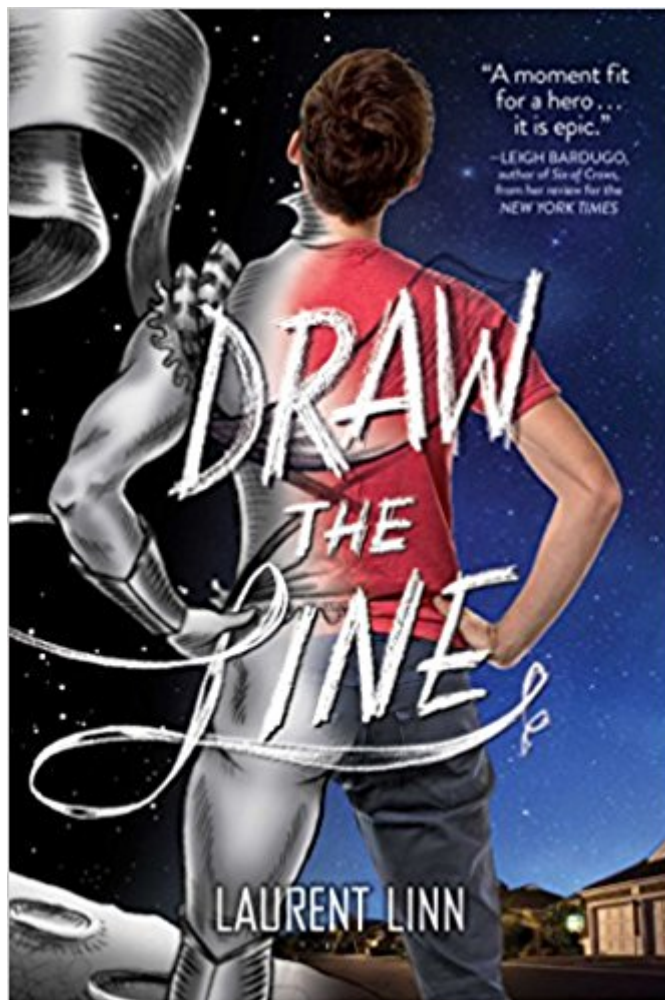


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# Draw The Line



## Synopsis

After a hate crime occurs in his small Texas town, Adrian Piper must discover his own power, decide how to use it, and know where to draw the line in this “powerful debut” novel (Publishers Weekly, starred review) exquisitely illustrated by the author. Adrian Piper is used to blending into the background. He may be a talented artist, a sci-fi geek, and gay, but at his Texas high school those traits would only bring him the worst kind of attention. In fact, the only place he feels free to express himself is at his drawing table, crafting a secret world through his own Renaissance-art-inspired superhero, Graphite. But in real life, when a shocking hate crime flips his world upside down, Adrian must decide what kind of person he wants to be. Maybe it’s time to not be so invisible after all—no matter how dangerous the risk.

## Book Information

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books; Reprint edition (May 16, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481452819

ISBN-13: 978-1481452816

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #537,296 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Art & Architecture #128 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up &

Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #355 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Social & Family Issues > Violence

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Gay, geeky, artistic: all traits that Adrian feels he has to hide to make it through the day in his Texas high school. His sanctuary is his graphic novel, published anonymously online, which he hasn’t even shared fully with his closest friends. When he steps up to aid a boy who can’t help but attract the kind of attention Adrian is trying so hard to avoid, all his secrets start coming out.

Enlivened with expressive art, this debut novel beautifully captures the voice of a teen walking the line of being out to his friends but not anyone else. Adrian is intensely likable, and the exploration of

the "gay but not that kind of gay" place many people inhabit respects the reasoning and punctures the internalized homophobia in naturalistic, nonpreachy ways. The swoony romance is a delightful lightener of the story. There is also a nuanced dive into the complexities of being honest online. How Adrian speaks his truth affects the people he depicts, a consideration that we all must make in the confessional digital age. Unfortunately, while Adrian and his white male classmates are quite richly drawn (even the bullies), his friend Audrey is painted in broad sassy-black-sidekick strokes. VERDICT A welcome addition to collections depicting LGBTQ youth, but not an essential text.-L. Lee & Butler, Hart Middle School, Washington, DC (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Draw the Line is a mind-blowing riot of a good time. A perfect book for fans of 21st century sci-fi and superheroes that needs to be a movie right now!" (Jonathan Maberry, Multiple Bram Stoker Award Winner and New York Times bestselling author of Rot & Ruin)\* "A powerful debut . . . A diverse cast and an emotionally rich plot make this a gripping journey of self-discovery, romance, art making, and justice." (Publishers Weekly, starred review)\* "A diverse landscape . . . is robust rather than a flat reaction to pleas for diversity. A definite draw for comic-book fans, it will resonate with anyone struggling with a concealed or revealed identity. . . . Bravo." (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) "Enlivened with expressive art, this debut novel beautifully captures the voice of a teen." (School Library Journal) "Laurent Linn had me at gay superhero and kept me glued to the page with his thoughtful storytelling and genre-defying art. It's not a graphic novel. It's not a novel-novel. It's Draw the Line, and it's unmissable." (Tim Federle, author of The Great American Whatever) "This groundbreaking book will make the world a better place for all readers. It is a magnificent work of art!" (Laurie Halse Anderson, New York Times bestselling author of Chains, Speak, and Wintergirls) "A story of love triumphing over hate and art defeating bigotry. Like Becky Albertalli's Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda and Tim Federle's The Great American Whatever, this book compellingly explores the thrills of first relationships and the complexities of life as a not-quite-out gay teen." (Horn Book Magazine)\* "Laurent Linn's debut YA novel combines graphic novel and prose formats for a funny, sexy and moving experience." (Shelf Awareness, starred review) "This novel is at times both laugh-out-loud funny and very touching. LGBT readers will find affirmation and support here. Other readers

will find a good story, relatable characters, and insight into the trials and tribulations of LGBT students." (School Library Connection)

I loved this story and, especially, the artwork that goes along with it. The art is really (really!) well done, but more importantly it propels the story forward very authentically -- I can't imagine the story without it. I liked that there was very little teen angst going on in the story; that wears thin on me quickly. There's drama, sure, but no angst. The plot was a little predictable in some spots, but not horribly so. The characters and events were believable, very real (e.g. nobody was impossibly perfect). As a fellow non-conforming-to-stereotypes former gay teen (as in I'm no longer a teen, not that I'm no longer gay), I could completely relate to the main character, including the running inner dialogue, which was crazily accurate from my memories of that time. The interchanges between the friends felt very real, and the nascent interactions between the main character and a possible love interest were both awkward and adorable at the same time. In short: a great YA LGBTQ story, highly recommended. Slight spoiler here ----->The love story aspect was well done and the delicate parts of being an adolescent teen boy were handled appropriately. Where the two met was also handled well, though it was, perhaps, a little gratuitous/unnecessary. My only complaint, really, and a very minor one.

Draw the Line is a story of coming out, standing up, growing courage, and using art, not war, as a strategy. Laurent Linn's characters come to life, especially our protagonist, Adrian Piper. Adrian faces pressure on many fronts, and, like many high-school kids, has to weigh his friends' advice against his own instincts. Author Laurent Linn creates two worlds in this wonderful debut novel: a big suburban Texas high school, fraught with all the social complexities of high schools anywhere, and the secret graphic novel world of Graphite, Adrian's alter-ego superhero. Many pages of Adrian's art bring an extra dimension to the reading experience. When worlds collide is when the fun begins!

Draw The Line is perfect. It really is. It is an amazingly well-conceived and well-written LGBT YA book. The story handles all kinds of issues - from coming out to coming of age to gay bashing to abuse - in delicate and real fashion. If I knew of a troubled gay teen, I'd hand him or her this book. And if I knew a fan of gay coming-of-age fiction, I'd strongly recommend this book. Many kudos to the author!

The story is ultimately predictable-gay teen coming of age and into his own. However the engaging characters compensate and there is a lot of nuance and layers to them that come through slowly and you would expect from a first person narrative

Loved it!

Laurent Linn can now add writing novels to his list of many talents.

Solid stuff and beautiful prose!

My daughter (13) really liked the book and made me read it too. I like the subjects (bullying, being gay, being different) but it is quite predictable. It almost seems like the author wanted to incorporate every touchy subject and on all occasions there is a happy ending. The drawings are nice but nothing exceptional and the writing itself is just okay. Nothing I would put on a literacy list for school, but good for reading on the side.

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