

## **They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera**

Everyone knows the Death-Cast ringtone. If you hear it between midnight and 3am, well, today's your death day-- your End Day. So when Mateo Torrez wakes up to his Death-Cast call, and Rufus Emeterio gets his own, they both begin to prepare themselves for the end. But as they consider their own last days on Earth, they realize they want a Last Friend to share it with. Life pushes them together for the first and last time.

Adam Silvera is known for his drastic twists at the end of his books, but *They Both Die at the End* holds no such pretense: both Mateo and Rufus die at the end. Yet, along the way, you will experience life the way they learn to: selflessly, fearlessly, and fiercely, accepting what you cannot change and changing what you can for the better. It is mournful and celebratory, hopeful in its darkness, and chock-full of twists and turns. By the end of the story, you've lived a lifetime in just a day.

One of my favorite things about this book is how deeply it intertwines the lives of each character to the others. As I read, I found myself contemplating what it means to live each day as your last, but also how important it is to live in kindness and respect because you never know how your life can touch others. Rufus and Mateo have no clue who each other are at the beginning of this book, and by the time of their deaths, they have a deep and meaningful bond. I have to wonder: how many lifetime bonds could be forged if we lived each day as our own End Day?

*They Both Die at the End* is an Abe Lincoln Award Nominee for 2020 and New York Times bestselling book. There is a fair amount of adult language and some dark themes (this is a book about death), so I'm going to place it as a solid B-MA.