

JULIA ALVAREZ

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Julia Alvarez in 2007 from interview with LaBloga.
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Julia Alvarez is an award-winning author and poet whose first novel, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, received wide critical acclaim and became the first major novel published by a Dominican-American.

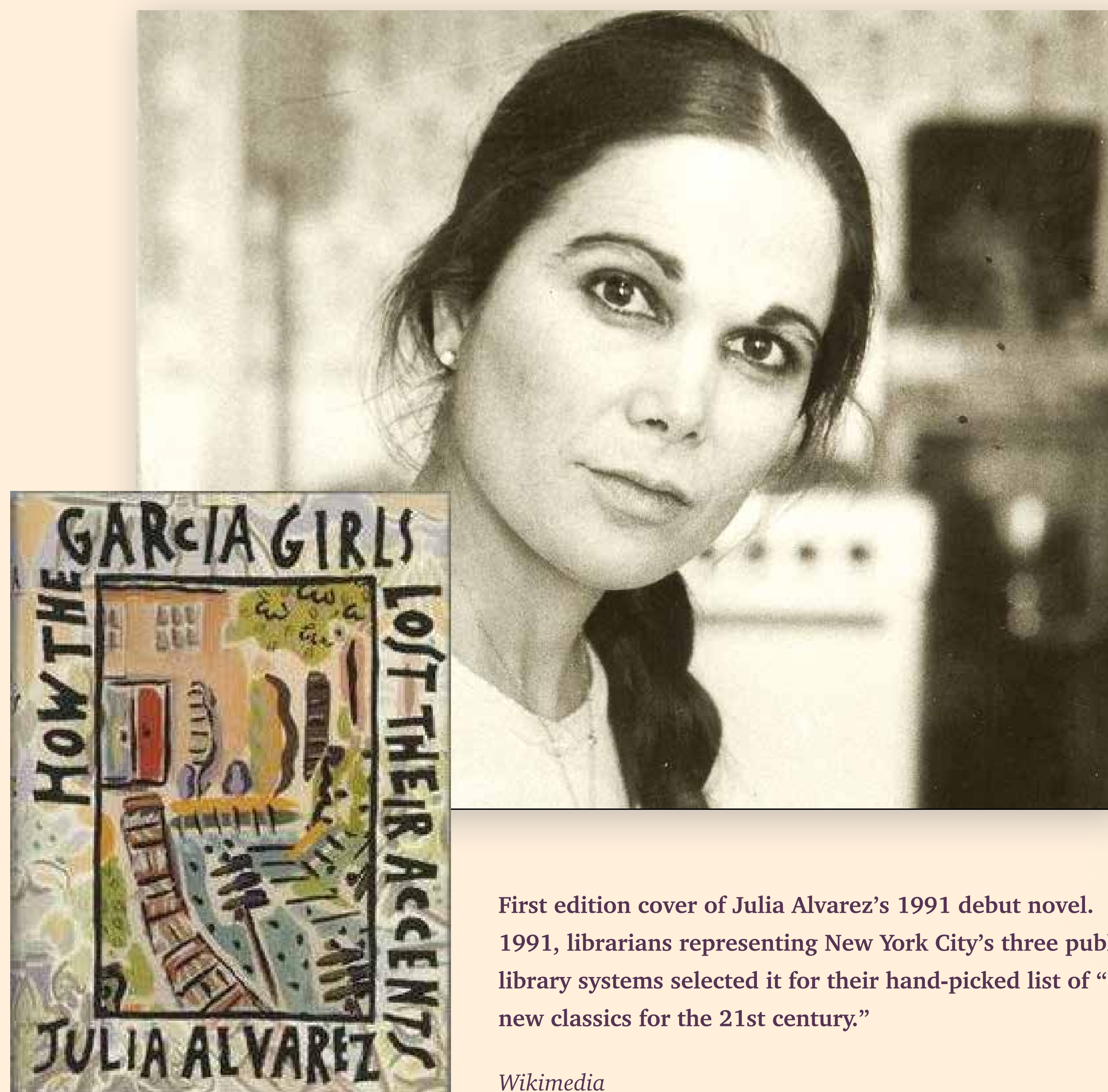
Born in New York City, Alvarez spent her first 10 years in the Dominican Republic. Her family returned to New York City in 1960, fleeing the expected arrest of her father for his opposition to longtime dictator Rafael Trujilla.

Encountering prejudice in school and feeling homesick, Alvarez became an avid reader. She told PBS that her experience as an immigrant is what made her a writer.

Alvarez graduated from Middlebury College in 1971 and earned a master's degree from Syracuse University in 1975.

She has published more than 20 novels, essay and poetry collections, and children's books. Alvarez often explores the theme of forging an identity while straddling two cultures. Alvarez is currently a writer in residence at Middlebury College where she also advises Latino students. She and her husband also established a sustainable coffee farm and literacy center in the Dominican Republic.

Alvarez is the recipient of a 2013 National Medal of Arts.



First edition cover of Julia Alvarez's 1991 debut novel. In 1991, librarians representing New York City's three public library systems selected it for their hand-picked list of "21 new classics for the 21st century."

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