



# Bait

By Alex Sanchez

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## Bait By Alex Sanchez

Diego has gotten into trouble because of his temper before. But when he punches out a guy in school who was looking at him funny, he finds himself in juvenile court, facing the possibility of probation, or worse—juvenile jail. Mr. Vidas is assigned as his probation officer, but Diego doesn't trust or like him. However, he doesn't have a choice—he has to talk to Mr. Vidas, or he'll find himself in worse trouble. It's only when Diego starts to open up to Mr. Vidas that he begins to understand that the source of his anger is buried in his past—and to move beyond it, he needs to stop running from his personal demons.

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# Bait

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## **Bait** By Alex Sanchez Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 7 Up—Diego MacMann is in trouble. At 16, he faces juvenile court, charged with assault. He just can't control his fists, especially when he feels that his masculinity is threatened. Anger-management classes have failed, and now this earnest young man teeters between self-loathing and defensive pride. Hope comes unexpectedly when he establishes a bond with Mr. Vidas. The probation officer asks questions that challenge Diego to examine his motivations and his emotional life. How does he feel about his absent birth father? The stepfather who committed suicide? The gay student who looked at him that way just before Diego punched him out? The third-person narrative keeps readers one step ahead of Diego as he unravels the effects of abandonment, poverty, and sexual abuse on himself and his struggling family. During the short sessions with Mr. Vidas, he finds some of the tools and insights he needs to navigate his rocky passage to maturity. Unlike most recent fiction that addresses sexual abuse, this story focuses not on the telling of secrets, but on making sense of the experience and building a healthy foundation for moving forward. This groundbreaking novel brings to life an appealing young man who is neither totally a victim nor a victimizer, one who struggles to handle conflicts that derail many young lives. Teens will identify with Diego's dreams and frustrations, his feeling of difference, his yearning for normal life and relationships. High interest and accessible, this coming-of-age story belongs in every collection. For the one in six boys who is sexually abused, it could be a lifesaver.—*Carolyn Lehman, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA*  
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## Review

"The emotions are keenly conveyed here, and long after the other plot details have faded, Diego's raw urgency and need will likely linger with readers."--"The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books"

""Bait" opens some new, deep territory -- difficult, heartbreaking, and courageous; Diego's story will stick with readers for a long time. Alex Sanchez is a wonderful writer, brave and compassionate." -- Terry Trueman, Printz Honor author of "Stuck In Neutral"

"Sanchez draws his characters lovingly, making it very apparent that he...genuinely understands their peril."--"Kirkus Reviews"

"An authentic and tender story...Sanchez does a masterful job."--"Publishers Weekly"

## About the Author

**Alex Sanchez** spent almost fifteen years working with youth. He is the author of the teen novels *Boyfriends with Girlfriends*, *Bait*, *The God Box*, *Getting It*, *Rainbow Boys*, *Rainbow High*, and *Rainbow Road*, as well as the Lambda Award-winning middle-grade novel *So Hard to Say*. Lambda Literary Foundation honored Alex with an Outstanding Mid-Career Novelists' Prize. He lives in Thailand and Hollywood, Florida. Visit him at [AlexSanchez.com](http://AlexSanchez.com).

## Users Review

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**Gerald Touns:**

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