



Other Boys by Damian Alexander

First Second, Roaring Brook Press, 2021

ISBN: 9781250222824 (Hardback)

*Age Range: 10-14 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 7 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In *Other Boys*, debut author Damian Alexander delivers a moving middle grade graphic memoir about his struggles with bullying, the death of his mother, and coming out.

Damian is the new kid at school, and he has a foolproof plan to avoid the bullying that's plagued him his whole childhood: he's going to stop talking. Starting on the first day of seventh grade, he won't utter a word. If he keeps his mouth shut, the bullies will have nothing to tease him about—right?

But Damian's vow of silence doesn't work—his classmates can tell there's something different about him. His family doesn't look like the kind on TV: his mother is dead, his father is gone, and he's being raised by his grandparents in a low-income household. And Damian does things that boys aren't supposed to do, like play with Barbies instead of GI Joe. Kids have teased him about this his whole life, especially other boys. But if boys can be so cruel, why does Damian have a crush on one?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★"Newcomer Alexander delves into his past to craft a sweet, touching and at-times scary memoir of grief and loss and coming out (mostly to himself)... An excellent, important debut." —[Kirkus](#), **starred review**

★"[...] A beautiful, brave, and honest graphic novel that will appeal to many preteens." —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

"Clearly and honestly, cartoonist Alexander's debut graphic memoir explores familial loss, social isolation, and sexual identity... An often-heartbreaking but powerful—and empowering—story of self discovery, akin to Curato's *Flamer* and Krosoczka's *Hey, Kiddo*."—[The Horn Book](#)

"[...] a compulsively readable graphic novel memoir, approaching tragedy and bullying through a vulnerable and ultimately hopeful protagonist who's struggling to find his place in the world." -[The Nerd Daily](#)

"Anyone who considered middle school a social minefield, or questioned gender norms will recognize themselves in Damian's painful journey."—[School Library Journal](#)

9.13.24

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group
Mary Van Akin, mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- [2023](#) YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens Selection
- [2022](#) Booklist Top 10 Graphic Novels for Young Adults
- [2021](#) Chicago Public Library Best of the Best

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Author's site](#)
- *This Boy's Life, Told Through Comics* ([interview](#), 2021)
- Q&A With Damian Alexander, *Other Boys* ([Interview](#), 2021)

AUTHOR STATEMENT



9.13.24

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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.