



Title: Kiss & Tell
Author: Adib Khorram
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Grade Range: Gr 9 up

BOOK RESUME: KISS & TELL

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Hunter never expected to be a boy band star, but, well, here he is. He and his band Kiss & Tell are on their first major tour of North America, playing arenas all over the United States and Canada (and getting covered by the gossipy press all over North America as well). Hunter is the only gay member of the band, and he just had a very painful breakup with his first boyfriend—leaked sexts, public heartbreak, and all—and now everyone expects him to play the perfect queer role model for teens.

But Hunter isn't really sure what being the perfect queer kid even means. Does it mean dressing up in whatever The Label tells him to wear for photo shoots and pretending never to have sex? (Unfortunately, yes.) Does it mean finding community among the queer kids at the meet-and-greets after K&T's shows? (Fortunately, yes.) Does it include a new relationship with Kaivan, the drummer for the band opening for K&T on tour? (He hopes so.) But when The Label finds out about Hunter and Kaivan, it spells trouble—for their relationship, for the perfect gay boy Hunter plays for the cameras, and, most importantly, for Hunter himself.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Khorram does a terrific job of taking readers inside the world of pop music, especially showing the stress involved in celebrity...[he] handles these dramatic complexities like a master, and readers will be grateful for his skill."
—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "This is a love letter to boy bands...[Adib Khorram] effectively encapsulates the ecosystem of celebrity and fandom—and cultivates a strong, contemporary social message...An absolute bop; Khorram's best yet."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Khorram deftly makes the story work, calling on readers to empathize with Hunter's pride and embarrassment, questions about how he should look and be, and maybe even his belated realization that the band's other members also receive public scrutiny" —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- An ALA Rainbow Booklist selection
- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection
- A Booklist Editor's Choice selection
- A Kirkus Reviews Best Book selection
- A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)

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