

im not your perfect mexican daughter

im not your perfect mexican daughter is a phrase that resonates deeply with many who have grappled with cultural expectations, generational divides, and the journey toward self-acceptance. Popularized by Erika L. Sánchez's acclaimed novel, this concept explores the struggles of identity, family responsibility, and the pressures faced by Mexican-American teens. In this comprehensive article, we'll delve into the central themes of "im not your perfect mexican daughter," analyze its cultural impact, examine its influence on literature and society, and provide insights into why the narrative appeals to so many readers. Whether you're a student, educator, or simply interested in multicultural perspectives, this guide offers a thorough exploration of the novel and its significance.

- Understanding the Meaning of "im not your perfect mexican daughter"
- Exploring Key Themes in the Novel
- Cultural Expectations and Identity
- Family Dynamics in Mexican-American Households
- Impact on Young Adult Literature
- Critical Reception and Societal Influence
- Frequently Asked Questions

Understanding the Meaning of "im not your perfect mexican daughter"

The phrase "im not your perfect mexican daughter" goes beyond its literal meaning to represent the inner conflict felt by many first- and second-generation Mexican-Americans. It encapsulates the anxiety of not fitting into the traditional mold expected by family and community, and the desire for self-discovery. In Erika L. Sánchez's novel, protagonist Julia navigates grief, parental expectations, and the complexities of cultural assimilation. The story highlights the tension between personal ambitions and familial duties, a theme that resonates universally but is especially poignant within immigrant communities. Through Julia's journey, readers gain insight into the multifaceted nature of identity and the courage it takes to forge a unique path.

Exploring Key Themes in the Novel

Identity and Self-Discovery

“im not your perfect mexican daughter” centers on Julia’s quest to understand who she is outside of her family’s expectations. Her struggle with mental health, creative aspirations, and the pressure to conform are central to the narrative. The book addresses issues such as depression, anxiety, and the complexities of self-expression within a traditional household. Julia’s journey is a reflection of the universal search for identity, made more challenging by cultural and generational differences.

Grief and Healing

A major plot driver in the novel is the death of Julia’s sister, Olga, who was perceived as the “perfect” daughter. Julia’s process of grieving exposes family secrets and forces her to confront uncomfortable truths about herself and her parents. The depiction of grief is authentic, highlighting the way loss can fracture relationships and spark personal growth. Sánchez uses Julia’s story to explore how healing often requires facing painful realities, accepting vulnerability, and finding support in unexpected places.

Social and Economic Challenges

The novel also addresses socioeconomic struggles faced by immigrant families, including financial instability, language barriers, and limited access to mental health resources. These challenges shape the characters’ choices and influence their relationships. By weaving these issues into the narrative, Sánchez provides a nuanced view of the obstacles that can impact the well-being and aspirations of Mexican-American youth.

- Identity formation and cultural conflict
- The impact of grief on family dynamics
- Socioeconomic barriers and mental health
- Breaking stereotypes and redefining success

Cultural Expectations and Identity

The Pressure to Conform

Many Mexican-American families hold traditional values that emphasize obedience, modesty, and family loyalty. “im not your perfect mexican daughter” explores how these expectations can create tension for young people who wish to pursue different dreams or embrace modern American values. The protagonist’s struggle represents a broader issue: the challenge of maintaining cultural heritage while seeking personal freedom. This conflict often leads to misunderstandings between parents and children, complicating the process of identity formation.

Assimilation vs. Tradition

Julia’s story illustrates the delicate balance between assimilating into American society and honoring her Mexican roots. This balancing act is a common experience for many immigrant families, who may fear losing their cultural identity while striving for success in a new environment. The novel highlights the importance of open communication and empathy in bridging generational gaps and fostering mutual respect.

Family Dynamics in Mexican-American Households

Parent-Child Relationships

The relationship between Julia and her parents is central to the narrative. Her mother, Amá, embodies the traditional values of sacrifice and discipline, while Julia seeks independence and creative fulfillment. This dynamic reflects the broader experience of many Mexican-American families, where intergenerational differences can lead to conflict but also offer opportunities for growth and understanding.

Siblings and Roles

The contrast between Julia and Olga showcases the varying roles siblings can play in immigrant families. Olga is remembered as the dutiful daughter, while Julia is seen as rebellious. The novel explores how these roles are constructed and how they impact each family member’s sense of self-worth and belonging.

1. Parental expectations and communication
2. Sibling rivalry and cooperation
3. Role of extended family in support

Impact on Young Adult Literature

Representation Matters

“im not your perfect mexican daughter” has been praised for its authentic representation of Mexican-American experiences in young adult fiction. The novel addresses topics rarely explored in mainstream literature, such as bilingualism, cultural pride, and the stigma surrounding mental health. By giving voice to underrepresented groups, Sánchez’s work challenges stereotypes and encourages empathy among readers from diverse backgrounds.

Influence on Readers and Educators

The book is frequently used in classrooms to spark discussions about identity, family, and mental health. Its relatable characters and realistic portrayal of challenges faced by teens make it a valuable resource for educators, counselors, and parents. The novel’s success has inspired other authors to explore multicultural themes, contributing to a more inclusive literary landscape.

Critical Reception and Societal Influence

Literary Acclaim

Erika L. Sánchez’s novel has received numerous accolades, including being a National Book Award finalist. Critics have praised its honest depiction of grief, identity, and cultural challenges. The book’s impact extends beyond literary circles, resonating with readers of all backgrounds and prompting important conversations about mental health, immigration, and societal expectations.

Societal Discussions

The themes explored in “im not your perfect mexican daughter” have contributed to broader discussions about diversity, representation, and inclusion in media. The novel encourages readers to question stereotypes and reevaluate what it means to be “perfect” in the context of family and culture. Its influence can be seen in social media conversations, academic studies, and community initiatives that promote understanding and acceptance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main message of "im not your perfect mexican daughter"?

A: The main message is about self-acceptance, confronting cultural and familial expectations, and finding one's own identity despite pressures to conform.

Q: Who wrote "im not your perfect mexican daughter"?

A: The novel was written by Erika L. Sánchez, an award-winning Mexican-American author.

Q: Why is “im not your perfect mexican daughter” important for young adult readers?

A: It provides representation for Mexican-American youth, addresses mental health, and sparks important conversations about identity and family dynamics.

Q: What themes are explored in the book?

A: The novel explores themes of grief, identity, cultural expectations, mental health, and the immigrant experience.

Q: How does the book portray Mexican-American family life?

A: It authentically depicts the complexities of intergenerational relationships, parental expectations, sibling roles, and the influence of culture on everyday life.

Q: Is “im not your perfect mexican daughter” based on a true story?

A: While the novel is fictional, it draws on real experiences and emotions commonly felt within Mexican-American families.

Q: Has “im not your perfect mexican daughter” won any awards?

A: Yes, it was a National Book Award finalist and has received widespread critical acclaim.

Q: What impact has the novel had on literature?

A: It has paved the way for greater representation of Latino voices in young adult fiction and has influenced other authors to address similar themes.

Q: Can “im not your perfect mexican daughter” be used in educational settings?

A: Absolutely. It is often included in school curriculums and book clubs to discuss cultural identity, family, and mental health.

Q: What makes Julia, the protagonist, relatable to readers?

A: Julia’s struggles with self-discovery, grief, and cultural conflict mirror the experiences of many young people, making her story widely relatable and impactful.

[Im Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#)

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I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter: Reclaiming Identity and Challenging Expectations

Introduction:

The title "I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" resonates deeply with many Latina women, evoking a complex tapestry of cultural expectations, familial pressures, and the struggle for self-discovery. This isn't just a personal memoir; it's a shared experience, a silent scream echoing across generations. This blog post delves into the nuances of this powerful phrase, exploring the weight of cultural expectations, the pressures to conform, and ultimately, the empowering journey of reclaiming one's authentic self. We'll unpack the complexities of identity, the struggle against stereotypes, and the path towards self-acceptance and empowerment. Prepare to embark on a journey of understanding and self-reflection.

H2: The Weight of Expectation: The "Perfect" Mexican Daughter Myth

The notion of the "perfect" Mexican daughter is a pervasive myth, a culturally constructed ideal often rooted in traditional values. This ideal often encompasses specific traits: unwavering obedience, a strong work ethic, family devotion above all else, and adherence to traditional gender roles. This isn't to say these values are inherently bad; however, the problem lies in the rigidity and inflexibility of this expectation. It leaves little room for individuality, personal aspirations, or exploration of alternative paths. This pressure can manifest in various forms, from subtle hints to overt disapproval, creating a climate of anxiety and self-doubt.

H3: The Pressure Cooker of Family Dynamics

Family plays a central role in Mexican culture, and familial expectations can be particularly intense. The desire to please parents and maintain family harmony often leads daughters to suppress their true selves, sacrificing their personal ambitions on the altar of familial approval. This can manifest as unspoken resentment, feelings of inadequacy, and a constant struggle to meet an unattainable ideal. The internal conflict between personal desires and familial expectations creates immense pressure, leading to feelings of guilt and frustration.

H4: Navigating the Intersection of Culture and Identity

This pressure isn't simply about personal ambitions; it's about navigating the intersection of personal identity and cultural expectations. For many Latina women, the desire to honor their heritage clashes with the desire to forge their own path. This creates a challenging internal conflict, making it difficult to reconcile cultural identity with individual expression. This delicate balance requires self-awareness, understanding, and the ability to define personal boundaries.

H2: Breaking Free: Reclaiming Your Authentic Self

The journey of reclaiming one's identity is a deeply personal one, but it's also a collective experience. Many Latina women are actively challenging the "perfect daughter" stereotype and rewriting their own narratives. This involves confronting societal expectations, setting boundaries within family relationships, and embracing the complexities of one's heritage without sacrificing individuality.

H3: Embracing Imperfection and Self-Acceptance

The first step in reclaiming your authentic self is embracing imperfection. Striving for perfection is an inherently flawed pursuit, particularly when the definition of "perfect" is imposed by others. Self-acceptance, however, allows for the celebration of individuality and imperfections. This involves recognizing one's strengths and weaknesses, acknowledging past experiences, and forgiving oneself for falling short of unrealistic expectations.

H3: Finding Your Voice and Defining Your Own Success

Defining success on your own terms is crucial in challenging societal norms. This involves identifying your personal values, aspirations, and goals, regardless of external pressures. It means prioritizing your well-being and happiness, even if it means diverging from the expectations of others. Finding your voice means openly expressing your thoughts and feelings, even if it leads to uncomfortable conversations.

H2: The Power of Community and Solidarity

The struggle against cultural expectations isn't a solitary battle. Connecting with other Latina women who share similar experiences creates a powerful sense of community and solidarity. Sharing stories, providing support, and celebrating each other's triumphs fosters resilience and empowerment. This shared experience validates individual struggles and builds a collective force for change.

Conclusion:

"I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" is more than a statement; it's a declaration of independence, a powerful affirmation of self-worth, and a call for authenticity. It's a recognition of the complexities of cultural expectations and the courage to forge one's own path, embracing imperfections and celebrating individuality. The journey is ongoing, but the power to reclaim your identity and define your own success lies within you.

FAQs:

1. How can I have difficult conversations with my family about challenging expectations? Approach these conversations with empathy and understanding, but also be firm in your boundaries and values. Focus on expressing your feelings and needs clearly and respectfully.
2. What if my family refuses to understand or accept my choices? It's important to set healthy boundaries and prioritize your own well-being. This may mean limiting contact or accepting that they may not fully understand your journey.
3. How can I find a supportive community of Latina women? Look for online forums, local organizations, or support groups dedicated to Latina empowerment and cultural identity.
4. Are there resources available to help navigate cultural conflicts within families? Yes, therapists specializing in multicultural issues can provide guidance and support in resolving family conflicts.
5. How can I integrate my cultural heritage with my individual identity? It's about finding a

balance—honoring your roots while forging your own path. This is a continuous process of self-discovery and negotiation.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* Erika L. Sánchez, 2017-10-17 National Book Award Finalist! Instant New York Times Bestseller! The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian meets Jane the Virgin in this poignant but often laugh-out-loud funny contemporary YA about losing a sister and finding yourself amid the pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican-American home. Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal? "Alive and crackling—a gritty tale wrapped in a page-turner." —The New York Times "Unique and fresh." —Entertainment Weekly "A standout." —NPR

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* Erika L. Sánchez, 2019-03-05 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A "stunning" (America Ferrera) YA novel about a teenager coming to terms with losing her sister and finding herself amid the pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican American home. "Alive and crackling—a gritty tale wrapped in a page-turner." —The New York Times Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Becoming Marta* Lorea Canales, 2016 Thanks to her wealthy and well-connected family, twenty-six-year-old Marta is used to getting whatever she wants. And what she wants is a good time. That is, until her father's wife--the woman who raised her--becomes ill. Beautiful young Marta is forced to witness her unfaithful, brutish father abandon her adoptive mother in her final moments. After her father's swift remarriage, Marta is surprised to discover that she is now the sole heir of her late mother's sizeable estate. For the first time, she can choose to cut ties and establish her true self, apart from her parents, her social standing, and the complications of a life of excess. From the balmy beaches of Mexico to New York City, Marta searches for clues to her unconventional heritage and seeks to shed her family's tradition of secrecy and betrayal as she finds her own way--Page 4 of cover.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Crying in the Bathroom* Erika L. Sánchez, 2022-07-12 "Equal parts pee-your-pants hilarity and break your heart poignancy- like the perfect brunch date you never want to end!--America Ferrera, Emmy award-winning actress in Ugly Betty From the New York Times bestselling author of *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, an utterly original memoir-in-essays that is as deeply moving as it is disarmingly funny Growing up as the daughter of

Mexican immigrants in Chicago in the '90s, Erika L. Sánchez was a self-described pariah, misfit, and disappointment—a foul-mouthed, melancholic rabble-rouser who painted her nails black but also loved comedy and dreamed of an unlikely life as a poet. Twenty-five years later, she's now an award-winning novelist, poet, and essayist, but she's still got an irrepressible laugh, an acerbic wit, and singular powers of perception about the world around her. In these essays about everything from sex to white feminism to debilitating depression to the redemptive pursuits of spirituality, art, and travel, Sánchez reveals an interior life that is rich with ideas, self-awareness, and perception—that of a woman who charted a path entirely of her own making. Raunchy, insightful, unapologetic, and brutally honest, *Crying in the Bathroom* is Sánchez at her best: a book that will make you feel that post-confessional high that comes from talking for hours with your best friend.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Here We Are Now Jasmine Warga, 2017-11-07

'Funny and heartfelt... fans of Sarah Dessen or Rainbow Rowell will adore this novel' - Culturefly
'Fans of High Fidelity and Nick + Nora, get your hands on this book ASAP' - Popsugar
Despite sending him letters ever since she was thirteen, Taliah Abdallat never thought she'd ever really meet Julian Oliver. But one day, while her mother is out of the country, the famed rock star from *Staring Into the Abyss* shows up on her doorstep. This makes sense - kinda - because it turns out Julian Oliver is Taliah's father... When Julian asks her to go with him to his hometown to meet the family she has never known, Taliah embarks on a three-day voyage of discovery - of her father, of the past her mother has never shared with her, and of herself. From the bestselling author of *MY HEART AND OTHER BLACK HOLES*, this is a beautiful and heartwarming novel of music, family, and friendship.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: When We Were Infinite Kelly Loy Gilbert, 2021-03-09

From award-winning author Kelly Loy Gilbert comes a powerful, achingly romantic drama about the secrets we keep, from each other and from ourselves, perfect for fans of *Permanent Record* and *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*. All Beth wants is for her tight-knit circle of friends—Grace Nakamura, Brandon Lin, Sunny Chen, and Jason Tsou—to stay together. With her family splintered and her future a question mark, these friends are all she has—even if she sometimes wonders if she truly fits in with them. Besides, she's certain she'll never be able to tell Jason how she really feels about him, so friendship will have to be enough. Then Beth witnesses a private act of violence in Jason's home, and the whole group is shaken. Beth and her friends make a pact to do whatever it takes to protect Jason, no matter the sacrifice. But when even their fierce loyalty isn't enough to stop Jason from making a life-altering choice, Beth must decide how far she's willing to go for him—and how much of herself she's willing to give up.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Mexican Enough Stephanie Elizondo Griest,

2008-08-05 Growing up in a half-white, half-brown town and family in South Texas, Stephanie Elizondo Griest struggled with her cultural identity. Upon turning thirty, she ventured to her mother's native Mexico to do some root-searching and stumbled upon a social movement that shook the nation to its core. *Mexican Enough* chronicles her adventures rumbling with luchadores (professional wrestlers), marching with rebel teachers in Oaxaca, investigating the murder of a prominent gay activist, and sneaking into a prison to meet with indigenous resistance fighters. She also visits families of the undocumented workers she befriended back home. Travel mates include a Polish thief, a Border Patrol agent, and a sultry dominatrix. Part memoir, part journalistic reportage, *Mexican Enough* illuminates how we cast off our identity in our youth, only to strive to find it again as adults -- and the lessons to be learned along the way.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: The Everything I Have Lost Sylvia Zéleny, 2019-09-03

12-year-old Julia keeps a diary about her life growing up in Juarez, Mexico. Life in Juarez is strange. People say it's the murder capital of the world. Dad's gone a lot. They can't play outside because it isn't safe. Drug cartels rule the streets. Cars and people disappear, leaving behind pet cats. Then Dad disappears and Julia and her brother go live with her aunt in El Paso. What's happened to her Dad? Julia wonders. Is he going to disappear forever? A coming-of-age story set in today's Juarez. Sylvia Zéleny is a bilingual author from Sonora, México. Sylvia has published several short-story

collections and novels in Spanish. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from The University of Texas at El Paso where she is currently a Visiting Writer. In 2016 she created CasaOctavia, a residence for women and LGBTQ writers from Latinamerica.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Rise Up!* Chris Jones, 2018-11-15 Penned by one of America's best-known daily theatre critics and organized chronologically, this lively and readable book tells the story of Broadway's renaissance from the darkest days of the AIDS crisis, via the disaster that was Spiderman: Turn off the Dark through the unparalleled financial, artistic and political success of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton. It is the story of the embrace of risk and substance. In so doing, Chris Jones makes the point that the theatre thrived by finally figuring out how to embrace the bold statement and insert itself into the national conversation - only to find out in 2016 that a hefty sector of the American public had not been listening to what it had to say. Chris Jones was in the theatres when and where it mattered. He takes readers from the moment when Tony Kushner's angel crashed (quite literally) through the ceiling of prejudice and religious intolerance to the triumph of Hamilton, with the coda of the Broadway cast addressing a new Republican vice-president from the stage. That complex performance - at once indicative of the theatre's new clout and its inability to fully change American society for the better - is the final scene of the book.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Reading Group Choices Reading Group Choices, 2008

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *It Goes Like This* Miel Moreland, 2021-05-18 In Miel Moreland's heartfelt young adult debut, *It Goes Like This*, four queer teens realize that sometimes you have to risk hitting repeat on heartbreak. Eva, Celeste, Gina, and Steph used to think their friendship was unbreakable. After all, they've been through a lot together, including the astronomical rise of Moonlight Overthrow, the world-famous queer pop band they formed in middle school, never expecting to headline anything bigger than the county fair. But after a sudden falling out leads to the dissolution of the teens' band, their friendship, and Eva and Celeste's starry-eyed romance, nothing is the same. Gina and Celeste step further into the spotlight, Steph disappears completely, and Eva, heartbroken, takes refuge as a songwriter and secret online fangirl...of her own band. That is, until a storm devastates their hometown, bringing the four ex-best-friends back together. As they prepare for one last show, they'll discover whether growing up always means growing apart. *It Goes Like This* was everything my music nerd heart needed AND wanted. Lyrical and heart-wrenching...beautiful representation, sweetest longing and the pop-star romance of my dreams; Swifties will swoon happily with this story tattooed on their hearts. —Erin Hahn, author of *You'd Be Mine* and *More Than Maybe*

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Cazadora* Romina Garber, 2021-08-17 In *Cazadora*, Romina Garber weaves together Argentine folklore and what it means to be illegal in a timely, intimate, and emotionally powerful narrative. Werewolves. Witches. Romance. Resistance. Enter a world straight out of Argentine folklore... Following the events of *Lobizona*, Manu and her friends cross the mystical border into Kerana—a cursed realm in Argentina—searching for allies and a hiding place. As they chase down leads about the Coven—a mythical resistance manada that might not even exist—the Cazadores chase down leads about Manu, setting up traps to capture and arrest her. Just as it seems the Cazadores have Manu and her friends cornered, the Coven answers their call for help. As Manu catches her breath among these non-conforming Septimus, she discovers they need a revolution as much as she does. But is she the right one to lead them? After all, hybrids aren't just outlawed. They're feared and reviled. What happens when the Coven learns of Manu's dual heritage? Will they still protect her? Or will they betray her? And after running this far, for this long—how much farther can Manu go before her feet get tired, and she stops to take a stand?

im not your perfect mexican daughter: You're Welcome, Universe Whitney Gardner, 2017-03-07 A vibrant, edgy, fresh new YA voice for fans of *More Happy Than Not* and *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, packed with interior graffiti. Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award! When Julia finds a slur about her best friend scrawled across the back of the Kingston School for the Deaf, she covers it up with a beautiful (albeit illegal) graffiti mural. Her supposed best friend

snitches, the principal expels her, and her two mothers set Julia up with a one-way ticket to a “mainstream” school in the suburbs, where she’s treated like an outcast as the only deaf student. The last thing she has left is her art, and not even Banksy himself could convince her to give that up. Out in the ‘burbs, Julia paints anywhere she can, eager to claim some turf of her own. But Julia soon learns that she might not be the only vandal in town. Someone is adding to her tags, making them better, showing off—and showing Julia up in the process. She expected her art might get painted over by cops. But she never imagined getting dragged into a full-blown graffiti war. Told with wit and grit by debut author Whitney Gardner, who also provides gorgeous interior illustrations of Julia’s graffiti tags, *You’re Welcome, Universe* introduces audiences to a one-of-a-kind protagonist who is unabashedly herself no matter what life throws in her way. [A] spectacular debut...a moving, beautifully written contemporary novel full of quirky art and complicated friendships...this book is a gift to be thankful for.—BookRiot

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Funny Boy Shyam Selvadurai, 2013-01-29 In this remarkable debut novel, a boy’s bittersweet passage to maturity and sexual awakening is set against escalating political tensions in Sri Lanka, during the seven years leading up to the 1983 riots. Arjie Chelvaratnam is a Tamil boy growing up in an extended family in Colombo. It is through his eyes that the story unfolds and we meet a delightful, sometimes eccentric cast of characters. Arjie’s journey from the luminous simplicity of childhood days into the more intricately shaded world of adults – with its secrets, its injustices, and its capacity for violence – is a memorable one, as time and time again the true longings of the human heart are held against the way things are.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Cheat Day Liv Stratman, 2022-01-18 This clever and witty debut novel about the unexpected consequences of one woman’s attempt to exert control over her life by adhering to a strict wellness routine is “the kind of book you devour in a day or two...sexy and funny, but also very perceptive” (BuzzFeed). Kit and David were college sweethearts. Now married and in their thirties, they live in Kit’s childhood home in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. While David has a successful career, jetting off on work trips to exciting destinations, Kit is stuck in a loop. She keeps quitting her job managing her sister’s bakery to seek a more ambitious profession, but fear of failure always brings her back to Sweet Cheeks. Kit finds a fraught solace in cycling through fad diets, which David, in his efforts to be supportive, follows along with her. Their latest program is the Radiant Regimen, an intense cleanse, and Kit is optimistic about embarking on a new chapter of healthy eating and self-control. Hungry in more ways than one, she soon falls into a flirtation with a carpenter named Matt who is building new shelves for the bakery kitchen. Unable to resist their mutual attraction, Kit and Matt soon begin a passionate affair. Kit suppresses her guilt by obsessing over her diet, pushing herself in greater extremes. Told in precise, intimate detail, *Cheat Day* is “an incredibly likable novel of hungers controlled and liberated, and marriage’s gray areas” (Booklist) that explores monogamy versus monotony, deprivation versus indulgence, and limitations of modern wellness.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Damn Delicious Rhee, Chungah, 2016-09-06 The debut cookbook by the creator of the wildly popular blog *Damn Delicious* proves that quick and easy doesn't have to mean boring. Blogger Chungah Rhee has attracted millions of devoted fans with recipes that are undeniable 'keepers'-each one so simple, so easy, and so flavor-packed, that you reach for them busy night after busy night. In *Damn Delicious*, she shares exclusive new recipes as well as her most beloved dishes, all designed to bring fun and excitement into everyday cooking. From five-ingredient Mini Deep Dish Pizzas to no-fuss Sheet Pan Steak & Veggies and 20-minute Spaghetti Carbonara, the recipes will help even the most inexperienced cooks spend less time in the kitchen and more time around the table. Packed with quickie breakfasts, 30-minute skillet sprints, and speedy takeout copycats, this cookbook is guaranteed to inspire readers to whip up fast, healthy, homemade meals that are truly 'damn delicious!'

im not your perfect mexican daughter: The Breakbeat Poets Vol. 4 Felicia Chavez, José Olivarez, Willie Perdomo, 2020-04-07 In the dynamic tradition of the *BreakBeat Poets* anthology, *The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 4: LatINEXT* celebrates the embodied narratives of Latinidad. Poets speak from

an array of nationalities, genders, sexualities, races, and writing styles, staking a claim to our cultural and civic space. Like Hip-Hop, we honor what was, what is, and what's next.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* Isabel Quintero, 2014-10-14 Gabi's a girl in pieces. She wants a lot of things. Will she find the thing she needs most?

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Under the Banner of Heaven Jon Krakauer, 2004-06-08 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the author of *Into the Wild* and *Into Thin Air*, this extraordinary work of investigative journalism takes readers inside America's isolated Mormon Fundamentalist communities. • Now an acclaimed FX limited series streaming on HULU. "Fantastic.... Right up there with *In Cold Blood* and *The Executioner's Song*." —San Francisco Chronicle Defying both civil authorities and the Mormon establishment in Salt Lake City, the renegade leaders of these Taliban-like theocracies are zealots who answer only to God; some 40,000 people still practice polygamy in these communities. At the core of Krakauer's book are brothers Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a commandment from God to kill a blameless woman and her baby girl. Beginning with a meticulously researched account of this appalling double murder, Krakauer constructs a multi-layered, bone-chilling narrative of messianic delusion, polygamy, savage violence, and unyielding faith. Along the way he uncovers a shadowy offshoot of America's fastest growing religion, and raises provocative questions about the nature of religious belief.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Random Minis: I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter Erika L. Sánchez, 2019-10-22 The New York Times bestseller and National Book Award finalist *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* in a groundbreaking new mini format, perfect for on-the-go reading! Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. They do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was her sister Olga's role. Then a tragic accident leaves Olga dead and Julia reassembling the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother channels her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia suspects that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend, Lorena, and her first love (first everything), Connor, Julia is determined to uncover the truth. Was Olga really what she seemed? And how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal? Random Minis are super-light, cellphone-sized, unabridged books made to fit into a pocket or one hand without sacrificing readability. Other titles include *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven, *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone, *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon, *Every Day* by David Levithan, and *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Pedro Páramo Juan Rulfo, Josephine Sacabo, Margaret Sayers Peden, 2002-11-01 Beseeched by his dying mother to locate his father, Pedro Paramo, whom they fled from years ago, Juan Preciado sets out for Comala. Comala is a town alive with whispers and shadows—a place seemingly populated only by memory and hallucinations. 49 photos.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Our American Friend Anna Pitoniak, 2022-02-15 A globe-spanning thriller of love and betrayal about a mysterious first lady with an explosive secret. Paris, 1974. Lara Orlov and her family arrive from Moscow at the height of the Cold War, thanks to her father's position as a diplomat. The years pass, and Lara becomes more and more enamored with the City of Lights. As a teenager in Paris, she falls deeply in love with a fellow Russian expat: the passionate, intellectual Sasha, who opens her eyes to the ills of the Soviet Union. Decades later and across the globe, journalist Sofie Morse is taking some much-needed time off after several chaotic years covering Washington politics. But when she gets a call from the office of First Lady Lara Caine, her curiosity is piqued. Sofie, like the rest of the world, knows little about Lara—only that she was born in Soviet Russia and raised in Paris before marrying Henry Caine, the brash future president. After decades of silence, Lara is finally ready to speak candidly about her past: about her father's work for the KGB and about her ill-fated relationship with Sasha—which may be long in the

past, but which could have explosive ramifications for the future. As Sofie begins to write Lara's biography, she can't help but wonder: Why is Lara revealing such sensitive information? And why now? Caught in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse, both Lara and Sofie must ask themselves what really matters—and confront their own power to upend the global political order.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Rose of Many Colors* Becky Plourde, 2005-05-01
Kayleigh Morgan lives in a fairy-tale world knit together with close family, good friends, and a caring boyfriend. Shes bright, energetic, unconcerned about her future, and ignorant of the evils of the world. When an innocent walk to the store makes her the victim of a cruel rape, her seemingly perfect life begins to come unraveled. Her relationships are strained further when she learns that shes carrying a child she didnt expect and never wanted.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *Mexican Gothic* Silvia Moreno-Garcia, 2020-06-30
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "It's Lovecraft meets the Brontës in Latin America, and after a slow-burn start Mexican Gothic gets seriously weird."—The Guardian IN DEVELOPMENT AS A HULU ORIGINAL LIMITED SERIES PRODUCED BY KELLY RIPA AND MARK CONSUELOS • ONE OF TIME'S 100 BEST MYSTERY AND THRILLER BOOKS OF ALL TIME • WINNER OF THE LOCUS AWARD • NOMINATED FOR THE BRAM STOKER AWARD ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, NPR, The Washington Post, Tordotcom, Marie Claire, Vox, Mashable, Men's Health, Library Journal, Book Riot, LibraryReads An isolated mansion. A chillingly charismatic aristocrat. And a brave socialite drawn to expose their treacherous secrets. . . . From the author of Gods of Jade and Shadow comes "a terrifying twist on classic gothic horror" (Kirkus Reviews) set in glamorous 1950s Mexico. After receiving a frantic letter from her newly-wed cousin begging for someone to save her from a mysterious doom, Noemí Taboada heads to High Place, a distant house in the Mexican countryside. She's not sure what she will find—her cousin's husband, a handsome Englishman, is a stranger, and Noemí knows little about the region. Noemí is also an unlikely rescuer: She's a glamorous debutante, and her chic gowns and perfect red lipstick are more suited for cocktail parties than amateur sleuthing. But she's also tough and smart, with an indomitable will, and she is not afraid: Not of her cousin's new husband, who is both menacing and alluring; not of his father, the ancient patriarch who seems to be fascinated by Noemí; and not even of the house itself, which begins to invade Noemí's dreams with visions of blood and doom. Her only ally in this inhospitable abode is the family's youngest son. Shy and gentle, he seems to want to help Noemí, but might also be hiding dark knowledge of his family's past. For there are many secrets behind the walls of High Place. The family's once colossal wealth and faded mining empire kept them from prying eyes, but as Noemí digs deeper she unearths stories of violence and madness. And Noemí, mesmerized by the terrifying yet seductive world of High Place, may soon find it impossible to ever leave this enigmatic house behind. "It's as if a supernatural power compels us to turn the pages of the gripping Mexican Gothic."—The Washington Post "Mexican Gothic is the perfect summer horror read, and marks Moreno-Garcia with her hypnotic and engaging prose as one of the genre's most exciting talents."—Nerdist "A period thriller as rich in suspense as it is in lush '50s atmosphere."—Entertainment Weekly

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts* Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez, 2021-09-07 The founder of Latina Rebels and a "Latinx Activist You Should Know"(Teen Vogue) arms women of color with the tools and knowledge they need to find success on their own terms For generations, Brown girls have had to push against powerful forces of sexism, racism, and classism, often feeling alone in the struggle. By founding Latina Rebels, Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez has created a community to help women fight together. In *For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts*, she offers wisdom and a liberating path forward for all women of color. She crafts powerful ways to address the challenges Brown girls face, from imposter syndrome to colorism. She empowers women to decolonize their worldview, and defy "universal" white narratives, by telling their own stories. Her book guides women of color toward a sense of pride and sisterhood and offers essential tools to energize a movement. May it spark a fire within you.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *American Royals III: Rivals* Katharine McGee, 2022-05-31 The third book in the New York Times bestselling American Royals series is here, and a meeting of monarchs will test everyone's loyalty to the crown...and their own hearts. Beatrice is queen, and for the American royal family, everything is about to change. Relationships will be tested. Princess Samantha is in love with Lord Marshall Davis—but the more serious they get, the more complicated things become. Is Sam destined to repeat her string of broken relationships...and this time will the broken heart be her own? Strangers will become friends. Beatrice is representing America at the greatest convocation of kings and queens in the world. When she meets a glamorous foreign princess, she gets drawn into the inner circle...but at what cost? And rivals will become allies. Nina and Daphne have spent years competing for Prince Jefferson. Now they have something in common: they both want to take down manipulative Lady Gabriella Madison. Can these enemies join forces, or will old rivalries stand in the way?

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *I Hope You Get This Message* Farah Naz Rishi, 2019-10-22 In this high concept YA novel debut that's *We All Looked Up* meets *The Sun Is Also a Star*, three teens must face down the mistakes of their past after they learn that life on Earth might end in less than a week. News stations across the country are reporting mysterious messages that Earth has been receiving from a planet—Alma—claiming to be its creator. If they're being interpreted correctly, in seven days Alma will hit the kill switch on their "colony" Earth. True or not, for teenagers Jesse Hewitt, Cate Collins, and Adeem Khan, the prospect of this ticking time bomb will change their lives forever. Jesse, who has been dealt one bad blow after another, wonders if it even matters what happens to the world. Cate, on the other hand, is desperate to use this time to find the father she never met. And Adeem, who hasn't spoken to his estranged sister in years, must find out if he has it in him to forgive her for leaving. With only a week to face their truths and right their wrongs, Jesse, Cate, and Adeem's paths collide as their worlds are pulled apart.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *American Panda* Gloria Chao, 2019-07-02 "Weeingly funny." —The Wall Street Journal "Delightful." —BuzzFeed "Charmed my socks off." —David Arnold, New York Times bestselling author of *Kids of Appetite* and *Mosquitoland* Four starred reviews for this incisive, laugh-out-loud contemporary debut about a Taiwanese American teen whose parents want her to be a doctor and marry a Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer despite her squeamishness with germs and crush on a Japanese classmate. At seventeen, Mei should be in high school, but skipping fourth grade was part of her parents' master plan. Now a freshman at MIT, she is on track to fulfill the rest of this predetermined future: become a doctor, marry a preapproved Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer, produce a litter of babies. With everything her parents have sacrificed to make her cushy life a reality, Mei can't bring herself to tell them the truth—that she (1) hates germs, (2) falls asleep in biology lectures, and (3) has a crush on her classmate Darren Takahashi, who is decidedly not Taiwanese. But when Mei reconnects with her brother, Xing, who is estranged from the family for dating the wrong woman, Mei starts to wonder if all the secrets are truly worth it. Can she find a way to be herself, whoever that is, before her web of lies unravels? From debut author Gloria Chao comes a hilarious, heartfelt tale of how, unlike the panda, life isn't always so black and white.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *We Told Six Lies* Victoria Scott, 2019-02-05 Remember how many lies we told, Molly? It's enough to make my head spin. You were wild and free when we met, and I was completely fascinated by you. But now you're gone. Disappeared. And the police are asking questions. But don't worry, I'll find you. Somewhere in the story of us—of you and me, and that immediate, intense connection we had—I'll find the answers. I'll find you. I've got places to look and a list of names. The police have a list of names, too. But you and I know that's another lie. There's only one person they're really looking at, Molly. And that's me.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: *The Girl Who Ate Everything: Easy Family Recipes from a Girl Who Has Tried Them All* Christy Denney, 2023-02-02 Five hungry kids, a husband in the NFL, and staying in shape—popular blogger Christy Denney has her work cut out for her in the kitchen. Her solution? Simple, quick, and mouthwatering recipes. *The Girl Who Ate Everything*

compiles all of Christy's favorite tried and true recipes, as well as brand new and equally tasty ones created just for this book. From Chicken Pot Pie Crumble to Cinnamon Roll Sheet Cake, these recipes will have your family begging you for more!

im not your perfect mexican daughter: The Black Flamingo Dean Atta, 2019-08-08 'I loved every word' - Malorie Blackman 'Atta's bold verse novel calls to its readers to find their own blazing, performative inner truth' - Guardian A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, The Black Flamingo. A bold story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour. 'I masquerade in makeup and feathers and I am applauded.' SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKS ARE MY BAG READER AWARDS 2019

im not your perfect mexican daughter: When Reason Breaks Cindy L. Rodriguez, 2015-02-10 Elizabeth Davis and Emily Delgado seem to have little in common except Ms. Diaz's English class and the solace they find in the words of Emily Dickinson, but both are struggling with to cope with monumental secrets and tumultuous emotions that will lead one to attempt suicide.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet Laekan Zea Kemp, 2021-04-06 I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter meets Emergency Contact in this stunning Pura Belpré Honor Book about first love, familial expectations, the power of food, and finding where you belong. Penelope Prado has always dreamed of opening her own pastelería next to her father's restaurant, Nacho's Tacos. But her mom and dad have different plans—leaving Pen to choose between not disappointing her traditional Mexican American parents or following her own path. When she confesses a secret she's been keeping, her world is sent into a tailspin. But then she meets a cute new hire at Nacho's who sees through her hard exterior and asks the questions she's been too afraid to ask herself. Xander Amaro has been searching for home since he was a little boy. For him, a job at Nacho's is an opportunity for just that—a chance at a normal life, to settle in at his abuelo's, and to find the father who left him behind. But when both the restaurant and Xander's immigrant status are threatened, he will do whatever it takes to protect his newfound family and himself. Together, Pen and Xander must navigate first love and discovering where they belong in order to save the place they all call home. This stunning and poignant novel from debut author Laekan Zea Kemp explores identity, found families and the power of food, all nestled within a courageous and intensely loyal Chicanx community.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Clap When You Land Elizabeth Acevedo, 2020-05-05 In a novel-in-verse that brims with grief and love, National Book Award-winning and New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives. Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. Great for summer reading or anytime! Clap When You Land is a Today show pick for "25 children's books your kids and teens won't be able to put down this summer! Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's The Poet X and With the Fire on High!

im not your perfect mexican daughter: We Are Not from Here Jenny Torres Sanchez, 2020-05-19 A poignant novel of desperation, escape, and survival across the U.S.-Mexico border, inspired by current events. A Pura Belpré 2021 Young Adult Author Honor Book! A BookPage Best Book of 2020! A Chicago Public Library Best of the Best of 2020! A School Library Journal Best Book of 2020! A New York Public Library 2020 Top 10 Best Book for Teens! Pulga has his dreams. Chico has his grief. Pequeña has her pride. And these three teens have one another. But none of them have illusions about the town they've grown up in and the dangers that surround them. Even with the love of family, threats lurk around every corner. And when those threats become all too real, the trio

knows they have no choice but to run: from their country, from their families, from their beloved home. Crossing from Guatemala through Mexico, they follow the route of La Bestia, the perilous train system that might deliver them to a better life--if they are lucky enough to survive the journey. With nothing but the bags on their backs and desperation drumming through their hearts, Pulga, Chico, and Pequeña know there is no turning back, despite the unknown that awaits them. And the darkness that seems to follow wherever they go. In this striking portrait of lives torn apart, the plight of migrants at the U.S. southern border is brought to light through poignant, vivid storytelling. An epic journey of danger, resilience, heartache, and hope. Praise for *We Are Not From Here*: "A fierce and tender story...Relevant, timely, and perceptive." --Margarita Engle, winner of the Pura Belpré Award and Newbery Honor With poignant, exhausting lyricism and heart wrenching poetic prose, Jenny Torres Sanchez digs deep and shows us the throbbing, aching corazón--the hopeful, unbreakable spirit of the embattled immigrant. A book for the starving, lost soul.

--Guadalupe García McCall, Pura Belpré Award-winning author of *Under the Mesquite* An incredibly powerful, soul-searing YA. [I]mportant and necessary.... I could not put this book down. --Padma Venkatraman, award-winning author of *The Bridge Home* One of the most relevant and needed young adult novels of the year, a must-read. --Jennifer Mathieu, critically acclaimed author of *The Liars of Mariposa Island* and *Moxie* An achingly beautifully story...masterfully told...Jenny Torres Sanchez is a true leader within young adult fiction. --Christina Diaz Gonzalez, award-winning author of *The Red Umbrella* *We Are Not From Here* is absolutely stunning. It's raw and real, gritty and gorgeously told. A story that's painfully relevant today, and told with such precision and beauty, you can feel it. It's breathtaking and left me absolutely breathless. --Lauren Gibaldi, author of *This Tiny Perfect World* [This] is a book that will mark your heart. Jenny Torres Sanchez challenges us to feel, empathize and understand. A searing, necessary and ultimately beautiful book. --Alexandra Villasante, critically acclaimed author of *The Grief Keeper* * A brutally honest, not-to-be-missed narrative...gripping, heart-wrenching, and thrilling. --Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW * A candid, realistic story that will leave readers thinking about the characters--and about our own world--long after the last page. --SLJ, STARRED REVIEW * Gripping, poignant...this soul-shaking narrative [recalls] the works of Gabriel García Márquez. --Booklist, STARRED REVIEW * A devastating read that is difficult to put down, this unforgettable book unflinchingly illuminates the experiences of those leaving their homes to seek safety in the United States. --Publishers Weekly, STARRED REVIEW

im not your perfect mexican daughter: The Memory of Light Francisco X. Stork, 2016-01-26 This beautiful novel from the author of *Marcelo in the Real World* about life after a suicide attempt is perfect for fans of *It's Kind of a Funny Story* and *Thirteen Reasons Why*. When Vicky Cruz wakes up in the Lakeview Hospital Mental Disorders ward, she knows one thing: After her suicide attempt, she shouldn't be alive. But then she meets Mona, the live wire; Gabriel, the saint; E.M., always angry; and Dr. Desai, a quiet force. With stories and honesty, kindness and hard work, they push her to reconsider her life before Lakeview, and offer her an acceptance she's never had. But Vicky's newfound peace is as fragile as the roses that grow around the hospital. And when a crisis forces the group to split up, sending Vicky back to the life that drove her to suicide, she must try to find her own courage and strength. She may not have them. She doesn't know. Inspired in part by the author's own experience with depression, *The Memory of Light* is the rare young adult novel that focuses not on the events leading up to a suicide attempt, but the recovery from one -- about living when life doesn't seem worth it, and how we go on anyway.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: The Poet X Elizabeth Acevedo, 2018-03-06 Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpré Award! Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to

say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can’t stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent. “Crackles with energy and snaps with authenticity and voice.” —Justina Ireland, author of *Dread Nation* “An incredibly potent debut.” —Jason Reynolds, author of the National Book Award Finalist *Ghost* “Acevedo has amplified the voices of girls en el barrio who are equal parts goddess, saint, warrior, and hero.” —Ibi Zoboi, author of *American Street* This young adult novel, a selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List, is an excellent choice for accelerated tween readers in grades 6 to 8. Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's *With the Fire on High* and *Clap When You Land*!

im not your perfect mexican daughter: You Sound Like a White Girl Julissa Arce, 2022-03-22
 AN INDIE BESTSELLER Most Anticipated by ELLE • Bustle • Bloomberg • Kirkus • HipLatina • SheReads • BookPage • The Millions • The Mujerista • Ms. Magazine • and more “Unflinching” —Ms. Magazine • “Phenomenal” —BookRiot • An essential read —Kirkus, starred review • Necessary —Library Journal • Powerful —Joaquin Castro • Illuminating —Reyna Grande • A love letter to our people —José Olivarez • I have been waiting for this book all my life —Paul Ortiz
 Bestselling author Julissa Arce calls for a celebration of our uniqueness, our origins, our heritage, and the beauty of the differences that make us Americans in this powerful polemic against the myth that assimilation leads to happiness and belonging for immigrants. “You sound like a white girl.” These were the words spoken to Julissa by a high school crush as she struggled to find her place in America. As a brown immigrant from Mexico, assimilation had been demanded of her since the moment she set foot in San Antonio, Texas, in 1994. She’d spent so much time getting rid of her accent so no one could tell English was her second language that in that moment she felt those words—you sound like a white girl?—were a compliment. As a child, she didn’t yet understand that assimilating to “American” culture really meant imitating “white” America—that sounding like a white girl was a racist idea meant to tame her, change her, and make her small. She ran the race, completing each stage, but never quite fit in, until she stopped running altogether. In this dual polemic and manifesto, Julissa dives into and tears apart the lie that assimilation leads to belonging. She combs through history and her own story to break down this myth, arguing that assimilation is a moving finish line designed to keep Black and brown Americans and immigrants chasing racist American ideals. She talks about the Lie of Success, the Lie of Legality, the Lie of Whiteness, and the Lie of English—each promising that if you obtain these things, you will reach acceptance and won’t be an outsider anymore. Julissa deftly argues that these demands leave her and those like her in a purgatory—neither able to secure the power and belonging within whiteness nor find it in the community and cultures whiteness demands immigrants and people of color leave behind. In *You Sound Like a White Girl*, Julissa offers a bold new promise: Belonging only comes through celebrating yourself, your history, your culture, and everything that makes you uniquely you. Only in turning away from the white gaze can we truly make America beautiful. An America where difference is celebrated, heritage is shared and embraced, and belonging is for everyone. Through unearthing veiled history and reclaiming her own identity, Julissa shows us how to do this.

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Speak of Me As I Am Sonia Belasco, 2017-04-04
 A moving story of grief, honesty, and the healing power of art — the ties that bind us together, even when those we love are gone. Melanie and Damon are both living in the shadow of loss. For Melanie, it's the loss of her larger-than-life artist mother, taken by cancer well before her time. For Damon, it's the loss of his best friend, Carlos, who took his own life. As they struggle to fill the empty spaces their loved ones left behind, fate conspires to bring them together. Damon takes pictures with Carlos’s camera to try to understand his choices, and Melanie begins painting as a way of feeling

closer to her mother. But when the two join their school's production of Othello, the play they both hoped would be a distraction becomes a test of who they truly are, both together and on their own. And more than anything else, they discover that it just might be possible to live their lives without completely letting go of their sadness. Praise for *Speak of Me As I Am*: Debut author Belasco adeptly captures the tribulations of high school life while also celebrating art's ability to help clarify and contextualize its joys and sorrows. . . . The novel's most intriguing character . . . is grief itself, which the author illuminates, examines, and dissects with a surgeon's precision and the gentle touch of an artist. A stirring account of the trials of adolescence. —Kirkus Reviews This book will undoubtedly be compared to Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor & Park*. . . . Teens seeking a quieter but no less moving story will find this book a perfect read. —Booklist Never maudlin, always authentic, the portrayal of their struggles to deal with grief and with love will resonate with many teens. —VOYA A good purchase for realistic fiction collections and for readers looking for books about survivor's guilt and healing. —School Library Journal Belasco's novel sends a powerful message about the complicated nature of grief. . . . This powerful, emotional work should be earmarked to be a favorite with teen readers. —BookPage

im not your perfect mexican daughter: Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed Saraciea J. Fennell, 2021-11-02 Edited by The Bronx Is Reading founder Saraciea J. Fennell and featuring an all-star cast of Latinx contributors, *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed* is a ground-breaking anthology that will spark dialogue and inspire hope In *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed*, bestselling and award-winning authors as well as up-and-coming voices interrogate the different myths and stereotypes about the Latinx diaspora. These fifteen original pieces delve into everything from ghost stories and superheroes, to memories in the kitchen and travels around the world, to addiction and grief, to identity and anti-Blackness, to finding love and speaking your truth. Full of both sorrow and joy, *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed* is an essential celebration of this rich and diverse community. The bestselling and award-winning contributors include Elizabeth Acevedo, Cristina Arreola, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Naima Coster, Natasha Diaz, Saraciea J. Fennell, Kahlil Haywood, Zakiya Jamal, Janel Martinez, Jasminne Mendez, Meg Medina, Mark Oshiro, Julian Randall, Lilliam Rivera, and Ibi Zoboi.

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