

# 2024 Lacey Township High School Summer Reading Recommendations

# YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DIE TONIGHT

By Kalynn Bayron

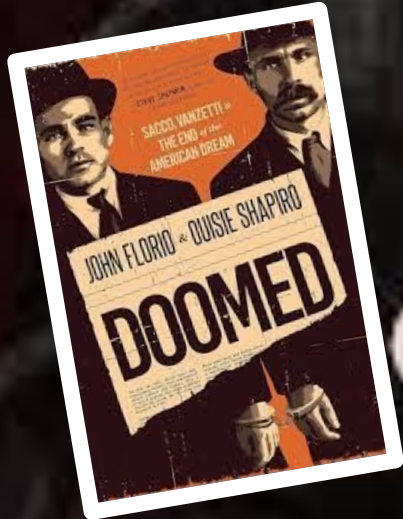
es her job as the "final girl" at  
or Lake, an immersive  
summer camp experience  
a horror movie that was shot  
p decades ago. On the last  
e summer, however, people  
g killed for real! Charity, her  
and the other surviving  
s uncover the secret of the  
lings that inspired both the  
vie and this new wave of

YOU'RE

I have been reading a lot of horror novels that use slasher movie tropes, and this is a good one; not particularly scary but exciting and suspenseful. People who are turned off by horror violence and Friday the 13th type movies should avoid.-  
Mr. Tram

# Doomed: Sacco, Vanzetti & The End of the American Dream

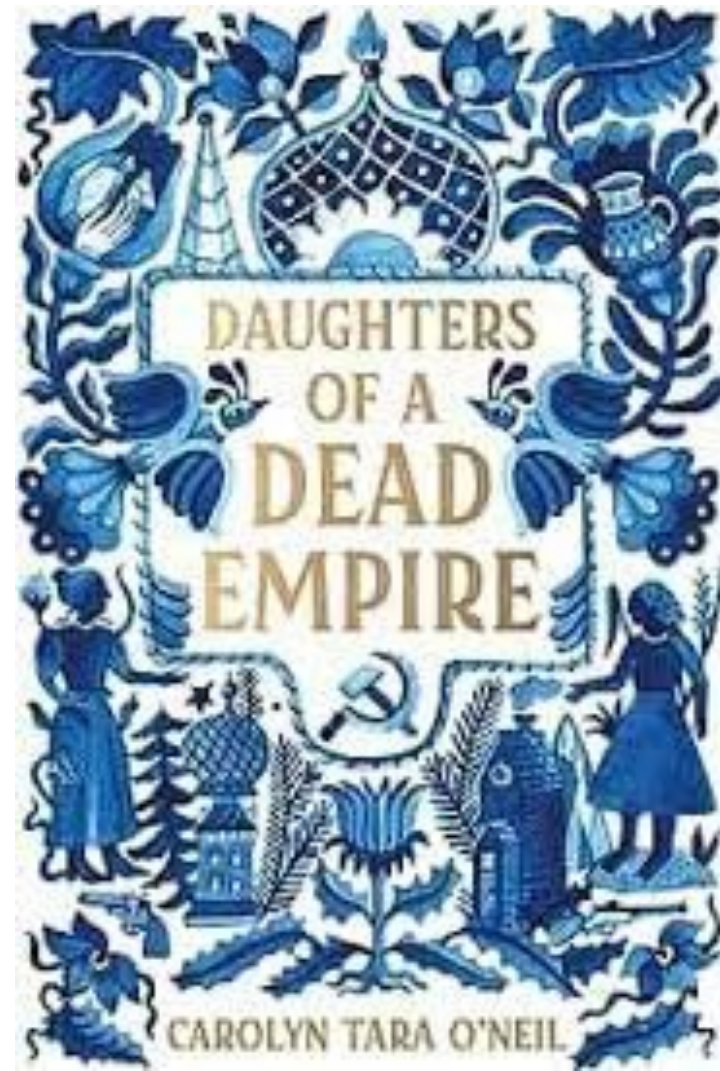
"I recommend this book to spur students to research this case further." Mr. Kulzy



This story is about Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, Italian immigrants who were charged with killing a paymaster and security guard in South Braintree, MA, in April 1920. Both immigrants were laborers who had become disillusioned with the United States because they had not achieved the American Dream. As a result, they involved themselves in the anarchist movement. Anarchists are extreme left wingers and intend to end nation-states, governments and capitalism, systems they believe that create hierarchies in society. Following World War I, a Red Scare swept the United States. Communists and other leftwing political extremists planted bombs in public and at private homes to intimidate the wealthy and political classes. The fear was real. The US Attorney General, A. Mitchell Palmer used extreme, unlawful measures to apprehend these domestic terrorists. He became so popular that he was considered a contender for the presidency. This is the backdrop of the story of Sacco and Vanzetti. Because they lied to police for fear of being punished for their anarchist political activities, they were charged with the South Braintree murders. The authors describe Sacco and Vanzetti's unfair trial which included unreliable witnesses for the prosecution, the public outcry of support for the defendants, and the eventual executions of both men. History / Nonfiction, All Grades.

*If you know anything about the Russian Empire, then the stories of the Romanov family would most certainly come to mind. This historical fiction book written well by Carolyn Tara O'Neil gives a new twist on Anastasia Romanov's surviving of the brutal murder of her royal family by the crude Bolshevik revolutionaries. This book gave a great view from Anya & her new friend Evgenia who were on different sides of the revolution but also from different economic classes. Anya learned what it was really like to be a peasant in Russia during the war while Evgenia learned how not all people she meets from the support of the tsar side are terrible people. I liked how the author jumped back and forth between Anya and Evgenia's perspective all the while providing a very true reality of what it was like in Russia during that time. There are useless killings and murder throughout the book, feelings of grief and loneliness but also an ongoing vision of hope for their future- together as friends. -Ms. Winkle*

*Highly rated Historical Fiction*





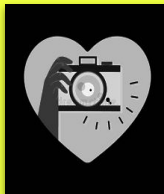


# LOVE, love, LOVE this BOOK!

Looking for an ALL-ENCOMPASSING fictional novel? Then the 9:09 project by Mark H Parsons is the perfect high school tale to jump into!

- Male Protagonist
- Male Author
- Photography Insight
- High School Romance/Drama
- Loss/Grief
- Character Exploration
- Connection/Community
- A MUST READ!

Ms. Winkle



# Made of Stars

Shane and Ava are a team. He steals the aircraft, she charms their mark, and together they take what they need. Not even their distracting chemistry could get in the way. Until Shane was caught and left to rot on a prison moon. Now, freshly escaped from confinement and simmering with anger, he has his sights set on their biggest job yet.

Cyrus just graduated from the flight academy with a shiny new position lined up reporting to a well-respected general. On his very first assignment, he stops the outlaws in their tracks—or, he *would* have, if the annoyingly handsome Lark hadn't fallen for Ava's deception.

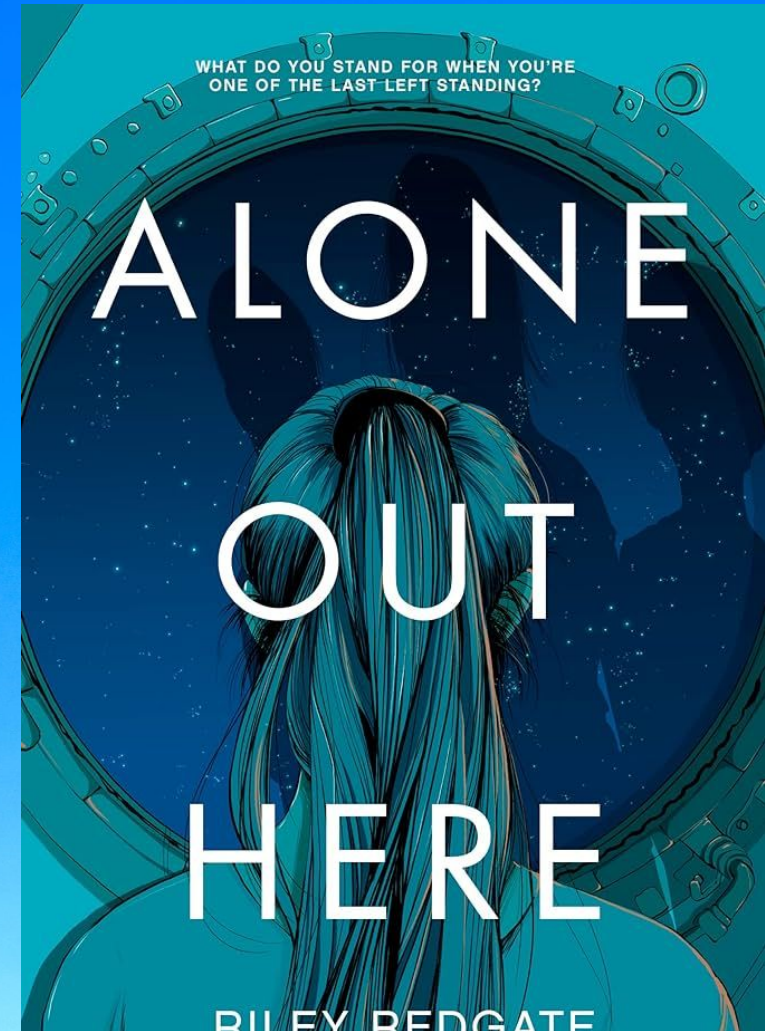
But when Shane uncovers a top-secret plot that would leave his home world at the mercy of Cyrus's military leaders, he makes it his mission to thwart them at all costs. It isn't long before Shane and Ava make interstellar headlines with each new heist. And thanks to a chance run-in with the rebels, Cyrus is caught between two versions of the truth. He must pick a side and fast. Because Shane and Ava will bring the planet to its knees...or die trying.





*Lord of the Flies* in space, or *Space Camp* meets *The Day After Tomorrow*. In the year 2072, a series of climate disasters have made Earth uninhabitable for humans. A fleet of ships is built to safely evacuate Earth and take human survivors to a far-off planet. When the apocalypse begins ahead of schedule, a tour group of teenagers is launched into space without adequate food or water, or any adults to navigate and maintain the ship. The teens are "alone out there."

The author does a good job of conveying the hopelessness these kids experience as they slowly starve in space without any hope of seeing their friends and family again. It's not a "fun" read but it is very interesting and compelling. I liked it. - Mr. Tram

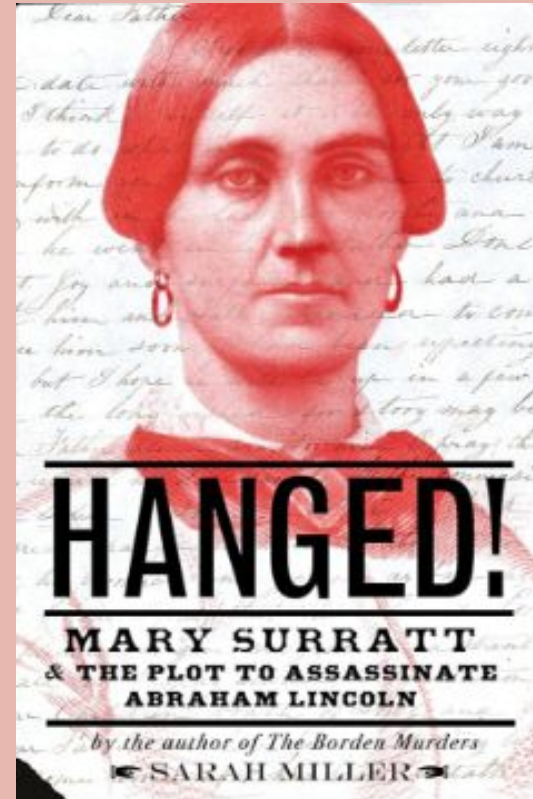


# Hanged! Mary Surratt & The Plot to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln

A dubious distinction belongs to Mary Surratt: on July 7, 1865, she became the first woman to be executed by the United States government, accused of conspiring in the plot to assassinate not only President Abraham Lincoln, but also the vice president, the secretary of state, and General Grant. Mary Surratt was a widow, a Catholic, a businesswoman, a slave owner, a Union resident, and the mother of a Confederate Secret Service courier. As the proprietor of the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth and his allies are known to have gathered, Mary Surratt was widely believed, as President Andrew Johnson famously put it, to have “kept the nest that hatched the egg.” But did Mrs. Surratt truly commit treason by aiding and abetting Booth in his plot to murder the president? Or was she the victim of a spectacularly cruel coincidence?

Grades 9-12, History

I thought this book was informative but still very captivating and interesting. You definitely would want to read this if you have a particular interest in history. I think it would be a great book to get readers excited about nonfiction, something I used to think I didn't like. - Lily S.

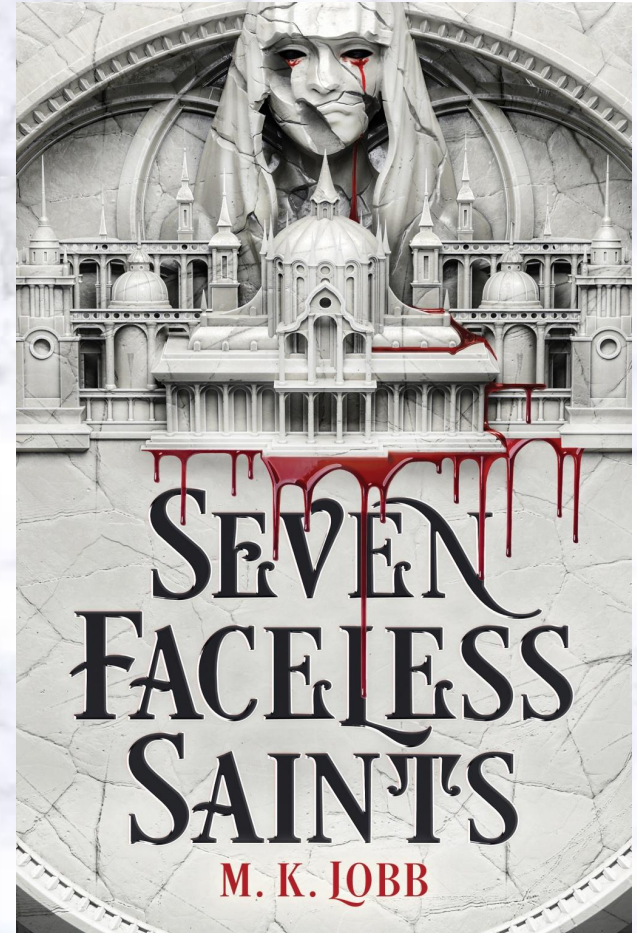




In the city of Ombrazia, saints and their disciples rule with terrifying and unjust power, playing favorites while the unfavored struggle to survive.

After her father's murder at the hands of the Ombrazian military, Rossana Lacertosa is willing to do whatever it takes to dismantle the corrupt system—tapping into her powers as a disciple of Patience, joining the rebellion, and facing the boy who broke her heart. As the youngest captain in the history of Palazzo security, Damian Venturi is expected to be ruthless and strong, and to serve the saints with unquestioning devotion. But three years spent fighting in a never-ending war have left him with deeper scars than he wants to admit... and a fear of confronting the girl he left behind.

Now a murderer stalks Ombrazia's citizens. As the body count climbs, the Palazzo is all too happy to look the other way—that is, until a disciple becomes the newest victim. With every lead turning into a dead end, Damian and Roz must team up to find the killer, even if it means digging up buried emotions. As they dive into the underbelly of Ombrazia, the pair will discover something more sinister—and far less holy. With darkness closing in and time running out, will they be able to save the city from an evil so powerful that it threatens to destroy everything in its path?





# An Improbable Season

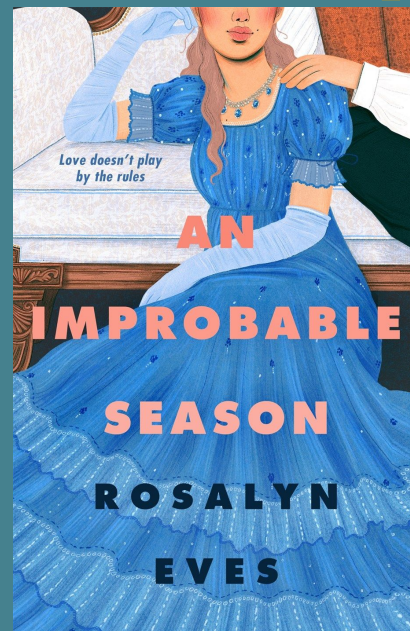
By: Rosalyn Eves

Have you ever wanted a book where there are three perspectives?

If so, this book is for you! In this book, three main characters, Thalia, Kalliope, and Charis, are all related by blood. They set off to London for the season to debut and find a suitor however, they are met with figuring out what's more important to them, love or their passion.

Tags: HF & RF  
Grade Level: 11-12

Note: This book is fast-paced, and sometimes I need clarification about whose perspective is whose. I liked the book because only a few authors can pull this genre off with multiple perspectives.





In a small town,  
nothing stays buried.

# A LONG STRETCH OF BAD DAYS

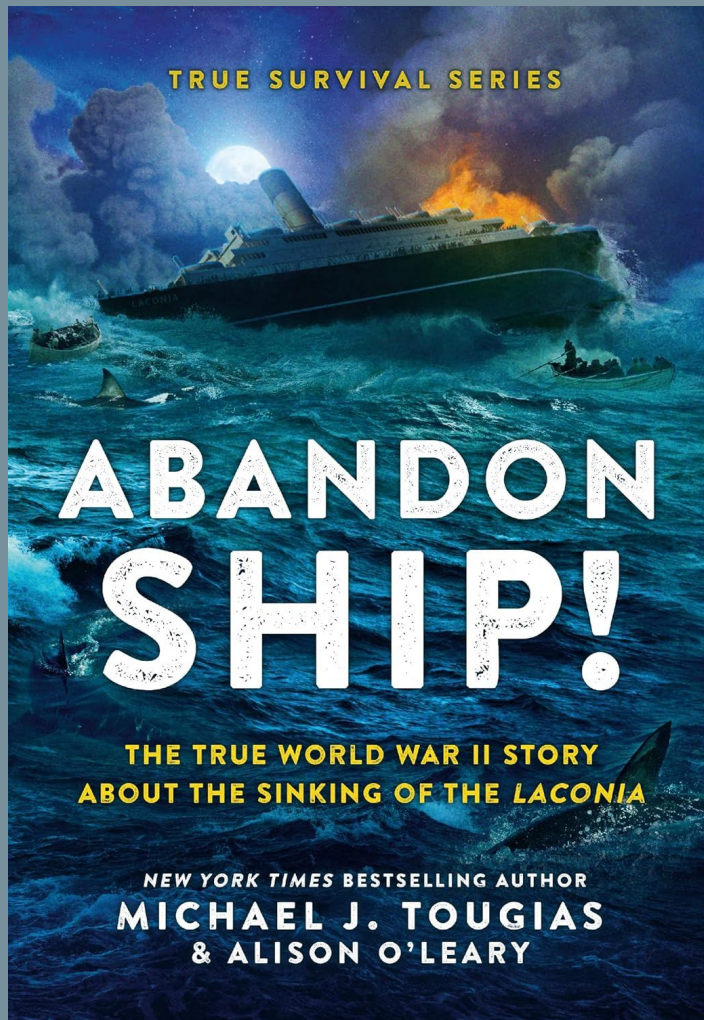
MINDY  
MCGINNIS

Lydia Chass and Bristol Jamison are very different but end up working together because they both are missing a credit in history and need it to graduate. Lydia has a podcast where she looks at the town history and the school lets them use it to investigate “a long stretch of bad days” that happened in the 80s. The long stretch of bad days had a tornado, a flood, and the only murder to ever happen in town, that is still unsolved. As the two grow closer and try to find who murdered that man, some very unexpected and surprising things come to light. Grades 9-12, Mystery, FL, SA

*“I really did enjoy getting to know each character.” Maya D., Grade 10*

*You really don’t suspect who it is until the end of the book.” - Magnolia S., Gade 9*





At the height of World War II, the RMS *Laconia* was torpedoed by a German submarine five hundred miles off the coast of western Africa. The attack triggered a series of unprecedented events involving allies and enemies from both sides, and left survivors adrift at sea in shark infested oceans, fighting to stay alive with little food or water. **Grades 9-12, History.**

*"It was a good survival book." - Ian B. Grade 9*

★ "An inventive, exquisitely written story of family, love, and loss."  
—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

# ALL THAT IT EVER MEANT

Blessing  
Musariri

A NOVEL

The story follows Mati and her grieving family following the death of her mother, whilst a strange whimsical figure named Meticais inquires about Mati's relationship with her family throughout the story. Grades 9-12, Realistic Fiction, FL

*"People of most grades can read it but it does take a certain level of maturity to completely enjoy."* - Muad'dib, Grade 11

*"A short read. The story was nice, calm and just a relaxed read."* -Rorie, M, Grade 9

This book was about a wealthy African American Family, the Blackwoods. They were pretty famous and were building their legacy in hollywood. The story alternated from each person's point of view. There was a grandma named Blossom, and two granddaughters named Hollis and Ardith, and they were actresses. It starts with how the grandmother grew up and started the career for the family, and then goes to the two granddaughters and how they lived their lives. Grades 10-12, Historical Fiction.

*"This definitely would appeal to readers who are interested in celebrity life and the Hollywood scene. The author does a great job incorporating historical facts and experiences of members of the black community in Hollywood as well as how women were treated in old Hollywood."*

Cecilia P., YA Librarian



*"I thought the beginning was a little slow, but once I got further into the story it got more interesting. I liked how it was kind of old hollywood vibes, and I liked the characters."*

Abby C., Grade 10



• BY THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF DEAR MARTIN

# NIC STONE

# CHAOS THEORY

Windward Academy senior Andy Criddle seemingly has it all: he's salutatorian of his graduating class and taking some of the most rigorous courses his school offers, among other things. Even so, none of these high accolades relieve the stress of his tragic family life and he seeks alcohol as an outlet to escape his problems. When he has too much to drink (again), he texts a wrong number and is unknowingly connected to Shelbi, another student at his school whom Andy shares most of his classes with. Shelbi has been diagnosed with BPD and chooses to stay away from others to prevent her secrets from being used against her. After a night of texting with the assumed stranger, Andy totals his car after a drunk driving incident which leaves him ineligible to attend his graduation and into a downward spiral. Once Andy and Shelbi truly get to know each other, they come to think that maybe they were destined to cross paths. Grades 10-12, Realistic Fiction, FL, SA, MH

*"In a combination of inner thoughts, awkward conversation, and text messages, author Nic Stone tells the story of Andy and Shelbi in a way that most teenagers can relate to. Heavier topics such as suicide and self harm/drug abuse are a prevalent topic in this book, so some readers may be turned away by this. Overall, I feel that Stone conveyed this message perfectly." Maya D., Grade 10*

*"The characters are really fun and enjoyable and I specifically enjoyed how the author made all the male characters very likeable and just good people with good intentions." Tatianna F, Grade 10*

ANNA SORTINO

# give me a SIGN

All they  
need are the  
right words.



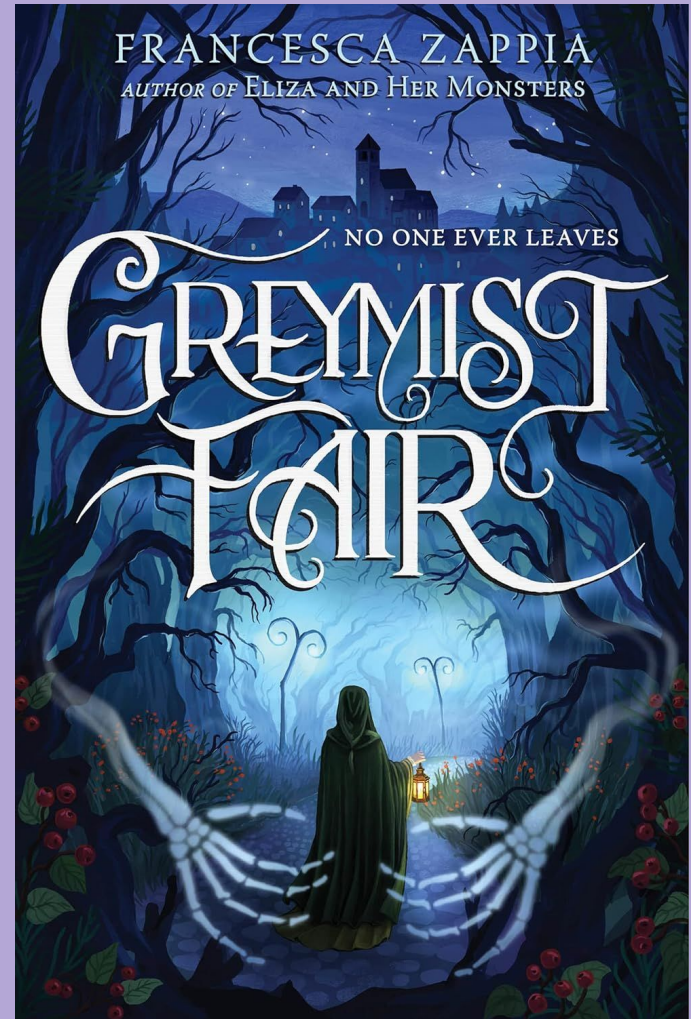
This the story of a teenager, Lilah, a hard of hearing girl who faces lots of challenges being "not deaf enough" but also not fully hearing. She decides to go back to a Deaf and Blind Summer camp that she had went to when she was younger and actually ends up getting a job as a junior counselor. She faces challenges like relearning sign language, falling in love with a boy who only signs, and the camp possibly not having enough funding to continue for another year. Grades 9-12, Romance, Disabilities Fiction.

*"I really enjoyed this book. It was a super easy read and was just an overall cute book. It didn't really have any dry spots and was always pretty intriguing as it was a point of view of life that I never really understood. However, some of the book did seem like a little too easy and the dialogue wasn't always accurate to what a teen would say. But I did some research and found out that it was the author's first book and she is deaf so it is all written by someone who actually understands what the characters in the story were going through."* Tatianna F., Grade 10

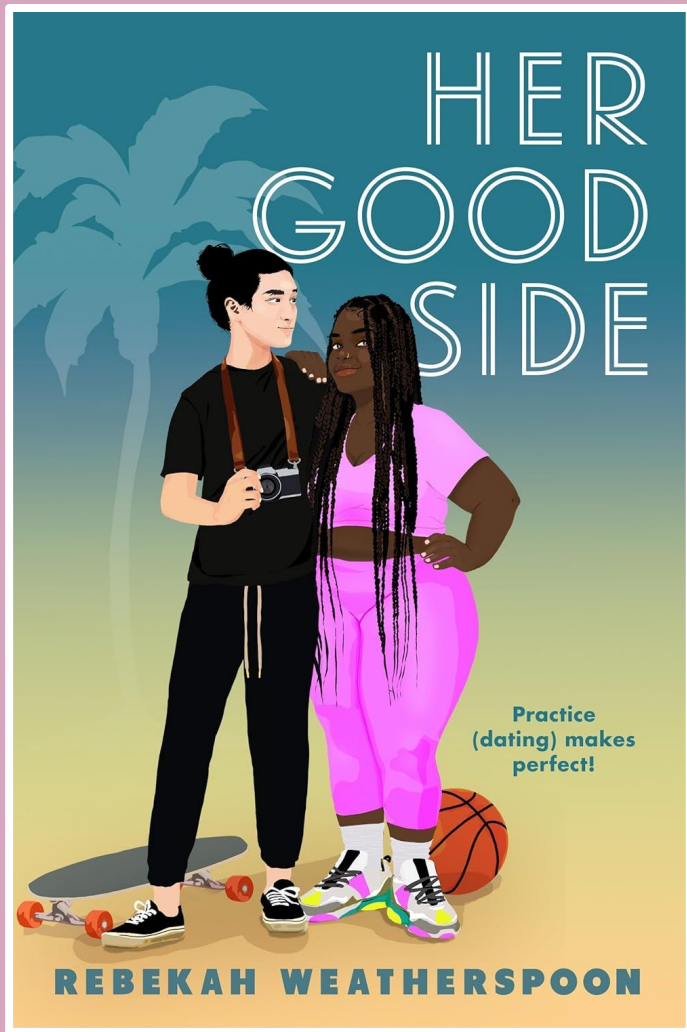
*"It's perfect for an easy, fast summer read for those who may not be that interested in reading. If you like a cheesy, cute, innocent romance like the one offered in this novel, than this book might be perfect for you."* Grace B., Grade 11

The book is a collection of short stories each in chronological order and they switch between characters. The stories themselves are about the villagers of the town known as Greymist Fair, and the peculiar mysteries, and deaths, that occur there. In one short story a girl named Heike is tasked with finding the witch in the woods upon the discovery of a body, in another a boy named Fritz is given the power to have any wish he desires if he can solve a creature's riddles. All the stories build upon each other and have very supernatural themes, with many nods to Grimm's fairy tales like Little Red Riding Hood. Grade 9, Mystery, Fantasy Fiction

*"All the stories are unique and interesting, and I liked how the author could tie in fairy tales with a bunch of mysteries in the way she did. I think that most of the audience would like it. The characters do get a moral lesson from these short stories, primarily about death. I thought towards the end that this book became a whirlwind because so much was happening at once."*-Kayla M., Grade 12.







The story revolves around two highschool students Bethany and Jacob. While Bethany is in a family with pro female basketball players and well known for her own basketball skills, she has no luck with boys in her school because of her past history of hating them. Jacob on the other hand hit a growth sprout that made him taller and handsome which led him dating two girls and getting broken up with, one of those girls being Bethany's best friend, they went homecoming together and developed feelings for each other which led to them dating. Grades 9-12, Romance Fiction.

*"It's a fresh read because not many books stray this path and execute it well,"* Natasha S., Grade 12.

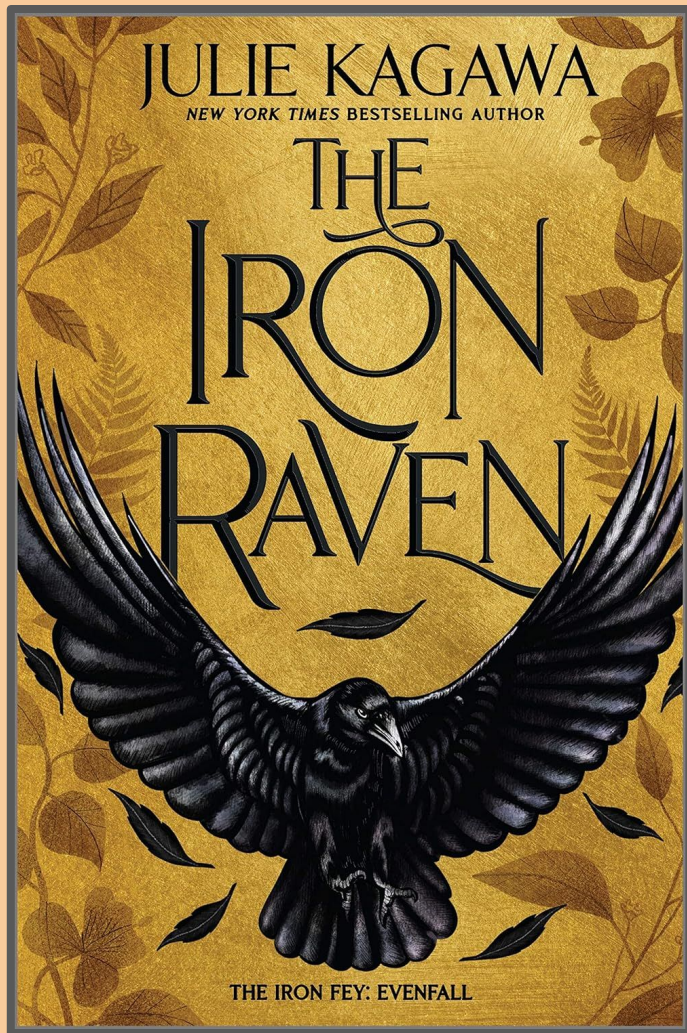
*"A good introduction to the romance genre."* Maggie M, Grade 12



CHRISSY AND CHASE ARE HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS WHO ALONG WITH KIKI AND EMMA FORMED A GROUP THEY CALL THE GHOST GANG. THEY MAKE YOUTUBE VIDEOS AS THEY GO TO HAUNTED PLACES AND HAVE SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS. CHRISSY IS A PSYCHIC AND CAN SEE AND TALK TO GHOSTS. CHASE DECIDES TO BOOK THEM IN AN INFAMOUS HOTEL IN LOS ANGELES WHERE MURDERERS LIVED AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED. THE GROUP ENCOUNTER TROUBLE RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING AND ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, IT CAN'T GET MUCH CREEPIER (UNTIL IT DOES). Grades 10-12, Horror, FL

*“If you like horror, thriller, and suspense this book is great for you.” Jaelyn S. Grade 10*

*“THIS IS A REAL THRILLER AND IS WELL WRITTEN. THE BOOK IS NOT SUPER LONG SO IT MOVES QUICKLY. THE PLOT IS WELL DEVELOPED AND NOT THAT EASY TO FIGURE OUT. THE ENDING IS AWESOME. GREAT STORY IF YOU ARE INTO GHOSTS AND LOVE INTERESTS AND MURDER MYSTERIES.” Mrs. Bayer*



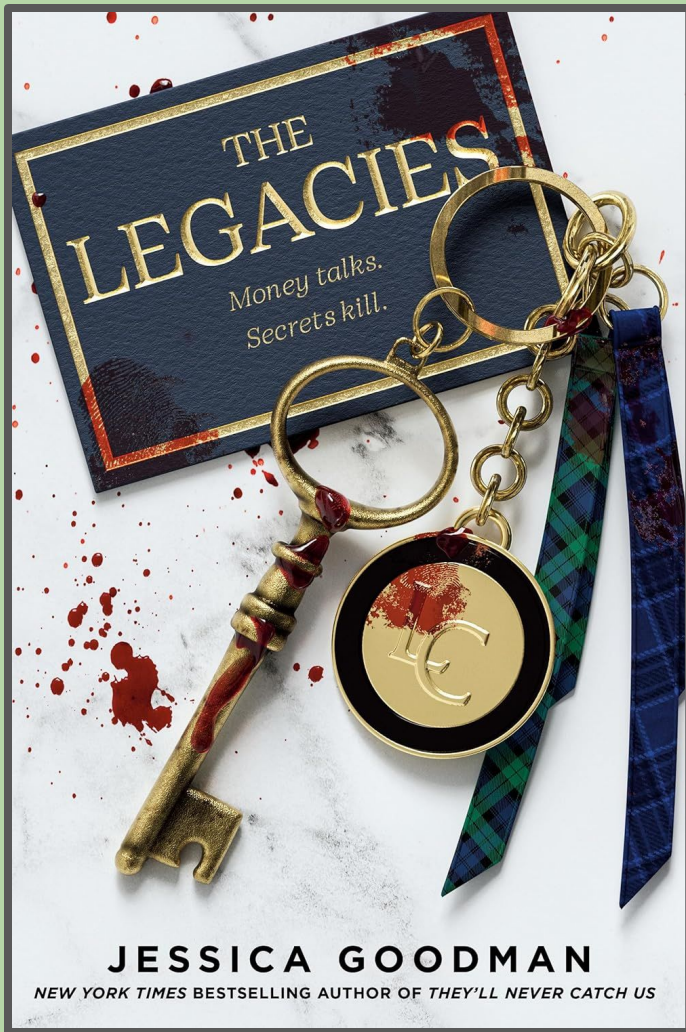
### **“YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF ME...”**

Robin Goodfellow. Puck. Prankster, joker, raven, fool... King Oberon's right-hand jester from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The legends are many, but the truth will now be known, as Puck finally tells his own story and faces a threat from a time before Faery began. A threat that brings him face-to-face with a new enemy...himself.

With the Iron Queen Meghan Chase and her prince consort, Puck's longtime rival Ash, and allies old and new by his side, Puck begins a fantastical and dangerous adventure not to be missed or forgotten. Evenfall is coming, and with it a reckoning that even their combined powers and wits may not vanquish, as a shadow falls over the lands of Faery and the world slips into chaos. Grades 10-12, Adventure Fiction, FL

*“Overall pacing of the story was very good (quite fast) and it personally worked for me. Character wise- background and development is genuinely really good and something I haven't seen in a while.”* Charlotte F., Grade 12





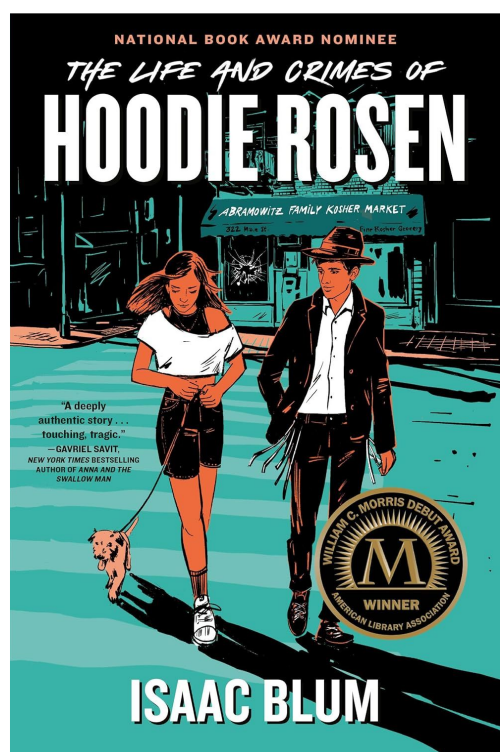
An invitation for membership to the exclusive Legacy Club in New York City is more than an honor. It gives lifetime access to power and wealth beyond any prep school doors, as Legacy Club members always look out for their own. That is, after you make it through a rigorous week of events and the extravagant gala, the Legacy Ball.

It's not surprising when Excelsior Prep seniors Bernie Kaplan, Isobel Rothcroft, and Skyler Hawkins are nominated as Legacies; their family pedigrees have assured their membership since birth—even if they're all keeping secrets that could destroy their reputations. But scholarship kid from Queens Tori Tasso is the surprise nominee no one saw coming. She's never fit in this world of designer bags, penthouse apartments, and million-dollar donations. So what did she do to secure her place? Grades 9-12, Mystery, LGBTQA, SA, FL

*"The unique part about this book is that you do not know who was murdered until the very end. Personally, I think that this book was okay but it was a easy read that was entertaining."* Avery H., Grade 12.

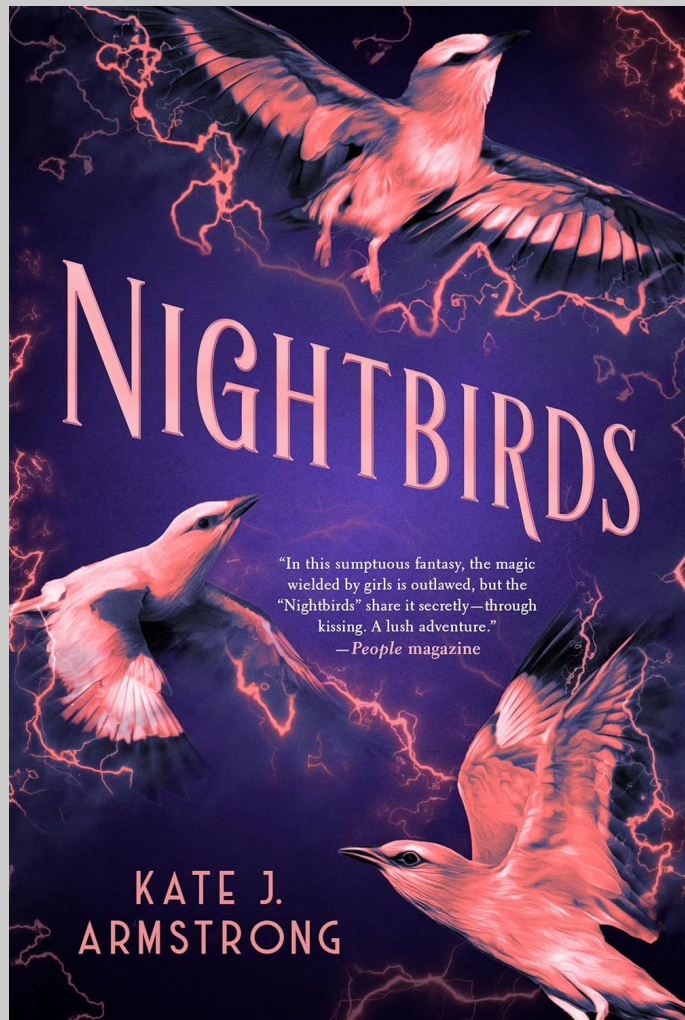
*"The way that the author switches between different point of views is really interesting."* Magnolia S., Grade 9

15 year old Yehuda (Hoodie) Rosen's Orthodox Jewish community has picked up and moved to the quiet town of Tregaron, and it has been a constant battle for them to get acclimated to such a non-Jewish area. While looking out the window of his hachala class, he spots non-Jewish Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary walking her dog. When Hoodie discovers that she is the daughter of the mayor, who is actively trying to tear apart their town and standing idly by while raging antisemitism purges the town, he finds that he must figure out if he should prioritize his place as an Orthodox Jew or the potential love of Anna-Marie's life. Grades 9-12, Realistic Fiction, FI



*"Blum's characterization of Hoodie reflects on his struggles to fit in as a Jewish youth and how he had to persevere through his struggle."* -Maya D., Grade 10

*"I really enjoyed Hoodie as a character. He was funny and his interactions between the two worlds were very intriguing. This book will definitely pull readers in with its short length, but keep them invested in the characters, relationships, and plot."*  
Cecilia P., YA Librarian



Matilde is a Nightbird, one of the few magical girls who can grant powers when they give a kiss to someone of their own free will. The society Matilde lives in is similar to the 1920s/30s during Prohibition only this time, magic is prohibited. There are anti-magic zealots who are trying to get rid of anyone who practices magic and lots of different characters with multiple storylines going on. Matilde and her fellow Nightbirds, Aesa and Sayer, are being targeted and it is a mystery who is behind the attempted murder. Then the book takes a turn with the revelation of an Underground world and religious zealots who want to rid the world of all magic, just when their magic seems to be awakening. Grades 9-12, Fantasy Fiction

*"I like how the plot unfolds and it is actually written better than the previous one I read." Mrs. Bayer*

*"Although I'm not typically huge on fantasy fiction, I actually loved this book. I thought the characters were so well thought out and their development throughout the book was very well written. Although it does end with a cliffhanger, I would say it had a decent plot and I would definitely be interested in reading the sequel." Grace B., Grade 11*



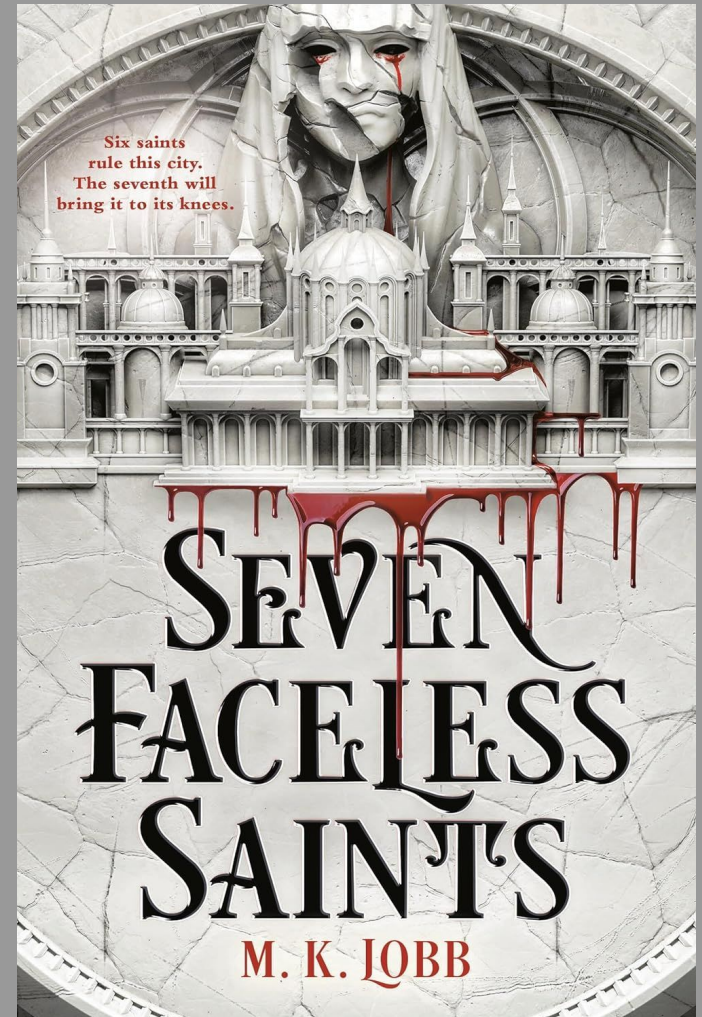
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*"The murder plot was pretty interesting. For me, I didn't expect the twist. For those that are just starting out, I think Seven Faceless Saints would be a perfect introduction for them."*—Kayla M., Grade 12

12



"This *Golden State*'s mash-up of gorgeously drawn coming-of-age and utterly gripping mystery had me magnetized to the page."  
—MELISSA ALBERT, AUTHOR OF *THE HAZEL WOOD*

# THIS

A family on the run.

# GOLDEN

A daughter hungry for the truth.

# STATE

MARIT WEISENBERG

Poppy doesn't know why her family has been running her whole life, but she does know that there are dire consequences if they're ever caught. Still, her curiosity grows each year, as does her desire for real friends and the chance to build on something, instead of leaving behind school projects, teams, and crushes at a moment's notice.

When a move to California exposes a crack in her parents' airtight planning, Poppy realizes how fragile her world is. Determined to find out the truth, she mails in a home DNA test. Just as she starts to settle into her new life and even begins opening up to a boy in her math class, the forgotten test results bring her crashing back to reality. Grades 9-12, Mystery fiction, FL

*"Someone should read this book if they are into mystery. Poppy's story along with her family is one big mystery, and you begin to follow along the journey with her, even guessing who and what happened. Along with being an enjoyable read, the book is a good length, being about 380 pages." Charlotte F., Grade 12*

*"An easy read that will keep readers on the edge of their seats."-Mrs. Laird*



This book is about a girl, Wil Greene, who's mom died and she thinks it was the town pastor who killed her and she needs to prove it to the police. However at the same time there is a boy, Elwood Clarke, who is the son of this church leader and he desperately wants to get away. Elwood is supposed to join the congregation with his father but he finds out after a night of a bit of sinning and alcohol that he will be just a sacrifice to the woods. Wil and Elwood make a deal and even though they are ex best friends they decide to partner up and Wil will help Elwood hide from his parents and he will help Wil uncover the truth. Grades 9-12, Horror, SA

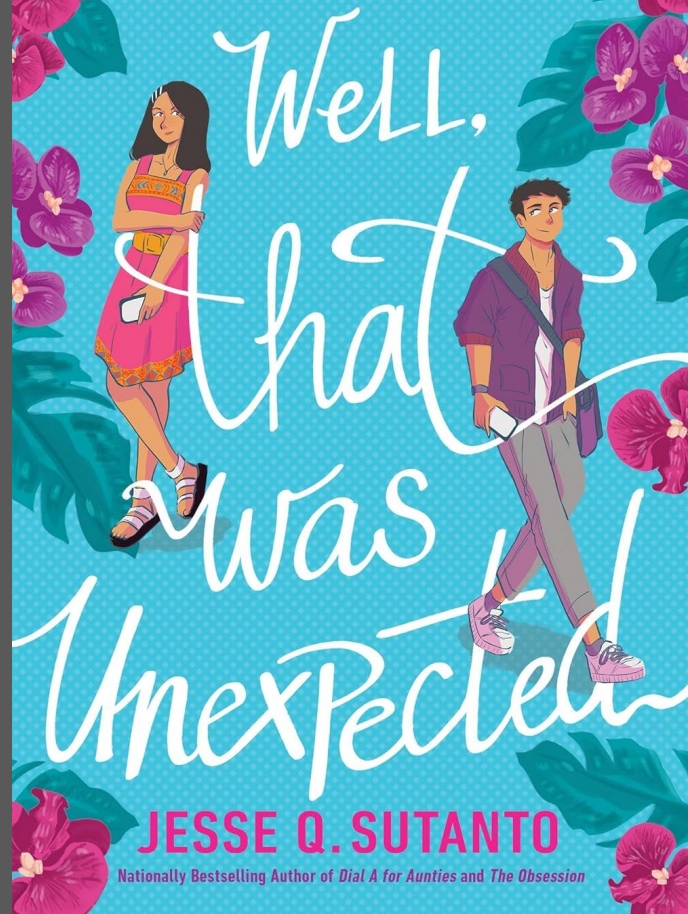
*"It's a pretty good mystery/horror with a some romance mixed in" Eili M., Grade 9*

*"Overall, I liked this book. The plot was good."-Kayla M., Grade 12*



"I don't know of any other author who is able to mix humor, romance, intrigue, and that patented Jesse Q. Sutanto swoon factor™ the way she does. . . . Hilarious!"

—ALI HAZELWOOD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Love Hypothesis*



After Sharlot Citra's mother catches her in a *compromising* position, she finds herself whisked away from LA to her mother's native Indonesia. It'll be exactly what they both need. Or so her mother thinks.

When George Clooney Tanuwijaya's father (who is obsessed with American celebrities) fears he no longer understands how to get through to his son, he decides to take matters into his own hands.

To ensure that their children find the *right* kind of romantic partner, Sharlot's mother and George's father do what any "good" parent would do: they strike up a conversation online, pretending to be their children.

When the kids find out about their parents' actions, they're horrified. Not even a trip to one of the most romantic places on earth could possibly make Sharlot and George fall for each other. But as the layers peel back and the person they thought they knew from online is revealed, the truth becomes more complicated. As unlikely as it may seem, did their parents manage to find their true match after all? Grades 10-12, Romance Fiction, FL, SS

*"I love how multicultural it is and incorporates so much of Indonesian backgrounds into the ideas as that is where the author is from. The characters are hilarious."*—Alexis F., Grade 12

*"It was well written and made me laugh a number of times. I enjoyed the characters, plot, and setting."* Gabrielle K, Grade 10

# Advisories

**SS: Sexual Issues, relationship situations, for mature readers**

**SA: Substance Abuse/ Drug References**

**FL: Foul language**

**SF: Science fiction**

**HF: Historical fiction**

**NF: Nonfiction: Biography, History, Science, Technology, Media, Memoir**

**RF: Romance fiction**

**RE: Realistic fiction**

**FF: Fantasy fiction**

**MF: Mystery fiction**

**LGBTQIA+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual fiction**

**TF: Thriller fiction**

**MH: Mental health issues**

**CF: Comedic Fiction**