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AMOXCALLI

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AmoxCalli treasures books as sacred as well. We celebrate and encourages reading. Read everything and anything that you're interested in, that lights that spark inside you, that fires up your imagination and inspires you to be great and think big. We encourage the reading of stories about boy wizards, fairies, witches, princesses in need of rescuing, princes and kings, dragons, soldiers, warriors, war, anti-war, fairytales, graphic novels, manga, animation, fantasy, D&D, literary fiction, non-fiction, history, romance, self-help, erotica, dictionaries, science, sci-fi, dreams, battles, psychology, fitness, cookbooks, Darwinism, theology, pantheism, Wicca, the religion of your choice, comic books, newspapers, magazines, classified ads, the Best of Craigslist... If it's well-written, well thought out, then we want you to read it. We do not support bigotry in any form, and this site is dedicated to literate, open-minded readers of all persuasions, with the work of authors we think will fire your imagination. We deplore censorship.

CONTRIBUTORS

Gina MarySol Ruiz

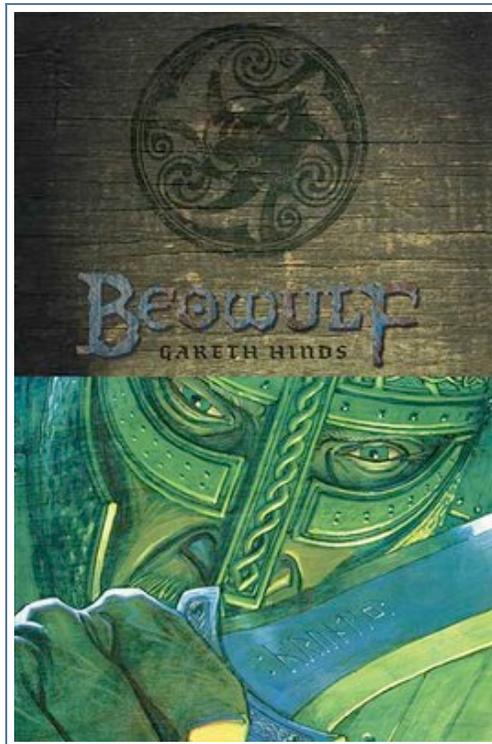
Lisa Alvarado

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007

Beowulf - The Graphic Novel by Gareth Hinds

ABOUT GINA MARYSOL RUIZ

Gina MarySol Ruiz, or Sol as her good friends call her has worked in the entertainment industry for the past 15 years including one of the best jobs/times of her life the completely online publication group specializing in the animation and visual effects industry worldwide, AWN.com. She writes book reviews and articles for Xispas.com as well as the weekly children's book



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ABOUT LISA ALVARADO

Lisa Alvarado is a poet, performer, and installation artist, focusing on identity, spirit, and the body. She is the founder of **La Onda Negra Press**, and is author of *Reclamo* and **The Housekeeper's Diary**, originally a book of poetry and

recommendations and review for La Bloga. Sol is active in Aztec dancing and culture, Chicano rights activism and collected modern first editions. she's been an avid and prolific reader since she was five years old. She resides in Eagle Rock and has four children, plus ten amazingly beautiful and much loved grandchildren. Her life has often been described as a telenovela and she loves living it!

To have Sol review your book on AmoxCalli, please contact her via email.

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SOL & LISA'S EVER EXPANDING LIST OF SUPERPADRE COSAS

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Beowulf
Author/Illustrator: Gareth Hinds
Publisher: Candlewick Press
ISBN 10: 0763630225
ISBN 13: 9780763630225

It wasn't till my late 20's that I discovered Beowulf and instantly fell in love with the saga. How could I not? Beowulf's hand to hand combat battle with the monster Grendel is absolutely fascinating and bloody. I could well imagine storytellers of old singing out this tale over tankards of ale and the excited faces of the audiences. Grendel's horrible mother scared the heck out of me and the final and fatal battle with the dragon, wow. To think that this story is over 1000 years old and possibly even from 750-800 AD is simply astounding. I love epic poetry and think everyone should read it. Unfortunately, not everyone shares my love of ancient sagas.

A few years ago, I read Seamus Heany's *Beowulf, A New Translation* and fell in love all over again. I adore Heany and his translation of this classic tale really resonated with me and brought Beowulf to the forefront of my mind once again. When I heard that Gareth Hinds had done a graphic adaptation, I simply had to read it.

For those who are unfamiliar with Gareth Hinds, he is an astounding artist and illustrator. He is also quite a talented animator with work on some absolutely amazing video games like *Neverwinter Nights*, *Tak and the Power of JuJu*, *Ratatouille*, *Star Wars New Droid Army* to mention a few. Gareth Hinds' website <http://www.thecomix.com/> has quite a bit of the Beowulf story and artwork as well as other illustrated stories like *Deus Ex Machina* and *Bearskin*.

I received the Candlewick Press hardcover edition of Gareth Hinds' *Beowulf* two days ago and just went crazy. It's a total feast for the senses and beautifully done. The artwork is just amazing. Everything about it is gorgeous, the colors, the art, the movement and fluidity of the hero's body as it battles with Grendel who is marvelously hideous. The text is based upon the translation by A.J. Church, published by Seely & Co in 1904 and is beautifully typeset.



book or poetry and now a one-woman performance, and is the recipient of grants from the Department of Cultural Affairs, The NEA, and the Ragdale Foundation. **The Housekeeper's Diary**, which dealt with her experiences as a domestic for one of Chicago's wealthiest families, premiered nationally in Washington, D.C. in 2001, as a co-production with Sol y Soul and Gala Hispanic Theater. **The Housekeeper's Diary** was performed to sold-out audiences and critical acclaim in Chicago, 2002.

She has performed throughout the U.S. and in Ajijic, Jalisco in Mexico. Lisa and her work has been featured in the Reader, The Chicago Tribune, Latino USA/National Public Radio, and Public Radio International.

Her first novel, **Sister Chicas** (written with Ann Hagman Cardinal and Jane Alberdeston) has been bought by

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I admire both Gareth Hinds and Candlewick's effort to make *Beowulf* accessible and appealing to a modern audience. I know that *Beowulf* will find a whole new audience, a huge fan following of this astounding book and that's just amazing. This book is an amazing work and should be in every school library as well as a required schoolbook in high school English classrooms.

Book Description (from the publisher):

The epic tale of the great warrior Beowulf has thrilled readers through the ages -- and now it is reinvented for a new generation with Gareth Hind's masterful illustrations. Grendel's black blood runs thick as Beowulf defeats the monster and his hideous mother, while somber hues overcast the hero's final, fatal battle against a raging dragon. Speeches filled with courage and sadness, lightning-paced contests of muscle and will, and funeral boats burning on the fjords are all rendered in glorious and gruesome detail. Told for more than a thousand years, Beowulf's heroic saga finds a true home in this graphic-novel edition.

This exhilarating graphic-novel edition of an ancient classic honors the spirit of the original as it attracts modern readers.

Author's comments:

Gareth Hinds says, "BEOWULF gave me the chance to explore the superhero story in a more timeless way, without the skintight suits and other wacky conventions of that genre. I wanted to show people how cool a story this really is." He lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

POSTED BY GINA MARYSOL RUIZ AT 4:12 PM

LABELS: BEOWULF, EPIC POETRY, GARETH HINDS, GRAPHIC NOVEL, ILLUSTRATION

Penguin/NAL, and was released in April 2006. **Sister Chicas** is a coming of age story concerning the lives of three young Latinas living in Chicago.

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