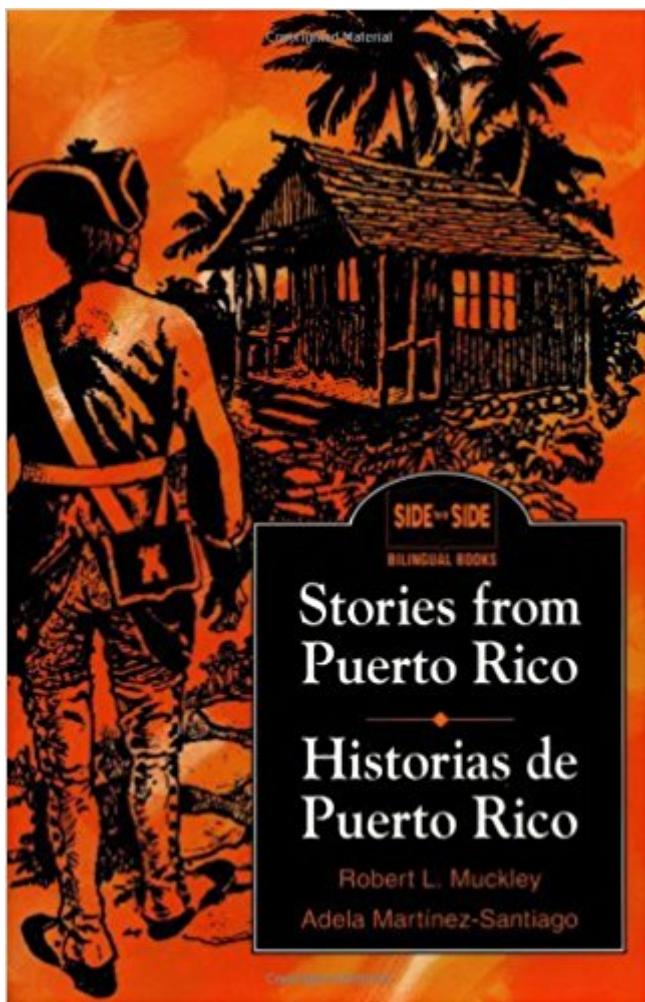


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# Stories From Puerto Rico / Historias De Puerto Rico (English And Spanish Edition)



## **Synopsis**

Dive into the tales of Puerto Rico--in Spanish and in English! In Stories from Spain/Historias de Puerto Rico, we've placed the Spanish and English stories side by side--lado a lado--so you can practice and improve your reading skills in your new language while enjoying the support of your native language. This way, you'll avoid the inconvenience of constantly having to look up unfamiliar words and expressions in a dictionary. Read as much as you can understand, and then look to the facing page for help. As you read, you can check your comprehension by comparing the two versions of the story. You'll also find a bilingual vocabulary list at the end of the book, so you'll have a handy reference for new words. Stories from Spain/Historias de Puerto Rico allows you to explore the island's rich history. It includes 18 well-known Puerto Rican legends that stretch from the dawn of creation to the twentieth century. These tales will introduce you to an array of characters as dynamic and colorful as the country that gave birth to them. Animals, indigenous peoples, conquistadors, spiritual beings, and extraterrestrials are among those who will make these pages come alive for you! As you read these stories side by side, you will be not only fine-tuning your language skills but also gaining insight into the rich cultural heritage of the Puerto Rican people.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Robert L. Muckley and Adela Martinez-Santiago are experienced authors of several language books.

As a teacher in PR, we always talk about these stories and most of the students are familiar with

them in Spanish. These are great teaching tools to use in the English classroom. This also could be said for those trying to learn or teach Spanish in the States (or PR). These stories are common legends here on the island. Anyone you meet has a different tale or twist to it. It was nice to read, easy too, and there is an insight to island lore and culture that for outsiders you can get just anywhere. Enjoy!

as described, quite useful in the classroom and quick shipping

It is part of my history. My kids loved the stories too.

The stories in the book reminded me of the stories my grandmother, grandfather, aunts and uncles used to tell me when I was a little girl. There were many stories shared every year when I visited my family in Puerto Rico. I loved it!!!! It bought back so many memories from the past.

I have enjoyed the stories and purchased the others in the series and enjoyed them equally as well ... if you purchase one and like it you'll probably like the others (there's also Spain, Mexico, South America/Latin Countries)

I bought this book for a student of mine with Puerto Rican heritage. He loved having Spanish on one side and English on the other. He was not an avid reader, but he loved this book so much that he read it in a week or so.

This is the second "Side-by-Side" book I have read. I prefer the first, "Stories from Latin America," because the editors of that volume better understood their purpose -- which is to present side-by-side versions of the same story, such that a reader conversant in one language but not the other, may learn new vocabulary, verify verb tense, etc. If one looks at the back cover of "Stories from Puerto Rico," one sees that it says there that "we've replaced the Spanish and English stories side by side -- lado a lado -- so you can practice and improve your reading skills in your new language while enjoying the support of your native language. That way, you'll avoid the inconvenience of constantly having to look up unfamiliar words and expressions in a dictionary." Well, you had better have a dictionary handy if you plan to learn from this book. I have been exasperated time and again by English translations that are too loose to be useful. If one is translating for the purpose of conveying the sense and spirit of a story, then a precise word-for-word translation is

unnecessary. However, this book is designed for language students who are trying to learn a foreign language. A precise translation is just what's needed, and I think it's what was promised on that back cover. Yet, this is not what the book delivers. Let me give an example. There are many to choose from. This one appears on page 117. Here's the Spanish version: "No sabemos si existió, ni dónde, ni cuándo, pero sus desventuras han hecho reír a generaciones de puertorriqueños. A continuación no encontrarás una versión de una historia de Juan Bobo." [I've omitted the diacritical mark on the "n" in puertorriqueños, but it's there in the text.] Now here's the English version of the same sentence: "We don't know if he really existed, or where, or when, but his misadventures have entertained generations of Puerto Ricans. The following is one version of a story about Foolish Jack." Here now is my problem with the English translation. First, the word "entertained." The Spanish word translated is "reír." The Spanish word means "to laugh." Why didn't the translator give us the precise translation? The clause should read, "his adventures have made generations of Puerto Ricans laugh." What's wrong with this more precise translation? Had I not recognized that the Spanish verb is similar to the French for "laugh" (which I know already), then I might not have bothered to look the word up. I might have assumed that "reír" means "to entertain." It does not. My second problem with the English translation has to do with the last sentence. The Spanish verb "encontrarás" is simply not translated. As though that weren't bad enough, the tense has been changed from future to present. As a person trying to learn Spanish (that's why I bought this book), I want to know the meaning and tense of "encontrarás." The Spanish sentence should have been translated as follows: "Following, you will find a version of one story about Juan Bobo." Is that so hard? What did the translator think he was doing? What did he think his purpose was? This book still has value, and that's why I give it three stars. The English translation helps convey the general sense of a sentence, and that is usually enough to help the reader fill in the gaps. However, a dictionary is still required -- especially since some of the Spanish vocabulary is not included in the glossary. A very sloppy job of editing. "Stories from Latin America" is better done.

This book is a very good reading through the eyes of people who are interested in the history. It gives the reader a good understanding of Puerto Ricans and the way they lived.

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