

NATALIA SYLVESTER
me@nataliasylvester.com

EDUCATION

B.F.A Creative Writing, University of Miami
2006, Magna Cum Laude
Thesis: *An Empty Space: A Novella*

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Chasing the Sun (New Harvest, 2014)
Everyone Knows You Go Home (Little A, 2018)
Running (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020)
Breathe and Count Back from Ten (Clarion Books/HarperCollins, 2022)
A Maleta Full of Treasures (Dial Books/ Penguin Random House, April 2024)
The Warmest Light and a second untitled children's book (Dial Books/Penguin Kids, forthcoming 2025 and 2026)

ANTHOLOGIES:

"Mourning My Birthplace," *A Map is Only One Story*, (Catapult 2020) (essay)
"In No Uncertain Terms," *A.O.C.: The Fearless Rise and Powerful Resonance of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez* (HarperCollins, 2020) (essay)
"Dysplasia," *A Measure of Belonging: 21 Writers of Color on the New American South*, (Hub City Press, 2020) (essay)

POETRY:

"Liability Forms," *PANK*, July 2020
"Deep" and "Fight," *Rhyme & Rhythm: Poems for Student Athletes*, Archer Publishing 2021
"Tierra Madre," *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, Issue 53, 2021

ESSAYS & ARTICLES (select):

"Where I Once Belonged," *Texas Highways* magazine, May 2020 (essay)
"The Beauty of Being Bilingual," *New York Times*, September 2019 (op-ed)
"Choices and Decisions," *McSweeney's Publishing*, October 2018 (essay)
"When the Supernatural is a Part of Your Culture," *Tor.com*, June 2018 (essay)
"Why Saying My Book About Immigration Is So 'Timely' Right Now Erases The Experience Of Millions Of People," *Bustle*, May 2018 (essay)

“We Need to Stop Leaving Women Out of Discussions of Latin American Literature,” *Electric Literature*, May 2018 (essay)
“Commentary: Texas should not push narratives that put lives at risk,” *The Austin American-Statesman*, January 2017 (op-ed)
“Patience, One Stitch at a Time,” *Latina Magazine*, August 2016 (essay)
“Abuelos,” *NPR’s Latino USA*, May 2015 (essay)
“Homeland: An Interview with Novelist Cristina Garcia,” *Latina Magazine*, May 2013 (interview)
“Novelist Daniel Alarcon on immigration, identity and writing in two languages,” *NBCnews.com*, December 2013 (interview)
“Dual, But Not Split: Being a Good Citizen of Two Countries,” *Latina Magazine*, November 2011 (essay)
“A documentary on ‘Bad Writing’ explores the creative process,” *The Writer Magazine*, April 2011 (feature article)
“Writing Scared,” *The Writer Magazine*, November 2010 (essay)
“Racism Among Us,” *Latina Magazine*, August 2009 (essay)

AWARDS

Breathe and Count Back from Ten, 2023 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book
Breathe and Count Back from Ten 2023 Schneider Family Award Honor Book
Breathe and Count Back from Ten, Rise Book List, 2023: A Feminist Book Project by the American Library Association
Running, Rise Book List, 2021: A Feminist Book Project by the American Library Association
Running, CCBC Choices 2021 list, selected by Cooperative Children’s Book Center
Running, finalist, Jean Flynn Award for Best Young Adult Book, 2021, Texas Institute of Letters
Running, Junior Library Guild Selection, 2020
Everyone Knows You Go Home, Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction 2019, Texas Institute of Letters
Everyone Knows You Go Home, Best Latino Focused Fiction Book, 2018 International Latino Book Awards
Everyone Knows You Go Home, Shortlisted for the 2018 Reading Women Awards
Chasing the Sun, Best Debut Book of 2014, Latinidad

OTHER HONORS:

Selected author, Texas Commission on the Arts’ Texas Touring Roster, 2019-2020
Featured writer, Karrie Hovey: Endanger/In Danger art exhibition at Prizer Arts and Letters Gallery, November 2018
Writer-in-Residence, The Betsy Hotel Writer’s Room, August 2018
Las Dos Brujas Creative Writing Workshop alumnus, August 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Voices of Our Nations Arts (VONA) Summer workshop, July 2023
Young Adult Faculty

Tin House Winter Workshop, January 2022
Young Adult Faculty

University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2021
Visiting Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Creative Writing

Texas State University, Spring 2017 to present
Thesis reader, Master of Fine Arts program

Austin Bat Cave & Barrio Writers, October 2020
Instructor, Creative Writing workshop for teens

Salem College, Fall 2019
Revision Mentor, Creative Writing Program

Regis University, Fall 2017 – Spring 2019
Faculty, Mile High MFA Creative Writing Program

Girls With Pens, 2018 and 2019
Instructor, Creative Writing Summer Camp for teens

Austin Bat Cave, February 2019
Planning the Novel workshop

Writers League of Texas, January 2016 and February 2018
Instructor, Fiction writing

The Writing Barn, Fall 2015 and Summer 2017
Instructor, Writing Literary Fiction

MEDIA COVERAGE (select)

Interviewed and/or reviewed in:

BookTV/CSPAN-2, Booklist, Cosmopolitan for Latinas, Girlboss, Harper's Bazaar, Hello Giggles, Houston Chronicle, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal, The Los Angeles Review of Books, Miami New Times, The Millions, Parade Magazine, Publisher's Weekly, San Antonio Current, Real Simple, Refinery29, The Rumpus, USA Today, The Village Voice

READINGS & LECTURES (select)

Visiting author, Glenbrook South High School Latinx Reads Book Club,
November 2020
Presenter, National Council of Teachers of English conference, November 2019
Visiting Writer, Huston-Tillotson University, September, 2019
Visiting Writer, The Fred Ewing and Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence,
Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois, May 2019
Present, National Council of Teachers of English conference, November 2018
Visiting Writer, San Antonio College, San Antonio, Texas, April 2018
Visiting Author, El Paso Community College Spring Arts Festival, El Paso, Texas,
April 2018
Visiting Writer, Marcia Kinsey Visiting Writers Series, St. Edwards University,
Austin, Texas, October 2018
Creative Writing Lecturer, University of Texas Dallas, Dallas, Texas, October 2018
Visiting Writer, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas,
October 2018
Featured Author, Gavagai Music Reading Series, Brooklyn, New York, September
2018

Featured author and/or panelist at:

Unbound Book Festival, April, 2019; Association of Writers & Writing Programs
Conference, March 2019; National Council of Teachers of English conference,
November 2018; Wisconsin Book Festival, October 2018; Texas Book Festival,
October 2018; Brooklyn Book Festival, September 2018; Latina Writers
Conference, September 2018; Decatur Book Festival, September 2018; Borderless:
Conversations on Art, Action, and Justice, May 2018; Pegasus Reading Series, May
2018; Austin Library Foundation's New Fiction Confab, May 2018; San Antonio
Book Festival, April 2018; Celebration of Diverse Literary Voices, February 2018;
Writers' League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference, June 2017; Comadres &
Compadres Writers Conference, October 2015; Tucson Festival of Books, March
2015; Miami International Book Festival, November 2014; Dallas-Fort Worth
Writer's Conference, May 2014

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Inky Clean, founder & creative director
February 2010 - present

Key Biscayne magazine, copyeditor
December 2007 – November 2008

International Yachtsman magazine, copyeditor
August 2007 – July 2008

Coral Living magazine, general assignment writer
October 2005 – January 2008

ANDpersand magazine, managing editor
January 2006 – November 2006

Crowther & Company Communications, Public Relations Associate
March 2004 – August 2004

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and Spanish