

# Latino Biographies



*The Sum of Our Days* by Isabel Allende

BIOG ALLENDE

Novelist Isabel Allende reconstructs the painful reality of her own life in the wake of tragic loss—the death of her daughter, Paula.

*Orange County: A Personal History* by Gustavo Arellano

ANF 949.4 ARELLANO

Part personal narrative, part cultural history, *Orange County* is the outrageous and true story of the man behind the wildly popular and controversial column *¡Ask a Mexican!* and the locale that spawned him.

*Before Night Falls* by Reinaldo Arenas

BIOG ARENAS

This shocking personal and political memoir from one of the most visionary writers to emerge from Castro's Cuba recounts Arenas' stunning odyssey—from his poverty-stricken childhood through to his suppression as a writer; from his imprisonment as a homosexual to his flight to America as well as his subsequent life and death in New York.

*My Life: An Autobiography* by Fidel Castro

BIOG CASTRO

A dictatorial pariah to some, Castro has become a hero and inspiration for many of the world's poor, defiantly charting an independent and revolutionary path for Cuba over half a century.

*American Victory: Wrestling, Dreams and a Journey Toward Home* by Henry Cejudo

BIOG CEJUDO

The son of illegal Mexican immigrants Henry Cejudo surprised the world by winning an Olympic gold medal in wrestling for the U.S.A. in Beijing. This is his remarkable, inspiring story.

*Clemente: the Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero* by David Maraniss

BIOG CLEMENTE

A narrative account of the life of the Puerto Rican baseball star traces his impoverished childhood, victories during the 1960s and 1970s World Series games, and his inspiring legacy for Latino major league players.

*American Son* by Oscar De la Hoya

BIOG DE LA HOYA

Born into a boxing family, the son of Mexican-born parents, Oscar "the Golden Boy" De la Hoya has lived the American Dream—achieving unparalleled success in everything from athletics to business.

*Take Me with You: A Memoir* by Carlos Frias

ANF 917.291 FRIAS

Sent to Cuba by his newspaper as the country began closing to foreign journalists in August 2006, Frias begins the secret journey of a lifetime—twelve days in the land of his parents.

*Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa* by Rigoberto Gonzalez

813.54 GONZALEZ

*Butterfly Boy* is a unique coming out and coming-of-age story of a first-generation Chicano who trades one life for another, only to discover that history and memory are not exchangeable or forgettable.



*The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes on a Latin American Journey* by Ernesto Guevara

BIOG GUEVARA

A freewheeling account of an extended youthful road trip undertaken in the early '50s by the future poster boy of Communist insurrection.

*Pimps, Hos, Palya Hatas, and All the Rest of My Hollywood Friends: My Life* by John Leguizamo

BIOG LEGUIZAMO

Here is a look at the magic and chaos of stardom, a keenly intelligent and insanely funny book that celebrates a remarkably talented artist's greatest achievement: growing up Latino in America and succeeding on his own terms.

*Finding Frida Kahlo* by Barbara Levine

759.972 LEVINE

This richly illustrated, intimate portrait overflows with fascinating details about Kahlo's romances, friendships, and business affairs during a three-decade period, beginning in the 1920s when she was a teenager and ending just before she died in 1954.

*Gabriel García Márquez: A Life* by Gerald Martin

BIOG GARCIA MARQUEZ

The biography of the 1982 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature.

*Memoirs* by Pablo Neruda

BIOG NERUDA

Lyrical recollections of the late Chilean poet's frontier childhood, student years, diplomatic career, short-lived stint in the Chilean senate, flight and exile, 1952 homecoming, and his final, crowded years.

*Dreaming With His Eyes Open: a Life of Diego Rivera* by Patrick Marnham

BIOG RIVERA

This engrossing biography of Diego Rivera, the brilliant Mexican artist and revolutionary, captures the explosively passionate nature that made Rivera one of the twentieth-century's most gifted and controversial painters.

*Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez* by Richard Rodriguez

370.117 ROGRIGUEZ

Mexican-American Richard Rodriguez begins his schooling in Sacramento, California, knowing just 50 words of English. This is the journey of a "minority student" who pays the cost of his social assimilation and academic success with a painful alienation.

*My Bloody Life* by Reymundo Sanchez

BIOG: SANCHEZ

The Latin Kings, one the most notorious street gangs in America, became Sanchez's refuge, but its violence cost him friends, freedom, self-respect, and nearly his life.

*When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago

BIOG SANTIAGO

In this first volume of her much-praised, bestselling trilogy, Santiago brilliantly recreates the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the *barrio* to Brooklyn.

*Down These Mean Streets* by Piri Thomas

BIOG THOMAS

Thirty years ago Piri Thomas made literary history with this lacerating, lyrical memoir of his coming of age on the streets of Spanish Harlem.

*Nobody's Son: Notes from an American Life* by Luis Alberto Urrea

BIOG URREA

Born to a Mexican father and an Anglo mother, Luis Urrea grew up in the middle of a clash of cultures and languages. He tells a darkly humorous story of what it means to belong to a nation that is sometimes painfully multicultural.