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# *Claribel A. Ortega* *Media Kit*

AUTHOR, PODCASTER

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# Bio

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## LONG VERSION

New York Times Bestselling and award-winning author Claribel Ortega went from journalism student, editing her classmates' often times hilarious ads and ramblings on the back page of SUNY Purchase's Independent Newspaper, to a small town reporter, where she enjoyed going to board of ed meetings and texting the town mayors about the line at Starbucks.

Today when she's not busy turning her obsession with eighties pop culture, magic and video games into books, she's co-hosting the hilarious and chaotic Bad Author Book Club podcast. She is a Marvel contributor and has been featured on BuzzFeed, Bustle, Good Morning America and Deadline.

Claribel's debut middle grade novel *Ghost Squad* is out now from Scholastic and is being made into a feature film. *Ghost Squad* won Best in Middle Grade at the 2021 Ignyte Awards, was a Goodreads Choice Award finalist, and an International Latino book awards honorary mention for 2020. *Ghost Squad* was also the Barnes & Noble Young Reader Pick for October 2021.

Her latest book *Witchlings* (Scholastic) was an Instant NYT and #1 Indie Bestseller. Her graphic novel *Frizzy* with Rose Bousamra is out October 2022 from First Second. You can find her on Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @Claribel\_Ortega and on her website at [claribelortega.com](http://claribelortega.com). Claribel lives in New York with her motorcycle-riding poet boyfriend & her suspiciously intelligent yorkie, Pancho.

## SHORT VERSION

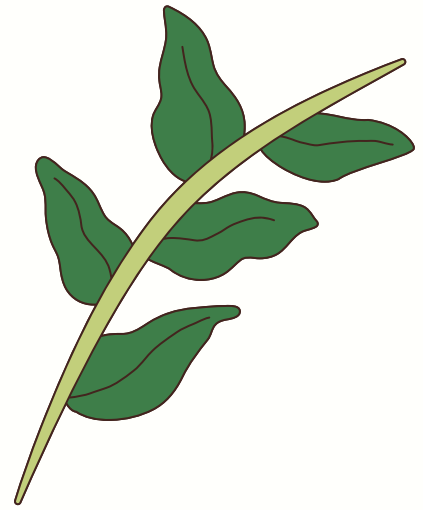
New York Times Bestselling and award-winning author, Claribel A. Ortega is a former reporter who writes middle-grade and young adult fantasy inspired by her Dominican heritage. When she's not busy turning her obsession with eighties pop culture, magic, and video games into books, she's co-hosting her podcast *Bad Author Book Club*. Claribel is a Marvel contributor and has been featured on BuzzFeed, Bustle, Good Morning America and Deadline.

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# *Press*

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[Entertainment Weekly: 5 great children's books for spring break](#)

[Buzzfeed: So Many Fantastic Books Are Releasing In April & Here Are Our Top Picks](#)

[The Nerd Daily: Exclusive Book Trailer Reveal: Witchlings by Claribel A. Ortega](#)

[Witchlings' Review: A Welcoming Tale of Magic and Belonging by Claribel A. Ortega](#)

['Witchlings,' Worldbuilding & Writing for Kids: A Q&A with author Claribel A. Ortega.](#)

[GeeksOut: INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR CLARIBEL A. ORTEGA](#)

[Good Morning America Interview: Summer Reading Squad: 'Ghost Squad'](#)

['Come Away' Director Brenda Chapman To Direct 'Ghost Squad' Adaptation Based On Upcoming Scholastic Book](#)

[15 Books to Read for Caribbean American Heritage Month](#)

["WE FLY WITH OUR SPIRIT": 8 BOOKS LIKE KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE](#)

[Bronx Native to have book turned into movie](#)

[GVN Interview With NY Times Best Selling Author Claribel Ortega](#)



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# *Interview Topics*

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- **Abuse in middle grade fiction** – How Claribel's experiences growing up led to Valley's abuse storyline in *Witchlings*
- **Queer characters in middle grade** – From the non-binary Oracle to the gay *Witchlings*, why Claribel decided to unapologetically include queer characters throughout the series
- **What If the Sorting Hat Put You Nowhere?** – How Claribel's identity within the diaspora inspired the idea of Spares
- **Dominican folklore and middle grade** – Why Claribel choose to include Dominican folklore and aspects of her heritage (such as Spanish spells in *Witchlings*) in her books
- **From the South Bronx to the NYT Bestseller List** – How Claribel wrote, and tweeted, her way to a successful career as a children's author
- **Writing Through Grief** – How Claribel processes the grief of losing a loved one through writing
- **Writing Through Depression** – How writing has helped Claribel deal with her depression and anxiety
- **Bullying in middle grade fiction** – Why Claribel includes bullying storylines in her books and how her own experiences with being bullied impacted her writing career
- **Latine Representation in Books** – Why Latine/o/a representation is so important and needed and how Claribel is helping fight inequality in publishing



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# *Additional News Details*

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- Claribel's debut *Ghost Squad* released during the pandemic, but still reached the NYT Bestseller List
- Claribel got her literary agent via Twitter
- Before signing with an agent, Claribel was catfished by a scam publishing company
- *Witchlings* includes all Spanish language spells, and Spanish is Claribel's first language
- Claribel was part of the Head Start program in the South Bronx
- Claribel was rejected from her college's creative writing program
- Claribel was the founder and co-host of the popular writing podcast *Write or Die* and the current podcast *Bad Author Book Club*
- Claribel is an avid gamer and used to stream on Twitch



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# *Praise for books by Claribel A. Ortega*

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## **Praise for *Witchlings***

An instant New York Times Bestseller!

A #1 Indie Bestseller!

An Amazon Best Book of the Month

*"Enchanting. Ortega's inventive story has a cozy, lived-in feel and a mystery that will keep kids guessing." —Entertainment Weekly*

*"A gorgeous tale of determination and magic"  
- Booklist*

*"Energetic and intelligent; invites readers to question their assumptions and the status quo"  
- Kirkus*

*"Magic, friendship, and downright funny—Witchlings has all the ingredients for an enchanting read."  
—Kwame Mbalia, New York Times bestselling author of the Tristan Strong series*

*"Inventive. Magical. Enchanting. An absolutely charming tale with its heart rooted in the friendships we make and keep."  
—J.C. Cervantes, bestselling author of The Storm Runner series*

## **Praise for *Ghost Squad***

A New York Times Bestseller

Ignite Awards Best Middle Grade of 2020

One of NPR's Best Books of 2020

A Good Morning America Summer Reading Squad pick

*\* "A peppering of pop culture references add humor, but it's the personal touches, such as Lucely's opinionated, ever-present ancestors; her dedication to those she loves; and an emphasis on Latinx food, love, and folklore, that gives this debut its distinctive spirit." —Publishers Weekly, starred review*

*"It's the Ghostbusters meets Jane the Virgin mashup we didn't know we needed." —Book Riot*

## **Praise for *Frizzy***

*"A wonderful tale about what it truly means to have good hair . . . and a good heart."  
—Varian Johnson, award-winning author of Twins*

*"I desperately wish I'd had a book like this when I was growing up. Frizzy is uplifting, affirming, and healing to all kids who love their curls. Curly hair power!"*

*—Zoraida Córdova, award-winning author of Valentina Salazar Is Not a Monster Hunter*

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# *Social Contact & More*

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## *S O C I A L M E D I A*

TWITTER: [twitter.com/Claribel\\_Ortega/](https://twitter.com/Claribel_Ortega/)

TIKTOK: [www.tiktok.com/@claribel\\_Ortega](https://www.tiktok.com/@claribel_Ortega)

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FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/ClaribelOrtegaAuthor/](https://www.facebook.com/ClaribelOrtegaAuthor/)

WEBSITE: [www.claribelortega.com](http://www.claribelortega.com)

 19.6K  8K  15.9K  3.3K

## *PODCAST INFO*

Authors Claribel A. Ortega and Ryan La Sala dive into the wacky world of celebrity penned fiction! Season one features Modelland by Tyra Banks!

Bad Author Book Club with author Ryan La Sala

- Website: [anchor.fm/badauthorbookclub](https://anchor.fm/badauthorbookclub)
- Email: [Badauthorbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:Badauthorbookclub@gmail.com)

## *CONTACT*

Available for radio, podcast, print, broadcast  
& both English & Spanish language interviews.

For Media & interview requests regarding  
Ghost Squad or Witchlings

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