



Talk

By Kathe Koja



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Talk By Kathe Koja

A powerful drama about self-acceptance

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Kit Webster is hiding a secret. Carma, his best friend, has already figured it out, and pushes him to audition for the high school play, *Talk*. When he's cast as the male lead, he expects to escape his own life for a while and become a different person. What he gets instead is the role of a lifetime: Kit Webster. In the play, Kit's thrown together with Lindsay Walsh, the female lead and the school's teen queen. Lindsay, tired of the shallow and selfish boys from her usual circle of friends, sees something real in Kit - and wants it. But Kit's attention is focused on Pablo, another boy in school. The play is controversial; the parents put pressure on the school to shut it down. And when Kit and Lindsay rally to save *Talk*, they find themselves deep into a battle for the truth: onstage, and inside themselves.

As in her other books, Ms. Koja's "long stream-of-consciousness sentences with creative (but recognizable) spelling and clever use of italics will enchant readers" (*Booklist*).



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Talk By Kathe Koja Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—Closeted high schooler Kit Webster hopes to take a vacation from reality by accepting one of the leads in a school play called *Talk*. Opposite Kit is popular drama queen Lindsay Walsh, who falls for him while they're onstage and dumps her meathead boyfriend. He blames Kit and homophobic epithets ensue. At the same time, the town turns upside down over the play's strong content, and soon nearly everyone is in an uproar. Told in Kit's and Lindsay's alternating voices, and with portions of the script inserted throughout, this novel breaks no new ground literarily or thematically. Readers will find the uncertain chemistry between the protagonists intriguing, but the vague controversy surrounding the play and free-speech rallies quickly become didactic and tiresome. Koja's stream-of-conscious style enhances the story's sense of realism, but the characterizations seem flat and polarized compared to other straight/gay romantic muddles like Alex Sanchez's *So Hard to Say* (2004) or Ellen Wittlinger's *Hard Love* (1999, both S & S). Still, reluctant readers may be tempted enough by the volume's slim size and simplistic themes to see it through to the end.—*Hillias J. Martin, New York Public Library*

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 8-11. Other people may be surprised when Kit, who has never acted before, wins the lead in the high-school play. But *he* isn't. He knows the truth: he's been acting all his life, pretending to be straight. Things become increasingly complicated for the closeted teen when his difficult costar, Lindsay, falls in love with him, and their play, *Talk*, a hard-hitting drama about political repression, excites controversy and parental attempts at censorship. The action of this ambitious novel moves along briskly when it alternates between Kit and Lindsay's points of view, but it becomes message-driven when pages from the play are periodically included to reinforce the theme: that the self is revealed no matter what. Fortunately, Kit's true self is interesting and sympathetic enough to hold the reader's attention through the occasional didactic patches, and the author's nicely realized denouement is both life- and self-affirming. *Michael Cart*
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Review

"The novel...flows in a poetic stream-of-consciousness style. Kit's own questions of identity and truth lead to a dramatic conclusion - both on and offstage - as he finally discovers who he is." -- Starred, *The Horn Book*

"What Koja, who deftly handles several points of view...does so well is to let the reader clearly see her characters' imperfections, while never losing sight of their essential humanity." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Life - and self-affirming." -- *Booklist*

"A richly satisfying story. Layers of friendships, wounds, yearnings, and secrets are expertly interwoven to create this daring novel. Wholly engaging." -- *VOYA*

"Very interesting." -- A YALSA Teen YA Galley Reader

"It deals with a controversial topic and handles it so well." --A YALSA Teen YA Galley Reader

"It is one of the most interesting books I have ever read." --A YALSA Teen YA Galley Reader

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Harrison:

Book is actually written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can know everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book Talk will make you to become smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think this open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or acceptable book with you?

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Bruno Reed:

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