

UNFORGETTING

A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs,
and Revolution in the Americas

ROBERTO LOVATO

Some names and locations have been changed to protect sources.

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Excerpt from Alisha Holland’s interview with Aída Luz Santos de Escobar, Juzgado Primero de Ejecución de Medidas al Menor Infractor, San Salvador, August 9, 2006, used with permission.

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

2015

Pop—Ramón Alfredo Lovato Sr., Roberto's father

Úrsula and Felipe—Roberto's friends who invite him to visit Karnes prison

Elena and David—Salvadoran mom and her son whose plight sparks Roberto's journey

Giovanni Miranda—mechanic whom Roberto befriends in San Salvador

Alex Sánchez—former MS-13 gang member who helps guide Roberto's journey into LA and El Salvador's gang underworld

Raúl Mijango—former guerrilla commander who organized the controversial gang truce of 2012

Santiago—top gang leader whom Roberto searches for and eventually meets with

Isaias—Roberto's driver in El Salvador

Saul Quijada—forensic scientist at the Instituto de Medicina Legal, El Salvador's body counters

María Elena Rodríguez—Roberto's cousin and main family contact in El Salvador

Reynaldo Patriz—indigenous leader and guide to the history of the western coffee region

José Raymundo Calderón Morán—scholar specializing in the history of Ahuachapán, the homeland of Roberto's father

1970–2000

Clotilde Alavarenga (Mamá Cloti)—Roberto's maternal grandmother

Pop—Ramón Alfredo Lovato Sr., Roberto's father

Mom—María Elena Alvarenga Lovato, Roberto's mother

Mamá Tey—Roberto's paternal grandmother

Omar ("Om") Alvarenga, Ramón Alfredo Lovato Jr. ("Mem"), Ana Irma Herrera ("Mima")—Roberto's siblings

1930S AHUACHAPÁN

Pop—Ramón Alfredo Lovato Sr., Roberto's father

Mamá Tey (Maria Esther Arauz Lovato)—Ramón's mother, Roberto's grandmother

Mamá Fina (Delfina Lovato)—Ramón's maternal grandmother, Roberto's great-grandmother

Don Miguel Rodríguez—Ramón's father, Roberto's grandfather

Mamá Juanita (Juana Rodriguez Arreola)—Ramón's paternal grandmother

Alfonso Luna—older friend of Ramón and radical university student

Maximiliano Hernández Martínez—El General, dictator of El Salvador

Farabundo Martí—revolutionary leader