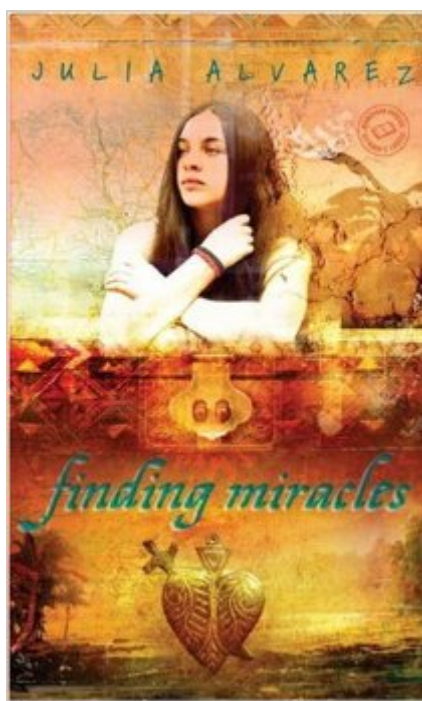


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# Finding Miracles



## Synopsis

MILLY KAUFMAN IS an ordinary American teenager living in Vermont until she meets Pablo, a new student at her high school. His exotic accent, strange fashion sense, and intense interest in Milly force her to confront her identity as an adopted child from Pablo's native country. As their relationship grows, Milly decides to undertake a courageous journey to her homeland and along the way discovers the story of her birth is intertwined with the story of a country recovering from a brutal history. Beautifully written by renowned author Julia Alvarez, *Finding Miracles* examines the emotional complexity of familial relationships and the miracles of everyday life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0770 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 288 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553494066

ISBN-13: 978-0553494068

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.8 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #707,299 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Adoption #240 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #281 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Julie Alvarez's ("How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent") newest novel "Finding Miracles" is the story of Milly Milagros Kaufman, a typical all-American, half-Jewish high schooler with a not-so-typical secret: Milly was adopted as an infant from a war-torn Latin American country, where her adopted parents were serving in the Peace Corps. Milly has managed to successfully keep this info from her best friend Em, friends Jake and Dylan, and the community at large, because thinking about her sickly beginnings at an orphanage dredged up too many painful questions about why she was abandoned at the doorstep, who her birth parents may have been and if they "disappeared"

during the dictatorship. Milly is forced to confront her past when Pablo Bolívar joins her grade at high school. Pablo and his parents are refugees from Milly's home country (which is never named). One of his uncles was murdered, one of his brothers is a prisoner, and the other a revolutionary. Pablo asks Milly to help him with English in exchange for practicing Spanish, and one day makes a comment that changes Milly's life: he tells her that her eyes look like those of the mountain village Los Luceros. Also, Milly overhears an angry family discussion in which her unhappy grandmother Happy effectively writes her out of her will as she is not a "blood" relation. Milly begins to slowly examine her feelings by confronting "The Box," a mahogany box containing her adoption papers, naturalization papers, two locks of hair (one light, one dark), a coin, and several photos, and in a brave speech running for a class office, tells the story of her adoption to the school at large. The second half of the novel chronicles Milly's journey to her homeland.

Finding Miracles by Julia Alvarez is about a teenage girl named Milly, who lives in Vermont in the United States of America. Throughout the book I learned about Milly's past and current struggles. The book starts off with Julia Alvarez allowing you to become familiar with the characters' personalities. Milly seems like an average teenage girl until you find out she was adopted as a baby when her parents saw her at an orphanage when they were in the Peace Corps. She keeps this information a secret from everyone at school. Then one day a boy named Pablo comes to her school. After a while Pablo and Milly's families become friends. You learn that Pablo and his family escaped the country they are from because they were being persecuted by the government. After getting to know Pablo's family, Milly and her family discover Milly was adopted from the same country Pablo is from. This helps Milly accept and tell her peers about her adoption. Finally, Milly joins Pablo and his family on a trip back to their country to help her understand where she is from, and learn more about her adoption. I really liked this book, because there is lots of foreshadowing, to keep the reader guessing what will happen next. One example is when Pablo says to Milly, "These people from Los Luceros, they all have eyes like yours." This is foreshadowing that Milly may be from Los Luceros, which is located in the country she is from. There is also a romance aspect to the novel. Milly describes Pablo as "He was good-looking." The romance that develops between Pablo and Milly is fun to read and picture mentally. This book can appeal to all different types of readers because it has many different parts to it, like adventure, romance, and is about finding and coming to terms with who you are.

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