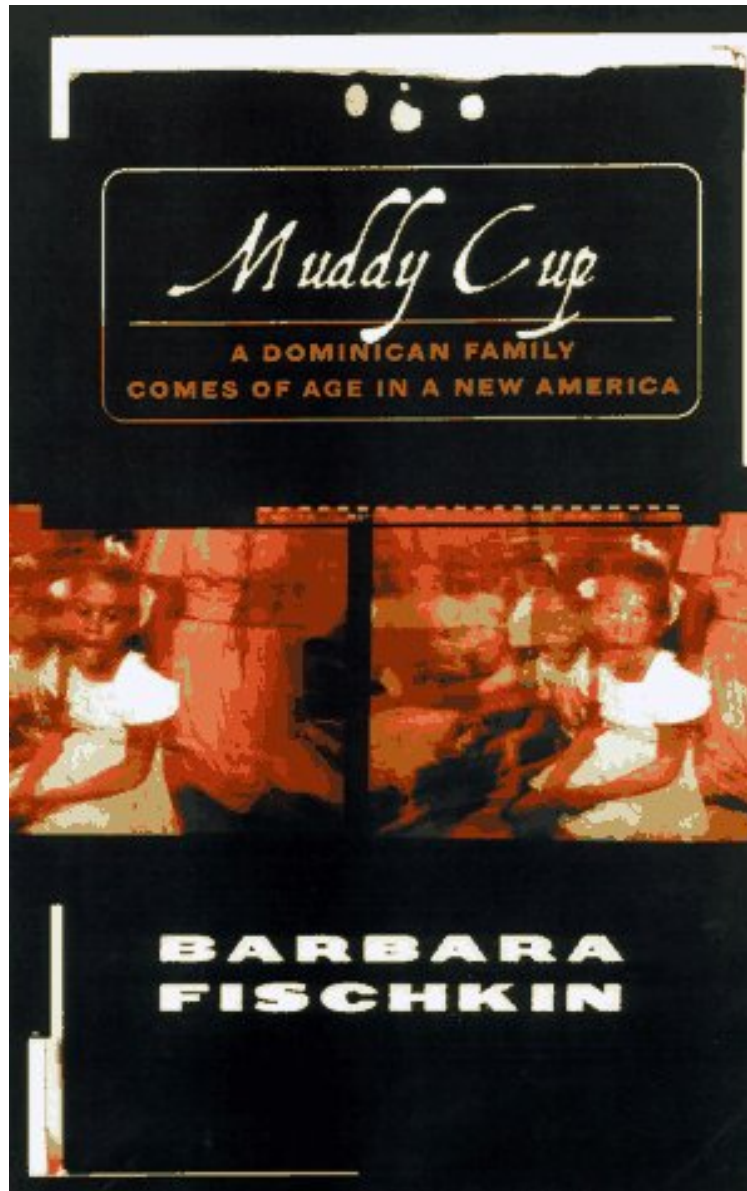


(Read free) MUDDY CUP: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America

MUDDY CUP: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America

Barbara Fischkin

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Barbara Fischkin : MUDDY CUP: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised MUDDY CUP: A Dominican Family Comes of Age in a New America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book - window into a typical Dominican Life/FamilyBy amandasuzanneAs an American expat who lives in the Dominican Republic and trains American and Canadian volunteers on Dominican culture, this is possibly the best book I could recommend. Easy read, lovely story. The author treats the subjects and their story with respect. A must read!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic storytelling about the Almonte family...By Fyah MonI just finished reading "Muddy Cup" and feel like I know the Almonte family personally. That could be because I'm familiar with the Dominican experience, my wife emigrated from Santo Domingo at age 16, and I also grew up in the predominantly Dominican Washington Heights neighborhood. But even if I didn't, the book is so detailed and intimate that someone who has never met a Dominican will feel like they truly have. Barbara Fischkin set out to do a piece for New York Newsday on the Almonte family. The Almontes are from a very small village, known as el campo, called Camu outside of Puerto Plata. She met the mother, Roselia, and her three children(Cristian, Elizabeth and Mauricio) at the US consulate in Santo Domingo. That newspaper piece ended up as the book "Muddy Cup." Mrs. Fischkin became close with the family, including many relatives, and followed their journey from the small village to Santo Domingo and eventually to Queens, NY. The Almonte story is like many other Dominican families who came before and after them. The youngest child, Mauricio, who is now studying to be Spanish professor in Tennessee of all places, is the child who I could relate to the most. He didn't speak a word of English when he arrived in Queens at age 11, and now is a very educated, English professor in the making. That is amazing to me because the Dominicans, like many other immigrant groups get stereotyped all the time. They are all uneducated drug dealers, or the ones who "made it" are all baseball players. Like the Irish in the last century were all called potato eating, job stealing parasites. Dominicans happen to be the largest(if they are not they are almost there) Hispanic group in NYC. They have made their presence felt all over the Northeast and beyond, and although this book was written in the early/mid nineties, it reflects Dominican experience of today. More have arrived and are arriving every day. Guillermo Linares was elected the first Dominican City councilman back in 1991 and many others are entering politics as well. Mrs. Fischkin did a fantastic job of telling their story and it just so happens that her family, Ukranian Jewish immigrants almost a century before, took the same journey as the Almontes. The only difference is that they traveled across the ocean on a boat, while the Almontes traveled on an airplane. I have read quite a few stories about Dominican immigrants and this is by far the best and most heartfelt. I look forward to reading more of Barbara Fischkin's work as it is apparent that she is a gifted and entertaining writer.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic, sensitive account of different generations of a Dominican family.By Shenandoah Valley BornI'm an Anglo American whose daughter has taught in the Dominican Republic for 5 years. I have visited 3 times and I'm an avid reader of Dominican history, culture, and I especially love a good novel. Muddy Cup is by far the best novel I have read. It paints a descriptive and sensitive portrait of the different generations of one family, showing those who chose to remain in their homeland, and others who sacrificed to come to the U.S. I enjoyed how the author shared her feelings about her new friendships and relationships with the different generations of the Dominican family. Anyone who wants to know more of the Dominican culture should read this novel. I was sad to finish the last page, wanting to read more.

Traces the challenges faced by four generations of a Dominican family after leaving their poverty-stricken country under the dictator, Trujillo, and arriving in Queens, New York, where the youngest son gains U.S. citizenship. 10,000 first printing."

From Library JournalThe original assignment for Fischkin, a staff writer for Newsday, was a year-long series on an immigrant family in New York City in the 1980s. This compilation of that series is the culmination of a decade-long relationship between the writer (herself the daughter of immigrants) and the Almonte family. The story originates in the Dominican Republic and relates life in the campo through three generations of Almontes. Fischkin narrates the dreams, struggles, and perspectives of each of the Almontes as their family is fragmented and gradually reconsolidated on these shores. She gives an intimate account of immigrant life in contemporary America, with all the bureaucratic quagmires, language barriers, and transformations that are involved. This masterfully woven tale strikes at the heart of the American identity, still as much a process of becoming as it is of being. Recommended for general readers.?Tricia Gray, Miami Univ. Oxford, OhioCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistMissing in debates on immigration policy are the faces and voices of those who come to the U.S. and struggle to find new homes here. Fischkin, a daughter of Eastern European immigrants, wrote a prizewinning, yearlong series for Newsday in 1986 about a family of Dominicans in New York City; now, 10 years later, she offers a portrait of that family, the Almontes, in their old country as well as their new one. Patriarch Javier grew up in an impoverished nation under the thumb of El Jefe, dictator Rafael Trujillo; unable to support his family, he heads north, eventually bringing his family to Queens, where his children gradually learn the ways of their new country. Fischkin fills in details of Dominican history and of her decade-long relationship with the Almonte family and mulls similarities and differences between her mother's experiences as an immigrant two generations ago and those of the Almontes. A vivid narrative that brings to life an often invisible immigrant group. Mary CarrollFrom Kirkus sA sensitive and nuanced account of one Dominican

family's immigration experience. In the mid-1980s, Dominicans were the fastest-growing group of immigrants in New York City. Newsday reporter Fischkin's account of the Almonte family's move to New York City began as a year-long newspaper series and ended as a decade-long book project. The family members are rendered as fully and refreshingly human, defying both the negative stereotypes and the heroic clichés that so often clutter media portrayals of immigrants. Javier had been dreaming of leaving his native town, Cam, since childhood. But his sister Marta was the first of the Almontes to go to New York, abandoning her young children to do it. She eventually made it possible for many of the rest of her family to come over, both by sending them money and by finding them jobs when they arrived. In 1986, Javier's wife, Roselia, was forced to decide between joining Javier, who had already moved to Queens, and staying with her children--immigration officers would not issue visas to all three children, claiming Javier would not be able to support them. So Roselia took the oldest and left the two younger ones behind. Here Fischkin's reporting becomes part of the story--a congressman reads about the divided family and arranges visas for Cristian and Mauricio. But Cristian never really learns English; she watches too much TV and breaks her father's heart by moving back to the Dominican Republic with her much-older boyfriend. Mauricio, the youngest, wants to be a writer. By the book's end, he's in graduate school studying Spanish literature. Fischkin smoothly and gracefully tells a complex tale by interweaving parents' and children's vastly different perspectives, as well as an account of the Dominican Republic's troubled history. A human side to current policy debates on immigration--well timed and well told. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.