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How Sweet It Is! A Novel
THANE ROSENBAUM

“Fans of the greater Miami megalopolis rejoice! Finally there’s a novel that nails your part of the world!”
—Gary Shteyngart, author of The Russian Debutante’s Handbook and Absurdistan

Set in Miami Beach in 1972, this poignant novel-in-stories follows the Posner family—two Holocaust survivors, Sophie and Jacob and their son, Adam—doing everything they can to avoid one another in a city with an infinite supply of colorful diversions. In ’72 Miami hosted both the Republican and Democratic political conventions and experienced the rise of the counterculture, the Cold War, and the desegregation of the old South. The novel is populated and enriched by the presence of many historical characters of the day including Jackie Gleason, Frank Sinatra, Muhammad Ali, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Meyer Lansky, and Fidel Castro.

Jackie Gleason used to say, “Miami Beach is the sun and fun capital of the world.” For the Posner family—Miami Beach was supposed to be the site of their salvation. Where better to blend in, regain one’s sanity, and live their lives? In this hilarious novel, Sophie becomes a key figure in the Jewish Mafia and receives the romantic attentions of Meyer Lansky, Jackie Gleason and Frank Sinatra—each mesmerized by her strength and substance. Matching wits with the master Yiddish storyteller, I.B. Singer, Jacob bemoans his fate at having to cope with Sophie, his irrepressible wife and her new fame and relationships. Crime boss Meyer Lansky uses Sophie’s talents to desperately restore the Jewish Mafia to its former glory by bringing legalized gambling to Florida. Adam acquires valuable lessons on standing one’s ground from the World’s fastest man, Bob Hayes, and learns to pitch out of a jam from an umpire who may or may not be Cuba’s dictator, Fidel Castro. The Posners soon discover that Miami Beach is not a place of camouflage because all that sunshine highlights the very things they want to forget. They find their lives quickly turning into a Disney World of funhouse mirrors and chaotic rides that give them front row seats through a transformational year in American culture, politics and world history.

PRAISE FOR ROSENBAUM’S EARLIER FICTION:

On Elijah Visible:

“Thane Rosenbaum is totally obsessed with the Holocaust. His stories reflect that obsession. They are written with sensitivity and pain.”
—Elie Wiesel

“Anyone concerned with the decay of Diaspora Judaism should read these stories.”
—Henry Roth, author of Call It Sleep

On The Golems of Gotham:

“A book at once magical and natural . . . at once chilling and warm, rigorous and fanciful, savagely witty and profoundly reasoned. The Golems of Gotham charms as it frightens and moves us.”
—San Francisco Chronicle

“Inventive and electrifying epic. . . . This dazzling novel, written in language so lively it practically bubbles off the page like an ancient potion.”
—Boston Globe

On Second Hand Smoke:

“Chilling and mesmerizing. An altogether gripping tale of the seemingly endless consequences of the Holocaust.”
—Chaim Potok

“Written with passion and energy, penetrating into the roots of Jewish existence. This book is not to be easily forgotten.”
—Aharon Appelfeld

On The Stranger Within Sarah Stein:

“A charming, New York-centric fantasy about a precocious 12-year-old girl whose identity is fractured by the separation of her parents.”
—New York Times

“Skillfully mixes fantasy and tragedy . . . . There is sadness between the lines, but also a bright fairy-tale aspect, a kind of ‘Willy Wonka’ meets ‘Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close.’”
—Los Angeles Times

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The world remembers Raoul Wallenberg as the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Budapest in 1944-45, and was subsequently arrested by the Soviets in 1945, and taken to Moscow where he disappeared until his apparent death. Now, more than 65 years after these events, many mysteries about Wallenberg’s life and fate persist.

This novel explores these mysteries still surrounding Wallenberg. How and when did he die: in Lybiana prison in Moscow in 1947? Did he perhaps survive for decades in some Gulag camp or psychiatric hospital? Why did he languish in a Soviet prison from 1945-1947 without being exchanged by the Swedish government— as other political prisoners were—or rescued by his very wealthy and well-connected family in Stockholm? Yet the deepest mystery was Raoul Wallenberg himself: who was the real man behind the legendary diplomat and heroic savior of Budapest Jews? These unresolved and absorbing mysteries about Wallenberg’s personal identity and motivation are plumbed for answers in Lelchuk’s suspenseful story.

Using the creative liberties of a novelist, Lelchuk meditates on these enduring mysteries. Imagining scenes and characters to fill in the missing gaps, Lelchuk envisions what might have really happened to the Swedish diplomat. To give his poetic license a solid grounding, the author, Alan Lelchuk, engaged in significant research including travels to Stockholm, Budapest, and Moscow. The author interviewed historians, read documents, perused archives and visited physical sites, where he met with some of the few remaining witnesses, officials and participants including Daniel Pagliansky, the original KGB interrogator of Wallenberg in Lybiana Prison in 1945-47. Remarkably Alan Lelchuk was the first and only Westerner ever to meet Pagliansky and talk with this elusive and truculent agent.

Based on this research, Lelchuk’s novel fills in the gaps and mysteries in history with fictional possibilities. Searching for Wallenberg, a Novel clearly delineates the real from the invented in order to involve readers in the assessment of the enduring mystery.

The novel’s chief protagonist is Manny Gellerman, a professor of history, whose interest in Wallenberg is rekindled by a graduate student’s thesis. Through his professional curiosity and adventurous personality, Gellerman gradually achieves a deeper understanding of the vanished Swede. Part detective, part historian, through twists and turns, following unorthodox paths, Professor Gellerman uncovers some uncomfortable truths that may explain why it was probably more convenient for the Wallenberg family to leave Raoul to linger and fester in Lybiana jail. Pushing for a deeper explanation of Wallenberg’s character and fate, Gellerman’s quest eventually leads him to a Jewish Hungarian woman, who claims through convincing evidence that she is a surviving daughter of Raoul Wallenberg.
At once a detective story, an unusual romance, and a daring plunge into the gaps of history, Searching for Wallenberg is a compelling narrative that breaks new ground on the man and the mysteries by means of its hybrid approach.

Alan Lelchuk, born in Brooklyn, educated at Brooklyn College and Stanford University, is the author of seven highly acclaimed novels, including the best-selling American Mischief, Miriam at thirty-four, Shrinking, Miriam in her forties, Playing the Game, Brooklyn Boy, Ziff: a Life? Successful paperback reprints were published by NAL (Signet) and McGraw Hill, and translations have included Danish, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Dutch, and Spanish editions of Lelchuk’s fiction. He has also written a prize winning adult novel, On Home Ground, and co-edited, in English, an anthology, 8 Great Short Hebrew Novels. He has won Guggenheim and Fulbright Awards, and his work has been praised by Philip Roth, Saul Bellow, Benjamin DeMott, William Pritchard, and Wilfred Sheed. He is an editor at Steerforth Press and teaches at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

PRAISE FOR LELCHUK’S EARLIER NOVELS:

On American Mischief:
“Should be read as a companion piece, if not the equal, to Mr. Sammler’s planet.”
—Mordecai Richler

“No novelist has written with such knowledge and eloquence of the consequences of carnal passion in Massachusetts since Nathaniel Hawthorne.”
—Philip Roth, Esquire

On Miriam at Thirty-Four:
“The best embodiment we have of the illusions, the risks, the rewards of a woman’s all-out pursuit of herself.”
—Anatole Broyard, The New York Times
In the last 100 years of Major League baseball, there have been dozens of great and revered baseball players, including its heroes; Cy Young, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays, Henry Aaron, Mickey Mantle, and its legends; Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb, and Lou Gehrig. Perhaps the most honored and commemorated baseball player has been #42, Jackie Robinson. Why?

Because Robinson did something for and through baseball that no other great player had ever done. Jackie broke new baseball ground, broke through the racial boundary; and thereby, changing the complexion of professional baseball forever. Gradually, Robinson broke yet another wider barrier, the psychological boundary in the collective consciousness of American society regarding the image of the Black man.

Before Rosa Parks, before Martin Luther King, before Civil Rights Legislation and Black Power, before Barack Obama, there was Jackie. Through baseball—the national pastime—Robinson profoundly changed America.

First as a young boy and fan and later as a mature citizen, Alan Lelchuk’s memoir, On Home Ground: How Jackie Robinson Changed Brooklyn reflects upon the changes wrought by the Brooklyn Dodger’s first baseman. On Home Ground traces how the borough of Brooklyn greeted the first African American in the Major League, how the community grew with Jackie, adopted him, and celebrated him.

What was viewed early on as a mere sports story quickly became a subject of riveting news for the nation. Brooklyn became as much at the center of the story as Jackie. It was not an accident that Branch Rickey, the sensible and shrewd general manager of the Dodgers who brought Jackie into baseball, decided upon the Borough of Kings to venture forth his great gamble. Brooklyn was a community of nearly three million by 1947, and more importantly, it was a borough of great diversity, populated by a diverse immigrant population. Citizens of Brooklyn, especially the young fans like Lelchuk, were a pioneering audience and jury for Jackie. If the experiment succeeded here, it would succeed across the river and elsewhere.

Waiting for his hero’s autograph, Alan Lelchuk met Jackie twice outside Ebbets Field. When Alan Lelchuk was nine years old, he waited for Jackie outside the players’ exit with his scorecard. The first time, Jackie was walking with a small group of players, and after getting a few autographs from other Dodgers—Hermanski, Roe, Reese—Alan asked for Jackie’s autograph. Robinson signed Alan’s scorecard in a small legible handwriting and then looked at Alan, asking his name. It was a brief meeting, a fleeting minute, as other fans waited for signatures. The second meeting was longer, Alan caught Jackie as he was walking alone, carrying his bag, wearing his tan raincoat. Amazingly, Robinson stared at Alan, remembering the young boy.
“You’re Alan,” Jackie said, in his high gravelly voice, and Alan nodded, surprised. He continued to peer at Alan, and Robinson asked something like, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Alan was quick to respond, “A baseball player,” but swiftly added: “But really, a writer of books.”

“What sort?” inquired Robinson.

Oh, maybe I’ll be a sportswriter, or a writer of adventure books.” Alan added.

Jackie nodded, scribbled his greeting, gave it back to Alan, and put his hand on the young boy’s shoulder, and said, “Stay on course.” It was a meeting to remember—Alan was a boy of nine, and Jackie was at the age of twenty-seven, the Major League’s most famous player. The exchange between the boy and his idol stayed with Alan, through the years of college and graduate school and he revisited these two remarkable meetings as he embarked his career as a writer.

Lelchuk believes that it is only through a personal perspective that the well-told narrative can be enhanced and enlivened with fresh insight and fresh eyes. His hope is that the fabled icon would find himself most vividly portrayed and felt here, back then as it happened, within these more personal and intimate lines.

PRAISE FOR ALAN LELCHUK:

On Brooklyn Boy:

“Mr. Lelchuk’s contemporaries will be delighted with the full accounting he gives of the home turf.”

—Saul Bellow

“Rich in detail…a very engaging novel…The sort of book we all want to write.”

—Wallace Stegner

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News of the Earth
HOMERO ARIDJIS and BETTY FERBER

“Since the establishment of the Group of 100 in 1985, Homero Aridjis has been an inspiration to fellow environmentalists all over the world… and a most formidable advocate for change both in Mexico itself and internationally.”
—Jonathon Porritt, Founder Director, Forum for the Future, Co-Director of the Prince of Wales’s Business & Sustainability Programme

“No one in Mexico has made a more important contribution to protecting that country’s environment, an effort that has had ripple effects throughout the world.”
—Lester Brown, US environmentalist and founder of the Worldwatch and Earth Policy institutes.

“Extraordinarily courageous, willing to speak out in circumstances where he’s really put his own well-being on the line. This is someone who doesn’t have to do this. Homero is one of the planet’s great environmental heroes.”
—Jacob Scherr, Director, Global Strategy & Advocacy, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, DC,

“The Group of 100 is a movement of conscience that strives to change our relationship with nature. Thanks to this group, presided over by the saintly poet Homero Aridjis, in our world we can still enjoy the magic of monarch butterflies, sea turtles and gray whales.”
—Alejandro Jodorowsky, Chilean-French filmmaker, playwright, actor, author, comics writer and spiritual guru.

News of the Earth presents a wide-ranging and comprehensive selection of Homero Aridjis activist and pioneering writings in defense of nature and the environment. It documents the most important activities of the Group of 100 since it was founded by Aridjis in 1985. The book is also a biography of Aridjis relationship with the natural world, a history of the rise of environmental awareness in Mexico, a documentary record of the main environmental concerns of the past three decades, and a chronicle of the Group’s most important battles and victories. It is a significant contribution to environmental writing in any language and a singular contribution to understanding why we must preserve our global environment. News of the Earth provides valuable lessons learned by someone who has been on the front lines defending the earth for decades.

Homero Aridjis, one of Latin America’s foremost literary figures, was born in Contepec, Michoacan. Many of his forty-five books of poetry and prose have been translated into fifteen languages, and his writing has been recognized with
important literary prizes in Mexico, Italy, France, the United States, and Serbia. Formerly Mexican Ambassador to Switzerland, The Netherlands, and, most recently, UNESCO, for six years he was international president of PEN International and is now president emeritus. As founder (in 1985) and president of the Group of 100, an environmentalist association of writers, artists, and scientists, he has received awards from the United Nations (Global 500 Award), the Orion Society, Mikhail Gorbachev and Global Green USA and the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has been a visiting professor at Indiana, New York, and Columbia universities and the University of California, (Irvine). His most recent books are the novel Esmirna en llamas (Fondo de Cultura Economica), Noticias de la Tierra, (with Betty Ferber), a collection of his writings and pioneering work on the environment (Random House Mondadori), Tiempo de ángeles/A Time of Angels (Fondo de Cultura Económica and City Lights) and Del cielo y sus maravillas, de la tierra y sus miserias (Fondo de Cultura Económica). Eyes to See Otherwise (New Directions), Solar Poems (City Lights) and 1492 The Life and Times of Juan Cabezon of Castile (University of New Mexico Press) are among other books available in English.

Betty Ferber (Aridjis) born in New York and a graduate of Bryn Mawr College has served as the International Coordinator of the Grupo de los Cien (Group of 100) since its founding in 1985. She established and maintained contacts with individuals and organizations outside of Mexico and devised strategies for working together on issues as diverse as NAFTA, sea turtle protection, saving the gray whale birthing grounds at Laguna San Ignacio, monarch butterfly protection, opposition to dams on the Usumacinta River, the fate of tropical forests in Amazonia and Lacandonia, air pollution and climate change. Along with her husband, Homero Aridjis, she was honored by Mikhail Gorbachev and Global Green USA with the Green Cross Millennium Award for International Environmental Leadership. She has translated three novels by Homero Aridjis into English: 1492 The Life and Times of Juan Cabezon of Castile, The Lord of the Last Days: Visions of the Year 1000 and Persephone. With Canadian/Irish poet George McWhirter she coedited Eyes to See Otherwise, Selected Poetry of Homero Aridjis. With Homero Aridjis, she organized three acclaimed international poetry festivals held in Mexico (Morelia, 1981, Mexico City, 1982 and 1987).
A Caribbean zombie with university degrees, handsome and financially independent, is obsessed with the idea of finding a chemical cure for his rather unwholesome condition. His success, though, is heralded not by chemistry, but by three beautiful women who guide him through the unpredictable maze of human emotions, desire and love, concepts that, being dead and all, lie beyond his grasp. The plot’s simplicity is built on a variety of voices, each guaranteeing an exciting turn of events and a nightmarish finale. The narrative takes the form of a scrapbook belonging to Isadore Bellamy, a Haitian ethno botanist whose own personal history intersects with that of the nameless main character.

Pedro Cabiya, a writer, poet and filmmaker, is the author of the short-story collection Tremendous Stories (Isla Negra 1999), selected as the Best Book of the Year by International PEN Club; Atrocious Stories (Isla Negra 2003) and the novels The Head (Isla Negra 2005), Trance (Editorial Norma, 2007), Saga of Sandulce (Editorial Norma, 2009) and Weeds (Zemi Book 2011). Cabiya is the creator of the graphic novels, Anima Sola, Juanita Morel, Obelenkó, and Just in Time; he is founder and editor of film and literature magazine, Bakaa, and is producer of the TV and web show The Point Ñ. He has an MA in medieval literature from the University of Michigan and a Stanford University Ph.D. in Latin American literature. He lives in Santo Domingo, where he is Professor at the Universidad Iberoamericana and runs his own production company, Heart of Gold Films.

Jessica Powell holds an MA in Latin American Studies from Stanford University and a PhD in Hispanic Languages and literatures from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has published numerous translations of Latin American authors, including Jorge Luis Borges, César Vallejo, Adolfo Bioy Casares, Silvina Ocampo, Edgardo Rivera Martinez, María Moreno, Edmundo Paz-Soldán, Liliana Heer, Alan Pauls, and Anna Lidia Vega Serova.

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Latinnovating: Green American Jobs and the Latinos Creating Them
GRACIELA TISCAREÑO-SATO

2012 International Latino Book Awards in New York City: *1st Place, Best Business Book | *1st Place, Best Nonfiction eBook | *2nd Place, Best Nonfiction Young Adult Book

“Latinnovating provides rich insight into the exciting possibilities and opportunities that exist within the green economy….chronicling how Latino entrepreneurs are positioning themselves today as leaders across different industries. These stories serve as a valuable tool for all those working to build a cleaner, greener future.”
—Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, Chief Executive Officer of Green For All

“For many years, the Latino entrepreneurial spirit has quietly powered America’s economy. At last, a book has been published that brings these hidden stories of economic contribution out of the darkness….shines a bright spotlight on Latino entrepreneurs innovating new solutions and playing significant roles in the green economy.
—Aida Alvarez, Chair, Latino Community Foundation and former Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration

“This book changes the conversation about Latinos in America. One part of our story—as immigrants—is well-known throughout the mainstream media. Another part of our story—as active contributors to the nation’s growing green economy—is less recognized. Latinnovating addresses this imbalance telling the stories of entrepreneurs, professionals, and business owners who are shaping the green economy.”
—Carolina Miranda, MBA in Sustainable Enterprise and Founder, Cultivating Capital

Profiling ten different career paths to becoming an environmental entrepreneur, Latinnovating: Green American Jobs and the Latinos Creating Them is the first book to showcase Latino-led innovation and entrepreneurship in the green economy. These case studies across ten sectors of the U.S. economy follow the successful footsteps of educated and courageous Latino leaders as they create sustainable, industrial and social justice solutions to benefit all Americans. Latinnovating reveals the creative advantage of Latino culture as it impacts innovation, leadership, entrepreneurship and sustainability. The leaders, highlighted in the book, deliver their stories with sobering insights as to what it takes to drive innovation in this growing field.

Latinnovating is notable for its emphasis on sustainability as a driving economic force that also greatly benefits our environment. In the midst of a landscape of public opinion, saturated with negative stereotypes about Hispanics, this book offers
positive, creative, brilliant and extraordinary contributions that Latinos are making for the improvement of our society as a whole. These business men and women have created successful companies and are committed to environmental entrepreneurship. *Latinnovating* weaves their personal stories, educational paths, industry insights and actionable resources into a truly exceptional tapestry. It also provides insights into how these entrepreneurs and leaders made their decisions, how they came into influential positions of leadership and how the forces of culture played a role. The reader learns when and how these innovators decided to make professional changes to protect the environment. This book delivers powerful messages and paths to emulate that will surely inspire the next generation of environmental entrepreneurs.

**Graciela Tiscareño-Sato** is a graduate of the School of Environmental Design, University of California at Berkeley, a former military officer and aviator, and an active mentor to Latino youth. She earned a Master degree in International Management from the School of Global Commerce at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington while on active duty with the U.S. Air Force flying onboard KC-135 refueling jets. She is the author of the bilingual (English/Spanish) children’s book, *Good Night Captain Mama/ Buenas Noches Capitán Mamá* which was selected as the “Best Educational Children’s Book—Bilingual” category for the 2014 International Latino Books Awards. *Latinnovating* also won First Place in the Documentary category, at the “Latino Books to Movies” awards, at the USC/L.A. Times Festival of Books Festival. She has published many articles in the U.S. and Europe including *Environmental Leader, Hispanic MBA, Enterprise Technology Management, Internet Telephony Magazine, Fox News Latino, Decisive Magazine* and many others.