



***You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!* by Alex Gino**

Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2018

ISBN: 9780545956246 (Hardcover), 9780545956253 (Paperback)

\*Age Range: 8 to 12 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 4-6 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Alex Gino, the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of *Melissa*, is back with another sensitive tale based on increasingly relevant social justice issues.

Jilly thinks she's figured out how life works. But when her sister, Emma, is born deaf, she realizes how much she still has to learn. The world is going to treat Jilly, who is white and hearing, differently from Emma, just as it will treat them both differently from their Black cousins.

A big fantasy reader, Jilly makes a connection online with another fantasy fan, Derek, who is a Deaf, Black ASL user. She goes to Derek for help with Emma but doesn't always know the best way or time to ask for it.

As she and Derek meet in person, have some really fun conversations, and become friends, Jilly makes some mistakes . . . but comes to understand that it's up to her, not Derek, to figure out how to do better next time -- especially when she wants to be there for Derek the most.

Within a world where kids like Derek and Emma aren't assured the same freedom or safety as kids like Jilly, Jilly is starting to learn all the things she doesn't know--and by doing that, she's also working to discover how to support her family and her friends.

With *You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*, award-winning author Alex Gino uses their trademark humor, heart, and humanity to show readers how being open to difference can make you a better person, and how being open to change can make you change in the best possible ways.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Gino's sophomore effort is every bit as affecting and important as their first novel." —*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

★ "[*You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*'s] thoughtful handling of characters and dynamics offers fodder for further discussion about privilege in all its forms." —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

★ "A necessary and rewarding addition to any middle-grade collection." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

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“[A]n accessible dive into contemporary issues for pre-YA readers who are starting to enter the conversation.”  
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

“Jilly is an endearing character to follow as she questions and learns about life through those she loves.” —*Booklist*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Kirkus Best Books of the Year
- Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books of the Year
- Maine Student Book Award Masterlist
- Iowa Children's Choice Book Award Masterlist
- Connecticut Nutmeg Award Reading List

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League](#), Educator Discussion Guide
- [Anti-Defamation League](#), Parent/Family Discussion Guide
- [We Need Diverse Books](#), author interview
- [Nerdy Book Club](#), cover reveal
- [Bettendorf Public Library](#), Book Bite Book Talk
- [PEN America](#), author interview

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[We Need Diverse Books](#): We Need Diverse Books and Florida Freedom to Read Project are writing to you on behalf of the undersigned authors and illustrators concerning the repeated challenges against LGBTQ+ books at Alachua County Schools. The following titles, which have received critical acclaim and national awards, are being targeted and threatened with removal, simply for reflecting the lives of the LGBTQ+ community.

We Need Diverse Books (WNDB) is especially alarmed that several of these authors are directly connected to our organizations. At WNDB, Alex Gino was one of our longstanding volunteers and Kyle Lukoff was a mentor in our annual Mentorship program. Akwaeke Emezi also received our Walter Dean Myers Honor in 2021 for their novel *Pet*.

Those of us representing Florida Freedom to Read Project (FFTRP), a group led and supported by public school parents, are extremely concerned that the ongoing, targeted attacks unfairly put pressure on individual educators to defend access to books that represent our diverse and inclusive communities in Alachua County. These books do not violate the law, and it's a travesty that the district must suffer the expense of entertaining these intolerant viewpoints for even one committee review, let alone the hearings and Board Meeting time [...]

We are writing to you today to speak up for the affected teachers, media specialists, and children; and to affirm the transformative power of diverse literature. Studies show that diverse books can build empathy and reduce prejudice, creating a more compassionate world for our kids to grow up in. And as hate crimes spike across the U.S., we need these books now more than ever.

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## **\*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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