



Title: Almost Flying

Author: Jake Maia Marlow

Imprint: Dial Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: June 8, 2021

ISBN: 9780593112939 and 9780593112946

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 10-14

Grade Range: Gr 5 Up

(Recommended by School Library Journal)

BOOK RESUME: ALMOST FLYING

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In this Stonewall Honor book, a week-long amusement park road trip becomes a true roller coaster of emotion when Dalia realizes she has more-than-friend feelings for her new bestie.

Would-be amusement park aficionado Dalia only has two items on her summer bucket list: (1) finally ride a roller coaster and (2) figure out how to make a new best friend. But when her dad suddenly announces that he's engaged, Dalia's schemes come to a screeching halt. With Dalia's future stepsister Alexa heading back to college soon, the grown-ups want the girls to spend the last weeks of summer bonding—meaning Alexa has to cancel the amusement park road trip she's been planning for months. Luckily Dalia comes up with a new plan: If she joins Alexa on her trip and brings Rani, the new girl from her swim team, along maybe she can have the perfect summer after all. But what starts out as a week of funnel cakes and Lazy River rides goes off the rails when Dalia discovers that Alexa's girlfriend is joining the trip. And keeping Alexa's secret makes Dalia realize one of her own: She might have more-than-friend feelings for Rani.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A super sweet LGBTQ romance for middle grade readers. Highly recommended." —*School Library Journal*

"A delightfully queer-positive and engrossing road trip story." —*Booklist*

"While this book contains many elements that are widely relatable, the storyline around exploring sexuality is especially resonant... A heartwarming, queer-affirming story." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This book is fun, sweet, and has such great characters. Definitely a must-have for middle school library collections." —Teen Librarian Toolbox, *School Library Journal*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Stonewall Honor Book
- An ALA Rainbow List selection
- A Michigan MISelf in Books selection
- A Nevada Reading Week Grades 6-8 selection
- A Washington Book Award Finalist

Updated 3.25.2024

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools Creating LGBTQ+ Inclusive Schools Booklist for Elementary Schools](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net](https://www.teachingbooks.net)

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