

*Children's Literature Reviews*

Item 48 of 130

**Quesadilla moon***Gary D. Castillo.*

Houston, Tex. : Piñata Books, c2007.

100 p. ; 22 cm.

**Annotations:**

Novel.

**Reviews:****Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

David Rodriguez, a child working the California fields with his migrant family, has a gift--a marvelous singing voice. For reasons not revealed in the story, his father actively discourages his singing, telling him it is only "for sissies." Through a variety of circumstances, and with some true courage shown by the main character (not just fortuitous circumstance), David pursues his dream to be a soloist of renown. He's not singing rap or rock; this is the fifties, and David sings gospel music. David is mentored by the ladies of the local black apostolic congregation. There is a large time-jump in the middle of the book where he gives up singing and then regains his desire to "win a singing contest," which is the main hero-journey of the story. He lies to his mother about going on a date with a girl, and lies about going away for the weekend with the girl's family on a campout in order to participate in the singing contest in a nearby city. His church-lady mentors transport and encourage him, a group of young African-Americans competing in the contest beat him up severely, and a dedicated newspaper reporter helps him in a variety of circumstances. David perseveres and sings in spite of his injuries, and of course, he wins. Laced throughout the narrative is David's dream that his father will someday tell him "I had no idea you were that good." The ending scene fulfills that wish. Unfortunately, the text is laced with misspellings and egregious text errors (hoard instead of horde, life stock/livestock, it's/its, Carmengia/Karmann Ghia, peak/peek, passed/past, lied/lay, vale/veil, hardy/hearty) that made this reviewer wonder if this was a prepub unedited galley, but that was unfortunately not the case. While the storyline supports a minority dream-come-true "recommended purchase" nod, the numerous text errors make it a less-than-desirable addition to a library collection. Perhaps the poor editing is why the title page proclaims that "Pinata Books are full of surprises!" 2007, Piñata Books/Arte Publico Press, \$9.95. Ages 10 to 14.

**Link to a Web Feature or Search for Other Works by:**[Castillo, Gary D.](#)**Search for other reviews by:**[Gwynne Spencer](#)

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