



***Spinning* by Tillie Walden**

First Second Books, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2017

ISBN: 9781626729407 (Paperback)

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

Grade Range: 6+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Tillie Walden's Eisner Award winning graphic memoir *Spinning* captures what it's like to come of age, come out, and come to terms with leaving behind everything you used to know.

It was the same every morning. Wake up, grab the ice skates, and head to the rink while the world was still dark.

Weekends were spent in glitter and tights at competitions. Perform. Smile. And do it again.

She was good. She won. And she hated it.

For ten years, figure skating was Tillie Walden's life. She woke before dawn for morning lessons, went straight to group practice after school, and spent weekends competing at ice rinks across the state. Skating was a central piece of her identity, her safe haven from the stress of school, bullies, and family. But as she switched schools, got into art, and fell in love with her first girlfriend, she began to question how the close-minded world of figure skating fit in with the rest of her life, and whether all the work was worth it given the reality: that she, and her friends on the team, were nowhere close to Olympic hopefuls. The more Tillie thought about it, the more Tillie realized she'd outgrown her passion—and she finally needed to find her own voice.

This title has Common Core connections.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"[A] stark, gripping graphic novel memoir." —[Washington Post](#), "[These books can help build strong girls—and boys—for today's world](#)"

"Tillie Walden's *Spinning* is an engrossing, gorgeously quiet look back at the 12 years she devoted to figure and synchronized skating." —[New York Times](#)

★ "Intimate and compelling. A quiet powerhouse of a memoir." —[Kirkus Reviews](#), **starred review**

★ "An elegant, contemplative, and somber graphic memoir . . . A haunting and resonant coming-of-age story." —[Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

Updated September 4, 2024

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Contact mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

★ “Quiet and lyrical . . . and deeply satisfying. A stirring, gorgeously illustrated story of finding the strength to follow one’s own path.” —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

“An honest and intimate coming-of-age story that will be appreciated by tweens and young teens, especially those in competitive sports.” —[School Library Journal](#)

“An accessible introduction to the graphic novel form. Older readers will want to graduate from this to Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*.” —[The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books](#)

“This beautiful story about sorrow, growth, and triumph will resonate in every reader’s heart.” —*Laurie Halse Anderson, New York Times–bestselling author and two-time National Book Award finalist*

“This is a beautifully told story that will resonate with anyone who played an instrument, or did gymnastics, or got signed up for skating: these things weren’t always what we wanted to do or cared about, but they gave us some focus when everything else was mystery and chaos.” —*Lucy Knisley, New York Times bestselling author of Relish: My Life in the Kitchen*

“Spinning is spare yet intimate, painfully honest, and oh-so-real.” —*Malinda Lo, three-time Lambda Literary Award finalist author of Ash and Adaptation*

“Gorgeous and honest.” —*Faith Erin Hicks, award-winning author of The Nameless City*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A New York City Public Library Notable Best Book for Teens
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2017
- A 2018 YALSA Great Graphic Novel
- A 2017 *Booklist* Youth Editors' Choice

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [NPR Interview](#)
- [Publishers Weekly Interview](#)
- [Entertainment Weekly Interview](#)
- [Forbes Interview](#)

*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.