

Lady Q: The Rise and Fall of a Latin Queen

By Reymundo Sanchez, Sonia Rodriguez

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This is a raw and powerful memoir not only of one woman's struggle to survive the streets but also of her ascent to the top ranks of the new mafia, where the only people more dangerous than rival gangs were members of her own. At age five Sonia Rodriguez's stepfather began to abuse her; at 10 she was molested by her uncle and beaten by her mother when she told on him; and by 13 her home had become a hangout for the Latin Kings and Queens who were friends with her older sister. Threatened by rival gang members at school, Sonia turned away from her education and extracurricular activities in favor of a world of drugs and violence. The Latin Kings, one of the largest and most notorious street gangs in America, became her refuge, but its violence cost her friends, freedom, self-respect, and nearly her life. As a Latin Queen, she experienced the exhilarating highs and unbelievable lows of gang life. From being shot at by her own gang and kicked out at age 18 with an infant daughter to rejoining the gang and distinguishing herself as a leader, her legacy as Lady Q was cemented both for her willingness to commit violence and for her role as a drug mule. For the first time, a woman's perspective on gang life is presented.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A viciously candid, self-deprecating memoir." —*Chicago* magazine

"An oftentimes painful, close-up look at the blow-by-blow evolution of a female gang leader. . . reveals the fear, despair, and longing inside a seeming heart of stone." —Gini Sikes, author, *8 Ball Chicks: A Year in the World of Girl Gangs*

"A brutal, chilling firsthand account of how a young person who is raised without positive family values will reach out to a gang to find a support system and a substitute family." —Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State and founder, the Jesse White Tumblers, an anti-gang and -drug program

About the Author

Reymundo Sanchez is the pseudonym of a former Latin King who no longer lives in Chicago. He is the author of *My Bloody Life* and *Once a King, Always a King*, and has appeared on Fox News Chicago, Telemundo, and Univision. **Sonia Rodriguez**

is the pseudonym of a former Latin Queen who no longer lives in Chicago.

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