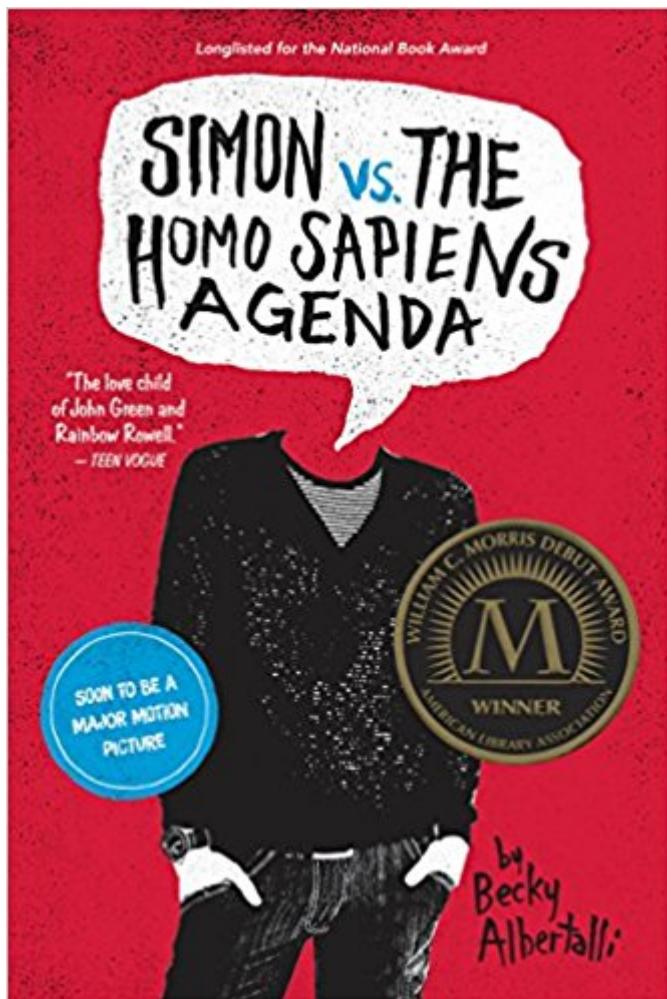


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# Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda



## Synopsis

SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE! William C. Morris Award Winner: Best Young Adult Debut of the Year \* National Book Award Longlist "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 *A 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 •wrapped in a geek romance •is a knockout of a debut novel by Becky Albertalli.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up •Simon Speir, high school junior, walks away from his computer at school for just a moment, and that is when his biggest secret is discovered. He has been emailing a boy in his grade anonymously ever since a poetic waxing on his high school's gossip Tumblr caught his eye, and now Martin Addison has taken a screenshot and has a powerful way to blackmail Simon into getting his friend, Abby, to date him. Although it is filled with trendy pop-culture and digital-age references

(Tumblr, Justin Bieber, The Bachelor, etc.) that may not stand the test of time, the message will resonate. Rife with realistic, high school relationships and drama, with a laugh or two at every turn, this is a coming-of-age, coming-out, and defying-the-odds story with which many teens will identify. With a very tidy, feel-good ending, the book will appeal to readers who enjoyed Tim Federle's *Better Nate Than Ever* (2013) and *Five, Six, Seve, Nate!* (2014, both S. & S.) and will find a familiar, slightly more mature home with Simon. • Brittany Staszak, St. Charles Public Library, IL  
--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Albertalli paints a stunningly three-dimensional, cliche-free world for Simon that bursts with unforgettable characters. Savor it, because you'll read it for the first time only once. Worthy of *Fault in Our Stars*-level obsession. • (Entertainment Weekly) Love child of John Green and Rainbow Rowell. • (Teen Vogue) Delightfully funny and at times heart-wrenching. Readers will ache for Simon's awkwardness, cheer his small triumphs, but, most of all, fall in love with this kid and with this remarkable gift of a novel. • (Andrew Smith, author of *Grasshopper Jungle*) Funny, moving and emotionally wise. • (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) I am so in love with this book. • (Nina LaCour, author of *Hold Still*) Debut novelist Albertalli writes believably in the voice of a confused, openhearted 16-year-old. Readers will fall madly in love with Simon. • (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Are we absolutely certain that Becky Albertalli didn't just steal the diary of a hilariously observant teenage boy? *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* is a pitch-perfect triumph of wit and wordplay that feels timelessly, effortlessly now. • (Tim Federle, author of *Better Nate than Ever*) Though there are realistic moments of tension, the dominant sentiment here is the delicious excitement of finding your best self in the eyes of someone else; not since Levithan's *Boy Meets Boy* have readers been treated to such a happy sigh of a book about two boys falling in love. • (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review)) I love you, SIMON. I LOVE YOU! And I love this fresh, funny, live-out-loud book. • (Jennifer Niven, bestselling author of *All the Bright Places*) Rife with realistic, high school relationships and drama, with a laugh or two at every turn, this is a coming-of-age, coming-out, and defying-the-odds story with which many teens will identify. • (SLJ) Becky Albertalli has written the best kind of love story: the kind in which you fall in love with the characters as they fall in love with each other. • (Alex Sanchez, Lambda Award-winning author of *Rainbow Boys* and *Boyfriends with Girlfriends*)

This review was originally posted on the Goldilox and the Three Weres blog. It took me far too long to read this book but I was the human personification of the heart-eyes emoji by the time I was done. This was absolutely adorable and perfect! I loved that it was diverse and so positive. It's kind of like a YA You've Got Mail but without the whole enemies to lovers subplot. The only problem I had with it was that it ended. I just want more Simon and Blue goodness! And maybe an oreo milkshake. I wasn't planning to read the whole thing so quickly but once I started I just couldn't stop. And I can't begin to explain how happy I am that I read this book. It's one of those books that will make an impact on your heart and change your way of thinking. What I loved most about it was that the book was lighthearted while making that impact. Essentially the story is about a teenager that hangs out with his friends, has a crush on someone, and rehearses for the school musical. But it is also a deeply emotional book about a teenage boy and his struggle to remain himself without being stereotyped as the gay guy or having it be his whole identity. The story follows Simon throughout his year of coming out and finding love. It's two things he wasn't really planning on doing anytime soon. Through a post on the school Tumblr page, Simon finds this guy who goes by the pseudonym, Blue, who happens to be gay and not out like him. They start to talk via email without having any idea about the other person's identity. They start to grow closer and start sharing details of their lives that they haven't shared with anyone else. They're so adorable and they have such sweet and hilarious conversations that I couldn't help but grin like a madman the whole time I was reading. Simon was such a lovable guy and so insightful already at his age about what he wanted and how he felt about himself. He was confident and comfortable in his own skin most of the time. Of course, he had low and high points throughout the book but how everything felt real. I can't stress enough about how well-written this book was. He also had some amazing friends and family surrounding him. Simon's family was everything! I loved their interactions with each other. One of the things I loved about this book was how positive and supportive both Simon and Blue's families were. The Spiers have totally made my list of favorite fictional families. I about died laughing when they were doing the Facebook Scavenger Hunt. I also loved Simon's friend group. It was large and diverse and wasn't the same old cliche we see in some YA books. Each character was well fleshed out and had their own diverse personalities. It was so refreshing not to see the same old nerd vs jock storyline we see all the time. I loved seeing the anime kids, theater geeks, cheerleaders, and soccer players sitting at one table and being friends. It was more reminiscent of how my high school was than any other YA I've read in recent years. Since most of the characters are high school age, there was some drama and a few fights but everything was worked out in the end. I seriously loved

the romance in this book! Watching Simon and Blue fall in love via email was absolutely adorable! I kept trying to figure out who Blue was the whole time and I was right! From the first line, they interacted I hoped he would be Blue and I was so glad when he actually was because I didn't want it to be anyone else. I kind of squealed when his identity was revealed and my ship was confirmed! I came out of this reading experience with a new favorite book, a go-to Pride rec, and a persistent craving for an Oreo milkshake that did not go away until I finally got one. PSA: You'll want to have Oreos or Reese's handy while reading this because Simon's sweet tooth will get you craving all the things. I really can't recommend this book enough. I've already started buying copies to give to friends so they can read it before the movie (which I am 100% here for!) comes out. I loved this book so much! I can't wait to read the other book Becky Albertalli has written. She has become one of my auto-buy authors after just one book.

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli This was a fun and quick read but just not all that surprising. Not that that's a bad thing but it was pretty easy to see all of the twists and turns before they happened. It did have a great coming out narrative, really lets you see all the ups and downs and feelings involved. I guessed who Blue was long before Simon did. That whole revelation though was pretty cute. I think I would have liked the story more if it had started earlier like right when Simon started emailing Blue. I liked all of the characters but do wish that the story included more about them all. Overall a pretty good story that could have done with more time to breathe and flesh out all of the characters.

This was very cute and fun to read. It felt a little brisk at first, with everything coming at you at once and in strange, curt ways, but eventually the story just pulled me right in and I couldn't stop reading it. Simon is an excellent narrator, with his ability to be both observant about some things and oblivious about others, just like most normal human teenagers do. He isn't perfect, and can be a bit obtuse about some things (like thinking that all Jews come from Israel and how he knowingly excludes Leah from things), but for me that makes him more realistic because no one is perfect in reality. I did also feel he was a little lacking in response to certain things that happened, like it was happening to someone else and not him. I just felt no emotional response that I would expect, but that might have just been Simon I guess. The other characters in the book are just as thorough in their humanness, although some of them feel like they are just there rather than full-on characters at times (specifically Nick and Abby did not feel very present is the best way I can say it). Leah especially showed a lot of depth, I

thought, despite the fact that I didn't always enjoy her character (but that's probably because I could see a lot of my own sarcastic self in her and no one likes their own worst traits). As for the plot, it was simple and straight-forward, but filled with so many little fun or cute moments and characters that really brought the story to life. *The Upside of Unrequited* was actually the first book I read by Becky Albertalli, and I must say has an excellent way of pulling her readers in and telling a story that they can easily relate to, but is also unique in and of itself.

*Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* covers a sensitive topic and reminds you of all the reasons why you fell in love with reading. Becky Albertalli's witty and cute main character Simon takes you into his world as he tries to understand his feelings while dealing with typical sixteen-year old high school life. This book was funny, witty, and absolutely beautiful as Simon slowly falls in love. I love Simon Spier with every fiber of my being. I enjoyed being inside his head and hearing his thoughts, but not only that, I loved his growing affection and clever emails exchanged with his friend Blue. The emails sent back and forth were some of the best parts of this book. It was sooo beautiful to watch, kinda, at least in my head. This book was not just about a gay teenager battling with his sexuality. I liked that Simon was very comfortable about who he was and never tried to deny it to himself or others. He is so brave throughout this book while he tried to be a good friend, was being blackmailed, and was hopelessly crushing on a boy he never met or knew his identity. The best part was how his anonymous friendship with Blue progressed into something more. It was so friggin adorable. I cannot express enough how much I loved this book. I seriously never wanted it to end. Then, after I finished it, I wanted to read it all over again. So yes this book deserved all five stars and more.

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