#### March/April 2020 Issue 6

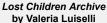
# Latinx Reads

Latinx Reads started so that both Young Adult and Adult readers could find and read books where they feel seen and represented as a member of the Latinx diaspora. With this issue we worked to highlight womxn for International Women's History Month and to share narratives of those who immigrated or live in the borderlands, unlike that one book we won't talk about. Con mucho gusto, Latinx Reads Crew.

### FICTION

#### Dominicana by Angie Cruz

Fifteen-year-old Ana Cancion never dreamed of moving to America, the way the girls she grew up with in the Dominican countryside did. But when Juan Ruiz proposes and promises to take her to New York City, she has to say yes. It doesn't matter that he is twice her age, that there is no love between them. Their marriage is an opportunity for her entire close-knit family to eventually immigrate. So on New Year's Day, 1965, Ana leaves behind everything she knows and becomes Ana Ruiz, a wife confined to a cold six-floor walk-up in Washington Heights. Lonely and miserable, Ana hatches a reckless plan to escape. But at the bus terminal, she is stopped by Cesar, Juan's freespirited younger brother, who convinces her to stay. As the Dominican Republic slides into political turmoil, Juan returns to protect his family's assets, leaving Cesar to take care of Ana. Suddenly, Ana is free to take English lessons at a local church, lie on the beach at Coney Island, see a movie at Radio City Music Hall, go dancing with Cesar, and imagine the possibility of a different kind of life in America. When Juan returns, Ana must decide once again between her heart and her duty to her family.



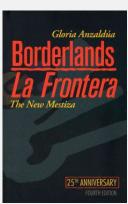


The Truth Is... by NoNiega Ramos



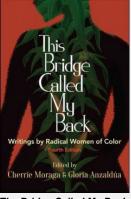


Gloria Anzaldua was a poet, activist, theorist, and teacher who lived from September 26, 1942 to May 15, 2004. She was a Texas native born in the Rio Grande Valley to both Spanish American and American Indian farmers. Gloria's upbringing is what inspired her to experiment with writing and gain awareness of social justice issues concerning minorities. She described herself as a Chicana/ Tejana/ lesbian/ dyke/ feminist/ writer/ poet/ cultural theorist, and these identities were just the beginning of the ideas she explored in her work. Feminist Gloria Anzaldua was a guiding force in the Chicanx movement and lesbian/queer theory. Her writings blend styles, cultures, and languages, weaving together poetry, prose, theory, autobiography, and experimental narratives.



DOMINICANA

Borderlands





The Bridge Called My Back Light in the Dark/ Luz en lo Oscuro



## POETRY

#### Lima:: Limon by Natalie Scenters-Zapico

In her striking second collection, Natalie Scenters-Zapico sets her unflinching gaze once again on the borders of things. Lima :: Limón illuminates both the sweet and the sour of the immigrant experience, of life as a woman in the U.S. and Mexico, and of the politics of the present day. Drawing inspiration from the music of her childhood, her lyrical poems focus on the often-tested resilience of women. Scenters-Zapico writes heartbreakingly about domestic violence and its toxic duality of macho versus hembra, of masculinity versus femininity, and throws into harsh relief the alltoo-normalized pain that women endure. Her sharp verse and intense anecdotes brand her poems into the reader; images like the Virgin Mary crying glass tears and a border fence that leaves never-healing scars intertwine as she stares down femicide and gang violence alike. Unflinching, Scenters-Zapico highlights the hardships and stigma immigrants face on both sides of the border, her desire to create change shining through in every line. Lima :: Limón is grounding and urgent, a collection that speaks out against violence and works toward healing.



Virgin by Analicia Dusk & Dust by Sotelo Esteban Rodriguez

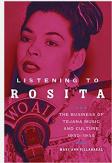




# NON-FICTION

#### Mean by Myriam Gurba

True crime, memoir, and ghost story, Mean is the bold and hilarious tale of Myriam Gurba's coming of age as a queer, mixed-race Chicana. Blending radical formal fluidity and caustic humor, Gurba takes on sexual violence, small towns, and race, turning what might be tragic into piercing, revealing comedy. This is a confident, intoxicating, brassy book that takes the cost of sexual assault, racism, misogyny, and homophobia deadly seriously. We act mean to defend ourselves from boredom and from those who would cut off our breasts. We act mean to defend our clubs and institutions. We act mean because we like to laugh. Being mean to boys is fun and a second-wave feminist duty. Being mean to men who deserve it is a holy mission. Sisterhood is powerful, but being mean is more exhilarating.



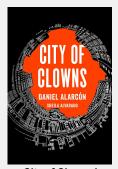
Listening to Rosita: The Business of Tejana Music and Culture, 1930-1955 by Mary Ann Villareal





### Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics by Frederick Aldama

Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics blasts open barriers with a swift kick. It explores deeply and systematically the storyworld spaces inhabited by brown superheroes in mainstream comic book storyworlds: print comic books, animation, TV, and film. It makes visible and lets loose the otherwise occluded and shackled. Leaving nothing to chance, it sheds light on how creators (authors, artists, animators, and directors) make storyworlds that feature Latinos/as, distinguishing between those that we can and should evaluate as well done and those we can and should evaluate as not well done.



City of Clowns by Daniel Alarcón

The Dragon Slayer: Folktales from Latin America by Jaime Hernandez



Created by: Pat Arreguin, Kat Johnston, Cris Hernandez, Yesenia Herrera, and Shane Longoria

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