THE RECKLESS KIND PRESS KIT

- THE RECKLESS KIND
- Carly Heath
- Publisher: Soho Teen
- YA Historical Fiction / LGBTQ / $18.99 / 336 pages
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- North America, English

Short synopsis

Set in 1904, on an island just west of Norway, the novel follows a trio of queer teens—two boys and their best friend, Asta—who decide to defy the expectations of their rural Scandinavian village by leaving their families, living on their own, and challenging the town's patriarch in the region's annual winter horse race.

Long synopsis

A genre-defying debut, this queer historical YA centers a wild and reckless trio who fly in the face of small town tradition—full of compassion, love, and determination to live the lives of their choosing.

It's 1904 on an island just west of Norway, and Asta Hedstrom doesn't want to marry her odious betrothed, Nils. But her mother believes she should be grateful for the possibility of *any* domestic future given her single-sided deafness, unconventional appearance, and even stranger notions. Asta would rather spend her life performing in the village theater with her fellow outcasts: her best friend Gunnar Fuglestad and his secret boyfriend, wealthy Erlend Fournier.

But the situation takes a dire turn when Nils lashes out in jealousy—gravely injuring Gunnar. Shunning marriage for good, Asta moves with Gunnar and Erlend to their secluded cabin above town. With few ties left to their families, they have one shot at gaining enough kroner to secure their way of life: win the village's annual horse race.

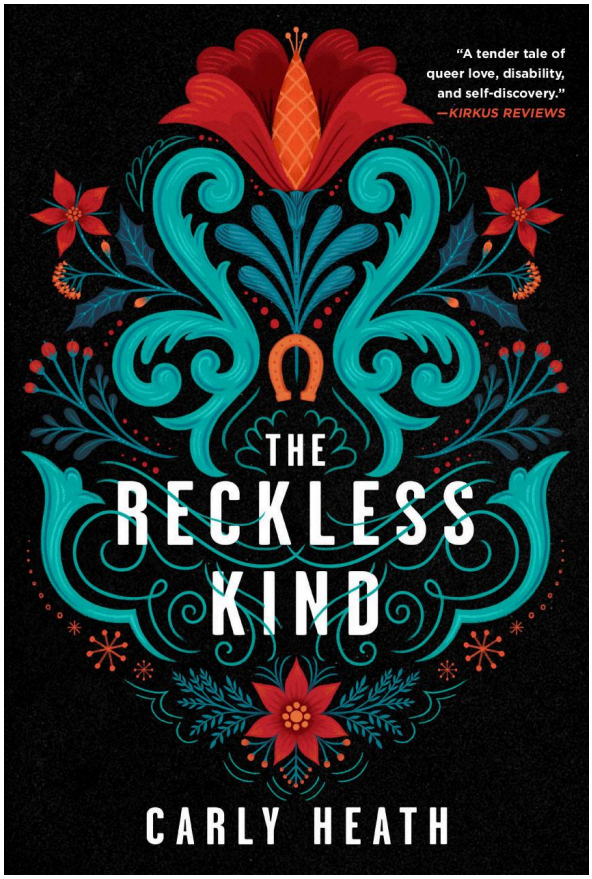
Despite Gunnar's increasing misgivings, Asta and Erlend intend to prove this unheard-of arrangement will succeed. Asta trains as a blacksmith; Erlend cares for recovering Gunnar. But as race day approaches, the villagers' hateful ignorance only grows stronger. With this year's competition proving dangerous for the trio, Asta and Erlend soon find they face another equally deadly peril: the possibility of losing Gunnar and their found family forever.

Very short synopsis:

Three misfits defy the expectations of their rural village by living on their own and challenging the town's patriarch in the region's annual horse race.

Book cover:

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Author Bio:

Carly Heath (she/they) earned her BA from San Francisco State University and her MFA from Chapman University. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Carly writes fiery speeches for labor union leadership and also teaches design, art, theater, and writing for various colleges and universities. She spends all her time and most of her money tending to a menagerie of rescued farm animals. *The Reckless Kind* is her first novel.

Alternate Bio:

Carly Heath (she/they) earned her BA from San Francisco State University and her MFA from Chapman University. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Carly writes rousing speeches for SAG-AFTRA's leadership and also teaches design, art, theater, and writing for various colleges and universities. Her debut, *The Reckless Kind* (Soho Teen) is winner of the 2021-2022 Whippoorwill Award and has garnered enthusiastic reviews (including a starred review from BCCB) for its nuanced depiction of queer and disabled identities.

Alternate Alternate Bio:

By day, Carly writes rousing speeches for high-profile leaders within the labor movement; by night, she descends into the creative abyss. Her debut novel, *The Reckless Kind* (Soho Teen) is winner of the 2022 Whippoorwill Award and has garnered enthusiastic reviews (including a starred review from BCCB) for its nuanced depiction of queer and disabled identities. She writes novels, TV comedy scripts, and fanfic about feminism, queerness, social justice, and feelings. She also talks about spooky stories from Hollywood history on the *Haunted Hollywood Hour* podcast and gay pirates on *The Our Flag Means Fanfiction Podcast.*

Her union activism writing has received multiple awards from the International Labor Communications Association.

Her screenwriting/film honors include:

Best Feature, Bleedfest

Finalist, Scriptation

Semi-finalist, Actors on Screen Festival

Quarterfinalist, WeScreenplay Diverse Voices Lab

Top 15%, Nicholl

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