



**[Redwood and Ponytail](#) by K.A. Holt**

Chronicle Books, 2019

ISBN: 9781452172880 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 10 and up (Suggested by Publisher)

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Kate and Tam meet, and both of their worlds tip sideways. At first, Tam figures Kate is your stereotypical cheerleader; Kate sees Tam as another tall jock. And the more they keep running into each other, the more they surprise each other. Beneath Kate's sleek ponytail and perfect façade, Tam sees a goofy, sensitive, lonely girl. And Tam's so much more than a volleyball player, Kate realizes: She's everything Kate wishes she could be. It's complicated. Except it's not. When Kate and Tam meet, they fall in like. It's as simple as that. But not everybody sees it that way. This novel in verse about two girls discovering their feelings for each other is a universal story of finding a way to be comfortable in your own skin.

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## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "A glowing, heartfelt addition to the middle-grade LGBTQ genre." —[Kirkus Reviews](#), *starred review*

★ "The free verse narration is totally accessible, flowing quick and clear, and Holt plays with form, beautifully highlighting the parallel internal journeys, often achieving something akin to a musical duet. Ultimately, this is a middle-school romance concerned with the thrilling, confusing, world-shifting emotions of that age. . . . [A] moving story well-told." —[Booklist](#), *starred review*

"Holt takes the girls' seemingly small-scale concerns, and their larger implications, seriously." —[The Horn Book Magazine](#)

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2020 Bank Street Best Books of the Year Reading List
- 2019 Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best
- 2020 NCTE Notable Poetry Books
- 2020 Odyssey Award Honor
- 2020 Rainbow Booklist Middle Grade
- 2020 Spirit of Texas Reading Program Winner
- 2020 Writer's League of Texas Middle Grade and YA

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## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

Updated 7/17/24

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[Discussion Guide](#)

**AUTHOR STATEMENT**

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[Publisher's Weekly: K.A. Holt describes her encounters with soft censorship during school visits](#)

**\*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.