

KYLA ZHAO

Award-winning author ✉ kyla@kylazhao.com

ABOUT KYLA

By day, Kyla works in Silicon Valley's tech industry. By night, she writes novels that center women and girls of color as they navigate ambition, identity, and belonging.

Her writing has also appeared in *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Tatler*. A graduate of Stanford University, Kyla holds both a BA in Psychology and an MA in Communication, Class of 2021.

WORKS

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



 kylazhao.com

PREVIOUS COLLABORATIONS

- **Firms & NPOs:** Twitch, Pinterest, Instacart, Figma, Qualtrics, Tencent, Oracle, Girls Future Ready, Miss Asian Global, etc.
- **Schools:** International School of San Francisco, United World College, Dulwich College, Chatsworth International, Global Indian International School, etc.
- **Bookstores, libraries, book conferences:** Bay Area Book Festival, Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books, Virginia Children's Book Festival, etc.
- **Chess organizations:** World Chess Championship, International Chess Olympiad, International Chess Federation, etc.

SPEAKING TOPICS

- How being a woman of color shapes my stories
- The power of authentic representation in media
- My creative process—from idea to published book
- Bridging STEM and the arts: balancing a tech career with life as an author
- Storytelling as a powerful corporate skill

FEATURED IN

- Forbes
- Good Morning America
- CBS
- ABC
- NBC
- Vogue
- BuzzFeed
- Tatler
- South China Morning Post

AWARDS

- *Forbes* 30 Under 30
- *Tatler* Leader of Tomorrow
- Certificate of Recognition by California State Assembly
- *The Straits Times* bestseller
- Red Dot Book Awards 2025-26
- American Library Association's Feminist Book Project 2025
- Mathical Award Honor Book
- US National Spelling Bee book club selection

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
