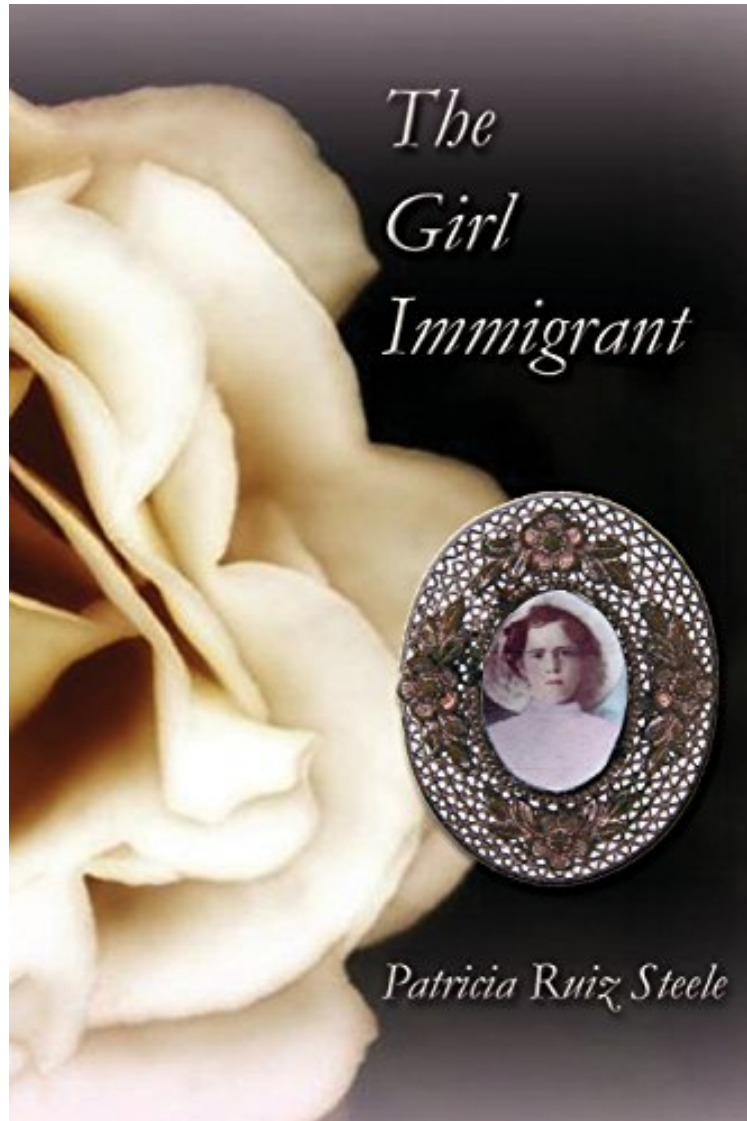


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The Girl Immigrant

Patricia Ruiz Steele

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Patricia Ruiz Steele : The Girl Immigrant before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Girl Immigrant:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important And Honest Archiving Of A Forgotten HistoryBy Aurelia LorcaPatricia Steele has done an incredible job in archiving this history. However, what I most admire is the way she tells the truth of the experiences of these immigrants, no matter how dark, but at the same time entails the little things that uplifted their spirits- something that I find inspiring as a grand-daughter of spanish immigrants who also came to this country via the Hawaiian sugar plantations. The narrative depicts the horrors of the ships, Angel Island, and the

hardships for women, yet ultimately emphasizes what helped Manuela endure- an appreciation for beauty and love of family. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Susan PayneExcellent book of immigration from Spain to Hawaii then to California1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My family was also of Spaniards that lived in Woodland!By R C.My ancestors had similar stories, completely got a good visual. One awesome book. My Mother was actually born in Woodland, Ca.

Hawaii! Manuela's small Spanish village buzzed with tales of life in a faraway land free from starvation and angst. In the early months of 1911, with nine children and four Silvan Hernandez (and Gonzales) families, they boarded a British immigrant steamer, the SS Orteric, bound for the Hawaiian Islands. Sugar plantation owners wanted immigrants from Portugal and Spain to work their plantations. They paid for passage, guaranteed work for them, school for their children. In a starving and poor time where the military brandished a strong arm, the families took a gamble along with other families in their village; a mass exodus of friends and family---leaving everything they knew---sometimes everyone they loved. Manuela's epic immigration story is filled with tragedy and triumph. Chosen to watch over her brothers as the family makes their way south to La Lnea at the Rock of Gibraltar, she was sure her heart would break into pieces. Living through the trials of traveling through Spain to the coast, a place she'd never seen was a nightmare and a dream. An ocean, ships, big cities and fears waited. The quagmire of traveling in steerage for two months added to her grief but the beauty and world of flowers in Hawaii lured her into bits of happiness she hadn't imagined. And meeting her young man in Hawaii and finding him again in California gave her the intensity of life that the trek from Spain promised. This lively memoir is based on the author's grandmother; Spain and Hawaii come alive and encompass five generations, a narrative non-fiction laced with embellishment.

Book