

My Spanish Mother

JUDITH DOYLE

MANY YEARS AGO, I was very moved when Claribel announced to me that she was my Spanish Mother, which she has been for quite a while now—something I greatly value. One thing about Claribel is that she has been a mother, and an inspiration, to a great many writers, students, teachers, and activists in countries around the world.

At Curbstone Press, Sandy Taylor and I are extremely grateful for Claribel's many years of commitment to Curbstone. She has certainly had opportunities to go to a large commercial publisher, and many people are surprised that she has stayed with our small, nonprofit press. We still remember and chuckle over a phone call we got from her following a conversation she had with Carlos Fuentes. He suggested that it was time for him to bring her to his publisher in New York City, to which she replied, "No, I like my publishers, and I want to stay with them"—and then she called to tell us about it.

Claribel has also introduced us to many Central American writers, which led to Curbstone's developing a terrific list of books by writers from that region, such as Nicaraguan poet Daisy Zamora.

We have also loved watching her with the many students she has inspired and enthralled when we have been able to bring her to Connecticut for our Living Literature in the Schools program. One Latina high school student put it very simply: "I can't believe I just met a living legend."

Claribel, mil gracias for your wonderful writing, your activism, your great curiosity about our world and peoples, and for your big heart. We all are nurtured by you.

Willimantic, Connecticut

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