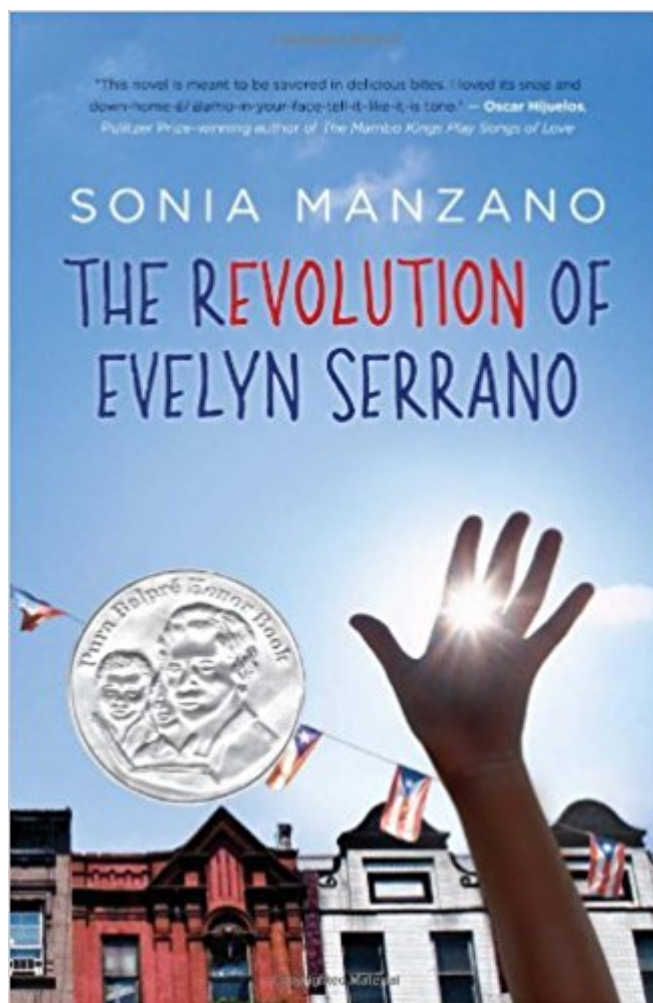


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# The Revolution Of Evelyn Serrano



## Synopsis

One of America's most influential Hispanics -- 'Maria' on Sesame Street -- presents a powerful novel set in New York's El Barrio in 1969. There are two secrets Evelyn Serrano is keeping from her Mami and Papo: her true feelings about growing up in her Spanish Harlem neighborhood, and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother who's come from Puerto Rico to live with them. Then, like an urgent ticking clock, events erupt that change everything. The Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, dump garbage in the street and set it on fire, igniting a powerful protest. When Abuela steps in to take charge, Evelyn is thrust into the action. Tempers flare, loyalties are tested. Through it all, Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage and the history makers who shaped a nation. Infused with actual news accounts from the time period, Sonia Manzano has crafted a gripping work of fiction based on her own life growing up during a fiery, unforgettable time in America, when young Latinos took control of their destinies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Starting with the title, this wry, moving debut novel does a great job of blending the personal and the political without denigrating either. Growing up in the Puerto Rican East Harlem barrio in 1969, Rosa, 14, changes her name to Evelyn and tries to be more mainstream. Then her activist abuela arrives from Puerto Rico and moves in, and Evelyn feels as if she's found "an older overdone version of me." Abuela inspires Evelyn to join the Young Lords, the political activists who are working closely with the Black Panthers and fighting for Puerto Rican rights. But Evelyn's mama does not approve, especially when the

activists occupy the neighborhood church to demand food and shelter for the poor.

Evelyn's first-person narrative is filled with irreverent one-liners, but it never denies the realism of daily struggle: the "heat and stink of our neighborhood." Rooted in the author's own experience, the teen's intense narrative is set against real-life political events (reports from the New York Times are documented in an appendix), while the family drama and revelations continue right up to the end. Grades 6-9. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**PRAISE & REVIEWS\*** "This wry, moving debut novel does a great job of blending the personal and the political. . . while the family drama and revelations continue right up to the end."--BOOKLIST, starred review\* "Characters of surprising dimension round out the plot and add to the novel's cultural authenticity. . . A stunning debut."--KIRKUS, starred review

**ENDORSEMENTS**"This novel is meant to be savored in delicious bites. I loved its snap and down-home-EL BARRIO-in-your-face-tell-it-like-it-is tone."--Oscar Hijuelos, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of THE MAMBO KINGS PLAY SONGS OF LOVE  
**THE REVOLUTION OF EVELYN SERRANO** should be placed on proud display with the literature that enriches our multicultural America. History will come alive for young readers who will identify with how a great historic moment can affect one girl and her family."--Julia Alvarez, Pura Belpré Award-winning author of BEFORE WE WERE FREE and HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS LOST THEIR ACCENTS  
"I love this book! It's smart, real, painfully funny, and filled with the wisdom of a writer who can get to the hearts and souls of her readers. Sonia Manzano, standing ovation! (Encore, please!)"--John Leguizamo, Emmy Award winning actor-comedian.  
"An important story about activism, acceptance, and love. Sonia Manzano vividly portrays a neighborhood in turmoil, with embraceable characters who change history."--Pam Muñoz Ryan, Pura Belpré Award-winning author of THE DREAMER and ESPERANZA RISING

I absolutely love this book and the author's ability to paint such a vivid picture of Puerto Rican. I ordered this book because it was on the summer reading list for a program that I work with. Although the book was being read by teenagers I wanted to follow along and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. For people who do not read Spanish I thought it was great that the author offered English translations until all of the catch a Puerto Rican sayings that I grew up with.

This is a wonderful book for young readers of every background! It tells a vivid story of life in El

Barrio in 1969, the social activism of the Young Lords and its effect on a teenage girl and her family. The central character, Evelyn Serrano, is an appealing, rebellious 14 year old. And the story, told from her point of view, is a page-turner - intense, funny, poignant and inspiring. D. Singer

I was happy to see a Young Adult novel about East Harlem (El Barrio) during the time of the Young Lords efforts there. I was disappointed by the poor writing and the contrived relationships of the three generations of Serrano women. However, because there is a dearth of children's literature about Puerto Ricans in the United States, I would have to recommend it.

This book is amazing!. It captures the Puerto Rican and "Newyoric" experience with respect, accuracy and compassion. Kudos to Sonia Manzano for a job well done. Thank you!

A charming book written by one of television's most endearing personalities. An elegant peek into the lives of children and young adults growing up in New York from years past. A book for younger girls and a cross-cultural memoir about life and being true to one's self. Strong portraits of interesting adults and younger teens.

This was a good read, a great perspective of a time period of which many know little about. I really enjoyed the dynamic between the daughter, her mother, and her grandmother - an easily relatable aspect for many young girls. I would consider recommending this to many of my students.

This book is a young person's ideal introduction to the struggles of Puerto Rican folks. I am enjoying reading it immensely and already am thinking of gifting some young people with this for Kwanzaa.

Loved this book!! Read it in 3 days. Wish I had read it when I was a teen but better late than never.

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