

KYLA ZHAO

Award-winning author ✉ kyla@kylazhao.com

ABOUT KYLA

In the day, Kyla works in Silicon Valley's tech industry. At night, she writes novels that champion Asian representation and female empowerment.

Kyla has also written for *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Tatler*. She graduated from Stanford University in 2021 with an MA in Communication and BA in Psychology.

WORKS

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



 kylazhao.com

PREVIOUS COLLABORATIONS

- **Firms & NPOs:** Twitch, Pinterest, Figma, Qualtrics, Tencent, Oracle, Girls Future Ready, etc.
- **Educational institutions:** Harvard University, Salem State University, Foothill College, United World College, etc.
- **Bookstores, libraries, book conferences:** Bay Area Book Festival, Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books, Virginia Children's Book Festival

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
- American Library Association's Feminist Book Project 2025

TESTIMONIALS

More available upon request

PINTEREST

"Kyla Zhao's presentation was **incredibly inspiring and insightful!** Her personal journey into writing was captivating. I loved her practical dual-career advice and her writing tips. The conversation about the publishing industry and her challenges as a person of color **really opened my eyes**. Truly a fantastic session!" —Elizabeth Fox, Co-lead of Asians @ Pinterest

FIGMA

"Kyla's book talk was truly empowering. Her **advocacy for challenging gender stereotypes and addressing imposter syndrome** is inspiring and touches on core issues that resonate deeply with many women engineers, myself included. Kyla is fantastic to work with - she's both **communicative and transparent.**" —Erica Kong, Asian and Women Employee Resource Groups

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

TWITCH

"Kyla Zhao is not only an **exciting voice in modern fiction**, but also **an inspiration** to those fortunate enough to hear her speak. A **born storyteller who is as at home on a stage as well as on the page**, Zhao made the hour she spent with our team fly by as she outlined her career as an author, her passion for inclusivity in literature, and how she draws from her community to craft novels that span genres and have resonated with readers of all ages. Zhao presented her creative process and **instilled in all a desire to make something new**, and with any luck, something that would make the world just a little bit better for someone else who might see themselves in the story."

—Meg Jeffrey, Sr. Executive Business Partner and Co-Lead of Women+ Guild

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
