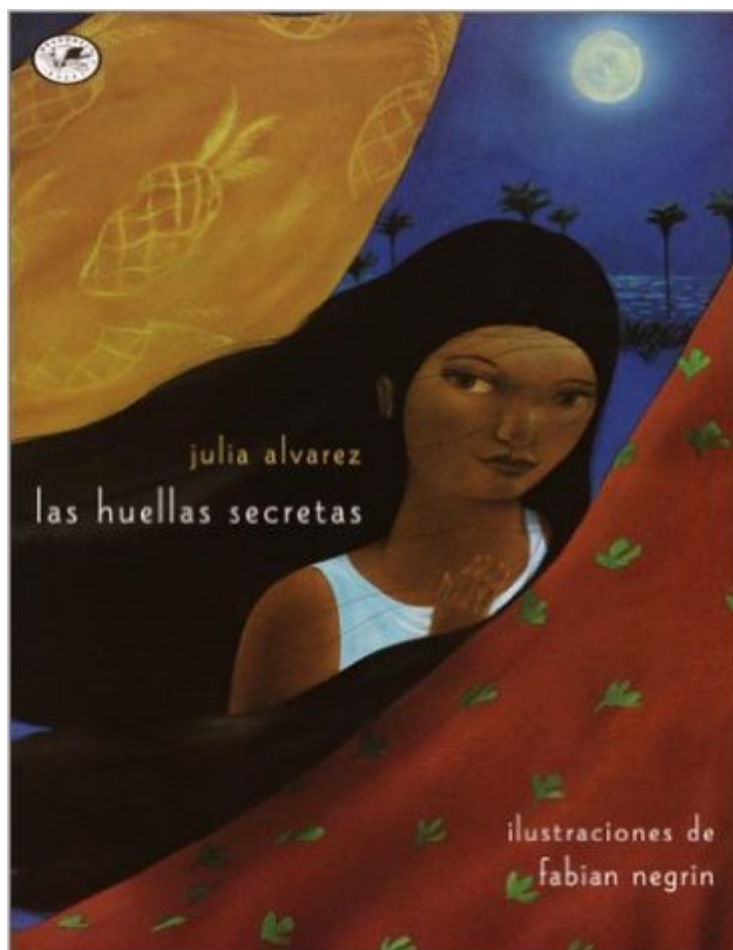


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# Las Huellas Secretas (Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

The Dominican legend of the ciguapas, creatures who lived in underwater caves and whose feet were on backward so that humans couldn't follow their footprints, is reinvented by renowned author Julia Alvarez. Although the ciguapas fear humans, Guapa, a bold and brave ciguapa, can't help but be curiousâ" especially about a boy she sees on the nights when she goes on the land to hunt for food. When she gets too close to his family and is discovered, she learns that some humans are kind. Even though she escapes unharmed and promises never to get too close to a human again, Guapa still sneaks over to the boy's house some evenings, where she finds a warm pastelito in the pocket of his jacket on the clothesline.

## Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Dell Dragonfly Books ed. edition (September 10, 2002)

Language: Spanish

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ"Â" See all reviewsÂ" (3 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I am an American editor/writer married to a Dominican. I became a fan of Julia Alvarez's literary works while taking an English class on immigrant fiction. When I learned that she had written a children's book, *Las Huellas Secretas* (The Secret Footprints), I was thrilled. I immediately purchased a Spanish version copy to take to my seven-year-old niece in the Dominican Republic. Alvarez draws from Dominican folklore in her tale of the "ciguapas," a mythological race that lives under the sea and comes to land only at night, after we humans go to sleep. The heroine of the story, Guapa, succumbs to her curiosity about human beings, comes ashore in the daytime,

and is discovered by a picnicing family. What she eventually learns is that preconceived notions about those different than us aren't always true--that, sometimes, even those older and wiser than us (in Guapa's case, the Ciguapa queen) harbor prejudices that turn out to be wrong. As for my niece, she loved the friendship theme (between Guapa and a human boy) and the lush, richly colored illustrations. She had fun practicing her reading skills and, although challenged by some of the vocabulary, never got bored. I recommend this book for all Spanish-language children interested in folklore, especially readers of Dominican heritage.

Las Huellas Secretas nos traslada a un mundo de fantasía donde apreciamos los cuentos que incluyen actos de valor. La importancia de la lealtad y la amistad que incluye Julia Alvarez es transparente. Lo leímos en mi salón de cuarto grado. Tanto mis estudiantes como yo, disfrutamos cada palabra y pudimos analizar y apreciar la importancia de ser honesto y leal con sus seres queridos y también con aquellos que nos brindan su generosidad. Excelente! 4to Grado Grupos A y B

this was one of the titles I recommend to my son, it was good choice because, he understands Spanish, but doesn't write it, and he was able to read it without too many questions. Easy to understand and the vocabulary is not as basic as other books, but an 8 years old can handle it

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