



***Spin with Me* by Ami Polonsky**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2021

ISBN: 9780374313500 (hardcover); 9781250802095 (paperback)

*Age Range: 8-12

Grade Range: 5-7 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From the author of the critically acclaimed *Gracefully Grayson* comes a thoughtful and sensitive middle-grade novel about non-binary identity and first love, Ami Polonsky's *Spin with Me*.

In this elegant dual narrative, Essie is a thirteen-year-old girl feeling glum about starting a new school after her professor dad takes a temporary teaching position in a different town. She has 110 days here and can't wait for them to end. Then she meets Ollie: delicate, blue eyes, short hair, easy smile. At first, Essie thinks she has a typical crush on a beautiful boy. But as her crush blossoms, she soon realizes that Ollie is not a boy or a girl, but gender non-binary.

Meanwhile, Ollie is experiencing a crush of their own . . . on Essie. As Ollie struggles to balance their passion for queer advocacy with their other interests, they slowly find themselves falling for a girl whose stay is about to come to an end. Can the two unwind their merry-go-round of feelings before it's too late?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Hopeful and real, this story is electric. There's a lot to love here; recommended as a first purchase everywhere."
—[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

"Polonsky (*Gracefully Grayson*, 2014) has written a hopeful and insightful text for young readers to explore gender and sexual identity through an enticing story of friendship, family, and first love." —*Booklist*

"Polonsky (*Gracefully Grayson*) sensitively handles Ollie's gender identity while fully fleshing out their character. The novel makes a compelling argument, reinforced by an extended optical illusion metaphor, for looking at the world from another's lens." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

"Bigotry against Ollie is briefly addressed in one scene but is done so tactfully; it is clear that a great deal of empathy has gone into this narrative. The romance and chemistry between Essie and Ollie are also enjoyable. A charming, feel-good LGBTQ+ story." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

Updated 9.6.24

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A BookRiot Best Book for Pride Month!
- Recommended Reading for NEA's Read Across America 2022-23

***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.

Updated 9.6.24

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

mary.vanakin@macmillan.com