



Ocotillo Dreams

Melinda Palacio

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Set in Chandler, Arizona, during the city's infamous 1997 migrant sweeps, *Ocotillo Dreams* is no run-of-the-mill border tale. In her captivating first novel, Melinda Palacio skillfully weaves a story of politics, intrigue, love, and trust. Isola, a young woman who inherits her mother's Chandler home, relocates from California only to find that her mother had lived a secret life helping undocumented immigrants. Isola must confront her own confusion and sense of loyalty in a strange and hostile environment. As she gets to know her mother from clues left behind, she grapples with questions of identity and belonging that eventually lead her to explore her life's meaning and to reconnect with her roots.

"A must read for those who seek the heart's truth on both sides of the border." —Stella Pope Duarte, author of *If I Die in Juárez* and *Fragile Night*

"*Ocotillo Dreams* is an evocative and powerful statement about human life and the conditions of immigrants in the United States." —Denise Chávez, novelist and director of the Border Book Festival

"Melinda Palacio is a fresh voice in fiction. Readers who love a good story as well as graceful, articulate style will not be disappointed in *Ocotillo Dreams*." —Leonard Tourney, author of *Time's Fool*

"A beautiful and powerful novel. . . . Palacio's words tie us to the earth with a thin, invisible, fragile, and needed thread—and I am grateful . . ." —Fred Arroyo, author of *The Region of Lost Names*

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