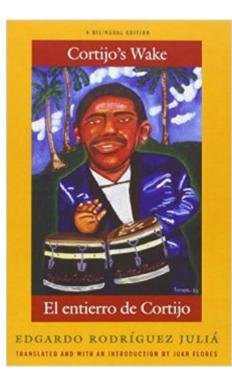
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Cortijo's Wake / El Entierro De Cortijo





Synopsis

A bilingual edition of a renowned work of Puerto Rican literature, Cortijoâ ™s Wake/El entierro de Cortijo is novelist Edgardo RodrÃ-guez JuliÃjâ [™]s vivid description of the funeral of legendary Puerto Rican musician Rafael Cortijo. El entierro de Cortijo became an immediate bestseller following its original publication in Puerto Rico in 1983. An unparalleled Afro-Puerto Rican percussionist and bandleader, Cortijo (1928â "1982) revolutionized the countryâ ™s musical culture. His band, Cortijo y Su Combo, captivated Caribbean and Latin American audiences as it emerged in the mid-1950s. Immensely popular across Puerto Rican social classes, the band both â œmodernizedâ • the traditional vernacular forms of bomba and plena and forcefully reestablished their African and working-class roots. The groupâ ™s innovations have been integral to salsa since the 1960s.Winding through the streets of working-class San Juan with Cortijoâ ™s funeral procession, RodrÃ-guez JuliÃiâ [™]s autobiographical chronicle provides a rare portrait of the impoverished society from which Cortijoâ [™]s music emerged. Along with detailed renderings of grief-stricken mournersâ "including Cortijoâ ™s childhood friend and fellow musician, the celebrated singer Ismael ("Maelo") Riveraâ "RodrÃ-guez JuliÃ; records his feelings as he, a light-skinned, middle-class writer, confronts the world of poor black Puerto Ricans. The authorâ ™s masterful shifting of linguistic registers, his acute sensitivity to Puerto Rican social codes, his broad knowledge of popular music, and his sardonic ruminations on death and immortality make this one of the most widely read books of modern Puerto Rican literature. Well-known critic and cultural historian Juan Flores has provided a scrupulous translation of RodrÃ-guez JuliÃjâ ™s text and an introduction situating the book in relation to Puerto Rican music and culture and the careers of Cortijo and RodrÃ-guez JuliÃi.

Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages Publisher: Duke University Press Books; Bilingual edition (December 30, 2003) Language: English ISBN-10: 0822332167 ISBN-13: 978-0822332169 Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (1 customer review) Best Sellers Rank: #866,516 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Salsa #649 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Hispanic American Studies #1965 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music

Customer Reviews

A wonderful memory of a dear friend and one of the kindest human beings I've had the pleasure to know. I left Puerto Rico in 1980 and still, in my heart, think of it as home.

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