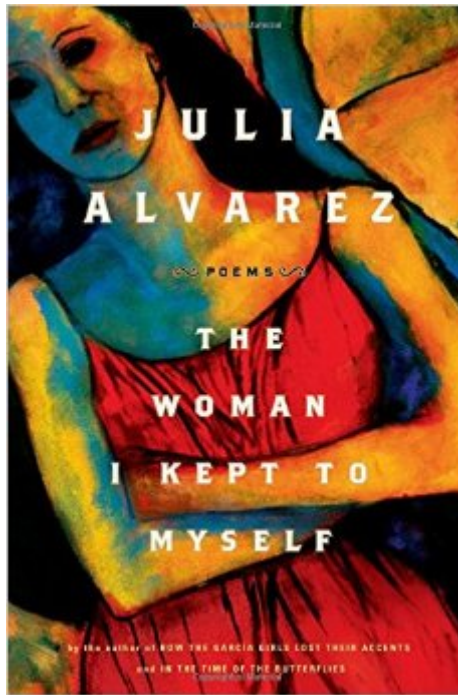


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# The Woman I Kept To Myself



## Synopsis

The works of this award-winning poet and novelist are rich with the language and influences of two cultures: those of the Dominican Republic of her childhood and the America of her youth and adulthood. They have shaped her writing just as they have shaped her life. In these seventy-five autobiographical poems, Alvarez's clear voice sings out in every line. Here, in the middle of her life, she looks back as a way of understanding and celebrating the woman she has become.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,161,850 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States > Hispanic American #935 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Hispanic

## Customer Reviews

Julia Alvarez (1950-) is recognized as an award winning commercially acclaimed poet/essayist/author that beautifully and skillfully weaves and blends her life experiences between Latina and American culture. "The Woman I Kept to Myself": is creative autobiographical story poetry, beginning in the 1960's to current times. Various stages of Alvarez life (1973-1975), are compared to her great love and appreciation for trees: 'Family Trees', 'Maple, Oak, Elm?', her unhappiness in "wrong life story" a marriage ending in divorce. 'Locust' (1998): tells the joy of finding a partner, publisher, steady job at 40 years of age. Beginning in 1960 Alvarez writes of her childhood: Anger and Art, The Red Pick-up, Spic: (of bullying), All American Girl, Bellevue Mental Hospital (her mothers warning), the 'Abbott Academy' (graduation in 1967, young ladies went to be "tamed", not trained to be world leaders). 'Lunch Hour 1971': Alvarez recalled her work editing 'Special Reports Inc.' and encountering Viet Nam War protesters handing out stale leaflets and Peace buttons, while going to the public library on her lunch break. Love, marriage, symbolism, and sometimes unhappy circumstances: My Bottom Line, Love Portions, Fights, Tone, Hairbands. 'My

Kind of Woman': Eve, Lot's wife, Mary so sweet/humble, Joan of Arc.'Life Lines': After 40 years of marriage her parents returned to their homeland, Alvarez remembers the death of her mother. In 'Regresso', her father's dementia, his Spanish speech returning, leaving his English language unspoken. 'Aficionados': the love of Latina experience/culture. Further titled poems are self-explanatory: The Therapist, Disappearing, Gaining Myself Back, and 'Signs' speaking of the afterlife.

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