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Half the World Away

James A Lyons

Synopsis

Theo has been home schooled for three years, but his mother's terminal illness forces him to enter into Year Nine at his local school. Struggling to adapt, he's persuaded to join a national pen pal project.

His letter lands on the desk of Alex—a confident, private school boarder, and aspiring county rower—everything Theo is not. Despite their differences, the two begin to secretly confide, sharing struggles with grief, loneliness, and the pressures of a society demanding conformity.

As their correspondence intensifies, Theo realises he has fallen for the boy in the letters. Concerned the outside world remains unwelcoming, and with Alex set to move to France, Theo must express his true feelings before they miss their chance to meet.

About the author

James A Lyons was born in Oxford, and now resides in Bournemouth. Having grown up seeing the impact of Section 28, James has had a long passion for the equality and rights of those in the LGBTQ+ community, a subject transferred into his writing.

In 2023, James teamed up with actor Bradley Riches (James McEwan, Heartstopper) in the novella *"A" Different Kind of Superpower*, featured widely across social media and in British Vogue.