

Latinidad - Winter 2016: Best Books of the Year

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BEFORE YOU SEND IT OUT

“In my venture to move my clinical experience as a therapist into the world of publishing self-help books, I was fortunate to have been introduced to Marcela. Her profound understanding of the inner workings of how to get my book published, as well as her step-by-step tools, provided me with the clarity I searched for as I continue to work toward publishing my first manuscript. If you are looking for guidance as to how to go about publishing a manuscript, I am confident scheduling a consultation with Marcela will prove to be invaluable to you as well.”—Nicole Taveras

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1. Saludos

More than ever, we need diverse books. Regardless of whoever presides in the White House, books by people of every color should be on bookstore shelves, both virtual and brick-and-mortar. Do your part to diversify the personal libraries of your loved ones by buying them books by Latino authors this holiday season. For gift ideas, look no further than the Latinidad list below, my picks for the best Latino books of the year. Better yet, shop online at the Latina-owned La Casa Azul Bookstore, <http://www.lacasaazulbookstore.com>.

Helping Latinos get published,
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2. The Latinidad List

Best Debut - The Girls in My Town by Angela Morales
Bittersweet reminiscences that adroitly pivot from humor to horror, ranging from odes to dogs loved and lost to the wisdom gained from teaching an ex-convict.

Literary Novel - *The Regional Office Is Under Attack!* by Manuel Gonzales
Thoughtful page turner which depicts the inner life of superheroes in a world in which the only certainty is uncertainty.

Short Story Collection - *The Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria* by Carlos Hernandez
Fantastical tales that marry science, nature, and philosophy like a literary, modern-day *Twilight Zone*.

Poetry - *Landscape with Headless Mama* by Jennifer Givhan
Each poem is an elegant, elegiac ghost story haunted by the memories of mothers and children, both born and unborn.

Memoir - *Chaos Monkey* by Antonio Garcia Martinez
Entertaining romp through Silicon Valley replete with razor-sharp observations.

Business - *Brazillionaires* by Alex Cuadros
Fascinating and frightening peek at the possible economic future of the U.S., as if told by a smart pal over stiff drinks at a bar.

Self-Help - *Self Made* by Nely Galan
An empowering call to action by an authentically self made woman.

Young Adult - *Kill the Boy Band* by Goldy Moldavsky
Killer combination of a pitch perfect voice, whip smart intelligence, dark humor, and an unexpectedly unreliable narrator.

Best Chapter Book - *Juana & Lucas* by Juana Medina
A plucky girl shares the many people and things she loves (and a few she strongly dislikes) as she faces her greatest challenge—learning the English.

Children's Picture Book - *Mama the Alien* by Rene Colato Lainez
Fun and funny story about a serious topic.

3. Resources

WORKSPACE RESIDENCY

Application Deadline: January 26

A nine-month studio residency program that focuses on creative practice development for emerging artists working across all disciplines, LMCC's Workspace program offers space for experimentation and dialogue with peers

and arts professionals, as well as career-advancement opportunities. For more information, visit <http://lmcc.net/program/workspace/>

\$40,500 FELLOWSHIPS

Deadline: February 1

The Olive B. O'Connor Fellowships offers two nine-month residencies at Colgate University including a stipend of \$40,500, health benefits, and travel expenses to poets, fiction writers, or nonfiction writers working on their first books. For more information, visit <http://www.colgate.edu/academics/departments-and-programs/english/creative-writing-fellows>

MILKWEED BOOKS

Reading Period for Literary Nonfiction: January 15-February 15

Milkweed Editions is a nonprofit press with the mission of nurturing transformative literature and building an engaged community around it. They seek works of literary nonfiction that focus on nature and the environment, a deeply felt sense of place, and/or the relationships between human and natural communities. For more information, visit <http://milkweed.org>

NEA GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Deadline: March 8

The National Endowment for the Arts' Creative Writing Fellowships in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. Non-matching grants are for \$25,000. For more information, visit <https://www.arts.gov/grants/apply-grant/grants-individuals>

LOW-RESIDENCY MFA IN PARIS

Deadline: March 15

NYU's low-residency MFA Writers Workshop in Paris offers students the opportunity to develop their craft under the guidance of internationally acclaimed faculty—including Nathan Englander, Katie Kitamura, and Zadie Smith. Over two years, students and faculty convene regularly in Paris for five intensive ten-day residency periods. For more information, visit <http://cwp.fas.nyu.edu/object/cwp.low.residency.paris>

SEEKING ESSAYS ABOUT DANGEROUS CREATIONS

Deadline: March 20

Creative Nonfiction magazine seeks essays that explore humans' efforts to control and redirect nature, the evolving relationships between humanity and science/technology, and contemporary interpretations of monstrosity. For more information, visit <https://www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions/dangerous-creations-real-life-frankenstein-stories>

LEAPFROG PRESS FICTION CONTEST

Reading Period: January 15 - May 1

Leapfrog Press seeks books that larger publishing houses consider to be mid-list but that its own editors regard as the heart and soul of literature. They seek adult, young adult, and middle grade novels, novellas, and short story collections. For more information, visit <http://www.leapfrogpress.com>

SEEKING CARIBBEAN FLASH FICTION

Akashic Books publishes a flash fiction series, Duppy Thursday, and seeks stories set in a Caribbean location and that incorporate some aspect of folklore such as the spider Anansi, the devil woman La Diabliesse, the Soucouyant, Mama Dlo, or Papa Bois. For more information, visit <http://www.akashicbooks.com/category/duppy-thursday/>

SEEKING GLBTQI FICTION

Pride Publishing, an imprint of Totally Bound Publishing, is actively acquiring empowering, enchanting, and endearing storylines with lead characters who identify as GLBTQI. For more information, visit <http://www.totallyentwinedgroup.com>

VANDAL LITMAG

Vandal is a literary/arts journal that publishes quality fiction, poetry, and essays of all stripes. For more information, visit <http://www.vandaljournal.com/>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER ONLY WHEN SHARED

Please forward Latinidad® widely.

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“The literature of America should reflect the children of America.”

—Lucille Clifton

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