



Heartstopper #2 by Alice Oseman

Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2020

ISBN: 9781338617436 (Trade Paperback), 9781338617498 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 14 And Up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: N/A (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The second book in the delightfully sweet Heartstopper series, featuring beautiful two-color artwork!

Now streaming on Netflix!

Nick and Charlie are best friends, but one kiss has changed everything. In the aftermath, Charlie is sure that Nick isn't interested, but Nick is more confused than ever. Love works in surprising ways, and Nick comes to see the world from a new perspective. He discovers all sorts of things about his friends, his family... and himself.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Nick and Charlie's lighthearted and tender romance is delightful...Incredibly lovable from start to finish."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

"[T]he perfect bridge story, full of heartfelt sweetness that will have readers ready and waiting for the final volume." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"A must-read for fans of slice-of-life high-school manga" —*Booklist*

"[N]ot only does Oseman imbue Charlie and Nick with plenty of charm and vulnerability, she also treats them (and their interior worlds) with a level of understanding and care that elevates the story, blending the genres of teen romance and coming-of-age in a highly moving manner. The resulting product is an understated exploration of love and self, full of quiet joy." —*AV Club*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *New York Times* Bestseller
- Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)

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- [New York Times](#), interactive *Heartstopper* adaptation author interview
- [Newsweek](#), adaptation comparison
- [Comics Beat](#), excerpt
- [Comics Beat](#), author interview
- [Kirkus Reviews](#), “11 Diverting Teen Reads for Stressful Times”
- [Bay Area Reporter](#), “Books on our Gift List”
- [Geeks Out](#), author interview
- [Geek Dad](#), author interview
- [Bustle](#), “6 Graphic Novels You Should Read According to Rainbow Rowell”
- [Buzzfeed](#), “21 Exceptional And Unputdownable YA Books To Read During Pride”
- [Fuzzable](#), “5 Graphic Novels Featuring LGBTQIAP+ Community”
- [Buzzfeed](#), “20 YA Graphic Novels And Nonfiction We're Loving This Year”
- [Dallas Voice](#), “Mother meets trans daughter; boy meets boy”
- [Washington Blade](#), “A sweet book about first love”
- [School Library Journal](#), “16 YA Romances To Warm Winter Hearts”
- [Business Insider](#), “The 27 most breathtaking graphic novels and memoirs to read in 2021”
- [Girl's Life](#), “Add these 10 books to your TBR list for Pride Month”

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[PEN America Statement of Support](#): The literary and free speech organization PEN America is raising the alarm about Tennessee’s Collierville school district removing 327 books from library shelves that feature LGBTQ+ characters and themes, in spite of there being no policy or restriction requiring their removal.

In total, 327 previously approved books from notable authors including Rick Riordan and Audre Lorde – along with Alice Oseman’s *Heartstopper* series, the subject of a show on Netflix – were removed from district libraries. Administrators sorted them into tiers based on how much the books focus on LGBTQ+ characters or storylines. Tier 3, for instance, where *Heartstopper* was categorized, reflected that “The main character of the book is part of the LGBTQ community, and their sexual identity forms a key component of the plot. The book may contain suggestive language and/or implied sexual interactions.” If a book reached Tier 5, according to the sorting guidelines, “The books are being pulled.” According to reports, nearly a dozen books were also flagged as “Black Lives Matter” materials and removed from shelves.

Their removal was spurred not by any law, but rather by three proposed bills which did not pass, but which had sought to restrict the discussion of LGBTQ+ themes in schools. The removals were also reportedly motivated by the state’s 2021 educational gag order, which does not specifically target books relating to LGBTQ+ identities and only applies to curricula, not to school libraries. Some of the books may have since been returned to library shelves, but they were removed for at least two months; others, according to the district’s library catalog, may have been reassigned to a restricted access section; the whereabouts of others are unknown.

Jeremy C. Young, senior manager of free expression and education programs at PEN America, said in response to the news: “This is a heartbreaking case of administrative censorship and a perfect demonstration of the chilling effect that even proposed restrictions can impose on the freedom to read. No school should ever ban books based on the people and stories they depict. And no legislator should ever propose a bill that encourages a school to do so.”

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[PEN America Statement of Support](#): In a sweeping removal, many books by bestselling authors, representing critical stories, themes, identities, and histories, are suddenly inaccessible to students across the Rockingham County Public School district. Stand with authors in urging school board members from Rockingham County to return over 50 books banned from library shelves.

See the letter signed by published authors below and sign the form on this page to send a copy of the letter signed by you to the board members of Rockingham County Public Schools.

We, the undersigned, are writing in conjunction with PEN America to protest [the removal of over 50 books](#) from Rockingham County Schools in January 2024.

While the removal of these books may be “temporary” we are aware of many [districts](#), like [Beaufort County, South Carolina public schools](#), where “temporary” bans of books have stretched to over a year.

We write as creators of some of the very books that have been subjects of this directive and others across the country as well as creators that understand the power of the word. These bans represent a grave threat to the freedom to read, much to the detriment of students in your district.

A school library offers students an opportunity to explore the world around them - through literature curated by professional librarians. Diverse books are critical in engaging students, encouraging empathy, and creating the kind of just and pluralist society that an environment of open exchange promises. Students deserve to see themselves in books, and they deserve to learn how to see others, too.

We stand with the students who spoke directly for their right to read and learn on January 24th. As one student was [quoted](#) saying: “Taking away the ability to access knowledge puts you in the dark, and takes away your power.”

We encourage you in the strongest of terms to listen to the students and parents who have [protested](#) and [testified](#) against this harmful decision.

We urge the school district to reverse these bans, return to your policies and procedures that have served you as recently as the September 2023’s challenge, review, and retention of Heartstopper. Put books back on shelves where students can regain access to them.

***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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