



When You Call My Name by Tucker Shaw

Henry Holt and Co. (BYR), an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2022

ISBN: 9781250624864 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 10 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Film fanatic Adam is seventeen and being asked out on his first date—and the guy is cute. Heart racing, Adam accepts, quickly falling in love with Callum like the movies always promised.

Fashion-obsessed Ben is eighteen and has just left his home upstate after his mother discovers his hidden stash of gay magazines. When he comes to New York City, Ben's sexuality begins to feel less like a secret and more like a badge of honor.

Then Callum disappears, leaving Adam heartbroken, and Ben finds out his new world is more closed-minded than he thought. When Adam finally tracks Callum down, he learns the guy he loves is very ill. And in a chance meeting near the hospital where Callum is being treated, Ben and Adam meet, forever changing each other's lives. As both begin to open their eyes to the possibilities of queer love and life, they realize sometimes the only people who can help you are the people who can really see you—in all your messy glory.

A love letter to New York and the liberating power of queer friendship, *When You Call My Name* is a hopeful novel about the pivotal moments of our youth that break our hearts and the people who help us put them back together.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Poignant and uplifting . . . The novel explores the tenacity and strength of queer friendship during the toughest of times, while paying homage to a city that faced significant loss." —[GAY TIMES](#)

★ "This book is historical fiction. . . but the frank, personable writing style circumvents many of the challenges the genre often has in generating teen appeal. . . an invaluable addition to a genre that has largely excluded this piece of history." —[School Library Journal](#), starred review

★ "A brilliant affirmation of the power of love on so many levels, with a wide range of appeal." —[Booklist](#), starred review

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"In 1990 Manhattan the paths of two young men intertwine. . .but the story is not just about their connection; it's about the history of New York and the people who fought and coped, loved and lost, died and survived during the years when an HIV diagnosis was a death sentence. The novel is a love letter to this time and place and to the people of Manhattan. It masterfully pulls at the heartstrings. . .a touching and beautiful story." —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"Copious period-specific pop culture references pepper the novel, whose assured pacing and intimate tone balances elements of promise, possibility, and reality. In Adam and Ben, Shaw effectively captures the era's feeling of pain, uncertainty, and liberation for the gay community." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year
- A CBC Young Adult, Teacher & Librarian Favorites 9th - 12th Grade Selection
- A Rainbow Book List Top Ten Title for Teen Readers
- A Boston.com Book Club Pick

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Author's Note](#)

[Interview with *Gay Times*](#)

[Q&A with The Nerd Daily](#)

[Author Discussion with Boston.com Book Club](#)

*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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