TIP SHEET

Title: *The Case of the Pen Gone Missing / El caso de la pluma perdida*

Series: A Mickey Rangel Mystery / Colección Mickey Rangel, detective privado

Author: René Saldaña, Jr.

Publication Date: May 31, 2009 **Pages:** 96 **Price:** $9.95 **Imprint:** Piñata Books

Trim: 5.5" x 8.5" **Format:** Trade Paperback **Ages:** 8-12 **ISBN:** 978-1-55885-555-7

When Toots Rodríguez approaches Mickey on the playground, he knows something is up. Toots, the prettiest girl in the fifth grade, *never* talks to Mickey, not even when they're assigned to work together on a class project. But Toots has come to Mickey because she's in trouble, and he's a detective. The real deal. He has a badge and a certificate after completing an online course two years ago.

"You have to believe me, Mickey. I didn't take that pen. I didn't." When Toots shines her big green eyes on him and insists repeatedly that she's innocent, Mickey's intuition tells him to run fast—in the opposite direction. But he's a sucker for a pretty girl, so he takes on the case of the missing pen.

Rumor has it that Toots stole Eddy's pen. It's not just any old pen; it's his dad's pen. It has the White House logo on it. Eddy's father, a senator from South Texas, got the pen from the President of the United States when he visited the White House last year. As Mickey begins his investigation, though, all the clues point to Toots and her newly ex-boyfriend as the primary suspects.

The first book in The Mickey Rangel Mystery series for intermediate readers, author and educator René Saldaña, Jr. has crafted another appealing book for kids, and his wise-cracking, smart protagonist will appeal to even the most reluctant readers.

GENRE: Multicultural and bilingual books for intermediate/juvenile readers

SELLING HANDLES:

- The first novel in the bilingual Mickey Rangel Mystery / Colección Mickey Rangel, detective privado series (six books)
- An entertaining bilingual novel for intermediate/juvenile readers
- Features a smart, Latino protagonist as the young sleuth

AUTHOR CREDENTIALS:

RENÉ SALDAÑA, JR. is the author of *The Whole Sky Full of Stars* (Random House, 2007), *The Jumping Tree* (Delacorte, 2001), and *Finding Our Way: Stories* (Random House, 2003). He lives in Lubbock, Texas, where he teaches in the College of Education at Texas Tech University.

PRAISE FOR THE MICKEY RANGEL MYSTERY SERIES:

"Accompanied by an excellent Spanish translation, this title is a good introduction to the hardships of immigration for young children, with the trappings of school mystery. Kids will enjoy this solid addition. Recommended, especially for public libraries with bilingual collections."

—*School Library Journal* on *A Mystery Bigger than Big / Un misterio más grande que grandísimo*

"Mickey is a great kid private eye in the tradition of Encyclopedia Brown and the Three Investigators. Saldaña cleverly inserts some lessons about spelling and grammar into the fast-moving plot, which revolves around the fact that the graffiti-writer can't spell. This is ideal for reluctant readers."

—*School Library Journal* on *The Mystery of the Mischievous Marker / El misterio del malvado marcador*

"The brief, fast-moving mystery appears first in English, then Spanish, in Villarroel's translation. His prose is peppy, and his mystery, while quickly solved, hammers home a solid grammar lesson as a bonus. Though he's no teacher's pet, Mickey's smarts make him a welcome protagonist."

—*Kirkus Reviews* on *The Mystery of the Mischievous Marker / El misterio del malvado marcador*

"Important lessons are learned in this timely tale that will engage curious readers and spark important conversations. Short chapters make this book ideal for reluctant readers and a strong addition to any intermediate collection."

—*School Library Journal* on *The Curse of the Bully's Wrath / La maldición de la ira del abusón*

"A solid resource for younger kids to learn about how best to tackle a bully and how to find your voice and speak up for not only yourself, but those around you."

—*Kirkus Reviews* on *The Curse of the Bully's Wrath / La maldición de la ira del abusón*

"This entertaining bilingual chapter book that will engage readers and draw them into the mystery."

—*School Library Journal* on *The Lemon Tree Caper / La intriga del limonero*

"This brisk novella in English and Spanish offers two nifty whodunits for young mystery lovers."

—*Kirkus Reviews* on *The Lemon Tree Caper / La intriga del limonero*

"Lively and entertaining narrative coupled with attractive illustrations will make this book a favorite among young mystery readers."

—*Críticas* on *The Case of the Pen Gone Missing / El caso de la pluma perdida*

"This bilingual chapter-book edition, the first in a series of Mickey Rangel Mysteries, will engage intermediate readers in both languages, English and Spanish, and offers multiple possibilities for school projects, group discussions and read-aloud sessions. Villarroel's well-crafted translation into Spanish maintains the suspense and humor of the original English version, narrated by Mickey in fine, hard-boiled style. Mora's illustrations add a refreshing touch, effectively breaking up the text in this appealing introduction."

—*Kirkus Reviews* on *The Case of the Pen Gone Missing / El caso de la pluma perdida*