



**Title:** Dear Martin

**Author:** Nic Stone

**Imprint:** Crown Books  
for young readers and  
Ember

**Publisher:** Random  
House Children's Books

**On sale date:** October 17,  
2017

**ISBN:** 9781101939499  
and 9781101939529

**Format:** Hardcover and  
Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 14  
and up

**Grade Range:** 9  
and up

## BOOK RESUME: DEAR MARTIN

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates.

Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Teens, librarians and teachers alike will find this book a godsend...Vivid and powerful." —*Booklist*, starred review

"A visceral portrait of a young man reckoning with the ugly, persistent violence of social injustice." —*Publishers Weekly*

"A good choice for school and public libraries." —*School Library Journal*

"A powerful, wrenching, and compulsively readable story that lays bare the history, and the present, of racism in America." —John Green, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Turtles All the Way Down*

"Painfully timely and deeply moving." —Jodi Picoult, #1 New York Times bestselling author

"Raw and gripping." —Jason Reynolds, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Long Way Down*

"Absolutely incredible, honest, gut-wrenching. A must read!" —Angie Thomas, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Hate U Give*

Updated 1.22.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact [BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com)

\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- FINALIST 2018 – William C. Morris YA Debut Award
- FINALST 2018 – American Library Association Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- SELECTION 2018 – Oklahoma Sequoyah
- FINALST 2018 – American Library Association Top Ten Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults
- NOMINEE 2018 – Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award
- NOMINEE 2019-2020 – South Carolina Book Award for Young Adult
- MASTER LIST 2020 – Illinois Teen Readers’ Lincoln Award
- *A New York Times* Bestseller
- Selection 2018 – BookExpo Editors’ Buzz
- An Indies Introduce Selection
- A Kids’ Indie Nest List Pick

### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [Dear Martin Discussion Guide](#)
- [Reading Banned and Challenged Books Discussion Guide: Dear Martin](#)
- [MSNBC Ali Velshi Banned Book Club](#)
- [WJBF \(ABC GA\)](#)

### **RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES**

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Mahopac NY: On February 8th, 2022, the District received the Complaints About Curricula or Instructional Materials Exhibit, 1420 E that was submitted requesting a reevaluation of the book *Dear Martin*, by Nic Stone, currently available to students through the Mahopac Middle School Library-8th Grade Reads Section and the Mahopac High School Library collections. After being reviewed the Curriculum Committee recommends that *Dear Martin*, not be removed from the Middle School library and remain in circulation for students to access. The Committee came to this recommendation based on the following considerations:

- The content is not inappropriate for placement in the middle school 8th Grade Reads section which the middle school library media specialist keeps separate from other sections and provides additional support to students while exploring and checking out books from that section.

Updated 1.22.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact [BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com)

\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

- “Maturity” and “age-appropriate understanding of racism” are ambiguous reasons for justifying removal of the materials
- Publishers recommended ages often reflect marketing decisions more than child- development considerations. Books often contain content that some students may be ready for at different ages. For example, some 8-year-olds love scary stories and stories with gore, while others may be disturbed to read about tension, conflict, or loss of any kind. Age appropriateness and developmental appropriateness must be considered and often varies from child to child.
- The material found in the book that the individual cited as objectionable does not outweigh the value the overarching themes present to readers such as exposing students to a culture, they may not be familiar with or struggles that groups of people face in society.
- The book presents readers with themes and content that are relevant and meaningful to their lives.
- Middle school students should have the opportunity for access to the material as they work with their parents and the library media specialist to determine if the material is appropriate for them.

Updated 1.22.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact [BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com)

\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.