

## *A Taste of Popular Hispanic/Latino Fiction*

- Allende, Isabel**                      **The House of the Spirits**                      **A4285.h 1985**  
Allende grew up in Chile, but fled two years after the assassination of her Uncle, President Salvador Allende in 1973. Her books have strong, involved female characters atypical of women in the male patriarchal Latin countries.
- Alvarez, Julia**                      **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents**                      **A474.h 1991**  
Born in NY City, but raised in the Dominican Republic where her father ran a local hospital. They fled the country when her father was going to be arrested for joining in efforts to overthrow the Dictator. Book is about difficulties of girls as they adjust to life as immigrants to the U.S.
- Amado, Jorge Gabriela**                      **Book of Sand**                      **B64637.c 1977**  
Brazil's most famous author who died at 88 in 2001. His writing often combined a love of common people and humor. One of the most translated authors in the world. This book is a collection of stories.
- Benitez, Sandra**                      **A Place Where the Sea Remembers**                      **B432555.p 1993**  
Born in Washington, DC, but moved to Mexico and then El Salvador. Her father was stationed in these countries as a diplomat. Lived on a farm with grandparents in Missouri, and attended high school there returning to El Salvador during the summer. Couple in a small Mexican village whose birth of a child causes ironic tragedy.
- Castillo, Ana**                      **Peel My Love Like an Onion**                      **C268.p 2000**  
Born in Chicago, known as leading voice in the Chicano experience. Story telling tradition of her Mexican heritage foundation of her writing. In this book a Chicano flamenco dancer is embroiled in a love triangle.
- Cisneros, Sandra**                      **House on Mango Street**                      **C498.h 1991**  
Born in Chicago to a Mexican father and a Chicana mother. The family moved around in her youth with frequent visits to her grandmother's in Mexico. Book about a Mexican-American girl growing up in a working-class poor Hispanic section of Chicago. Required reading in many high school and college classes.
- Coelho, Paulo**                      **The Alchemist**                      **C64952.ai 1993**  
One of Brazil's most successful authors with international popularity. Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1947. For a while wrote music lyrics for Brazilian musicians. This book became a huge bestseller. The mystical story of an Andalusian shepherd boy's journey across North Africa in search of treasure.
- Escandon, Maria Amparo**                      **Esperanza's Box of Saints**                      **E745.e 1999**  
Mexican born author now living in LA with her husband. Teaches writing at UCLA. A beautiful young widow who believes her daughter has died in the hospital receives a message from her favorite Saint that her daughter lives. Thinking the doctor has sold her into prostitution, she goes in search of her daughter disguised as a whore.
- Fuentes, Carlos**                      **The Years With Laura Diaz**                      **F9485.y 2000**  
Born in Panama City in 1928. Much of youth spent in Washington, DC where his father was a Mexican diplomat. Also spent time living in Argentina, Chile and Mexico. He is a world renown and highly distinguished author whose works have influenced other Latino authors. This early

traveling gave him a broad international perspective of the American/Latino culture connection. A pioneer of magic realism. Book is about a woman who becomes a politically active artist during the turbulent history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Mexico.

**Garcia, Cristina**                      **Dreaming in Cuban**                      **G159.d 1992**  
Important Cuban/American voice born in Havana whose family moved to N.Y. city when Castro came to power. Worked for NY Times, Boston Globe, and Time magazine. Portrayal of three generations of Cuban women divided over politics and the Castro revolution in Cuba.

**Garcia Marquez, Gabriel**                      **One Hundred Years of Solitude**                      **G16433.o 1970**  
Columbian born author who lived with his maternal grandparents. Spent many years as a journalist. Nobel Prize winner in 1982. Leader of magic realism style of writing. History of an isolated South American village and the family that founded it, and what happens when they connect with the outside world.

**Martinez, Demetria**                      **Mother Tongue**                      **M3648.m 1994**  
Author, activist, columnist and lecturer born in New Mexico. A young girl in New Mexico falls in love with a refugee from El Savador who has been smuggled into the country.

**Puig, Manuel**                      **Tropical Night Falling**                      **P957.t 1991**  
Argentine novelist, one of Latin America's most creative writers. Stories shift from past to present, entangled plots, myths and realities of contemporary Argentine life. Best known for *Kiss of the Spider Woman* which was adapted for film and as a Broadway musical. This book is about two elderly sisters living in exile in Brazil who observe what happens to those who need love.

**Quinonez, Ernesto**                      **Bodega Dreams**                      **Q451.b 2000**  
Quinonez grew up in Spanish Harlem culture in New York City. He uses real places in his debut novel about Drug Lord Willie Bodega who plans to help out his Spanish Harlem neighbors with drug money.

**Hijuelos, Oscar**                      **The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love**                      **H541.ma 1989**  
This novel made Hijeulos the first Hispanic American novelist to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Born in NY City to parents who had immigrated from Cuba. Two musician brothers move from Havana to New York in the 1950's. Their music leads them to a spot on American TV. Book captures a music era.

**Vargas Llosa, Mario**                      **The Green House**                      **V426.g 1968**  
Peruvian author who writes about political and social issues of his homeland. In 1990 ran for President in Peru. Magic realism style. What happens to a Peruvian town when a brothel is built on the outskirts.

**Villatoro, Marcos McPeek**                      **Home Killings**                      **V722466.h 2001**  
Villatoro worked with grassroot community projects in Guatemala and Nicaragua in the 80's. In the 90's he worked with migrant farm workers in Alabama. He is host of a literary radio program called "Shelf Life" in southern California. He interviews novelists and poets from all over the world. This book is the first Romilia Chacon detective novel. Romilia Chacon Is a young Latina detective with the Nashville PD.