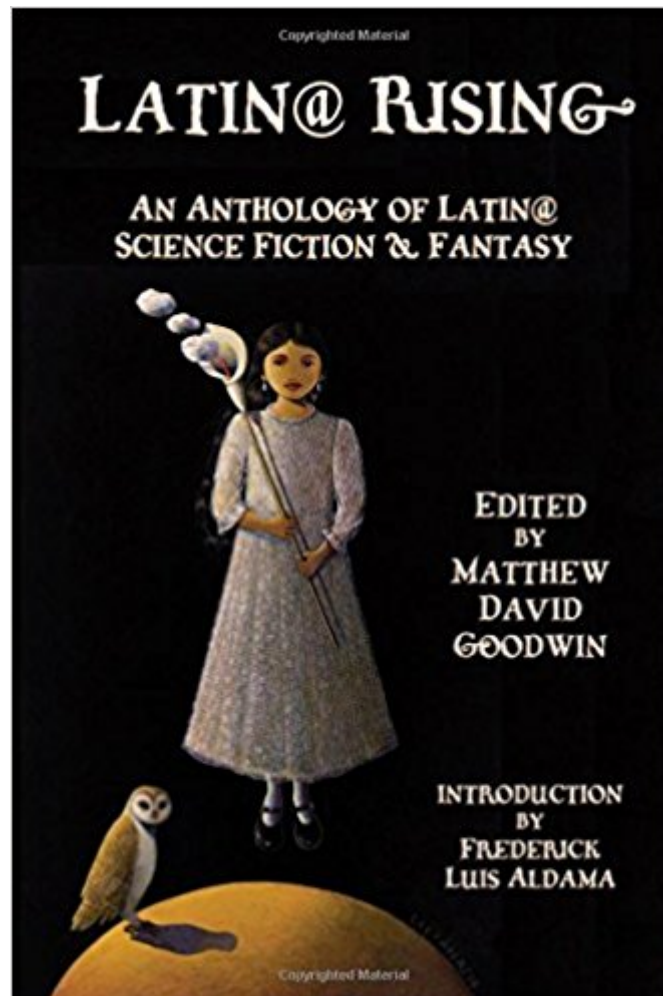




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Latin@ Rising An Anthology Of Latin@ Science Fiction And Fantasy



Synopsis

Latin@ Rising is the first anthology of science fiction and fantasy written by Latinos/as living in the United States. The book gives an overview to the field of Latino/a speculative literature, showing the great variety of stories being told by Latino/a writers. Fifty years ago the Latin American "Boom" introduced magical realism to the world; Latin@ Rising is the literature that has risen from the explosion that gave us García Márquez, Jorge Amado, Carlos Fuentes and others. The 21st century writers and artists of Latin@ Rising help us to imagine a Latino/a past, present, and future which have not been whitewashed by mainstream perspectives. Contrary to the popular perception, Latino/a Literature is not just magical realism and social realist protest literature--it also contains much speculative fiction. By showing the actual breadth of genres being used by Latino/a authors, Latin@ Rising will help extend the boundaries of the Latino/a literature canon. Authors included: Kathleen Alcalá, Pablo Brescia, Pedro Zagitt, Sabrina Vourvoulias DaSilva Chaviano, Ana Castillo, Ernest Hogan, Junot Díaz, Richie Narvaez, Edmundo Paz-Soldán, Steve Castro, Alex Hernandez, Carmen Maria Machado, Giannina Braschi, Carlos Hernandez, Alejandra Sanchez, Daniel José Older, Carl Marcum, Marcos Santiago Gonzalez

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Customer Reviews

"Matthew D. Goodwin has assembled a dynamic team of creative heavy-hitting intellects to tackle the provocative synthesis of Latino expressivity with Science Fiction and Fantasy literature. Enjoy and savor this collection of writers as they push and pull at the conventional tropes of style and content concerning magical realism, mythology and technology. The result is an incisive and

entertaining book that not only challenges the intellect but expands the imagination." —Adilifu Nama, Loyola Marymount University, author "Authors of Latino descent mix literary elements with science fiction and fantasy in this eloquent anthology of intimate pieces, with the speculative elements often serving as background, support, or mirror . . . There is a feeling of melancholy to many of these pieces, and others, such as "Monstro" by Junot Díaz and "The Drain" by Alejandra Sanchez, can best be described as horror. Urban fantasy readers will particularly enjoy "Red Feather and Bone" by Daniel José Older, a tie-in to his Bone Street Rumba series . . . [A] solid anthology." —Publishers Weekly

"There's a decidedly east coast and Caribbean lurch to the settings and characters, but for the most part decidedly raza. Gente will see themselves in these stories. Characters have brown skin, speak some Spanish or as in Junot Díaz's story, get a hard time from friends for not speaking good Spanish, engage in word-play mixing languages. They have names like Mictan (not Mictlán but close), Jesús, Gordo (two of them, one in Ana Castillo's New Mexico-set story and Older's), and Paco. These are "latina/o" stories as a result of character, setting, language, and writer. One thing the collection is not is an insider's fiction. It's highly accessible while providing intimate insights about the way these writers, and writers like these, see the world. For the most part, Latina/o Rising will keep any reader interested just because these are worthwhile, good stories." —Em Sedano, labloga.blogspot.com

"if you have a teen who reads and studies Latino literature, this is a must-have. The diverse voices and writing styles represented help young readers to explore literature and introduce them to the limitless imaginations of writers. Best of all, it shows that the Latino experience can be expressed in any genre; there is no limit on authors and illustrators. And likewise, your child's culture goes with her no matter where her interests lie." —Monica Olivera, mommymaestra.com

"Latino writers of speculative fiction have grown increasingly visible in the fields of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Now, for the first time, a representative cross-section of their work has been collected into a single volume: *Latin@ Rising: An Anthology of Latin@ Science Fiction & Fantasy*, released in January by Wings Press . . . As a starting point for the serious exploration and study of speculative fiction as it flows from the pen of Latino writers, this volume has much to recommend it. It's also one hell of a ride." —David Bowles, *McAllen Monitor*

"Now Wings has made history by publishing the first-ever anthology of science fiction and fantasy by Latinos in America, *Latin@ Rising*. The 24 stories and poems in this nuanced and timely collection all seek to foreground brown voices . . . It is certainly fair to call *Latin@ Rising*, a book that explores identity while delighting in dreams, a speculative success."

•Roberto Ontiveros, Texas Observer"The stories range in length from flash fiction to almost novelette length, plus a few poems and something akin to a photo-essay, so there's something for every attention span. The authors are male and female, straight and queer (various values thereof). There's science fiction and fantasy and magical realism and some stories that don't fit neatly into any one category. Many are rooted in our real world or variations of same, some take place farther afield. I highly recommend checking out Latin@ Rising. The variety of voices, all grounded in what is unique and shared about the Latin@ experience, is well worth listening to." •Anthony R. Cardno, anthonymcardno.com"Goodwin makes good on his promise to deliver a collection of thought-provoking works that challenge the expectation that Latin@ science fiction and fantasy writing doesn't stray far from Latin American magical realism. The genre's literary lineage is also American, influenced by such sci-fi writers as Isaac Asimov, Octavia Butler and Ursula K. LeGuin. The anthology is uniquely Latin@ in that its locations are expansive, taking place not only north of the border but in the Caribbean and Europe, engaging such issues as exile, identity, and migration but with innovative and futuristic premises."

•Rigoberto Gonzalez, nbcnews.com

Matthew David Goodwin is an Assistant Professor in English at the University of Puerto Rico in Cayey. His work is centered on the topic of migration in Latino/a literature. In particular, he looks at the ways that science fiction, fantasy, and digital culture have been used to express the experience of migration. He completed his PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2013. He has published a number of essays on Latino/a speculative fiction for journals. Frederick Luis Aldama is University Distinguished Scholar as well as Arts & Humanities Distinguished Professor of English, Spanish and Portuguese, at Ohio State University where he is also founder and director of the White House Bright Spot Awarded LASER (Latino & Latin American Space for Enrichment & Research) that creates a pipeline for Latinos from 9th grade through graduate and professional school education. He specializes in Latino and Latin American literature, comic books, and film and pop culture generally.

Essential reading for anyone who seeks to pursue the study of Latinx fantasy beyond the confines of Magic Realism.

There are only so many books one can read in a year. My limit seems to be about 100, which barely scratches the surface of my "to be read" pile(s). So I rely on short

story anthologies and magazines to introduce me to authors I’ve never heard of, to help expand the range, depth, and breadth of my reading experience. The Kickstarter for Latin@ Rising was brought to my attention through Twitter, by one of the authors involved whose work I was already familiar with. I’m glad I did. I was familiar with the work of a relative handful of the authors between these covers (Junot Diaz, Daniel Jose Older, Sabrina Vourvoulias, Carmen Maria Machado • four out of twenty!). So the Table of Contents alone helped me to realize just how woefully under-read I am in the realm of Latin@ speculative fiction. There are a lot of authors in this anthology with whom I was not previously familiar, many of whom I suspect I *should* have at least heard of by name. Thankfully, this book came along to help me become a little bit more well-read in this realm. The stories range in length from flash fiction to almost novelette length, plus a few poems and something akin to a photo-essay, so there’s something for every attention span. The authors are male and female, straight and queer (various values thereof). There’s science fiction and fantasy and magical realism and some stories that don’t fit neatly into any one category. Many are rooted in our real world or variations of same, some take place farther afield. Junot Diaz’s “Monstro” posits a fungal/viral outbreak on the Dominican/Haitian island, drawing a picture of the complicated relationship between not just the two nations but between lighter- and darker- skinned natives. And he manages to sandwich a tale of unrequited love in there, too, with language that is practical and lyrical at the same time. I can’t review every story in the book in this post, so let me concentrate on the four authors I already knew and a few of those I’m interested in becoming more familiar with: Daniel Jose Older fills in a bit of the back-story of his Bone Street Rhumba urban fantasy trilogy in “Red Feather and Bone,” sending Carlos Delacruz on a bird-watching mission with lasting repercussions. I’ve always found Daniel’s writing to be musical, each novel in the Bone Street Rhumba series a mash-up playlist of sonic influences, and this story is no exception. In the almost novella-length “Sin Embargo,” Sabrina Vourvoulias takes the tricks of translation and uses all of them to comment on how easy it is to misunderstand someone’s history and intent when you don’t understand which meaning of a given word they intend. The story also touches heavily on the lingering impact of the Guatemalan “dirty wars” of the 1980s, and how those who grow up in war zones never really leave. Carmen Maria Machado’s “Difficult At Parties” broke my heart a few dozen times. I loved the way she makes the reader

feel intimately connected and yet distanced and removed through use of perspective and detail. My reading experience mirrored, I think, what the main character is feeling (or not feeling). The speculative element is very subtly woven in. (Perhaps a trigger warning is necessary for this one, as the main character is a rape survivor trying to find her way back to

“normal.” Alex Hernandez

“Caridad” explores a world where technology allows family members to be permanently “psychically” connected to a single member who has ability to process everyone’s experiences and opinions into a cohesive whole. Family loyalty versus wanting to be your own person is always a potent theme, and Hernandez makes it real and raw without being cloying or simplistic. I also loved Marcos Santiago Gonzalez “Traditions,” which treads some of the same ground as Hernandez, in terms of family loyalty and who will carry on magical traditions in an advancing technological society. Both of these stories have endearing teen female lead characters. The joys and pressures of family and history also inform Kathleen

Alcala’s “The Road to Nyer” and Diana

Chaviano’s “Accursed Lineage,” two very different and equally effective ghost stories. Each author explores how much we understand (or don’t) that our family history, traditions and interactions affect our view of the world around us. Alcala’s story has a bit of the wistful about it, with some amazing sensory detail. Chaviano’s is also full of very different sensory detail and very definitely the scarier of the two. Also impressive is how both authors manage to keep the heaviest violence in their stories “off-screen” and yet manage to make us feel every punch, kick or fall. And I can’t end the review without mentioning the really unique bit of alternate history about the Moon Landing by ADAL, the

“photo-essay” (for lack of a better term) I mentioned earlier. The story has a ton of impact, with a bit of humor, using very few words. Speculative fiction, after all, is not limited to the printed word, and ADAL shows us that the way a story is told can be as important as the story itself. The stories that I enjoyed the most may not be the same ones you would enjoy most. That’s the great thing about multi-author anthologies: something for everyone, and your mileage may vary. But I highly recommend checking out Latin@ Rising. The variety of voices, all grounded in what is unique and shared about the Latin@ experience, is well worth listening to.

This anthology contains a broad variety of translated latino short stories, ranging from tickling comedy to depressing tragedy. As with any good science fiction, many of the stories have social commentary woven into them. The selection is good and I'm looking forward to longer stories in the future; perhaps a horror anthology would do well. Suitable for young adults (note that human babies get eaten in one story) and would resonate with latin studies majors.

Authors of Latino descent mix literary elements with science fiction and fantasy in this eloquent anthology of intimate pieces, with the speculative elements often serving as background, support, or mirror. ... There is a feeling of melancholy to many of these pieces, and others, such as *Monstro* by Junot Díaz and *The Drain* by Alejandra Sanchez, can best be described as horror. Urban fantasy readers will particularly enjoy *Red Feather and Bone* by Daniel José Older, a tie-in to his Bone Street Rumba series.... [A] solid anthology.--from PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, Jan 1, 2017

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