

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 (All with Penguin Random House)

- *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, American Bankers Association, 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.
- **Misc:** 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—and writing tips
- Realities of being an author of color in white-dominated publishing
- Balancing a corporate career and creative career
- Storytelling as a powerful corporate skill

FEATURED IN

- Forbes
- Good Morning America
- CBS
- ABC
- NBC
- Vogue
- Cosmopolitan
- Elle
- BuzzFeed

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

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION

"You already know on paper that Kyla is high echelon, but what is not on her biography is her **direct and dynamic delivery**—it comes off as warm storytelling but is actually a **masterclass in communication**. After Kyla's talk, my inbox popped with compliments on her, her journey, and the tactical information she gave us to employ ourselves. She made it seem effortless, but it takes **great skill and intuition in knowing what an audience can relate to and then consume!**" —Hoi Kun Lo, Chair of the AAPI Business Resource Group

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
