

True love isn't always diplomatic

Red, White & Royal Blue



an adapted version of the novel by

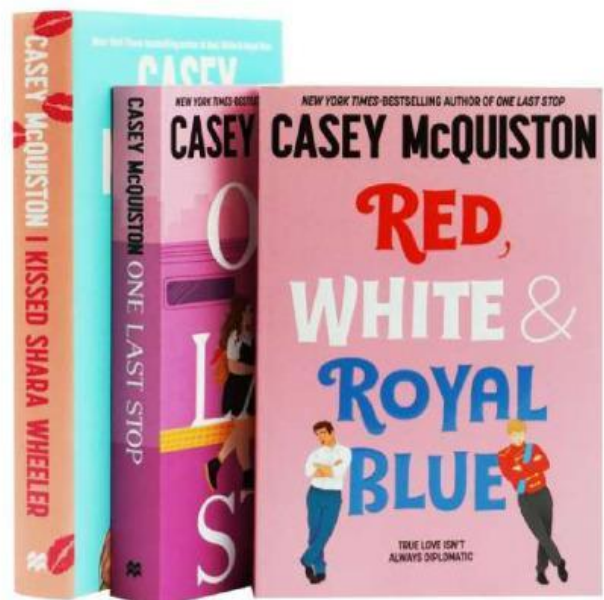
CASEY McQUISTON  **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

WHO IS CASEY MCQUISTON? AN INTRODUCTION TO RWRB

Casey McQuiston (born in 1991) is an American author of romance novels in the new adult fiction genre, best known for their *New York Times* best-selling debut novel *Red, White & Royal Blue*, in which the son of America's first female president falls in love with a prince of England, and sophomore book *One Last Stop*. McQuiston made their debut in the young adult fiction genre with their book *I Kissed Shara Wheeler* which was released on May 3, 2022. They were included in Time magazine's 2022 Time 100 Next list.



Red, White & Royal Blue is an LGBT romance novel by American author Casey McQuiston. It centres on the character of Alex Claremont-Diaz, a first son of the United States, and his romantic relationship with Prince Henry, a British prince. Upon release, the novel received positive reviews with praise given to the representation of a queer male relationship. McQuiston first came up with the idea for this novel during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, becoming intrigued by the extravagant, high-profile lifestyle of the royals and wanted to take on a story featuring a royal family.



PLOT SUMMARY

Alex Claremont-Diaz is the son of Ellen Claremont, a Democratic politician and the first female President of the United States, who is running for re-election in 2020. Alex, his sister June and their friend Nora attend a royal wedding. Alex has always despised Prince Henry, the younger brother of the groom, and after a confrontation at the wedding, the two end up in a physical altercation which culminates in them both falling into and destroying the wedding cake while in Buckingham Palace.

The incident is photographed and highly publicised, forcing Alex and Henry to pretend to be friends with each other to prevent it from becoming a diplomatic crisis. During the diplomatic visit, the two boys become friends, apologise to each other and exchange numbers. Over time, the two become close and Henry is later invited to an annual New Year's Eve party at the White House, where Henry kisses Alex. They begin a secret relationship and write emails while building a close bond with each other. He eventually comes out to his mother, who is supportive but reminds him that he needs to make sure the relationship is real. Henry begins ghosting because he is afraid of the royal family.

Finally he gives Alex his signet ring, continuing their secret relationship. Their relationship becomes public when their emails and photos are leaked to the press. Alex flies to England and supports Henry as he comes out to his family, including his grandmother, the Queen, who argues that the world will never accept them for who they are. However, a growing number of people around the world express support for both Henry and Alex. Ellen wins the election and Henry joins Alex onstage as an official couple.



CHARACTER LIST

- **Alex Claremont-Diaz**

The president's son and the novel's protagonist. A rising political star in his early twenties, Alex spends most of his early life singularly focused on achieving his goal of becoming the youngest Congressman ever elected. His meteoric rise is complicated when he begins to fall in love with a man for the first time, Prince Henry of Wales. Alex is daring, passionate, impatient, and restless, and throughout the novel, he struggles to make sense of his future in the wake of falling in love with Henry.

- **Prince Henry**

The Prince of England and Alex's romantic interest. Closeted by his family and his duty to his royal legacy, Henry is often miserable before he meets Alex, spending much of his time languishing in the palace and going on fake dates with women to create stories in the press. Henry falls in love with Alex the first time they meet as teenagers and doesn't think he has a chance with him. When Alex does fall for him, Henry struggles to break free of the constraints that his royal status and his family have placed on him.

- **Rafael Luna**

A friend of the Claremont-Diaz family and a gay US senator from Colorado. Luna rose to fame as an attractive, young, gay, independent politician with the help of Oscar Diaz. Alex idolizes Luna and is heartbroken when he joins Richards's ticket to oppose Alex's mother's reelection.

- **June Claremont-Diaz**

The president's daughter and Alex's sister. June is an aspiring writer and journalist. She struggles to fit in with her politically focused family, especially because her chosen career path as a journalist is thwarted by her mother's presidency. June is watchful, protective, and loving towards her brother and often wishes he would be more honest with her so that she could support him more fully (it is especially true when he hides his feelings for Henry from her). In the end, she sets boundaries with her mother and succeeds in carving out her own career path.

- **Nora Holleran**

A data genius and Alex's and June's closest friend. Nora is the granddaughter of the Vice President. She is eagle-eyed, brilliant,

and obsessive, especially about her work crunching numbers for the Claremont administration. She has a knack for intuiting the truth in any situation, and she is very blunt and doesn't sugarcoat her observations.

- **Ellen Claremont**

The first female President of the United States and Alex and June's mother. Serious yet playful, driven, and loving, Ellen is focused on the pressures of overseeing the country, running for reelection, and being present for her family. She often switches quickly between the roles of president and mother, which can be dizzying, especially for Alex.

- **Oscar Diaz**

A US senator and Alex and June's father. Though Ellen and Oscar are often at odds, Oscar is deeply loving towards his kids, with whom he is indulgent and laidback. He's stubborn but gentle, too. He's an adrenaline junkie, a trait he passed on to Alex.

- **Zahra**

The president's deputy chief of staff. Professional, no-nonsense, and a little frightening, Zahra keeps Alex in line with a firm hand, bone-dry wit, and playful threats of physical violence. Underneath her tough exterior, she loves everyone in the family, even though Alex causes her endless trouble with his rebelliousness. She has a secret relationship and then a secret engagement with Shaan.

- **Pez**

The prince's best friend, heir to a wealthy Nigerian family, and a philanthropist. An exuberant, expressive, talkative ball of energy, Pez is in many ways Henry's opposite. He spends much of his time in the limelight, which helps pull focus from the introverted Henry.

- **Bea**

Henry's sister and a recovering drug addict. Henry is very protective of Bea, especially when she's smeared in the press or receives negative attention for her past. Bea is supportive of Henry and is by his side when he comes out to the queen.

- **Jeffrey Richards**

Ellen's opponent in the presidential race and the antagonist of the novel. The Richards campaign follows Alex, photographs Henry and Alex together, and leaks their email correspondence.

- **Shaan Srivastava**
Prince Henry's equerry and Zahra's partner. Handsome, secretive, and unflappable, Shaan protects Henry and keeps his relationship with Alex a secret.
- **Liam**
Alex's childhood friend. As teenagers, Alex and Liam experimented together sexually.
- **Phillip**
Henry's older brother. Focused on appearances and legacy, Philip ridicules his brother and pushes him to remain in the closet. Philip later relents and apologizes for trying to make Henry someone he's not.
- **Amy**
Ellen's favorite Secret Service agent and a trans woman. Amy protects Alex and Henry and is one of the first to know of Alex and Henry's relationship.
- **Cash**
Alex's Secret Service agent. Cash protects Alex's safety and privacy.
- **Queen Mary**
The Queen of England and Henry's grandmother. Staunchly traditional, Queen Mary fights to keep Henry in the closet but is overruled by her family.
- **Catherine**
Henry, Bea, and Philip's mother. Heartbroken over the death of her husband, she retreats into her grief and is often absent from her children's life. She emerges to help Henry come out and works hard to make up for lost time.
- **Leo**
Ellen's husband and eccentric inventor. He's unobtrusive and supportive of the Claremont-Diaz family.
- **David**
Henry's beagle. David is named after David Bowie.

CHAPTER ONE

Alex Diaz-Clairemont, son of the first female president of the United States, and his sister June are in the White House, discussing how the tabloids are covering their personal lives. The two joke about how much the press gets wrong and how they enjoy intentionally misleading them. They also talk about the British royal wedding of Prince Philip, the queen's oldest son, which they are about to attend. On their way to London, Alex talks about how much he dislikes Prince Philip's brother Henry, whom he believes is pretentious, boring, and closed off. Alex's best friend Nora, who is also the granddaughter of the Vice President, teases Alex about dancing with Henry at the wedding, and Alex blushes.

At the wedding, Henry asks June to dance, which irritates Alex. Alex thinks that Henry is only dancing with June to make Alex angry. He's even more irritated that Henry isn't paying enough attention to June, and Nora speculates that Henry only asked June to dance for the photo opportunity. Upset about Henry, Alex begins to get very drunk, and he remembers that he used to pore over a picture of Henry in one of June's teen magazines when he was twelve years old. He was entranced by Henry's picture, but when he met Henry in person, Alex was disappointed. Henry and Alex talk at the wedding, and Alex, in his drunken state, tries to antagonize Henry. The two end up in a physical tussle and topple the \$75,000 royal wedding cake.