

Weeping Woman: La Llorona and Other Stories

By Alma Luz Villanueva



Weeping Woman: La Llorona and Other Stories By Alma Luz Villanueva short stories by author of "The Ultraviolet Sky"



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Weeping Woman: La Llorona and Other Stories By Alma Luz Villanueva Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Luz Villanueva (The Ultraviolet Sky) concentrates on suffering in this often painful collection. Two young girls discuss whether they have begun menstruating and what such a development means in light of their exposure to sex by mothers who abuse drugs and prostitute themselves. A woman attempts to pack up her murdered daughter's belongings and recalls their final discussion--it was about whether or not the 13-year-old was ready to wear lipstick. Two women meet in a bar, and one reveals that she is a prostitute and was abused by her grandfather and therefore provides her services for free to a certain client to keep him from molesting his daughter. Sometimes the repetition of certain symbols--there are seashells in some form in almost every story--drains them of their power, but on the whole these characters manage to go beyond their dire circumstances, as does the Native American woman who is hijacked in her car by a man who sexually abuses her, giving her a shell for each act she performs correctly. She finally escapes with a surprising gift for her sacred White Shell Woman.

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From Library Journal

La llorona , the weeping woman, walks through the pages of this book as a spirit guide, someone unto whom others' sorrows flow. But she is a symbolic presence far more than a physical one, and her legacy is enduring because the gifts she gives are spiritual rather than material. Thus, she lends courage to Lila in "The Edge of Darkness" to forever silence the man who brutally raped her and strengthens the resolve of the grandmother in "Virgin Birth" to pass down African goddess legends to her granddaughter, Ruby. Many of the stories in this collection depict acts of rape, incest, and other violence. Yet out of the ashes of this cruelty rises a sense of hope. Villanueva (The Ultraviolet Sky, Doubleday, 1988; Naked Ladies , Bilingual Pr., 1993) shows the power of the human spirit in this disturbing and beautiful book. A fine addition to the fiction shelves.

- Lisa Nussbaum, Euclid P.L., Ohio

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Users Review

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