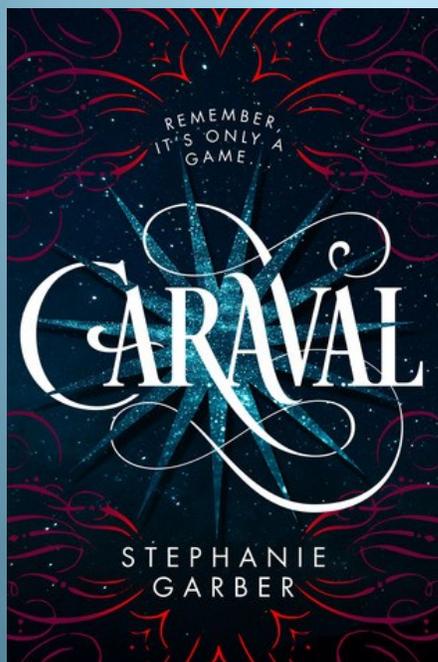


Books reviews have been provided by a secret patron-*Ladybooklover*, who loves to read and share her thoughts. Please feel free to send your comments, questions or book reviews to: [teens@franklinlakes.bccls.org](mailto:teens@franklinlakes.bccls.org)

## **CARAVAL** by Stephanie Garber

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**C**ome, play a magical and breathtaking game where your deepest wish may be fulfilled! *Come to Caraval!*

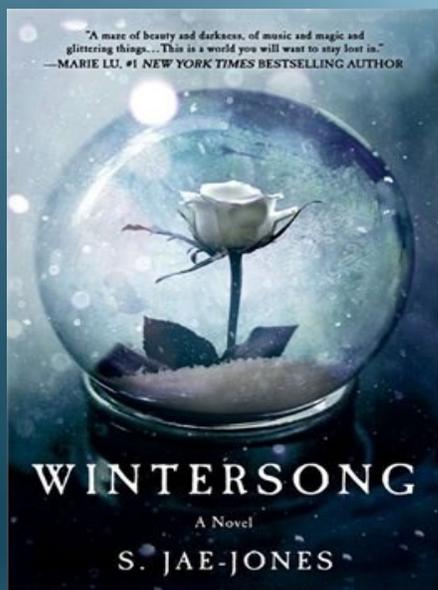
This is the story of two sisters, Scarlett and Tella Dragna, as they journey through a world which blends fantasy with reality. Caraval is actually more than a game. They soon realize this when Tella is kidnapped, and Scarlett will risk everything, even madness, to save her.

Prepare yourself for numerous twists and turns, romance and heartbreak, choices and consequences, all of which makes excellent reading. The center of this tale is the love and devotion of the sisters.

If you enjoy enchanting locations, riveting romance, and mysterious tunnels, then this is the book for you. Otherwise, you will miss out on meeting my favorite character, Master Legend!

## **WINTERSONG** by S. Jae-Jones

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**I**t is easy to love a man with kindness and gentleness in his heart. Could you love that same man if he had another side which was mysterious and frightening?

As children, Liesl and the Goblin King, shared their love of music. But children grow up. Some forget and some are foolish. Liesl's life now consists of caring for her younger siblings. There is the beautiful but easily tempted Kathe, and Josef, who was born to play the violin. Kathe is abducted by the Goblin King to be his bride. She is taken to the Underground World, and Liesl must follow to save her.

Once you enter the Underground world, you cannot leave. It is a world of labyrinths, twisting dank tunnels and darkness. Nothing is as it seems, and lies and deceptions are plentiful. Liesl will have to make the supreme sacrifice to save Kathe. As for the Goblin King, who is he really? Is he lover or jailer, friend or foe, or simply a monster? Are our paths already set in life? Do you believe in fate?

This tale is intense, intriguing and at other times almost dream-like. Any happiness here is bittersweet. Do you dare to read it? I hope so, because it was quite good.

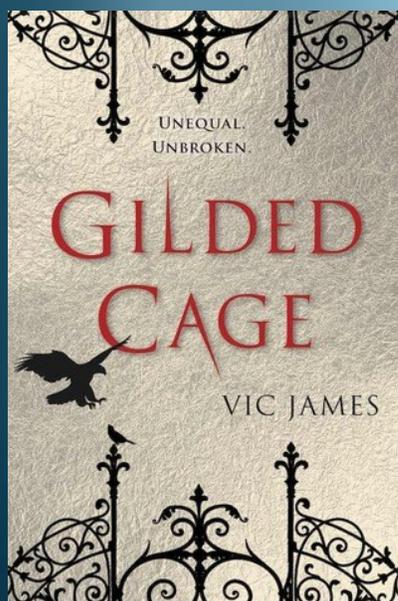


## *WE ARE OKAY* by Nina La Cour

**W**hen you lose a loved one, there is tremendous grief. What if that loved one had kept secrets from you? What if your whole world suddenly slipped out from under you?

Such has happened to Marin, and her first reaction – run! So she did, with only loneliness and emptiness as her companions. Trying to distance herself from this tragedy, she is isolated from those who love her, namely her best friend, Mabel. Now, Mabel is coming to visit. Hopefully with her love and support, Marin will find a way to cope with her past and be ready to brave her future.

This is a beautifully written and touching story of the struggles in life and in dealing and accepting the events we cannot control. I especially enjoyed the friendship that Marin and Mabel shared. If you have one true friend, who knows you better sometimes than you know yourself, you are truly lucky. Share this story with that friend.



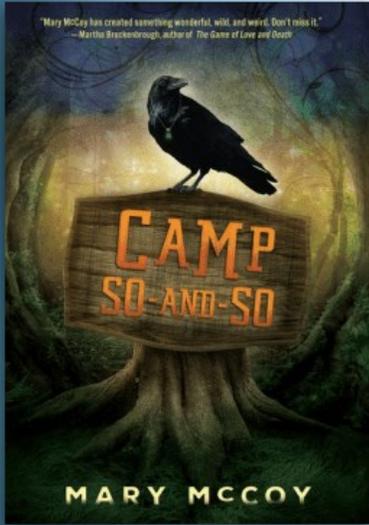
## *GILDED CAGE* by Vic James (Book One in the Dark Gifts series)

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**I**n a disturbingly, deeply dark, and brutal world, the Equals rule and govern the commoners without mercy. They use their magical and mysterious skills to live luxuriously while controlling the commoners who work and starve. They are so powerful that one can invade your mind and erase all your memories, especially those not serving their best interests. They can imprison your mind. You are caged. Nothing will change from year to year while the rest of the world moves on around you.

Abi and her brother, Luke, like a number of commoners, cannot continue to accept being treated so horribly with no chance for freedom. This tale is their struggle for survival, escape from the monstrous Equals, and finding the courage to forge a better life.

This book, aptly named, is one of the best, in my opinion, this year. The characters are intriguing and memorable. You will find yourself sharing their emotions and caring about them from the start. As this world unfolds there are betrayals, forbidden romance, horrific deeds, and so much more. It is an amazing read. I anxiously await the next in the series.



## *CAMP SO and SO* by Mary McCoy

**T**wenty-five letters were sent in mid-February inviting twenty-five lucky girls to Camp So and So. With the promise of rock climbing, horse back riding, theater under the stars and untold adventures, twenty-five applications were returned signed before month's end. In reality, no one within a fifty mile radius of no town on no mountain had ever heard of Camp So and So.

This is not your ordinary summer camp. To survive, the girls will require courage and shrewdness. Not all will be returning home. None will return home the same person she was.

This was a fun and quick read. There are multiple story lines, some dark some magical, but all entertaining. I spent a purely campy but enjoyable time at Camp So and So, and think you will too. Sign up now!



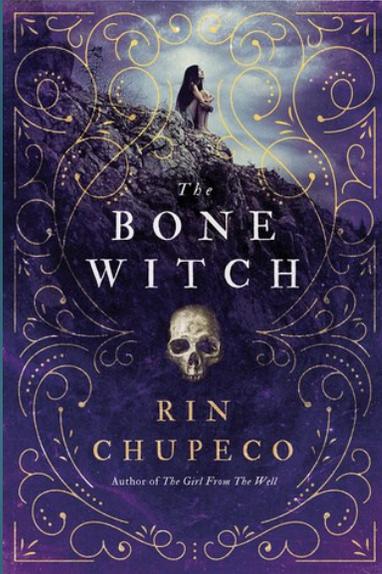
## *The BEAST IS AN ANIMAL*

by Peternelle van Arsdale

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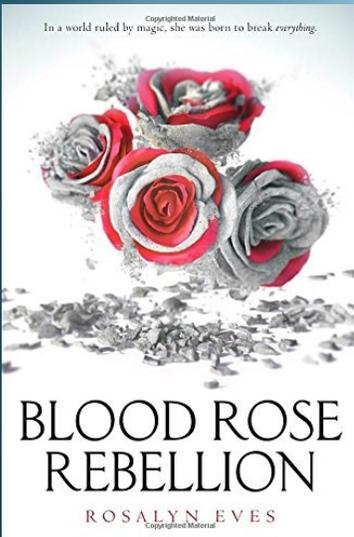
## *The BONE WITCH* by Rin Chupeco

This fictitious tale was not what I expected. There were no dragons to slay, no treasures to find and not much in the way of my definition of romance.

Instead, I found a young girl named Tea whose gift, (She raises her brother from the dead.) has made her a feared bone witch. This discovery forces her to leave home to train under the counsel of an older wiser bone witch.

Therein lies the majority of this story, Tea becoming an asha, one who can wield elemental magic. She will prepare for the war that is coming to the eight kingdoms. Her schooling is difficult, and some around her are not to be trusted. However, despite the impediments, she will not only prevail but thrive.

This was a slow read for me. However, it has well laid the road for the next book in this series.



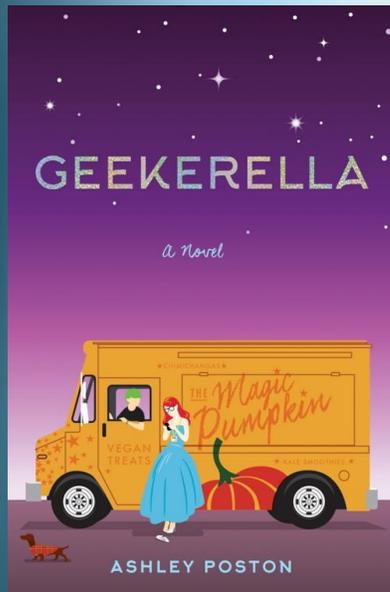
## *BLOOD ROSE REBELLION* by Rosalyn Eves

Anna Arden is born into high British society. She is a member of the ruling class, the Luminates, those who channel magic to utilize power. Her mysterious gifts disastrously result in unwanted attention from the elite. Therefore, Anna, accompanied by her Grandmama, must flee to her cousins in repressive Hungary.

Once there, Anna will find herself in a whirlwind of doubt. The rebellion is forming, and she will be at its center. It can only be successful if she can find, despite her fears, the confidence to embrace who she is.

It was a pleasure reading this story. At first, I wasn't sure I even liked Anna.

She seemed to be at odds with just about everyone even herself. It became fascinating watching her grow in self confidence, making sacrifices and not only accepting but cherishing her capabilities. I cannot wait to see what she does in the next book in this series.



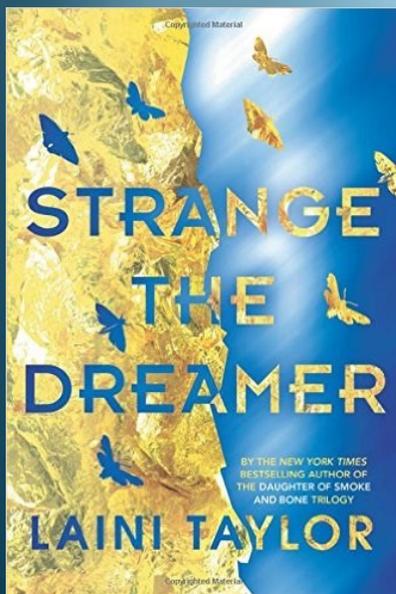
## ***GEEKERELLA* by Ashley Poston**

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Instead, I found a young girl named Tea whose gift, (She raises her brother from the dead.) has made her a feared bone witch. This discovery forces her to leave home to train under the counsel of an older wiser bone witch.

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## ***STRANGE THE DREAMER* by Laini Taylor**

Strange the Dreamer is a beautifully written engaging story. Its characters are enchanting and magical, and its mythical world has a dreamlike quality which will have you wishing you did not have to wake up. Lazlo Strange is a war orphan and a librarian. Sarai is a goddess who has the gift or curse of being able to enter other people's dreams. Their love is breathtaking to behold.

This book is epic in so many ways. There is beauty and horror, love and suffering, hope and despair as well as a twist that had me shouting out loud!

If you enjoy fantasy and adventure, then this is one you should not miss. I totally loved it, and the cliffhanger is simply driving me crazy. It is a must read!