



# Strangers in Our Own Land: Religion in U.S. Latina/o Literature

*Hector I Avalos*

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## **Strangers in Our Own Land: Religion in U.S. Latina/o Literature** Hector I Avalos

How does religious commitment and practice contribute to what it means to be Latino or Latina in the U.S.? The answers to that question usually come from historical or sociological study, yet what if one were to seek them in contemporary Latino/a fiction? In this groundbreaking work, Hector Avalos turns to the works of U.S. Latino/a authors of fiction to discover a vibrant, complex picture of the role that religion, from Catholicism to Pentecostalism to Santeria, plays in shaping and defining Latino/a identity. As Avalos explores new territory in the study of U.S. Latino/a religion, he examines portrayals of religious commitment and practice, analyzes the complexity of the religious lives of Latino/as, expanding beyond the traditional Roman Catholic/Protestant dichotomy, and assesses the positive and negative contributions of religious experience to the Latino/a community. This book will prepare readers to experience the richness and diversity of religion among U.S. Latino/as and understand its meaning more deeply.



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