



books



# SUMMER READS

Are you a lover of all things vampire and paranormal, ala *Twilight* and *True Blood*? Then I have just what you're looking for this summer: a quartet of sinfully fun novels by some of the country's top and up-and-coming Hispanic authors. BY CARIDAD PINEIRO



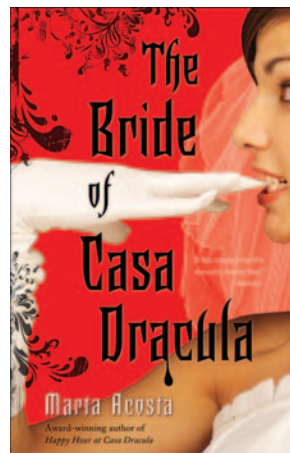
**L**ike many modern women, I find myself juggling family, friends, work and, in my case, my writing during the bulk of the year. Keeping all those balls in the air means that I sometimes don't get to indulge in one of my favorite

pastimes — reading. But come the summer, I always make time for that guilty pleasure and stack up a pile of books to devour. Since my forte is things dark and dangerous, I'm going to offer up to you a list of scary, sexy and sinful summer reads — all from Latino/a authors — that I hope will bring you lots of fun and thrills and even provide some thought-provoking ideas while you laze away a summer afternoon.

But first, I'd like to suggest the classics that have inspired authors of the paranormal for years: *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was first published in 1897. The melancholy tale of Count Dracula has spawned countless movies and novels, including the wildly successful *Twilight* series. Over a hundred years after the publication of *Dracula*, vampires are hotter and sexier than ever. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was written in response to a challenge issued by the famous Lord Byron. The then 18-year old Shelley created the novel which endures as a classic and has sparked endless discussions about whether Shelley had attempted to articulate a feminist position with her depiction of women's roles in *Frankenstein*.

Various editions of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein* are available online and in your local bookstores. If you have access to a computer and don't mind reading on your computer, try [www.pagebypagebooks.com](http://www.pagebypagebooks.com) for free reads of both these classics.

**Caridad Pineiro** is the *USA Today* and *New York Times* bestselling author of over twenty novels. Look for Caridad's *Honor Calls* and *Fury Calls*, from The Calling Vampire series. Also look for *Sins of the Flesh* in November 2009, the first novel in the new paranormal romantic series from Grand Central Publishing. For more information, visit [www.caridad.com](http://www.caridad.com).

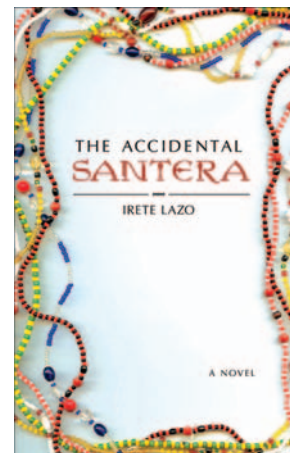


### The Bride of Casa Dracula

Featuring the continuing adventures of Milagro de los Santos, award-winning Marta Acosta's *Bride of Casa Dracula* is hip, sassy and sexy.

Follow the travails of Milagro as she

tries to deal with her fiancé's blood-crawling family, a career that is on the skids and a series of accidents that are threatening her upcoming wedding. (Available from Pocket Books for \$14.)



### The Accidental Santera

Author Irene Lazo brings us an intriguing look into a woman's attempt to bring together the many facets of her life. *The Accidental Santera* exposes the reader to

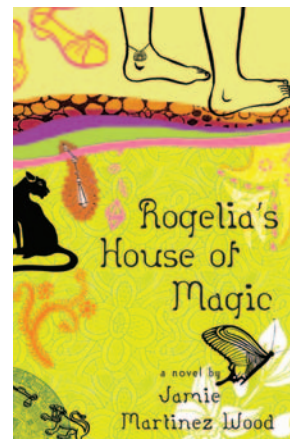
the world of Afro-Cuban Santería and brings new understanding to the practice through the eyes of a scientist who turns to the religion after personal traumas. (Available from Thomas Dunne Books for \$24.95.)



### Jailbait Zombie

For biting pushing-the-edge-kind-of-humor, sample Mario Acevedo's *Jailbait Zombie*, the fourth installment in the Feliz Gomez vampire detective series.

In this novel, Feliz Gomez is sent to investigate and stop an outbreak of zombies that is threatening to expose the undead world. (Available from Eos for \$14.99.)



### Rogelia's House of Magic

Rogelia's House of Magic by Jamie Martinez Wood is a young adult treasure about three very different teens who

come together to learn about friendship and magic with the assistance of a *curandera*. (The hardcover edition is available from Delacorte Books for Young Readers for \$15.99, or look for the paperback edition for \$8.99.)