Javier Zamora was born in La Perdida, El Salvador in 1990. His father fled El Salvador when he was a year old, and his mother when he was about to turn five. Both parents’ migrations were caused by the US-funded Salvadoran Civil War (1980-1992).

In 1999, Javier migrated through Guatemala, Mexico, and eventually the Sonoran Desert. After a coyote abandoned his group in Nogales, Javier managed to make it to Arizona with the aid of other migrants. His first full-length collection, Unaccompanied (Copper Canyon Press, September 2017), explores how immigration and the civil war have impacted his family.

Zamora was a 2018-2019 Radcliffe fellow at Harvard University and holds fellowships from CantoMundo, CalState University (Olive B. O’Connor), MacDowell, MacArthur, the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation (Ruth Lilly), Stanford University (Diggery), and FundaCis. The recipient of a 2017 National Poetry Series Prize, the 2017 Hollis Taggart Prize, and the 2016 Barnes & Noble Writer for Writers Award for his work in the Undocumented Campaign.

Javier lives in Harlem, NY, where he’s working on a memoir and his second collection of poems, which address the current “immigration crisis.”