



Gabi, a Girl in Pieces

By Isabel Quintero

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Named to *Kirkus Reviews* Best Books of 2014

Named to *School Library Journal* Best Books of 2014

Gabi Hernandez chronicles her last year in high school in her diary: college applications, Cindy's pregnancy, Sebastian's coming out, the cute boys, her father's meth habit, and the food she craves. And best of all, the poetry that helps forge her identity.

July 24

My mother named me Gabriella, after my grandmother who, coincidentally, didn't want to meet me when I was born because my mother was unmarried, and therefore living in sin. My mom has told me the story many, many, MANY, times of how, when she confessed to my grandmother that she was pregnant with me, her mother beat her. BEAT HER! She was twenty-five. That story is the basis of my sexual education and has reiterated why it's important to wait until you're married to give it up. So now, every time I go out with a guy, my mom says, "Ojos abiertos, piernas cerradas." Eyes open, legs closed. That's as far as the birds and the bees talk has gone. And I don't mind it. I don't necessarily agree with that whole wait until you're married crap, though. I mean, this is America and the 21st century; not Mexico one hundred years ago. But, of course, I can't tell my mom that because she will think I'm bad. Or worse: trying to be White.

Isabel Quintero is a library technician in the Inland Empire. She is also the events coordinator for Orange Monkey and helps edit the poetry journal *Tin Cannon*. *Gabi* is her debut novel.

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Gabi, a Girl in Pieces By Isabel Quintero Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Sixteen-year-old Gabi Hernandez has a lot to deal with during her senior year. Her best friend Cindy is pregnant; her other best friend Sebastian just got kicked out of his house for coming out to his strict parents; her meth addict dad is trying to quit, again; and her super religious Tía Bertha is constantly putting a damper on Gabi's love life. In lyrical diary entries peppered with the burgeoning poet's writing, Spanglish, and phone conversations, Quintero gives voice to a complex, not always likable but totally believable teen who struggles to figure out her own place in the world. Believing she's not Mexican enough for her family and not white enough for Berkeley, Gabi still meets every challenge head-on with vulgar humor and raw honesty. In moments, the diary format may come across as clunky, but the choppy delivery feels purposeful. While the narrative is chock-full of issues, they never bog down the story, interwoven with the usual teen trials, from underwhelming first dates to an unabashed treatment of sex, religion, and family strife. The teen isn't all snark; there's still a naiveté about whether her father will ever kick his addiction to meth, especially evident in her heartfelt letters to him. When tragedy strikes, readers will mourn with Gabi and connect with her fears about college acceptance and her first sexual experience. A refreshing take on slut- and fat-shaming, Quintero's work ranks with Meg Medina's *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* (Candlewick, 2013) and Junot Diaz's *Drown* (Riverhead, 1996) as a coming-of-age novel with Latino protagonists.—Shelley Diaz, *School Library Journal*

Review

Winner of the 2015 Morris Award for Debut YA Fiction

"Meet Quintero's 'fat girl' Gabi, eating and starving and fighting and writing her way through the crushing pressures of high school boy desire, religious approval and Mexican cultural taboos. I cannot think of any book today for young adults as voracious, bold, truthful and timely." —**Juan Felipe Herrera, U.S. Poet Laureate**

"One of the year's finest young adult novels." —**Largehearted Boy**

"Believing she's not Mexican enough for her family and not white enough for Berkeley, Gabi still meets every challenge head-on with vulgar humor and raw honesty... A refreshing take on slut- and fat-shaming, Quintero's work ranks with **Meg Medina's** *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* and **Junot Diaz's** *Drown* as a coming-of-age novel with Latino protagonists." —**School Library Journal, starred review**

"Readers won't soon forget Gabi, a young woman coming into her own in the face of intense pressure from her family, culture and society to fit someone else's idea of what it means to be a 'good' girl. A fresh, authentic and honest exploration of contemporary Latina identity." —**Kirkus Reviews, starred review**

"Quintero's first novel quickly establishes a strong voice and Mexican-American cultural perspective through the journal of intelligent, self-deprecating, and funny Gabi." —**Publishers Weekly, starred review**

"Reading Quintero's debut is like attending a large family fiesta: it's overpopulated with people, noise, and emotion, but the overall effect is joyous." —**Booklist, starred review**

"Told through Gabi's diary, the book is tragic, hilarious, and always whip-smart. It's also, I'm sure, one of

the most diverse and all-encompassing YA novels out there." —**John Hansen, The Guardian**

"While reflecting the specific experiences of one overweight, Mexican-American teenager, Quintero's debut novel addresses a number of universal themes, from family relationships to sexual exploration. Gabi's voice, as expressed in her diary through poetry, prose, lists, and overheard conversations, is funny, smart, full of wonder, and brutally honest." —**VOYA Magazine, starred review**

"Gabi's voice is a completely bicultural and bilingual voice, so throughout the novel, you will have Spanish and English the way it's really spoken in our families — it's this crazy sort of Spanglish mix. And she's bold. She will say the quote-unquote unthinkable things about her body, about sexuality, about the crazy, dual sets of rules for Latino boys and girls." —**Meg Medina, author of *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*, for NPR**

"Quintero's novel shows that some of the most interesting, innovative, and honest titles come from the small press world. ... Award committees take note—this is an amazing novel from a bright new star." —**Lyn Miller-Lachmann, The Pirate Tree**

"The author creates a strong sense of character and realistically portrays Gabi's challenging settings. The way [Isabel] Quintero portrays the heroine's moment-to-moment moods feels completely authentic." —**Susie Wild, The Harold Sun**

"California high school senior Gabriella (Gabi Hernandez) is caught between not being Mexican enough and gravitating toward the things white girls do — at least according to her mother. To make sense of her world, she keeps a journal about her own struggles with self-esteem and related weight issues, also writing about her best friend Cindy's pregnancy and her other best friend Sebastian's coming out to his family." —**Karen Hildebrand, Literacy Daily**

"Wish this book had been around during my angst youth, but at least you can pick it up now and revel in the author's grace and humor in dealing with very heavy subject matter. Isabel Quintero reminds us of the transformative power of journal writing, as well." —**Stacey Lewis, City Lights Publishers**

"Isabel Quintero's young adult novel 'Gabi: A Girl in Pieces' centers around a young, light-skinned Mexican-American girl. ... Like Gabi, I feel I need to prove my identity all the time." —**Melissa Lozada-Oliva, The Guardian**

Awards

2015 Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

2015 Tomás Rivera Book Award, Works for Older Children

2015 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults

2015 YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Top 10 Selection

Amelia Bloomer List, part of the American Library Association, Social Responsibilities Round Table's Feminist Task Force

Booklist Best Books of 2014

School Library Journal Best Books of 2014

About the Author

Isabel Quintero was born and raised in Southern California. Her love of reading and writing comes from her mother reading to her before she went to bed, and from the teachers and professors who encouraged her to keep writing. Her love of chorizo and carne asada tacos comes from her dad grilling on Sundays during

summertime. She is an elementary school library technician and loves sharing her passion for the written word with students. She also teaches community college part time and works as a freelance writer for the Arts Connection of San Bernardino. Quintero works as events coordinator for Orange Monkey Publishing and assistant editor for Tin Cannon, a literary journal. She still lives in SoCal and enjoys going on adventures with her wonderful husband, Fernando.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Young:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question due to the fact just their can do which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of Gabi, a Girl in Pieces to read.

Rosa Rogers:

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this Gabi, a Girl in Pieces book because this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Deloras Pinkston:

It is possible to spend your free time to see this book this book. This Gabi, a Girl in Pieces is simple to deliver you can read it in the park, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not have got much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

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