



**[The Nowhere Girls](#) by Amy Reed**

ISBN: 9781481481748 (Trade Paperback)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2019

\*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

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

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Three misfits come together to avenge the rape of a fellow classmate and trigger a change in the misogynist culture at their high school transforming the lives of everyone around them in this searing and timely story.

Who are the Nowhere Girls?

They're everygirl. But they start with just three:

Grace Salter is the new girl in town, whose family was run out of their former community after her southern Baptist preacher mom turned into a radical liberal after falling off a horse and bumping her head.

Rosina Suarez is the queer punk girl in a conservative Mexican immigrant family, who dreams of a life playing music instead of babysitting her gaggle of cousins and waitressing at her uncle's restaurant.

Erin Delillo is obsessed with two things: marine biology and Star Trek: The Next Generation, but they aren't enough to distract her from her suspicion that she may in fact be an android.

When Grace learns that Lucy Moynihan, the former occupant of her new home, was run out of town for having accused the popular guys at school of gang rape, she's incensed that Lucy never had justice. For their own personal reasons, Rosina and Erin feel equally deeply about Lucy's tragedy, so they form an anonymous group of girls at Prescott High to resist the sexist culture at their school, which includes boycotting sex of any kind with the male students.

Told in alternating perspectives, this groundbreaking novel is an indictment of rape culture and explores with bold honesty the deepest questions about teen girls and sexuality.

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## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "A thoughtful, literary portrayal of female sexuality in a culture that often rejects it." —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

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★ “Gritty and timely . . . The strong characters do not detract from the equally strong plot but move it forward with compassion and strength as they address with frank honesty what it means to be female in today's world. The empowerment of the girls in this book will resonate with young adults.” —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

★ “Reed’s refusal to shy away from the entrenched realities of sexism as well as the oft-overlooked erasure of intersectionality within feminism yields a highly nuanced and self-reflective narrative that captures rape culture’s ubiquitous harm without swerving into didactic, one-size-fits-all solutions or relying on false notions of homogenous young womanhood. Scandal, justice, romance, sex positivity, subversive anti-sexism—just try to put it down.” —[Kirkus](#), **starred review**

"Empowering, brutally honest, and realistically complex" —[Buzzfeed](#)

“A call-to-action to everyone out there who wants to fight back.” —[Bustle](#)

“Cuts straight to the core of rape culture—masterfully fierce, stirring, and deeply empowering.” —Amber Smith, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Way I Used to Be*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best
- Kansas NEA Reading Circle List High School Title
- NYPL Best Books for Teens
- Florida Teens Read Master List
- Bank Street Children's Book Award
- ALA Amelia Bloomer List
- Amelia Elizabeth Walden Finalist (NCTE/ALAN)
- CA Westchester Fiction Award Winner
- Nutmeg Book Award Nominee (CT)

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [Our Stories Matter: An Interview With Amy Reed](#)
- [Teen Librarian Toolbox blog post](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[District book review committee agrees to retain 'The Nowhere Girls'](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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“*The Nowhere Girls* is about three misfit girls who start a movement to fight the misogynist culture at their high school and get justice for one of their classmates who was raped. It’s about the dark realities of rape culture, but it is also very much about solidarity, friendship, empowerment, and hope. The idea for *The Nowhere Girls* started percolating shortly after I read two incredible books about rape culture in 2015, *The Way I Used to Be* by Amber Smith and *All the Rage* by Courtney Summers. The Stanford jock Brock Turner got away with raping a passed-out girl. Steubenville was still on my mind. I was

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doing work to heal my own trauma. I thought about all these stories and lives, and the thing they had in common was that the girls were alone. No one stuck up for them. No one believed them. The institutions that were supposed to protect them perpetuated the girls' trauma and put them on trial. I wanted to write a book to fight that system, a book about young women reclaiming their power and creating their own system to support one another." —Amy Reed

### **\*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.

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