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# Rose Metal Press

an independent publisher of hybrid genres

*announces the publication of*

## The Hurricane Book

*A Lyric History*

By Claudia Acevedo-Quñones

In this powerful debut, Claudia Acevedo-Quñones pieces together the story of her family and Puerto Rico using a captivating combination of historical facts, poems, maps, bits and pieces of overheard conversations, and fragmented anecdotes. Organized around six hurricanes that passed through the island with varying degrees of intensity between 1928 and 2017, *The Hurricane Book* documents the myriad ways in which colonialism—particularly the relationship between the United States and the island—has seeped into the lives of Puerto Ricans, affecting how they and their land recover from catastrophe, as well as how families and citizens are bound to one another. Moving seamlessly from the personal, to the political, to the environmental, and back again, Acevedo-Quñones takes the reader through her own experience of family dynamics, mental illness, and substance abuse—and their long-reaching echoes—all against the backdrop of Puerto Rico's struggles and beauty. Through stories and poems of relatives, folklore, and necessary escape, she illuminates both the tenderness and heartbreak of relationships with relatives and homeland. An attempt at a colony's etymology in a time when it is perpetually embattled by natural disasters, crippling debt, and the mass exodus of its people, *The Hurricane Book* is also an invitation to see the realities that many don't want to see—a refusal to stay in the dark about ourselves or our collective history.

OCTOBER 2023

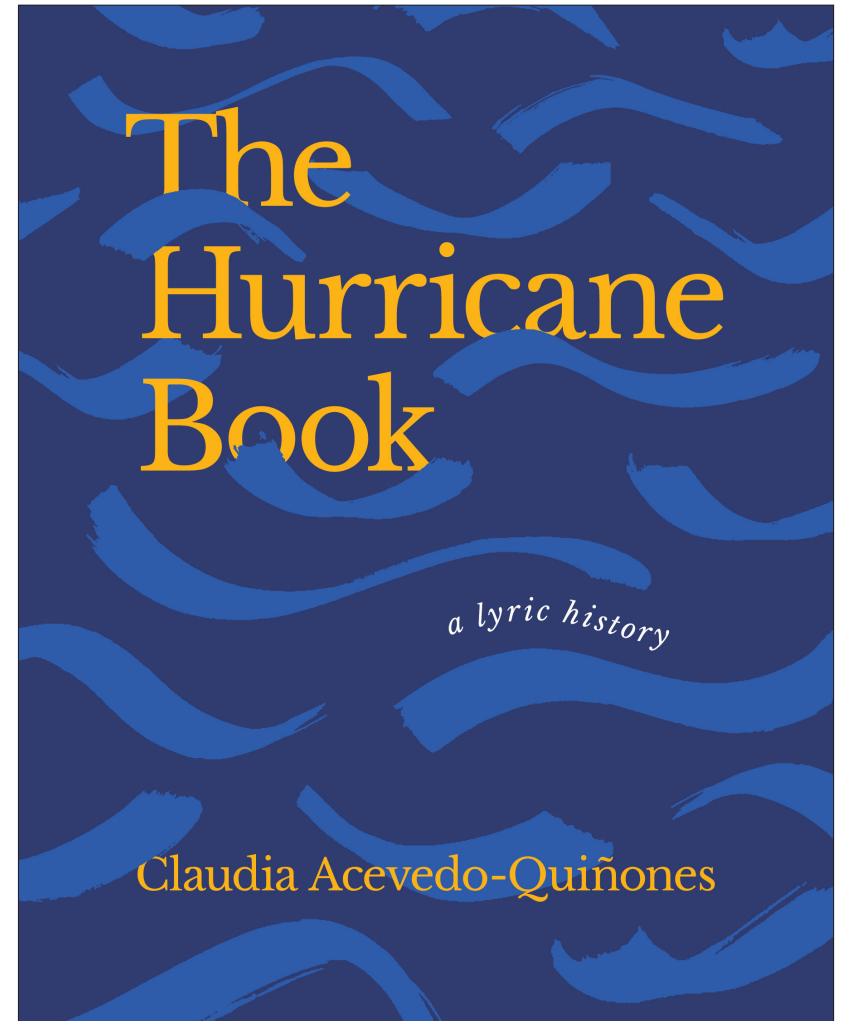
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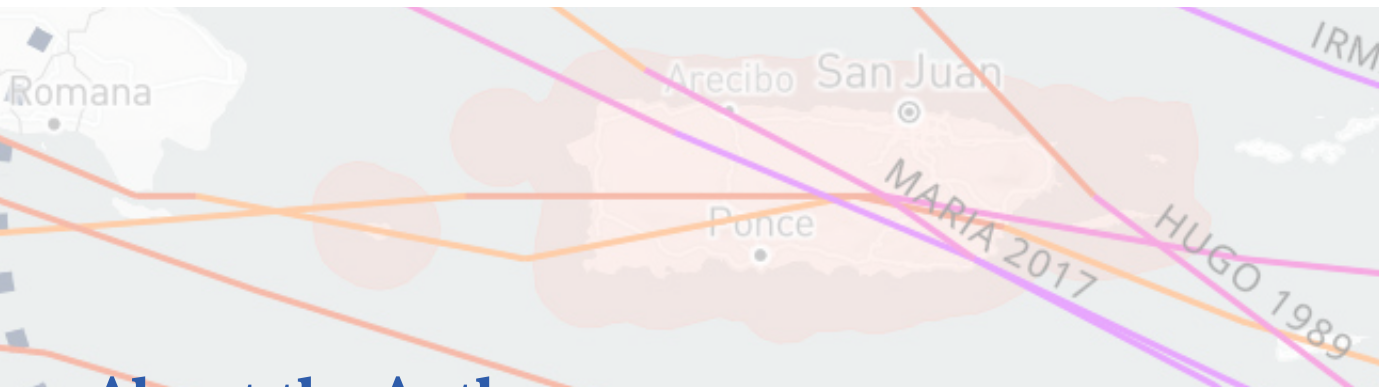
## Advance Praise for **THE HURRICANE BOOK**

*“The Hurricane Book is an important work of art and archive, a blend of poetry, cartography, and Puerto Rican history. Alternating between playful language and sobering reality, Claudia Acevedo-Quñones interrogates memory and truth, explores family secrets, and sheds light on the realities of colonialism. A multilayered, powerful book—*The Hurricane Book* is a gift.”*

—**Jaquira Díaz**, author of *Ordinary Girls: A Memoir*

*“In *The Hurricane Book*, Claudia Acevedo-Quñones draws an unflinching ecology of intimacy, a swirling account of that mythical pair of words we all fear and love: family and country. History has rarely felt so vivid, so candid, so potent.”*

—**Carlos Fonseca**, author of *Austral*



### About the Author

**Claudia Acevedo-Quñones** is a writer from Puerto Rico whose poems and short fiction have appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *wildness*, *Ambit Magazine*, *Radar Poetry*, and other publications. In 2019, she received an MFA in Creative Writing and Literature from Stony Brook University, where she also taught poetry to undergraduate students. Her chapbook, *Bedroom Pop*, was published by dancing girl press in 2021. In 2022, she was awarded a Letras Boricuas Fellowship by the Flamboyán Arts Fund and the Mellon Foundation. Claudia lives in Brooklyn, New York. To learn more, please visit [www.cacevedoquinones.com](http://www.cacevedoquinones.com).



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