

A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son

By Sergio Troncoso

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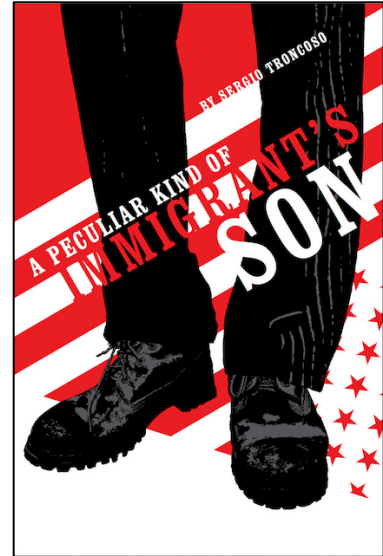
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***Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story from Texas Institute of Letters**

***First Place for Best Collection of Short Stories (English or Bilingual) from International Latino Book Awards**

***Silver Award for Multicultural Adult Fiction from *Foreword Reviews*' Book of the Year Awards**

Best of Texas 2019 by *Lone Star Literary Life



How does a Mexican-American, the son of poor immigrants, leave his border home and move to the heart of gringo America? How does he adapt to the worlds of wealth, elite universities, the rush and power of New York City? How does he make peace with a stern old-fashioned father who has only known hard field labor his whole life? With echoes of Dreiser's *American Tragedy* and Fitzgerald's *Gatsby*, Troncoso tells his luminous stories through the lens of an exile adrift in the 21st century, his characters suffering from the loss of culture and language, the loss of roots and home as they adapt to the glittering promises of new worlds which ultimately seem so empty.

Check website for the most current information on Appearances:
<http://www.sergiotroncoso.com/guides/appearances/index.htm>

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Praise for *A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son*:

“Sergio Troncoso is one of our most brilliant minds in Latina/o Literature. These new stories demonstrate that he is also possessed of a great corazón. This is a world-class collection. Troncoso continues to raise the bar for the rest of us.”

—Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The House of Broken Angels*

“*A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son* is Troncoso at his absolute finest ... a masterwork bursting with immigrant intimacies, electrifying truths and hard-earned tenderness.... In these aching stories Troncoso has perfectly captured the diasporic dilemma of those of us who have had to leave our first worlds - how that exile both haunts and liberates, heals and injures. An extraordinary performance.”

—Junot Díaz, Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

“Our bodies are legacies that encompass landscapes, borders, ancestors, histories that bind us to the past. Here are stories lodged in the geography of polarities and the taut tightrope act between.”

—**Sandra Cisneros, author of *The House on Mango Street***

“In his thought-provoking collection of stories, *A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son*, Sergio Troncoso introduces us to a wide cast of characters, each unique and particular in his or her own way, and yet ever so universal in terms of the human experience. Troncoso's stories are timely and relevant; only with knowledge can one beat back the bear of a colonial past.”

—**Christina Chiu, author of *Beauty and Troublemaker and Other Stories***

“I love Sergio Troncoso's new collection, *A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son*. It traces epic journeys, both of body and soul, from places like Ysleta in Far West Texas to sophisticated avenues in Boston and Manhattan. But the best part of *A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son* is the magic of Troncoso's language, which sings from each page. This book is a triumph, the work of a master writer at the peak of his game.”

—**W. K. Stratton, author of *The Wild Bunch: Sam Peckinpah, A Revolution in Hollywood, and the Making of a Legendary Movie***

Book reviews for *A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son*:

“These poignant short stories shed a startling light on the middle-class experience of Chicanos in New York... Sergio Troncoso dispels the myth of assimilation as a safe haven and reminds readers that distance from a working-class upbringing doesn't absolve a person from the responsibility to one's community. The wounds of leaving home never truly heal.”

—**NBC News Digital**

“Troncoso's New York is a place of splendid possibilities and sad endings, a place where the reviled Other, far from home, searches for a safe place to land—the ‘Library Island’ of the dark story by that name, a ‘sacred haven’ where one is safe to read and think, at least until the ‘Outer World’ bursts in; the wintry streets of Manhattan; even the cemetery. Troncoso's sharp-edged stories speak to the difficult lives of those who, as he writes, are born behind in a race they must run all the same.”

—**Kirkus Reviews**

“From the start, this book takes place not so much at the border of things as on their edge: the contact zones of life and death, past and present, here and there, old and young. In the characters' minds, we find ourselves on one side of a divide, perpetually looking back or across. With Troncoso, that endeavor is often as dark as it is funny. The El Paso author's newest collection depicts contemporary Mexican American life with a characteristic blend of sorrow and humor. It's his most powerful work yet, and an essential addition to the Latinx canon.”

—**The Texas Observer**

“El Paso native Sergio Troncoso's excellent new short story collection ... takes the reader far, yet not far at all, from the currently troubled Texas-Mexico border... Where he finds hope for the

future, his and the world's, is in the simple yet wise words of his now-departed relatives and in memories and lessons ingrained in him at the Texas-Mexico border.”

—*Lone Star Literary Life*

“Although many stories take place far from the Rio Grande, this is a robust, proud exploration of what it is like to be (on what one character calls) ‘the edge of the edge of the United States’: to be the child of immigrants, to be straddling two worlds—lines between love and sex, past and future, civilization and brutality, life and death.”

---*Literal Magazine*

“Chicano literature began with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, when a sizable Latino population was separated from its land and heritage. Sergio Troncoso has written brilliantly of this disruption and its pull.”

—*Journal of Alta California*

“An inherently fascinating and compelling read from first page to last...extraordinary and deftly written...especially and unreservedly recommended for both community and academic library Hispanic American Literature & Fiction collections.”

—*Midwest Book Review*

“The linked stories in *A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son* describe with insightful precision the predicament of those not born into the wealth and security of white upper middle-class (and above) America, but who, because of their talent, intelligence or perseverance, find themselves caught up in the throes of a neurotic American dream, with an overlay of nightmarish betrayal, hypocrisy, and loss of meaning....

The knife of short fiction can cut close to the bone, and Troncoso yields a razor-sharp scalpel.”

—*La Bloga*

SERGIO TRONCOSO is the author of *The Last Tortilla and Other Stories* and *Crossing Borders: Personal Essays*, and the novels *The Nature of Truth* and *From This Wicked Patch of Dust*. He has taught at the Yale Writers' Workshop for many years. A Fulbright scholar and winner of numerous literary awards, Troncoso was inducted into the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's Alumni Hall of Fame and the Texas Institute of Letters. He was born in El Paso, Texas, and attended Harvard College and Yale University, where he earned graduate degrees in international relations and philosophy.

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