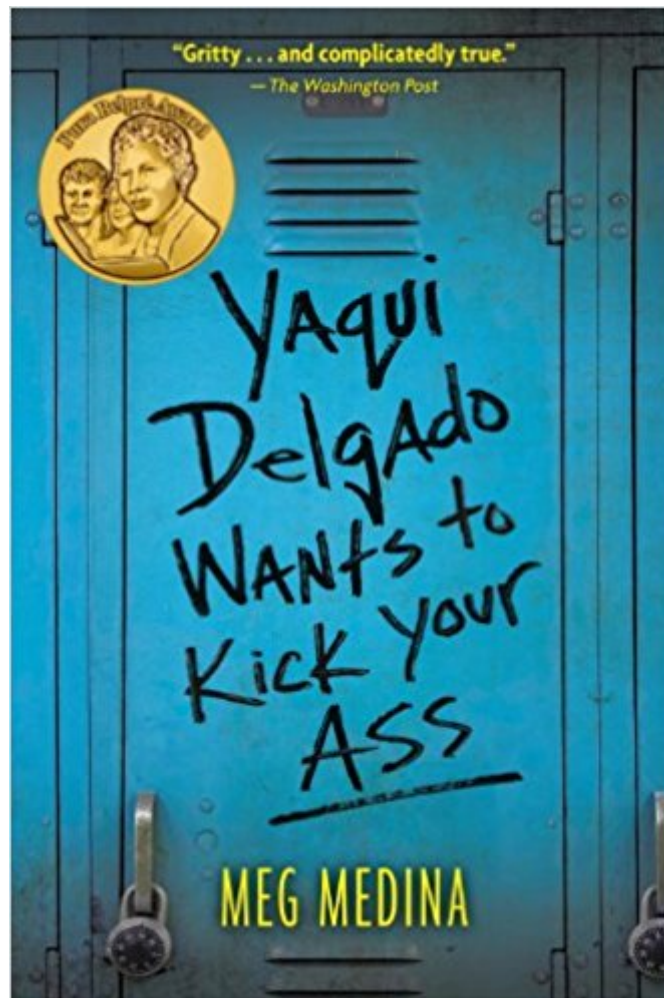




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# Yaqui Delgado Wants To Kick Your Ass



## Synopsis

NOTE: This ISBN is recommended for Young Adult and It falls under the category Teen and Young Adult Fiction Winner of the 2014 Pura Belpré Author Award In Meg Medina's compelling new novel, a Latina teen is targeted by a bully at her new school and must discover resources she never knew she had. One morning before school, some girl tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado hates her and wants to kick her ass. Piddy doesn't even know who Yaqui is, never mind what she's done to piss her off. Word is that Yaqui thinks Piddy is stuck-up, shakes her stuff when she walks, and isn't Latin enough with her white skin, good grades, and no accent. And Yaqui isn't kidding around, so Piddy better watch her back. At first Piddy is more concerned with trying to find out more about the father she's never met and how to balance honors courses with her weekend job at the neighborhood hair salon. But as the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life. Is there any way for Piddy to survive without closing herself off or running away? In an all-too-realistic novel, Meg Medina portrays a sympathetic heroine who is forced to decide who she really is.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 86 customer reviews

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Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #52 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-Piddy Sanchez seems to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Her best friend moves away and Piddy's Mom literally has the floor pulled out from under her as the small staircase in their apartment building collapses, forcing the family to move to another part of Queens. The move does have a bonus. For the first time, Piddy will have her own room, but it comes at a price-she has to

start at a new school. Her developing body is starting to attract some unwanted attention from the Latino boys in the school as well as from Yaqui Delgado. Yaqui feels that the teenager is shaking her booty and doesn't consider her a fellow Latina. Piddy's skin is too light, she doesn't have an accent, and she does well in school. The bullying escalates and Yaqui and her crew seem to have it in for Piddy and her blossoming bottom. The teenager also faces some internal struggles as she searches for information on a father she has never known or even seen. Roxanne Hernandez, a fluent Spanish speaker, pronounces the occasional Spanish words nicely and provides a great voice and tone for each character. The Latin music at the beginning and ending of each CD (Piddy is half Cuban and half Dominican) adds a cultural element. With a title that is sure to draw attention and Medina's great story (Candlewick, 2013) to back it up, this is a definite purchase. -Katie Llera, Bound Brook High School, NJ

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When Piedad "Piddy" Sanchez hears that Yaqui Delgado is going to crush her, she has no idea why she has become a target of one of the roughest girls in her new Queens school. But Yaqui tells everyone Piddy is a skank who shakes her ass when she walks, and as the bullying escalates from threats to physical attacks, Piddy finds herself living in constant fear. A strong student with a bright future at her old school, Piddy starts skipping school, and her grades nosedive. After a truly upsetting attack on Piddy is uploaded to YouTube, she realizes this isn't a problem she can solve on her own. Medina authentically portrays the emotional rigors of bullying through Piddy's growing sense of claustrophobic dread, and even with no shortage of loving, supportive adults on her side, there's no easy solution. With issues of ethnic identity, class conflict, body image, and domestic violence, this could have been an overstuffed problem novel; instead, it transcends with heartfelt, truthful writing that treats the complicated roots of bullying with respect. Grades 8-11. --Krista Hutley --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

This novel, narrated by Piddy Sanchez, the 16 year-old Latina protagonist, chronicles a great many traumas of adolescence: moving and entering a new school; losing a best friend who moves away; bullying; first love; learning about domestic abuse; and understanding the flaws of adults. And while some novels that feature such a cornucopia of adolescent angst sound contrived and formulaic, \*Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass\* succeeds in portraying these multiple misfortunes in ways that seem convincing and genuine. In addition, Meg Medina features Piddy's

ethnicity as an integral part of the narrative without exploiting its relevance or relying on hackneyed stereotypes. Instead, through the depiction of strong yet flawed female characters such as Clara (Piddy's single mother who works tirelessly to provide Piddy with a safe and supportive home) and Lila (Clara's best friend who serves as a second mother to Piddy, protects her, and teaches her how to mature and stick up for herself) and Piddy herself, Medina succeeds in crafting an engaging narrative with a broad appeal. Many adolescents (especially adolescent girls) will see themselves reflected in Piddy's struggles to learn what became of her father, to understand friendship and first love, and to discover precisely why Yaqui Delgado wants to kick her ass. This novel straddles the line between grim melodrama and saccharine sentimentality and emerges as a well-balanced portrayal of the frustrations and triumphs of adolescence.

A pleasant and very fast read; classic bullying/coming of age/ cultural confusion girl novel. Good selection for middle and lower high school age students....What IS different about this book is that the author does not paint educators as oblivious blithering idiots as in many novels and movies of similar themes. Teachers and administrators try to help Yaqui consistently throughout the novel. Yaqui is extremely silent due to her fear of potential physical, psychological, and emotional harm. Nevertheless, the adults are a presence and try to help. I appreciated this gesture by Medina. It is a timely topic that does not occur solely in urban environments; but also in suburban ones.

Bully seems to be the crime of the times under the Trump reign. Medina's book is riveting and insightful. It is one of the best books on the subject in recent years. I am a huge fan and happy to include it in Dr. Bickmore's YA Course. Check out other books that will be included at Dr. Bickmore's YA Wednesday.

This was a neat book and I thought that it tackled some social issues in an age appropriate way.

Some mature language depending on your parenting style. Good book though...bought it for the Global Read Aloud.

This was an amazing book! I think this should be required reading for all latina teens. The issues highlighted in the story (bullying in high school, gangs, popularity) are sadly very accurate and you can't help but feel sorry for Piddy and you find yourself wanting her to succeed. I would definitely

recommend this.

Very good young adult story. I bought this for my 14 year old niece and read it before giving it to her. I've read quite a few young adult novels and this one is very good. The store keeps you engaged.

This is a 2015 Global Read Aloud title. Teens can read this title along with other teenagers all over the world and then share literary discussions on Facebook and Twitter as well as other social media sites.

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