

Hispanic Link February 5, 2007

New Reads *Edited by Marisella Veiga and Alex Meneses Miyashita*

The Shepherd Boy by Darick Allan is a beautifully written novel that is set in the mountains of Quito, Ecuador during the 1960s. It is a poetic narrative that tells the story of two boys from different worlds: Tommy, an American boy from a diplomatic family, and Chaco, an Indian boy from a poor family.

Tommy's violent action against Chaco—throwing a rock that wounds the poor boy's face—results in consequences that cast long shadows over both their lives.

As a result, readers can see how evil is born and nurtured by both children and especially by adults in both communities. The novel is a modern parable.

The Brazilian-born writer was raised in both Latin America and Africa and currently lives in Washington, D.C.

Allan's forthcoming novel, also from Portal Press, is "The Prisoner of Zone 22". The story is loosely based on events surrounding Guatemala's presidential elections in 2003.

Portal Press, paperback, \$13.00, 134 pp.