

Latinidad – 12/12: Best Books of 2012

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1. Saludos

Not sure what to buy your loved ones for the holidays? The Latinidad List below features my picks for the year's best Latino books; all would make superb gifts. As you head out to do your shopping, be sure to include La Casa Azul Bookstore on your itinerary, either the brick and mortar store at 143 East 103rd Street in New York City or online at:

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

If you're not familiar with La Casa Azul Bookstore, here's a video that shares its backstory:

<http://tinyurl.com/dyz3lu7>

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 2013.

Helping Latinos get published,
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2. The Latinidad List

Literary Fiction – *Cervantes Street* by Jaime Manrique
Fans of the classics in general and Cervantes in particular will devour this lovingly crafted tribute filled with passion and adventure.

Memoir – *Darkroom: A Memoir in Black & White* by Lila Quintero Weaver
Vivid rendering of the civil rights movement conveyed with the innocence and openness of a wise child.

Poetry – *When My Brother Was an Aztec* by Natalie Diaz

An unexpected male muse extracts visceral yet clear-eyed poems from a perceptive poet who saw too much at a tender age.

Debut Nonfiction— Free Stylin’: How Hip Hop Changed the Fashion Industry by Elena Romero

Mix journalism, history, and pop culture then add a hefty dose of scholarly swagger to create this eminently readable book that defies categorization.

Suspense – Ink by Sabrina Vourvoulis

If Margaret Atwood were Latina, this eerily believable depiction of where U.S. immigration policy is heading is the novel she would have written instead of *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

Cookbook – Flavor Exposed: 100 Global Recipes from Sweet to Salty, Earthy to Spicy by Angelo Sosa

Foodies who want to kick up their repertoire a notch will appreciate the sophisticated yet simple-to-prepare recipes and Sosa’s elemental approach to interpreting and combining tastes.

Women’s Fiction – The Second Time We Met by Leila Cobo

This engrossing page-turner with a smooth, quick pace, instantly relatable characters, and a spot on ending belongs on every nightstand.

Young Adult – The Downside of Being Charlie by Jenny Torres Sanchez

Perfectly conveys the voice of a teen boy who captures your heart and who you will miss the second you put down the book.

Middle Grade - Latin Americans Thought of It: Amazing Innovations by Eva Salinas

Kids and their parents are sure to be impressed by this enthusiastic, illustrated celebration of Latino ingenuity.

Children’s Picture Book – My Dad is the Best Playground by Luciana Navarro Powell

A refreshingly Dad-centric story that is deservedly destined to be read and reread.

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>

CHAPBOOK FELLOWSHIP

Deadline: December 22

The PSA Chapbook Fellowship offers \$1000 and publication by The Poetry Society of America. For more information, visit <http://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/>

\$6540 POEM PRIZE

Deadline: December 31

The Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize offers \$6450, publication in the *Moth* magazine, and a two-night stay at Ballymaloe House in County Cork, Ireland. For more information, visit <http://www.themothmagazine.com/>

SHORT STORY COLLECTION COMPETITION

Deadline: December 31

The Dzanc Books Short Story Collection Competition offers \$1000 and publication by Dzanc Books. For more information, visit <http://www.dzancbooks.org/>

MICRO-FICTION CONTEST

Deadline: December 31

The Schlafly Micro-Brew Micro-Fiction Contest offers \$1500, publication in *River Styx*, and a case of Schlafly microbrewed beer. For more information, visit <http://www.riverstyx.org/>

\$2000 NONFICTION PRIZE

Submission Period: January 1-January 31

The Crazyhorse Nonfiction Prize offers \$2000 and publication in the *Crazyhorse* literary journal. For more information, visit <http://www.crazyhorsejournal.org/>

CLASSICAL POETRY COMPETITION

Deadline: January 1

A prize of \$1000 and publication in the annual anthology of the Society of Classical Poets is given for a group of poems that incorporate meter and rhyme. For more information, visit <http://classicalpoets.org/>

JENTEL ARTIST RESIDENCY

Deadline: January 15

The Jentel Artist Residency Program offers residencies and a \$400 stipend to poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers. Past residents include Lorraine Lopez, Frank Ortega, and Pilar Gomez-Ibanez. For more information, visit <http://www.jentelarts.org/>

SEEKING MULTICULTI STORIES

Deadline: February 1

The Bellevue Literary Review is seeking submissions of previously unpublished fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for an upcoming special issue on multiculturalism, A Mosaic of Voices. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/97cphul>

GRAPHIC MEMOIR PRIZE

Deadline: February 16

The Memoir (and) Prize for Graphic Memoir offers \$100 and publication in Memoir (and) literary journal. For more information, visit <http://memoirjournal.squarespace.com/>

INDIE BOOK AWARDS

Deadline: February 22

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards honors the most exceptional independently published books in 60 different categories. Small presses, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors are welcome to submit. For more information, visit <http://www.indiebookawards.com/>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER ONLY WHEN SHARED

Please forward Latinidad® widely.

For more resources, visit <http://www.marcelalandres.com/resources.html>

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Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marcelalandres/>

“Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house.”

--Henry Ward Beecher”

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Marcela Landres

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

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