



**Title:** Bitter

**Author:** Akwaeke Emezi

**Imprint:** Alfred A. Knopf  
Books for Young Readers

**Publisher:** Random House  
Children's Books

**On sale date:** July 18,  
2023

**ISBN:** 9780593309063

**Format:** Trade Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 12 Up

**Grade Range:** Gr 7 Up  
(Recommended by *School  
Library Journal*)

## BOOK RESUME: BITTER

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

Bitter is an aspiring artist who has been invited to cultivate her talents at a special school in the town of Lucille. Surrounded by other creative teens, she can focus on her painting--though she hides a secret from everyone around her.

Meanwhile, the streets of Lucille are filled with social unrest. This is Lucille before the Revolution. A place of darkness and injustice. A place where a few ruling elites control the fates of the many.

The young people of Lucille know they deserve better—they aren't willing to settle for this world that the adults say is "just the way things are." They are protesting, leading a much-needed push for social change. But Bitter isn't sure where she belongs—in the art studio or in the streets. And if she does find a way to help the Revolution while being true to who she is, she must also ask: what are the costs?

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "A compact, urgent, and divine novel." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Emezi once again deftly conjures an ethereal world in which hope is a practice, teen voice and choice are uplifted, and art is validated and lauded as a form of resistance." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "[A] timely... story with vivacious queer characters of color who have the agency to define the future for themselves and their city."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Accomplished in its use of uneasily dreamy language." —*The Horn Book*

"Mesmerizing from start to finish." —*Booklist*

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- **Finalist:** National Book Award for Young People's Literature
- **Honor Book:** Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature
- 2023 Rainbow Book List

### MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide](#)

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