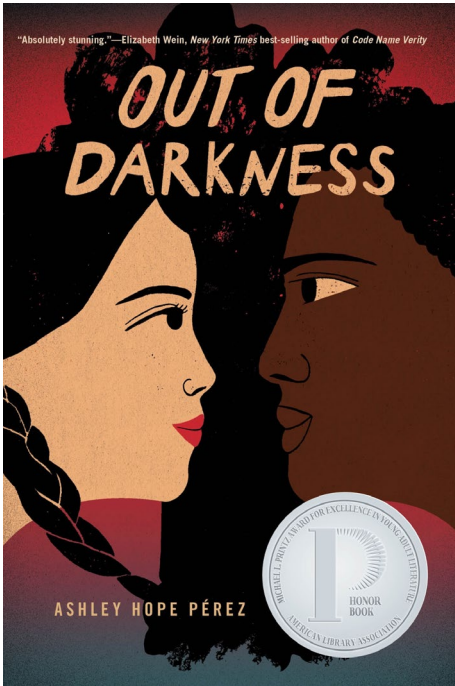


HOLIDAY HOUSE



Out of Darkness

by Ashley Hope Pérez

Holiday House, 2019

ISBN: 9780823445035; Paperback

Hardcover Originally published by

Lerner Publishing Group, 2015

*Age Range: 14 and up

Grade Range: Grade 9 & Up

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A dangerous forbidden romance rocks a Texan oil town in 1937, when segregation was a matter of life and death.

"This is East Texas, and there's lines. Lines you cross, lines you don't cross. That clear?" New London, TX. 1937. Naomi Vargas is Mexican American. Wash Fuller is Black. These teens know the town's divisive racism better than anyone. But sometimes the attraction between two people is so powerful it breaks through even the most entrenched color lines. And the consequences can be explosive.

Naomi and Wash dare to defy the rules, and the New London school explosion serves as a ticking time bomb in the background. Can their love survive both prejudice and tragedy?

Race, romance, and family converge in this riveting novel that transplants Romeo and Juliet to a bitterly segregated Texas town. Includes a fascinating author's note detailing the process of research and writing about voices that have largely been excluded from historical accounts.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"[Pérez's] layered tale of color lines, love and struggle in an East Texas oil town is a pit-in-the-stomach family drama that goes down like it should, with pain and fascination, like a mix of sugary medicine and artisanal moonshine."—[The New York Times Book Review](#)

★ "A powerful, layered tale of forbidden love in times of unrelenting racism."—[Kirkus Reviews](#), **Starred Review**

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"Elegant prose and gently escalating action will leave readers gasping for breath at the tragic climax and moving conclusion."—[Booklist](#)

"This book presents a range of human nature, from kindness and love to acts of racial and sexual violence. The work resonates with fear, hope, love, and the importance of memory. . . . Set against the backdrop of an actual historical event, Pérez's young adult novel gives voice to many long-omitted facets of U.S. history."—[School Library Journal](#)

"The beauty of Perez's prose and her surefooted navigation through the dangerous landscape of the East Texas oil field in the late 1930s redeem the fact that anyone who dares read this agonizing star-crossed love story will end up in about six billion numb and tiny pieces. Absolutely stunning."—**Elizabeth Wein, author of *Code Name Verity* and Michael L. Printz Award Honoree**

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- **Lincoln Award: Illinois Teen Readers' Choice Master List**, Long-listed, 2017
- **Virginia Readers' Choice Award Reading List Selection**, Long-listed, 2017
- **Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee**, Nominated, 2017
- **Notable Award Booklist's 50 Best YA Books of All Time**, Winner, 2017
- **Notable Award Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year**, Winner, 2016
- **Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) Choices**, Winner, 2016
- **Tomás Rivera Book Award**, Winner, 2016
- **Notable Award YALSA Best Books for Young Adults**, Winner, 2016
- **Notable Award Michael L. Printz Honor Book**, Commended, 2016
- **Writers' League of Texas Discovery Prize**, Winner, 2016
- **Notable Award Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Finalist**, Short-listed, 2015
- **ACL Distinguished Book**, Winner, 2015
- **Notable Award Kirkus Best Teen Books of the Year**, Winner, 2015
- **Notable Award School Library Journal Best Book**, Winner, 2015
- **Tayshas Reading List**, Winner, 2015

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reader's Guide](#)
- [Pen America Author Interview](#)
- [NPR Author Interview](#)
- [HuffPost Author Interview](#)
- [Latinxs in Kid Lit Author Interview](#)
- [Out of Darkness Named One of the Most Challenged Books of 2021](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [National Coalition Against Censorship letter to Canyons School District](#): These books are likely not of interest to every student. But if every library book is required to serve every student, the shelves would

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be bare. A library, including a school library, is meant to include a broad selection of books that provide value to students. These books do just that.

- [Mahopac Central School District](#): The ending of the material cited as objectionable, while a tough scene to process, does not outweigh the value the overarching themes found in the rest of the book present to readers such as the historical impact of the Great Depression, Jim Crow laws, and the representation of the New London School explosion. The New London School explosion led to significant safety reforms for building codes and in the oil and gas industry. The book presents readers with themes and content that may be relevant and meaningful to their lives.

***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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