

## LUIS ALBERTO URREA

*“Urrea is a kind of literary badass ... a master storyteller with a rock and roll heart.” —NPR*

**Luis Alberto Urrea is a prolific and award-winning writer, a master storyteller who uses his dual-culture life experiences to explore greater themes of love, loss and triumph. In all of his work, Luis encourages empathy and compassion for our shared humanity.**

Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and an American mother, Luis grew up in San Diego. Like so many great writers, Luis got his start in literature writing poems to impress girls in junior high. His early heroes were all rock stars, but not being especially musically gifted Luis chose to follow in the steps of his literary role models. “What I really wanted to be was Jim Morrison,” he has said “however, if I weren’t a writer, I’d be dead.”

The author of 17 books, he has published extensively in various genres and has received many prestigious awards. *The Devil’s Highway*, his non-fiction account of a group of Mexican immigrants lost in the Arizona desert, won the Lannan Literary Award, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and was called, “the single most compelling, lucid, and lyrical contemporary account of the absurdity of U.S. border policy” by *The Atlantic*. His highly acclaimed historical novels; *The Hummingbird’s Daughter* and *Queen of America* together tell the epic story of Teresita Urrea, a great aunt who was a healer and Mexican folk hero. Luis is also the author of *Into the Beautiful North*, *The House of Broken Angels*, and his latest, *Good Night, Irene*, which takes as inspiration his mother’s own Red Cross service. With its affecting and uplifting portrait of friendship and valor in harrowing circumstances, *Good Night, Irene* powerfully demonstrates yet again that Urrea’s “gifts as a storyteller are prodigious” (NPR).

Throughout his career, Luis has established himself as a passionate and prolific voice urging readers to break down borders instead of putting up walls.