



***Be Dazzled* by Ryan La Sala**

Sourcebooks Fire, Sourcebooks, 2021

9781728279633: (Paperback)

9781492682691: (Hardcover)

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

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

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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***Project Runway* goes to Comic Con in an epic, queer love story about creativity, creation, and finding the courage to be your most authentic self**

Raffy has a passion for bedazzling. Not just bedazzling, but sewing, stitching, draping, pattern making—for creation. He's always chosen his art over everything and everyone else, and now he's determined to make his mark at this year's biggest cosplay competition. If he can wow there, it could lead to sponsorship, then art school, and finally earning real respect for his work. There's only one small problem... Raffy's ex-boyfriend, Luca, is his main competition.

Raffy tried to make it work with Luca. They almost made the perfect team last year after serendipitously meeting in the rhinestone aisle at the local craft store—or at least Raffy thought they did. But Luca's insecurities and Raffy's insistence on crafting perfection caused their relationship to crash and burn. Now, Raffy is after the perfect comeback, one that Luca can't ruin.

But when Raffy is forced to partner with Luca on his most ambitious build yet, he'll have to juggle unresolved feelings for the boy who broke his heart, and his own intense self-doubt, to get everything he's ever wanted: choosing his art, his way.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"La Sala (*Reverie*, 2019) crafts a fabulously gay story of hope, friendship, and love worth fighting for. Queer nerds, rejoice!" —[Booklist](#)

"A sequin-filled romance that's also a love letter to the craft and creativity of cosplay." —[Publishers Weekly](#), [STARRED Review](#)

"A charming, geeky love story filled with all the con drama readers could wish for" —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"A crafty queer romance about self-acceptance, and a delightful addition to YA collections." —[School Library Journal](#)

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"This fantasy offers readers something wonderfully new and engaging...a gem of a novel that is as affirming as it is entertaining." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"La Sala embroiders a wrenching a beautiful love story with two romances at its center: Raffy and Luca's, and the art of and glory of creation itself." —[Lambda Literary](#)

"Heartfelt and hilarious, *Be Dazzled* is an artfully crafted ode to teen ambition and first love. From the book's charming cast to Raffy's quick-witted voice, La Sala's contemporary debut simply dazzles." —*Phil Stamper, bestselling author of The Gravity of Us*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- B&N's YA Book Club Pick
- Walmart Buzz Pick
- Indie Next Pick
- Book of the Month Club YA Box
- 2022 Rainbow Book List for Young Adult Fiction
- 2022-2023 South Carolina Children's Book Award Nominee
- 2021 Chicago Public Library (CPL) Best of the Best Books for 2021 List for Teen Fiction
- Winter 2020 Kids Indie Next List
- HOLT Medallion Finalist
- 2022 Capitol Choices Notworthy Books for Children and Teens Title
- Winner of the Audie Award for Best YA AudioBook Adaptation, narrated by Pete Cross

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Be Dazzled discussion guide](#)
- [Ryan La Sala Be Dazzled book talk](#)
- [Geeks Out interview with Ryan La Sala](#)
- [Los Angeles Public Library Interview with Ryan La Sala](#)
- [The Nerd Daily Q&A with Ryan La Sala](#)
- [The Lambda Literary Review interview with Ryan La Sala](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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## AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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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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