

Bodega Dreams Ernesto Quinonez

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How Languages Changed My Life Project MEITS 2019-12-12
How Languages Changed My Life is a collection of stories exploring the importance of languages in shaping the lives of individuals and communities around the world. It brings together writers and musicians, politicians and activists, teachers, students, scientists, comedians, and sportspeople whose experiences are both unique and exemplary. The first-person voices are conversational, intimate and uplifting, but also often very funny and deeply moving. This book is for anyone who loves real-life stories; is interested in languages, culture, and adventure; and believes in global citizenship. It embraces more than forty different languages and offers a kaleidoscope of individual views that collectively make the case for linguistic diversity being as essential to our survival as biodiversity. Irrespective of age and background, whether as first-time learners or professional polyglots, all our storytellers testify to how languages have inspired and empowered them. How Languages Changed My Life is a book for our times, reminding us that what we have in common is always greater than our differences.

Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana Demetria Martínez 2017-06-20
“We’re everywhere, and it’s time to come out of the closet: I speak of the tongue-tied generation, buyers of books with titles like Master Spanish in Ten Minutes a Day while You Nap. . . . We grew up listening to the language—usually in the kitchens of extended family—but we answered back mostly in English.” Demetria Martínez wields her trademark blend of humor and irony to give voice to her own “tongue-tied generation” in this notable series of essays, revealing her deeply personal views of the world. Martínez breaks down the barriers between prayer and action, between the border denizen and the citizen of the world, and between patriarchal religion and the Divine Mother. She explores her identity as a woman who has within her the “blood of the conquered and the conqueror,” and who must daily contend with yet a third world—white America.

A Woman of Endurance Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa 2022-04-12
Combining the haunting power of Toni Morrison’s Beloved with the evocative atmosphere of Philippa Gregory’s A Respectable Trade, Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa’s groundbreaking novel illuminates a little discussed aspect of history—the Puerto Rican Atlantic Slave Trade—witnessed through the experiences of Pola, an African captive used as a breeder to bear more slaves. A Woman of Endurance, set in nineteenth-century Puerto Rican plantation society, follows Pola, a deeply spiritual African woman who is captured and later sold for the purpose of breeding future slaves. The resulting babies are taken from her as soon as they are born. Pola loses the faith that has guided her and becomes embittered and defensive. The dehumanizing violence of her life almost destroys her. But this is not a novel of defeat but rather one of survival, regeneration, and reclamation of common humanity. Readers are invited to join Pola in her journey to healing. From the sadistic barbarity of her first experiences, she moves on to receive compassion and support from a revitalizing new community. Along the way, she learns to recognize and embrace the many faces of love—a mother’s love, a daughter’s love, a sister’s love, a love of community, and the self-love that she must recover before she can offer herself to another. It is ultimately, a novel of the triumph of the human spirit even under the most brutal of conditions.

Dreaming in Cuban Cristina García 2011-06-08
“Impressive . . . [Cristina García’s] story is about three generations of Cuban women and their separate responses to the revolution. Her special feat is to tell it in a style as warm and gentle as the ‘sustaining aromas of vanilla and almond,’ as rhythmic as the music of Beny Moré.”—Time
Cristina García’s acclaimed book is the haunting, bittersweet story of a family experiencing a country’s revolution and the revelations that follow. The lives of Celia del Pino and her husband, daughters, and grandchildren mirror the magical realism of Cuba itself, a landscape of beauty and poverty, idealism and corruption. Dreaming in Cuban is “a work that possesses both the intimacy of a Chekov story and the hallucinatory magic of a novel by Gabriel García Márquez” (The New York Times). In celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the novel’s original publication, this edition features a new introduction by the author. Praise for Dreaming in Cuban
“Remarkable . . . an intricate weaving of dramatic events with the supernatural and the cosmic . . . evocative and lush.”—San Francisco Chronicle
“Captures the pain, the distance, the frustrations and the dreams of these family dramas with a vivid, poetic prose.”—The Washington Post
“Brilliant. . . . With tremendous skill, passion and humor, García just may have written the definitive story of Cuban exiles and some of those they left behind.”—The Denver Post

Preparatory Notes for Future Masterpieces Maceo Montoya 2021-04-27
From critically acclaimed author Maceo Montoya comes an inventive and adventurous satirical novel about a Mexican-American artist’s efforts to fulfill his vision: to paint masterful works of art. His plans include a move to Paris to join the ranks of his artistic hero, Gustave Courbet—except it’s 1943, and he’s stuck in the backwoods of New Mexico. Penniless and prone to epileptic fits, even his mother thinks he’s crazy. Ernie Lobato has just inherited his deceased uncle’s manuscript and drawings. At the urging of his colleague, an activist and history buff (Lorraine Rios), Ernie sends the materials to a professor of Chicana literature (Dr. Samuel Pizarro). Through the novel, Dr. Pizarro shares his insights and comments on the uncle’s legacy in a series of annotations to his text and illustrations. As Ernie’s uncle battles a world that is unkind to “starving artists,” he runs into other tormented twentieth-century artists, writers, and activists with ambitions to match his own: a young itinerant preacher (Reies López Tijerina); the “greatest insane artist” (Martín Ramirez); and Oscar Zeta Acosta who is hellbent on self-destruction. Will the fortuitous encounters with these prophetic figures result in his own genius being recognized? Or will his uncompromising nature consign him to what he fears most? Told through a combination of words and images in the tradition of classic works such as Don Quixote and Alice in Wonderland, Preparatory Notes for Future Masterpieces features fifty-one vivid black-and-white pen drawings. This complex and engaging story also doubles as literary criticism, commenting on how outsiders’ stories fit into the larger context of the Chicana literary canon. A unique and multilayered story that embraces both contradiction and possibility, it also sheds new light on the current state of Chicana literature while, at the same time, contributing to it. Propulsive, humorous, and full of life, this candid novel will be loved not only by Beat fiction fans but by contemporary fiction lovers as well.

Bodega Dreams Ernesto Quinonez 2009-07-01
A novel for secondary school English classes with great writing and important themes.

Writing Off the Hyphen Jose L. Torres-Padilla 2011-12-01
The sixteen essays in Writing Off the Hyphen approach the literature of the Puerto Rican diaspora from current theoretical positions, with provocative and insightful results. The authors analyze how the diasporic experience of Puerto Ricans is played out in the context of class, race, gender, and sexuality and how other themes emerging from postcolonialism and postmodernism come into play. Their critical work also demonstrates an understanding of how the process of migration and the relations between Puerto Rico and the United States complicate notions of cultural and national identity as writers confront their bilingual, bicultural, and transnational realities. The collection has considerable breadth and depth. It covers earlier, undertheorized writers such as Luisa Capetillo, Pedro Juan Labarthe, Bernardo Vega, Pura Belpré, Arturo Schomburg, and Gracián Miranda Archilla. Prominent writers such as Rosario Ferré and Judith Ortiz Cofer are discussed alongside often-neglected writers such as Honolulu-based Rodney Morales and gay writer Manuel Ramos Otero. The essays cover all the genres and demonstrate that current theoretical ideas and approaches create exciting opportunities and possibilities for the study of Puerto Rican diasporic literature.

The Accidental Native José L. Torres-Padilla 2013
When Rennie’s parents die in a freak accident, he does what he knows they would have wanted and buries them in their homeland, Puerto Rico, the island of enchantment. There, in the small town they grew up in, he’s in for another shock: the woman who raised him was not his biological mother. His birth mother, Julia, is beautiful, elegant and a high-powered attorney. She wants to get to know the son she gave up many years before, but Rennie is still grieving and unable to accept the truth. Adrift, with no family in New York and haunted by memories, Rennie is swayed by Julia’s constant pleading that he move to the island. A teaching job at a college in Puerto Rico decides it, and he finds himself flying “home” to a place and culture he knows only through his parents’ recollections. Once there, his mother is determined to educate him on the island’s culture and history, and he quickly learns there are several holes in his cultural encyclopedia. Life on the island isn’t like in the U.S., and Rennie’s workplace is no exception. The university is woefully behind in terms of technology, his students aren’t eager to learn English, they’re frequently on strike and the department chair isn’t thrilled to have a Nuyorican on staff. Most disturbing, though, is the rumor that numerous faculty and staff are dying from cancer because the campus is a former U.S. military base where toxic ammunitions have been buried. Rennie soon finds himself working to expose the government’s lies, though he risks losing his job, his home and even the woman he loves. In his debut novel, J.L. Torres captures the conflict and challenges experienced by Puerto Ricans returning to their “homeland.”

This Side of Water Maureen Pilkington 2019-04-26
In This Side of Water, Maureen Pilkington’s bright debut collection, precise and vivid language delivers flawed characters to their moments of reckoning. A married woman goes to the cemetery to resurrect her father; a young girl at a beach club witnesses her parents’ infidelity; an icy New Year’s Eve leads a devoted husband to violent clarity; a teenager spies on her mother and a Catholic priest; a Russian “dancer” visits her American husband and plays a dangerous game. In these sixteen stories, the backdrop of water—the Long Island Sound, the sulfur polluted Monangahela River, a koi pond, a basin of holy water, a tear in a boy’s eye—provides a salve for these characters, ferrying them to personal ports of renewal and resolution.

Loças Yxta Maya Murray 1997
Fictionally explores the coming-of-age of two teenaged girls from East L.A. as they struggle to define themselves in a world of brutal gang warfare

This is how You Lose Her Junot Diaz 2013
Presents a collection of stories that explores the heartbeat and radiance of love as it is shaped by passion, betrayal, and the echoes of intimacy.

The Other Americans Laila Lalami 2019-03-26
2019 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST Winner of the Arab American Book Award in Fiction Finalist for the Kirkus Prize in Fiction Finalist for the California Book Award Longlisted for the Aspen Words Literary Prize
A Los Angeles Times bestseller Named a Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post, Time, NPR, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Dallas Morning News, The Guardian, Variety, and Kirkus Reviews
Late one spring night in California, Driss Guerraoui—father, husband, business owner, Moroccan immigrant—is hit and killed by a speeding car. The aftermath of his death brings together a diverse cast of characters: Guerraoui’s daughter Nora, a jazz composer returning to the small town in the Mojave she thought she’d left for good; her mother, Maryam, who still pines for her life in the old country; Erafin, an undocumented witness whose fear of deportation prevents him from coming forward; Jeremy, an old friend of Nora’s and an Iraqi War veteran; Coleman, a detective who is slowly discovering her son’s secrets; Anderson, a neighbor trying to reconnect with his family; and the murdered man himself. As the characters—deeply divided by race, religion, and class—tell their stories, each in their own voice, connections among them emerge. Driss’s family confronts its secrets, a town faces its hypocrisies, and love—messy and unpredictable—is born. Timely, riveting, and unforgettable, *The Other Americans* is at once a family saga, a murder mystery, and a love story informed by the treacherous fault lines of American culture.

Graffiti Girl Kelly Parra 2007-05-15
Graffiti art. It’s bold. It’s thrilling. And it can get a girl into serious trouble.... Raised by her single mom (who’s always dating the wrong kind of man) in a struggling California neighborhood, Angel Rodriguez is a headstrong, independent young woman who channels her hopes and dreams for the future into her painting. But when her entry for a community mural doesn’t rate, she’s heartbroken. Even with winning artist Nathan Ramos—a senior track star and Angel’s secret crush—taking a sudden interest in Angel and her art, she’s angry and hurt. She’s determined to find her own place in the art world, her own way. That’s when Miguel Badalín—from the notorious graffiti crew Reyes Del Norte—opens her eyes to an underground world of graf tags and turf wars. She’s blown away by this bad boy’s fantastic work and finds herself drawn to his dangerous charm. Soon she’s running with Miguel’s crew, pushing her skills to the limit and beginning to emerge as the artist she always dreamed she could be. But Nathan and Miguel are bitter enemies with a shared past, and choosing between them and their wildly different approaches to life and art means that Angel must decide what matters most before the artist inside of her can truly break free.

Chango’s Fire Ernesto Quinonez 2010-10-12
In New York City’s Spanish Harlem, Julio and Maritza are each searching for a path that will give their lives meaning, even if it’s shadowed by controversy. Julio is an arsonist for hire, pocketing thousands of dollars from investors eager to capitalize on more expensive real estate. But when he has reason to stop setting his neighborhood ablaze and vows to change his ways, Julio’s employers threaten his life -- and the lives of those close to him. Maritza, meanwhile, has become the pastor of a progressive Pentecostal church -- the perfect cover for the scam she’s running. For the right price, she’ll make anyone an American citizen. With a cast of characters as colorful as the city itself, Ernesto Quiñonez brings to life a landscape we can all recognize.

The Rogues Jane Yolen 2015-11-10
A Highland lad joins forces with a notorious Scottish “Robin Hood” to seek revenge on the greedy laird who destroyed the boy’s village
Authors Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris have garnered resounding critical acclaim for their thrilling historical novels that bring Scotland’s colorful past to breathtaking life. Now they return to the Highlands with an enthralling tale of a young boy’s lawless coming of age during the dark days of the Clearances. The early years of the 19th century are hard times for farmers in the Scottish Highlands. Young Roddy Macallan and his family are among the villagers cruelly driven from their lands when a new laird decides it would be more profitable to lease the ground to English sheep farmers. Returning in secret to the ruins of his home to retrieve a precious family heirloom—a “blessing” once presented to a Macallan ancestor by Bonnie Prince Charlie—Roddy is discovered and savagely beaten by order of the laird’s sadistic enforcer, William Rood, who then steals the treasure for his master. Were it not for the timely arrival of the notorious outlaw Ian Dunbar, the boy would surely be dead. Taken under the wing of the infamous “Rogue,” young Roddy begins a new life as a renegade. Now, against all odds and with the aid and guidance of his bold criminal mentor, the determined lad will seek a righteous vengeance on the powerful villains who wronged him and his clan.

Divided Borders Juan Flores 1992-01-01
Divided Borders: Essays on Puerto Rican Identity is a collection of essays on history, literature and culture by the celebrated commentator on Puerto Rican and Caribbean culture in the United States, Juan Flores. He is the recipient of the prestigious Casa de las Americas award for his monograph on Puerto Rican identity. Included are: nPuerto Rican Literature in the United States: Stages and Perspectives,¿ nThe Insular Vision: Pedreira and the Puerto Rican Misere,¿ nNational Culture and Migration: Perspectives of the Puerto Rican Working Class,¿ nLiving Borders / Buscando America: Languages of Latino Self Formation¿ and many others.
Study Guide: Bodega Dreams by Ernesto Quinonez (SuperSummary) SuperSummary 2019-03-03
SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 50-page guide for “Bodega Dreams” by Ernesto Quinonez includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 3 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like The Importance of Names and Reinvention is Everything.

Skate Michael Harmon 2008-02-12
There’s not much keeping Ian McDermott in Spokane, but at least it’s home. He’s been raising Sammy practically on his own ever since their mom disappeared again on one of her binges. They get by, finding just enough to eat and plenty of time to skateboard. But at Morrison High, Ian is getting the distinct, chilling feeling that the administration wants him and his board and his punked hair gone. Simply gone. And when his temper finally blows—he actually takes a swing at Coach Florence and knocks him cold—Ian knows he’s got to grab Sammy and skate. Run. Their search for the one relative they can think of, their only hope, leads Ian and Sammy across the entire state of Washington in the cold and rain—and straight into a shocking discovery. Through it all, Ian knows exactly what he has to do: protect Sammy, and let no one split up their family of two. Michael Harmon tells a nuanced and unflinching story of wilderness survival, the fierce bond between brothers, and teen rage—and redemption.

Bodega Dreams Ernesto Quiñonez 2008-06-26
Chino, a promising young latino, finds himself drawn into the dangerous world of Willy Bodega, ruler of Spanish Harlem, and torn between his loyalties to his pregnant Pentecostal wife and the promises of the barrio ringleader.

Barefoot Dogs Antonio Ruiz-Camacho 2015-03-10
This collection of intertwined short stories follows the members of a wealthy family in Mexico City as they disperse across the globe, facing heartbreak and financial ruin, after their patriarch is kidnapped by shady underworld forces.

When I Was Puerto Rican Esmeralda Santiago 2006-02-28
Esmeralda Santiago’s story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where her childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs in the mango groves at night, the taste of the delectable sausage called morcilla, and the formula for ushering a dead baby’s soul to heaven. As she

enters school we see the clash, both hilarious and fierce, of Puerto Rican and Yankee culture. When her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity. In this first volume of her much-praised, bestselling trilogy, Santiago brilliantly recreates the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the barrio to Brooklyn, from translating for her mother at the welfare office to high honors at Harvard.

Bodega Dreams Ernesto Quiñonez 2007

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love Oscar Hijuelos 2013-11-14
Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times bestseller: A “lush, tipsy, all-night mambo of a novel about Cuban musicians in strange places like New York City” (People). Brothers Nestor and Cesar Camello arrive from Cuba in 1949 with dreams of becoming famous mambo musicians. This memorable novel traces the arc of the two brothers’ lives—one charismatic and macho, the other soulful and sensitive—from Havana to New York, from East Coast clubs and dance halls to the heights of musical fame. The basis for a popular film, The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love “tells of the triumphs and tragedies that befall two men blessed with gigantic appetites and profoundly melancholic hearts. . . . Hijuelos has depicted a world as enchanting as that in García Marquez’s Love in the Time of Cholera” (Publishers Weekly). “Rich and provocative . . . a moving portrait of a man, his family, a community and a time.” —Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times

Outlaw: The Collected Works of Miguel PiDero Miguel PiDero 2005-07-02
ñA thief, a junkie llve been / committed every known sin,¿ Miguel Pinero sings in ñA Lower East Side Poem.¿ Part observer, part participant in the turbulent goings-on in his Nuyorican barrio, Miguel PiDero blasted onto the literary scene and made waves in the artistic current with his dramatic interpretations of the world around him through experimental poetry, prose, and plays. Portrayed by actor Benjamin Bratt in the 2001 feature film ñPiDero,¿ the poet¿s works are as rough and gritty as the New York City underworld he wrote about and loved. ñSo here I am, look at me / I stand proud as you can see / pleased to be from the Lower East / a street fighting man / a problem of this land / I am the Philosopher of the Criminal Mind / a dweller of prison time / a cancer of Rockefeller¿s ghettoicide / This concrete tomb is my home.¿ His depictions of pimp bars, drug addiction, petty crime, prison culture and outlaw life all drawn from first-hand experience astound the faint-hearted, as PiDero poetizes an outlaw vernacular meant to shock proper, bourgeois culture. This long-awaited collection includes previously published and never-before-published poems; ten plays, including ñShort Eyes,¿ which was later made into a film and won the 1973-1974 New York Drama Critics¿ Circle Award for Best American Play, ñThe Sun Always Shines for the Cool,¿ and ñEulogy for a Small Time Thief.¿ A co-founder of the Nuyorican Poets¿ Cafe, PiDero died at the age of 41, leaving behind a compelling legacy of poetry and plays that reveal the harsh, impoverished lives of his urban Puerto Rican community.

Devoted Dean Kooztz 2020-04-16
One boy with the power to save the world. One man with the will to destroy it. The chilling, unputdownable new standalone thriller from Dean Kooztz, the master of suspense. ‘The master of our darkest dreams’ The Times

Dialectical Imaginaries Marcial Gonzalez 2018-11-05
"Dialectical Imaginaries brings together essays that analyze the effects of class conflict and capitalist ideology on contemporary works of U.S. Latino/a literature. The editors argue that recent global events have compelled contemporary scholars to reexamine traditional interpretive models that center on identity politics and an ethics of multiculturalism. The volume seeks to demonstrate that materialist methodologies have a greater critical reach than other methods, and that Latino/a literary criticism should be more attuned to interpretive approaches that draw on Marxism and other globalizing social theories. The contributors analyze a wide range of literary works in fiction, poetry, drama, and memoir by writers including Rudolfo Anaya, Gloria Anzaldúa, Daniel Borzutzky, Angie Cruz, Sergio de la Pava, Mónica de la Torre, Sergio Elizondo, Juan Felipe Herrera, Rolando Hinojosa, Quiara Alegria Hudes, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Óscar Martínez, Cherríe Moraga, Uraroyán Noel, Emma Pérez, Pedro Pietri, Miguel Piñero, Ernesto Quiñónez, Ronald Ruiz, Hector Tobar, Rodrigo Toscano, Alfredo Véa, Helena María Viramontes, and others" --

Taina Ernesto Quiñonez 2019
When Julio, a young Puerto Rican-Ecuadorian boy in Spanish Harlem, hears that Taina, a fifteen-year-old girl from his church, is pregnant, and that both mother and daughter insist that she is a virgin, he decides to believe them. Ridiculed for his naivete, Julio begins to feel like even more of a misfit than he’s always felt. His staunch yet unrequited loyalty to Taina soon unleashes a whirlpool of emotions that bring Julio to question his parents, his religion, and even the basic building blocks of modern science (who’s to say Taina’s baby’s conception wasn’t indeed a mystical, scientific miracle?) He finds himself willing to uproot everything he once believed in, and all for the sake of his fervent devotion to the young Puerto Rican girl. Yet the lengths Julio goes to to defend Taina’s purity will thrust him into the girl’s murky past. In the midst of it all, he meets Taina’s uncle, “El Vejjigante”, an ex-con who claims that, in order to get closer to the immaculate Taina, Julio must provide financial support to help the future young mother. Dubious but determined, and following the ex-con’s instructions, Julio gets entangled in a web of lies and stealing (dogs, for example, from Upper East Siders who will pay hefty rewards to have them returned.) He finally comes face-to-face with Taina, whose mother keeps locked inside their apartment in the projects, but not without bringing his loved ones into his chaotic love affair, and uncovering a family secret that will not leave him unscathed. Taina is a sweeping story that delivers a subtle yet poignant critique of Latino cultural norms and society, disguised within an absorbing, magical narrative.

Vaclav & Lena Haley Tanner 2011-05-17
Set in New York’s Russian émigré community, Vaclav & Lena is a timeless love story from a stunningly gifted young novelist. Vaclav and Lena, both the children of Russian émigrés, are at the same time from radically different worlds. While Vaclav’s burgeoning love of performing magic is indulged by hard-working parents pursuing the American dream, troubled orphan Lena is caught in a domestic situation no child should suffer through. Taken in as one of her own by Vaclav’s big-hearted mother, Lena might finally be able to blossom; in the naive young magician’s eyes, she is destined to be his “faithful assistant”...but after a horrific discovery, the two are ripped apart without even a goodbye. Years later, they meet again. But will their past once more conspire to keep them apart?

American Tabloid James Ellroy 2011-06-29
HOFFEN BY TIME MAGAZINE AS ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR
“ONE HELLISHLY EXCITING RIDE.” --Detroit
Free Press The ‘50s are finished. Zealous young senator Robert Kennedy has a red-hot jones to nail Jimmy Hoffa. JFK has his eyes on the Oval Office. J. Edgar Hoover is swooping down on the Red Menace. Howard Hughes is dodging subpoenas and digging up Kennedy dirt. And Castro is mopping up the bloody aftermath of his new communist nation. “HARD-BITTEN. . . INGENIOUS. . . ELLROY SEGUES INTO POLITICAL INTRIGUE WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT.” --The New York Times
In the thick of it: FBI men Kemper Boyd and Ward Litty. They work every side of the street, jerking the chains of made men, street scum, and celebrities alike, while Pete Bondurant, ex-rogue cop, freelance enforcer, troubleshooter, and troublemaker, has the conscience to louse it all up. “VASTLY ENTERTAINING.” --Los Angeles Times
Mob bosses, politicians, snitches, psychos, fall guys, and femmes fatale. They’re mixing up a molotov cocktail guaranteed to end the country’s innocence with a bang. Dig that crazy beat: it’s America’s heart racing out of control. . . . “A SUPREMELY CONTROLLED WORK OF ART.” --The New York Times
Book Review

The Moths and Other Stories Helena María Viramontes 2014-05-14
Fiction. THE MOTHS AND OTHER STORIES, Helena María Viramontes’ stories exploring women’s struggles to overcome the dictates of family, culture, and church, is in a new edition. Prejudice and the social and economic status of Chicanos often form the backdrop for these haunting stories, but their central, unifying theme deals with the social and cultural values which shape women’s lives and which they struggle against with varying degrees of success.

San Juan Noir Mayra Santos-Febres 2016-10-04
“Santos-Febres and 13 other contributors of Puerto Rican heritage take full advantage of San Juan’s wide range of disparities between rich and poor, weak and powerful, tourists and residents, in this fine addition to Akashic’s noir anthology series.” --Publishers Weekly
“A welcomed addition to the publisher’s popular noir series, San Juan Noir has the distinction of being issued in two editions, English and Spanish, to more accurately reflect the Caribbean island’s bilingual culture. Editor Santos-Febres gathers a varied collection of stories she expects will ‘reveal a side of Puerto Rico otherwise obscured by the tourist trade and preconception.” -- NBC News Latino
“The stories within San Juan Noir stare right into the face of colonialism as they examine the gaps between the city’s rich and its poor, its residents and its constant flow of tourists, its colorful exterior and its gritty underbelly. This is noir with a bite, noir that enthralls with its dark tales even as it challenges the reader--do better, do better, do better.” --Literary Hub
“From the interiors of sleazy bars or chic resort hotels, shabby apartments and in open streets and avenues with no escape, the tales of San Juan Noir trace the doomed routes of their victims and villains with an acute social and tragic awareness. These journeys keep the reader transfixed and understanding this Caribbean city in entirely new ways.” --Insights Akashic Books
continues its groundbreaking series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with Brooklyn Noir. Each story is set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the city of the book. Brand-new stories by: Wilfredo J. Burgos Santos, Ernesto Quiñonez, Mayra Santos-Febres, José Rabelo, Luis Negrón, Yolanda Arraño Pizarro, Ana María Fuster Lavín, Janette Becerra, Manolo Núñez Negrón, Tere Dávila, Eddmaris Carazo, Alejandro Álvarez Vargas, Charlie Vázquez, and Manuel A. Meléndez. Translated by Will Vanderhyden. From the introduction by Mayra Santos-Febres: “Puerto Rico is often portrayed as sandy beaches, casinos, luxury hotels, relaxation, and never-ending pleasure--a place that satisfies all senses and appetites. Yet the city of San Juan is much more than that. The capital of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is the oldest Spanish settlement in all the territories and colonies of the United States. Since Puerto Rico is economically dependent on the US, the financial downturn of 2008 hit us hard. Many Puerto Ricans have left the island, looking for a better life. Crime has risen and the black market has thrived. As in many crises, art, music, and literature have also flourished. Never before has there been so much literary production. We have responded to our crisis with many stories to tell. And, especially in these times, many of those stories are noir... I hope these stories spark your imagination, and reveal a side of Puerto Rico otherwise obscured by the tourist trade and preconceptions. Maybe it will also pique your curiosity, and you will come visit our ‘pearl of the Caribbean.”

Bodega Dreams Ernesto Quiñonez 2015-01-21
In this “thriller with literary merit!” (Time Out New York), a stunning narrative combines the gritty rhythms of Junot Diaz with the noir genius of Walter Mosley. Bodega Dreams pulls us into Spanish Harlem, where the word is out: Willie Bodega is king. Need college tuition for your daughter? Start-up funds for your fruit stand? Bodega can help. He gives everyone a leg up, in exchange only for loyalty—and a steady income from the drugs he pushes. Lyrical, inspired, and darkly funny, this powerful debut novel brilliantly evokes the trial of Chino, a smart, promising young man to whom Bodega turns for a favor. Chino is drawn to Bodega’s street-smart idealism, but soon finds himself over his head, navigating an underworld of switchblade tempers, turcoat morality, and murder. “Bodega is a fascinating character. . . . The story [Quiñonez] tells has energy and verve.” —The New York Times Book Review

Survival Supervivencia Miguel Algarin 2009-03-31
ñDon¿t believe the deadly game,¿ Miguel Algarin warns the elderly black Puerto Rican sitting in a park in Old San Juan, ñof Northern cities paved with gold and plenty / don¿t believe the fetching dream / of life improvement in New York / the only thing you¿ll find in Boston / is a soft leather shoe up your ass.¿ In this affecting collection of poetry and prose, Nuyorican poet Miguel Algarin crafts beautifully angry, sad pieces about injustice and loss. While warning his compatriots about the unreality of the American Dream, he acknowledges that ñwe are the pistons that / move the roughage through Uncle / Sam¿s intestines, we keep the flow / of New York happening / we are its muscles.¿ Algarin¿s poems covering his long career give voice to the disenfranchised[the junkie, the HIV inflicted, the poverty stricken[and survival is a recurring theme. In the essay ñNuyorican Language,¿ which was originally published in 1975, he argues that for the New York Puerto Rican, there are three survival possibilities: to work hard for little money all your life and remain in eternal debt; to live life by taking risks of all types, including killing, cheating and stealing; and to create alternative behavioral habits. The Nuyorican poet, he says, must create a new language, ñA new day needs a new language or else the day becomes a repetition of yesterday.¿ While many of the poems focus on the Puerto Rican experience in New York, others touch on universal experiences such as the death of friends and the ephemeral nature of life. ñSo what if you¿re dead, / I¿m here, you¿re gone, / and I¿m left alone / to watch how time betrays, / and we die slow / so very slow.¿ And he turns his sharp gaze on events around the world, including the fights between England and Argentina for the Falkland Islands, Israel and Palestine for the Holy Land. With an introduction by Ernesto QuiDonez, author of the acclaimed novel Bodega Dreams, this collection takes the reader through an intimate, autobiographical journey of one of the countrys¿ leading Nuyorican writers and intellectuals.

Soledad Angie Cruz 2001-09-09
Tía Gorda has always claimed Soledad was born con la pata caliente -- with feet burning to be anywhere but here. In truth, Soledad couldn’t wait to get beyond the stifling confines of West 164th Street, away from her superstitious, contentious family with their endless tragedies and petty fights; from the leering men with their potbellies, the sick-skinned teen girls with their raunchy mouths and snapping gum. At eighteen, Soledad couldn’t get away from the volume and the violence of the barrio some call Dominican Heights fast enough. Two years later, an art student at Cooper Union with a gallery job and a hip East Village walk-up, Soledad feels eminently cool and infinitely far from the neighborhood where she grew up. But when Gorda calls with the news that Olivia, Soledad’s mother, has lapsed into an emotional coma, Soledad knows she hasn’t escaped la familia. Gorda insists Soledad’s return is the only thing that will cure Olivia. Fighting the memories of the life she’s left -- the broken hydrants on littered corners, her jealous cousin Flaca, her bizarre mother and, curiously, images of her mother’s Dominican youth -- Soledad returns home to Washington Heights. Her journey has only begun. As Soledad tries to salvage her damaged relationship with Olivia, tame Flaca’s raucous behavior, tolerate her zany Tía Gorda and resist falling for Richie, a soulful, intense man from the neighborhood, she also faces the greatest challenge of her life: confronting the ghosts from her mother’s past. Rich, evocative and wise, Soledad is a wondrous story of culture and chaos, of family and integrity, myth and mysticism. Angie Cruz is a dazzling new voice, a Latina literary light whose passionate debut in Soledad surely marks the beginning of a remarkable career.

Down These Mean Streets Piri Thomas 1997
The author recalls his early experiences with poverty and discrimination, his involvement with drugs and gangs, and his prison sentence for armed robbery which led to his rehabilitation and work with street gangs and drug addicts

The Hustler Walter Tevis 2014-09-29
“If Hemingway had the passion for pool that he had for bullfighting, his hero might have been Eddie Felson” (Time). The novel that inspired the classic film starring Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason, The Hustler tells the story of Fast Eddie Felson, a young pool player who hustles suckers in small towns, looking for stake money so he can reach his goal: a marathon match in Chicago against Minnesota Fats. An exploration of guts, stamina, and character, and of the difference between winners and losers, this tense, gritty tale is “a wonderful hymn to the last true era when men of substance played pool with a vengeance” (Time Out).

Bodega Dreams Quiñonez Ernesto 2014-07-01
The word is out in Spanish Harlem: Willie Bodega is king. Need college tuition for your daughter? Start-up funds for your fruit stand? Bodega can help. He gives everyone a leg up, in exchange for loyalty -- and a steady income from the drugs he pushes.Lyr

Cockfight Maria Fernanda Ampuero 2020-06-23
This Ecuadorian short story collection explores domestic horrors and everyday violence, a “grotesque, unflinching” portrait of twenty-first-century Latin America (Publishers Weekly). “Ampuero’s literary voice is tough and beautiful at once: her stories are exquisite and dangerous objects.” —Yuri Herrera, author of Signs Preceding the End of the World
In lucid and compelling prose, Maria Fernanda Ampuero sheds light on the hidden aspects of home: the grotesque realities of family, coming of age, religion, and class struggle. A family’s maids witness a horrible cycle of abuse, a girl is auctioned off by a gang of criminals, and two sisters find themselves at the mercy of their spiteful brother. With violence masquerading as love, characters spend their lives trapped reenacting their past traumas. Heraldng a brutal and singular new voice, Cockfight explores the power of the home to both create and destroy those within it.

Bodega Dreams Ernesto Quiñonez 2000
“A new and authentic voice of the urban Latino experience.” --Esmeralda Santiago, author of When I Was Puerto Rican
In a stunning narrative combining the gritty rhythms of Junot Diaz with the noir genius of Walter Mosley, Bodega Dreams announces the arrival of a writer who “The Village Voice has already hailed as ‘a Writer on the Verge.” The word is out in Spanish Harlem: Willy Bodega is king. Need college tuition for your daughter? Start-up funds for your fruit stand? Bodega can help. He gives everyone a leg up, in exchange only for loyalty--and a steady income from the drugs he pushes. Lyric, inspired, and darkly funny, this powerful debut novel brilliantly evokes the trial of Chino, a smart, promising young man to whom Bodega turns for a favor. Chino is drawn to Bodega’s street-smart idealism, but soon finds himself over his head, navigating an underworld of switchblade tempers, turcoat morality, and murder.

