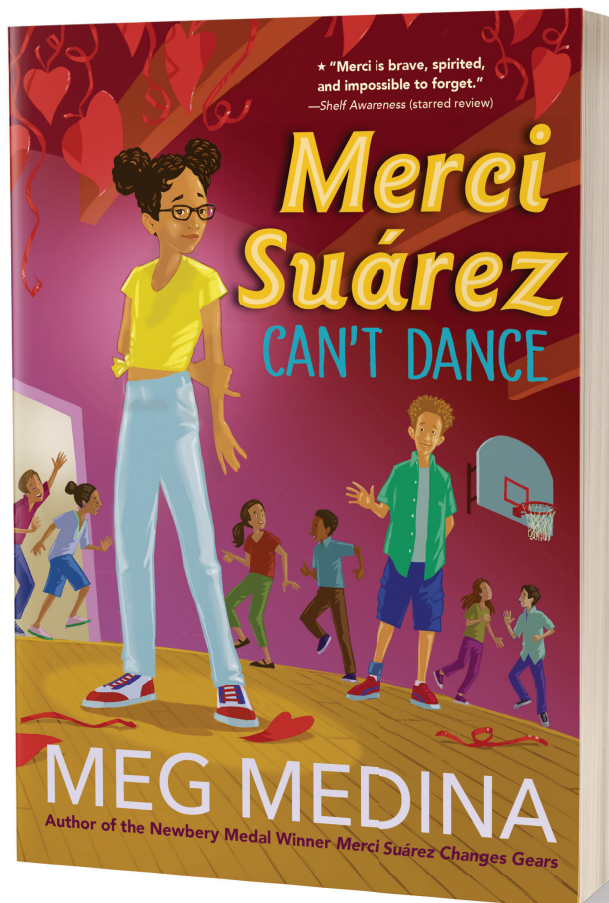


Merci Suárez CAN'T DANCE

by Newbery Medalist
MEG MEDINA

Seventh grade is going to be a real trial for Merci Suárez. For science she's got no-nonsense Mr. Ellis, who expects her to be as smart as her brother, Roli. She's been assigned to co-manage the tiny school store with Wilson Bellevue, a boy she barely knows, but whom she might actually like. And she's tangling again with classmate Edna Santos, who is bossier and more obnoxious than ever now that she is in charge of the annual Heart Ball.

One thing is for sure, though: Merci Suárez can't dance—not at the Heart Ball or anywhere else. Dancing makes her almost as queasy as love does, especially now that Tía Inés, her merengue-teaching aunt, has a new man in her life. Unfortunately, Merci can't seem to avoid love or dance for very long. She used to talk about everything with her grandfather, Lolo, but with his Alzheimer's getting worse each day, whom can she trust to help her make sense of all the new things happening in her life? The Suárez family is back in a touching, funny story about growing up and discovering love's many forms, including how we learn to love and believe in ourselves.



HC: 978-0-7636-9050-2 • \$17.99 (\$23.99 CAN)

PB: 978-1-5362-2815-1 • \$8.99 (\$11.99 CAN)

Ages 9–12 • 384 pages

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Also available in Spanish:

Merci Suárez no sabe bailar

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#MERCISUAREZ

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MEG MEDINA

Meg Medina is an award-winning Cuban-American author who writes picture books and middle-grade and young adult fiction. Her middle-grade novel *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* received a Newbery Medal and was a *New York Times* Notable Children's Book of the Year, an International Latino Book Award nominee, and a Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature finalist, among many other distinctions. About this sequel, Meg Medina says, "I'm so excited to bring my readers into the world of the Suárez family and Seaward Pines once again. . . . New friends, new teachers, and new self-doubts. It's been a thrill to write about all the zany things that the seventh grade can throw at a person."

Her most recent picture book, *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away*, published in September 2020 to several starred reviews. Her young adult novel *Burn Baby Burn* earned numerous distinctions, including being long-listed for the 2016 National Book Award and short-listed for the Kirkus Prize. She is the 2014 recipient of the Pura Belpré Author Award and a 2013 Cybils Award winner for her young adult novel *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*. She also received the 2012 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award for her picture book *Tía Isa Wants a Car*.

Meg Medina's work examines how cultures intersect through the eyes of young people, and she brings audiences stories that speak to both what is unique in Latino culture and qualities that are universal. Her favorite protagonists are strong girls. In March 2014, she was recognized as one of the CNN 10 Visionary Women in America. In November 2014, she was named one of Latino Stories' Top Ten Latino Authors to Watch.

When she is not writing, Meg Medina works on community projects that support girls, Latino youth, and literacy. She lives with her family in Richmond, Virginia.

Praise for the Newbery Medal winner *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*



HC: 978-0-7636-9049-6

PB: 978-1-5362-1258-7

Ages 9–12 • 368 pages

Also available as an e-book and in audio



Also available in a Spanish-language edition

HC: 978-1-5362-1257-0

PB: 978-1-5362-1259-4

416 pages

Also available as an e-book

“Merci Suárez is a delightful heroine who, despite real challenges, never wavers in her strong sense of self or her fierce love for la familia.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A moving coming-of-age tale.” —*People Magazine*

★ “A must-read.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

★ “In this warmly told story, Medina introduces eleven-year-old Merci, descendent of Cuban immigrants, who attends a Florida private school on scholarship with her whip-smart older brother. . . . Medina keeps the tone light as Merci’s take-charge personality helps her to succeed in this coming-of-age tale about family and the perils of sixth grade.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “Medina writes about the joys of multigenerational home life (a staple of the Latinx community) with a touching, humorous authenticity. Merci’s relationship with Lolo is heartbreakingly beautiful and will particularly strike readers who can relate to the close, chaotic, and complicated bonds of live-in grandparents. Medina delivers another stellar and deeply moving story.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

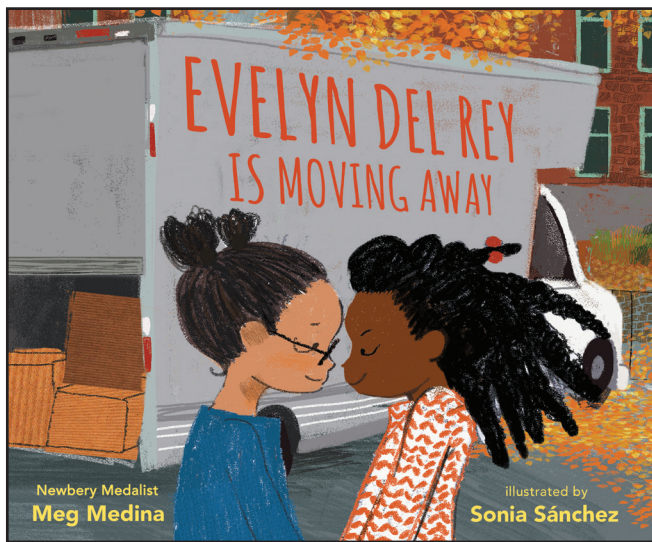
★ “The realistic portrayal of a complex young Latina’s life is one many readers will relate to as she discovers that change can be hard, but it’s the ride that matters. Pura Belpré–winning author Medina cruises into readers’ hearts with this luminous middle-grade novel. A winning addition to any library’s shelves.” —*School Library Journal* (starred review)

★ “Medina consistently and assuredly portrays Latinx girls and women who grapple with their insecurities while learning about themselves and their worlds, and middle-grade heroine Merci is a fine example. Accurate and natural use of Spanish words and sayings that fit each character’s tone builds authenticity. Medina writes with sincerity and humor to convey the experience of growing up in a close-knit family that tends to mingle too much in each other’s business while unfailingly and dedicatedly supporting and helping one another.” —*The Horn Book* (starred review)

“*Merci Suárez Changes Gears* is a tenderhearted, funny, realistic, and ultimately heartbreaking story.” —R. J. Palacio, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Wonder*

“A book packed with truth, love, and questions. Meg Medina shows us how small, real-life moments can add up in powerful ways. Merci Suárez has my heart.” —Rebecca Stead, Newbery Medal–winning author of *When You Reach Me*

Praise for *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away*

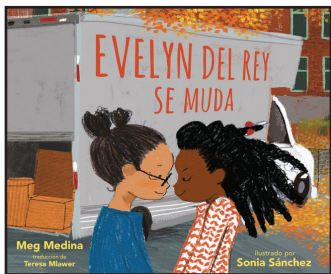


illustrated by Sonia Sánchez

HC: 978-1-5362-0704-0 • PB: 978-1-5362-3067-3

Ages 5–7 • 32 pages

Also available as an e-book



Simultaneously published in a
Spanish-language edition

illustrated by Sonia Sánchez

HC: 978-1-5362-1334-8 • PB: 978-1-5362-3068-0

Ages 5–7 • 32 pages

Also available as an e-book

“Medina approaches the difficulty of best friends separated by a move from the perspective of the child left behind. . . . Vivid colors keep the overall tone upbeat, and a final illustration depicts an older Daniela enjoying letters from her friend. Realistic and quietly satisfying.” —*Booklist*

“Sánchez’s illustrations give life to the world these two best friends live in, while also revealing details about the move. The raw emotions that Daniela and Evelyn experience come through in the drawings. Medina and Sánchez have created a winning emotional story about two best friends who will always be best friends, regardless of all kinds of upheaval.”

—*School Library Journal*

★ “Newbery Medalist Medina’s versatility is in evidence here, showing she’s as much in tune with the picture-book audience as she is with older readers. With lines that go at angles and splashes of bold colors and patterns, Sánchez’s artwork is as lively and full of movement as the two girls. Layered applications of color create texture, and the interiors of their apartments are cozily beckoning. A tender story of friendship and change.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

★ “Digital artwork by Sánchez radiates warmth and specificity as the girls interact with neighbors (“We sneak past grouchy Mr. Miller’s door and wave to Mr. Soo”) and revel in their last moments in homes whose windows face one another. . . . Landing on the moment of their parting grief adds poignancy to their vibrant connection, and a final page turn offers further joy to this portrait of two girls of color and their strong, resilient friendship.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “Daniela’s first-person, present-tense narration balances action and introspection, while in the illustrations the small, expressive figures of the two girls seem barely able to contain the deeply felt emotions, familiar to many children, that accompany loss and change. Sánchez’s illustrations layer colorful patterns and textures with filigreed lines and corrugated cardboard collage; bright yellow beech leaves litter the girls’ urban neighborhood, suggesting a season of transition. The final image of an older Daniela, seated on the floor of her room surrounded by letters from Evelyn, assures readers that, no matter what, you never forget your first ‘mejor amiga.’” —*The Horn Book* (starred review)

★ “Newbery Medalist Meg Medina writes in the earnest and playful voice of a child, using uncomplicated words and a tone that’s equal parts solemn and hopeful. *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* affirms feelings of sadness but provides assurance that true friendship—the kind built on sharing glittery stickers—endures.” —*BookPage* (starred review)

★ “Sánchez’s digital art has a colored pencil and mixed media flair, and she’s particularly gifted in conveying human dynamics through poses as the brown-skinned girls sprawl on the floor or dart through the building together hand in hand. While a final scene shows a grown Daniela smiling over a box of Evelyn memorabilia, that’s by no means papering over the sadness of the parting, with both girls obviously and understandably grief-stricken. It’s that honesty that makes this book truly useful: while life goes on when friends separate, adults as well as kids benefit from recognition that friends are essential and that it’s valid to mourn the departure of your ‘numero uno best friend.’” —*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* (starred review)

Praise for *Burn Baby Burn*



HC: 978-0-7636-7467-0

PB: 978-1-5362-0027-0

Also available as an e-book and in audio

Long-listed for the National Book Award

A Kirkus Prize Finalist

- ★ “Medina is on point with the teen voices, evoking their intense fear, panic, and dreams. A devastatingly intense story, this work is a must-have for all collections.” — *School Library Journal* (starred review)
- ★ “Rooted firmly in historical events, Medina’s latest offers up a uniquely authentic slice-of-life experience. . . . An important story of one of New York City’s most dangerous times.” — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)
- ★ “Powerfully moving, this stellar piece of historical fiction emphasizes the timeless concerns of family loyalty and personal strength, while highlighting important issues that still resonate today.” — *Booklist* (starred review)
- ★ “Medina depicts her troubled family and their diverse Queens neighborhood with realistic, everyday detail.” — *The Horn Book* (starred review)

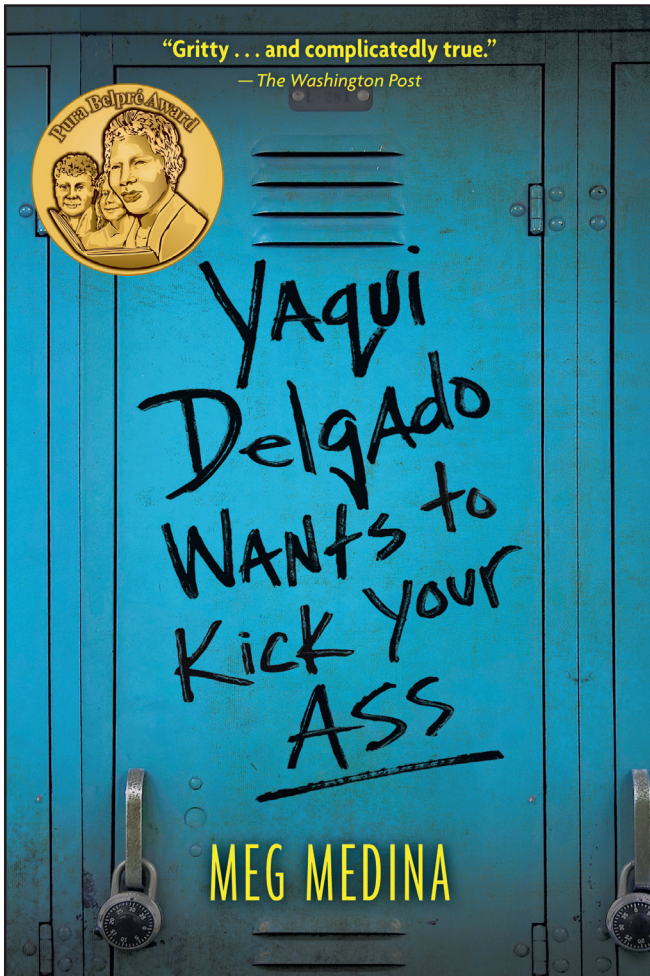
“Nora is strong and believable, a possible romance has heat, and Medina gets gritty 1977 New York City right.” — *Publishers Weekly*

“This novel is a strong choice for its message, characters, and historical perspective.” — *Voice of Youth Advocates*

“Meg Medina once again shines in evoking a specific setting peopled with complex, diverse characters.” — *Chicago Tribune*

“Medina draws her characters deeply, and makes a struggling New York City their perfect, complicated backdrop.” — *The Plain Dealer*

Praise for *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*



HC: 978-0-7636-5859-5

PB: 978-0-7636-7164-8

Also available as an e-book and in audio



Also available in a Spanish-language edition

HC: 978-0-7636-8992-6 • PB: 978-0-7636-7940-8

Also available as an e-book

Winner of the 2014 Pura Belpré Author Award

- ★ “This book sheds light on a serious issue without ever losing sight of its craft.” — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)
- ★ “The message here is that tough and unfair stuff is really tough and unfair, but it’s also survivable; that’s a takeaway that readers will recognize as both true and valuable.” — *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* (starred review)
- ★ “The Latino cultural milieu adds a richness and texture. . . . The plot points are dexterously intertwined, and the characters are distinct.” — *School Library Journal* (starred review)
- ★ “Medina’s setting stands out.” — *The Horn Book* (starred review)

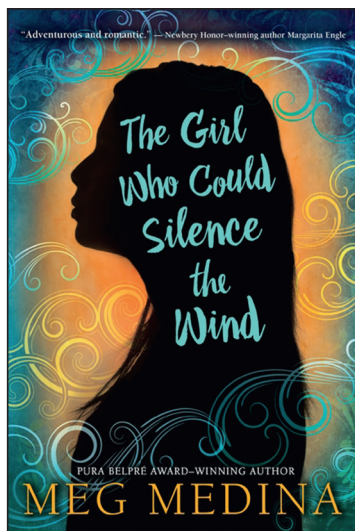
“Medina effectively prods at the motivations behind bullying (without excusing it) and sensitively explores the delicate balance between belonging and maintaining individuality.”
— *Publishers Weekly*

“Heartfelt, truthful writing that treats the complicated roots of bullying with respect.” — *Booklist*

“Gritty. . . . Unflinching.” — *The Washington Post*

“Wonderful.” — *NBC News*

OTHER ACCLAIMED BOOKS FOR READERS OF ALL AGES BY MEG MEDINA



A Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year

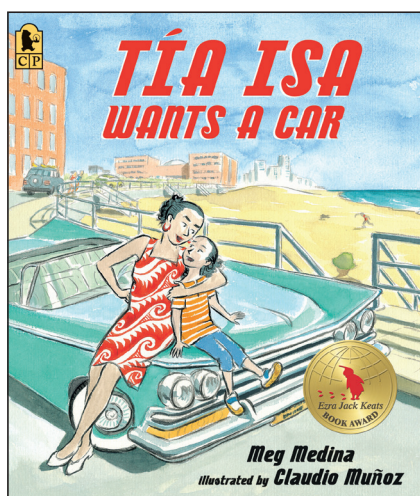
"Medina's writing is fluent and lovely, weaving Spanish words in with the English text to paint a heartwarming story of a girl's journey to find out who she is."

— *School Library Journal*

"Medina breathes life into Sonia and many of the secondary characters, and the vivid descriptions and touches of magical realism will enthrall readers." — *Kirkus Reviews*

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An American Library Association Notable Children's Book

"The strength of family and the importance of pursuing one's dreams are the bedrock of middle-grade author Medina's lyrical first picture book."

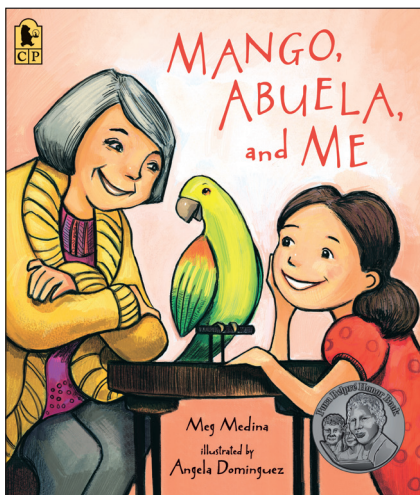
— *Publishers Weekly*

HC: 978-0-7636-4156-6 • PB: 978-0-7636-5752-9 • Also available as an e-book

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★ "Heartfelt, layered, and beautiful." — *Booklist* (starred review)

★ "Emotional nuance and understated, observant narration."

— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

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