



***We Are Lost and Found* by Helene Dunbar**

Sourcebooks Fire, Sourcebooks, 2019

9781492681045: (Hardcover)

9781728206998: (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14-17 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 9 Up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From “the queen of heartbreaking prose” (*Paste*) Helene Dunbar, *We Are Lost and Found* is a young adult realistic fiction novel in the vein of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* about three friends coming-of-age against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the early 1980s.

Michael is content to live in the shadow of his best friends, James and Becky. Plus, his brother, Connor, has already been kicked out of the house for being gay and laying low seems to be Michael’s only chance at avoiding the same fate.

To pass the time before graduation, Michael hangs out at The Echo where he can dance and forget about his father’s angry words, the pressures of school, and the looming threat of AIDS, a disease that everyone is talking about, but no one understands.

Then he meets Gabriel, a boy who actually sees him. A boy who, unlike seemingly everyone else in New York City, is interested in him and not James. And Michael has to decide what he’s willing to risk to be himself.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Dunbar painstakingly populates the narrative with 1980s references—particularly to music—creating a vivid historical setting... A painful but ultimately empowering queer history lesson.” –[Kirkus Reviews](#)

“A suggested purchase for libraries housing a special collection of LGBTQ+ works.” –[School Library Journal](#)

“Dunbar paints a broad and accurate portrait of the pain of the times through a series of emotional snapshots.” –*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

“It’s a certain type of magic that Helene Dunbar managed with this story... A hauntingly beautiful, yet scarring story that captures the struggles of figuring out who you are while facing the uncertainties of the world, a story that should be mandatory reading for all.” –[The Nerd Daily](#)

“*We Are Lost and Found* absolutely sparkles... she so perfectly, so evocatively captures the angst, uncertainty, and shaky self-confidence of adolescence that it might make you wince.” –*Echo Magazine*

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“Michael’s journey of growth and self-acceptance, with all its drama, confusion, and raw emotion, is one that many teens will be able to identify with...regardless of sexuality or gender.” –[Booklist](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2020 Texas TAYASHAS Reading List
- 2020 Capitol Choices Notworthy Books for Children and Teens Title
- 2020 Best Children's Book of the Year (Ages 14+)
- 2020 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults List
- Epic Reads: The 21 Most Anticipated YA Books to Read in September
- Girls’ Life: 14 Books to Read in Honor of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
- Advocate: 30 Queer-Friendly Books for Young Adults, Kids, and Families
- Book Riot: 12 Gay YA Books to Make You Feel Yourself (or Make You Cry)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [We Are Lost and Found Discussion Guide](#)
- [Nerd Daily: Q&A with Helene Dunbar, Author of We Are Lost and Found](#)
- [Jeffrey Reads: 20 Questions with Helene Dunbar](#)
- [Q&A with Deborah Kalb](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [San Antonio Express-News: ‘Vulgar and obscene’: North East ISD pulls 110 books from libraries](#)
 - Amy Senia, a North East ISD alum and civil rights attorney said, “Public schools in this country are not places of indoctrination. They are not places where the ideas children read about are determined by those people who are in power.”.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

*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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