

Winner of the 2021 Fairfield Book Prize

# A BODY ACROSS TWO HEMISPHERES

*a memoir in essays*

VICTORIA BUITRON

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about  
**Victoria Buitron**



Victoria Buitron is an award-winning writer, translator, and creative writing instructor who hails from Ecuador and resides in Connecticut. She received an MFA in creative writing from Fairfield University, and has worked as an editor for literary magazines such as *Brevity*, *Causeway Lit*, *Fractured Lit*, and *Variant Lit*. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Normal School*, the 2021 *Connecticut Literary Anthology*, *The Acentos Review*, *JMWW*, and other literary magazines. She has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and her flash fiction story, *A Folktale of Follicles*, has been selected for inclusion in 2022's *Best Small Fictions*. Her debut memoir-in-essays, *A Body Across Two Hemispheres*, is the 2021 Fairfield Book Prize winner and available wherever books are sold.

awards +  
**recognition**

Winner of the 2021 Fairfield Book Prize

Litro Magazine's 2021 Summer Flash Fiction Competition – *A Folktale of Follicles* – 2nd place – Inclusion in Sonder Press' Best Small Fictions 2022

Nominated for Best of the Net in 2021 by Exposition Review – *Savoring*

Nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2021 by Lost Balloon – *What We Omit*

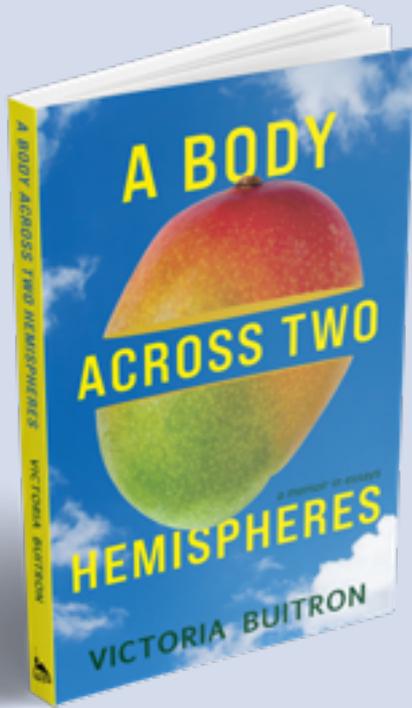
Nominated for Best Small Fictions in 2021 by Reckon Review – *An Imaginary Friend is a Conjured Ghost*

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**media**

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# *A Body Across* Two Hemispheres



When Victoria Buitron turns fifteen, the life she knows and the place she calls home comes to an abrupt halt. Her paternal grandfather becomes ill, and her parents decide to become repatriates out of a sense of duty and love—leaving their cars, house, and jobs as a nanny and a garbage man in Connecticut for the coast of Ecuador with their children. In *A Body Across Two Hemispheres*, Victoria foregoes a chronological account of how this decision severs her family, and instead uses powerful essays and a structure based on location to narrate how she evolves from a brokenhearted teenage girl to a woman who finds her way home.

## Praise



*A Body Across Two Hemispheres* is a timely book, one many of us need and will be grateful to have read. There's much to praise about Victoria Buitron's debut. For starters, it showcases the author's formal range within the essay, collecting together lyric pieces, full-fledged narratives, and documentary collage—all of which interweave the personal story with political allegory. The book begins with the narrator's migration at fifteen, from the United States back to Ecuador, the country of her birth and one she left in early childhood. Centered in accounts of family and of multiple migrations, Buitron moves from adolescence into adulthood, laying claim to who she is by braiding together her various selves. Never shying from what is difficult to reconcile, *A Body Across Two Hemispheres* introduces an utterly engaging, assured new voice in nonfiction. In her memoir-in-essays, Buitron lays bare various forms of grief but presents them with equal measures of resilience. She posits love—ultimately—as the curative for loss.

—Shara McCallum, author of *No Ruined Stone*

Victoria Buitron's *A Body Across Two Hemispheres* is a compelling memoir of girlhood, identity, trauma, and migration. Rich with the colors and aromas of Ecuador, always honest and surprising, Buitron's book showcases multiple essay forms to tell a powerful, timeless story.

A wonderful debut.

~ Dinty W. Moore, author of *Between Panic & Desire*



With virtuosic descriptive skill and essays that span generations and hemispheres, Victoria Buitron has crafted a memoir that pushes the very limits of the medium, looking at what trauma writes in the story of a life—and the palimpsests that can be made after. Of family as a continuous act, a choice. Of love that defies state injustice and separation of time and place. These essays are groundbreaking, vital, revelatory. *A Body Across Two Hemispheres* is one of those rare books that you read knowing as you do that there will forever be a “time before” and a “time after” you experienced the work. With this debut, Buitron immediately establishes herself as one of the preeminent living writers of nonfiction.

Nick Olson, author of *Here's Waldo* and *The Brother We Share*,  
Editor-in-Chief of *(mac)ro(mic)*.



*A Body Across Two Hemispheres* is a slice of Ecuadorian mango and a slice of American apple pie. It is not only a geographical back and forth between the north and the south but also a back and forth between two cultures, two languages, two becomings. Buitron draws on her Ecuadorian heritage to seduce us with precise, spare prose, conjuring unforgettable moments of her bicultural life we want to lift off the page.

*A Body Across Two Hemispheres* is an unsentimental exploration of the people who cross borders and a prayer to those who choose to stay. It is the kind of memoir that makes us more human; the kind written with tenderness about ordinary people with ordinary and exceptional, bitter and beautiful, small and big lives. Like ours.

Adriana Páramo, author of *Looking for Esperanza*, *My Mother's Funeral*,  
*Unsent Letters to my Mother*, and *Keeping Quiet: Sixteen Essays on Silence*.

# Experience



*Editor*  
for Literary Magazines  
and Journals

*Book*  
Launch Coordinator

*Public*  
Speaking

*Literary*  
Panels



*Live*  
Reading Performances

*Literary*  
Talks and Discussions

*Creative*  
Writing Instructor

*media*  
**inquiries**

