

1. What was your first fandom you ever joined (if you were into a fandom). Did you read fic for it? Have you ever written fic?

I'm embarrassed to say that I don't think I was ever part of a fandom. Do we count Taylor Swift as a fandom (IYKYK), but I've never really read fanfic except for a few years ago about, I came across a fanfic of Christen Press and Tobin Heath from the USWNT soccer team, and of course, that fanfic author never continued the story so it was incomplete. I'm still sad about it.

2. *The Memories of Marlie Rose* is your next release (coming out in December, y'all!) – can you tell us some more about it?

Think if *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Evelyn Hugo* had a baby. *The Memories of Marlie Rose* is about a legendary Broadway singer who has lived quite the life. From the highest highs to the lowest of the lows, and it's the lows that really haunt her. She decides to go through a new procedure that helps depression, grief, trauma, and heartache by erasing unwanted memories. While going through the procedure, Marlie recalls her life from her earliest memory and picks out what memories she would like to erase. But when she starts second guessing all of it, she discovers that the only person who might be able to help remember is the one woman she's trying to forget.

I think it turned out to be one of my favorite novels I've written so I'm very excited about it coming out in December!

3. What have you learned about yourself through writing?

I learned that I'm more persistent than I ever thought I was. In college, I spent every summer sending query letters to agents and getting rejected. I think I had about 50 rejections, and that caused me to take a two year writing break after college. There have been really challenging times throughout my writing career where "giving up" had crossed my mind, but I never did, even if it seemed like the easiest option. I've never considered myself a "mentally strong" person, but I think you have to be a bit when you want to accomplish your dreams, and my dream has always been to be a writer. So cheers to accomplishing things even when the journey starts off bumpy!

4. What part of the writing process strikes you, first (a plot line, a single scene, the characters, etc)?

Usually it's the characters for me and then the plot comes after. But I've also had a single scene and the plot come first. *The Hues of Me and You*, it was the first sex scene that came to me first, which was the first and only time a scene came first but...it was quite the first scene to write of the story. But in most cases, the character comes to me first.

5. What is your favorite idea that you haven't yet written?

This might be cheating but...I'm going for it. I've always wanted to write a book about a group of childhood friends. I just think there is something really special about growing up with friends and watching them do life and grow in all of their eras. When I was in high school/college and really into screenwriting, I wrote a pilot about four childhood friends growing up in the late 1960s, and

it followed them through each summer of high school from 1967-1970. While I scrapped that project before I became an author, I haven't let go of the idea about childhood friends in their adult years. My eighth book that I just started writing this summer will be about a group of childhood friends (with a love story tied to it). I barely have anything written (only about 20k words) so technically there is still plenty of story I still need to write.

6. What is your favorite meal/meal of the day?

I'm a simple woman. My favorite meal is chips, salsa, guac, and queso. That's all I want most days...and special days, birthdays, mental health days. And while I love lunch and dinner (I'm *not* a breakfast person), my favorite meal is the late night snack. They say it's the most important meal of the day (they meaning me).

7. If you could have dinner with one writer, dead or alive, who would it be?

I would love to have dinner with my 9th cousin, Emily Dickinson. She's a queer writing icon and wrote with the same freedom and rebellion that she lived by. She poured her heart out in an unconventional form, which any Pisces like myself can support. I love how she approached dark themes like death and mortality as openly as love. It's amazing how her poems and her legacy are inspiring the LGBTQ+ community today, well over a hundred years later.

8. If you had to pick two of your main characters (from different books) to be best friends, who would they be? And who, if any, would be enemies?

I think Blair from *Hammers, Strings, and Beautiful Strings* and Marlie Rose would make really good friends. Blair would definitely see Marlie Rose as a mentor and second mother (and a scene between the two of them may or may not have been written). However, I don't think Blair and Eliza from *Before. After. Always* would get along. A wild rock star meets an orthopedic surgeon who hates taking risks? Blair would think Eliza was boring, and Eliza would think Blair was too chaotic.

9. Who is your own personal favorite character in any of your books?

Blair Bennett from *Hammers/Strings*. I love flawed characters. I love watching, reading, and writing them, and Blair is the most flawed character I've written. Plus, very flawed characters offer a beautiful and massive character arc.

10. What book got you into reading?

I can't quite remember which book got me into reading. I wasn't a reader growing up because I struggled with reading comprehension, but the movie *The Notebook* got me reading Nicholas Sparks in high school (it was just a phase), and from there, I discovered Sarah Dessen, and she was really the one who got me into writing young adult fiction, which would eventually lead me to writing my debut, *All the Worlds Between Us*.

11. What book got you into reading sapphic romance?

The first two sapphic books I bought at the same time: *Strawberry Summer* by Melissa Brayden. and *Annie On My Mind* by Nancy Garden. But something about *Strawberry Summer* made me read it first, and I'm still in love with it. After that, I bought a bunch of Melissa Brayden's books because I loved her writing style and then was introduced to the world of sapphic romance. Now, years later, I can call Melissa Brayden a friend. It's a really cool, full circle moment.

12. If you could pick one song to epitomize your characters, what would it be? One song each, for as many characters as you'd like to answer with.

Oh I love this question! I'll answer for my most recent main characters:

Marlie Rose - "Maroon" by Taylor, I think this epitomizes how she feels about her relationship with Elle and "Cleopatra" by The Lumineers always reminded me of Marlie when writing the novel

Arlette Adair - "Champagne Problems" by Taylor Swift...and that song did inspire *The Hues of Me and You*

Brooke Dawson - "You Are Gold" The National Parks I think epitomizes how she sees Arlette. Lots of use of colors, and the song is soft and subtle like Brooke.

13. What is your favorite Taylor Swift song and/or lyric?

It's mean to make me pick just one favorite song and lyric. "All Too Well" has always been my favorite song, and then she released the 10 min version and my love for it grew. Also, "Maroon" has this chokehold on me that probably won't ever go away. My ALL TIME favorite lyric is, "And you call me up again just to break me like a promise/So casually cruel in the name of being honest" but I also absolutely love, "You assume I'm fine, but what would you do if I/Break free and leave us in ruins/Took this dagger in me and removed it/Gain the weight of you, then lose it/Believe me, I could do it." It's an underrated lyric and puts a dagger right through you, which I love. Ugh, it hurts so good.

14. Have you ever read a book – or fanfic – that is *criminally* underrated? Now is your chance to advertise it:

One of my favorite sapphic books is *Colorblind* by Siera Maley. It's a YA romance about a girl who can see on people's foreheads the age they will die. Then she meets this girl, and her number is 16. It's amazing and one of the first sapphic books I read. Everyone check it out NOW!

15. You appear to have a lot of friendships in the author community (with people like Erica Lee and Kris Bryant, and more – miss popular...). Do you think having close social connections in the community influences your writing in any way?

I think it does to some degree. When we get together, obviously with a bunch of writer's in the room, you brainstorm plot ideas, characters, things that work in a story and things that don't, and writing processes. Every person has a different approach to doing things, and I always feel inspired

to write after having one of these conversations with my author friends. I learn so much from all my friends in this community.

16. What would you title your auto-biography?

Is This Intuition or Anxiety? The Chronicles of an Anxious Pisces

17. Several of your books (*Hammers, Strings, and Beautiful Things, Al the Worlds Between Us/All the Paths To You, The Infinite Summer*) are in the young adult/new adult category. What attracts you to writing in this genre?

I'm a sucker for a coming-of-age story. I love reading and writing about the trial and errors of life, and teenage and college years are prime years for learning about how the world works, first loves, finding yourself, and learning from mistakes. There is also a loss of innocence, and that alone dishes out a satisfying amount of angst.

18. Finally – where would you put these characters on this seating chart:

Blair Bennett from *Hammers, String, and Beautiful Things* by you

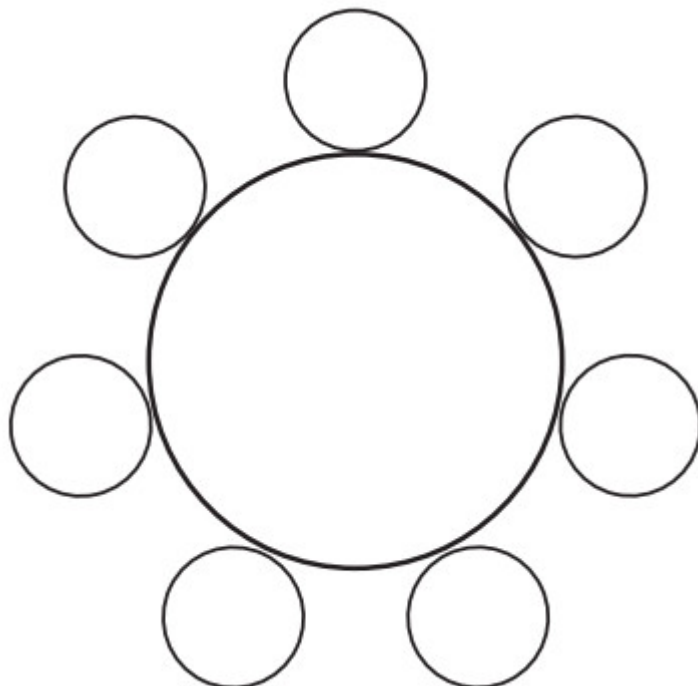
Charlotte Thompson from *Those Who Wait* by me

Evelyn Hugo from *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Courtney Carrington from *Strawberry Summer* by Melissa Brayden

Lily Connor from *Then and Now* by Monica McCallan

Olivia Soldano from *Alone* by EJ Noyes



Explain your reasoning :)

Going clockwise, Evelyn Hugo would be seated next to Blair Bennett. They would bond over music and their careers, and like Marlie Rose, Evelyn Hugo would be a good role model/mentor for Blair. Next to Blair would be Lily Connor because Lily likes the name Bennett...and seems to be into brunette women with baggage. Next to Lily would have to be Olivia Soldano because there are a lot of rich people at the table, and Lily isn't about that. Charlotte would be next to Olivia, because Charlotte is in politics...which might intrigue Olivia's next experiment. Courtney would be next to Charlotte and Evelyn. Courtney is sweet. I think she would vibe well with Charlotte, and Evelyn Hugo would be complimenting Courtney on her boss lady outfits.