

## Book of the Month: November 2020

**Leandra Plank** recommends *Dominicana* by Angie Cruz (2019).

“If you are interested in American Ethnic Literature, I recommend Angie Cruz’ *Dominicana* (2019). In her novel, Cruz narrates the life of Ana Canción. Born in the Dominican Republic, Ana gives in to her family’s wishes and marries Juan Ruiz at the age of only fifteen – a much older man that she barely knows, but who can offer her and her family a life in the United States. The remainder of the book gives the reader a glimpse at what Ana’s new life looks like: small episodic narrations help to make us understand what it means to be an immigrant in the U.S., to barely speak a country’s language, to suffer from isolation, from an arranged and abusive marriage and from having to choose between others’ and one’s own wishes. While the individual episodes are often heartbreaking, Cruz narrates Ana’s life in a light tone and with a good sense of humor, thereby turning the novel into an enjoyable page-turner about the life of immigrants in the U.S.”