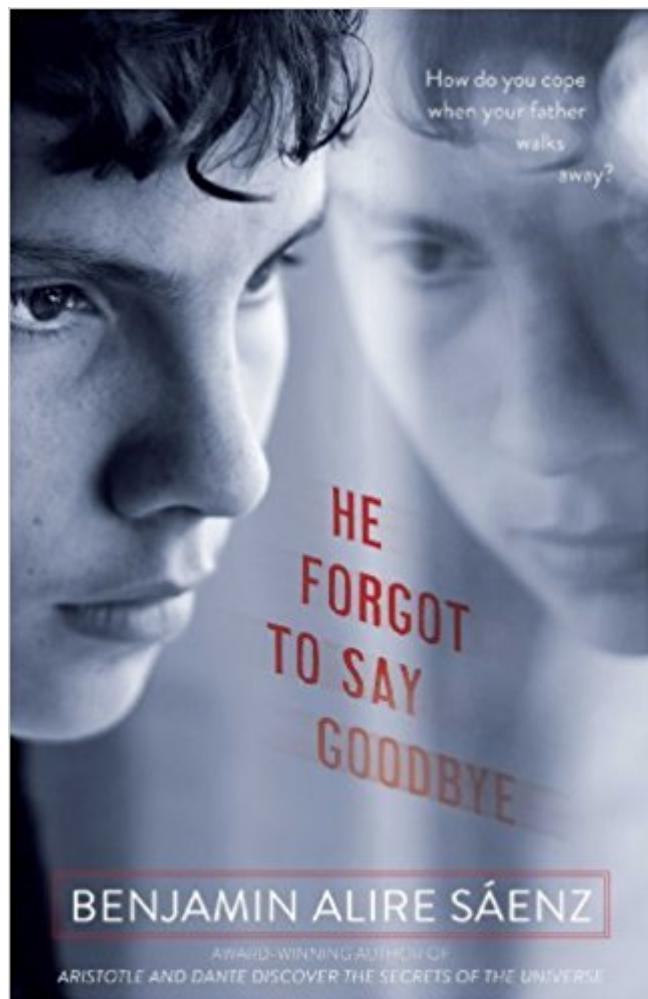


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# He Forgot To Say Goodbye



## Synopsis

On the surface, Ramiro Lopez and Jake Upthegrove couldn't live more different lives. Ram is Mexican-American, lives in the poor section of town, and is doing his best to keep his mother sane while his brother fights off a drug-induced coma. Jake is a WASP who drives a nice car, lives in a mansion, and has a mother who drinks a bit too much and a step-father who cheats on her. But there is one point, one issue, where their lives are exactly the same; their fathers walked out on them when they were just young boys. And at this convergence, Ram and Jake see how everything in their lives is just a little bit similar, because they both blame everything that goes wrong on the one thing they actually have in common. A heartfelt novel from an award-winning author.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL480L (What's this?)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 9, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416994343

ISBN-13: 978-1416994343

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #179,727 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #72 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Multigenerational #97 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"He Forgot to Say Goodbye is a beautiful, powerfully moving story with three absolutely unforgettable teen characters. Sáfjenz has done a remarkable job of creating two memorably idiosyncratic voices that just - well - destroyed me! Effen brilliant!" - Michael Cart, former president of YALSA and ALAN "Sáfjenz's skill with language is such that it makes me as a reader slow down to savor the sentences...Many readers will see themselves in these two young men who manage to confront the demons in their lives and survive." - Teri Lesesne, professor, Sam Houston State

University" He Forgot to Say Goodbye is a story about what it is to become a man...I have, in fact, now spent a lot of quality time with Ramiro and Jake and can say that this one is right up there with my all-time favorite YAs." - Richie Partington, Richie's Picks

Benjamin Alire Sáenz is an author of poetry and prose for adults and teens. He is the winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and the American Book Award for his books for adults. Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe was a Printz Honor Book, the Stonewall Award winner, the Pura Belpre Award winner, the Lambda Literary Award winner, and a finalist for the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award. His first novel for teens, Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood, was an ALA Top Ten Book for Young Adults and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. His second book for teens, He Forgot to Say Goodbye, won the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, the Southwest Book Award, and was named a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. He teaches creative writing at the University of Texas, El Paso.

Benjamin Alire Saenz never fails to amaze me with how he can make you fall in love with characters. Both Jake and Ram are incredible characters, with unique voices, and they're impossible not to love. He's quickly becoming my favorite author of all time.

This book is heartwarming and so heartbreakingly real at the same time. I cried with the boys and remembered those "carefree" times. It was as if I was young again and enduring high school days. I also relived the laughter. I'm sure young people will love it too.

I loved the sense of humor of Jake, and the chance to see a friendship form over the span of a week or so. Heartbreaking but thought-provoking read that brings up some key political issues. Made me think about my own life and how much I have to be grateful for.

Excellent

The characters are so real you feel they could be friends if they existed in real time. Mexican Americans are given the respect they deserve.

4.5

I don't like a lot of YA themed books, not being a YA myself, but this was so beautifully written and charming and painful. Following the theme of lost parents, Jake and Ram alternate between telling their stories. But the writing is terrific - here is Jake describing his mother: Sometimes I think my mom would be happier if she got a job. But she'll never do that. Look, she doesn't need the money. And she doesn't know how to do anything except worry about me. I'm her job. Shit. Have you ever been anyone's job? Have you? It's not a cool place for your mind to inhabit. And here is Ram: My name's Ramiro. They call me Ram. I'm named after my father. I hate being named for a father who disappeared one night and never came back. It's like being named after a ghost. Well worth reading, I'm off to look for more by Saenz.

I am reading this book for a YA literature class. I was distracted by the outdated slang, and it really felt like the writer was out of touch with today's "youth." It's a great idea with great issues socially, but I found it boring and I am not a teenager anymore... which leads me to wonder what teenagers could actually read the entire 321 pages.

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