

Anaya - "Shaman Winter"

**RUDOLFO A. ANAYA — 1937-**

It has been said that the best way to describe premier novelist Rudolfo A. Anaya is *un hijo del pueblo*, a son of New Mexico.

Anaya was born in Pastura, a village southwest of Santa Rosa, a land of mesas and grass and long-away vistas.

Anaya was a writer of some renown well before he burst upon the public literary scene with the brilliantly crafted and prize-winning "Bless Me, Ultima" in 1971.

In the foreword to "The Anaya Reader," a quote from Anaya encompasses the enduring challenge of self-definition facing the field of Latino letters in this country.

"We are split by ethnic boundaries," he says, "we are a border people, half in love with Mexico and half suspicious, half in love with the United States and half wondering if we belong. We have been rejected by our Spanish father, forgotten by our Indian mother, and feel unwanted by a stepmother who passes English-only laws, lights up the border, and proposes laws denying education and health care principally to the children of our Mexican people who come here seeking work."

Anaya's latest novel, "Shaman Winter," continues his saga of private investigator Sonny Baca, who was a central character in "Zia Summer" and "Rio Grande Fall." Anaya's mixed genre writing includes dozens of novels, short stories, essays, dramas and poems.



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alb. 9/19/1999

Journal