

BARDO99



CECILE PINEDA

Pineda is a writer of the utmost artistic integrity.

– J. M. Coetzee

THE CRITICS ON CECILE PINEDA

Cecile Pineda is a writer of the utmost artistic integrity.

– J. M. Coetzee, Nobel Prize recipient

An author of powerful imagination and intellect, Cecile Pineda has already been compared to Cortazar, Borges, Marquez, Camus, Lagerqvist and Kafka. She has become one of the most discussed up-and-coming American novelists around.

– San Antonio Light

Critical Praise for *Bardo99*:

. . . Written in a style that crosses Kafka's paranoid paradoxes with the post-apocalyptic morality of Heironymus Bosch via William S. Burroughs, Bardo99 is a fast-paced hallucinogenic trip [that] catalogues 20th-century human atrocities . . .

– Education Digest

Critical Praise for *Face*:

A poetic, hallucinatory work, finely and sparsely written, the debut of a very talented writer indeed. May we see more?

– Newsday

Written with sparse prose, stark drama and pointed symbolism, Face is an intensely moving tale of catastrophe and redemption, of the fall and unyielding will of the human spirit. The prose of this novel cuts like a surgeon's scalpel; not a word is wasted or out of place.

– Nashville Banner

There is an immediacy to her narrative, combined with images that startle our senses, that leave us haunted.

– San Francisco Chronicle

Critical praise for *Frieze*:

Elegant form and vigorous detail give Frieze its mesmerizing power.

– Josephine Humphreys in The Nation

As delicately phrased as a prose poem. . . A parable that opposes the pride and power of the state to the slow resistance of human life.

– Richard Eder in The Los Angeles Times Book Review

Critical Praise for *The Love Queen of the Amazon*:

An outrageously inventive novel, the love child of Fanny Hill, fathered by some randy Latin American magical realist. . . . In a story that is shrewd, sensual, and beautifully crafted, [Pineda] serves up social satire surreptitiously disguised as a delicately off-color fable – a delight from cover to cover.

– Armanda Heller in *The Boston Globe*

*The passionate backdrop of South America has produced some of modern literature's most remarkable female characters. . . . In her third novel, *The Love Queen of the Amazon*, Cecile Pineda enhances this roster with a brilliantly drawn portrait of a Peruvian baron, Ana Magdalena Figueroa. She is one of the few great Latin heroines not created by the male imagination, and Ana Magdalena's amorous history provides a unique vehicle for the U.S.-born Pineda to look with a satirically feminine eye at the manners, mores, and literature of all the Americas, to which *Love Queen* is a noteworthy addition.*

– Richard Martins in *The Chicago Tribune*

*Ana Magdalena Arzate de Figueroa stars in Cecile Pineda's terrific new novel, *The Love Queen of the Amazon*. Ana Magdalena's husband is writing a novel that goes by the same name, and her sailor lover's riverboat is called the *Amazon Queen*. . . . Her story has a soft, erotic feel, with a cast of characters who persist in making theatrical fools of themselves and others throughout. . . .*

– Tom Miller in *The New York Times Book Review*

On Cecile Pineda's memoir, *Fishlight: A Dream of Childhood*:

Fishlight is a gentle, beautiful book, a rare and poetic song from an exquisitely melancholy childhood, written with heartbreaking innocence and a great love of life. It is original, poignant, profoundly simple and unforgettable. Cecile Pineda creates wonderful magic.

– John Nichols, author of *The Milagro Beanfield War*

Fishlight is a long-awaited treat. . . . full of pulsing, beautiful language from a gifted storyteller. . . . Cecile Pineda is writing at the peak of her craft. I revel in the open heartedness of this writer and I cherish her new novel.

– Virgil Suarez, editor of *Iguana Dreams*

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Other works by Cecile Pineda

Redoubt: A Mononovel

Face

Frieze

The Love Queen of the Amazon

*Fishlight:
A Dream of Childhood*

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a mononovel

Cecile Pineda

The logo for WingsPress features the word "WingsPress" in a serif font. Above the letters "i" and "n" in "Wings" is a blue graphic of a pair of wings. The text is framed by two horizontal lines, one above and one below.

WingsPress

San Antonio, Texas

2002

Redoubt © 2004 by Cecile Pineda

Cover illustration, "Angel Oscar"
© 1997 by Kathy Vargas

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for Maria Gilardin

It was a place the local folk called Prypiat. When we came there at first, many people told us that sometimes, when it stormed, they could hear cries of battle in the night. After the surveyors shot the grades for the new city, we went in with the bulldozers. I was the foreman of one crew. We began turning over the ground. Arms, legs, hands, feet, skulls, the great rakes of the machines turned them all up. One dismembered hand still clutched the image of a woman. There must have been thousands and thousands of skulls. We had uncovered a World War II battleground. We couldn't dig enough trenches to bury them all. We called the new city Chernobyl after the exterminating angel. It was the angel whose name is Wormwood.

– from the account of Kyril Chernenko, 1918 - 2001

O Nobly Born, thou hast come now to the time of the closing of the womb-door. This is a time when earnestness and pure love are necessary.

– from the *Bardo Thodol*

I am alpha and omega.

– Revelations, xxii. 13