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# Almost A Woman: A Memoir (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)



## Synopsis

Following the enchanting story recounted in *When I Was Puerto Rican* of the author's emergence from the barrios of Brooklyn to the prestigious Performing Arts High School in Manhattan, Esmeralda Santiago delivers the tale of her young adulthood, where she continually strives to find a balance between becoming American and staying Puerto Rican. While translating for her mother Mami at the welfare office in the morning, starring as Cleopatra at New York's prestigious Performing Arts High School in the afternoons, and dancing salsa all night, she begins to defy her mother's protective rules, only to find that independence brings new dangers and dilemmas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well written, Brings me back home to my days growing up in the streets of New York City. This book is one each Puerto Rican should read. Came on time and love the way it looks. Can wait to get started on it. My wife and I are both, trying to read it so I guess I'll have to read it after her. Anyway a good buy. Thanks

This memoir was a well written account of a pre-teen leaving Puerto Rico and emigrating to New York City. It was so interesting that it was difficult to put the book down. I really enjoyed reading her descriptions of her surroundings and most importantly her feelings and experiences. I recommend

this book to anyone who enjoys reading memoirs. This is my first exposure to Esmeralda Santiago, and now I look forward to reading some of her other works.

I had the pleasure of meeting Esmeralda in Holyoke Massachusetts a few years ago. I love her honesty and detail.. I especially like her candid expressions and statements about the inequities she faced over and over again. AND, her chutzpah for sure. She and I were born the same year, so I totally understood the issues of the era. Very rewarding read.

Esmeralda Santiago always has the ability to pull me into her memoirs...it reads like a movie, one where, with one hand in your popcorn and perched at the edge of your seat, you flip the page for more. I love her.

Santiago's second memoir continues where *When I Was Puerto Rican* concludes and maintains the same charm and humor as the earlier book. I highly recommend this story about growing up as an immigrant in 1960s NYC.

I read this book for a class in college and I absolutely loved it and could not put it down. It's so cute and touches your heart as you read of a girl similar in age to me struggling with love, family, and heritage.

This book flowed well until it reached an abrupt ending. I enjoyed her (sometimes rambling) telling of her life in Brooklyn. I will look into reading one or more of her other books to see where life takes Esmeralda next...

I really enjoyed this book and was barely able to put it down. I was so disappointed though by the way it ended. I have never read a book where I felt the author seemed to have "forgot" to write the last chapter.

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