

Association of American Publishers ♦ Publishing Latino Voices for America Task Force  
**Latino Recommended Reading List**



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS, INC.



## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month With a Book!

The AAP's Publishing Latino Voices for America (PLVA) Task Force created this recommended reading list in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15-October 15, 2009. The list represents just a sampling of the wide variety of books that are written by, for, or about the Hispanic community. For more information on PLVA, please visit the AAP website at [www.publishers.org](http://www.publishers.org).

### ADULT FICTION



#### **The Disappearance of Irene Dos Santos**

Author: Margaret Mascarenhas

ISBN: [9780446541107](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9780446541107)

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing (June 2009)

Available Languages: English (reading group guide available in Spanish)

Internationally acclaimed author Margaret Mascarenhas makes her US debut with an exquisite novel set in Venezuela about the search for individual truth, love, and belonging, embodied in a fifteen-year-old girl.

#### **El infinito en la palma de la mano / Infinity in the Palm of Her Hand**

Author: Gioconda Belli

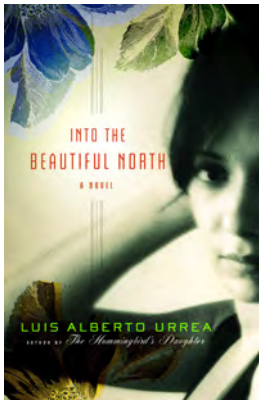
ISBN: [9780061724329](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9780061724329)

Publisher: Rayo (March 10, 2009)

Available Languages: Spanish and English

From international bestselling author, poet, and political activist Gioconda Belli comes a wholly creative feminist re-imagining of the biblical story of Adam and Eve. Newly released in Spanish in paperback.





### **Into the Beautiful North**

Author: Luis Alberto Urrea

ISBN: [978-0-316-02527-0](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780316025270)

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company (May 2009)

Available Languages: English and Spanish

Nineteen-year-old Nayeli works at a taco shop in her Mexican village and dreams about her father, who journeyed to the US when she was young. Recently, it has dawned on her that he isn't the only man who has left town. In fact, there are almost no men in the village--they've all gone north. While watching *The Magnificent Seven*, Nayeli decides to go north herself and recruit seven men--her own "Siete Magníficos"--to repopulate her hometown and protect it from the bandidos who plan on taking it over. Filled with unforgettable characters and prose as radiant as the Sinaloan sun, *Into the Beautiful North* is the story of an irresistible young woman's quest to find herself on both sides of the fence.

### **La isla bajo el mar**

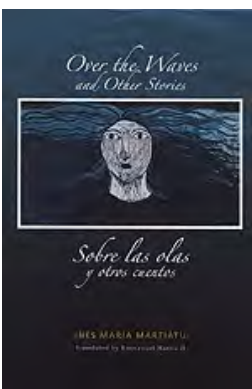
Author: Isabel Allende

ISBN: [978-0-307-47604-3](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780307476043)

Publisher: Vintage Español (August 25, 2009)

Available Languages: Spanish

Para ser una esclava en el Saint-Domingue de finales del siglo XVIII, Zarité había tenido buena estrella: a los nueve años fue vendida a Toulouse Valmorain, un rico terrateniente, pero no conoció ni el agotamiento de las plantaciones de caña ni la asfixia y el sufrimiento de los trapiches, porque siempre fue una esclava doméstica. Su bondad natural, fortaleza de espíritu y honradez le permitieron compartir los secretos y la espiritualidad que ayudaban a sobrevivir a los suyos, los esclavos, y conocer las miserias de los amos, los blancos. Zarité se convirtió en el centro de un microcosmos que era un reflejo del mundo de la colonia: el amo Valmorain, su frágil esposa española y su sensible hijo Maurice, el sabio Parmentier, el militar Relais y la cortesana mulata Violette, Tante Rose, la curandera, Gambo, el apuesto esclavo rebelde... y otros personajes de una cruel conflagración que acabaría arrasando su tierra y lanzándolos lejos de ella. Al ser llevada por su amo a Nueva Orleans, Zarité inició una nueva etapa en la que alcanzaría su mayor aspiración: la libertad. Más allá del dolor y del amor, de la sumisión y la independencia, de sus deseos y los que le habían impuesto a lo largo de su vida, Zarité podía contemplarla con serenidad y concluir que había tenido buena estrella.



### **Over the Waves and Other Stories / Sobre las olas y otros cuentos**

Author: Inés María Martíatu

Translated by Emmanuel Harris II with a Postscript by Tànit Fernández de la Reguera

ISBN: [9780974888156](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780974888156)

Publisher: Swan Isle Press (March 2009)

Available Languages: Bilingual

Appearing for the first time outside of Cuba, this bold collection of short stories provides an intimate and critical view of Afro-Cuba. Inés María Martíatu's stories—presented here in the original Spanish, with facing-page English translations—span postcolonial Cuba of the early twentieth century, the First Republic, the “victorious revolution,” and contemporary life in the streets of Havana. Taking real risks as an Afro-Cubana, Martíatu confronts conflicts about identity, race, marginalization, and discrimination.

The history of the Caribbean, as part of the African diaspora, is reflected in the textures of life in Cuba, its music, rituals and myths, the Church and Santería, past and present. While race is unquestionably fundamental to the stories, they are at the same time rooted in the universality of the human experience. The vantage is that of an unflinching, yet compassionate observer of society—one who simultaneously turns an introspective mirror on the complicated layers of self.

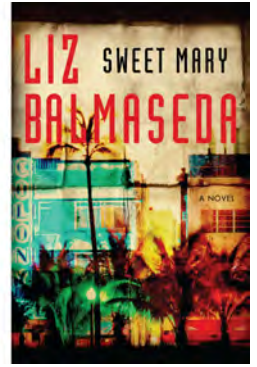
## Sweet Mary

Author: Liz Balmaseda

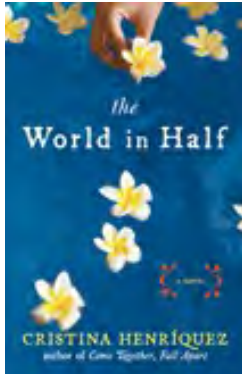
ISBN: [9781416542964](#)

Publisher: Atria (July 14, 2009)

Available Languages: English



*Sweet Mary* by Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Liz Balmaseda follows the story of a woman with nothing to lose. Wrongly accused of being a cocaine queen, she's lost her job, her reputation and custody of her son. Suspicion lingers even after charges were dropped. Desperate to get it all back, she embarks on a hunt for the real drug queen. And she must travel an unseemly path to get there.



## The World in Half

Author: Cristina Henríquez

ISBN: [9781594488559](#)

Publisher: Riverhead (April 2, 2009)

Available Languages: English

Miraflores has never known her father, and until now, she's never thought that he wanted to know her. In secret, Miraflores plots a trip to Panama, in search of the man whose presence she believes can help her find the pieces of her own identity that she thought were irretrievably lost. What she finds is unexpected, exhilarating, and holds the power to change the course of her life completely.

## ADULT NONFICTION

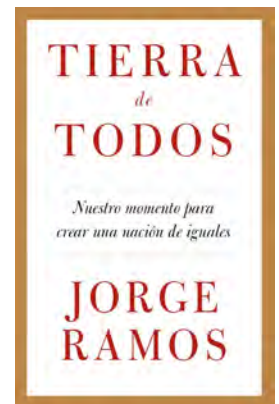
## A Country for All/Tierra de todos

Author: Jorge Ramos

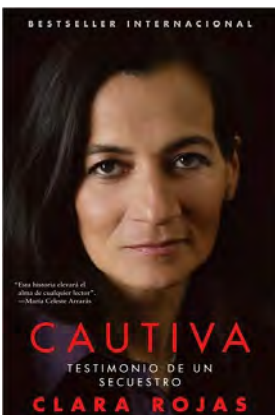
ISBN: [9780307475190](#) (Spanish), 9780307475541 (English)

Publisher: Vintage Español (Spanish - May 12, 2009, English - Fall 2009)

Available Languages: Spanish and English



Written by Jorge Ramos, the Emmy Award-winning anchorman of the top rated Noticiero Univision, *Tierra de todos* describes the reasons why legalizing undocumented immigrants is vital to the future of the United States. *Tierra de todos* reads like a manifesto for a new America, one which includes the honest, hardworking immigrants that the founding fathers viewed as the lifeblood of their country's future.



## Cautiva

Author: Clara Rojas

ISBN: [9781439159804](#)

Publisher: Atria Español (October 6, 2009)

Available Languages: Spanish (English available November 1, 2009)

For the first time, freed FARC hostage Clara Rojas recounts her experience being kidnapped at the same time as Ingrid Betancourt for whom she was campaign manager. *Cautiva* (*Captive*) reveals the details of her six years of captivity, the birth by Caesarean and miraculous survival of her infant son in the Colombian jungle, and, finally, her emotional liberation and reunion with her child.

## Confidence Is Queen

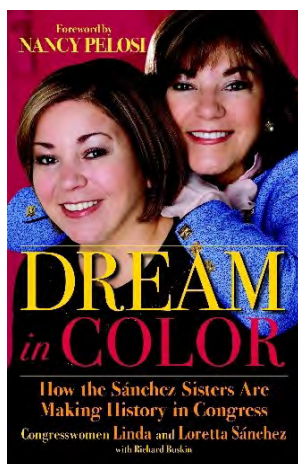
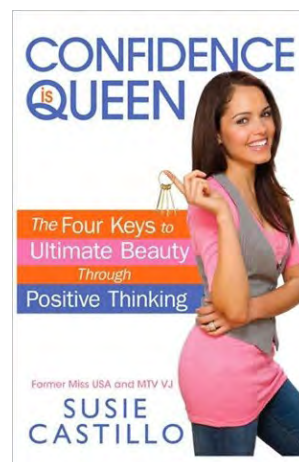
Author: Susie Castillo

ISBN: [9780451227065](#)

Publisher: Celebra (Paperback May 5, 2009)

Available Languages: English

Former Miss USA and MTV VJ Susie Castillo shares her ultimate beauty secret - confidence. In this inspirational book, she reveals the four keys to building self confidence and how to apply them to one's life. By developing spirituality, embracing relationships, taking control of health and body image, and making dreams a reality, readers will be unleashing their own ultimate beauty in no time.



## Dream in Color: How the Sánchez Sisters are Making History in Congress

Authors: Congresswomen Loretta and Linda Sánchez with Richard Buskin. Foreword by Nancy Pelosi

ISBN: [978-0-446-50804-9](#)

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing (September 2008)

Available Languages: English

Part memoir, part motivational guide for young women everywhere, in Dream in Color Congresswomen Linda and Loretta Sánchez, the first sisters to ever serve in Congress, speak candidly about the challenges they've faced and how, with the support of their extraordinary family, they were able to achieve what many told them was impossible.

## Fit Home Team

Author: Jorge and Laura Posada

ISBN: [9781439109311](#)

Publisher: Atria (October 13, 2009)

Available Languages: English

*Fit Home Team* by New York Yankees All-Star Catcher Jorge Posada and his wife Laura Posada shows parents how to work with their kids toward a healthy lifestyle. The book will include recipes, fitness strategies and activities for the entire family. Laura and Jorge believe that health and fitness need to be more than just a passing fad; it needs to be a long term commitment. Instead of saying to your kids, "Do as I say," they believe parents should be saying, "Let's do it together!"





## **La farmacia en casa (The At-Home Pharmacy)**

Author: Dra. Petra Wenzel

ISBN: [9788444120010](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9788444120010)

Publisher: Everest (distributed by Lectorum – December 2008)

Available Languages: Spanish

This essential home reference guide gives practical advice for caring for the health of your family. Focusing on preventive care, including nutrition, it also gives basic step-by-step options for caring for minor afflictions, from plant-based homeopathic remedies to synthetic over-the-counter products, and from hot-water baths to acupressure. Indispensable information includes how to tell when home remedies have reached their limit and a doctor must be seen. This useful tool is a must-have for anyone with a family.

En este libro encontrará consejos competentes, prácticos y modernos para cuidar de la salud de toda la familia. Ya conoce el dicho “es mejor prevenir que curar”. Podrá obtener información sobre una alimentación sana y algunas opciones básicas para el tratamiento de molestias menores como remedios a base de plantas, homeopatía, productos químicos sintéticos, baños o la técnica tradicional de la acupresura. También le indicará dónde están los límites de los tratamientos que puede aplicarse uno mismo y cuándo ha llegado el momento de acudir al médico. Este libro es una herramienta imprescindible para cualquier lector que tenga una familia.

## **The Devil’s Highway**

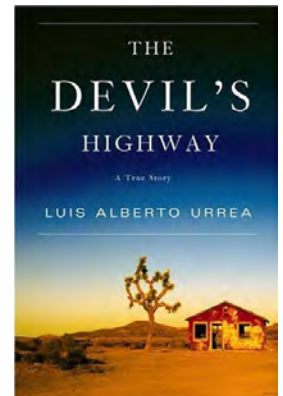
Author: Luis Alberto Urrea

ISBN: [9780316010801](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780316010801)

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company (September 2005)

Available Languages: English

In this work of grave beauty and searing power we follow 26 men who in May 2001 attempted to cross the Mexican border into the desert of southern Arizona, through the deadly region known as the Devils Highway, a desert so harsh and desolate that even the Border Patrol is afraid to travel through it, a place that for hundreds of years has stolen men’s souls and swallowed their blood. Only 12 of the men made it out.



## **Un sueño Americano / American Son**

Author: Oscar de la Hoya

ISBN: [9780061725425](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780061725425)

Publisher: Rayo (April 28, 2009)

Available Languages: Spanish and English

From one of the most-talked about fighters in the history of boxing comes a frank and touching memoir about Oscar de la Hoya achieving the American Dream: his rise to the top, the strength of a solid work-ethic, the pitfalls of stardom, and as the son of Mexican immigrants, a very personal take on his own Hispanic-American identity. Newly released in Spanish in paperback.

## CHILDREN'S

### **Before You Were Here, Mi Amor**

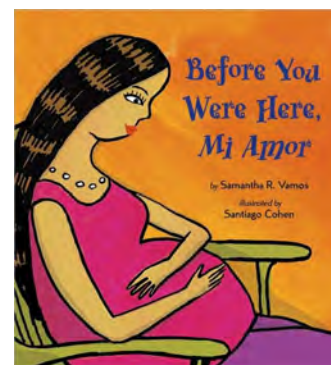
Author: Samantha Vamos

Illustrator: Santiago Cohen

ISBN: [9780670063017](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780670063017)

Publisher: Viking Children's (March 19, 2009)

Available Languages: English with some Spanish words



This tenderly written story, with Spanish words woven throughout, tells readers how the members of a familia lovingly prepare for a new bebé. With its vibrant and warm illustrations, this debut picture book is perfect for expectant parents and children curious about the time before they were here.



### **Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day; Celebremos El día de los niños/El día de los libros**

Author: Pat Mora

Illustrator: Rafael López

ISBN: [978-0-06128-877-7](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/978-0-06128-877-7)

Publisher: HarperCollins/Rayo (March 2009)

Available Language: Bilingual

Ages: 4-8 years old

This bilingual celebration to read and share throughout the year shows children and families from varied languages and cultures enjoying reading--even in a hot air balloon. The words can be sung or used for choral reading. The book includes an author note about Día and suggested activities for celebrating Día at home, school, libraries, etc.

### **Braids/Trencitas**

Author: Kathleen Contreras

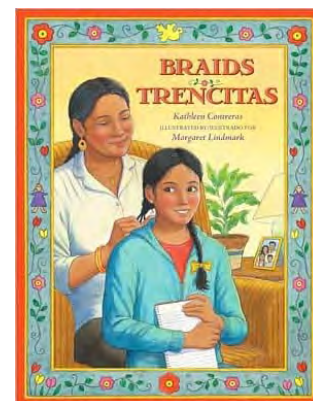
Illustrator: Margaret Lindmark

ISBN: [9781933032276](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9781933032276)

Publisher: Lectorum Publications, Inc. (August 2009)

Available Languages: Bilingual English/Spanish edition

Ages: 7-9 years old



This bilingual story shows the importance of family and of reading, while also emphasizing the rewards of passing along cultural traditions. Beautiful illustrations portray the moving story of Bela and her grandma, who love to tell stories, braid hair, and play *lotería* with the family: “Our stories, like our braids, bind us forever.”

Este cuento bilingüe muestra la importancia de la familia y de la lectura, a la misma vez que enfatiza el valor de la herencia cultural. Con sus ilustraciones simpáticas y accesibles, retrata la historia conmovedora de Bela y su abuela. Juntas se cuentan historias la una a la otra, se trenzan el pelo y juegan a la lotería con los otros miembros de la familia: “Nuestras historias, como nuestras trenzas, nos unen para siempre.”



### **El Ratoncito Pérez y The Tooth Fairy**

Author: Jane Cadwallader

Illustrator: Gustavo Mazali

ISBN: 0-545-162227-0

Publisher: Scholastic en español (September 2009)

Available Languages: Bilingual English/Spanish

Ages: 4-8 years old

The Ratoncito Pérez and the Tooth Fairy meet face to face when they are about to collect a baby tooth left by a girl named Natalia Kennedy Caballero. The Ratoncito Pérez leaves to find out who is the fairy that wants to steal the tooth from him. The Tooth Fairy leaves to find out who is the little mouse that wants to steal the tooth from her. After asking some friends, the Ratoncito Pérez and the Tooth Fairy realize that they have the same job and that Natalia is bilingual: she speaks English and Spanish. That's why they came to collect her baby tooth at the same time. A lovely story that will capture the attention of all children, especially those who are bilingual.

### **La casa en Mango Street (25th Anniversary edition)**

Author: Sandra Cisneros

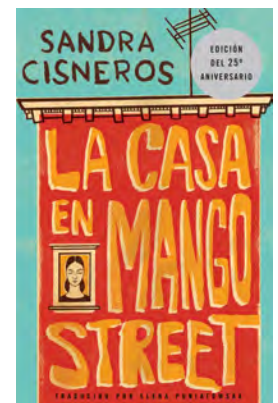
ISBN (English): [978-0-679-73477-2](#)

ISBN (Spanish): [978-0-679-75526-5](#)

Publisher: Vintage Español (March 2009)

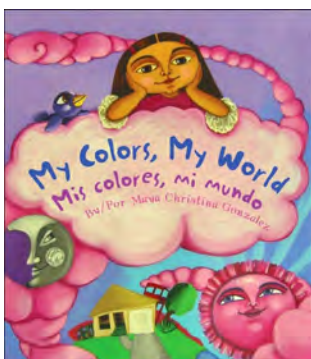
Available Languages: English and Spanish

Ages: 12-14 years old



Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, *La casa en Mango Street* tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong -- not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become.

A veces desgarrador, a veces intensamente alegre, *La casa en Mango Street* relata la historia de Esperanza Cordero, en cuyo barrio conviven realidades crueles y una belleza severa. Esperanza no quiere pertenecer --ni a su barrio ni a las bajas expectativas que el mundo le ofrece. La historia de Esperanza es la de una joven intentando alcanzar su propio poder e inventar su propio futuro.



### **My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo**

Author: Maya Christina Gonzalez

ISBN: [978-0-89239-221-6](#)

Publisher: Children's Book Press (April 2007)

Available Language: Bilingual English/Spanish

Ages: 4-8 years old

*My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo* invites children to a visual feast of vibrant colors and magical realism as they follow young Maya on her journey from sand-covered surroundings to a world overflowing with rich violet and pink hues. Mayan culture and Kahlo-esque influences add electricity to the bold illustrations. With the help of a feathered friend, Maya searches extra-hard to find the colors in her world. And she does—in the vibrant purple of her Mama's flowers, the juicy green of a prickly cactus, the hot pink clouds at sunset, and the shiny black of her Papi's hair. As they follow Maya's search for all the colors of the rainbow, little readers will be inspired to look around and ask themselves, where can I find the colors in my world?

## **Sergio Saves the Game!**

Author: Edel Rodriguez

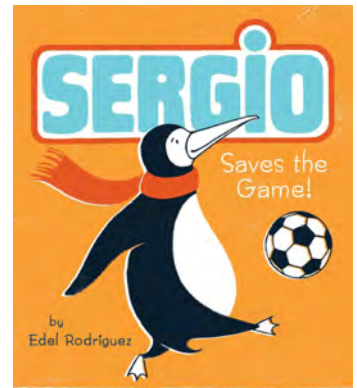
ISBN: [97803160066174](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/97803160066174)

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (May 2009)

Available Language: English

Ages: 3-6 years old

Sergio, the adorable penguin who won our hearts in *Sergio Makes a Splash*, returns with a story about soccer, determination, and discovering one's true talents.



## **Yum! ; MmMm! ; Qué rico!: America's Sprouting**

Author: Pat Mora

Illustrator: Rafael López

ISBN: [978-1-58430-271-1](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/978-1-58430-271-1)

Publisher: Lee & Low Books (2007)

Available Language: English with occasional Spanish words

Ages: 4-9 years old

This book features fourteen haiku written in English with occasional Spanish words. The poems demonstrate Mora's love of foods and their origins. Each page has a sidebar detailing the history of the particular food in the poem. The illustrations are bright and cheery--reminding readers of the Mexican art across the Americas. This title would be a great addition to any poetry section as well as for use in a social studies lesson

## **POETRY**

### **Frivolous Women and Other Sinners / Frívolas y pecadoras**

Author: Alicia Borinsky

Translated by Cola Franzen and Alicia Borinsky

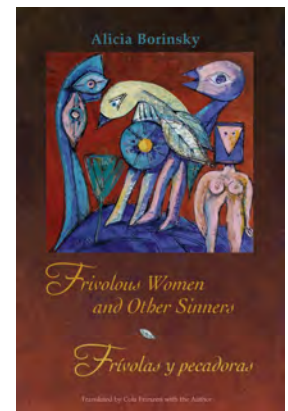
ISBN: [9780974888149](https://www.isbn-international.org/details/9780974888149)

Publisher: Swan Isle Press (April 2009)

Available Languages: Bilingual (Spanish with facing-page English translations)

Tango and fairy tales mix freely in this seductive, irreverent, and sensual collection of poems. From a city that is at once Buenos Aires and all others, Alicia Borinsky brings to life reluctant mothers, slightly mad teachers, selfless wives, neighborhood witches, best friends, sworn enemies, torturers, vamps, cheats, and lovers—a gallery of characters who wink and boldly gaze back at us. Vignettes become poems and poems become vignettes, reflections that dance, reveal, conceal, enchant, confess, and dream.

Frivolous Women invites us to visit the darker and lighter sides of laughter and love and feel the tenderness of recovered memories as we cross the bridges of relationships and stroll down the mysterious streets of childhood. Alicia Borinsky reminds us that the revelations of poetry are always intimate and dangerous. Cola Franzen's agile and insightful translation, crafted in close collaboration with the poet, is faithful to the letter and spirit of the original Spanish in this bilingual edition.



**For more information on Hispanic Heritage Month, please visit <http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov>.**

**To order ¡Ajá Leyendo! posters, please visit <http://www.getcaughtreading.org>.**