

## **I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican**

**Erica Sanchez**

**Reviewed By: Chatanya Sarin, 17**

**Star Teen Book Review of *Be The Star You Are!* Charity**

[www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)

*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, by Erica Sanchez, describes the story of Julia Reyes, a 15-year-old girl from Chicago. After her older sister, Olga, dies in a bus accident, Julia launches her own investigation into Olga's personal life, including Olga's friends. Julia's parents considered Olga a "perfect child", who often went to church and faithfully attended community college classes; after Olga's death, Julia's parents kept her confined to her house for an amount of time that Julia considers binding. Julia finds a hotel key and several love notes, along with other items, in Olga's room; when Julia isn't at home, she often parties with her best friend, Lorena, who eventually becomes friends with a gay character named Juanga. Julia then meets a rich boy named Connor, who she eventually spends more time with, however, after revealing her problems to him, Julia finds Connor being unsupportive and takes it as a break-up, causing her to slit her wrists and end up in the hospital; Julia then gets diagnosed with depression and anxiety. Her parents send her to Mexico, where she learns Olga's internet password.

Julia finds that Olga's lover was a married doctor, who promises to leave his wife to be with Olga. She also learns that her mom was raped while attempting to cross the US-Mexican border, which leads Julia to sympathize more with her mother. After going back to Chicago, she reunites with Connor, and learns that Olga was pregnant at the time of her death. Olga's boyfriend admits that he really loved Olga and got divorced with his wife; Julia also receives Olga's ultrasound. Julia's depression improves with counseling, and she develops a friendship with Juanga. The book ends with Julia receiving a scholarship to college.

This book would be great for teenagers who are going through times where they feel confined or are questioning those around them, as they will realize that everyone has a story that affects their actions. This is shown when Julia sympathizes with her mother after learning that she was raped. I liked that this book touched upon many societal issues, such as immigration, homosexuality, as well as the stories of rape victims. I believe this book will entice teens struggling to understand those around them, as they will realize that everyone has a story that defines them and their actions.

### **Recommended Titles:**

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Looking for Alaska by John Green

**Age Recommendation: 14-25**