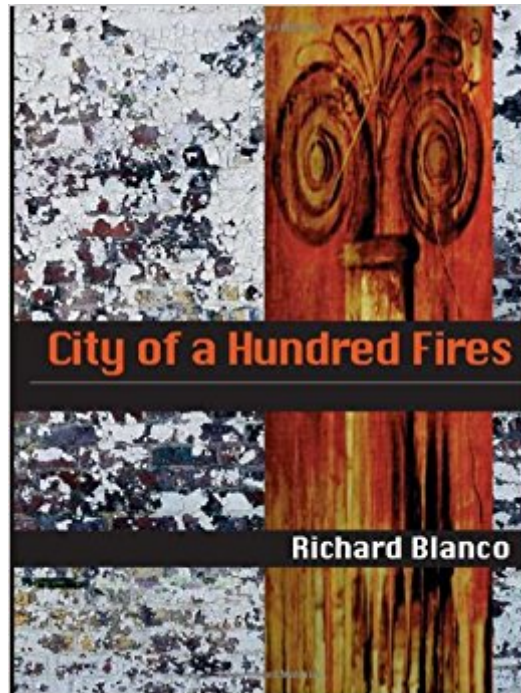


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# City Of A Hundred Fires (Pitt Poetry Series)



## Synopsis

A journey in through the cultural coming of age experiences of the hyphenated Cuban-American. It exposes and brings into question the cultural contradictions and yearnings of childhood and adolescent experiences through poetic narratives.

## Book Information

Series: Pitt Poetry Series

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## Customer Reviews

My tastes in poetry are usually kind of old fashioned. I was at the library to get a volume of Blake's poetry. The book I wanted wasn't on the shelf but Richard Blanco's was. I'm not sure what made me sit down and read it, what made me check it out from library, but I did. Blanco writes about a place and people I know little about, and yet his attention to place and relationships of all kind made me feel grounded in a real world, not an exoticized one. And I must admit, reading these poems made me think better of contemporary poetry.

I read one poem of Richard Blanco's on the Internet and was intrigued. I bought this book based on one poem and have never regretted it. This book is incredibly satisfying to me as reader and writer of poetry. I have read it more than once and continually return to it for its love of language, culture and detail. Each poem is beautifully written and together as a collection, it only gets better. Would highly recommend.

Blanco's recent book, *City of a Hundred Fires*, designs to map the heart caught in a watery span

between two nations-- the conflict and nostalgia of a Cuban growing up in Miami, and what that means to him and the people that surround him. While the poems are focused on a hyphenated experience (Cuban-American), Blanco manages to transcend this focus with writing that is concise and imagistic, honest and intelligent-- a style that allows the reader entry into the the poems, into the two hearts that give this book its beat. These poems take the reader from the shore of 1950's Cuba to the poet's own shaving mirror, from the imagined genesis of Cuba to the poet's childhood memories and desires. These poems ring true as the space between his two countries, between what's in the heart and how to write it down. Blanco is going to be a poet to watch!

I was introduced to Richard Blanco in a Food and Rhetoric course at Florida International University. The poem that got me hooked on his writing was "America", right after reading that poem which hit so close to home I hopped online and bought this book. Which after ordering I noticed that the title is actually "La Ciudad de Cienfuegos" in English.

Some poems are easy to understand, specially the ones that have cultural references, while others are very deep. I had the opportunity of listening to the author read some of them, and it was "music to my ears".

...had to get it. He has a unique voice, shines light in a new world for me. Give him a try.

Richard Blanco's "City of a Hundred Fires" is rich and ripe with images and emotion. Voicing the experience of many hyphenated Cuban-Americans, Blanco captures the beauty of the every day, the pain of a displaced community of exiles and their strength and determination in tackling a new country. He celebrates their resilience and mourns their losses -- emotional, psychological and physical. Referring to Cienfuegos, Cuba, "City of 100 Fires" is a beautiful and moving collection of poems that I have shared with many and will always keep close to my heart.

Evocative, sensual poetry that captures having one's soul fragmented by two narratives, by two countries. Blanco orchestrates words like few can.

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