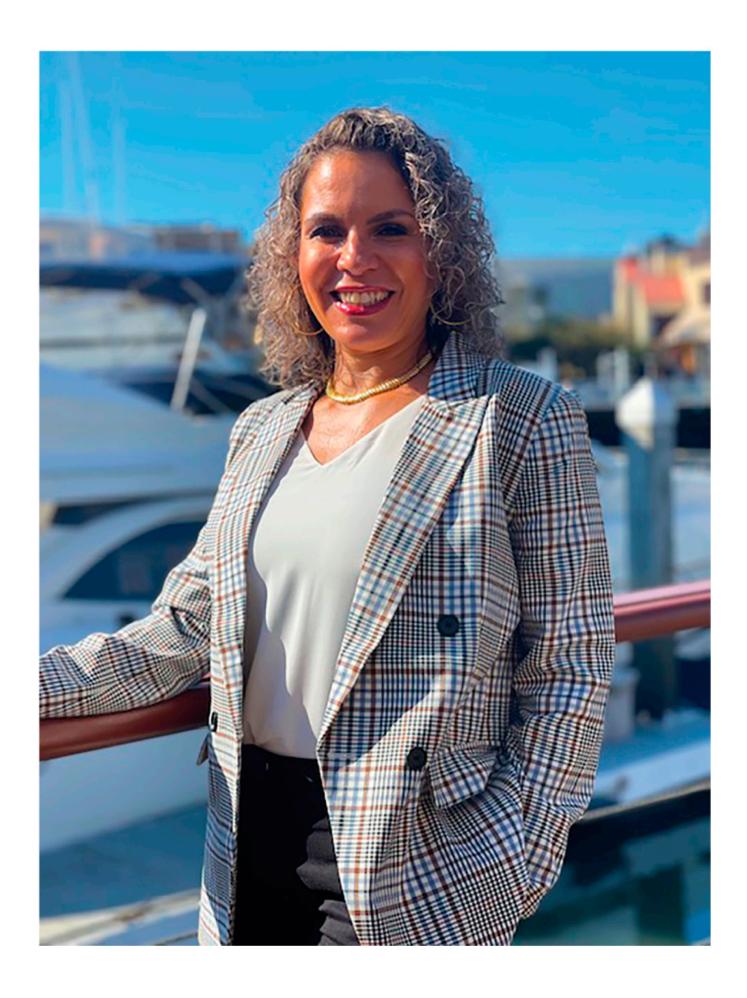


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RESILIENT • SURVIVOR • SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE • LEADER • DISRUPTOR



Author's Bio

Nancy was born in Costa Rica in 1973 and moved to America in 1981 with her sister and mother where they experienced poverty, food insecurity, and violence at every turn. As the first high school graduate in her family, she had no guidance for exploring higher education. She worked tirelessly to obtain her A.S. in Paralegal Studies from Berkeley College while raising three kids under the age of five.

Berkeley College sent her on her first interview in the equipment finance industry in 2000. She began in an entry-level position at Fleet Capital Healthcare as a documentation

processor. Then, returned to school full-time and received her B.A. in Management while also working full-time and as a single parent. In 2005, she started at Eastern Funding LLC as a mid-level documentation specialist. During her seventeen years at Eastern Funding, she received her M.B.A., was promoted five times, and had two more children.

During her initial seven years in therapy, she was able to start the journey to recovery.

She worked on healing from generational trauma; childhood trauma; physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; and unhealthy patterns of self-abandonment to toxic partners.

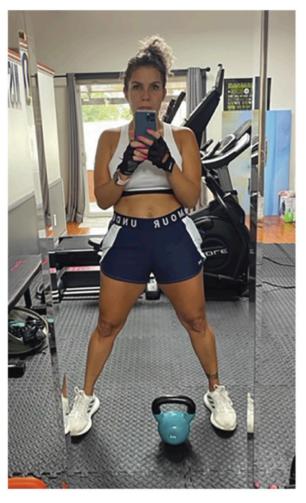
Today, she has worked her way up to President of her company and speaks nationally on human issues in the workplace such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, leadership, mental health, and company culture. She serves on several boards advocating for these causes and engages in advocacy work through other avenues.

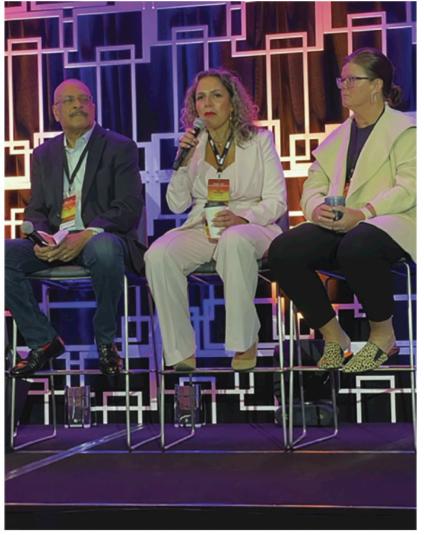
She is focusing on loving herself and modeling self-love for her children, grandchildren,

and communities.









About The Book

THE MANY PIECES OF ME

Born in Costa Rica, I came to the US not knowing a word of English. Growing up, my home life was full of violence, starting with experiencing my father's abuse of my mother and siblings to witnessing my older siblings perpetuate the abuse in their relationships, I had no frame of reference for what a loving, caring, and supportive relationship was. I was exposed to adult settings too early, sexualized too young, and put into many situations that I had no idea how to navigate—and that was all before I entered high school. By the time I was a teenager, all I knew was that I wanted to get out of my house and create a better life.

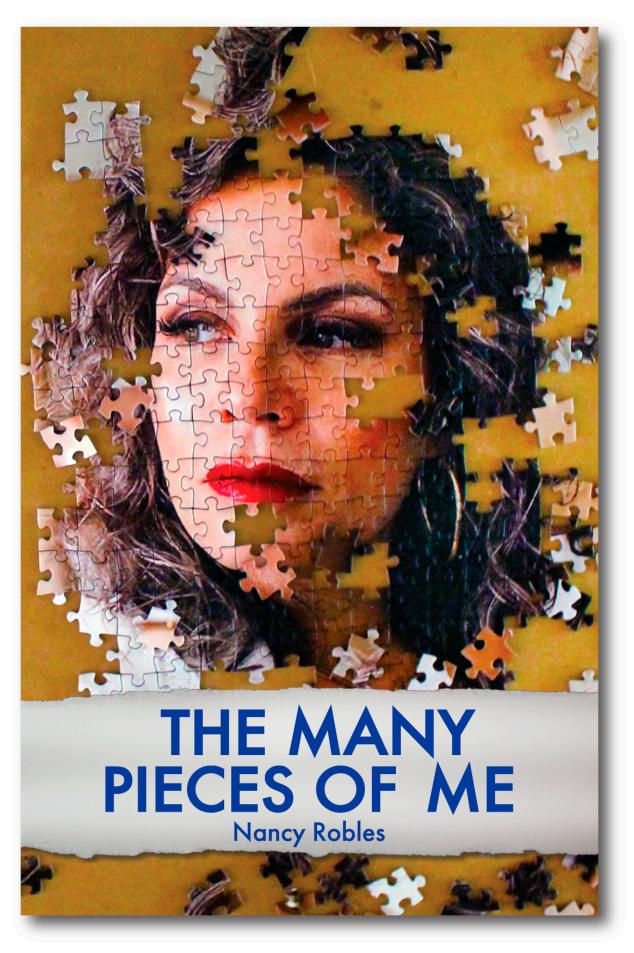
But I always fell back on what felt normal comfortable, which was abusive relationship after abusive relationship. Many dark years, excruciating beatings, and five children later, I discovered that the only way to overcome from the circumstances surrounding me was to break the cycle that I'd maintained for so long.

My recovery became my journey. It was difficult to recover while I continued the same patterns in my life. I had to go back to the very beginning and unpack the initial trauma and how it continued to affect me for so long. After months in individual

therapy dealing with the current and most obvious abusive relationships in my life,

I finally paused long enough to address the deepest and most painful scar

I carried.





I recall looking out the passenger window wondering why he was headed in that direction when out of nowhere I felt his fist slam against my face. I recall my blood splattered on the glass and how much my head ached from hitting the window. It was the hardest I'd ever been hit by anyone and the most frightened I'd ever felt. I started to open my door—I guess I was going to jump out—but he sped up and leaned over to close the door. He explained in an eerily calm voice that I was stupid to think I would get away with what I did. He said that I needed to learn my lesson, called me a whore, spit on my face, and said other horrible things while he drove to a town I wasn't familiar with.

During that twenty-minute ride, he was mostly silent. He hit me a few more times but not as hard as the first time or maybe I was more prepared for them. After each hit, he'd calm down for a while. The car would become silent with only music playing in the background, then he'd start talking again He would start off slow, explaining how much he loved and cared for me and how much it hurt to hear some guy tell him we'd dated.

As he spoke, I could hear the tempo in his voice go up. He would work his way up to a frantic state, calling me names and hurling other insults at me. Once he was in this state, the next hit would come shortly after. Eventually, he pulled into a ShopRite parking lot full of tractor trailers right off the highway in a secluded area. He pulled into a very dark space in between two trucks.

He spent the next few hours torturing me, working to intimidate me and teach me that he would show me no mercy.

He wanted me to know that I could either work hard to earn his love or I would have to deal with his wrath. I truly didn't know what his limits were,

if there were any at all. The mental agony was by far worse than the physical pain I would endure. He proceeded to beat me for at least an hour. He hit me so many times that I was sure he would kill me. It was the most violence

I'd experienced firsthand, and it established his full dominance over me. I responded with complete and total submission.

During the beating, he called me names and said incredibly hurtful things. He recounted every shameful, intimate, and hurtful secret I'd ever told him. He reminded me of all my insecurities and the family dysfunction I'd entrusted him

with. He made me feel like the least loveable or worthy person on this earth. He made me loathe myself. The physical torture he inflicted caused pain, scars, and fear while the emotional pain would devastate me for years to come.

The beating followed the same pattern as the car ride. He'd exhaust himself from hitting me, then he'd take time to recharge. He would stop at times and cry while listing all the reasons why he had to do this. He'd explain that it was my fault and how I'd left him no choice. Girls like me, he'd say, are the worst because we think that our looks and fake innocence make us special, but we aren't. We're actually the worst kind of people because we use our appearance to control and manipulate men. His arsenal of weapons was endless. His cruelty was his strength and brought him joy.

The moments of calm gave me hope that it would come to an end, but he was so unpredictable. I prayed so hard for a miracle. I was afraid to say anything because everything I said seemed to upset him even more. I would have said or done anything to earn his love and mercy. I just wanted to prove

that he was wrong and that he could love and trust me—because then it would end. He occasionally took me out and beat me against the car; it was easier to hit my body and choke me that way.

I repeatedly thought about running, but the fear of his reaction if he caught me caused me to freeze. Finally, it ended abruptly. He just drove back and dropped me off at my mother's house, but not before threatening to hurt my family if I called the cops—but he knew no one would. He knew my family had a long history of domestic violence that never resulted in accountability by the abuser.

I walked into my mother's house exhausted and confused. My face was destroyed. I had two black eyes, my lips were cut and swollen, and my nose was swollen and bloody. My bloodshot eyes were practically closed, and every inch of my face was discolored.

There were other parts of my body with similar damage, but nothing looked worse than my face. I recall my mother was pretty upset and my sister asked me if I wanted to call the cops. Of course, I said no and just sat in the shame



Testimonials

Nancy Robles is the consummate leader and champion for equity and inclusion. She has been instrumental in creating a positive culture at Eastern Funding that embraces diversity and celebrates our cultural differences. Nancy is resilient and a survivor. She beat the odds and overcame the many challenges that came with growing up in Paterson, NJ. She is dedicated to uplifting others and helping people realize their potential. It has been an honor and pleasure working with Nancy over the years.

David Miles, Vice President, Director of Credit,
 Eastern Funding LLC

Nancy Robles is a force of nature. Her tenacity and perseverance have led her to be able to accomplish every goal she has set for herself. Nancy's story about her incredible life and overcoming obstacles is a narrative that will serve as an inspiration to anyone who is facing a struggle in their life. I highly recommend reading *The Many Pieces of Me*; you will be nothing short of awed by the life of this amazing woman.

 Patricia Greer, Chair, Legal Studies, School of Professional Studies

Nancy's life journey will leave readers inspired. She is proof that an individual can persevere through many life challenges to achieve their dreams—that it is not how you start the race, but how you finish the race that matters, and Nancy always manages to bring others up with her. This is a must-read on the road to transforming your life.

 Angela Harrington, Founder, Women's Entrepreneurship Week at Berkeley College

Nancy Robles is the epitome of success! Ever since I met Nancy ten years ago, I have witnessed her willingness to achieve her dreams. Although she has had setbacks in her past, that has never stopped her from fighting for her life, her children, and her career. She is a champion of the community, a go-getter, hard worker, and a believer for equality, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace. She has made a huge impact in the company's culture and the success of the organization. I have always enjoyed working with Nancy. I am grateful for her mentorship, friendship, and for the challenges and opportunities she has presented to me through the years.

- Ana Lage, Vice President of Operations, Eastern Funding LLC

I've known Nancy for thirteen years and over that time have seen her rise above adversity, both personally and professionally, above prejudice, abuse, and even self-doubt. Personally, Nancy is truly present for those she cares about. She has five children, who remain her priority, but still makes time to be a role model and mentor to many at work. Nancy is a professional powerhouse, having climbed the ranks of the equipment finance industry from bottom to top, and now fielding invitations to sit on boards and speak at conferences, schools, and even Capitol Hill. Her story is an inspiration, but she herself is a treasure.

- Tim Egan, Vice President of Operations, Eastern Funding LLC

When you encounter Nancy Robles for the first time, you will feel as if you've known her forever! I have known Nancy for over twenty years and never has her childhood environment dictated how she would maneuver to greatness. She is unapologetic about her life and the decisions that have shaped the woman we see today. Nancy is a self-made influencer who is selfless, genuine, and humble. Her zeal for life can be found in her passion for excellence be it with her children, grandchildren, co-workers, and friends. There are some people who are born to lead, nurture, and mentor. Nancy is authentic, and when you read her memoir, you will experience her drive, determination, and love of life through this intimate walk of her journey.

- Shaun Keyes, Lifelong friend

As the Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations at Berkeley College, I have known Nancy Robles since 2015. Nancy was one of the first alums I connected with when I was new to my position, and immediately I knew she was an incredible leader. Her personal and professional accomplishments have been inspiring. She received our 2017 Alum of The Year Award and, in 2018, joined the Berkeley College Foundation Board and continues to serve as a Board Member today. Nancy's story and warm personality continue to inspire all she connects with, and I am happy to call her a colleague and friend.

 Michael Iris, Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations, Berkeley College











Target Audience

Age Range: 15-60 years old

Demographic: POC & WOC

People who have experienced trauma or mental health challenges Young disenfranchised people who feel they can't have or aren't worthy of success.

Women who have experienced sexual or physical violence People who have experienced generational trauma Anyone who needs inspiration to do what they believe they can't achieve.





Sample Interview Questions

- 1. What compelled you to begin therapy?
- 2. How did your career develop?
- 3. What would have helped you most in your career?
- 4. What has hurt you most in your career?
- 5. How were your kids affected by your wounds?
- 6. How did trauma affect you parenting?
- 7. How did trauma affect your relationship choices?
- 8. How did your trauma show up at work?
- 9. How do you think you were the victim of abuse repeatedly in your childhood?
- 10. What was your experience with therapy?

Story Ideas For Reporters

Idea 1: Domestic Violence

- Cycles of DV
- DV in family and trauma
- DV normalized or minimized
- DV in the legal system

Idea 2: Generational Trauma

- What does generation trauma look like, and how does it show up
- How does generational trauma show up in society
- What is generational trauma, and who is affected by it
- What is generational trauma in minority communities

Idea 3: Career

- How to overcome the challenges of poor education, lack of guidance, poverty, instability, being a WOC, and being a single mother
- Sexual harassment or discrimination in the workplace
- · Mentorship, advocacy, and sponsorship
- DEI, mental health, and company culture in the corporate world

Idea 3: Mental Health

- My healing journey
- My kids' healing journeys
- Healing as a family







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