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Author photograph © Juana Arias



GRACE FLORES-HUGHES has been both a career civil servant and political appointee in the federal sector. She served as one of the highest ranking Hispanics in the administration of three Republican presidents. Born in Texas, the Harvard trained Flores-Hughes is the author of numerous magazine articles on diversity and on the term Hispanic, which she helped coin. Currently, she lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband Lt Gen. Harley A. Hughes, USAF (Ret).

Grace Flores-Hughes journey from Taft, Texas to Washington, D.C. is essential reading for anyone interested in public service. Her four-decade career in the upper echelons of the federal government reveals not just the hurdles faced by Latinas but how they can be overcome. Throughout it all, Ms. Hughes keeps her sense of humor. Her story will both inspire and entertain; a winning combination.

ALFREDO ESTRADA
Editor of LATINO Magazine

A Tale of Survival is a remarkable account of an era and a culture heretofore unknown to the general public. This book is a powerful inspiration to all readers that one truly can steer the ship of one's own destiny regardless of all obstacles, both internal and external. One senses a great pride in Ms. Flores-Hughes for her people and a true desire to stand as a beacon of hope to those who are coming up behind her.

KAMALA LOPEZ
is an Hispanic actress, filmmaker, writer and Yale graduate.

A quintessential American story that examines life's challenges and the seemingly insurmountable difficulties faced by Hispanic Americans in south Texas where discrimination and exclusion were the daily fare. This is an honest, gritty and engaging tale of survival that should be read by all.

JERRY HAAR
Associate Dean and Director of the Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center in the College of Business Administration
Florida International University

A Tale of Survival is a gripping, heart wrenching, no-holds barred story of a Mexican-American girl growing up in south Texas during the fifties and sixties and the challenges she faced on a daily basis simply to survive. It is a "page turner" that generates excitement and anticipation at every turn. This is a must read.

RUDY BESERRA
Vice-President, Latin Affairs
The Coca-Cola Company

This informative memoir is compelling reading that allows the reader to get a close insiders look into the world of Mexican-Americans and how they lived. It is also the story of how one bright young girl was able to rise above those humble and sometimes terrifying beginnings to reach her full potential as a person and as an American, working in the higher levels of the U.S. government.

ROWLAND PERKINS
Chairman/CEO, Heart Tronics, Inc.
Formerly Founding Partner/1st President.
Creative Artists Agency Inc. (CAA)



A Tale of Survival

A Tale of Survival

(Memoir of an Hispanic Woman)



Grace Flores-Hughes

A Tale of Survival is an explosive story that is much more than a simple memoir of an Hispanic woman: it is an important, quintessential American story of adversity and perseverance. This is a brutally honest and provocative tale of not merely survival but success from one who came from a time and place where success and upward mobility for a Mexican-American was not only unlikely but damn near impossible. Unlike some other Hispanic memoirs, Grace Flores-Hughes describes her childhood and transition to adulthood and beyond, against the tapestry of the modern Hispanic experience and the sometimes turbulent era of the rebellious baby-boomer generation. She writes of assimilation, racial and ethnic injustice, her role in coining of the term Hispanic, and her championing the lives of the disenfranchised before and after the civil rights movement. Further, Ms. Flores-Hughes takes you on this treacherous journey while exploring her encounters and friendships with many of America's leaders. She demonstrates in this colorful and spicy story that "Hold the Salsa" has never been her style; a story that chronicles the emergence of a child's identity to that of an accomplished Hispanic woman who rose against all odds.

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