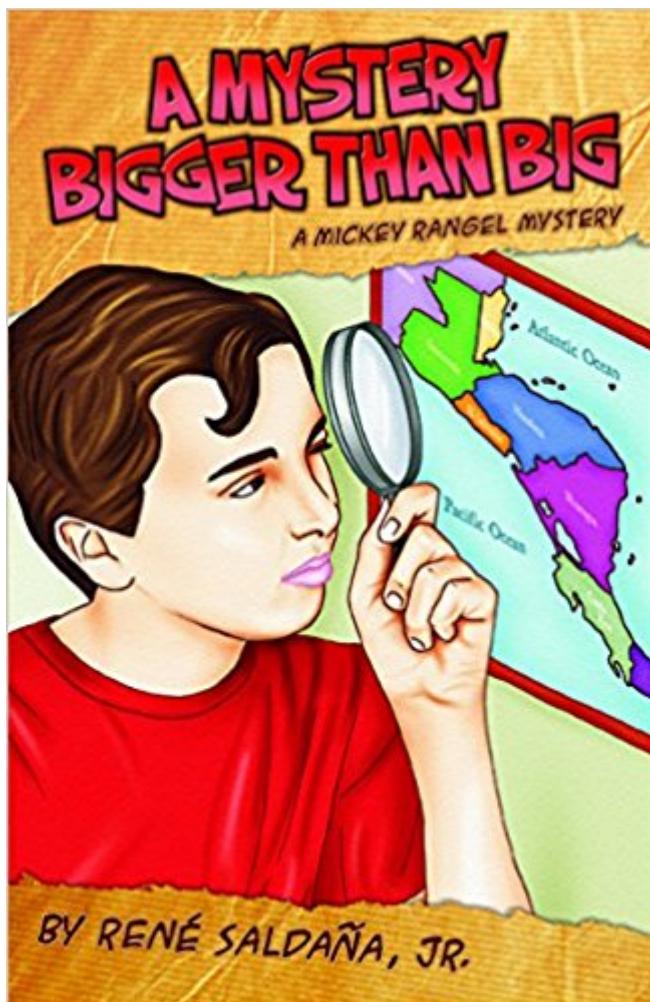


The book was found

A Mystery Bigger Than Big: A Mickey Rangel Mystery / Un Misterio Mas Grande Que Grandisimo: Coleccion Mickey Rangel, Detective Privado (Mickey Rangel Mystery / Coleccion Mickey Rangel, Detective P)





Synopsis

Rumors are flying about Natalia, the new girl in school. She's so quiet that everyone is sure she's hiding something. Was her father a drug lord in Mexico, killed by rival gangs? Or were her parents Russian spies, caught doing what spies do? Maybe she's the sole survivor of a plane crash?!? Mickey Rangel, detective extraordinaire, knows all of the stories going around are bogus. But when his arch rival, Bucho, challenges him for the answer, Mickey vows to crack the case of the new girl. He'll prove once and for all that he's the real deal, a private detective! Natalia is peculiar. She's very skinny, and eats her lunch so quickly that Mickey wonders if she got something more appetizing than he did. She never talks, and her shoes and clothing are worn and shabby. But his efforts to discover the girl's secret come up empty, until he overhears a conversation. Is Natalia really one of those undocumented children he has heard about on the news? Did she really travel all the way from Guatemala by herself? Why would she leave her family? And why would her parents let her go? In this fourth installment of the bilingual Mickey Rangel Mystery series, acclaimed author and educator Rene Saldana, Jr. writes a thought-provoking novel for intermediate readers that explores the contemporary issue of immigration from a young person's perspective. And in this case, Mickey learns some hard truths about being a detective and a good person, ultimately realizing that some mysteries are best left unsolved.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780 (What's this?)

Series: Mickey Rangel Mystery / Coleccion Mickey Rangel, Detective P

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-6 •Young detective Mickey Rangel prides himself on his ability to find clues and solve mysteries, but in this title, he comes face-to-face with a case much larger than any he has ever solved. When Natalia first arrives at school, rumors swirl: she is the daughter of a drug lord or a Russian spy. Mickey himself begins to think that she must have had contact with aliens. While the humor of the series is present, there is also a serious tone as the narrative tackles topics such as immigration and undocumented minors. As Mickey gathers clues about quiet Natalia, it is his arch rival Bucho who surprisingly comes to her defense, asking the gumshoe to leave Natalia in peace. In the end, Mickey finds that revealing Natalia's difficult life to the class would only bring her more suffering. Just as mysteriously as she arrived, the girl departs, leaving Mickey to think about her and the sadness she must have experienced. Accompanied by an excellent Spanish translation, this title is a good introduction to the hardships of immigration for young children, with the trappings of school mystery. VERDICT Kids will enjoy this solid addition. Recommended, especially for public libraries with bilingual collections. •Selenia Paz, Helen Hall Library, League City, TX

A Mystery Bigger than Big/Un misterio mas grande que grandisimo is an excellent exploration of the difficulties of immigration and the dangerous lives of children- often without their parents -struggling to get to a safe place. Highly recommended. --reThinking Schools

As normal Rene hits it out of the park with another in this series! Can't wait for the next one!

I was thrilled to read the fourth book in the Mickey Rangel set. I like the ongoing question of who Mickey's "angel" is, giving him tips. Plus, the development of supporting characters Bucho and Mrs. Garza really rewarded readers of the whole series. The central mystery is also quite timely and important.

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