

## Latinidad - Winter 2017: Best Books of the Year

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BEFORE YOU SEND IT OUT

“Reading your newsletter over the years inspired me to be persistent. See link below to see the website of a book that you initially edited many years ago and which I kept working on until it was published. Besides seeking your input and edits related to the first draft of the manuscript, I also attended a seminar you hosted where you discussed what to expect after publishing. I still remember your advice and am now enjoying promoting the book as much as I did the process of writing it, keeping your words in mind. As you can tell, you made quite an impression on me. Thank you, Marcela.”

—Barbara Gonzalez Cigarroa, author of *A Mexican Dream and Other Compositions*, <http://amexican-dream.com>

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### 1. Saludos

Every dollar you spend on a writer of color translates into two lives you can potentially change: the author's and the reader's. Shop wisely. To aid you during this holiday season, below is The Latinidad List, my picks for the best books of 2017 by/for Latinos. Enjoy!

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

### 2. The Latinidad List

Debut Novel - *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez  
Julia Reyes, a smart and smart-assed teen, may be imperfect but the title and tone of her story are pitch-perfect.

Literary Novel - *In the Distance* by Hernan Diaz  
Wondrous adventure that takes place at the intersection of innocence and savagery, and of nature and (so-called) civilization.

Historical Novel - *The Living Infinite* by Chantel Acevedo  
Inspired by true events, a richly detailed and masterfully crafted story about the very modern Spanish princess Eulalia who wore royalty like chains.

Short Story Collection - *Her Body and Other Parties* by Carmen Maria Machado  
Cerebral yet corporeal, a sultry procession of startling stories in which women's bodies are asylums.

Poetry - *Paraíso* by Jacob Shores-Argüello  
Astounding yet arresting poems that bleed grief and ache for faith.

Graphic Novel - *I Am Alfonso Jones* by Tony Medina  
Nas meets Shakespeare in this affecting tale about a member of the Black Lives Matter generation.

Cookbook - *Casa Marcela* by Marcela Valladolid  
Gracious photos and approachable recipes will inspire you not only to cook like Marcela, but to live like her.

Young Adult - *All the Wind in the World* by Samantha Mabry  
Bewitching page-turner set in the not-too-distant future on a climate-changed landscape where promises and betrayal blur.

Middle Grade - *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez  
As cool as a pair of silver-sequined Chuck Taylors, zine-loving bicultural Malu aspires to be punk despite her SuperMexican's mom's best efforts to turn her into a senorita.

Children's Picture Book - *Lucia the Luchadora* by Cynthia Leonor Garza  
Spunky Lucia's hip abuela shares a secret that proves girls can be as (super)heroic as boys.

### 3. Resources

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#### AWP'S MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Submission Period: January 1 - 12

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs offers a mentorship program that matches emerging writers and published authors for a three-month series on topics such as craft, revision, publishing, and the writing life. Those who have never been associated with an MFA program and those writing from perspectives typically underrepresented in the literary world are particularly

encouraged to apply. There is no charge to apply, and there is no fee for this program. For more information, visit [https://www.awpwriter.org/community\\_calendar/mentorship\\_program\\_overview](https://www.awpwriter.org/community_calendar/mentorship_program_overview)

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#### FIRST NOVEL COMPETITION

Submission Period: January 1 - May 15

Del Sol Press offers \$1500 and publication for a first novel. The competition is open to all authors writing in English regardless of nationality or residence, and is available to published and unpublished authors alike. Genres they are looking for include literary and upmarket fiction, mainstream or general fiction, mystery/thriller or speculative fiction with a literary edge, serious women's fiction, and unique experimental work. For more information, visit <http://delsolpress.org>

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#### AMERICAN SHORT(ER) FICTION PRIZE

Deadline: February 1

The American Short(er) Fiction Prize offers \$1000 and publication in American Short Fiction for a piece of flash fiction. For more information, visit <http://americanshortfiction.org/2017/11/30/american-shorter-fiction-prize-now-open-submissions/>

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#### SEEKING ESSAYS ABOUT INTOXICATION

Deadline: February 26

Whether you (or someone else) were tipsy or wasted, soooooo drunk or just a little high—on life, or love, or power, or something else—Creative Nonfiction Journal wants to hear your story about being under the influence. For more information, visit <https://www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions/intoxication>

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#### PINCH JOURNAL

Deadline: March 15

Pinch Journal takes its name from downtown Memphis's Pinch District, an area where starving Irish immigrants—known derisively as “pinch-guts”—lived during the nineteenth century. The name commemorates their commitment to publishing diverse voices that speak from the periphery. They seek essays, stories, and poems that move, provoke, or engage. For more information, visit <http://www.pinchjournal.com>

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#### POETRY COLLECTION PRIZE

Deadline: March 31

The First Book Competition offers \$1000 and publication by the Cleveland State University Poetry Center for a poetry collection authored by a poet who

has not published a full-length book. For more information, visit <http://www.csupoetrycenter.com/first-book-poetry/>

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SEEKING NEW AND INNOVATIVE WRITING

Deadline: April 15

The New Alchemy Contest seeks new and innovative approaches to the creative process. That means anything goes. They want your experiments: with language, plot, format, and/or medium. Winners will receive \$500 and publication in Permafrost Magazine. For more information, visit <http://permafrostmag.com>

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MCSWEENEY’S QUARTERLY CONCERN

McSweeney’s is dedicated to publishing outstanding new fiction and nonfiction in a wild variety of forms. Their groundbreaking writing and eye-gratifying design have won it two National Magazine Awards. Contributors are paid at the time of publication. For more information, visit <https://www.mcsweeneys.net/pages/guidelines-for-quarterly-submissions>

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THE KUBERT SCHOOL FOR COMICS

The Kubert School offers students a high quality and challenging education in Cartooning and Graphic Art. They are committed to investing their time in preparing their students for the rewarding and exciting careers and opportunities ahead of them. For more information, visit <http://www.kubertschool.edu>

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED: A MEXICAN DREAM AND OTHER COMPOSITIONS

A richly detailed collection of living memories told with charm and keen observation, A Mexican Dream and Other Compositions by Barbara Gonzalez Cigarroa presents captivating insights not only into one family’s remarkable story, but also into the extraordinary spirit of the people of our Texas borderlands. For more information, visit <http://amexican-dream.com>

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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER ONLY WHEN SHARED

Please forward Latinidad® widely.

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“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”—Mark Twain

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