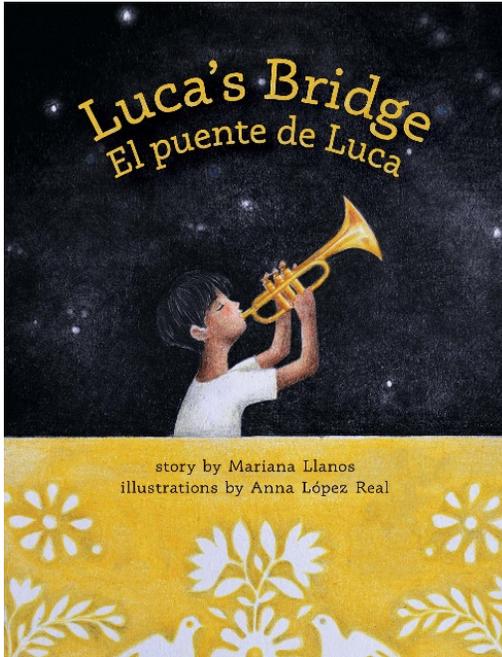


**HOW CAN LUCA LEAVE THE ONLY HOME HE'S EVER KNOWN?**



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

**Luca has never lived outside the U.S., but when his parents receive a letter in the mail, the family must pack up and leave home for a strange land.** Together in their car, Luca, his brother Paco, and their parents head across the border to Mexico where his parents were born. Luca doesn't understand why he must leave the only home he's ever known, his friends, and his school. He struggles through lonely and disorienting times—reflected both in Real's delicate, symbolic illustrations and through Llanos' description of his dreams—and leans on music, memory, and familial love for support. **Luca's Bridge / El puente de Luca is a story for**

**everyone about immigration, deportation, home, and identity.**

***Luca's Bridge/El puente de Luca***

By Mariana Llanos  
Illustrations by Anna López Real  
April 16, 2019  
Hardcover, \$16.95  
ISBN 9780998799957  
Page count: 40  
Age range: 6-11

*School Library Journal* calls it “an essential addition to any bilingual collection.” *Kirkus Reviews* says it “can serve as a springboard for discussion of this timely and sensitive issue.” *Booklist* notes, “Together, the narrative and images offer hope for readers experiencing this difficult situation and empathy for those who aren't.”



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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