



***Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Quill Tree Books, HarperCollins, 2020 (Hardcover), 2022 (Paperback)

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*Age Range: 14 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

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.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Tackles family secrets, toxic masculinity, and socio-economic differences with incisive clarity and candor... Every line is laced with betrayal and longing as the teens struggle with loving someone despite his imperfections. A standing ovation." —[Kirkus Reviews](#) (starred review)

★ "Returning to verse, Acevedo subtly, skillfully uses language and rhythm to give voice to the sisters' grief, anger, and uncertainty; Camino's introspective openness; and Yahaira's tendency toward order and leadership. Raw and emotional, Acevedo's exploration of loss packs an effective double punch, unraveling the aftermath of losing a parent alongside the realities of familial inheritance." —[Publishers Weekly](#) (starred review)

★ "Lush imagery and masterful characterization give readers a look at the lives of two 16-year-old girls whose worlds couldn't be further apart, but who long for connection in the face of life-altering tragedy... Crisp verse

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depicts heartbreak and bravery, while expert pacing culminates in a lyrical achievement in storytelling that is highly recommended.” —[School Library Journal](#) (starred review)

★ “Acevedo's poetry at one moment envelops readers through vibrant description, and the next pierces them with all-too-effective phrases... Her quick, penetrating verse is lean and decisive, her blank spaces expertly planned moments of held breath. Finishing the book is not unlike touching ground again after a flight.” —[Shelf Awareness](#) (starred review)

★ “In two distinct voices, Acevedo explores the rich inner lives of the sudden half-sisters as they grapple with their complicated feelings about their father and the secrets he kept.” —[Horn Book](#) (starred review)

"Acevedo's free verse poems for each girl share an easy cadence and thoughtfulness, yet each girl's perspective is clear: Camino is strong but fearful of the dangers that threaten her life and hopes; Yahaira's anger is palpable, but so is her tenderness and love for her girlfriend Dre.... Memorable for its treatment of grief, depiction of family ties, and lyrical strength, expect a well-deserved high demand." —[Booklist](#)

“The book is blunt about the financial disparity between the girls and its implications, but it’s also tender as the two families, or what’s left of them, come together in the Dominican Republic to bury the girls’ father and, despite hurt and betrayal, find connections.” —Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Bank Street Children's Best Books of the Year
- Boston Globe’s 2013 Horn Book Award Honor Book
- Indie Next Pick
- Rainbow Book List
- ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults
- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books
- Goodreads Choice Awards - Best Young Adult Fiction
- Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book
- Odyssey Honor Audiobook
- Audie Award
- Cooperative Children’s 2019 Book Center Choice
- Amazon.com Best Books of the Month
- NPR Book Concierge List
- NYPL Best Books
- Rhode Island Latino Book Awards nominee
- SLJ Best Books
- The Horn Book Fanfare list
- Texas’ TAYSAHS list
- TODAY Best Books
- RISE Feminist Book Project list
- Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice Award
- Georgia Peach Award nominee
- Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award nominee

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- Iowa High School Book Award nominee
- South Carolina Book Award nominee
- Illinois Lincoln Award master list
- Idaho Battle of the Books

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educators' Guide](#)
- [“Elizabeth Acevedo, Author of *Clap When You Land*, Is the YA Author I Needed as Teen” *Oprah Daily*](#)
- [“Tragedy Reveals 2 Secret Families In *Clap When You Land*” *NPR*](#)
- [Elizabeth Acevedo Reads *Clap When You Land* | HarperStacks](#)
- [Elizabeth Acevedo - *Clap When You Land* \(Waterstones\)](#)
- [“I’m So Damn Dominican” from *Clap When You Land* | Elizabeth Acevedo Live Performance](#)

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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