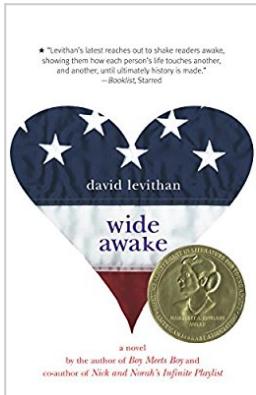


Wide Awake



By David Levithan

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An emotional and politically charged novel that's a must-read for turbulent times when the very democratic process itself is called into question and basic rights are at risk.

In the not-too-impossible-to-imagine future, a gay Jewish man has been elected president of the United States. Until the governor of one state decides that some election results in his state are invalid, awarding crucial votes to the other candidate, and his fellow party member. Thus is the inspiration for couple Jimmy and Duncan to lend their support to their candidate by deciding to take part in the rallies and protests. Along the way comes an exploration of their relationship, their politics, and their country, and sometimes, as they learn, it's more about the journey than it is about reaching the destination.

Only David Levithan could so masterfully and creatively weave together a plot that's both parts political action and reaction, as well as a touching and insightfully-drawn teen love story.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—In this novel set in the near future, The Decents, who use God and family values to spread hate, are in the minority. The real Jesus freaks, who feel He would have loved everybody regardless of race, religion, or sexual orientation, have prevailed. Gay, Jewish Duncan Weiss, 17, is elated when gay, Jewish Abe Stein is elected President of the United States. Then the governor of Kansas calls the election into question. The teen and a busload of his friends travel to Topeka to join millions in protest. Duncans arc from well-meaning bystander to political participant stands as allegory to the uselessness of empathy without action. Levithans dialogue is as natural and evocative as ever, and elegant, persuasive political speeches help sustain the wondrous mood. Duncans friend Gus, a campy man-slut who ends each sentence with la, provides much-needed comic relief. The members of The God Squad, Janna and Mandy, are equally natural and believable. Oddly, though, the romances lack juice. Duncans earnest narrative will engage any teen who has felt powerless, but his militant boyfriend, Jimmy, is just too flat to care about. Keisha, Mira, and Sara, a love triangle of indistinguishable lesbians, speak of pain that readers never feel. The story still moves briskly, by force of the uncertain outcome more than by involvement with the characters. However, in conjuring a world where every vote actually counts, *Wide Awake* stands with Levithans extraordinary *Boy Meets Boy* (Knopf, 2003) in sheer creativity of plot, setting, and message.—*Johanna Lewis, New York Public Library*
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From Booklist

In *Boy Meets Boy* (2003), Levithan created a town where being gay is no big thing. In his latest, he imagines a future America--after the Reign of Fear, after the Greater Depression, the War to End All Wars, the Jesus Revolution, and the Prada Riots. Living in this not quite but almost believable America are Duncan and his boyfriend, Jimmy, who start out the book rejoicing that Abe Stein, both gay and Jewish, has been elected president. Unsurprisingly, however, the governor of Kansas demands a recount, causing both Stein supporters and Stein haters to travel en masse to Kansas. Into this politically charged atmosphere go Duncan and Jimmy, who experience what proves to be a life-changing journey for them and their country. Levithan is best when he's focused on the two nuanced teenagers. Duncan's first-person narration--vulnerable, insecure, caring--absolutely sings, and his relationship with the outspoken Jimmy has all the awkwardness and intensity of first love. Clearly responding to current politics, Levithan's vision of the future occasionally dips into heavy-handed moralizing, but politics are so well integrated and thought-provoking that those moments are forgivable. As much about love as about politics, Levithan's latest reaches out to shake readers awake, showing them how each person's life touches another, and another, until ultimately history is made.

Krista Hutley

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Review

“Levithan’s latest reaches out to shake readers awake, showing them how each person’s life touches another, and another, until ultimately history is made.”—*Booklist*, Starred

“In conjuring a world where every vote actually counts, *Wide Awake* stands with Levithan’s extraordinary *Boy Meets Boy* in sheer creativity of plot, setting, and message.”—*School Library Journal*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pamela Garcia:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important usually. The book *Wide Awake* ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book *Wide Awake* is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with all the book *Wide Awake*. You never feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Juanita Bey:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book *Wide Awake* it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

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