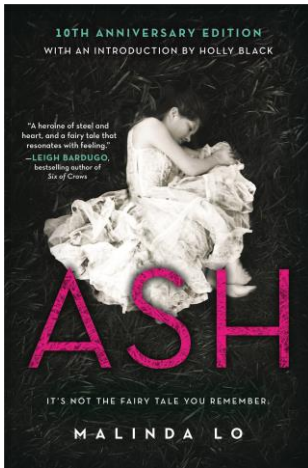


## Book Resume: Ash



### **Ash by Malinda Lo**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009

ISBN: 9780316531313 (Paperback)

\*Age Range: 14 & Up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8 & Up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

### **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

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**The haunting, romantic lesbian retelling of Cinderella and modern queer classic by award-winning author Malinda Lo.**

In the wake of her father's death, Ash is left at the mercy of her cruel stepmother. Consumed by grief, her only joy comes by the light of the dying hearth fire, rereading the fairy tales her mother once told her. In her dreams, someday the fairies will steal her away. When she meets the dark and dangerous fairy Sidhean, she believes that her wish may be granted.

The day that Ash meets Kaisa, the King's Huntress, her heart begins to change. Instead of chasing fairies, Ash learns to hunt with Kaisa. Their friendship, as delicate as a new bloom, reawakens Ash's capacity for love—and her desire to live. But Sidhean has already claimed Ash for his own, and she must make a choice between fairy tale dreams and true love.

Entrancing and empowering, *Ash* beautifully unfolds the connections between life and love, and solitude and death, where transformation can come from even the deepest grief.

### **REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

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★ “An unexpected reimaging of the Cinderella tale, exquisite and pristine, unfolding deliberately ... Beautiful language magically wrought; beautiful storytelling magically told.” —*Kirkus*, starred review

“In this groundbreaking, gender-mixing retelling, it's another woman at court, not the prince, who captures Cinderella's heart. ... Part heart-pounding lesbian romance and part universal coming-of-age story, Lo's powerful tale is richly embroidered with folklore and glittering fairy magic that will draw fans of Sharon Shinn's earthy, herb-laced fantasies.” —*Booklist*

**Updated 4.30.24**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

[Childrenspubcity@hbgusa.com](mailto:Childrenspubcity@hbgusa.com)

“Lo offers an important twist on a classic story that will appeal to a wide readership, especially those looking for a girl romance.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Ash will appeal to readers looking for GLBTQ titles, but fans of romance, fantasy, and strong female protagonists will also embrace this fine debut novel.” —*School Library Journal*

“Somber and lovely. ... Ash feels pulled between two worlds — the fairy realm, where a haughty prince named Sidhean waits for permission to possess her, and the charmed hours she spends with Kaisa. ... How can Ash decide between Kaisa, in her riding leathers, and the austere, almost irresistible Sidhean?” —*New York Times*

“Lo’s evocative prose transforms what is at first the darkly ominous setting of the Wood into a place of wonder and beauty, mirroring Ash’s transition from despondent servant to willful young woman. Although the conclusion is of course a bit different from the original Cinderella story, fans of fairy-tale retellings will nonetheless find a happy ending in this inclusive adaptation.” —*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

“Lo peels away old tropes to reveal a heroine of steel and heart, and a fairy tale that resonates with feeling.” — Leigh Bardugo, bestselling author of the *Shadow and Bones* trilogy and *Six of Crows* duology

“A rich and darkly moving tale I couldn't put down.” —Meg Cabot, bestselling author of *The Princess Diaries* series

“Cinderella, gorgeously reimagined, captivating and winsome. After you've fallen into the storytelling world of Malinda Lo, the truth of love will transcend the romantic ideal of fairy tales.” —Julie Anne Peters, author of *Keeping You a Secret* and National Book Award Finalist *Luna*

“This lyrically retold Cinderella tale is not just a beautifully updated fable, but an ode to the transformative power of love.” —Cassandra Clare, bestselling author of *The Mortal Instruments* series

“A Cinderella story with fresh blood and real yearning.” —Rainbow Rowell, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Carry On*

“I will forever hold this gorgeous novel close to my heart.” —Nina LaCour, author of the Michael L. Printz Award winner *We Are Okay*

“Lyrical and beautifully balanced...this Cinderella is flesh and blood in a whole new, breathtaking way.” —Kristin Cashore, New York Times bestselling author of the *Graceling Realm* series and *Jane, Unlimited*

“A modern classic and a must-read for those seeking...the victory of transformation over the darkest grief.” —Roshani Chokshi, New York Times bestselling author of *The Star-Touched Queen* and *The Gilded Wolves*

“Lo is one of the greatest voices in YA fiction.” —Kiersten White, New York Times bestselling author of the *And I Darken* trilogy

**Updated 4.30.24**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

[Childrenspublicity@hbgusa.com](mailto:Childrenspublicity@hbgusa.com)

“With its beauty and bravery...Ash opened a world to girls like me.” —Anna-Marie McLemore, author of the Stonewall Honor Book *When the Moon Was Ours* and *Blanca & Roja*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Finalist for the 2010 William C. Morris YA Debut Award
- Finalist for the 2009 Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy
- Finalist for the 2010 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature
- Finalist for the 2010 Lambda Literary Award (LGBT Children’s/Young Adult)
- Finalist for the 2010 Northern California Book Award (Children’s Literature)
- Finalist for the NCIBA 2010 Book of the Year (Teen Fiction)
- A Kirkus Best Young Adult Book of 2009
- 2010 Rainbow List
- 2009 Locus Recommended Reading List
- Long-Listed for the 2010 James Tiptree, Jr. Award
- CCBC Choices 2010
- New York Public Library’s 2010 Stuff for the Teen Age
- CBC/Bank Street College of Education’s 2010 Best Children’s Books of the Year
- Nominated for the 2011 Rhode Island Teen Book Award
- Autumn ’09 Kids’ Indie Next List

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Malinda Lo reads from ASH](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About Ash](#)
- [Queering SFF: An Interview with Malinda Lo](#)
- [YALSA Blog - Interview with Malinda Lo](#)
- [AfterEllen - An interview with Malinda Lo](#)
- [A Decade of LGBTQ YA Since Ash](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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### [Klein Independent School District \(Klein, TX\):](#)

When the school “board has used its official power to perform an act clearly indicating that the ideas contained in the [books] are unacceptable and should not be discussed or considered,” that “message is not lost on students and teachers, and its chilling effect is obvious.” *Pratt v. Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 831*, 670 F.2d 771, 779 (8th Cir. 1982). Klein ISD has done just that—indicated that the ideas in removed books are unacceptable. Klein ISD’s book removals are a plain violation of the First Amendment, and of the Texas Constitution and district policy.

Updated 4.30.24

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
[Childrenspublicity@hbgusa.com](mailto:Childrenspublicity@hbgusa.com)

## **AUTHOR STATEMENT**

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[My Books Have Been Banned or Challenged in 16 States \(October 2023\)](#)

### **\*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.

**Updated 4.30.24**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

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