a special young man in La Mira, sustained him through the consistent set-backs while gaining legal residency. The characters, new and old, that come in and out of the story are generous, kind and courageous, just like Edgar and Miguel, and each and every one of them played a special part in bringing Edgar's dream to fruition. After years of commitment and hard work, and always the constant and unwavering support of his beloved (and growing) family and friends, Edgar became a Board Certified American surgeon in 1985, and has been re-certified 3 times thereafter. "On the Border of the Dream" is not only an inspired, but an inspiring story about love, faith, determination and why the composition of America is richer, stronger and more compassionate when it opens its doors to immigrants like Edgar who dream big and don't ever give up.

I finished reading it in two days. I loved it. The chapter introductions about specific patient cases are engrossing and their connection to the personal story is eloquent and intriguing. The writing is intelligent and tender. It is a documentary of an amazing triumph and informs the reader in so many areas. It touches on medicine, history and the strength of the human spirit. The reader comes away

with a greater understanding, hope, and inspiration to become a better self.

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