**Rudolfo A. Anaya**

A Critical Companion

By Margarite Fernandez Olmos

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**Description**

Rudolfo A. Anaya's seven novels can all be viewed in terms of the Chicano literary tradition though their rich texts have earned Anaya a place of respect in mainstream modern literature. Fernandez Olmos guides the reader through Anaya's literary world with signposts, illuminating the mythical, cultural, and linguistic complexities of his astoundingly rich stories. From his coming of age masterpiece Bless Me, Ultima (1972) to his most recent novel, Shaman Winter (1999) Anaya's writing with its rich spiritual symbolism is brought down to earth and made accessible to the student reader by Fernandez Olmos insightful analysis. Each work devotes a chapter to each novel, enabling Fernandez Olmos to guide the reader through each, showing both the patterns and variations of literary devices in Anaya's works, offering interesting alternative interpretations of Anaya's writing.

Fernandez Olmos presents a well-researched chapter on the life of Rudolfo Anaya, familiar readers with his Hispanic cultural background which figures so prominently in his work. This chapter on Anaya and the Chicano literary tradition deepens the reader's understanding and appreciation of the writer's tremendous contributions. Fernandez Olmos then devote a chapter to each of the novels, Bless Me, Ultima, Heart of Aztlan, Tortuga, and Albergue, in addition to two detective novels, Zia Summer and Rio Grande Fall; and his modern-day parable, Message from the Desert. Student readers and researchers will find the bibliography includes reviews, criticisms, and other secondary sources to be very helpful.

"This refreshing take on Anaya's literature reflects a growing, and much needed, critical collection of work that is slowly being recognized as an incredible contribution to Anaya's writing."

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"Schools whose curriculum includes Anaya's works will certainly want to have this in their analysis."

Reference for Students – GaleGroup.co

** Table of Contents **

- Series Foreword by Kathleen Gregory Klein
- The Life of Rudolfo A. Anaya
- Rudolfo Anaya and the Chicano Literary Tradition
- Bless Me, Ultima (1972)
- Heart of Aztlan (1976)
- Tortuga (1979)
- Alburquerque (1992)
- Zia Summer (1995)
- Rio Grande Fall (1996)
- Bibliography
- Index

** Author **

Margarite Fernandez Olmos is Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at Bronx College of the City University of New York, where she teaches courses in Spanish and American Studies. She has coedited numerous volumes including The Latino Reader American Literary Tradition from 1542 To The Present (1997) and Remaking A Lost Indian: Short Stories From The Hispanic Caribbean (1995) for which she was coeditor and translator, and has written a wealth of articles for both Spanish and English language journals.

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