



***Ramona Blue* by Julie Murphy**

Balzer+Bray / Storytide, HarperCollins, 2017 (Hardcover), 2018 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9780062418364 (Paperback)

\*Age Range: 13 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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The third novel from Julie Murphy, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dumplin'*—now a Netflix feature film starring Danielle Macdonald and Jennifer Aniston, with a soundtrack by Dolly Parton!

For fans of Rainbow Rowell and Morgan Matson, Julie Murphy has created another fearless heroine, *Ramona Blue*, in a gorgeously evocative novel about family, friendship, and how sometimes love can be more fluid than you first think.

Ramona was only five years old when Hurricane Katrina changed her life forever.

Since then, it's been Ramona and her family against the world. Standing over six feet tall with unmistakable blue hair, Ramona is sure of three things: she likes girls, she's fiercely devoted to her family, and she knows she's destined for something bigger than the trailer she calls home in Eulogy, Mississippi.

But juggling multiple jobs, her flaky mom, and her well-meaning but ineffectual dad forces her to be the adult of the family. Now, with her sister, Hattie, pregnant, responsibility weighs more heavily than ever.

The return of her childhood friend Freddie brings a welcome distraction. Ramona's friendship with the former competitive swimmer picks up exactly where it left off, and soon he's talked her into joining him for laps at the pool.

But as Ramona falls in love with swimming, her feelings for Freddie begin to shift too, which is the last thing she expected. With her growing affection for Freddie making her question her sexual identity, Ramona begins to wonder if perhaps she likes girls and guys or if this new attraction is just a fluke.

Either way, Ramona will discover that, for her, life and love are more fluid than they seem.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "An exquisite, thoughtful exploration of the ties that bind and the fluidity of relationships, sexuality, and life."  
— [Kirkus Reviews](#) (starred review)

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HarperCollins

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★ “Julie Murphy knows a thing or two about navigating the worlds of girls on the brink of self-discovery.”  
— [Booklist](#) (starred review)

“A must-have work that will resonate with teens.” — [School Library Journal](#)

“Murphy creates a place that feels deeply real...a great setting for a coming-of-age story, as Ramona realizes that she’s capable of more than she imagined and that some categories are more fluid than she’d thought.”  
— [Publishers Weekly](#)

“In a wonderful, complicated way, Ramona Blue turns the queer coming-of-age trope on its head.” — *Brightly*

“Julie Murphy delivers a fresh and glorious love story that addresses all the complexities of one’s heart. Ramona Blue’s discovery of limitless love is total beauty.” — Adam Silvera, *New York Times* bestselling author *They Both Die at the End*

“*Ramona Blue* is Julie Murphy’s best book yet. It’s hilarious, it’s heartfelt, and it’s so, so real. I just wish I’d had this book to read during my own teen years!” — Robin Talley, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lies We Tell Ourselves*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2020 Garden State Teen Book Award nominee
- 2019-2020 Volunteer State Book Award nominee
- 2018 ALA Rainbow Book List
- 2018 TAYSHAS Book List
- 2017 Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books list
- 2017 Nerdy Book Club Award winner
- 2017 YALSA Best Books for Young Adults
- 2017 Cybils Award nominee

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Writing Tips from Author Julie Murphy](#)
- [Julie Murphy website](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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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.