



This Side of Providence

By Rachel M. Harper

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This Side of Providence By Rachel M. Harper

This tender novel tells a universal story of struggle, loss, and ultimately, survival. Arcelia Perez left Puerto Rico for the American dream, but within a few years she's living on the tough side of Providence, Rhode Island with three children, no job, and a powerful heroin addiction. Through rotating narration, we meet a diverse cast of characters—most notably Arcelia's charming, street-savvy son, Cristo, and his teacher, Miss Valentín—whose futures are inextricably linked as they strive to succeed against the odds.

Born in Boston and raised in Providence and rural Minnesota, **Rachel M. Harper** is a graduate of Brown University and the master's program at USC. Her poems and short fiction have been published in the *Carolina Review*, *Chicago Review*, *African American Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and the anthology *Mending the World: Stories of Family by Contemporary Black Writers*. She was chosen as one of Borders' "Best Original Voices" for her first novel, *Brass Ankle Blues*, which was also selected by Target's "Break Out Books" program. Harper has received fellowships from Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony, and won the 2002 Fellowship in Fiction from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. She teaches fiction at Spalding University's brief-residency MFA in Writing Program.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *This Side of Providence*

"It is a book of such power that it is as if a completely new layer of the American experience has been exposed to our view. And like many a great works of fiction, not one line is wasted and every single word rings true." — Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Color Purple*

"This powerful story about what it means to be a family and the struggles members endure to stay together will appeal to fans of Vanessa Diffenbaugh, Heather Gudenkauf, and dramatic family-centric fiction." — *Library Journal*

"So beautifully written and incredibly compelling that I found myself not wanting to do anything but sit inside this world until everyone turned out all right. Rachel Harper is a stunning writer." —Jacqueline Woodson, author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* and *Miracle's Boys*

"The story of Arcelia's family is powerful." — *Publishers Weekly*

"A truly remarkable novel. Rachel Harper writes with jagged grace and unflinching courage—a willingness to confront fear and pain through characters beautifully alive with feeling, truth, and compassion."—Scott O'Connor, author of *Half World* and *Untouchable*

"Luminous, heartbreaking, and profoundly redemptive... a hauntingly beautiful novel about the unbreakable bonds between a wounded mother and the children she tries to love.." —Rebecca Walker, author of *Áde, A Love Story*

"Here is a novel that can save lives... I'll never forget these characters, or this novel." — Sena Jeter Naslund, author of *Ahab's Wife*, *Four Spirits*, and *The Fountain of St. James Court, or Portrait of the Artist as an Old Woman*

"An ambitious, beautifully written, heartfelt novel that demonstrates the centrality of family under the most arduous of conditions." —Jervey Tervalon, author of *Understand This* and *Monster's Chef*

"With deep empathy and intellect, Harper paints a universal story of honest, imperfect love and hard-won family. This gorgeous book balances the gritty with the good-hearted, reminding us that only what is dark and difficult can give rise to redemption." —Neela Vaswani, author of *You Have Given Me a Country*

"Harper's great achievement is that of choirmaster: the arrangement of timbre and pace and keeping the voices honest and clear, and somehow pitched toward love."
— Justin Torres, author of *We the Animals*

"A stunning achievement—I did not want this novel to end, but when it did, I felt a rush of cathartic joy."
—K. L. Cook, author of *The Girl from Charnelle* and *Love Songs for the Quarantined*

Praise for *Brass Ankle Blues*, Harper's debut novel:

Selected as one of Borders' "Best Original Voices"

Selected by Target's "Break Out Books" program

"(T)he classic narrative of the transformative summer cries out for a contemporary heroine like Nellie, and the family tensions, poignant discoveries, and richly evoked setting should help this find a broad audience."

—Jennifer Mattson, *Booklist*

"This is a marvelous novel." —*The Providence Journal*

About the Author

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Ortiz:

The guide with title This Side of Providence has lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This kind of book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Mary Hopkins:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled This Side of Providence your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get just before. The This Side of Providence giving you another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life on this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Danny Saleem:

This Side of Providence can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing This Side of Providence although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Timothy Lumpkin:

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