

Micaela (the novel) — Fiction / Literature / Spanish — 468 pages

Written and Illustrated by Adalucía

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Micaela is a lyrical novel, written in beautiful poetic Spanish. It tells a love story of three generations of women. *Micaela*, the granddaughter, is at first the narrator and later becomes the main character.

The reader is invited to explore four little “rooms” full of memories, the four seasons of *Micaela*’s heart: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring.

This captivating novel begins with the story of *Micaela*’s grandmother, Merceditas. Young Merceditas, who lives in a small traditional town in northern Spain, falls in love with a musician from South America. Merceditas follows her husband to Argentina, Mexico, and Peru. By this time Merceditas has adopted an orphan girl called Xochitl (meaning flower in Nahuatl), and has given birth to Marisol, *Micaela*’s mother. There are tragic circumstances that follow, and Merceditas decides to move to the U.S., where she opens a guesthouse in Northern New Mexico. *Micaela*, a creative and friendly little girl, is raised among unique guests who become important characters in the novel. The story takes us full circle as the lives of the four women are revealed and intertwined.

As this novel unfolds, we are subtly introduced to different customs, food, literature, songs, and even the Spanish dialects of the different countries where the story takes place.

Toward the end of the novel, we come to know Javier Esteban, the poet’s son, who is the true love *Micaela* had been dreaming of for the past two years. The reader also learns that *Micaela* has a serious chronic illness. *Micaela* doesn’t let this disability take over her life. On the contrary, she faces her illness with great courage. It is the very same quality she has inherited from Merceditas, who is a “warrior” when dealing with life’s problems.

This novel is a great educational tool that will be cherished by readers young and old and will become a classic in homes and schools alike. It shares a message of love and friendship, as well as compassion and hope.

Micaela is appropriate for readers in middle school and high school, as well as students in college-level intermediate Spanish courses.

Aguamarina Productions

302 N. El Camino Real, Suite 200

San Clemente, CA 92672

tompjasper@gmail.com