

Latinidad 12/13: 10th Anniversary – Best Books of 2013

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1. Saludos

Below I humbly present a list of what I consider the best Latino books published in 2013. Each would make a thoughtful gift for your loved ones, from the foodie to the bibliophile to the new parent. Double your deposits in the karma bank by shopping at La Casa Azul Bookstore; you'll be supporting both Latino authors and a Latina bookstore. Find La Casa Azul at 143 East 103rd Street in New York City or online at:

<http://www.lacasaazulbookstore.com/>

To nominate a book for next year's list, please e-mail me at marcelalandres@yahoo.com. Note that I'm seeking nominations only for books to be published in 2014.

Helping Latinos get published,

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To read past issues of Latinidad®, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marcelalandres/>

2. The Latinidad List

Literary Fiction – It's Not Love, It's Just Paris by Patricia Engel

Quietly devastating and wise depiction of love, as well as a clear-eyed portrait of modern-day Paris.

Memoir – Bird of Paradise by Raquel Cepeda

An award-winning journalist uses her family as a prism through which to conduct an intelligent and important conversation about parenting and parentage.

Poetry – Beneath the Halo by Celeste Guzman Mendoza

Sharp-eyed yet tender observations about the beauty and darkness below the surface of marriage, faith, and family.

Thriller – *The Rules of Wolfe* by James Carlos Blake

A riveting read that is quite possibly the only thriller in print featuring outlaws with English literature degrees.

Young Adult – *The Living* by Matt de la Pena

The Poseidon Adventure meets Contagion in a gripping novel that leaves you seriously hungry for the sequel.

Middle Grade – *Gaby, Lost and Found* by Angela Cervantes

A young girl's mother is deported in a moving and timely story that bravely accepts that not all endings are happy.

Children's Picture Book – *How Far Do You Love Me* by Lulu Delacre

Beautiful landscapes from every continent form the backdrop of this timeless game between parent and child.

Cookbook – *No Bake Makery* by Cristina Suarez Krumsick

Adorable and doable oven-free (and many gluten-free) recipes perfect for cooks who love dessert but don't love baking.

Self-Help – *Making Hope Happen* by Shane J. Lopez

Inspiring true stories and research-based recommendations convincingly argue that hope can be learned and used to create the future you want.

Lifestyle – *Out There* by Maria Gabriela Brito

Gorgeously illustrated guide to collecting and living with art, featuring a useful list of resources such as top art web sites.

3. Resources

HOW EDITORS THINK

"I read *How Editors Think* in one sitting and was engaged from beginning to end. It is well written, highly informative, and humorous—I found myself laughing out-loud in a few spots! Thanks for sharing the secrets of the trade."
—Mayra Lazara Dole, author of *Down to the Bone*

Inspired by my experience as a former Simon & Schuster editor, *How Editors Think: The Real Reason They Rejected You* reveals what it really takes to get published. For more information, visit:

<http://www.marcelalandres.com/E-book.html>

FANTASY/SCI-FI/HORROR WRITING WORKSHOPS

Powerful Dialogue in Fantastic Fiction

Application Deadline: December 7

Class Dates: January 2-30

The Heart of the Matter: Bringing Emotional Resonance to Your Storytelling

Application Deadline: December 10

Class Dates: January 6-February 3

The Secrets of a Satisfying Short Story

Application Deadline: December 27

Course Dates: January 23-February 20

The Odyssey Writing Workshop combines advanced lectures, exercises, extensive writing, and in-depth feedback on student manuscripts in the genres of fantasy, science fiction, and horror. For more information, visit

<http://www.sff.net/odyssey/>

LABEL ME LATINA/O

Deadline: January 12

Label Me Latina/o Journal seeks scholarly essays focusing on Latino literature, as well as creative literary pieces in English, Spanish, or Spanglish. For more information, visit <http://labelmelatin.com/>

NEW LITMAG SEEKS WOMEN OF COLOR

Deadline: January 31

Kalyani Magazine is a “non-literary” literary magazine that encourages all women of color to view themselves as writers, and supports each other on this path. They specifically welcome submissions from previously unpublished authors. For more information, visit <http://kalyanimagazine.com/>

MINORITY JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

Deadline: February 3

The International Center for Journalists aims to level the playing field, sending well-briefed journalists of color overseas to report on important issues that resonate in their communities. For more information, visit

<http://www.icfj.org/our-work/bringing-home-world-fellowship>

SEEKING PARENTS OF T(W)EENS

Deadline: February 15

Brain, Child, a literary magazine for mothers, seeks essays, fiction and poetry that capture the unique experience of raising t(w)eens. Examples include a father coming out to his daughter, a mother letting her son take a gap year between high school and college, and a mother’s foray

into heavy metal music with her teen daughter. For more information, visit <http://www.brainchildmag.com/>

INTERNATIONAL WRITERS PROJECT FELLOWSHIP

Deadline: February 15

The Brown International Writers Project sponsors the International Writers Project Fellowship that provides sanctuary and support for established creative writers--fiction writers, playwrights, and poets--who are persecuted in their home countries or are actively prevented from pursuing free expression in their literary art. Brown will aid the writer in the visa and relocation process. For more information, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/mnjub65>

WORK ONE-ON-ONE WITH AN EDITOR

Deadline: February 21

Queens University of Charlotte offers a unique six-month program during which writers can work on a manuscript with a senior editor from a major publishing house. MFA graduates from any program and other experienced writers are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit

<http://tinyurl.com/kugjv84>

WRITING POETRY FOR CHILDREN PRIZE

Deadline: February 28

The Manchester Writing for Children Prize invites the submission of poetry to be read by children within the age group of 5 to 12. For more information, visit <http://www.manchesterwritingcompetition.co.uk/>

JUST PUBLISHED: 45 REASONS TO MICRO-PUBLISH

Permission Granted: 45 Reasons To Micro-publish by Christina Katz explores why micro-publishing makes sense as a short-term goal for all writers whether they are already published or aspiring to authorhood. Writers who read this book will gain an understanding of how micro-publishing works vs. how traditional publishing works, as well as an understanding of the publishing terms all writers need to know. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/nl2tqzt>

JUST PUBLISHED: MODERN CONS

Modern Cons by Des Zamorano features Jackie Paz, a young woman trying to break free from the venomous grip of her incarcerated con-artist mother. Despite her background, Jackie grew up honest and is tentatively getting her world in order by working as a transporter of troubled teens. After a tragic death, her job collapses and Jackie's mother decides it's time for a family reunion. Modern Cons (Lucky Bat Books) is available

at Amazon <http://tinyurl.com/DesZModernCons> and for all ebook platforms at Smashwords <http://tinyurl.com/DZModernCons>

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“A book worth reading is worth buying.”--John Ruskin

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Marcela Landres

Author of the e-book "How Editors Think: The Real Reason They Rejected You"

<http://www.marcelalandres.com/>