



Title: Last Night at the Telegraph Club
Author: Malinda Lo
Imprint: Dutton
Publisher: Penguin Young Readers
On sale date: January 19, 2021
ISBN: 9780525555254 and 9780525555278
Format: Hardcover and Paperback
Age Range*: 14 and up
Grade Range: Gr 9 up

BOOK RESUME: LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Seventeen-year-old Lily Hu can't remember exactly when the feeling took root—that desire to look, to move closer, to touch. Whenever it started growing, it definitely bloomed the moment she and Kathleen Miller walked under the flashing neon sign of a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club. Suddenly everything seemed possible.

But America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

A New York Times Bestseller

"Finally, the intersectional, lesbian, historical teen novel so many readers have been waiting for."—*Kirkus*, starred review

"A must-read love story...alternately heart-wrenching and satisfying."—*Booklist*, starred review

"Last Night at the Telegraph Club is a work of historical fiction that's as meticulously researched as it is full of raw, authentic emotion.... Shout it from the highest hills: This is a beautiful, brave story, and Lily is a heroine that readers will love."—*BookPage*, starred review

"This immersive, powerful coming-of-age novel tackles perceptions, expectations, and identity while sweeping readers into smoky lesbian nightclubs and '50s culture."—*BCCB*, starred review

"Smoothly referencing cultural touchstones and places with historic Chinese American significance, Lo conjures 1950s San Francisco adeptly while transcending historicity through a sincere exploration of identity and love."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Historically accurate and well-researched."—*SLC*, starred review

"A riveting, emotionally stirring tale.... Last Night at the Telegraph Club—focused on unapologetically embracing one's true self—is a spectacular addition to the young adult historical fiction genre."—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

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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.

"This standout work of historical fiction combines meticulous research with tender romance to create a riveting bildungsroman."—*Horn Book*, starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner of the National Book Award
- Winner of the Stonewall Book Award
- Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature
- A Michael L. Printz Honor Book
- A We Need Diverse Books Walter Dean Myers Honor Book
- A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist
- California Beatty Award
- Illinois Lincoln Book Award
- Maine North Star YA Book Award
- Michigan Thumbs Up Award
- New Hampshire Flume Book Award
- Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice Award
- Vermont Green Mountain Book Award
- Massachusetts Book Award
- Arizona Grand Canyon Readers Award
- North Dakota Flicker Tale Book Award

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Blog Post About Book Bans by Numbers for Malinda Lo books](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[A joint Matanzas and Flagler Palm Coast High School book review committee has voted unanimously to retain “Last Night at the Telegraph Club” for both schools.](#)

- Overall, the committee members said, the book focuses more on cultural issues between immigrant parents and their first-generation children, as well as the racism minority groups have felt in America, especially in times of crisis — relating the anti-Asian sentiment in the book to what Asian Americans experienced during the rise of COVID-19, and Muslims after 9/11.

“You could pluck Lily out of the ’50s and into today, and it would be [the same story],” a committee member said.

Those themes, and the anti-LGBT sentiment described in the novel, are topics teenagers in 2023 can relate to, committee members said.

“Someone reading this story could say, ‘This is how I feel; this is what I’m going through,’” one committee member said.

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