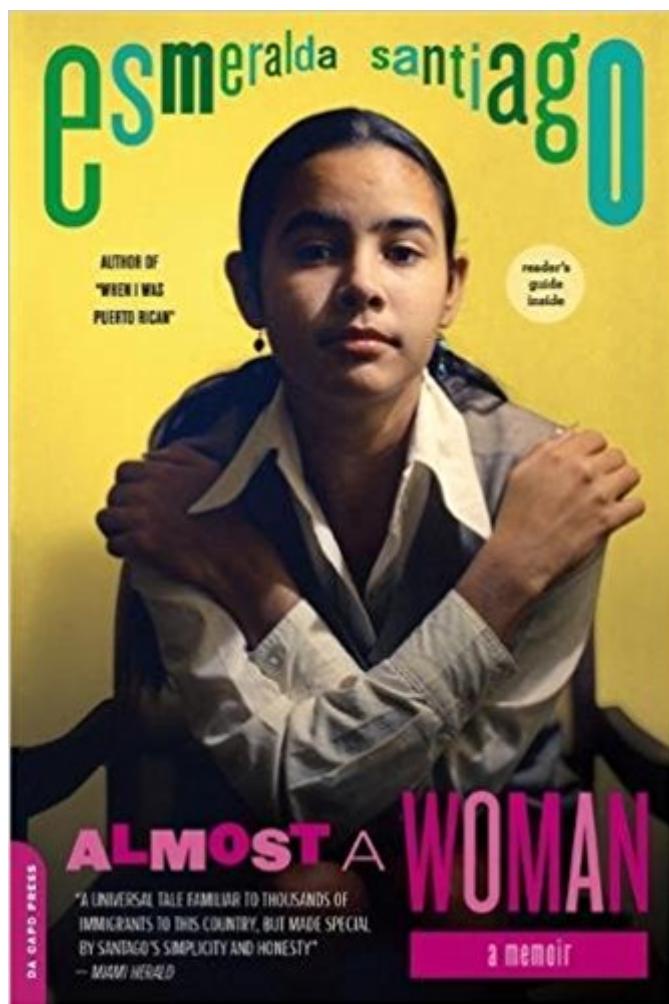


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Almost A Woman: A Memoir (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)



Synopsis

Following the enchanting story recounted in *When I Was Puerto Rican* of the author's emergence from the barrios of Brooklyn to the prestigious Performing Arts High School in Manhattan, Esmeralda Santiago delivers the tale of her young adulthood, where she continually strives to find a balance between becoming American and staying Puerto Rican. While translating for her mother Mami at the welfare office in the morning, starring as Cleopatra at New York's prestigious Performing Arts High School in the afternoons, and dancing salsa all night, she begins to defy her mother's protective rules, only to find that independence brings new dangers and dilemmas.Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A courageous memoir. . . . One witnesses ... the blessings, contradictions and restraints of Puerto Rican culture". -- The Washington Post Book World

"Not only for readers who share [Santiago's] experiences but for North Americans who seek to understand what it means to be the other."--"The Boston Globe In her new memoir, the acclaimed author of *When I Was Puerto Rican* continues the riveting chronicle of her emergence from the barrios of Brooklyn to the theaters of Manhattan. "Negi," as Santiago's family affectionately calls her, leaves rural Macun in 1961 to live in a three-room tenement apartment with seven young

siblings, an inquisitive grandmother, and a strict mother who won't allow her to date. At thirteen, Negi yearns for her own bed, privacy, and a life with her father, who remains in Puerto Rico. Translating for Mami at the welfare office in the morning, starring as Cleopatra at New York's prestigious Performing Arts High School in the afternoons, and dancing salsa all night, she yearns to find balance between being American and being Puerto Rican. When Negi defies her mother by going on a series of hilarious dates, she finds that independence brings its own set of challenges. At once a universally poignant coming-of-age tale and a brave and heartfelt immigrant's story, Almost a Woman is Santiago's triumphant journey into womanhood. "A universal tale familiar to thousands of immigrants to this country, but made special by Santiago's simplicity and honesty." --"The Miami Herald "A courageous memoir. . . . One witnesses. . . the blessings, contradictions and restraints of Puerto Rican culture." --"The Washington Post Book World

I had the pleasure of meeting Esmeralda in Holyoke Massachusetts a few years ago. I love her honesty and detail.. I especially like her candid expressions and statements about the inequities she faced over and over again. AND, her chutzpah for sure. She and I were born the same year, so I totally understood the issues of the era. Very rewarding read.

Well written, Brings me back home to my days growing up in the streets of New York City. This book is one each Puerto Rican should read. Came on time and love the way it looks. Can wait to get started on it. My wife and I are both, trying to read it so I guess I'll have to read it after her. Anyway a good buy. Thanks

This book flowed well until it reached an abrupt ending. I enjoyed her (sometimes rambling) telling of her life in Brooklyn. I will look into reading one or more of her other books to see wherelife takes Esmeralda next...

I read this book for a class in college and I absolutely loved it and could not put it down. It's so cute and touches your heart as you read of a girl similar in age to me struggling with love, family, and heritage.

Esmeralda Santiago always has the ability to pull me into her memoirs...it reads like a movie, one where, with one hand in your popcorn and perched at the edge of your seat, you flip the page for more. I love her.

Loved it

Very engaging history of a remarkable young woman's journey into adulthood. Would love to read a sequel to this very interesting book.

Best book

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