

## The Discovery of Female Adolescent Sexuality in the Cultural Context of Puerto Rico



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***(Ms. Izabella Walter)***

## THE DISCOVERY OF FEMALE ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY IN THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF PUERTO RICO

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GRIN Verlag Okt 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, LMU Munich (Amerika-Institut), course: Ethnicity and American Identity in Contemporary Fiction, language: English, abstract: Esmeralda Santiago's *When I Was Puerto Rican* was her first autobiographic novel and it was the precursor of two following memoirs: *Almost a Woman* and *The Turkish Lover*. In *When I Was Puerto Rican* Santiago tells of her early childhood during the 1950s and '60s. The story told in the novel starts in Puerto Rico at Santiago's age of four up to the age of thirteen when she immigrates with her mother and her then six siblings to the US to live in Brooklyn, New York. Her memoir does not only show the difficulty of switching between two different cultures and mentalities, American and Puerto Rican, but it also portrays the coming of age process of a girl who has to find a balance between her individual desires and expectations of her surrounding world. The novel reveals the Santiago family's dealings with the pitfalls of poverty and their dreams of a better life. This family experiences life in all varieties: they are moving from the rural town of Macún to the urban area of Santurce, a district of Puerto Rico's capital San Juan. The family's destiny as a whole unity is yet only a framing plot. The novel illustrates the struggle of understanding the world from a child's perspective. In the case of young Esmeralda it is especially hard to understand the dynamics of her unmarried parents' relationship. For her it is a challenging rethinking process to learn how to tell from her parents' behavior, who is right...



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