



Plotting the Stars 2: Seagarden

by Michelle A. Barry

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*Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Range: Grade 5 & Up

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Forced to hide her new-found magic or risk imprisonment or worse, Myra enrolls in an interplanetary academy exchange program to dig up more about the government's many conspiracies, but instead uproots even darker secrets that could drown everything she's grown to trust. The second book in the searing STEAM-inspired Plotting the Stars middle grade series perfect for fans of *The City of Ember* and *Divergent*.

Revolution is watered with sweat and tears.

As Myra Hodger begins her second year at the elite Scientific Lunar Academy of Magic, she should be happy. Her days of faking Number Whisperer magic are over, and she has friends she can trust with the secret of her Botan abilities. But that doesn't mean she's through pretending to be someone she's not. Mourning Bernie and the incredible Moongarden they cultivated together, she feels like she's losing herself just when she found the thing that made her feel whole. She's given a seed of hope when she runs into a teen Rep in the hallway who looks eerily familiar. But irritable Bernard, controlled by his Rep implant, is nothing like her beloved Bernie.

With the continuing interplanetary food crisis conspiracy, an anonymous tip about a community of free Reps who might be able to help save Bernard, and the hunt for more information about what really happened to the banished Botans, all routes seem to point to Venus, and an exchange program with the Vesuvian Academy of Magical Arts might provide Myra and her friends the cover they need to unearth the answers they seek.

Or it might widen the cracks already forming among them, releasing a flood of consequences that could wash away all they've worked so hard to grow.

The second book in the Plotting the Stars series, *Seagarden* blossoms with unexpected twists and heartbreaking revelations, underpinned by climate change warnings and a determination to fight against the status quo.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"The satisfying cliffhanger of an ending to this second book in the series will leave readers eager for the next installment. Richly imagined and excitingly paced."—[Kirkus Reviews](#)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [YEM Author Interview](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

When the original seed of the concept for *Moongarden* was taking form, I had lots of dueling ideas swirling around my head. I loved the thought of combining climate change messaging with STEM themes, and somehow tying that all into the wonder and magic of nature. Ultimately, I landed on a secret garden retelling, infused with magic (and some friendship make-ups and breakups), which seemed the ideal formula to tell Myra's story of growth, both as a person looking for her place in the universe, and as a friend in the ever-evolving world of middle school.

As the characters in the series discover as the plot unfolds, knowledge is power, and so making all sorts of books and stories available to all readers is vitally important in both fiction and real life.

—Michelle A. Barry, Author of the Plotting the Stars Series

*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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