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Get Real, Chloe Torres

by Crystal Maldonado

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Chloe Torres plans the perfect summer to reunite her estranged BFFs—a cross-country road trip to see their favorite boy band!—there's only one difficulty . . . getting them to actually go along for the ride.

Chloe Torres's birthday has always marked the end of summer—but as she turns eighteen and prepares to leave for her freshman year of art school, it feels like the end of more than that. It's the end of her adolescence, which means it's time to leave the past behind . . . but can she really let go of the two estranged best friends she left there?

NOPE. Chloe decides to take one more shot at healing the friend breakup she's always regretted: planning the bucket-list trip neither girl can say no to. But first, her ex-BFFs have to say yes. And to say yes, they'd all have to be talking . . . which they haven't done since Ramona kissed Chloe, and everything imploded.

But with some clever finagling (and some undignified begging) Chloe gets them all on board. Of course, being in a car together for two weeks brings back old feelings . . . a lot of old feelings . . . and soon enough, Chloe wants Sienna, Ramona wants Chloe, and everything is on fireeeee.

This sizzling summer adventure from YA star Crystal Maldonado is a hilarious and heartfelt rom-com with a little something for everyone: fat positivity, sapphic romance, a blazing love triangle, ADHD representation, a diversity of Latine identities, a once-in-a-lifetime road trip—and the perfect it's-finally-happening kiss.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Conflict in a novel is the struggle between opposing forces (internal or external). Identify the conflict in this novel. How is it revealed? In what way does this conflict drive the plot of the novel?
- Chloe Torres, Sienna Aguilar, and Ramona Cruz were best friends in middle school. What did the girls have in common? Explain the cause of their breakup freshman year in high school. Think of the journey one makes from the beginning of middle school through the end of high school. How is it common to change friend groups as one grows older?



- Chloe had a crush on Sienna in middle school. Why did she keep this crush to herself? Discuss why Chloe freaked out when she realized that Ramona had feelings for her. Why does Chloe avoid Ramona at Speakeasy? At what point do Chloe and Ramona rekindle their romance? How does Sienna react?
- Why is Chloe in therapy? Her therapist suggests that she may have ADHD. How does getting this diagnosis change Chloe's life? Explain why some people view ADHD as "a superpower" (p. 12).
- Diego is Chloe's first cousin. Describe their close relationship. Cite evidence that they have always supported one another.
- Diego is experimenting with drag. Chloe says, "I wish he didn't feel like he had to hide this part of himself" (p. 15). How does Diego's mother learn about his drag performances at Speakeasy? Discuss her reaction.
- Describe Chloe's relationship with her father. In what way does he still treat her like "his little girl"? Discuss his gifts to Chloe on her eighteenth birthday. What do the gifts symbolize? How does her stepmother advocate for her?
- Explain what Chloe means by "growing up has always been one of those things I never thought would happen to me" (p. 21). Cite evidence that Chloe has trouble leaving the past behind. Why does she worry about losing parts of herself? Which part is she most worried about losing?
- At what point does Chloe realize that she is growing up? Discuss what she means by "I love it and hate it at the same time" (p. 36). Debate whether this is a normal adolescent reaction to coming of age.
- Papi gives Chloe three tickets to the Intonation: One Night in Vegas concert. What does Chloe hope to accomplish by inviting Sienna and Ramona? Describe Diego's efforts in helping Chloe locate the two girls. Explain how Chloe approaches "the ask" once she has found Sienna and Ramona.
- Chloe, Sienna, and Ramona compiled a BFF Bucket List when they were in middle school. Describe Sienna and Ramona's surprise when Chloe brings out the list. Explain the methodical way the girls check off each thing on the list.
- Chloe realizes that she will miss Diego's drag competition at Speakeasy. Explain what Diego means by "It's important to me, but it's also important to me that you actually do something for yourself" (p. 54).
- Discuss Chloe's reaction when she learns the truth about Ramona and Sienna's reason for going on the trip to Las Vegas. Explain how Diego helps Chloe resolve the issue with the other girls. Discuss each girl's apology.
- What does Sienna learn about her biological dad when they locate him in Pagosa Springs, Colorado? Why does she refer to him as the "sperm donor"? Explain what Chloe means when she tells Sienna "I don't ever miss my mom—she doesn't deserve that—but I miss the idea of her all the time" (p. 183).
- What is the central theme in the novel? Debate whether there are minor themes. How does the author delineate the theme(s)?
- The climax of a novel is the high point or turning point in the plot. What is the climax of this novel? How does it lead to a satisfying conclusion?
- Explain the title of the book.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Photo Credit: Crystal Maldonado

Crystal Maldonado is a young adult author of inclusive rom-coms for fat brown girls. She has written the award-winning novels *The Fall of Whit Rivera*; *Fat Chance*, *Charlie Vega*; and *No Filter and Other Lies*, as well as a middle grade novel called *Camp Sylvania: Moon Madness*, cowritten with #1 *New York Times* best-selling author Julie Murphy. Her YA romcom *Get Real*, *Chloe Torres* released in Spring 2025. Follow her everywhere @CrystalWrote.

