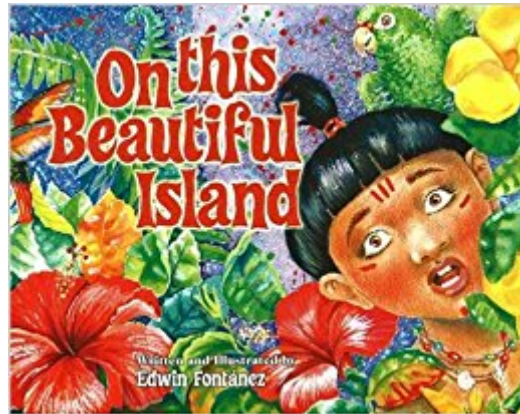




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# On This Beautiful Island



## Synopsis

This storybook is a lyrical and beautifully illustrated account of a day in the life of a Taíno boy living 500 years ago on the island of Puerto Rico. It gives a child's-eye account of the strong bonds that these ancient people had with the natural world and one another. From poetic descriptions of the morning gathering of the crops to the magic of storytelling by the evening fire with Mother and Father, young readers will discover the rewards of a life lived close to the earth. Children will find additional pleasure in the antics of Tahite, a colorful pet parrot, and in vivid illustrations of the island's inhabitants, from the smallest coqui frog to the mightiest ceiba tree. As readers become enthralled with the workings of the ancient Taíno culture, a philosophy of strength of community, respect for resources, and the value of friendship will inspire them to enjoy and protect the natural world that surrounds them.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Exit Studio (April 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0964086867

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,187,732 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Travel > Caribbean > Puerto Rico #629 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #1191 in Books > Travel > Caribbean > General

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

Edwin Fontañez is a Puerto Rican artist, author, and producer of multicultural books and videos for children. He is the author of Taíno: The Activity Book and The Vejigante and the Folk Festivals of Puerto Rico.

Although this book's age range is 6 and over, I have to say that my little one who is 4 yrs. old loves it! The book is beautifully illustrated, and the story telling is simple enough for my 4 yr. old to

understand. This is by far the best book that I have purchased about Puerto Rico. The author did a wonderful job depicting the island.

A true work of the storyteller's art, *On This Beautiful Island* is written and beautifully illustrated by Edwin Fontanez. Adapted from his original video "Taino: Guanin's Story" which was in turn inspired by the ancient culture of the Tainos who were the first inhabitants of Puerto Rico. *On This Beautiful Island* shows young readers what it was like to live in a vibrant natural land five hundred years ago, and experience the wonders of nature from the soft lullaby of the ocean humming inside a shell to the fresh breeze whisking through the treetops to the song of a tiny frog no bigger than a thumb. *On This Beautiful Language* is filled with bright and ruddy colored illustrations of native Taino individuals going about day-to-day life, and a final page offers some additional information about the Taino culture, and influences that remain with us today through words like "barbecue", "tobacco", "canoe", and "hammock", all of which are derived from the Arawak language.

What a beautiful book! I want to use the book as a coffee table book, matter of fact, its on my coffee table now because the illustrations are striking and the book is informative, well researched and entertaining. Although classified for the 9 to 12 year old reader, a younger reader will enjoy looking at the pictures and, with instruction, can play the enclosed game. The author defines and provides pronunciation hints for unfamiliar words. An adult is guaranteed to expand their knowledge of an ancient culture and time period. This is truly a book to be enjoyed by the entire family. *On a Beautiful Island* captures a day in the life of Taino, a Puerto Rican boy who lived some 500 years ago. His adventures bring to life a culture strong in family, faith and society. Each person in the tribe has a role and a responsibility to each other and to nature. The writing is lyrical, the illustrations are colorful while the overall tone is light and joyful.

GuanĀ-n, our narrator, uses poetic verse to describe his family traditions and life in Puerto Rico. This is a pastoral book that celebrates and educates children about the TaĀ-no history and culture. The illustrations are incredibly beautiful. It is difficult to tell, at times, whether this is to be a rhyming verse or descriptive poem. When reading aloud, sometimes the rhyming and/or alliterations works, at other times, though it is difficult reading. The intricate, colorful illustrations will brighten any day, even if you don't read the text. The story introduces readers to Puerto Rico in a way that they are not likely to find elsewhere. The parallels with Native American culture (i.e., Nature's role in our survival) also lend great opportunities to talk about conservation and caring for our world.

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