



***Like a Hurricane* by Jonathan Bécotte**

Orca Book Publishers, 2023

9781459835238 (paperback)

*9 to 12

Gr. 3 to 7

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A young teen's secret is tearing him apart.

He knows he is gay but is afraid to share this knowledge with his parents or his friends. What if they reject him? And what can he do with the feelings he has for his childhood friend when he knows his friend does not feel the same way? The turmoil continues to rise with the force of a hurricane—total destruction seems almost certain.

Told in beautiful, evocative prose with its unique design, *Like A Hurricane* is a visually stunning exploration of what it means to be true to one's self.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“Takes one’s breath away with its poetry and power...The kind of book readers can pore over. The more time spent with it, the better it gets...Deeply affecting. An ideal tool to illustrate poetic elements or emphasize stories of sharing scary yet necessary truths.” – *School Library Journal*, starred review

★“Immediate and immersive...Sensitive and reassuring, this book powerfully explores the deeply personal and universal need to breathe “for real, / for the first time.” – *Quill & Quire*, starred review

“Succinct, highly emotive text sensitively conveys the protagonist’s shifting worldview and his developing courage in owning who he is and allowing his family and friends, who are minimally characterized, to act as a support system amid his internal storm.” – *Publishers Weekly*

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“Utilizes different layouts for the boy's words, allowing them to flow along and around the pages...An engaging and direct piece for this age group. It is a page-turning novel in verse that pulls at the reader's heartstrings...A very worthwhile addition to any collection serving middle-school-age kids. Highly Recommended.” – *School Library Connection*

“A sensitive and evocative stream-of-consciousness novel that might very well heal readers struggling with their identities. Very highly recommended.” – *Canadian Children's Book News*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, Commended, 2023

Ontario Library association (OLA) Best Bets - Honourable Mention, Commended, 2023

Children's Book Council Librarian Favorites Award 6th - 8th Grade, Commended, 2024

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

“North America is currently facing an unprecedented number of book challenges and ban attempts...Books with LGBTQIA+ content are among the most frequently targeted. Of the [Top 10 most challenged books](#) recorded by the American Library Association in 2022, seven were challenged for including LGBTQIA+ content. Even when they occur in the United States, these challenges affect and harm Canadian authors.” —Spencer Miller in a Canadian School Libraries Journal [article](#)

*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.