

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Everything Within And In Between

“Barthelmess’ story thoughtfully explores intergenerational cultural dynamics and racial microaggressions as it follows Ri on her journey of self-discovery.

An honest and engaging narrative.”

–*Kirkus Reviews*

“A hopeful coming-of-age story about new friendships, first love, and figuring out how to bridge two worlds. It’s a tender novel that glimmers with all of the wonder of self-discovery.”

–**Monica Gomez-Hira, author of *Once Upon a Quinceañera***

“A relatable, compelling, and powerful story that offers a way forward,
a way to reclaim and redefine one’s self.”

–**Randy Ribay, author of the National Book Award finalist *Patron Saints of Nothing***



This October, author Nikki Barthelmess will publish her powerful and hopeful novel of self-discovery, **EVERYTHING WITHIN AND IN BETWEEN** (HarperTeen; October 5, 2021; Hardcover; \$17.99; Ebook: \$9.99). Sure to resonate with fans of *I AM NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER* and *COLOR ME IN*, **EVERYTHING WITHIN AND IN BETWEEN** is a thoughtful and honest narrative inspired by the author’s own experiences as a biracial Mexican-American woman.

In the novel, Barthelmess tells the story of Ri Fernández, a teenager who’s caught between her grandmother and her heritage. Ri’s Mexican grandmother believes in the American Dream, living by the motto “We live in America and we speak English,” and has steered Ri away from questions about their background and, especially, her absent mother.

In her most private thoughts, Ri has always believed that her mother, who disappeared when she was young, would accept her exactly how she is. So when Ri finds a secret unanswered letter from her mom begging for a visit, Ri decides to reclaim what her grandma kept from her: a

language *and* a mother. But nothing goes as planned. Her mom isn't who Ri imagined she would be. And Ri's struggling to navigate the different interweaving threads of her mixed heritage that make her who she is. Nobody has any idea of who Ri really is—not even Ri, herself.

Tackling racial divides, white passing privilege and complicated family dynamics, **EVERYTHING WITHIN AND IN BETWEEN** is a compelling and powerful read about the bonds within families and defining who you are for *yourself*.

About Nikki Barthelmess



Nikki Barthelmess is an author of young adult books, including *The Quiet You Carry*, *Quiet No More*, and her new novel, *Everything Within and in Between*. While growing up in foster care, Nikki found solace in books and writing. A former journalist, Nikki lives in sunny Santa Barbara with her husband, daughter, and diva of a corgi. When not reading or working on her books, Nikki loves advocating for the rights of current and former foster youth, jogging near the beach, and trying to convince her abuelita that feminism means it's okay that her husband does all the cooking.

Website: <https://www.nikkibarthelmess.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nikkigrey>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nikkibarthelmess/>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@nikkibarthelmess?lang=en>

Nikki is available for interviews! Here are just some of the topics she can discuss:

- Inspired by the author's own life and experiences, **EVERYTHING WITHIN AND IN BETWEEN** explores the dynamics of being a child of mixed heritage, and navigating the “in between” of biracialism. Nikki can discuss how she pulled elements from her own life and why it's so important to have these stories available in young adult fiction.
- Ri is not only mixed heritage, she's also white passing and the book discusses what accessing this privilege means and how she can use it support her fellow Latinx community. Nikki can elaborate on this and why she wanted to explore privilege in the book.
- Ri is estranged from her absent mother and raised by a grandmother. Nikki dedicates the book to her grandmother with the endearment, “Te quiero mucho, abuelita.” Though many YAs involve complicated family dynamics, it is refreshing to read relationships

EVERYTHING WITHIN AND IN BETWEEN by Nikki Barthelmess
HarperTeen; October 5, 2021; Hardcover; ISBN: 9780062976901; 336 pages; \$17.99; Ebook: \$9.99,
9780062976925, Also available in audio

such as these that are touching and real. Nikki can discuss what bringing this dynamic to life meant for the book and how her own relationship with her grandmother helped to guide her in writing this relationship.

- Ri deals with expectations and assumption from neighbors, teachers and classmates. Nikki can talk about Ri's journey and why it was important to shift these perspectives so she could find herself.
- Nikki is a part of a literary group called **Las Musas**— a collection of women and non-binary Latinx authors in the children's and YA community. She can discuss why having this community is vital to her writing and publishing career and how she recommends aspiring authors find similar communities.
- Many young readers might have similar experiences to Ri, either by dealing with fitting in with a heritage unfamiliar to them or trying to find themselves like Ri did. How does Nikki think readers could begin the journey like Ri?
- **EVERYTHING WITHIN AND IN BETWEEN** starts an important discussion about privilege, race and self-discovery that many readers might find useful. Nikki can recommend other books for young readers to read next.

To interview Nikki Barthelmess, please contact:

Sarah Gerton, [New Leaf Literary & Media, sgerton@newleafliterary.com](mailto:sgerton@newleafliterary.com)