

Casi una mujer

By Esmeralda Santiago



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A simultaneous Spanish-language edition, originally translated for Vintage by Nina Torres-Vidal

In her new memior, the acclaimed author of **When I Was Puerto Rican** continues the riveting chronicle of her life.

"Negi," as Santiago's family affectionately calls her, leaves rural Macun in 1961 to live in a three-bedroom tenement apartment with seven siblings, and inquisitive grandmother, and a strict mother who won't allow her to date. At thirteen, Negi yearns for her own bed, for privacy, and her father, who remains in Puerto Rico. Translating for Mami at the welfare office in the morning, starring as Cleopatra at New York's Performing Arts High School in the afternoon, and dancing salsa all night, she also seeks to find balance between being an American and Puerto Rican. When Negi defies her mother by going on a series of dates, she finds that independence brings challenges.

At once a universally poignant coming-of-age tale and a heartfelt immigrant's story, **Almost a Woman** is Santiago's triumphant journey into womanhood.



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Casi una mujer By Esmeralda Santiago Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

It's astonishing that we had to wait two years for the Spanish edition of Angela's AshesAand over 30 years for the translation of Tom s's Down These Mean Streets, a classic that first introduced the barrio to wider audiences. But at least they're here. It's also a treat to have this memoir from Jim?nez, Cuban born and now a leading literary scholar living in the United States.

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Review

- "A courageous memoir...One witnesses the blessings, contradictions, and restraints of Puerto Rican culture." -- The Washington Post Book World
- "Richly evocative...[Santiago has] the skill to render the most minute details of her before and after lives." -- The Los Angeles Times
- "Santiago writes with a flair for detail, humor, and complex emotion that draws readers into a delightful...if sometimes heart breaking, personal journey." -- The Orlando Sentinel

"A universal tale...made special by Santiago's simplicity and honesty." -- Miami Herald

Language Notes

Text: Spanish (translation) Original Language: English

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Cook:

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