

# Book Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction

## Here's to Us

By Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera.



Dec. 2021. 480p.  
HarperCollins/Quill Tree, \$19.99  
(9780063071636). Grades 9-12.  
[REVIEW](#). First published  
December 1, 2021 (*Booklist*).

Ben Alejo and Arthur Seuss are back in this sequel to *What If It's Us* (2018), picking up two years later when both are in college and comfortable being out. Ben is in an undefined relationship

with Mario Colón, a creative-writing classmate who helps Ben embrace his Puerto Rican heritage. Arthur is in a sweet relationship with classmate Mikey McCowan, who is returning to Manhattan to intern off-Broadway with a well-known LGBTQ playwright-director. New York City may be a big place, but it's a small world in which the two exes cross each other's paths courtesy of old friends Jesse, Dylan, and Samantha. Every chapter ups the stakes for a happily-ever-after ending, but which couple or couples will be triumphant? Coauthors Albertalli and Silvera carefully present the boys' lives, allowing them to mature through successes and failures, pursue their creative passions, and make their own decisions while flanked by old friends and supportive parents. Ben's and Arthur's conflicted feelings while apart and together are front and center. All characters retain their unique voices and personalities, even though they've aged; they are the people readers expect them to be as they navigate coming into their own. The story works as a stand-alone, but purists will insist readers start with book one to experience maximum Ben and Arthur.

**High-Demand Backstory:** The return of this authorial dream team comes with an automatic patron waiting list, so stock up.

— Jeanne Fredriksen



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## Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *Here's to Us*

- *Openly Straight*
- *Fifteen Hundred Miles from the Sun*
- *As Far as You'll Take Me*
- *Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World*