



The Story of Colors/La Historia de los Colores: A Bilingual Folktale from the Jungles of Chiapas

Subcomandante Marcos , Domitila Domínguez (Illustrator) , Anne Bar Din (Translation)

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This wonderful folktale reveals some of the down-to-earth wisdom of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas. At the same time, it provides us with a fresh perspective on the struggles of the people there. They fight to conserve their culture and a vision of the world which they see as flowering with holiness—a holiness that cannot be measured in dollars or defined by politics.

The text for *La Historia de los Colores* is taken from the communiqué dated October 27, 1994 from Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos to the Mexican People. Originally published in Mexico with illustrations by Domitila Domínguez as *La Historia de los Colores* © 1996 by Colectivo Callejero, Guadalajara.

Who is Marcos?

Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos is the military strategist and spokesperson for the Zapatistas, an indigenous guerrilla movement in Mexico. It is his person, more than any other factor, that has pushed the Zapatista movement and the plight of the indigenous people in Mexico onto the international scene. Marcos continues to be the focus of media attention—in Mexico, in the States, and internationally, despite the Mexican government's attempts to discredit him.

On New Year's Day, 1994, Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos and the Zapatistas, wearing their trademark ski masks, erupted on the world scene by declaring war on the Mexican government and attacking military installations in San Cristóbal, Chiapas. Since that time, Marcos—because of his charm, intelligence and mystique—has become a post-modern revolutionary hero. In his communiqués to the Mexican people, he has often related folktales and stories that reflect the culture and wisdom of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas.

But no one seems to know who Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos is. The Mexican Government claims he is Rafael Guillen, but they're literalists. He says he's a Mexican like any other, born somewhere between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and between the northern and southern borders. He says he wears a ski mask because he is no longer whoever he was.

The Story of Colors/La Historia de los Colores: A Bilingual Folktale from the Jungles of Chiapas Details

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From Reader Review The Story of Colors/La Historia de los Colores: A Bilingual Folktale from the Jungles of Chiapas for online ebook

Linda says

Actually, I read this when I bought it years ago (and it always reminds me of Borders Westwood, where I was at the time, and the fellow revolutionary/book-lovin' people who knew I'd appreciate it...) but I just reread it because why not?

Kelly says

The illustrations are excellent, but the story is even better. An absolutely amazing creation story about colors. Although I wouldn't recommend it for small children as there are some mature topics mentioned, I think that older kids and adults would really enjoy it. I'll be adding it to my collection if I can :)

Milena says

Colorful, fun, amazing, playful, these are the ways in which Subcomandante Marcos narrates this amazing story about how gods found colors, and how colors were spread around the world. The story is very enriching for the symbolism, and it expresses a Mesoamerican indigenous point of view about the unimaginable diversity that exists in the world. The story invites to see the world as a multicultural whole in which each color can find its inner beauty and admire the beauty of other colors around. And then, be like a macaw, who flies embracing all the colors she was given. The book has vocabulary that some people might find "controversial" for a children's book, like making love for example. I would share this book with 5 year old children or older. There is a note about the translation at the end that I found very helpful since there are some phrases that can be considered grammatically incorrect; despite that, the storytelling is clear and rich because it reflects the way in which people from Chiapas use the Spanish language.

Mckinley says

Fighting, because the world is boring in only 2 colors, leads to more colors.

Lin Lin says

Latin American story of colors

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

Was not sure what to expect with this book...part of my 'trying to learn Spanish' shelf. It is a very touching story that both children and adults will like.

Crystal Crites says

A little dark for younger readers. This story was well written and comes to life through it's abstract art.

Gillian says

We need more children's books like this one.

Manderveen says

Cool book, but not very kid-friendly for a children's book. It kept talking about sex (not in detail of course).

cooks says

Etéreo y de ensueño.
Dream-like and ethereal.

Alejandra Castellanos-Mata says

Great story & great illustrations...but I don't think it's appropriate for children. The story is pretty dark, it deals with mature themes. Seems more suitable for teens.

Christy says

This folktale takes place in a mountainous jungle, where the gods are bored and angry. They decide to go looking for other colors to brighten the world for the people. This is the latin american tale that tells the story of how colors were born.

Gina Ruiz says

