In the Role of Brie Hutchens by Nicole Melleby
Algonquin Young Readers, Hachette Book Group, 2020
ISBN: TP 9781643751320
*Age Range: Ages 10 and up
Grade Range: Grades 6-8

BOOK SYNOPSIS
When strong-willed, theatrical eighth grader Brie Hutchens tells a lie because she isn’t quite ready to come out to her mother, she must navigate the consequences in her relationships with her family, friends, and faith.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE
“Melleby's clear, honest voice expertly captures the frustration, awkwardness, and fear of being vulnerable—as well as the potential rewards. This funny, tender, and heart-wrenching story will have readers calling for an encore.”
—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"Melleby paints Brie as a recognizable teen: authentic in her self-centeredness and sympathetic in her attempts to embrace her identity. Brie's anxiety over her faith, as well as how to come out to her loved ones, is wrenching and genuine in this accomplished, leisurely paced read."
—Publishers Weekly, starred review

"Her struggles and those of her family seem authentic, their interactions realistic, and Brie’s desire to be really seen and loved for who she is will ring true with many middle school readers."
—School Library Journal

“The story honestly conveys Brie's confusion about her sexuality, while at the same time, moves plotlines to the next level by also delving into the way the family's Catholicism affects events. Younger teens questioning their sexuality—or faith—will find much to ponder here.”
—Booklist

“Chapter openings describing events from soap operas—the one strong interest she shares with her mom—underscore how dramatic the events feel to Brie, as well as the fact that, though she's realized something new about herself, she's still the same person.”
—The Horn Book

Overall, a captivating and charming middle grade contemporary.”
—YA Book Central
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

● Kirkus Best Book of 2020
● Bank Street Best Book of 2020
● Junior Library Guild selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES


RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES


AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)


*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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