



BOOK RESUME: TWO BOYS KISSING

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Based on true events—and narrated by a Greek Chorus of the generation of gay men lost to AIDS—*Two Boys Kissing* follows Harry and Craig, two seventeen-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teens dealing with universal questions of love, identity, and belonging.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

Title: Two Boys Kissing

Author: David Levithan

Imprint: Ember

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

On sale date: May 12, 2015

ISBN: 9780307931917

Format: Paperback

Age Range*: 14 and up

Grade Range: 7 and up

★"Both celebratory and elegiac... There's much to discuss here about identity, about social media, about community—and it would be a particularly stellar choice for a multi-generational LGBTQ-focused book club." —*The Bulletin*, starred review

★"A landmark achievement from a writer and editor who has helped create, in literature, a haven for queer youth." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"The novel has genuine moments of insight and wisdom...Inspiring." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Levithan leans intensely into this work...There's little doubt that this title, with its weight, significance, and literary quality, will find its way into LGBTQ and wider canons. Stock up." —*Booklist*

"The story will engage readers, both female and male." —*School Library Journal*

"Remarkable." —Frank Bruni, *The New York Times*

"Author David Levithan's poignant novel follows the stories of gay teens joined through an unconventional protest. A-" —*Entertainment Weekly*

"Over the years, Levithan has consistently explored new creative territory...'*Two Boys Kissing*' reveals his command of an intriguing, complex narrative with an unusual point of view: the first-person plural. This 'we' is the combined voice of men who died during the AIDS pandemic several decades ago. As the boys' stories become more closely entwined and connect in a satisfying finale, the reflections of these 'shadow uncles' lend a quality of retrospection that is rare (and refreshing) in YA literature." —*The Washington Post*

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Penguin Random House

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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.

"Open, frank and ultimately optimistic." — *The Los Angeles Times*

"'Two Boys Kissing' couldn't have arrived at a more timely moment, just months after the Supreme Court decision on gay marriage. The shift in society's attitudes towards the LGBT community has long been embraced by many in the young adult crowd. Levithan seems to intuitively understand this generation—and his new book allows him to bring their particular struggles and joys to life."

—*The Wall Street Journal Speakeasy*

"We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, goes an oft-paraphrased line. David Levithan gives vivid voice to it in his latest YA novel, 'Two Boys Kissing'. —*Newsday*

"Levithan's powerful, multifaceted novel explores just how far things have come for many gay teens—and how far things still need to go." —*BookPage*

"No one does heart-pulling emotion like Levithan, and this book, coming a decade after his groundbreaking debut, 'Boy Meets Boy,' has special resonance." —Gayle Forman, author of *Just One Day* and *Just One Year*, for *Bookish.com*

"Brilliant, moving, important, and wise." —Jennifer E. Smith, author of *This Is What Happy Looks Like* and *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*

"Thought provoking, poignant and beautifully written, above all this is an unbelievably important book for anyone who has struggled with identity, love and loss. The omniscient narration is incredibly moving and appreciative of the fragility of life. A groundbreaking addition to the LGBT genre and community." —*Romantic Times Book Review*

"*Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan takes the stories of all these boys and spins them into an interconnecting web that will leave you emotionally exhausted and absolutely thrilled to have read something so beautiful and unique...Will educate, entertain and move you." —*Hypable.com*

"Levithan takes contemporary to a whole new space with this novel, finding new ground in storytelling around important issues that directly affect teens today." —*Bookish.com*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- WINNER - Lambda Literary Award
- SELECTION 2014 – American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults
- SELECTION 2014 - Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College Children's Book of the Year

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MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- Entertainment Weekly | [David Levithan's 'Every Day' Follow-Up 'Two Boys Kissing'](#)
- American Library Association | [One Thing Leads to Another: An Interview with David Levithan](#)
- [Challenged Books One Sheet Guide](#)

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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