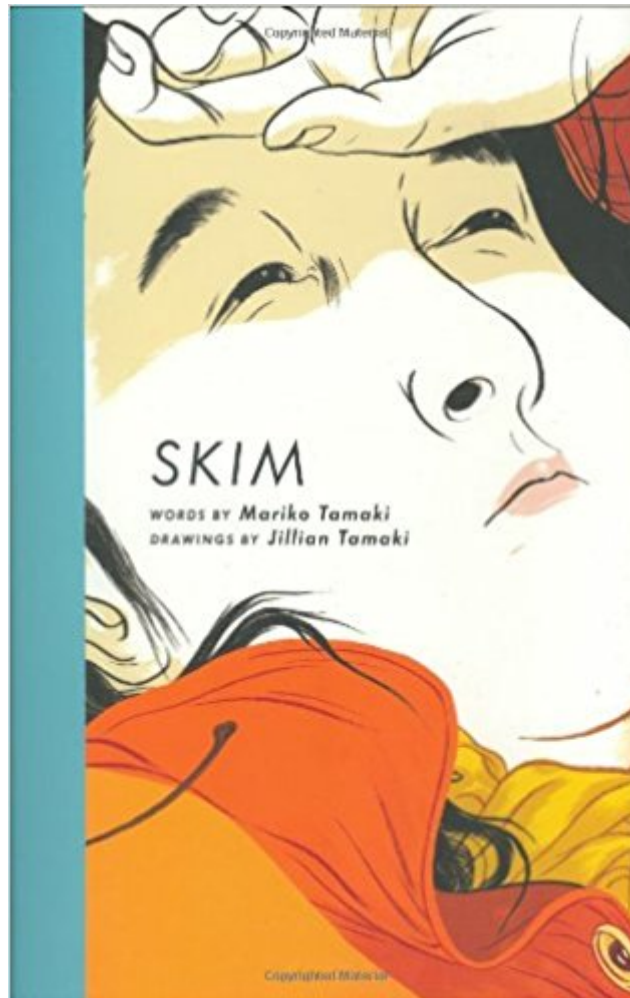




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Skim (NY Times Best Illustrated Children's Books)



Synopsis

The time is the early 1990s, the setting a girls' academy in Toronto. Enter "Skim," aka Kimberly Keiko Cameron, a not-slim, would-be Wiccan goth. When her classmate Katie Matthews is dumped by her boyfriend, who then kills himself, the entire school goes into mourning overdrive. It's a weird time to fall in love, but Skim does just that after secret meetings with her neo-hippie English teacher, Ms. Archer. When Ms. Archer abruptly leaves the school, Skim has to cope with her confusion and isolation, as her best friend, Lisa, tries to pull her into "real" life by setting up a hilarious double date for the school's semi-formal. Skim finds an unexpected ally in Katie. Suicide, depression, love, being gay or not, crushes, cliques of popular, manipulative peers — the whole gamut of tortured teen life is explored in this masterful graphic novel by cousins Mariko and Jillian Tamaki.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This auspicious graphic novel debut by cousins Mariko and Jillian Tamaki tells the story of "Skim," aka Kimberly Keiko Cameron, a goth girl in an all-girls school in Toronto, circa the early '90s. Skim is an articulate, angsty teenager, the classic outsider yearning for some form of acceptance. She begins a fanciful romance with her English teacher, Ms. Archer, while nursing her best friend through a period of mourning. The particulars of the story may not be its strong suit, though. It's Jillian's artwork that sets it apart from the coming-of-age pack. Jillian has a swooping, gorgeous pen line-expressive, vibrant and precise all at once. Her renderings of Skim and her friends, Skim alone

or just the teenage environment in which the story is steeped are evocative and wondrous. Like Craig Thompson's *Blankets*, the inky art lifts the story into a more poetic, elegiac realm. It complements Mariko's fine ear for dialogue and the incidentals and events of adolescent life. *Skim* is an unusually strong graphic novel-rich in visuals and observations, and rewarding of repeated readings. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Grade 10 Up
Kimberly Keiko Cameron aka *Skim* is a mixed-race high school student struggling with identity, friendships, and romantic yearning. After her parents' divorce, she turns to tarot cards and Wicca to make sense of life but finds herself disappointed with the lack of answers they provide. She finds herself increasingly intrigued by Ms. Archer, her free-spirited English teacher. Her interest becomes obsessive and it begins to drive a wedge between her and her best friend, Lisa. Although *Skim* originally makes light of the half-hearted suicide attempts of popular Katie, whose ex-boyfriend committed suicide, the two of them begin to open up to one another. *Skim* soon realizes that perfect Katie is far funnier, more genuine, and more traumatized than she originally thought—particularly when it comes to light that John shot himself due to his homosexuality. Drawn in an expressive, fluid style and with realistic dialogue, this work accurately depicts the confusion of teenage years, with its rejection of previous identity and past relationships and search for a newer and truer identity; additionally, insider/outsider status is a reoccurring theme. *Skim's* internal monologue is diarylike, with an interesting use of scratched-out words. This is a good but somewhat standard work.
Dave Inabnitt, Brooklyn Public Library, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I just started reading graphic novels and Mariko and Jillian Tamaki have quickly become my favorites! I first read "This One Summer" and now "Skim". LOVE, LOVE the illustration style in both books and the story lines (both coming of age stories) are so real and thoughtfully written. I know I will return to these 2 books over and over again.

This is the second book I've read by the Tamakis, and I think they write fantastic graphic novels about young adulthood focused specifically on teenage girls. The art is whimsical, haunting, and beautiful, and the writing matches the art.

This graphic novel was praised almost universally in reviews, and but has still remained somewhat under the radar of the public. Both the story and the drawing style are unusual and lovely. It's a story is set in the emotional world of a young schoolgirl. Like many bildungsromans, it is full of yearning and searching, but instead of being angsty or funny, it is poetic and kaleidoscopic, a snowglobe-like window into her changing world. I haven't seen anything else quite like it, and I've read a lot of graphic novels and comics. Fans of Persepolis, Fun Home, or Maus would particularly appreciate it.

I like it a lot yes I do it is pretty awesome and radical. Had to read it for class

I love this book! I literally read this book over 20 times at school and when it finally arrived I instantly started reading it! if anyone is looking for a book that is an interesting read this is the first one I recommend to anyone!

This graphic novel is a gorgeous, moving, and engaging story about Kim, a teenage outcast, weirdo, witch, queer, Asian girl in a world of white, straight, Christian girls. Her alienation and journey to find herself on a number of fronts is moving and important. Buy this.

I really loved this book and got through it pretty fast. It was interesting and gripping and really got me back into my love for graphic novels I would recommend it to my friends

Painful and rad.

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