

**Title:** *Iveliz Explains It All*  
**Author:** Andrea Beatriz Arango  
**Genre:** Young Adult Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Kaileen C., Grade 8

Date Reviewed: April 7, 2024

*Iveliz Explains It All* by Andrea Beatriz Arango is a fiction book that is about the life of Iveliz, a ten-year-old girl living in Puerto Rico. Set against the backdrop of the beautiful island, the story takes place in the present day and delves into Iveliz's everyday experiences, challenges, and joys. As she navigates school, family dynamics, friendships, and cultural traditions, Iveliz learns valuable lessons about identity, belonging, and the importance of staying true to oneself. However, the sudden death of Iveliz's father serves as a pivotal moment in the story, shaping her understanding of loss and resilience. As Iveliz grapples with grief, she also learns to navigate the complexities of her changing family dynamics. Through relatable situations, and genuine emotions, the book celebrates the richness of Puerto Rican culture while also addressing universal themes of growing up and finding one's place in the world. With its colorful characters and authentic portrayal of life in Puerto Rico, *Iveliz Explains It All* is a charming and insightful exploration of childhood and community.

*Did the plot keep you interested? Was the pace of the book just right? What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for? What type of reader would you recommend this book to? What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

The plot of *Iveliz Explains It All* kept me engaged with its endearing characters and relatable storytelling. The pace of the book was just right, balancing moments of humor and heartwarming reflection. This book is appropriate for upper elementary and middle school students, particularly those interested in stories about diverse cultures and experiences. I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy realistic fiction with a focus on family and community. Teens should be aware that the book addresses themes of cultural identity and family dynamics in a gentle and accessible manner, making it a great choice for readers looking for heartwarming and relatable stories. The sudden death of Iveliz's father is a significant plot point that adds depth to the story, highlighting the importance of resilience and family bonds in times of adversity.

*Rating: 4 stars*

I enjoyed *Iveliz Explains It All* and found it to be a worthwhile read. Arango's vivid descriptions and authentic portrayal of Puerto Rican culture brought the story to life, making it a delightful and immersive reading experience. The characters, especially Iveliz, were well-developed and relatable, with their struggles and triumphs resonating with readers of all ages. The inclusion of the father's death as a plot point added emotional depth to the story, allowing readers to

empathize with Iveliz's journey of grief and resilience. However, while the book provided valuable insights into Puerto Rican traditions and family dynamics, I wished for a more complex plot or deeper exploration of certain themes. Overall, though, *Iveliz Explains It All* is a charming and heartwarming story that celebrates the beauty of childhood and community.