

LUCIDLove
God is in Your Corner



In Loving Memory of
Johann Sebastian Cabada



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Veronica Cabada
Founder, LucidLove

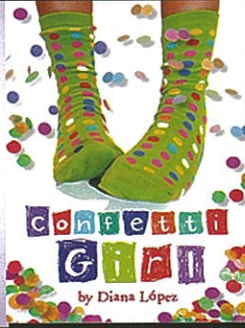
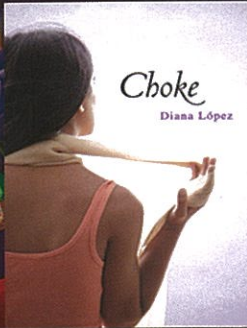
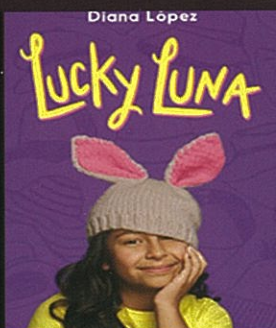
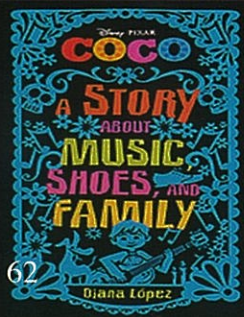
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DIANA LOPEZ

Latina Author

Diana Lopez is the Latina author behind the book adaptation of the Academy Award-nominated film *Coco* which won the Oscars for best-animated feature and best song. This University of Houston-Victoria (UHV) Professor is winning the hearts of young and old audiences alike with her latest book, *Coco, A Story About Music, Shoes, and Family*.

This Latina pioneer has carved out a name for herself in the publishing world with six award-winning books already under her belt. "Disney invited me to write the novel adaptation of the screenplay by Adrian Molina," shared Lopez. "I thought a really fun way to expand the story of *Coco* was to look at what's happening to the ancestors, what adventures were they going through as they're journeying around looking for Miguel, what was *Coco* like as a young woman." She was able to create a vibrant life story for *Coco* and add or expand some of Miguel's scenes. "It was so much fun to be given permission to take the story and add to it from a really strong screenplay. I had the chance to experience writing a type of world I have never done before."



COCO AUTHOR VISITS THE SUN CITY

"I always loved books, loved reading and writing but I didn't think it was something I could do," shared Lopez. Hard to believe from this Corpus Christi, Texas native when she her book Confetti Girl won the William Allen White Award and was named Latinidad's "Top Latino Book of the Year" in the Middle-Grade Category. Her book Choke was also made into a movie called The Choking Game for the Lifetime Movie Network.

Although being an author can be an exciting journey, it does come with obstacles to tackle on the road to getting published. In her early years, as a young girl in high school, Lopez remembers sharing with her counselor how she wanted to study English and being asked: "What are you going to do with that, you can't do anything with that!" Lopez attended college at St. Mary's in San Antonio, where she met her husband and for 23 years she called San Antonio home. In 2010 she landed a job with UHV in Victoria, Texas where she now teaches creative writing. "I published my first book in 2002 called Sofia's Saints," and then Lopez made the shift from writing adult novels to middle-grade novels. All her books are set in Texas, except for Coco, with Confetti Girl being her first published for middle-grade students in 2009. "I like to bring my little part of the world to my readers."

Without many Latinas in the publishing world, it's an uphill battle to get your work recognized. "You have to have thick skin if you're going to be a writer, you have to understand rejection as part of the reality of being a writer," shared Lopez. "One, you want to write a good story, and there are obstacles in writing that story and the techniques of how to make that story interesting and making it move. There are publishing obstacles as being a person of color adds to the obstacles. There's a perception, unfortunately, that people of color are not buying books." Lopez pointed out a recent study that shows how many books are being published by minorities – 4.9% featured Latino characters and only 1.9% are written by Latinos. "It's a challenge, but there's interest now and awareness, and plenty of advocacy," shared Lopez. She is seeing a positive trend on the rise with the "We Need Diverse Books Movement" bringing awareness to the situation.

As for how she landed the coveted adaptation of the Coco book, the editor at Disney in charge of the project had read her book Confetti Girl in a children's literature course in college, remembered Lopez and recommended her for the job. She was even able to attend the Hollywood premiere of Coco! "Disney deliberately hired Latinos to work on all aspects of the film as well as consultants. They put a lot of effort into making Coco culturally authentic." To be part of Disney's project on a movie about Mexicans was wonderful for Lopez. "Coco gave me the confidence that I can invent worlds that make sense on the page."

The best advice Lopez shares with aspiring writers is to be quiet and look at the world around them because the stories are there ready to be shared. "It's important to tell our stories. At the very root of it, we are all the same and that makes me feel connected to the world, adding, "You have to be willing to live in that world you're writing about for an extended amount of time."

What's next for Lopez? Another literary hit with the soon to be released Lucky Luna paving the way for other Latina voices to share their ideas, and stories with the world.



LUCID LOVE PRESENTS DIANA LOPEZ AUTHOR/ADAPTATION OF



FOR THE FIRST TIME, LUCID LOVE BRINGS DIANA LOPEZ TO EL PASO

"Lucid Love"



Lucid Love is an Anti-bullying nonprofit organization that was established in loving memory of Johann Sebastian Cabada who was a victim of bullying. The organization has been established since November 2014 and has delivered its message of Love and Faith to over 100,000 students, faculty, parents, service men and women, and public figures. Its humble beginnings is the foundation of the organization's passion and pride. It has also been the drive to continue to grow the organization year over year. The founder and mother of Sebastian, Veronica Cabada and the Director, Sal Montelongo, relentlessly and selflessly contribute their time and efforts to educating the community about bullying. Their united efforts have gained them a respectable reputation as an organization that genuinely cares about their community. Their drive is built on their experiences. Both witnessed the pain endured by Sebastian Cabada. As a victim of Tourette Syndrome, he was bullied since the fourth grade and the verbal abuse was escalated to physical in the ninth grade. Unfortunately, the family did not get the necessary support they needed to help Sebastian and since then vowed to be the voice of all victims. Their presentation is informative, heart-warming and inspirational. They focus on four audiences, the victim, the bully, the bystander and the parents. The message to each is different and it's explained and reinforced throughout their presentation with pictures and videos of Sebastian. The students walk away knowing the signs of bullying, the consequences to both the victim and the bully, self-love, knowing their worth, how to be counselors and how to turn their pain into their purpose. The organization has been featured in several magazines, newspapers, radio and TV.

Time is of the essence and you are the key to saving a child's life. Please reach out and book Lucid Love today!

They offer the following programs:

- Anti-Bullying Presentation / Training
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Presentation
- Life Skills Motivational Presentation
- Leadership and Mentoring Program/Training
- Journaling and Imagery Workshop
- Goal Setting Training
- S.T.A.A.R Pep Rally
- Career and Health Fairs

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