



**Sandra C. López was born and raised in the poor barrio of Hawaiian Gardens, California, which left her with very few opportunities in life. Nonetheless, she strived to achieve the best grades in school and spent her free time writing, drawing and reading. Sandra, with the strong guidance and support from her family, ambition and never-ending hope, managed to graduate from high school and enter college. Her story is a tale of strength and determination. Currently, this young writer is a senior at Cal State University Fullerton, working towards a BFA in Animation and Illustration, and she is anticipating a promising career as a writer and an artist. "Esperanza" is her very first novel, but it is certainly not the last.**