



[Ace of Spades](#) by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2021

ISBN: 9781250800800 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

***Gossip Girl* meets *Get Out* in *Ace of Spades*, a YA contemporary thriller by debut author Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé about two students, Devon & Chiamaka, and their struggles against an anonymous bully.**

All you need to know is . . . I'm here to divide and conquer. Like all great tyrants do. —Aces

When two Niveus Private Academy students, Devon Richards and Chiamaka Adebayo, are selected to be part of the elite school's senior class prefects, it looks like their year is off to an amazing start. After all, not only does it look great on college applications, but it officially puts each of them in the running for valedictorian, too.

Shortly after the announcement is made, though, someone who goes by Aces begins using anonymous text messages to reveal secrets about the two of them that turn their lives upside down and threaten every aspect of their carefully planned futures.

As Aces shows no sign of stopping, what seemed like a sick prank quickly turns into a dangerous game, with all the cards stacked against them. Can Devon and Chiamaka stop Aces before things become incredibly deadly?

With heart-pounding suspense and relevant social commentary comes a high-octane thriller from debut author Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Àbíké-Íyímídé excels in portraying the conflict of characters who exist in two worlds...Devon and Chiamaka are dynamic and multifaceted, deeply human in the face of Aces' treatment." —[Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

★ "Readers will love this thriller-mystery... **A revelatory, buzzworthy debut.**" —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

"Told in alternating chapters that capture each character's unique voice and personality, **Àbíké-Íyímídé's adeptly crafted debut brings to life an unforgettable thriller** that fuses intricate world building with compelling character development." —[Booklist](#)

"**Ace of Spades is a clever thriller that, just as you think you've got it figured out, pulls the rug out from under you.** What makes the twist all the more chilling is its plausibility. Debut author Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé is a revelation, her

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protagonists -- Chiamaka and Devon -- are wonderfully captivating and nuanced. And her epilogue is the best I've ever read. **This is one magnificent debut!**" —Angeline Boulley, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Firekeeper's Daughter*

"Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé is an absolute artist of crafting tension and suspense. *Ace of Spades* will leave readers tearing through chapters, desperate to see what happens next. Packed with killer twists that gave me goosebumps, *Ace of Spades* is a phenomenal debut here to knock you off your feet and send your heart racing." —Aiden Thomas, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Cemetery Boys*

"Every so often a book comes along that **perfectly captures the strength and resilience it takes to survive the visceral terror of being a Black person trying to thrive in a society designed to destroy you.** *Ace of Spades* is that book." —Roseanne A. Brown, *New York Times*-Bestselling author of *A Song Of Wraiths and Ruin*

"Not only is this page-turner full of drama, mystery, and intrigue, the salient presence and expert handling of marginalization and complex social dynamics left me not only titillated, but full to the brim and fired up to continue the good fight. **ACE OF SPADES is the thought-provoking thriller we ALL need.**" —Nic Stone, #1 *New York Times*-Bestselling author of *Dear Martin*

"Àbíké-Íyímídé deftly reimagines the prep school thriller in this positively suspenseful takedown of institutional racism, homophobia and classism. **ACE OF SPADES manages to empower and infuriate while also being just a whole lot of genre-blending fun.**" —Christina Hammond Reeds, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Black Kids*

"Thunderous and terrifying. There's no way you're putting this down until you get to the last page." — Maureen Johnson, #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Truly Devious*

"Àbíké-Íyímídé's stunningly brilliant thriller weaves teen drama, thriller, and protest novel in a story like you've never seen before. **A complete game changer.**" —Camryn Garret, author of *Full Disclosure*

"Harrowing, breathtaking, and entirely unputdownable, **Ace of Spades will linger long after you've read the final page.**" —Marieke Nijkamp, bestselling author of *This Is Where It Ends*

"Spine-tingling, full of twists and turns, *Ace of Spades* is a thriller that'll knock you off your feet. **Undoubtedly the best thriller of 2021, *Ace of Spades* keeps you guessing, and leaves you wanting more.**" —Namina Forna, *New York Times*-Bestselling author of *The Gilded Ones*

"A fast-paced, edge-of-your seat thriller that's **part dark-academia, part chilling mystery, and wholly, beautifully queer.** This book is for those who enjoy thrillers that sneak up on them and encompass them with an inescapable, heart-pounding dread. Àbíké-Íyímídé's debut is captivating, nuanced and brilliant, and definitely not one to be missed!" —Sophie Gonzales, author of *Only Mostly Devastated*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- NAACP Image Award Winner for Outstanding Literary Work - Youth/Teens
- William C. Morris Award Finalist
- Edgar Award Nominee for Best Young Adult
- Junior Library Guild Selection
- An Amazon Best Book
- *A School Library Journal* Best Young Adult Book

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- A BuzzFeed Best YA Book Covers
- A *Boston Globe* Best Book
- An *Autostraddle* Best Queer Book
- A *The Young Folks* Best Book Debut

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Marie Claire Author Interview](#)
- [The Bookseller Author Interview](#)
- [MacKids Author Spotlight](#)
- [Discussion Questions](#)
- [Teacher's Notes](#)
- [Official Book Playlist](#)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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