



BOOK RESUME: PET

BOOK SYNOPSIS

There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question—*How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?*

A riveting and timely young adult debut novel that asks difficult questions about what choices you can make when the society around you is in denial.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "This soaring novel shoots for the stars and explodes the sky with its bold brilliance." —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

★ "A compelling, nuanced tale that fans of speculative horror will quickly devour." —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

★ "A riveting and important read that couldn't be more well timed to our society's struggles with its own monsters." —*School Library Journal*, Starred Review

★ "Jam is also notable as a Black, trans protagonist in this important narrative that teens will want to read to gain some perspective on the modern political environment." —*The Bulletin*, Starred Review

★ "Emezi's characters are diverse in race, physical ability and especially gender.... Readers might see in Jam's surroundings a version of a world that they, like Jam, might choose to fight for." —*BookPage*, Starred Review

"A haunting and poetic work of speculative fiction." —*The Horn Book*

"A unique science fiction tale." —*Essence*

Title: Pet

Author: Akwaeke Emezi

Imprint: Make Me a World

Publisher: Random House
Children's Books

On sale date: September 10,
2019

ISBN: 9780525647072 and
9780593175446

Format: Hardcover and trade
paperback

Age Range*: 12 and up

Grade Range: 9 and up

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Penguin Random House

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

"Brilliant." —*The Washington Post*

"With great tenderness, *Pet* questions a society silenced by denial." —*Observer*

"By far the most striking of the [National Book Award] finalists is *PET*, a sinister morality tale by Akwaeke Emezi." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"A riveting and timely work answering the questions about how you go about the world when the world around you is in denial." —*Out Magazine*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- **HONOR 2020** - Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award
- **FINALIST 2019** - National Book Award for Young People's Literature
- **NOMINEE 2020** - Maine Student Book Award - North Star Young Adult Book Award

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- NYT | [‘This Is a Possibility’: Akwaeke Emezi Writes a Trans Story Where Nobody Gets Hurt](#)
- Teen Vogue | [Akwaeke Emezi on “Pet” and on Making a Better World for Their Protagonist, a Black Trans Girl Named Jam](#)
- PW | Q&A with [Akwaeke Emezi](#)
- [Pet Discussion Guide](#)
- [Challenged One Sheet Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Pen America V. Escambia County School District](#)

“PEN America, Penguin Random House, and a diverse group of authors joined with parents and students in Escambia County, Florida, to file a federal lawsuit challenging removals and restrictions of books from school libraries that violate their rights to free speech and equal protection under the law.

This lawsuit brings together authors whose books have been removed or restricted and parents and students in the district who cannot access the books, in a first of its kind challenge to unlawful censorship.”

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