



***Destination Unknown* by Bill Konigsberg**

Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2022

ISBN: 9781338618051 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 14 and Up (Suggested by Publisher)

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

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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From Stonewall Award winner Bill Konigsberg, a remarkable, funny, sexy, heartbreaking story of two teen boys finding each other in New York City at the height of the AIDS epidemic.

The first thing I noticed about C.J. Gorman was his plexiglass bra.

So begins *Destination Unknown* -- it's 1987 in New York City, and Micah is at a dance club, trying to pretend he's more out and outgoing than he really is. C.J. isn't just out -- he's complete out there, and Micah can't help but be both attracted to and afraid of someone who travels so loudly and proudly through the night.

A connection occurs. Is it friendship? Romance? Is C.J. the one with all the answers... or does Micah bring more to the relationship that it first seems? As their lives become more and more entangled in the AIDS epidemic that's laying waste to their community, and the AIDS activism that will ultimately bring a strong voice to their demands, whatever Micah and C.J. have between them will be tested, strained, pushed, and pulled -- but it will also be a lifeline in a time of death, a bond that will determine the course of their futures.

In *Destination Unknown*, Bill Konigsberg returns to a time he knew well as a teenager to tell a story of identity, connection, community, and survival.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "[T]he arguably best of Konigsberg's excellent novels, and that's high praise indeed." —*Booklist*, **starred review**

★ "[A] tour de force: an exploration of a relationship that pulls back the curtains on queer 1980s New York City to reveal a community wrestling with life and death... Historical fiction at its finest." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

"Konigsberg's keen sense of time and place, coupled with an optimistic atmosphere, make for both a swoony romance and a sensitive, nuanced look into a tumultuous period in history." —*Publishers Weekly*

"An intense but ultimately uplifting purchase crucial to augmenting any historical fiction collection." —*School Library Journal*

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"Bill Konigsberg's *Destination Unknown* masterfully takes us back to one of the most difficult chapters in queer history with the kind of astounding specificity that comes from lived experience. The book is a beautiful account of the way hope, love, and connection will bloom even in the darkest of times. It's a love story, a celebration of queer resilience and a must read." —Abdi Nazemian, author of Stonewall Honor book *Like a Love Story*

"A poignant story about what it was like to come of age during the AIDS epidemic in 1980s New York City, *Destination Unknown* is at times funny, ecstatic, gut-wrenching, devastating, life-affirming and most of all, a timely reminder that while love might not cure all ills, it certainly is the best thing we humans do." —The Nerd Daily

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Bank Street Children's Book Committee Best Books of the Year – Book List: Ages 14 & Older
- CCBC Choices List: Fiction for Young Adults

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)
- [The TeachingBooks Blog](#), author interview and reading activities
- [Conversations With Kim Podcast](#), author interview
- [Jeffery Reads Blog](#), author interview
- [Arroe Collins Like It's Live](#), author interview
- [Scholastic On Our Minds](#), blog
- [The PEN Pod](#), author interview
- [NEA](#), author interview

## \*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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