

The Nowhere Girls

Amy Reed

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017

Reviews

- [Kirkus](#) (October 10, 2017): “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.” Starred review.
- [School Library Journal](#) (September 26, 2017): “This gritty and timely novel examines the culture of sexism and rape through the eyes of three girls and a chorus of the universal ‘Us.’ ... 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. VERDICT A must-read for every teen.” Starred review.
- [Starred review in *VOYA* no longer available online.]

Awards

- [Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Finalist](#), 2018
- [Westchester Fiction Award](#), 2019

Lists

- [Amelia Bloomer Top Ten](#), 2018
- [Bank Street Center Best Children’s Books of the Year](#), 2018
- [New York Public Library Best Books for Kids and Teens](#), 2017
- [Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books](#), 2017
- [Irish Times Best Books of the Year](#), 2017

Response to Challenges

- [PEN America Open Letter to Leander Independent School District \(TX\)](#): “[A]llegations against the “appropriateness” of these books for students has to do with whose stories they tell. Across the nation, books featuring characters who are people of color or LGBTQIA+ individuals, or written by authors from such communities, are disproportionately likely to be challenged or banned. ... Yet the inclusion of such books in students’ curricula is both morally

necessary and educationally beneficial. All young people deserve to see themselves reflected in the literature they consume, and the inclusion of books that center diverse experiences is the most effective way to accomplish this. Exposure to such books is vital to the project of empathy-building, of rectifying historic gaps in whose stories are shared and consumed, and of forging a more inclusive, equitable, and just society. ... If the district moves forward with the proposal to remove these stories, not only do we fear that you will be restricting students' and families' access to diverse stories, but that you will be sending the message that these stories have no place in the classroom, school library, or other educational settings."

References

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"Open Letter: Authors Demand Texas School District Reinstate Their Books." (2021, April 21). PEN America. Retrieved July 11, 2022 from <https://pen.org/authors-demand-texas-district-reinstate-books/>

"Westchester Fiction Award Past Winners." Westchester Fiction Award. Retrieved July 11, 2022 from <http://wfa.yolasite.com/past-winners.php>