



Title: Exit, Pursued by a Bear

Author: E. K. Johnston

Imprint: Penguin Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: May 2, 2017

ISBN: 9781101994603

Format: Paperback

Age Range*: 14 and up

Grade Range: Gr 9 Up

BOOK RESUME: EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From #1 New York Times bestselling author E.K. Johnston comes a brave and unforgettable story that will inspire readers to rethink how we treat survivors.

Hermione Winters is captain of her cheerleading team, and in tiny Palermo Heights, this doesn't mean what you think it means. At PHHS, the cheerleaders don't cheer for the sports teams; they are the sports team—the pride and joy of a small town. The team's summer training camp is Hermione's last and marks the beginning of the end of...she's not sure what. She does know this season could make her a legend. But during a camp party, someone slips something in her drink. And it all goes black.

In every class, there's a star cheerleader and a pariah pregnant girl. They're never supposed to be the same person. Hermione struggles to regain the control she's always had and faces a wrenching decision about how to move on. The rape wasn't the beginning of Hermione Winter's story and she's not going to let it be the end. She won't be anyone's cautionary tale.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★"Johnston's clever—but never precious—update of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* is unflinching but not at all graphic in its treatment of sexual violence.... Middle and high school readers will pass this powerful, engaging story around and around." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★"Fierce and gorgeously drawn, this is a rape story that doesn't focus on victimhood." —*Booklist*, starred review

★"A beautifully written portrait of a young woman facing the unthinkable, this is a must-buy for high school collections." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

★"While Hermione is a victim, Johnson never portrays her as victimized, instead focusing on how Hermione reasserts control over her life with help from family, friends, and therapy, using her own decisions to push back against something in which she had no such choice." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★"The reader is kept engaged, and – like Hermione – hopeful, even in the darkest moments. [...] *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* is a story of triumph, not just survival." —*Quill & Quire*, starred review

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

★"Johnston creates a strong female main character that will not be afraid, and refuses to be a cautionary tale or a pariah."—*SLC*, starred review

"...nothing short of epic." —*The Horn Book*

"This story of a cheerleader rising up after a traumatic event will give you *Veronica Mars*-level feels that will stay with you long after you finish."
—*Seventeen Magazine*

"E.K. Johnston's latest gripping novel for young adults . . . is both a well-plotted whodunit and a tightly woven examination of how we as a society respond to — and often judge — rape victims." —*The Chicago Tribune*

"Unflinching and powerful, and completely necessary" —*Bustle*

"A powerful rape survival story to make you believe in a better world."
—*The Rumpus*

"While assault survivors, both in fact and in fiction, often find their lives narrowed to this one designation, Johnston refuses to flatten her heroine. Instead, she insists that Hermione's joy in being thrown into the air during cheer routines, and the strength of her best friendship with co-captain Polly are just as vital to our understanding of her as the facts of her assault." — Margaret H. Willison, NPR book critic

"A raw, powerful story that'll stay with you long after it's over." —*Buzzfeed*

"E.K. Johnston has a seemingly limitless range. This is realistic fiction at its best."
— *The Globe & Mail*

"Every girl who has ever been sexually assaulted or known someone who has, should read this book. So should every boy who has ever raped or known one who has. Every reader might try to be a friend like Polly. E.K. Johnston writes so well, showing a dark reality highlighted by compassion." —*The News-Gazette*

"*Exit, Pursued by a Bear* is an important new novel comparable with *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson." —*VOYA*

"Should a young reader ever need guidance following an assault, she could do much worse than to emulate Hermione Winters." — *Bookpage*, Top Pick

"Crisp, engaging writing, strong characterization and a steady hand distinguish this thought-provoking novel about coping and community." —*Shelf Awareness*

"Soberly triumphant." —*Toronto Star*

"This is a vital book about the importance of creating a strong system of support for victims of assault." —*Bookish*

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AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- An NPR Best Book of the Year
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year
- A *Booklist* Best Book of the Year
- A New York Public Library 2016 Top Ten Book for Teens
- A Chicago Public Library Best Teen Fiction of 2016
- A *Globe & Mail* Best Book of 2016
- A CBC Best Book of 2016
- A *Quill & Quire* Best Book of 2016
- A Bustle Top 30 YA Book of 2016
- A Bookish Best Book of 2016
- A Nerdy Book Club Best YA of 2016
- A Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year
- An Ontario Library Association White Pine Honor Book
- A Top Ten YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- Winner of the Canadian Children's Book Centre's Amy Mathers Teen Book Award
- A Rise: A Feminist Book Project Top Ten selection
- Junior Library Guild Young Adult Selection
- A Pacific Northwest Library Association Young Reader's Choice Award selection
- A White Pine Award
- An Illinois Abraham Lincoln High School Award selection
- A Michigan Great Lakes Great Books Award selection
- A Mississippi Magnolia Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award selection
- A Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award selection
- A Rhode Island Teen Book Award selection
- A Texas Tayshas Reading List selection
- A Wisconsin Battle of the Books selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [Teen Librarian Toolbox Author Interview](#)
- [CBC Author Interview](#)

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