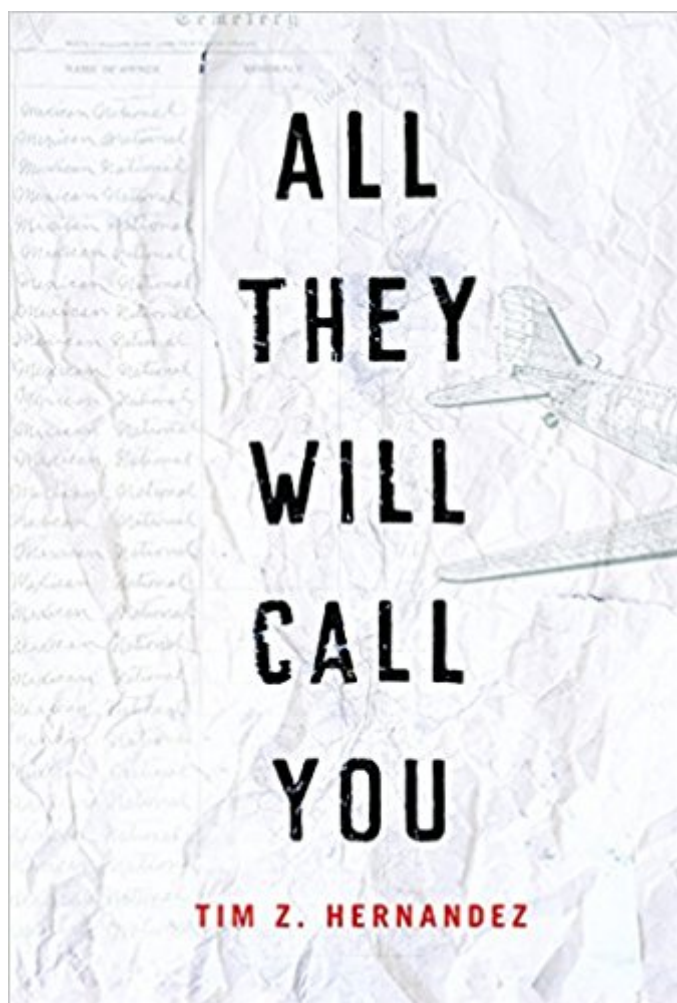


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# All They Will Call You (Camino Del Sol)



## Synopsis

All They Will Call You is the harrowing account of “the worst airplane disaster in California’s history,” which claimed the lives of thirty-two passengers, including twenty-eight Mexican citizens • farmworkers who were being deported by the U.S. government. Outraged that media reports omitted only the names of the Mexican passengers, American folk icon Woody Guthrie penned a poem that went on to become one of the most important protest songs of the twentieth century, “Plane Wreck at Los Gatos (Deportee).” It was an attempt to restore the dignity of the anonymous lives whose unidentified remains were buried in an unmarked mass grave in California’s Central Valley. For nearly seven decades, the song’s message would be carried on by the greatest artists of our time, including Pete Seeger, Dolly Parton, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, and Joan Baez, yet the question posed in Guthrie’s lyrics, “Who are these friends all scattered like dry leaves?” would remain unanswered until now. Combining years of painstaking investigative research and masterful storytelling, award-winning author Tim Z. Hernandez weaves a captivating narrative from testimony, historical records, and eyewitness accounts, reconstructing the incident and the lives behind the legendary song. This singularly original account pushes narrative boundaries, while challenging perceptions of what it means to be an immigrant in America, but more importantly, it renders intimate portraits of the individual souls who, despite social status, race, or nationality, shared a common fate one frigid morning in January 1948.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Tim Z. Hernandez is the real thing. This epic, tragic story is finally being told, and it is in the best possible hands.”

• Luis Alberto Urrea “An important and moving book, exploring the theme of identity and loss and disenfranchisement—topics that have never been more urgent than they are now. Hernandez has illuminated the present with this original and riveting examination of the past.”

• Susan Orlean “There’s something miraculous about the storytelling feat Tim Z. Hernandez has pulled off in *All They Will Call You*. With great compassion and patience, he has immersed himself in a long-forgotten episode of California history, and uncovered a multilayered epic of love, injustice, and family fortitude, stretching across generations and borders. This is an intelligent, empathic, and deeply moving work.”

• Hector Tobar “In his lyrics to *Plane Wreck at Los Gatos*, my father, Woody Guthrie, asked a simple question, “Who are these friends?” and finally someone has answered that question. It was unknown if their stories would ever come to light, or if they would simply remain ghosts without names, as if they had no lives at all—as if they didn’t count. Through Hernandez’s amazing work, I now know who these people were, their lives, their loves, and their journeys. *All They Will Call You* is a heart-wrenching read for anyone who cares, and the names—now etched in stone in a far-off graveyard—have become friends who will travel with me as long as I am walking.”

• Arlo Guthrie “A stunning piece of investigative journalism and a lyrical meditation on memory, meaning, and the immigrant experience.”

• San Francisco Chronicle “With compassionate storytelling, Hernandez humanizes the individuals who died in the crash, eulogizing them with anecdotes and stories that would have been theirs if they had not lost their lives so far from home.”

• Los Angeles Review of Books “This book is an opportunity to cut through the immigration rhetoric we drown in every day. It’s an opportunity to speak about the people behind the abstraction.”

• Tucson Weekly “The book is more than just a biography of names. It’s a history of the Mexican American experience. It’s about how a former worker-immigrant program worked. It’s about the lives of those who came to America.”

• Tulsa World

*All They Will Call You* is the harrowing account of “the worst airplane disaster in

California's history, the 28 unnamed Mexican lives it claimed, and the Woody Guthrie anthem it inspired.

This book seeks to memorialize a group of deportees who lost their lives in a terrible plane crash in California during the 1940s. The author writes very well about his subject, and the research he has done is extensive. At the same time, given the nature of what the author's research has turned up, the book reads like an extensive prose scrap book as the writer moves first into this aspect of the tragedy and then into that one before moving on to yet another.

It is a heart-wrenchingly beautiful book! It gives names to people long forgotten and raises the reader's sensitivity to the struggles of people, "illegal immigrants," desperate to find ways to help their families any way that they can. For sixty-five years there were no names for 28 graves in a Fresno, California cemetery. The research by the author to find and give names to each of those buried is a significant contribution of the story of the interwoven histories of both the United States and Mexico. It is particularly significant this year that we honor the struggle of people such as these who died so tragically, the deportees who crossed a border to provide for their families, and that we remember the service they have provided for the American marketplace through their labor. This is an important book, one that stays in the reader's mind long after the last page has been turned.

Tim Z. Hernandez' new non-fiction book "All They Will Call You" (Camino del Sol) is beautifully written and a heart felt labor of love. The title refers to a tragic crash of a DC-3 airplane in the Central Valley of California in January 1948, which was transporting at least 28 farm workers whose visas had expired or had no documentation at all. Also killed in the crash were the flight crew, stewardesses, and immigration officials. Mr. Hernandez researched and wrote this book over four years without formal funding because he felt the need to expand the human aspects of all who died and were mostly referred to solely as "deportees." This widely reported event eventually inspired Woody Guthrie to write a poem, later set to music by Pete Seeger and Martin Hoffman in a song titled "All They Will Call You is Deportee." Tim Z. Hernandez completes the story cycle by contacting surviving relatives of the farm workers and flight crew to provide them facts surrounding this tragedy which were unknown to them for almost seventy years. Mr. Hernandez has written a heart breaking book in a beautiful and caring style. This book is worthy of some major literature awards and is a "masterpiece " in my opinion.

This is a compelling look at the stories and faces lost in the 1949 plane wreck documented in Woody Guthrie's poem (later turned into a song.) Touching and tragic.

Hernandez tells this unbearably sad story with a poet's lyricism, a novelist's eye for detail, and a journalist's nose for the truth. A wonderful piece of work - a book that honors the dead and the living, and reminds us of the fragility of life and the durability of memory.

The work, the skill, the patience, the sheer effort that went into this endeavor--not unlike the fine people it chronicles.

The art of storytelling is displayed flawlessly in All They Will Call You. Tim Z. Hernandez, with masterful execution, brought an untold story to life, giving breath to those who have fallen. This book will only grow in popularity.

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