



Alyssa Reynoso-Morris

STORYTELLER

CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR
& SPEAKER

MEDIA KIT

www.AlyssaAuthor.com

Hi! Hola! I'm Alyssa!

CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR & SPEAKER

My name is Alyssa Reynoso-Morris and I'm an award-winning storyteller. I am an experienced multicultural and bilingual storyteller, author, and speaker. I am a traditionally published children's book author, professional resume writer with 10 years of experience, and speaker. I work with you to tell compelling stories that inspire readers and deliver professional game-changing careers.



Learn more about me and contact me at

www.AlyssaAuthor.com

Find me on social media at @AReynosoMorris



SHORT BIO – Alyssa Reynoso-Morris is a queer Afro-Latinx/e Dominican and Puerto Rican storyteller. She wears many hats – author, mother, motivational speaker, resume writer, and community organizer. Alyssa was born and raised in The Bronx, New York, and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA with her partner and daughter. During the day she works with community members, non-profit organizations, and government officials making the world a better place. Then she puts her writer's hat on to craft heartfelt stories about home, family, food, and the fun places she has been. She hopes you enjoy her stories. Learn more at www.AlyssaAuthor.com

LONG BIO – Alyssa Reynoso-Morris is a queer Afro-Latinx/e Dominican and Puerto Rican storyteller. Her ability to weave compelling stories has opened many doors for her as an author, motivational speaker, and resume writer. She is also a mother and community organizer. During the day she works with community members, non-profit organizations, and government officials to make the world a better place.

Then she puts her writer's hat on to craft heartfelt stories about home, family, food, and the fun places she has been. Alyssa was born and raised in The Bronx, New York, and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA with her partner and daughter.

Alyssa served her community as the Chief of Staff for her local State Representative. Together they worked to bring funds to the district, pass legislation, and organize events to ensure constituents' needs are met.

Prior to this, Alyssa interned for Parvati Swayamrojgaar, a microfinance organization working to break the poverty cycle in the slums of India, taught English at an orphanage in Tanzania, and facilitated the establishment of the Women's Witness Protection Program for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

She also assembled a team of 70 volunteers that worked to build an aquaponic unit (a system that grows fish and crops without waste) and a water purification system in an under-resourced community in the Dominican Republic. Her team fundraised, wrote grants, and developed lesson plans focused on sustainable development. As for her writing journey, she was awarded a Yuyi Morales Diversity and More Merit Scholarship in 2020 for the Craft and Business of Writing Children's Picture Books course offered through the Children's Book Academy. She earned a Las Musas Mentorship and an Editor-Writer Mentorship from The Word for picture books in 2020. She was also selected as a mentee through the PB Chat Mentorship program but withdrew due to being offered representation.

Alyssa's amazing agent is the talented Kaitlyn Leann Sanchez at Context Literary Agency. Alyssa is also an active member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

Alyssa is honored to be a Musa with LAS MUSAS BOOKS. Their mission is to spotlight the contribution of Las Musas in the evolving canon of children's literature and celebrate the diversity of voice, experience, and power in our communities. Las Musas Books shares resources and invaluable information about the publishing industry through its website, podcast, and webinar series. They also offer a mentorship program that I was a part of; I'm excited to pay it forward and mentor a future Hermana.

Alyssa is also a member of KidLit In Color, which is a group of traditionally published BIPOC creatives. We nurture one another, amplify diverse voices, and advocate for equitable representation in the industry. Our work includes picture books, chapter books, and middle-grade fiction and nonfiction.

She hopes you enjoy her stories. Learn more at www.AlyssaAuthor.com

MY BOOKS!!! MIS LIBROS!!!



A delicious picture book about the ways plantains shape Latinx culture, community, and family, told through a young girl's experiences in the kitchen with her abuela.

*Abuela says, "plátanos are love."
I thought they were food.
But Abuela says they feed us in more
ways than one.*

With every pop of the tostones, mash of the mangú, and sizzle of the maduros, a little girl learns that plátanos are her history, they are her culture, and—most importantly—they are love.

Welcome to The Bronx, New York! A picture book celebration of hometown pride including the history, landscape, cuisines, cultures, and activities unique to this vibrant community.

There's only one place where you can see bodegas and businesses bustling on every street, taste the most delicious empanadas in the world, smell the salty sea air of Pelham Bay, and pet horses at the Bronx Equestrian Center. From sunrise to sunset, Santiago and Mami have many treasures to enjoy in their neighborhood on a beautiful Saturday, including colorful birds on the Siwanoy Trail and fresh cannolis on Arthur Avenue.



Learn more about and contact me at

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MY BOOKS!!! MIS LIBROS!!!



Product Details

- Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers under Simon & Schuster
- Publication Date: April 11, 2023
- Length: 40 pages
- ISBN13: 9781665902731
- Grades: P - 3
- Ages: 4 - 8
- Available at your local independent bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, and Books-A-Million

Product Details

- Publisher: Christy Ottaviano Books is a boutique imprint of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, part of the Hachette Book Group
- Publication Date: October 24, 2023
- Length: 40 pages
- ISBN13: 9780316397735
- Grades: P - 3
- Ages: 4 - 8
- Available at your local independent bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, and Books-A-Million



Learn more about and contact me at

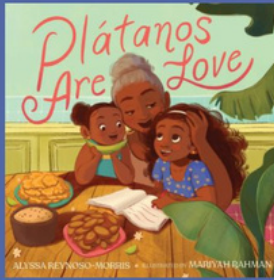
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PRAISE FOR PLÁTANOS ARE LOVE



KIRKUS REVIEWS

Review



An ode to a beloved comfort food is also a love letter to family ties... When Abuela reminds Esme that plátanos are love, the young narrator muses, "I thought they were food.

But Abuela says they feed us in more ways than one." ... Esme helps Abuela prepare several mouthwatering plátano dishes and hears more of their family history as they cook...

The tasty dishes of tostones, maduros, and mangú are prepared with love and shared with friends and family... Text that incorporates unitalicized Spanish throughout and warm and inviting illustrations convey affection for both food and family and will leave readers hungry for plátanos. Characters throughout the book read as Afro-Latine. A cozy story for the stomach and the soul.

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This book has everything I love. A lyrical intergenerational tale of food, familia, community, and connection. Reading it feels like home. The warm and luminous illustrations compliment Reynoso-Morris's rhythmic and seamless bilingual text. Plátanos ARE love. And if you don't know... now you know. :)

-Anika Aldamuy Denise, Award-Winning Author

I adored this beautiful, sweet story from Alyssa Reynoso-Morris and Mariyah Rahman. I loved the intergenerational story and the connection Esme shares with her Abuela. Food is at the center of many Latine families, and for us, plátanos are a connection to our past/ancestors and our present. I love how this book explores this in such a tender way. Kids (and their adults!) will love PLÁTANOS ARE LOVE, and it will be a wonderful addition to libraries everywhere.

-Alexandra Alessandri, Award-Winning Author



PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Review



Cooking plantains with Abuela, young Esme grows to appreciate her family lineage in this intergenerationally focused first-person tale, a double author and illustrator debut that incorporates English and Spanish throughout.

Shopping at the market, Esme learns from Abuela that plátanos are more than just food: "They feed us in/ more ways than one."... And Esme transcribes Abuela's recipes in a notebook while watching her grandmother cook various dishes with the ingredient, learning that their forbears weren't allowed to read, write, or draw. Rahman's digital illustrations use bright, warm colors for contemporary spreads and desaturated greens and browns to delineate scenes occurring in the past, contributing to a thoughtful story of legacy."

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SIGNATURE SPEAKING TOPICS

- ✓ Read-aloud, Q&A Session, Activity, and Book Signing
- ✓ Why I Write? And Why You Should Too?
- ✓ The Business of Publishing
 - Pros & Cons of Traditional Publishing?
 - How to Get An Agent? How to Write A Great Query Letter?
- ✓ How Writing The Missing Stories Has Been My Key To Success In Publishing



AS SEEN IN

**Fairleigh
Dickinson
University**

**PHL LATIN
AMERICAN
BOOK FESTIVAL**

**Latinx KidLit
Book Festival**

**ARCADIA
UNIVERSITY**

“ Client Testimonials ”

I must start by saying WOW!!!! Our faculty and students...all have been raving about your time here at AFS. You had all of the classes engaged, and spoke honestly. I so enjoyed working with you in the planning and the time spent together on campus. Your energy, optimism and passion for your work was wonderful and inspiring. We would love to have you back any time! - **Sloane Waldman (She/Her/Hers), Director of Parent Engagement and Special Events at Abington Friends School**

The Story of Self Training I attended led by Alyssa was a powerful experience for me as an instructor, scholar-activist, and educational trainer. I went in order to strengthen my storytelling and ability to move others to action on issues I care about deeply. I received that and more. Alyssa has coached me as I further develop my story and I am absolutely on fire! — **Rochelle Peterson-Ansari, CEO of Perceptions Unlimited and Adjunct Professor of Education at Arcadia University**

Speaking Engagement Links

Alyssa has delivered keynote speeches, facilitated workshops, moderated panels, and participated as a panelist. The following images are links to some of Alyssa's speaking engagements:



FROM MANUSCRIPT TO MARKETPLACE: 3 Publishing Journeys in KidLit from Picture Book, Middle Grade, & Young Adult Authors



We Are All Cuentistas: The Power of Storytelling with Newbery and Pura Belpré Award Winning Author Donna Barba Higuera



Las Musas Podcast – Talking lessons, challenges, and tips for your debut year as an author

Awards

Young Distinguished Arcadia Alumni (2022), Arcadia University

Young Dominican Professional (2022), Dominicanos in the Delaware Valley

Al Dia 40 Under 40 (2021), Al Dia – Learn more here.

Dominican Citizen of the Year (2017), Festival Y Parada Dominicana Philadelphia

Las Musas Mentorship (2020), Las Musas

The Word Mentorship (2020), The Word: A Storytelling Sanctuary

PB Chat Mentorship (2020), Picture Book Chat

30 under 30 Feature (2014), Femme and Fortune

2nd Place Viewers Choice Award (2014), Philly do-Gooder Video Contest

Media & Press

Alyssa's work and love for her community has been highlighted and celebrated in the media. The following images are links to the media feature:



2021 40 Under 40 Honoree:
Alyssa Reynoso-Morris



Lecture By Alyssa
Reynoso- Morris
Addresses
Sustainability



Some Kidlit Debuts To
Keep An Eye Out For
in 2023



Debut You 2023: Alyssa
Reynoso-Morris: Plátanos Are
Love



Cover Reveal for The
Bronx is My Home



"a thoughtful story
of legacy"



"A cozy story for the
stomach and the soul."



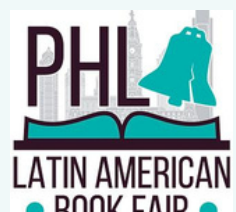
14 Caribbean Picture Books Out in 2023
Social Justice Books: A Teaching For Change Project



INTERVIEW TOPICS

- ✓ From the Bronx, Raised by a Single-Mom, to Publication
- ✓ Writing As Therapy and for Healing - How writing has helped me cope with my depression and anxiety.
- ✓ Impact Through Collaboration - How Cultivating A Supportive Community Has Been at the Core of my Success
- ✓ How Writing The Missing Stories and from a Place of LOVE Has Been My Key To Success In Publishing
- ✓ The Value Of Mentorship
- ✓ How Finding Balance Is A Daily Challenge - Being an Entrepreneur, Author, Speaker, Community Organizer, Mom, and Wife Is a Lot, But I Wouldn't Want It Any Other Way
- ✓ Latine/x Representation in Books - Why Latine/x/o/a representation is so important and needed and how I'm working for equity in publishing
- ✓ What Being Afro-Latinx Means To Me - How living in the intersections has been a blessing and the challenges I needed to overcome along the way.

AS SEEN IN





WHO I WORK WITH?

- PreK to 3rd grade
- Middle Schools and High Schools
- Universities
- Libraries
- Non-Profit Organizations
- For-profit Organizations
- News Media
- Radio Hosts
- Podcasters
- Bloggers

YOU!!!



www.AlyssaAuthor.com

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GET IN TOUCH

I look forward to connecting and working together. I am available for author visits, radio, podcast, print, and broadcast interviews in both English & Spanish.

With Gratitude,

Alyssa