

## APPEARANCE GUIDE



### BOOK DETAILS

**Genre:** Young Adult Romance

**Format:** Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, Audiobook

**ISBN:** 9780593624784

**Publisher:** Kokila (June 10, 2025)

**Reading age:** 12 - 17 years

**Grade level:** 7 - 9

**Lexile™ Measure:** 730L

**Themes:** Self-Discovery & Growth, Loneliness & Connection, Opposites Attract, Chance & Serendipity, Transition & Change, Queer Identity & Acceptance, Youth & Possibility, Taking Risks, Personal Growth, Agency & Empowerment

#### More Information:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/725855/solo-stan-by-talia-tucker/>

### *Solo Stan*

by Talia Tucker

## SYNOPSIS

*From the author of Rules for Rule Breaking comes a queer YA romance about two solo concertgoers and unwitting seatmates who, when the show is abruptly cut short, embark on an unforgettable North Carolina summer night together, discovering how opposites can attract under the right circumstances.*

Dakarai (Kai) Barbier was supposed to be at CYPHR's sold-out show with his best friends. Instead, he finds himself going solo, reeling from the news that they've decided to accelerate the next chapter of their lives, leaving him alone the summer after high school graduation.

Meanwhile, Elias Davis has just been sent from New York City to North Carolina to live with his uncle after a last-straw fistfight. Stuck in a town he doesn't want to be in, and without knowing a soul his own age, he buys a single ticket to CYPHR's Raleigh show.

When a sudden blackout ends the show early, forcing these unwitting seatmates back onto the streets of Raleigh, they are faced with a choice: get on the bus and head home or take a chance on each other. They might have arrived alone, but will they be leaving together?

Educators are encouraged to modify activities to best suit their students' interests and learning styles.

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For questions, comments, and/or more information, please contact [PYRAuthorVisits@prh.com](mailto:PYRAuthorVisits@prh.com) or [talia@talia-tucker.com](mailto:talia@talia-tucker.com). Visit [www.talia-tucker.com](http://www.talia-tucker.com) for more resources.

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. What challenges do Kai and Elias face as they navigate an unexpected night together?
2. How does the book explore themes of loneliness, belonging, and connection?
3. How do Kai and Elias's backgrounds shape the way they see the world—and each other?
4. The story takes place over the course of one night. How does this short time frame affect the intensity of their interactions?
5. Music plays a big role in Solo Stan. How can concerts or shared experiences bring people together?
6. How does the book explore the idea of taking chances—on new experiences, new places, and new people?
7. Was there a particular scene that was your favorite to write?
8. Which character do you feel most connected to, and why?
9. What do you hope readers take away from this story?
10. What's next for you?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever attended a concert or event alone? Have you ever wanted to? How do you think that experience might be different from going with family or friends?
2. The main characters, Kai and Elias, are complete strangers at the start of the book. What are some challenges and exciting possibilities that can come from meeting someone new in an unexpected situation?
3. The story takes place over the course of a single summer night. What do you think makes one night feel unforgettable?
4. The book explores how people cope with change—graduating from school, moving to a new place. How do you personally handle big changes in life?
5. The concert they attend is for a fictional singer named CYPHR. What role does music play in your life? Have you ever been a big fan of an artist, band, or group?
6. If you have been a big fan of an artist, band, or group, what did belonging to that fandom mean to you? Why did it feel special?
7. The story takes place in Raleigh, North Carolina. How do different locations (small towns, big cities, new places) shape the experiences people have?
8. The book is a romance, but it also explores friendship and self-discovery. What do you think makes a great friendship?
9. The book follows two characters who are at a turning point in their lives. What are some moments in your own life that have felt like a new beginning?
10. If you had the chance to spend an unexpected night exploring a new place, where would it be and what are some things you'd like to do?

These are sample discussion questions meant to spark conversation and engagement. Teachers are encouraged to modify them based on their students' interests and classroom discussions. To ensure a smooth and interactive session, I also recommend collecting student questions ahead of my appearance.

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### Book Ordering Information

Be sure to place your order well in advance through your local bookstore or wholesaler of your choice. You can also **order books** directly from Penguin Random House.

#### Order Information:

[www.penguinclassroom.com](http://www.penguinclassroom.com)



## PRAISE for SOLO STAN

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection



“Whether you’re a lonely hopeless romantic like Kai or a misunderstood troublemaker with a knack for self-sacrificing like Elias, these two boys will have your entire heart faster than they can steal each other’s. This book single-handedly healed my inner troubled teen who thought their love was too big for others to hold.”

—Sonora Reyes, bestselling author of the National Book Award Finalist *The Lesbian’s Guide to Catholic School*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Talia Tucker** lives and writes in New Jersey. She has a BA in communication from Rutgers University and an MA in liberal studies from Loyola University Maryland. She loves mindless comedies and twisty slow-burn dramas, both of which inspire her writing, as does her connection to her Korean and Jamaican communities. *Rules for Rule Breaking* was her YA debut. Her follow up novel, *Solo Stan*, will be released in June 2025.

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