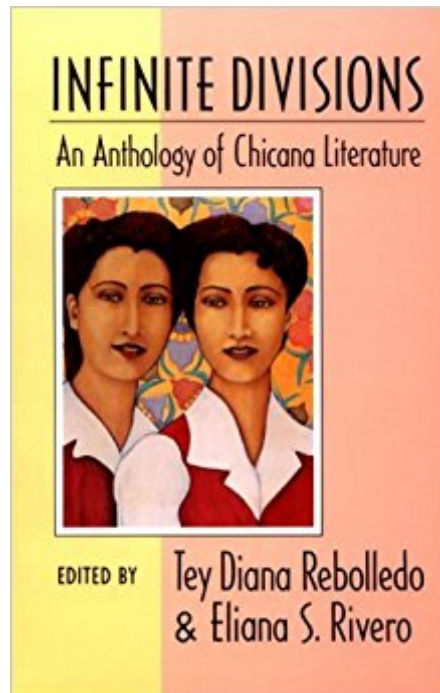




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# **Infinite Divisions: An Anthology Of Chicana Literature**



## Synopsis

Given the explosive creativity shown by Chicana writers over the past two decades, this first major anthology devoted to their work is a major contribution to American letters. It highlights the key issues, motifs, and concerns of Mexican American women from 1848 to the present, and particularly reflects the modern Chicana's struggle for identity. Among the recurring themes in the collection is a re-visioning of foremothers such as the historical Malinche, the mythical Llorona, and pioneering women who settled the American Southwest from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries. Also included are historical documents on the lives, culture, and writings of Mexican American women in the nineteenth century, as well as oral histories recorded by the Federal Writers Project in the 1930s. Through poetry, fiction, drama, essay, and other forms, this landmark volume showcases the talents of more than fifty authors, including Gloria E. Anzaldúa, Ana Castillo, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Denise Chazvez, Sandra Cisneros, Pat Mora, Cherríe Moraga, and María Helena Viramontes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rebolledo and Rivera, who teach Spanish at the University of New Mexico, offer an intriguing but ultimately unsatisfying collection of poetry and prose by Mexican-American women. An excellent introduction provides a critical overview and helps put the pieces in their historical and literary context. The works reflect the development of a Chicana consciousness from its first seeds until the present. A section on "foremothers" collects oral and written pieces dating back to the 19th century.

In one, from 1877, an aged widow recalls the deviously charitable way some priests got her a job. Sandra Cisneros, Alma Villanueva and Gloria Anzaldua provide numerous selections each, as do up-and-coming writers, such as Ines Hernandez or Marina Rivera, who offers a meditation on what it means to be of mixed blood. The title comes from Bernice Zamora's fine Whitmanesque poem about the infinitely divisible nature of identity. The pieces, however, are far too brief; most are mere snippets. Thus the editors merely whet the appetite but fail in their intention to make available hard-to-find Chicana literature. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

While researching a history of Chicana literature, editors Rebolledo and Rivero (Spanish, Univ. of New Mexico and Univ. of Arizona, respectively) discovered a wealth of feminist texts that characterize Chicana literature and culture. This collection, which includes 178 texts by 56 women, is organized historically and thematically. The first chapter includes early narratives from both oral and written traditions. Later chapters focus on personal identity, relationships within the community, and archetypes and myths. Authors include Gloria Anzaldua, Denise Chavez, Sandra Cisneros, Margarita Cota Cardenas, Pat Mora, and Antonia Quantana Pigno. Introductory essays set the tone for each new chapter, and extensive footnotes are included. Texts originally in Spanish are presented in both Spanish and English. This anthology will take its place in academic libraries with serious Hispanic American collections.- Mary Margaret Benson, Linfield Coll., Lib., McMinnville, Ore. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is one of my most favorite anthologies . Rebolledo includes prose and poetry that speaks to Latina/ Chicanas everywhere. In addition, I love the Aztec poem, A mother speaks to her daughter and to her. It warm and touching. Awesome anthology

This is an excellent choice for my Latina students who often cannot relate to literature in class, but this provides a bridge for them.

The book came in great conditions. Love it! Very satisfied customer, I recommend this product and seller. Thank you so much

Itself divided into the sections Foremothers, Self and Identity, Self and Others, Spaces, Myths and Archetypes, Writers on Language and Writing, Growing Up, and Celebrations, this broadly inclusive anthology includes writers who need no introduction to anyone familiar with Chicana literature: Ana

Castillo, Sandra Cisneros, Gloria Anzaldua, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Alma Villanueva, Cordelia Candelaria...and if you haven't read their poetry or prose, here's your chance.

It highlights the key issues, motifs, and concerns of Mexican American women and particularly reflects the modern Chicana's struggle for identity. Among the recurring themes in the collection is a re-visioning of foremothers such as the historical Malinche, the mythical Llorona, and pioneering women who settled the American Southwest from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries. Portrays strong women. Great Read

Simply the most comprehensive collection of Mexican-American women's writing --both good and bad-- "Infinite Divisions" has enough jewels to understand why it would be required reading for anyone hoping to delve into Chicana literature. "Little Miracles, Kept Promises" by Sandra Cisneros is a nice sample Mexican-American life condensed into a format so innovative that it merits being read twice... Prayers and petitions to God and all the saints, hopes and fears about sexuality and love and life, the traditional scraps of paper left as a religious offering in church become a touching prose piece. The book thoroughly dissects the sometimes-ghost-story, sometimes-feminist-symbol of La Llorona, the crying woman who murdered her children in some stories and who was the reincarnation of La Malinche (Hernan Cortes' lover) in others. "Aztec Princess" and "Malinche's Discourse" make for wonderful discussion pieces, not to mention reading.

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