



*Alyssa Reynoso-Morris*

**STORYTELLER**

CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR  
& SPEAKER

SPEAKER DECK

[www.AlyssaAuthor.com](http://www.AlyssaAuthor.com)

# Hi! Hola! I'm Alyssa!

CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR & SPEAKER

My name is Alyssa Reynoso-Morris and I'm an award-winning storyteller. I am an experienced multicultural and bilingual storyteller, author, and speaker. I am a traditionally published children's book author, professional resume writer, and speaker with 10 years of experience. I work with you to tell compelling stories that inspire readers and deliver professional game-changing careers.



Learn more about me and contact me at

**[www.AlyssaAuthor.com](http://www.AlyssaAuthor.com)**

Find me on social media at @AReynosoMorris



**SHORT BIO** - Alyssa Reynoso-Morris is a queer Afro-Latinx/e Dominican and Puerto Rican storyteller. She wears many hats - author, mother, motivational speaker, resume writer, and community organizer. Alyssa was born and raised in The Bronx, New York, and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA with her partner and daughter. During the day she works with community members, non-profit organizations, and government officials making the world a better place. Then she puts her writer's hat on to craft heartfelt stories about home, family, food, and the fun places she has been. She hopes you enjoy her stories. Learn more at [www.AlyssaAuthor.com](http://www.AlyssaAuthor.com)

**LONG BIO** - Alyssa Reynoso-Morris is a queer Afro-Latinx/e Dominican and Puerto Rican storyteller. Her ability to weave compelling stories has opened many doors for her as an author, motivational speaker, and resume writer. She is also a mother and community organizer. During the day she works with community members, non-profit organizations, and government officials to make the world a better place.

Then she puts her writer's hat on to craft heartfelt stories about home, family, food, and the fun places she has been. Alyssa was born and raised in The Bronx, New York, and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA with her partner and daughter.

Alyssa served her community as the Chief of Staff for her local State Representative. Together they worked to bring funds to the district, pass legislation, and organize events to ensure constituents' needs are met.

Prior to this, Alyssa interned for Parvati Swayamrojgaar, a microfinance organization working to break the poverty cycle in the slums of India, taught English at an orphanage in Tanzania, and facilitated the establishment of the Women's Witness Protection Program for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

She also assembled a team of 70 volunteers that worked to build an aquaponic unit (a system that grows fish and crops without waste) and a water purification system in an under-resourced community in the Dominican Republic. Her team fundraised, wrote grants, and developed lesson plans focused on sustainable development. As for her writing journey, she was awarded a Yuyi Morales Diversity and More Merit Scholarship in 2020 for the Craft and Business of Writing Children's Picture Books course offered through the Children's Book Academy. She earned a Las Musas Mentorship and an Editor-Writer Mentorship from The Word for picture books in 2020. She was also selected as a mentee through the PB Chat Mentorship program but withdrew due to being offered representation.

Alyssa's amazing agent is the talented Kaitlyn Leann Sanchez at Context Literary Agency. Alyssa is also an active member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

Alyssa is honored to be a Musa with LAS MUSAS BOOKS. Their mission is to spotlight the contribution of Las Musas in the evolving canon of children's literature and celebrate the diversity of voice, experience, and power in our communities. Las Musas Books shares resources and invaluable information about the publishing industry through its website, podcast, and webinar series. They also offer a mentorship program that I was a part of; I'm excited to pay it forward and mentor a future Hermana.

Alyssa is also a member of KidLit In Color, which is a group of traditionally published BIPOC creatives. We nurture one another, amplify diverse voices, and advocate for equitable representation in the industry. Our work includes picture books, chapter books, and middle-grade fiction and nonfiction.

She hopes you enjoy her stories. Learn more at [www.AlyssaAuthor.com](http://www.AlyssaAuthor.com)

## MY BOOKS!!! MIS LIBROS!!!



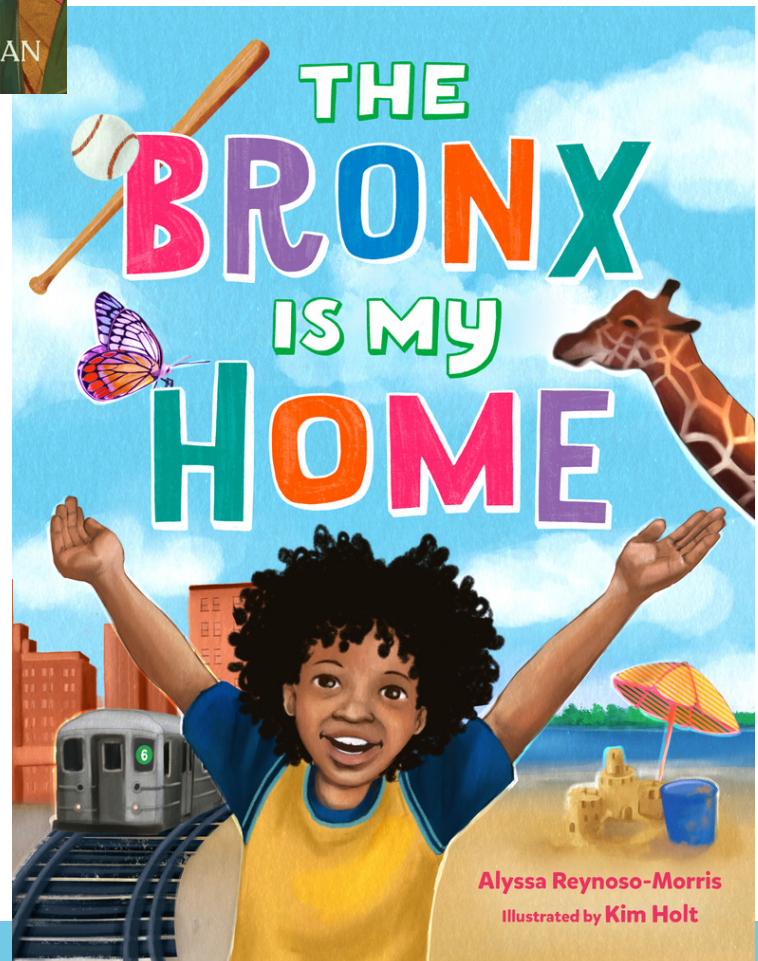
A delicious picture book about the ways plantains shape Latinx culture, community, and family, told through a young girl's experiences in the kitchen with her abuela.

*Abuela says, "plátanos are love."  
I thought they were food.  
But Abuela says they feed us in more ways than one.*

With every pop of the tostones, mash of the mangú, and sizzle of the maduros, a little girl learns that plátanos are her history, they are her culture, and—most importantly—they are love.

**Welcome to The Bronx, New York! A picture book celebration of hometown pride including the history, landscape, cuisines, cultures, and activities unique to this vibrant community.**

There's only one place where you can see bodegas and businesses bustling on every street, taste the most delicious empanadas in the world, smell the salty sea air of Pelham Bay, and pet horses at the Bronx Equestrian Center. From sunrise to sunset, Santiago and Mami have many treasures to enjoy in their neighborhood on a beautiful Saturday, including colorful birds on the Siwanoy Trail and fresh cannolis on Arthur Avenue.



Learn more about and contact me at

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## MY BOOKS!!! MIS LIBROS!!!



### Product Details

- Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers under Simon & Schuster
- Publication Date: April 11, 2023
- Length: 40 pages
- ISBN13: 9781665902731
- Grades: P - 3
- Ages: 4 - 8
- Available at your local independent bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, and Books-A-Million

### Product Details

- Publisher: Christy Ottaviano Books is a boutique imprint of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, part of the Hachette Book Group
- Publication Date: October 24, 2023
- Length: 40 pages
- ISBN13: 9780316397735
- Grades: P - 3
- Ages: 4 - 8
- Available at your local independent bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, and Books-A-Million



Learn more about and contact me at

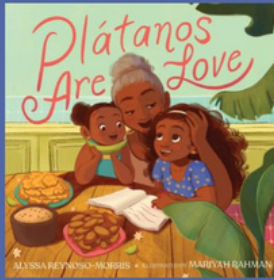
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# PRAISE FOR PLÁTANOS ARE LOVE



KIRKUS  
REVIEWS

Review



KIRKUS REVIEWS

An ode to a beloved comfort food is also a love letter to family ties... When Abuela reminds Esme that plátanos are love, the young narrator muses, "I thought they were food. But Abuela says they feed us in more ways than one." ... Esme helps Abuela prepare several mouthwatering plátano dishes and hears more of their family history as they cook... The tasty dishes of tostones, maduros, and mangú are prepared with love and shared with friends and family... Text that incorporates unitalicized Spanish throughout and warm and inviting illustrations convey affection for both food and family and will leave readers hungry for plátanos. Characters throughout the book read as Afro-Latine. A cozy story for the stomach and the soul.

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This book has everything I love. A lyrical intergenerational tale of food, familia, community, and connection. Reading it feels like home. The warm and luminous illustrations compliment Reynoso-Morris's rhythmic and seamless bilingual text. Plátanos ARE love. And if you don't know... now you know. :)

**-Anika Aldamuy Denise, Award-Winning Author**

I adored this beautiful, sweet story from Alyssa Reynoso-Morris and Mariyah Rahman. I loved the intergenerational story and the connection Esme shares with her Abuela. Food is at the center of many Latine families, and for us, plátanos are a connection to our past/ancestors and our present. I love how this book explores this in such a tender way. Kids (and their adults!) will love PLÁTANOS ARE LOVE, and it will be a wonderful addition to libraries everywhere.

**-Alexandra Alessandri, Award-Winning Author**



Review



PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Cooking plantains with Abuela, young Esme grows to appreciate her family lineage in this intergenerationally focused first-person tale, a double author and illustrator debut that incorporates English and Spanish throughout. Shopping at the market, Esme learns from Abuela that plátanos are more than just food: "They feed us in/ more ways than one."... And Esme transcribes Abuela's recipes in a notebook while watching her grandmother cook various dishes with the ingredient, learning that their forbears weren't allowed to read, write, or draw. Rahman's digital illustrations use bright, warm colors for contemporary spreads and desaturated greens and browns to delineate scenes occurring in the past, contributing to a thoughtful story of legacy."

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## AUTHOR VISITS AT SCHOOLS & NONPROFITS

- ✓ **Read Aloud, Q&A, Readers' Theater, and Book Signing:** Interactive read-aloud, a Q&A session, and opportunities for students to act out story scenes for K-5
- ✓ **Read Aloud, Q&A, Missing Page Activity, and Book Signing:** Interactive read-aloud, a Q&A session, and creative writing activity during which students produce an additional "missing" page of the story for K-5
- ✓ **Read Aloud, Q&A, Discussion About Story Ideas, and Book Signing:** Interactive read-aloud, a Q&A session, I will introduce students to fun strategies authors use to find and develop story ideas for K-5



AS SEEN IN

ARCADIA  
UNIVERSITY

Latinx KidLit  
Book Festival

BROOKLYN  
CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM

Fairleigh  
Dickinson  
University

## “ Client Testimonials ”

AMAZING! She was great with the kids being so young and asking them age-appropriate questions. She kept the presentation at a length that works well for how young they are. We appreciate Alyssa coming and doing such a great job!

- Heather Yost (She/Her), Early Literacy Programming Specialist at the Enoch Pratt Free Library

10/10. Alyssa was very involved. Posted, reposted. Shared. She really is a model of what I want to see in ALL authors especially, debut authors! — Kalima DeSuze, Owner of Cafe Con Libros

You were wonderful. Thank you so much for spending the morning at Bird! We'd love to have you back for your next books! — Liz Hazen, Manager of Bird in Hand



## SIGNATURE SPEAKING TOPICS

- ✓ Read-aloud, Q&A Session, & Book Signing **OR** Fireside Chat, Q&A, and Signing
- ✓ From Underserved ELL to Published Author: How To Get Published
- ✓ Why Diverse Representation is Important and Needed?
- ✓ Writing to Reconnect To Your Roots & Build Confidence

AS SEEN IN

Hip Latina

WE ALL GROW  
LATINA

Motherly

DOMINICAN  
WRITERS  
ASSOCIATION

## “ Client Testimonials ”

I must start by saying WOW!!!! Our faculty and students...all have been raving about your time here at AFS. You had all of the classes engaged, and spoke honestly. I so enjoyed working with you in the planning and the time spent together on campus. Your energy, optimism and passion for your work was wonderful and inspiring. We would love to have you back any time! - **Sloane Waldman (She/Her/Hers), Director of Parent Engagement and Special Events at Abington Friends School**

The Story of Self Training I attended led by Alyssa was a powerful experience for me as an instructor, scholar-activist, and educational trainer. I went in order to strengthen my storytelling and ability to move others to action on issues I care about deeply. I received that and more. Alyssa has coached me as I further develop my story and I am absolutely on fire! — **Rochelle Peterson-Ansari, CEO of Perceptions Unlimited and Adjunct Professor of Education at Arcadia University**



# SIGNATURE WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

## ✓ Read-aloud, Q&A Session, and Book Signing OR a Fireside Chat

Do you have a story to tell but are not sure where to start? Have you ever wanted to meet an author that can share insights into the publishing industry? Join a bestselling author for an interactive read-aloud, a Q&A session, and a book signing. Attendees will leave understanding:

- Overview of an author's publishing journey, where authors find inspiration, pros & cons of self & traditional publishing, how to get representation from a literary agent, what makes a good query letter, how to submit to editors, and resources to share your story and/or get published.
- Explore the themes covered in my books including love, the importance of family, ways we demonstrate pride in our culture, and the resistance of ancestors.

## ✓ From Underserved ELL to Published Author: How To Get Published

Have you ever wanted to write a book or learn more about publishing? Me too, but I attended an underserved school in the Bronx without the proper English Language Learning (ELL) resources. I did not learn to read until I was in 4th grade. I was not supposed to be an author. Join me for a presentation about the lessons I learned on my journey to becoming an author of multiple books. Attendees will leave understanding:

- What are the various paths to publication? Pros and Cons of those paths?
- Why you might need an agent? What is an agent's role? How do you find an agent and get representation? What is a query letter? How to put together a good query packet?
- What is an editor's role? How do you get an editor's attention? And more.

## ✓ Why Diverse Representation is Important and Needed?

Have you felt like you don't belong? Are you the only person in a room that looks like you? As a Queer Black Latine individual, I often felt the need to assimilate or code-switch to get ahead. Let's discuss WHY representation matters and is needed. Attendees will leave understanding:

- Discussion about the lack of diversity in literature and why representation matters
- How my success in publishing and speaking happened after I leaned into my intersectional identity, culture, and experiences.
- How to show up in spaces authentically after you tap into your unique story.

## ✓ Writing to Reconnect To Your Roots & Build Confidence

Are you struggling to reconnect with your roots? Do you need a confidence boost? Writing helped me reconnect to my roots and build my confidence, while I was struggling with generational depression. Attendees will leave understanding:

- How writing can help you heal and process trauma or difficult experiences?
- How writing can help you reconnect with your roots and take pride in them?
- Why improving your self-confidence is important and how writing can help you improve how you see yourself?

# Speaking Engagement Links

Alyssa has delivered keynote speeches, facilitated workshops, moderated panels, and participated as a panelist. The following images are links to some of Alyssa's speaking engagements:



FROM MANUSCRIPT TO MARKETPLACE: 3 Publishing Journeys in KidLit from Picture Book, Middle Grade, & Young Adult Authors



We Are All Cuentistas: The Power of Storytelling with Newbery and Pura Belpré Award Winning Author Donna Barba Higuera



Las Musas Podcast - Talking lessons, challenges, and tips for your debut year as an author

# Awards

Young Distinguished Arcadia Alumni (2022), Arcadia University

Young Dominican Professional (2022), Dominicanos in the Delaware Valley

Al Dia 40 Under 40 (2021), Al Dia - Learn more here.

Dominican Citizen of the Year (2017), Festival Y Parada Dominicana Philadelphia

Las Musas Mentorship (2020), Las Musas

The Word Mentorship (2020), The Word: A Storytelling Sanctuary

PB Chat Mentorship (2020), Picture Book Chat

30 under 30 Feature (2014), Femme and Fortune

2nd Place Viewers Choice Award (2014), Philly do-Gooder Video Contest

# Media & Press

Alyssa's work and love for her community has been highlighted and celebrated in the media. The following images are links to the media feature:



2021 40 Under 40 Honoree:  
Alyssa Reynoso-Morris



Lecture By Alyssa Reynoso-Morris Addresses Sustainability



MOTHERLY

21 exciting kids books coming out in 2023 to look forward to



Alyssa Reynoso-Morris on Her Debut Picture Book, 'Plátanos Are Love,' and the Power of Storytelling



Some Kidlit Debuts To Keep An Eye Out For in 2023



Debut You 2023: Alyssa Reynoso-Morris: Plátanos Are Love



Cover Reveal for The Bronx is My Home



"a thoughtful story of legacy"



20 Books From Latine Authors to Keep an Eye Out for in 2023



"A cozy story for the stomach and the soul."



Alyssa Reynoso-Morris Talks 'Plátanos Are Love' and BIPOC Representation in Publishing



14 Caribbean Picture Books Out in 2023  
Social Justice Books: A Teaching For Change Project

## INTERVIEW TOPICS

- ✓ From the Bronx, Raised by a Single-Mom, to Publication
- ✓ Writing As Therapy and for Healing - How writing has helped me cope with my depression and anxiety.
- ✓ Impact Through Collaboration - How Cultivating A Supportive Community Has Been at the Core of my Success
- ✓ How Writing The Missing Stories and from a Place of LOVE Has Been My Key To Success In Publishing
- ✓ The Value Of Mentorship
- ✓ How Finding Balance Is A Daily Challenge - Being an Entrepreneur, Author, Speaker, Community Organizer, Mom, and Wife Is a Lot, But I Wouldn't Want It Any Other Way
- ✓ Latine/x Representation in Books - Why Latine/x/o/a representation is so important and needed and how I'm working for equity in publishing
- ✓ What Being Afro-Latinx Means To Me - How living in the intersections has been a blessing and the challenges I needed to overcome along the way.

AS SEEN IN

KIRKUS  
REVIEWS





## WHO I WORK WITH?

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- PreK to 3rd grade
- Middle Schools and High Schools
- Universities
- Libraries
- Non-Profit Organizations
- For-profit Organizations
- News Media
- Radio Hosts
- Podcasters
- Bloggers



**YOU!!!**



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267-776-2682



### GET IN TOUCH

I look forward to connecting and working together. I am available for author visits, radio, podcast, print, and broadcast interviews in both English & Spanish.

With Gratitude,

*Alyssa*