

# Clap When You Land

by Priyanka Kansara

This novel about family and loss will push you through an immense range of emotions.

Elizabeth Acevedo, the author, is also known for her award-winning Poet X and highly praised With the Fire on High.

This colorful novel explores family, cultural differences, romance, and sexual assault. It has two points of view: one about a girl in the Dominican Republic named Camino and another girl in New York named Yahaira. The two girls both have a father who died in a recent plane crash, and in the process of mourning, they discover big secrets that were not meant to be revealed. As the families heal from their lost loved ones and overcome the new challenges that come with it, they learn to healthily cope with death while also developing their own character.

I liked this book because of the major cultural differences the two main characters have while also being so similar at the same time. The comparing and contrasting throughout the story brought a lot of interesting elements while also making the cultures understandable for all readers alike. Furthermore, the poem-like writing style that the author uses adds a different feel to the way that I usually read, and I enjoyed how Acevedo explored using that syntax differently. Overall, it's a very unique and different style of storytelling that I genuinely enjoyed!

In the author's note at the end of the book, Acevedo mentions that she had the AA587 plane crash in mind, which was a crash that occurred two months and one day after 9/11. However, you don't need to have personal experience with plane crashes or even death to enjoy the depths of this novel. I recommend this to anyone interested in family drama, big reveals, deaths and mourning, and culture.

-Priyanka, age 17

