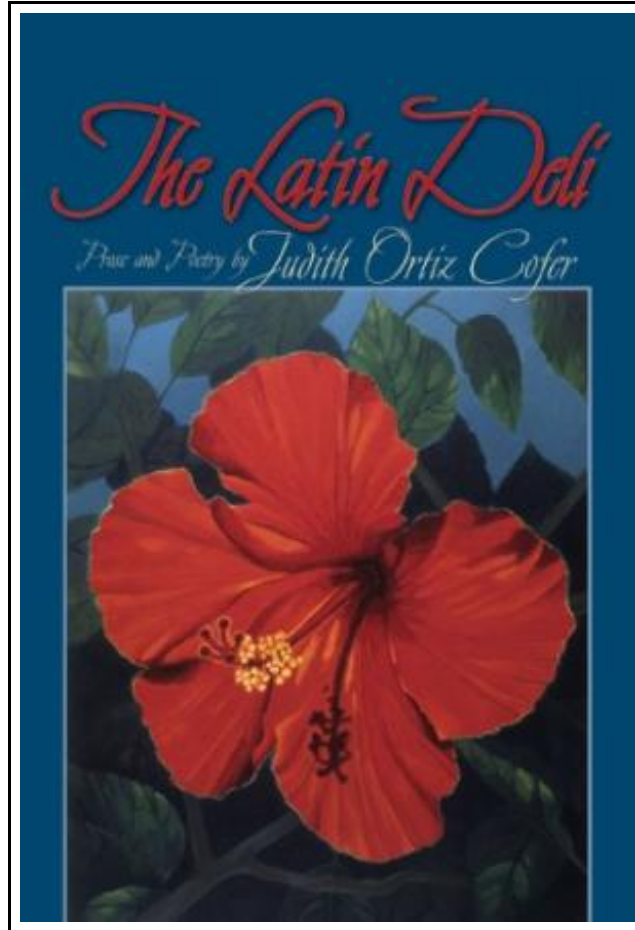


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University of Georgia Press, United States, 2010. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 147 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Reviewing her novel, *The Line of the Sun*, the New York Times Book Review hailed Judith Ortiz Cofer as a writer of authentic gifts, with a genuine and important story to tell. Those gifts are on abundant display in *The Latin Deli*, an evocative collection of poetry, personal essays, and short fiction in which the dominant subject-the lives of Puerto Ricans in a New Jersey barrio-is drawn from the author's own childhood. Following the directive of Emily Dickinson to tell all the Truth but tell it slant, Cofer approaches her material from a variety of angles. An acute yearning for a distant homeland is the poignant theme of the title poem, which opens the collection. Cofer's lines introduce us to a woman of no-age presiding over a small store whose wares-Bustelo coffee, jamon y queso, green plantains hanging in stalks like votive offerings -must satisfy, however imperfectly, the needs and hungers of those who have left the islands for the urban Northeast. Similarly affecting is the short story *Nada*, in which a mother's grief over a son killed in Vietnam gradually consumes her. Refusing the medals and flag proffered by the government ( Tell the Mr. President of the United States what I say: No, gracias. ), as well as the consolations of her neighbors in El Building, the woman begins to give away all her possessions. The narrator, upon hearing the woman say nada, reflects, I tell you, that word is like a drain that sucks everything down. As rooted as they are in a particular immigrant experience, Cofer's writings are also rich in universal themes, especially those involving the pains,...



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