

Dear Natascha:

Greetings from snowy Nebraska! I'm reaching out to you with a new project, as you had interest in a previous manuscript of mine. My current project features a pansexual plus-size bombshell of an MC, and I'm rather fond of her. I'm hopeful you may also be. I was previously represented by (agent) at (fancy agency), and we have amicably parted ways.

Sixteen-year old musical theatre ingénue Bridget Venus Bloom is sure of one thing: she's unstoppable. With a voice like hers, she's destined for fame, and she's sure as hell getting out of her rural hometown of Lynch, Nebraska, where she sticks out like an emerald in a sea of shale. When she's admitted to the Chicago Young Musicians Conservatory (CYMC), a sought-after college prep music program for Broadway hopefuls—and the school that viral YouTube pop sensation Duke Ericson happens to attend—she sees her dreams unfolding just as she'd planned. She'll launch her career, she'll get the guy, and they'll take on Broadway together. She'll leave Lynch behind, once and for all, and show all the haters what she's made of.

However, there's one huge catch. Due to her poor music theory test scores, Bridget's admission to CYMC is conditional. The condition? She's not allowed to participate in music performances for her first year, a definite hindrance to her Broadway plans. When obstacles loom—a theory retake examination, the difficulty of catching Duke's eye without using her singing voice, a roommate who hates her, and a Dean of Students who seems determined for her to fail—the unstoppable Bridget is halted, cold. She's faced with the biggest challenge of her life: find a new way to shine or be dismissed from the school of her dreams, which would mean a return to Lynch, the town that never saw her for who she was.

IN THE KEY OF B is a YA contemporary with romcom elements in the vein of Glee + Legally Blonde, complete at 85,000 words. The project appeals to fans of Julie Murphy, and explores themes of pride versus authenticity, infatuation versus love, and of the young adult journey from egocentricity to considering others' needs. It is also an #ownvoices work, as Bridget is pansexual like me, and an unapologetically plus-sized teen, as I was in my youth.

I am a practicing licensed psychologist with a PhD in Counseling Psychology. I work with many teen clients in my private practice, which gives me unique insight into the life and experiences of youth.

Submitted with gratitude,
Allison Bitz