

# Download Bird Of Paradise How I Became Latina

## Raquel Cepeda

In *Bird of Paradise*, Cepeda utilizes the testimonial approach with great candor and honesty to excavate her painful youth in order to confront it. In her preface to the book she states, "Our identities are as fluid as our personal experiences are diverse." That statement captures the essence of this emotionally-charged memoir. *Bird of Paradise* is a phenomenal book, that is both intimate, raw, and a draw for anyone who has had any turmoil about identity, family and culture. Reading *Bird of Paradise* was a true pleasure and I look forward to future works of Raquel Cepeda. "I applaud Raquel Cepeda's courage and brilliance. This is an important book, shedding light on questions that many of us ask ourselves, but seldom speak about out loud." "In *Bird of Paradise*, Raquel Cepeda takes on, with cultural flair and brutal honesty, what it means to be the living embodiment of a global society. A Dominican-American woman seeking the truth about her roots, Cepeda uses tools including DNA testing and her reporterly skill for teasing out family secrets. What she finds is a revelation not just for her or for Latino Americans, but for anyone who cares about the way the past connects us to the future.