



**Answered by Silence:**  
**a collection of poems**  
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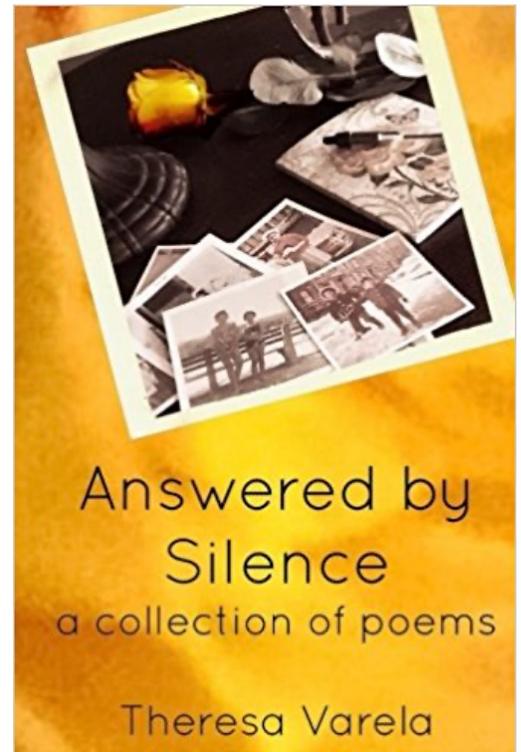
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Autographed copies available at  
[TheresaVarela.com](http://TheresaVarela.com)

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



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, Honorable Mention), *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 currently works with the mentally ill homeless population in New York City. 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.

*These poems share the intimate tale of childhood grief and loss.*

This collection of poems is gathered from the heart of the author's child-self. It tells the story of her experience of the illness and ultimate loss of her older sister and breaks the silence that is often coupled with childhood grief. These verses are offered in plain, stark language that resonates with readers of all ages and are the elixir for a powerful alchemical process of collective healing. The illustrations are reminiscent of images that were significant in the author's childhood, and the pictures demonstrate the abundant love and happiness experienced during her early formative life.

***Pink Skirt***

*First day of summer camp  
 Wearing my pink skirt of  
 Polyester fabric  
 Psychedelic lines and circles  
 Black, yellow, green, hot pink  
 Made especially for me  
 Feeling like a hand full of thumbs*