

THE MAGICAL IMPERFECT

"Highly recommended... Perfect for readers of *Wonder* and Erin Entrada Kelly's *Hello, Universe*."

-Booklist, starred review ★



Etan has stopped speaking since his mother left. His father and grandfather don't know how to help him. His friends have given up on him.

When Etan is asked to deliver a grocery order to the outskirts of town, he realizes he's at the home of Malia Agbayani, also known as the Creature. Malia stopped going to school when her acute eczema spread to her face, and the bullying became too much.

As the two become friends, other kids tease Etan for knowing the Creature. But he believes he might have a cure for Malia's condition, if only he can convince his family and hers to believe it too. Even if it works, will these two outcasts find where they fit in?

Additional Praise for *The Magical Imperfect*

A Junior Library Guild Selection!

Recommended by Forbes!

"Etan's **honest and lovable voice**, and its growing strength, carries this tender novel." -*Publishers Weekly*

"Written in first person, this lyrical novel-in-verse invites readers into Etan's world, who **will be drawn in by his very silence and how friendship relies on listening just as much as speaking**." -*School Library Journal*

"[P]aints a **beautiful picture** of intertwined families, of a community discovering its strengths, immigration across generations of Americans, and the unlikely friendship between two kids trying to find their place in the world." -Jewish Book Council

"**Musical, enchanting, powerful**." -*Double the Books Magazine*

"Baron captures both small personal moments and historical events by **deploying the perfect detail, dialogue snippet or plot puzzle-piece at the perfect time**." -*The San Diego Union Tribune*

Chris Baron is a professor of English at San Diego City College. His first novel, *All of Me*, was a Southern California Independent Booksellers Association bestseller; A BookRiot Best Children's Book About Kindness; and an NCTE Notable Book. Newbery Medalist Matt de la Pena called it, "Beautifully written, brilliant, and necessary." Chris Baron lives in San Diego with his family.

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