



Heartstopper #1 by Alice Oseman

Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2020

ISBN: 9781338617436 (Trade Paperback)

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

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

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. A sweet and charming coming-of-age story that explores friendship, love, and coming out. This edition features beautiful two-color artwork.

Shy and softhearted Charlie Spring sits next to rugby player Nick Nelson in class one morning. A warm and intimate friendship follows, and that soon develops into something more for Charlie, who doesn't think he has a chance.

But Nick is struggling with feelings of his own, and as the two grow closer and take on the ups and downs of high school, they come to understand the surprising and delightful ways in which love works.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Incredibly lovable from start to finish." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

"Realistic yet uplifting, this tale of self-discovery will make readers' hearts skip a beat." —*School Library Journal*

"With all the blushing and awkward glances, it's difficult not to be charmed... The romance and realistic fiction will draw readers in to this sweet story." —*Booklist*

"Will win readers with its sweet romance, its queer-friendly storyline, and its light-touch relationship drama... This graphic novel lives up to its heart-stopper title." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"I was blown away. It's very tender, real, and wholesome. I read each book in one sitting." —*The Nerd Daily*

"Not 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." —*The AV Club*

"The queer graphic novel we wished we had at high school" —*Gay Times Magazine*

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"Watching the pair wrestle with their feelings is touching, and seeing them go from close friends to two parts of a strong, iron-clad relationship is absolutely adorable. Plus, the inviting, warm artwork makes for a cozy little serialized love story that feels uniquely personal." —MTV.com

"*Heartstopper* is an absolutely wonderful coming-of-age romance" —*Comics Worth Reading*

"Absolutely delightful. Sweet, romantic, kind. Beautifully paced. I loved this book." —Rainbow Rowell, author of *Carry On*

"You'll smile watching Charlie and Nick open up to one another, and sigh as they tiptoe into romance... falling in love doesn't get more charming than this." —Ngozi Ukazu, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Check, Please!*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *New York Times* Bestseller
- *USA Today* Bestseller
- National Indie Bestseller
- American Booksellers Association Indie Next Pick
- YALSA Quick Picks for Young Adult Readers (Top Ten Title)
- Capitol Choices Best Books List
- Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best 2020
- Connecticut Nutmeg Award - Nominee (High School Grades 9-12)
- Connecticut Nutmeg Award - Nominee (High School Grades 9-12)
- New York Public Library's Best Books of 2020
- Summer 2020 Indie Next Pick
- 2021 Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List
- 2021 YALSA Great Graphic Novels List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Author Letter](#)
- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)
- [Geeks Out](#), author interview
- [New York Times](#), interactive *Heartstopper* adaptation author interview
- [Newsweek](#), adaptation comparison
- [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"

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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."

*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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