In the summer of 1918, ten-year-old Adam de la Cruz makes a startling discovery: he is from a family of powerful sorcerers, Mexican brujos. After the death of his mother, he is then abandoned by his older sisters, Marta, with their grandmother in the barrio of East Los Angeles. As the summer wanes, Adam watches in horror as that power—called El Espíritu, or The Gift—tears his family apart and, betrayed and terrorized, he eventually flees. Thirteen years later, he catches in San Francisco, wasted on drugs, only a bitter shell. There, through the friendship of a Korean martial arts master, and an Asian woman whose destiny is intertwined with his, Adam finds redemption. Ultimately, he must return to L.A., confront his fishes, and battle his sisters for control of the family and the power that is his birthright.

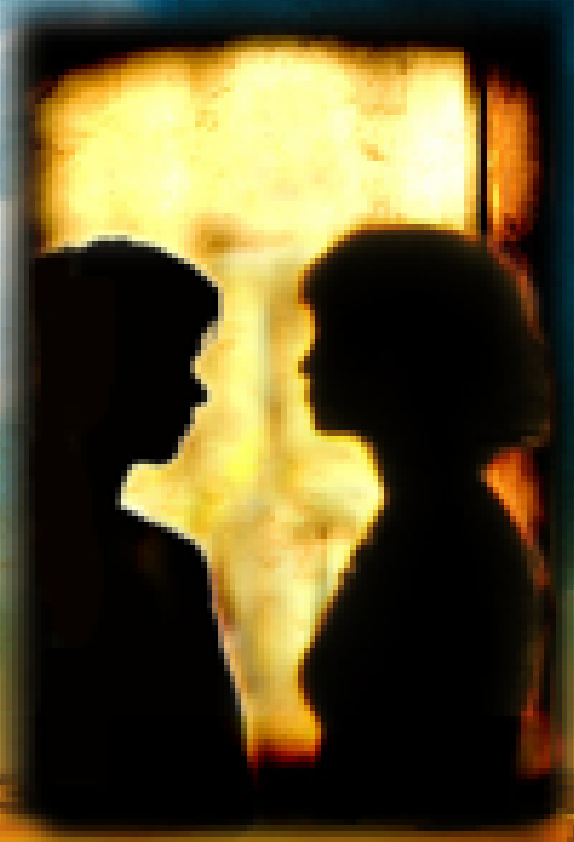
Part urban myth, part magical realism, laced with sorcery and spanning three generations in a Mexican-American family, *The Borderland* is a powerful psychological thriller told from the point of view of a Mexican-American boy as he grows to adulthood and comes to terms with the breathtaking supernatural powers he has inherited.

Steven De La Peña has a BA in English from the University of California at Berkeley. A native Californian, he and his wife currently live in San Francisco. They have two grown-one-one a sound designer in L.A., the other traveling the world as a teacher. Coming soon, look for Mr. De La Peña's two other novels: *Bodega*, a heart-rending psychic/supernatural thriller set in San Francisco, and *Gil*, the story of a post-apocalyptic earth bereft of oxygen. When not writing, or working in real estate management, Mr. De La Peña can often be found swimming in San Francisco Bay.

THE BORDERLAND

Steven De La Peña

THE BORDERLAND



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