

Latinidad – 12/11: Best of 2011

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BEFORE YOU SEND IT OUT

“Marcela Landres came into my life via Gemini Ink, and I am beyond thankful that we connected. She is honest, tactful, respectful, and resourceful; my writer IQ has gone up exponentially because of Marcela. She is the best line-editor I have ever worked with, and the wealth of knowledge she has in relation to platform building and enhancing growth as a writer is profound. She knows the market, knows the publishing industry, and knows what directions a writer should go for the betterment of craft and publicity. Writing is a solitary endeavor, but Marcela has made me realize what I need in my progression as a writer: partners. Marcela is a true partner who gives solid and insightful feedback. My writing projects have been (and always will be) relinquished to Marcela Landres because the depth of her expertise has only proven to be beneficial to me and my writing.”

--Carie Novikoff

Ready to work with a professional editor? Visit

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

1. Saludos

As the official book nerd in my family, I use the holidays as an excuse to buy books. Even though I am presented with wish lists for my nieces and nephews crammed with video games and toys, I tend to buy them books. (Thankfully, many video games have companion manuals.) I may not be the coolest aunt, but I have the satisfaction of expanding young minds while creating abundance for a few authors. I encourage you to do the same.

Below is the Latinidad List of the year's best books, each of which would make a great gift for someone you love. Shop online at La Casa Azul Bookstore, <http://www.lacasaazulbookstore.com/> and save 10 percent.

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 2012.

Helping Latinos get published,
Marcela Landres
marcelalandres@yahoo.com
<http://www.marcelalandres.com/>

2. The Latinidad List

Debut Novel – Outside the Bones by Lyn Di Iorio

If a novel were like a Latina, it would be Outside the Bones: alluring, with deep roots in the earth but permeable boundaries to the supernatural.

Literary Fiction – Adios, Happy Homeland! By Ana Menendez

Menendez writes like the audacious love child of Jonathan Swift and Junot Diaz, weaving a tale with the intricate logic of a brilliant madwoman.

Mystery – Human Cargo by Des Zamorano

A page-turner featuring a protagonist who could be your BFF—one who happens to be a PI with a black belt in Krav Maga.

Short Story Collection – Orientation and Other Stories by Daniel Orozco

Meticulously crafted stories populated with characters you will recognize around (and, perhaps, within) you.

Poetry Collection – Me No Habla With Acento edited by Emanuel Xavier

Pulsating rhymes and piercing images unite this spirited compendium of contemporary Latino poets.

Memoir - Sempre Susan by Sigrid Nunez

Devastating honesty combined with deceptively spare, poetic language creates an unforgettable narrative.

Travel – Pink Boots and a Machete: My Journey from NFL Cheerleader to National Geographic Explorer by Mireya Mayor

With grit, glamour, and sagacity, a true adventuress grabs readers and takes them on an exhilarating trip from Little Havana to Madagascar.

Cookbook – The New Southern-Latino Table by Sandra A. Gutierrez

These mouthwatering recipes concoct a harmonious fusion of two beloved cuisines.

Young Adult – Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Only a true talent like Garcia McCall can make a story both heartrending and enchanting.

Children's Picture Book – What Are You Doing? By Elisa Amado and Manuel Monroy

A timeless tribute to the joys of reading.

3. Workshops

Before You Send It Out Workshop/One-on-One Manuscript Review Sessions

WHAT:

Before You Send It Out Workshop - Agents and editors don't have time to read entire manuscripts. So how do they choose which writers they want to work with? Proposals. Regardless of whether you have a book for adults or children, in fiction or nonfiction, you need a strong proposal. But while many writers invest a significant amount of time, energy, and money in crafting their manuscripts, few know how to compose a proper proposal. In this class, you will learn:

1. Why 90% of submissions are rejected based on the cover letter alone
2. The single most reliable—and free!—resource for finding a good agent
3. Three common, yet easily avoidable, mistakes writers make
4. A proposal's true purpose (hint: it's not to demonstrate talent)

One-on-One Manuscript Review Sessions - Marcela Landres will read (but not edit) a sample of your work, then meet with you for a one-on-one, 30-minute session. SPACE IS LIMITED.

WHEN: 4/28, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m./ 4/28, by appointment

WHERE: Saint Clements Castle, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland CT, 06480

REGISTER: <http://www.unicornwritersconference.com/>

List of upcoming workshops:

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

4. 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>

ONLINE MEDICAL NARRATIVE WRITING COURSE

Early bird discount registration: December 28

This class will guide all types of medical professionals (doctors, nurses, researchers, aides, social workers, etc.) through the various skills needed to write and publish. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/7yrloo8>

CANTOMUNDO MASTER POETRY WORKSHOP

Deadline: December 31

Inspired by *Cave Canem* and *Kundiman*, CantoMundo is a three-day retreat that develops, sustains, and supports a diverse community of Latino poets. For more information, visit <http://www.cantomundo.org/>

SEEKING LITERATURE OF OCCUPATION

Deadline: January 7

Kweli, a literary journal by and for writers of color, seeks stories, essays, and poems inspired or informed by the Occupy movement that began on Wall Street and spread to Main Streets across the country. Kweli pays the writers whose work it publishes. For more information, visit <http://kwelijournal.org/>

GEMINI INK SEEKS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Deadline: January 16

Gemini Ink, the only literary arts center in South Central Texas, seeks an ardent Executive/Artistic Director who can actively build on its mission to nurture writers and readers through literature and the related arts. For more information, visit <http://geminiink.org/executive-artistic-director>

\$41,300 FELLOWSHIP

Deadline: January 17

The University of East Anglia offers a fellowship including a \$41,300 stipend for a work that deals seriously with some aspect of life in the Far East. For more information, visit <http://www.uea.ac.uk/lit/awards/wong>

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POETRY CENTER RESIDENCY

Deadline: January 27

Prose or poetry writers at any stage of their careers may apply; emerging writers are welcome. For more information, visit <http://poetry.arizona.edu/awards-residencies/summer-residency-program>

SEEKING POETS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Deadline: February 1

Rattle, a literary poetry journal, seeks poems of any style, length, or subject, but they must be written by poets who work or have worked in the field of law enforcement--police officers, sheriffs, investigators, jailers, etc. In addition, Rattle seeks essays on the relationship between law enforcement and poetry.

For more information, visit <http://rattle.com/blog/>

\$7100 RESIDENCY

Deadline: February 1

The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission offers a residency that includes a monthly stipend of approximately \$7100 to published U.S. poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers to live in Japan and pursue creative projects. For more information, visit <http://www.jusfc.gov/programguidelines.asp>

RFK BOOK AWARD

Deadline: February 1

The Robert F. Kennedy Book Award honors the book that most faithfully and forcefully reflects Robert Kennedy's concern for the poor and powerless. For more information, visit <http://www.rfkcenter.org/ourwork/bookawards>

RECENTLY PUBLISHED: MAD ABOUT THE BOY

To get rid of an annoying ex friend, Julia Mendoza begs a complete stranger to pretend he's her boyfriend without recognizing the cheeky surfer as the Augustine Heir. From her first meeting with Christophe Augustine, life takes a sudden detour from her workaholic agenda much to the delight of her boisterous family. To learn more, and to arrange author interviews, visit <http://www.suzanbattah.com/>. Reviewers who actively review books in Spanish and/or English on Amazon, GoodReads, or blogs may contact the author at suzanbpr@hotmail.com to receive a coupon for a free e-book from Smashwords. Queries regarding subsidiary or translation rights should be directed to contact@suzanbattah.com

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER ONLY WHEN SHARED

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“A book is a gift you can open again and again.”--Garrison Keillor

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Marcela Landres

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

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