

Latinidad - Spring 2016: Jaded Ibis Press

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BEFORE YOU SEND IT OUT

“I’ve had a long desire to write, and write I have, but with no training or direction. When I finished my manuscript, I sent it to Marcela. With bated breath I waited for her critique. I wanted her to say it was genius, the next great novel in the making (with some minor line edits, maybe a little work on the ending). What I got was even better. It was not only a thorough scrubbing of my manuscript, but an honest, experienced, thorough, and caring critique with excellent suggestions for how to grow as a writer. I’ve now concluded my fourth writing course in a writer’s program through UCLA, have had one experimental piece published in an online literary magazine, and am awaiting word on a short story I submitted to another literary magazine. Best of all, I’m enjoying every minute of this journey. Thank you, Marcela.”

—Julio Esquivel

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1. Saludos

How many contests do you need to win in order to call yourself an award-winning writer? One. That’s it—just one. Being a prizewinner is a sagacious way to stand out in the oceans of submissions that flow into the snail mail and email boxes of agents and editors. Talented writers who tenaciously submit their work to the countless contests that take place every month will likely score at least an honorable mention. Yet, most writers don’t submit their work to contests.

Don’t be one of those writers. Move from the mass of commonplace writers onto the stage of champions by submitting your work to reputable contests. An example of one such contest is the Jaded Ibis Press Novel Contest. To learn more, read the Q&A below with Elizabeth Earley and Lily Hoang, co-owners of Jaded Ibis Press.

Helping Latinos get published,

Marcela Landres
marcelalandres@yahoo.com
<http://www.marcelalandres.com/>

2. Q&A

Elizabeth Earley holds an MFA in Fiction from Antioch University Los Angeles. Her stories and essays have appeared in Hayden's Ferry Review, The First Line Magazine, Fugue, Hair Trigger, and Glimmer Train among other publications. Elizabeth is the recipient of the David Friedman Memorial Prize for Fiction, has twice been a finalist for the AWP New Journals Award, has received two pushcart nominations, and was a finalist for the 2011 Bakeless Literary Prize for Fiction. Her debut novel, *A Map of Everything*, published in March, 2014, was a debut fiction finalist for the Lambda Literary Prize.

Lily Hoang is the author of four books, including *Changing*, recipient of a PEN Open Books Award. She has two novels forthcoming: *Old Cat Lady* (1913 Books, 2016) and *The Book of Martha* (Insert Blanc Press, 2017). Her collection of essays *A Bestiary* won the inaugural Cleveland State University Poetry Center's Nonfiction Contest and is forthcoming in 2016. With Joshua Marie Wilkinson, she edited the anthology *The Force of What's Possible: Writers on Accessibility and the Avant-Garde*. She teaches in the MFA program at New Mexico State University, where she is Associate Department Head and Prose Editor at Puerto del Sol.

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

Q: What inspired you to acquire Jaded Ibis Press?

A: We saw a potential platform to claim and refine into one for underserved/under-heard voices in the literary community. The previous owner had been committed to evolving literary forms and merging different expressions of the arts, like fine art with fiction and music with prose. We loved that as a bold foundation. We are excited about what we're turning it into: a feminist press committed to publishing socially engaged literature with an emphasis on the voices of people of color.

Q: Lily, you teach at the MFA program at New Mexico State University; Elizabeth, you're a Senior Medical Writer at LehmanMillet. You are both award-winning published authors. How does your experience inform your work with Jaded Ibis Press?

A: I think we both bring complementary strengths to the table. Lily is a brilliant and skilled editor. I have a good mind for business. And we've brought on board a third partner, Dasha Kelly, who has a certain level of celebrity on a national stage among diverse audiences. She's also brilliant and inspiring, so we're excited to add her energy to this mix.

Q: I love your mission to publish socially engaged literature with an emphasis on the voices of people of color. Could you elaborate a bit on what kinds of writing you'd like to see submitted to the Jaded Ibis Novel Contest?

A: We want to keep it broad on purpose. We're still looking for the right judge (getting close) and whoever that ends up being will bring her own subjective preferences. Ultimately though, we want the work to be smart, compelling, and aligned with our mission. Novels, memoirs, and short story or essay collections are all acceptable forms.

Q: Other than submitting a polished, finely crafted manuscript, what advice would you offer to writers who are considering submitting to your contest?

A: Give it a shot! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We look forward to reading your work.

3. Success Story

"I am a faithful reader of your e-zine Latinidad, and I am writing to thank you for producing such an important resource. You manage to compress so much useful information and inspiration for us writers, and you offer all this for free! You should know that a few poems in my debut collection first appeared in literary journals listed in Latinidad. The fact that my poems were first published by literary journals must have influenced the publisher to take my manuscript more seriously. Today I can say I am an author, which is precisely your goal for us writers. You are the real thing, chica!"

—Irene Pérez, author of *Encounter Between Cuentos and Versos*, <http://www.perezpoet.com>

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>

JADED IBIS PRESS NOVEL CONTEST

Submission Period: January 15 - June 15

Jaded Ibis is a feminist press committed to publishing socially engaged literature with an emphasis on the voices of people of color. For more information, visit <http://jadedibispress.com/contest/>

CATAPULT BOOKS

Submission Period: April 1 - April 30

Catapult Books seeks American and international literary fiction, memoir, nonfiction, and graphic narrative from unique voices—whether emerging or established—devoted to a diverse and serious readership. They consider unagented book-length submissions during the months of April and October. For more information, visit <https://catapult.submittable.com/submit>

UNPUBLISHED WOMEN'S FICTION CONTEST

Contest Opens: April 3 for members, May 1 for non-members

The Women's Fiction Writers Association offers feedback from three published authors, plus five acquiring agents of women's fiction. The Rising Star Contest for Unpublished Women's Fiction is open to all women's fiction, from contemporary to historical, mainstream to literary, realistic to paranormal, and everything in between. For more information, visit <http://womensfictionwriters.org>

POETRY COLLECTION PRIZE

Deadline: April 30

A prize of \$1000 and publication by Marsh Hawk Press is given for a poetry collection. For more information, visit <http://www.marshhawkpress.org>

SEEKING SURVIVOR STORIES

Deadline: May 1

Lethe Press is an independent publishing house specializing in speculative fiction, books of gay interest, poetry, as well as classic works of the occult & supernatural. For an upcoming SF/F anthology, they seek stories of everyday trauma survival—from a barmaid on an intergalactic space station who was abandoned by her parents, to a farmer's son bullied by his peers. They also welcome submissions with a war setting, such as stories about veterans and refugees. For more information, visit <http://www.lethepressbooks.com>

SEEKING ESSAYS ABOUT JOY

Deadline: May 16

Creative Nonfiction magazine offers \$1000 and publication for an essay about the brighter moments in life, those that teach and enlighten us through their beauty or humor. For more information, visit <http://www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions/joy>

YEAR LONG COMICS WORKSHOPS

The Sequential Artists Workshop (SAW) seeks serious students of comic book and sequential art. Whether your interest is personal stories, graphic novels, or genre comics or whether your concern is for entertainment, literary depth, or personal expression, their program is for you. For more information, visit <http://sequentialartistsworkshop.org/>

JUST PUBLISHED: EVERYTHING WE THINK WE HEAR BY JOSÉ ÁNGEL ARAGUZ

Everything We Think We Hear is a collection of prose poems and flash fictions in the tradition of the Latin American microcuento. At turns fabulistic and true to life, these short pieces tell stories about growing up in and out of South Texas, the role family mythology has in relating to the world, and presents Latin@ storytelling as a way to understand the universal through the personal. For more information, visit <https://thefridayinfluence.wordpress.com/>

JUST PUBLISHED: LATINA AUTHORS AND THEIR MUSES BY MAYRA CALVANI

Latina Authors and Their Muses, an inspirational, entertaining, and informative collection of interviews with 40 Latina authors, focuses on the craft of writing and the practical business of publishing. To learn more, visit <http://www.mayracalvani.com>

JUST PUBLISHED: JULIET TAKES A BREATH BY GABBY RIVERA

Obsessed with her first feminist book, Juliet Milagros Palante contacts the author, Harlowe Brisbane, and sets up a summer internship. Out of the Bronx, and off to Portland, Oregon, Juliet confronts white feminism and coming out to her family while navigating the world of queer politics. For more information, visit <https://riverdaleavebooks.com>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER ONLY WHEN SHARED

Please forward Latinidad® widely.

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SUCCESS STORIES

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“The great thing about not winning prizes is that I’ve always been beaten by someone whose work I admire very much, and I can always understand why the judges chose the work they did. I always read the work that won; it feels like part of the agreement of entering—to buy the book or the issue in which I’d hoped to appear.”

—Sarah Einstein

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