



Girlmode by Magdalene Visaggio, illustrated by Paulina Ganucheau

HarperCollins, 2024

ISBN: 9780063060654 (Paperback), 9780063060661 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 14 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A recently transitioned girl tries to figure out who she is—while trying to manage who everyone else wants her to be—in this funny, unexpected, and affecting new graphic novel from Eisner-nominated writer Magdalene Visaggio and artist Paulina Ganucheau.

The last thing Phoebe Zito wants is to be noticed. The newest kid at Sally Ride High School, newly arrived in Los Angeles, and newly transitioned, she's just trying to blend in while she figures out exactly who she is. But with her mom checked out, her dad still adjusting to having a daughter, and no guidebook on how to be a girl, that isn't going to be easy.

Enter Mackenzie Ishikawa. She's the girl who all girls want to be, and all the boys want to be with—and, Mackenzie has decided, Phoebe's new best friend. Mackenzie knows what it takes to survive and thrive as a girl in high school, most of all that no matter who Phoebe wants to be, or who she wants to date, she's going to need someone having her back.

Phoebe soon realizes what Mackenzie knows too well: Being true to yourself is going to mean breaking some hearts. But as Phoebe discovers what kind of girl she is—and what kind of girl everyone around her thinks she's supposed to be—she worries one of those hearts will be her own.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “A must-read that portrays one teenage girl’s struggles to find—and stand up for—herself.” —[Publishers Weekly](#) (starred review)

★ “An insightfully honest exploration of teen girlhood.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#) (starred review)

★ “This spot-on story adeptly captures the struggle of finding one’s own identity while constantly being told by others what that identity should look and act like, whether one is cis or transgender. Visaggio’s characters ring true with a wide range of personalities; Ganucheau’s artwork brings the world to life, particularly with Phoebe,

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Elise.Damasco@harpercollins.com

who practically walks off the brightly colored panels with authenticity. A standout graphic novel that belongs in every collection for artful storytelling, beautifully expressive imagery, and a heroine who is admirable and fully human." —[School Library Journal](#) (starred review)

"Every scene is gorgeously drawn with bright, poppy color. An earnest and honest journey through one girl's most eventful school year." —[Booklist](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2025 Lambda Literary Award, LGBTQ+ Comics
- Kirkus's Best of 2024 list

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [How To Be A Girl - Author Guest Post \(The Nerd Daily\)](#)

*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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Elise.Damasco@harpercollins.com