

## 1: I Sailed with Magellan - Wikipedia

*"I Sailed with Magellan" is a fun, satisfying, often poignant and sometimes hilarious depiction of a lower middle class largely Polish immigrant community in Chicago in the late 's and early 's.*

The House on Mango Street: We chose 16 books that reflected the wide range of books that have come out of Chicago and the wide range of people who live here and assembled them into an NCAA-style bracket. Then we recruited a crack team of writers, editors, booksellers, and scholars as well as a few Reader staffers to judge each bout. The results of each contest will be published every Monday, along with an essay by each judge explaining his or her choice. To see the results of previous bouts, look here. It waited ominously on my desk, all pages of it. Somehow, over the holidays, I could not. Both books are semiautobiographical coming-of-age stories about life in changing Chicago neighborhoods; both are mostly first-person narratives that follow their protagonists into young adulthood but occasionally inhabit other characters. Both authors have been part of my formative reading too: So I began my reading with the sense of a clear kinship between these two books: Their changing neighborhoods, Little Village and Humboldt Park, each have their own wild, otherworldly places. One key location in *I Sailed With Magellan* is a desolate industrial block filled with exotic bird sounds from a nearby birdseed factory, "raising a junglish chatter against the everyday chirp of sparrows;" while in "The Monkey Garden," Esperanza and her friends play in a backyard garden turned feral: Dead cars appeared overnight like mushrooms. Both believe fully in the enchantment of the city, and of language. Beyond that common ground, though, *I Sailed With Magellan* has a far more detailed sense of place. The book is rich with references: *Mango Street* offers only the occasional Chicago street name and it should be noted that the titular street name was chosen as a more poetic-sounding stand-in for Campbell Avenue, where Cisneros grew up, and nearly every other place is described in terms of next door, down the avenue, around the block, or in heartbreakingly blunt universal truths, such as the "ugly three-flats, the ones even the raggedy men are ashamed to go into. So many of the people Esperanza describes, especially the women, live narrow lives constrained by children, work, and other restrictions, and are often literally confined to home: Marin, who "we never see. Rafaela leans out of her window like Rapunzel, wishing she could visit the dance hall down the street. Cisneros gives us the unseen Chicago, not just the forsaken neighborhoods, but the city barely glimpsed when one must get up in the dark and take two trains and a bus every day or stay at home under the orders of a father or husband. Seeing it as a Chicago book, though, casts it in a bolder light. What does it mean to live here? No matter their layout, the stories in *Mango Street* are small for a reason. Cisneros reinvented the Chicago narrative with these stories, and after 31 years the invention holds up. The original house is gone, but the there of this book still feels immediate and real. For those of you following along at home, this match was no contest: The tournament is going to take a three-week break to allow the round three judges to catch up on their reading. But voting begins tomorrow to predict which two books will make it to the finals.

2: I sailed with magellan (eBook, ) [[www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)]

*To ask other readers questions about I Sailed with Magellan, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about I Sailed with Magellan Sometimes you tear through a book in one day; other times, it takes years. Either way, it could end up as one of your favorites. I read the first four stories in I.*

He was quite delightful during the meal as we talked about his work, my past delusions of being a creative writer, and my current studies at SIU-C. So, flash-forward several years, and I finally get around to reading *I Sailed with Magellan*, his follow-up to *Chicago Stories*, with which I was more familiar. Regardless, my brief and pleasant encounter had not prepared me for the deep and profound sadness that threads through this collection of stories a novel in stories, some would call it, but those people would be idiots. This collection is more about a place than a person, though a young Polish Chicagoan, Perry, does tend to be in most of the stories, or one of his family members. What these stories really give the reader is a taste of Chicago at a certain point in history. More than other authors who use Chicago as the backdrop for their narratives see: There was more than just a parade of tourist locations; this took place in a neighborhood which was at one point filled with various European immigrants, but now has shifted. This shift, this cultural and ethnic shift, is present in the narrative as much as the change that takes place in the characters. Chicago, for Dybek, exists now only in memory. And that, really, is the central point of the book: Most stories have very little present-day action. The action that is in the present of the narrative is very, very limited. Most of the story takes place as the narrator seamless drifts from present day observation to long recollection. Connections are made between how the current situation and what past events lead to it. *Dalloway*, but there is something more here. Throughout the course of the novel, the characters change quite a bit, both internally their personalities and characterizations as well as externally where they live and what they do , but the city remains mostly static. Buildings seldom change purpose, and instead are left abandoned when emptied. Houses fall down and never reappear. In the same way that a glass will give shape to the water within, so to does Chicago give shape to the characters therein. I would strongly recommend this book to anyone. There is just one warning: Approach it more like a novel about a city told in a varied, shifting perspective. But not, under any circumstance, a novel-in-stories.

### 3: I Sailed With Magellan – Variety

*I Sailed with Magellan by Stuart Dybek Following his renowned The Coast of Chicago and Childhood, story writer Stuart Dybek returns with eleven masterful and masterfully linked stories about Chicago's fabled and harrowing South Side.*

Chapter One Contents Song Caruso Junior they called me, and Little der Bingle. Crooners like Bing Crosby and Sinatra were still big in those days. My repertoire included "Clang, Clang, Clang Went the Trolley," the song behind my ambition to become a streetcar conductor. I knew the nameless tune my mother sang when we waited for the El: The noisy bar would quiet, small talk deferring to lyrics. When I finished the song, holding the last note as if I dove down to the dark river bottom for it, they cheered and showered me with loose change and sometimes a few dollar bills. Singing gave one a thirst. Zip always kept the empty sleeve of his white shirt neatly folded and clamped with a plastic clothespin-red, blue, yellow, green-he changed the colors the way some guys changed their ties. Fact is, my right arm is killing me today. Sunbeams fuming with blue tobacco smoke streamed into the dim tavern. Zip looked at me and shrugged. There were more taverns in the neighborhood than we could visit in a single afternoon. At every stop it was the same: As a child, Lefty had chronic bronchitis, and my mother remembered him spending his sick days home from school devising instruments from vacuum-cleaner attachments. My mother said that Lefty could perfectly imitate the sound of any wind instrument so long as he had a vacuum-cleaner nozzle or a cardboard tube that he could pretend to blow. When he was thirteen, Lefty saved enough money from his paper route to buy a trumpet, but a week after buying it, he had a front tooth broken in a school-yard fight, which ruined his embouchure. So he traded in the trumpet for a tenor saxophone, and took the precaution of signing up for boxing lessons at St. Vitus, where Father Herm, a priest who was an ex-heavyweight, trained boys to fight in Catholic Youth Organization bouts. Lefty was expelled from the St. But my mother knew his fingers were still moving along imaginary scales, and his pretend playing no longer seemed cute to her as it had back when Lefty would give them concerts after dinner. Something about all that music at once unexpressed and yet erupting from her younger brother, all that sound swirling nonstop in his head, made her afraid for him. Then, one evening, she heard Lefty suddenly stop improvising on "How High the Moon. With a few buddies from Farragut High, he started the Bluebirds, which Lefty described as a bebop polka band. They played taverns for parties and weddings with Lefty on sax and vocals. Lefty had returned from a Korean POW camp and a subsequent yearlong detour at a VFW mental hospital in California with a chronically hoarse, worn-away voice. It was the last I ever saw of that record. My parents would never have allowed him to take me to the track, so sometimes on Saturday afternoons Uncle Lefty would tell them we were going across town to a Cubs game. Even my mother had never been to his one-room, third-floor flat on Blue Island Avenue-a street that failed to live up to its name. It was a vision Lefty had prompted when he told me the street was named for a ghostly island that sometimes still rose on the horizon of the lake, an island once inhabited by the Blue Island Indians that sank from sight when the last warrior died. Maybe my lifelong longing for islands came from the promise of that street name. Pigeons, not gulls, paced the window ledges. A few times, Lefty took me up through the trapdoor to see the pigeons. I recalled overhearing my mother talking in a worried way to my father about Lefty drunkenly staggering up to the roof at night to play his sax. The cops had been called to get him down. Except for an audience of pigeons and neighbors whom he woke from a sound sleep at three in the morning, Lefty no longer played in public. You could hear the Bruiser from a block away, his bass beat a sonic boom, his rimshots carrying like gunfire. Lefty, played it whenever the Bruiser joined us there for a drink. I wondered who drank it after we left. Look, I got something special I been meaning to show you. There was a note of perfume from a black slip stuffed in the bell of the horn. The saxophone gleamed from the plush emerald lining like pirate treasure in an encrusted chest. Like a piano on an empty stage, it seemed to emit silence. I pressed the keys, and the felt pads resonated against the holes. Just thumping the keys made a kind of music. The weight of the horn pulled me forward. All I heard were pigeons. I wanted that clarinet. Who taught you to whistle so good? No part of this excerpt may be reproduced or reprinted without permission in writing from the publisher. Excerpts are provided by Dial-A-Book Inc.

## I SAILED WITH MAGELLAN pdf

### 4: I Sailed with Magellan Summary - [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*I Sailed with Magellan is a "novel-in-stories" by Stuart Dybek, published in by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.*

### 5: I Sailed with Magellan Quotes by Stuart Dybek

*A crowded, episodic novel-in-stories portrays life in a multiethnic midwestern urban enclave pretty much as did Dybek's memorable story collections (The Coast of Chicago, , etc.).*

### 6: I SAILED WITH MAGELLAN by Stuart Dybek | Kirkus Reviews

*Chicago writer Stuart Dybek calls I Sailed with Magellan a novel, but he has really stockpiled eleven previously published and mostly distinguished short stories into a bildungsroman of the life.*

### 7: I Sailed With Magellan Summary and Analysis (like SparkNotes) | Free Book Notes

*KirkusReviews - I Sailed With Magellan Kirkus Reviews tend to be brief, only two or three paragraphs long. The emphasis is on describing the writing style and quality, with a short plot synopsis included.*

### 8: I Sailed With Magellan - Victory Gardens Theater - Biograph - Chicago

*In I Sailed With Magellan, Dybek finds characters of irrepressible vitality amidst the stark urban landscapes of Chicago's south side; there, the daily experiences of the neighborhood are transformed in the lush imaginative adventures of his hero, the restless Perry Katzek.*

### 9: I Sailed with Magellan by Stuart Dybek

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