



Prospero's Daughter: The Prose of Rosario Castellanos (Texas Pan American Series)

Joanna O'Connell

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A member of Mexico's privileged upper class, yet still subordinated because of her gender, Rosario Castellanos became one of Latin America's most influential feminist social critics. Joanna O'Connell here offers the first book-length study of all Castellanos' prose writings, focusing specifically on how Castellanos' experiences as a Mexican woman led her to an ethic of solidarity with the oppressed peoples of her home state of Chiapas.

O'Connell provides an original and detailed analysis of Castellanos' first venture into feminist cultural analysis in her essay *Sobre cultura feminina* (1950) and traces her moral and intellectual trajectory as feminist and social critic. An overview of Mexican indigenismo establishes the context for individual chapters on Castellanos' narratives of ethnic conflict (the novels *Balún Canán* and *Oficio de tinieblas* and the short stories of *Ciudad Real*). In further chapters O'Connell reads *Los convidados de agosto*, *Álbum de familia*, and Castellanos' four collections of essays as developments of her feminist social analysis.



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