



**[Miss Rita, Mystery Reader](#) by Sam Donovan and Kristen Wixted**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2022

ISBN: 9781250774767 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 3-6 (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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In Sam Donovan, Kristen Wixted & Violet Tobacco's heartwarming picture book *Miss Rita, Mystery Reader*, Tori can't wait to show off Daddy's drag queen alter ego, Miss Rita, at school story time. But will the other kids love Miss Rita like Tori does?

Daddy is the Mystery Reader at Tori's school today, and he's coming dressed as Miss Rita! Tori helps Daddy gloss, glitter, glamour, and glimmer to get ready. It takes time—because sparkle is serious business!

Tori loves helping Daddy become Miss Rita. But will the other kids at school love Miss Rita like Tori does? Luckily, a last-minute idea helps Daddy and Tori find a way to make story time sparkle for everyone.

This heartwarming and relatable family story celebrates drag queens, reading, and self-acceptance, teaching every kid to let their sparkle shine! And it includes back matter providing an overview of drag performance.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Sweet and reassuring...The vivid, expressive, and energetic illustrations catch just the right over-the-top tone. This fun selection is a great way to enhance picture-book collections." — [Booklist](#), **starred review**

"The story is amusing and reads well. Drag performers should have this at the tops of their lists for drag-themed storytimes for the next several years—and a talented storyteller will be able to milk this for all it's worth... There's no mystery here; Miss Rita is going to werk all Pride Month! Let this winning pair sashay onto your shelf." — [Kirkus Reviews](#)

"Tori's feelings—from excitement to wide-eyed nervousness—are clear in Tobacco's digital art, while bright colors evoke drag's vibrant nature. Donovan and Wixted's conversational text emphasizes an emotionally honest parent-child relationship, and like any good performance, it's fun and full of heart." — [Publishers Weekly](#)

**Updated 08.27.2024**

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## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

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- [Author Interview](#)

## **\*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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