

# Not your average Soap Opera

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**M**i Pecado. Corazon Salvaje. These two titles in Spanish all have one thing in common. They are soap operas. While they might not ring a bell, these soap operas are the most watched shows by the Hispanic culture and are part of nearly every Hispanic household. Filled with the usual drama, romance, steamy sex, murder, villains, prince charmings, and damsels in distress, you might ask, "why"?

First, they do not go one for nearly half a decade as their American counterparts do. Every "telenovela" (soap opera in Spanish) has approximately one hundred episodes, spanning only several months instead of several years. Actors/actresses are committed to the entire production of the "telenovela" just as an American actor/actress is committed to filming a movie. Unlike the U.S, the most famous actors are the ones that play in soap operas, not movies, which are not as popular in the Hispanic culture as they are in American culture. These "telenovelas" are produced as one long movie and includes a beginning, middle and end. There is always one main plot, involving one main actor and actress, fighting for their love in spite of the obstacles.

What makes these "telenovelas" truly stand out is the writing. Once in a while there will be several subpar storylines, but not often, especially the telenovelas that get the coveted nighttime slots. The acting and the dialogue between the characters are at many times funny, powerful and touching, making you forget that it is just another sappy love story. The

actors are the best in the industry, making it easy to fall in love with their characters or easy to hate if they play the villain. To top it all off, the settings for these telenovelas are in the most stunning locations, whether it be sprawling ranches with gorgeous mansions or the vast expanse of beautiful fields in Mexico, where most of the telenovelas broadcasted in the U.S are produced.

While a love story filled with intrigue and obstacles might not be up your alley, I suggest giving it a try. The stories within the script are lovable and at times frustrating too, but always entertaining. Besides, the extremely handsome men and beautiful woman are great motivators to want to learn some Spanish while watching.



## The French answer to Alicia Keys: *Kenza Farah*

by **Laura Padilla**  
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**J**ust because we can't understand the French language, does not mean we can't enjoy their music.

Kenza Farah is a French R&B icon in France as well as the rest of Europe. To us in the United States, she would be a French Alicia Keys. Her songs have a catchy rhythm and emotional lyrics, like most R&B hits.

She first started singing as a teenager while doing covers of Celine Dion. Luckily, a major Parisian-record label (Karismatik) liked her style and voice and turned her into a European pop star.

The song that made her into an Internet and French sensation is "Je me bats" ("I Fight"), along with another popular hit single "La ou tu vas" ("Where You Go"). Both hits are included in her first album, Authentik, released in 2007. The album reached the top of charts on its second week out.

For more information about Farah, visit her official page (<http://www.kenza-farah.fr/>), become a fan on Facebook, or follow her on Twitter (kenzafarh). Au Revoir!

**Above: The telenovela, "Mi Pecado"**

**Below: The album cover for Kenza Farah's CD**

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