

How to Be a Chicana Role Model

Michele Serros

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Book by Serros, Michele M.

How to Be a Chicana Role Model Details

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Author : Michele Serros

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From Reader Review How to Be a Chicana Role Model for online ebook

Living' la Vida Latina says

Reviewed by: Sandra
A Latina Book Club

Review: This is a collection of fiction from a strong, witty, and intelligent chicana writer. In these rules, Michele Serros writes about being a “chicana role model” based on tales and experiences.

Rule #1: “Never Give up an Opportunity to Eat for Free” because, if you do, you never know who you might meet, like a publisher maybe.

With her cynical humor, Serros reminds you “of how detoured a career can go and what a waste a college degree could be [because] everyone knows you’re around just to separate Sweet n’ Low from sugar, take phone messages, or tape off seats in the studio audience.” (27) However, for Serros, “writing granted [her] freedom...it gave voice to all the opinions [she] was too afraid to say out loud for fear of sounding unladylike or babyish by family members, classmates, or stupid neighbor[s].” (41)

I loved this book! This was a true road map for the frustrated and relentless author. Written in a diary-entry format, Serros relives her days as a young aspiring writer from the days she sold books out of her garage to the numerous times she called regarding an honorarium for a gig—a real inspiration for many of us!

As her father used to say, “you know...all the Latinos in this country, heading political offices and creating careers with dishwater hands, but you never hear our stories, see our lives on the big screen.” (71) “Being Mexican, [we grow] up to understand that missing work is bad. Very bad. A Mexican without a strong work ethic? Come on!” (94) Serros’ book is a humorous testament to the hard-working Latinos, the largest minority in the U.S.

Rule #8: “Reclaim your Right as a Citizen of Here, Here”

I saw a lot of myself in this book. Michele’s study abroad experience reminded me of my own. Getting lost on the way to a live reading has never been unusual for me. Been there, done that, still doing it!

This book is just an open and honest account from the Mexican-American writer with the Indian-looking nose. A must read!

Cindy says

I liked the beginning of this book a lot--I smiled a lot, I laughed out loud several times, and sometimes I just had to cry with Michele.

The second half got kind of boring to me--I guess because it wasn't like "omg, I can totally relate!" anymore, and I know that's petty to say, but I rate books by how much I enjoy them and not really "merit" or "how outstanding they are," or form or whatever. It seemed a little dated sometimes (I feel awful saying that, but it just made me not enjoy it).

I guess that's it: I liked a lot of parts, loved some, loved some more, and some made me go "Ugh, do I really have to read this? What happened to this book?"

Can you only enjoy this book if you can relate to it? I wonder. Anyway, I'd definitely use some of her essays in my classroom!

Note: I think that if I was a struggling poet/writer, I would have liked the whole book--I guess this means that I just feel awful saying that I don't love all of it :) Okay, I get it, I guess many parts just didn't appeal to me! There, I said it! I'd recommend this book if you select what you read and don't feel obligated to read all of it--I always have to finish a book from beginning to end because I feel like a cheat not doing so!

bebi? says

Este libro no se me hizo la gran cosa, no me sorprendió y hasta me aburrió en algunos capítulos pero tampoco fue taaaan malo

Para mi es un libro que puedes leer en un domingo aburrido o si simplemente ya no tienes nada que leer, este libro es perfecto para esa situación.

Cristina says

I loved this book too. I'll get to a good review on it someday. I need to reread this one.

Bern says

funny and fast read

Candy says

The author recalls different snapshots of her life to identify what it takes to be a Chicana Role Model. Some of the stories are humorous but I expected more. Coincidentally, the author grew up in the same area as my husband so I was familiar with her reference to different parts of the city.

Cynthia says

Serros' book is a refreshing retelling of the Mexican American's story and cultural struggle in America. She

attacks the subject with her fervor of humor and enlightens the audience on what it takes to be a Role Model for Chicanos everywhere, while vehemently emphasizing that she's human too and quite capable of making many mistakes along the way.

I'm definitely grabbing a copy of my own soon. And would love to read more of her work.

Linda Doyle says

Oh, Michele, you left us too soon. In your brief life, though, you were a terrific writer and a Chicana role model.

These vignettes are entertaining and funny, though some (e.g. Role Model Rule Number 11) are slighter than others. Of course I can relate to so much of what she writes about. Aside from the cultural issues, I also appreciate her commentary on performing for audiences as an author. Very funny.

Megan Kirby says

I found this book's semi-erratic jumps in time hard to follow. But it offers such a distinct look at that slam poetry period in the 90s that it was a joy to read. Quick.

Heather Sobek says

I didn't love it.

Ileana says

I really wanted to like this book, especially after a friend recommended it so highly, but I just found it painfully boring, dated, and uninspired. Serros does write in an authentic Chicana voice, but the prose is constantly interrupted by the clumsy and unnecessary addition of "concrete details". I can hear her college creative writing professor drilling Strunk & White's Elements of Style into her head ("Don't just say you stopped for coffee: tell us where you stopped and what you ordered!") Ugh. It's an easy read though, didn't take up too much of my time.

Stephanie says

How to Be a Chicana Role Model is full of biting wit, humor, and wonderful stories that really paint a picture of the character's life. It's not a traditional read in the sense of "here's the plot. Here's the rising action and the climax. Here's the conclusion." No, it's not that kind of read, so if you're looking for that--go elsewhere. This is more like an informal letter where you, the reader, feel like you're privy to this character's thoughts. You get some gossip. You get some cold hard facts about what it means to be Latina in a world

where color lines are more visible than they should be. You also get a beautiful picture of this character as a human being--where you the reader are able to connect regardless of the color of your skin, because when you're reading it you recognize the character as beautifully human--full of flaws, ego, and capable of great things.

This is a delightful book and a quick read. I definitely recommend it

Dexter says

I'm not sure I've ever used the phrase, "A delight to read" about any book besides a kid's book, but for some reason it comes to mind after finishing this book.

Which doesn't really make sense, since this novel tackles a lot of serious issues. The issue of asking someone where they're from and not accepting, "Here," as an answer just because they're not white, or falling into a certain stereotype or career because of their skin color. There's also a lot of great stuff about trying to make it as writer, which honestly is what made me the most sympathetic and interested in the story.

But there's so much humor throughout, and Michele Serros definitely seems like someone I would like (but also be intimidated by).

Lupisima says

This book was really funny. Especially the stories of when she was an assistant to the fly girls from "in living color", one of who ended up being Jennifer Lopez. Priceless!

Christina says

This book was hilarious. I love her writing style and the stories she tells mimic stories from my own childhood and teen years.
