

# When We Make It Elisabet Velasquez: A Gripping Tale of Identity, Dreams, and Resilience

Have you ever wondered what it's like to pursue your dreams in the face of adversity? "When We Make It" by Elisabet Velasquez is a compelling novel that delves into the struggles, triumphs, and self-discovery of a young artist. In this article, we will dive into the captivating story and themes of "When We Make It," exploring the importance of culture, representation, and resilience in achieving our goals. Join us on this unforgettable journey!

## Understanding the Story

"When We Make It" takes us on a rollercoaster ride through the life of Sarai Reyes, a talented Afro-Latina artist residing in the Bronx. The novel sheds light on the challenges Sarai faces as she strives to make her mark in the art world while remaining true to her roots. Set against the backdrop of an inner-city neighborhood, this gripping tale serves as a voice for underrepresented communities, highlighting the complexities of identity, race, and gender.

## Themes Explored

**1. Identity:** The novel crafts a vivid portrayal of the struggle to define one's identity in a society that often marginalizes minority voices. Sarai's journey prompts us to question how societal expectations influence our understanding of who we are and the roles we can play.

**When We Make It** by Elisabet Velasquez (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2579 KB



Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 384 pages
Paperback	: 536 pages
Reading age	: 14 - 17 years
Grade level	: 9 and up
Item Weight	: 1.05 pounds
Dimensions	: 5.51 x 1.39 x 8.49 inches



**2. Dreams and Ambitions:** Sarai's passion for art drives her pursuit of success, even when faced with countless obstacles. Velasquez's narrative encourages readers to chase their dreams unapologetically, despite the odds that may be stacked against them.

**3. Resilience and Overcoming Adversity:** Sarai's resilience in the face of adversity serves as a poignant reminder that setbacks shouldn't define us. Her determination to overcome obstacles inspires readers to embrace their own resilience, refusing to let life's challenges hinder their path to success.

## The Importance of Representation

"When We Make It" offers a much-needed platform for diverse voices, showcasing the experiences of marginalized communities. By exploring Sarai's Afro-Latina heritage and the struggles she encounters, Velasquez amplifies the importance of representation in literature and the arts. This novel provides an opportunity for readers to grasp the significance of embracing and celebrating cultural diversity.

## The Impact of Cultural Background

Sarai's cultural background plays a significant role in shaping her art, providing a lens through which she sees the world. "When We Make It" emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and cherishing one's roots, as they add layers of depth and authenticity to our artistic expressions. Velasquez's portrayal encourages readers to reflect on how their cultural heritage shapes their own aspirations and creative endeavors.

## Resonating with Real-Life Experiences

What makes "When We Make It" truly remarkable is its ability to resonate with readers from various walks of life. Through Sarai's story, Velasquez captures universal themes of identity, dreams, and resilience that transcend cultural or societal boundaries. Whether you're an artist, a dreamer, or someone longing for representation, this novel serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of stories.

Elisabet Velasquez's "When We Make It" is a captivating novel that grabs hold of your heart from the very first page. Through the compelling story of Sarai Reyes, the novel explores themes of identity, dreams, and resilience, while shedding light on the importance of representation and cultural heritage. As we journey alongside Sarai, we are reminded that our dreams are within reach, and we have the power to make them a reality. So, join us on this remarkable adventure and discover the transformative power of "When We Make It."



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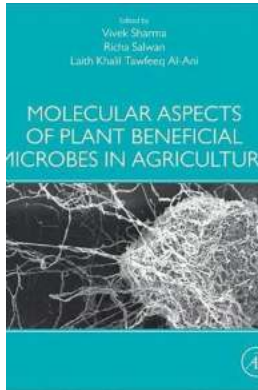


"The energy. The clarity. The beauty. Elisabet Velasquez brings it all. . . . Her voice is FIRE!"—NYT bestselling and award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson

An unforgettable, torrential, and hopeful debut young adult novel-in-verse that redefines what it means to "make it," for readers of Nicholasa Mohr and Elizabeth Acevedo.

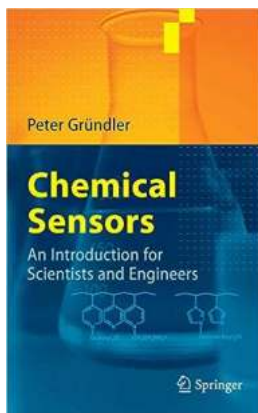
Sarai is a first-generation Puerto Rican question asker who can see with clarity the truth, pain, and beauty of the world both inside and outside her Bushwick apartment. Together with her older sister, Estrella, she navigates the strain of family traumas and the systemic pressures of toxic masculinity and housing insecurity in a rapidly gentrifying Brooklyn. Sarai questions the society around her, her Boricua identity, and the life she lives with determination and an open heart, learning to celebrate herself in a way that she has long been denied.

When We Make It is a love letter to anyone who was taught to believe that they would not make it. To those who feel their emotions before they can name them. To those who still may not have all the language but they have their story. Velasquez' debut novel is sure to leave an indelible mark on all who read it.



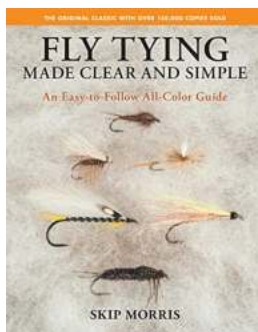
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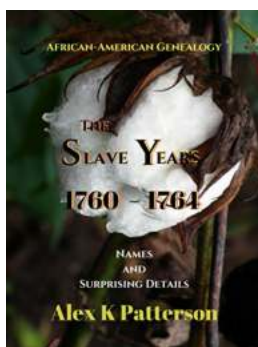
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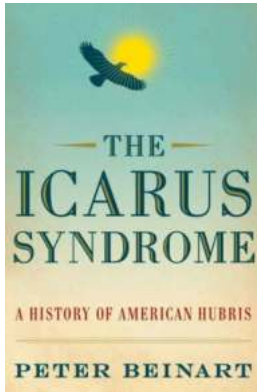
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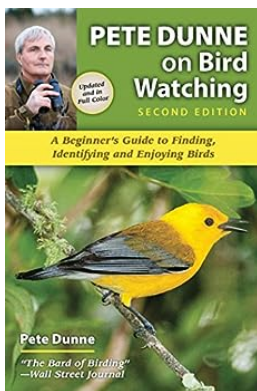
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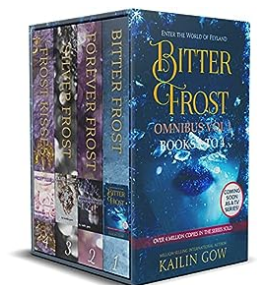
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