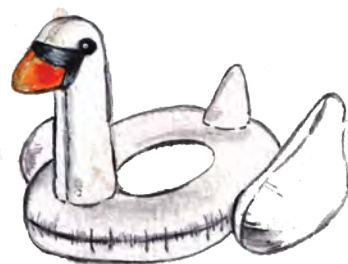




# Jessica Parra – author –

## Media Kit



# Jessica Parra

author

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### AUTHOR BIO

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As a lawyer and daughter of Guatemalan and Cuban bakers, Jessica C. Parra never objects to an extra slice of cake. She's a Los Angeles native who loves to write about Latinas with big hair (and even bigger dreams), complicated families, cats living their best lives (all nine of them), and the healing magic of acceptance.

When she isn't drafting books you can find her sipping kombucha, cuddling with her kitties, or co-piloting the Millennium Falcon at Disneyland's Galaxy's Edge.

### AUTHOR IMAGES

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Photo Credit: Nola Fontanez

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# Jessica Parra

author

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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

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Graduation is only a few months away, and so far Rubi Ramos's recipe for success is on track.

\*Step 1: Get into Prestigious Alma University.

\*Step 2: Become an incredibly successful lawyer.

\*Step 3: Never Break the Ban on baking.

Rubi has always been obsessed with baking, daydreaming up new concoctions and taking shifts at her parents's celebrated bakery. However her mother dismisses baking as a distraction—her parents didn't leave Cuba so she could bake like them. But some recipes are begging to be tampered with... When The First Annual Bake-Off comes to town, Rubi's passion for baking goes from subtle simmer to full boil. She's not sure if she has what it takes to become OC's best amateur baker, and there's only one way to find out—even though it means rejecting the ban on baking, and by extensions, her parents. But life is what you bake it, and now Rubi must differentiate between the responsibility of unfulfilled dreams, and finding the path she's meant for.



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# Jessica Parra

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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: PRAISE

"RUBI RAMOS' RECIPE FOR SUCCESS is a delectable debut filled with fierce Cuban rep, generous portions of heart and good humor, and an abundance of scrumptious baked goods sure to impress the judges (even Paul and Pru!). A truly sweet delight." - **Susan Azim Boyer, author of Jasmine Zumideh Needs a Win**

"With language I wanted to devour, RUBI RAMOS' RECIPE FOR SUCCESS is both a sensory experience and stunning exploration of immigrant ambition and next generation joy. A delightfully delicious and hopeful love letter to honoring our legacies while learning to not just survive but thrive." - **Nina Moreno, author of Don't Date Rosa Santos**

"An earnest, charming coming-of-age story that will come for your heart and your appetite. Rubi's deeply relatable (and often laugh-out-loud hilarious) struggles in balancing her dreams, family, and first love will have you rooting for her on every page." - **New York Times bestselling**

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RUBI RAMOS' RECIPE FOR SUCCESS deftly handles both the heartwarming and heartbreaking aspects of the immigrant experience with great empathy and nuance, all while charming you with a thrilling competition, mouthwatering treats, and a drizzling of teenage fun. With so many things to enjoy, this book brings new layers with every bite. -**Jesmeen Kaur Deo author of TJ Powar Has Something to Prove**



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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: PRAISE

By the last words of the first page—"hazelnut conchas"—I was hooked (& hungry)! As someone who grew up in an immigrant household & dreamt of being a novelist, I related too well to Rubi's struggle between pursuing her passion for baking & making her Cuban parents proud. My heart rooted for Rubi as she rose to each challenge—college admissions, falling in love, baking & debate contests, & of course, sharing her true self with her parents. I devoured this book as if it was one of Ruby's mouthwatering "cronchas"! - **Romina Garber**,  
**New York Times** and international bestselling author whose books include *Lobizona*, *Cazadora*, & the *ZODIAC* quartet

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"Filled with delectable pastries that will make you wish there was an accompanying recipe book, Jessica Parra's RUBI RAMOS' RECIPE FOR SUCCESS has just the right balance of new love sweetness, family dynamics, and rich cultural history." - **Mia García**, author of *The Resolutions*

"Witty and warm. Rubi Ramos's Recipe for Success is a story filled with laughter, baking, love, and puns galore. Every page is a baked delight and leaves your mouth watering for more. It's impossible not to root for Rubi Ramos's joy." - **Tashie Bhuiyan**, author of *Counting Down with You* and *A Show for Two*

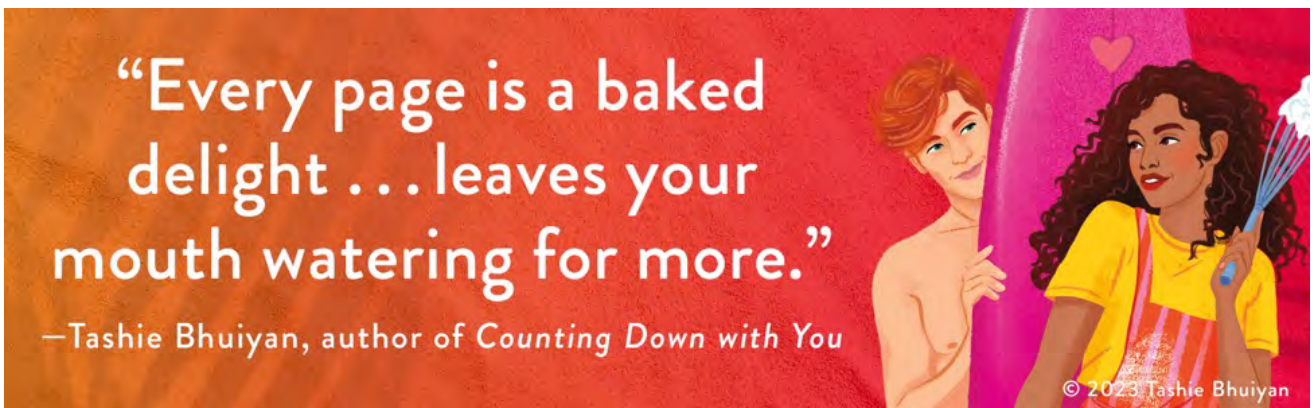
# Jessica Parra

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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: PRAISE

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#### KIRKUS REVIEW

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jessica-parra/rubi-ramoss-recipe-for-success/>

A high school senior feels pressured to give up her passion for baking to achieve her immigrant parents' Ivy League dream for her.

Aware of all the sacrifices her Cuban parents make to send her to an exclusive Catholic school in Orange County, Rubi Ramos works hard to try to get into Alma, an elite university that represents the American dream to her family. Though they own two successful bakeries, Rubi's parents, especially her mother, are single-mindedly determined that their daughter become a lawyer someday. But while Rubi kicks butt as captain of her high school's debate team, her heart truly lies in concocting new pastries and connecting with her Cuban heritage through her family's special recipes. When Rubi is wait-listed by Alma but accepted into a prestigious baking contest, she struggles with making herself a competitive candidate on both fronts—while keeping it all a secret for fear of disappointing her parents. Rubi, whose father is Afro-Cuban, confronts racism and classism, particularly from a White peer who is jealous of her success. Readers will cheer for Rubi as she stands up for herself and reconciles her parents' priorities with her dreams. Mouthwatering descriptions of food and Rubi's blossoming romance with her supportive math tutor further sweeten this thoughtful, joyful coming-of-age story.



# Jessica Parra

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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: PRAISE



Beautifully written and brimming with love and acceptance.

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#### PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY REVIEW

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/9781250862525>

Jessica Parra. Wednesday, \$20 (320p) ISBN 978-1-250-86252-5

Inspired by her years growing up in her parents' Orange County bakery, 17-year-old debate captain Rubi Ramos loves to invent recipes, but her parents want her to pursue what they consider to be a more practical career. They encourage her to give up baking and, instead, attend prestigious Alma University to become a lawyer. Rubi wants to make her Afro-Cuban father and Cuban mother happy, so she's devastated when she's waitlisted at Alma. To make matters worse, her parents mistakenly think she got in and, not wanting to break their hearts, Rubi doesn't set them straight. As Rubi strives to solve her predicament, white debate teammate Madeline proposes a trade: if Rubi gives up her captain status, Madeline will use her connections to get Rubi off the Alma waiting list. Rubi agrees; she then secretly enters a baking competition, which distracts her from Alma preparations. But when Madeline intentionally schedules an important Alma interview on the same day as the baking competition final, Rubi must choose between her two passions. Propulsive chapters, plenty of high-stakes tension, and candid conversations about racism and classism fill Parra's lively debut. Foodies will relish detailed descriptions of Rubi's scrumptious Cuban-inspired creations, while romance buffs will swoon over the budding romance between Rubi and her surfer boy math tutor, who cues as white. Ages 12-up. (May)



# Jessica Parra

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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: PRAISE

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#### SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL REVIEW

<https://www.slj.com/review/rubi-ramoss-recipe-for-success>

Gr 8 Up--Afro-Cuban American Rubi Ramos lives for baking. Good thing her family runs two bakeries--except she's been forbidden by her mom to follow in their footsteps. Instead, they want her to follow a preset plan to go to Alma University to become a lawyer. But when the debate team captain hears about a baking contest, she can't resist, and decides to sign up anyway. She also can't resist her adorable math tutor Ryan (who cues as white), whose tutelage will hopefully help her get off the college's wait list. Rubi is trying to define herself at every turn. Parra's debut hits all the required items on the romantic comedy checklist, but readers won't mind. The engaging plot, relatable protagonist, and cast of lovable secondary characters make this familiar and poignant tale one that teens will be drawn to. The Orange County/Los Angeles setting also shines through. Additional layers about not wanting to disappoint her immigrant parents, especially as a first-generation college student, and the racism and classism she must endure, give this romance some heft. Rubi's struggle to define herself while not letting her family down will resonate with teens. The baking puns and references sometimes get old, but the descriptions of the food will make readers want to raid their pantries for some goodies. This is the kind of book that will leave a smile on readers' faces at every page turn. VERDICT A scrumptious debut that fans of Nina Moreno's books will want to savor.



# Jessica Parra

author

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### RUBI RAMOS'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: PRAISE

#### BOOKLIST REVIEW

<https://www.booklistonline.com/Rubi-Ramos-s-Recipe-for-Success/pid=9770770>

Banned from baking outside of the shops her Cuban immigrant parents named after her, 17- year-old Rubi is given a "recipe for success." Catholic school achievement + a dash of extracurriculars = top-tier Alma College. But when she is burned by the Alma admissions committee, Rubi hides being wait-listed and then ignores her parents' ban by following her heart and competing in a local amateur bake-off. As she dishes entries that honor her heritage and satisfy Rubi's "longing to bring [her] unbaked recipes out of the margins," tense family dynamics and first-generation expectations receive tender treatment. A cute surfer-turned-trig-tutor spices up Rubi's secrets, and a sweet friend balances the salty rival on Rubi's debate squad. With strong nods to *The Great British Bake Off*—think congratulatory fist pumps from a suave host—this debut novel bursts with baking puns and flirty innuendo. **Those hungry for a compulsively readable romance will be satisfied, but the deeper consideration of how the things we do (and what we love) become part of who we are—well, that's the cherry on top.**

**"Those hungry for a compulsively readable romance will be satisfied, but the deeper consideration of how the things we do (and what we love) become part of who we are—well, that's the cherry on top."**

*—Booklist*



**W** WEDNESDAY BOOKS

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# Jessica Parra

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### THE QUINCE PROJECT

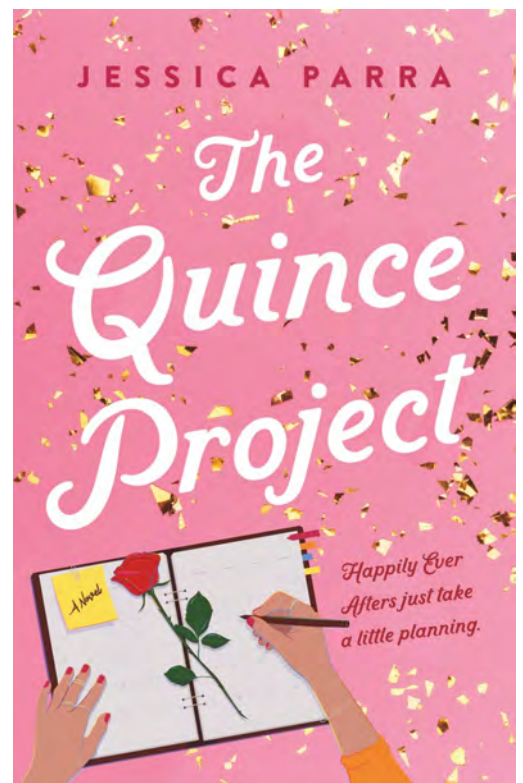
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The Wedding Planner gets a YA makeover in this delightful and heartfelt novel from the author of Rubi Ramos's *Recipe for Success*.

Castillo Torres, Student Body Association event chair and serial planner, could use a fairy godmother. After her mother's passing and a disastrous mishap at her sister's quinceañera, all of Cas's plans are crumbling. So when a local lifestyle-guru-slash-party-planner opens up applications for the internship of her dreams, Cas sees it as the perfect opportunity to learn every trick in the book so that things never go wrong again.

The only catch is that she needs more party planning experience before she can apply. When she books a quinceañera for a teen Disneyland vlogger, Cas thinks her plan is taking off...until she discovers that the party is just a publicity stunt, and she catches feelings for the chambelán. It's clear that her agenda is about to go way off-script and that real life is more complicated than a fairy tale.

But maybe Happily Ever Afters aren't just for the movies. Can Cas go from planner to participant in her own life? Or will this would-be princess turn into a pumpkin at the end of the ball?



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### THE QUINCE PROJECT: PRAISE

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"A fun, quirky story touching on perfectionism, grief, and searching for a happily ever after in the real world, THE QUINCE PROJECT reminds readers that the magic of love is always with us and never completely out of reach." - **Racquel Marie**, author of *Ophelia After All* and *You Don't Have A Shot*

"THE QUINCE PROJECT is the perfect read for anyone who believes in fairy tales! With laughter, lists, and lots of spectacular Disney references, Jessica Parra shows that even if there are serious bumps along the way, you get to shape your Happily Ever After." - **Jason June**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Out of the Blue*

"A spectacularly moving nerdy romp full of heart, THE QUINCE PROJECT reads like a warm hug to geeks everywhere. I've joined a new fandom, and it's Jessica Parra." - **Eric Smith**, author *Don't Read the Comments* and *With Or Without You*

"Jessica Parra perfectly weaves vivid imagery and fiercely authentic characters to create a story that is as magical as it is real, hilarious as it is heartfelt, and irreverent as it is deeply meaningful. As with Rubi Ramos's *Recipe For Success*, THE QUINCE PROJECT masterfully and insightfully highlights the importance of family, heritage, and culture with wit, nuance, and charm!" - **James Ramos**, author of *The Wrong Kind of Weird* and *Daniel, Deconstructed*

# Jessica Parra

author

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### THE QUINCE PROJECT: PRAISE

"I adored this quirky and delightful teenage romp. I loved reading Cas's journey and was charmed by her tenaciousness and heart. A coming of age story with valuable lessons, strong friendships, and a full serving of swoony romance to boot. The Quince Project is a delight." -Adriana Herrera, **USA Today** bestselling author of *An Island Princess Starts a Scandal*



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# Jessica Parra

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### THE QUINCE PROJECT: PRAISE

#### KIRKUS REVIEW

"A sweet novel full of sisterly love, budding romance, and healing after loss. Castillo Torres takes her position as the student body association event chair at Matteo Beach High seriously. To her, it's the best path forward after her mother's death two years ago. Cas plans to use her portfolio to score influential event planner Mandy Whitmore's "fairy godmother internship," help older sister Mariposa (who goes by Po) crush her senior year and get into college, and springboard her dad out of his video game-filled depression. An opportunity to organize Disney YouTuber Paulina Reyes' nontraditional quinceañera is the perfect boost to Cas' internship application. Hanging out with cute lifeguard Javier Bae-Luna, who's Korean and Guatemalan, only sweetens the process. But when a lie blows up bigger than a balloon arch, Cas' perfect plans pop. Parra's sophomore novel is filled with lots of fun party-planning details, along with a heartfelt look at the mourning process, as Cuban American Cas grapples with her mother's death and shifting dynamics in the wake of the family's loss. Cas and Po's relationship is lovingly depicted—and Po's malapropisms are laugh-out-loud funny. The central conflict and earnest conclusion will charm contemporary romance fans, and Javier and Cas' thoughtful, budding relationship is a highlight, showcasing sincere emotion and care. An earnest look at grief, expectations—and the many ways to get to a happily-ever-after."

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# Jessica Parra

author

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### PRESS

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Teen Librarian Toolbox – Book Mail: Romances, thrillers, mysteries, dystopias, and more!

Goodreads – 2023's Most Anticipated Young Adult Books

Goodreads – Discover New Young Adult Debuts from the First Half of 2023

Publishers Weekly – The On-Sale Calendar: May 2023 Children's Books

Book Riot – Spring 2023 YA Books You'll Want to TBR ASAP

Epic Reads – The 22 Best New YA Books of May

The Nerd Daily – May 2023 YA Book Releases

Goodreads – 11 Reader-Recommended New Young Adult Books for May

The Honey POP – Sweet Reads: Sunny Book Releases For May!

Publishers Weekly – New Kids' and YA Books: Week of May 15, 2023

Young Entertainment – New Book Tuesday: May 16th

The Nerd Daily – Interview

Book Riot – New Releases and More for May 16, 2023

Kirkus – 44 Hottest Summer Reads of 2023

The Downey Patriot – New book is Downey author's first

Inking and Thinking – From the Drafts to Published: Interview with Jessica Parra, Author of Rubi Ramos's Recipe for Success

Las Musas – Happy Book Birthday to Rubi Ramos's Recipe for Success!

HipLatina – 20 Books by Latinx Authors Coming Out in 2024 You Need to Read

Latinx in Publishing – 24 Most Anticipated Books of 2024

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# Jessica Parra

author

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### PODCASTS

HAPPY TO MEET CUTE - Happy to Meet Jessica Parra!

UTOPIA STATE OF MIND - YA Contemporary Debut Panel

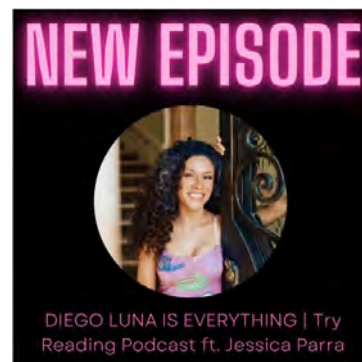


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TRY READING PODCAST WITH GABRIEL TORRES - DIEGO LUNA IS EVERYTHING | Try Reading Podcast ft. Jessica Parra



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OF THE PUBLISHING PERSUASION - Of the Publishing Persuasion - with our MOMMAGER QUEEN and Debut Author, Jessica Parra

OF THE PUBLISHING PERSUASION - EPISODE #3 - With Special Guest: Jessica Parra



# Jessica Parra

author

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### INTERVIEW TOPICS

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Latine Representation In Books: Why Latine/o/a representation is so important and needed, and how Jessica is helping fight inequality in publishing

Writing With Sazón! : The power and legacy of food, and how diaspora kids anchor to the motherlands through familial recipes

The Struggle Is Real: Navigating life between the hyphens as a first-generation child of immigrants

Writing Through Grief: How Jessica processes the grief of losing a loved one through writing

BIPOC in Fandom: Why BIPOC representation in fandoms is so important and needed, and how Jessica is centering nerdy marginalized characters and BIPOC joy in geeky stories

### SOCIAL & CONTACT

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INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/jessicatparra/>

WEBSITE: <https://www.jessicaparra.com>

Available for radio, podcast, print, broadcast & both English & Spanish language interviews.

For Media & interview requests regarding Rubi Ramos's Recipe for Success

Publicist: Meghan Harrington

Agent: Jennifer Azantian

Contact: [jessparrawrites@gmail.com](mailto:jessparrawrites@gmail.com)

For Media & interview requests regarding The Quince Project

Publicist: Zoë Miller