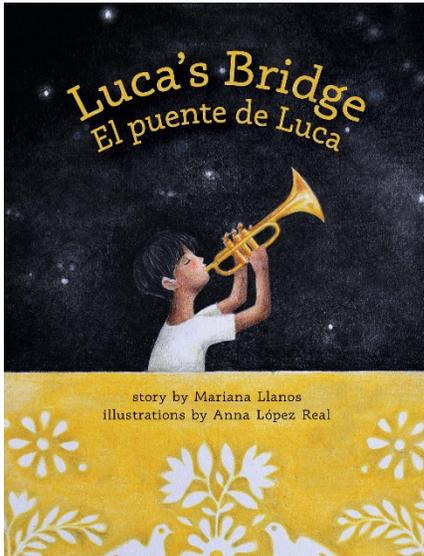


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
978-0-9987999-5-7 (HC); \$16.95; 40 pages

HOW CAN LUCA LEAVE THE ONLY HOME HE'S EVER KNOWN?



OKLAHOMA CITY & SAVANNAH—Penny Candy Books announces its first bilingual picture book, *Luca's Bridge/El puente de Luca*, by Mariana Llanos with illustrations by Anna López Real.

Luca's Bridge/El puente de Luca tells the emotional story of a boy coming to terms with his family's deportation from the United States to Mexico. Though Luca was born in the U.S., his parents lack the authorization to live in the only country he's ever known.

A powerful meditation on home and identity at a time when our country sorely needs it, *Luca's Bridge/El puente de Luca* raises awareness of the impacts that deportation has on families and children and fosters an understanding of and empathy for immigrants in the United States.

Luca's Bridge/El puente de Luca will be published in hardcover on April 16, 2019, and will be available in bookstores, on our website, and to the trade via wholesalers or from our distributor Publishers Group West.

Born in Lima, Peru, to two journalists, **MARIANA LLANOS** developed an early passion for writing and studied theater in the prestigious CuatroTablas school in Lima. She has lived in Oklahoma since 2002, where she worked as a teacher in a preschool center. In 2013 Mariana self-published her first book, *Tristan Wolf*, which won a Finalist in the 2013 Readers' Favorite Book Award. Since then, she has published seven books independently in English and Spanish and through virtual technology has chatted with students from more than 150 schools around the world to promote literacy.

ANNA LÓPEZ REAL is a freelance illustrator born in Guadalajara, Mexico. She spent her early years in a small town with a big lake, in a bilingual home full of books, movies, diverse music and art. She has a BD in Graphic Design from Universidad de Guadalajara. Since she was young, she has needed to feel colors, shadows, textures and shapes with her own hands, which inspired her to use traditional techniques. She is also the co-founder of a local stationary company. Her favorite place is the beach, and she loves to read and hang out with her family and her cats and dogs. She is passionate about human rights, animal rights and has a great love for nature.

PENNY CANDY BOOKS is an independent press whose books spark big conversations between kids and their adults. Our mission is to publish children's literature by and about people and subjects that speak to a broad range of human experience.

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