



Guatemalan Genocide



Product

Unswallowed Emotion Short Story

Looking outside the window, she realized things weren't as subpar as they were before. The smell of iron and sweat were engraved in her brain, despite the many years that have passed since then. She remembered smoke and its scent coming from the outside, wafting through the cavities of the so-called "home" she lived in while growing up. Though, it was never going to *be* "home" again. The warm atmosphere that engulfed her with scents of paella and horchata were never going to be the same. Dust blanketed the many treasures her and her family once shared. Whole, pristine, connected. Now, they stand as thousands of reflections, each to inflict that tinge of pain you would get from a paper cut. Nothing was broken though. The photos of her family still lay untouched in the living room. The dining table was scattered with the unfinished dishes of breakfast just minutes before the incident.

^ Excerpt from "Unswallowed Emotion"

Authors Note

As a result of the overthrow of democracy during the 1950's, the new government banned the Democratic Party (Induvina Hernandez, TEDTalk). 200,000 Guatemalan citizens were killed during the Guatemalan Genocide from 1960-1996, with early 85% of them being indigenous Mayans (WorldWithoutGenocide). While public executions were common during the time, over 40,000 people forcibly disappeared. A majority of the people who disappeared or died were people who questioned the government, or fought for indigenous peoples rights (WorldWithoutGenocide, TEDTalk). In an interview with Rosalina Tuyuc, she stated that most of those who were killed were in groups. Some culture, some corporate, and many Mayans who survived this tragedy either "disappeared or moved elsewhere" (USCShoahFoundation, YouTube).

My short story, "Unswallowed Emotion" is about the Guatemalan Genocide. Elena, the main character of this story, is 11 years old at the time of the extermination of her village. Though some families made it out alive, including part of hers, many were left injured, a few dead. My intended message for the readers is how physical damage can leave longer effects emotionally and mentally, seeing how reflecting on a time like this does not always turn out to be the best.

I believe that by representing this sensitive topic through writing, I shed light on something that has not been widely spread with the world. This piece is a work of historical fiction, and the characters may not have existed during that time. Anyone who is physically similar, or has the same name, is not my intention.

Works Cited

- <http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/genocides-and-conflicts/guatemala>
- <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/guatemala>
- <https://youtu.be/d8oDD2xzjig>
- https://youtu.be/Jd_I5DdHpYM
- <https://www.frommers./destinations/guatemala/in-depth/food--drink>