



**[The Upside of Unrequited](#) by Becky Albertalli**

Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins, 2017

ISBN: 9780062348708 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 14 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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From the award-winning author of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* comes a funny, authentic novel about sisterhood, love, and identity.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Peskin-Suso knows all about unrequited love. No matter how many times her twin sister, Cassie, tells her to woman up, Molly can't stomach the idea of rejection. So she's careful. Fat girls always have to be careful.

Then a cute new girl enters Cassie's orbit, and for the first time ever, Molly's cynical twin is a lovesick mess. Meanwhile, Molly's totally not dying of loneliness - except for the part where she is. Luckily, Cassie's new girlfriend comes with a cute hipster-boy sidekick. If Molly can win him over, she'll get her first kiss and she'll get her twin back.

There's only one problem: Molly's coworker, Reid. He's a chubby Tolkien superfan with a season pass to the Ren Faire, and there's absolutely no way Molly could fall for him. Right?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Readers will fall in love with this fresh, honest, inclusive look at dating, families, and friendship. A top purchase for all YA collections." —[School Library Journal](#) (starred review)

"In her second, relationship-rich novel, Albertalli's take on the agonies and ecstasies of adolescent love are spot-on." —[Booklist](#)

"If you're in the mood for a snappy romance to vicariously bathe you in the pain and elation of first love, Becky Albertalli's *The Upside of Unrequited* provides." —[NPR.org](#)

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“While first kisses, first loves, and even first sexual experiences have all been dealt with in some form or another, she tackles these big milestones head-on and with aplomb.” —[Entertainment Weekly](#)

“This book is absolutely adorable and has so much diversity! I fail to see how anyone cannot love this book and its characters.” —[Brightly](#)

“Heart-fluttering, honest, and hilarious. I can’t stop hugging this book.” —Stephanie Perkins, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Anna and the French Kiss*

“I have such a crush on this book! Not only is this one a must read, but it's a must re-read.” —Julie Murphy, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dumplin'*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2020-2021 Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award, nominee
- 2018-2019 Georgia Peach Teen Book Award, nominee
- 2018 ALA Rainbow Book List
- 2018 TAYSHAS High School Reading List
- 2018 Silver Inky, long list
- 2017 Chicago Public Library’s Best of the Best Books
- 2017 Nerdy Book Club Award, winner
- 2017 New York Public Library Best Books of the Year
- 2017 YALSA’S Best Books for Young Adults
- 2017 Goodreads Choice Award (Young Adult), nominee

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Welcome to the Simonverse! \(YouTube Video\)](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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*Add responses to challenges whenever possible, including links if available. Relevant information includes official responses from a board of education, library statements of support, or other statements of support from relevant organizations like PEN America or the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.*

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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These book bans are dangerous, undemocratic, and openly discriminatory. They’re enacted in wildly bad faith and bolstered by obvious lies.

Please don’t fall for the framing that these books were banned for “inappropriate content.” We know why they’re banned, and we know who it’s designed to hurt.

It’s so insidious because you know it’s affecting kids on so many different levels. It’s a multi-pronged attack, and the people on the front lines are queer kid—especially trans kids. This is true even for kids who aren’t at a school

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that's technically being affected right now. The national conversation about this is bombarding them with the message that, "You are inappropriate. You are less appropriate than your peers." It's not true—but the purpose of this initiative coming from the right is to hammer that home.

Alongside that, you have other people absorbing the message that these kids and their very real experiences are less appropriate, that there's something x-rated about these common developmental experiences.

It's ridiculous, because it's holding up this banner of "parents' rights"— but that only applies to the parents who agree with them.

I find it helpful sometimes to take a step back and look at YA in general. What are some of the other books in this space that aren't queer, and what kind of content do we see in these books?

We have to keep in mind that this is a targeted effort from an organized group of right-wing people.

### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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