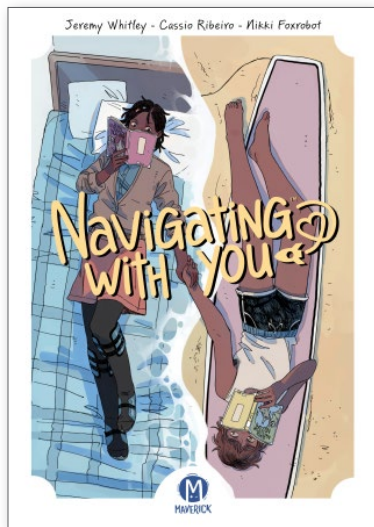


READER'S GUIDE

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Navigating With You (Maverick / Mad Cave)



Navigating With You is a nuanced story-within-a-story featuring diverse and layered characters whose depth and relatable experiences offer many angles for discussion.

CREATORS: Jeremy Whitley and Cassio Ribeiro

ABOUT: 2025 ALA Rainbow Round Table Stonewall Honor Books in Children's and Young Adult Literature. Neesha Sparks is a disabled, vocal community activist with a passion for costume design. Gabby Graciana is an optimistic surfer - and, like Neesha, a new kid at school. When the two girls discover that they like the same manga series, *Navigator Nozomi*, they become more than just fellow new kids. But it was more than just having read the same book series—neither of them had finished it! Soon, they become new friends on a mission - to track down the remaining *Navigator Nozomi* books.

“

“While this story-within-a-story pivots to sci-fi, it is replete with parallels to the girls’ own story. Through their authentic discussions about manga and their pasts, their budding feelings grow for each other as they confront their insecurities... This healing slice-of-life graphic novel lights a bright path for LGBTQIA+ romance plots by including characters with intersectional experiences. A must-have for all collections.” —School Library Journal, 2024

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are your initial impressions of Neesha and Gabby? How did your perception of each character change over the course of the story?
2. Both Neesha and Gabby are going through tremendous life changes and have experienced huge, recent losses (divorce, moving, death of a parent). How does each approach these changes? How would you have handled similar situations?
3. What were your thoughts on *Navigator Nozomi*, the manga within the story? In what ways did it add or distract from the overall plot?
4. Despite the girls becoming fast friends, it takes a long time for trust to be built. Did the way their relationship develop feel authentic to you? Give some examples from the book that support your thoughts.
5. Compare Ribeiro’s style for the main story with that in *Navigator Nozomi*: Do they feel like they were done by the same artist? Are the *Navigator Nozomi* illustrations similar to other manga you’ve read?

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