

EL BAILE DE OCTAVO

Y OTROS RECUERDOS

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—Kirkus Reviews

Ada De Jesús

EL BAILE
DE
OCTAVO
Y OTROS RECUERDOS

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El baile de octavo y otros recuerdos

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ÍNDICE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| AGRADECIMIENTOS | v |
| SORPRESAS | 1 |
| HUGO | 2 |
| PASAJE DE IDA | 4 |
| ¡QUÉ FRIO! | 6 |
| NUESTRO APARTAMENTITO | 8 |
| NO MÁS JUEGOS | 10 |
| ¿COMO SE DICE ESO? | 12 |
| EL ALMUERZO | 14 |
| LA VENTANILLA | 15 |
| EL MÉDICO ESTÁ LISTO | 17 |
| PIERNAS DE HORROR | 18 |
| CARA DE PASTA | 19 |
| MAQUILLAJE | 20 |
| AQUÍ LOS MAESTROS NO MANDAN | 21 |
| QUIQUIRIQUÍ | 23 |
| EL <i>SHELTER</i> | 25 |

| | |
|--|----|
| EL DRAMA DE MARÍA Y JOSÉ | 27 |
| MEDIAS APESTOSAS | 29 |
| UN CHICO SIN HOGAR | 31 |
| A LOS REYES NO LES GUSTA EL FRÍO | 32 |
| NO HAY QUE REPETIR | 34 |
| ¿DÓNDE QUEDA VINELAND? | 36 |
| LAS MUDANZAS | 37 |
| MI ESCAPE | 39 |
| YA NO ERES BILINGÜE | 40 |
| EL FLIRTEO | 42 |
| EL CHUPETÓN | 44 |
| HALLOWEEN | 46 |
| ¡QUÉ EMPUJÓN! | 48 |
| DE ESTUDIANTE A MAESTRA | 49 |
| <i>CHEERLEADER</i> | 50 |
| EL CLUB DE BAILE LATINO | 52 |
| EL <i>LOCKER</i> | 54 |
| ¿POR FIN UN NOVIO? | 55 |
| ¡AY, QUÉ NOVIO! | 57 |
| UNA BODA TEMPRANA | 59 |
| EL BAILE DE OCTAVO | 61 |
| ¡ME SUBIERON LA FALDA! | 63 |
| TU AMIGA VA A SER MAMÁ | 65 |
| LA GRADUACIÓN DE OCTAVO | 67 |
| NO HAY PARA FIESTA DE QUINCE | 68 |
| PARA CERRAR | 70 |



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Doy gracias a Dios y los caminos de su palabra. Doy gracias a mis padres, Irma y Dennis, porque en momentos difíciles tomaron un paso ciego creyendo que sería para bien. Fueron valientes.

Agradezco a mis hermanos, Richard y Obie, por acompañarme en los momentos entre estos capítulos. A mi esposo, Julio, por su apoyo y comprensión: eres mi mejor sorpresa. Y a mis princesas, Lili y Julie: espero poder brindarles mil sorpresas bellas, ya que son mi inspiración y la luz de mis ojos.

Las fotos incluidas en este libro representan algunas de las anécdotas de mis años de escuela intermedia. Hace unos años hubo un incendio en la casa de mi mamá y lamentablemente perdimos muchas fotos que documentaban los primeros años de mi familia en los Estados Unidos.

Le dedico este libro a mi madre, Irma Burgos. Ahora que soy madre de dos hijas entiendo tanto y a ella le quiero decir: "Eres más fuerte de lo que piensas, te amo".



SORPRESAS

Esos años de la escuela intermedia a la preparatoria, de 11 en adelante, son los más difíciles para todas las personas. Sin ninguna ayuda, este tiempo moldea a un joven, sobre todo cuando tienen momentos vergonzosos. Para complicar mi situación personal, en el transcurso de esos años surgieron muchas mudanzas. Creo que mi vida hubiese sido más difícil si hubiese pasado esos años en un solo lugar. El estar ambulante me otorgó el lujo de no pensar siempre en lo pardo de las situaciones. De lugar en lugar, como en bicicleta, si uno sigue pedaleando, pues no se cae tanto, como decía Albert Einstein. Pienso que cada mudanza, cada apartamento, cada comienzo nuevo brindó la oportunidad de superar cada desventura. Si me hubiese quedado en el caserío de Aibonito, Puerto Rico, no habría aprendido tan pronto cómo defenderme. Esa nueva vida que emprendimos en los Estados Unidos, primero en el medio oeste y luego en la costa este, estuvo repleta de sorpresas.

THE EIGHTH- GRADE DANCE

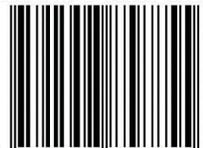
AND OTHER MEMORIES

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English translation by Nicolás Kanellos



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | v |
| SURPRISES | 1 |
| HUGO | 2 |
| ONE-WAY TICKET | 4 |
| OH, THE COLD! | 6 |
| OUR LITTLE APARTMENT | 8 |
| NO TIME FOR PLAY | 10 |
| HOW DO YOU SAY . . . ? | 12 |
| LUNCH TIME | 14 |
| THAT LITTLE WINDOW | 15 |
| THE DOCTOR IS READY | 17 |
| MONSTER LEGS | 18 |
| PASTY FACE | 19 |
| MAKE-UP | 20 |
| TEACHERS ARE NOT IN CHARGE HERE | 21 |
| COCK-A-DOODLE-DO | 23 |
| THE HOMELESS SHELTER | 25 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| CURSE WORDS | 27 |
| STINKY SOCKS | 29 |
| THE HOMELESS BOY | 31 |
| THE MAGI DON'T LIKE THE COLD | 32 |
| DON'T GET LEFT BACK | 34 |
| WHERE THE HECK IS VINELAND? | 36 |
| ON THE MOVE | 37 |
| MY ESCAPE | 39 |
| YOU'RE NOT BILINGUAL ANYMORE | 40 |
| THE CRUSH | 42 |
| THE HICKEY | 44 |
| HALLOWEEN | 46 |
| A PUSH FROM BEHIND | 48 |
| FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER | 49 |
| THE CHEERLEADER..... | 50 |
| THE LATIN DANCE CLUB | 52 |
| THE LOCKER | 54 |
| MAYBE A BOYFRIEND? | 55 |
| SOME KIND OF BOYFRIEND! | 57 |
| A PREMATURE WEDDING | 59 |
| THE EIGHTH-GRADE DANCE | 61 |
| SKIRTS UP! | 63 |
| BABY MOMMA | 65 |
| EIGHTH-GRADE GRADUATION | 66 |
| NO QUINCEAÑERA | 67 |
| IN CLOSING | 69 |



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I thank my brothers, Richard and Obie, for accompanying me at times during these chapters; my husband, Julio, for his support and understanding: you're my best surprise. And I'm grateful to my daughters, Lili and Julie: I hope to give you beautiful surprises, since you are the inspiration and the light in my eyes.

The photos included in the book depict anecdotes from my middle school years. Unfortunately when my mother's house caught fire a few years ago, we lost many of the photos that documented my family's first years in the United States.

I dedicate this book to my mother, Irma Burgos. Now that I am a mother to two daughters I understand so much and I want to tell her: "You are stronger than you know, I love you."



SURPRISES

Those middle to high school years from the age of 11 on are the most difficult for people. Without any guidance, these years mold a young person, especially during embarrassing episodes. What complicated my situation during those years was that we moved around a lot. But I think my life would have been even more difficult if I had to spend it in only one place. Being on the move, I had the luxury of not thinking so much about my unfortunate circumstances. From one place to another, like riding a bike, if you keep pedaling, you won't fall, just like Albert Einstein would say. I think that each move, each apartment, each new beginning gave me the opportunity to overcome the mishaps. If I had stayed in our little cottage in Aibonito, Puerto Rico, I wouldn't have learned so fast how to defend myself. Our new life in the United States, first in the Midwest then on the East Coast, was full of surprises.