



keyword

ARCHIVES  CALENDAR

HOME NEWS ARTS BOOKS FOOD SCREENS MUSIC CALENDAR CITY GUIDE CLASSIFIEDS PERSONALS PROMOTIONS

featured stories under the covers (blog) news/print book reviews litera listings short story contest

HOME: APRIL 27, 2001: BOOKS

TEXT SIZE - / + / ++

## Readings

BY ANNA HANKS

### Casual Rex

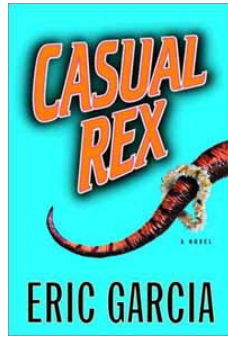
A Novel

by Eric Garcia

Villard, 352 pp., \$23.95

*Casual Rex*, the charming and absorbing tale of a dinosaur-inhabited, modern-day universe, delivers practically everything a comic/ noir/magical realism/mystery novel could be expected to provide. Los Angeles P.I. and velociraptor Vincent Rubio, who first appeared in *Anonymous Rex*, Garcia's first installment in the series, has been around the block, but hasn't completely grown up. In Rubio's universe, dinosaurs didn't die out 65 million years ago. The 16 species of dinosaur that survived the great showers now wear high tech guises which make them look human, their tails and claws securely hidden by a fiendish set of buckles and straps. It isn't easy being green. Thanks to the success of these guises, there are dinos in every walk of life: police officers, dentists, prostitutes, doctors, and delectable drag queens. The ease with which dinos pass among humans disturbs some of their kind. Some of these disturbed dinos are part of the Progressives, a movement where getting in touch with your ancestors means a lot more than looking at genealogical charts. While overall a great read, the first two chapters of *Casual Rex* are slow-going. Get through these and the rewards are the size of a healthy T-Rex.

CLICK TO ENLARGE



-  COMMENT ON THIS STORY
-  WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
-  PRINT THIS STORY
-  EMAIL STORY TO A FRIEND
-  DIGG IT
-  DELICIOUS

#### FURTHER READING

- Keywords** for this story
- Casual Rex
  - Eric Garcia

#### CALENDAR TODAY

University of Texas

#### BLOGS

- School Closings Under Fire
- Leffingwell Bites the Apple
- The Daily Hustle:1/12/11

#### FORUMS

- Will Texas Be Safe Haven for Romeos and Juliets?
- Leffingwell Bites the Apple
- Holly Won't Go Lightly

#### ARCHIVES

- More from **April 27, 2001**
- News
  - Arts
  - Books**
  - Food
  - Screens
  - Music
  - Columns

- Browse the Archives by**
- Issue
  - Author
  - Column
  - Review
  - Section

#### MORE BOOK REVIEWS IN THIS ISSUE

- Fort Benning Blues: A Novel
- Crawling at Night: A Novel
- Casual Rex
- Turning on the Girls

Share

[Email](#)[Print article](#)[Digg](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Del.icio.us](#) [LinkedIn](#)

#### POST A COMMENT

UserName:  Password:

Headline (optional):

Don't have an account?

- [Create an account](#)
- [Forgot your username/password?](#)
- [Why should I create an account?](#)

Comment:

Permission to Print.  Letter to the editor.

Copyright © 1995-2011 Austin Chronicle Corp. All rights reserved.

HOME | NEWS | ARTS | BOOKS | FOOD | SCREENS | MUSIC | CALENDAR | CITY GUIDE | CLASSIFIEDS | PERSONALS | PROMOTIONS

best of austin | find a paper | submit an event | info | advertise with us | national advertising | contact | privacy | oops!