



Finding Miracles

Julia Alvarez

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MILLY KAUFMAN IS an ordinary American teenager living in Vermont—until she meets Pablo, a new student at her high school. His exotic accent, strange fashion sense, and intense interest in Milly force her to confront her identity as an adopted child from Pablo's native country. As their relationship grows, Milly decides to undertake a courageous journey to her homeland and along the way discovers the story of her birth is intertwined with the story of a country recovering from a brutal history.

Beautifully written by reknowned author Julia Alvarez, *Finding Miracles* examines the emotional complexity of familial relationships and the miracles of everyday life.

Finding Miracles Details

Date : Published May 9th 2006 by Laurel Leaf (first published October 1st 2004)

ISBN : 9780553494068

Author : Julia Alvarez

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fiction, Parenting, Adoption, Realistic Fiction, Romance, Teen, Family, Cultural, Contemporary, Coming Of Age

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From Reader Review Finding Miracles for online ebook

Kathleen says

Walking through the library, picking up a book, I discovered this book on CD displayed, it sounded good and I am spending more time driving lately. What a good book - and I feel it was a bit of divine intervention. Mily is our beautiful, smart, high school main character - she was adopted in South America, when her parents were working for the Peace Corps. She has grown up in Vermont and is not really sure what she thinks about her birth country. That is, until she meets Pablo, a young man who has moved with his mom and dad to the same town, escaping the political unrest. This book was a neat look into that age and time for these "kids" and moving in it's graceful, real way of handling international adoption, good families and the need for knowing your heritage. I cheered Mily on - she was a warm and lovable, mature character and her coming of age with her identity was very well written and excellent in expressing the emotions of all those touched in an adoptive family. A good book on CD makes your car commuting something to look forward to!

Ellen Gail says

DNF at somewhere around the halfway mark? I honestly can't be bothered to look it up and see what chapter I got to, and that tells you a lot about my interest right there.

So this was a buddy-read with my gal TL, my very first Goodreads one! And we both ended up DNFing lol! Great minds abandon books alike, huh?

Anyway, it started out fine, the descended into boredom. And I realized that I just didn't care. I didn't want to pick it back up and I didn't care what happened. I don't even feel like skimming. That was the death blow for me.

Oh well. Onwards to better books!

Rose says

"Finding Miracles" is a beautifully told coming-of-age story about a 15-year old girl named Mily (Milagros, which is Spanish for "Miracles") who gains an understanding and acceptance of her cultural roots. At first, Mily keeps her identity as an adoptive child from another country a closely guarded secret. But when a boy named Pablo moves to her school, moving from the same country that her adoptive parents found her, she feels a strange sense of attraction and repulsion to him. Nonetheless, getting to know Pablo has her questioning the origin of her roots and upending doubts that have stood within her for a long time. I thought Julia Alvarez's approach to Mily was well done, not only taking a personal perspective of how Mily voices her fears and concerns, but also describing the journey she takes to confront her past.

The first part of the book details how Mily comes to terms with sharing the fact that she's adopted and how

she comes to know Pablo. The second part focuses on the journey that she takes to the country while visiting with Pablo. She finds out much about who her parents might've been, and how fortunate she is to live the life she has. There's also a sweet love story that's intertwined within the story, which I thought was refreshing and worked very well with the character chemistries.

"Finding Miracles" caught my attention and held it with respect to its luminous prose, memorable characters, and intriguing subject matter. I would definitely recommend it for young adults who love coming of age stories and want a novel that illustrates a beautiful example of cultural and familial exploration.

Overall score: 4/5

Madeline says

This book intrigued me because of having a close relationship with a family member who was adopted from a Latin American country. This book was written so truthfully, and the main character, Milly (or Milagros), is a very realistic teenager trying to find out who she is. I love this book!

Ana says

Good for young adults

I enjoyed it enough to finish this story. The beginning is intriguing and makes you read more. There was some elements missing that you find other books by Julia Alvarez that are missing here. However, it was worth the read.

Anna says

I liked the first part of this book a whole lot more than I ended up liking the second half. The beginning was strong and I really liked the way that Millie's character was developed, along with the whole mystery aspect of who her parents are. I liked how Pablo came into her life and I enjoyed speculating as to what would happen next. But then when Millie went to the Dominican Republic the whole novel seemed to lose momentum. I felt like it dragged and it seemed forced that she was suddenly SO into her culture. Maybe this really is how I would feel if this happened to me but I had a hard time accepting her character as the novel went on. At first I thought this would be one of my new favorites but after listening to the entire thing, I am not so in love with it.

Teenreadsdotcom says

Julia Alvarez's FINDING MIRACLES is similar to many of her other books in a way that it is about the coming-of-age of a young Latina girl trying to find her own identity. Some of her other books include BEFORE WE WERE FREE, HOW THE GARCÍA GIRLS LOST THEIR ACCENTS, RETURN TO SENDER, ¡YO! and possibly her most famous and well-known, IN THE TIME OF THE BUTTERFLIES.

Julia Alvarez's own story is connected to many of her books as she was born in New York City but moved to the Dominican Republic when she was young and back to New York when the Dominican Republic started to get to dangerous. She also has a project called Alta Gracia. She is also a writer in residence at Middlebury. She originally came out with FINDING MIRACLES in 2004 and is now coming out with it again.

FINDING MIRACLES circles around Mildred --- Milly ---- Kaufman, a young girl who was adopted by the Kaufmans and is originally from some unnamed Latin-American country. Aside from that fact, Milly is a typical American teenager in Vermont. She goes to her high school and hangs out with her best friend Em. She loves her family: her mom, her dad and her two siblings, Kate and Nate. Her family also includes her Grandma Happy, but that relationship is slightly more complicated.

Then Pablo comes into her typical American life. Pablo and his family fled from the same country where Milly was born. At first Milly wants nothing to do with Pablo, but as he becomes acquainted in her circle of friends, Milly and Pablo start to get to know each other and become friends quickly. However, as Milly starts to get to know Pablo more, she starts to know more about her birth country, and subsequently start to want to learn more about her birth family --- starting with who they were.

FINDING MIRACLES is amazing. From the first chapter, I was immediately hooked. This book has one of the most amazing starts to a novel, and the beautiful writing, the amazing scenes, the interesting people and the complex mystery of Milly does not stop there. Through the entire book, I was completely invested in the story and the people. Each person had his or her unique identity, and I almost wish that I could read a book from each person's perspective. Many times, side characters do not feel fully fleshed out but Julia Alvarez takes careful detail with every character, and it makes FINDING MIRACLES all the more beautiful and real. FINDING MIRACLES by Julia Alvarez is absolutely beautiful from start to finish. This book is currently one of my favorite books I've read this year, and I have a feeling that FINDING MIRACLES will stay that high up throughout 2018.

If you are interested in books about coming-of-age, then pick up FINDING MIRACLES immediately! This book will not let you down. Also, if you're interested in reading books with more people of color in the book or reading books written by people of color, this book is for you. Julia Alvarez represents her characters so well, probably by taking aspects from her own experiences. FINDING MIRACLES by Julia Alvarez is incredible, and I would suggest it to anyone who is looking for something good to read.

Reviewed by Rebecca D., Teen Board Member

Maria Dade says

"Finding Miracles" is a book about a 15 years old teenager girl that was adopted from Latin America trying to find herself. Milly Milagros Kaufman has two identities. She is Milly, a girl that has been living in Vermont for most of her life with her adoptive parents. She is also Milagros an abandoned orphan that was rescued when she was a baby from Latin America. Milly avoids discussing about her past with others, until she meets Pablo. Pablo is a refugee that comes from the same country that Milly was adopted from. As Milly listens to Pablo stories about his country she becomes more interested on finding more about her home town. Will Milly brake the barrier that is keeping her from finding out about her origins? Find out by reading this book.

Even tough I didn't quite like this book because I don't usually read this genre of books, there were some parts that I liked. My favorite part of the book was toward the end, when Milagros tells her parents about

how she wasn't looking for her parents but she wanted to fill a blank of her life that she did not know about. If you like mysterious adventures I recommend this book to you .

Alana says

The really sweet journey of a girl who was adopted and raised in the US, who faces her discomfort and fears about her unknown origins. The tone was a little too juvenile for me; that's what I get for picking novels written for youth, though, this was a little too youthed-down for many young readers. It may have been caused by the authors over-zealous effort to avoid identifying Millie's country of origin. It was so clearly the Dominican Republic and would have been less distracting to just say so instead of trying to keep it generic-South American. This would be a great book to read out loud.

Sophia says

This book was a miracle itself. From the characters feelings to the setting it almost felt like you were living in the book itself. Milly's story was one of love, sadness and kindness one that everyone should read for its powerful moral.

TL says

Buddyread with Ellen :)

DNF, couldn't get into it:(The MC annoyed me, plus the print in the book was starting to bother me

Sara says

All that you love about YA (budding romance, high school setting, etc) unfolding alongside a realistic and tender portrayal of Latin American cultures, including the trauma of political instability and war. Alvarez's inclusion of "insider language", namely Spanish phrases, really hit the mark and softened me (an initially skeptical reader) towards her story. I am grateful for any books that honor the stories of people in between worlds - those of use who are first generation, who have liminal identities.

Elena Pousada says

Desire Jimenez

Un aspecto de la novela que vi extremadamente relevante en mi vida fue cuando el personaje principal viaja a otro país, para que su familia pueda tener un mejor futuro en los Estados Unidos ya que su país natal no era apto para la educación que sus padres adoptivos le querían dar a sus hijos. Aunque Milly vino pequeña y prácticamente comenzó su vida en los Estados Unidos ella hasta ahora que es adolescente no puede ver cual

es su verdadera identidad, no se siente conforme con sigo misma ni con su familia adoptiva porque piensa que es una carga y no pertenece al mundo de ellos. Cuando yo llegue a los Estados Unidos por primera vez yo me senti como una extrana total porque estaba dejando toda mi vida atras por una nueva, pero hoy en dia todavia no me acostumbro y ahi una parte de mi corazon que todavia extrana mi vida de infancia y siente que no es correspondida a esta nueva vida. Pero algo que yo estoy segura de mi misma es que se quien soy y quien quiero ser en un futuro.

Cassondra says

Milly Kaufman's journey of self-discovery was quite a beautiful little story. I enjoyed the whole thing, including how the author left the home country of the protagonist ambiguous to send a message. Most teenagers are not as in-touch with their feelings and reasons for acting the way they do as Milly was, but other than that, I found the book a wonderful read.

Jocey says

Finding Miracles, by Julia Alvarez is a book about a girl named Milly or Milagros. Mlagros is around 15 years old. She was born in Los Luceros in Dominican Republic. She is adopted. Her main internal struggle is that she doesn't really know who she really is. Her main external struggle is that she is adopted.

During my time reading this book I made a text-to-self connection. There was this part in the book when Milagros goes to Los Luceros and she feels connected to it. That reminds me of myself when I hear stories from the Dominican Republic I feel so connected to it. We both learn that it's good to be connected to a place your family comes from.

I would give this book 5 stars. I really liked how the book was written. It alls fits in toghter perfectly. I also like how the book flows. I would recommend this book to someone who likes Immagrations books. Or to someone who likes books about friendship and family, and romance.
