

THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS

Gina María Balibrera



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Editor: Naomi Gibbs

Territory: North America

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Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK co-agent: Nicola Chang at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Hilary Zaitz Michael and Carolina Beltran at WME

Rights Sold:

UK: deadline for first offers 1/12

Category: literary historical debut

The very first project sold under the Trellis banner, and in a significant deal, this is a fierce and furious literary debut about two sisters raised in 1930s El Salvador under the thumb of a brutal dictator and their flight from genocide

THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS follows two sisters through and beyond La Matanza, the 1932 massacre that killed 30,000 citizens of El Salvador. Graciela is raised in the Izalco volcanos, dusty-kneed and bound closely to her friends, until a messenger from the Capital comes to claim her: at nine years old she has been selected to work as a rising dictator's oracle, a muse to help foresee the future of El Salvador. In the Capital, far from her mother and friends, she meets Consuelo, the sister she's never known. Consuelo is willful, talented and desirous, and the sisters are a small fortress within the dictator's regime. But they are no match for the cruelty of El Gran Pendejo—and in the aftermath of La Matanza they barely escape, each believing the other to be dead, fleeing to California, Paris, and beyond.

Narrated by a raucous, poignant, ferociously funny chorus of the dead, THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS carves out a new space beside Ingrid Rojas Contrera's *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* and Valeria Luiselli's *Lost Children Archive*, with nods to George Saunders' *Lincoln in the Bardo* in its ghostly narrative, and to the Popul Vuh, the sacred text of the Mayan creation mythologies.

Gina María Balibrera earned her MFA from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program. She received the Under the Volcano Sandra Cisneros Fellowship in 2020, and her work appears in *Boston Review*, *Pleiades*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*, among other places. An excerpt of THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS was selected by Leticia Hernández Linares, Rubén Martínez, and Héctor Tobar, to appear in *The Wandering Song*, an anthology of writing of the Central American diaspora.