Chacón

Make plans
► What: Daniel Chacon will sign copies of his novel “And the Shadows Took Him.”
► When: 2 p.m. Saturday.
► Where: West Side Barnes & Noble, 705 Sunland Park.
► Information: 581-5353.

about the author
► Age: 41.
► Roots: Grew up in a working-class family in Fresno, Calif. His father was a welder, his mother worked in a hospital. He has three siblings, plus relatives in El Paso and Pecos, Texas.
► Education: Bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Fresno State University; master’s of fine arts in fiction writing, University of Oregon.
► Experience: He taught in Minnesota before coming to El Paso four years ago.
► Most people don’t know: He dabbles in painting.
► Best pal: A dog named Felix.
► Quote: “I want to be one link in the chain of writers and artists.”

Rigoberto González

‘Shadows’ looks at dark side of growing up

A youth’s coming into manhood — and his struggle not to be like his reckless father, his only masculine role model — takes the stage in Daniel Chacón’s novel “And the Shadows Took Him” (Atria Books, $24 hardcover). It’s a compelling tragedy of a family displaced in the American dream.

“Vandalism is a double-edged sword for

Rejection letters quit coming for UTEP teacher

Daniel Chacón flashes the familiar toothy smile that puts everybody at ease.

“I’m very fortunate to have two books,” he said. “Publishing is very competitive.”

Chacón is fixing to tour Texas and California on behalf of his first novel, “And the Shadows Took Him.”

“It didn’t come easy. I used to wallpaper my apartment with rejection slips,” he said.

Chacón has been writing for 15 years, most recently teaching fiction writing at the University of Texas at El Paso. The rejection slips apparently stopped coming.

Latina Magazine will review the novel in an upcoming edition. Chacón’s publisher, Atria Books, is a imprint of Simon & Schuster, one of the top New York publishers.
A youth's coming into manhood — and his struggle not to be like his reckless father, his only masculine role model — takes the stage in Daniel Chacón's novel "And the Shadows Took Him" (Atria Books, $24.95 hardcover). It's a compelling tragedy of a family displaced in the American dream.

Upward mobility is a double-edged sword for the Molinas. William Molina's new neighborhood, exacerbated by the tyranny of an abusive father who "pours over them like a dark sea," brings along the entirety of their emotional baggage. Mrs. Molina drowns the sorrow of her dissolved marriage in her obsession for the piano, Mr. Molina, who "has always been a loner," said. "Publishing is very competitive." Chacón has been writing for 10 years, most recently teaching fiction writing at the University of Texas at El Paso. The rejection slips apparently stopped coming.

Chacón explores El Paso-Juárez a few years back, fell in love with the landscape, culture and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape." From his office at the university, a place for writer and people and vowed to return. "El Paso is a place full of metaphors, full of beautiful images," he said. "There's this incredible creative energy here coming from the landscape."