



Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas

Swoon Reads, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2020

ISBN: 9781250792075 (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 13-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A trans boy determined to prove his gender to his traditional Latinx family summons a ghost who refuses to leave in Aiden Thomas's paranormal YA debut.

Yadriel has summoned a ghost, and now he can't get rid of him.

When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his true gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free.

However, the ghost he summons is actually Julian Diaz, the school's resident bad boy, and Julian is not about to go quietly into death. He's determined to find out what happened and tie off some loose ends before he leaves. Left with no choice, Yadriel agrees to help Julian, so that they can both get what they want. But the longer Yadriel spends with Julian, the less he wants to let him leave.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Groundbreaking." —[Entertainment Weekly](#)

" 'Scooby-Doo' meets 'Love, Simon' in this inclusive supernatural romance steeped in East Los Angeles Latinx culture.... Thomas injects the queer paranormal romance genre with a fresh shot of lavishly detailed Latinx culture, blending in Mayan, Mexican, Central American and South American traditions while commenting on cultural appropriation, deportation and class. Windows into the intersecting Latinx and L.G.B.T.Q. experience are plentiful here, and the opportunities for discovery and discussion are endless." —[New York Times Book Review](#)

★ "Aiden Thomas' debut novel can't help but charm and captivate readers of all ages, though teen readers will invariably identify with and appreciate the high jinks and emotional vulnerability that make each character and scenario deliciously enchanting." —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ "Thomas marries concept and execution in a romantic mystery as poignant as it is spellbinding, weaved in a mosaic of culture, acceptance, and identity, where intricately crafted characters are the pieces and love—platonic, romantic, familial, and communal—is the glue." —[Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

Updated August 7, 2025

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"This stunning debut novel from Thomas is detailed, heart-rending, and immensely romantic. I was bawling by the end of it, but not from sadness: I just felt so incredibly happy that this queer Latinx adventure will get to be read by other kids. *Cemetery Boys* is necessary: for trans kids, for queer kids, for those in the Latinx community who need to see themselves on the page. Don't miss this book." —Mark Oshiro, author of *Anger is a Gift*

"This book is magical, tender, loving, and so so so important. I love it with all my heart." —Mason Deaver, author of *I Wish You All The Best*

"The novel perfectly balances the vibrant, energetic Latinx culture while delving into heavy topics like LGBTQ+ acceptance, deportation, colonization, and racism within authoritative establishments." —[TeenVogue.com](https://www.teenvogue.com)

"*Cemetery Boys* is a celebration of culture and identity that will captivate readers with its richly detailed world, earnest romance, and thrilling supernatural mystery. This delightful debut is a must-read for all paranormal romance fans." —Isabel Sterling, author of *These Witches Don't Burn*

"*Cemetery Boys* is nothing short of an astonishing work of art. Aiden Thomas masterfully weaves a tale of family, friendships, and love in a heartwarming adventure full of affirmation and being your best self." —C.B. Lee, author of *Not Your Sidekick*

"A gay, transgender brujo with burgeoning powers seeks answers about his cousin's death... Both the romance and mystery burn slow and hot until the climax... Their romance provides joyful, ground-breaking representation for gay, transgender boys. Heart-pounding." —[Kirkus](https://www.kirkusreviews.com)

"A story much bigger than the paper that binds it, *Cemetery Boys* is the tender intricacy we have all been waiting for." —Kayla Ancrum, author of *The Wicker King*

"Speaking from experience, this is the kind of book that you read and then immediately go force all your friends to read so they can share the pleasure." —[Buzzfeed](https://www.buzzfeed.com)

"A wildly memorable novel." —[Paste](https://www.paste.com)

"Magical, swoonworthy, and utterly charming." —*Bitch Media*

"This one is just what your heart needs right now." —[TOR.com](https://www.tor.com)

"Thomas sensitively navigates Yadriel's struggles as a trans teen, from the insecurity of not wearing his binder at night around Julian, to deadnaming by family members, to the emotional burden of constantly forgiving people who misgender him. In spite of some heavy themes, this is a pleasing ghost-story-turned-romcom ... Readers wary of tragic endings can relax—there's a well-deserved happy ending in store for this ghost boy and brujo." —[BCCB](https://www.bccb.org)

"Packed with eerie adventure, tingly romance, and family drama, the novel lays bare the tension between upholding tradition and reaching full self-acceptance. Cheeky, relatable characters bring humor and lightness into Thomas's debut, which also takes on themes of death, loss, abandonment, and rejection." —[Horn Book](https://www.hornbook.com)

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AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- National Book Award Longlist
- A New York Times Bestseller
- Top Ten YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
- Locus Awards Nominee
- Bram Stoker Awards Nominee
- Barnes and Noble Best New Books of the Year
- NPR Best Book of the Year
- Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year
- School Library Journal Best Books of the Year
- School Library Best Books of the Year
- Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association 2021 Book Awards List
- Lodestar Award Nominee

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [National Public Radio Author Q&A](#)
- [Buzzfeed Author Interview](#)
- [Geeks OUT Author Interview](#)
- [Welcoming Schools Instructional Resource Guide](#)
- [Diverse Book Club Discussion Questions](#)

*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.