



**Dr. Raquel M. Ortiz** is a social anthropologist, educator, activist, writer, and storyteller. She is also an Emmy-nominated film maker. She co-authored *Vicki and a Summer of Change!* / *¡Vicki y un Verano de Cambio!* (2020) and authored *Broken Butterfly Wings* / *Alas de mariposa rotas* (2021), *Sofi Paints Her Dreams* / *Sofi pinta sus sueños* (2019), *Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural* / *Sofi y el mágico mural musical* (2015), and *Planting Flags on Division Street* / *Plantando banderas en la calle Division* (2015). Her work has garnered MOSAIC 5 Star Multicultural Book Recognition (2020); National Library Guild Golden Selection (2019); International Latino Book Awards (2016); Tejas Star Reading List (2016); and Educational Leadership Award – National Puerto Rican Day Parade (2016). **Flor de Vita** is a native of Veracruz, Mexico, is the illustrator of *Just One Itsy Bitsy Little Bite* / *Sólo una mordidita chiquitita* (2018). A graduate of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey with a B.A. in Animation and Digital Art, she currently resides in Jalisco, Mexico.

## ***When Julia Danced Bomba* *Cuando Julia Bailaba Bomba***

Hardcover, 8.5 x 11, 32pp  
\$18.95

**AUTHOR:** Raquel M. Ortiz

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Flor de Vita

**TRANSLATOR:** Gabriela Baeza Ventura

**ISBN-13:** 978-1-55885-886-2

**PUB DATE:** October 31, 2019

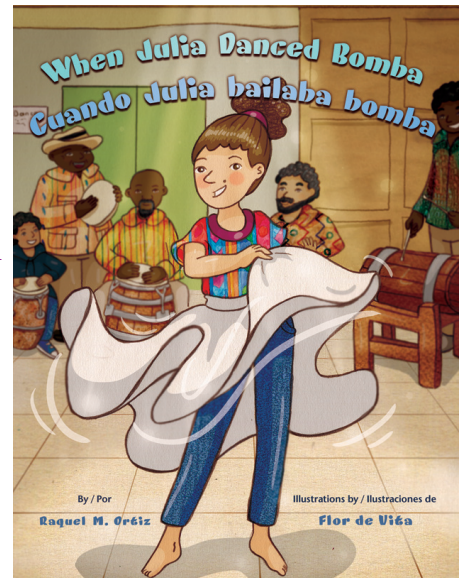
**PUBLISHER:** Arte Publico Press

**IMPRINT:** Piñata Books

**AGES:** 5-9

**FOLLET NO:** 1455JW1

Author is available for speaking engagements, book signings, book clubs, in-person and virtual interviews.



***"Afro-Puerto Rican dance traditions are celebrated through one girl's breakthrough moment with bomba. A solid reminder of music's power and a good primer on Puerto Rican dance culture."*** ~ Kirkus Reviews

"Julia, they're already warming up. Hurry!" Cheito says to his little sister as they rush to their bomba class. Cheito is a natural on the drums, but Julia isn't as enthusiastic about dancing.

Julia tries to imitate the best dancer in the class, but her turns are still too slow, her steps too big. She just can't do anything right! When the instructor announces the younger students will be participating in the *bombazo* and performing a solo, Julia is terrified. When it's her turn, she takes a deep breath, closes her eyes, and focuses on the beat of the drum. As she dances, Julia notices that the drums are actually talking to her. Feeling braver, she stops worrying and trying so hard. Instead, she loses herself in the rhythm of the bomba drums and enjoys herself!

Introducing children—and adults—to the Afro-Latino tradition of bomba music and dancing, author and educator Raquel M. Ortiz shares another story for children ages 5-9 about her rich Puerto Rican heritage. With lively illustrations by Flor de Vita that aptly express Julia's frustration, fear and joy, this book will help children understand that practicing—whether dance steps, dribbling a ball or playing a musical instrument—yields results!

**INSTAGRAM**  
@draquelmortiz

**TWITTER**  
@rmargueritte

**FACEBOOK**  
@draquelmortiz

**WEBSITE**  
draquelmortiz.com