

MICHELLE MONÁRREZ

Hispanic Heritage. American Fiction



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised between the border cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, Monárrez grew up in a bilingual and diverse culture. With a passion for the written word, she set out to pursue a career in Fiction writing and graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with a BA in Creative Writing and English.

Monárrez considers herself a Mexican-American writer. Her roots and Fiction Crafting training in both countries gave her voice a unique flavor. Her writing aims to deliver stories placed in American settings that echo her Hispanic heritage through diverse themes, unique descriptions, and the use of magical realism.



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REFURBISHED: THE CLOVER INITIATIVE

The end of the world came and went. Twenty years later humanity is crafting new and secretive ways to protect itself, but the atmosphere stays clear of threats . . .



Eighteen-year-old academy graduate Alyssa is determined to start her military career as a GENE (Genetically Enhanced Entity) on her own terms. But after being transferred from her native London to America, she struggles to control her powers and find her place among a military unit of underdogs and other enhanced soldiers. When a rogue GENE is taken into custody, Alyssa's empathy for him forces her to choose between her carefully mapped out life plan, or a path that would put her in direct conflict with her superiors.

With the promise of superpowers and a green card on the table, thirteen-year-old Miguel signs a contract to become a GENE. Enduring the enhancement process is sure to be worth it with his refugee status at stake and dazzling dreams of becoming a superhero in the mix. But when he forms a psychic connection with a mysterious girl who could die without his help, he must decide what he's willing to risk in order to save her.

As Alyssa and Miguel embark on parallel journeys, their desire to choose their own individual paths transforms into a fierce battle for the rights of fellow enhanced people. The world might not be ready to find out about GENEs, but it had better brace itself. The protective barrier of secrecy will soon burst, and those called "Refurbished" will make themselves known.

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TIP SHEET

WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE YOU WANTED TO BE A WRITER?

I decided very early on I wanted to write for a living. I was twelve-years-old and I had just finished my first read of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire when I realized: there are people out there, adults, who make a living out of writing books. I thought it was the coolest thing ever and since books made me feel so safe; I wanted to pass that feeling onto others.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR IDEAS FOR YOUR BOOKS?

This is a hard question. I think most of my ideas either come from being inspired by other authors or from fever dreams. X-Men and other superhero stories I grew up reading inspired my first novel, Refurbished. The ideas behind most of my short stories come from strange fever dreams.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD STORY?

I belong to the school of writing that believes characters are the basis of any good story. As a reader, I'm character-oriented, which means I will enjoy more well-crafted and realistic characters than the overall plot of a story or worldbuilding. Not to say that the rest of the story elements aren't valuable, but I'm a lot more forgiving of any issues the story might have if I'm reading about people that feel real and well-rounded.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WRITE PRIMARILY IN ENGLISH AND NOT IN YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE?

I was raised to look for better opportunities abroad. Moving to the US was something already in my life plan, but what truly sold me on becoming a writer who focuses mainly on the English language was learning this language from scratch. I made a poor English student, and it took me several years to master it, but I loved its essence. Spanish will always have a special place in my heart because of its richness and complexity, but I feel like English allows me to be more playful, and it expands my creativity to new levels.



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