

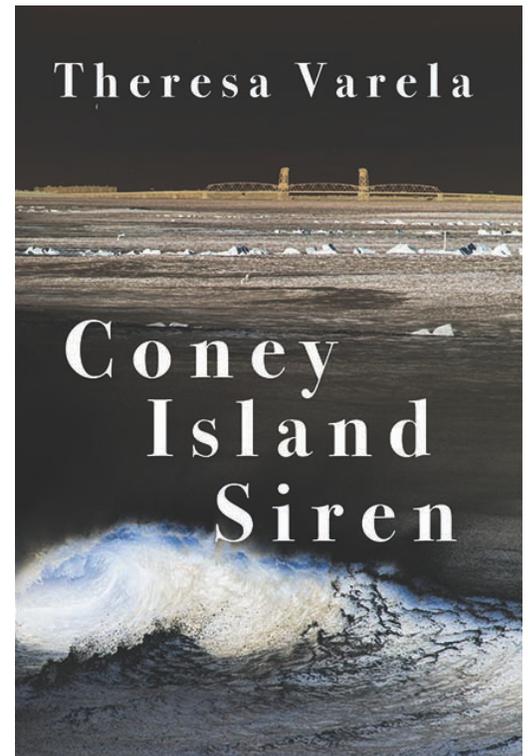


Coney Island Siren
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TheresaVarela.com

Marketing includes author appearances, book signings, workshops, as well as print, radio, and TV interviews.



Award-winning Puerto Rican author Theresa Varela was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is the recipient of International Latino Book Awards for *Coney Island Siren* (2020, Honorable Mention), *Covering the Sun with My Hand* (2015), *Nights of Indigo Blue: A Daisy Muñiz Mystery* (2016), and *Graciella la Gitana Oracle/Oráculo de Graciella la Gitana* (2019). Dr. Varela holds a PhD in Nursing Research and Theory Development and currently works with the mentally ill homeless population in New York City. She is a member of *Las Comadres Para las Americas*. She is co-founder of *La Pluma y La Tinta*. Her blog, *LatinaLibations on Writing and All Things of the Spirit*, can be found at TheresaVarela.com

“Varela’s portrayal of Maggie’s ordeal is a tour de force in its depiction of a battered woman struggling to recover her mind and soul.”
 ~ Kirkus Reviews

Call it coincidence or call it fate when Maggie Fuentes, rummaging through a Coney Island flea market, stumbles upon a handwritten diary whose author, a young girl of the nineteenth century named Ellen, reveals dreadful secrets that parallel Maggie’s own. In her daily life at the hospital, where she works as a nurse, Maggie is faced with two women who are unable to voice their desires for life—Amy Landry, a young woman who, in an attempt at suicide, becomes reliant on Maggie for life, and, in return, Maggie realizes her dependency on Amy’s living and surviving; and Sonya Harris, the victim of a carjacking who had no choice in her quest for life. Dulce, Maggie’s best friend, pleads upon deaf ears while Maggie sinks deep into the sinister maelstrom of her lover, Police Officer Frank Ramirez, until the stark urgency of lines written by Ellen, a kindred spirit, compel Maggie to confront reality. Far removed from each other in time but bonded by the white-capped ocean, amusement park locale, and converging torments, it seems particularly apt that the sleight-of-hand landscape of luck and chance provides the setting for Maggie’s harrowing and hypnotic encounter with turmoil, then kismet, and, ultimately, clarity and reawakening.

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