



## Carry Me Like Water

By Benjamin Alire Saenz

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This immensely moving novel confronts divisions of race, gender, and class, fusing together the stories of people who come to recognize one another from former lives they didn't know existed -- or that they tried to forget. Diego, a deaf-mute, is barely surviving on the border in El Paso, Texas. Diego's sister, Helen, who lives with her husband in the posh suburbs of San Francisco, long ago abandoned both her brother and her El Paso roots. Helen's best friend, Lizzie, a nurse in an AIDS ward, begins to uncover her own buried past after a mystical encounter with a patient.

With *Carry Me Like Water*, Benjamin Alire Sáenz unfolds a beautiful story about hope and forgiveness, unexpected reunions, an expanded definition of family, and, ultimately, what happens when the disparate worlds of pain and privilege collide.

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## **Carry Me Like Water** By Benjamin Alire Saenz Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The river metaphor courses everywhere through this first novel by the author of the American Book Award-winning poetry collection *Calendar of Dust*. It's evident in the spate of words that gushes from every character, including deaf-mute Chicano Diego, who muses in dolorous torrents as he writes his life work, a suicide letter. There are characters, themes and plot elements enough for three books, let alone one, and the resultant cascade comes perilously close to overflowing the banks of potboilerdom. In El Paso, Diego misses his long-lost sister Maria Elena (aka Helen), who can't believe she deserves to be living the good life in Palo Alto, married to Eddie, a secret millionaire who misses his long-lost big brother, Jacob. Helen's nurse friend Lizzie inherits her long-lost twin brother's gift of astral travel and second sight, discovers her Mexican roots and feels mysteriously drawn to Jacob (who misses Eddie) while nursing his dying Chicano lover, who comes from El Paso. Although there are flashes of lyricism, the flood of repetitive verbiage quickly palls. Only after almost half of the characters die do the survivors reunite in El Paso. Readers who enjoy a long, involved narrative with ethnic detail may find this a good summer read. Major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Poet Saenz's first novel blends ingenuousness into an ensemble cast of betrayed, alienated, abused individuals-to mixed results. In El Paso, Diego works for less than minimum wage in a bar-restaurant, writes a never-ending suicide note, and befriends the odd and crazy. In California, his sister, Maria Helena, doffs her Mexican-American identity to pass for Helen La Greca, an Italian. Her Anglo husband Eddie's father sexually abused him, later his mother killed his father and then herself, and Eddie has rejected his first name for his middle one. Lizzie is adopted by Anglos but is, in fact, Mexican American. The characters find that, though family and national origin can make a mess of one's life, facing one's past can assuage a myriad of personal trauma. Through snappy dialog, Saenz makes this culture of interior monolog seem sunny and normal. Recommended for larger literary collections.

*Harold Augenbraum, Mercantile Lib., New York*

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From [Booklist](#)

A very accomplished first novel defines the term *riveting*. Diego, unable to hear, works as cook, janitor, and waiter in a diner in El Paso, Texas; his is a poor life that brings him little happiness. His sister, Helen, clings to what she believes is a good life in California, denying her Hispanic heritage. Brother and sister have not communicated in years. Helen's best friend is an AIDS nurse, and at about the same time that she befriends a gay couple afflicted with the disease, she discovers her ability to let her mind flee her body and soar above the mundane world. One of the young gay men turns out to be the brother of her friend Helen's husband, and eventually all these characters--Diego included--are brought together into a community of hopefulness. This is a novel about individuals who are not blessed with ease and comfort but are trying to work out some sort of livable life, and it's also about the most important aspect of life, particularly in the face of losing it: the need for connectedness with family, friends, and loved ones. Despite the primacy of character over plot, the novel moves fluidly--and beautifully. *Brad Hooper*

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Doris Geer:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a e-book your ability to survive improve then having chance to stay than other is high. In your case who want to start reading the book, we give you this kind of Carry Me Like Water book as beginning and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Robin Millard:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is actually Carry Me Like Water.

**Noel Stevens:**

The book untitled Carry Me Like Water contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

**Dawn Nelson:**

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This particular book Carry Me Like Water was colorful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Carry Me Like Water has many kinds or type. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading that.

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