

## CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS...

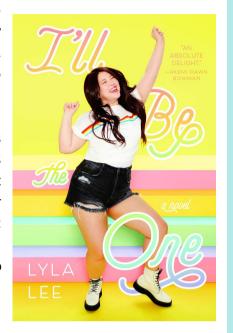
Fearless Female Characters

Skye Shin is fat. She is not afraid of that word and she would happily use it to describe herself. People like to tell her how she should feel about her body and how she should present her body to the world: *Do not dance in public.* Wear all black so you blend in. Don't call attention to yourself. But Skye has no interest in hiding or hating herself.

Skye is ready to defy society's beauty norms on an international scale: she's entering a TV competition to find the next K-pop star! Skye confidently nails her audition and soon she rises to the top of the thousands of contestants! It seems like all her dreams are coming true, but she never realized that her dream would come with brutal public scrutiny, especially from the fat-phobic Korean media. Between relentless rehearsals, reality TV drama, and unexpected romantic chemistry with one of her competitors, Skye has a lot to deal with on the road to being the world's first plus-sized K-pop star.

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Super shy 11-year-old Jenae likes to be invisible at school. She has no friends and doesn't want any. She'd rather just hang out with her family. Trying to make friends means risking rejection and embarrassment. No thank you.

That's why the new kid, Aubrey, is so confusing to her. He just won't quit trying to be her friend, despite her pushing him away on numerous occasions. When will Aubrey get the hint? Why is he so willing to be embarrassed like that? But eventually Jenae has to wonder if she really wants him to leave her alone. Maybe having a friend wouldn't be so bad. In fact, maybe she needs a friend.

Then their delicate, new friendship hits a major bump in the road: they are paired up for a class debate and they need to do well for Aubrey to earn a spot on the debate team, something he *reeeeeally* wants. That means Aubrey's chances depend on Jenae's performance in the debate too! Can she overcome her greatest fears (public speaking and being the center of attention) to show up for her first real friend?

## **BIOGRAPHY COLLECTIONS**

<u>The Girl Who Rode a Shark</u> by Ailsa Ross <u>Teen Trailblazers</u> by Jennifer Calvert <u>Galaxy Girls</u> by Libby Jackson <u>Little Leaders</u> by Vashti Harrison

## FICTION

<u>We Are The Wildcats</u> by Siobhan Vivian (realistic fic)

<u>Seafire</u> by Natalie C. Parker (action/adventure)

<u>You Should See Me In a Crown</u> by Leah Johnson (LGBTQ+ romance)

<u>Graceling</u> by Kristin Cashore (fantasy)

Click on my picture to email me your recs!