

Review: *Historias de hadas para adultos* by Ruth Sánchez Imizcoz

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While still in university, Chaviano won the first of her many prizes, the David Prize in 1979 for ***Los mundos que amo***, a collection of five stories for young readers. The book became a classic, inspiring radio adaptations, a short film, and even a graphic novel, which sold 200,000 copies in fewer than two months.

Two years after she graduated from the University of Havana, she conducted the first literary science fiction workshop in Cuba (and possibly Latin America) and called it “Oscar Hurtado,” in honor of the man who’s considered the father of Cuban science fiction. This latest edition of her wonderful 1986 book features three stories that combine

fantasy and fantastic beings and mythology.

“La Granja” (“The Farm”) is set in rural Cuba, where Gilberto, a newspaper reporter, gets lost on his way to his family home. He winds up on a farm with an unusual family whose names are reminiscent of Arthurian legends. As the story moves forward readers find out the characters are quite real. The end of the visit is bittersweet, for Gilberto will both win and lose after this extraordinary encounter.

“La dama del ciervo” (“The Lady of the Deer”) also employs mythology, but this time in a very interesting combination along with Christianity, Greek gods, technology, and the ever continuous fight between light and darkness, good and evil.

The last story, “Un hada en el umbral de la Tierra” (“A Fairy at the Threshold of Earth”), takes a more futuristic turn: after Earth freezes, three survivors crash on



another planet. When the father disappears, the mother and her son are left to deal with the native inhabitants. The worlds Chaviano creates are wonderful and spellbinding and one is easily hooked. Difficult to put down, this book is recommended for bookstores and public libraries, as well as academic libraries with science fiction, Caribbean studies, and women's studies collections.—**Ruth Sánchez Imizcoz, Univ. of the South, Sewanee, TN.**

