



BOOK RESUME: LOVE IS THE HIGHER LAW

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The lives of three teens—Claire, Jasper, and Peter—are altered forever on September 11, 2001. Claire, a high school junior, has to get to her younger brother in his classroom. Jasper, a college sophomore from Brooklyn, wakes to his parents' frantic calls from Korea, wondering if he's okay. Peter, a classmate of Claire's, has to make his way back to school as everything happens around him.

Here are three teens whose intertwining lives are reshaped by this catastrophic event. As each gets to know the other, their moments become wound around each other's in a way that leads to new understandings, new friendships, and new levels of awareness for the world around them and the people close by.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"This is powerful stuff, honestly felt and deeply conveyed....This novel's multiple levels of emotion, trauma, and recovery nail many of the simultaneously personal and universal sentiments unleashed after 9/11."—*Booklist*

"Love stories are what the author does best. He's got two here: one between the two boys, one between New York City and humanity."—*Kirkus*

"The author's prose has never been deeper in thought or feeling. His writing here is especially pure--unsentimental, restrained, and full of love for his characters and setting." —*School Library Journal*

"A powerful story about a rescue--an emotional rescue, where three young people help one another adapt to major shifts in their understanding of the world and rediscover hope." —*Horn Book*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- WINNER 2009 - Book Sense Children's Pick List
- WINNER 2010 - ALA Rainbow Project Bibliography
- WINNER 2010 - New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age
- NOMINEE - ALA Best Books for Young Adults
- NOMINEE 2010 - Capitol Choices
- NOMINEE 2011-2012 Oregon Reader's Choice Award—Senior Division
- WINNER 2016 – Margaret Edwards Award

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Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*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.

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Interview with the National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Pen America V. Escambia County School District](#)

"PEN America, Penguin Random House, and a diverse group of authors joined with parents and students in Escambia County, Florida, to file a federal lawsuit challenging removals and restrictions of books from school libraries that violate their rights to free speech and equal protection under the law.

This lawsuit brings together authors whose books have been removed or restricted and parents and students in the district who cannot access the books, in a first of its kind challenge to unlawful censorship. "

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