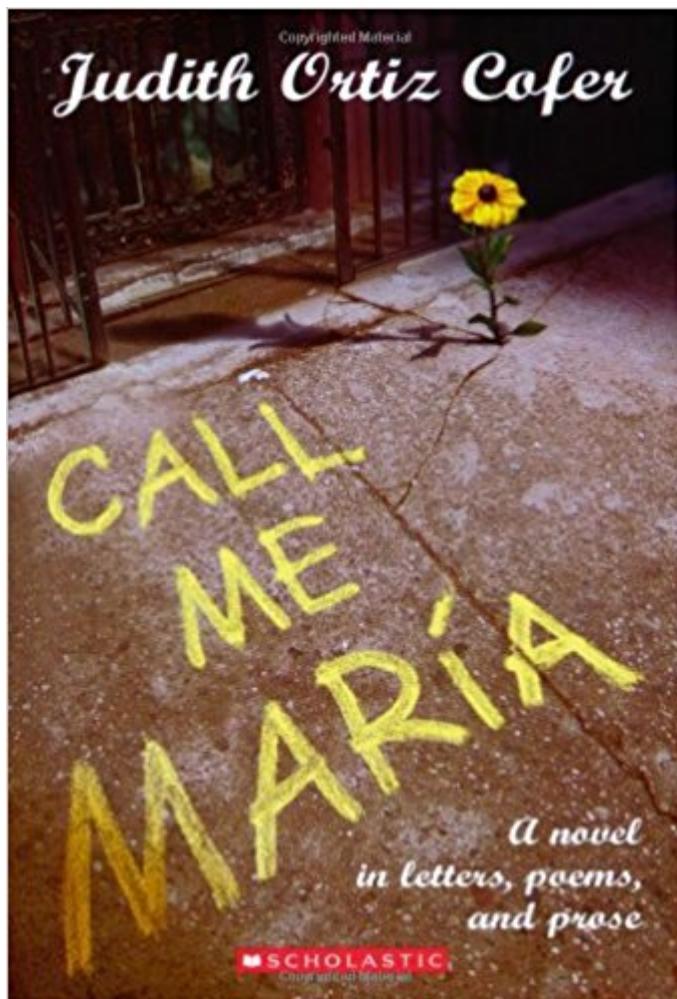


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First Person Fiction: Call Me Maria



Synopsis

A new novel from the award-winning author of *AN ISLAND LIKE YOU*, winner of the Pura Belpre Award. Maria is a girl caught between two worlds: Puerto Rico, where she was born, and New York, where she now lives in a basement apartment in the barrio. While her mother remains on the island, Maria lives with her father, the super of their building. As she struggles to lose her island accent, Maria does her best to find her place within the unfamiliar culture of the barrio. Finally, with the Spanglish of the barrio people ringing in her ears, she finds the poet within herself. In lush prose and spare, evocative poetry, Cofer weaves a powerful novel, bursting with life and hope.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #111,987 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century #119 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #241 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

Customer Reviews

Judith Ortiz Cofer is an award-winning author known for her stories about coming-of-age experiences in the barrio and her writings about the cultural conflicts of immigrants. She is the author of many distinguished titles for young adults such as, *CALL ME MARIA*, *THE MEANING OF CONSEULO*, *SILENT DANCING: A PARTIAL REMEMBRANCE OD A PUERTO RICAN CHILDHOOD*, and *THE LINE IN THE SUN*. She lives in Georgia where she is the Regents and Franklin Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Georgia.

A young Puerto Rican girl, fresh from the island and her struggle to survive in the main land. I

enjoyed it very much and chuckled here and there as she describe scene of the neighborhood.

this was a gift for my granddaughter for school and she was very please with the book it was of great help for school

The book was very well-written and had a sweet story. However the plot was very simple with very little conflict or action, I do not believe the average middle school student would pick it up. I can see it appealing to ELL middle school girls.

Q3 Ir Book ReviewMaria in Call Me Maria by Judith Ortiz Cofer moves to America with her Dad to live in America. She learns to live with her Father in New York and attends a public school. She expresses her difficulties of going to a new school and speaking Spanish and English, which is Spanglish. Maria through the difficulties of finding her content and happy self-finds her happy and content self by writing in different varieties that get her thoughts out. This book really shows how to find a happy place with yourself and how to deal with what could be different and weird situations.I would recommend the book Call Me Maria by Judith Ortiz Cofer because it is a book that middle schoolers or early high schoolers could easily connect to. I agree that the story line is a very easy plot with little to no conflict or action. I also agree that this book is a very well written book in the sense that it is easy to understand what is going on. If you are looking for an easy read book that you could learn life lessons about how to deal in certain situations I would recommend it because it provides sites in ways to cope. In Maria's situations, she wrote various poems, letter to her Mother, and prose.One reason why I would recommend this book is because it was a very easy plot line to get into and to understand, with little to no action. One place that it had a very easy plot development was when Maria and her father first moved to New York. Many would think that something bad or difficult would occur but it was an easy transition for them into their new apartment. Another place that this book had an easy plot development was when Maria started her new school. Even though she really only had a one really close friend, Whoopee Dominguez they got along so well that they never got into an argument or disagreement. They also did not go one day without seeing each other. That is a pretty easy, and simple plot because something normally happens between friends, but nothing happened between Maria and Whoopee, and she moved and attended a public school nothing else.Another reason why I would rate this book a 4 out of 5 stars is because is written in a sense that you can understand it. Judith Ortiz Cofer is a very good author and does a good job at switching up the way she is writing. She does this by changing the writing

from prose to poetry by Maira and letters also written by Maria. Instead of Judith always narrating the book, when she thought it was best for Maria to show her personality and feelings she would include one of Maria's poems and or letters. This provided the reader with a great understanding and a good sense of the book by not always having the author narrating the book. The last reason why I would recommend this book is because me being a high schooler, I could connect well to it so I think that others could. I could gain many life lessons about how to cope with situations. A life lesson that I gained is when you least expect it people will be looking out for you. This happened when the people that lived upstairs of Maria in Florida with her mom, wrote Maria letters to make sure she was doing well. This could happen when you least expect it, this was one of the many life lessons that I could get out of *Call Me Maria*. My favorite character throughout the book was Maria. I say this because even though she saw herself as down in the underground during sometimes in school, she always picks herself up and thinks of the positive. This happened throughout the whole book. She always says she will reach for the sun. Maria was the type of person who always reached to do her best and when she does her best will not show off. I love reading about characters who will always pick themselves up and have a positive attitude because a lot of the time I learn life lessons from them. In Maria's situation, I learned that if my family is not paying much attention to me pick myself up and move on because you will always be one family. I think that the best quote from *Call Me Maria* was, "I'm doing the same here, trying to learn the words of my little world." (Ortiz 21). I think that this is the best quote because she is responding to her mom in a letter and taking advice from her mother, about how to deal with a new language. I love this quote because even though Maria and her Mom are not living together and have not seen each other in a while, Maria still takes advice from her mom and looks up to her as a role model from their postcards and letters back and forth to each other. This proves that anyone can be a role model to you no matter how close or far away they are from you and distance away from people does not mean you are separated forever. Once again if you dig deeper into a line of the book you can gain many life lessons.

Fifteen-year old Maria lives in the New York City barrio with her father in order to get an American education, while her mother remains at home in Puerto Rico. As Maria learns what it means to be Puerto Rican in America, she is caught between two worlds: Puerto Rico, where she was born, and her new home, New York. Through a beautiful combination of prose, letters and, poems, Maria finds her inner voice and is able to express herself beautifully. Although not much of a formal plot exists, Maria does struggle with the conflict over island versus gritty urban life, growing friendships and

eventually becoming trilingual, speaking English, Spanish and "Spanglish". Although sometimes lacking in focus, this would be a beautiful read aloud for any class examining the emotions of recent teenage immigrants, insight into life in the barrio as well as a comparison to life in Puerto Rico.

This book is the story of Maria who goes to live with her father in NYC while her mom stays behind in Puerto Rico. In poems and prose, she writes her feelings about not fitting in, her outrageous friends and neighbors, the boy on her street, and other observations in her life. I think this book was written well and really easy to read while remaining interesting. Maria has relatable feelings and emotions that move the story along.

I appreciated that the book came when ordered. I would have liked more notice that the requirement from UPS was get a signature but we didn't even get a notice it was delivered. I saw it was by looking up my order.thank you

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