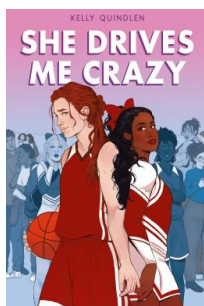


Further Reading

She Drives Me Crazy (Apr 2021)

by Kelly Quindlen

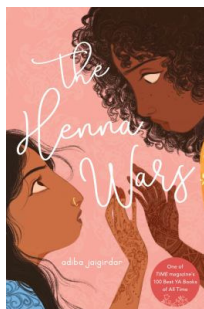
Getting into a fender-bender with a beautiful rival after an embarrassing loss to her ex, a talented basketball athlete reluctantly agrees to a carpool arrangement before an opportunity for revenge leads to an unlikely relationship.



The Henna Wars (May 2020)

by Adiba Jaigirdar

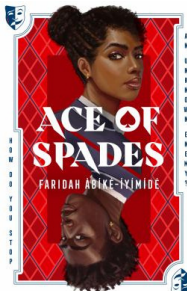
Nishat doesn't want to lose her family, but she also doesn't want to hide who she is, and it only gets harder once a childhood friend walks back into her life. Flavia is beautiful and charismatic, and Nishat falls for her instantly.



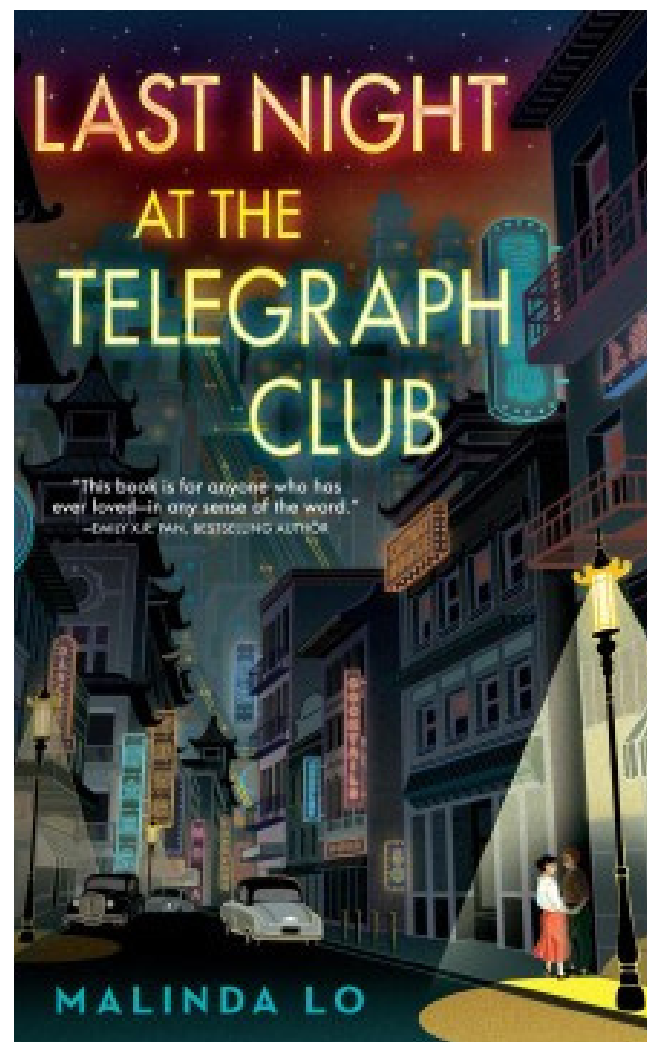
Ace of Spades (June 2021)

by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

Gossip Girl meets Get Out in Ace of Spades, a YA contemporary thriller by debut author Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé about two students, Devon & Chiamaka, and their struggles against an anonymous bully.



BOOK DISCUSSION



Discussion Questions

- 1) When Lily returns home from the Eastern Pearl, she takes out the Tommy Andrews ad for the Telegraph Club and adds it to her other newspaper clippings. Why is this collection important to her? What does tell us about Lily at this point in the novel?
- 2) Lily feels "exhilarated" after she finds *Strange Season* at Thrifty Drug Store, "as if she had finally cracked the last part of a code." What has Lily discovered about herself, and why was the pulp novel important in that process?
- 3) Lily tells Kath about her plan to work at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, but not everyone is as supportive of Lily's dream job. How does Lily's interest in space set her apart from—or align her with—the other women in her life?
- 4) Shirley "warns" Lily about Kath and then rejects Lily when she doesn't come back inside at the dance. What role does Shirley and Lily's friendship play in the story?
- 5) Lo uses the automated dioramas at Playland's Musée Mécanique as a metaphor for Lily and Kath's romantic feelings for each other. What is Lo communicating in this scene, and how does she use this metaphor again later in the novel?
- 6) At the Telegraph Club, Lily and Kath hear women talk about being "butch" or "femme" and when Kath is called a "baby butch" Lily recognizes it is a compliment. In what are other ways do Lily and Kath learn about lesbian culture (in the 1950s)?

- 7) In the scenes at Sutro's, Lo illustrates racial tension and racism between Caucasian and Chinese Americans after Lily and Shirley are assumed to be Japanese. What are the ways Lo does this? Why do Lily and Shirley react in the ways that they do?
- 8) Lily notices a difference in the way the women at the Telegraph Club talk about "the feds" and communism. What is different—or similar—about this conversation to the discussion Lily has with her parents about the FBI's suspicion of Chinese Americans?
- 9) Again, Lily experiences microaggressions when socializing with the women from the Telegraph Club; however, this time she also learns about a Chinese male impersonator, for whom she feels "immediately proud." Why does Lo juxtapose these two experiences? When else does Lily encounter racism within the lesbian community?
- 10) When Lily's mother says "There are no homosexuals in this family. [...] Are you my daughter?", what does she mean? How does Lily react to this and why?
- 11) What might have happened to Lily after she ran away from home if she had not remembered where Lana lived, or if Lana had not taken her in?
- 12) "And if her father wouldn't lie, why should she?" When Lily comes out to her parents, it is complicated by her father's immigration status and the cultural climate of the 1950s, and yet she refuses to lie to them. Why does she make the choices she makes?