



***Himawari House* by Harmony Becker**

First Second, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2021

ISBN: 9781250235565 (Hardcover); 9781250235572 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

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

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A young adult graphic novel about three foreign exchange students and the pleasures, and difficulties, of adjusting to living in Japan.

Living in a new country is no walk in the park—Nao, Hyejung, and Tina can all attest to that. The three of them became fast friends through living together in the Himawari House in Tokyo and attending the same Japanese cram school. Nao came to Japan to reconnect with her Japanese heritage, while Hyejung and Tina came to find freedom and their own paths. Though each of them has her own motivations and challenges, they all deal with language barriers, being a fish out of water, self discovery, love, and family.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"There is humor and charm in the intersection of languages and understandings. Harmony Becker's story resonates with humanity and deep wisdom. *Himawari House* is a tantalizing peek into the future of our global society." — George Takei, author of *New York Times* bestseller *They Called Us Enemy*

"Becker's art is intricate and rich at times, quick and playful at others. The story will tug at your heartstrings and make you laugh. All told, "Himawari House" will comfort young readers who are imagining their lives ahead and trigger nostalgic joy in older readers looking back." — [New York Times](#)

"This emotionally and culturally rich YA story that puts the author's range of talents on full display...adventures rendered with a masterful hand and an impressive ear for dialogue." — *Washington Post*

★ "This work exemplifies what the graphic novel format can achieve. An unforgettable story of personal growth in an exquisitely rendered setting." — [Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review

★ "This lighthearted yet serious-minded journey of discovery will delight, educate, and challenge teens interested in language and cultural exploration." — [School Library Journal](#), starred review

★ "[Becker] makes her stupendous solo debut in what will prove to one of the best graphic titles of the year....Audiences can expect absolute delight." — [Booklist](#), starred review

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★ "...An immersive graphic novel that explores cross-cultural identity and the power of language to separate and to unite." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review

★ "In this stunningly layered graphic novel debut, Becker crafts a warmly actualized world in which the multiplicities of diasporic Asian identity are examined and held close." —*Publisher's Weekly*, starred review

★ "Both hilarious and tender situations abound as this insightful graphic novel explores, among other topics, how language can either separate or bring people together." —*Horn Book*, starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Junior Library Guild Selection
- Winner of the 2023 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature
- Winner of the 2022 Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature
- A New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year (2021)
- A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year (2021)
- A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year (2021)
- A Virginia Library Association Graphic Novel Diversity Honor Book (2021)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Teacher's Guide](#)

[Q&A with We Need Diverse Books](#)

[Interview with School Library Journal](#)

[Four Questions for Harmony Becker \(Publishers Weekly\)](#)

[Author Note on Use of Accents](#)

*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.

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