

## Extended bio for Diana López

Diana López is the author of the adult novella, *Sofia's Saints*, and of middle grade books *Confetti Girl*, *Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel*, *Nothing Up My Sleeve*, and *Lucky Luna*. Her novel *Choke* was adapted as *The Choking Game* for the Lifetime Movie Network in 2014, and she also wrote *Coco*, *A Story About Music*, *Shoes*, and *Family*, a novel adaptation of the award-winning Disney/Pixar film. Her debut picture book, *Sing With Me: The Story of Selena Quintanilla*, is about the famous Tejano music star. Her most recent project is the Los Monstruos book series with two current titles, *Felice and the Wailing Woman* and *Rooster and the Dancing Diablo* now available.

In 2020, Diana retired from the University of Houston-Victoria as an Associate Professor of Creative Writing after a 28-year career as an educator at both the middle grade and university levels, but she still enjoys working with students by visiting schools and in her role as a mentor for new and aspiring writers via programs hosted by the AWP, SCBWI, and Las Musas. Diana often speaks at book festivals and educator and writing conferences. During its first eight years, she worked as the managing editor of *Huizache: The Magazine of Latino Literature*. She also served as the president for the Texas Institute of Letters in 2022-2024.

She received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2022 from Texas State University where she earned an MFA in Creative Writing in 1999. Other awards and honors include:

- Alfredo Cisneros del Moral Award in 2004
- William Allen White Award for *Confetti Girl* in 2010
- 2013 Bank Street College Selection for Best Children's Book, the 2014 Lone Star Reading List, and the 2013 Selection for VOYA's Top Shelf for *Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel*
- Finalist for the 2017 Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award and finalist for the 2017 Jean Flynn Award for Best Children's Book for *Nothing Up My Sleeve*
- 2024 Lone Star Reading List, finalist for the 2024 Bram Stoker Award for Best Middle Grade Book, and the 2024 Deirdre Siobhan FlynnBass Award for Best Middle Grade Book for *Los Monstruos: Felice and the Wailing Woman*.

After many years of living in San Antonio and Victoria Texas, Diana has finally returned to her hometown of Corpus Christi, the sparkling city by the sea and the setting for many of her books. She and her husband have opened a physical therapy clinic called FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Center where she works as the office manager. They have also adopted three fur babies—Birdy, a cuddly cat; Bella, a rambunctious German Shepherd; and Benji, a shy rescue dog.

For updates and to learn more about Diana López, please follow her on Facebook and Instagram at @dianalopezbooks.