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# More Happy Than Not

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“Memories: some can be sucker punching, others carry you forward; some stay with you forever, others you forget on your own. You can’t really know which ones you’ll survive if you don’t stay on the battlefield, bad times shooting at you like bullets. But if you’re lucky, you’ll have plenty of good times to shield you.” – page 255

Silvera, Adam. *More Happy than Not*. New York: Soho Teen, 2015. JUV PZ7.1.S54Mor 2015.

Life after his father’s suicide has been hard for sixteen-year-old Aaron Soto, who lives with his mother and brother in a one-bedroom apartment in the Bronx. But at least Aaron has his friends and his girlfriend, Genevieve. Well, sort of. Aaron’s friends do act a little weird around him since he tried to commit suicide, and although Genevieve is supportive and never judgmental, since Aaron has been spending time with his new friend, Thomas, Aaron isn’t quite as sure of Genevieve as he once was, either.

Aaron can’t deny the happiness that Thomas brings into his life, but with that happiness has come a new question: is Aaron gay? Aaron knows what it means to be gay in his neighborhood – he knows how his friends will react and how much harder his life will become. He is desperate to undergo the Leteo procedure – a surgical technique that will suppress part of his memory, effectively “straightening him out.” But before Aaron can convince his mother to sign off on the procedure, he is ambushed by his own friends.

A National Book Award finalist and multi-award winner, *More Happy than Not* is an intense debut novel that mixes just a little science fiction in an otherwise realistic storyline. Through Aaron’s first-person narrative, the work explores tragedy, race, sexual identity, poverty, and brutality, as well as the contemporary idea of happiness and whether finding it is truly worth it if you lose yourself in the end. With sincerity, wit, hope, and a heartbreaking twist, *More Happy than Not* offers readers a raw examination of the consequences of our choices, as well as the consequences of those choices that were never ours to begin with.