BOOK RESUME: A SCATTER OF LIGHT

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Last Night at the Telegraph Club author Malinda Lo returns to the Bay Area with another masterful queer coming-of-age story, this time set against the backdrop of the first major Supreme Court decisions legalizing gay marriage.

Aria Tang West was looking forward to a summer on Martha’s Vineyard with her best friends—one last round of sand and sun before college. But after a graduation party goes wrong, Aria’s parents exile her to California to stay with her grandmother, artist Joan West. Aria expects boredom, but what she finds is Steph Nichols, her grandmother’s gardener. Soon, Aria is second-guessing who she is and what she wants to be, and a summer that once seemed lost becomes unforgettable—for Aria, her family, and the working-class queer community Steph introduces her to. It’s the kind of summer that changes a life forever.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Raw and bittersweet … [an] expansive tale of yearning, self-discovery, and first love.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

★ “Aria’s story is…about what it means to be an artist, a friend, a daughter and a granddaughter, and about how identities of all kinds can converge and crystallize as part of the process of growing up.”—BookPage, starred review

★ “Tells the powerful story of one young woman’s life-changing summer of self-discovery….Both newcomers and longtime fans of Lo’s work should enjoy this narrative of a young woman coming to understand herself and her wants better.”—Shelf Awareness, starred review

★ “An excellent coming-of-age and coming-out story. Characters are complicated and messy but in a realistic and relatable way. The story is driven by Aria’s truthful narration, which is beautifully reflective of an 18-year-old at that time…. A must-have.”—SLJ

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

• 2023 Massachusetts Book Award Winner
• 2023 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

• Discussion Guide
• Blog Post on Book Banning by Malinda Lo

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.