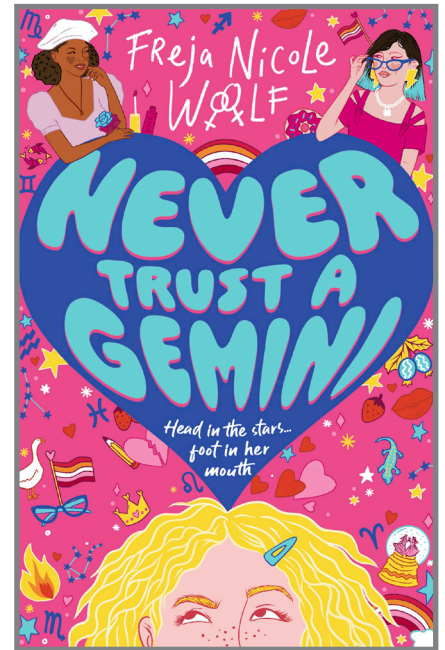


Never Trust a Gemini

AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Secondary
(Sexual References, Alcohol references)

SYNOPSIS

Life is fraught for fourteen-year-old, zodiac-obsessed Cat. First there's a minor bus-meets-girl accident, then there's a boy-next-door suitor who can't take a hint, but the most desperate disaster of all is Cat's crush on the stunning and poetic Alison Bridgewater.

According to their star charts, Cat and Alison are the perfect match. To which Alison (woe alas!) remains oblivious. But when the dangerously cool Morgan Delaney wades into the river to save Cat's sketchbook of kissing Disney princesses, she sends Cat's stars spinning.

Can Cat get over her Alison obsession and follow her heart towards Morgan? Or should she exercise caution? After all, Morgan is a Gemini, and if there's one thing Cat's Bible to the Stars has taught her it's that you can never—ever—trust a Gemini . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Freja Nicole Woolf's writing is absolutely not autobiographical. (Except for the bits that are.) She's been writing since school and, at the über-ancient age of twenty-four, she finally wrote her debut, *Never Trust a Gemini*, as a joyful, romantic alternative to the issue-led LGBTQ+ stories she grew up with. She lives in London and aspires to be a Capricorn. Unfortunately, she's a Pisces.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

AFTER READING**Orientation**

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Answer the following after reading the opening scene of the novel:
 - Which character/s are we introduced to?
 - What mood is the author setting?
- Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel. Can you describe it? How is it different to the world you live in? Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?

Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)? Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter. Were you surprised by where the story went?

DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have.
 - Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.