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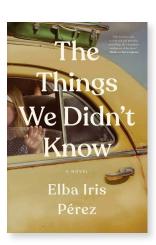
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#### **BOOKLIST**





# The Things We Didn't Know

by Pérez, Elba Iris

Genre: Literary, Coming of Age, World Literature - American - 20th Century Published: February 06, 2024

Previous Rank: n/a

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The inaugural winner of Simon & Schuster's Books Like Us contest, Elba Iris Pérez's lyrical, cross-cultural coming-of-age debut novel explores a young girl's

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childhood between 1950s Puerto Rico and a small Massachusetts factory town. Andrea Rodríguez is nine years old when her mother whisks her and her brother, Pablo, away from Woronoco, the tiny Massachusetts factory town that is the only home they've known. With no plan and no money, she leaves them with family in the mountainside villages of Puerto Rico and promises to return. Months later, when Andrea and Pablo are brought back to Massachusetts, they find their hometown significantly changed. As they navigate the rifts between their family's values and all-American culture and face the harsh realities of growing up, they must embrace both the triumphs and heartache that mark the journey to adulthood. A heartfelt, evocative portrait of another side of life in 1950s America, The Things We Didn't Know establishes Elba Iris Pérez as a sensational new literary voice.

## **Goodreads reviews for The Things We Didn't Know**

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1. The Women

by Hannah, Kristin

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by Maas, Sarah J.

3. The Holy Grail of Investing: The World's Greatest Investors Reveal Their Ultimate Strategies for Financial Freedom

by Robbins, Tony, Zook, Christopher

4. Fourth Wing

by Yarros, Rebecca

5. The Teacher

by McFadden, Freida

Write a review (you'll need to sign in to your Goodreads account or sign up) Showing 1-5

By Deanna (she\_reads\_truth\_365) · ★★★★ · November 26, 2023

Debut novel by local Houstonian author Elba Iris Perez was fantastic! This is a powerful coming of age story that will tug on your heart strings. I was immersed in this relatable story from the beginning until the end. I felt connected to the characters and the authenticity of their journey. I loved ...more

By Shannon · ★★★☆ · February 26, 2024

A moving coming of age debut featuring a Puerto Rican teen girl and her brother as they navigate life in suburban American during the 1950s and 60s. This book tackles racism, the Vietnam war, parental abandonment and mental health and was great on audio. I look forward to reading more by this author ...more

By Nora · ★★★★★ · September 15, 2023

Oh My Gaga!!!! I was so happy to have won the giveaway when it happened. I just finished this book and OH MY GAGA!!!! It was so good!!! I'm Puerto Rican & Cuban and I could relate to a lot of what Andrea had to deal with in the book. I will totes be recommending this book to others when it comes out ...more

By Stacy40pages · ★★★★★ · January 09, 2024

The Things We Didn't Know by Elba Iris Pérez. Thanks to @gallerybooks for the gifted Arc 😭 😭 😭 😭

Andrea is nine years old when her mother sneaks her and her little brother away from Woronoco, a small Massachusetts factory town, to her home of Puerto Rico. She leaves them with unknown relatives wit ...more

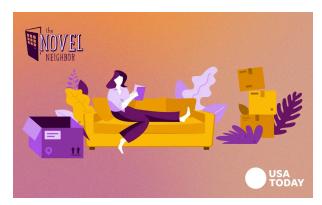
By Anne  $\cdot \star \star \star \star \star \dot{} \star \cdot$  January 03, 2024

This is one of those novels that is sweet but evokes so much pathos that it's often hard to read! Siblings Andrea and Pablo are born in Puerto Rico but eventually move with parents, Raquel and Don Luis. And then everything changes in an instant! Told from young Andrea's perspective, the book reveals ...more

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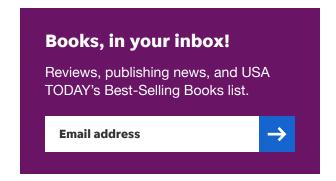
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