

Latinidad – 4/11: Humor

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BEFORE YOU SEND IT OUT

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--K.L. Brady, author of The Bum Magnet

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1. Saludos

According to Publishers Weekly, the number of humor books has grown in the last decade, in part due to our current events (see article "Laughing Stock Up," <http://tinyurl.com/435dklx>). It seems the more reasons we have to cry, the more we seek solace in laughter. If you need a chuckle, run to your nearest bookstore and buy Maria Garcia-Kalb's 101 Ways to Torture Your Husband. My favorite method of torture? Hide his remote—it really works! I humbly suggest a 102nd way: read this book in front of him. My hubby cringed in fear every time I burst out in laughter, which was quite often. To learn how Maria landed her book deal, read this month's Q&A.

Helping Latinos get published,

Marcela Landres

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2. Q&A

Whether she's working in radio or television, Maria Garcia-Kalb shines as a bilingual professional. Currently, you can find Maria on-air at New York's legendary all-news giant 1010 WINS, but previously she has worked at Long Island's 106.1 WBLI-FM, New York's NewsRadio 88, and South Florida's

97.3 The Coast WFLC-FM. Maria is the proud recipient of two prestigious Gracie Allen Radio Awards and currently resides in Manhattan with her family. To learn more, please visit <http://www.mariaontheradio.com/>

Q: Which author or book inspires you, and why?

A: I've had a love affair with John Steinbeck for decades, but I have to admit, the book to which I continuously return is *The Secret* by Rhoda Byrne. I pick it up and read my favorite sections when I need a positive lift.

Q: What was the genesis for *101 Ways to Torture Your Husband*?

A: I was hosting a morning show on Long Island at 106.1 WBLI-FM and I created a segment called "Hersday on Thursday." Women were encouraged to call in and discuss all kinds of fun and interesting topics. As you can imagine, scores of women would call seeking relationship advice, and complain that their men were behaving badly. One day during a Hersday broadcast, I said, "Ladies, I promise to someday write a revenge book to get back at our naughty husbands and boyfriends because I've heard too many disturbing stories, and it's time for some payback!" I guess you can call it a self-fulfilling prophecy. Years later while living in Florida I penned "*101 Ways to Torture Your Husband*," so it was just meant to be.

Q: You're an on-air personality on 1010 WINS. How did your radio experience influence the book? Has publishing the book influenced your radio work?

A: I am now working at New York's legendary 1010 WINS while I pursue a TV opportunity, but I was hosting the KJOY Morning Show when the book was released. The response was stunning. Women called with their own stories of harmless husband torture. I may even have to write a "*101 MORE Ways to Torture Your Husband*." Publishing the book has definitely helped me further bond with my female audience, which is what I live for. Female empowerment is my goal in life.

Q: Who is your agent and how did you meet him/her? If you don't have an agent, how did you come to be published by Adams Media?

A: I had sent out a few query letters hoping to land a book agent, but I heard the process was not an easy one. Well, after many "No thanks" response letters, I got a phone call from an agent in Manhattan named Linda Konner. I honestly thought it was one of my friends playing a joke on me. It turns out Linda was the real deal, and we've been together ever since. She truly believed in the message I was trying to convey, and never made any promises she didn't deliver on. Eventually, the wonderful folks at Adams Media decided to publish, and here we are, torturing away. Thank you, Linda, for taking a chance on me!

Q: What was your favorite part of the publishing process? What was your least favorite part?

A: I have to say my favorite part of the publishing process was simply being told my project was accepted. I still can't believe it sometimes. There are so many gifted authors out there who may never be published, and I was quite blessed. Maybe all those candles my Mom lit at church did the trick! As far as my least favorite part, I would say it was dealing with editorial changes. At first, you feel like vital organs are being ripped from your body, but later you realize the editor was right, and they make changes for good reasons.

Q: Could you offer advice to writers—particularly Latino writers—looking to get published?

A: I would advise all my fellow Latino writers out there to stop eating too many heaping plates of rice and beans--you don't want to look bloated on your back cover! Ok, seriously, my best advice would be to NEVER let negativity get the best of you. So many people (and even close family members) thought I was nuts when I told them I was looking to publish a book, which made me feel insignificant and unworthy. Luckily, I would snap out of it, and just use those negative vibes to fuel my fire. I am living proof that dreams can absolutely come true, you just have to get the courage to dream big, and not let anyone or anything stand in your way.

Q: What are you working on next? What should my readers be on the look out for from you?

A: Believe it or not, the next project I may be working on is "101 Ways to Torture Your Husband" THE MOVIE! My lips are sealed on specific details at the moment, but if all goes well, I'll be letting everyone know when and where to buy tickets. I am also working on my next book, which will tackle relationships on a different level.

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>

WORKSHOP FOR WRITERS OF COLOR

Deadline: April 18

VONA (The Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation) is dedicated to nurturing writers through the traditions, perspectives, and aesthetics of writers of color. Founded by Junot Diaz, Elmaz Abinader, and Diem Jones, the faculty has included Terry McMillan, Martin Espada, and Willie Perdomo. For more information, visit: <http://www.voicesatvona.org/Welcome.html>

LITMAG FOR WRITERS OF COLOR SEEKS SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: April 25

Kweli, a journal for writers of color, is seeking fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Kweli pays the writers whose work is accepted for publication. Writers previously published by Kweli include Angie Cruz, Victor LaValle, and Nelly Rosario. For more information, visit <http://www.kwelijournal.org/>

SEEKING WRITERS OVER THE AGE OF 50

Deadline: May 15

Still Crazy litmag seeks poetry, short stories, and essays that challenge patronizing, sentimental, or stereotyping attitudes toward aging. For more information, visit <http://www.crazylitmag.com/>

DANGEROUS CURVES ANTHOLOGY

Deadline: May 15

Ravenous Romance seeks original, erotic stories featuring strong, sexy, full-figured women. Think Jennifer Hudson or America Ferrera. All sexual orientations welcome. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3fs7nbb>

RAGDALE ARTIST'S RETREAT

Deadline: May 15

Ragdale is a nonprofit artists' community that offers residencies from two weeks to two months to emerging and established artists, writers, and composers from all over the world. For more information, visit <http://www.ragdale.org/>

NATIONAL LATINO WRITERS CONFERENCE

Dates: May 18-21

Nationally prominent authors, editors, and agents will present workshops, panels, and participate in one-on-one consultations with participants. For more information, visit <http://www.nhccnm.org/>

ANTHOLOGY ON CHILDREN AND WAR

Deadline: June 1

Seeking essays, memoirs, and journalism pieces that depict the effects of war on children from all geographic regions, in past and current wars. Cinco Puntos Press will publish the anthology in spring of 2012. For more information, visit <http://jlpowers.net/children-and-war/>

LABEL ME LATINA/O

Deadline: June 10

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/>

GIRLS WRITE NOW SEEKS MENTORS

Deadline: June 15

Girls Write Now is a community of women writers—educators, editors, poets, novelists, playwrights, journalists, publishers, and more—who provide guidance, support, and opportunities to high school girls. For more information, visit <http://www.girlswritenow.org/gwn/join/mentors>

JUST PUBLISHED: THE GUADALUPE SAINTS

“If you hadn’t heard of Tonantzin, the goddess of the Aztecs who was dethroned by the Virgin of Guadalupe, you’ll certainly know of her after reading this intriguing novel. Michael manages to summarize 500 years of miracle working performed by the descendants of Guadalupe into a captivating plot. Tony is a modern day young man and the latest in a long line of healers and keeper of the Indian faith which maintains that Tonantzin was never really dethroned. His journey pulls you in, like a wormhole through time.”--Cindy Davis, author of the Bandit Books series. For more information, visit <http://bestsellerfiction.yolasite.com/>

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“The writer must believe that what he is doing is the most important thing in the world. And he must hold to this illusion even when he knows it is not true.”

--John Steinbeck

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Marcela Landres

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

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