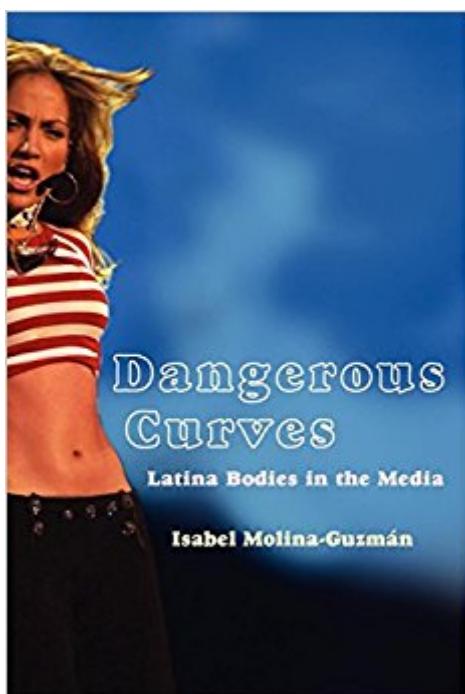


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Dangerous Curves: Latina Bodies In The Media (Critical Cultural Communication)



Synopsis

With images of Jennifer Lopezâ™s butt and America Ferreraâ™s smile saturating national and global culture, Latina bodies have become an ubiquitous presence. Dangerous Curves traces the visibility of the Latina body in the media and popular culture by analyzing a broad range of popular media including news, media gossip, movies, television news, and online audience discussions. Isabel Molina-GuzmÃ¡n maps the ways in which the Latina body is gendered, sexualized, and racialized within the United States media using a series of fascinating case studies. The book examines tabloid headlines about Jennifer Lopezâ™s indomitable sexuality, the contested authenticity of Salma Hayekâ™s portrayal of Frida Kahlo in the movie Frida, and America Ferreraâ™s universally appealing yet racially sublimated Ugly Betty character. Dangerous Curves carves out a mediated terrain where these racially ambiguous but ethnically marked feminine bodies sell everything from haute couture to tabloids. Through a careful examination of the cultural tensions embedded in the visibility of Latina bodies in United States media culture, Molina-GuzmÃ¡n paints a nuanced portrait of the mediaâ™s role in shaping public knowledge about Latina identity and Latinidad, and the ways political and social forces shape media representations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

âœDangerous Curves is an unswerving look at the flattening out of Latina lives in mainstream

media narratives. A must read for anyone interested in understanding why and under what conditions the slightest tear of a stereotype can be perceived as disruptive of the social fabric.â •Frances Negron-Muntaner,author of Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Cultureâ œDangerous Curves is an absolutely essential, central, and most insightful component of Latina/o media studies. Molina-Guzman brings together structural, labor, textual, and audience elements to provide a nuanced analysis whose influence will span across communication, media, and Latina/o studies.â •Angharad N. Valdivia,University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Isabel Molina-GuzmÃ¡n is Associate Professor of Communications and Latina/o Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

This book was required for a Latinas in American Society course. It is a decent read and provides useful, insightful perspectives.

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