

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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## **Fight like a Man & Other Stories We Tell Our Children.**

Granados, Christine (Author)

Mar 2017. 192 p. Univ. of New Mexico, paperback, \$19.95. (9780826357922). 818.

Once again, Granados' (*Brides and Sinners in El Chuco*, 2006) native El Paso is the setting for her new collection of stories. Two-thirds of the book is taken up with a novella featuring an earthy, middle-aged protagonist named Monica who confronts the stressful situation of finding herself pregnant by her younger lover. The drama that ensues mirrors her own father's wayward and chaotic way of balancing families on both sides of the border—a legacy that she has vigorously rejected. Granados' stories are also lively, profane, and sexually explicit. Her characters confront painful and difficult situations awkwardly yet with deep emotion. Paul suffers at the border crossing with his blonde girlfriend when they encounter his Mexican relatives. A woman searches through her recently deceased mother's address book while also searching for the strength to call family members with the sad news. A teenager chafes at being in the "stupid" class. Granados' characters' voices ring true in these peeks into everyday life on the Texas-Mexico border.

— *Sara Martinez*