



The Pain of the Macho and Other Plays

By Rick Najera

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In the face of political correctness and the feminist movement, satirist Rick Najera dares to proclaim - tongue in cheek, of course - that machos are regular guys, too. In *The Pain of the Macho* Najera has assembled an ensemble cast of quintessential Latin Lovers or wannabes who pour out their souls in side-splitting monologs. But the zing in the punchline hits us when we realize that melodramatic, teary-eyed spiels lend sly insights into the dilemma faced not just by Latin men but all those who must exist at the margins of two intersecting cultural spheres.

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The Pain of the Macho and Other Plays By Rick Najera Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Machos have feelings, too. In the title work of this wacky collection of short plays, the reader is serenaded by Latino lovers and wannabes with hilarious monologues. Desi tells Latino jokes to the Miami Rotary Club and pitches his idea of a TV show called *Gilberto's Island*. Alejandro explains that he is a great macho who fights magnificent battles and also works as a busboy. In "Latinologues," issues of bi-ethnicity are lovingly illustrated, such as a special kind of tough love and the typecasting of a Hispanic actor who seems unaware that his roles could possibly be termed "minor." Latino plays have been rapidly making their mark in contemporary theater, and Rick Najera's work blends both the comic and serious sides of machismo.

From Library Journal

In this debut collection, Najera proves himself to be one of the most exciting and talented Latino writers of his generation. Consisting of the title play, *A Quiet Love*, and *Latinologues*, which has been produced on Showtime's Latino Comedy Festival, the collection embodies self-deprecating humor, witty satire, and a deep empathy with the abuses and stereotypes Latinos have endured. In the title play, a collection of ten linked but separate monologs, Najera probes the multiple meanings of machismo through diverse characters, including a Beverly Hills busboy who is seduced by an attractive customer, Desi Arnaz speaking before the Miami Rotary Club, an outgoing Miss East L.A. who refuses to give up her crown, and Bufford Gomez, a conflicted INS agent. *A Quiet Love*, the one multicharactered play in the collection, is a treatment of Najera's own family. Latinos, Anglos, and everyone else will experience much of what binds us, and still distinguishes us, through these brilliantly realized characters. Variety has called Najera "one of the 50 Creatives to watch," and his collection belongs in every contemporary drama or multicultural literature collection. Robert W. Melton, Univ. of Kansas Libs., Lawrence
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Review

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"... one of the 50 creatives to watch." -- *Variety Magazine*

"Najera proves a skillful, perceptive writer..." -- *Los Angeles Times*

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Alberta Sanchez:

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