

Miss Meteor

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The Miss Meteor beauty pageant is one of the biggest events in Meteor, New Mexico, every year. Unfortunately, there has never been a winner that looks like Lita Perez or Chicky Quintanilla in all its history. Both girls don't fit the town's standard. Free-spirited Lita, who is also the daughter of the town witch Bruja Lupe, crash-landed on the meteor that gave the town its name. As she is beginning to turn into stardust, the idea of running for the pageant pops into her head. Of course, the local mean girl named Kendra Kendall will have a problem with it, as she is the expected winner.

Chicky, a social outcast and "tomboy" is sick of people like Kendra bullying her. She begins to come up with a plan to stop the popular Kendra from winning. Chicky and Lita, once childhood friends, work together with Chicky's runner-up older sisters, Kendra's caring brother Cole, and the talented artist Junior (who has a crush on Chicky) to defeat the thin, white blondes who always takes the crown. Yet, will Meteor's standards of what a teen girl should look and act like hold Lita back from winning?

This story includes so much diversity. The book addresses sexuality, racism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, and more. The characters are each so different, each with their own strengths, but complement each other nicely. They offer strength to one another in beautiful and powerful ways, with almost all of them growing in a positive way by the end of the story. *Miss Meteor* is about love, self-acceptance, and ultimately, finding your place in the world. Though, this book includes a lot of humor and fun along the way!

By telling the story from both the perspective of Lita and Chicky, it boosts the theme of individuality. The challenges faced by the characters help them learn from their mistakes. I also enjoyed the added tension for winning the pageant by including "Selena's," Chicky's family's struggling restaurant. The pace of the book is somewhat slow, but the writing is still captivating. I recommend this book for those aged fourteen and up, as it contains mature topics and some profanity.

Recommended Titles:

I Think I Love You by Auriane Desombre

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

