



***The Bridge* by Bill Konigsberg**

Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2020

ISBN: 9781338325034 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 14 to 18 (Suggested by Publisher)

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

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Two teenagers, strangers to each other, have decided to jump from the same bridge at the same time. But what results is far from straightforward in this absorbing, honest lifesaver from acclaimed author Bill Konigsberg.

Aaron and Tillie don't know each other, but they are both feeling suicidal, and arrive at the George Washington Bridge at the same time, intending to jump. Aaron is a gay misfit struggling with depression and loneliness. Tillie isn't sure what her problem is -- only that she will never be good enough.

On the bridge, there are four things that could happen:

Aaron jumps and Tillie doesn't.

Tillie jumps and Aaron doesn't.

They both jump.

Neither of them jumps.

Or maybe all four things happen, in this astonishing and insightful novel from Bill Konigsberg.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Konigsberg's approach underscores depression's coercive power and the gifts of human connection, and he sharpens a universal story by populating it with distinctly individual characters." – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

★ "With each narrative thread focusing on Aaron or Tillie, along with brief vignettes highlighting the lives of those they are close to, Konigsberg (*The Music of What Happens*, 2019) constructs an intricate tale brimming with questions and possibilities. Messy, complicated, and sometimes alarmingly candid, this is a poignant, sincere look at the many ways mental illness affects young people, as well as those they know and love." – *Booklist*, **starred review**

"The Bridge" shows the positive reality of their [Aaron and Tillie's] material existence, and of their rich connections to those around them, even to people they don't know — even perhaps to the readers of this book, which wouldn't be in their hands if Konigsberg hadn't lived." — *The New York Times Book Review*

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"While not for every reader, those who need this book will find value in it." – *School Library Journal*

"A heartbreaking bridge into depression supported by a strong foundation of hope." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"The Bridge swept me up and swept me along, and made me forget everything but this book, this book, this book. A powerful, honest, heart-tugging, nail-biting, so-real-it-reaches-into-your-bones story about suicide and mental health and the ways in which too many of us struggle alone. Except we're not alone. Bill Konigsberg makes that beautifully, movingly clear. Stunning." – Jennifer Niven, *New York Times* bestselling author of *All the Bright Places*

"An incredibly meaningful look into the lives-and deaths-of two teens struggling with thoughts of suicide. Compulsively readable and astonishingly important, Aaron and Tillie's story will stay with you for a long time after you've turned the last page." – Brigid Kemmerer, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *Letters to the Lost*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Junior Library Guild Selection
- Children's Book Committee, Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year
- Connecticut Nutmeg Award - Nominee (High School Grades 9-12)
- Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award – Nominee: High School (Grades 9-12)
- TAYSHAS List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [An Open Letter to Parents Who Wish to Ban my Books from School Libraries](#)
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)
- [The PEN Pod](#), author interview
- [Publishers Weekly](#), author interview
- [Huffington Post Queer Voices](#), author interview
- [NEA](#), author interview

*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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