

THE PEOPLE OF PAPER

BY SALVADOR PLASCENCIA



After his wife leaves him, Federico de la Fe and his daughter Little Merced depart the town of Las Tortugas, Mexico and head for Los Angeles. There, with the aid of a local street gang and the prophetic powers of a baby Nostradamus, they engage in an epic battle to find a cure for sadness. Mechanical tortoises, disillusioned saints hiding in wrestling rings, a woman made of paper, and Rita Hayworth are a few of the players whose destinies intertwine in this story of war and lost love.

The People of Paper is simultaneously a father-daughter immigration story, a wildly inventive reimagining of Southern Californian mythology, and an exploration of the limits of fiction. Part memoir, part lies, this is a book about the wounds inflicted by first love and sharp objects.

“A stunning debut by a once-in-a-generation talent. I don’t know of a young American writer more original, innovative, or intense than Salvador Plascencia. *The People of Paper* is harrowing and gorgeous, experimental in the truest sense: it creates new means to explore essential and timeless emotional subjects.”
—GEORGE SAUNDERS

“Salvador Plascencia weaves together the daily life details of this world and the big ideas surrounding them to a stirring end effect. *The People of Paper* is a terrifically original debut.”
—AIMEÉ BENDER

“*The People of Paper* is a novel like no other, emerging from the chrysalis of magic and imagination to create a world of letters that seeps back into the world we know and then metamorphoses into something else altogether. Calvino, Borges, and Garcia Marquez will come to mind, but Plascencia’s novel is a creature of its own, firmly grounded and soaring at the same time.”
—T.C. BOYLE

Author info on back cover.

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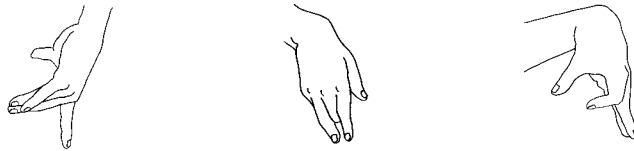
SALVADOR PLASCENCIA



Salvador Plascencia was born in 1976 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Plascencia's mother was a seamstress, his father a factory worker who moved frequently between California and their home in Jalisco. Growing up at his grandparents' farm, his extended family passed along a wealth of stories, some of which formed the inspiration for *The People of Paper*. His family eventually settled east of Los Angeles in the city of El Monte when Plascencia was eight years old. At the time, he spoke no English.

Salvador Plascencia holds a BA in English from Whittier College and an MFA in fiction from Syracuse University. He received a National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts Award in Fiction in 1996 and the Peter Nagoe Prize for Fiction in 2000. In 2001 he was awarded the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, the first fellow in fiction.

The People of Paper is Plascencia's first novel. His first published fiction appeared in *McSweeney's* No. 12.



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