

LATINO BOOM

An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature



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An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature

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The sadness left her. She struggled to rise, and in the dying light of the sun a blinding flash filled her being. Like desire, or like an arrow from the bow of the Indian, the light filled her and she quivered.

30 The moan of love is like the moan of life. She was dressed in white.

Daniel Chacón

Daniel Chacón was born in California and graduated from the University of Oregon. He has published a single collection of short fiction, *Chicano Chicanery* (2002). His stories concentrate on the quirky male characters of the Latino working class in a wide variety of situations. He has also written a novel entitled *and the shadows took him: A Novel* (2004). Like Dagoberto Gilb, and to some extent, Oscar Hijuelos, Chacón is unafraid to sound sexist or politically incorrect, and his biting, sometimes sarcastic humor is uncommon to Latino fiction.

The Biggest City in the World

Harvey Gomez stepped off the plane in Mexico City and couldn't believe what he saw: Among the multitudes of *mestizos* walking through the airport was Professor David P. Rogstart, followed by a little Mexican boy carrying his luggage. Gomez quickly showed his papers to the Mexican official and ran through the crowd to catch the professor. When he got close enough to where he could see the familiar red-orange shine of Rogstart's bald head, he yelled, "Professor Rogstart! Professor Rogstart!"

The professor, at least a foot taller than almost everyone else in the airport, turned around, not as if surprised to hear his name, but with impatience, as if to say, "What do you want now?"

Gomez jumped on his toes as he walked, trying to show himself above the heads of the Mexicans. He raised his hands and yelled, "Here, Professor, here!"

Gomez tried to move faster, but the crowd was too dense. Then a little Indian woman, even shorter than him, stood right in front of him with sad eyes, a wrinkled face, and an empty palm extended for alms. "*Por favor, joven, regálame un taco.*"¹

5 "Yeah, right," he said to himself as he twisted around her like a matador. Finally, he reached the professor.

"Professor, it's me!"

Rogstart stopped and looked around, but his gaze was high, so Gomez, feeling a little silly, had to raise his arm, as if to say, "I'm down here."

"Oh, hello, Harvey," the professor said, as if running into him were something ordinary.

But Gomez didn't think it was ordinary, so he spilled out his words like a child: "Imagine you and I seeing each other in the world's biggest city! How weird! Isn't that the weirdest thing in the world?"

¹"Please, young one, let me have a taco."