



[The Witch Owl Parliament \(Clockwork Curandera #1\)](#) created by David Bowles and Raúl the Third

Tu Books, an imprint of LEE & LOW BOOKS INC, 2021

ISBN: 9781620145920 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 12 & up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8 & up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Discover a graphic novel unlike any other—a brilliant steampunk reimagining of Frankenstein set in colonial Mexico.

In the Republic of Santander, non-Christian magic is frowned upon, if not outright prohibited. But when Cristina Franco, an apprentice shaman, is killed by witch owls, her brother Enrique cannot let her go. With forbidden alchemy and engineering, Enrique brings her back to life: part human, part machine. Though her very existence is an abomination to Santander’s citizens, Cristina vows to use her new abilities to protect her country from attack.

With help from a handsome skinwalker named Mateo, Cristina and Enrique track down the witch owl coven and uncover a sinister plot to bring Santander under the rule of the Witch Owl Parliament, whose legendary cruelty would dismantle the country’s hard-won freedoms. At the same time, Indigenous folks and immigrants are disappearing from Santander—including Enrique’s beloved, Gaspar. Could the attacks and the disappearances be related? As the witch owls attack more trains and more refugees go missing, the trio must uncover the witch owls’ origins to understand their weakness.

Energetic illustrations by Pura Belpré Award winner Raúl the Third bring to life the words of award-winning author and poet David Bowles. Don’t miss this amazing first volume of the Clockwork Curandera trilogy!

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“With gorgeous, action-packed illustrations and evocative, thought-provoking prose, *Clockwork Curandera* delivers a must-read, magical adventure!” —**Guadalupe Garcia McCall, Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

“A decolonial breath of fresh air where Indigenous belief systems are centered in a visual otherworldly alternate historical narrative. . . This is an important, impressive kickoff to a series that resurrects notions of good and evil, nature versus the unnatural and unknown, the world of science and the spiritual realm, environmental corporate thievery encroaching upon the elemental.” —**Tony Medina, author of *I Am Alfonso Jones***

“Combine David Bowles’ storytelling prowess with Raúl III’s earthly yet hauntingly otherworld art and you get an alchemical explosion of mythic magnificence. . . this is Latinx futurism at its most exhilaratingly sublime and imaginatively epic.” —**Frederick Luis Aldama, distinguished university**

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professor & award-winning author of 40+ books, including *The Adventures of Chupacabra Charlie* and *Latinx Superheroes of Mainstream Comics*

"A manga fever dream steampunk lovechild born of Promethean nightmares and Mexican legend. IT'S ALIVE and it's a smash!" —**John Picacio, Hugo Award-Winning Artist**

"Electric. . . Set in a steampunk-inspired nineteenth-century Mexico, the story draws on Indigenous folklore and other traditions, in a fascinating blend of magic and culture." —[Booklist](#)

"This visually stunning graphic novel delivers on all fronts." —*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"A fast-paced genre mashup sure to find a cult following." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"Featuring a limited palette with pops of brilliant orange-red and forest green by colorist Stacey Robinson, stylish lettering by Damian Duffy, and Raúl the Third's well-placed panel breakouts and signature kinetic style, each page buzzes with life. . . The siblings' compelling dynamic will leave readers awaiting the next installments." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

"Leaves readers with much to ponder, setting up a historical and magical steampunk world that can only grow from here. For teens who enjoy intellectually stimulating, action-packed tales." —[School Library Journal](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Publication for Teens nominee
- YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens (American Library Association)
- International Latino Book Award
- Locus Awards Finalist (Locus Science Fiction Foundation)
- New York Public Library Best Books for Kids & Teens
- Jean Flynn Award for Best Young Adult Book winner (Texas Institute of Letters)
- MISelf in Books List (Michigan Association of School Librarians)
- Maverick Graphic Novel List (Texas Library Association)
- Whippoorwill Award Winner

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Book Trailer](#)
- [Politics & Prose: P&P Live! & DCPL Present David Bowles & Raúl III](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENTS

"It is my professional opinion as an educator, literacy advocate, and author that we must resist such religious interference as wrongheaded and frankly insulting to the educational professionals in our communities.

Teenagers are not children. They are young adults on the verge of independence, with the full gamut of human rights and autonomy over themselves in all but a few aspects of their lives. They are of the age of discernment, and their free will to choose what to read should not be hampered. The time for their

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families and community to instill in them ethical values that will aid in that decision-making is when they are young. By the time they are in high school, we must trust them, not micro-manage their internal lives or attempt to curtail their liberty.

Furthermore, our children are not perverse. There is no perversity in respecting all identities: racial, ethnic, and religious; of gender or of orientation; disabled or abled, etc. Specifically, being LGBTQ+ is not a perversion, and those seeking to frame their fellow community members as evil *because of their identities* are themselves harmful and bigoted.

The real perversion in this case is for school districts to permit religious leaders from an extreme variety of Christianity to dictate policy and procedure for schools serving the wide range of students living in our communities. School districts are part of the educational system under the state and federal government. They must be kept separate from the demands of any church. It is a foundational principle of this nation.

Moreover, the teachers and librarians in your districts are experts. They have studied their fields deeply. They have challenged the state's professional and subject area certification exams and have proven themselves ready. The leaders of your district interviewed and hired them. Your HR departments ensured they met all requirements. *Those individuals* are whom you should trust in this divisive moment." — David Bowles, [Letter to Region One Superintendents Concerning Book Banning Efforts in Region One Schools](#)

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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