

when i was puerto rican pdf

when i was puerto rican pdf is a highly searched term, reflecting the enduring popularity and cultural significance of Esmeralda Santiago's memoir, **When I Was Puerto Rican**. This book offers a profound exploration of identity, immigration, and personal growth through the lens of a young Puerto Rican girl transitioning from life in Puerto Rico to the United States. Many readers seek the **when i was puerto rican pdf** format for ease of access and convenience, which underscores the demand for digital versions of this influential work. This article delves into the content and themes of the memoir, discusses the availability and legality of the **when i was puerto rican pdf**, and explores its impact on literature and cultural studies. Additionally, it provides guidance on how readers can engage with the book responsibly and effectively. The following sections will provide a detailed breakdown to assist readers in understanding the importance of **When I Was Puerto Rican** and how to navigate resources related to the **when i was puerto rican pdf** keyword.

- Overview of "When I Was Puerto Rican"
- Thematic Exploration and Cultural Significance
- Availability and Legal Considerations of the When I Was Puerto Rican PDF
- Impact on Literature and Education
- How to Access and Use the When I Was Puerto Rican PDF Responsibly

Overview of "When I Was Puerto Rican"

When I Was Puerto Rican is a memoir by Esmeralda Santiago that chronicles her childhood in Puerto Rico and her subsequent move to New York City as a young teenager. The narrative captures the challenges and triumphs of adapting to a new culture, language barriers, and the struggle to maintain a sense of identity amidst change. The memoir is celebrated for its vivid storytelling and honest portrayal of the immigrant experience.

Author Background

Esmeralda Santiago was born in Puerto Rico and later moved to the United States, providing her with a unique perspective that informs her writing. Her personal experiences shape the memoir, making it an authentic and relatable account for readers interested in immigrant narratives and cultural identity.

Plot Summary

The memoir follows Santiago's early years in Puerto Rico, highlighting her family life and community. The story then shifts to her relocation to New York, where she confronts the realities of urban life, cultural dislocation, and the pursuit of education. The narrative is both a personal journey and a broader commentary on the Puerto Rican diaspora.

Thematic Exploration and Cultural Significance

The themes in **When I Was Puerto Rican pdf** revolve around identity, cultural heritage, and the immigrant experience. The memoir provides insight into the complexities of bicultural existence and the resilience required to navigate between two worlds.

Identity and Belonging

The memoir explores the struggle to reconcile Puerto Rican heritage with American influences, a common challenge for immigrants. Santiago's story illustrates the evolving nature of identity and the importance of self-acceptance.

Family and Community

Family ties and community relationships play a pivotal role in the memoir, offering support and stability amidst upheaval. The portrayal of these bonds emphasizes the cultural values central to Puerto Rican life.

Education and Empowerment

Education emerges as a critical theme, symbolizing hope and upward mobility. Santiago's determination to succeed academically reflects the broader aspirations of immigrant families seeking better opportunities.

- Exploration of bicultural identity
- Impact of immigration on family dynamics
- Role of education in personal development
- Challenges of cultural assimilation

- Preservation of heritage in a new environment

Availability and Legal Considerations of the *When I Was Puerto Rican* PDF

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Risks of Unauthorized PDFs

Downloading unauthorized PDFs can pose risks including poor quality, missing content, and potential legal consequences. It is advisable to avoid such sources to ensure an ethical reading experience.

Impact on Literature and Education

When I Was Puerto Rican has had a significant influence on both literary circles and educational curricula. Its authentic portrayal of the immigrant experience has made it a staple in discussions about multiculturalism and identity in literature.

Literary Contributions

The memoir contributes to the genre of Latinx literature by providing a nuanced and personal

narrative that challenges stereotypes. It has inspired other writers and expanded the representation of Puerto Rican voices in American literature.

Use in Educational Settings

The book is widely used in classrooms to teach themes of cultural diversity, resilience, and social history. It facilitates critical discussions among students about immigration, identity, and the American experience.

Recognition and Awards

Esmeralda Santiago's memoir has received acclaim and numerous awards, underscoring its importance and impact. These accolades reflect the book's role in enriching cultural understanding and literary appreciation.

How to Access and Use the *When I Was Puerto Rican* PDF Responsibly

Accessing the **when i was puerto rican pdf** responsibly involves choosing legitimate sources and using the material ethically. This approach benefits both readers and the broader literary community.

Purchasing Authorized Copies

Readers can purchase authorized digital copies from reputable retailers, ensuring support for the author and publisher. This method guarantees access to complete and high-quality versions of the memoir.

Utilizing Library Services

Many public and academic libraries offer free digital lending services for *When I Was Puerto Rican*. Utilizing these services is a cost-effective and legal way to read the book.

Educational Use and Citations

When using the memoir for academic purposes, proper citation and adherence to copyright guidelines are essential. This practice maintains academic integrity and respects intellectual property rights.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the PDF of 'When I Was Puerto Rican' by Esmeralda Santiago?

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Is 'When I Was Puerto Rican' available as a free PDF download?

Typically, 'When I Was Puerto Rican' is not legally available as a free PDF download due to copyright restrictions. It is best to purchase or borrow it from libraries or authorized digital platforms.

What is the summary of 'When I Was Puerto Rican'?

'When I Was Puerto Rican' is a memoir by Esmeralda Santiago that chronicles her childhood in Puerto Rico and her transition to life in New York City. It explores themes of identity, culture, and family.

Can I use 'When I Was Puerto Rican' PDF for academic purposes?

Yes, you can use 'When I Was Puerto Rican' PDF for academic purposes, but make sure to cite it properly and access the document through legitimate channels to comply with copyright laws.

Are there any study guides available in PDF format for 'When I Was Puerto Rican'?

Yes, there are several study guides and summaries for 'When I Was Puerto Rican' available in PDF format online that can help students understand the themes, characters, and context of the book.

What are the main themes in 'When I Was Puerto Rican'?

The main themes in 'When I Was Puerto Rican' include cultural identity, immigration, family dynamics, resilience, and the challenges of adapting to a new environment.

Is 'When I Was Puerto Rican' suitable for middle school students?

Yes, 'When I Was Puerto Rican' is often recommended for middle and high school students as it provides valuable insights into cultural diversity and personal growth, though some mature themes may require discussion.

Who is the author of 'When I Was Puerto Rican'?

The author of 'When I Was Puerto Rican' is Esmeralda Santiago, a Puerto Rican author known for her autobiographical works detailing her life experiences.

What formats is 'When I Was Puerto Rican' available in besides PDF?

Besides PDF, 'When I Was Puerto Rican' is available in print (hardcover and paperback), eBook formats (such as Kindle), and audiobook versions on various platforms.

Additional Resources

1. *When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir* by Esmeralda Santiago

This memoir recounts Esmeralda Santiago's childhood in Puerto Rico and her transition to life in New York City. It explores themes of identity, cultural conflict, and resilience as she navigates the challenges of assimilation and self-discovery. The book provides a vivid portrayal of Puerto Rican culture and the immigrant experience.

2. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

A coming-of-age novel about a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, this book captures the struggles and dreams of a Puerto Rican-American community. Written in poetic vignettes, it delves into issues of cultural identity, gender roles, and the search for belonging. It is often paired with memoirs like "When I Was Puerto Rican" for its exploration of Latino identity.

3. *Down These Mean Streets* by Piri Thomas

This autobiographical account tells the story of a Puerto Rican and African American man growing up in Spanish Harlem. It highlights the harsh realities of poverty, crime, and racial discrimination while expressing a strong desire for personal growth and understanding. The book offers a raw, unfiltered look at urban Latino life in mid-20th century America.

4. *Boricua Passport: Narratives of Puerto Rican Migration and Diaspora* edited by Ruth Behar

A collection of essays and personal stories from Puerto Rican migrants, this book explores the complexities of identity, displacement, and community. It provides a broader context for understanding the Puerto Rican diaspora and the cultural negotiations faced by migrants. The narratives complement memoirs like Santiago's by offering diverse perspectives.

5. *Yo! Yes?* by Chris Raschka

A children's picture book that, while simple, touches on themes of cultural connection and friendship within urban Latino communities. It tells a brief story of interaction between two boys, highlighting communication and understanding despite initial differences. This book is useful for younger readers or those interested in Latino cultural representation in children's literature.

6. *Puerto Rican Obituary* by Pedro Pietri

A powerful poem that became an emblem of the Nuyorican movement, it chronicles the lives and struggles of Puerto Rican migrants in New York City. The work critiques the American Dream and highlights issues of marginalization and identity. It is an essential literary piece for understanding the socio-political backdrop of Puerto Rican migration.

7. *My Time of Dying: A Memoir of Cancer, Love, and Identity* by Sonia Manzano

Though centered on personal health struggles, this memoir also explores the author's Puerto Rican heritage and how cultural identity shapes life experiences. It provides insight into the intersection of illness, family, and cultural background. The book complements "When I Was Puerto Rican" by adding layers of adult reflection on identity.

8. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz

This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel follows a Dominican-American family but shares thematic similarities with Puerto Rican narratives, such as immigration, identity, and cultural legacy. It combines magical realism with historical context to explore the immigrant experience in the Caribbean diaspora. Readers interested in Latino identity and heritage will find this novel compelling.

9. *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Identity: The Construction of Race and Culture* by Yolanda Chávez Leyva

This academic work examines the formation of ethnic and racial identities within Latin American and Caribbean communities, including Puerto Rico. It provides theoretical frameworks and historical context useful for understanding the cultural dynamics depicted in memoirs like "When I Was Puerto Rican." The book is valuable for readers seeking a deeper sociological perspective on identity.

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When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir of Identity and Belonging

Ever felt like you don't quite fit in, like you're straddling two worlds without truly belonging to either? Like the stories of your heritage are whispered secrets, half-remembered and misunderstood? This memoir resonates with the powerful ache of cultural displacement and the complex journey of self-discovery. If you've ever grappled with questions of identity, family legacy, and the search for your place in the world, this book will speak directly to your heart.

Author: Esmeralda Santiago

Contents:

Introduction: Setting the scene – Esmeralda's early childhood in Puerto Rico and the family's move to New York City.

Chapter 1: Island Life: A vivid portrayal of life in rural Puerto Rico, the vibrant culture, and the close-knit family dynamics.

Chapter 2: The Great Migration: The family's relocation to New York City, the culture shock, and the initial struggles of adaptation.

Chapter 3: Navigating Two Worlds: The challenges of balancing Puerto Rican heritage with American life, the clash of cultures, and the experience of feeling like an outsider in both places.

Chapter 4: Language and Identity: The significance of language in shaping identity, the struggle to master English, and the loss associated with leaving behind Spanish.

Chapter 5: Family Dynamics and Tradition: Exploring complex family relationships, generational differences, and the preservation (or loss) of family traditions.

Chapter 6: Coming of Age: Experiencing adolescence and young adulthood in a new and unfamiliar cultural landscape, dealing with prejudice, and discovering personal strength.

Chapter 7: Finding One's Voice: The process of reclaiming and embracing one's Puerto Rican heritage, developing a strong sense of self, and forging a unique identity.

Conclusion: Reflecting on the journey of self-discovery, the enduring power of family and heritage, and the importance of embracing one's cultural roots.

When I Was Puerto Rican: A Deep Dive into Identity, Culture, and Belonging

Esmeralda Santiago's powerful memoir, "When I Was Puerto Rican," is more than just a personal narrative; it's a poignant exploration of identity, culture clash, and the enduring strength of family bonds in the face of significant change. This essay will analyze the key themes and chapters of the book, offering a detailed look at Santiago's journey and the universal messages it conveys.

1. Introduction: Planting the Seeds of Cultural Dissonance

The introduction immediately establishes the setting for Santiago's story – a stark contrast between the vibrant, close-knit community of rural Puerto Rico and the impersonal, often hostile environment of New York City. This initial juxtaposition lays the groundwork for the central theme of cultural dissonance. Santiago skillfully paints a picture of her idyllic childhood in Puerto Rico, characterized by strong family ties, a deep connection to nature, and the rich tapestry of Puerto Rican culture. This idyllic image is abruptly shattered by the family's relocation, foreshadowing the challenges and complexities that lie ahead. The introduction serves as a critical anchor, grounding the narrative and setting the stage for the emotional rollercoaster to come. This setup creates immediate relatability for readers who have experienced similar uprooting experiences or feelings of displacement. SEO Keywords: When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmeralda Santiago, cultural identity, immigration, cultural dissonance.

2. Chapter 1: Island Life - A Portrait of Paradise Lost

This chapter offers a detailed and nostalgic portrayal of life in rural Puerto Rico. Santiago vividly describes the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood, creating a sensory experience for the reader. The emphasis is on the close-knit community, the strong family bonds, and the rich cultural heritage that permeates every aspect of life. This idyllic portrayal is crucial because it serves as a stark contrast to the later experiences in New York City. By establishing this strong sense of belonging and cultural richness in the beginning, Santiago highlights the profound loss and sense of displacement that accompanies the move. The detailed descriptions of the island life are also essential for understanding the protagonist's subsequent struggles with adjusting to a new culture. SEO Keywords: Puerto Rican culture, rural life, family traditions, cultural heritage, nostalgia.

3. Chapter 2: The Great Migration - A Collision of Worlds

The second chapter marks a significant turning point in the narrative - the family's move to New York City. This chapter focuses on the culture shock experienced by the young Esmeralda and her family. The transition from a close-knit rural community to the anonymity and complexity of urban life is jarring. Santiago highlights the challenges of navigating a new language, adapting to different social norms, and facing prejudice and discrimination. The chapter masterfully captures the feelings of alienation, confusion, and loneliness that often accompany such a drastic change. The contrast between the warmth of Puerto Rico and the coldness of the city is emotionally palpable. SEO Keywords: Immigration to the US, culture shock, urban life, adaptation, prejudice.

4. Chapter 3 & 4: Navigating Two Worlds & Language and Identity - The Struggle for Belonging

These chapters explore the central theme of navigating two worlds and the crucial role language plays in shaping identity. Esmeralda's struggle to master English while retaining her native Spanish is a powerful metaphor for the broader struggle to maintain her cultural identity while adapting to American society. The feeling of being an outsider in both cultures is profoundly moving and relatable. The chapter highlights the internal conflict between assimilation and preservation of heritage, a common experience for many immigrants. The loss of fluency in Spanish, a symbol of her heritage, represents the more significant loss of cultural connection and identity. SEO Keywords: Bilingualism, language acquisition, cultural identity, assimilation, bicultural identity.

5. Chapter 5: Family Dynamics and Tradition - The Threads of Heritage

This chapter delves into the complex dynamics within Santiago's family. The chapter focuses on the generational differences between her parents and their experience with assimilation compared to the challenges faced by their children. The tension between maintaining traditional Puerto Rican values and navigating the realities of American life creates internal conflicts within the family. This examination of family relationships provides further insight into the complexity of cultural adaptation and the ways in which families negotiate change. The chapter highlights how traditional values can be both a source of strength and a source of conflict in the face of new cultural influences. SEO Keywords: Family relationships, generational differences, cultural values, tradition vs. modernity, family conflict.

6. Chapter 6: Coming of Age - Forging an Identity

This chapter shows Santiago's coming-of-age experience in the context of her bicultural identity. Her adolescence is shaped by the ongoing tension between her Puerto Rican heritage and her American environment. This chapter explores issues such as prejudice, self-discovery, and the challenges of navigating adolescence in a new and often unfamiliar cultural landscape. It details the emotional rollercoaster of self-discovery in a place where she doesn't fully belong. This chapter is essential for showcasing the resilience and self-discovery that emerge from navigating this complex identity. SEO Keywords: Adolescence, self-discovery, identity formation, biculturalism, resilience.

7. Chapter 7: Finding One's Voice - Reclaiming Heritage

This chapter marks a shift in Santiago's journey. It emphasizes her gradual reclaiming of her Puerto Rican heritage. This is not a simple return to the past but rather an active and conscious choice to embrace her cultural roots. Santiago's newfound understanding of her identity is not a passive acceptance but an active process of reclaiming her history and forging her unique cultural identity. This chapter offers hope and inspiration to readers who have struggled with similar experiences. The chapter emphasizes the importance of understanding one's roots as a foundation for building a strong sense of self. SEO Keywords: Self-acceptance, cultural pride, heritage, identity affirmation, empowerment.

8. Conclusion: The Enduring Power of Roots

The conclusion ties together the various threads of the narrative. It reflects upon Santiago's journey and her newfound understanding of herself and her heritage. The conclusion is not a neat resolution but rather a reflection on the ongoing process of identity formation and the enduring power of family and cultural heritage. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining connections to one's roots, even as one adapts to a new environment. The conclusion resonates deeply because it speaks to the enduring power of family and cultural heritage in shaping who we are. SEO Keywords: Identity, heritage, family, belonging, self-acceptance.

FAQs

1. Is "When I Was Puerto Rican" a children's book? No, it's a memoir aimed at adult readers.
2. What is the main theme of the book? The main theme is identity, specifically the struggle to balance two cultures and find a sense of belonging.
3. Is the book primarily about immigration? While immigration is a central event, the book is more broadly about identity and the complexities of biculturalism.
4. Is the book autobiographical? Yes, it's a memoir based on Esmeralda Santiago's personal experiences.
5. What makes this book unique? Its honest and poignant portrayal of cultural displacement and the search for identity resonates deeply with readers from diverse backgrounds.
6. Is the book suitable for readers unfamiliar with Puerto Rican culture? Yes, the book provides sufficient context to make it accessible and engaging for readers regardless of their cultural background.
7. What age group would most benefit from reading this book? Young adults and adults who are interested in themes of identity, family, and culture.
8. Where can I find the PDF version? Legally obtained PDFs may be available through authorized online retailers.
9. Does the book offer solutions or answers? The book offers insights and reflections on a complex journey, rather than providing definitive answers.

Related Articles

1. The Impact of Immigration on Identity Formation: An exploration of how immigration experiences shape personal identity.
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5. Esmeralda Santiago's Literary Contributions: An analysis of Santiago's writing style and her impact on literature.
6. Comparing Puerto Rican and American Cultures: A comparative study of the two cultures highlighted in the book.
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when i was puerto rican pdf: When I Was Puerto Rican Esmeralda Santiago, 2006-02-28 Magic, sexual tension, high comedy, and intense drama move through an enchanted yet harsh autobiography, in the story of a young girl who leaves rural Puerto Rico for New York's tenements and a chance for success.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Conquistadora Esmeralda Santiago, 2012-07-10 As a young girl growing up in Spain, Ana Larragoity Cubillas is powerfully drawn to Puerto Rico by the diaries of an ancestor who traveled there with Ponce de Leon. And in handsome twin brothers Ramon and Inocente—both in love with Ana—she finds a way to get there. Marrying Ramon at the age of eighteen, she travels across the ocean to Hacienda los Gemelos, a remote sugar plantation the brothers have inherited. But soon the Civil War erupts in the United States, and Ana finds her livelihood, and perhaps even her life, threatened by the very people on whose backs her wealth has been built: the hacienda's slaves, whose richly drawn stories unfold alongside her own in this epic novel of love, discovery and adventure.

when i was puerto rican pdf: América's Dream Esmeralda Santiago, 2009-10-13 América Gonzalez is a hotel housekeeper on an island off the coast of Puerto Rico, cleaning up after wealthy foreigners who don't look her in the eye. Her alcoholic mother resents her; her married boyfriend, Correa, beats her; and their fourteen-year-old daughter thinks life would be better anywhere but with América. So when América is offered the chance to work as live-in housekeeper and nanny for a family in Westchester County, New York, she takes it as a sign that a door to escape has been opened. Yet even as América revels in the comparative luxury of her new life, daring to care about a man other than Correa, she is faced with dramatic proof that no matter what she does, she can't get away from her past.

when i was puerto rican pdf: War Against All Puerto Ricans Nelson A Denis, 2015-04-07 The powerful, untold story of the 1950 revolution in Puerto Rico and the long history of U.S. intervention on the island, that the New York Times says could not be more timely. In 1950, after over fifty years of military occupation and colonial rule, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico staged an unsuccessful armed insurrection against the United States. Violence swept through the island: assassins were sent to kill President Harry Truman, gunfights roared in eight towns, police stations and post offices were burned down. In order to suppress this uprising, the US Army deployed thousands of troops and bombarded two towns, marking the first time in history that the US government bombed its own citizens. Nelson A. Denis tells this powerful story through the controversial life of Pedro Albizu Campos, who served as the president of the Nationalist Party. A lawyer, chemical engineer, and the first Puerto Rican to graduate from Harvard Law School, Albizu Campos was imprisoned for twenty-five years and died under mysterious circumstances. By tracing his life and death, Denis shows how the journey of Albizu Campos is part of a larger story of Puerto Rico and US colonialism.

Through oral histories, personal interviews, eyewitness accounts, congressional testimony, and recently declassified FBI files, *War Against All Puerto Ricans* tells the story of a forgotten revolution and its context in Puerto Rico's history, from the US invasion in 1898 to the modern-day struggle for self-determination. Denis provides an unflinching account of the gunfights, prison riots, political intrigue, FBI and CIA covert activity, and mass hysteria that accompanied this tumultuous period in Puerto Rican history.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *The Battle for Paradise* Naomi Klein, 2018-06-05 Fearless necessary reporting . . . Klein exposes the 'battle of utopias' that is currently unfolding in storm-ravaged Puerto Rico" (Junot Díaz, author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*) "We are in a fight for our lives. Hurricanes Irma and María unmasked the colonialism we face in Puerto Rico, and the inequality it fosters, creating a fierce humanitarian crisis. Now we must find a path forward to equality and sustainability, a path driven by communities, not investors. And this book explains, with careful and unbiased reporting, only the efforts of our community activists can answer the paramount question: What type of society do we want to become and who is Puerto Rico for?" —Carmen Yulín Cruz, Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico In the rubble of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Ricans and ultrarich "Puertopians" are locked in a pitched struggle over how to remake the island. In this vital and startling investigation, bestselling author and activist Naomi Klein uncovers how the forces of shock politics and disaster capitalism seek to undermine the nation's radical, resilient vision for a "just recovery." All royalties from the sale of this book in English and Spanish go directly to JunteGente, a gathering of Puerto Rican organizations resisting disaster capitalism and advancing a fair and healthy recovery for their island. "Klein chronicles the extraordinary grassroots resistance by the Puerto Rican people against neoliberal privatization and Wall Street greed in the aftermath of the island's financial meltdown, of hurricane devastation, and of Washington's imposition of an outside control board over the most important U.S. colony." —Juan González, cohost of *Democracy Now!* and author of *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*

when i was puerto rican pdf: *When I Was Puerto Rican* Esmeralda Santiago, 2006-02-28 One of The Best Memoirs of a Generation (Oprah's Book Club): a young woman's journey from the mango groves and barrios of Puerto Rico to Brooklyn, and eventually on to Harvard In a childhood full of tropical beauty and domestic strife, poverty and tenderness, Esmeralda Santiago learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs, the taste of morcilla, and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. But when her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually a new identity. In the first of her three acclaimed memoirs, Esmeralda brilliantly recreates her tremendous journey from the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years, to translating for her mother at the welfare office, and to high honors at Harvard.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *The Turkish Lover* Esmeralda Santiago, 2009-03-17 Enthralled admirers of Esmeralda Santiago's memoirs of her childhood have yearned to read more. Now, in *The Turkish Lover*, Esmeralda finally breaks out of the monumental struggle with her powerful mother, only to elope into the spell of an exotic love affair. At the heart of the story is Esmeralda's relationship with the Turk, a passion that gradually becomes a prison out of which she must emerge to become herself. The expansive humanity, earthy humor, and psychological courage that made Esmeralda's first two books so successful are on full display again in *The Turkish Lover*.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *The United States and the Development of the Puerto Rican Status Question, 1936-1968* Surendra Bhana, 1975 An antique doll helps a young girl whose mother has carefully protected her from traditional sex roles achieve self-assurance and personal definition.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Sponsored Migration* Edgardo Meléndez, 2017 In *Sponsored Migration: The State and Puerto Rican Postwar Migration to the United States*, Edgardo Meléndez provides the first comprehensive study of the role played by the Puerto Rican government in the promotion of migration and the incorporation of Puerto Ricans into the United States in the late 1940s, and the effects of this intervention on the political and economic development of Puerto Rico.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Almost a Woman* Esmeralda Santiago, 2012-06-12 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.

when i was puerto rican pdf: The Unlinking of Language and Puerto Rican Identity

Brenda Domínguez-Rosado, 2015-09-04 Language and identity have an undeniable link, but what happens when a second language is imposed on a populace? Can a link be broken or transformed? Are the attitudes towards the imposed language influential? Can these attitudes change over time? The mixed-methods results provided by this book are ground-breaking because they document how historical and traditional attitudes are changing towards both American English (AE) and Puerto Rican Spanish (PRS) on an island where the population has been subjected to both Spanish and US colonization. There are presently almost four million people living in Puerto Rico, while the Puerto Rican diaspora has surpassed it with more than this living in the United States alone. Because of this, many members of the diaspora no longer speak PRS, yet consider themselves to be Puerto Rican. Traditional stances against people who do not live on the island or speak the predominant language (PRS) yet wish to identify themselves as Puerto Rican have historically led to prejudice and strained relationships between people of Puerto Rican ancestry. The sample study provided here shows that there is not only a change in attitude towards the traditional link between PRS and Puerto Rican identity (leading to the inclusion of diasporic Puerto Ricans), but also a wider acceptance of the English language itself on this Caribbean island.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Building a Latino Civil Rights Movement Sonia Song-Ha Lee,

2014-05-26 In the first book-length history of Puerto Rican civil rights in New York City, Sonia Lee traces the rise and fall of an uneasy coalition between Puerto Rican and African American activists from the 1950s through the 1970s. Previous work has tended to see blacks and Latinos as either naturally unified as "people of color" or irreconcilably at odds as two competing minorities. Lee demonstrates instead that Puerto Ricans and African Americans in New York City shaped the complex and shifting meanings of "Puerto Rican@-ness" and "blackness" through political activism. African American and Puerto Rican New Yorkers came to see themselves as minorities joined in the civil rights struggle, the War on Poverty, and the Black Power movement — until white backlash and internal class divisions helped break the coalition, remaking "Hispanicity" as an ethnic identity that was mutually exclusive from "blackness." Drawing on extensive archival research and oral history interviews, Lee vividly portrays this crucial chapter in postwar New York, revealing the permeability of boundaries between African American and Puerto Rican communities.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Listening to Salsa Frances R. Aparicio, 1998

The pulsing beats of salsa, merengue, and bolero are a compelling expression of Latino/a culture, but few outsiders comprehend the music's implications in larger social terms.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Matters of Choice Iris Lopez, 2008-12-10

Sterilization remains one of the most popular forms of fertility control in the world, but it has received little acknowledgment for decreasing birthrates on account of its dubious use as a means of population control, especially in developing countries. In *Matters of Choice*, Iris Lopez presents a comprehensive analysis of the dichotomous views that have portrayed sterilization either as part of a coercive program of population control or as a means of voluntary, even liberating, fertility control by individual women. Drawing upon her twenty-five years of research on sterilized Puerto Rican women from five different families in Brooklyn, Lopez untangles the interplay between how women make fertility decisions and their social, economic, cultural, and historical constraints. Weaving together the voices of these women, she covers the history of sterilization and eugenics, societal pressures to have fewer children, a lack of adequate health care, patterns of gender inequality, and misinformation provided by doctors and family members. Lopez makes a stirring case for a model of

reproductive freedom, taking readers beyond victim/agent debates to consider a broader definition of reproductive rights within a feminist anthropological context.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *The Young Lords* Johanna Fernández, 2019-12-18 Against the backdrop of America's escalating urban rebellions in the 1960s, an unexpected cohort of New York radicals unleashed a series of urban guerrilla actions against the city's racist policies and contempt for the poor. Their dramatic flair, uncompromising socialist vision for a new society, skillful ability to link local problems to international crises, and uncompromising vision for a new society riveted the media, alarmed New York's political class, and challenged nationwide perceptions of civil rights and black power protest. The group called itself the Young Lords. Utilizing oral histories, archival records, and an enormous cache of police surveillance files released only after a decade-long Freedom of Information Law request and subsequent court battle, Johanna Fernandez has written the definitive account of the Young Lords, from their roots as a Chicago street gang to their rise and fall as a political organization in New York. Led by poor and working-class Puerto Rican youth, and consciously fashioned after the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords occupied a hospital, blocked traffic with uncollected garbage, took over a church, tested children for lead poisoning, defended prisoners, fought the military police, and fed breakfast to poor children. Their imaginative, irreverent protests and media conscious tactics won reforms, popularized socialism in the United States and exposed U.S. mainland audiences to the country's quiet imperial project in Puerto Rico. Fernandez challenges what we think we know about the sixties. She shows that movement organizers were concerned with finding solutions to problems as pedestrian as garbage collection and the removal of lead paint from tenement walls; gentrification; lack of access to medical care; childcare for working mothers; and the warehousing of people who could not be employed in deindustrialized cities. The Young Lords' politics and preoccupations, especially those concerning the rise of permanent unemployment foretold the end of the American Dream. In riveting style, Fernandez demonstrates how the Young Lords redefined the character of protest, the color of politics, and the cadence of popular urban culture in the age of great dreams.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Boricua Pop* Frances Negrón-Muntaner, 2004-06 The first book solely devoted to Puerto Rican visibility and cultural impact. The author looks at such pop icons as JLo and Ricky Martin as well as West Side Story.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Memoir of a Visionary* Antonia Pantoja, 2002-03-31 This compelling autobiography traces the trajectory of the groundbreaking Puerto Rican leader Antonia Pantoja, from a struggling school teacher in Puerto Rico to her work as principal engineer of the most enduring Puerto Rican organizations in New York City.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Concrete and Countryside* Carmelo Esterrich, 2018-07-06 From the late 1940s to the early 1960s, Puerto Rico was swept by a wave of modernization, transforming the island from a predominantly rural society to an unquestionably urban one. A curious paradox ensued, however. While the island underwent rapid urbanization, and the rhetoric of economic development reigned over official discourses, the newly installed insular government, along with some academic circles and radio and television media, constructed, promoted, and sponsored a narrative of Puerto Rican culture based on rural subjects, practices, and spaces. By examining a wide range of cultural texts, but focusing on the film production of the Division of Community Education, the popular dance music of Cortijo y su combo, and the literary texts of Jose Luis Gonzalez and Rene Marques, *Concrete and Countryside* offers an in-depth analysis of how Puerto Ricans responded to this transformative period. It also shows how the arts used a battery of images of the urban and the rural to understand, negotiate, and critique the innumerable changes taking place on the island.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Defending Their Own in the Cold* Marc Zimmerman, 2011-09-15 *Defending Their Own in the Cold: The Cultural Turns of U.S. Puerto Ricans* explores U.S. Puerto Rican culture in past and recent contexts. The book presents East Coast, Midwest, and Chicago cultural production while exploring Puerto Rican musical, film, artistic, and literary performance. Working within the theoretical frame of cultural, postcolonial, and diasporic studies, Marc

Zimmerman relates the experience of Puerto Ricans to that of Chicanos and Cuban Americans, showing how even supposedly mainstream U.S. Puerto Ricans participate in a performative culture that embodies elements of possible cultural Ricanstruction. *Defending Their Own in the Cold* examines various dimensions of U.S. Puerto Rican artistic life, including relations with other ethnic groups and resistance to colonialism and cultural assimilation. To illustrate how Puerto Ricans have survived and created new identities and relations out of their colonized and diasporic circumstances, Zimmerman looks at the cultural examples of Latino entertainment stars such as Jennifer Lopez and Benicio del Toro, visual artists Juan Sánchez, Ramón Flores, and Elizam Escobar, as well as Nuyorican dancer turned Midwest poet Carmen Pursifull. The book includes a comprehensive chapter on the development of U.S. Puerto Rican literature and a pioneering essay on Chicago Puerto Rican writing. A final essay considers Cuban cultural attitudes towards Puerto Ricans in a testimonial narrative by Miguel Barnet and reaches conclusions about the past and future of U.S. Puerto Rican culture. Zimmerman offers his own semi-outsider point of reference as a Jewish American Latin Americanist who grew up near New York City, matured in California, went on to work with and teach Latinos in the Midwest, and eventually married a woman from a Puerto Rican family with island and U.S. roots.

when i was puerto rican pdf: A Puerto Rican in New York, and Other Sketches Jesús Colón, 1982 Stories about the experiences of Puerto Ricans in New York.

when i was puerto rican pdf: The Politics of Language in Puerto Rico Amílcar Antonio Barreto, 2018-11-05 A [book] rich in detail and analysis, which anyone wanting to understand the language debate in Puerto Rico will find essential.--Arlene Davila, Syracuse University This is the first book in English to analyze the controversial language policies passed by the Puerto Rican government in the 1990s. It is also the first to explore the connections between language and cultural identity and politics on the Caribbean island. Shortly after the U.S. invasion of Puerto Rico in 1898, both English and Spanish became official languages of the territory. In 1991, the Puerto Rican government abolished bilingualism, claiming that Spanish only was necessary to protect the culture from North American influences. A few years later bilingualism was restored and English was promoted in public schools, with supporters asserting that the dual languages symbolized the island's commitment to live in harmony with the United States. While the islanders' sense of ethnic pride was growing, economic dependency enticed them to maintain close ties to the United States. This book shows that officials in both San Juan and Washington, along with English-first groups, used the language laws as weapons in the battle over U.S.-Puerto Rican relations and the volatile debate over statehood. It will be of interest to linguists, political scientists, students of contemporary cultural politics, and political activists in discussions of nationalism in multilingual communities.

when i was puerto rican pdf: America's Colony Pedro A Malavet, 2007-11 An examination of the legal relationship between U.S. and Puerto Rico.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Aftershocks of Disaster Yarimar Bonilla, Marisol LeBrón, 2019-09-03 Two years after Hurricane Maria hit, Puerto Ricans are still reeling from its effects and aftereffects. *Aftershocks* collects poems, essays and photos from survivors of Hurricane Maria detailing their determination to persevere. The concept of aftershocks is used in the context of earthquakes to describe the jolts felt after the initial quake, but no disaster is a singular event. *Aftershocks of Disaster* examines the lasting effects of hurricane Maria, not just the effects of the wind or the rain, but delving into what followed: state failure, social abandonment, capitalization on human misery, and the collective trauma produced by the botched response.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Silent Dancing Judith Ortiz Cofer, 1991-01-01 *Silent Dancing* is a personal narrative made up of Judith Ortiz Cofer's recollections of the bilingual-bicultural childhood which forged her personality as a writer and artist. The daughter of a Navy man, Ortiz Cofer was born in Puerto Rico and spent her childhood shuttling between the small island of her birth and New Jersey. In fluid, clear, incisive prose, as well as in the poems she includes to highlight the major themes, Ortiz Cofer has added an important chapter to autobiography, Hispanic American Creativity and women's literature. *Silent Dancing* has been awarded the 1991 PEN/Martha Albrand

Special Citation for Nonfiction and has been selected for The New York Public Library's 1991 Best Books for the Teen Age.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Eating Puerto Rico* Cruz Miguel Ortíz Cuadra, 2013-10-14 Available for the first time in English, Cruz Miguel Ortiz Cuadra's magisterial history of the foods and eating habits of Puerto Rico unfolds into an examination of Puerto Rican society from the Spanish conquest to the present. Each chapter is centered on an iconic Puerto Rican foodstuff, from rice and cornmeal to beans, roots, herbs, fish, and meat. Ortiz shows how their production and consumption connects with race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and cultural appropriation in Puerto Rico. Using a multidisciplinary approach and a sweeping array of sources, Ortiz asks whether Puerto Ricans really still are what they ate. Whether judging by a host of social and economic factors--or by the foods once eaten that have now disappeared--Ortiz concludes that the nature of daily life in Puerto Rico has experienced a sea change.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Puerto Rican Citizen* Lorrin Thomas, 2010-06-15 By the end of the 1920s, just ten years after the Jones Act first made them full-fledged Americans, more than 45,000 native Puerto Ricans had left their homes and entered the United States, citizenship papers in hand, forming one of New York City's most complex and distinctive migrant communities. In *Puerto Rican Citizen*, Lorrin Thomas for the first time unravels the many tensions—historical, racial, political, and economic—that defined the experience of this group of American citizens before and after World War II. Building its incisive narrative from a wide range of archival sources, interviews, and first-person accounts of Puerto Rican life in New York, this book illuminates the rich history of a group that is still largely invisible to many scholars. At the center of *Puerto Rican Citizen* are Puerto Ricans' own formulations about political identity, the responses of activists and ordinary migrants to the failed promises of American citizenship, and their expectations of how the American state should address those failures. Complicating our understanding of the discontents of modern liberalism, of race relations beyond black and white, and of the diverse conceptions of rights and identity in American life, Thomas's book transforms the way we understand this community's integral role in shaping our sense of citizenship in twentieth-century America.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *We, the Puerto Rican People* Juan Angel Silén, 1971 Silén restores to his people their history, stolen from them along with their land and independence.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *My Music Is My Flag* Ruth Glasser, 1997-05-23 Puerto Rican music in New York is given center stage in Ruth Glasser's original and lucid study. Exploring the relationship between the social history and forms of cultural expression of Puerto Ricans, she focuses on the years between the two world wars. Her material integrates the experiences of the mostly working-class Puerto Rican musicians who struggled to make a living during this period with those of their compatriots and the other ethnic groups with whom they shared the cultural landscape. Through recorded songs and live performances, Puerto Rican musicians were important representatives for the national consciousness of their compatriots on both sides of the ocean. Yet they also played with African-American and white jazz bands, Filipino or Italian-American orchestras, and with other Latinos. Glasser provides an understanding of the way musical subcultures could exist side by side or even as a part of the mainstream, and she demonstrates the complexities of cultural nationalism and cultural authenticity within the very practical realm of commercial music. Illuminating a neglected epoch of Puerto Rican life in America, Glasser shows how ethnic groups settling in the United States had choices that extended beyond either maintenance of their homeland traditions or assimilation into the dominant culture. Her knowledge of musical styles and performance enriches her analysis, and a discography offers a helpful addition to the text.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *Fishers At Work, Workers At Sea* David Griffith, Manuel Valdes Pizzini, 2002-01-30 Based on a sample survey of 102 households. Focuses on Puerto Rican fishers who also engage in paid employment in the USA.

when i was puerto rican pdf: *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano* Sonia Manzano, 2012-09-01 One of America's most influential Hispanics -- 'Maria' on Sesame Street -- presents a powerful novel

set in New York's El Barrio in 1969 There are two secrets Evelyn Serrano is keeping from her Mami and Papo? her true feelings about growing up in her Spanish Harlem neighborhood, and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother who's come from Puerto Rico to live with them. Then, like an urgent ticking clock, events erupt that change everything. The Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, dump garbage in the street and set it on fire, igniting a powerful protest. When Abuela steps in to take charge, Evelyn is thrust into the action. Tempers flare, loyalties are tested. Through it all, Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage and the history makers who shaped a nation. Infused with actual news accounts from the time period, Sonia Manzano has crafted a gripping work of fiction based on her own life growing up during a fiery, unforgettable time in America, when young Latinos took control of their destinies.

when i was puerto rican pdf: The Puerto Rican Nation on the Move Jorge Duany, 2003-10-15 Puerto Ricans maintain a vibrant identity that bridges two very different places--the island of Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland. Whether they live on the island, in the States, or divide time between the two, most imagine Puerto Rico as a separate nation and view themselves primarily as Puerto Rican. At the same time, Puerto Ricans have been U.S. citizens since 1917, and Puerto Rico has been a U.S. commonwealth since 1952. Jorge Duany uses previously untapped primary sources to bring new insights to questions of Puerto Rican identity, nationalism, and migration. Drawing a distinction between political and cultural nationalism, Duany argues that the Puerto Rican nation must be understood as a new kind of translocal entity with deep cultural continuities. He documents a strong sharing of culture between island and mainland, with diasporic communities tightly linked to island life by a steady circular migration. Duany explores the Puerto Rican sense of nationhood by looking at cultural representations produced by Puerto Ricans and considering how others--American anthropologists, photographers, and museum curators, for example--have represented the nation. His sources of information include ethnographic fieldwork, archival research, interviews, surveys, censuses, newspaper articles, personal documents, and literary texts.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Caribeños at the Table Melissa Fuster, 2021-09-15 Melissa Fuster thinks expansively about the multiple meanings of comida, food, from something as simple as a meal to something as complex as one's identity. She listens intently to the voices of New York City residents with Cuban, Dominican, or Puerto Rican backgrounds, as well as to those of the nutritionists and health professionals who serve them. She argues with sensitivity that the migrants' health depends not only on food culture but also on important structural factors that underlie their access to food, employment, and high-quality healthcare. People in Hispanic Caribbean communities in the United States present high rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases, conditions painfully highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both eaters and dietitians may blame these diseases on the shedding of traditional diets in favor of highly processed foods. Or, conversely, they may blame these on the traditional diets of fatty meat, starchy root vegetables, and rice. Applying a much needed intersectional approach, Fuster shows that nutritionists and eaters often misrepresent, and even racialize or pathologize, a cuisine's healthfulness or unhealthfulness if they overlook the kinds of economic and racial inequities that exist within the global migration experience.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Rethinking Puerto Rican Precolonial History Reniel Rodríguez Ramos, 2010-07-19 Focuses on the successive indigenous cultures of Puerto Rico prior to 1493 The history of Puerto Rico has usually been envisioned as a sequence of colonizations-various indigenous peoples from Archaic through Taíno were successively invaded, assimilated, or eliminated, followed by the Spanish entrada, which was then modified by African traditions and, since 1898, by the United States. The truth is more complex, but in many ways Puerto Rico remains one of the last colonies in the world. This volume focuses on the successive indigenous cultures of Puerto Rico prior to 1493. Traditional studies of the cultures of indigenous peoples of the Caribbean have centered on ceramic studies, based on the archaeological model developed by Irving Rouse which has guided Caribbean archaeology for decades. Rodríguez Ramos departs from this methodology by implementing lithics as the primary unit for tracing the origins and developments of

the indigenous peoples of Puerto Rico. Analyzing the technological styles involved in the production of stone artifacts in the island through time, as well as the evaluation of an inventory of more than 500 radiocarbon dates recovered since Rouse's model emerged, the author presents a truly innovative study revealing alternative perspectives on Puerto Rico's pre-Columbian culture-historical sequence. By applying a multiscalar design, he not only not only provides an analysis of the plural ways in which the precolonial peoples of the island interacted and negotiated their identities but also shows how the cultural landscapes of Puerto Rico, the Antilles, and the Greater Caribbean shaped and were shaped by mutually constituting processes through time.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Sugar, Slavery, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico Luis A. Figueroa, 2006-05-18 The contributions of the black population to the history and economic development of Puerto Rico have long been distorted and underplayed, Luis A. Figueroa contends. Focusing on the southeastern coastal region of Guayama, one of Puerto Rico's three leading centers of sugarcane agriculture, Figueroa examines the transition from slavery and slave labor to freedom and free labor after the 1873 abolition of slavery in colonial Puerto Rico. He corrects misconceptions about how ex-slaves went about building their lives and livelihoods after emancipation and debunks standing myths about race relations in Puerto Rico. Historians have assumed that after emancipation in Puerto Rico, as in other parts of the Caribbean and the U.S. South, former slaves acquired some land of their own and became subsistence farmers. Figueroa finds that in Puerto Rico, however, this was not an option because both capital and land available for sale to the Afro-Puerto Rican population were scarce. Paying particular attention to class, gender, and race, his account of how these libertos joined the labor market profoundly revises our understanding of the emancipation process and the evolution of the working class in Puerto Rico.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Puerto Rico in the American Century César J. Ayala, Rafael Bernabe, 2009-06-23 Offering a comprehensive overview of Puerto Rico's history and evolution since the installation of U.S. rule, Cesar Ayala and Rafael Bernabe connect the island's economic, political, cultural, and social past. Puerto Rico in the American Century explores Puerto Ricans in the diaspora as well as the island residents, who experience an unusual and daily conundrum: they consider themselves a distinct people but are part of the American political system; they have U.S. citizenship but are not represented in the U.S. Congress; and they live on land that is neither independent nor part of the United States. Highlighting both well-known and forgotten figures from Puerto Rican history, Ayala and Bernabe discuss a wide range of topics, including literary and cultural debates and social and labor struggles that previous histories have neglected. Although the island's political economy remains dependent on the United States, the authors also discuss Puerto Rico's situation in light of world economies. Ayala and Bernabe argue that the inability of Puerto Rico to shake its colonial legacy reveals the limits of free-market capitalism, a break from which would require a renewal of the long tradition of labor and social activism in Puerto Rico in connection with similar currents in the United States.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Writing Off the Hyphen Jose L. Torres-Padilla, Carmen Haydee Rivera, 2011-12-01 The sixteen essays in Writing Off the Hyphen approach the literature of the Puerto Rican diaspora from current theoretical positions, with provocative and insightful results. The authors analyze how the diasporic experience of Puerto Ricans is played out in the context of class, race, gender, and sexuality and how other themes emerging from postcolonialism and postmodernism come into play. Their critical work also demonstrates an understanding of how the process of migration and the relations between Puerto Rico and the United States complicate notions of cultural and national identity as writers confront their bilingual, bicultural, and transnational realities. The collection has considerable breadth and depth. It covers earlier, undertheorized writers such as Luisa Capetillo, Pedro Juan Labarthe, Bernardo Vega, Pura Belpré, Arturo Schomburg, and Graciany Miranda Archilla. Prominent writers such as Rosario Ferré and Judith Ortiz Cofer are discussed alongside often-neglected writers such as Honolulu-based Rodney Morales and gay writer Manuel Ramos Otero. The essays cover all the genres and demonstrate that current theoretical ideas and approaches create exciting opportunities and possibilities for the study

of Puerto Rican diasporic literature.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Writing Puerto Rico Guillermo Rebollo Gil, 2018-07-04 This book is a manifesto-like consideration of the potentialities of radical political thought and action in contemporary Puerto Rico. Framed within the context of the present economic crisis, of austerity measures, PROMESA and mass migration, this book engages recent literary, artistic and activist work on the island in order to highlight the manners in which such work—however precarious, innocuous and/or fleeting—fosters hope among audiences, artists, protesters and onlookers alike for a more egalitarian and just society. Autoethnographically grounded, informal in tone, and with an eye toward intersectionality, this book serves as a unique contribution to the field of Puerto Rican Studies, by offering alternate points of departure for emergent theorizing and intellectual production across academic disciplines.

when i was puerto rican pdf: Foreign in a Domestic Sense Christina Duffy Burnett, Burke Marshall, 2001-07-20 In this groundbreaking study of American imperialism, leading legal scholars address the problem of the U.S. territories. Foreign in a Domestic Sense will redefine the boundaries of constitutional scholarship. More than four million U.S. citizens currently live in five “unincorporated” U.S. territories. The inhabitants of these vestiges of an American empire are denied full representation in Congress and cannot vote in presidential elections. Focusing on Puerto Rico, the largest and most populous of the territories, Foreign in a Domestic Sense sheds much-needed light on the United States’ unfinished colonial experiment and its legacy of racially rooted imperialism, while insisting on the centrality of these “marginal” regions in any serious treatment of American constitutional history. For one hundred years, Puerto Ricans have struggled to define their place in a nation that neither wants them nor wants to let them go. They are caught in a debate too politicized to yield meaningful answers. Meanwhile, doubts concerning the constitutionality of keeping colonies have languished on the margins of mainstream scholarship, overlooked by scholars outside the island and ignored by the nation at large. This book does more than simply fill a glaring omission in the study of race, cultural identity, and the Constitution; it also makes a crucial contribution to the study of American federalism, serves as a foundation for substantive debate on Puerto Rico’s status, and meets an urgent need for dialogue on territorial status between the mainland and the territories. Contributors. José Julián Álvarez González, Roberto Aponte Toro, Christina Duffy Burnett, José A. Cabranes, Sanford Levinson, Burke Marshall, Gerald L. Neuman, Angel R. Oquendo, Juan Perea, Efrén Rivera Ramos, Rogers M. Smith, E. Robert Statham Jr., Brook Thomas, Richard Thornburgh, Juan R. Torruella, José Trías Monge, Mark Tushnet, Mark Weiner

when i was puerto rican pdf: An Island Like You Judith Ortiz Cofer, 2015-07-28 Judith Ortiz Cofer's Pura Belpre award-winning collection of short stories about life in the barrio! Rita is exiled to Puerto Rico for a summer with her grandparents after her parents catch her with a boy. Luis sits atop a six-foot mountain of hubcaps in his father's junkyard, working off a sentence for breaking and entering. Sandra tries to reconcile her looks to the conventional Latino notion of beauty. And Arturo, different from his macho classmates, fantasizes about escaping his community. They are the teenagers of the barrio -- and this is their world.

when i was puerto rican pdf: The Vanquished César Andreu Iglesias, 2002 Follows three middle-aged revolutionaries as they plan to kill a U.S. general.

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