
The Bookish* Newsletter!

Issue No. 3 | April 2025

Check out updates on my good reads progress, upcoming titles, lists, and reviews.



[Latest ARC Review] The Staircase In The Woods

Thank you to Net Galley and Random House Worlds for this title.

"This place hates you."

"This place hates you." No, [literally] this place hates you. A theme that is repeated throughout this novel.

It's an eerie story, a cross between Syfy's Channel Zero and Kiersten White's novel Mister Magic.

What ends would friends go to if one were in trouble? These friends created "the covenant" just for that reason. Matty, Owen, Hamish, Nick, and Lorn (short for Lauren) would do just about anything for one another, but after Matty goes missing, these friendships would be put through the ultimate test.

*****5.00 STARS ✨*****

Now, estranged, they are brought together where another staircase has appeared. This is their chance to [once and for all] find out what happened to Matty.

This would be more than a guilt trip about their lost friend, but a rehashing of all the trauma and insecurities they faced as teenagers. The bullying in school, the neglectful parents, and memories they'd rather have buried are returning.

Once up the staircase, they arrive at a strange, familiar house that is a [type of] hellscape. Each room leads into another, and a memory of some violent crime or a place in time.

However, people can also give a home their hate and depraved nature. A house can be a place where terrible things happen, but it's always the first thing we miss when we're away from it.

This also emphasizes one main thing. What's the strongest thing in a house? The staircase (of course). Its grandeur and allure draw you in; sometimes, it's the one thing that remains standing.

This staircase is a demon, a haunted vessel that appears in the woods and lures people to its mystic. The mysterious house takes bitter memories from each person it takes and imprints that energy into it. This is why everyone's experiences aren't the same; it's why Lore, Hamish, Owen, and Nick all saw and felt something different.

More Updates & Progress!

The Staircase In The Woods [CONT’]

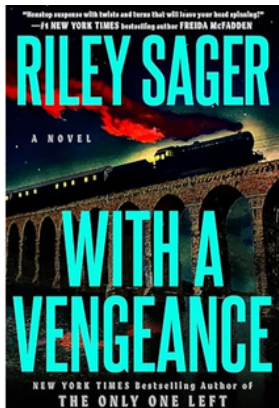
Talk about one scary experience. This is a story about friendship, a story about getting lost, screwing up, but managing to find your way back to your friends. Bonds are unbreakable, and the relationships that people form will always pull them through anything, even a haunted staircase.

Upcoming Thriller TBR!

RITH A VENGEANCE

By Rilery Sager
(July 3, 2025)

MYSTERY 🍷 THRILLER 🍷 FICTION



In 1942, six people destroyed Anna Matheson’s family. Twelve years later, she’s ready for retribution.



Under false pretenses, Anna has lured those responsible for her family’s downfall onto a luxury train from Philadelphia to Chicago, an overnight journey of fourteen hours. Her goal? Confront the people who’ve wronged her, get them to confess their crimes, and deliver them into the hands of authorities waiting at the end of the line. Justice will at last be served.



Good Reads Challenge Progress

It feels like I’m losing some momentum. I haven’t pushed the needle (on books read) that much in April, but I did finish two titles, so baby 🍼 steps.

31% (11/35)

ARC TITLES IN THE QUEUE



BOOK SOURCES

BookTrib [<https://booktrib.com/>]

Good Reads [<https://www.goodreads.com/>]

Book Riot [<https://bookriot.com/>]

NPR [<https://www.npr.org/books/>]

Literary Hub [<https://lithub.com/>]

March’s Reading Challenge!

“Read a book with a blue cover”



Stay tuned for more reading updates.

