

# “One of the most promising young adult authors of the new decade.”

—*The Horn Book*

**F**rancisco Xavier Arguelles was born in 1953 in Monterrey, Mexico. His mother, Ruth Arguelles, was a single woman from a middle-class family in Tampico. Six years later Ruth married Charles Stork, a retired man of Dutch ancestry, who adopted Francisco.

When Francisco announced that he wanted to be a writer, Charlie gave him a portable typewriter for his seventh birthday. Two years later, Francisco and his family moved to El Paso, Texas, where he was sent to grammar school to learn English.

As a teenager, Francisco was given a scholarship to the local Jesuit academy and soon rose to the top of his class. Based on his success there, he received an honors scholarship to attend Spring Hill College, a small Jesuit school in Mobile, Alabama.

Francisco majored in English literature and philosophy and received the college's creative writing prize. He was awarded the prestigious Danforth Fellowship to attend graduate school at Harvard University, where he studied Latin American literature with writers like Octavio Paz, the Mexican Nobel Laureate.

After four years at Harvard, Francisco went to Columbia Law School, planning to make a living as a lawyer while writing fiction. Twenty years, and twelve or so legal jobs later, he published his first novel for adults, *The Way of the Jaguar*.

Francisco X. Stork works in Boston as an attorney for a state agency that develops affordable housing. He is married and has two adult children.

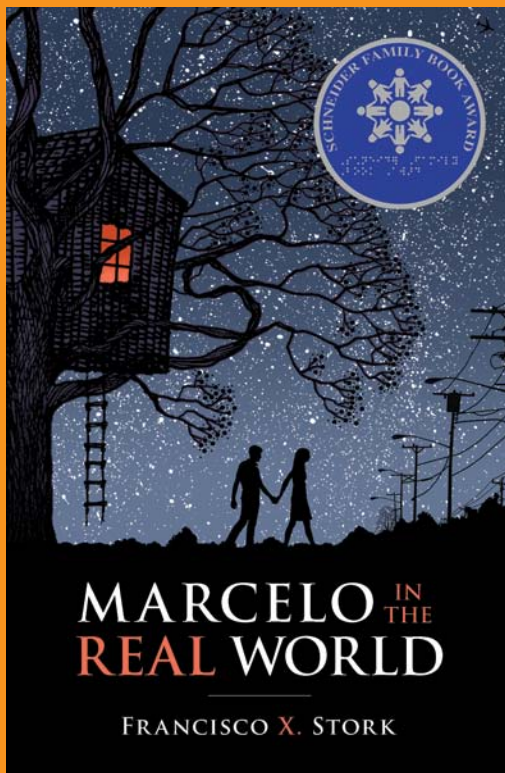


Photo by Anna Stork

## FRANCISCO X. STORK

# ★ “Shot with spiritualism, laced with love...this book, like Marcelo himself, surprises.”

—Booklist, starred review



Ages 12+ • 320 pages

Hardcover: 978-0-545-05474-4 • \$17.99

Paperback: 978-0-545-05690-8 • \$8.99

A seventeen-year-old with a condition much like Asperger's syndrome is forced to spend a summer working at his father's law firm, where he discovers the joys and pains of being fully human.

An ALA Schneider Family Book Award Winner

A Once Upon a World Children's Book Award Winner

A Top 10 ALA Best Book for Young Adults

A *New York Times* Notable Children's Book

A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year

A *Kirkus* Best Young Adult Book of the Year

A 2010 IRA Notable Book for a Global Society

A *Booklist* Editors' Choice

An Amazon Top Ten Book for Teens

★ “His inspiring, brave journey into the real world will likely engender a fierce protective instinct in readers, ratcheting up the tension as the plot winds to its sweet, satisfying denouement. It is the rare novel that reaffirms a belief in goodness; rarer still is one that does so this emphatically.”—*The Horn Book*, starred review

★ “A powerful tale populated by appealing characters and rich in emotional nuance.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ “Not to be missed.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ “Stork does an amazing job of entering Marcelo's consciousness and presenting him as a dynamic, sympathetic, and wholly believable character.”  
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Brisk, brilliant, unsentimental...Not only an important new young adult novel but a pleasure to read.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Part coming-of-age story, part mystery, and wholly compelling.”—*The Washington Post*

“A beautiful study of the loss of innocence.” —*Los Angeles Times*

★ “Rich and powerful themes, and a vivid setting...unforgettable characters confronting the big philosophical questions.”

—*The Horn Book*, starred review

Inspired by Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, this is the story of the growing friendship between Pancho, a seventeen-year-old who is out to avenge his sister's death, and D.Q., a young man with a rare form of brain cancer.

*A New York Times Editors' Choice*

*A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year*

*An Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Winner*

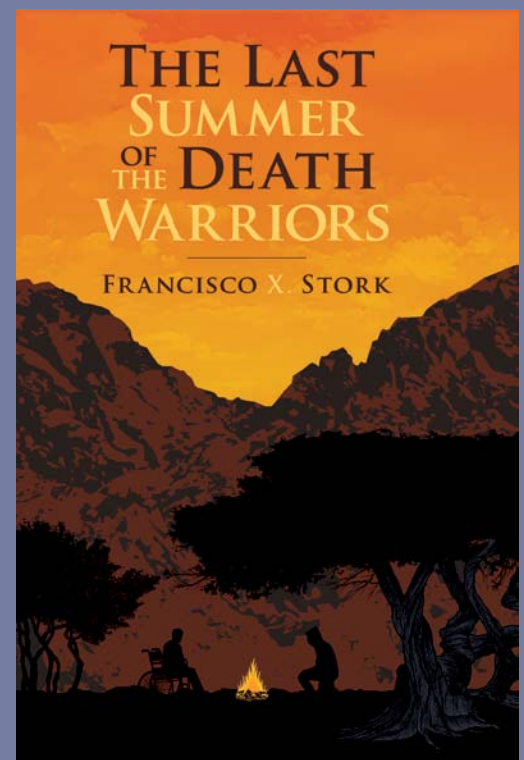
★ “Another ambitious portrait of a complex teen, one that investigates the large considerations of life and death, love and hate, and faith and doubt...this novel, in the way of the best literary fiction, is an invitation to careful reading that rewards serious analysis and discussion.”—*Booklist*, starred review

★ “Characters that are just as fully formed and memorable as in Stork's *Marcelo in the Real World* embody this openhearted, sapient novel about finding authentic faith and choosing higher love.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“At 17, an orphan seeks his way through a tangle of love, loss, and retribution.”  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Well written and with vividly described characters, this is a coming-of-age story that will keep you guessing.”—*RT Book Reviews*

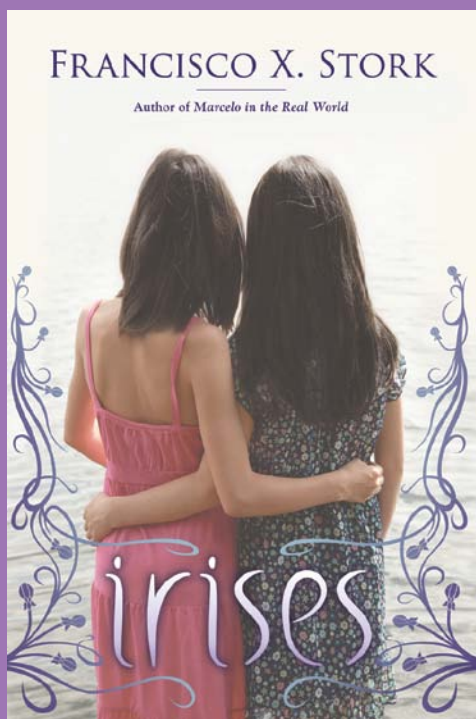
“Stork's characterizations are solid.”—*School Library Journal*



Ages 14+ • 352 pages  
Hardcover: 978-0-545-15133-7 • \$17.99  
Paperback: 978-0-545-15134-4 • \$9.99

“Complicated yet ultimately endearing characters are a Francisco Stork standard.”

—*Chicago Sun-Times*



Ages 14+ • 304 pages  
Hardcover: 978-0-545-15135-1 • \$17.99

## TWO SISTERS

Kate is bound for Stanford and an M.D.—if her family will let her go. Mary wants only to stay home and paint. When their loving but repressive father dies, they must figure out how to support themselves and their mother, and how to get along in all their uneasy sisterhood.

## THREE YOUNG MEN

Kate's boyfriend Simon offers to marry her, providing much-needed stability. Mary is drawn to Marcos, though she fears his violent past. And Andy tempts Kate with more than romance, recognizing her ambition because it matches his own.

## ONE AGONIZING CHOICE

Kate and Mary each find new possibilities and darknesses in their sudden freedom. But it's Mama's life that might divide them for good—the question of *if* she lives, and what's worth living for.

*Irises* is Francisco X. Stork's bravest and most provocative novel yet.



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