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FORMER MIGRANT WORKER RISES OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF BETRAYAL AND PAIN TO FIND HOPE AND A PROMISE
New Memoir, *Cruel Harvest*, Chronicles Fran Grubb’s Journey to Forgiveness

(Nashville, Tenn.) Mud stained Fran Grubb’s face. Her twelve year-old back ached from picking cotton, frantically trying to pluck the wisps of cotton from each stalk, from the moment the rays of the sun first touched the Oklahoma skyline. Hour after hour, the day would grind by until her fingers were bleeding and young Fran would hear the engine rumble, the tires crunching down the dirt road, and she would watch a yellow bus pass, filled with the promise of friends, school and a life she would never know.

But the slavery of the field and the denial of an education was nothing compared to the abuse waiting for Fran and her mother, sisters and her brothers at the hands of a savage, drunken man that they called father. Nightmares masqueraded as life, a childhood stolen in the hell of physical abuse and sexual violation, but even in the depths of misery — grace and God had not abandoned this young girl.

Many have read *The Grapes of Wrath*. But Fran Grubb lived it, growing up in a world of migrant farm workers filled with uncertain employment conditions, geographic and social isolation, poor living conditions, poverty, and constant moving, little changed from that depicted in Steinbeck’s timeless classic.

Releasing on August 14th, *Cruel Harvest* tells the true story of Fran Grubb’s hard childhood toiling as a migrant worker in the 1960s, her escape from her tyrannical father, the heartache of a family torn apart, and her eventual expedition to forgiveness and healing and being reunited with her torn apart family. It is a memoir, but it is also a final confession, a type of monument in the ground to what has come before, and the power of what can come.

“I wrote *Cruel Harvest*, for all the people who have ever felt alone, desolate, or betrayed,” said Fran Grubb. “By revealing the intimate, incomprehensible, horrors of a life that seemed utterly hopeless, I wish to encourage and inspire others in the truth that they are not alone and that they should never give up hope.”

Cruel Harvest tells the story of a young family of migrant workers, making their way across the Midwest. Working odd jobs — picking apples and cotton — Fran and her family are unable to escape their own poverty, or the far-reaching control and anger of an alcoholic father.

“...His fist shattered the glass panel of the back door at the instant I turned the lock to keep him out,” writes Grubb. “The only thing separating us was the jagged window pane. Just for a second I stood still, frozen in shock as I looked into his evil, angry eyes.”

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Those evil angry eyes haunted Fran’s childhood — her father escaped jail, tracked Fran down, and took her on the road. Her mother, sisters and brother gradually escaped the abusive father, but even after Fran finally escaped his physical presence, that spiritual malevolence followed her. Victims of abuse often find it difficult to move past that type of psychological trauma, cycles of self-harm, dangerous relationships can haunt them for the rest of their life, and Fran was not saved from this aftermath.

“As long as there is hope there is a way out,” said Grubb. “No matter how dark, lonely, or discouraging the situation.”

As an adult, with the help of a loving husband, Fran sets out on a journey of restoration and forgiveness to find the only family she knew—a family torn apart by abuse, tragedy, and fear.

In Joel 2:25, a promise is made to the children of Israel from God, that “I will restore to you the years, that the swarming locust has eaten”— Fran’s story is not that of only of devastating locusts, but of years being returned.

“This book was written for all of the adults and children who find themselves asking why,” said Grubb. “God has a plan for your life, and you are not alone. God knows your name and has written your name on His hand!”

Fran Grubb travels across the southeast United States with her husband, Wayne, speaking at churches, tent revivals, prisons, women’s shelters, children’s homes, and drug or alcohol rehabilitation centers. Fran and her husband are founders of "Feed the Hungry Children," a nonprofit working with the hurting in Kenya.

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