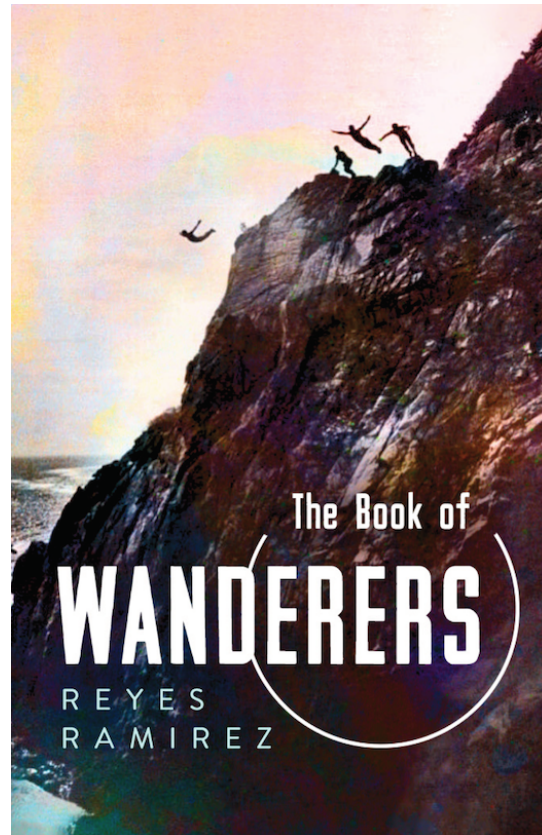


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**Houston Writer Reyes Ramirez Publishes Debut Short Story Collection
with University of Arizona Press' Distinguished Camino Del Sol Series**



book cover courtesy of University of Arizona Press

HOUSTON, TX – Houstonian Reyes Ramirez’s debut collection of short stories *The Book of Wanderers* will be published with University of Arizona Press’ Camino Del Sol Series. He joins a catalogue that spans nearly 30 years of acclaimed Latinx writers such as Juan Felipe Herrera, Carmen Giménez Smith, Luis Alberto Urrea, Richard Blanco, and more. The manuscript centers multiple Latinx characters in past, present, and future settings inspired by Houston’s multicultural identity.

“Houston is an immense city home to so many diasporas, histories, languages, and lives that its identity is undefinable yet familiar to its inhabitants,” Ramirez said. “The characters in my book navigate Houston in search of transformation and belonging. What they find is courage, violence, horror, epiphany, love, exhaustion, renewal, and struggle, all things essential to the Houstonian experience.”

In 2020, the University of Arizona Press appointed renowned writer Rigoberto González as editor of the Camino Del Sol Series, established in 1994 by writer and poet Ray Gonzalez. The editorial board for the series includes notable Latinx writers such as Sandra Cisneros, Eduardo C. Corral, Angie Cruz, Natalie Diaz, Ada Limon, Helena María Viramontes, and more. González selected Ramirez’s manuscript as part of a next stage for the series that builds upon its history of prestigious publications.

“Reyes, an avowed Houstonian, makes a foundation of his beloved city and home state, where most of the collection is set, inspired by Texas’ own complicated historical timeline,” González wrote in his introduction to the book. “For Reyes, these histories are inextricable from one another, and thus must be negotiated simultaneously, the good side by side with the bad, hope chained to despair, dream nestled against nightmare. How more real and substantive can an experience be than that?”

The son of Salvadoran and Mexican immigrants, Ramirez has lived, grown, and worked in various parts of Houston and its surrounding areas, such as Galveston, Kemah, Spring, Montrose, Golfcrest, Airline, Third Ward, etc. Readers will recognize many of the landmarks and cultural influences of Houston in *The Book of Wanderers*, whether it be pro wrestling, driving on I-45, roadside memorials, the Ship Channel, or even its unique radio DJs. However, as the stories progress, their genres stray further from reality, ranging from magical realism to science fiction to the post-apocalyptic, creating a Houston that will be both similar and imaginative to readers.

“Houston is never given its due as a literary city that blooms amazing prose writers like Bryan Washington, Attica Locke, Jasminne Mendez, Mario Alberto Zambrano, Gwendolyn Zepeda, etc. We’re a major American city with a rich arts scene worthy of more attention and stories,” Ramirez said. “Houston is a cosmopolitan metropolis in Texas that’s part of the South, West, and Southwest on the Gulf Coast that encompasses the urban, suburban, and rural while being near the Borderlands with connections to the cosmos through NASA. I wanted to capture all of that magic in this book.”

The Book of Wanderers is available for pre-order from University of Arizona Press at <https://uapress.arizona.edu/book/the-book-of-wanderers>. The Book of Wanderers will be released February 2022.

Visit reyesvramirez.com/bow for more information.

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