

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

#BOOKSFORWARDFRIENDS



Hi, Best Friend 💕

Don't you think some of the best friendships are the ones we didn't see coming? The ones that randomly formed from common interests — aka DM'ing back and forth about TBR stacks, the books we just finished, and the ones that we're still crying over.

For the month of July, we're so excited to feature two #BooksForwardFriends that give us all the warm fuzzy feelings: Allison and Jimalion, or maybe you know them better as [@allisonreadsdc](#) and [@itsbookishworld](#). We can't help but to stan these two and the amazing relationship that blossomed from a shared love of books. For more on their friendship, book preferences, and even tattoos, keep reading below!



HOW DID Y'ALL FIRST CONNECT?

Jimalion: We first connected on Bookstagram. I can't remember what post started it, but we had a brief exchange that carried on to a conversation and quickly into a friendship.

Allison: Jimalion tagged me in one of those Q&A challenge things when I was in my first maybe six months or year of being on #Bookstagram. I had followed her because I saw that she was also posting about her fiancée and I was like, okay cute lesbian couple. I never do these "tag" challenges but ended up doing the one she tagged me in. Jimalion does hilarious "books and bonnets" reviews where she gets really emotional before bed over books when she has her bonnet on, and my fiancée (then-girlfriend) and I would watch together. Then one day, Jimalion posted to her stories that in her head, me and Bae were her best friends. I responded saying that Bae and I literally watched all her stories together and loved Books and Bonnets, and the rest is history.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DISAGREEMENT OVER A BOOK?

J: We have not had a big disagreement over a book. We typically read different genres, and I get a lot of my nonfiction recommendations from Allison.

A: I don't think we have. We have overlapping taste in books but we don't read a TON of the same books. And when we do, we're both pretty positive readers. We don't read a lot of books that are just okay — so generally, if there's a book we've both read, we both love it.

IF YOUR BFF WAS A BOOK, WHAT BOOK WOULD THEY BE?

J: If Allison could be a book, I feel like she would be a memoir or a lesbian rom com with a high level of steamy. Did I answer that right??

A: Any book that makes you cry and feel all the feels. A super sentimental, slow start (because she's shy at first) and then a totally amazing book. That's Jimalion.

IF YOU COULD MAKE YOUR BFF READ ONE BOOK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

J: If I could make Allison read a book, it would definitely be a suspense/thriller, so probably Riley Sager, "Final Girls."

A: "The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks" is one of my all-time favorite books and it's right up J's alley. Spunky, opinionated teen girl off to scam the boys. It's messy and funny and sentimental. I would like to see a Books and Bonnets reaction on Frankie.

IF YOUR BFF COULD MEET ONE AUTHOR, WHO WOULD IT BE? WOULD THEY BE STARSTRUCK OR PLAY IT COOL?

J: Would they be starstruck or totally cool? Gosh, this is such a hard question because I feel like I am going to get this wrong. But I have heard her rave about Toni Morrison, so I am going to play it safe and say if she could meet Toni Morrison she would definitely be starstruck.

A: She would not keep it cool. Full stop. For any author that she met. But I'm guessing she'd most like to meet Tiffany D Jackson, Elizabeth Acevedo, Riley Sager or Wendelin Van Draanen, the author of the Sammy Keyes books.

IF Y'ALL WERE GOING TO GET MATCHING TATTOOS RIGHT NOW, WHAT WOULD THEY BE AND WHY?

J: I feel like Allison would not get a tattoo, and if she would it would be like a flower or something ... so maybe a flower with the words 'friendship made out of the stem.' I think she would also hate this idea.

A: Something Normani related. Because Normani is everything.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOUR BFF HAS EVER GIVE YOU?

J: Allison has always been able to show up just when I need a friendly voice. And she always reminds me that it is okay to take moments for myself and find joy. I am such work until I drop type of person, so it's nice to have someone in my corner to tell my ass to slow down.

A: I'm cocky and generally bad at taking advice, but Jimalion just has a way of validating me and letting me be myself. She helps me stay calm and grounded and always encourages me to be myself and know that I'm enough as I am.

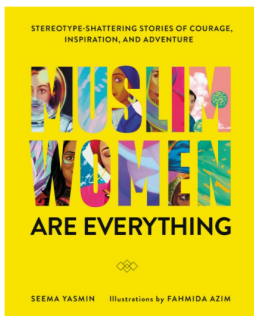
Do you have a bookstagram BFF you want to share the love with? Let us know by reaching

JULY HIGHLIGHTS



Seema Yasmin
DOCTOR AND JOURNALIST

Check out this video for [Islam](#) with epidemic expert Dr. Seema Yasmin as she helps debunk some common medical myths surrounding COVID-19. And sign up to receive a copy of her book, "Muslim Women are Everything," our July featured title!



"Muslim Women are Everything"

BY SEEMA YASMIN

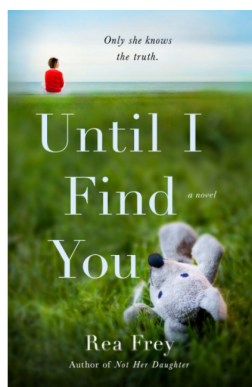
Tired of seeing Muslim women portrayed as weak, sheltered, and limited, journalist Seema Yasmin reframes how the world sees them, to reveal everything they *can* do and the incredible, stereotype-shattering ways they are doing it. We're super excited to share this book that showcases women who defy categorization. Yasmin proves that to be Muslim and a woman is to be many things: strong, vulnerable, trans, disabled, funny, entrepreneurial, burqa or bikini clad, and so much more.

"Until I Find You"

BY REA FREY

Since Rebecca Gray was diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease, everything in her life consists of numbers. Each day her world grows a little darker and each step becomes a little more dangerous. Following days of feeling like someone's watching her, Bec awakes at home to the cries of her son in his nursery. When it's clear he's not going to settle, Bec goes to check on him. She reaches in, Picks him up. But he's not her son. And no one believes her. In a world where seeing is believing, Bec must rely on her own conviction and a mother's instinct to uncover the truth about what happened to her baby and bring him home for good.

Rea will also be available for interviews with a select number of readers.



And we have so many other awesome titles available for selection this month! Check out the links below and fill out the forms for the books you're interested in receiving. Forms will close July 14, so make sure to get your request in by then!

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FEATURED FRIENDS





Thank you to all our BFFs for reading and reviewing! Want to be featured? Make sure to use **#BooksForwardFriends** in all your posts so we can find you and share the love! And [submit](#) your review links to be entered in our monthly indie bookstore gift card drawing!

BFFs is an inclusive program that celebrates and uplifts authors and influencers from all backgrounds. Members agree and understand that any hate, racism, violence or bigotry will not be tolerated. Our BFFs are changemakers that have a real, positive influence on our world.

Have any questions, or just want to geek out with us? Visit booksforward.com/bffs or email our BFFs ambassador, senior publicist Ellen Whitfield, at ellen@booksforward.com.



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