

# THE JOURNEY

by Daniela Diaz Soto

## **Carol Morgan** "New Zealand taught me humility"

Carol Morgan's story as an immigrant is a journey that traces back to her birth. Born in Argentina to an English father and a mother of Lebanese descent, she carried a natural passion for adventure and diversity in her blood from the very beginning.

From a young age, she proved to be a natural-born entrepreneur. At the age of 17, she was already at the helm of her own fashion company. At 21, she got married and moved to the United States, where her daughter Soledad, came into the world. In addition to studying International Relations, Carol found a passion that filled her heart: helping others. In college, she became an essential support for two young people with disabilities, an experience that taught her the true meaning of gratitude. "It was then that I discovered what it truly means to be grateful."

Over time, she returned to Argentina where she completed her degree in Law and then became an official mediator. But that wasn't enough and she also ventured into the field of Economics.

In 1998, Carol had an innovative vision. She partnered with a respected international Economics professor, and together they founded an e-learning company long before it became a trend. "I implemented this system in universities all over the world, working with high-caliber individuals, including Nobel Prize laureates. All of this was to highlight the importance of this tool that would ultimately change the world, as we all now know."

After 15 years of tireless work and a significant emotional moment, Carol decided to embark on a new adventure with her daughter: a successful organic food business that operated for three years.

Throughout her life, even while living in different countries, Carol always dedicated part of her time to helping others. "If one is in a privileged position, one owes a lot to life," she says with conviction.

Her children had grown up, and after years of working on innovative projects, one day she overheard a conversation about New Zealand. At that moment, she felt it was time for a change and, after a vacation with her daughter, chose Queenstown as her new home. "My soul knew that I needed a change, and that change had to be on another continent."

The transition was far from easy. Carol arrived in 2017 alone and with the firm belief that her experience and education would be her best calling card. But reality was totally different. Her first job was in the hospitality



industry. "When I arrived here, I faced many challenges in having my worth acknowledged. Despite having many skills and experience in various markets, I found myself serving food and cleaning bathrooms. That's when I truly understood what it means to be an immigrant," she tells us with a smile.

Committed to providing support to those in need, she got involved in volunteer work, starting with the Citizens Advice Bureau. "When you don't know what to do, you simply go out and help others. And I assure you that giving opens a multitude of doors," she says passionately.

Carol also tells us that integration takes time and that overcoming fear is crucial. It's like a series of small victories that culminate in mutual acceptance. That's why she advocates for an open and honest perspective, far from victimhood and focused on contributing and adding value to the community.

For her, the experience of starting a new life in New Zealand was a great learning journey. "New Zealand taught me humility. I owe a lot to this place because it helped me understand the power of my own vulnerability. Here I realised that we are all equal, regardless of our background or education. We are all in the same boat and we must row together if we want to reach a good harbour."

Currently, she works at Headlight Trust as a mental health facilitator and also continues to organise events to support the community. From festivals to women's circles, her commitment to mental well-being is undeniable.

And as a final surprise, Carol has an even more ambitious plan. Her passion for the cause of immigrants and their families has become a burning fire inside her. Her goal is to enter politics and take an active role in Parliament. She wants to collaborate in creating inclusive policies that address the needs of those who struggle to be a part of this country. "Well-channeled cultural differences will add value, color, and joy to our society."



The QLDC Welcoming Communities initiative brings together local government councils and communities to make the places we love more welcoming for everyone and to provide support for newcomers choosing to make the Queenstown Lakes District their home.