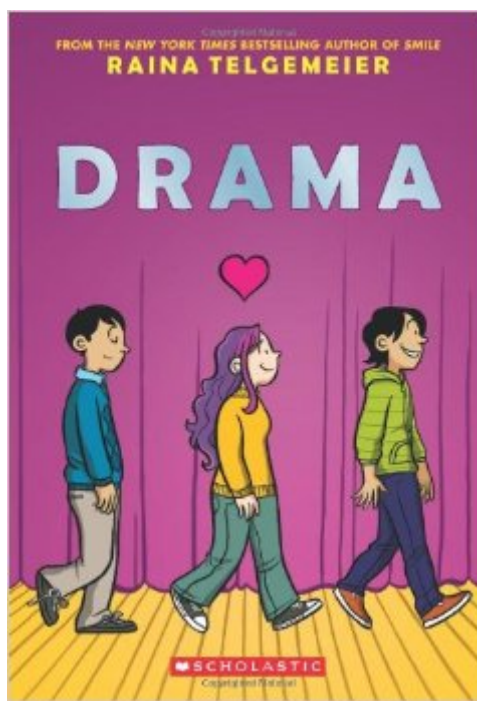


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# Drama



## Synopsis

From Raina Telgemeier, the #1 New York Times bestselling, multiple Eisner Award-winning author of *Smile* and *Sisters!* Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon over Mississippi*, she can't really sing. Instead she's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. And when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier! Â

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 400 (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: GRAPHIX (September 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545326990

ISBN-13: 978-0545326995

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (840 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #331 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts #6 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels #20 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

There's nothing wrong with homosexuality or bi-sexuality. But if your kid believes in Santa Claus, needs occasional help washing the shampoo out of her hair, has to be told repeatedly to get dressed because it's time for school, likes Shopkins, and has handwriting like a 3rd grader because she IS a 3rd grader, then I'm pretty sure she's not ready to explore the idea of bi-sexuality. Let kids be kids. Jeez. What's the rush? The main girl in this book is BOY CRAZY (hence the heart above her head on the cover art.) She's easily offended when boys won't kiss her. Why won't they kiss her,

you ask? Because the boys are gay. They're all gay, or bi-sexual. Why? Because the story takes place in a drama club. (Note to the author: Not all boys who do theatre are gay-- it's pretty cliché to think so.) Though I do really like that gay kids are represented here-- we definitely need to see more diversity in romantic story-lines. This book is perfect for kids 6th grade and up, but it should say precisely that on the cover so parents with younger kids can skip it. The first two books in this series are intended for kids 8 and up. Along comes the 3rd book. The kids who read the first two want the 3rd-- so mom buys it. You end up with a bunch of 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders reading a book about one girl's obsession with getting a boyfriend, and the gay and bi-sexual boys who thwart her efforts. Scholastic, you blew it. Why not put the \*new\* age range on the cover? Or better, write an \*honest\* synopsis on the back so parents get an idea of what their kids will be reading. How are we supposed to know that the 3rd book (in a series initially intended for 8-year-olds) is no longer intended for 8-year-olds? Childhood is short and getting shorter.

Callie loves the theater. She knows she can't sing (she and her family discovered that early on) but she's a fantastic hand for the stage crew. This year she's the set designer and she's planning on creating a set that will put all others to shame. One small problem...they don't have much of a budget. And ticket sales just don't seem to be there yet. Plus there's all kinds of middle school drama around and she just might have her first crush or two! How will the play ever happen with all of the drama? But Callie and her friends will make it happen or collapse trying. Just like *Smile* this book is sure to have a bit of controversy because Raina writes about real life, such as relationships both male and female and male and male, which is bound to cause some readers angst. But here's the thing...everything that Raina writes about in this book is stuff that kids face in real life, regardless of whether parents and adults want to admit it. Raina accurately captures the feelings of confusion, infatuation, of the journey of discovering yourself, that we all experience in middle school and this is what her readers relate to. And it's why this is such a great book, because even as a male reader I related to Matt and his confusion over how to approach Callie (which is something that still confuses me to this day.) Raina's art style is deceptively simple, but I love it. It reminds of "The Kids Next Door" cartoon (and yes that's a good thing) with how things are drawn and the colors chosen. She quickly and accurately captures the movement of characters and brings them to life with the expressions on their faces. They're expressions that I remember seeing growing up (and still see today come to think of it) that make the characters feel real. The colors are spot on perfect as well.

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