

## **Newsletter – May 2006**

### **CONTEST**

Congratulations to Shannon Upright for winning the lovely BECOMING LATINA bookmark from Heaven Sent Jewelry! I know you'll love it Shannon.

Now in preparation for the release of BECOMING AMERICANA in November, I will be giving away a trade size book cover with a wrap around zipper. Not that you're going to want to cover up the great cover, but so that you can keep your book clean and protected. I didn't find bright red like I wanted (to match the cover), but this one is a nice burgundy.

### **BECOMING AMERICANA**

This summer I will launch a bridge between BECOMING LATINA and BECOMING AMERICANA. In AMERICANA Lupe is nineteen, in college and struggling to pull herself out of her past. However, there is a six year fictional gap between books, so I will be filling you in on those "lost" six years. You'll be able to read and therefore watch Lupe grow up on my website. My guess is that sometime between June and July we'll be ready to go with this.

### **BECOMING LATINA IN 10 EASY STEPS**

I can't thank you all enough for your support. I have loved, loved, loved meeting so many wonderful women in the past few months at book events and conferences. Latinas and non-Latinas alike, you all are awesome! I've spoken with women who have lived in the LA area for the past 70 years (and their families prior to them) and have shared how the city has grown and changed. I've met young moms struggling to work and raise their children while still trying to figure out who they are. I've met professional women who have careers and stories of what it has taken to get where they are today that are so fascinating I forget what I'm supposed to be doing at the event (usually signing my books) and listen to them entranced. I'm more convinced than ever that women are the ones who keep the world spinning. Not saying that the male contribution is any less valuable or needed, but it seems like women do so much that goes unrecognized (and most don't really care) so I wanted to tell you how wonderful you are. With Mother's Day around the corner, it seems appropriate.

Now for a little news: Catalina book club will be discussing BECOMING LATINA this month on their website!! Actually, you will have the opportunity to ask questions, which I will answer. Is there anything from the story that you're wondering about? Something you wish I'd spent more time on? Anything that wasn't clear? Or do you have comments? If so, please visit <http://catalinamagazine.com/bookclub.php> and ask away.

## **BLOG**

I have two new children. You can check out their pictures on my blog. Okay, they are the four-legged kind, but they're very cute. The white one is a little stinker. He got a hold of a toilet paper roll yesterday and made it look like it had snowed in my family room – that was fun to clean up. He's also helped me paint my wall in bright yellow paint with his tail, and gotten a spaghetti sauce mustache when the kids left their bowls on the kitchen table. You can read about them and more on [www.blogger.lararios.com](http://www.blogger.lararios.com)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

I'd love to meet you at any of the upcoming events! More details on my website.

May 13 Book signing event at Sunshine Books in Cypress

May 17 UCR Bilingual Conference

May 19-21 Chica-Lit Fiesta at the Wyndham Miami Beach Resort

July 25-29 RWA National Convention at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Until next month!

Much Love,

Lara Rios