



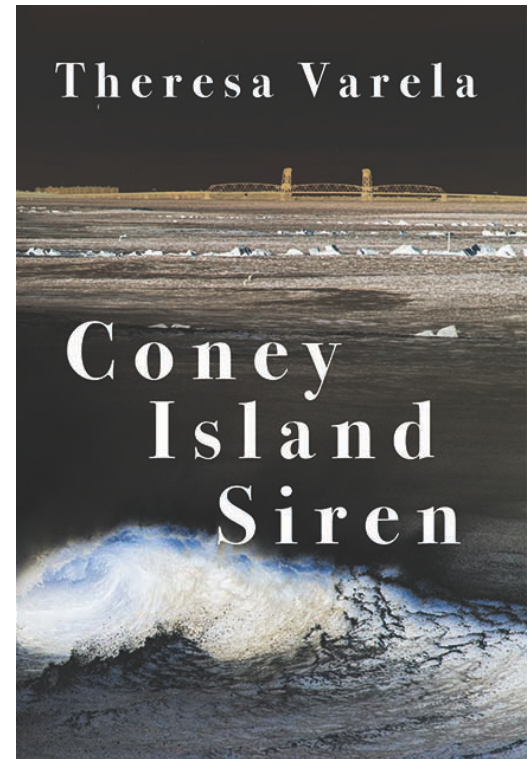
Award-winning Puerto Rican author Theresa Varela was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is the recipient of multiple International Latino Book Awards (ILBA): Coney Island Siren (2020), Nights of Indigo Blue: A Daisy Muñiz Mystery (2016) and Covering the Sun with My Hand (2015). She holds a PhD in Nursing Research and Theory Development and has worked more than twenty-five years in the mental health field in New York City blending spirituality with culture for healing. Theresa Varela's relationships with her spirit guides have led her into the creation of the Graciella la Gitana Oracle (2019 ILBA recipient), illustrated by her daughter, Mara Alicia Cordova. The oracle offers spiritual direction on a path of compassion and love in English and Spanish. Theresa is a board member of Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts (PRIDA), a member of Las Comadres Para las Americas, and Sisters In Crime.

Coney Island Siren
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TheresaVarela.com

Author is available for speaking engagements, book signings, book clubs, as well as print and virtual interviews.



“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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