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# Something In Between



## **Synopsis**

Be the first to read the thought-provoking new novel from Melissa de la Cruz, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Isle of the Lost* and *Return to the Isle of the Lost*. She had her whole life planned. She knew who she was and where she was going. Until the truth changed everything. Jasmine de los Santos has always done what's expected of her. She's studied hard, made her Filipino immigrant parents proud and is ready to reap the rewards in the form of a full college scholarship to the school of her dreams. And then everything shatters. Her parents are forced to reveal the truth: their visas expired years ago. Her entire family is illegal. That means no scholarships, maybe no college at all and the very real threat of deportation. As she's trying to make sense of who she is in this new reality, her world is turned upside down again by Royce Blakely. He's funny, caring, and spontaneous - basically everything she's been looking for at the worst possible time, and now he's something else she may lose. Jasmine will stop at nothing to protect her relationships, family and future, all while figuring out what it means to be an immigrant in today's society.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Enjoyable story. While this author's stories and I don't always meet eye-to-eye, this one clicked with me and I wound up reading it in one sitting. Always a good thing when you can get lost in a book on a sunny, summer afternoon!

I think teen readers will really enjoy this. While it tackles an important political issue, it does so rather

lightly. This is still very much YA - complete with problems with parental units, insta-love, and cheer leading. While I liked Jasmine, she's a bit of a super girl - she's the smartest, most athletic, prettiest human being on earth. Liked her? Yes. But I didn't find her relatable at all. I do have to say that I loved the fact that our main character is Filipina. First, because I can't remember the last time I read a book with a Filipina main character. Second, because it drives home the truth that our immigration issues aren't solely related to Mexico. So, while the political message is definitely present for our more savvy YA reader, the book is still frothy enough for those who just want a good YA tale.

Book #91 Read in 2016 *Something in Between* by Melissa De La Cruz

Jasmine is a top scholar, cheerleading captain, hospital volunteer and all around success story. She wins a national college scholarship and is extremely happy. Her parents--not so much....as they must tell Jasmine that she cannot accept the scholarship as their Visas had expired and they are undocumented immigrants and not US citizen. Add to this storyline a romance with a rich senator's son and you have an interesting read. This book is very timely given all the current news and is more than just a teenage romance. I recommend it for high school girls. I received a copy of this book from Vine in exchange for a honest review.

With *Something in Between*, Melissa de la Cruz examines the plight of an accomplished high school student whose parents reveal the family is in the United States illegally after she earns an academic scholarship. The novel is both about the difficulties Jasmine and her family face because of their status as undocumented immigrants as well as the ups and downs of any typical high school student. While this story is an important one, it feels unrealistic at times. Jasmine being called someone of "exceptional ability" seems a bit of a stretch (though hilariously the deportation hearing judge even says that being head cheerleader does not make her so) and the resolution to the story is a bit too easy. Jasmine's dad is also way over the top in his reactions to everything that happens. He actually seems to not understand that his actions created the situation. Unfortunately, these factors and the immediate love connection Jasmine has with a politician's son cause *Something in Between* to not be as powerful as it should be given the importance of the subject matter.

The title, *Something In Between*, sums up my feelings on this book pretty well. I didn't love it or hate it. I liked that the author chose to tackle timely subject matter of an immigrant family facing deportation, and did so in an accessible way. I also liked that the story strikes a nice balance between romantic and family relationships, not devoting too much time to one over the other. In

contrast, I thought the characters were all pretty thin and the story as a whole rather lackluster. As for the politics portrayed in this book, readers are either going to like them they won't. I think that comes down to the very surface level approach to the issues. I wish the author had delved deeper into both sides of the debate. Hopefully, this book will inspire more authors to write about immigration in the future. As a whole, younger teen readers will probably enjoy this more than older teens.

This is a very good book. Jasmine is living the typical American teenager's life. She is enjoying her high school years and is achieving above and beyond. She is Filipino which I don't think I have read any books about plus her family are undocumented illegal immigrants I know I haven't read anything with that topic before. She gets a scholarship for college but can't use it without her green card.

There is some politics in this book along with a bit of romance. Touching book

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