



Walking Stars: Stories of Magic and Power

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These are the stories of Victor Villaseñor's childhood. Magical, yet true, they are fables of endurance, defeat and triumph, spirituality, and, always, of love. Handed down through the generations, the Villase-or's have been telling these family tales for years. Now, Victor shares them with his unmistakable storyteller style, complete with beautiful imagery and timeless significance.

Set against the backdrop of the Mexican revolution and his family's migration to the United States, these stories feature a cast of unforgettable characters who have in common their perseverance and courage. They encounter the supernatural, escape persecution by rebel soldiers, endure hunger, thirst and physical stress, and ultimately, transcend their circumstances to achieve their dreams. They are indeed walking stars.

Victor Villaseñor works his magic once again with these extraordinary stories.

Walking Stars: Stories of Magic and Power Details

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Author : Victor Villaseñor

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From Reader Review Walking Stars: Stories of Magic and Power for online ebook

Belen says

A very easy and inspiring read about Mexican American traditions.

Gay says

Wonderful stories from one of my favorite authors. Several of these events will be familiar to those who have read Rain of Gold, but they are told here in a slightly different voice and context. In the author's notes of each story, Villaseñor shares his own spiritual journey, the lessons he learned from these stories, and the values he would like his children --and by extension, all of us-- to take from them. There's something timeless and universal about them that reminds me of the way we are all connected, to each other, to those who came before us, and to the universe. It's a simple little book, somehow both humble and proud. It reminds me of the of the everyday miracles that surround us.

Sandra Acosta says

Beautiful.

Drew says

Excellent book. Set in the mountains in Chihuahua, Mexico during the Mexican Revolution, it is a series of short stories about the author's parents, mainly his mother and father. Great tales full of innocent, beautiful superstition and strong faith. A very good read!

Monica says

Required reading for my Spanish Literature class, translated into English. It's a compilation of short stories which are amazing and inspiring.

Kats Heinecke says

I like this book because the stories are about the magic of life, and things that we believe.

Stephen Gallup says

My first exposure to Villaseñor was in an issue of the *San Diego Writer's Monthly*, which also carried a chapter of my memoir. Subsequently, I read with sympathy an interview in which he described a falling-out he had with his publisher. But even though he's a local writer, I regret to say that this is the first book of his that I've read.

The regret is because the book is so thoroughly enjoyable. These are a series of short, easily-read stories that, given the Old California setting of some, bring Steinbeck to mind. Alternatively, given the primitive Mexico setting of others, and the many scarcely-credible events, I thought briefly of Carlos Castaneda or Garcia Márquez. Comparisons go only so far, however. Based on having read just this one book, I'd say Villaseñor has a voice all his own.

Following each story, he steps in with a page or two of text in which he assures his readers that, despite what common sense might have us believe, the events are all true: There actually *was* a horse who climbed over fences like a human. As confirmed by a "snakeologist" at the zoo, there really *is* a snake that can rear up and attack someone on horseback. And if you can accept that, perhaps you'll also believe him when he says that people truly are stars such as we see in the sky. For the most part, these explanatory bridges serve as half of the story, but occasionally they feel a little heavy-handed, addressing the reader with advice like "always keep an open mind and keep going, for you never know when today's catastrophe will be tomorrow's miracle."

Every story is at least somewhat miraculous. My favorite is the last one, which has the author's father, as a just a very little kid, playing chicken with his buddies to see who could wait the longest before jumping on a moving train and then (since he waited too long) jogging alone down the tracks, across the desert, for a day and a night, determined to catch up with that train. As with all the others, it's based on what the author has been told, but his description makes it viscerally real.

I understand Villaseñor's desire to connect with his cultural roots, and as such this book is a marvelous success. I might quibble with his suggestions that Americans in particular (but probably anybody who's not a primitive Indian living in a remote mountainous area) is pitifully benighted. I might work myself up over the idea of an author living in the U.S. and enjoying the opportunities it affords while suggesting that we are all so clueless and disconnected from reality. I mean, quite likely we are, but it's not as if throwing everything away and moving en masse to the back country would improve matters.

Despite that impulse, it's not the correct response to this book. I enjoyed it far more than most. It came along at a good time, too, as I'd begun to feel that I was reading more and enjoying it less. These stories are truly delightful, wondrous, touching, and they have not only been a pleasure to read but have also shown a light on the process by which family history can be turned into literature. In that regard, there's even perhaps a resemblance to Eudora Welty!

Ruben says

This was another I-should-read-this-because-my-students-are-going-to-read-this book. The stories were entertaining but I much preferred the very last story to the rest. I guess when you try to tell me that people are really stars--no, that they *really* are *real* stars--it makes me not believe you that much when you say the rest is real. Then I'll be thinking that you mean it might as well be real, which is the same as fiction.

Barbara says

This is a book of stories (that are true!) It has bits of magic, love , and spirituality in it! A quick and great read!

LonewolfMX Luna says

These are the short incredible but true stories of the Villaseñor family which have been passed down describing stories of bravery, selflessness, faith, & respect for nature & your fellow human being.

If you are Mexican or Latino I am sure your family has incredible stories to tell!
