

# Reverie by Ryan La Sala

Sourcebooks Fire, Sourcebooks, 2019

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

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

#### **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

A "joyously, riotously queer" (*Kirkus*) young adult fantasy from debut author Ryan La Sala, *Reverie* is a wildly imaginative story about dreams becoming reality, perfect for fans of Adam Silvera and Laini Taylor.

A few weeks ago, Kane Montgomery was in an accident that robbed him of his memory. The only thing he knows for certain is that the police found him half-dead in the river. The world as he knows it feels different—reality seems different. And when strange things start happening around him, Kane isn't sure where to turn.

And then three of his classmates show up, claiming to be his friends and the only people who can tell him what's truly going on. Kane doesn't know what to believe or who he can trust. But as he and the others are dragged into increasingly fantastical dream worlds drawn from imagination, it becomes clear that there is dark magic at work. Nothing in Kane's life is an accident, and only he can keep the world itself from unraveling.

### **REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

★ "This outstanding debut novel will light readers' imaginations on fire...Imaginative, bold, and full of queer representation, this is a must-purchase for YA collections." —School Library Journal, Starred Review

"Joyously, riotously queer... The themes of creating one's own reality and fighting against the rules imposed by the world you're born into will ring powerfully true for many young readers." —*Kirkus Reviews* 

"A unique, clever fantasy with a strong protagonist." — Booklist

"A darkly imagined, riveting fantasy... thrilling." — Shelf Awareness

"With its fresh take on a diverse cast, its queer-power narrative, and its unique rendering of dream magic, 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

"I don't know that I've ever encountered a book quite like Reverie before. It wears its queerness and its narrative weirdness on its sleeve and it paints outside the genre box, even as it gleefully pulls tropes out of that same box and flings them around like confetti. It feels like something fresh and different, and I'll be fascinated to see if it leads the way for a new YA trend. Queer, dream-bending mystery fantasy may well be the next big thing, and I'm here for it!" —NPR.org

# **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- Winter 2019-2020 Kids' Indie Next Pick
- 2020 OverDrive Big Library Reads book club pick

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- <u>Discussion Guide from OverDrive</u>
- Letter from the Author from OverDrive
- Ryan La Sala interview with School Library Journal
- Los Angeles Public Library Interview
- OverDrive Professional Book Nerds Podcast interview
- Lambda Literary author interview
- Reverie feature in We Need Diverse Books

#### **RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES**

## **AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)**

"I will always write about queer kids. A big part of my agenda as an author is creating a new mythology around queerness that finds power in the narratives of queerness, and with nuance and complexity. That's always been the case and that's never going to change. I think the hostility that queer youth are facing, if anything, makes me feel all the more adamant that I don't back down from these big creative challenges. I'm being given these big opportunities to tell stories the way that I want to tell them, which is uncompromising in their queerness, but also in their victory. It's been a surreal thing watching our rights deteriorate actively. It makes me want to keep writing, so that I can keep inspiring kids to do more than simply ask to be tolerated. I want these kids writing their own stories, and I want them to be loud about it." —Publishers Weekly Q&A with Ryan La Sala

## \*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.