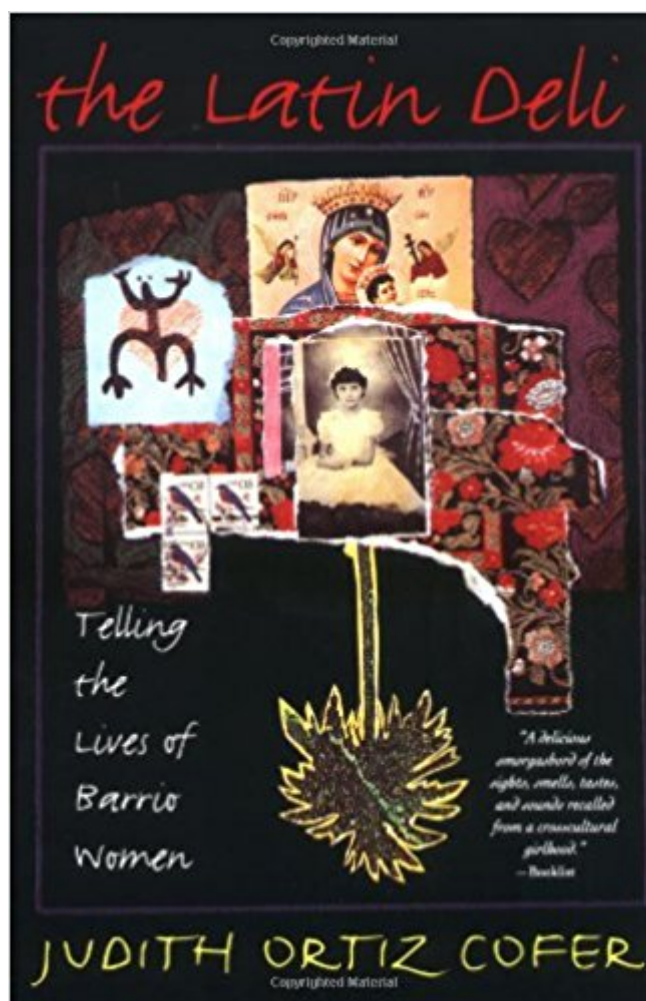


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# The Latin Deli: Telling The Lives Of Barrio Women



## Synopsis

Through her beautifully lyrical writing, Judith Ortiz Cofer tells us of the women's lives that entangled with hers in El Building in Paterson, New Jersey. A community transplanted from what they now view as an island paradise, these Puerto Rican families yearn for the colors and tastes of their former home. As they carve out lives as Americans, their days are filled with drama, success, and sometimes tragedy. A widow becomes crazy after her son is killed in Vietnam, her remaining word "nada." Another woman carries on after the death of her husband, keeping their store, filled with plantain, Bustello coffee, jamon y queso, open as a refuge for her neighbors. And there are Cofer's stories of growing up with a dictatorial and straying father, a caring mother, and a love for language that will lead to a career as a teacher and writer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for its celebration of diversity, Cofer's collection of essays, fiction and poetry depicts the Puerto Rican immigrant experience. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Poet and novelist Ortiz Cofer offers her readers an affecting view of Puerto Rican New York in this autobiographical assortment of essays and poems. Her stories celebrate, mourn, and honor Latinas, collectively and individually, and also consider the influential men in her own life: the author's beloved, unknowable, philandering father; the first boy she loved; her heartbreakingly

deteriorating grandfather. The alternating sections of evocative prose and narrative poetry first construct a vision of life in the busy apartments of El Building and the shops of its neighborhood, then comment directly on self, heritage, culture clash, racism, and sexism. A strong, moving set of daughter-poems finishes this slim but substantial volume. Recommended for ethnic, womens', memoir, and larger general collections.- Janet Ingraham, Worthington P.L., OhioCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A beautiful compillation of short stories that like a patchwork quilt , comes together and reads lovely excerpts of peoples lives and experiences in a new enviroment , a new culture and a new life . A view of the past and the present of the subjects . Highly recommended !

this book is an easy read and it give great insight into the world of Latina women trying to live in the United States.

Book in excellent condition, as described. Clean with no writing or marks on pages. Judith Ortiz Cofer is a wonderful story teller. Her stories are poetic and realistic. "American History" is in my opinion a fabulous story that rates among some of the best I've read. It has several levels which gives it a thematic complexity.

I was assigned to read this for a class, but I'm glad I read it. It is a really interesting, and eye-opening look at what it is like to be a Puerto Rican immigrant living in New Jersey. This book is an unusual mixture of short stories, poetry, and nonfiction essays by the author about her upbringing and people in her neighborhood. At only 170 pages, it is a lightweight and easy read that you won't soon forget!

This tasty book is full of the smells, textures, colors and lives of the Barrio. Lively, inspiring, heartfelt and sometimes heartbreaking, Ortiz fills this book with individuals whose lives are both representative of immigrated people and yet strikingly the stories of every woman and man. Mostly comprised of short-shorts the occasional poem is also brought in. Not all of the characters are named, and there is a sense that the reader is sometimes getting both the history and the future of the same characters. Marvelously woven, this book is a tapestry of personalities, lives, tastes and aromas. Check this book out for something unique! May I also recommend that a cup of Cuban coffee goes wonderfully!

This is a wonderful book, which uses ethnic and cultural idioms typical of Puerto Rico. Having been born and raised in PR, this book took me back to many familiar memories. I was lucky to get this book signed by the author.

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