



Pardon My Spanglish - Bill Santiago

Caza Azul Author Interview

Have you read Bill's libro yet? Esta lleno de historias that you are going to love! His book, [Pardon My Spanglish, One Man's Guide to Speaking the Habla](#) has stories about situations in his family and hilarious "Top Ten" lists like Top Ten Spanglish Proverbs, Top Ten Spanglish Ice Cream Flavors and Top Ten Spanglish Country Songs...great book to share with toda la familia!

Preguntas para Bill:

What motivated you to write this book?

A publisher got in touch via my website after an article in the New York Post appeared about my Comedy Central special. They asked if I wanted to write a book. Once you have the deal, the deadline is very motivating. So are the calls about missing the deadline.

In promoting your book, what was the biggest thing you weren't expecting?

How interactive my readings would be. I get folks at the readings very involved. The book ends with a biographical script of my family at Thanksgiving in New York City, at my TiTi Norma's house. So there's four generations of Spanglish going on, everyone speaking different Spanish/English ratios all at once and overlapping, but with everybody understanding everything. I just cast it right there and we do a cold reading with someone playing my mom, my TiTi Norma, my cousin Quique, my brothers, my little cousins, my grandmother, etc. And it so funny to me to hear all of these different strangers playing my family, Speaking Spanglish in their own voices and cracking up at the dialogue while they're doing it.

What does your mom think about the book?

Ah, well. She was upset that she had to pay for her copy, because there was a delay in shipping her free copy from the warehouse. But she called me from the bookstore, all proud, saying that the books at the store, "estaban escondiditos en un shelf adonde nobody could see them." So she took them and put them at the front of the store on the "featured must reads" table. Then, that same night she calls me at 2 a.m., to tell me she is reading the book and is very upset because something I wrote was a family secret, and she didn't find it funny at all that I had included it. And she said I to take it out of the book. "Yo no se cómo lo vas hacer, ¡pero you gotta take it out de alguna manera!" she

said. I just said I couldn't talk about it right then and she hasn't mentioned it since.

Doing any book tours/readings for this book?

I'll be on tour with this book for the next 2 years all around the country. Check www.myspace.com/billsantiagocomedy for an updated calendar. So far we've done interviews on everything from Good Morning America Now, to Univision to The BBC. And I just got word that the book will be included in this year's Latin Grammy's gift bag. So I'm pretty happy with all of it. Most of all, people are enjoying the book. I watch them at the readings open to a page and they always start giggling right away. That's a good sign.

purchase your books at www.lacasaazulbookstore.com

Bill Santiago will be at East Harlem Café on Wednesday October 22nd at 7pm. www.eastharlem-cafe.com