

Dear Agent,

Seventeen-year-old Rosaline “Roe” Damarcus steals the spotlight from crystal chandeliers and glittering gowns at her father’s grand balls by raising spirits of the dead. As a morphic, Roe has relished her gift since childhood, conjuring rat spirits to nip at bullies’ heels and using long-lost grandparents to thrill adoring crowds. Once she passes society’s mandated trial to keep her power (like a high stakes driver’s test for magic), she plans to become a hunter of dangerous, rogue morphics and make her esteemed family proud.

When Roe shockingly fails her trial, she can either lose her magic or exchange lavish banquets with society’s elite for grueling days serving them on The Celestial cruise ship. While high-paying guests sample desserts that taste like treasured memories, ride sea dragons in the top-deck lagoon, and enjoy a starlit theatre from the view of floating seats, the morphic staff compete in a popularity contest to earn guest votes for a retrial. Failing to secure a coveted lunch reservation could mean losing your magic forever, but the true horrors lurk on the lower deck. At night, the ship enchants crew members to walk off steep balconies and hallway floors swallow workers whole. Forced to confront the reality of life for most morphics, Roe begins to question her own family, whose ancestors created the ship and the trial that put her there.

Her only escape is forbidden nights in the theatre with Ivander, a charming aerial silks performer who can shift his painted nails into claws. Drawn to his frustrating honesty as much as the corded muscle of his dancer’s physique, Roe can let the stress of fighting for a retrial and survival fade within Ivander’s strong embrace. That is, until she’s framed for a guest’s murder.

TRIAL BY SEA AND SPIRITS is a YA dark romantasy with haunting mystery elements complete at 91,000 words with series potential. It combines the enchantingly dangerous setting and sibling bonds of Emily J. Taylor’s *Hotel Magnifique* and the family secrets and high society of *Belladonna* by Adalyn Grace. This book features a cruise ship setting, found family, and a major character with a chronic illness inspired by my own.

I am a graduate student in mental health counseling with a tendency to scribble plot points in the margins of my school notes. I am a member of SCBWI, Manuscript Academy, and I live with my twin sister in Orlando, Florida. When I’m not writing, you can find me on local weekend adventures and adding to my growing wall of bookish fanart.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Julia Alexandra

[julia.m.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:julia.m.alexandra@gmail.com)