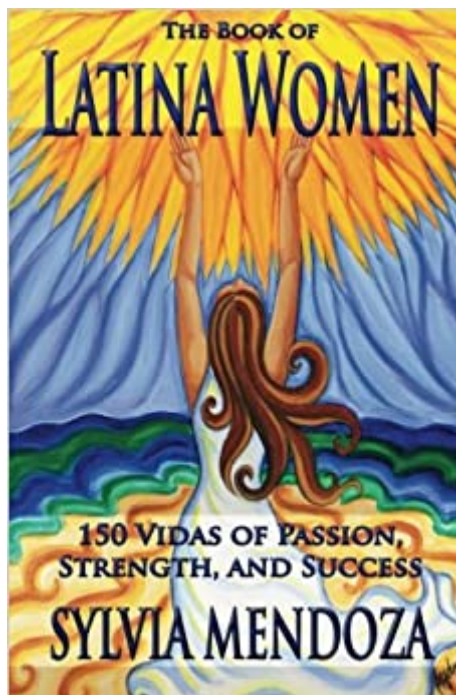




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# **The Book Of Latina Women: 150 Vidas Of Passion, Strength, And Success**



## Synopsis

From fiery superstars like singing sensation Selena, who blazed new trails in pop culture, to little-known heroes like the Mirabal Sisters, who died for their country and whose brave actions changed history, *The Book of Latina Women: 150 Vidas of Passion, Strength and Success*, spotlights 150 amazing and influential Latinas. These fabulous women come from all periods in history and all walks of life. They've impacted the world with their contributions and accomplishments in history, science, politics, education, the arts, activism, sports, news, and entertainment--past and present... \* Eva Peron ruled Argentina with flamboyance and an iron fist.\* France Anne Cordova was the youngest person to ever hold the Chief Scientist position at NASA\* Luisa Moreno organized civil rights groups to fight deplorable and unfair working conditions in sweatshops, factories, and agricultural fields in the 1930s.\* Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz was the first feminist intellectual of the New World.\* Rosemary "Rosie" Casals lobbied for equal rights for women on the tennis courts as a seven-time Wimbledon Women's Champion.\* Botanist Ynez Mexia's first expedition was at the age of 57--in the 1950s. Throughout history, Latinas have broken down barriers and stereotypes, blazing their own trails to make a difference. They have followed their passions, expressed creativity, developed cures, stirred up controversy, stood up against the majority, fought for the underdog, and even died for their beliefs. These Latinas are catalysts of profound change.

REVIEWS "We need more Latina role models. What we learn from *The Book of Latina Women* is that they have always been here--some in the shadows, some in the spotlight--making a difference with their passion."--Edward James Olmos, Actor & Co-producer, *The Latino Book & Family Festival*\*\*\* \*\* Fascinating information! It inspires, instructs and whets our curiosity, making us want to delve deeper into the times and lives of these Latinas. This compendium of remarkable Latinas is a must-read for all to better understand and appreciate the unique and distinct contributions these women have made to civilization. Described with dignity, respect and passion, this thoughtful and diverse compilation captures the spirit of these remarkable women's lives. Thank you for writing this book. How proud I am to be a Latina!--Patricia Santana, Author, *Motorcycle Ride on the Sea of Tranquility*\*\*\* \*\* "When I was a little girl, I would often visit the local library seeking escape from the projects. I wish *The Book of Latina Women* had been available to me back then. From a 15th century Jewish businesswoman, to the first gold-medalist in women's skateboarding at the X Games, to a pioneer in the field of cloning, Sylvia Mendoza has compiled an impressive collection of profiles of strong, smart and successful role models. *The Book of Latina Women* belongs on the shelves of every library, bookstore and home to inspire and empower future generations of kick-ass Latinas."--Marcela Landres, Publisher, the

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The Book of Latina Women is a must-read book for young Latinas, young Latinos, and everyone looking for inspiration.--Cathy Areu, Catalina magazine\*\*\*\*\*This is not a complete biography of these women, but just a taste of their lives and accomplishments. Many times, you'll wish there was more.--Mary Curran-Downey, The San Diego Union-Tribune\*\*\*\*\*On page after page of this marvelous book are highlights of  
 ÂÂ Latina women found the courage to  
 ÂÂ fulfill their dreams--not for themselves, but for the good of humankind. --Diana Saenger, Hispanic Outlook in

The day I was offered a book deal to promote Latinas who have made a difference in our world, was the day my celebration of women began. Writing *The Book of Latina Women: 150 Vidas of Passion, Strength and Success*, changed my life. THE LATINA LEGACY Meeting a successful, brilliant Latina editor with roots in Ecuador and her heels firmly planted in New York City was the start of my awareness. At a writers' conference,Ã  Marcela LandresÃ  gave me the editor's choice award for my novel but later, remembering my journalism background,Ã  contacted me to write short bios about remarkable Latinas. The Book of Latina Women became the project of my heart. The bookcover shows a woman with outstretched arms reaching toward the heavens, the sun shining brightly before her, the vibrant colors surrounding her exuding warmth, strength, vibrancy, and passion. This was what I felt like. My arms were outstretched, like I was a cup and these amazing women's stories were being poured into me. It was up to me to tip the cup and tell their stories. I was in awe of every one of the hundreds of phenomenal Latinas I researched. They never considered themselves heroines on a journey to "change the world."Ã  They simply followed their passion. They added a spark to individual lives and communities. They gave a voice to the underdog. They gave hope. They cared for others beyond reason. They refused to settle. They caused controversy. They fought for justice. They valued education. They died for their country. They were strong and sure of their mission--being a woman was just a perk...These Latinas' stories opened my eyes to a powerful presence I wanted to celebrate. They came from all walks of life and different pockets of time, and yet, here we were, all Latina, all women, all passionate. I remember meeting Dr. Vicki Ruiz, a historian and history professor at the University of California, Irvine, whose work to document Mexican-American women's contributions was unparalleled. I felt like a groupie and was brought to tears upon meeting her. There are all the others. For fifty-five years, activist Dolores Huerta has fought for farmworkers' rights. Ynez Mexia, a 57-year-old botanist, traveled solo in the 1920s to South American jungles to find plant specimens for medicines. The Mirabal sisters of the Dominican Republic led a revolutionary effort to overturn the dictatorship there--and were killed in the process. THE JOURNEY CONTINUES As an author/presenter of the National Women's History Project, I have my own mission: to empower and be empowered by sharing women's inspirational stories of accomplishments and contributions and making a difference. I want young girls and women to believe that skin color, last names, language, gender and other "obstacles" don't need to affect their own missions and vision. Even though the term Latina is relatively new, the spirit that goes with it carries an important legacy. Through *The Book of Latina Women*, I have learned to

embrace the spirit that guides us, and our roots that ground us.~ ~ This is only the beginning. I celebrate the Latina within and continue to connect with generations of women, blazing our own paths, gathering strength as we go. Onward! Sylvia Mendoza

"The Book of Latina Women: 150 Vidas of Passion, Strength, and Success" (2013) by Sylvia Mendoza is an interesting piece of nonfiction. It provides short biographies about Latinas, some living, some dead, who have made significant contributions to society in fields such as education, science, entertainment, medicine, politics, etc. Certainly not an exhaustive list but very informative. A few inconsistencies in the writing and editing detracted from the flow of the material but overall an impressive offering. Solidly recommended. Kelvin L. Reed Author of "President Pro Tem"

I am a European mother of a Hispanic daughter. This book is a wonderful tool to help provide her with some role models for her take pride in her place as Hispanic and female. As a teacher I take the unpopular view that it would be the duty of the parents to teach ethnicity and tradition to their children. Not all teachers and schools are properly equipped or knowledgeable to adequately do the job and be fair to all minorities attending any one school. There is not enough teaching time during the day as it is to teach students the basics of what they need, especially since we are now required to overwhelm them with standardized test preparation. It is time for parents to step back up to the plate and books like this are good starting points.

This wonderful book contains 150 beautifully written portraits of women who will make anyone proud to be Latina--or just know a Latina or two. From Dominican political dissidents Las Mariposas to the Catholic mystic Saint Teresa of Avila to golf legend Nancy Lopez, Mendoza touches on the lives of Latinas past and present who made a profound difference in the world, in so many ways. I have the paperback version, which is my favorite mini-coffee-table book ever. Now I have the ebook for a daily gorgeous dose of well-researched inspiration whenever I need to remember the giants on whose shoulders I stand.

This collection of short bios would work well as a jumping off point for students looking for the subjects of deeper study. Any of the Latina women profiled deserve mention and further research. Recommended for high school students.

Neo-colonial, euro-centric perspective of "Latina Women". I thought I was going to read about ethnic

latin american women in history, but this book is so deep in the caste system it's sad.

Wow everyone should read this book, very informative and full of Latin history! This is a very empowering book from history to modern day the contributions of our Latina sisters is awesome! I have to study more Latin history.

Most history ignores women's contributions. What little I know about Latino history follows this trend. I greatly enjoyed reading about the amazing lives of extraordinary Latina women over the centuries.

A powerful book featuring powerful Latina women. A must-read for all women, no matter what culture you are from. Band together and support the history of Latina women. Read their biographies and appreciate their contributions to the world. Well done! Five shining stars!

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