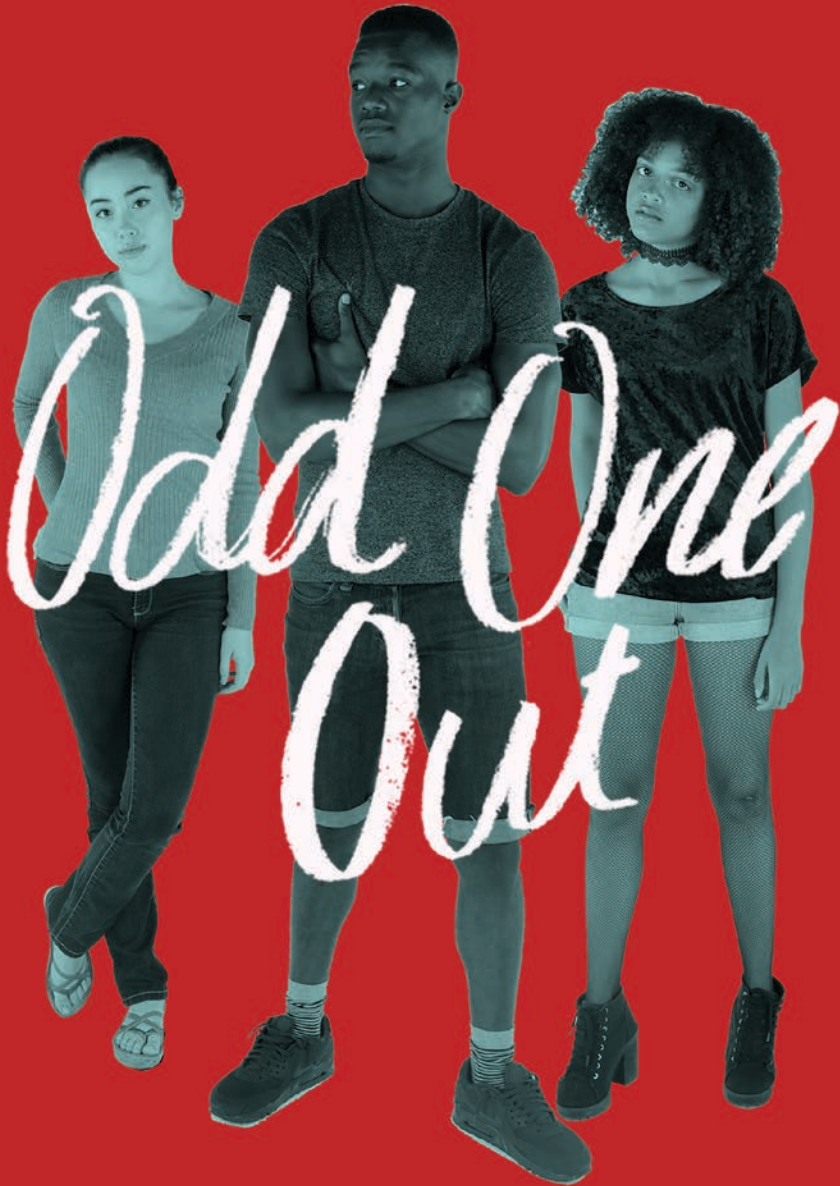


“Radiant masterpiece!” –Adam Silvera,
New York Times bestselling author of *They Both Die at the End*



NIC STONE

AUTHOR OF *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER *DEAR MARTIN*

DISCUSSION GUIDE

RHTEACHERSLIBRARIANS.COM

[@RHCBEDUCATORS](https://twitter.com/RHCBEDUCATORS)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Each question invites readers to discuss, respond, or reflect, and may be answered orally or artistically. The readers may also respond in writing in their journals.

BOOK ONE: THE GAME PLAN

This book is told from Cooper's perspective.

- Describe Coop and Jupiter. How would you characterize them?
- Describe the relationship between Coop and Jupe. How does their relationship affect Coop's girlfriends?
- When Golly and Britain are talking in the locker room, are they objectifying women? How is Coop's perspective different from the others? Why? (pp. 16-17)
- What is the "game plan" that Coop, Golly, and Britain create?
- Coop is introduced to Rae when she comes over for dinner. Who is Rae? What is his initial impression of her?
- Describe the dinner with Coop and his mother, Jupe and her family, and Rae and her father. What is the dynamic like? (pp. 38-46)
- Why is it significant that all of Jupiter's charms are on her bracelet? What do they represent? (p. 47)
- Jupe declares, "I just feel like I need to acknowledge—out loud—that you mean everything to me, Coop." Why? (p. 57)
- Rae lifts a photo of Coop, his mother, and Carousel Carl. Coop has a flashback to the moment from the picture. What is the memory, and why is it significant for both Coop and Rae? (p. 67)
- Why is the "Game Plan" back on when Coop goes to Rae's house late at night? (p. 102)
- Based on what you know from Book One, create character sketches of Coop, Jupiter, and Rae.
- Look back at the play drawn on the introductory page of Book One. What does the illustration represent? How does it connect to what happened in Book One?

BOOK TWO: A SESQUIPEDALIAN SEARCH FOR A SIMPLIFIED-SCIENCE SAVANT

This book is told from Rae's perspective.

- All of the words in the crossword puzzle are chapter titles in Book Two. What do you predict will happen in this chapter based on the crossword puzzle?
- Jupiter tells Rae that she "makes [her] feel less singular." (p. 113) Reflect on this in relation to your own life. Do you have friends who make you feel like this?
- Courtney and Rae seek to find out what happened to Carousel Carl. Rae begins to think about her feelings for Jupiter and Courtney. How do these questions open up her conversations with Courtney? (pp. 128-131)
- Rae's mom is a *cruciverbalist*. What does this term mean? How does Rae's passion for vocabulary and crosswords bind her to her mother?
- Courtney and Rae find Carousel Carl's old house. What do they find in a room upstairs? (p. 141)
- Britain knows that something is bothering Rae. How does he know? What is Rae's tell?
- Describe the relationship between Bess and Rae. How did Bess's leaving impact Rae? (p. 145)
- Bess returns to surprise Rae. Describe the reunion. (p. 153)

- Rae confesses to Jupiter that she wants to kiss her. Jupiter does not believe Rae, saying, “I’m not interested in being some straight girl’s experimental dip into forbidden water.” (p. 167) How does this episode change Jupiter and Rae’s relationship?
- How do you feel about Rae’s decision to forcibly kiss Jupiter without consent? (p. 167)
- What is *sexting*? Jupiter gets sexts from Shanna and feels uncomfortable. Discuss Jupiter’s realization that she is being sexually harassed and the double standard she acknowledges when she says, “If she were a guy, I would’ve punched her in the nuts or gone to the authorities by now, but because I’m supposed to be all pro-female-sexual-agency, I can’t bring myself to tell anyone.” (p. 177) Does this double standard exist? Can you think of any others? What could Jupiter and her friends do to try to get Shanna to stop her inappropriate behavior? How can we ensure that our advances are wanted?
- Predict what you think Jupiter was going to tell Rae at the end of Book Two. Do you think Rae interrupted Jupiter’s plan when she confessed her feelings for Courtney? (pp. 192–194)
- What does Jupiter want to give Coop on his eighteenth birthday? What reason does she give? What is the real reason? (pp. 213–217)
- Jupiter and Coop profess their love for each other. How do you think this revelation will affect their relationship? How do you think it will affect their friendships with Rae? (pp. 228–229)
- Rae calls Coop and asks him out. Coop rushes to discuss this predicament with Jupiter. An argument ensues. What is the argument about? What happens as a result?
- Discuss Coop’s declaration to Jupiter: “You’re sacrificing us for your stupid label.” (p. 241)
- After spending the night with Breanna, Jupiter begins to question her sexual identity. She wonders aloud, “I don’t even know what to call myself now. . . . Can’t I just like who I like? Why is this so complicated, you guys?” (pp. 265–266) Why do you think Jupiter feels like she needs to know what to call herself? Are labels important? Use examples from the text to support your response.
- Who is Toby Faletti? In what ways does he connect to Jupiter’s story?

BOOK THREE: ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

This book is told from Jupiter’s perspective.

- “Jupe’s Jams” introduces Book Three. What do you think Book Three is about? Where do you predict the story will go from here?
- Why does Jupiter connect to Freddie Mercury and his lyrics?
- What did Jupiter want to tell Rae? What warning did Breanna give to Jupiter? How does Jupiter feel? (pp. 197–199)
- Describe the plan that Jupiter makes. Why does she turn to Golly and Britain for help?
- At Iridis, the school’s Gay-Straight Alliance meeting, Jupiter shares some news about herself. How do Coop, Rae, and her other classmates react? (pp. 288–290) Do you think sexuality is a spectrum? Why or why not?
- Rae, Coop, and Jupiter’s friendship has evolved throughout Book Three. Describe this evolution.

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- What is an overarching theme of this book? Explain your rationale.
- *Odd One Out* contains episodes of sexual aggression. For example, Rae kisses Jupiter without permission, and Shanna harasses Jupiter. Discuss these moments. Why is it important to highlight and talk about these events? Are there conversations about this happening in society at large? Do you think these conversations are effective? Why or why not?
- Each book within *Odd One Out* has a different narrator. Discuss why you think the author chose to structure the novel this way. How does the first-person narration help to shape the narrative?
- Rudine Sims Bishop stated, “Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation.” How does reading *Odd One Out* reflect your experience or the experience of someone you know? Why is it important to see ourselves reflected in what we read?
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of *Purple Hibiscus*, reminds readers of the danger of the single story, one where we reduce people to labels and ignore other aspects of their characters. When we do this, she warns, we deny the universality of the human experience. Watch her TED Talk, entitled “The Danger of the Single Story.” Reflect on how *Odd One Out* is multilayered and not a single story.
- Read the Author’s Note to gain insight into what inspired Nic Stone to write this book. Also read the profile of musical artist Janelle Monáe from *Rolling Stone*: rollingstone.com/music/features/cover-story-janelle-monae-prince-new-lp-her-sexuality-w519523. Reflect on Stone’s and Monáe’s life experiences.

LGBTQ INTERNET RESOURCES

LGBTQIA+ RESOURCE CENTER OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS
lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu/educated/glossary.html

IT GETS BETTER itgetsbetter.org

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION LGBT YOUTH RESOURCES
cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm

COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN THIS GUIDE

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR READING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR WRITING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.4

LOVE ISN'T ALWAYS STRAIGHTFORWARD.

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dear Martin* comes this illuminating exploration of old friendships, new crushes, and the path to self-discovery. Told in three voices, Nic Stone's new book is sure to please fans of Becky Albertalli, Nicola Yoon, and Jason Reynolds.

COURTNEY "COOP" COOPER

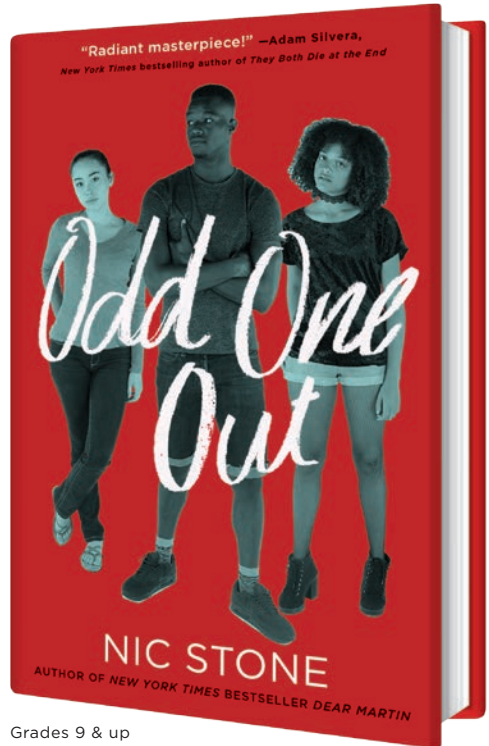
Dumped. Again. And normally I wouldn't mind. But right now, my best friend and source of solace, Jupiter Charity-Sanchez, is ignoring me to text some *girl*.

RAE EVELYN CHIN

I assumed "new girl" would be synonymous with "pariah," but Jupiter and Courtney make me feel like I'm right where I belong. I also want to kiss him. And her. Which is . . . perplexing.

JUPITER CHARITY-SANCHEZ

The only thing worse than losing the girl you love to a boy is losing her to your boy. That means losing him, too. I have to make a move. . . .



Grades 9 & up

Lexile: HL780L

HC: 978-1-101-93953-6

GLB: 978-1-101-93954-3

EL: 978-1-101-93955-0

CD: 978-0-525-63605-2

ONE STORY. THREE SIDES. NO EASY ANSWERS.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- Think of a significant moment in your life. What soundtrack would you put to it? Explain your song selections. Create an album cover for this soundtrack.
- Describe your closest set of friends or family. Create a crossword puzzle about them. (Note: there are many free programs online.)

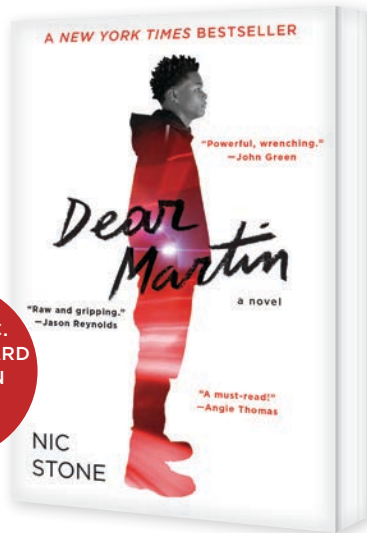
ABOUT THE AUTHOR



NICEL LIVINGSTONE

Atlanta native Nic Stone is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Dear Martin*, which *Booklist* called “vivid and powerful.” *Odd One Out* is Nic’s second novel and the book she wishes she’d had back when she was trying to figure out who it’s okay to love.

You can find Nic fangirling over her husband and sons on Twitter and Instagram at @getnicced or on her website, nicstone.info.



WILLIAM C.
MORRIS AWARD
& WALDEN
AWARD
FINALIST!

Grades 9 & up · Lexile: HL720L
PB: 978-1-101-93952-9
HC: 978-1-101-93949-9
GLB: 978-1-101-93950-5
EL: 978-1-101-93951-2
CD: 978-1-5247-8234-4

★ “Stone’s debut confronts the reality of police brutality, misconduct, and fatal shootings in the U.S., using an authentic voice to accurately portray the struggle of self-exploration teens like Justyce experience every day. Teens, librarians, and teachers alike will find this book **A GODSEND IN ASSISTING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DEALING WITH POLICE**, as well as the philosophical underpinnings of King’s work. **VIVID AND POWERFUL.**” —*Booklist*, Starred Review