

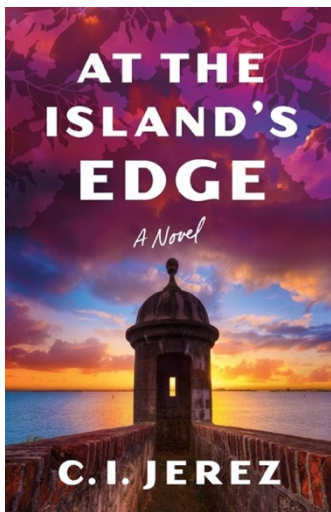
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AT THE ISLAND'S EDGE

by C.I. JEREZ

“C.I. Jerez’s enchanting novel, **AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE** is a captivating and poignant debut about a young mother’s struggle to heal from the scars of war following her deployment to Iraq as a U.S. Army medic. Jerez’s deeply moving prose dives into the realities of war for women in combat, the complexities of serving while balancing motherhood, and the sacrifices made. This heartwarming novel captures the beauty of Puerto Rico’s culture and leaves us wanting more!”
– **Robert Dugoni**, author of *Suspense Magazine’s* 2018 Book of the Year, *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*.



“C.I. Jerez’s **AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE** is an astonishing debut; an eloquent, moving, and heartfelt story about a young mother’s efforts to claw herself back from the precipice for the sake of her young son, even as she is convinced that she is beyond redemption. Jerez’s compelling prose and deep insights into Puerto Rican culture elevate this thoughtful and thought-provoking novel. I loved this book!” – **Karen Dionne**, author of the #1 internationally bestseller *The Marsh King’s Daughter* and *The Wicked Sister*

“Rich with culture, vivid characters, and elegant prose, **AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE** is a knockout debut by an author who is sure to leave a bright literary mark on this world. I was swept away.” – **Boo Walker**, bestselling author of *An Echo in Time*

“C.I. Jerez’s debut novel is a fresh and immersive delight. Somber and heartfelt. **AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE** offers a flawed but substantiative protagonist plagued by the psychological trauma of war as she returns home to face her family’s failed expectations. It is also a love letter to the island of Puerto Rico and its people, a richly woven tapestry, filled with wonderfully palpable details. From beginning to end, I was utterly transported.” – **Barbara Davis**, bestselling author of *The Echo of Old Books*

AN IRAQ WAR VETERAN RETURNS TO PUERTO RICO TO RECONNECT WITH—AND CONFRONT—THE PAST IN A HEART-WRENCHING NOVEL ABOUT DUTY, MOTHERHOOD, AND THE HEALING POWER OF HOME.

Inspired by her time as an Army Officer during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, C.I. Jerez has written a heartbreaking and gripping debut novel, **AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE** (Lake Union; March 18, 2025), about a single mother who returns to her native Puerto Rico with her son to heal from the trauma of war.

Says Jerez, “As a writer, I want my stories to positively promote Latin culture, real-life struggles that deeply affect our society, and representation of people of color and people with disabilities. With **AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE** I hope to entertain AND elevate these voices.”

As a combat medic, Lina LaSalle went to Iraq to save the lives of fellow soldiers. But when her convoy is attacked, she must set aside her identity as a healer and take a life herself.

Although she is honored as a hero when she returns to the US, Lina cannot find her footing. She is stricken with PTSD and unsure of how to support her young son, Teó, a brilliant, loving little boy with Tourette’s. As her attempts to self-medicate become harder to hide, Lina realizes she must do the toughest thing yet: ask for help.

She retreats to her parents’ house in Puerto Rico, where Teó thrives under her family’s care. Lina finds kinship, too—with a cousin whose dreams were also shattered by the war and with a charming and compassionate veteran from South Carolina who also sought refuge on the island and runs a neighborhood bar.

But amid the magic of the island are secrets and years of misunderstandings that could erode the very stability she’s fighting for. Hope lies on the horizon, but can she keep her gaze steady?

AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE is a harrowing and redemptive novel from an exciting new Latin American voice that sheds light on women war veterans and the debilitating trauma they face, as well as the healing power of family and Puerto Rican culture.

For review copies, interview requests or additional information, please contact Jennifer Richards at Over the River Public Relations: Jennifer@jrichardspr.com; 201-242-9637.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



C.I. Jerez is a proud Latina who was born in Miami. Her mother, a native New Yorker, blessed her with both Puerto Rican and Irish roots, while her father, a Cuban immigrant, inspired her to embrace the culture of the Caribbean. These multicultural influences, including growing up on the West Texas border in El Paso, have shaped her desire to bring Latina and Latino characters to life in her stories.

After graduating from the University of Texas at El Paso, she commissioned as a signal officer in the US Army and rose to the rank of Major before transitioning out of the military. She holds an MBA from Webster University and a doctorate in international business from Liberty University. When not writing, she serves as cofounder and vice president for Ashire Technologies & Services Inc., a cybersecurity firm specializing in securing federal information systems. She lives in central Florida. For more information, visit www.cijerezbooks.com.

AT THE ISLAND’S EDGE by C.I. Jerez

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