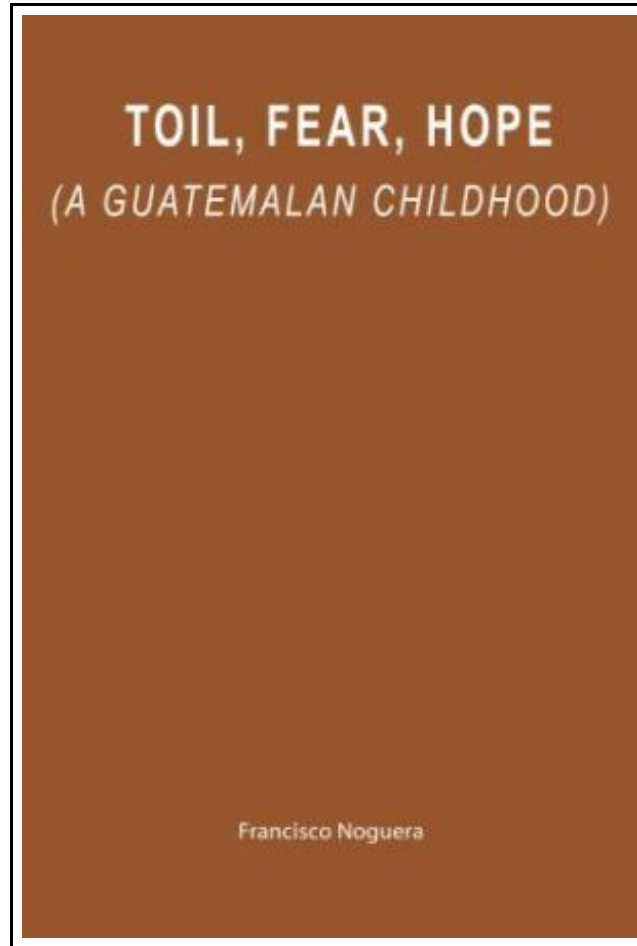


## Toil, Fear, Hope (a Guatemalan Childhood)



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## TOIL, FEAR, HOPE (A GUATEMALAN CHILDHOOD)

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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Pablo grew up under miserable conditions in a remote Guatemalan rural area close to the border of El Salvador. His alcoholic father physically and verbally abused him from an early age, as did his raging, abusive mother. Young Pablo was forced to assume responsibilities beyond his years; dropping out of school after the sixth grade, he tilled the land besides his father for four years, under precarious conditions. The little money he made came from selling his grandmother's cheese at the frontier, and at the train that passed by his birthplace of San Benito. Somehow he managed to see pictures of the scintillating skyscrapers of New York City, and began to dream that one day he could be there in person. Dreaming kept him afloat and gave him a sense of freedom. Living close to the railroad reinforced his fantasies of one day leaving San Benito to know far away lands. It was only a matter of waiting, and slowly earning the money to fly there one day. These dreams, these possibilities, kept alive by his sense of intuition, gave him joy. Pedro and I took the train to and from San Benito every other weekend. It was a break from our monotonous life. I enjoyed seeing the landscape and the trees passing by, seeming to fly in the opposite direction- a surrealistic feeling. The cattle and rice fields seemed endless, the ground was green and the fresh breeze hit my face as I looked out of the window during the half hour trip. After la Curva Lodosa, the muddy curve, my house was getting closer. The train swung right and left up and down; the wheels squealed against...

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