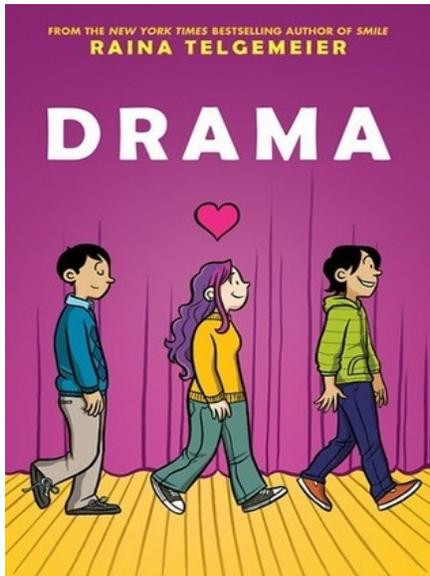


Drama by Raina Telgemeier



Drama (2012). Scholastic. <https://www.scholastic.ca/books/view/drama>.

Raina Telgemeier's graphic novel, "Drama" follows a group of young teens who are part of the stage crew at the middle school as they prepare for the annual play. This year their play is Moon Over Mississippi, a musical production. Callie, the main character is extremely excited to oversee set design. This year is going to be bigger and better than ever, even with a small budget. Callie is passionate about theatre, with extravagant plans for the set. She has many friends in the stage crew, including her best friend, Liz who oversees costumes. Outside of the play, Callie meets Justin and Jesse, twins who both love to sing and act. Quickly Callie, Justin and Jesse become very close. Callie has hopes to go to the 8th grade formal, but who will ask her? will Greg, who is newly single? Or her new friend Jesse?

The book thoughtfully addresses LGBTQ themes and is integral to the storyline of the characters. The book presents all the main characters of being accepting, hardworking and creative. This book is a great option for young adults 12-14 years old, who are looking for a quick read. The graphics are well done with great expressions. The themes of the book are relatable to teens as they explore relationships, problem solving, and finding one's own identity.

Drama was in the center of some debates after its release. In 2017, it was in the ALA's top ten challenged books (ALA, 2023). Though the book contains no profanity, substance abuse or other content that may lead to the book being banned or challenged, Drama was banned due to having LGBTQ+ characters, which was seen as offensive. Despite being banned and

challenged, *Drama* was named one of the top ten graphic novels for teen in 2013, by Young Adult Library Services Association (*Great graphic novels top ten*, 2013).

References

Great graphic novels top ten 2013. Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). (2013, January 30). Retrieved March 25, 2023, from <https://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/ggnt/2013/topten>

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