



Allie, First at Last

By Angela Cervantes

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Allie, First at Last By Angela Cervantes

Allie Velasco wants to be a trailblazer.
A trendsetter.
A winner.

No better feeling exists in the world than stepping to the top of a winner's podium and hoisting a trophy high in the air. At least, that's what Allie thinks . . . she's never actually won anything before. Everyone in her family is special in some way -- her younger sister is a rising TV star; her brother is a soccer prodigy; her great-grandfather is a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

With a family like this, Allie knows she has to make her mark or risk being left behind. She's determined to add a shiny medal, blue ribbon, or beautiful trophy to her family's award shelf. When a prestigious school contest is announced, Allie has the perfect opportunity to take first -- at last. There's just one small snag . . . her biggest competition is also her ex-best friend, Sara. Can Allie take top prize and win back a friend -- or is she destined to lose it all?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—In this realistic middle grade novel, Cervantes introduces a Latina fifth grader, Alyssa, otherwise known as Allie, who is struggling to find her place and identity as the third of four siblings in a family full of successful, award-winning individuals. She considers herself a failure when compared to Harvard-bound Adriana; his soccer whiz older brother, Aiden; and his younger sister Ava, a TV commercial star. Yet this is only half of the family: Allie's mom is a news anchor, and her dad is a fireman. It seems that everyone has won trophies and completed "firsts"—even her great grandfather is famous as the only World War II recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor alive in the state. Fifth grade can be rough, filled with changing relationships and an intense self-centered focus. Allie tries, but often fails, to be understanding when a new friend's help on her science fair project is a disaster and former best friend Sarah chooses the same topic for the Kansas Trailblazer Contest. The first-person narrative captures the disquieting feelings that often accompany the preteen years, including the protagonist's insights on her language proficiency and efforts to make the right decisions. **VERDICT** This will appeal to middle grade girls, particularly for independent reading.—Ruth Quiroa, National Louis University, IL

Review

"A sweet middle-grade read that promotes compassion and empathy over competitiveness. (*Fiction. 8-12*)" -- *Kirkus Review, Starred (Dec. 2015)*

"Laced with Mexican-American language and culture, this realistic drama is filled with gentle humor, big lessons, and even bigger heart. Cervantes's (*Gaby, Lost and Found*) earnest story may inspire a few readers to reach for 'epic greatness' themselves, while reminding them that the 'real rewards you can't put on a shelf.' Ages 8-12." -- *Publisher's Weekly (Dec. 2016)*

Praise for *Gaby, Lost and Found*:

"A timely, touching and nuanced portrayal of real-life challenges experienced by children in mixed-status families."-- *Kirkus Reviews*

"An emotionally compelling story." – *School Library Journal*

"A tender debut that is heartbreaking and heartwarming." -- Diana Lopez, author of *Confetti Girl*

"A timely and important story about immigration, deportation, and abandonment wrapped in a warm-hearted tale that will appeal to all." -- Sonia Manzano, Emmy Award-winning actress who plays "Maria" on *Sesame Street* and Pura Belpre Honor Award-winning author of *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*.

About the Author

Angela Cervantes is an award-winning author whose debut book, *Gaby, Lost and Found*, was named Best Youth Chapter book by the International Latino Book Awards and a Bank Street College of Education's Best Books of 2014. Angela is a daughter of a retired middle-school teacher who instilled in her a love for reading. Angela's second middle grade novel, *Allie, First At Last*, was released by Scholastic in Spring 2016 and received a star review from Kirkus. Angela writes from her home in Kansas and is presently working on her third middle grade novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gabriel Reed:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. Often the *Allie, First at Last* is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Virginia Cherry:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love *Allie, First at Last*, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Bertha Davis:

The book untitled *Allie, First at Last* contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice learn.

Ricky Dotson:

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Or just trying to find the Allie, First at Last when you essential it?

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