

BOOK CLUB KIT



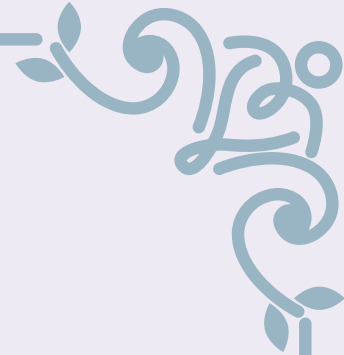


TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE
The Meant to Be Collection	3
Note to Readers	4
Author Interview	5
Discussion Questions	7
Bookmarks	9
Melody's Cocktail	11
Book Club Bites	12
Which Siren Sister Are You?	13
Lip Sync Battle	15
What to Read Next	16
About the Author	18
More from Zoraida Córdova	19
More from Hyperion Avenue	21
About This Kit	23



THE MEANT TO BE COLLECTION

The Meant to Be collection from Disney Publishing delivers a modern take on the classic Disney Princesses through diverse reimaginings of beloved fairytales.

If the Shoe Fits
by
Julie Murphy



*A Cinderella
retelling*

By the Book
by
Jasmine Guillory



*A Beauty and the
Beast retelling*

Kiss the Girl
by
Zoraida Córdova



*A Little Mermaid
retelling*

Get the book club kits for
each of the books in the
Meant to Be collection here!



NOTE TO READERS

SPOILER WARNING

This kit was created for book clubs to use in their discussions of *Kiss the Girl* and contains spoilers.

CONTENT WARNINGS

Familial estrangement

Parent's financial control over a child

Death of a parent (past, off-page)





AUTHOR INTERVIEW

WITH ZORAIDA CÓRDOVA

What was your first thought when you were invited to be part of the Meant to Be collection? What drew you to wanting to reimagine Ariel's story?

Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is my favorite movie. Ariel was the first heroine that I imprinted on. I've always loved how brave she was to leave the only world she's ever known to chase after her heart's desire.

When you sat down to write *Kiss the Girl*, which elements of the original story did you immediately know you wanted to keep and which did you want to change?

I wanted to keep her rebellious and curious nature. There's something really powerful about choosing your own future as opposed to doing what your family wants. My version of Ariel had to embody that spirit, too. As for what I wanted to change—definitely the relationship with Ursula. I wanted to give the "sea witch" a backstory that allowed her to redeem herself.

What did you most want to explore about King Triton and Ursula when reshaping them into Teodoro del Mar and Odelia Garcia for this retelling?

There was always more to Triton and Ursula, but because the movie focuses on the love story, it's harder to get into it. With the novel reimagining, I could dig deep into what caused the tension between them, and who gets the last word in the end.

In what ways did your own love of music shape this story?

I grew up on Latin American music, so it was important for me that Ariel and her sisters were modeled after singers like Shakira and Selena. The same goes for Eric. He's a romantic, and there is nothing more romantic than Latin American music.





AUTHOR INTERVIEW



We get to meet Ariel's sisters in the book, and Eric has his own version of sisters in his bandmates. What inspired you to extend that theme of sisterhood to him as well?

I always struggle to connect to heroes who don't have strong female friendships that aren't just sexual. Eric having a found family of independent people who share in his dream just made sense. He's a hero I want people to root for.

What do you think is the key to a good fairy tale retelling?

It's keeping the heart of the original. The Meant to Be series is a little closer to the Disney movies. But for general retellings, I think it's still important to maintain the spirit of why people love the classic fairy tale, but of course, putting a twist on it. Fairy tales get reinterpreted all the time, and usually, it's a reflection of the time period.

In the book, the band shares when they knew they wanted to be musicians. When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

When I was 13.

What is your go-to Disney karaoke song?

"A Whole New World" from the *Aladdin* soundtrack.

If you can share, what projects are you working on now?

I have an anthology I co-edited with Natalie C. Parker called *Mermaids Never Drown*, and it features 13 other best-selling and award-winning authors.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- 1) What do you think is the key to a good retelling? Discuss the elements Zoraida Córdova changed from the original and what she kept the same and how it served to modernize the tale.
- 2) What was your favorite original element that Córdova added?
- 3) *The Little Mermaid* is a story of Ariel's search for agency. In what ways do you see Ariel both losing and finding her voice in *Kiss the Girl*?
- 4) Córdova adds layers of complexity to Teodoro del Mar and Odelia Garcia, the reimagined versions of King Triton and Ursula. What did you think of the way their characters were developed?
- 5) How do you envision the relationship between Ariel and her sisters and their uncle and father moving forward?
- 6) One of the book's biggest changes from the original movie is expanding on Ariel's relationships with her sisters and giving Eric close friends. How do you see this change impacting both of their character arcs?

Find more questions on the following page.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



7) In *Kiss the Girl*, it's Eric and not Ariel who is given the choice to sign a dangerous contract. Why do you think Córdova chose to give this moment to his character?

8) Which of Ariel's sisters would you most want to read a spin-off novel about?

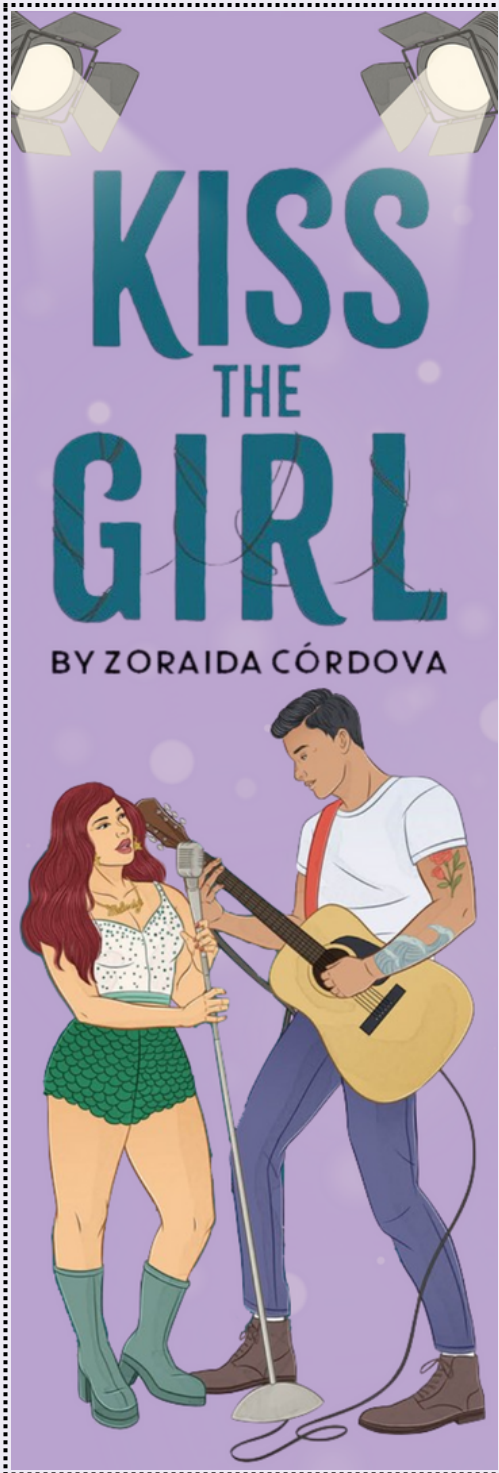
Here are two questions suggested by Zoraida Córdova:

9) What are your favorite Easter eggs from the movie that were included in the book?

10) What can we learn from Ariel's decisions?



BOOKMARKS




BOOKMARKS

The Siren Seven
Goodbye Goodbye Tour

6.21
ARTHUR ASHE STADIUM
NEW YORK

Gate 9A Row 04 Seat A


ADMIT ONE



STAR CROSSED

Summer Tour

6.25 • Philadelphia, PA
6.27 • Asheville, NC
6.28 • Nashville, TN
7.4 • Miami, FL
7.5 • New Orleans, LA
7.9 • Albuquerque, NM
7.12 • Los Angeles, CA
7.13 • Paradise Palms, NV
7.15 • Las Vegas, NV
7.31 • New York City, NY





MELODY'S COCKTAIL

Ingredients

2 ounces Empress Gin

2 ounces pineapple juice

3/4 ounces guava purée

1/2 ounce fresh lime juice

1/2 ounce hibiscus syrup

Soda water

Ice

1 maraschino cherry

1 tiny golden fork

Yields

1 drink

When Eric and Melody visit Julio's bar, he makes her a custom purple-colored cocktail that tasted like pineapple:

"For her, a pale lavender cocktail with a tiny golden fork, a maraschino cherry skewered by its tines... [tasting of] burned sugar and boozy pineapple."

Get a taste of Melody's drink with this recipe for a Pink Flamingo from Empress 1908.

As you'll see from the ingredient list, we recommend topping the drink with a maraschino cherry speared by a tiny ~~golden fork~~ trident to perfectly match the book's cocktail!





BOOK CLUB BITES



Food is one of the most important parts of a book club meeting and it's always more fun when it's inspired by the book. Draw inspiration from the recipes below based on what Ariel and Eric eat throughout *Kiss the Girl*.

Empanadas

Julio serves up great cocktails and an empanada spread when Ariel and Eric visit. Here's [a recipe from Delish](#) for making your own!

Adobo Chicken

While on the road, Ariel finds a Hawaiian-Filipino restaurant to cheer up a homesick Max with some adobo chicken over white rice. Here's a recipe for [Filipino adobo from RecipeTin Eats](#).

And here's one for the [Latino adobo](#) that Eric loves from M.A. Kitchen.

Road Trip Snacks

Gas station snacks are essential for the band's journey aboard the Beast, and Ariel makes sure she grabs everyone's favorite when they stop. For your meeting, encourage everyone to bring their go-to road trip snack and drink. Take a minute during the meeting to let everyone share what they brought and why.

Pizza

We couldn't offer food recommendations for *Kiss the Girl* without talking about pizza. Eric and Ariel share a pizza topped with rosemary sausage, caramelized pineapple, mozzarella, and pesto.

You can recreate their masterpiece or make one of your own using our pizza dough recipe—[found in the book club kit for *If the Shoe Fits*](#).





WHICH SIREN SEVEN SISTER ARE YOU?

Take this quiz to discover which member of
the Siren Seven you're most like!

Pick a color

- A) Rose gold
- B) Blue
- C) Black
- D) Red
- E) Turquoise
- F) Violet
- G) Fuchsia

Pick a fashion item

- A) Vintage '80s t-shirt
- B) Lightning earrings
- C) Stiletto nails
- D) Name-plate necklace
- E) Vegan leather sandals
- F) Butterfly clips
- G) Distressed jeans

Pick an instrument

- A) Drums
- B) I'd rather DJ
- C) Violin
- D) My song-writing pen
- E, F) Piano
- G) My voice

Pick an attitude

- A) Pretty in pink, with an edge
- B) Life of the party
- C) Be the rebel you want to see in the world
- D) Find your voice
- E) Chill vibes only
- F) You're everyone's dream girl
- G) The world is your oyster

Pick a song

- A) "Our Perfect Summer" by Siren Seven
- B) "Storms and Silence" by Vanessa
- C) "Luna Mia" by Luna Lunita and Odelia
- D) "Love Like Lightning" by Star Crossed
- E) "Goodbye Goodbye" by Siren Seven
- F) "Strike to the Heart" by Siren Seven
- G) "Heartbreak Island" by Siren Seven

Finally, should Ariel have kissed Eric sooner?

- A, C, D) No way! She needed time to find herself
- B, E, F, G) Heck yes—he's cute!

Tally up your answers and
check the next page for your results.





WHICH SIREN SEVEN SISTER ARE YOU?

Mostly As: You're Marilou!



After life in the limelight, you're seeking peace and joy at the panda sanctuary and we want to know if there's room for us to join you!

Mostly Bs: You're Elektra!



Whether you're DJing, becoming the interim CEO of your father's music company, or rocking out with your electric blue hair—you're always living life to the fullest.

Mostly Cs: You're Sophia!



As the eldest sister, you look out for and protect everyone. Now that the band's split, it's time to focus on your dreams and go to university! Don't forget to pack your gold hoops and Troll dolls.

Mostly Ds: You're Ariel!



You may be the youngest of the sisters but you have some of the biggest dreams. Find your voice and let everyone hear it!

Mostly Es: You're Stella!



You're the piano-playing romantic of the group with a pile of romance novels under your bed. Share your best book recs with your club sisters!

Mostly Fs: You're Alicia!



After years on the stage, you and your twin are ready for a different kind of art form and started your own clothing design company! Let that creativity shine.

Mostly Gs: You're Thea!



You're known for fuchsia hair, a love of crystals, and that one time you tripped on stage and accidentally became a meme. In *Kiss the Girl*, you helped Ariel by tricking the paparazzi and gifting her your cuddly shark—with that kindness as your guide you're sure to go far.





LIP SYNC BATTLE

Let your book club members live out their rockstar fantasy with a lip sync battle!

End your *Kiss the Girl* book club meeting on a high note with this activity. In the lead-up to your meeting, have members fill out a sign-up form for what song they'd like to perform. Remind them that costumes and props are highly encouraged!

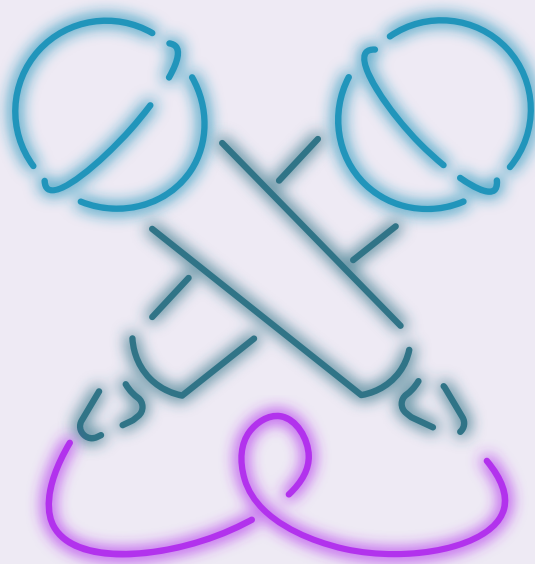
Once you've ended your discussion of the book, invite members to take the stage (whether in person or virtually if you meet online).

Award members with trophies or prizes for best overall lip sync, best costume, best hair flip, and more! A dollar store will have affordable trophies, and if your group would like to do prizes such as a bookstore gift card everyone can pitch in.

If you'd like to take the competition to the next level, members can go head-to-head performing the same song—à la *Ru Paul's Drag Race*.

Need some song inspiration? Turn to classic Disney songs!

At the end, you'll have a playlist you created together just like Ariel and Eric make in *Kiss the Girl*.



WHAT TO READ NEXT

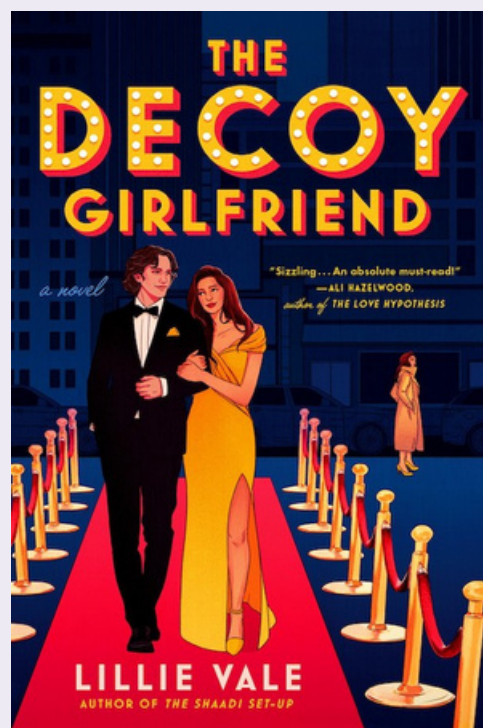


Take the Lead by Alexis Daria

If you'd love to read another romance about forced proximity and living in the limelight, check out this spin on *Dancing with the Stars*. The first book in the Dance Off series follows Gina, a professional dancer on a reality TV celebrity dance competition, and her partner for the season, Stone, the star of an Alaskan wilderness show. Their sizzling chemistry and Daria's engaging writing make this a win for romance readers.

The Decoy Girlfriend by Lillie Vale

Did you enjoy the secret identity trope in *Kiss the Girl*? Your next read should be this contemporary romance following Freya, a novelist who was caught using her shared resemblance to a celebrity for perks. To make amends, Freya now must pose as her famous doppelgänger—including fake dating the actress' PR stunt boyfriend.



WHAT TO READ NEXT

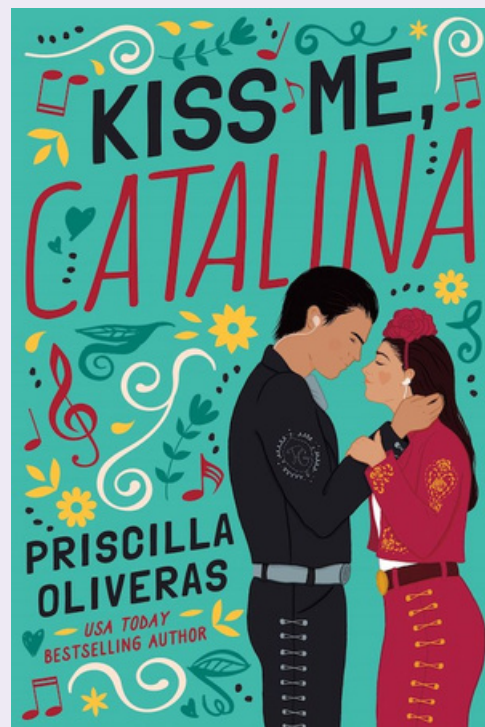


Midnight Duet by Jen Comfort

If you're searching for more musical retellings featuring heroines on a journey to finding their voice, you won't want to miss this contemporary reimagining of *Phantom of the Opera*. The book follows glam rocker Christof Daae and former star Erika Greene, who is looking to reinvent herself after an accident.

Kiss Me, Catalina by Priscilla Oliveras

Did you swoon over the excitement of Ariel and Eric falling in love while on the road? Then pack your bags—there's another tour bus waiting for you! Priscilla Oliveras gives the forced proximity trope a musical twist in this tale of a San Antonio singer joining a 7-week tour with a mariachi icon who challenges her to reach new heights.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zoraida Córdova is the acclaimed author and editor of more than two dozen novels and short fiction, including *The Inheritance of Orquídea Dívina*, *Star Wars: The High Republic: Convergence*, and the Brooklyn Brujas series. She's written for Disney Books, Marvel Comics, and Lucasfilm Press. When she's not writing, she serves on the board of We Need Diverse Books, cohosts the writing podcast, Deadline City, and develops intellectual property for Cake Creative & Electric Postcard Entertainment as a Tastemaker. Zoraida was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and calls New York City home. When she's not working, she's roaming the world in search of magical stories.



 [zoraidasolo](https://www.instagram.com/zoraidasolo)

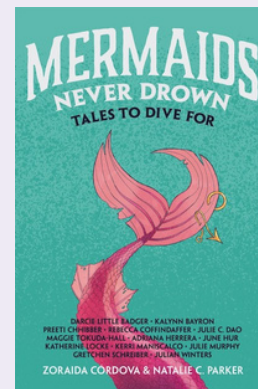
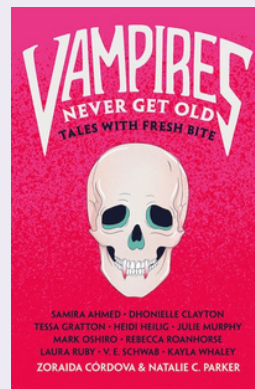
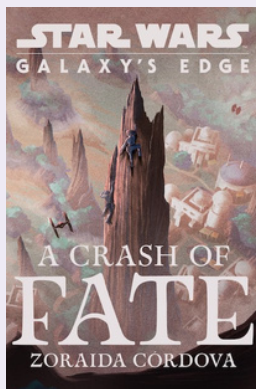
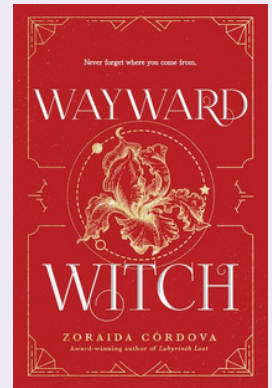
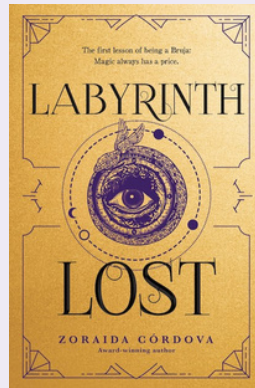
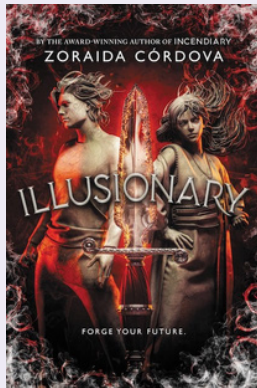
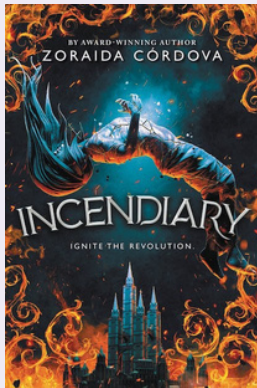
 [zlikeinzorro](https://twitter.com/zlikeinzorro)

zoraidacordova.com



MORE FROM ZORAIDA CORDOVA

YOUNG ADULT

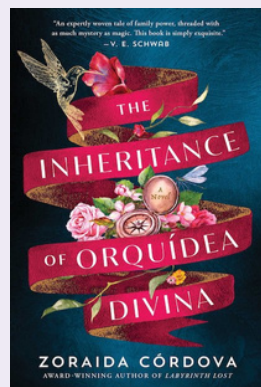


MIDDLE GRADE

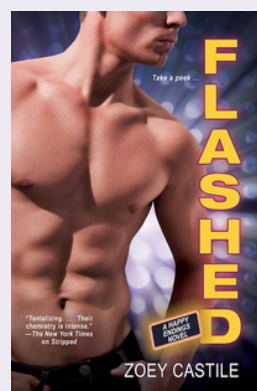
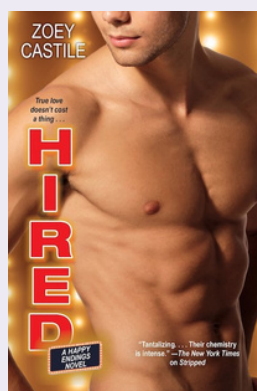
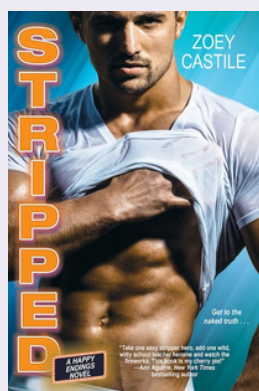


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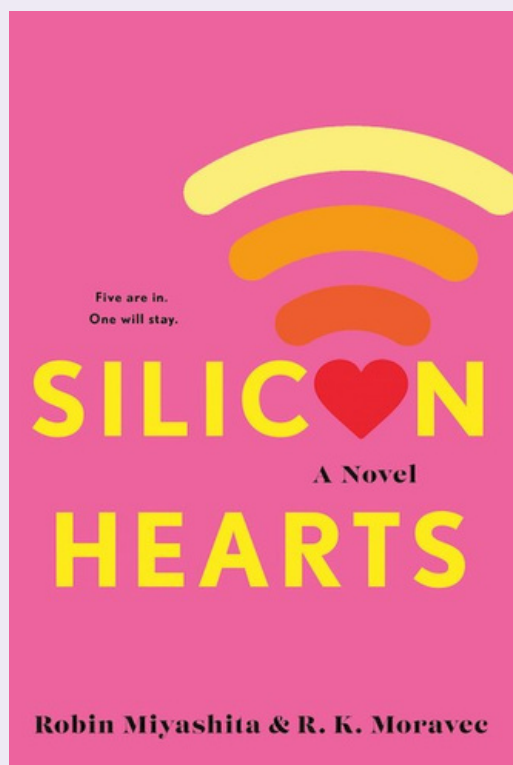
ADULT



WRITING AS ZOEY CASTILE



MORE FROM HYPERION AVENUE



The soapy workplace drama of *The Bold Type* meets the unflinching exposé of *Industry*.

The youngest and brightest of the tech world are invited to work for one of the most prestigious companies in Silicon Valley, but when they discover that only a precious few will be offered full-time jobs, reckless ambition and cut-throat competition eclipse their burgeoning friendships and romances.

Beekor Industries is the biggest tech company in the world. They have transformed the way society interacts with hologram technology, from mobile phones to public transportation to smart apparel. Every developer, coder, hacker, software architect, and engineer dreams of counting themselves among the geniuses at Beekor.

Small-town twenty-one-year-old Camila Diaz has always dreamed of working in the tech world, but never even imagined she'd walk the hallowed halls of Beekor Industries, let alone be in the running to join the company she's idolized her entire life. When she's accepted to Beekor's renowned Accelerator Program as a page, Cam knows everything is on the line. The six-month program brings recent college grads to the Beekor campus to live and work for the esteemed company in the hope of earning a coveted job offer.

Upon arrival at Beekor, reality quickly settles in as Cam discovers that the four other pages she is competing against—and living with—are each more impressive than the next. The well-connected and effervescent Avery, the chic and brilliant Sofia, the thoughtful and gifted James, and the enigmatic and way-too-charming Marcus make up this year's page class and prove to be formidable opponents

On Shelves: August 8





MORE FROM HYPERION AVENUE



Discovering her father's strange final manuscript has brought only mayhem and darkness to Haven Marbury's life. In Book Two of the Malice Compendium, what has leapt off the page threatens everybody.

Now both hunter and prey, Haven travels far and wide to discover the contours of her family curse and escape the worst of her late father's creations. Constantly looking over her shoulder, she fears Uncle Arnold the most. His irresistible whispers compel victims to commit horrifying deeds, and he's hungry to use Haven's abilities to rewrite the world to his liking.

Drawn to the desert scrublands and Hollywood mansions of California, Haven discovers a string of murders that points directly to members of her family.

Given shelter by a mysterious benefactor, Haven and her sister forge questionable allegiances, using some monstrous creations to hunt down others. And when the trail of death ends at a studio from the golden age of horror films, reality and fiction become the strangest of bedfellows indeed.

On Shelves: October 3



ABOUT THIS KIT

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For more book club kits, visit:

netgalley.com/pub/wearebookish

