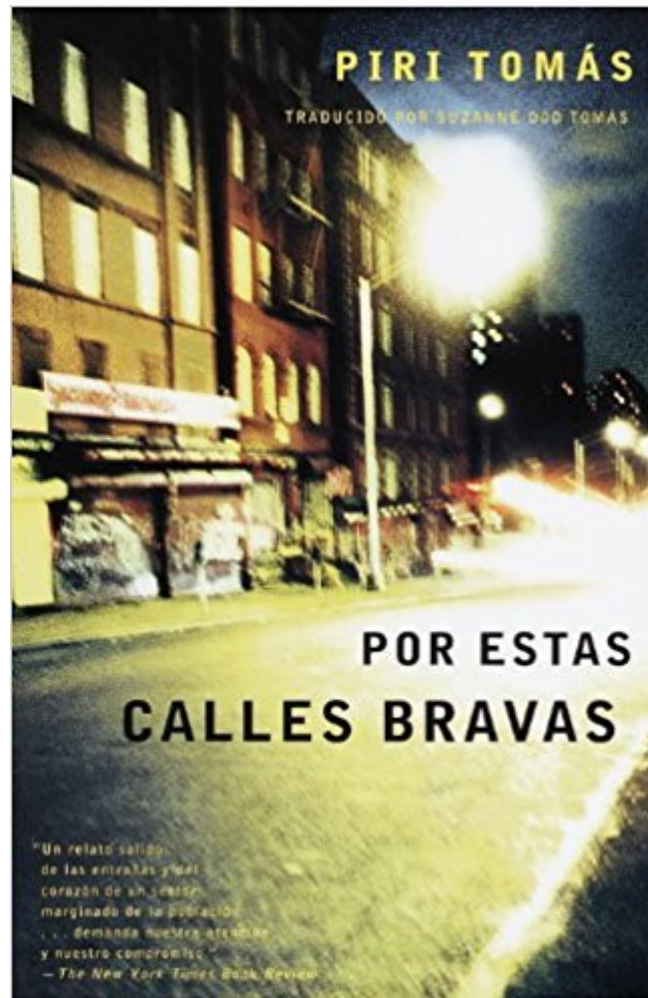




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Por Estas Calles Bravas



Synopsis

Thirty years ago Piri Thomas made literary history with this lacerating, lyrical memoir of his coming of age on the streets of Spanish Harlem. Here was the testament of a born outsider: a Puerto Rican in English-speaking America; a dark-skinned morenito in a family that refused to acknowledge its African blood. Here was an unsparing document of Thomas's plunge into the deadly consolations of drugs, street fighting, and armed robbery--a descent that ended when the twenty-two-year-old Piri was sent to prison for shooting a cop. As he recounts the journey that took him from adolescence in El Barrio to a lock-up in Sing Sing to the freedom that comes of self-acceptance, faith, and inner confidence, Piri Thomas gives us a book that is as exultant as it is harrowing and whose every page bears the irrepressible rhythm of its author's voice. Thirty years after its first appearance, this classic of manhood, marginalization, survival, and transcendence is available in an anniversary edition with a new Introduction by the author.

Hace treinta años Piri Thomas marcó un hito en la historia de la literatura al escribir el desgarrador recuento de su juventud en las calles del Harlem hispano. He aquí la historia de un puertorriqueño nacido en Nueva York pero considerado un extraño en un país de habla inglesa; un muchacho de piel oscura cuya familia se niega a reconocer la obvia presencia de su sangre africana. Este testimonio conmovedor de la caída de Thomas en la trampa mortal de las drogas, las peleas callejeras y los robos a mano armada, termina cuando Piri, de veintidós años, es encarcelado por dispararle a un policía. Desde su adolescencia en El Barrio hasta la cárcel de Sing Sing, Piri Thomas ofrece un recuento estremecedor que con voz profunda, muestra página por página cómo aprende a conocerse, a aceptarse y finalmente a tener fe en sí mismo. Después de treinta años de su primera edición, este clásico que describe las condiciones de enajenación y la lucha por sobrevivir de un grupo marginado se publica por primera vez en español, con nuevas últimas palabras del autor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's astonishing that we had to wait two years for the Spanish edition of Angela's Ashes and over 30 years for the translation of Tom's Down These Mean Streets, a classic that first introduced the barrio to wider audiences. But at least they're here. It's also a treat to have this memoir from Jimenez, Cuban born and now a leading literary scholar living in the United States. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Text: Spanish (translation) Original Language: English

Good story

This book was something that stirred a lot of things inside of me. I was so awestruck, that I did what I have never done with any other author and that was write a letter. The best way to tell my review is to share part of the letter so here goes. Soul searching is something most of us do at one time or another. Looking for the meaning of life, why we are here? Etc, etc. Sometimes we indulge in our sorrow so much that we forget to see that life is beautiful. So beautiful like our first love, our only love or the love of our lives. How familiar I find the feelings you describe of trying to be cool and the best of friends with your dad. Remembering your mother and the softness, tranquility and peace of mind you can only find in a mother's arms. The elated feeling you had when Trina was your girlfriend Your sense of being a true gentleman, treating her like your secret treasure. The flood that washed over you when she was lost to another man. Damn!!! That tore open an old wound. The author made me feel his pain, his joy to a lesser degree because nothing can compare to living the actual events. The memoir translated into Spanish in no way lost its power what's more there are certain things that can double the impact spoken in the tongue of Cervantes.

it takes you into another time and place and makes you feel as if you were there partaking in every moment described by the author. Being a Puerto Rican growing up in New York's Spanish Harlem

was and still is hard, he also describes certain racial issues he confronted as a Puerto Rican of color. Overall the book takes you through a journey through Harlem and other areas in a distinct and creative way.

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