



**Title:** This Is My America

**Author:** Kim Johnson

**Imprint:** Random House  
Books for Young Readers

**Publisher:** Random House  
Children's Books

**On sale date:** July 28,  
2020

**ISBN:** 9780593118764 and  
9780593118795

**Format:** Hardcover and  
Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 12 and up

**Grade Range:** 7 and up

# BOOK RESUME: THIS IS MY AMERICA

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Every week, seventeen-year-old Tracy Beaumont writes letters to Innocence X, asking the organization to help her father, an innocent Black man on death row. After seven years, Tracy is running out of time—her dad has only 267 days left. Then the unthinkable happens. The police arrive in the night, and Tracy's older brother, Jamal, goes from being a bright, promising track star to a "thug" on the run, accused of killing a white girl. Determined to save her brother, Tracy investigates what really happened between Jamal and Angela down at the Pike. But will Tracy and her family survive the uncovering of the skeletons of their Texas town's racist history that still haunt the present?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★"Harrowing and worthwhile; a call-to-action from the anti-racist insights of a generation of black activists." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★"Activist Johnson's powerful debut is a timely testimony that echoes the social realities behind today's #BlackLivesMatter protests." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"This strong debut will strike home with socially conscious readers." —*Booklist*

"A strong debut. Will appeal to readers of Angie Thomas and fans of criminal justice podcasts like *Serial* and *In the Dark*." —*School Library Journal*

"This debut YA novel is an incisive condemnation of the racist criminal justice system, mass incarceration and capital punishment. . . . A necessary add to all shelves, especially those focused on anti-racism and #BlackLivesMatter." —*Shelf Awareness*

"An incredible and searing examination of the often-tragic collision of racism and a flawed criminal justice system. Read and reread . . . and reread again." —Nic Stone, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dear Martin*

"*This Is My America* promises a powerful story about racial injustice, featuring stunning prose reminiscent of Nic Stone and Angie Thomas." —*Paste Magazine*

Updated 1.19.2024

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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.

## **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- An NPR Best Book of the Year
- WINNER NOTABLE BOOKS FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY
- WINNER OREGON SPIRIT BOOK AWARD
- SELECTION BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS
- SELECTION RISE: A FEMINIST BOOK PROJECT LIST
- SELECTION BEST OF THE YEAR LIST
- SELECTION NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE BOOKS
- SELECTION KANSAS NEA READING CIRCLE
- SELECTION SPIRIT OF TEXAS (SPOT)
- SELECTION WISCONSIN STATE READING ASSOCIATION
- NOMINATED ARKANSAS TEEN BOOK AWARD
- NOMINATED FLORIDA TEEN READS
- NOMINATED LOUISIANA YOUNG READERS CHOICE
- NOMINATED MASL GATEWAY READERS BOOK AWARD
- NOMINATED MAGNOLIA BOOK AWARDS
- NOMINATED OLA SEQYOUAH
- NOMINATED SOUTH CAROLINA BOOK AWARDS
- NOMINATED VOLUNTEER BOOK AWARD

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [\*This Is My America Discussion Guide\*](#)
- [\*Entertainment Weekly interview in conversation with Nic Stone\*](#)
- [\*Paste Magazine: Exclusive Cover Reveal + Excerpt: A Teen's Brother Is Accused of Murder in This Is My America\*](#)
- [\*Essence.com: 15 New Books We Can't Wait To Read This Summer\*](#)
- [\*TeenVogue.com: 75 Books by Black Authors We're Reading in 2020\*](#)
- [\*NPR: Kim Johnson Talks Racism, Mass Incarceration In Debut Novel\*](#)

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