



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

By Esmeralda Santiago

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**Almost a Woman: A Memoir (A Merloyd Lawrence Book)** By Esmeralda Santiago

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.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A courageous memoir. . . . One witnesses ... the blessings, contradictions and restraints of Puerto Rican culture". -- The Washington Post Book World

#### From the Inside Flap

"Not only for readers who share [Santiago's] experiences but for North Americans who seek to understand what it means to be the other."--"The Boston Globe

In her new memoir, the acclaimed author of *When I Was Puerto Rican* continues the riveting chronicle of her emergence from the barrios of Brooklyn to the theaters of Manhattan.

"Negi," as Santiago's family affectionately calls her, leaves rural Macun in 1961 to live in a three-room tenement apartment with seven young siblings, an inquisitive grandmother, and a strict mother who won't allow her to date. At thirteen, Negi yearns for her own bed, privacy, and a life with her father, who remains in Puerto Rico. Translating for 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 yearns to find balance between being American and being Puerto Rican. When Negi defies her mother by going on a series of hilarious dates, she finds that independence brings its own set of challenges.

At once a universally poignant coming-of-age tale and a brave and heartfelt immigrant's story, *Almost a Woman* is Santiago's triumphant journey into womanhood.

"A universal tale familiar to thousands of immigrants to this country, but made special by Santiago's simplicity and honesty."

--"The Miami Herald

"A courageous memoir. . . . One witnesses. . . .the blessings, contradictions and restraints of Puerto Rican culture."

--"The Washington Post Book World

#### From the Back Cover

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**Jodi Harper:**

Exactly why? Because this Almost a Woman: A Memoir (A Merloyd Lawrence Book) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

**Mike Edwards:**

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