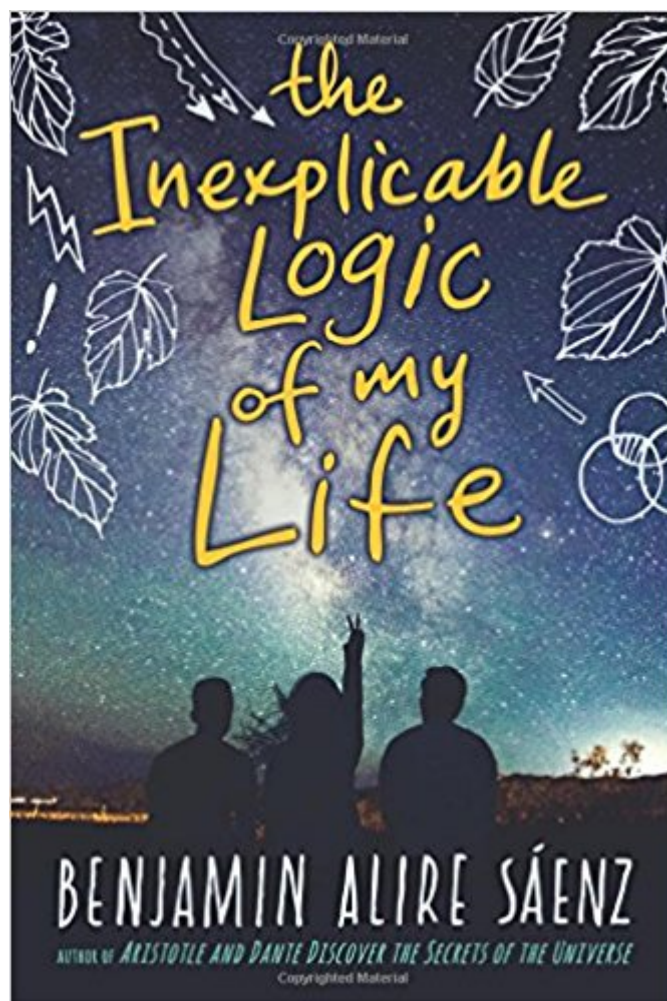


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The Inexplicable Logic Of My Life



Synopsis

A “mesmerizing, poetic exploration of family, friendship, love and loss” from the acclaimed author of *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. (New York Times Book Review) Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican-American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it’s senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. If Sal is not who he thought he was, who is he? This humor-infused, warmly humane look at universal questions of belonging is a triumph.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“[A] mesmerizing, poetic exploration of family, friendship, love and loss. In *Sal*, Saenz gives his readers a young man equal parts strong, vulnerable, wise and loving.” - New York Times Book Review “Saenz’s optimistic view of young people and adults in general shines through and lifts the reader up.” - Hypable.com “This new novel has all the same qualities that made you fall in love before: deeply human protagonists, a gentle, warm manner of addressing difficult issues, and finding a sense of identity.” - Bustle “Saenz is a treasure whose works should not be missed...” - VOYA “Saenz’s distinctive prose style is lyrical and philosophical...” - Horn Book “The themes of love, social responsibility, death, and redemption are expertly intertwined with well-developed characters and

a compelling story line. This complex, sensitive, and profoundly moving book is beautifully written and will stay with readers. **VERDICT** A must-purchase title, recommended for all school and public libraries." **School Library Journal**, starred review | "The well-constructed pacing of the novel, with its beautifully expansive prose punctuated by text messages between Sal and Sam, demonstrates the author's talent for capturing the richness of relationships among family and friends. The author of Printz Honor-winning *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (2012) offers another stellar, gentle look into the emotional lives of teens on the cusp of adulthood." **Kirkus**, starred review | "Written in short chapters that eloquently describe Sal's deepest fears and most intense moments of affection, the story celebrates compassion and the love of family." **Publishers Weekly**, starred review "As Sal tries to understand the way his fists seem to be acting on their own, as he sorts through memories and feelings about mothers in general and his mother in particular, Sal wraps readers in a 464-page hug, sharing longing and insight that ultimately affirms the goodness of strong families with the generosity to draw in and rescue those in need of steady, solid, unconditional love." **Bulletin** "What the world needs now is a book like this one. Profoundly important and moving. Read it." **Bill Konigsberg**, Stonewall Award-winning author of *Openly Straight* and *The Porcupine of Truth* "Thought-provoking and uplifting, this compelling coming-of-age novel treats the complexities of being human with compassion, and above all love." **Francisco Jimenez**, Pura Belpré Honor-winning author of *Breaking Through* and *Reaching Out* "A needed, lovely, and powerful book." **Connie Griffin**, Bookworks, Albuquerque "Sáenz presents readers with several beautifully drawn relationships... Sal is one of those characters you wonder about after the book is closed. Maybe Sáenz will tell us more." **Booklist**

Multi-award-winning novelist and poet Benjamin Alire Saenz is the author of several acclaimed books for teens, including the much-lauded *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. He lives in El Paso, TX. Follow him on Twitter @BenjaminAlireSa.

I don't know how he does it but I feel connected to his characters right from the start; they all feel so real, so genuine, with all the good and the bad stuff, with all their struggles, which in a way are all of our struggles to ultimately achieve the same: find a place where we truly belong, among people who truly care for us and we care for. After reading his first book, I knew I needed a big box of tissue nearby. I loved especially the relationship between Sal and his dad- and the many wonderful

secondary characters: dad of course, and Mima and Fito - I wanted to cry each time Fito turned up, my heart ached for him so much. He had been dealt such a tough card and yet he had so much decency, was such a good guy. I wanted life to be good to him, he deserved it. I highlighted many, many beautiful passages in the book.

I will make this review the briefest possible as I could write a book about this book. I really feel all the love all Benjamin's characters and the portrayal of a Mexican-American family is really relevant to the times we are living. The characters are flawed and that is why this book is amazing. "Relatable" is a word grossly overused these times but I will use it as the Word Of The Review. I really enjoy reading about El Paso, Tx and Juárez as it is my hometown and the details about locations taken back there.

Saenz does it again! This book was as enjoyable as Aristotle and Dante, and as insightful as "He forgot to say Goodbye". This revolves around Sal, adopted son of a Gay Man living in El Paso (Where all of Saenz's books are set), as he embarks on a mission to figure out exactly who he is.

I was re-reading "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" and decided to see if there was anything else he wrote out there for my kindle. So glad I did. If you loved "Aristotle and Dante", I think you will feel the same about this story. Maybe 4.5 stars instead of 5, but I decided to round up instead of down.

I liked this book a lot as a quick read, but if I could go back, I probably wouldn't spend 10 dollars on it. I'm a big reader and have read a lot of YA novels. This one was a solid "like." I enjoyed the plot and the characters are strong and likable. I love that the book is really entirely centered on family and friendship, which is unique for a YA novel, because most that claim that tend to end up being more about romantic love. It felt like I was missing the second layer of what I love to find in books- I understood the characters' pain and love, but I didn't feel it myself. All around, I'd say a solid 3-3.5/5.

The first about 100 pages I didn't really care but by the end it had made me cry a good ten times and I fell in love with all the characters. His writing is just as beautiful as in Aristotle and Dante (book by him also if that wasn't clear), no major romantic plot line which was amazing, really interesting perspectives and storylines. highly highly recommend sticking with it.

I was very entertained by this book, from start to finish. The characters are very lovable, the writing is witty and creative. There are many stories being told within this novel, and many of them pull the heartstrings :)

I love this book so much. I bought it for my kindle fire.

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