



Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment, Inc.  
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PR10-014  
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Join us for another book with



**The READ Philippines - Book Club**  
Featuring *Illustrado* by Miguel Syjuco

Do you look back upon your school days wishing that you learned more about writers to whom you could relate? Were your literature classes filled with a lot of Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Melville, but not enough Rizal, Bulosan or Hagedorn? If so, then READ Philippines invites you to participate in the READ Philippines Book Club! Join us as we embark on an exploration of Filipino and Filipino-American literary greats, past and present.

Every 1-2 months, the Book Club will focus on a book by a Filipino or Filipino-American author. Together with READ Philippines Director John Entrada and Co-lead Mark Bhasin, participants will be given several weeks to read a chosen book, after which a Literary Discussion will take place over a weekend brunch or afternoon tea. At the end of each discussion, participants will have the opportunity to suggest and vote on the next book.

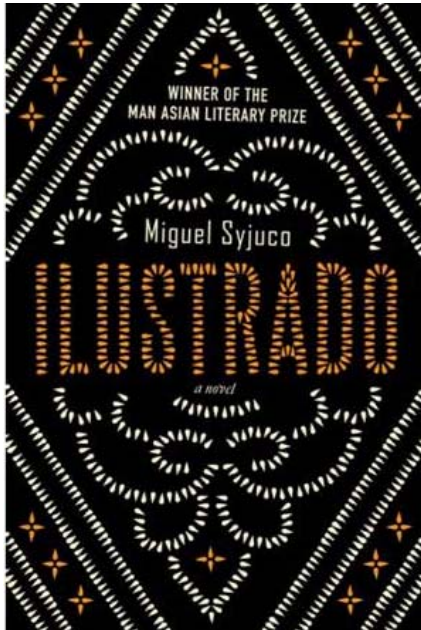
At the latest Book Club gathering, members selected *Illustrado* by Miguel Syjuco.

The next Literary Discussion will take place on **Sunday, September 12 at 3pm**. Details to follow. To receive updates from the book club, CORE members are encouraged to contact John Entrada, Director of READ Philippines, and Mark Bhasin, Book Club Project Lead at [bookclub@core-nyc.org](mailto:bookclub@core-nyc.org).

(More details on the second page.)

**PROGRAM:** The READ-Philippines Book Club  
**FEATURE:** *Ilustrado* by Miguel Syjuco  
**EVENT:** Literary Discussion  
**WHEN:** Reading Period: now through Sunday, September 12, 2010.  
 Literary Discussion: Sunday, September 12 at 3pm  
**PLACE:** TBD (for details, contact [bookclub@core-nyc.org](mailto:bookclub@core-nyc.org))  
**COST:** Participants are responsible for providing a copy of the featured book.  
 CORE does not underwrite any costs for the culminating discussion.  
**CONTACT:** John Entrada, Director, READ Philippines ([read@core-nyc.org](mailto:read@core-nyc.org))  
 Mark Bhasin, Program Lead ([bookclub@core-nyc.org](mailto:bookclub@core-nyc.org))  
**INFO:** [www.core-nyc.org](http://www.core-nyc.org)  
**JOIN:** [bookclub@core-nyc.org](mailto:bookclub@core-nyc.org) to join the book club!

### Synopsis



Miguel Syjuco's debut novel, *Ilustrado*, opens with Crispin Salvador, lion of Philippine letters, dead in the Hudson River. His young student, Miguel, sets out to investigate the author's fatal departure from his encroaching obscurity and the suspicious disappearance of an unfinished manuscript—a work that had been planned to not just return the once-great author to fame, but to expose the corruption behind rich families who have ruled the Philippines for generations.

To understand the death, Miguel scours the life, charting Salvador's trajectory via his poetry, stories, interviews, novels, polemics, and memoirs. The literary fragments become patterns become stories become epic: a family saga of four generations tracing 150 years of a country's history forged under the Spanish, Americans, and Filipinos themselves. In the end, the story twists, belonging to young Miguel as much as his lost mentor, and readers are treated to an unhindered view of a tropical Third World society caught between reckless decay and hopeful progress.

In this astonishingly inventive and bold novel, Syjuco explores fatherhood, regret, revolution, and the mysteries of lives lived and abandoned.

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***Collaborate and Empower through Engagement and Education.***

*Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment, Inc. (CORE) is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose primary vision is to empower Filipino professionals as a collective body in the United States. It also seeks to provide an avenue for socio-economic involvement to build a stronger Filipino American community.*