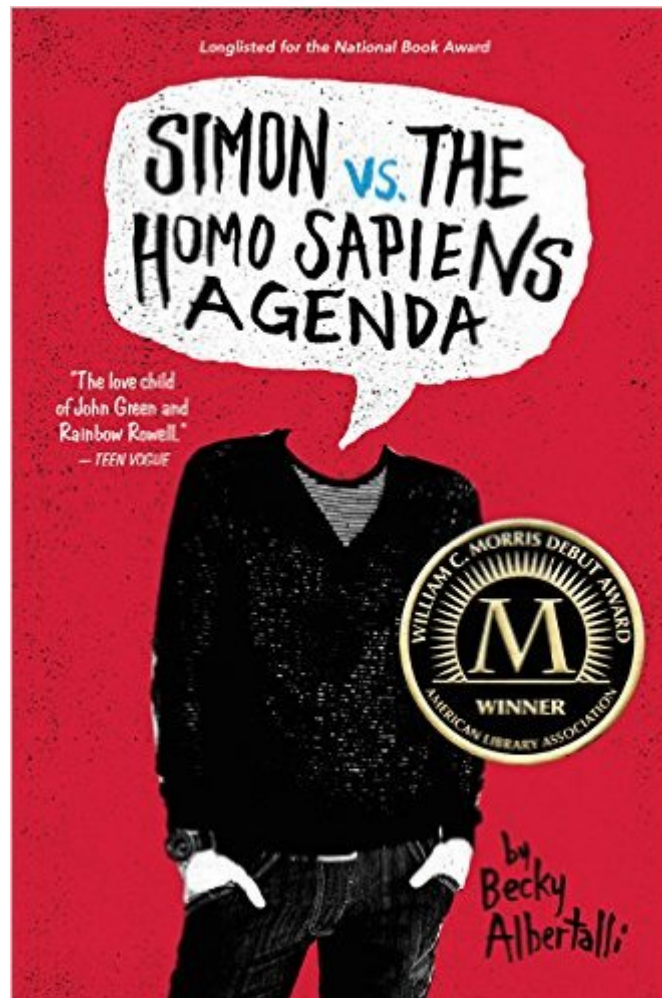


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Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda



Synopsis

William C. Morris Award Winner National Book Award Longlist Everybody is talking about *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*! "A remarkable gift of a novel." —Andrew Smith, author of *Grasshopper Jungle* "I am so in love with this book." —Nina LaCour, author of *Hold Still* "Feels timelessly, effortlessly now." —Tim Federle, author of *Better Nate Than Ever* "The best kind of love story." —Alex Sanchez, Lambda Award-winning author of *Rainbow Boys* and *Boyfriends with Girlfriends* Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now change-averse Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out—without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met. Incredibly funny and poignant, this twenty-first-century coming-of-age, coming out story is wrapped in a geek romance is a knockout of a debut novel by Becky Albertalli.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Simon vs The Homo Sapiens Agenda is a pitch perfect book that gets tone, character, plot, and flow exquisitely perfect. It's the type of book that leaves you with a big smile that lingers long after you've finished; an easy read with distinct characters and an emphasis on the people, not the drama or being gay. As well, a lot of cliches in this genre are neatly avoided, making for a strong and distinct voice from our main character. Story: Simon is 16, has great friends, does well at school, and has a cool family (well, ok, perhaps they try a bit too hard to be cool). He even likes his older and younger

sisters. Simon's also figured out he's gay but doesn't feel any pressure to come out. When he meets someone like himself on the school's private tumbler, he thinks maybe it might be the right time to let his friends/family know. But "Blue" is a bit more shy about the prospect - including telling Simon who he is. While Simon tries to figure which of his friends might be Blue, an email is left up and he finds himself annoyingly blackmailed. He worries that his relationship with good friends might change as well as the 'big deal' his parents will make of the situation in supporting him. But all the same, what he really wants is to convince Blue that meeting in person really is the best for both of them. Although a YA read, this is very down to earth and sweet - lacking over the top scenes, angst, evil high schoolers, sex, drugs, or rock and roll. Much of the plot is Simon dealing with an acquaintance who wants to meet Simon's popular and pretty girl pal, Abby, and who knows of Simon's emails to Blue. It's a light and implied blackmail that Simon resents even as he goes along setting the two up halfheartedly. The rest of the plot is the sweetly unfolding romance in email form between Blue and Simon - at first cautious and then more curious about each other as the plot progresses. It's the type of story that you fall in love with as you watch the characters fall in love. There are several side stories though the book is told solely through Simon's very grounded POV. "She loves him, he loves somebody else" is a common motif, as well as the nature of friendship and how it changes as kids get older. It makes for some very poignant scenes between Simon and his friends. What really struck me about this book is that it felt authentic. It wasn't a syrupy sweet Lifetime Channel made for TV movie nor was it a sensationalistic overwrought YA drama. It's a book that makes you feel good but never resorts to schmaltz or saccharine. Everyone feels true to high school, with a mix of selfishness, confusion, and distraction so much a part of teen life. The book is infinitely quotable as a result - author Becky Albertalli gets it all perfect. Although yes, Simon's romantic interest is another guy, the gay subtext is not the point of the book. Blue could have been a girl and the book would have been just as compelling. But the hook ups in Simon's Atlanta town also cross racial lines - making a welcome change from white cheerleaders being the 'it' girl for every high school guy. Class, gender, race are not qualifiers or limiters on any part of the story. The plot never sagged and I didn't want to put it down once started. Very modern, to the moment, authentic, and incredibly sweet without being false. I easily rate this a 5 star read - one of the most enjoyable I've encountered this year. Highly recommended. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

this is a book i know will stay with me forever (or at least for a long long time). if you don't already know, this is a gay book. even if you feel uncomfortable or somewhat

opposed to people of LGBTQ, i still believe you should read *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Handbook*. I've read other novels that are LGBTQ, but I've never read one that was as wholeheartedly and honest as *Simon vs. Everything*. Everything was so relatable. In other novels, it was clear and obvious the characters that were LGBTQ were sorta different: in the way they act, speak, dress, etc. etc. However in *Simon vs.*, that was most certainly not the case. After reading this novel, I've realized that people who are LGBTQ are just like everyone else. There really isn't a difference between gays and straights, except the preference in gender; in the end, that's all there is. Reading things from *Simon's* perspective, we could also see how the LGBTQ community is generally treated. It was beautiful to see people who were incredibly supportive, but also people who were just downright awful. I loved every bit of that. It was completely genuine and true. We saw everything: the good, the bad, and the ugly. My favorite aspect of the novel was how casual Simon and his friends spoke of being gay. They would often joke about it "but not in anyway I found insulting or condescending. People often make this a huge deal, which I suppose it is a big deal, but sometime it shouldn't have to be a big deal. If you think about it, being gay/straight/etc is only a big deal because people make it a big deal. Why should it really matter? It's just a small part of who we/you are. I find it similar to a person's race. For example, it's not like you're going to see someone and instantly judge them because of their race (if you do, then go away). The same should be said about a person's sexual orientation. Simon was an extremely sarcastic and funny character, so I couldn't help but smile and grin the entire time. No, seriously, I couldn't read this book in public because I would (literally) laugh out loud and smile to myself. People were definitely giving me strange looks, but I have no regrets because I loooooove it so much! (eventually I resorted to happily reading in my room.) The main reason why I enjoyed this book so much was because IT WAS SO CUTE. The interactions between Simon and Blue made me want to squeal; I couldn't help but root for them until the very end. The relationships between everyone were truly genuine and lovely and just.. *content sigh*. His family and friends were great and everything was

Reviews of this book were saying marvelous things about it and I got curious. I picked it up in my local bookstore and as soon as I got home I started reading it. I couldn't stop. The first two pages are enough to keep you engaged to the story and you won't be able to put it down. I laughed, swooned and of course, I cried. When I finished the book all I could think about was the beauty of this book, the way the author wrote a love story but more than a love story, a story about acceptance and coming out as you are as a person. My favorite characters were Simon's parents. They are the

best parents I've ever read. If I ever become a mother I want to be like them. I am glad that this book didn't turned out to be a depressing book or turned into a sad ending because that would have been very disappointing. Simon has been emailing Blue, but we don't know who is Blue. Anyone can be Blue. I was trying to figure him out and thought my prediction wasn't correct, I was glad with it. I loved when Blue comes out. I loved everything. This is the first LGBT book I read. I think that this book particularly is just not for the LGBTTT community, but for everyone. We all have dealt with discovering our sexuality at some point in our lives, and then chosen which sex are we attracted too. This book is about coming out, coming out as who you are as a person. Coming out regardless what people think or expect from you to be. I don't regret reading this book. It opened up more my mind and my view to this community.

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