

September 29, 2000

Dear Michele Serros,

Hello! My name is Angelica Robles, I live in Lawndale California and I recently purchased your books of poetry and short stories, and How to be a Chicana Role Model. Let me just tell you that I loooooooved both of them. A few years ago, a friend of mine introduced me to the wonderful world of Chicano authors. I am born here, my parents are from Jalisco. I'm sad to say that before him, I never knew that there were authors with stories to tell that sounded so much like my own experiences with my family and with the white world out there. I can totally relate with what you talked about in Role Model. Whenever someone asks me where I'm from, or what my nationality is I never know what to say. If someone that's Latino asks me, and I answer Chicana, they kind of smirk at it, and because I don't think that I have as great a knowledge of my culture as I'd like to have, I feel kinda of stupid if someone tries to get me to back it up. And then there's the whole "Hispanic" thing, is it a valid term, or it is a term created by the government to categorize us all in a lump.

Well, I guess what I'm finally trying to say is that in the quest of trying to learn more about my culture, and about myself, your poetry and your short stories have made a strong impact. I loved your books, and I hope that I'll see more soon. I love reading all kinds of books, but there's always an at home feeling when I read books by Chicana authors. I always feel that they're more like home and more relatable. And another funny thing, or not so funny, I'm twenty three and I'm still in community college, did the Santa Monica College stint, and I'm currently now back at El Camino College, where my college career started. Sometimes I feel like it's never going to end!

Angelica Robles

