



Title: The Passing Playbook

Author: Isaac Fitzsimons

Imprint: Dial Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: June 1, 2021

ISBN: 9781984815408 and 9781984815422

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 14 and up

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

BOOK RESUME: THE PASSING PLAYBOOK

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Fifteen-year-old Spencer Harris is a proud nerd, an awesome big brother, and a David Beckham in training. He's also transgender. After transitioning at his old school leads to a year of isolation and bullying, Spencer gets a fresh start at Oakley, the most liberal private school in Ohio.

At Oakley, Spencer seems to have it all: more accepting classmates, a decent shot at a starting position on the boys' soccer team, great new friends, and maybe even something more than friendship with one of his teammates. The problem is, no one at Oakley knows Spencer is trans—he's passing.

But when a discriminatory law forces Spencer's coach to bench him, Spencer has to make a choice: cheer his team on from the sidelines or publicly fight for his right to play, even though it would mean coming out to everyone—including the guy he's falling for.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Balancing hope and honesty, this debut deftly handles multiple social themes, including racism, privilege, identity, and accessibility. A game-changing score to the back of the net." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Fitzsimons' debut novel treats gender, religion, sports, and family dynamics with a deft hand, using nuanced character building while setting up a high-stakes narrative that circumvents tropes of physical violence and trauma. This is a truly charming and heart-warming exploration of friendship, community, and acceptance."
—*Booklist*

"An excellent addition to realistic fiction collections. Give to fans of Tobly McSmith's *Stay Gold* and Bill Konigsberg's *Openly Straight*."
—*School Library Journal*

"Debut author Fitzsimons's conversational writing style invites empathy for the cast of clearly drawn characters and their journeys of self-discovery... A heartwarming tale of determination and one teen's path to authentic living."
—*The Horn Book*

"[A] heartfelt debut... Fitzsimons's protagonist is easy to love, and he writes with ease and finesse when navigating Spencer's connected identities."
—*Shelf Awareness*

Updated 7.11.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*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.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- An ALA Rainbow Booklist Top Ten selection
- A YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers
- A Lambda Literary Award Finalist
- A CCBC Choices selection
- A Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers selection
- A Michigan MISelf in Books High School list selection
- A Missouri Gateway Readers Award selection
- A Rhode Island Teen Book Award selection
- A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices selection
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](https://www.teachingbooks.net)

Updated 7.11.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*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.