

## **Mexico: A Country of Illegal Immigrants?**

**Narrator:** Some years after Adichie completed her college degree in the U.S, she decided to visit Mexico. She had already heard stories about this place and imagined what she would expect.

### ***News coverage of illegal immigrants***

**Adichie (to herself):** Look at this flea market, it is unlike the others I had seen in the news channels. I can see other food being served than just tortillas that I had seen in Tex-Mex restaurants back in the U.S. Based on the Spanish classes I had in college, I can read the signs saying they sell organic products. They also have crafted artisan products, like this *alebrije* of an imaginary animal.

### ***Marketplace background noises***

**Mexican:** I heard your remarks about this place. This is an alternative market we have here in Guadalajara to the traditional markets called *Tianguis*. You see, we in Mexico have also followed the trends of globalization and innovation. These markets are more visited by millennials like me who studied in college. Where are you from?

**Adichie:** I am from Nigeria, my father was a professor and my mother an administrator, so I was part of the developing middle class in Nigeria. I would visit street markets during my childhood, but after I moved to the U.S I got more used to supermarkets.

**Mexican:** Yes, I understand that. I have some family members that live in the other side of the border and are American citizens. They have shown me , but you would be surprised on the similarities between both sides.

**Adichie (thinking):** *This stranger is so like me. I did not imagine that there could be a thriving middle class here in Mexico. The media coverage in the U.S talks only about immigrants crossing the Rio Grande and stealing low-skilled U.S jobs.*

**Adichie:** So if you have visited the U.S before, how can you not have any intention of immigrating to the U.S to seek better opportunities? Better employment and higher quality healthcare?

**Mexican:** No. Before the U.S and the conquistadors invaded, the whole Aztlan (how Aztecs called the territory of Mexico) was our land. But now, after the Mexican American war, we were confined to Guadalajara as our northmost post. Some of my countrymen were forced to work for the American conglomerates in their farms or in the *maquiladoras* industry to assemble products. Thus, some of us refer to the border *as en una herida abierta*. However, this brought new cultures, a *mestiza*, that has benefited us when we absorbed the good elements of each culture.

**Adichie (thinking):** After this, I came to understand that anyone can be manipulated by the media that only covers one side of a story. I never thought that after having passed by the experience of being stripped of my country's identity during my childhood I would be able to discern better this. However, this fight is a lifelong event, as there will always be prejudiced people in the world.