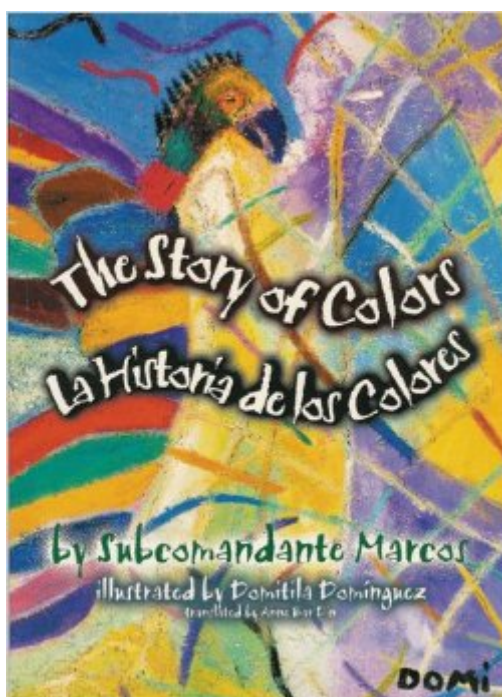


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The Story Of Colors / La Historia De Los Colores: A Bilingual Folktale From The Jungles Of Chiapas (English And Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

This wonderful folktale reveals some of the down-to-earth wisdom of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas. At the same time, it provides us with a fresh perspective on the struggles of the people there. They fight to conserve their culture and a vision of the world which they see as flowering with holiness—a holiness that cannot be measured in dollars or defined by politics. The text for *La Historia de los Colores* is taken from the communiqué dated October 27, 1994 from Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos to the Mexican People. Originally published in Mexico with illustrations by Domitila Domínguez as *La Historia de los Colores* © 1996 by Colectivo Callejero, Guadalajara. Who is Marcos? Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos is the military strategist and spokesperson for the Zapatistas, an indigenous guerrilla movement in Mexico. It is his person, more than any other factor, that has pushed the Zapatista movement and the plight of the indigenous people in Mexico onto the international scene. Marcos continues to be the focus of media attention—in Mexico, in the States, and internationally, despite the Mexican government's attempts to discredit him. On New Year's Day, 1994, Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos and the Zapatistas, wearing their trademark ski masks, erupted on the world scene by declaring war on the Mexican government and attacking military installations in San Cristóbal, Chiapas. Since that time, Marcos—because of his charm, intelligence and mystique—has become a post-modern revolutionary hero. In his communiqués to the Mexican people, he has often related folktales and stories that reflect the culture and wisdom of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas. But no one seems to know who Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos is. The Mexican Government claims he is Rafael Guillen, but they're literalists. He says he's a Mexican like any other, born somewhere between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and between the northern and southern borders. He says he wears a ski mask because he is no longer whoever he was.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

Customer Reviews

Who was that masked man? Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos has crafted a different kind of revolution and with it, a different revolutionary story. This isn't another boring tome, that competes with the author's Kalishnikov repair manual for dreary tedium. In this book, targeted at children (and those who were once children), we read of colorful birds and quarrelling gods. More powerful fare than class warfare or guerrilla strategies. The book begins with a walk up a hill in Chiapas. Well, actually, we read "I light my pipe, and after three ceremonial puffs, I begin to tell you--just the way old Antonio used to tell it--"Already we are invited to a different world, a world where stories don't appear in living color between commercials, as a means of inducing consumption. If we accept this invitation, succeeding pages take us up a hill where "el viejo Antonio" takes time out from a journey to share a more colorful universe with the "Insurgente." The masked revolutionary turns back and sits down with the old one, who ignores his concern about reaching the village before the rain falls. Rain only endangers evil witches in Oz. Here in Chiapas, something more important bursts into our constructed reality, and we are transported to a world of black and white. No real colors. Only grey, to keep the black of night and the white of day from bumping into each other too hard. This is a world where the seven gods who created all things have disappeared. In this bleak landscape, only blind people and quarrelsome, sleepily gods remain. In the course of the story we learn many things. We hear the story of an unfamiliar culture. It's a fun story, playful, suitable for children.

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