

Red, White, & Royal Blue

By Author, Casey McQuiston

Reviewed by: Lily, 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Alex Claremont-Diaz, the 21-year-old son of the first female president of the United States, absolutely cannot stand the Henry, the Prince of Wales. When word gets out about an altercation between the boys at the royal wedding, the two are forced into posing as best friends in order to clear the political tension. Although this friendship starts as a sham, it evolves into something real. Constantly texting and calling, they grow to be very close friends, until it becomes apparent that it is something way more than that. Pursuing a relationship together, Alex and Henry must keep it a secret for Alex's mom is running her reelection campaign in a tight-knit race, and the Royal Family won't exactly be accepting. Despite this, their love proves to trump all else.

Casey McQuiston's debut novel was truly exceptional. The enemies-to-lovers romance between the two leads is beyond captivating, and seeing it grow stronger on every page is beautiful. This book contains a mixture of humor, love, and serious moments that make the reader feel deeply invested in the story. There is a lot of discussion about the politics and history of both countries, yet it is written in a way that even if these aren't your particular interests, you can still find yourself enjoying every last word. It serves as a great piece of LGBT+ representation in literature, as it revolves around a romance between Alex, a bisexual, and Henry, who is gay. It deals with themes of self-acceptance and living a life that is true to you, instead of by living for what's expected of you.

I would recommend *Red, White, & Royal Blue* for anyone ages 15 and up. This is on account of some minor swearing and some slightly graphic scenes between the two boys. Due to these scenes, I say it is best that only high schoolers and up read this book. Anyone who is in this age range and enjoys a terrific, well-written enemies-to-lovers romance will absolutely love *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, and I couldn't praise it any higher.

Recommend Titles:

Tweet Cute by Emma Lord

American Royals by Katharine McGee

Boyfriend Material by Alexis Hall