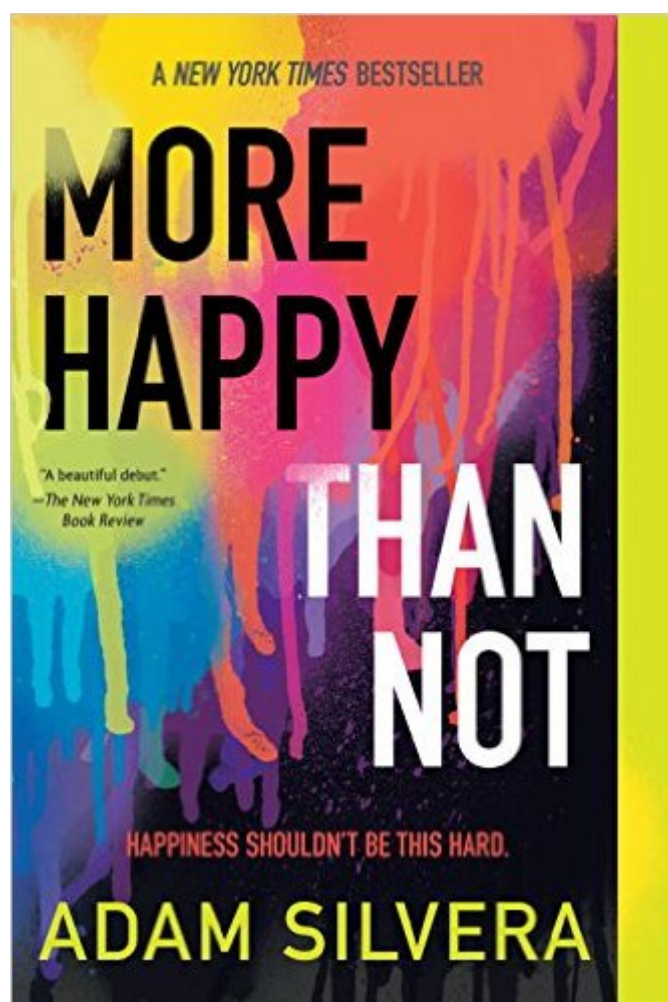


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# More Happy Than Not



## Synopsis

In his twisty, gritty, profoundly moving New York Times bestselling-debut "also called a mandatory reading" and selected as an Editors' Choice by the New York Times "Adam Silvera brings to life a charged, dangerous near-future summer in the Bronx. In the months after his father's suicide, it's been tough for sixteen-year-old Aaron Soto to find happiness again "but he's still gunning for it. With the support of his girlfriend Genevieve and his overworked mom, he's slowly remembering what that might feel like. But grief and the smile-shaped scar on his wrist prevent him from forgetting completely. When Genevieve leaves for a couple of weeks, Aaron spends all his time hanging out with this new guy, Thomas. Aaron's crew notices, and they're not exactly thrilled. But Aaron can't deny the happiness Thomas brings or how Thomas makes him feel safe from himself, despite the tensions their friendship is stirring with his girlfriend and friends. Since Aaron can't stay away from Thomas or turn off his newfound feelings for him, he considers turning to the Leteo Institute's revolutionary memory-alteration procedure to straighten himself out, even if it means forgetting who he truly is. Why does happiness have to be so hard?" Silvera managed to leave me smiling after totally breaking my heart. Unforgettable. "Becky Albertalli, author of Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda "Adam Silvera explores the inner workings of a painful world and he delivers this with heartfelt honesty and a courageous, confident hand . . . A mesmerizing, unforgettable tour de force." "John Corey Whaley, National Book Award finalist and author of Where Things Come Back and Noggin From the Hardcover edition.

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## Customer Reviews

When a true artist writes a novel it is amazing to see the true magic that appears. And that is what happens here with MORE HAPPY THAN NOT the magical and truly heartfelt debut from Adam Silvera. This novel is also so hard to classify. Is it a gay novel? No it is a novel where being gay is a part of the huge story being told. Finally someone strong enough to write a novel where gay doesn't have to jump at you, be stressed as a major theme etc. even as the main character himself struggles with it. The other complexity is that this is described as a young adult novel and I say nope, it is a novel for people of all ages. I am 53 and devoured it and the mastery of the mind that Silvera possesses. A simple life is shown for main character Aaron. He is not really happy, not really troubled. He is existing. He has a supportive girlfriend, nonexistent brother and very busy mother. His life has had trauma including the suicide of his father. But then something happens. Aaron meets Thomas and finally someone gets him. he can be himself in a way he never could before. And along with this comes feelings, emotions and obsession. And Aaron's old life isn't too welcoming of his new special friend. And Thomas really seems to bring out the true Aaron and that is a gay Aaron. But all the problems that come with it make Aaron want to make it go away, sadly. And the Leteo Institute can help with that. And that is enough of the plot for what this novel is about is the true magical realities of life. Emotions glow and shine here jumping off the page. The characters are so real and believable the reader can't help but get fully drawn into all the worlds that encompass Aaron. And Aaron himself is a magical being.

There are some books that just leave you feeling breathless and a little bit drained after finishing them. Debut author Adam Silvera has hit me hard in the emotions with his book More Happy Than Not. Talk about a book that packs a punch. Silvera's debut is heartfelt and honest. It may have a concept that is slightly similar to Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind however, I felt like More Happy Than Not was a wholly original read. I felt as though this was not a story that I've read before. You know how some books can feel like the same story over and over again? That was absolutely not the case with this book. After finishing the very last line, I find myself eager to read whatever Silvera comes out with next. Aaron Soto is a poor Hispanic kid who lives in the Bronx projects in a one bedroom apartment with his mother and brother, Eric. Aaron has a girlfriend, Genevive who is patient with him and caring and overall wonderful. He's got some friends who are okay but honestly, not as supportive as they could be. Aaron lives his life the best that he can - he's happy now in a sense, but certain things still bother him. For instance, the absence of his father, who committed suicide last year. Aaron has mostly good memories of his dad, who sure was more into athletics and was distant from Aaron. Still, he misses his dad. Aaron is afraid that he

will commit suicide like his dad. His happiness begins to change and get better when he meets this kid from another project named Thomas. Thomas has these crazy eyebrows but he gets Aaron. And so, the two form this amazing friendship bond over movies on Thomas's rooftop and long conversations. Unfortunately, Aaron's friends and his girlfriend begin to get resentful of his friendship with Thomas. Aaron also begins to question his sexuality.

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