

Triple Threat

AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Upper Secondary
(language, sexual references)



SYNOPSIS

At the prestigious performing arts school Arcadia Grammar, the theatre kids and the musical theatre kids have just one rule: you DO NOT go for each other's lead roles. But Edie is about to throw the rulebook out the window—and all hell is going to break loose.

Edie Emerson is a triple threat: she can sing and dance and act. But despite being the lead in every musical at Arcadia, she knows her future on the stage is uncertain. At least until the infamous director Toby Swan agrees to stage *Romeo and Juliet* at the academy.

This show could launch Edie's career—except she doesn't do 'theatre'. And she's already agreed to star in a new musical written by her best friend, Will. So when Toby casts the annoying-but-hot Noah Winters as Romeo, and he insists on Edie for Juliet, it sets the stage for drama...

Edie had her role at Arcadia down to a fine art. But does she have what it takes to play the most difficult and complicated role of all: herself?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katy Warner always thought she wanted to be an actor and for a big part of her life that's what she did—until she realised she actually preferred writing the words herself. Now, she's an award-winning playwright and the author of many short stories and a young adult novel. Even though she misses the costumes, Katy is much happier as a writer. Her plays have been performed across Australia and in New Zealand, London and Edinburgh. Katy lives in Melbourne with her husband, their cat and a lot of books. Her debut novel, *Everywhere, Everything, Everyone*, was shortlisted for the Readings Young Adult Book Prize.

THEMES

- Family and friendship
- Loyalty
- Respect

STUDY NOTES

- What makes Edie different from the other students at Arcadia Grammar? What are some of the conditions (both

explicit and implied) of her enrolment?

- What is the reason Edie gives her friends for her mother's absence? What is the real reason? How do her friends react when they find out?
- Why is Will's musical so important to him? What is it about?
- Will gets angry with Edie in the car because she doesn't see how hard drama school has been for him, saying, 'I'd look at those cast lists and think. Nope. There's no-one on here like me. And if someone like me isn't there, then they clearly don't want me' (p 279). Why is it so important for us to see ourselves represented in books and movies?
- Are Noah's feelings for Edie genuine? Why does she get so angry when she discovers that he forced Toby to give her the role?
- Who is responsible for ensuring that rehearsals are a safe space? How does Toby Swan damage the safety of the rehearsal room?
- Why doesn't Edie want to admit to herself that she has feelings for Will?
- Why does Aubrey call Edie naïve? How does this make Edie feel? Do you imagine that their friendship will survive beyond high school?
- Does it surprise you that Imogen supports Edie when she stands up to Toby Swan? Why/why not?
- When Edie gives her opening night speech, some people clap, while others stand up and leave in anger. Why do you think some people are angry? Is their anger justified? What about Edie and Imogen—should they be allowed to express their anger at the way they've been treated?
- How does Edie's mum react to her speech? Does this surprise you? What does this help Edie realise about her relationship with her nan?
- What does it mean to find your voice? Edie says 'I've spent so long speaking the lines and singing the songs of characters that I forgot I have a voice, too. I think I lost it somewhere along the way. Lost it and had it taken from me.' (p 294)
 - How does Edie lose or have her voice taken from her in the novel?
 - What makes it hard for people to speak up?
 - How does Edie find the courage to take a stand?
- Write about a time that you didn't say something but wished you had. Rewrite the story imagining that you'd spoken up. What would you have said? How would this have changed what happened? Reflect on how this piece of writing helps to give you confidence to speak up in future.
- Choose a chapter of the book and rewrite it as a script. What do you need to take out or change? How would you stage the piece? Who are the main characters in the scene and what motivates each of them? Would you make any changes from the book to the stage?
- Edie suggests to Will that his script might be more relatable and interesting if he makes the female lead a superhero as well. Do you agree with her? Choose a story (a book/film/comic) that you think would be made more interesting by flipping the gender of the lead character and see what happens when you recreate it. Does anything surprise you?
- Discuss the importance of women supporting other women in the #MeToo movement. Share a time that you've been supported to do something brave by a woman in your life. Brainstorm a list of ways that we can support women at school and in the arts.
- Will's musical allows him to write the story he needed to see. If you had the freedom to tell your story (or perform it, or draw it), what would it be? Come up with an outline for the story that you'd tell.
- Sometimes in the heat of the moment we don't say all the things we later wish we had. What do you think Edie would like to tell her mum? Write a letter from Edie to her mum following their fight at the end of the book.