



**Title:** I am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter  
**Author:** Erika L. Sanchez  
**Imprint:** Knopf Books for Young Readers, Ember  
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**Age Range\*:** 14 and up  
**Grade Range:** Gr 10 Up  
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

# BOOK RESUME: I AM NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"An earnest and heartfelt tale." —*Booklist*

★ "A timely and must-have account of survival in a culturally contested world." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Beautifully written." —*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

★ "Ultimately, it's Julia herself who's the key to the novel... She'll resonate with many readers, and they'll be glad to see her make it through a tough time." —*The Bulletin*, starred review

"Unique and fresh." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"A standout." —NPR

"A wonderfully complex and interesting character." —*Los Angeles Review of Books*

"Blistering. Julia's persona rockets off the page and into your face from the get-go." —*Christian Science Monitor*

Updated **03.27.2024**

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“If you ever wanted to [understand] the harsh truths of immigrant life, this is the book you need to read.” —Bustle

“As poignant as it is incisive.” —AV Club

### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- FINALIST - National Book Award for Young People's Literature
- SELECTION - Virginia Capitol Choices Award List
- SELECTION - Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year
- SELECTION - Texas TAYSHAS High School Reading List
- WINNER - Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award

### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

[I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter Discussion Guide](#)

[I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter Banned Books Club Guide](#)

[Erika L. Sánchez: I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#) - Chicago Humanities Festival - video

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