

KYLA ZHAO

Award-winning author ✉ kyla@kylazhao.com

ABOUT KYLA

In the day, Kyla works as a Silicon Valley analyst. At night, she writes novels that champion Asian representation and female empowerment.

She graduated from Stanford University in 2021 with an MA in Communications and BA in Psychology. Before tech, she worked in fashion.

WORKS

- 2024: **Valley Verified (new release!)**
- 2024: *May the Best Player Win*
- 2023: *The Fraud Squad*



 kylazhao.com

PREVIOUS COLLABORATIONS

- **Firms & NPOs:** Qualtrics, Tencent, Oracle, Girls Future Ready, PowerToFly, Amazon, etc.
- **Schools:** Harvard University, Salem State University, Foothill College, etc.
- **Book conferences & Book clubs:** Bay Area Book Festival, Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books, etc.
- **Bookstores & Libraries:** Santa Clara Library, Book Passage SF, Linden Tree Books, etc.

SPEAKING TOPICS

- Drawing on her personal experience as a **woman of color in tech** to write *Valley Verified*
- How a desire to see more positive **Asian media representation** inspired her to start writing
- Confronting **sexism and imposter syndrome** in male-dominated spaces
- Navigating **huge life & career transitions** as a young adult
- Juggling a **full-time tech job and writing novels**
- Publishing **three novels by age of 26** with Penguin Random House, world's largest publisher

FEATURED IN

- Forbes
- Good Morning America
- CBS
- ABC
- NBC
- Vogue
- Cosmopolitan
- Elle
- BuzzFeed
- FOX
- South China Morning Post
- World Journal
- Tatler
- The Mercury News, etc.

AWARDS

- *Forbes* 30 Under 30
- *Tatler* Leader of Tomorrow
- Certificate of Recognition by California State Assembly

TESTIMONIALS

Part 1

QUALTRICS

"Kyla is not only a gifted writer but a **dynamic, generous, and compelling storyteller** who **commanded the room with her presence, power, and warmth**. Behind the scenes, she was an absolute dream to coordinate with: **organized, efficient, ultra-prepared**, and willing to jump on prep calls to ensure everything went smoothly! I hope we get to work with Kyla again very soon." —Alex Nation, Global Chair of Women's Leadership Development

ANNABELLE'S BOOK CLUB LA

"Kyla has spoken twice at our bookstore to celebrate the release of her novels. She is an **engaging, dynamic speaker** and graciously answered questions from the audience both times. We received such positive feedback from our customers after Kyla's first appearance, and we were thrilled to host her for the second time this year. Kyla is **wonderful to work with, as she is always organized and comes prepared**. We can't wait to collaborate with Kyla again soon!" —Annabelle Brown-Chang, Owner

CADENCE DESIGN SYSTEM

"Kyla delivered an **inspiring and insightful keynote** and addressed the challenges faced by people who identify as AAPI, such as the bamboo ceiling. She also openly shared her **profound insights relevant to writing and career transitions**. In short, Kyla's speech is **authentic, passionate, and uplifting**. The talk provided **valuable insights and ways to engage positively with one another and empower us**." —Claire Ying, AAPI Inclusion Group lead

HAYWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Kyla's book event was fantastic. She not only talked about her novel, but also gave **revealing insights about the writing process**, from original idea to publication. It was **entertaining and valuable for aspiring writers and readers alike**. I would highly recommend Kyla for your next literary program" —Ricardo Antoni, Librarian

GIRLS FUTURE READY

"Kyla was an amazing speaker during our recent Masterclass, which she **led with utter professionalism, preparation and openness**. By sharing her life journey and experience, Kyla profoundly inspired the participants with her enriching advice. What makes Kyla unique as a speaker, is her genuine passion for writing and her full time career, as well as honesty, resilience in spite of adversity and commitment to sharing important stories of women of colour and women in the workplace. I highly recommend collaborating with Kyla, as she for sure will **deliver the best quality work, while remaining kind and supportive throughout**." —Kaja Posnik, Program Director

TESTIMONIALS

Part 2

TENCENT AMERICAS

"Kyla's book talk at Tencent was truly engaging and thought-provoking. Her **insights and reflections were both inspiring and informative**. Kyla's **ability to connect with the audience and foster open communication made the event a truly enriching experience.**"

—Sangeeta Bharti, Employee Engagement Specialist and DEI champion

HARVARD CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERATURE SOCIETY

"Kyla's **passion for writing and perseverance in advocating for the Asian community** through her stories capture the audience's attention. Listening to Kyla speak **reignited my belief in myself and encouraged me to pursue my dreams** regardless of the statistics. She is authentically herself, and her presentation showed me that no matter what, we should not give up because we all have stories inside us that, if we dare, can change the communities we're part of."—Nathalie Zender, President 2024-2025

PLAYGROUND GLOBAL

"Kyla's **sharing of personal vignettes and her writing journey was deeply inspirational** to attendees, many of whom are young people, come from similar backgrounds, and have shared the same challenges in the past few years. Many attendees had read *Valley Verified* and there was a **vibrant discussion around the novel**. The evening was seen by all as a delightful experience and a resounding success, setting a precedent for a **high-quality gathering bridging culture and entertainment.**" —Laurie Yoler, General Partner

POWER TO FLY

"For our annual DEI summit, Kyla shared with our members a **very thoughtful presentation about empowering underrepresented voices**. We also had a fireside chat with Kyla about navigating **creativity and entrepreneurship, Asian media representation, and the importance of diverse storytelling**. I know our audience of diverse professionals got so much from her session and I'd highly suggest Kyla for future events." —Rob Ribar, Director of Events & Marketing

GIRLS FUTURE READY

"Kyla recently spoke as the keynote speaker at our Girls Global Ready Annual Gala to over 100 young women. Her talk was **not only inspirational but extremely practical**, focused on real tangible experiences. Her **personal stories perfectly supplemented greater lessons** that she wanted to pass on to the audience. Without hesitation I would recommend Kyla for future speaking engagements!" —Zofia Kerner, CEO
