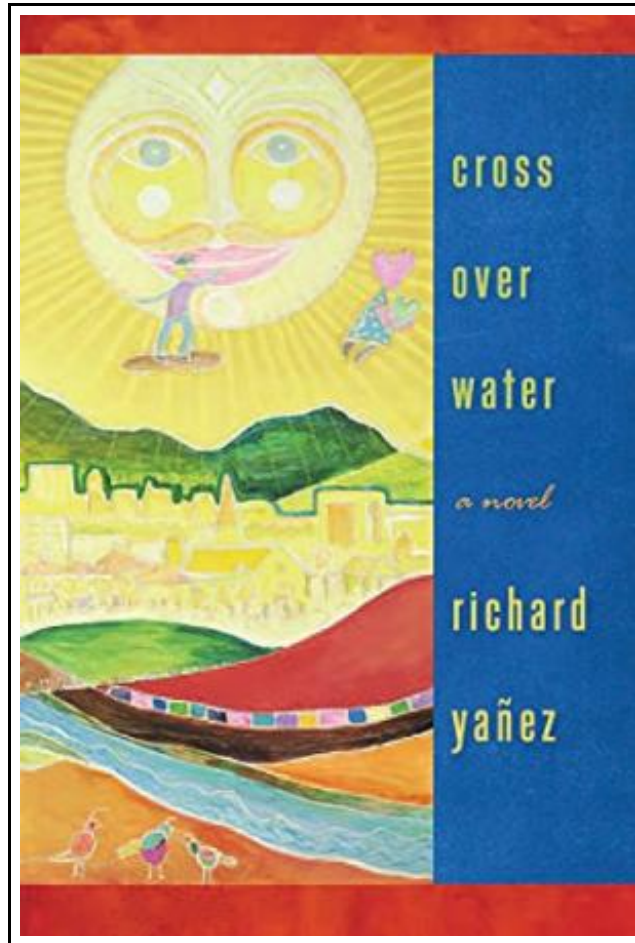


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University of Nevada Press, Reno, 2011. Softcover. Book Condition: New. 216 pages. Softcover. New book. FICTION. Raul Luis "Ruly" Cruz is a young Mexican American who lives in El Paso, just across the Rio Grande from Mexico, the home of his ancestors and some of his current relatives. As he grows from awkward adolescence to manhood, he negotiates the precarious borders of family, tradition, and identity, trying to find his own place in the Chicano community and in the larger world. This is an engaging and moving story of growing up in a borderland that is not only geographical but cultural as well. Richard Yaez, associate professor of English at El Paso Community College, was born and raised on the U.S.-Mexico border. "The writing is excellent. Very sly story-telling, assured, calm, and enveloping. " -Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The Hummingbird's Daughter* "An intimate portrait of a young boy's coming of age in El Paso, rich with details of the body and the landscape of the border. The rollercoaster in Ascarate Park, the murals of El Segundo Barrio, the ASARCO smokestacks, Chicos Tacos, the Cristo Rey monument. I felt transported back to the games and silences of my own childhood in that place-in-between." -Alicia Gaspar de Alba, author of *Desert Blood: The Jurez Murders* "The novel addresses a great subject, the life of a teenaged boy living in the fascinating and underexplored border area near El Paso and Jurez. The narrator, Raul, has a fertile nerdy mind and often a unique and interesting literary voice. This novel is a wonderful and funny look at the border and one boy's life there." -Susan Straight, author of *Highwire Moon* "A thoughtful story of growing up next to the border in New Mexico and the assortment of challenges that go with it all,...



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