

JULY & AUGUST 2026

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A free children's book newsletter by **authorfy.**

BOOKDROP 11+



Get ready
to fall in
love with
the final
chapter

Featuring

**ALICE
OSEMAN.**

Creator of the fastest ever selling
graphic novel series - HEARTSTOPPER

Also
featuring:

**Soman
Chainini**

**Gill
Sims**

**Bridget
Hamilton**

**Siren
Knight**

**Lauren
St John**

and
more



Alice Oseman is an award-winning author, illustrator, and screenwriter. Alice is the creator of LGBTQ+ YA romance comic HEARTSTOPPER, and the writer, creator, and executive producer for the Emmy Award-winning television adaptation for Netflix.

Originally a webcomic on Tumblr, Heartstopper amassed an enormous online fanbase with over 124 million views to date. Initially, Alice crowd-funded a limited print-run edition, meeting her funding goal in less than two hours. The series then went on to be published by Hachette and has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide!



What is HEARTSTOPPER about?

HEARTSTOPPER is an LGBTQ+ graphic novel YA series. It mainly follows the story of two boys - Nick and Charlie - who meet at an all boys school in Kent. They very quickly become friends and they soon fall in love. The series is about the journey of their relationship as they get closer, grow up together, and deal with all sorts of issues in their own lives and together as a couple.



What was the inspiration behind HEARTSTOPPER?

It has an interesting origin story... Nick and Charlie were characters in my very first novel, which was called SOLITAIRE. But Solitaire was about Charlie's older sister, and Nick and Charlie were supporting characters. We didn't learn much about them, so I wanted to tell their own story and I decided to do that as a web comic, which then became HEARTSTOPPER.



Do you have any advice when it comes to creating comics?

I think it's important to figure out your style and how you can make the comic pages a fun and enjoyable experience. Making a comic can take a really long time and you have to learn how to keep the story moving. Try making a comic that's just 10 pages long. That's actually something I did for HEARTSTOPPER!



Click here to watch Alice's videos

MEET THE AUTHOR



@aliceoseman



@aliceoseman



illustrations (c) Sr Sanchez 2026

READ THE WHOLE SERIES!

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For ages 12+

CHARLIE



FULL NAME: CHARLES SPRING
WHO ARE YOU: NICK'S FRIEND
SCHOOL YEAR: YEAR 10
AGE: 14
BIRTHDAY: APRIL 27TH
MBTI: ISTP
FUN FACT: I LOVE TO READ!

1/6 - Collect all 6 characters!
 #Heartstopper @TeamBKM RK @AliceOseman

Nick



FULL NAME: Nicholas Nelson
WHO ARE YOU: Charlie's friend
SCHOOL YEAR: Year 11
AGE: 16
BIRTHDAY: September 4th
MBTI: ESFJ
FUN FACT: I'm great at baking cakes

2/6 - Collect all 6 characters!
 #Heartstopper @TeamBKM RK @AliceOseman

Elle



FULL NAME: Elle Argent
WHO ARE YOU: Charlie's friend
SCHOOL YEAR: Year 10
AGE: 14
BIRTHDAY: May 4th
MBTI: ENTJ
FUN FACT: I like making clothes ♡

3/6 - Collect all 6 characters!
 #Heartstopper @TeamBKM RK @AliceOseman

Tao



FULL NAME: Tao Xu
WHO ARE YOU: Charlie's friend
SCHOOL YEAR: Year 10
AGE: 15
BIRTHDAY: September 23rd
MBTI: ENFP
FUN FACT: I have a film review blog

4/6 - Collect all 6 characters!
 #Heartstopper @TeamBKM RK @AliceOseman

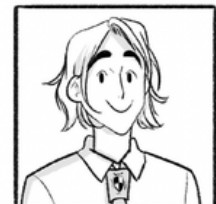
Tara



FULL NAME: Tara Jones
WHO ARE YOU: Nick's old crush
SCHOOL YEAR: Year 10
AGE: 14
BIRTHDAY: July 3rd
MBTI: INFP
FUN FACT: I love dance!
 (especially ballet)

5/6 - Collect all 6 characters!
 #Heartstopper @TeamBKM RK @AliceOseman

Darcy



FULL NAME: Darcy Olsson
WHO ARE YOU: Tara's girlfriend
SCHOOL YEAR: Year 10
AGE: 15
BIRTHDAY: January 9th
MBTI: ESFP
FUN FACT: I once ate a whole jar of mustard for a dare

6/6 - Collect all 6 characters!
 #Heartstopper @TeamBKM RK @AliceOseman



HOW TO DRAW



Have you ever wondered how I draw the Heartstopper characters? Perhaps you've always fancied drawing them yourself! Well, I'm here to take you through a step-by-step guide of how I draw Nick, Charlie, and Elle. Whether you're drawing with pens and pencils or on a computer or tablet, this guide will help you recreate the Heartstopper art style, and hopefully inspire you to find your own style ...

CHARLIE



1. Start with a light colour or pencil – something you can erase easily. Face shapes are a circle plus a chin, so roughly sketch out the face shape.



2. The second step is to do a more detailed sketch. You can do this in a slightly darker colour or heavier pencil, but still make sure you're using something you can erase. As we're drawing Charlie, you'll want to give him a pointy chin, wild and wavy hair, thick eyebrows and pale eyes. And don't forget the signature dimples!



3. Now that you've got your sketch, it's time to line. If you're drawing traditionally, find a pen, or if you're drawing digitally, pick a pen tool and create a new layer. Now go over your sketch in more detail! And when you're done, you can erase the sketch by rubbing it out (traditional) or removing the layer (digital).



4. The final step is to add the colours! Use whatever tools you want – pens, pencils, paints, pastels ... there are so many options, whether you're working traditionally or digitally!

ALICE PRO TIP: Adding some escaping hair strands when colouring will give the hair a bit of dynamism and personality! I think hair says a lot about a person.

Welcome to BLACKWOOD ACADEMY

A THRILLING DARK ACADEMIA DUOLOGY SET AT A MAGICAL BOARDING SCHOOL IN PURGATORY...

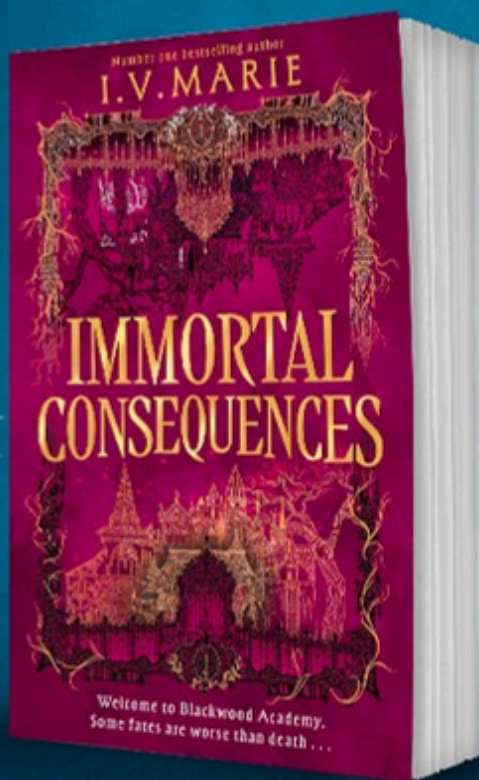
Welcome to Blackwood Academy: a boarding school located on the fringes of the afterlife. No one knows why they end up at Blackwood; but when they enter the school's arched gates the only way out is to be chosen for the Decennial – a series of magical trials held once a decade. The chosen pupil is offered a choice: graduate and join Blackwood's magical elite, or venture into the unknown and cross over to the Other Side.

- Wren knows she has what it takes to win—unless, that is, her arch-rival (and subject of her tortured dreams) Augustine steals her spot.
- Irene has never cared about playing by the rules and will break whatever (and whoever) stands in her way, including her only friend, Masika.
- Olivier has given up securing the nomination. But he'll stop at nothing to keep Emilio, from crossing over to the Other Side.

All are determined to be Blackwood's chosen candidate. All are determined to win. But this Decennial will be unlike any before.

For
ages
14+

[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACTS](#)



A HILARIOUS DIARY-STYLE TEEN ROMANCE COMEDY



LILA MACKAY IS VERY MISUNDERSTOOD:

Fourteen-year-old Emily is gloomily spending the summer with her mum's best friend Uncle Tom, helping him renovate his house, instead of being at home hoping the gorgeous Toby will ask her out.

Then she finds her mum's old diary. MASSIVE CRINGE. But as Emily starts to read, she's stunned to discover that her mum was once a teenager too. A nineties teenager called Lila MacKay, who was VERY MISUNDERSTOOD. And as she becomes more and more invested in Lila's teenage life, Emily begins to wonder if perhaps she and her mother are not so different after all...



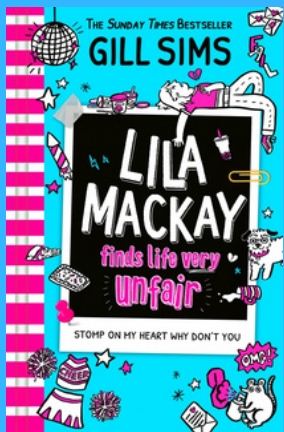
For
ages
12+

LILA MACKAY FINDS LIFE VERY UNFAIR:

In the throes of her first heartbreak, 14yo Emily finds another of her mother's old diaries from the 90s and learns that Lila Mackay's teen love life was also messy, unfair, and filled with misunderstandings that resulted in a dreadful break-up with her first love, Nicky...



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Artwork © Alice Bowsher

TWO WEEKS AGO, DELLA WAS JUST A NORMAL GIRL...

[CLICK HERE TO
READ AN EXTRACT](#)

For
ages
11+

Della didn't fit in at her posh school in London, she didn't think her crush would ever like her back, and she certainly didn't know anything about a Caribbean royal family.

But when a video of her protesting goes viral, she receives a royal invitation that changes everything. Now, she's at a lavish ball in a Caribbean palace, caught in a love triangle with her best friend and a dreamy islander, and discovering dangerous royal secrets. With so much at stake, the last thing Della needs is to find out that her connection to the royal family runs far deeper than she ever imagined...



ONE SUMMER,
TWO BOYS, AND
A SECRET THAT
COULD CHANGE
EVERYTHING



For
ages
14+

A TEENAGE PRESIDENT. A GLOBAL REVOLUTION. A SHOCKING MURDER.

What would happen if the US elected a 17 year old as President? Find out in this sizzling, genre-busting YA political thriller from bestselling author of 'The School for Good and Evil'.

[CLICK HERE TO
READ AN EXTRACT](#)

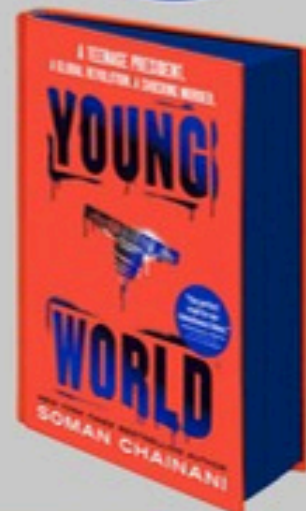


SOMAN
CHAINANI
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

READ THE BOOK! JOIN THE REVOLUTION!

- A genre-busting YA thriller of teen leaders, murder, and revolution
- Told in a stunning mixed-media style with 150+ explosive neon-orange visuals
- Perfect for fans of fast-paced, high-stakes thrillers like 'The Hunger Games'
- Themes: power, greed, betrayal, activism, revolution, found family, love, friendship, finding your voice

"The perfect
read for our
tumultuous times."
VERONICA ROTH,
NO. 1 BESTSELLING
AUTHOR OF DIVERGENT



A STUNNING NOVEL IN VERSE FOR FANS OF SARAH CROSSAN

After losing her dad, Celeste's life feels like it's splintering. Then she makes a new friend in Katie, who shares her love of the beach, and meets Reuben, a fellow photographer.

Maybe a new friendship group is just what she needs - as long as she keeps her growing attraction to Reuben out of the equation. But Celeste soon finds that emotions can't be bottled up...

For
ages
13+



*When clouds roll in, wool-thick and grey,
and it's harder to breathe than before,
when we can't remember Dad's face
or how he sounded any more,
We Wait for the Stars*

[CLICK HERE TO
READ AN EXTRACT](#)



For
ages
10+

WHAT WILL TRULY MAKE AYESHA HAPPY?



When everything she wishes for starts coming true, Ayesha discovers what will really make her happy. A book about tween friendships, with a sprinkling of magic, from award-winning journalist and author Radhika Sanghani. Perfect for fans of 'Lottie Brooks' and 'Dork Diaries'.

[CLICK HERE TO
READ AN EXTRACT](#)

Funny, heartwarming, and joyful!

Ayesha can't wait for summer camp, it's going to be the best two weeks ever with her best friend Nikki. But Nikki's changed over the summer and things don't feel the same between them. When Ayesha overhears Nikki telling their roommates she's immature, Ayesha is embarrassed and wishes her life could be different.

The next day Ayesha realizes everything she wishes for is coming true. Lie-in in the morning? Tick! Pizza for lunch? Tick! Nikki to be her best friend? Tick! Suddenly she's got everything she's ever wished for, but will her wishes really make her happy? This summer isn't turning out to be everything she hoped for...



For
ages
12+

An explosive, unputdownable read!

**Deeply romantic, compulsive and edge-of-your-seat exciting:
for fans of 'The Summer I Turned Pretty' and 'The One Dollar Horse'.**



When American teenager, Morgan Taylor, arrives to spend the summer with her British cousins, all anyone knows is that an accident has left her scarred inside and out. But Morgan is hiding a secret she'll do anything to keep.

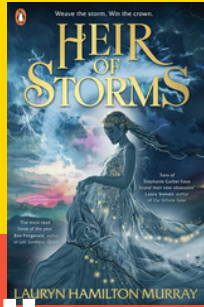
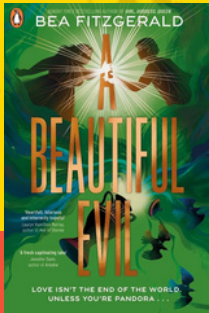
Then the town's hottest surfer, Cal Heyward, saves her life and suddenly the truth about her past feels harder than ever to hide. To escape, Morgan takes a job at a stableyard, hoping that horses will heal her as they've done so often before. But everything changes when she's asked to help Night Dancer, a horse with his own dark history...



**A damaged horse.
A girl with a secret.
A race to escape the past.**



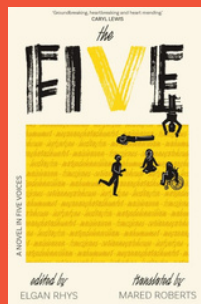
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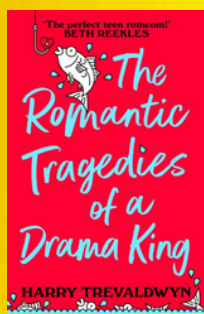
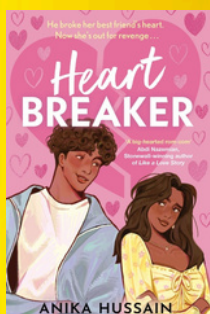
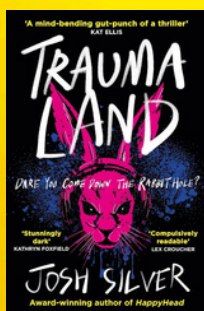
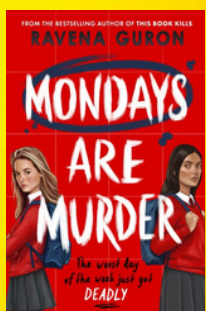
CELEBRATING BRILLIANT YA FICTION!

The YA Book Prize celebrates great fiction for teenagers and young adults, shining a light on original voices, engaging stories and bold publishing.

Launched in 2014, the prize was founded to encourage more young people to read, and to raise the profile of outstanding YA books and writers from the UK and Ireland. Reflecting the mission of the National Year of Reading, it aims to inspire teenagers and young adults to engage with books and find their new favourite reads.



THE 2026 SHORTLIST



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