

# BORICUAS

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INFLUENTIAL  
PUERTO RICAN WRITINGS—  
AN ANTHOLOGY

EDITED BY  
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## AURORA LEVINS MORALES

### Child of the Americas

*GETTING HOME ALIVE* BY AURORA LEVINS MORALES  
AND ROSARIO MORALES

I am a child of the Americas,  
a light-skinned mestiza of the Caribbean,  
a child of many diaspora, born into this continent at a crossroads.

I am a U.S. Puerto Rican Jew,  
a product of the ghettos of New York I have never known.  
An immigrant and the daughter and granddaughter of immigrants.  
I speak English with passion: it's the tongue of my consciousness,  
a flashing knife blade of crystal, my tool, my craft.

I am Caribeña, island grown. Spanish is in my flesh,  
ripples from my tongue, lodges in my hips:  
the language of garlic and mangoes,  
the singing in my poetry, the flying gestures of my hands.  
I am of Latinoamerica, rooted in the history of my continent:  
I speak from that body.

I am not african. Africa is in me, but I cannot return.  
I am not taína. Taíno is in me, but there is no way back.  
I am not european. Europe lives in me, but I have no home there.

I am new. History made me. My first language was spanglish.  
I was born at the crossroads  
and I am whole.