



***The Handsome Girl & Her Beautiful Boy* by B. T. Gottfred**

Henry Holt and Co, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2018

ISBN: 9781627798532 (E-Book)

*Age Range: 17-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 10+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Everyone assumes that Zee is a lesbian. Her classmates, her gym buddies, even her so-called best friend. Even Zee is starting to wonder. Could they be onto something?

Everyone assumes that Art is gay. They take one look at his nice clothes and his pretty face and think: well, obviously.

But there's more to Zee and Art than anyone realizes. What develops is a powerful connection between two people who are beautiful in all the ways they've been told are strange. As they explore their own complex relationships to gender, sexuality, and identity, they fall for the complexities they find in each other. With his trademark frankness, B. T. Gottfred delves inside both characters' heads in this story about love and living authentically.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "In this big-hearted novel, Gottfred explores the fluidity of gender and sexuality . . . and the many nuances of attraction." —[Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [B. T. Gottfred Website](#)
- [The Naughty Librarian Interview](#)
- [Author's Voice Interview](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[ACLU-South Carolina](#): "ACLU-SC opposes book bans as 93 titles are challenged in Berkeley County Schools... Book banning is an unconstitutional infringement on the First Amendment guarantee of access to information. Censorship remains deeply unpopular across the state and across the political spectrum, and we hope that the district will listen to parents, teachers, students, and librarians who support the freedom to read."

[Students Engaged in Advancing Texas](#): Cameron Samuels, a former Katy ISD student and the executive director of Students Engaged in Advancing Texas, testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in September about the book bans sweeping the state and nation. 'Historically, censorship is never on the right side of history. My

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state is home to 8 million people under the age of 20, and since everything is bigger in Texas, we lead the nation for book bans,' Samuels said. 'Censorship impacts our futures. Students deserve to be decision-makers. Censorship is undemocratic.'"

AUTHOR STATEMENT

[Author Website](#): "Despite wide acclaim, Gottfred's work has been repeatedly challenged, including most recently in Beaufort, SC. As featured on 60 Minutes on March 4, 2024, Gottfred's novel, FOREVER FOR A YEAR, is among those being threatened, but Gottfred is thankful to Families Against Book Bans, who are community members like those in Beaufort County, SC who are working to directly oppose book bans and educational censorship."

***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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