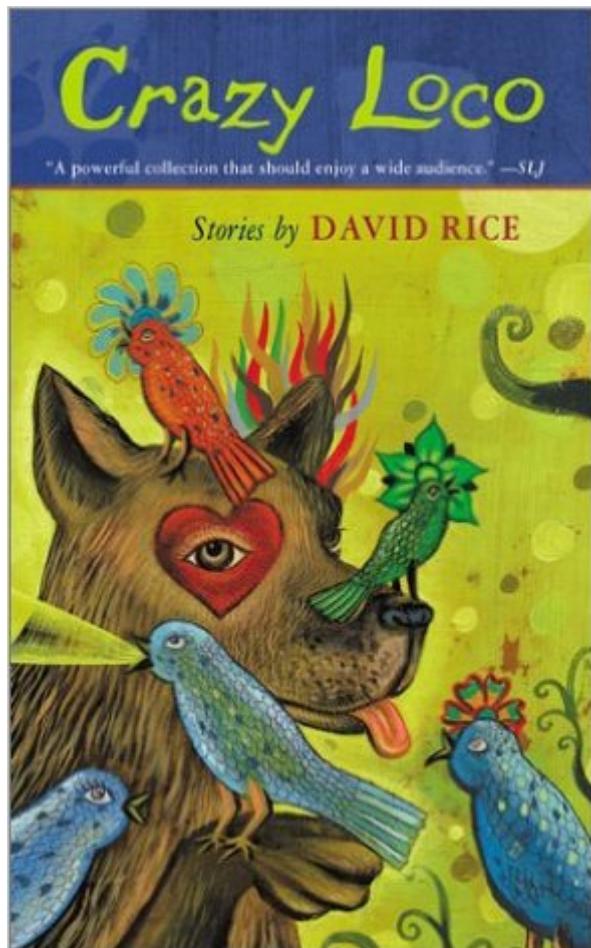


The book was found

Crazy Loco



Synopsis

A powerful collection of short stories telling the tales of a Mexican-American childhood ideal for fans of Gary Soto. Welcome to Southern Texas. Meet Loco, a dog with a passion for firecrackers. And Pedro, an altar boy forced to learn a hard lesson from two of the toughest, oldest men ever to serve the Lord. Jordan and Todd are two boys from California who don't know what they're in for when they push their Texas cousins a little too far. Loosely based on the author's own childhood as a Mexican-American boy in south Texas, this story collection is a moving whirlwind of humor and insight--brash, tender, and full of the unexpected.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0830 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (July 14, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142500569

ISBN-13: 978-0142500569

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.4 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #746,650 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #376 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #571 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #1107 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

David Rice's second book *Crazy Loco* is a collection of short stories that kicks off the new wave of young adult Chicano literature. As an English teacher I've sought quality Chicano literature for my kids and aside from Gary Soto, there isn't much out there. I'm glad to see that's changing. Rice's stories are hilarious and even though they're set in South Texas with mostly Chicano characters, they will appeal to all kids. I shared stories from his previous book, *Give the Pig a Chance*, with my students and they loved them. Since his style has improved and these stories are funnier, I know my students will love *Crazy Loco* even more. My favorites of the bunch were "Crazy Loco" and

"Proud to be an American." They are about two things most kids are experts about: dogs and fireworks. Other stories are heartfelt. "Papa Lalo" will strike a chord with children who have lived through divorce or have lost their grandparents. "Valentine" is about the pain and power of first love. David Rice writes the Rio Grande Valley of Texas like few other authors can. He is a great new voice in Chicano fiction and one to watch in the future.

I love the stories contained in David Rice's book so much so that I ordered another hard copy. Students love reading them, love hearing them, and can really relate to the language and imagery created. I highly recommend the book and never disappoints on being timely with delivery!

I read this book about eight years ago, I had been searching for it and just found it here at a great price. The physical book arrived undamaged. The content of this book is (in my opinion) very entertaining and interesting, I can relate to some of these stories.

I've heard David Rice read a few of the stories in this collection back in South Texas at different venues and was amazed at how much his writing had matured since his first book (Give the Pig a Chance--another fine book in its own right). A side note to anyone with an opportunity to experience Rice's presentations--take the chance, go out of your way if you have to, but do listen to him. Back to the book: I was so looking forward to Crazy Loco, and when I got my copy, I got right to it. Dropped Moby Dick, and slowed down on To the Lighthouse to finish Crazy Loco. The stories, most of which are told in the first person, the narrators varying from story to story, are humorous and fun to read. But I feel the strongest pieces are the ones in which Rice cuts out the humor, and gets down to some serious business, like in "Last Mass" and "Her Other Son." These stories are emotional without being sentimental. These stories bring to mind others of his works, namely "Tina La Tinaca" from his first collection, and they show exactly why Rice is being published today.

I just recently finished reading both of Rice's books: Give The Pig A Chance, and Crazy Loco. I have comments on several of his short stories, but overall, I'd like to say that his writing is very inspiring to me - I didn't expect for stories this short to be full with such great symbolism. In his short story, Papa Lalo, Henry was given a compass from his grandfather, as a gift. A compass always faces North. The Earth has its own magnetic polarity that magnifies the pull of a compass to face due North. The compass could have symbolized the unbearable "magnetic pull": that Harry had with his grandfather. Even though Harry didn't realize he shared any common ground, or any connection

with his grandfather - He always had that "magnetic pull" a "bond" that we sometimes are unfamiliar with until we try to face another direction in life - or until life points us in a new direction. This was a very well written, carefully thought out story.

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