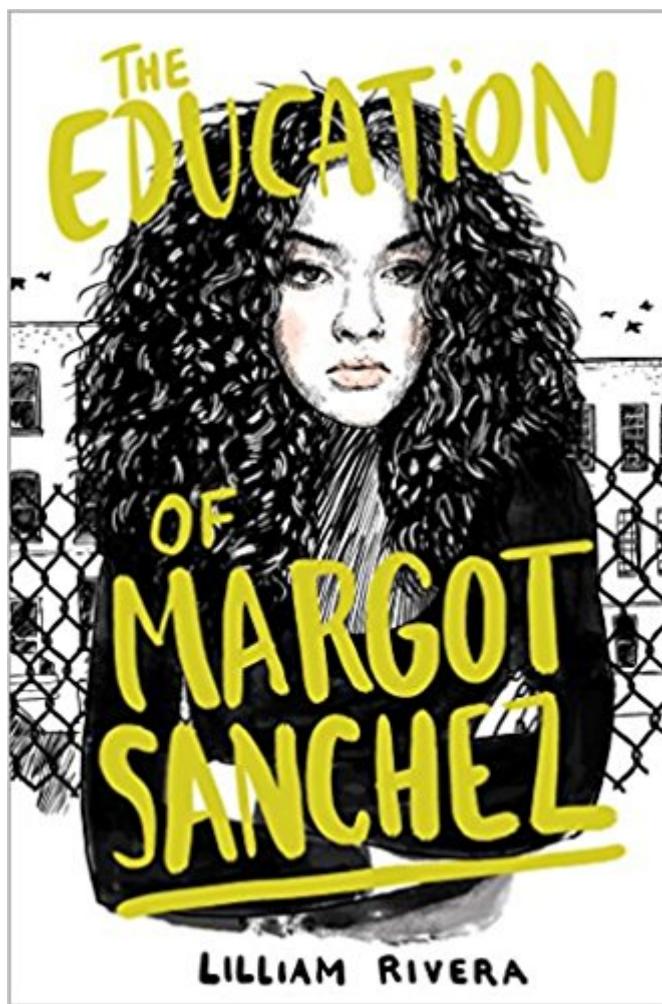


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# The Education Of Margot Sanchez



## Synopsis

Pretty in Pink comes to the South Bronx in this bold and romantic coming-of-age novel about dysfunctional families, good and bad choices, and finding the courage to question everything you ever thought you wanted. From debut author Lilliam Rivera. Things/People Margot Hates: Mami, for destroying her social life Papi, for allowing Junior to become a Neanderthal Junior, for becoming a Neanderthal. The supermarket Everyone else After "borrowing" her father's credit card to finance a more stylish wardrobe, Margot Sanchez suddenly finds herself grounded. And by grounded, she means working as an indentured servant in her family's struggling grocery store to pay off her debts. With each order of deli meat she slices, Margot can feel her carefully cultivated prep school reputation slipping through her fingers, and she's willing to do anything to get out of this punishment. Lie, cheat, and maybe even steal! Margot's invitation to the ultimate beach party is within reach and she has no intention of letting her family's drama or Moises—the admittedly good looking but outspoken boy from the neighborhood—keep her from her goal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Introducing Lilliam Rivera, one of the most unique and exciting new voices in YA. The Education of Margot Sanchez is funny, poignant, compelling and authentic. She nails the music and conflict of an evolving Bronx, New York. I adore this novel." (Matt de la Peña, author of LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET) "In the hands of debut novelist Lilliam Rivera, Margot's choices -- which friends? which boy? which future? -- take on a tense urgency. Lively and

telling, smart and compelling, Margot Sanchez is a character to take to your heart and Rivera a voice to remember. (Karen Joy Fowler, author of *The Jane Austen Book Club*) "With a passionate voice, Lilliam Rivera weaves a layered, complex story of a girl awakening to herself and her family. (Cecil Castellucci, author of *Tin Star*) "The Education of Margot Sanchez shatters the myth of assimilation by exposing the loss and ache that comes with it. Instead, Lilliam Rivera tells the reader that there is nothing more powerful and beautiful than staying true to oneself. (Isabel Quintero, author of *Gabi: A Girl in Pieces*) "The Education of Margot Sanchez feels as classic as Judy Blume and, at the same time, entirely new. It's a rich, page-turning tale about a teenage girl stuck between a rock and the growing-up place. (Veronica Chambers, author of *Mama's Girl* and *The Go-Between*) "A debut of great candor, depth, and empathy." (Booklist) "[A]n emotional story about class, race, hard work, and finding one's place." (Publishers Weekly) "[T]he realistic Latinx characters make this a welcome addition to YA shelves." (School Library Journal) "[A] solid entry novel about family, friendships, and culture. [This] will appeal to teen readers who like coming-of-age tales and stories featuring Latinx culture." (VOYA Magazine)

Lilliam Rivera is the author of *The Education of Margot Sanchez* and is a 2016 Pushcart Prize winner. She is a freelance writer with work in *Tin House*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Latina*, among others. Originally from the Bronx, New York, Lilliam now lives in Los Angeles with her family. Visit her at [LilliamRivera.com](http://LilliamRivera.com).

I may not have liked Margot but overall I did like the story problem and some of the characters: Jasmine, the father, and Moises. They had strong voices and authenticity that sometimes made them more interesting than Margot. This is a fast paced narrative with lots of good dialogue and interior monologue. I liked that the Spanish words and slang weren't italicized, as it makes for easier reading. I wanted to read more about how the character felt about gentrification and explore that storyline. I didn't think of this story as a *Pretty in Pink* meets the Bronx as described on a blurb. Margot and her prep school friends were more in the vein of *Gossip Girls*. SPOILER ALERT: The other area I thought needed more exploration is what happened between Margot and Nick. Not much came up about what Margot felt after her first sexual experience, and her reaction to how her mother reacted to the affair. These were all important topics worth writing about in more detail.

Set in the Bronx, *The Education of Margot Sanchez* by Lilliam

Rivera offers readers a coming-of-age experience full of family, summer, boys and commentary on social issues including class and race. While the beginning of the book moves along enjoyably predictable YA storylines, it picks up significantly in the second half, offering readers a glimpse of grittier family dynamics and some surprising twists. **VERDICT:** A fun, fast read, and a solid purchase for school libraries. Lilliam Rivera is an enjoyable and welcome new voice to the young adult fiction world.

Contemporary isn't one of my favorite genres to read but I view it more as a palate cleanser between SFF reads but 2017 is knocking it out of the park with its contemporary debuts. *THE EDUCATION OF MARGOT SANCHEZ* by Lilliam Rivera is a fast, enjoyable read. I devoured it rather quickly once I set aside time to finish the book. *THE EDUCATION OF MARGOT SANCHEZ* is a story of a girl learning from her mistakes. After she borrows her father's credit card and charges \$600 to it, she is forced to work in her family's grocery store for the summer to pay off her debt. I loved reading Margot's story, and I especially loved her character growth. This is a story about friendships too. Margot has drifted away from her childhood friend, Elizabeth, since they now go to different high schools. Margot's two friends at her prep school, Serena and Camille, are rather stuck-up and seem to be a bad influence on Margot, as they were the ones to convince her to

"borrow the credit card and get a whole new wardrobe." Margot's story also revolves around her family life, especially with her overprotective, controlling big brother, Junior. I found myself being annoyed when Margot was when it came to Junior. And as Margot is a teenage girl, there are love interests Nick, the boy from her prep school Somerset, and Moises, who she keeps running into outside her family's grocery store. I liked Moises. Him and Margot hit it off right away, and I loved their scenes. *THE EDUCATION OF MARGOT SANCHEZ* is a story of a privileged Puerto Rican-American girl living in the Bronx. This story is written well, and Margot's voice leaps off the page as if she is sitting next to you, telling you the story of her summer. If you love Latinx contemporary, I suggest picking up a copy of *THE EDUCATION OF MARGOT SANCHEZ* today.

I must say this was a challenging read for me for about 75% of the book. However, I'm so glad I saw it through to the end. Sixteen year old Margot's parents have grounded her for the summer. Her

consequence: work in her father's supermarket. Her crime: stealing his credit card and charging hundreds of dollars of clothing to impress her friends. As Margot spends her days stocking the shelves and manning the deli counter, she begins to realize just how screwed up her family and just about everyone else in the store is. Battling not really knowing her true self, observing the neanderthal antics of her older brother, and developing unwanted feelings for the former drug dealer turned community activist, Margot's summer is far from perfect. I gave this book four stars because while the bratty, mean, and rude characters annoyed me, Rivera did a great job of creating their personalities. I also love the end and how Margot opens her eyes and truly sees what's going on around her and within her own self.

I first heard of this book on NPR, the interview with the author picked my interest. Margo is such a complex character! At the beginning of the book I was ready to give her a couple of "chanclos"!! I seriously enjoyed watching her grow up. I also enjoyed the writing style of the author. Great job! I can't wait to read her next novel.

Love it. I like everything about this book. Margot was a real teenager (not a saint and not totally evil). I feel like she acted very realistic (not like other YA books portray teens).

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