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CASAS TOMADAS

Monsters and Metaphors on the  
Periphery of Latin American  
Literature and Media

Edited by Carlos A. González

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# Casas Tomadas

*Monsters and Metaphors on the Periphery of Latin American  
Literature and Media*

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*Uneven, disproportionate, abnormal: monsters are all that resist clear definitions and depictions. And yet, we cannot help but stare at them, albeit fearful that they might stare back at us. This volume is a rebel gaze at the eyes of those monsters, in a quest to understand their role in contemporary Latin American fiction. Reader, beware!*

**Caio Esteves de Souza**  
Harvard University

## About the editor

**Carlos A. González** is a PhD candidate in the Romance Languages and Literatures Department at Harvard University, specializing in horror, the Weird, and speculative fiction in Spanish and French literature. With a focus on Latin American and Francophone Weird narratives, González's research examines how monstrosity, marginality, and ethics converge to challenge the reader. They have published and presented on topics including Latin American women's neo-Gothic literature, heterotopic French fiction, and Queer and Crip criticism within both contemporary and medieval monster narratives in literature and film. González's dissertation-in-progress investigates the figure of the monster across historical periods in Weird literature, arguing that literary monstrosity offers insights into interpersonal relationships through the ethical philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas. Their work draws on interdisciplinary training in critical theory and comparative literature to highlight how Gothic and Weird genres uniquely challenge ethical and social norms. González lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with their partner, shih tzu, and the creature living under their bed.

## Summary

'Casas Tomadas: Monsters and Metaphors on the Periphery of Latin American Literature and Media' examines how Latin American writers, filmmakers, and artists use monstrosity to reflect on marginalization, identity, and social trauma. This volume brings together close analyses of literature, film, and visual art from across Latin America, exploring how the monstrous symbolizes resistance to cultural, political, and historical oppression. Organized into four sections—Night Lights, In the Grip of Monsters, Echoes in the Darkness, and Sinister Spaces—the book offers case studies on works by Mariana Enríquez, Samanta Schweblin, Issa López, and others. Each chapter reveals how monsters, from mythic figures to supernatural landscapes, serve as potent metaphors for issues like queer and feminist activism, postcolonial haunting, and socio-political violence. Contributors engage with genres from horror and the Gothic to speculative fiction, situating monstrosity within Latin American experiences of violence, trauma, and resilience. Distinct for its interdisciplinary approach, 'Casas Tomadas' will serve as a key resource for students and researchers in Latin American Studies, Cultural Studies, and Gothic and Horror Studies. Its focused structure makes it ideal for classroom adoption, while its fresh perspectives on Latin American Gothic and the politics of monstrosity offer new insights for scholars in queer and postcolonial theory.

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**SUBJECTS** Language and Literature, Linguistics, Cultural Studies

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