

Newsletter – September 2006

CONTEST

Congratulations to Estella Kissell for winning the trade size book cover with a wrap around zipper. Hope you're enjoying it!!

Check my website www.lara-rios.com for future contests!

BECOMING AMERICANA

BECOMING AMERICANA is due to be released on November 6th! If you're planning to buy it, I encourage you to pre-order. Only because publishers really look at the number of pre-orders that an author gets. Crazy but true--they consider books that have pre-orders a success and those that don't failures. So, as a thank you to those who pre-order and as an incentive, I'm giving away 24 patriotic dog tags that have our American flag on one side and phrases like "proud o be an American" or "let freedom ring" on the other side. If you are one of the first 24 people to email me your paid, confirmed Amazon or Barnes & Noble confirmed pre-order, you'll receive one of these cool patriotic dog tags. Please delete all personal financial references like credit card info from the email you send me. All I need to see is if that you've pre-ordered and paid for the book, and your name and shipping address.

If you happen NOT to be one of the first 24, don't feel bad. I'll put all pre-orders into a drawing for other prizes that will be given away prior to the release of the book.

I'm also super excited(!!!!) and proud to announce that our new website (<http://TheVibeKids.com>) which bridges the six year fictional gap between BECOMING LATINA and BECOMING AMERICANA has now launched! In BECOMING AMERICANA, the main character is Lupe Perez, the rebellious 13-year-old from BECOMING LATINA. She is now nineteen and ready to fall in love, change her life, and challenge anyone who gets in her way. Check out the new website weekly to read Lupe's Diary--this is all new material not in either of the books, and the only place where you can read what happens to the characters in-between the two books!

This site will also have valuable articles on how to succeed in life. Not only will I provide you with my personal tips, but also direct you to people, websites, and books that are more knowledgeable than I am. I want this site to be a helpful resource for you, so let me know what you'd like to see/learn and I'll do my best to include your interests.

BECOMING LATINA IN 10 EASY STEPS

Thanks to all the students who have been emailing me after reading BECOMING LATINA in their college classes. I was happy to hear that some of the issues brought up in the book prompted interesting discussions and questions. Students discussed things like the tragedy of someone being willing to marry a person simply to have a better life in

America (one of the guys Marcela dates wants to marry her). They also covered stylistic principles and structure, such as the book opening with a wedding and ending with a wedding. I was impressed with their dissection of the book and their thoughtful questions and comments.

Their emails prompted me to do something I've been meaning to do for a long time--develop discussion questions. These discussions are for BECOMING AMERICANA, and can be used in classrooms or by reader groups. I hope future readers find these helpful. Discussion questions are located on my website under the BECOMING AMERICANA link.

BLOG

I've taken a break from blogging for the summer. Too much going on in everyone's lives during the warm months, and I figured you probably had better things to do than read my blog. Like go on vacation, hang out by the pool with the kids, visit with friends <http://www.lara-rios.com>. Okay, okay, this is a pitiful attempt to justify my blogging failure, I admit. I've had a crazy summer, busy with various events for my children, and I've also been working on getting the new website up. But my blog will be back up and running in September. Visit <http://www.lararios.blogspot.com>.

NEWS

GREAT news! Warner Books has bought my next book, with the working title, **THE FAT CONTEST**. Here is a little blurb about it:

Poor Victoria Torres--not only does she win the Argentine club's "Fat Contest" courtesy of her mother's insane purchase of a gazillion raffle tickets, but she learns that as the winner, she gets a health and fitness package to a local gym donated by Eric Ortelli, the guy who teased her all through high school about her weight.

But maybe they're onto something because as she sheds those pounds, she starts shedding some of the other negative images she has of herself as well. She may not be the cute, chubby girl with the great personality that everyone pegged her as in high school. There's a sexy siren waiting to emerge and she's not going to take anyone's teasing anymore.

It will be part of the launch of a new Latino line of books called Solana. The Warner team is doing a fabulous job preparing for it, so I'm very excited. I met with the senior executive editor of Warner along with the publicist and had a long discussion about their plans. Look for these books starting next year, sometime in the fall! Mine will probably end up being released in the Spring of 2008, depending on where it is in the line-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

August 7 - Catalina Magazine's Essence of Latina tour - Los Angeles

September 9 - Possible appearance at the Los Angeles Tamale Festival

October - Latino Book & Family Festival - Los Angeles

Also, if you can get a hold of Inland Empire Magazine's November issue (out in October), there will be an article, which hopefully says some nice things about the "Becoming" books.

November 11 - Borders Bookstore autographing of BECOMING AMERICANA - Pico Rivera, CA

November 12 - Borders Bookstore autographing of BECOMING AMERICANA - Chino, CA

Until next month!

Much Love,

Lara Rios