

Blood Lake

Kenneth Wishnia • Introduction by Liz Martínez

"The Ecuadorian Andes is one of the few places on earth where you can get a sunburn and freeze to death at the same time."

When New York City PI Filomena Buscarsela takes her teenaged daughter, Antonia, to see their extended family in Ecuador, it's more than a homecoming. Filomena hasn't been back in years, and the trip brings back memories of her previous life as a revolutionary.

Before she's even had time to adjust to her new surroundings, a priest is murdered, a man who, years ago, saved her life and helped her escape to the United States. She owed him her life; now it's time for the debt to be repaid, and she vows to find his killer. It's an election year, and the dirty hands of politics seem to be everywhere, perhaps even in this senseless death. Filomena's investigation promises to lead her back to the very people she escaped, all those years ago.

As the country is wracked by natural and man-made disasters—landslides, floods, food shortages, protests, crackdowns—Filomena becomes a fugitive from the law, racing across the country toward a climactic confrontation in the Amazon jungle.

Wishnia provides a novel rich with the sights, sounds—and dangers—of Ecuador, and a compelling look at the provenance of one of mystery fiction's most dynamic heroines.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kenneth Wishnia was born in Hanover, NH, to a roving band of traveling academics. He has lived and worked (and been chased by riot police) on three continents, including several years in Scotland, France, and Ecuador. The urgent need for a day job forced him to earn a BA from Brown University (1982) and a PhD in comparative literature from SUNY Stony Brook (1996). He teaches writing, literature, and other deviant forms of thought at Suffolk Community College in Brentwood, Long Island, where he is a professor of English.

His first novel, *23 Shades of Black*, was nominated for the Edgar and the Anthony Awards and made *Booklist's* Best First Mystery list, and was followed by five other novels, including *Soft Money*, a Library Best Mystery of the Year, *Red House*, a *Washington Post Book World* "Rave" Book of the Year, and *The Fifth Servant*, an Indie Notable selection and a finalist for the Sue Feder Memorial Historical Mystery Award.

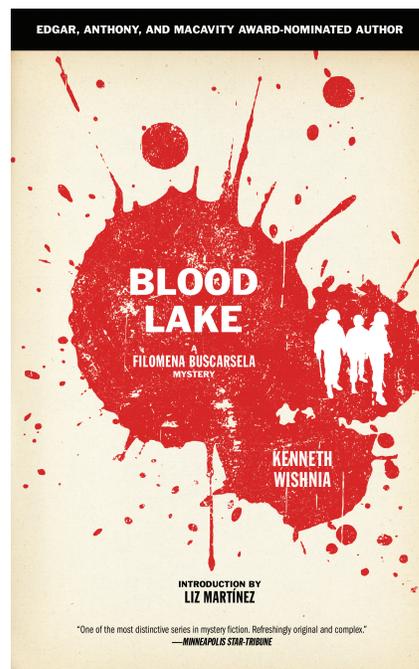
ABOUT LIZ MARTÍNEZ

Liz Martínez's stories have appeared in *Manhattan Noir*, *Queens Noir*, and *Cop Tales 2000*. She is the coeditor of *Indian Country Noir*, the author of the nonfiction book *The Retail Manager's Guide to Crime and Loss Prevention*, and her articles about security and law enforcement have appeared in publications around the world. She is a member of Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. She lives in New York.

ACCOLADES

"In a stunning portrait of a country just over the line between law and chaos, *Blood Lake* gives the reader urgent, pulse-pounding prose, an unstoppable, appealing narrator, and a sense that the veneer of civilization may be, in places, very thin indeed.

—S.J. Rozan, author of *Ghost Hero*



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