

Burro Genius: A Memoir

By Victor Villasenor

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Standing at the podium, Victor Villaseñor looked at the group of educators amassed before him, and his mind flooded with childhood memories of humiliation and abuse at the hands of his teachers. He became enraged. With a pounding heart, he began to speak of these incidents. When he was through, to his great disbelief he received a standing ovation. Many in the audience could not contain their own tears.

So begins the passionate, touching memoir of Victor Villaseñor. Highly gifted and imaginative as a child, Villaseñor coped with an untreated learning disability (he was finally diagnosed, at the age of forty-four, with extreme dyslexia) and the frustration of growing up Latino in an English-only American school in the 1940s. Despite teachers who beat him because he could not speak English, Villaseñor clung to his dream of one day becoming a writer. He is now considered one of the premier writers of our time.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Growing up in the 1940s on his family's gracious Southern California ranch, young Villaseñor envisions a cowboy's life, just like he's seen in western movies and learned from his loving but occasionally abrasive Mexican-born *papá*. Reality, however, finds him in the unwelcome company of an American school system where he doesn't fit in and is ostracized thanks to his undiagnosed dyslexia and limited English. Throughout this spirited memoir, novelist and nonfiction writer Villaseñor (who has chronicled his family history in *Rain of Gold*; *Wild Steps of Heaven*; *Thirteen Senses*; etc.) faces an entourage of abusive teachers and embittered classmates who chip away at his confidence, leading him to the brink of adopting a personal philosophy of violence-for-respect. He seeks support in the strength of his close-knit family, especially his brother Joseph. But when Joseph dies of a rare, unexplained disease, Villaseñor tries to embody what made his brother such a hero. Despite all the humiliation, frustration and hardship Villaseñor encounters throughout his youth, he maintains an astonishingly positive and compassionate attitude. His retelling of sometimes humorous, sometimes chilling childhood experience is at once painful and gratifying. He imaginatively and poetically remembers his tumultuous childhood with the simplicity of a child and the introspection of a sage. Photos not seen by *PW*.
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About the Author

Victor Villaseñor vive en California en el rancho donde fue criado. Es autor de numerosos obras editoriales y aclamadas obras, entre ellas *Lluvia de oro, Jurado: La Gente vs. Juan Corona,* y *Â¡Macho!*.

Victor Villaseñor's bestselling, critically acclaimed works, as well as his inspiring lectures, have brought him the honor of many awards. Most recently he was selected as the founding chair of the John Steinbeck Foundation. He lives in Oceanside, California.

Users Review

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David Hernandez:

The book Burro Genius: A Memoir has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. The writer makes some research prior to

write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

William Gilbert:

Burro Genius: A Memoir can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing Burro Genius: A Memoir however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

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