

## Let It Rain Coffee Discussion Guide by Angie Cruz

Prepared by Vanessa García Polanco for the Dominican Writers Association

Let It Rain Coffee is a proverb or Dominican colloquialism that has long referred to abundance and better times, made popular by the Juan Luis Guerra song of the same name, [Let It Rain Coffee](#). The memory of better times is a powerful reflection tool. Think about a time in your or your family's life that was filled with prosperity, abundance; affluence, and stability.

How much can you trust those memories? Now that you are older or more critical about the past, or now that you have a better understanding of your family or society. Was it really like that?

The Colón family migrated to Los Llanos from Juan Folio and then to the U.S. What internal and external migrations has your own family been through? Map your family trajectories and migration routes and also the "shocks" that lead to those displacements/migrations.

Esperanza wanted to control everything even her hair. Miraluz wants a steadfast revolution. Both women cause different impressions in Don Cha and how they seek power and assert their rights as matriarchal and feminist figures. Don Chan as the revolutionary is attracted and intimidated by MiraLuz demanding a place at the table at the revolution but disregards Ezperanzas control over him and the household. How men as the enforcer of the patriarchy can navigate these dangerous double standards as we seek to create more equality for women in society?

"Women are the ones that remind men of their mistakes, they are the knowledge holders and direct connections to our ancestors," said Don Cha to Hush. Think about the women in you life, how do you receive knowledge from them? Have you always appreciated that knowledge? How are you documenting it and treasuring it?

Did you know women of color in the U.S. are about 3 times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women? As Don Cha is adopted by the Colóns , Esperanza adopts Consuelo. Cruz reaffirms the importance of cycles and repetitions with family dynamics and revolutions here. What other patterns did you observe in the book?

Esperanza is so obsessed with future wealth. Like the possibility of a ranch in Dallas, but *no una casa en el campo en Los Llanos*. Everyone's ideas of wealth and socioeconomic status are different. What do you consider wealth and prosperity? How does that differ from what your parents considered wealth and prosperity?

Cruz magical realism brings out botijas (how my grandma calls them) or the secret treasures that people from Los Llanos find in their land after a hurricane. We all have stories about secret treasures in our families. Ask your elders about them. Ask them about the memories of their campo. We need to carry those stories with us because we are from those parts are well.

“No, no la busque.

Si alguien quiere saber cuál es mi patria,  
no pregunte por ella.

No quiera saber si hay bosques, trinos,  
penínsulas muchísimas y ajenas,  
o si hay cuatro cadenas de montañas,  
todas derechas,

o si hay varios destinos de bahías

y todas extranjeras.” - Perdo Mir, [Si Alguien Quiere Saber Cual Es Mi Patria](#)

React to this Poem.

Revolution is a central theme in this book. As Dominican people, we have gone through cycles of fighting different kinds of enemies (Colonialism, American Imperialism, Dictatorship, American Occupation, Capitalism, Corruption) and asserting our sovereignty and fighting for our rights. What is the revolution we need to be fighting as Dominican and Dominican Americans?

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