



[Light From Uncommon Stars](#) by Ryka Aoki

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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*Good Omens* meets *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* in Ryka Aoki's *Light From Uncommon Stars*, a defiantly joyful adventure set in California's San Gabriel Valley, with cursed violins, Faustian bargains, and queer alien courtship over fresh-made donuts.

Shizuka Satomi made a deal with the devil: to escape damnation, she must entice seven other violin prodigies to trade their souls for success. She has already delivered six.

When Katrina Nguyen, a young transgender runaway, catches Shizuka's ear with her wild talent, Shizuka can almost feel the curse lifting. She's found her final candidate.

But in a donut shop off a bustling highway in the San Gabriel Valley, Shizuka meets Lan Tran, retired starship captain, interstellar refugee, and mother of four. Shizuka doesn't have time for crushes or coffee dates, what with her very soul on the line, but Lan's kind smile and eyes like stars might just redefine a soul's worth. And maybe something as small as a warm donut is powerful enough to break a curse as vast as the California coastline.

As the lives of these three women become entangled by chance and fate, a story of magic, identity, curses, and hope begins, and a family worth crossing the universe for is found.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"The book brought me to tears . . . and bursts with love and insights on food, music, inheritance and transformation." — [The New York Times](#)

"Filled with mouthwatering descriptions of food and heart-swelling meditations on music, this novel is an unexpected gift." — [Kirkus](#), starred review

"Aoki's novel is an exciting, wild web of an adventure, an unputdownable book about music, found family, and identity. Diving into the tough subjects, Aoki's book emerges with a joyful, queer, radical ballad of a story. . ." — [Booklist](#), starred review

"A dark but ultimately hopeful sci-fi exploration of the threats faced by queer people of color [and] a love letter to immigrant culture and the power people have to save each other . . . a beautiful, satisfying story of redemption and families of choice." — [Publishers Weekly](#)

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“A transformative marvel. I have never read a book quite like this before. I laughed. I wept. I believed in the power of souls. This is a novel that will be talked about for years to come, and deservedly so. I. Loved. This. Book.” —T. J. Klune, *New York Times*–bestselling author

“Delightful and heartbreaking. An unexpected mashup of science fiction and fantasy that will make you love music, crave donuts, and wish to read it all again.”—John Scalzi, *New York Times*–bestselling author

“This book broke my heart and glued it back together stronger than before. Skillful, stunning, absolutely gorgeous.”—Becky Chambers, *USA Today*–bestselling author

“A beautiful story of friendship and love . . . incredibly soothing and kind and sweet and delightful. I fell in love with these characters and did not even realize how desperately I needed this story right now.”—Charlie Jane Anders, author of *All the Birds in the Sky*

“A story that sparkles with magic and music and joy; this book just sings.”—Everina Maxwell, author of *Winter's Orbit*

“A kaleidoscopic and riveting symphony . . . Aoki has conjured the most spellbinding venues to unpack race, sexuality, and class with both ingenuity and heart. A new classic.”—Sequoia Nagamatsu, author of *Where We Go When All We Were Is Gone*

“Ryka Aoki's prose is sublime, the emotional connections she makes are like sparkling jewels . . . *Light From Uncommon Stars* is fantastic, beautiful, and deeply, profoundly moving.”—Jenn Lyons, author of *Ruin of Kings*

“A singing, full-hearted, fearless—and fearlessly goofy—vision that dances across the border between real and surreal, heartrending and sweet, with the nonstop energy of Douglas Adams, and a deep, merciless compassion.”—Max Gladstone, author of *Empress of Forever*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Hugo Award Finalist
- A National Bestseller
- Indie Next Pick
- New York Public Library Top 10 Book of 2021
- A Kirkus Best Book of 2021
- A Barnes & Noble Best Science Fiction Book of 2021
- 2022 Alex Award Winner
- 2022 Stonewall Book Award Winner
- L.A. Times Book Prize - Finalist
- Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Best Science Fiction 2021

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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Author Interviews:

[Lambda Literary Four Questions with Ryka Aoki](#)

[We Do What We Can: A Conversation with Ryka Aoki](#)

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[Locus Mag Interview](#)

[LitHub Interview](#)

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