

I submit for your consideration IXORA DRIVE, an own-voices YA romantic contemporary set in Trinidad and Tobago. It is complete at 74,000 words.

The loser who said it was better to have loved and lost, never got publicly rejected – and definitely not in front of the gossipy community of Maderine Bay, Tobago.

If heart-break and humiliation taught seventeen-year-old Reyna anything, it was to steer clear of the handsome boys-next-door. Since then, Reyna's clawed her way to the top of her class, caught in a cut-throat competition for a scholarship to her dream school. Sure, she has no life outside of her books, but at least she's not the school's laughingstock anymore.

But when Reyna's old neighbor returns to Tobago, reviving old rumors and feelings she worked hard to keep buried, Reyna will learn there are times to play it safe, and times to risk it all – including her heart.

IXORA DRIVE is a stand-alone novel that will appeal to fans of TO ALL THE BOYS I'VE LOVED BEFORE by Jenny Han and LOLA AND THE BOY NEXT DOOR by Stephanie Perkins. I have an MSc. in Crime and Forensic Science. My days are spent working as an office administrator, but my nights are dedicated to crafting whimsical stories about growing up and living in the Caribbean.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Young Adult Author Sarah Dass and the Pressure of Representation

Young Adult Author Sarah Dass joins Queries, Qualms, & Quirks this week to discuss letting go of a book to move forward, the importance of finishing books, her debut group, a disastrous first book, amassing 100 rejections, Pitch Wars, and getting published with your third book.

Sarah Dass was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. She works as an office administrator by day and writes stories about the Caribbean by night. When she's not writing, she's reading or taking walks with her dachshund, Stella. Sarah's debut novel, Where the Rhythm Takes You, is inspired by her childhood, spent in a seaside hotel.

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