



The 16 Rule

Evelyn Gonzalez

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Fifteen-year-old Lucy Aceves lives in a cultural tug-of-war. She wants nothing more than to live a normal American teenage life. But her parents' dumb "Sixteen Rule" and their Latin beliefs force her to tell lies to just about everyone. Lucy attends summer school for one reason only... to meet a boy. When seventeen-year-old Evan Ellis catches her eye, she becomes obsessed with finding out as much as she can about him. She plots and schemes to gain his attention by wearing clothing and make-up her parents do not approve of. Lucy has never defied her parents. But, when her father's disapproval and lack of trust hinders her ability to keep her secret, ultimately she is faced with a difficult decision. Should she continue to lie and sneak around behind her parents' back, and suffer the consequences if she gets caught? Or should she obey their rule and gain back their trust?

The 16 Rule Details

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Author : Evelyn Gonzalez

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From Reader Review The 16 Rule for online ebook

Lisa says

Fair Disclosure: won in Goodreads giveaway.

The basis of the story is good... a teen feeling stifled by parental rules, not understanding that the rules are not arbitrary and are intended for the teen's own good.

The story, however, suffers from an inconsistent timeline, and confusion of character names and pronouns.

The set up and rising action are well established (noting the above inconsistencies), however the climax is a bit contrived, rushing into the falling action and speeding through the denouement - as if the word limit was looming so the story was pretty much cut off without a proper sendoff.

My largest concerns are with the level of writing and lack of realistic consequences for the protagonist. The reading level is middle school at best - yet the protagonist deals with rebelling against parental authority as well as lying and sneaking around. She reacts to the consequences in typical dramatic teenage fashion, but her redemption is too easily gained.

I was expecting to encourage my high school daughter to read this, hoping that she could vicariously learn from another's mistake... however, this story is more likely to encourage the very behaviors it should be discouraging. Besides the fact that although the same age as the protagonist, she would be able to breeze through this book in a couple of hours.

Christine Callaway says

I have read many Young Adolescent lit books and The 16 Rule is the first book which made my culture visible. Other Latin YA books didn't quite capture the family dynamics as did The 16 Rule. Although a story for young readers, it touches on issues and experiences many of us of other generations have gone through and is a great read. It's a story of the love and respect for family and the desire to follow your heart.

Ms. Gonzalez taps right into the core of many Mexican American families and brings forth a wonderful story of culture, choices and teenage love. What is in store for Lucy Aceves? I can't wait to read the next one.....

Tatiyana says

As a teenager in the same age range, I found this book to be relatable! The parents are very much like my own, and the familiar atmosphere that the book provided made it very likeable. The book had multiple loveable characters, my favorite being Mario, who made the book go by quickly. I finished the book easily and was shocked to have found myself on the epilogue! The epilogue left me very pleased because the story had worked out exactly as I had wanted it to! I loved this book and I would definitely recommend it!

Joni Smith says

Enjoyed reading the story of this young girl because it sort of reminded me of my own life growing up with a strict Italian immigrant father. Her struggles were mine at this young age. I admired the fact that she loved her family and wanted to respect them at the same time she was living in this generation where rules were sometimes overlooked and peer pressure was getting the best of poor Lucia. She was conflicted with her new love feelings and the deep respect and love of her family. Eventually through trials of new gained trust with her parents and the long waiting of acceptance from her father, Lucia was able to get through her rough patch with all her growing pains and learn valuable lessons from her father.

Aida R. says

3.5 stars

Won on a Goodreads Giveaway*

I was actually surprised about how much I liked this book. I haven't read any books lately with characters at this age (I think the closest one was Eleanor & Park), manly because I personally didn't had the best time at 15 years old, so I try to stay away from the whole high school theme.

In The 16 Rule, we follow Lucy Aceves and her life as a teenage in America, trying to find freedom within her parents latin roots and strict cultural ideas. She wants to have a life like her friends, specially when Evan (the cute, bad and older guy) comes into picture.

I liked Lucy as a character as much as I like any 15 year-old girl in real life, which I guess means she's quite realistic and relatable. The Latin aspect of her life –the way her parents work as a couple, the way she's treated differently than her brother only because she's a girl, her mom treating her as her "maid" sometimes, etc– is something that, even tho I didn't experienced it quite like that as a Mexican, is something I know to be normal and cultural correct in my parents and friends beliefs.

Although the book does have some editing mistakes such as name swaps and time leaps that might not make much sense at points (keep in mind that english is not my first language, so I'm no expert), I think Evelyn Gonzalez's debut novel is a good one for a light reading, the romance gets cheesy at points and develops a bit fast but, then again, the main character is only 15, so I get it. I found myself smiling and aw-ing at it, so it was definitely an enjoyable read. And if there's a second part to it or Evelyn publishes another book, I really think I'll read it, and most likely enjoy it.

Amelia Taylor says

I absolutely loved this book! I won it in a giveaway on here. I am so glad I did. It truly captured young love! It put me back in time when I was 15 and had my first boyfriend. I could not put it down! Their love was so pure and innocent. I recommend this book to anyone who once was 15 and can remember their first love, it will put you back in time!

Vivianm772 says

Evelyn Gonzalez's debut Young Adult novel will appeal to teenagers, as well as adults who remember the intensity of their first love. In the story, Lucy Aceves is a newly fifteen year old who experiences the roller coaster ride of first love with seventeen year old Evan Ellis. The relationship is full of angst as Lucy experiences first kisses, feelings of insecurity and jealousy, and the euphoria of being desired. Evan is an intense, possessive and jealous boyfriend. He jumps right into the relationship with Lucy and has expectations that she will be just as invested as he is. Lucy is overwhelmed by Evan's feelings for her and finds herself falling hard for him. To make the relationship even more difficult, Lucy has very strict parents who will not allow her to date until she is sixteen. Lucy finds herself lying and sneaking behind her parents' back to see Evan. Eventually Lucy is faced with breaking up with Evan to honor her parents' rules or to continue to see him, risking her parents' trust and earning their disappointment.

Evelyn Gonzalez successfully portrays the extreme emotions of first love. Her story also expresses the importance of involved parenting and respecting one's culture. Congratulations to the author for her realistic portrayal of teenage romance!

Gail says

I remember the 16 Rule very well. I'm surprised to know some families still have this rule.

Robin says

I loved the book! Could not put it down! It was a true love story! one of those books where you just fall in love with the characters!!!

Lisa Tooley says

Readers from any culture can relate to Lucia, the Latina heroine of The 16 Rule, whose strict parents want to keep her a little girl as long as possible . Lucy narrates her fifteenth year, as she tries to toe the line her parents have set with the "No Dating until 16" Rule. As she starts having feelings for Evan, a 17 year old she meets at school, she resorts to sneaking and lying to get around her parents' restrictions. Lucia must make some hard choices to sort out the mess this creates.

Gonzales' characters feel like real, likeable teenagers with their joy, doubts, fears, guilt and inevitable highs and lows as they learn about love. This story will appeal to readers who are imagining, living, or remembering their first love.

Evelyn Gonzalez says

Librarian Review- March 16, 2015

Wanted to let you know.. your book was a HIT !!! Students really like it, they relate with it in many ways. They absolutely loved the bookmarks... I read the book and really enjoyed it. The way you wrote, reminded me of my favorite author "Gary Soto"

When I get my budget next year, I am looking forward to purchasing a few more (if you have any left)...

Thank you again for your generosity and good luck to you in your future writings...

Debra Castanon
EMS Librarian
