



From This Wicked Patch of Dust (Camino del Sol)

Sergio Troncoso

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- **Best Books of 2012** by *Kirkus Reviews*
- **Southwest Book Award** from the Border Regional Library Association
- **Notable Book** by *Southwest Books of the Year*
- **Shortlisted runner-up** for the biannual PEN/Texas Southwest Book Award for Fiction
- **Finalist** for Reading The West Book Award in Adult Fiction from the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association

In the border shantytown of Ysleta, Mexican immigrants Pilar and Cuauhtemoc Martinez strive to teach their four children to forsake the drugs and gangs of their neighborhood. The family's hardscrabble origins launch this sweeping new novel from Sergio Troncoso.

Over four decades, the family struggles to become American and yet not be pulled apart by a maelstrom of cultural forces. As a young adult, daughter Julieta is disenchanted with Catholicism and converts to Islam. Youngest son Ismael, always the bookworm, is accepted to Harvard but feels out of place in the Northeast, where he meets and marries a Jewish woman.

The other boys--Marcos and Francisco--toil in their father's old apartment buildings, serving as cheap labor to fuel the family's rise to the middle class. Francisco isolates himself in El Paso, while Marcos leaves for college but returns to become a teacher, struggling with a deep bitterness about who he is and where he belongs. Their mother Pilar clings to the idea of her family and tries to hold them together as her husband's health begins to fail.

The historic events of 2001 in New York City send shockwaves through this newly American family. Bitter conflicts erupt between siblings, and the physical and cultural spaces between them threaten to tear them apart. Will their shared history and once-shared dreams be enough to hold together a family from Ysleta, this wicked patch of dust?

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