



News from

Red Hen Press

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## Blood Daughters: A Romilia Chacón Novel

A Novel by

Marcos M. Villatoro

A child dies on the border between California and Mexico. This is nothing new: immigrants die crossing the border all the time, escaping from poverty and violence in Latin America. They bake in the desert. But this death is different. Someone has taken body parts from the child.

FBI Agent Romilia Chacón, a Salvadoran American, follows this case into a world that swallows her with its horror, a world that exists alongside ours, where children are bought and sold like cattle and shipped to men all across the country. The dealers in this blackest of markets have no moral barometer, only the lust for cash. And one among them has taken murder to a level beyond serial killing.

Romilia comes to this case already broken: the man she loved and yet had to hunt—drug runner Tekún Umán, a regular on the FBI's Most Wanted List—is gone. Romilia has two friends, her partner Nancy Pearl—who lives a double life between the Feds and the cartels—and a bottle of booze. Romilia's mother is on her back to get sober; her son drifts further away. And the killer is taking away pieces of Romilia's life, day by day.

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*Blood Daughters: A Romilia Chacón Novel*

A Novel by Marcos M. Villatoro

ISBN: 978-1-59709-426-9

5.5 x 8.5; Tradepaper

232 pages

Price: US \$18.95

Released: October 1, 2011

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Biographical note:

**Marcos M. Villatoro** is the author of nine books. He has won numerous prizes, including two Emmy Awards for his PBS Television essays. His first Romilia Chacón thriller was a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of 2001. Villatoro was born in San Francisco and raised in Tennessee. He has spent much of his life in Central America (in his other country, El Salvador). Villatoro is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and now holds the Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair of Writing at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. The Romilia Chacón books have been published in five languages: English, German, Russian, Portuguese, and Japanese.

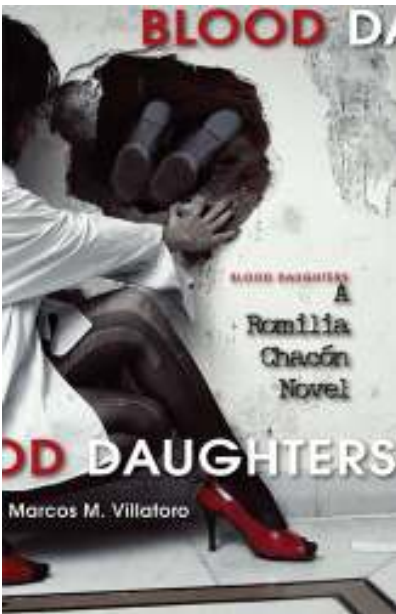
### Praise for *Blood Daughters*:

"In the past, Chacon has hunted down serial killers and dealt with deaths of persons close to her, but the sociopaths she's after here add a new dimension to depravity. The graphic but never gratuitous violence is offset by the palpable humanity of the key characters in this hard-hitting, skillfully wrought crime novel. Fans of the genre not familiar with Villatoro's too-little-known series are in for a treat."

—*Booklist* (Starred Review)

"*Blood Daughters* is entertaining and well-written, with a vivacious heroine at the helm and action that doesn't stop. Villatoro has created a truly original lawwoman in Romilia Chacón; let's hope she's around for many books to come. Discover: A thrilling heroine who makes this brutal mystery less a commentary on the child sex trade and more a look into one woman's relentless pursuit of justice"

—*Shelf Awareness*



“Sorrow runs deep through FBI agent Romilia Chacón. Not much surprises this Salvadoran American anymore; her career is taking its toll, and alcohol is her best friend... Add child pornography rings to the chilling pile of U.S.-Mexico border crimes... Villatoro is right in there with this gritty thriller.”

—*Library Journal*

“Romilia Chacon is one of the most compelling characters in contemporary crime fiction, and Marcos M. Villatoro has brought her to life again with all of his considerable talent and skill. Dashing, stylish and at times harrowing, *Blood Daughters* may be his best novel yet. Bravo, Villatoro!”

—T. Jefferson Parker, author of *The Border Lords* and *Iron River*

“*Blood Daughters* is complex, suspenseful, topical, and extremely well-told. I've been a fan of Marcos Villatoro's Romilia Chacon novels since the beginning. I hope like hell this book gets the attention it deserves.”

—C.J. Box, *NY Times* bestselling author of *Cold Wind* and *Back of Beyond*

**More Praise for the Romilia Chacón Novel:**

“A neat, Hitchcockian thriller... let's hope there are real FBI agents as brilliant as Romilia Chacón.”

—*Washington Post*

“Written with crisp, biting tension...Interesting morsels of Latino culture fit easily into the pages of this compelling, different West Coast mystery.”

—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“Romilia Chacón is smart, sexy (and how do you say ‘feisty’ in Spanish?)...Marcos Villatoro catches her voice and attitude so perfectly that we hope to read many more books about Chacón.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Villatoro’s lyrical writing style provides the perfect vehicle for describing his fascinatingly flawed Salvadoran protagonist...this is a compelling, character-driven novel in which Villatoro generates tremendous sympathy for his complex and very human heroine.”

—*Booklist*





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