

Latinidad - Winter 2018: Best Books of the Year

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BEFORE YOU SEND IT OUT

“Marcela’s thoughtful, detailed and thorough comments on my manuscript were truly transformative—not just in terms of helping to rework my text, but also reshaping my own vision and perspective of my story. Her insight and extremely helpful remarks and advice gave me the confidence to deepen and hone my manuscript, turning it into the book I truly wanted it to be. Shortly after our discussion I secured a publishing deal! Having an experienced publishing industry expert, who is also a conscientious and passionate literary mind, read and comment on my very personal manuscript was an absolutely invaluable decision. I highly recommend Marcela, and you’ll be lucky to work with her!”

—Eva Golinger, author of *A Confidante of Tyrants*, <http://www.evagolinger.com>

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1. Saludos

Shopping at Amazon will make Jeff Bezos richer, but shopping at your local independent bookseller—especially during the holiday season—can help keep it in business. Think of patronizing mom-and-pops as one modest way of helping to reduce income equality.

In this spirit, below I share the Latinidad List, a round-up of my favorite books by Latinos published this year. Please use it to complement your own shopping list.

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

2. The Latinidad List

Debut Novel - *The Disturbed Girl’s Dictionary* by Nonieqa Ramos

Fierce and haunting, Macy Cashmere wields a sharply honed sense of humor to protect herself from her imperfect family—and an even less perfect world.

Women’s Fiction - Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton
Nimbly weaves past and present, history and passion, into a smart and tender tale about Cuba.

Literary Novel - The House of Impossible Beauties by Joseph Cassara
Pulses with vibrant characters full of sass and love who virtually leap off the page.

Memoir - The Line Becomes a River by Francisco Cantu
Written with *corazon y alma*, a U.S. border patrol agent of Mexican heritage reveals his story of emotional carnage.

Short Story Collection - Love War Stories by Ivelisse Rodriguez
Trenchant stories that bear witness to how love can infect generations of women.

Poetry - Virgin by Analicia Sotelo
Unworthy men populate the purgatory that is romance in this most worthy collection of poems.

Cookbook - The Latin Table by Isabel Cruz
Healthy, appealing recipes that are not only mom-friendly, they are work-outside-the-home-mom-friendly.

Young Adult - American Road Trip by Patrick Flores-Scott
Bitter collides with sweet as a teen boy copes with the return of his wounded warrior brother from Iraq.

Middle Grade - Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya
Big-hearted story about a bully-turned-bodyguard who searches for his elusive father.

Children’s Picture Book - Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal
Alma’s winsome story will inspire you to ponder the meaning behind your own moniker.

3. Resources

LANDMARK PRIZE FOR FICTION

Deadline: January 1

Homebound Publications seeks titles with a special focus on the intersection of the nature landscape and the interior landscape. Authors representative of the work they seek would include Annie Dillard, Cheryl Strayed, and Jack Kerouac. They are deeply invested in reading and publishing diverse voices spanning across different religions, ethnicities, and marginalized communities. For more information, visit <https://homeboundpublications.com/landmark-prize-for-fiction/>

NOVELLA CONTEST

Deadline: January 23

The Driftless Unsolicited Novella Contest offers \$250 and publication by Brain Mill Press for a novella. They seek writers from underrepresented communities such as LGBTQIA+, disabled, First Nations, BAME, 50, and women/femme. For more information, visit <https://brainmillpress.submittable.com/submit/129895/2018-driftless-unsolicited-novella-contest>

\$3000 SHORT STORY AWARD

Deadline: January 31

The Winter Short Story Award offers \$3000 and publication in The Masters Review. Second and third place stories will be awarded \$300 and \$200 respectively. All winning stories and any notable honorable mentions will receive agency review by leading literary agents. Self-published writers and writers with story collections and novels with a small circulation are welcome to submit. For more information, visit <https://mastersreview.com/short-story-award/>

FRANK MCCOURT MEMOIR PRIZE

Submission Period: February 15 - March 15

The Frank McCourt Memoir Prize offers \$1000 and publication in the Southampton Review for a personal essay. Second prize is \$500. For more information, visit <https://www.thesouthamptonreview.com/frank-mccourt-memoir-prize/>

\$3000 SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK PRIZE

Submission Period: February 15 - June 30

The North Street Book Prize offers \$3000 to one grand prize winner, plus \$1000 to the top winner in each of these categories: Mainstream/Literary Fiction; Genre Fiction; Creative Nonfiction & Memoir; Poetry; Children's Picture Book; Graphic Narrative (novels, memoirs, story collections, etc.). In addition, \$250 will be given to one honorable mention in each aforementioned

category. For more information, visit <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/north-street-book-prize>

CALL FOR STORIES ABOUT SURVIVAL

Deadline: February 28

Twisted Road Publications seeks submissions about survival from marginalized individuals and groups—migrant farm workers whose work requires them to give up their homes and communities; victims of extreme weather events who have no safety nets; those forced to flee their homes to escape war and violence; those caught up in a criminal justice system that is anything but colorblind; and so many more. They are looking for both full-length manuscripts (fiction and non-fiction) and for shorter works (essays and short stories) for inclusion in anthologies. For more information, visit <https://twistedroadpublications.com/survivor-stories/>

TUSCARORA AWARD IN HISTORICAL FICTION

Deadline: March 1

A prize of \$1000 and publication by Hidden River Press, an imprint of Hidden River Publishing, will be given for an unpublished book-length work of historical fiction. This competition is open to international submissions for all writers in English. For more information, visit <https://hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com/awards-deadlines-and-guidelines/the-tuscarora-award-for-historical-fiction/>

MFA FELLOWSHIP FOR DIVERSE VOICES

Application Deadline: March 18

The Solstice Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing Program at Pine Manor College offers The Kurt Brown Fellowship to support an incoming student of diverse background or experience who also demonstrates financial need.

Writers of all genres are welcome to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.pmc.edu/mfa-financial-aid>

FRONTIER POETRY

Frontier Poetry began with the simple mission of being a platform for emerging poets—to uplift, to prepare, and to inspire. For their New Voices category, they warmly invite under-represented and marginalized voices to submit. They pay \$50 per poem, up to \$150. For more information, visit <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/submit/>

THE NEW PRESS

The New Press's editorial program has three aims: to broaden the audience for serious intellectual work, especially by reaching out to audiences intellectually red-lined by commercial publishers; to bring out the work of traditionally

underrepresented voices; and to address the problems of a society in transition, highlighting attempts at reform and innovation in a wide range of fields. For more information, visit <http://thenewpress.com>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER ONLY WHEN SHARED

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“Do not hoard what seems good for a later place in the book, or for another book; give it, give it all, give it now.”

—Annie Dillard

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