



***Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy**

Balzer+Bray / Storytide, HarperCollins, 2015 (Hardcover), 2017 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9780062327192 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 13 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Now a popular Netflix feature film, starring Jennifer Aniston, Danielle Macdonald, and Dove Cameron, as well as a soundtrack from Dolly Parton!

The #1 *New York Times* bestseller and feel-good YA of the year—about Willowdean Dixon, the fearless, funny, and totally unforgettable heroine who takes on her small town's beauty pageant.

Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean Dickson (dubbed “Dumplin’” by her former beauty queen mom) has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body.

With her all-American beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked . . . until Will takes a job at Harpy's, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back.

Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Clover City beauty pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any girl does.

Along the way, she'll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “Will’s singular voice compels readers to think about all that goes into building-and destroying-self-esteem...Splendid.” — [Booklist](#) (starred review)

★ “Murphy (*Side Effects May Vary*) successfully makes every piece of the story—Dolly Parton superfans, first love, best-friend problems, an unlikely group of pageant entrants, female solidarity, self-acceptance, and Willowdean’s

Updated 5.30.25

HarperCollins

Elise.Damasco@harpercollins.com

complicated relationship with the mother who nicknamed her “Dumplin’ ”—count, weaving them together to create a harmonious, humorous, and thought-provoking whole.” — [Publishers Weekly](#) (starred review)

“[A] richly enjoyable novel...a clever and funny book to please lovers of thoughtful romance and secret pageant fans.” — Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

“Genuine, romantic, and with a dash of Texan charm, this is a novel that celebrates being who you are while also acknowledging that it’s incredibly difficult to do.” — [The Horn Book](#)

“Portrays and challenges stereotypes about beauty pageants, size issues, and women’s concerns...Powerful.” — Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)

“I’m obsessed with this book. Wickedly funny, heartbreakingly real, full of characters to love and cheer for. *Dumplin’* is such a star.” — Katie Cotugno, author of *How to Love and 99 Days*

“*Dumplin’* should be required reading for anyone who has ever felt even slightly uncomfortable in his or her skin. Julie Murphy’s star continues to shine with this groundbreaking, poignant story that will surely change lives.” — John Corey Whaley, award-winning author of *Noggin* and *Where Things Come Back*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
- YALSA Top Ten Pick for Reluctant Readers
- Indies Choice Best Young Adult Honor Book
- Winner of the Best Book of the Year and Best Young Adult Contemporary Novel by Romantic Times
- New York Public Library Best Book of the Year
- Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year
- Amazon Best Book of the Year
- B&N Best Book of the Year
- CBC Children’s Choices
- Amelia Bloomer List
- ALA Booklist Editor’s choice
- Spirit of Texas High School Reading List
- Tayshas (Texas Teen) Reading List
- Indigo Best Book of the Year
- *Time* 100 Best YA Books of All Time
- Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominee
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award nominee
- Evergreen Teen Book Award nominee
- Flume: NH Teen Reader's Choice Award nominee
- Garden State Teen Book Award nominee
- Georgia Peach Teen Readers' Choice Award nominee
- Grand Canyon Reader Award, 2018 - 2019 ; Teen
- Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award, 2018; Teen Readers

Updated 5.30.25

HarperCollins

Elise.Damasco@harpercollins.com

- Nutmeg Book Award, 2018; High School
- Oregon Reader's Choice Award nominee
- Read On Wisconsin nominee
- Sequoyah Book Award nominee
- Soaring Eagle Book Award nominee
- South Carolina Young Adult Book Award nominee
- Spirit of Texas Reading Program nominee
- Virginia Readers' Choice Award nominee
- Volunteer State Book Award nominee

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Readers' Group Guide](#)
- [Dumplin' Movie Information](#)
- [‘Dumplin’ Author Julie Murphy on Fat Positivity and Writing Queer Characters](#)
- [Author Julie Murphy talks about 'Dumplin'' \(now on Netflix\) and her struggles growing up](#)
- [WHY NOT YA? | Episode 2: Julie Murphy, Dumplin'](#)
- [DUMPLIN' | Top 3 BTS Moments with Julie Murphy!](#)
- [Epic Author Facts: Julie Murphy | Dumplin'](#)
- [Writing Tips from Author Julie Murphy](#)
- [Julie Murphy website](#)

***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.